

XI.

Wasta.

17-25 Jan 1891.

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Then I have cleared all over a ruined mastaba with 7 false doors & a chamber in it, & many wells. But all are either blank, or with some poor reburials of XXIII dynasty.

The sloping passage in a ruined mastaba runs into an overlapping chamber of stone, as massive as the pyramid. This we are now emptying.

The two biggest mastabas here we have.



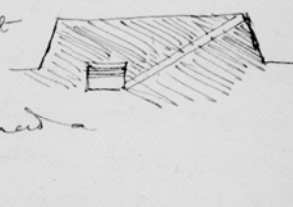
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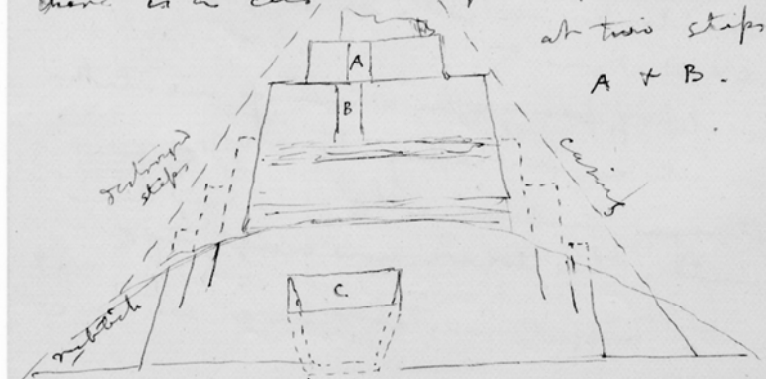
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(52)
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any wells. The entrance may be by a
sloping passage; but the passage in the
opened mastaba would run right out
to the top of it, where perfect
which seems so unlikely
that I think it may have had a
well to it



I have now traced the enclosure wall of the
pyramid most of the way round.

As this pyramid is a developed (or enveloped)
mastaba, & as I can find no remains
of a temple on the E. side, I think it may
have a false door or shrine in the E.
face. On looking at the E. face high up,
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[R] A at two steps
 B A & B.

destroyed
steps casing

rubbish C

This suggests a mark above a false door, possibly. Especially as it is to the S. of the middle, & the master's false door usually is so in a mastaba.

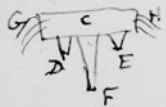
To examine the matter I have determined to make a deep cut through the rubbish to the base as at C., reaching from the middle to well below the face grooves above.

This is a big affair, costing probably £15 or 20 though done at about 1^d-1½^d per cubic yard.

I have ten pairs on it, & extra boys to carry stuff. They work very hard, & have cut 20 cubic metres, a day, earning two or three times day wages. The large fallen blocks are the trouble, as they have to be split up & carried out.

To get the stuff out I have two minor gangways

DE for the middle mass; the upper stuff goes at the sides G H, & the bottom will go out at a deep central cut, F. Thus it will be so distributed about as not to need to be carried high up a waste heap. The hole is 70 x 35 ft at the top, horizontally, & about 50 deep from the upper edge.



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(54)
 To day has been brutal, with a high cold wind, &
 at the pyramid work the clouds of dust swept
 up, hiding all the work, & stung one's face &
 filled one's eyes.

Had a pleasant visit of two days from
 Mr. J.J. Tylor, who has been publishing copies
 of paintings at Luxor, & is on his way
 to India.

Mr. Bliss is with me, & stays a week
 yet. He has diligently been following
 up everything, & will give full attention
 to small points of brickwork & pottery
 which are all-essential for his work
 at Lachish.

My eyes are too tired & sore with dust
 to write more. Letters & papers
 rec^d by Austrian mail, 14th Jan.

Mrs Petrie,
 8 Crescent Road,
 Bromley, Kent

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XII

Wasta -

26 Jan - 1. Feb 1891

Wasta -
26 Jan - 1. Feb 1891 XII
At last we got to the bottom of the unopened well. Just then, to my great surprise, Newberry & Fraser came down. N. had been overworking, & went to Cairo for a little advice; & they thought of running down to see me for a night as a change. This well was so tempting that they stayed a day to see it opened. The great trap door, weighing 6 or 7 tons was in its place. But by cutting away the brick-work we could tip it forward.

Fraser & I levered at it, & gradually we tilted it over. Then we saw that the passage was filled with masonry. So Fraser cut & pulled that out. At last I crawled in & looked over the last block that remained, into the chamber.

The first thing I saw was a great hole in the floor; it had been burghled by a forced tunnel from below! The body of Ra-nefer however remained; lying on its side, against the west wall, head north. Strange to say the head was broken loose, & one hand, but the head was laid in place on a stone. This looks as if the place had been plundered in early times when the body was

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[R] well
sepulchre trap.

⁵⁶respected. It had been searched in the chest, & on the wrists, for ornaments. It is marvellously plumped out, or modelled, in pitch & resin, & coated with the most exquisitely fine linen, like that of Pepi & Mentuemsaf of the VIth dynasty. There was no sign of a coffin or sarcophagus, nor of any funeral furniture. It was very disgusting, after the long work we had with it. Of course I brought out the body, & shall bring it away, being so early.

The large deep well that we have been clearing for two or three weeks went down to water level; & they could reach the passage roof under the water; but of course it is inaccessible without a force pump.

In the mastaba where we found the well ~~empty & no~~ chamber empty & unused, we found & cleared a large cutting made by a plunderer; & then hit on an unopened well, which we may hope is unrifled below. I have also another unopened well going on.

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There are many other cuttings & wells (54)
being cleared. A great mastaba near
the pyramid we have cleared on the N. end
& find the brick face to descend some
10 ft below the ~~the~~ mass of chips & gravel
banked against it. So I am cutting into
that to see if there be any entrance
under the chips. We cannot succeed in
finding any entrance on the top, so far.

It was ~~at~~ in a gap in the brickwork at
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2/3 [R]

2/3



(58)
At the pyramid the great clearance on the east side is going down still. We found the walls of the causeway leading up to the pyramid, & have traced nearly all of the enclosure wall of the pyramid. The building on the south side is still a puzzle. We find large blocks of it, but under 12-14 feet of chips.

I have not had much time, having visitors, & I have now taken an hour off my sleep to write this, so no more now. I am all day long running about looking after my 70 men & boys.

I had a visit from Mr. Warner who was a host of Miss Edwards in America.

Letters & papers came, & Pal. Note book.

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Rd.
Bromley, Kent -

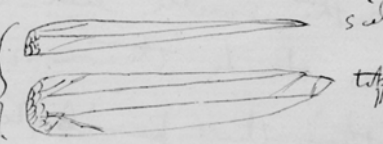
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1-7, Feb. 1891 - ^{Wasta} The tomb wells here ^{seen} ⁵⁹ designed to ridicule the Explorer. After clearing out one which was quite unopened, & finding nothing whatever in it, I tried, & got on another well in the same mastaba, also unopened; but this again had no interment though there were some objects. The bottom of the well had a heap of broken brick & chips thrown in, up to the level of the chamber roof; on that was placed a rush mat, & on that lay four alabaster bowls (two broken) two red pottery dishes (broken), a bundle of 50 flint flakes tied round with rush, & 57 others lying about: some copper needles, & three shells, one with blue paint. The flints are all finely flaked & thick at one end thus  without any sign of hafting. All the bowls were wrapped up in cloths. Have now found a third well in that mastaba, which has been

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(60)
plundered, but which I am reopening.
Another unopened well, in a different
region, proved to contain a late burial,
about XXII dynasty, with a few beads
& a broken mirror ground down.

At the pyramid the great cut into the
east side continues, & I hope to
reach the bottom in 10 days or so.

It is the only chance apparently of
finding the king's name. I now have
each end of all the four sides of the
pyramid distinctly exposed; so I can
survey it shortly.

On the south side of the pyramid I
now think there was a tomb
within the peribolos wall, & disconnected
from that. Under 15 feet of chips
& big blocks I have found a great
square space sunk in the rock,

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far below the pyramid pavement,⁽⁶¹⁾
 & with fine stone masonry by it.
 When we get down into this we
 shall see whether it is a tomb
 well as I suppose. Or it may possibly
 be connected with the pyramid itself.

We found a painted recess with
 traces of some scenes on it, which
 I am making a coloured copy of as
 time permits.

Many other points about this
 place, I am clearing & examining,
 & I hope we may score some
 prize for all this labour.

I have written to four people already
 to night, so I must finish. I shall
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 Mr Bliss has left to day. He made
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(62)

started as well set up as possible,
I think, from a month's study.

Letters & papers received. Hope to answer
A.B.E. shortly. Palestine wages book
came, & I gave Bliss the names
of the workmen.

It is satisfactory to find that I am paying
less than any one else for labour. The
fund paid to Jaillon 60 cent^m = 95 ^{paras per metre}
Government contracts used to be 60
Now they are from 50 to 40
And I pay from 30 to 20
according to the hardness, or 1½^d to 1^d per cubic yard.

Col. Ross who was over here yesterday
was astonished at the amount done per
man, & chuckled over cutting down the
government terms. As 1 para on the
metre means £10,000 a year ^{to government} a
minute change of rate is very important.
Notwithstanding the low rate, my men are
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[Page also numbered 1.]

XIV

Feb. 8-14. 1891.

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 broken its silence, & there is something
 to write about this week. Firstly we
 found a deposit of pottery of IVth dyn; I
 say confidently IVth, because it is like the
 pottery of Gizeh, & unlike that of the XIIth or
 later times. There were about two dozen
 large bowls & dishes of fine smooth red
 pottery, with polished rouge facing, three
 unbroken, & the rest broken anciently, but
 & nearly all there. Then we had a
 similar find of about $\frac{2}{3}$ the amount.
 Each of these lots were in a small well
 adjacent to a burial well; & in the body
 of ruined mastabas, built of pyramid
 builders' rubbish, & entirely degraded by
 denudation, so as to be untraceable
 on the hillocks of waste chips, except by
 trenching. The ^{well of the} larger lot has a deep large
 well beside it, unopened, & this we are
 now clearing out.

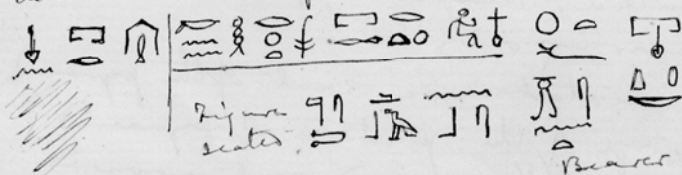
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 on the edge of the plateau of pyramid
 builders' rubbish, spread out around
 the pyramid, overlooking the valley. Among
 these is a small chamber with remains
 of painting, that I may not have mentioned

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(64)
before. It belonged to a great man, who
was $\Delta \& \downarrow$, $\uparrow \Delta$, $\uparrow \uparrow \Delta$, named Neferure
to $\& \&$; but there seems to be a trace of a
small sign after $\&$, perhaps a similar
name elsewhere may clear it up. The
scenes are valuable as being so early, but
are in very bad state, on mud plaster.
I am copying in full size coloured facsimile,
when ever I can get a spare hour for it.
There is harvesting (by tearing off, not
cutting), fishing with nets, bird catching,
& grand oxen in body cloths.

Then in a small mastaba mostly denuded
away, like so many here, we found the
stone panel of the false door fallen &
buried. It is for a royal relative Hekenen,
who is seated, with a servant bearing a basket
on her head before him.



It is very simple in style, & not finely done.
The reversed \uparrow is peculiar. A circular

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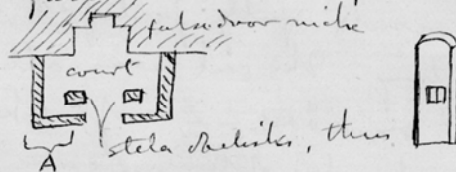
[\mathcal{R}]
Figure / seated Bearer

It is very simple in style, & not finely done.
The reversed [\mathcal{R}] is peculiar. A circular

[Page also numbered 3.]

The pyramid work has gone on with some interruption by high winds, which brought down such showers of chips & stuff from the steep cut face (which is very loose) that I was obliged to stop work on the inner side. We hit on the sloping casing, & saw that I had gone well enough in for it. Then at the middle of the pyramid face there appears the side of an open court, & a great stela or obelisk ^{over 13 ft high} standing - perfect - in it.

This is a great find, as it is quite unattached, & even the original top coping of the wall complete. The arrangement is evidently just like Rahotep's court of offerings



I cannot yet see ~~if there is~~ an inscription on this obelisk, but there is on Rahotep's pair. At present my work only reveals the part ^A; and I must cut away more of the end of the great pit, forty feet high of chip stuff before I can see the whole.

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 A stela obelisks, thus [R]

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(66)
 court, & the other obelisk, and the
false door which ought to exist.
 There being no other shrine or temple,
 & the arrangement being just like Rahotep's,
 outside we may pleasingly dream of a
 decorated chamber, statue &c; but,
 if anywhere, probably far ^{within} the
 internal coats of the pyramid. Still I
 hope to find the name externally; and
 the astonishing preservation of the
 wall quite perfect, & the stela, shews that
 the place was venerated until it was
 covered up safe from ~~a~~ mere
 quarrying & smashing.

This result fully justifies my big
 undertaking. The cut was all or nothing.
 I must do about £20 of work, (to say nothing
 of an equal value of time & care), & make a
 hole big enough to hold three good sized
 houses, or else do nothing. Now I hope
 we shall really solve Medum; & we have
 in any case a most interesting & valuable
 piece of the history of pyramid development
 from the mastaba; just what I outlined
 8 years ago.

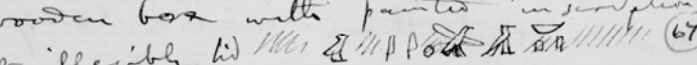
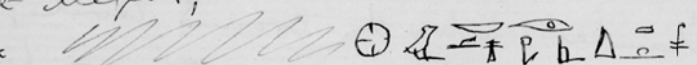
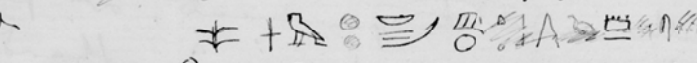
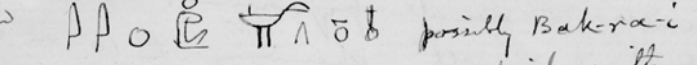

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 undertaking. The cut was all or nothing.
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 of an equal value of time & care), & make a
 hole big enough to hold three good sized
 houses, or else do nothing. Now I hope
 we shall really solve Medum; & we have
 in any case a most interesting & valuable
 piece of the history of pyramid development
 from the mastaba; just what I outlined
 8 years ago.

[Page also numbered 5.]


 XIV
 8-14 Feb 91


8-14 Feb 91
 In the chips over the court was found a
 little wooden box with painted inscription
 almost illegible, lid [] (67)
 side []
 side []
 end [] possibly Bak-ra-i
 It was a wax figure 5 1/4 ins high with
 crown of upper Egypt, Osiris? It was all
 broken up, & the arms of the figure lost in
 the digging; for being amongst a mass
 of loose stones & sand, where nothing
 small was expected, of course it stood a
 bad chance. It looks as if offerings were
 still made at the shrine, even after it
 was choked with rubbish. We may find
 others! This does not look to me early; I
 should have thought XXI-XXV dyn, but it was
 rather low down for that age, as we have
 the date of the rubbish in XXII dyn. by
 many mummies buried with beads in
 the bank of chips. Amongst other
 things these have proved that the clear
 yellow glass ring beads [] are of XXII
 period. I suspected ^{this} as they often occurred at
 Illahun, but not absolutely dated before.

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 little wooden box with painted inscription
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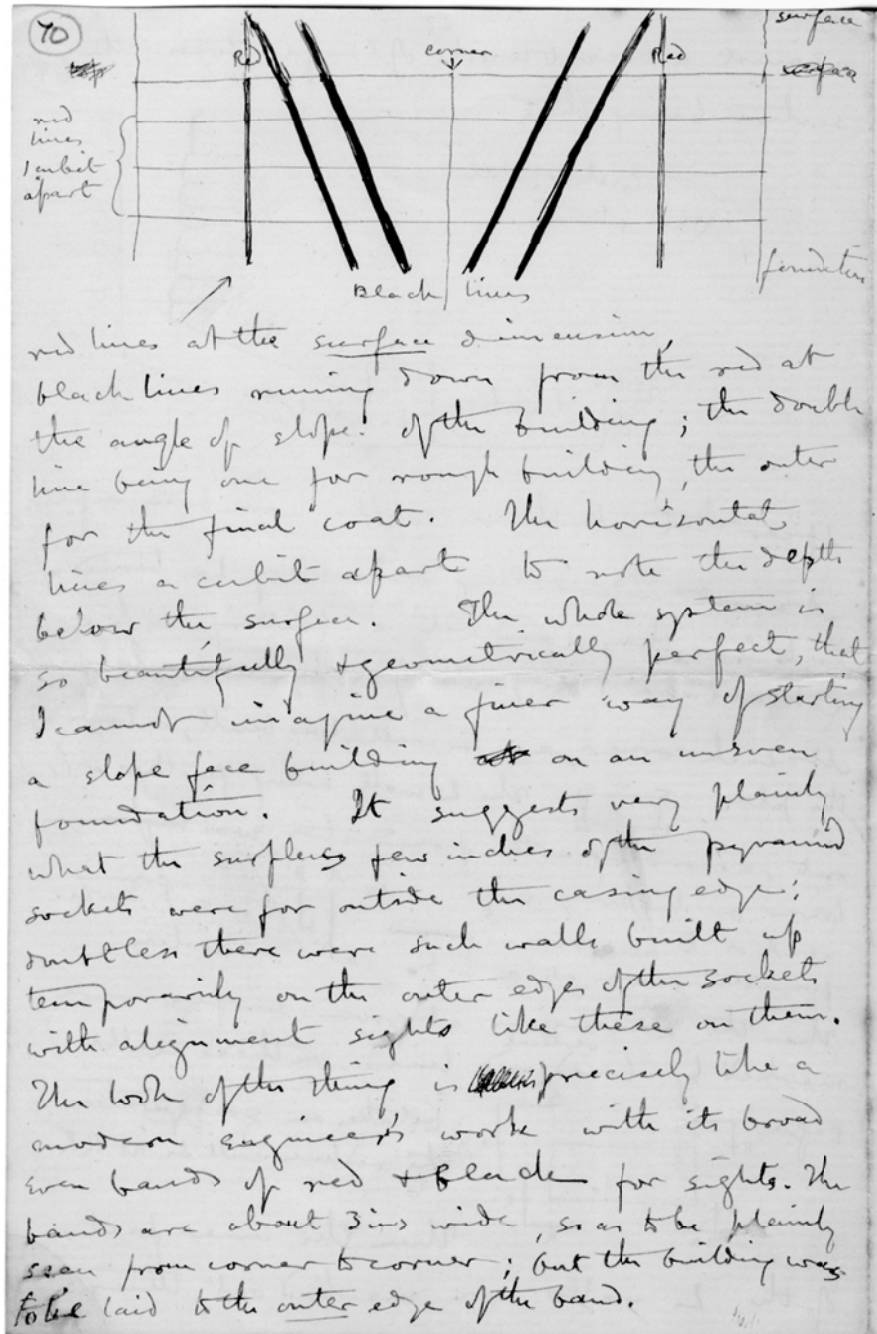
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 Illahun, but not absolutely dated before.

(68)
 On the south of the pyramid, I now conclude that there was a large chamber below the ground level; & either under the pavement, or perhaps under a small pyramid. I hardly think it worth spending £10 on clearing all the area, as I see it has been so utterly cleared away. We find the edge of a pit in the rock, out of which every bit of built stone has been stripped, down to the base of it which we have cleared part of. As it is under 25 feet of hard beds of chips & bound by gypsum, & big blocks of stone, it is not a tempting matter to go further. The rock passage seems to have led from a well outside of the building into the chamber below the surface.

On the desert side of the pyramid stood a line of tombs, perhaps with above ground building but I am not certain. There are 5 or 6 of them about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the pyramid; & one we have cleared has a well of brick descending

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[R]	top	Red	Corner	Red	surface
	red				surface
	lines				
	1 cubit				
	apart				
			Black lines		foundation

red lines at the surface dimension,
black lines running down from the red at
the angle of slope of the building; the double
line being one for rough building, the outer
for the final coat. The horizontal
lines a cubit apart to note the depth
below the surface. The whole system is
so beautifully & geometrically perfect, that
I cannot imagine a finer way of starting
a slope face building at on an uneven
foundation. It suggests very plainly
what the surplus few inches of the pyramid
sockets were for outside the casing edge:
doubtless there were such walls built up
temporarily on the outer edges of the sockets
with alignment sights like these on them.
The look of the thing is ~~xxx~~[?] precisely like a
modern engineer's work with its broad
even bands of red & black for sights. The
bands are about 3 ins wide, so as to be plainly
seen from corner to corner; but the building was
to be laid to the outer edge of the band.

[Page also numbered 9.]


XIV

Adot of my men are all called off to go home to be inspected for the register of future recruits; from boyhood, about 10 yrs old, every boy & lad is periodically inspected, & a register of all sound ones kept, from which recruits are to be drawn in future.

A good deal is brought over from the Fayum & from Lahun, for me to buy. I have bought about £15 worth of beads lately; to day alone I bought over 2 lbs weight of fine glass beads of Coptic times, & over 1 lb of small carnelian beads ^{of XVIII dyn}, & 1/2 gross of carnelian & glazed earrings. The son of the big wig of the district - a Coptic Bey - was sitting by, & astonished at my giving £6 for two lumps of beads. My object is now to make up a great standard collection of dated beads; type specimens, & strings of all the more usual varieties. This will be the basis for the paper that I am to do for the Antiquaries. Of course, now I can date all I see, or nearly so - from my past diggings, & thus give a definite value historically to all


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that I buy. I also got two or three good
bronze dishes of XVIII. dyn; & a great Coptic
bow saw  ~~about~~ over 2½ feet long; the
blade broken in two, but the wooden arch perfect.
I hear also of a large chopper to be had; so I
shall get some items for my history of tools.
I have also bought a large quantity of Coptic
textiles again, none remarkable; &
some early Arabic letters on papyrus.

Papers & letters were duly received; last
card of Feb 2. I will send a list of
recipients for Tell Hesi volumes; but one
should go to Dr Grant in any case. I
hope the Fund will send to the folks in Palestine.

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XV.

14-21. Feb. 1891.

14-21. Feb. 1891. There is very little to ~~mention~~ ^{XV} this week. At the pyramid we are cutting away the great rubbish ⁽⁷³⁾ heap over the court; but it will be a fortnight before we can get down to that level. Especially as two windy days have brought down hundreds of tons of stuff into the work from the face of the cutting. It was an awful sight to be in it at the time; no one could work; clouds of sand nearly hid the whole place & blinded the eyes; a constant clatter of falling chips from the high face, 50 or 60 feet cut sheer down; & broken continually by the smashing fall of great blocks, up to some tons in weight. However I saw the pavement found just before this, & so I shall not need to move much of all this wilderness of fallen stuff.

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In the tombs there is more evidence that everything good was plundered here in early

times, ⁽⁹⁴⁾ but they had plans & knew exactly where the chambers were, & which wells contained burials, & which were blank.

In some poor wells, I have got a good lot of 18th dyn. pottery; & I have secured 4 complete skeletons, which will be very valuable to determine what the earliest & purest type of Egyptian is, before later admixtures.

I have begun to dismiss some men, & reduce my work while I do the surveying, before I leave. Only 2 fine days in 3 months - I am not well. A most interesting remark was made to me by an upper class Copt here. I explained to him about the dishes of funeral offerings being buried, & he at once said that was what they still did. When a big man was buried they put dishes & wash-pots & traps with him in the grave. So long do the old customs last here.

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22-28. Feb. 1891 ^{XVI} - This week has been almost
 entirely a matter of pyramid work. The
 cut down to clear the court & obelisks
 being a long affair. Especially so
 owing to the large amount of big blocks in
 the rubbish. For a day & a half we have
 done nothing but roll away blocks
 that required the whole gang, & I have
 had to be there & attend to it continuously.
 There were a dozen or twenty blocks of 2 or
 3 tons each, & 50 or 60 lesser, all to be
 got clean out of the way before we can
 clear down below. I am very glad to have
 got this part pretty well done without any
 accidents, for tilting about & lifting such
 masses by men not trained to it is risky,
 & legs & arms would have gone like matchwood
 if there had been false moves. We have all
 got off with plenty of scratches & a few
 bruises & aches, of which I have a full share
 as I have of the work. That court I hardly
 hope to get cleared within another week.
 As to other parts I have almost closed work.
 The well of Nefert is still being cleared; it

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(16)
has been plundered, & stood open for ages
so I do not expect to find anything in
it; but it is very deep going into the
rock, & not like Rahotep's well, in the
same mastaba, built on the ground.

I have cleared some more early
tombs with skeletons which I have kept
entire. These skeletons of the IVth dyn.
will be very valuable, I think, to show
what the Egyptian was before later
mixtures. The foreheads are low &
retreating. ~~not~~ These skeletons are not
laid out long ways like later bodies, but
all with bent knees  & lying on
left side, facing E, head N.  with lower
arm straight down under legs, & right
arm bent. This is a regulation position,
& I presume it was the traditional
mode of burial in Egypt, before
mummifying was introduced. One
body had lost the left leg from the knee
down; the bones were excellently preserved, &

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(77)
 in a box, so there could be no mistake about it. Noticed that the kneecap of the other leg was unusually developed, before seeing that it was the only one; so the injury was probably early, but there is no absorption of the end of the thigh.

I hear that the French are furious at the idea of D'Hulst being appointed inspector. Not only must it not be an Englishman, but no independent party, for fear of exposing the scandals of the French administration. The French Consul has bullied Riaz so that R. has gone to his country house; & he actually had the indecency to write to Naville to withdraw N's testimonial to Count D'Hulst's abilities!! Meanwhile Grebaut has not rendered any accounts for 3 years, nothing like an explanation

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(48)
 How the money has gone can be
 got from him. ^{see xix.3.} He demands pay for
 70 new guards, & cannot name
 more than 8. ^{see xix.2} An accountant was
 appointed, brother in law of Maspero,
 but he cannot make out any accounts,
 & says the Augean stable is such that
 he can do nothing to clear it. No
 wonder ~~that~~ that with such muddle &
 mess the French want to prevent
 anyone getting a nose into it.
 Grébaut telegraphed from Assuan
 that he could not recognise any such
 decision as that of the Council of Ministers
 on antiquities & digging. Pretty for an
 official to refuse to obey a ministry!
 I have all this on good authority. If
 the English officials were not so supine &
 ignorant, there would be a clean
 sweep of this confusion, I expect. The
 French Consul will go any length to keep things
 in French hands.
 Mrs Petrie (21 Jan) 8

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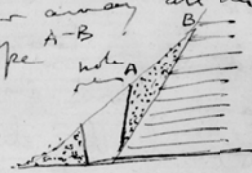
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Mrs Petrie, 8. Crest Rd Bromley,
 Kent -


XVII

1-7 March. 1891.

1-7 March. 1891. The work has gone on XVII
79
 much as before. The wind has cost us
 nearly double labour at the pyramid. A
 single hour's gale will bring down what
 takes two or three days to clear away. The
 other afternoon, I was standing in the work, &
 watching; the wind rose enough to bring
 the stones down trickling, & at last a
 great mass of one side came off all in a
 lump, about 20 ft high, 30 wide, & 5 thick.
 The dust was awful; but I knew there
 was only one man under the place, &
 I saw him dash back with me & the
 rest, so there was no harm beyond
 two or three days more work to clear
 it all away again. Any hour a gale
 may do as much damage again. There
 are three courses, (1) To chance it, & try to
 get the court clear before a high wind;
 this I am doing. (2) To clear away all the
 stuff back to the pyramid slope A-B
 which is only what I shall come B
 to if the falls are incessant hole A
 before I can finish the hole. (3) To coat
 the face of the work with a wash of cement
 syringed on, to prevent the sand blowing out
 between the stones: but I hardly think that
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(80)
 We have now got down to ~~8~~ 8 ft
 over the court, & found the top of the
 fellow obelisk or stela. The top of the
 pit of the work is now 60 ft above the
 pavement, owing to the recession by falls.
 & I opened a tomb which had the doorway
 closed; but had been reclosed after
 pillaging, & I found the middle of a
 beautiful alabaster stand with all three
 edge broken off ^{left}  I hope we
 may find the pieces. It is so
 exactly the form of the diorite stand I got
 in Cairo 2 years ago, that it pretty well
 dates that to IV. dyn.

In one of the largest mastabas, where
 I cannot find any well, I have cleared an
 old forced tunnel for a long way; but
 it is too dangerous to continue, so I
 am now cutting down an ~~off~~ open cutting
 to reach the chamber. This is already about
 30 ft deep through hard chips, & not
 down to masonry yet.

Last Sunday, I had over Hewat's assistant
 Mc Killop, & the Sunday before, Hewat.
 He is now making a great set of water gates

We have now got down to ~~2nd~~ 7/8 ft
 over the court, & found the top of the
 fellow obelisk or stela. The top of the
 pit of the work is now 60 ft above the
 pavement, owing to the recession by falls.

W I opened a tomb which had the doorway
 closed; but it had been reclosed after
 pillaging, & I found the middle of a
 beautiful alabaster stand with all the
 edge broken off left I hope we
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I hear that the battle about the Inspectorship is being hotly carried out. L^d Salisbury has to settle it, whether D'Hulst is to be put in, or whether it is to be left to the French.

Old Ali from Gizeh came over today as guide to the party.

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(82)
13 Naps, instead of the $18\frac{3}{4}$ which Mr. Moore weakly gave in to, last year after I had left.

I am now only stopping to get the pyramid done, & make my survey; which may take a fortnight or three weeks, or more if there is a high wind. The letters answering to this can come to Wasta; next week I will say whether to there or Cairo. I hear from Gardner that he will be at Athens from 25th March, so I shall find him there I hope.

Letters rec^d to 25 Feb.

Mrs Petrie
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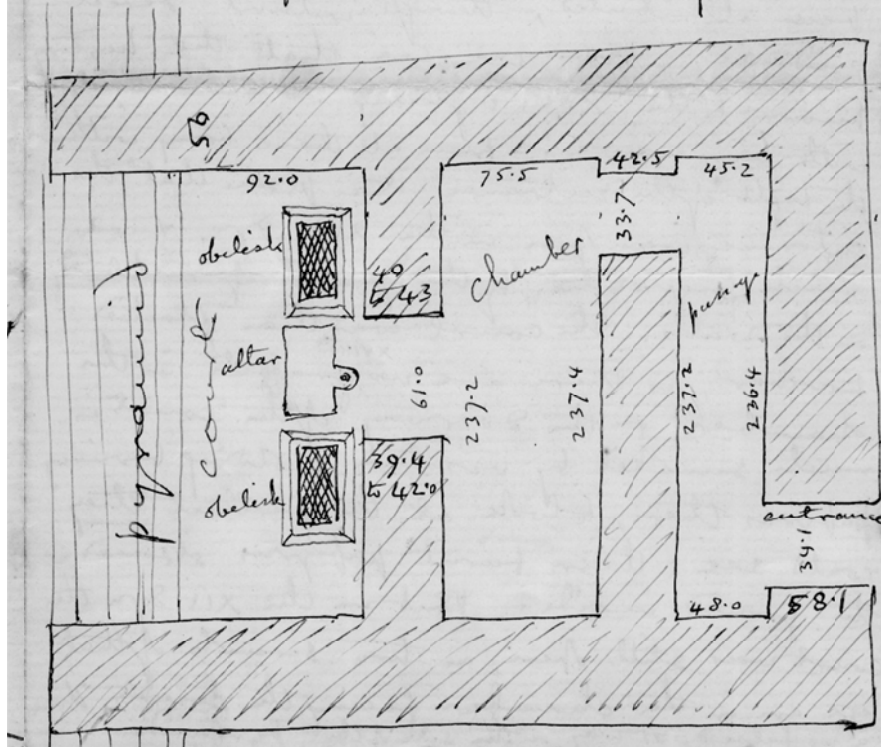
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Mrs Petrie
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XVIII.

8-14 Mar. 1891.

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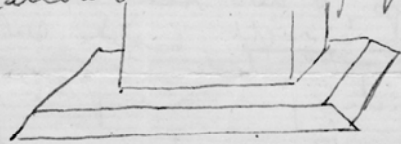
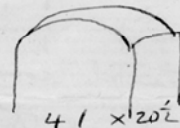
56	92.0	75.5	42.5	45.2
pyramid	obelisk 40	chamber 33.7		
court	to 43		passage	
altar	61.0	237.2	237.4	237.2
obelisk	39.4			236.4
	to 42.0			
				entrance
				34.1
				48.0
				58.1

84
 The entrance was blocked with stones, outside
 of which is a great depth of rubbish,
 which we are now clearing to examine
 the face of the temple. Near the entrance
 are about 20 hieratic graffiti, mostly
 one or two lines, but some long ones
 up to 12 lines. All seem of like period, &
 several are dated to Tahutmes III, Amenhotep
 III, & Seti I. And in them are four
 mentions of Seneferu, the predecessor
 of Khufu, to whom this pyramid had
 been attributed ^{in modern times}, though without direct
 evidence. Now we see that the history
 known to the XVIII dynasty connects it
 with his name. From all these being within
 the light of the entrance it is plain that the
 entrance was open in the XVIII dyn. & was
 much frequented, by the polish of rubbing
 on the walls. The court was then blocked
 however, as there are no ^{XVIIIth} graffiti in the
 chamber, & the doorway of the court is
 much smoked by visitors holding burning
 papyrus there, to look at the farthest they
 could see: their burnt papyrus strewed
 the ground inside. But in the XII dyn the
 court was still open, as two scrawls of that
 age are in the chamber facing the court. There
 is no false doorway on the side of the pyramid.

The entrance was blocked with stones, outside
 of which is a great depth of rubbish,
 which we are now clearing to examine
 the face of the temple. Near the entrance
 are about 20 hieratic graffiti, mostly
 one or two lines, but some long ones
 up to 12 lines. All seem of like period, &
 several are dated to Tahutmes III, Amenhotep
 III, & Seti I. And in them are four
 mentions of Seneferu, the predecessor
 of Khufu, to whom this pyramid had
 been attributed <in modern times,> though without direct
 evidence. Now we see that the history
 known to the XVIII dynasty connected it
 with his name. From all these being within
 the light of the entrance it is plain that the
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 court was still open, as two scrawls of that
 age are in the chamber facing the court. There
 is no false doorway on the side of the pyramid.



The chambers & passage had about 2 feet
 of sand in them. We have cleared the
 chamber & find that the floor had been
 all removed, probably in search of a well.
 The ground now is the desert pebble
 foundation. In the court are the


two obelisks with rounded tops,
 13 ft 9 high, rising far above
 the roof of the chamber. They are
 1 cubit thick, 2 wide, & 8 high. They stand
 on shallow bases with pyramidal sides;



and between
 them is a
 flat slab of the form of an altar of
 offering, with a spout projection &
 deep worn groove in it. But it bears
 no carving nor inscription, so I think
 it was for a carved altar to stand
 upon, which is now lost. The very deep
 worn groove I should be inclined to
 attribute to offerings of sour wine
 dissolving the limestone. In the court
 was the lower part of a stand of
 turned basalt, with perforations.



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 of sand in them. We have cleared the
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 all removed, probably in search of a well.
 The ground now is the desert pebble
 foundation. In the court are the
 two obelisks with rounded tops, []
 13 ft 9 high, rising far above 41 x 20 1/2
 the roof of the chamber. They are
 1 cubit thick, 2 wide, & 8 high. They stand
 on shallow bases with pyramidal sides;
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 offerings, with a spout projection &
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The stone dressing is rather rough, & there is no great accuracy about it. Small as this building is, ~~there~~ a passage, chamber, & court, it is yet most valuable. It is the oldest known building in Egypt; it is the only early temple quite complete; the only pyramid temple complete; & the second temple known before the XVIII dynasty. Moreover I have now solved Medum, by these graffiti.

I have had Mr Goodyear & his nephew here, for two days, & Mr Head Lane the Coptic scholar for ~~a day~~ ^{a night}, beside Mr Rawnsley of Keswick for a night. So I have not lacked for company. All these folks have been greatly interested about the temple. Of course, I must completely rebury it, or it would be all destroyed in a year or two by the stone breakers here, who ravage the pyramid unchecked.

I may be off before 3 weeks, & so after this arrives please address % Dr Grant Bey, Cairo.

Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

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Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent -

[Pages 87 to 89 were written by Anne Petrie,
W. M. F. Petrie's mother.]

XIX. Copy - The
original having been
accidentally destroyed.

15-21 March, 1891 -

I will send a short journal, as it is
late, & I have done a long account for the Times.

The clearing out of the temple is done.
Several small rude stone hawks were
found in it, (Senefru is always called the
Hor Senefru, [𓆎] in the graffiti,
& a base of broken figure, 5 x 3, with an
interesting inscription.


It appears to be a dedication to Uati of
the lake of Bubastis, to Khnumu & all the
sons of Horus, who are the gods of a town
called Tat snefru, for the ka of Snefru Khati,
born of ...mhotep. Tat snefru may be an early
town, known as Tutnu [𓆎]. The determina-
=tion after Khnumu, of a bar or two forked
supports [𓆎] seems to refer to the sense
of joining or uniting in the word knum.
It clears up the puzzle of the Khnumu Khufu
Khufu cartouches. The ka name of Khufu is
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supports; something that unites two pieces,
 & may very possibly read therefore Khnumu,
 the "uniter". Hence the Khumu in the cartouche
 is simply the ka name written in the cartouche,
 as was often done in early times.

The town & the person both being named
 after Seneferu shows how important
 he was there.

I am still trying on two big mastabas.
 In one we have found, in the centre,
 a deep hole or well in the soil filled with
 brick & mud & built over solid.

What we shall find at the bottom is a
 puzzle; for there seems to be no chamber
 or at least no well of access, for burial
 after ^{the} Mastaba was done.

I have had the Marquis of Bath & 2
 daughters, & a Dr. Drewitt here, a very
 pleasant fellow; also Naville & D'Hulst.
 R. looked over the inscriptions, much
 pleased with them, but had neither
 time, or inclination to verify all my copies.

Grébaut was told that if he would not
 give a list of his employes, no more
 salaries would be paid them. So he went

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on to Assouan, & took not the least notice. (89)

Artin was appointed to overhaul those awful accounts, but G. quietly carried off all his accounts & official papers with him, or locked them up in his house, & nothing can be done. What next? -

Turn over.

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Turn over.

From a letter -

(90)

From a letter -

A quantity of Roman things III-Vth cent. A.D.
are being plundered out of the mounds
round the Fayum, & they bring me the tools
& woodwork & pottery. I have got a big screw
9 ins diam. & 2½ ft long, thread sq 45° [R]
at edge. There is no attachment, but it
appears unused, & may have been
intended to be pierced with bar holes
or it may have served to force apart two
nuts working on it, turned in opposite ways. There
is no sign of wear; the thread is all hand cut
fastened. This is the first Roman screw
I know. It is clearly for power, not for a
fastening. I also got an agricultural drag,
with staples & rings to attach to
animals, & an iron edge to it,
much the principle of what is
used now. Also a large brass water cock, much
like modern, only plug lost.



Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Road,
Bromley, Kent.

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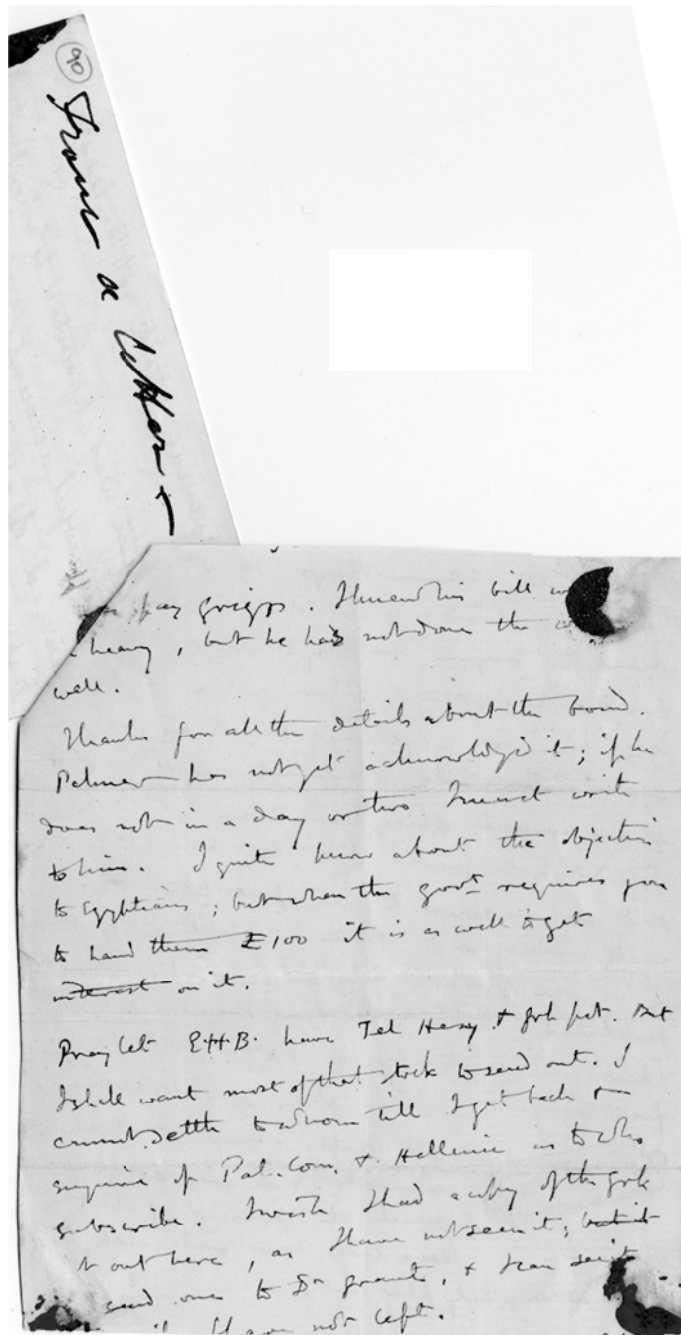
Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Road,
Bromley, Kent.

From a letter -

[...] pay Griggs. I knew his bill w[ould]
[be] heavy, but he had/<s> not done the w[ork]
well.

Thanks for all the details about the bond.
Palmer has not yet acknowledged it; if he
does not in a day or two I must write
to him. I quite know about the objection
to Egyptians; but when the gov^t requires you
to hand them £100 it is as well to get
interest on it.

Pray let E.H.B. have Tel Hesy & Grk pot[?]. But
I shall want most of that stock to send out. I
cannot settle to whom till I get back &
enquire of Pal. Com. & Hellenic as to who
subscribe. I wish I had a copy of the Grk
[po]t[?] out here, as I have not seen it; ~~but it~~
[...] send one to Dr Grant, & I can see it
[if I have][?] not left.



XX

22-28, March, 91.

22-28, March, 91. There is scarcely ¹⁹¹ anything to mention this week, as I am merely winding up affairs. A few men are finishing off here & there, blocking up Rahotep's tomb, throwing down thousands of tons of pyramid rubbish to cover over the temple, (as otherwise it would be destroyed in a year) & I am surveying, &c. I must now begin to pack the little that has been found, & the quantity of stuff that I have bought from the Fayum.

Palmer has never acknowledged that Egyptian bond, which he should have received a fortnight ago. So I have written to ask about it. I was quite unaware that the government would require me to give security until I received my contract to sign. But as I had proposed it months ago, when it was violently opposed & rejected, I could not

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object when they chose to require it. (92)
 of me. It is a mere farce, & any
 decent official would have said that
 personal recognizance was enough. But
 Palmer is not only ignorantly apathetic
 about antiquities, but petty in business
 also. I hear that Artin was appointed
 to audit Grebaut's accounts, & G.
 made off with all his books to Upper
 Egypt with him, so nothing can be
 done.

I enclose a squeeze of the inscription for
 F.L.G.; & will send my copy of the
 graffiti, so soon as I get to Cairo &
 can register them there.

It has been hot for several days. Over
 100°, & one day I noted the thermom^r
 it was 107° in the shade. That all
 burst last night, & it has been blowing
 a damp north gale ever since.

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Road,
 Bromley, Kent -

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XXI.

29 March - 4 April, 91.

29 March - 4 April, 91. ⁽⁹³⁾ I walked over to Lisht, to see the place before deciding if I should ever work it. But except the pyramids there is but little to do; and the pyramids Grebaut reserves, because Maspero failed to clear them! It was a splendid day, clear, full north wind, so that I went in only a cloth cap & never felt the sun in the least.

I have roughly worked out the survey here. The results are particular. The angle is the same as Khufu's, $51^{\circ}56'$ & $51^{\circ}49'$, being the two best results that I got. So it is a π -pyramid. Now Khufu's also embodies the ratio 7:22, as the height is 7×40 cubits, & base 11×40 cubits. But this might be thought accidental. Here is the proof of its being the intention of the size: for Seneferu's pyramid is 7×25 cubits, & 11×25 cubits. Just the same principle but a different modulus. The sides vary 10 inches or so, according to my present working out, but the average gives thus a cubit of 20.67 inches. So this clinches the theory of π proportion & the use of 7:22 ratio.

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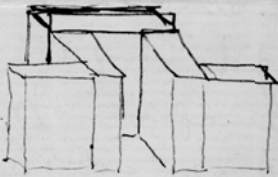
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Mrs Petrie
8 Crescent Rd
Bromley, Kent.


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(94)
 And moreover, it shews that Khufu
 inherited both of these ideas from the
 mastaba pyramid of his predecessor.
 Theories will have to be recast a
 bit; though I suppose nothing will ever
 be too tough for C.P.S. to explain away.
 The level of the corners is very fair; errors
 being $-2.8 + 2.0 + .2 + .7$, or average 1.4 inch

I have now completely closed the pyramid
 temple, the architects' marks at the corners
 of the mastaba, Rahotep's tomb &c. We
 are now clearing Nefermat's tomb, in
 which I have lived hitherto, & I am copying
 it part by part, as it is cleared. It is
 a noble piece of stone work,
 & back, two sides, & two
 fronting blocks, all 11 ft high
 & $3\frac{1}{2}$ thick, & capped by one slab over
 the whole, 20 ft long, over 8 ft, x $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft, or
 weighing 40 tons. ~~Under the~~ Under the
 rubbish I found a forced passage cut into



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the mastaba, well made, about 6 ft x 3⁹⁵
 running along the desert foundation, &
 though it is 75 ft long they never
 carried it up to the axis. & found nothing.
 I could not find any well or entrance on
 the top, so it looks as if this might be
 unopened yet. I have no time now to
 begin a long speculation; but shall perhaps
 tunnel this mastaba another year.

In the rubbish, which it seems that
 Mariette's men never cleared out, there
 is a large part of a fine stela; being
 broken, I hope I shall get it away.

I have done most of the packing, & I
 hope to get away ^{to Cairo} on Thursday or Friday,
 just as Ramadan begins.

I see that "Leisure Hour" did publish my
 paper in Feb; I should have been glad to
 see it, but perhaps I shall find it in Cairo.

I have the official receipt for the deposit
 of the bond, delayed by red-tape.

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XXII.
12-19 April.

12-19 April. ^{XXII} My men stayed on into Ramadan ⁽⁹⁶⁾
to serve as guards while I finished packing, keeping
four men & three boys for this. At last by
the 14th I had done, & moved over to Wasta.
It was a high hot wind & cloudy, much
better than the clear still heat we had before.
In the evening there was a furious sandstorm
& the wind went N. & was cool. I stayed
the night with Hewat & McKillop at
Wasta; looked over the great flood gates
they have been building, 60 arches & gates;
then up to Cairo, to Dr Grant's.

Sayce & Wilbour have both just returned,
& I lunched with Sayce, & visited Wilbour.

Grébaut has not yet returned; no one knows
where he is on the Nile, as he never writes.

So Brugsch went over my things, with
reasonable expedition, & not taking much.

The inscribed base of Snefru khati he spared me,
& did not take any of the frescoes nor
alabaster dishes, the only valuable things
we had.

I find that one of the queens of XXVIth dyn (? the
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I find that one of the queens of XXVIth dyn (? the
mother of Nekau) was buried <near> at the step pyramid

of Sakkara; her tomb was broken anciently &
the Arabs have sawn off the faces & ~~of the~~ ⁹⁷
stones, & sold them to me. I gave them to Dr
Grant.

I went to the pyramids one day, & took a lot
of measurements, which I enclose.

After consulting Sayce, my programme is thus:
Leave Alex^a 23 April. At Athens 25 April to
15 May, address % E.A. Gardner Esq, British
School of Archaeology, Athens. At Naples
19-29 May; address Postes Restantes there
& onward. Rome 29 May - 5 June.
Florence 5-10 June. Bologna 10-16th.
Return home 18 June, via St. Gothard.
I may very possibly not keep this exactly,
but it seems the most probable
arrangement at present.

Dr & Mrs Grant & Jessie are all well,
& very kind. I am to lunch with Sir F.
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a proposal about the inspectorship to Sir
Evelyn Baring & Sir C. Moncrieff, which they
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23.19-27 April, 91.

19-27 April, 91. Sir Chas. Cookson telegraphed²³ to Sayce, for me to give a lecture in Alex.⁹⁸ on my way through; so as he pressed it, I had to get a man to see to moving my boxes away from the Museum, which could not be done on Monday, as it is then closed. After some difficulty, Dr Watson, of the American Mission, kindly agreed to get a man he knew to do it; so I left the money & papers requisite with him. Lunched at the Grenfells, & found the General quite ready to take up my proposal for policing the monuments. So I hope something may be done thus.

At Alex. I stayed with Cookson, doing up some diagrams in aftⁿ, & lecturing a vivâ voce account of the year's work in the evening, at the new Athenaeum that is just started. A special meeting had been called, at a day's notice, so that the attendance was below usual, about 30 or 40. Next morning I left by steamer for Athens. We had fair weather, with not real roughness at any time; but the second day I was

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99
unwarrantably bad. The cause was that I had been much upset inside, when in Cairo, probably owing to there being typhus fever at Bulak. I could not enjoy the archipelago at all; but we landed at ~~the~~ the Piraeus in a cloudless day, & drove up, smothered in dust, to Athens.

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 good deal longer, so I shall not try it,
 but return from Nauplia. The museums
 here will take me all my time, evidently.
 One day's work has not nearly done one
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 there are three separate museums here,
 my three weeks will not go far. At
 the same time I do not see why I should
 hurry. I am not tied to any dates in
 England; I have settled in a very
 reasonable hotel owing to Gardner's
 recommendation; the weather is
 perfect at present, neither chilly at
 night nor too hot to go about in the
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 Mr. Paspali, (son-in-law of the Rallis), kindly
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