

that Gedrosia has then rain, and that the rivers and wells are filled while they are dry in winter, but that the rain falls in the higher regions to the north, so that the rivers carry water down to the coast. "But in the desert the King sent on well-sinkers in advance. . . . They were saved only by the date palms." For the rest his account is exactly similar to the later one of Arrian. It should be mentioned by the way that he represents Carmania as lying south of the Caspian gates, and as this pass is immediately south-east of Demavend, he has evidently included the whole kevir in the desert of Carmania. He says that camel herdsman live on the border of the cold mountainous country in the north. This is just as at the present time.

It is difficult to determine Alexander's route along the coast. According to Strabo, he never receded more than 500 stadia from the sea. The stadia in question could not have been long, for it is also said that he let the troops rest 20 to 30 stadia from wells, that the soldiers "might not drink immoderately from thirst." If this distance be estimated at a kilometre, he could not have been more than 13 miles from the coast. That he was always very near the coast is shown also by Strabo, when he says that the guide strayed once from ignorance so far into the interior "that the sea could no longer be seen." Therefore it appears that the sea was usually in sight.

To institute a comparison between the general geographical conditions then and now, we must call to our aid some traveller who has travelled as near to the coast as possible. Such an one is Major, afterwards General, Sir Frederic Goldsmid, who, in 1861, travelled on an official mission from Karachi to Gwadar almost by the same route as Alexander. I extract from his description only a few points which illustrate our problem.<sup>1</sup>

On December 12 he set out to the Hubb river, which was 3 feet deep. On the 14th: grass, tamarisks, coast dunes and wells; at the camp two wells of brackish, but drinkable water. The 15th: gardens and cultivation watered from small basins and wells; the Vindore river

<sup>1</sup> *Journal of the Roy. Geogr. Soc.* vol. xxxiii. (1863), pp. 181 *et seq.*