

Arabah.
Feb 6th 1931.

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Dear Mother.

We both liked the little book about amber very much. Thank Father for getting it for us. The L.H.J also came last mail.

The sparrows in the temple have been causing us a lot of amusement lately, if we are working near their holes there is great indignation at first, a great flutter to & fro, & shrill protests. you have no idea how much noise a sparrow can make; when the first great haroosh is over, they find a comfortable perch & settle down to make rude remarks about us, we gather the gist of these observations by the tone of voice, they say we have the most inadequate & ugly beaks they have ever seen, our lack of feathers, lamentable, our mode of progress clumsy, & our nesting habits ridiculous & unproductive, the only thing they can find in our favour is the regularity with which our lunch appears, but even that is sadly lacking since the menu does not include the Tasty fly, or the succulent grub;

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When they have proved entirely to their own satisfaction what very inferior creatures we are, they begin to get quite friendly. & come hopping on to our scaffolds as bold as anything. I think they must dare each other, or else the lady sparrows egg the gentleman sparrows on. possibly the coy young female will not look at a suitor who has not proved his valor, or maybe the claw of the fair princess is offered to the hero who dares enter the dragon's den. But, what ever is the cause of all the commotion, evening sees every sparrow safe in his, or her hole, for at dusk the big white owls come out to hunt, & a sad fate overtakes the sparrow who stays out late.

Sheikh Abdu Wahid came this evening to be doctored. he had a gathering on his finger, Amice lanced it with one of the lancets you gave us. & tied it up with lots of boris lint, he never even squeaked when it was put on almost boiling hot. he just said it was a little warm. I hope it will be properly drained

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Mrs Davis has nearly finished her painting
it has taken longer than she expected, it is a very
fine picture.

We had some tourists in the other
day when I was on the high scaffold working
on the roof designs, one of them asked me if
I didn't get very hungry up there!!! They do
say funny things; I don't get much chance of
getting hungry here, Nannie stuffs us far too
much.

Lots of love To you both
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

Love to Mrs Childs - also to Pat.

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