

5 Dec 1887

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 & to bed. Next day copied off the weightings of the weights
 in the L'pool museum, which I had not had time to
 touch since I weighed them in Sept. I find the Saxon
 weights are partly on the usual Roman solidus, or gold
 piece, & its third or triens, as might be expected: but
 beside these there is a still commoner unit of 1/8 of
 the Roman uncia, divided again into 1/6^{ths}; this is a
 barbaric division wholly different to the Roman
 division into 1/6^{ths} & 1/12^{ths} of 1/6th. This is interesting as shewing
 how partially the Saxons imbibed the Roman civilization.
 Took the list of weights to Moore the curator, & saw
 Antwhistle the assistant also. Down, & on board ^{the} Thebes by 1.
 But it was blowing so much that they would not leave
 the dock. It rained pretty often, & in the night
 there was a lot of snow. We felt it cold having
 no fire, & scarcely any steam-heat. Next day
 it still blew hard, & there were several hailstorms.
 But by the afternoon tide we started. I managed to
 hold up for 24 hours, walking a good deal, though
 we were pitching handsomely; & only three other
 passengers out of 18 came to dinner, & two of those
~~were~~ ^{were} left before it was over. Then I collapsed for
 two days in my berth, getting up very shaky. The
 seas were so high that the whole foredeck was all
 a-wash for two days; & after that, until we reached
 Finisterre, we rolled heavily, in so much that one often
 heard everything that was loose shooting from side
 to side. However down the Portuguese & Spanish
 coast it was fine smooth weather, and we had no
 more wind until we were in Gibraltar. A brisk short

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(2) blow there tumbled up the water a good deal, so that it was far from pleasant for those who went ashore in the small boats. I did not care to go, having been so often. We got into Gibraltar late on the 13th & left about 4 1/2 on the 14th. I now write this on the way to Algier, ready to post there, as it is no use writing from Gib, owing to the slowness of the post there.

Now for our passengers. The gentlemen are soon settled; for there was but one beside myself, a pleasant quiet Scotchman, like a rather less elegant edition of Mr Loftie, going for his health to Algier; out of sorts, & not much to be seen. As for the ladies the normal type was a mater familias and three daughters. First ~~the~~ the Hon^{ble} Mrs de Montmorency wife of a general, a fine specimen of the Anglo-Indian who can go anywhere & do anything, most like Mrs Field; a very refined & pleasant woman, rather reserved. Her three daughters very lively, ~~between~~ from about 10 to 18. Then Mrs Ponsford, another officer's wife, a chatty cosy old lady with delicate features & grey hair, her three daughters ruddy & athletic, about 12 to 20. Then Mrs Spencer, wife of Capt. Spencer, who looks 25 at a distance & 45 closer in, rather got up & jaded. Her three daughters not over strong; about 12 to 20. Here the regular order breaks, & of another family of three daughters we have but one here, a Miss Hineson, who lived with her sisters in

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Holmwood road on the Devas estate & will soon go into a new house in College Field. Strangely make acquaintance with a neighbour who lives half a mile off, when out in the Bay of Biscay. She is a pleasant sensible body of an uncertain age, who divides her attendance between Mr. Lovell & Mr. Hellicar, so you can about gauge her.

Then the triple order is kept up by three maids, two German & one English, going with the Montmorency's & Spencer's. Miss Bates, the S's governess, being out of the threes, must needs fall down & give herself a bad black eye in addition to two good ones by nature; so she kept up the triplicity. Really for a "young gentleman of parts" such a company would be astonishing

good fortune; for I am bound to say that there is not one unpleasant or ugly person out of the 17 women-folk. And it is a striking example of the wastefulness of nature that this collocation should fall to the lot of a sick Scotchman & a confirmed moniophilist.

However I made the best of the circumstances, and soon established diplomatic relations with all the company; and I am bound to say we are not having a bad time of it. Miss Hineson, as a neighbour, & without relatives here, has naturally made more acquaintance with me than the rest. She is going out for the winter to live

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with some Franco-Greek friends of hers at Alexandria. Her father is a ~~Liverpool~~ Birkenhead man; who, marrying again, his daughters preferred to live together near London, & so pitched at Bromley. At Gibraltar we picked up a young American lawyer, Clarence Howland, and his mother; they have come down through Spain on a trip & now are going to do Egypt, grudging over three weeks to it! Pleasant & polite folks, Mrs H. not to be taken for a yankee at all. He shares my cabin. We also took on a young man who is not very pronounced anyway, but inoffensive. Captain Duffy, & the chief mate Stevenson, are very good friends of mine from last year, when I went out in this same ship. The crew are all new hands, & half of them ~~were~~ drunk & incapable; the old crew were paid off on a Monday, & there was not time for them to drink it all up & get on again on Tuesday, so the whole of them ~~were~~ were lost, although they had signed articles for the voyage.

We certainly had a thoroughly bad start; but it is all now fading from mind in the sweet bright days, & cloudless sky, & smooth seas that we are enjoying in peace now, with balmy soft winds that seem to shame one from going down to one's cabin at night.

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Cairo. I.
16 - 26 Dec 1887.

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From Algier we had two fine days to Malta. There I went off ashore with Miss Hineson & the unknown young man of my last journal (here I had to stop for the train shook so much); he turns out to be of an Anglicised Syrian family, a very nice fellow, & quite undistinguishable from an Englishman. We all went to the governors palace & saw the armoury & other remains of the Knights: the armour would make a magnificent collection if it were arranged in any order, there are hundreds of helmets & cuirasses, of all periods. Then we went to the Library & Museum; the most important things there are the queer idols found in the temple of Hagiar Kim. [𐤒] seated on the ground with a sort of peg top legs & arms, there are seven in stone abt 8 ins - 2 ft high & a small one in pottery. There is also an Egyptian

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(6) figure holding a table of offerings, on which are statues of Horus & Isis seated. The style is copied from Ramesside work I should say, but probably not carved in Egypt. The dedication on it is to Amen & Mut. The man's name I could not well see, but his father was Neferrenpit & sisterhotep. The whole is in limestone, about 10 ins high, found in Gaulos.

Then we took train up to Notabile or Citta Vecchia in the middle of the island, & after some walking about, & persecution by guides, we got a policeman to show us the way to the Roman Villa. There have been several chambers; but two of them had so much mosaic remaining that a substantial stone building has been put over these. It is built on the old wall bases, with plain stone pillars on the bases of the columns of the atrium, the open space being glazed in. Pieces of the columns & entablature of the atrium are built in place. Altogether it is a model piece of conservation; everything thoroughly secured, the general effect of the chambers preserved, & yet no attempt at restoration or copying the ancient work. All around the pieces of mosaic the floor is filled in now with a hard fine cement flush with the face of the mosaic which holds it well in place. Then over all the parts where visitors might ^{or must} tread, there are pieces of carpet or loose boards to prevent any injury. The whole is in charge of a very careful man, who has the great virtue of saying nothing but getting in the way. All the small objects & pottery found, & detached pieces of mosaic, are put in glass cases along the walls. The statues & heads stand on pedestals & slabs in the

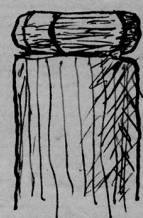
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atrium. Altogether I could not see a single item of the arrangement that could be reasonably bettered. It is a model of how such things should be managed, the government report on it, is in a portfolio for the use of visitors. The pavement of the atrium is nearly complete, a very good but not extraordinary example; but in the other room are portions of a much more delicate mosaic, done with coloured glasses, blue & green, as well as stones. There are two or three headless statues, of very good work for provincial, & fairly good in any case, the drapery being well managed. One has a curious feature, the edge of the robe being represented as stiff & not falling into all the minor folds, evidently copied from a thick embroidered border. They are quite worthy of a place in the B.M. or Louvre. There are two heads, one about the time of Nero, of fine style; the other about Commodus or Severus. Outside of the entrance of the modern building are pieces of carving which could not be built in place. A beautiful corner piece of a colonnade or some such roof, with good Greek moulding, of fine curves not overloaded with ornament. Traces of bronze hooks let into the marble, shew probably where a lamp was hung by four chains ~~for~~ below the centre ornament of the roof. The columns are fluted; but their lower parts have the flutings filled in with ovolo moulding so that they should not be so easily broken by blows. The most curious things are several

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columns with rounded octagonal tops. These must, I think, have been to stand in the chambers as stands for lamps, trays, statuettes, &c. The height is about four feet, above the pavement line. They were fixed in the floor. Only one inscription is there, each end of the lines broken. But it names all the parts of the villa, the columns, podium, & pavement & apparently the total cost.



top
plan

The next day we stayed at Malta, but I did not go ashore. The Ponsfords & Spencers left here; Col S. & M^r P. the chaplain being stationed here. The Ponsfords however came down next day to the ship to see everybody & bid good bye all round; they were friends with all, and everyone regretted their leaving, they were so unaffected, sociable, & good. M^{rs} de Montmorency was greatly fêted by one of the regiments which had been her husbands; she & the girls all dined at mess, & were taken about the town all day; next morning there was a special performance of the band in the square in her honour. We had it rather pitching for a day after Malta, there having been a gale which we were there. We reached Alex. however all well, getting in early in the morning, I got my boxes out by a little after 10, at the Customs I found M^r Ebsworth, who was as kind as possible, filling up the forms himself, & passing all on my invoices & declaration without opening anything. I thus got up to the goods station & had the boxes all weighed before noon, but was just too late to pay carriage, before the closing at noon. So I got a flap of bread & some eggs & oranges

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16 - 26 Dec 87

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Next morning (Xmas day) I went after breakfast to call on Dr Grant. He was as kind as ever, and asked me to move in, which I accordingly did after church. I met Chester at Church & also Corbett, & had a long talk with them in the afternoon. Cope Whitehouse nabbed me, & wanted to pump all my intentions. I fenced, until he overflowed & talked about his affairs, trying to draw me in by the prospect of a great deal of work being done for many years to come there, & thousands of pounds going to be spent about it all, & so many sites being involved about their work. So I then said that I did not suppose I should tread on his toes at all there as I was not intending to work in any of the parts he had named, nor did I expect to be more than a year or two there altogether. He

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did not like this, & magniloquized somewhat. (10)
He has not got out of me what I intend to do, but
only knows that I cold-shoulder his grand prospects
of future work.

On Monday I went to Bulak; & Grebaut sent
word asking me to wait in the Museum. I did so;
bye & bye he & Brugsch came in talking vociferously
to two people. I could not decently interrupt them, &
so sauntered by to shew myself. Soon they all
went out again, & I never saw any more
off. until the Museum closed at noon. Then
it was too late to do any business, the clerks
leaving, so I went back. In the afternoon I
went down, & was told that he was not there &
never ~~was~~ was in the afternoon, although
his house is there. So here is a day gone Grebaut-
-hunting all to no purpose. If I do not catch him
tomorrow, I shall go to Moncrieff first, & propose to
have the order sent down to me in the Fayum
without waiting in Cairo to receive it.

Muhammed came in on Monday, & as he has
no other business, he will come with me again
this year. I hear that one of the most active
Arab dealers has been turned loose in the Fayum
with a permission to work, & is getting large
quantities of early Arab things, but not from Medinet.
I have arranged to leave on Thursday morn. Corbett
gave me an introduction to the chief of irrigation in the Fayum,
who shares a house with the Mudir & is great friends
with him. So I shall get at the Mudir unofficially very well.
Lieblein is here, & I shall see him on Wedⁿ evening when
Dr Grant holds a reception.

Mr Petrie, 8 Crescent Rd Bromley, Kent

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II.

Dec 27 /87 - Jan 1/88 <Dec 31/87>

After my failure to see Grebaut

I went down to the Museum early next morning. I then found him, and he apologized much for missing me the day before, & further said that he was very much annoyed at having missed my letter posted to him, especially as he had missed my letters last year. He then gave me the reasons why he wished that I should take the Fayum; that he had no agency for working there, only an inspector of the district, the Arabs continually found things, & he wished to have some one to track up finds, & in short to organise & work matters out. Further he dangled the Labyrinth before me as a prize to work at, agreeing with my disbelief in Lepsius having found it. So he makes no reservations but hands over the whole district to me with good will. He then had two letters written & dispatched <to the Mudir & his inspector>, in which he

nominated me to work on his behalf as a direct agent of the Museum, legally speaking, without needing any permission from the Ministry. This is no worse a position for me than working under an agreement; and it has two advantages, - not requiring any delay to pass the ministers, & - giving me the full legal powers of the department officially. Brugsch made himself polite; but G. had not told him a word about my working, & the first he knew was hearing G. read out the rough of his letter to the clerk, naming the Fayum. B. almost jumped, and said "Oh! then you going to work in the Fayum". This shews that G. keeps his business very independent. Altogether I must say, as I did last season, that whatever appearances may be against Grebaut, he has - when it comes to the point of action - been as friendly and unobstructive as could be wished.

Then I went to Sir Colin Moncrieff; he was as friendly -

II.
Dec 27 /87 - ~~Jan 1/88~~ ^{Dec 31/87} After my failure to see Grebaut I went down to the Museum early next morning. I then found him, and he apologized much for missing me the day before, & further said that he was very much annoyed at having missed my letter posted to him, especially as he had missed my letters last year. He then gave me the reasons why he wished that I should take the Fayum; that he had no agency for working there, only an inspector of the district, the Arabs continually found things, & he wished to have some one to track up finds, & in short to organise & work matters out. Further he dangled the Labyrinth before me as a prize to work at, agreeing with my disbelief in Lepsius having found it. So he makes no reservations but hands over the whole district to me with good will. He then had two letters written & dispatched, in which he nominated me to work on his behalf as a direct agent of the Museum, legally speaking, without needing any permission from the Ministry. This is no worse a position for me than working under an agreement; and it has two advantages, - not requiring any delay to pass the ministers, & - giving me the full legal powers of the department officially. Brugsch made himself polite; but G. had not told him a word about my working, & the first he knew was hearing G. read out the rough of his letter to the clerk, naming the Fayum. B. almost jumped, and said "Oh! then you going to work in the Fayum". This shews that G. keeps his business very independent. Altogether I must say, as I did last season, that whatever appearances may be against Grebaut, he has - when it comes to the point of action - been as friendly and unobstructive as could be wished.

Then I went to Sir Colin Moncrieff; he was as friendly -

MS. Petrie, 8 Crescent Rd, Bromley, Kent

3rd ⁽¹²⁾ May almost say as affectionate - as ever. Took me
 over to the surveying office to see new plans, & told
 me to look in next day to see Major Ross who was
 expected up by then. I drew out £200 from the
 bank, & took up post office orders with it, 10 £10, &
 5 £20 on the Fayum: there was so much writing
 to do for 15 orders, & such a crush at the office
 that this took 1½ hours. I dined with Chester &
 Corbett, & spent the evening with them. Next day
 I bought a tent, the same size as my old small one.
 I wanted it larger somewhat, but could not get
 one ready made, though I enquired all through the
 tent bazaar. There were plenty of round tents,
 but only two sizes, big & little, of square tents, which
 are much better for boxes. I went to Moncrieff's
 again, & saw other maps, but Ross had not yet
 returned. I then walked down with tent to
 Bulak Dakrur sta. ⁽¹³⁾ Over 3 miles out of Cairo; there
 Muh^d met me with what luggage I needed out
 of that left in his charge, & I despatched it to the
 Fayum so as to have nothing to do before the early
 start next morning. In the evening Dr Grant
 had one of his receptions: he invites folks in
 from 9 to 11, tea, cake, &c, circulating. There were
 Grebaut (to whom I shewed all my recent purchases),
 Lieblein who is much older than I thought, about
 60, a quiet & very pleasant, unassuming, man;
 he is coming to the Fayum for a day or two about a
 month hence: Chester; Waller Bey, the dentist,
 whom I like; Count D'Hulst; Griffith, & Cope
 Whitehouse, who fussed about, & button holed

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various people, & to whom at the end I imparted pretty plainly my views on his accusations of forgery against Naville or Jaillon, saying ^{to him that} by no possibility could it be supposed that the Roman mill stone was forged. He got rather warm with such flat contradiction, & I think it will keep him off me somewhat. I heard from others that he would be glad to get hold of me into his new lake scheme, but I think I have given him a bit of a choker for the present, though we parted on perfectly polite terms.

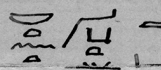
Next morning ^{Thursday} I bid good bye to Griffith (who came in on Tuesday night, & joined my room at the Doctors' to my satisfaction) & the same to the Doctor, & walked off to Bulak station with a boy to carry my portmanteau.

Left there at 8.30, Muhammed & his little cousin Omar (Tulbeh's younger brother) joined at the next station. We reached the Fayum at noon. Then leaving little Omar in charge of baggage, we went off to look over the Kom Fares & ~~the~~ find a tenting place. Knowing that the north end of the mound was the earliest I made straight for it & hit on the ^{approach to the} temple area at once. It is marked out by the ~~so~~ ground being covered with houses on either side of it, but the site itself being heaped up with Roman pottery & rubbish. Evidently when the temple was abandoned & quarried this was made the rubbish-heap of the town. This may have preserved the statues to some extent. Beside ~~the~~ identifying the area I saw a piece of a fine granite column, lotus bud pattern on the houses on one side, & a throne with the lower part of statues of Amenem-
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4. And his wife seated side by side. His cartouches are one ⁽¹⁴⁾ on each side of their legs & his Ka-name between them. This is of first-rate importance as it shows that the temple & town here dates from the beginning of the XIIth dynasty at all events, & was not founded by Amenemhat III. Beside this there is a quantity of ^{large} granite blocks at the gate of the temple; one reworked one bearing a Ka-name of an earlier king which I cannot identify; it ends [𓆎] *....an. Then there is also ^{a line of building} ~~the foundations of which are just~~ being grubbed out in the midst of the great temenos. Among the blocks are two reused ones, one a bit of a tomb of the ~~Vth~~ Vth or XIIth dynasty  a "royal companion chief of the works"; also a block with a fine figure of a king (Ramessu II?) offering. I think the ~~gate~~ ^{building} has been of the XXVIth dynasty.

Going back to the station I pitched tent for the night in a usual spot by the avenue leading to the Mudiriye, & then did shopping with Muhammed.

Next morning while Muh^d was out shopping, & sat at feeding in my tent, the Mudir (who I did not then know for such) looked in, & did not wish to disturb me even to rise to shake hands, & on hearing my business at once said that the letter had come about it. Soon after Muh^d returned & told me who he was, so as he was strolling up & down the avenue with his secretary for a morning walk I turned out, & joined his excellency. Muh^d also had something to say as

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<27 - 31 Dec /87>

27-31 Dec/87
 his grandfather was well known to this Mudir. (5)
 Murad Pasha - for such is this governor's name -
 is a fine-looking, elderly, man; by birth a Circassian,
 Sir Colin told me. He impressed me with his
 particular considerateness, absence of all
 ostentation, & quiet politeness. From the people
 through Muh^d, - from Corbett who educated his
 son, - & from Sir Colin officially, - I hear the same
 tale. His rule is so just, & kindly, that everyone
 loves him; ~~several~~ several times he has intended
 retiring, but is always stopped by a deputation
 of the inhabitants going to the Home Office &
 begging & praying that Murad & no other man
 shall govern them. Such is the happiness of this
 province at present. I had about ten minutes
 talk with him strolling up & down; and told
 him about my matters, & who I knew in Cairo. &c.
 Unfortunately Hewat the Irrigation inspector here, who
 is a great friend of his, & to whom I have an introduction,
 is away just for a few days. However we
 could not have got on better than we did on this
 official letter. I then moved all my baggage
 over to the side of the mound about 1 1/2 miles
 out from Medinet, settling by a ^{water-}mill on the
 canal. The miller is a nice fellow, & the place is
 as close to the work as any available, about 1/4
 mile off. In the afternoon a great Effendi called,
 he is one of the two great landowners of the Fayum
 next in importance to Murad himself. His name

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6⁽¹⁶⁾ Ferhat Effendi, & he owns all the cultivated land about the Kom, & lives in Medinet. He offered to shew me all he knew of here, & trudged about, over the mounds, pointing out the various stones that were uncovered, & having some turned to shew the inscriptions. He is an intelligent & good sort of man; & it is well that I shall have him to deal with, if I want to cut into cultivated land, rather than a lot of little pig-headed cultivators. Both he & Murad are fine specimens of un-Europeanised men, neither of them speaking any European language. ^(It was very cold at night; in my tent at 1/2 hr after sunrise it was only 39°.)

Next day was windy & very dusty; but I made ~~some~~ a plan of the mounds & remains belonging to the temple. I see now that the temple enclosure was about 800 ft E-W, ^{nearly all now cultivated} by over 1000 ft N-S, with gate on the S, & a large clear space enclosed by a wall on either side about 100 ft wide in front of the gate, & 500 ft long. This I at first thought was the temple enclosure itself, & I am not sure but what it may be the site of an early temple, or of a sacred space before the gate. It is very strange how a wide street lies on either side of its walls.

The great temenos wall is still high in some parts, & is certainly as early as the XXVIth dynasty as its bricks are 17 x 8 1/2 ins.

The men about here all seem willing to dig at my rates; & I have many promises of their coming up on Monday morning.

Letters & papers rec^d. I am amused at the E.E.F. holding a meeting at 5 days notice in face of their own new rules which require "a month at least". Strictly speaking such a meeting & all it does is illegal.

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III.

Jan 1-7 1888.
<Medinet el Fr.>

I went in to Medinet on Sunday, & saw M^r Hewat, inspector of irrigation. He is most friendly, & willing to help in my work any way that is available. He wanted me to stop & dine; but as I had a touch of fever on I declined, & am going to see him next Sunday. He walked out with me as far as my tent, as it was time to close his office. He lent me a paper of Schweinfurth's just published on this place, giving a good map & account of all these mounds of Medinet, which extend for two miles. This is most useful to me to shew all that is known.

Monday no one came to work, as it was paying off day at Medinet for a lot of canal work. So I went over & prospected at Biahama in the afternoon; I think a week's work there might clear up the buildings: possibly getting foundation deposits, or bits of statues.

Tuesday we got well to work, the numbers running up <on following days to> 25, 52, 72 & about 80, which is quite as many as I want. I am now discharging for laziness freely, there are so many applicants for work.

I do not expect anything much from this place; the temple site is nearly all cultivated; & what is not now cultivated has been grubbed out utterly for stone. While on other parts the height of the rubbish mounds is such that no clearances can be reasonably made. I look on this as an opening work, to get a staff of men, & be known here, before going on to the out lying district of Hawara. It is a duty to

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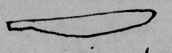
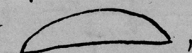
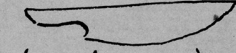
(18) work out the little that can still be saved here; & I may get foundation deposits, & possibly pieces of statues.

The parts which I am working on are (I) the granite pylon ^(P. below) or what remains of it; this has been dug about (by Vasalli?) & the natives have mined out all the limestone foundations, as usual. But the faces of the pylon on either side have not been regularly cleared, & that is the part to find statues or sphinxes. We have nearly cleared the inner face, & only found a bit of inscription: and we are now doing the outer face. There was known here already part of the ka-name of Amenemhat III on a block, & the bit I found is also of his name. But the first is certainly a reused block, & I should put the building of this pylon to the XXVIth dynasty. (II) The temenos wall belonging to the pylon (T, t, t.); at the only clear corner of this I dug down to its base, at T, but found that it was built on rubbish ground & hence was not early, probably XXVIth dyn. There was no sand beneath it, & no deposit in the usual position. (III) At F are remains of foundations; the stone nearly all grubbed out recently, & lying about; but I have got on the line of the sand beds of walls there, & hope I may get one or two corner deposits. Probably these are XXVIth dyn, as the sand (about a foot thick) is laid over several

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feet of rubbish earth, how deep I do not know; & hence this cannot be an ~~so~~ early foundation. (19)
 (IV) There is a wide road way leading up to the pylon, about 100 - 150 ft wide, bounded by walls, & outside of which are streets & houses. There might possibly be statues or sphinxes along this road; but it is mostly deep under mounds of late stuff. I am clearing a trench across it in the easiest part, but that is 10 or 12 ft deep. There is lying on one side of this way, high up among late rubbish, the base of a statue of Amenemhat I & his wife, or the goddess Bast, Schweinfurth says.
 (V) I am trying sundry burnt houses; but with very little success so far.

The most interesting matter, as yet, has been outside of the work altogether, in my own purchases. It seems that in a part of the temple enclosure, apparently at the edge of the sacred lake, there are many flint knives & worked flakes. Unfortunately the ground is cultivated there, so I cannot do any digging; I buy up however all I can from the inhabitants, & I have now several rude knives  & wrought fl crescents , a quantity of bits & flakes wrought, and a grand knife  a foot long, of very fine chipped work. I should at present, from the nature of the ground, put these to Ramesside times.

I have got the people into tolerable order during this week; they all agree to take wages once a week

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(20) now; & I have scared them by sundry sharp dismissals for laziness, so that they work fairly well when they do not know that they are watched. The place is so covered with house ruins that one can get up under cover pretty close to any part of the work, so as to see what is going on.

The museum inspector here is a very civil lad, who does not look over 16 or 17, but may be 22 or 3 perhaps. He has been about two or three times, & really does not get in the way or make himself troublesome. His professions are, I suppose, everything that is amiable; & his practice fairly tallies, so far. The ^{museum} guards here are rather gleam, at not getting any pay for themselves or families anywhere out of the job, but remain civil; and a negro came buzzing about one day in grand new yellow slippers, to see if I wanted a reis. As work goes, Muh^d does all the main lot at the pylon; & I circulate & watch the outliers, & keep the pot boiling all round. M's little nephew, Omar, an infant who was never three miles from his village before, plays watch dog at the tent. He can run alone, & speak plain, after his fashion, but I cannot say much more. He has wits, however. I requested that he & his garments might be washed. Doubtless he has sometime or other fallen in the water, & his present shirt by its length cannot be the first he ever had. But on such matters I am obliged to rely on the indirect ^{kind} evidence of these presumptions.

8. Cres^t R^d Bromley.
Mrs Petrie.

Please post enclose letters to Latimer, & 1 to Moir.

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M^{rs} Petrie,
8. Cres^t R^d Bromley,
Kent

IV.

8 - 14 Jan. / 88.

8-14 Jan. / 88. I have now finished up the work at Medinet, so far as I think it worth doing. The ⁽²⁾ notion of a temple of the XIIth dynasty which I heard of, &c, was very far out. There have been four periods of building here, which I believe to be XIIth, XVIIIth, XXVIth & Ptolemaic or Roman; but I have not seen a fragment of sculpture which I can fix to any one period to date it. Only two bits of temple sculpture turned up; of which I should say, XIX, & XXVIth; but whether they belonged to original or reworked stones, I could not say.

I have traced out the sand foundations as far as I can in the uncultivated land; but on the eastern side they are under 6 or 8 ft of hard mud, & I cannot get at the outline. I found there however two bases of columns.

The positive results of the 10 days work have been (1) the tracing out of what seems to have been an immense colonnade cloister around the temple, which nearly filled the whole of the great temenos; (2) fixing the depth of artificial soil in various parts, & reaching the Nile mud ground. Also, apart from the work, (3) fixing the use of flint knives to the historic period, probably XIXth dynasty, for some temple ceremonies, I suspect flaying sacrifices, as they occur near the sacred lake. The negative results are, - no statues nor inscriptions (except one scrap) at the pylon; no foundation deposits from the temple, nor any early from the pylon; no stone left in situ at the temple; & scarcely anything from the burnt houses in the town. Altogether I am glad that I began here, as the matter

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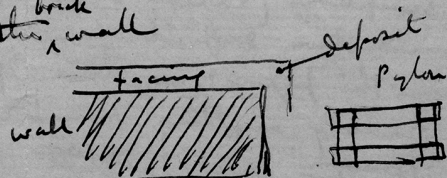
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(22)
is now settled, and I have got some ideas as to what was here; moreover I shall not be tempted now by any dazzling prospects - such as were talked of - to stint work elsewhere for the sake of this place.

Though owing to the depth of soil, & the uncertain extent of the buildings, I have not been able to reach any of the foundation deposits which I expected: yet in a quite unexpected place we came across a deposit. It is unhappily of the scantiest kind, without any cartouche, but still it is somewhat new in style; there are four brick-shaped stones, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins long, tolerably smoothed, & thinly gilt. That was the whole deposit, so far as I know; but there may have been more originally, as there was only an inch or two of the sand-bed left, it having been all disturbed & mixed up with chips & dirt. The place of the deposit was quite inexplicable at first; it should be a corner, & yet it seemed impossible for a corner of the gate building to have been there. So far as I can see now it must have been under the corner of a stone facing of the ^{brick} wall.



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23

If the deposits of XII dyn. should be found at Hawara & prove very good, I might take up the heavy work of hunting for them here; but so far I am glad to be rid of this place, the clouds of fine sebakh dust are such a nuisance. Very often when I looked down into the pylon work there was just a crater 100 ft across, full of smoke-like dust, with some heads & a few bodies to be seen half out of it. The men were continually obliged to stop & let it settle, & not mere dust was this, but foul-smelling organic mess from the ancient town, salt, & making ones eyes sore, when it blew in. Whenever there is a little wind this same stuff goes careering in clouds all over the place, & into my tent & everything.

Some of the pits made to reach to the native Nile mud were seriously deep, although I picked out low ground for them; 12 & 15 ft were common depths, & in one case I went down 21 ft. A strange thing is that below all the artificial soil, in what seems to be pure stiff Nile mud, there are chips of red pottery scattered about for some feet down. These must belong to the debris of prehistoric settlements, I suppose, long before the town here.

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(24)
I am now intending to take a week to clear up
the buildings - pyramids? - at Biahmu. The
plan was for Muh^d to go & live there in the village,
while I trot over each day - 4 miles - to order
the work ^{so in the same morning baggage for a short time}. But Mr. has turned off bad with
fever, &c. and I fear further business. I have
just seen him turn in for the night with one of my
blankets extra, & a hot & strong cup of lemonade
with a dose of strychnine & iron in it.

I dare say many folks think it is a very pleasant
& easy sort of life in a tent; & so it would be if
room was unlimited. Imagine an ordinary
bedstead 6 1/2 ft long, & a space as wide as the
length, and you have the ground plan of my square
tent, sloping up to nothing at less than standing
height. Now that would seem a fair & bearable
sort of space for - say - one's bed, & nothing else.
But beside bed, I have 9 boxes in it; stores
of all kinds, basin, cooking stove & crockery,
tripod stand (serving as a clothes stand) bag &
portmanteau, & some antikas; and in this I have
to live, to sleep, to wash, & to receive visitors.
The consequence is that if by any chance having
a few things get out of place, the whole affair
seems choked, and it is only by vigorously
shoving everything out of the way the moment
it is done with, that I can get on at all.
I tried to get a rather larger tent, but in all
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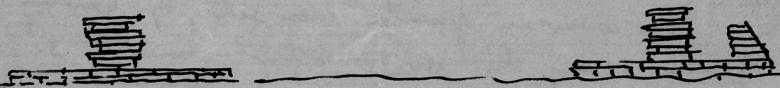
Mrs Petrie, 8 Crescent Road,
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No V-

Jan 15 - 21 1888

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They were thought by Lepsius, & others, to be remains of two pyramids; and Herodotus mentions two pyramids with statues on the tops, in Lake Moeris, built by the king who made the Lake. I had however said (in Pyramids of Gizeh) that it was very unlikely that these ever had been pyramids, both from the remains, & from Herodotus mentioning statues on the tops; and I proposed open air courts with sloping walls around colossi, thus



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(26)
 The first day I saw much red granite, & sandstone about, beside fine limestone chips. So I took samples of the stones in my hands, & shewed them round to all the people, telling them to set aside every bit of such stones. As they knew that meant bakhshish they all looked out diligently, & I had to reject pounds' weights of flints & useless scraps. But a piece of red granite was found with delicate low relief panelling on it; & as I was watching an old duncie of a fellow cutting down some stuff I caught sight of a cartouche, & jumping down read off the name of Amenemhat III, the king of Lake Moeris, & therefore the very person to whom Herodotus assigns these buildings. This was a splendid result so soon in our work here. The course of work was set, by having a line of men along the N. & another along the S. side of one of the buildings, & setting them to clear & turn over all the dust & chips lying on the platform, & going down to the sand bed whenever the stones were removed. I am also trying to get at the corner deposits, but the hardness of the mud soil & the wetness of the pits makes the work difficult. The second day Muhd was better, & as he had come over in the previous afternoon he could set the work going; so I did not start very early. As I neared the place I met ~~two~~ a police inspector

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who had come up from Senures, & his man, who told me that they had stopped the work, & desired my authority for it. I referred them to the ^{new} Mudir, & the Museum inspector. They contemned the latter, & asked me to go to the Mudir. I said no, they might go, & I wished they would. So off they rode to Medineh, & I never saw anything more of them all day. I found that the people were not scared, & Muh^d had set them all to work again, so we went on all right.

That afternoon, as I was just strolling over to the fellow building, which we had not begun on yet, I saw two boys lugging a stone over to shew me, and it glittered in the sunshine, the polish was so bright. They laid it down, & I puzzled what it was; could it be the paw of a sphinx, battered about? No; it was the nose of the colossus. This was then the thing that was most wanted, to prove that these were the thrones for colossi, & not pyramids. The very piece which clinched the matter. Here was a nose all but a foot wide; & hence there must have been a statue about eight times life size, or about 36 feet high, seated. And what work! The rough grained sandstone was polished until after all these ages it still reflected like glass.

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I have never seen such polish on any sandstone before. That the colossi were seated on the piles of masonry we found the evidence of by the multitude of pieces of the fellow colossi in the ground all around the central pile. Some of these pieces bore large hieroglyphs, finely cut. Once given the king's name & the colossi, & the history & meaning of these so called pyramids of Biahamu is now settled. And Herodotus was quite right in saying that they were statues of the king who made the Lake; though his notions of the position & size of the "pyramids" was rather out of the way, owing to his only seeing them during the inundation. I don't care now for all the police in Egypt at Biahamu; the thing is settled, & it is only the chance of details of ornament, & specimens that make it worth while to go on clearing the places.

Next day Lieblein & a party came over to see Biahamu, & were much interested in the pieces & inscription. There are several more pieces of red granite, either part of an altar, or more likely of the gateway. The rest of the week produced nothing but a few more fragments of the colossi. I began some clearing around the fellow pile, but do not expect much there. I intend to finish up here on Saturday; & begin on Tuesday at Hawara. Apparently there are no corner deposits here. The last day I cleared about the western pile, & got some good pieces which exactly confirm my restoration of the ornaments of the statue - wound up on Sat. night, a good week.

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M^{rs} Petrie. Bromley, Kent--)

VI.

22 - 29 Jan^y 1888

22-29 Jan 7 1888 I went into medinet on VI.
 Sunday, & found Mr. Hewat just going to lunch
 Arab fashion, with the new mudir. So I lunched ⁽²⁸⁾
 with them; the new M. is a quiet reasonable
 sort of man I should think, but nothing like
 equal to the last. I told him of the police inspector
 stopping any work, of which he had evidently heard
 nothing. Nor had he, or Mr. H., heard the report
 that Hassan Effendi the museum youth here
 has beaten a man to death over some antiquity
 business. Certainly Hassan has been summoned
 to Bulak & has not returned. ^{& a new man has come in his place.} Mr. H. kindly
 agreed to house in his office - a great rambling
 big house, the owner of which is mad - any
 boxes of antikas. So next day where we
 moved I dropped there two boxes of Biahamu
 bits, & the nose (with which he was much struck)
 & the inscription. After a lot of work in
 packing up, we got off about 10.30, two camels
 & fifty-three of my men & boys. This plan of
 beginning a short work before going to Hawara
 has answered just as I hoped; I have got such
 a staff together now that I can camp out
 at the work instead of going to & from the village.
 If I began there, I should have had only villagers
 who went home each night, instead of a party
 to camp out with. Though the pyramid is little
 over 4 miles from ~~the~~ medinet, we had to go 8 in
 order to get over the bridge. Many of the men made
 a short cut through the canal, but it is deep. I
 must see about making a bridge here. The tents
 are now pitched just between the pyramid & the canal
 close bit, & the men are all settled against
 the canal bank, with screens of bricks from this

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(29)
pyramid to keep wind off, & some bushes cut from the canal to lay over them. They seem to like it very well, as there is a constant tootling of pipes, singing, clapping, shouting, & general jollity going on. It is a still, warmish night, with a fine half moon, just perfect for camping out.

I have now had five days work at Hawara. On Thursday Mr Kennard's tents, dragoman, cook, two donkey boys, & two hangers on, all came over & pitched; & on Friday Mr K. & his manservant arrived. He will probably stay about a week, as he is much interested with the work.

The general results are (1) that the pyramid will be a fine speculative piece of work to open. The N. side has been already so cleared about by Lepsius (1840) & Vassalli (1868) that there is scarcely a chance of the entrance being there. I have cleared a good piece of the E. side, in hopes of finding it, from a reason which I imagined I may have to clear all round, but it will be worth while to do even that, as a XIIth dyn. pyramid is yet unknown, & such were probably sculptured inside. (2) That the temple site belonging to the pyramid will not be worth entirely clearing; it has been largely cut about, but nothing has been found except pieces of granite columns, & scraps of inscribed architrave, figured in the "Denkmäler". I have taken a part of the site which has been less cut up, & am turning

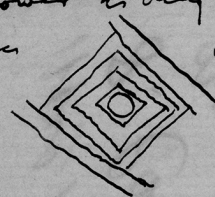
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that all over, but only bits of columns, & a sign
 of very large inscriptions, have been found.
 I cannot find any clear boundary wall of the
 foundation, & hence fear I shall not get deposits.
 (3) I find, what I did not expect, a great cemetery
 here, covering ~~perhaps~~ perhaps 100 acres. So far
 I have only begun on brick tombs of Roman age,
 but there are a vast quantity of deep pit tombs,
 many unopened, and these may I hope be earlier.
 There ought to be XII dyⁿ tombs here.

The Roman tombs however may prove the
 most profitable speculation of all; for we
 find the bodies untouched, under the floors. They have
 no amulets, but one is a prize; it is most
 beautifully wrapped up, with five layers of bands,
 narrower as they follow, so that they form hollow
 squares



with a gilt knob in the middle
 of each. And over the head &
 neck is a board painted with
 a most beautiful portrait
 of a young girl. These portraits were very
 rare, only two or three in B.M.; but lately they
 have been found at er Rubiyat, in the Fayum,
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 fabulous prices in London & Paris. Wallis of
 S. Kens. Mus. has come out on purpose to
 get hold of them; & here they promise to
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I got over a big plank, & some posts, & put up a solid, though narrow, bridge across the canal:

On Friday morning there was spitting rain before sunrise, & then an hour or two of brisk downpour. Most of the men & boys fled over to M^r K's cooks tent, & into Muh^d's tent; so they did not get very wet; but roofless hovels are not good quarters for wet weather.

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VI. M: el F - Jan: 29. Frb

M^{rs} Petrie -
8. Crescent R^d
Bromley, Kent


III. Fr. el F - Jan 29. Frb.
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8. Crescent R^d
Bromley, Kent

VII

29 Jan - 5 Feb 1888

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 with Mr. Kennard; and the pyramid there ⁽³²⁾
 looks very easy to open; as there is no
 depth of rubbish, only a foot or two, I should
 think, over the side. And it has never been
 attempted by any one ^{in modern times}. It stands on an isolated
 mass of rock; which may possibly have
 been incorporated with it



or may have projected 
 I cannot be certain as the wash of mud from
 the bricks hides the ~~rubbish~~ ^{rock}. One negative
 result was important; there is no other
 site possible for the Labyrinth except this
 at Hawara. So though the brick buildings
 which Lepsius planned are certainly not
 the Labyrinth, its ruins or position must
 underlie that part. I had to shift my
 tent, as I heard too much of the gabble of my men
 in the night; so I put it in a hollow between
 two rubbish mounds which pretty well cut
 off the sound.

The clearing work on the temple site I gave
 up; it produced nothing but a few more
 fragments of the clustered granite columns,
 some scraps of hieroglyphs, & blocks with
 only a sign or two on them. There were no
 fragments of statues nor of stelae, both
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But these signs are only masses of chips
 33 overlying a bed of sand or mortar, on which
 the pavement has lain. The whole place has
 evidently been just an immense quarry in
 Roman times, for the benefit of Medineh.
 On Monday we found a mummy in three cases
 with rough inscriptions down them, so poor
 that I only kept one. It was Roman, & much
 crushed in by the earth. As for poor mummies
 without painting or cases we leave them
 over by the dozen every day. On Tuesday
 we found a very large mummy, bulked out
 with an immense mass of wrappings; the
 outside was cross-banded with gilt knobs in the
 squares of the bandages. On the feet was the
 only part worth carrying off; a foot-case with
 gilt feet, pattern round, & on the bottom the
 four races painted, kneeling, & chained
 together; a pink European, brownish Semite,
 yellowish Moghrabi, & greenish grey Sudani.
 By the colouring it was evidently of Roman age;
 & I do not remember the four races beneath
 the sides of the ^{mywhere} feet, although two captives, Semite
 & negro, on sandals are common enough.

Beneath this was another case, of a woman;
 and on the head was another of those beautiful
 panel portraits. This is on a very thin leaf of
 cedar wood, cracked, but not in two. It represents
 a young married woman of about 25; of a sweet


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 cedar wood, cracked, but not in two. It represents
 a young married woman of about 25; of a sweet

but dignified expression, with ~~a~~ beautiful (34) features, & a fine complexion. She wears pearl earrings & a gold necklace. The colouring is of a bright tone, not so grey as the other, but it has gone whitish on the surface by age. I reckon that all such portraits should be treated eventually just like any other old pictures; carefully cleaned, & then varnished with the best copal varnish. Her mummy was not in very good condition as to wrappings, so I secured her skull for Dr Flower, & abandoned the rest. It will be a great point, anthropologically, to have the skulls of persons whose living appearance as to colour & features is preserved to us by portraits. Some other interesting things came in. The top of a tablet with ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ, apparently from Tyrannus son of Ptolemy. Some good coloured clothes; and from a sebakh-digger part of the pedestal of a statue with cartouches of Amenemhat III, beloved of various varieties of the god Sebak, the titles varying.

This second portrait is very encouraging, as it shows the first was not a mere exception. To get two portraits in only four days work on tombs is excellent.

Next day we had some interesting pickings. A jar  holding 10 lbs weight of Roman minimi ranging from Constantine to Theodosius II, 300-430 AD was found in a tomb chamber where embroidered clothes

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(35)
 were found, & this pretty well dates such things.
 Then a large box sarcophagus of wood, broken up,
 but with the great massive bed-post-like corner
 pieces in good state, firm & heavy, with white
 painted inscriptions of one Ankh-f-en-mut, who
 was devoted to Thoth, priest of Neith, &c; the rest of this,
 with various articles remains yet to be got out from
 under about 8 or 9 ft of earth. Then a wooden
 ushabti well carved, 16 ins high, with painted inscripⁿ
 still on the back of Teth-amen son of Petuhor. A large
 variety of ~~fine~~ embroidered cloths, unhappily so rotten
 that I fear they will not ^{clean &} spread out in many instances.
 Beside these, minor attractions such as a broken table
 of offerings, other pieces of sculpture, ostraka, &c. In fact
 a fairly good miscellaneous day here is about enough
 to make a collector happy for a month or two. Mr.
 Kennard is on the wander about nearly all day long,
 being much stirred by the successive finds. Certainly
 I was never in so good a cemetery before, with such
 a large proportion of undisturbed bodies.

Next morning we went over & began clearing the bits of
 sarcophagus of Ankh-f-en-mut; in the middle came
 news of another portrait mummy. So we rushed
 off to that, and found a boy's mummy rather
 knocked about the feet, with gilt footcase & captives
 on the soles; all the body covered with a pink &
 gilt wrapping with Isis, Nebkat, Anubis, &c, &c; &
 on the face a portrait in almost perfect state, bright
 & fresh, no flakes anywhere off it, & only a slight crack.
 It is not of such good art as the lady before; rather
 ruddy & vulgar in tone, with a broad gilt pattern border;
 but it is good drawing as a portrait, & not at all to be despised.

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We got it out all safe & walked it over to the tent.
 Here I had been building up a sort of dead house
 for my mummy friends, as I found it a squeeze ⁽²⁶⁾
 in my little tent with even my one young lady.
 Then we went & finished off the big mummy box,
 getting out ^{nearly} all the hardwood framing, much of it
 with the painted inscription still; also the long
 inscription complete down the middle of the ~~case~~ box;
 & the sides, more or less broken with ^{some paintings} ~~some paintings~~
 around. This is worth bringing away; & the
 unpainted wood came in just in time for the
 roofing supports of my mortuary. At another
 place we got a large quantity of coarse linen
 wraps in such perfectly fresh state, clean,
 bright, glossy, & sweet, that I brought them
 all away for packing material, they are as
 good as new canvas. As for embroidered
 clothes in all kinds of patterns & colours we get
 baskets full every day, but nearly all much
 rotted, so that they will not come up well,
 not in large pieces. Then last thing at dusk
 Muh^d brings me over news of another grained
 sarcophagus of painted wood just found, as
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 made; so tomorrow shall be as today, &
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 to say I have at last reached one edge of the
 immense area of the Labyrinth; every bit of
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(37)
come from the destruction of the building.

Next day they worked all day at the fresh sarcophagus. We found it was a lid & body of equal depth, the lid right side up & the body bottom up beside it. It was covered inside & out, even all over the bottom, with inscriptions & paintings, of which 7/8 remain fresh & good. The wood is immensely massive, 10 inches thick at ends, & somewhat less elsewhere; but each part - lid & body - weigh about 2 or 3 cwt each. It took six men, three a-side, to carry each part. I had a room begun to receive these huge things, & they will be built up in it, as I could not make any doorway to let the bearers in & out. Meanwhile I stored each part on edge on a couple of bricks; & then threw two blankets over the pieces as palls, & durra straw on the top. Then in the evening I got in between the two halves as they stood [☞] & copied off the inside of the lid which is a very long lot. It has a huge vulture, cow, & hippopotamus, on the inside, beautifully painted. Of course Sebak comes in continually, & is called "lord of the Lake Land" (Faiyum) [☞] [☞], while Osiris is chief of the Fayum [☞]. Many of the inscriptions refer to certain offerings the great god is given [?] [☞] ([?]). The inscription was waxed, & on rubbing it, it came out much cleaned. I then tried warming it with a candle, & at once it came up as fresh as the day it was painted; just melting the wax restores its polished face, & seems to clear away all the change which has come to it in the course of ages. This suggested to me to try the same on the portraits. So I gently washed a bit of one to remove all dirt, & then warmed it up. It came out brilliantly fresh; & this will be the way to clean them all without doubt. It adds nothing, & takes away nothing,

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but merely remelts the slightly altered surface of the wax ^{and} leaves it in a state capable of lasting one or two thousand years more. This will be better than trusting the paintings to the most skilful picture cleaner, to clean & varnish. The painting itself is done in wax, coloured wax (aid on, melted, with a brush.

We turned out a little boy today with the most beautifully fresh little purple morocco shoes with gilt pattern, that might stand in a shoemaker's window today. He had on two pretty shirts, embroidered with colours; but unfortunately so rotten that we could only take the coloured parts.

Next day another portrait mummy; they arrive every alternate day with unfailing regularity. This time it is an old fat woman, not such good art as the others. I should perhaps tell my readers that these portraits are rare, & a single one would be an event of a season in any other place I have yet worked in. Any Cairo dealer would give a good round sum for the privilege of having a permission such as I have got for this lucky site. My friends who have backed me will not need to repent it.

The search for the pyramid entrance goes on; & so far the indications are all in favour of the spot I have fixed on, in the floor of the small building on the N. of the pyramid. In place of a rock bed we have got into a hole full of hard mud washed down into it, ~~far~~ ^{well} under the rock level of the building bed around it.

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(39)
it covered an immense area, & judge by the hard flat bed of for paving stones which I have tracked out to the edges of the site. But it is very seldom we find even a bit of pavement left, & never anything over that. The plan of it seems hopelessly gone.

I have copied most of our grand wooden coffin; the man was "^(noble) chief of the Fayum, overseer of the gate of the Nile, overseer of the cutting open of the lake, head prophet, overseer of all the prophets, commander of the prophets of Sebak in all his land, overseer of the cattle &c, &c, &c." Also "priest of Neith, Sebak, & Hathor", his name Ankh-li or nebi (ⲁ ⲛⲁⲗⲓ or ⲁ ⲛⲉⲃⲓ different places) son of T'abast (ⲧⲁⲃⲁⲥⲧ) born of Tesa p am (ⲧⲉⲥⲁ ⲡⲁⲙ) born of Sakemkhamut (ⲥⲁⲕⲉⲙⲕⲁⲙⲁⲩⲧ). It is a grand thing this coffin; I do not know anything equal to it, in its line, in BM; nor scarcely in Bulak even. The inscriptions are long (about 700 signs on the bottom, & 1000 elsewhere), & they will probably throw much light on the earlier history of Sebak worship here. I should date this to the XX dynasty; but it may be earlier, possibly; indeed the style of the inscriptions reminds me much of the XIIth; & it was down on native soil, several tombs having been cut around, & 8 ft of earth & rock thrown up over it since it was rifled.

Letters & papers all right last week. I send this in, so I cannot acknowledge this week's.

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Road,
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VIII

5 - 12 Feb 1888

5-12 Feb 1888 I had to send Muhammed into
Medineh to buy a stock of wood to box the
mummies & sarcophagus, 25 long boards, ⁽⁴⁰⁾
weighing 450 lbs. If we are going to need a
weekly stock such as this it will be serious;
and still more serious to me the making up of the
boxes.

To my great regret I came to the conclusion -
after consulting with Mr Kennard - that it would
not be safe to travel the mummies with the
portraits on them, in most cases. Some of the
portraits are in bad state, flaking off the boards
with a touch, & none of them could be so carefully
packed with a heavy mummy attached. Furthermore
for cleaning they must be removed; and I have
the notion - beside any special exhibition that we make
of these - that it would be a grand joke to send
in all the paintings I bring home to the Winter
Exhibition of Old Masters at Burlington House.
Most of them would go in readily from their art
alone, apart from their history; & for their
technical interest I should think a series of a
dozen or more would be most welcome there.

So I cut through the wrappings & drew out all the
portraits, which can be replaced whenever they finally
come to rest in a museum. Each portrait we
find I letter, A, B, C, &c, for reference.

The four of my previous reports were quickly
followed by two more on Monday, both of young
girls. One was on a thick hard panel, in good state,
& very elaborately bandaged on to the mummy; as the
bandaging was unique, but the portrait stiff & about

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(41)
 the worst for art I rather hope to get Bulak to take it, as they have not much eye there: so left in on the mummy. The other - our 6th - was in a very peeling state; so I faced the difficulty by pasting a sheet of thin paper over the whole of it with rice water. As it is on a very thin cedar panel, not thicker than veneer, I think the whole might be soaked in varnish through & through, dried up hard & solid, & then the paper cleaned off the face with spirit. This is about parallel to the remounting of rotten pictures in oils, where the face is pasted over, & a new canvas substituted. Wish I knew something about picture cleaning, &c; but never expected to have anything to do in that line, and now I must on the spot do something according to the light of nature.

We had a very showery day, which stopped nearly all the work; and I was very uneasy about my mummies, &c, as I had only a loose durra straw roof, and some loose boards over the sarcophagus. Of course many leaks happened, but not very bad. The smell was pretty strong when so much humanity got wetted, but they seem to have dried up very well. All round the walls of my storeroom I put nails in, & hang up the skulls I collect by the basal aperture, laying the jaw of each on it; all loose teeth are picked out & put in the skull to begin with. Thus I can store them away easily in my skullery, until I pack them for the anthropologists.

The next day Mr Kennard left early. Nothing turned

the worst for art I rather hope to get Bulak to take it, as they have not much eye there: so I left in on the mummy. The other - our 6th - was in a very peeling state; so I faced the difficulty by pasting a sheet of thin paper over the whole of it with rice water. As it is only very thin cedar panel, not thicker than veneer, I think the whole might be soaked in varnish through & through, dried up hard & solid, & then the paper cleaned off the face with spirit. This is about a parallel to the remounting of the rotten pictures in oils, where the face is pasted over, & a new canvas substituted. I wish I knew something about picture cleaning, &c; but I never expected to have anything to do in that line, and now I must on the spot do something according to the light of nature.

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(42)

up in particular. Scraps of a portrait, broken up in old times, were found. We got to the bottom of one of the well-tombs; & found chambers all round it, full of mummies as close as they could lie on the floor. But they were all poor ones, & probably do not contain a single amulet in all the hundred or so. There was one rude stone sarcophagus, & in it a mummy with gilt face^{doth} & traces of inscription. But all of these are so utterly rotted by exposure to the air, that not a square inch could be taken off them. They are black as if burnt, by the slow oxidation. It felt very hot, but the candle burnt clearly, although the place had never been opened for 2000 years probably. There was no order; heads every way; occasionally one across another; and of all sizes from an infant only a couple of feet long, to bulky adults.

I was sorry to find that the mud layer, which I had thought might fill the entrance to the pyramid, in the floor of the little N. temple, is native soil. Hence I do not see any clue to the pyramid as all likely parts of the N. side have been scoured away in search. On looking at the amount of stuff to be cleared on any other side to search for an entrance, I came to the conclusion that it would be as cheap to tunnel in to the middle, as the bricks are laid loose with a little sand between. So I have begun to prepare for a tunnel 120 ft long, from the nearest point on the outside. Thus I am bound to hit the mass

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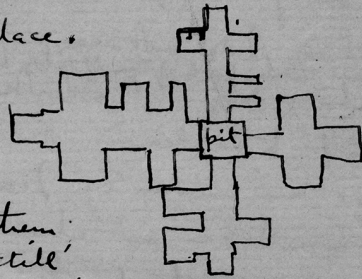
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(43)
 masonry of the chamber; & then we shall have a tough job to break through into the passage or room. It is a barbarous way to do the business, but I have exhausted all likely clues, & must simply drive ahead. It is at all events better by far to run a small tunnel than to destroy the pyramid as Maspero so often did.

Next day I went down the mummy pit, & all over it carefully. I had grubbed into the mummy in the sarcophagi, which was the best, but found nothing. I therefore did not break up any more of them, as it was a very dirty job, & they were evidently of Greco Roman period when amulets were not used. I searched all around, & found remains of earlier interments; a bit of a fine mummy stained with inlaid hieroglyphs, being of hard wood it just held together; a large wooden ushabti with a feathers & horns from a statue & much painting, which fell to powder when handled, like anything else there. There were many scraps of plain sarcophagi, &c, also; all evidently belonging to some earlier burials which had been cleared out.

This is a sketch plan of the place.

I estimated that there are about 100 bodies lying all about, & it is as much as one can do to pick ones way among them without squashing into some of them; & making a dust. The air is still & hot, & smells half aromatic half stifling & mouldy. All sort of moulds & messes grow about, some long & woolly, some like tallow droppings; the whole place seemed to reek with every sort of powdery, half dry, rot. At one point it had caved in down




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into some other chambers of another pit, which will have been thus filled up & inaccessible. (44)

One Roman tomb has yielded a beautiful thin glass vase  as light as an eggshell & quite perfect; this was under the head of the mummy; & at the feet a set of wooden tablets, waxed, & inscribed with continual repetitions of some incantation to Apollo. But on the whole the end of this week has been comparatively dull.

Mr. Hewat has relieved me by agreeing to store at Medinet all my boxes as they are packed & sent. So I expect to have out a camel-load of wood every week or two, & send back a load of boxes.

I must wind up as it is over 10 1/2, & I want to be off early to Medineh tomorrow.

From a letter - Time goes very quickly here; I have to saw up & make all the boxes for my mummies. I wash out all the embroidered clothes, besides copying & drawing the big sarcoph^s as I may have to leave it at Bulak. Generally, when I am not after the men, they are after me. Sometimes 5 at once claim me in different directions. Altogether, the rag & bone business, as cemetery work may be called, keeps one employed.

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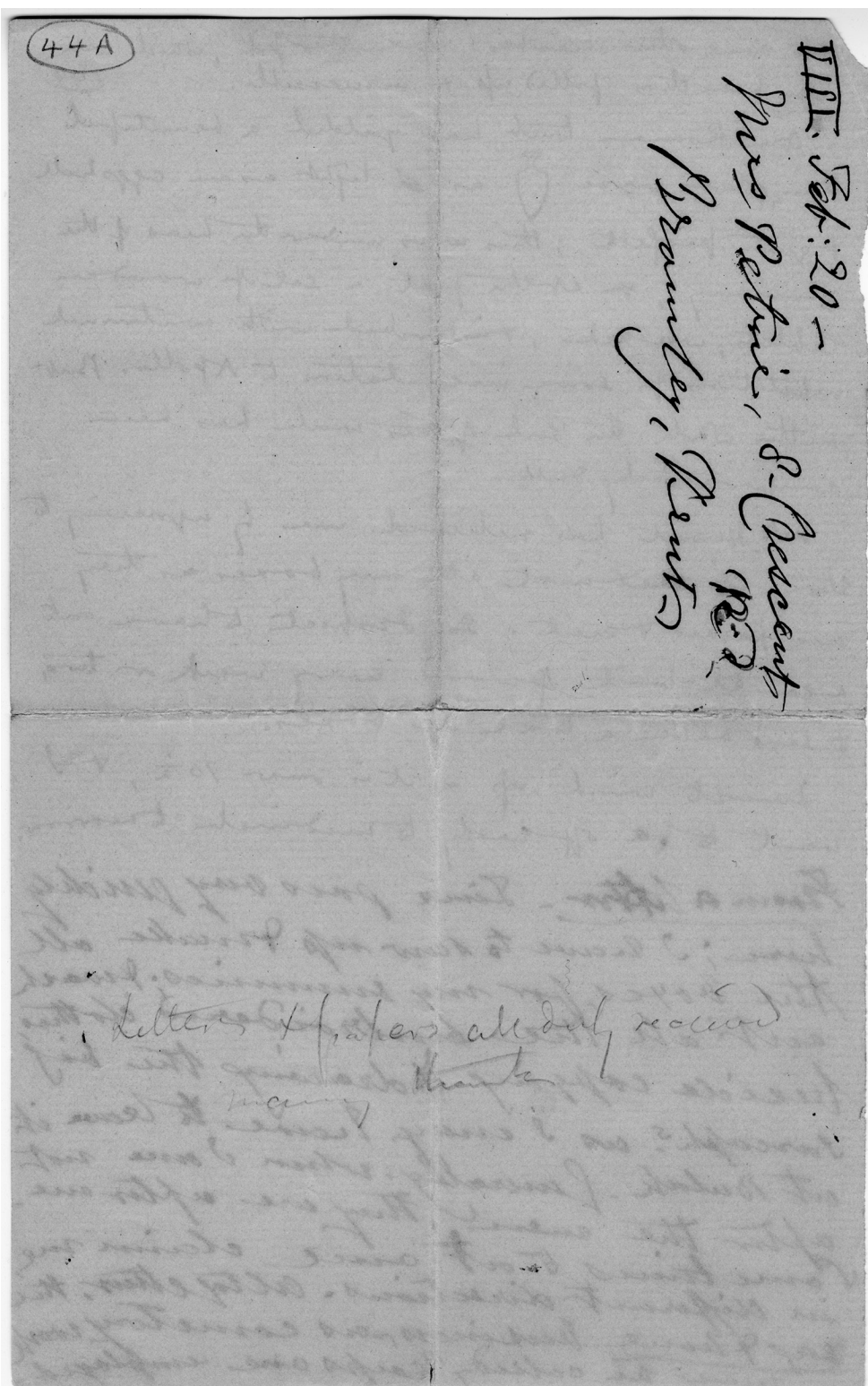
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VIII. Feb: 20 -

M^{rs} Petrie, 8- Crescent
R^d

Bromley, Kent-



12 - 17 Feb/88

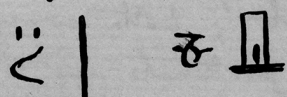
12-17 Feb/88. Went into medineh, & got letters & cash, and lunched with Mr. Hewat. He had very kindly agreed to take in all & any of my finds in store at his office (a huge dilapidated country house); so I dispatched to him three mummies & a box of skulls; loading the camel with a lot of empty boxes on the journey out from medineh.

After a week with scarcely anything came a flood of finds in one day. Two mummies with portraits in one tomb; both covered with cloth resined on. The portraits are therefore invisible till properly cleaned with spirit, though I can just see one through the resin; but they are certainly in first rate condition preserved thus. One was knocked about the feet & not beautiful in its wrappings, so I gave that up & only took the portrait; but the other is so perfectly preserved that I shall bring it. While seeing these brought to the tent, a boy runs up with a Roman glass phial perfect; & begged me to come. They had got out also a leaden cinerary urn in perfect condition. The lid was so carefully cemented on, that when I got to the tent I decided to cut open the bottom a little to see whether there might be a glass vessel inside, which should be removed before travelling. But there was nothing but burnt bones; so I bent back the flap I had cut, & the thing is perfect so far as

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2nd appearance go, as it stands. Then a man found a mummy case of Roman date, all painted, parts of which are worth preserving. Then in the tunnel into the pyramid, which is going very well, the man pointed out some red marks on the bricks, which he had noticed & carefully left for me. I copied them & then cut away the inscribed parts to keep. So far it seems to be quite plainly

 (nearly full size)

and I cannot read this as anything but "2 cubits heart ~~go~~ doorway" meaning that the upright line was measured by the architect as being 2 cubits to one side of the heart, or middle axis, of the entrance. The entrance cannot actually be there, as we should see the stone work, & it could not be inside the brickwork like that: but this mark was written on the bricks by the architect apparently in course of a temporary measuring up of the work, to see that it was going all right. If this means what it seems to shew, the entrance must be somewhere out in front of the pyramid two cubits to one side of this point, carried out northward. I must have a search there before going on. <No apparent possibility of it; it maybe on the opposite S. side, from the temple there.> All that part of the pyramid has been cut away in a frantic search by Vassali (?) so if an entrance

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Then just before sunset a boy came up announcing another mummy. ^{Muh^d went} over, as I was busy, and in the dusk there came up a third portrait mummy to my quarters. This is a good one in perfect preservation of a youngish lady wearing two necklaces. Lastly a boy handed in a good sized piece of hieratic papyrus.

Beside all the work about the finds, I was taken up by Lieblein & his son coming over to see me. They staid about a couple of hours, & were much interested. L. agrees with Griffith's verdict that the great sarcophagus must be late, from its inscriptions. Griffith wrote to me - in reply to my copy of the inscrip - that it is a mine of information about the Moeris district, & its offices. He confirms all the titles I sent, but adds scarcely any more at first view. But he says that the bottom gives

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The next morning first thing two more portraits turned up; one in perfect state, the other unfortunately nearly half broken away. So altogether five portraits turned out within 24 hours. These last two ^{mummies} have gorgeous foot cases, all gilt & painted, with captives beneath the feet. One has the woman's long black hair cut off & laid on the wrapped up mummy, just under the outermost cloth. The other is remarkable for having gilt breasts placed on the mummy, beside unusually large gilt knobs around the shoulders. Both have the gilt knobs in the bottom of each square of the bandaging. ^{A large piece of hieratic papyrus} also came in, about = 4 of these pp.

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49 1885
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6 ⁵⁰ A falling stone had dented the chin, but the whole of the rest of the head is perfect, & is a very pleasing little portrait of a girl^M. It is curious that there is not one man in the whole dozen that we now have; only one boy, two or three women, & the rest all girls. The necklaces & jewellery on some of them are most interesting as dating particular kinds of ornaments & beads. These portraits show no trace of Byzantine art, and I could not put them as late as Constantine, nor on the other hand as early as Augustus. I should say from 100 to 250 A.D. I picked up a bit of a white kid slipper, as fresh as new, at one tomb. A most curious find was a bundle of leather sewer's tools; five varied bodkins, & a piercer, 3 to 8 ^{about 1 1/2 in all,} inches long, & some very thick. They are tied up, with a ^{bit of} stick, & a scrap of leather around them, & a bit of palm string through the eyes of two of them. They are all as bright as new, though of iron. I could not believe them to be ancient until I considered the string & leather which certainly belonged to them, & Muh^d assured me that the forms were not quite like the modern tools.

The pyramid tunnel goes on well, about 5 ft a day. The bricks are all laid with wide beds of loose sand; this runs out freely with a touch, & I was much afraid it would continue to dribble out of the joints & let down all the bricks loose around the tunnel; but it held up very well with my

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