

dried beans, which Mr. Clarke gave me, and lastly some Chinese oatmeal. All these luxuries added very little to the total amount of baggage, and even if they had made an extra camel-load, it would not have hindered the journey in any way, while they added very considerably to my efficiency.

A tent was made up in the town on what is known in India as the Kabul pattern ; but, as it afterwards turned out, this was, for travelling in the desert, about the very worst description of tent possible. The violent winds, so constant there, catch the walls and make it almost impossible to keep the tent standing. What I would recommend for future travellers is a tent like my guide's sloping down to the ground at the ends as well as on each side, and with no straight wall to catch the wind.

Rather unusual articles of equipment were two water-casks which we filled with water daily on the march, so that if, as sometimes happened, we lost our way and missed the well, or found it choked with sand, we should always have something to fall back on.

This completed our preparations, and we were ready for the real start into the unknown.