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Arabah-el-Madfunah
Dec 291929.

Dear Mother.

The flour paper has arrived $\&$ is splendid for putting the fine point on our pencils

I have looked through the paper about the Essence of Peace $\&$ think it would be a good plan to try it if you could get it sent out. I should like to have one of the little carriers, there is no hurry as the mosquitoes do not trouble us here until the end of Feb or early March. (I am returning the paper as you may not have another.)

I had to write my account of the Xmas festivities by fits \& starts, I hope it was fairly coherent. It is very nice of you to think of sending Km New Year cards to the men. but I do not think it would be easy to explain them to them. a written document is to them rather what a telegram is to you, rather alarming! they always send greetings by word of mouth personally or by messenger. also their New Year is different to our's. I think it would please them most if I were to give them a message of greeting <from you> at the great feast at the end of Ramadan


I will try to continue the account of our festivities.
Boxing Day was devoted to another picnic in
honour of Miss Jonas. we went to the wade with the best sand slide. had our lunch there,
cold turkey \& salad, mince pies, sweets, mandarins etc. While we were resting our men had great sport on the sand slope, racing each other up \& coming down in the most spectacular manner. they entertained us immensely immensely. Then we made our own attempt. choosing a longer, but less steep way up. of course they all came with us, including Abdullah. we started down in great style, of course the men were down first \& of course turned to watch our descent, to our consternation they were consumed with unseemly mirth, \& we wondered what on earth could be the matter with us to make our respectful servants lose their respectful attitude towards us, but as we came lower they signalled us to look back. we did so, \& there was poor little Abdullah spread-eagled on the slope, too terrified to come down except on his tummy of course we could'nt $t^{\text {sic }}$ help laughing too, Sardic
indulged in a fine flow of Arabian sarcasm which was quite beyond our linguistic powers. Abdullah came down safely, doing the less steep part in the more approved manner. We had tea \& biscuits before starting our treck ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ home.

The next day we did our usual round of work; the following one was rather a state occasion. we had had invited the Mudir to lunch. this gentleman is a very high official in charge of all military \& police in this province, We had a very fine turkey, stuffed with chestnuts one end \& rice, nuts \& rasins ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ the other. Then Christmas pudding, fruit \& sweets \& coffee. they all did justice to this fare. the Mudir had two of his officers with him, of course they all spoke English. \& we really had a very nice time, during desert Sheikh Abdu Wahid came \& sang the Koran to us. this sumptious ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ meal was served in the temple since the Mudir is too fat to walk the necessary distance to our house \& his car cannot go over desert, so a primus was sent \& the cook carried the cooked turkey over \& kept it hot until ready to be served at table. Of course we had to conduct our guests
oon the Tumple the Osinion. This took up the queatre pout of the aftumoon so when thiy had departed, it was too late tóslaït work again. So we collected om things is saw conything pacied ip. a set of home, intionding to get some elturs wutten beforc dinnis. To con queat supprise as we ncackizd the top of the lastsand hill we saw 3 disut cons aniving. Of comse wr hranicd 10 meit them. Thry proord 10 to Primuss fouad, then sisin, cousins to King fouad, who had been Havellyy fiom the fhed Sca in company with Mns Phillifes (a baino Socicli-fady) then dangRt⿸广 sa genthman whosi name 1 do not remamber, dicuse we had tio offen hospicially - To these peophe o then snooast, Joflumately they had camp beds cto witl. Them as they had had To pet up in rest houses pach of the way, they also had odds +ends of proussions which wh handed oon to oun cook, t we managed somu how to fred + slicp them all, ct culainhy was nathu a strain on oun letthe communicty withorl a moments warning. Sondic umanked "it was like a houre full of worms." MasP. is well knoun in Egypt as thi "torelds worst cadger." I think she well desnvess the Tithe. The Two Princesses (o) unaciain)
over the temple \& the Osirion. This took up the greater part of the afternoon so when they had departed, it was too late to start work again, so we collected our things \& saw everything packed up, \& set off home, intending to get some letters written before dinner. To our great surprise as we reached the top of the last sand hill we saw 3 desert cars arriving, of course we hurried to meet them, they proved to be Princess Fouad, \& her sister, cousins to King Fouad, who had been travelling from the Red Sea in company with M ${ }^{\text {rs }}$ Phillips (a Cairo Society Lady) \& her daughter \& a gentleman whose name I do not remember. of course we had to offer hospitality to these people \& their servants, fortunately they had camp beds etc with them as they had had to put up in rest houses part of the way, they also had odds \& ends of provisions which we handed over to our cook, \& we managed somehow to feed \& sleep them all, it certainly was rather a strain on our little community without a moments warning. Sardic remarked "it was like a house full of worms". $\mathrm{M}^{\text {T }} \mathrm{P}$. is well known in Egypt as the "Worlds ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ worst cadger - " \& I think she well deserves the title. the two Princesses (of uncertain age)
wu very pleasant. but rather mouldy camples of royalty, thy are of corse Mohamcdans, but they like to demonstrate their free mindedness by calling tinge quantiliss of bacon, of which thy had hough a quod supply, To the great disgust of our own suvants They stay cd two nights osiaciad the jouncy $10^{-}$ baivo the morning of the second dory.
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were very pleasant. but rather mouldy examples of royalty, they are of course Mohamedans, but they like to demonstrate their free mindedness by eating huge quantities of bacon, of which they had brought a good supply, to the great disgust of our own servants. They stayed two nights \& started their journey to Cairo the morning of the second day.

Will Father please give the enclosed to the Anderson's sic I am not sure of their full address. I know it is a Bridge Road, but not certain if Albert or Battersea.

Love to you both your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

