

[Pages 51 to 58 are by Hilda Petrie.]

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Thursdays are our holidays here: - Kenh market-day, and consequently our Sunday; and freedom from the Work once a week gives us our only chance of getting up on to the high Gebel, (1500 ft above us here,) and far away into the interior, where we can look back across striding edges into the Nile valley, and across to the other great Gebel beyond it, all of which runs east to west.

Our last such holiday was the day after the find of P. Mena's false door and its triumphal procession across the desert, and we have had several days' quietude, and cessation from any such excitement, until today in the further of the two mastabas, where a large fresco with cartouches of Pepy I and II, is beginning to turn up, in apparently the chamber of offerings

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(52)

of someone named Adu, with sons Ja-u, and Adu, and groups of servants carrying things, depicted. We hope that, another day, behind this frescoed room, the ka-chamber will be found, with coloured statues, who knows? Meanwhile the work progresses fast daily, and the entrance to this masataba turns out to be by means of a brick arched tunnel running down as into a pyramid, from a staircase by the outer door. This 6th dyn. brick arching is the oldest yet known.

3.1.98. C&E are 3 or 4 miles, here, from the foot-hills of the Gebel plateau, and the first week we were here, our first holiday, we made an excursion to them. We took this abroad in a saddle bag, and a bottle of water, an aneroid, and sticks, and I left skirt and all incumbrances behind, and we crossed the plain, visiting mounds along it, covered with rings of stones and tombs, probably early stairway tombs. F. estimated there were 60-80 within close reach. We spent all the middle of the day - resting, or asleep, in the shelter of a flat cave, $\frac{1}{2}$ cemented probably in Roman times; it was so lovely being away at large, on the low desert, grey and yellow, and bare, and undulating.

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53

with nothing on it, but an endless quantity of crystalline fragments, felsites, porphyries, granites, - and these tracks to be observed, in the sand, & foot-prints of small birds, of great stalking cranes, and of camels, and mice and jerboas, and donkeys, and the wriggings of snakes, with incessant jackal-tracks making scientific contours in all directions.

The last holiday, our only other at present, was much more wonderful; a really good tramp, equal to 21 miles, and carrying ^{us} not only across the plain, but up the flanks of the hills sideways, and along a saw-like edge or crest which juts out from the cliff-line of the plateau, and up high on to the plateau itself, 1500 ft. above; one ascends by steep staircases of jutting limestone, and along a precipitous ridge, and so on to flat terraces of brown Neolithic flints, where we picked up a few flint implements, and saw even the bare workshop (with its surrounding chips & flakes) of Neolithic man! Thence we climbed on, and at about 1200 ft. reached far older levels, with beaches of blackish orange flints far more compressed and settled

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54 looking, and here we picked up a good dozen of Palaeolithic flint implements - the ground was strewn with flakes, and cores, and chips, and implements in various stages. From this level we looked down precipitously into steep valleys on both sides of us: I can't describe the rich complexity of the scenery or the structure & appearance of it all, but I never saw a more impressive sight. Here the hills are so far more diversified ^{F. says} than in other parts of Egypt - it is no mere cliff line separating two dead levels; it is real diversified mountain scenery of a high order, and the fresh panorama outspread below is a marvel of beauty, and strangely far-reaching. The opposite plateau close by, was 15 miles away, the cliff ends of it 30 and 40 miles, looking quite close! The distant ranges 60 miles, the high Porphyry mountains behind again, no less than 80 miles!

One sees 50 and nearly 100 miles in some directions without any sensation of indistinctness of view of distance! It is all yellowish desert or plateau, or differences of light make these and especially the cliff-faces, golden or pink or orange: - the skies are indescribable, of course - I never knew what sky could be, before. The loveliest thing perhaps from the high desert, is the fresh bluish green line of Nile cultivation, a strip between the two

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greyish yellow masses of flat stony undulating sand,
and steep cliffs and high far reaching plateau.

xxx ~~No one has been seen up here lately much~~ Mifs
Oldroyd and her nephew joined the encampment, a
few days ago; she chiefly sews and cooks, the
youth is sometimes about the work. Everyone sits
about the courtyard in the sun mostly, so one
doesn't see much of them. The last two days
however I have done rather the same, as I have
been resting after a day's fever. Strange natives
come about the mounds now & then asking for work;
I take on a few local men if good. Many look
so incapable or ruffianly, they need nothing but a
negative, but they often squat about for days in a
listless oriental way, and don't seem to take it, and
then I get rid of them by main force. His language
increases in definiteness and vigour, and finally he runs
for them, and chases them all down the desert, prodding
with his stick, and one old nigger he fairly butted at,
and deprived of his turban, which he's rolled up now
in a corner at home, adding to the picturesque confusion
of his hut. The nigger stalked over to reclaim it next
day but was told that if he came any more, his skull
cap should be taken from him also!

3 suspicious characters with baskets and touriahs
(hoes) were seen squatting near the mastabas, the
other day, waiting for sundown to come and rifle
them apparently, so I arranged for some of the men
to sleep down there, and when we all left at sunset,

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Fresh inscribed steles keep turning up daily from the mastabas, and as they have many chambers in them, and deep wells, we hope to find some good things, as the digging progresses. A good many of the wells turn out to be dummy ones however, and are not lucrative to work.

We have spent all of each afternoon lately, upon them. The 3 mounds are a mass of rooms, passages and wells: they have entrance staircases, and Adu's has that fine sloping tunnel. The fresco is very indistinct, but F. has made out most of the inscriptions. Adu is dark red, on a grey ground, and stands up in a papyrus bark with a spearhook across him in his hands; his wife sits at his feet, Beba, and his children and servants surround him. A good stele of Mena turned up today - (I only mean this local prince, VIth dynasty) it is in relief, a figure of him, and inscription. We take paints with us each day, and F. sometimes sketches down less common hieroglyphics: we come back just at sunset, and each night, the whole north, i.e.

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the great Temple, its earthen mound it is sunk within, the cliffs behind the river, the Desert foreground are all suffused in a ruddy orange glow that is marvellous - the mountains east, and N. west are rosy pink, with blueness of shadow, the southward range at whose foot we live, becoming a delicate amethystine, gradually deepening, and fading, as heliotrope, the north west is pinkish and all indescribable colours, sometimes rather hazy & delicate, the west is impossible to describe - the crimson, and blue, and golden green, and the sometimes furnace heat of it - the sunsets are very different from night to night.

Wed. Jan 5 It is pay. night, and in sun and wind, everyone is sitting about, this last afternoon of the week, wrapped up in brown canvas over-alls, and white head-shawls. It is almost too windy and dusty to write here; swirls of sand keep blowing past. F is measuring up, and going thro' the accounts with each of the men. A fresh stele of Adu has just turned up, covered with hieroglyphics. - We are all on Adu's mastaba as I write. The brown temple mound just opposite it, begins to grow warm in colour now, and gets gradually more glowing, till its climax of orange splendour fades away just before sunset.

The well in Prince Mena's tomb, behind where the great false door was found, ends about 30 ft. down, in a doorway and sloping passage. Next

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F. and I have been doing a little indoor sketching these few mornings lately. I spent nearly all the morning sitting under the courtyard-wall, numbering the bones of skeletons. Each skeleton wants a separate number, and each bone requires to be marked in a certain part of it: they were chiefly limb-bones, skulls, and collar-bones.

The tall sails on the Nile are flapping hard round the bend near Kena today. Everything is so clear and glittering; it is glorious.

A party of American tourists on donkeys assailed us this morning, taken in tow by a Cambridge man and a dragoman, and wanting to see the Work. But they found the mounds too rough for their donkeys and left it in peace.

We have two guards, armed and draped, squatting at our courtyard entrance, who keep us in the protection of the village. They have only shot a stray dog at present, and no alarms beset us.

It is almost impossible to believe that the hills before me, - brilliant pink with cobalt shadows - whose thousands of diversified lines I catch at every careless glance, are indeed 15 miles away: they look no more than 3 miles' distance. The palm trees banded along the green strip of cultivation, every branch and stem of which I see, are two miles distant!

The range of cliffs ending, towards sunset, not so very far away are in reality 30 miles off.

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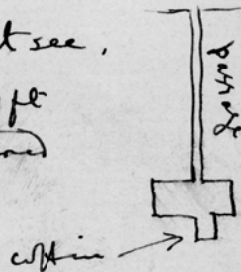
(59)

This is a triste journal, without any accompaniment, for Hilda has been in bed for a week with a feverish attack, beginning with a bad cold in throat & neck, & going on with continued high temperature, varying 2° to 4° up. It began from getting sundry chills, owing to not realising how easy it is to get cold here. The dry air & general out-dooriness leads new-comers generally to do things they would not think of in England at 40° or 50° . There seems nothing the matter now, but the temp^{re} will not go down, so she has to stay in bed, & drink lemonade all day, & be dreary, & very patient. It is very hard & tantalising to be tied up thus; & a great blow to me, & to all the work that is waiting to be done in sorting & packing. Miss Oldroyd has been very kind, & done much small cookery, &c; but of course the most of the feeding & straightening up is my business. Luckily Mace is working excellently on the excavations, & Davies is also useful, so I can rub on.

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(60)
 The week began with two more of the
 Mena panels, making 5 in all.
 They are very fine things, the hieroglyphs
 standing out $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep. Any one
 of them would be a prize in any
 museum in Europe. One panel settles
 the date as Mena's other name was
 Pepy-men-ankh, named after Pepy I
 pyramid. So he was contemporary
 with Pepy I. Adu I we know was
 as late as Pepy II. Adu II is probably
 later; for I found that the name
 which I read Khredu [𓂏] is really
 Adu [𓂏] as spelled on another
 tablet. His wife was Ana.

Adu I mastaba has now been
 cleared down to the coffin chamber,
 at the end of a long sloping arched
 passage. The coffin chamber was
 thus, so far as I can yet see,
 chamber about 18 ft x 7 ft
 with 5 ft high of sculptured
 offerings all round it.

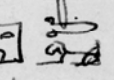
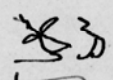
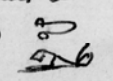
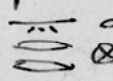


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


Part of the walls have been crushed in by collapse of the gravels, & 90 loose ~~sto~~ blocks of sculpture have been taken out already, beside what remain still built in place. We have only yet seen the lid of the coffin, a block about 7 x 4 ft, & 2 ft thick; it touches water & all the sarcophagus will be under water, & is already plundered. But we must get at it, as it may be something fine in sculpture, & may contain things.

Then Adu II has a long sloping passage likewise, these mastabas being like pyramids in the inside form. This passage after about 40-50 ft ends in a brick chamber, so wet & liable to collapse that I had to stop & dig down from the top about 20 ft down on to it.

Two more names of mastabas have been found  and . Is this title "keeper of the palace of Dendera"?  early form of  of late spelling?

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(62)
We begin to find all over the cemetery plain that there are interminable mastabas ruined down to 1-2 ft high, but with stone steles, drums, &c, left lying about. So there is years of work here.



Then I tackled a big stone heap, like those which proved such puzzles at Naqada. It had been attacked before, fruitlessly. But my old man spotted a corner of brick, & found the pit far out of the middle. It contained a woman's body of XII dyn: with armlet of garnet & silver beads, three scarabs, mirror, & alabaster kohl pot. What fine untouched burials must lie under these big Naqada heaps! But they would have to be cleared away almost to find the pits.

Then lastly I set on to some ground near our house, & got several chambers stacked with Ptolemaic mummies. Some of them are decorated with blue glazed amulets stuck on the outside. One man had about 80 on the covering: so they are a valuable asset, many of them

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
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being large pieces, such as collar  3 or 4 ins across. All rough & coarse but showy. These mummies also have limestone labels  inscribed in demotic with ink. (63)

We are collecting great quantities of skulls & bones. Some of VI dyn, many of XII, all of these kept completely; & dozens of Roman age. So we shall know plenty about the Dendera folks. I am longing to see Mac Iver come to get on to all the bone measuring.

Mace is doing very well; he spends nearly all day grubbing out XII dyn burials very carefully, & preserving all the minute beads. Davies has lately been useful in looking after the Ptolemaic burials & amulets. This place can absorb any amount of work. The cemetery is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile \times $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, all a dense mass of mastabas, pits, graves, walls & holes of all ages. It is less plundered than any place I have yet worked in. Fully half the burials are untouched.

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Mace is doing very well; he spends nearly all day grubbing out XII dyn burials very carefully, & preserving all the minute beads. Davies has lately been useful in looking after the Ptolemaic burials & amulets. This place can absorb any amount of work. The cemetery is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile \times $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, all a dense mass of mastabas, pits, graves, walls & holes of all ages. It is less plundered than any place I have yet worked in. Fully half the burials are untouched.

(64)
Please forward to
Miss Orme, Angmering Rectory, Worthing.
F. L. Griffith, Riversvale, Ashton u-Lyne.
Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore Rd Kensington
W. Petrie 8 Crescent Rd Bromley Kent
F. C. J. Spurrell Bessingham. Hanworth,
Norwich.
Dr Walker 55 Fitzroy Rd Regent's Park
NW.
Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon.
Altrincham.
Miss Harvey, Mousehill, Milford.
Godalming.
A. L. Lewis, 54 Highbury Hill, London. N.

It is a fearful waste of time sticking inside
one's hut from week's end to week's end. Every
one else is off at the Works dabbling in coins
and jewels, and new excitements every day.

Meanwhile the courtyard is getting impassable,
so I hear: it is crammed up with innumerable
great tablets and steles and cornices, and
piled the length of its walls with skulls and
bones, and crowded with pots.
I haven't anything much to say, this week.

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[The lower half of this page is by Hilda Petrie.]

10-17 Jan 1898

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(65)

This is another triste journal, as Hilda has been in bed the whole time with some amount of fever. The last few days it has been intermittent, & with plenty of quinine. She is improving in some ways, but has now started a swelling of all the face, beside keeping on 1° - 3° of fever. It is different to anything I have seen before, & Miss Oldroyd is also puzzled. The conditions are in most ways as good here as possible, out in the desert air, perfectly fresh, & with any quantity of St Galmier water to drink, for H. has had nothing else while ill. Our ordinary water supply is also very good. So I do not see that any external circumstances can be in fault; but rather this illness - which is nothing at all dangerous, though very wearying - is the payment for a deal of over-tiring & chills that have gone before. I have been always playing moderator, fearing that too many risks were being run.

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Mena's tomb has been found, a great well which has evidently stood open for years anciently. The sarcophagus is built of slabs, rough outside, but finely painted inside. One end had been broken away, on which was an inscription about his being keeper of the pyramids of Pepy I & Merenra. The inscription & objects painted on the sides have largely vanished owing to exudation of ~~sulph~~ sulphate of lime. What is visible is very finely drawn, & I & Mr. Davies are copying as much of it every day as ~~we~~ we can. But it is a very cramping position & very damp, so that one hour of it gives me bad cramp in the legs.

Then Adu I tomb proves to be so rotten down in the chamber that we must in every case remove all the inscribed stones, as the remaining sides are collapsing. We had hopes of getting the burials intact. The great lid of 6 tons lay complete on the sarcophagus; at only

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one end could the latter be reached, & that end was perfect. So we broke away the lid, & at last there (69) was enough space for me to get down into the water, which nearly filled the sarcophagus. But I then found that it had been plundered by driving a tunnel clean through the native soil to the side of the coffin & breaking through that. It must have been done (like the opening of Rahotep at Medum) by some one who knew exactly the position & level of the burial, & who tunnelled straight for it.

Adu II has a tunnel very steep, about 35° , but the end goes into a well, out of which opens the chamber probably, like Adu I. And another mastaba by this is of the same type. Both of these are being now opened up, down the well.

Of lesser mastabas we are clearing several; but the main move of the week has been on the Ptolemaic cemetery, whence we have got hundreds

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(68)
 of coarse blue amulets, ~~20~~ about 20
 tablets of limestone 3 or 4 inches long
 with demotic inscriptions, one Greek, one
 hieroglyphic, a few coloured cartonnages
 including one made of demotic papyrus,
 & a great lot of coloured beads.

This will give us a quantity of
 shewy stuff, good to distribute, &
 costs but little to get out. Davies is
 doing most of the clearing of these.
 Mace does the tomb walls. And I do
 the planning ^{of tombs}, general arranging of work,
 copying of Mena, accounts & payments,
 & the sad nursing which is needful.

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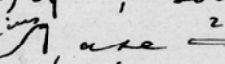
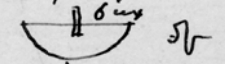
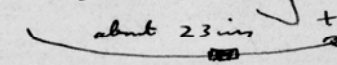
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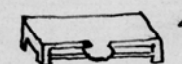
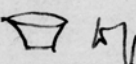
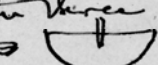
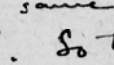
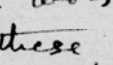
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



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17-24 Jan 20-27 1898

17-24 Jan 20-27 1898 (69)

In clearing by Mena's sarcophagus we found thrown aside at the E. side of the door end (N.) of it, some pottery & model adze  ^{2 1/2 ins}, and full size razor?  ^{6 ins} of copper. These seem to have been the models used in the funeral ceremonies of "opening the mouth" &c. With them was a long wire, with a loop joint  ^{about 23 ins} + 8 ins & a rod or bead of copper of it about 1/2 long x 1/4 diam. The use I do not see; but it looked comically like a belt-wire as I cleared it along the sarcophagus.

Two or three days later I cleared Meru's tomb next to Mena's. It had been plundered & the body bones were broken. But there were pottery beads, & pendant locusts  in dark glaze: also a model altar of offerings of thin sheet copper  ^{about 2 x 4 ins} with little cups  to place on it (much broken). And at the feet were the three same tools as with Mena   . So these date it fairly to the VIth like Mena with it adjoins: and that dates the locust beads back from XII to VI; & dates a little copper

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




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probably also to VIth.

In a late Ptolemaic ~~of~~ sandstone
sarcophagus I found bones of a dog's
head by the side of the man. And
strange to say in the very next tomb that
I cleared there was also a sandstone
sarcophagus (though in a different region)
& by it a small limestone sarcophagus
which contained a dog's skeleton. It was
probably the Greek influence which
brought the dog into such prominence.

We found the name of Zautta to three
mastabas, but one of these is now
cleared up by getting a 
"good name Resa". The determ. 
looks exactly like a headrest with only
half the curve. .









Two other names have been found
 Hathor-en-ankh, and 
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71
 painted & almost gone. In the tomb
 were two square boxes of stone; one
 with a flat lid in a groove, contained
 only a broken pan of pottery; the other
 with a pyramidal lid  contained
 nothing, but is painted roughly with jackals
 on the sides in red & black.

A large quantity - about 20 lbs - of
 coloured beads have been found in one
 of the Ptolemaic tombs, & Davies
 succeeded in moving some large pieces
 of the beadwork complete by coating
 with wax, as I did at Illahun. With
 these were three small tables of offerings
 & a block of sandstone 10 x 7 square &
 18 ins high, with a figure of a mummy
 on one face, & the man's name
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This is very unusual, I do not
 remember seeing such a block in any
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 Legrain all went over in a very
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 our work about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off, but L.
 did not seem in the least inclined to
 look at it, or to take any interest
 particular in what was found. They
 spent about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs over the temples
 — just like green tourists — & never
 wished to see anything else. I was
 only too glad to be saved having to
 trot them over things; but imagine
 a director of antiquities never caring
 to see a bit of excavations & antiquities
 just found, when he is within $\frac{1}{2}$
 mile of them all, & spends a morning
 about the place!!!! I was astounded.

We have finished off two more
 great mastabas, with long tunnels
 pits & chambers, but found nothing
 whatever left in them. Adu I is
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We have found a few more names of (73)
 mastabas \overline{A} \overline{B} \overline{C} \overline{D} , \overline{E} , \overline{F} , &c.
_{Adua} _{derat} _{mer-ru}
 more of Antefa's sculpture was found, very
 rude work in relief. He was \overline{E} keeper
 of the store of ploughs. Unfortunately there
 was only a foot depth of the walls left,
 & the stones were so close to the surface
 that they are weathered into flakes, &
 a large part cannot be preserved, I fear.
 The mastaba is 90 ft long. The well
 was plundered, as in all the large tombs,
 & from the two chambers of it we got only
 15 or 20 rough small jars, & parts of two
 skeletons.

One mastaba proved to have been
 reused in XVIII dyn; smashed up stone
 inscription of that date, pottery, &c, shewed
 it. Below the well opened into a vast
 hollow of fallen-in chambers over 50 ft
 long and 10-20 ft wide. The strata here
 are

top stuff & sand	1 ft ?
hard tough marl	8-10 ft ?
very coarse gravel	4 ft ?
sand	4 ft ?

and the tomb shafts generally go through

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(74) the marl & gravel (with flint & blocks of primitive rocks from Hamamat, about 6 to 10 in across) & then open into a chamber in the sand. In time the sand caves down, then the gravels fall, & there is a chaos of rubbish.

To day ^{29th} we began on the great east mastabas, two or three important ones, which I suspect are IV dyn.


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I bought a scarab found by the seabkh diggers []

"Tahutmes III smiting Kadesh."

It is a nice pendant to the fine one I got 3 years ago "T. III subduing Kadesh". I also bought lately a seated Bes of wood, (XII or XVIII) with a lion skin on the back tied in with a girdle, & tail down

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(76) behind, the first positive proof of the lions skin on Bes.

I have been surveying over the cemetery & done the main mastabas now. We shall have a good plan full of names to show for it. It is very cold, down to 45° or so inside our rooms, & high winds often blowing. The day was pleasant & almost still, so H. sat out most of the day.

Please forward to
Miss Orme

F. L. Griffith, Riversvale, Ashton-u-Lyne
Mrs. Pinker, 22 Avonmore R^d, Kensington. W.
W. Petrie, 8 Crescent R^d, Bromley, Kent.
F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Hanworth, Norwich.
Dr. J. H. Walker 55 Fitzroy R^d Regents Park NW
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29 Jan - 5 Feb 1898

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(77)



At last Hilda is up & about again, after a weary three weeks. A few days have set her up well, & she is going about the work almost as before, but better in some ways for the long rest. She has taken enthusiastically to plan-drawing, & is plotting off the plans of the mastabas to a scale of 1/100, from which they will be photographed down for publishing. The general survey of the place I am doing on 1/2000, which will have to be reduced to 1/4000 for a plate. It will be a great help to me to have the plotting off my hands, & I hope she will do the measuring soon as well.

One large stairway pit of a mastaba appears to be altogether of a different type, & probably of late origin. At the bottom the stair opens out on one side into the chamber roughly hollowed in the hard gravel, & containing two sandstone sarcophagi. In these had been wooden coffins.





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One large stairway pit of a mastaba appears to be altogether of a different type, & probably ~~also~~ of late origin. At the bottom the stair opens out on one side into the chamber [R] roughly hollowed in the hard gravel, & containing two sandstone sarcophagi. In these had been wooden coffins

and ⁷⁸finely engraved & coloured cartonnage. All this organic matter & the bones, were greatly rotted, almost to powder. But on the man's body in one coffin was a fine green glazed scarab & wings about 9 ins across & four genii 3 ins high, of the best works. It is about the XXXth dyn. The woman's body in the other coffin had nothing upon it. but the cartonnage & wrappings. Another body lay by the coffins, with scarab wings & genii; & two bodies lay on each coffin, with a similar but poorer outfit. The event of the week has been the opening up of a mastaba of the eastern group, which proves to belong to a prince Merra [] & his wife Seheta []. It was imitated in style from the tomb of Mena, & that one must have been visible when this was built, or it cannot be many centuries later. But the style of it is far rougher in the hieroglyphs than Mena (under Pepy I) or Adu I (under Pepy II) or Adu II. And it is on the way to the rudeness of the style of Antefa of XI dyn. Hence I

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cannot but put it down as coming ⁽⁷⁹⁾ shortly after the VIth, in the VIIth or VIIIth. There were about 16 false doors along the east side, & five out of six of these yet excavated have the large panels of stone & the rolls over the doors yet lying below, as they fell in the ruin. With these is the stone cornice all inscribed lying in loose blocks. I expect that we may have 12 or 15 stone panels with figures of Merra & inscriptions, & 80 or 90 ft of cornice preserved altogether. I also much hope for the great stele of the offering chamber being preserved. We keep half a dozen men sleeping there on guard at night, so that there shall be no chance of theft; & the place has fortunately fallen to the hands of my best man Ali. He ought to make £10 or 12 bakhshish out of it, & the result would be worth £100 to £200 in Europe. Above all the evidence so far shews that this must belong to the VIIth dyn., as yet unrepresented by any private monuments. The series of Mena (Pepy I), Adu I (Pepy II), & Merenra

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Adu II (later) & mastaba No IV which is
 next after that, is well fixed by the
 positions & structure of those tombs;
 & that would fill the VIth dynasty, so
 that another group of mastabas which
 are a little later must belong to the
 VIIth-VIIIth dyn. Merra has several titles
 that I do not know, he is called


The forms are many of them peculiarly
 clumsy, the eagles are naturalistic copies
 of the birds without any of the fine artistic
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 bird is almost comic. We are working
 into the interior of this mastaba also.

The next one to it is bare of stone
 externally; but we have got into the
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5-12/<6> Feb. 1898

5-16 Feb. 1898

(81)

We expected to have had some difficulty about getting men to work in Ramadan. The pay day before the fast began I enquired of several men if they would fast or work, & they all replied that they would work. I heard one good old worker saying to the guard here "Ramadan yegi fil gebel? la, la, m'darabnish heneh" (shall Ramadan come into the desert? No, No, it shall not smite me here)

A very interesting day has just passed. Mrs Stevenson came in the morning, & we had a long talk over her affairs, as to moving monuments from Tanis, & her interviews with people in Cairo. Then on going over to the "black mastaba" as I call it (owing to the brickwork shewing) we found that they had just got out a large slab covered with minute inscription. It is rather roughly done in narrow columns divided into groups, & each group of columns has a heading to it placed over it.

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⁸² Roughly there are about 6000 signs on it. I think that it is one of the religious texts, like the Book of the Dead, for the soul of the great man, like the inscribed coffins already known, but on a much larger scale. The mastaba has no stone left outside of it, so we have not yet got the name, as the large inscrip. is broken about the edges.

Then another tomb, of which we had cleared the well off before, (& found the dog's coffin by the owner's in the re-use of Ptolemaic date) we got on the east front of, & found two tablets, 3 door rolls, & many pieces of Antefaqer [$\overline{\text{R}}$] probably XIth dyn.

By the ~~black~~ mastaba of Merra we found yesterday another of Ptah mera [$\overline{\text{R}}$], with several blocks of cornice & some pieces of steles, one with scenes of agriculture. And next to that we found today

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another mastaba of which the name⁽⁸³⁾ is lost but three figures & names of daughters remain. (see β below)

Near that again two more mastabas have been cleared, & one has the name [ⲙ] on the door roll.

Our courtyard is long ago filled, & we overflowed the skulls outside; now we are overflowing the stones outside, over a space still larger, about 80 x 60 ft altogether.

Next day we found much more stone of mastaba β (above); one slab with the man [ⲙ] & his beloved follower Antefa. He had panels of stone over his false doors, of which we collected three. So also had Ptah mery.

Another tomb is of Bai hotepa, his wife Yua [ⲙ], sons Menhotepa Beba, Sehoteb, daughters Sent & Thenpet.

Ali found several more fine pieces of merra, & the last news is of a much larger stone closely inscribed in continuation of the religious text before named.

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(84)
 We have been turning over our hours a bit.
 We get up about 6 & breakfast before sunrise.
 Out by 6½ at sunrise to survey &c, & go
 over men till 11. Then heavy lunch, rest &
 do indoor matters till 3, when there is a
 light refecton & we go out till 6, &
 lastly dine at 7. This gets us out early
 to work, & leaves all the hottest hours for
 indoor matters.

A beautiful bronze (? copper) axe
 of open work with a kneeling man,
 from a XII dyn grave, shewing
 that such axes belong to that age.



In a side chamber of the wide stairway
 to a great tomb was a burial, plundered,
 but with a group of vases overlooked in a
 corner; 4 of alabaster, two of
 hard limestone, a little dish with spout,
 a porphyry vase, a little diorite
 bowl, and an exquisitely thin diorite shell
 with a copper mirror. This is a
 very charming little lot of tomb
 furniture.


The great black mastaba has
 produced more. We have now

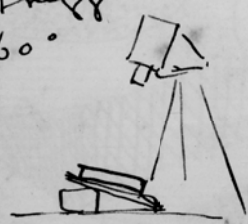
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


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
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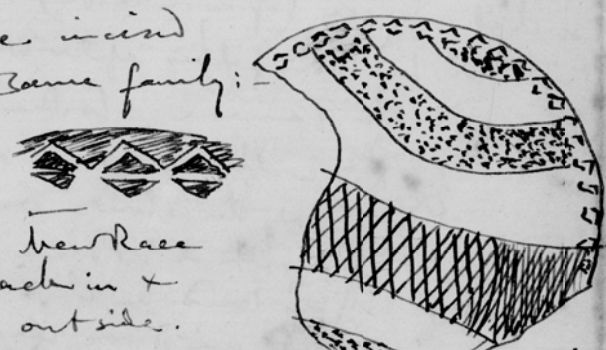
reached the coffin built of large (85)
 slabs of limestone, rough outside, but
 all closely covered with inscription
 in side. The slab found before was
 the lid of it, with a projecting lug on
 each edge  & about 126 columns
 of inscription. Inside the
 "becoming in" different places (X 300....)
 & 7 100, kher neter. The coffin will give
 us much more still; so that I expect
 there will be altogether about 40,000
 signs. It is certainly not later than
 the XIIth dyn, & I should put it to VIIth.

I am taking alternate mornings on
 photographing, & surveying, & going
 over work in afternoons. I saw that it
 would be needful to do all the sculpture
 here to one scale for photographing,
 so that pieces (of cornices &c) could be fitted
 together by the films afterwards. So
 I rigged the camera looking down at
 60°  with a board at 30° to
 lay the stones on square
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 in my doorway, so as to

(26)
have a strong head-light from
outside sloping down on it. There is
no focussing or shifting, except
changing the subjects; all are done
to scale $\frac{1}{8}$ th, so that my $\frac{1}{4}$ plate
takes is 24 x 30 inches safely.
This is quite large enough to read the
smallest inscrip that we have.
Fitch's films are answering well,
& I have already 36 plates stronger
& clearer than almost any that I
have ever done. And as yet I have
not done over $\frac{1}{3}$ of what is waiting.
Between two mastabas in the IV dyn
group, on the ground lay a piece of an
incised bowl like what De Morgan
found at Saqqara. It differs from
the New Race incised [R]
but is of the same family: -
edge [R]
impressed)
Colour is like New Race
examples black in &
dull reddish outside.






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




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


In the floor of a Roman house we found 243 silvered copper coins of about 300 A.D. Diocletian to Constantine Augustus, not yet Emperor. They shew how far coinage circulated in the Empire, as being all within 20 years or so. Over half or $\frac{131}{243}$ are of Alexandria, next to that is Antioch only 14, & the rest just a few from every part of the empire.






I bought the scarab of a new queen of XVIII dyn, fish on back &  which seems to be  which

Ankhtau, probably born in that quarter of Memphis. It is parallel to  daughter of Aahmes.

Four more mastabas were named today. The great black mastaba proved to be of an  Hereditary prince Beb. In another was a very perfect small tablet very sharply worked & finished, a splendid piece though not the best art. It is of a man Nekhtu , wife Hepu , 3 sons each named Sebekhotep , one Antef .

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one Bebaā 1140, daughter Naa 73 +
(88) servant Ada 4 2 4. The children are
presenting offerings, & the servant is
kneeling down bread-making. There is a
long inscription saying that he was "chief of the
people" (𐎧𐎺𐎠) had 31 oxen, 33 asses, 13
goats, a boat of 4 oars a-side, & another
of 5 oars, "he built for his father (𐎧𐎺𐎠) (𐎧𐎺𐎠
fields, lakes, embankments,
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𐎧𐎺𐎠 𐎧𐎺𐎠). ~~Another~~ This must
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And C appears in it (𐎧𐎺𐎠 𐎧𐎺𐎠 goats).
Another tomb is of Anhur nekhtep 𐎧𐎺𐎠
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I am sorry to find that the great
inscribed coffin is almost illegible on
one side owing to scaling. So there will
not be over 20,000 signs probably legible
after all losses. Please forward to him some.
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Mrs Pincher 22 Avonmore Rd Kensington. W. Patre, Grosvenor Rd, Bromley, Kent.
Fr. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Haverworth, Norwich. Dr Walker 54 Fitzroy Rd Regent
Mrs Haverworth Woodside Bowdon Altrincham. 2 Park, London NW
Miss Harvey Monksdale Milford Godalming
A.L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill London N.

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Another tomb is of Anhur nekhta [𓂏] [𓂏]; and a third Hotepa has turned up.

I am sorry to find that the great inscribed coffin is almost illegible on one side owing to scaling. So there will not be over 20,000 signs probably legible after all losses.

Please forward to Miss Orme.

F. L. Griffith R Ridgemount Gardens Gower St WC
Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore R^d Kensington W. W. Petrie, 8 Crescent R^d, Bromley, Kent.
F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Hanworth, Norwich. D^r Walker 54 Fitzroy R^d Regents
Park, London NW

M^{rs} Haworth Woodside Bowdon Altrincham.
Miss Harvey Mousehill Milford Godalming
A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill London N.

3 sheets.

[Pages 89 to 99 are by Hilda Petrie.]

Feb 6

Feb 6 The hot weather began yesterday, that is to say September has turned into August; and though I suppose it is very mild compared with what it will be in two or three weeks, one has arrived at going out without a coat, and with a handkerchief hanging round one's hat, and the desert is hot to touch, and one's feet begin to burn in one's shoes: it is ordinary English summer weather, and therm. about 70° in one's hat, at warmest.

I have been on the tramp for about a week now, being wholly recovered, and F. and I go out, all round the works morning 10-1, and afternoon 3-5, and he investigates pits and mastabas and tombs, and measures up the men's work, talking Arabic hard all the while, and by this time I get in detail all the sense of what he says, generally, and in the pauses I enquire the meaning of unknown words & write them down: so I am collecting a useful vocabulary, and find that I know over 300 words by this time. The more interesting feature of the work is the detailed measuring up of mastabas for plan-drawing: and I am

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(90)
 promoted to writing in the numbers of inches in
 the rough sketch, while F. measures, and also
 to making out the plans at home to scale of
 1:100. - and, as interesting as anything,
 the triangulation of the mastabas with a
 sextant. I am getting, incidentally, a lot
 of instruction as to the theory of triangulation
 and use of sextant, and surveying and
 planning in general, and it is fascinating.

The face of the entire desert is altered
 during the month that I was stowed away
 in the huts! When I took to my bed
 after the New Year, there was the great
 extent of tunnel-mounds, long since
 worked-out, near the huts, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
 of undisturbed Gebel between these and
 the 3 great princes' mastabas (Mena,
 Adu I and II.) But now that I get
 about again at the end of January, I
 find more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile square of desert
 all raked up into mounds and pit-holes
 in a confusing jumble of every variety
 of tomb, and ranging in date all through
 (dyn) VI - VII, XI, XII, XVIII, XIX, Persian,
 and Ptolemaic. I lose my way at every

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(91)

turn among them. The first day I was out among the works again, we had a grand day of grubbing blue cylindrical beads off mummies from the top of the sandstone sarcophagi before-mentioned, and then the Arabs broke small holes in the ends of the sarcophagi, and F. crawled right inside, and grubbed in airless heat, with a small lamp, and secured the inside occupants' amulets. The tombs are in a hollowed-out cavern, reached by a steep flight of steps. It was so dim and mysterious, and so like something in the Arabian Nights; and 4 picturesque Arabs - Oh! their draperies and colours! - disposed themselves round us, all the time, full of pious exclamations.

An intrusive native doctor has just arrived on a donkey, desirous of seeing inquisitively all we have to shew: however he is not allowed to be shown anything as he may be a dealer in disguise, and dealers are not allowed to shew their noses here. They come occasionally however, and various loafers come, and squat down

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(42) all day idly in Arab attitudes about the place: they look like prophets in the distance with long sticks, and imposing draperies, but nearer at hand, they look suspicious characters and one feels dubious as to their intentions.

Flinders spots them from afar, and generally at $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distance, begins suddenly to run very fast, in the sort of way that would overtake anybody or anything, and then there is a general fleeing of loafers, and the works are left in peace. Or he walks towards them, and then begins to run most alarmingly when near; it is terrifying to the loafer, and most amusing to the onlooker. Sometimes

these chases extend right down to the cultivation, far distant!

Please forward to

Mrs Orme Angmering Rectory, Worthing.
F. L. Griffith, Esq. Riversvale. Ashton u. Lyne
Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore Road, Kensington.
W. Petrie Esq. 8 Crescent Road. Bromley
F. C. J. Spurrell Esq. Bessingham, Hanworth, Norwich
Dr J. H. Walker. 55 Fitzroy Road, Regent's Park N.W.
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8 a.m. (sitting on a mastaba out on the desert.)

I may as well describe a picturesque incident in our domestic house-keeping which occurred yesterday, in which the buying of a turkey seemed a delightful and romantic thing of the Arabian Nights, and strangely contrasted with your dull resorting to a poulterer's, along pavements, in fog or rain, elegantly clothed, and feeling stultified with advertisements and all the other atrocities of civilization. F and I were at large in the desert measuring up mastabas when a small white donkey approached us with measured paces, and there on a large old prophet, very picturesque and very lean and scraggy whose long brown feet almost touched the ground: by his side came a little girl, as brown and as necklaced and earringed as they all are, and in front of him the old man held a muktaf, a green rush basket, and the basket held a large and intelligent-looking turkey: so F. and the prophet conversed, and the turkey changed owners, and he went on to deliver it up to Ali, and we sat down $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, and looked at the porphyries lying about the desert, till Ali had shouted to us the right number of piastres, 7 was to give. Ali is a great bargainer and is very proud of his successes in marketing. 3 or 4 turkeys wander up

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94
and down the courtyard here all day, and the evening's dinner investigates one's hut in a placid but inquisitive manner: and sometimes the turkeys quarrel, and pursue each other up and down the loads of pots and piles of bones, and then the cook-boy Mohamed, and Yusuf have to separate them, and one is popped on to the wall, and another on to our greenery-covered board roof, and the third into an empty hut. Mohamed is a sweet youth, with wondrous manners, all salaams and salutations, and is becoming a good servant, quick and bright. All Arabs do unconsciously stupid things however and are very childish in their incapacities.

We have alternate mornings of photographing and mastaba-surveying now. A number more of named mastabas are daily coming to light and our large cemetery is a confused jumble of small mastabas now, all of them on more or less the same plan, but with a difference always in their proportions and details. The middle part of the cemetery, just behind the temple of Denderah, is the oldest, and here we are beginning to come upon a fine series of IVth dyn. mastabas: there are two imposing ones, and several of a lesser order. Here one

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gets more than elsewhere the idea of what these buildings must have been, for instead of low walls only remaining, of mud brick, some height of wall has been exposed, and in the first IVth dynasty one, the great stone slabs remained in situ, the facing of the walls, and these recesses of the false door were covered with outlining in red and black for sculpture still not begun, except in the door itself which has a fine massive archaic looking figure of a certain Suten Abu with green eye paint, and the panther-skin, sculpture entirely differing in style from anything we have had before.

There are interesting collections of things found in the numerous XII dyn. tombs, and the mastaba-pits are full of pottery: sometimes more than 100 (e.g. 138) pots are found in a single tomb.

The workmen are an intelligent set of fellows whom F. has trained in work at various places in various years, so most of them work well, and understand how to look for their walls and pits. They work in couples - man and boy - or in groups of 4. At present they are all engaged on mastabas, as the tunnels were worked out months ago. They sleep in the tunnels, so they are all within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of their work, and are close to the huts. They all begin to

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96 sally forth about 8 am, in their long brown overalls, like bees from a hive, from the great tunnel-mound, every morning, and get down to their respective pits with their green rush baskets like carpenter's baskets, and their short handled hoes; one works at the bottom of the hole, shovelling sand and stones into the basket with the broad edge of the tool, and the other, the boy, carries the basket to and fro, on his shoulder, and throws the stuff down in heaps outside, on the nearest spot where they will not want to dig. In deeper excavations, 10 or 20 or 30 ft, two boys haul the basket up by ropes. They sing weird monotonous tunes, somewhat like Gregorians, very frequently, but often quite unlike anything I have ever heard. They are dressed in picturesque garments of white or blue or brown - which I now notice come in that sequence, and the variations mean varying degrees of dress and undress. The white shirt is loose-sleeved, and shaped round the shoulders and arms by means of a white or red string crossed over the back: on this is hung little square red leather packets or books, sentences of Koran therein, and considered as a sort of talisman, with a sundry bead or two sometimes added. The blue garment is likewise flowing and picturesque - sometimes a bright blue. The brown outer one is of very coarse canvas. The red slippers are taken off and laid aside for work.

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Feb 15.

Feb 15. The day before yesterday when we were down by the Roman houses under the temple walls, the northern boundary of our cemetery, we saw quite a procession of people ^{on} donkeys - old men in long robes, - women in black, - children in brightly coloured draperies, astride in twos - all wending their way to the north-west corner of our ground, where a small modern cemetery stands. Such a collection of folks were there already, groups of Arabs, and some twenty donkeys turned loose to wander also among the tomb-stones. A crowd of women sat in rows, on the ground round the open grave, ^{their arms} swaying backwards and forwards, and swaying to and fro with a rhythmical movement of the body, and moaned and half-sang in the monotonous minor way that only an Egyptian can; their lamentations rose to prolonged howls now and then, and sometimes to a sustained Soprano shriek, and were very weird. It was all strangely picturesque and Oriental, and dismal, and the little unenclosed group of whitewashed tomb-stones, with the isolated mourners, and straying beasts, looked so desolate in its expanse of open desert. There are little collections of graves at frequent intervals along the desert edge. We came upon large-spread ones, in our exploration to How, also, at which place I watched a long funeral procession across the cultivation up on to the Desert, and was much impressed by their long slow deeply-sung dirges, somewhat Gregorian-sounding.

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March 5

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The hot weather never stayed with us completely. Afternoons are hot: it is 70° and sometimes up to 85° in my hut. But the mornings are quite cold.

We sat out in the strong wind this morning on the Gebel outside our courtyard, F. making a copy of some the columns on our great Bebe sarcophagus lid, and I correcting MSS.

Various visitors took up yesterday afternoon. Miss Broderick and Miss Anderson-Morton turned up from a dahabiyeh, on donkeys, and spent an hour looking round things, and having the site explained to them from the tunnel-tops, and after they had gone, in came Prof. Sayce to have a long talk with F. and to sit and hobnob over our best finds.

(Sunset) F. and I have been off across the place to measure in whatever mastabas have given us fresh names in the last few days. Bebe and Beba occur in about half of them! The number of Zantais, and Antefs and Mera-names confuses one much. We begin to get many interesting inscriptions now - Not only the Suteu du hotep

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formula, and religious invocations that are customary but delightful descriptions of the private people, with details of their boats of 4 and 5 oars, and their sycamores in their forests and fields, and how many asses and oxen they had. And their quaint children make them offerings, each named above their heads, and in the corner is the servant stooping over bread-making!

Lord Northampton turned up again today, in the coloured Bedawi head-dress, and was duly impressed by the sight of our mastabas, and the strange new one, the galleried sand pit, in particular. He is on his way down, in his dahabiyeh: everyone is on their way down, now that the river is running lower.

The sunsets are very magnificent sometimes: we have not had such wonderful ones lately, but an ordinary sunset here is as clear amber and brilliant flood of light, equals a more than ordinary sunset at home. If it is a yellowish sunset, and the horizon is a distant one, one sees the 'green ray'. Just as the sun is disappearing into the Desert, there is a strong bluish-green tinge over the disk of the sun, an instant before the last of it altogether sinks out of sight.

Please forward to

Miss Urtin, 22 Stafford Terrace, Kensington. W.
F. L. Griffith Esq. Riversdale. Aston-u-Lyne.
Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore Road, Kensington. W.
W. Petrie Esq. 8 Crescent Road, Bromley, Kent.
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Miss Urtin, please remember to send on to Mr Griffith this time.

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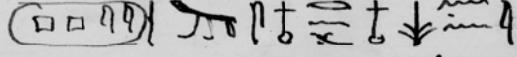
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16-19 Feb /98

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(100)

I send a short journal as we are just off for a few days tenting to explore the desert between here & How, 25 miles. Most of our men are away for the Beiram festival at the close of Ramadan, so it is an excellent time to go; moreover Hilda is in better trim now than for months past; and MacIver has just come to reinforce the party here. So H. & I go off tomorrow with tents & stores, 4 donkeys, Ali & a man.

One rather insignificant looking rise in the cemetery was a mastaba with the usual chamber in it; & in the chamber were stored 7 stone panels 20 ins square ready to build in to the false doors. One more panel was found fallen from a door. They all have a figure of the man & varied inscriptions; his name was  Pepy tasnefer, Senna. The work is fairly good, & all are in perfect state.

In a small very insignificant ^{XII dyn} mastaba we found hidden in the chamber a hoard of bronzes of XVIII dyn, probably stolen & hidden away in the deserted cemetery.

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