Arabah. I. Nadfunah DEC 16H 1929. 48 Dran Nothen

We are having a real sand storm To day. 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 willing letters + afterwards shall do some mending. + probably make some more farcy box is che for the Xmas tree.

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We are having a real sandstorm to-day. 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= 48 my efforts at letter witting yesterday were cut short in three prime, Just Miss 6. asked me to make a lettle case out of an old kid glove for a special tens, & then bapt 6 asked me to mount a lig map on linen , both jobs in my line , lam quele general handy man here. Today the storm had blown iself out, so the Tempte was swept + we continued our work. In our rest how after tunch Miss & I went for a walk across the descel looking for an cetia nice patch of fine sand to lie on o Take a sun bath, our investigations led us to a shange tooking hole, sinstantly our body snatching instincts were roused + we set to work like a couple of Terricis, our cacavations faid bare a portion of mud wall, but as further digging was impossible we built a big cain of stones to mark the place snehaced our steps, When we had jinished work for the day we look old ahmed with us a showed him our hole he has been imployed on all the creauctions round have wer since he was hg crongh to cany a basket of sand. The got very created & said there was a man down there, I have head was in a cutam

Dec 17^{<u>th</u>}

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.

To-day 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^{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

49 3 direction de de . for his description he widently recognized a Roman burial. A wurse such burials are too common to be worth opening up, but old ahmud warmed up to his pet subject & Told us Takes of shange painted figures to be Jound Luc, buried with pors of date stones + grains of even. These are probably figures of Bris buried with the chief produce of the country on order to increase the productive powers of the carth. The old boy says he knows where more an To be found after Two days digging, so we an thisking of writing to the artiquelits dept to apply for a parmill, Dre 18th I had a letter from you done from Father Today, inthe sond paper, percil protectors, catendars etc. I also had a letter for the andersons enclosing a dear little monding outfit. I will write to thank Hen later when I have time, perhaps Fother will till them it has arrived safely & that I am very pleased with it + am writing. I Shink I have enough calendars, one for my room one for the diving room, one for my pocket, one I have given to Miss & an ceta one. Degondine has written to say he is sending us

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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^{sic}.

Dec 18th

I had a letter from you, & one from Father to-day, 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 hamper from ForTrum & Masons, we shall have a field at Xmos. we are having lots of good things sent up from Bairo as well.

Poor Sandie has the flue. he is reduced to a misa able bundle in a blanket. The is also in great distriss because his Excellent Lady insels on his keeping a recumbent position when she condecends to visit him, this is a very Twitte heart of good mannus for a dignified anab. he is being dosed in theinnamon, asprin the & fed on meat both. As it is quite impossible to prevent all his pierods visiting him To condole with him in his affliction, we have given all the subants a strong dose of commamon, Thus were great rejorcings, our little house boy abdullat attracted by the smell , the beg lump of sugar that was in his cup, swallowed the dose in one gulp! he just gaspid Ya allat! & fled hand on mouth amid hosts of yoy for all the others. Die 19th Today we went with Shick & abdue Wahid 10 visit his farm. The prople who can afford it rent a portion of the furtile part of the calley where they grow clown To feed catthe, also wheat, banky, beans, lentels the they build shelters of the thick straw stalks I live out there with their Jamelys when the

a hamper from Fortnum & Masons, we <u>shall</u> 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^{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 <u>20</u>/<19>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 familys^{sic} when the

48 5 inundation has gone down. We saw Mrs abde Wahid. Mathemat & Latima the son & daughter, they showed us the clay over where the head was baked the cheeses made in Tiny baskets ; but in a big bowl To chain, 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 own an inch thick & con so shally sour. The Shikk sal on the ground & held a boust & we were given spoons invited to help ourselves, the spoons were like soup spoons, I thought of Father + insted he could have had such an opportunity I am apaid our abilities in that direction fell rather short of the Sheitch's expectations Sardic is better, but now Semman our water canice has the flue. I upect they will all have it one after the other, if one is ill, all the Thus had in with him in order to keep out the angel of seath, a kindly custom but rethen unhygenic, Dec20" Today we had the Director general of bustoms his wife I son a daughter To funch, they were on their way to Luxor in their private motor launch

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inundation has gone down. We saw M^{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^{sic},

<u>Dec 20th</u>

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

48 they Tied up at Bahana scame on here to spend the day, they are such nice jolly people, we all enjoyed their visit very much. I had inlinded to send this letter of by Tomonows mail, but we hear that as Tomonow is election day there will be no post at all, as there is no port the following day either I am ahaid there will be nothin a gap between this othe previous letter, I had a lovely home mail today your letter with the fine red bell, silver tinsel & pink shouldn shap ribbon came, all contentsvery acceptable, the invelops had been spined & not scaled again it was fortunate the contints arrived intact. They did not charge any duty. labo had a letter for Buffes, she is very sad & defressed & very bitter about Hoss. There was a fine fat letter from Pat with a lovely little boudoic cap. pisk to match my nightics, I think of bearing it is the timph to keep my hain Tidy windy days. Sandic is better ; back at work again, he has appeared in a glorious datodil yellow salin gallibre with maroon ships, we think this must be to celehate his recovery he said the

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

48 medicine was very good & potent-Decort This is election day, round have everything is very quick but we hear numous of nists in other places. Christmas presents continue to pour in I have had a dear lette deary for 1930 from Miss 6's aunt in Bairo, she sent something Jos everyone, Professor + Mrs Hewberry have sent Tinkest Delight, Mongat, Sugar almonds & studied dates, about y lbs in all. we hear D: gardina's hamper has got as Jan as Balana sits dectand value, customs pu paid) is \$3. we are vordering that it can contain. We shall have a good Time in the eats line. I hope you will have had a splinded Xmas ; that the parcels appeared on the heakfast Table as a surprise Joss of four To you table sall privads Your affectionale daughter Myste.

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medicine was very good & potent

<u>Dec 21st</u>

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 & M^{rs} Newberry has/<v>e sent Turkish Delight, Nougat, Sugar Almonds & stuffed dates, about 7 lbs in all.

we hear D^{t} Gardiner's hamper has got as far as Baliana & its declared value, (customs pre 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.