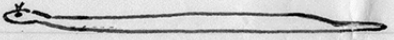


Arabah.
Nov 15th 1931.

Arabah. 147¹
Nov 15th 1931.

Dear Mother

We had great excitements in the temple yesterday, one of the guards came in with a snake that he had killed in the road outside, it was the sort called the horned viper, (it occurs often in the hieroglyphs.) & was over a yard long, had a broad head with two little horns above its wicked looking eyes, & a long thickish body ending in a thin tail rather like this,


 it is a very poisonous variety & it is very exceptional for one to come out of its hole this time of year. It was fortunate the guard saw it in time to kill it. Of course he was full of pride at his achievement.

The road for Joey is growing apace it seems strange that mud bricks, made by the ancient Egyptians for their tombs, should be used for a motor road, the bricks are many of them quite perfect & even have the imprint of the fingers that made them.

Our Soudani guard are encamped

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147²

in the wady a short distance from the house, they have a tent & a straw shelter for their camels. the latter are splendid beasts, white longish coats & tall with very high humps, the men are quite black, have an immense idea of their own importance & are regarded by the village people with the utmost terror, we certainly shall have no undesirable visitors while they are here.

We learnt an interesting thing about water melons to-day, we had cut into an enormous one for breakfast, & had it again for lunch, the remaining portion appeared on the table with a great carving knife stuck in it, Amice scolded Nannie for it, & Nannie stuck out that it is the proper thing to do, if a melon is cut & not finished at one meal the remaining portion becomes poisoned unless a knife is stuck into it, but as long as a knife is left in it, the steel will turn the poison aside. we discovered on further questioning that the same theory applies to pork pies!!!!

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147³

Amice has given me a cheque for the sardigans I got for her. will you please pay it into my current account. I have endorsed it

The men were delighted with the gifts & are wearing them with great pride although it is quite hot still. They evidently have the same effect as fur coats on some women. pride knows no climate.

Lots of love to you both
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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