

legation, where the men stayed, the baggage was piled up and soon assumed disquieting dimensions. I need only mention rapidly the most important of the goods purchased: for my own use a pair of warm felt boots, a *pustin* or sheep-skin coat of the Turkestan pattern, a candlestick with a glass shade, hand-basin and can, stearin candles and matches. Further, for general use, two *mangals* or iron braziers for burning coals, with their tongs, two large sacks of charcoal to warm the tents and light the camp fires, iron pegs for pitching tents, an iron spit to roast *kebab* over the fire, two spades, several hammers, axes, picks, and pincers, teacups and plates, stewpans, cans, dishes and bowls, two samovars, a trough for washing rice grains, buckets and pails. Flour and rice were stowed in sacks, the other provisions in wooden boxes—sugar, tea, spices, onions, dried vegetables and fruit, syrup, honey, bread, etc., and in *kurchins* or double bags were packed all the vessels wanted for daily use. New pack-saddles were also bought; cloths and halters for the camels, caravan bells and rattles, rosettes of thread, finery and streamers to decorate some of the animals—well, I cannot remember everything—lanterns, hard and soft soap, linen to mend the tent, and a number of other small articles.

All the men were rigged out from top to toe before the start, and took their belongings with them in *kurchins*, and very soon the baggage made good-sized loads even before we had bought the large supply of *pambedaneh* or cottonseed on which the camels subsist in districts where there is no grazing, and which is more convenient than meal cakes, for the latter require water, which was just what we should probably be short of. When all was ready the loads were of the heaviest, and we could not expect the camels to make more than 3 or 4 farsakh in the day. We counted on a month's journey to the oasis of Tebbes—the distance is reckoned at 100 farsakh. But before we reached there and replenished our stores, the original loads would have shrunk considerably. At Siah-kuh, on the edge of the desert, we would try to find a competent guide, and on the way from Tebbes to Seistan the wells are said to be not so far apart.