## Anabah. il. Madfunat DEC 16H 1929.

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Dear Mother.

We are having a real sandstorm today. we have to stay in the house \& keep the doors \& windows shut as tight as they will shut. outside nothing is visible but driving sand, all the scenery is blotted out like in a sea mist. We are settling down to do various odd jobs, Miss C is making a case to carry one of the cameras, I am writing letters \& afterwards shall do some mending, \& probably make some more fancy boxes etc for the Xmas tree.

Yesterday we walked along the outskirts of the village past the place where the potter makes his pots. There were rows of new clay pots laid out to dry before baking. we had a look at his oven it is just made of earth bricks build in a circle with a hole to put the fire in, over the fire is a clay plate with holes in it, the pots are piled on top of this, \& the oven roofed over when ready for baking. The wheel he makes his pots on is a very simple affair he works it with his feet sitting on a plank over a hole in the ground

## Dec 17 ${ }^{n}$

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my efforts at Petty willing yestriday werceet short in three prime. Just Miss G. asked me mo make a leith case out of an old kid glue for a special lens, t then Capt $b$ asked me $10^{\prime}$ mount a lis. map on linen. both jobs in myline. lam quale general handy man tine.
Today the storm had bour itself out so the Temple was swept + we continued own work.
In our rust Loin after lunct Miss $b+1$ went for a walk across the desert looking for as celia ria pact of fine sand to lie on T Take a sun bath, om investigations led us to a shang looking hole, instar ty own body snatching instincts were soused + ur set 10 woric lithe a couph of Tenicis, orin cicavalions Paid franc a portion of mud wall. but as further digging was infoossible wo bill a liq cains of stones $10^{\circ}$ mark the place oneriaced orin steps. When we had finished work for the day we look old Ahmed with us showed him own hots. he has been esploloyed on all the cxcqustions sound tune wen since he was hg conongt $10^{\circ}$ cary a basket of sand. The got very criciled r said there was a mas dews there, this Lead was is a curare

## Dec 17 ${ }^{\text {th }}$

my efforts at letter writing yesterday were cut short in their prime. First Miss C. asked me to make a little case out of an old kid glove for a special lens, \& then Capt C asked to mount a big map on linen. both jobs in my line, I am quite general handyman here.

Today the storm had blown itself out, so the temple was swept \& we continued our work. In our rest hour after lunch Miss C \& I went for a walk across the desert looking for an extra nice patch of fine sand to lie on \& take a sun bath, our investigations led us to a strange looking hole, \& instantly our body snatching instincts were roused $\&$ we set to work like a couple of terriers, our excavations laid bare a portion of mud wall. but as further $<$ hap-hasard ${ }^{\text {sic }}>$ digging was impossible we built a big cairn of stones to mark the place \& retraced our steps. When we had finished work for the day we took old Ahmud with us \& showed him our hole. he has been employed on all the excavations round here ever since he was big enough to carry a basket of sand. he got very excited $\&$ said there was a man down there, $\&$ his head was in a certain

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direction etc etc. From his description he evidently recognized a Roman burial. of course such burials are too common to be worth opening up, but old Ahmud warmed up to his pet subject $\&$ told us tales of strange painted figures to be found here, buried with pots of date stones \& grains of corn. These are probably figures of Osiris buried with the chief produce of the country in order to increase the productive powers of the earth. The old boy says he knows where more are to be found after two days digging, so we are thinking of writing to the antiquities dept to apply for a permitt ${ }^{\text {sic }}$.

## Dec $\mathbf{1 8}^{\text {th }}$

I had a letter from you, \& one from Father today, with sand paper, pencil protectors, calendars, etc I also had a letter from the Andersons enclosing a dear little mending outfit. I will write to thank them later when I have time, perhaps Father will tell them it has arrived safely \& that I am very pleased with it \& am writing.

I think I have enough calendars, one for my room one for the dining room, one for my pocket, one I have given to Miss C \& an extra one.
$D^{r}$ Gardiner has written to say he is sending us
a hampu form Forum o Masons, we shall have a fred at xmas. we arc having lots of good things scat up from baino as well.
Poor Scandic has the flee. The is seduced to a miserable bundle in a blanket. The is also in peat distress because his "Ecceffent Lady" inses/s on his keeping a accumbent position which she condecends to visit tim. This is a very teritfe heaci of good mannus Io r a dignified Crab. The is being dosed intheinnamon, aspirin th + fed on meat thoth. As ch is quidimpossible to prevent all fir fiends viseting hum to condole with him in hies affliction, we have given all the snoanis a strong dose of cinnamon. There were great rijorings, om litth house boy abdullat athacied by the smell the leg lump if sugar that was in his cup, swallowed the dose in one gulp! the pest gasped Ya allah! + fled hand on mouth amimia hoo ls di joy form all the othus.
Dee 19/2 Today we went with shrike abdul Watid 10. visit his farm. This people who can afford it rent a portion of the futile part of the valley where they grow clown Tofeed cath, also wheat, burly, bans, lentils tie. They brill shetrus of the Thick strow stalks d live out then with then family when the
a hamper from Fortnum \& Masons, we shall have a feed at Xmas. we are having lots of good things sent up from Cairo as well.

Poor Sardic has the flu. he is reduced to a miserable bundle in a blanket. he is also in great distress because his "Excellent Lady" insists on his keeping a recumbent position when she condecends ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ to visit him. This is a very terrible breach of good manners for a dignified Arab. he is being dosed with cinnamon, aspirin etc \& fed on meat broth. As it is quite impossible to prevent all his friends visiting him to condole with him in his affliction, we have given all the servants a strong dose of cinnamon. there were great rejoicings, our little house boy Abdullah, attracted by the smell \& the big lump of sugar that was in his cup, swallowed the dose in one gulp! he just gasped Ya Allah! \& fled hand on mouth admid/<amid> hoots of joy from all the others.

## Dec 20/<19 $>^{\text {th }}$

Today we went with Sheikh Abdu Wahid to visit his farm. The people who can afford it rent a portion of the fertile part of the valley where they grow clover to feed cattle, also wheat, barley, beans, lentils etc. They build shelters of the thick straw stalks \& live out there with their family ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ when the

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inundation has gone down. We saw $\mathrm{M}^{\text {rs }}$ Abdu Wahid, Mahomet \& Fatima the son \& daughter, they showed us the clay oven where the bread was baked, the cheeses made in tiny baskets \& put in a big bowl to drain, the butter, \& the dried goat skin in which they make the butter. also the buffalo milk in the pans with the thick blanket of cream on top. The cream was over an inch thick \& ever so slightly sour. The Sheikh sat on the ground $\&$ held a bowl \& we were given spoons \& invited to help ourselves, the spoons were like soup spoons. I thought of Father \& wished he could have had such an opportunity I am afraid our abilities in that direction fell rather short of the Sheikh's expectations

Sardic is better, but now Semman our water carrier has the flu. I expect they will all have it one after the other, if one is ill, all the others herd in with him in order to keep out the angel of Death, a kindly custom but rather unhygenic ${ }^{\text {sic }}$,

## Dec 20 ${ }^{\text {th }}$

Today we had the Director General of Customs his wife \& son \& daughter to lunch, they were on their way to Luxor in their private motor launch

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thry Tied up at Bahana reame on hur tospend the
day. they ore suct nice jolly propk, wr all anjoyed
thcir viscit viny much.
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mail, but wr hicon that as Tommow is recclion.
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they tied up at Baliana \& came on here to spend the day, they are such nice jolly people, we all enjoyed their visit very much.

I had intended to send this letter off by tomorrow's mail, but we hear that as tomorrow is election day there will be no post at all, as there is no post the following day either I am afraid there will be rather a gap between this \& the previous letter. I had a lovely home mail to-day your letter with the fine red bell, silver tinsel \& pink shoulder strap ribbon came, all contents very acceptable, the envelope had been opened \& not sealed again it was fortunate the contents arrived intact. They did not charge any duty. I also had a letter from Buffles, she is very sad \& depressed \& very bitter about Floss.

There was a fine fat letter from Pat with a lovely little boudoir cap. pink to match my nighties. I think of wearing it in the temple to keep my hair tidy windy days.

Sardic is better \& back at work again. he has appeared in a glorious daffodil yellow satin gallibea with maroon stripes, we think this must be to celebrate his recovery. he said the
medicine was very good apotint
Deckle This is zerction day, sound hue
werything is very quick, list wo hear rumour
of riots in the places.
Christmas pusen's contence To porn in 1 hour had a dean lith dray for 1930 form Miss b's aunt in Gavio, she sent something Jor weyone, Professor a Mas Mowbeny have sent Tuntast Delight, Nougat, Sugar Almonds stuffed dates, about $y$ lass in all. ur hear D! gandenci's hamper has got as Jon as Bakana o us diciand value, (customs pu paid) is f3. We ore vonduing shat it can contain. We shall hour a good Time in the eats ire

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splendid Xmas I That the parcels appeared on the hcakfast Table as a emprise Lot so four to you both
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medicine was very good \& potent

## Dec 21 ${ }^{\text {st }}$

This is election day, round here everything is very quiet, but we hear rumours of riots in other places.

Christmas presents continue to pour in. I have had a dear little diary for 1930 from Miss C's aunt in Cairo, she sent something for everyone, Professor \& $\mathrm{M}^{\text {rs }}$ Newberry has/ $/ \mathrm{v}>\mathrm{e}$ sent Turkish Delight, Nougat, Sugar Almonds \& stuffed dates, about 7 lbs in all.
we hear $\mathrm{D}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Gardiner's hamper has got as far as Baliana \& its declared value, (customs prep paid) is $£ 3$. we are wondering what it can contain. We shall have a good time in the eats line.

I hope you will have had a splendid Xmas \& that the parcels appeared on the breakfast table as a surprise

Lots of love to you both
\& all friends
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

