

29 Nov - 12 Dec. 1897

29 Nov - 12 Dec. 1897 (1)

We left Victoria at 11, & hoped that the wind might have abated, as it looked tolerable at Dover. So, rather than lose a day which I wanted at the Louvre, we risked the crossing. But the sea was much worse in mid-channel, & at Calais it broke over the pier so badly that we actually had to turn tail & go back to Dover. There was no mail to France for 24 hours, a thing that has not happened for years past. It was an awful four hours, very cold & rough, & I almost fell asleep with fatigue as I stood. H. also was bad for the first time at sea. By dark we found ourselves back at Dover, & by 6 got some food again, having had nothing since a glass of milk at 10½. Next day, though it was still rough, the wind had gone round to the south, & Calais was practicable. But I was badly shaken by three such channel crossings. At Paris I was able to dispense with

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 my fur coat, & left that & another
 to be sent back to England. The
 usual route to Marseille by the
 day express, & the usual visit to the
 Museum there the morning before
 sailing, filled our time till we
 got off on the 2nd Dec from Marseille.
 The voyage proved a rough one
 on the whole, Past Sardinia &
 down to Stromboli was good enough,
 but then we went into a gale,
 through which we toiled at half speed
 for 36 hours, & it was not till we
 were off Crete that the weather
 & the motion were easy again.
 This made us late, but the last 30
 hours to Alexandria were very
 good & smooth.

We were too late to go to Cairo that day
 so stayed at Alex.

At Cairo I have been going over the
 dealers, & getting some nice things,

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 dealers, & getting some nice things,

but nothing astonishing. (3)
 The main affair here is about the
 permit. Loret wants to screw me
 into new & disadvantageous - almost
 ruinous - terms. So I went to see
 Sir John Scott (chief justice, as to legal
 aspect) & Sir W^m Garstin who is
 president of the Committee which Loret
 had persuaded to pass the new terms.
 Garstin sees the absurdity of them,
 & will summon a fresh Committee
 & alter them at once if he can do
 so. Nothing could be more
 friendly & cordial than he was.
 Meanwhile I must stick in
 Cairo till all I right.
 Mace is building my rooms at
 Dendera.
 I have now seen De Morgan's things
 from Mena's tomb. And I have
 no hesitation left in putting all
 the New Race before Mena into

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(4)
the prehistoric. Mena's things are
New Race in several points, & in
each point they are late just
early New Race.

Loret is already out of touch & disliked
by every one - Museum people, officials,
& natives. Brugsch said to an Arab,
that De Morgan was but a small
devil but Loret is 20 devils, &
this has gone the round of the
natives.

I hope we may get up to work in
a week or so; but one can never
anticipate what official delay may
be. Certainly Loret will not relish
after trying to thrust an agreement
down my throat, being obliged to
rescind it by superior powers. I shall
probably gain his respectful hatred
in place of his officious arrogance.

I lunched with Sir John Scott today (12th)
& he cordially hoped that I would stand
out & urge for proper terms. I could
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[Pages 5 to 12 are by Hilda Petrie.]

Monday 29th

<We> M/<m>ade a desperate attempt to land at Calais on Monday, after a very rough passage, and all to none effect, and had to do the whole journey back again, in a storm worse than they have had for years. It was bitterly cold, and the boat rocked so much that the sea was over the upper deck, and once my luggage flung itself at my feet from 3 yards distant. We did not get warmed and fed until 6 or 7 o'clock.

Dover was windy, and rainy, and dreary, but our escape was effectual next day.

Tuesday 30th

and we got along to Paris in the evening after a nice journey, and drove across to the Hôtel Britannique, a very comfortable quiet place, between N. D^{me} and the Louvre.

Wednesday, 1st Dec.

Started between 8 and 9 for the Gare de Lyons, and spent the whole day in a 13-hour corridor journey down to Marseille.

The more hilly vine-clad parts of France were interesting along the way.

Thursday 2nd

Marseille looks an ordinary modern French city with nothing distinctive about it, and everything seems new. We potted about the streets a little, and went out by tram, down long avenues, to the Chateau Borelly, a

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(6) big place in a flat park down near the harbour, used as a museum. We went through many rooms of Roman, Greek, and Egyptian remains, and saw a few Phoenician things, and the two Gaulish statues, rudely carved seated figures, mentioned in last year's journal; then a roomful of medioeval metal work and vestments, old glass, Mykenoan pottery, also, saw fine portraiture among the classical statues & busts, and a particularly pretty violet glaze among the Egyptian things. Some of the state-rooms of the chateau are kept up.

We got back to the hotel about mid-day, and soon got on board, in the new docks outside the old port. This is a very good boat. (Sénégol, Messageries Maritimes.)

Sea and sky were grey for all one day of our passage, and then came a long storm, but latterly the Mediterranean has been a splendid blue, and the sun and breeze delicious.

Friday 3rd The first morning I got on to the upper deck about 6 A.M. for a sight of smooth grey sea, and the low knobbly rocky bare hills of Corsica on our left. Later on we were coasting along Sardinia. It fared well into us all day.

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Saturday 4th

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Sunday 5th and all the next day, nothing but pitching, rolling, tossing, in a stormy gale, and a lashed-up sea.

We kept to our bunks for 36 hours, airlessly. F. ate nothing, and I reeled off and got food whenever there was any, but never got up till the storm was spent.

Monday 6th Fine weather at last again. It was delicious to sit up on deck again and to make up for lost air and sleep. One or two nameless small islands appeared,

only.
 Tuesday 7th But now at last we are sighting the African coast, and Pompey's pillar is the first thing we see. We land at Alexandria in another hour!

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Sunday 5thMonday 6thTuesday 7th

(Wednesday <8th>)

(Wednesday) And oh! the landing! We took up our stand, with our bags, close to the square hole one emerges from, and then waited, and the whole Arabian Nights poured in upon us, pell-mell, in every wild richness of oriental dress - porters tumbling in for baggage. We got through the Customs and drove straight to the station, but it was already too late for the aftⁿ train, so we got back to a hotel, and waited to reach Cairo till today. Part of Alexandria looks French, and the streets are a strange medley of French, Greek, and Italian faces, dresses, and inscriptions, with a rich glowing admixture of Eastern life. The oriental street crowds were a magnificent sight, so rich and varied in their details, so brilliant.

And then we pottered about the native quarter until dark, and lived in the Arabian Nights; - the colour and glow and richness of it are inexpressible. I never could have imagined so much brilliancy, or such picturesqueness of attitude, and movement and drapery, and expression of life in all ways, in those glowing jostling oriental groups. I shall never forget the narrow Arab alleys of tiny shops full of gorgeous stuffs, and scarlet slippers, and red and orange dates & pomegranates, & pottery, and the gorgeous natives at their work, or squatting idly everywhere in picturesque confusion, old men chanting their wares, looking like prophets, women in black, veiled, - then towering up above them a white minaret, and over all, the Egyptian sky.

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Wednesday morning. Alexandria & Cairo. ³⁹

We are travelling up the country now, 9-12 or 1 o'clock, and seeing such wonderful things all the way! I never thought Egypt could be so Egyptian, or everything so rich and strange: it is a delicious medley of Biblical and Arabian Nights pictures. The vegetation was good to wait in, and then our way lay through all the ancient ruins of Alexandria, the line being cut through the debris of the old city, and strewn with granite columns! and we saw remains of cisterns and courses of Roman bricks.

Ever since, there have been great wide picturesque marshy flats, full of papyrus, green with cultivation, and grey with sedge-covered waters, and here and there are brown mounds, which are the sites of Roman towns, and all along there are modern native villages, a curious conglomeration of brown mud huts and domes, huddled into a heap, & strewn with straw. Besides acacia, there are huge thick-stemmed trees of tamarisk and the most wonderful things are the great tall graceful feathery date-palms,

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10
 with brilliant clusters of dates hanging from them in richest profusion, wherever the palms are not already stripped. The country life is deliciously interesting to watch, all along the way. The brown men in their turbans and draperies along the straight mud paths, the women in black, with water pots on their heads, the cattle and donkeys and buffaloes ploughing, and the great hooded camels swinging along, are so fascinating.

(We are just crossing the Rosetta area of the Nile.)

One sees cotton in many stages, growing in the fields, and the cotton-waste after it is gathered in, and then in sacks slung on the camels, and lastly in trucks-full along the line ready packed for England. There are hedges of prickly-pear, and in the canals the lotus grows, all along. F.

Saw some flowers just now.

It is getting sunnier and drier as we go south, and everything keeps getting more oriental and more fascinating every minute. The crowds of orientals at every wayside station are so picturesque, and the types of dresses so various. Even the boys with water jars, are delightful, chanting in mysterious Arabic, water, o! thirsty ones! water the excellent!

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Written on
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in the excitement of pottering about from dealer to
dealer, and seeing shopful after shopful of
curiosities, from which F. picked out with rapidity
but thoroughness all the scarabs, statuettes, and
other antiques he wanted; looking over everything
takes several days, and it is a glorious feast.

We had no sooner arrived than a number of
wondrous prophets in trailing draperies flocked
round us in a dignified group, and showed
piles of small antiques. They and F.

bowed and salaam-ed and invoked blessings
on each other - conversations are long &
animated, and interesting to listen to. We
wandered thro' the native bazars in the evg.

Thursday 9th We spent nearly all the day in
the Ghizeh Museum - a marvellous place, -
first going round all the principal Old Kingdom
things in the morning, and then returning to see
the later things in the aftⁿ after a picnic of
flaps of native bread & oranges, on cotton sacks
by the Nile, among a swarm of native children.

It was splendid seeing all the great things one
knows so well, figured in books, and then all
the gorgeous delicate brilliant XII dyn: jewellery
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(12) Of course, and innumerable things impossible to mention, under many sheets. We strolled along the river to Prof. Sayce's dahabiyeh, which is very luxurious, and had tea with a baroness and a long talk with him, with many exciting archaeological speculations. At the Museum I forgot to say we saw all that new treasure of King Menes, which is there, though not yet open to the public, and the sight of the things and their details enabled F. to fix his New Race dating, to further extent.

● On any things have happened since then, but there is no more time to write now. The days are crammed with incident, and filled up with many gorgeous things.

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 Miss Orme, Angmering Rectory, Worthing.
 F. L. Griffith, Esq, Riversdale, Ashton under Lyne,
 Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore R^d, Kensington. W.
 W. Petrie, Esq, 8 Crescent R^d, Bromley, Kent.
 F. C. J. Spurrell, Esq, Bessingham, Hanworth,
 Norwich
 Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowden, Altrincham.
 Miss Harvey, Mousehill, Milford, Godalming.
 Mr Lewis, Esq, 54 Highbury Hill, London. N.

Please forward within 24 hours
 of receiving this. 3 sheets sent.

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11-21 Dec 1897. (1)

(B)

We went down to Ali Arabi, the main dealer at Gizeh, & bought sundry things. He had nothing so good as the ebony negress of last year; but I got a shell of Usertesu, a set of 13 large draughtmen of fine colour & form, & a Roman box of scales & weights with all the larger weights in place & a tray in it holding a smaller pair of scales. Then we went to lunch with Sir John Scott, & afterwards wrote letters &c.

Another day we went out to the Gebel Ahmar, the great mass of silicified sandstone which has been ~~so~~ nearly all quarried away by the Egyptians for monuments, & is now mainly a mass of chips. Another day we went out to Old Cairo by electric tram, which is a great convenience for going about. Three long lines intersect in the middle of Cairo & lead out to six out skirts. H. was delighted at picking out of the mounds a spoon & various pieces of patterned clothing, belonging to about XIIth cent A.D. Late enough, but yet a first taste of the joys of grubbing for antikas on one's own account.

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 We called on Dean Butcher, & found that Mrs Butcher had just published a history of the Egyptian Church, which she has been working at for many years. It looks very good reading, but I could not get a copy yet in Cairo. All this going about was in the enforced waiting while Garstin & Loret had matters out between them.

At last I got a letter from Garstin on the 14th saying that Loret agreed to set aside the new clause about their taking all Royal objects. So next morning I went down to the Museum, saw Loret, who took his defeat with easy assurance, & from whom I got the agreement duly signed before noon. We are saddled with an inspector at 4^s a day, but I put in a word for having a very decent capable reis whom we had at Thebes, & whom I saw at the Museum only doing attendant duty; so I hope we shall get him. The great question of the division of things remains now where it was before Loret's new move, the Museum

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 they want to take the second half it is
 very unlikely that they will ever care
 to put this piece of the law into force.

Then we went on to the pyramids, & looked
 over much of the place, clear of the
 usual crowd of guides & helpers. Thus
 we got round to the Third pyramid,
 where H. went up & inside without
 the usual pushing & shoving which is
 more tiring than doing the works
 oneself.

Next morning ^{16th} we were off from
 Cairo by 8 am & got to the terminus
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16
 Egypt & help in the work this winter.
 So he is going up to Dendera with us.
 Mace is there already & has built
 our huts, & got Ali up ready. Another
 worker is expected out, Mac Iver from
 Oxford, next month. And, if Loret will
 agree to the business proposal of the
 Americans, to give half the monuments
 of Tanis in exchange for half being moved
 up to the museum, then I expect that
 Rosher will come also to my region &
 work some part after getting some
 experience on the work.

Next morning after debating the various
 advantages of boat, donkeys, & camels
 for getting on to Dendera, we concluded
 that boat would be far less fatigue &
 a fine north wind all the previous day
 gave us good hopes. So I went down &
 struck a bargain for a boat to Dendera,
 & we set off by 8 am. A little wind at first
 helped us along, but it dropped to almost
 nothing at Kasr es Syad, & we merely
 crawled on after that.

Egypt & help in the work this winter.
 So he is going up to Dendera with us.
 Mace is there already & has built
 our huts, & got Ali up ready. Another
 worker is expected out, Mac Iver from
 Oxford, next month. And, if Loret will
 not agree to the business proposal of the
 Americans, to give half the monuments
 of Tanis in exchange for half being moved
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 nothing at Kasr es Syad, & we merely
 crawled on after that.

As sundown came on it ⁽²⁾ was evident that we should not reach Dendera, nor even Dishneh halfway. And to avoid the chill there was nothing for it but to crawl in under the half deck. So before dark Davies, Hilda & myself all arranged ourselves in the small space with what spare clothes & few blankets we had, & there we made the best of it for twelve hours, anchored in mid-Nile. The deck was only four inches above my nose as I lay down, & each had to crawl in end on as there was no room to turn. At last dawn came, & we got our boat men on, poling & towing, for there was no wind. By 2 we were about 10 miles from Dendera, & saw we should not be in before dark. So leaving Davies in charge of the stuff Hilda & I set out to walk, & got up to the huts by dark. We needed all the twilight to find them, for Quibell had placed them in a hollow of the desert 1/4 mile from the cultivation. And by some strange oversight he ordered them to be built facing SW, the worst

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(18)
 quarter for heat & dust storms, wanted
 them to be N. or E.

We found Mace in good condition,
 all the rooms built & our stores &
 things all ready. So next day we
 spent in fitting up shelves & unpacking;
 & after that I started a lot of
 my old Koptos men on clearances
 just behind the houses. There are
 long tunnels, which seem to be ibis
 pits, & we may get some nice things
 & should in any case clear them.

But the main interest will be in
 the tombs which from their shape &
 style seem to me to be very early.
 These I hope to begin upon in a few
 days time.

Davies did not get up here till 2 in
 the morning, guided by a party of my
 men whom I sent down to meet
 the boat.

A lot of antikas were brought over from
 Kena & most of these bought by me.

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[Pages 19 to 26 are by Hilda Petrie.]

Dec. 22.

Dec. 22. (19)
 The last two days at Cairo were full of interest, it would take several quires to describe all the things that filled our time, and the delicious visits to native houses to see dealers' wares, and our excursions to the Gebel Ahmar, upon which we clambered about & got splendid views of the Delta and Pyramids, and to the tombs of the Caliphs, and the great high Citadel of Cairo, and then our long day at the Pyramids.

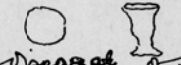
The Pyramids are even mightier and more interesting than I expected. We looked at the Great Pyramid narrowly & carefully, getting as much idea as possible of its details & proportions, and its marvellous jointing and then from further afield realised its gigantic size and then explored some of the early tombs round it, and the mastabas, and saw Sneferu's name on one of them, and then went on to the 2nd pyramid, and explored the great temple of Khafra constructed with it, a splendid great T-shaped building, all of red granite, built in large blocks, 10 x 12 feet most of them, and some even larger, impossible looking masonry. It is very grand and simple, its great pillars are square and plain, and the effect of it all very noble. We potted down into the Pyramid village, and had tea with a native & saw a number of antikas, and then up the desert again, and managed to escape the crowd of Arabs, and thoroughly investigate both the very top and the very inner core of the Pyramid of Men Ka Ra. Without the usual tedious help, I

[R]

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20
 Got to the top, leaping from ledge to ledge, at the south-west angle - from the top one gets a glorious view of enormous extent. The clamber is of no exertion (with skirt off) We lit candles, took off half our clothing, and crawled down 2 passages into the middle sarcophagus chamber of Menka-ra. Then examined a little mound outside composed of the cups and saucers of funeral offerings to Menka-ra. 
 The changes of light and colour, & disappearance of shadows on the pyramids during all that day were a continual interest and joy.
 The various interviews with Brugsch Bey, Justice Scott, Mrs Grant & others have I think been described. A host of people called the last day while we were out.
 We started away from Cairo next morning at 8, and travelled all the way up to Nagh Hamadi by train, 13 hours, getting a splendid view of the country all the way up thro' the corridor windows - This country is just the right shape for seeing all of it all along the way. The principal things of interest were the pyramids of Dashur & Sakkarah, and the step pyramid of Medum, and then distant Illahun, and the far away rock-tombs of Beni Hassan, on the eastern cliff, and the widening ^{plain} valley of Tell-el-Amarna, with lateral valleys. Just below the bridge of Farshut, at Nagh Hamadi the line stops for the present, at least we c^d get no further, so we stumbled off in the dark into an untidy village on the river banks, & were left there to make the best of a Greek wine-shop for our night's lodging: our room was a rough semi-stable in a mud courtyard - a mud room with palm stick bedsteads &

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no furniture. We prowled round the village ⁽³⁾ by dark and again at sunrise, reckoned that donkey could scarcely do the 30 miles next day, and that camel was unsatisfactory, but that boat might do it.

So F. hired a queer old dirty cargo-boat at sunrise, and after some coffee, we disembarked & tried to tuck away southward with a slight breeze: F has related our becalming, and this ended in our spending 2 days and a night on that little open boat, with a ledge scarcely big enough for the 3 of us to tuck ourselves away on, when the night grew cold. Fortunately F. had laid in a stock of bread, and 30 little fritters, and some tins of beans & jam, just before we started. These just lasted out from the Friday sunrise when we started till Sunday morning dark when Davies emerged from the Merkab safe at Dendera at last!

Fortunately also F. bought 4 blankets, the last moment, so we got thro' the night warmly.

About 2 or 3 o'clock on the last day F and I got ourselves put on shore & tramped more than 10 miles of Nile shore & desert up to the huts themselves by sun down. The boating in that queer old Nile boat with a large 3. cornered sail, and 4 very picturesque much-draped boatmen, who talked & sang & crooned by day, and quarrelled in the night, and towed and poled by turns when the wind sank, was a curious experience, and our chief needs were supplied by a single knife of F's (which cut up all our food by turns, & cleaned me

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22

down when once I got buried in soft mud a foot or more!) and an old tin mug which leaked, but served for drinking Nile from, and equally for washing purposes!

All along the way grows the tall graceful Egyptian maize, the 'durra', which the Blessed work among, in the Elysian fields, and then all the industry along the banks is a 3-fold water-raising to different levels by means of a shedouf, a swinging pole heavily weighted, with wicker or leather baskets to empty water above.

It was all a most delightful adventure, and every thing hugely picturesque and strange!

Last of all we left the river edge of cultivation and struck across near a great quadrangle of white domes which is apparently a great tomb, looking in the sunset all marvellous in an unearthly glory of opaline and amethystine glow.

I shall never forget this first approach of Dendera. The place itself, only seems to consist of a great brown mud mound of a ruined town out of which the square Temple stands, on the edge of the cultivation; there lies a vast extent of stony sandy desert in all directions. We are $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on to this, with desert all round us therefore, while rocks here & there in little mounds of Roman remains, and early tombs - how early not yet known, but there is every prospect of very

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primitive remains. Here & there on the outer edge
are flat Bedawi tents encamped, but we are
far into the Gebel, remote from even the Bedawin,
looking across flats of warm desert, which form
the horizon towards sunset, opposite our doorways,
but which are edged by a great cliff-face of mountains
1400 ft or so, both south, & north west, the
which are wondrously purple just before dark,
and lighted up gloriously at dawn. Behind our
huts across a strip of desert lies the great
mound & temple of Dendera, then the green &
palmettes grove, 2 miles away (5 mins. off
each mile looks, here!) and across the Nile,
stands out a noble edge of cliff-face all the
way. Keneh hills which are glorified beyond
expression, for a few minutes, at every sunset.

F. has an army of Quftis, old Koptos
skilled hands, such fine men & lads, whose mere
dress is an inexhaustible pleasure to my eyes -
their drapery folds are so picturesque! And these
are digging parallel trenches into the mound here
and after 2 days' such work, are penetrating the
parallel brick tunnels of apparently an ibis
cemetery - Several ~~R~~ Roman pots turn up, sealed,
and filled with bran-bags, and garlands even,
and herbs, and some Roman division walls have
emerged, and many ibis-bones & a few other
remains. We potter among the clearings, and F.

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24 is continually measuring up the work, the reckon on the cubic metres, and to allow the men to turn over the stuff as they excavate, instead of carrying it outside. Just now I was called into a brick tunnel, in case a record was necessary, and Flinders began clearing a patch carefully, for some glass had turned up - it turns out to be about 100 smashed-up thirds of cylinders, in brilliant blue and red and bluish-green glass, such as was never found before, and F. believes them to be the broken legs of furniture such as encased metal, probably the furniture of some ibis-temple near the cemetery. It is a ~~very~~ unique find. All these fragments have to be washed now, and pieced together. The colour of them is wonderfully rich and deep, and they will be a valuable part of the year's results: such a set has never come to light before.

At various parts of the day we potter about the Desert: it is much diversified by mounds of early tombs - one day we find a broken sphinx, another a fragment of a carnelian bead - in hollows, the surface is strewn by mummy fragments, and human skulls & bones. The great hills across our courtyard wall are really several miles away: tomorrow we shall get a 15 mile tramp along their base to hunt for rock-tombs, as it is Kena market day the work will be stopped.

The desert is certainly the most glorious place: and our row of mud huts, the most curious little long brown burrow, 6 ft high, and invisible until one

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tumbles upon it. It is of rough mud sun-dried bricks with no doors or windows, but doorways hung with green grafs mats, through which there's always enough sunlight. One has only a bed and basin, and a straw mat, and a couple of old boxes to place things on. The first day was occupied in contriving the furnishing of the huts out of planks - namely a wooden shelf for each, hung from the roof boards by string, and a great rough table for the dining hut. F. has also made me a rough door to use as a barricade at night, and I have made myself a very primitive cupboard out of an old store box. The meals make up in their plentifulness for all lack of ceremony, and even of what one considers necessities at home.

All the things of domestic usage at home which one considers quite indispensable, one suddenly finds to be entirely unnecessary here, and life is simplified a hundredfold.

The sunrises are beautiful, and especially the sunsets, the sky is marvellously clear always, and the zodiacal light far outshines the Milky Way. One sees the sky through one's roof boards & doorway always. And in the day time there is no indoors for us. This desert is so sandy that one cannot wear stockings, but one gets over the ground well, and can cover long distances without noticing it. It is cold, morning and evening, and often windy - then the sun between 10

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26

and 3 is very hot; so that after 3 hours or so of morning, one sheds one's coat at 10, and goes into a shady hat covered over with a h.dkerchief to protect head and neck.

Yesty at the hottest F and I explored the cool shades of the great Temple of Denderah, a huge Ptolemaic building with 2 great halls of Hat Hor-headed columns, and we investigated staircases & side chapels with candles, & found unsuspected substances to new crypts. We also climbed all its roofs, until lately the site of an Arab town, and penetrated the side temples of Horus. It is a splendid open free life, this life without the ordinary necessities in so many ways, but rich in sensations of the splendour of the East, with the desert, glow of sky & mountain, and unfolding interest of excavation going daily forward.

Please forward - within 24 hours - to -


- Mifs Orme Angmering Rectory, near Worthing, Sussex.
- F. L. Griffith, Riversvale, Ashton-under-Lyne.
- Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore Road, Kensington. W.
- W. Petrie, 8 Crescent Road, Bromley, Kent.
- F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Hanworth, Norwich.
- Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon, Altrincham.
- Mifs Harvey, Mousehill, Milford, Godalming.
- A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill, London. N.


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28
 And over that lay a heap of cylinders
 of glass  with square holes in the
 middle for fitting
 together on a rod, all of brilliant
 colours dark blue, light blue, & red,
 imitating lazuli turquoise & jasper.
 There are about 36 of these; & from
 a rather greasy coat of dirt on the
 outer surfaces I suspect they formed
 the stems of lampstands, & became
 oily & dirty in use. They were all
 intentionally broken up; probably
 some pieces of temple furniture, gone
~~to~~ to a bad state, & out of date,
 broken up to prevent reuse, & buried
 in a sacred cemetery. They were broken
 up outside, brought in in a cloth, &
 shaken out up at the end of a long
 dark tunnel where no one would
 disturb them. All the small chips
 lay together just as they would do if
 shaken out from a cloth. They can
 be almost all joined up, & will be one
 of the most brilliant sights ever seen when

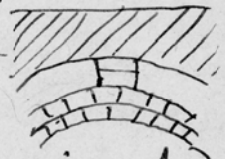
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rearranged on rods. I have hardly ²⁹
 ever - if ever - seen such pieces of glass
 (though these forms glazed are common)
 & I have never seen several pieces together
 of one lot, to say nothing of 3 dozen ~~pieces~~
 as here, making up about 4 feet length.

I expect much from these tunnels, of which
 there are hundreds of feet. All I describe
 came from about 5 feet of tunnel.

A shallow grave contained a body lying
 head E, slightly burnt, with two jars of
 XII dynasty by it. The head & upper
 part had been broken up by plunderers.

To our great surprise this XII dyn grave
 was cut in marl over a brick tunnel.
 The tunnel had been cut in the marl,
 & then a brick tunnel built inside it,
 with a crest of bricks along the top to
 support the marl.



Then a grave had been
 cut in the marl until it
 just broke into the tunnel cutting. And
 this grave was clearly XII dyn. Hence
 the tunnel must be older. There are thus


rearranged on rods. I have hardly
 ever - if ever - seen such pieces of glass
 (though these forms glazed are common)
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 & then a brick tunnel built inside it,
 with a crest of bricks along the top to
 support the marl. [R] (marl)
 Then a grave had been
 cut in the marl until it
 just broke into the tunnel cutting. And
 this grave was clearly XII dyn. Hence
 the tunnel must be older. There are thus

(30)
 many puzzles. The tunnels older than XII
 dyn tombs, & one containing pieces of IV dyn
 pottery coffins apparently. The burnt layer
 certainly containing glazed pottery of early
 XVIII dyn, & the tunnels burnt red at the
 same time. Pottery apparently Ptolemaic
 mixed with the burnt layer. Pottery
 certainly Roman lying over the burning,
 showing the galleries to have been open &
 used in later times. The confusion &
 the conflicting evidence makes this a
 very puzzling case. There are about
 ten or more tunnels of about 100 ft long
 each; all part of one system uniformly
 built. And those with the bone layer
 must have contained about 4000 animals
 all burnt at one time. In an average
 place 9 ins square I took out just 100
 limb bones, giving 8 animals burnt on
 that space, & so probably ~~also~~ a pile
 of about 8 animals deep. The serpents
 were put together in bags for burning.
 Then in another gallery are much later
 burials of mummified hawks in jars,
 which were also burnt. Jars with demotic
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 inscriptions, & one [], Hōr, Horus-hawk.

From the tunnel being older than a XII³¹ dyn. grave I was inclined to see in this a huge store house of an early royal tomb, all burnt like Menna's; & to suppose the animals to be his farm yard all slaughtered to go with him. But the strong evidence of XVIII dyn blue glaze certainly in & under the burnt bone layer, & that layer being certainly burnt in the tunnel (by the mark of red above & black below on the sides agreeing to it) makes it seem as if they were all XVIII dyn.

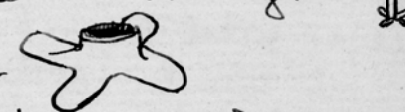
There is a huge pit just N. of the tunnels, about 60-70 ft square, lined with brick as deep as we have gone, about 15 ft on one side. It seems as if it was connected with the tunnels. The tunnels themselves are 60 to 100 inches wide, & about 90 high. Some have lateral chambers of the same ~~at~~ size at the sides of them, four on one side in one case.

We have cleared one stairway tomb, like those at Ballas, probably before IVth dyn.

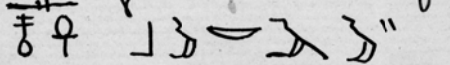
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(32) We have now conclusive proof that the use of the tunnels extended over a long period. In one we found much blue glaze which I recognised as XVIII dyn, & today in washing the pieces Hilda found five cartouches, 2 of Tahutmes III & 3 of Amenhotep II. These are on the stems of papyri of blue glaze about 18 ins high on four-footed stands. 

So it is certain that the burning in that gallery is of XVIII dyn. Then in the chamber opening out of that there is not only this layer, but one over it of burnt bones, in which Mace found two cups apparently Roman & an unmistakable Roman lamp of IInd cent. So it is certain that the burning in that chamber is Roman.

We found in the XVIII stuff a good amount of ivory, the best piece an inlay of a king's head about 1 1/2 in high. And in an adjoining chamber I found in a corner several pieces of burnt ivory, the largest of which were two sistron handles (?) one inscribed for a priestess of Hathor, asking "give her a beautiful life", & name  Bud Bunebawi.

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33
 The broken glass cylinders which I mentioned before have been all put together now, but there was a half cylinder of red glass left unmatched. Today in clearing a late Roman house, 100 or 200 ft distant they turned up a half cylinder of red glass; I picked it up, went to my hut, & at once fitted it to the unmatched half waiting there. The house belonged to a coppersmith, as several crucibles with copper slag were there; also a large ornamental disc from a candelabrum foot about ^{IInd} IIIrd cent. A.D. & a couple of dozen potsherds with Greek & Coptic writing.

In the gallery which contained mummified hawks in jars a rough late pot was found broken at the neck, with a large quantity of coloured glass in it taken from inlaying. It had been ripped out of an inlay & buried here, apparently as sacred property. There was a pair of ~~inlaid~~ ^{inlaid} mosaic wings about 2½ ins long, a small pair another wing, several rosettes of ~~inlay~~ ^{inlay} mosaic, & a fine slip of hieroglyph decoration, about 4 x 1½ inch. Altogether some of the largest & finest pieces of such glass mosaic that I had ever seen.

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(34)
 Our next find was a set of bronze
 situlae  one fine one is 6½ high
 + 3½ wide, with the usual
 figures of gods around it, being
 adored by a queen as priestess of Hathor
 holding 2 sistra. Two lines of inscription
 are but faint, & I cannot read it at
 present. Three smaller situlae
 much worn were with this, & 2 worn
 alabaster tubes of. These are late,
 perhaps 500 B.C. but yet of value.
 I reckon roughly that a weeks work
 has cost £ 10 or 15, but has produced
 about double that value of stuff.
 In one tunnel we found many oval
 pottery coffins about 30 to 33 ins long.
 They only contained some bird bones,
 but from the size I should think that
 they were intended for sacred calves.
 I have now come to the conclusion
 that the layer of burnt bones was
 due to the burning down of a great
 mass of bitumenized animal
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3)

³tunnels. Such a mass if once lighted
by any chance would burn furiously,
& would account for the actual
fusion of the bricks to slag which
we find in some chambers.

To day I begin on one of the large
isolated tombs, date yet unknown.

The next one to it has many
broken offering dishes & jars of the
IV-VIth dynasty strewn over the top
shewing that it is an Old Kingdom
mastaba.

The next day on clearing in this
mastaba we found two inscribed
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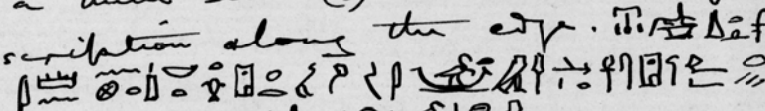

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[𓄏]

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(36)
 & defaced so that I cannot be certain
 of the detail of the signs which I have
 lined across. Beside this slab there
 is a lintel stone (?) with one line of
 inscription along the edge. 
 var. on stele 

This is satisfactory as showing that we
 have an Old Kingdom mastaba here.
 The style seems much like Vth dynasty, or
 late IVth; but the name Mena (after the
 king) seems as if it might be still
 earlier, as his name was out of fashion
 in the pyramid times. The tunnels
 have not given anything fresh to day.
 A large quantity of early Coptic potsherds
 (of IVth cent?) have turned up & may
 be of interest.

Next day we found standing in place
 the false door of Mena, about 4 1/2 ft
 high & 3 wide. It had been defaced in
 the figures, but was otherwise in good
 state, with some colouring on it. It
 has the figure of a double door in the
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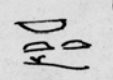
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
side, & a panel with Mena seated & a ⁽³⁷⁾ table of offerings. We turned it round, lowered it on its back, & then with 20 men dragged it away ½ mile across the desert to our huts. It weighs about ½ ton.

Later work on that mastaba shows a wide courtyard in front with a stair way leading up to the roof; & the next mastaba has also a stair way. These remind me of the stairway in the granite temple at Gizeh leading to the court upon the roof of that. On the top of the second mastaba ~~are~~ are dozens of pieces of offering vessels of the IV-Vth dynasty, showing that offerings were made upon the top.

The Mena mastaba has a wide door leading to the false-door chamber, with a stone threshold remaining; & on opening out of this a piece of the lintel with Mena & his wife  Nebt-tef was found.

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³⁸
 The tunnels - or, as I may now call
 them, the catacombs of the sacred
 animals - have not yielded anything
 more of importance.

Please send on in 24 hrs the
four sheets enclosed to
 Miss Orme Angmering Rectory Worthing
 F. L. Griffith Riversvale Ashton u- Lyne
 Mrs Pinker 22 Avonmore R^d Kensington
 W. Petrie 8 Crescent R^d Bromley Kent
 F. C. J. Spurrell Bessingham Hanworth
 Norwich
 Mrs Haworth Woodside Bowdon
 Miss Harvey Mousehill Altrincham
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[Pages 39 to 42 are by Hilda Petrie.]

4)

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(40)
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 the way along, for perhaps a quarter of an hour,
 heaving as they came, in slow procession behind us,
 with their dirge-like refrain filling the air - it was
 an interesting sight to see those Egyptians, some
 much-drapered, and others bare-limbed - all of them
 picturesque - and the great stone behind them smoothing
 itself out a broad level path as it ground along,
 - and the width of warm desert on all sides, and
 the great parallel cliffs of all the neighbouring
 mountainous region, catching and reflecting the
 last sun glories of the day, make such a
 glorious framing to all the day's achievements,
 every day, in this glorious Sa-id, the blessed land.

The days pass very fully, and richly.
 Somehow one keeps no calendar. One can never
 remember what day it is - the Sundays here are
 Thursdays, so that is confusing, to begin with!
 Then as to the month, it is always August!
 September set in for two days lately, and I says
 we must expect it for 6 weeks to come, and that
 is to be our only winter. Today however August
 returned in full force, and I have been almost
 too hot, lounging at my hut-door all the aftⁿ
 in dressing gown and white umbrella! Yet at
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(41)

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It is just a fortnight since we came: the long courtyard into which all our huts open, is filling daily with finds of the rougher & larger sorts - great amphorae, broken fragments of inscribed pottery, 18th dyn. glaze soaking in basins, slabs, steles, lintels, with Old K. sculptures & hieroglyphics on them, mummy wrappings, vases, embalmed hawks etc.

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42

and tins, & apparatus of various sorts. All personal property lives on plank shelves round the walls. I seem to have innumerable neat instruments and cases, and tins of things. Clock, aneroid, remedies, writing things, strong shoes, and flannel shirts, are all that I have used much at present. All other things remain packed away, and seem de trop: so much of one's clothing is totally unused!

No-one is to be seen up here - The 3 men and I have had the whole Desert to ourselves: tourists do not stray beyond Denderah itself - once, on a steamboat day, we spied three as specks on the temple roof. The Marq^s of N-hampton came and looked up F. one day, with his little girl, and governess, and doctor, in white helmets, on donkeys, and found us grubbing up ivories and ibis-bones in a tunnel and Mr Wallis turned up another day but only for 5 minutes, missed F. but I showed him the glass and bronzes.

I haven't been down about Denderah, or crossed to Kenh - (we walked here from 10 miles' distance -) one never needs to leave the Work. F. has taken me all about the great Ptolemaic Temple twice. One very hot mid-day we spent in the cool mysterious darkness of its passages and side-chapels, hunting for entrances to further crypts. It is an immense great flat square building, sunk in brown mud rubbish mounds, with other great temples within its precincts, and pylons near by. It had a second hall of columns added to it, with those great Hathor-headed columns one knows so well. The view from the roof is very fine. The vast dimness of the interior could belong to an Egyptian temple alone.

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
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

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2-9 Jan 1898

(43)

Mena's mastaba has opened up further. Not only have we the large false-door & inscribed bands around it, but we find on clearing outside the mastaba that the sides were panelled with the usual false-door pattern of recesses.  And the roll or drum at the top of each recess was of stone inscribed  Prince Mena; & the panel over each recess was of stone with a figure of Mena & his titles. We have one such panel perfect & pieces from another. I do not know any example before of the recesses in the brick wall of a mastaba thus having carved stone inserted. The tomb shaft has been found, and 30 ft down it opens into a slanting passage. We hope the tomb may contain something, - perhaps untouched!

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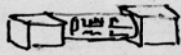
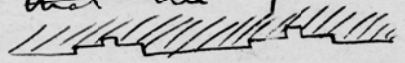
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(44)
 We have cleared the vestibule of the false door chamber, which has portions remaining of the painted frescoes around it: unhappily straw was used in the mortar mud plaster, & the white ants have eaten that all out & so destroyed the face. However I have recovered the name Adu [𓂏], his wife Beba [𓂏] & sons Adu (same) & Zau [𓂏]. He was keeper of the pyramids of Pepy I & Pepy II, which dates these mastabas to VIth dyn. The main way into the mastaba, to the tomb, was a sloping tunnel with a barrel roof arched. This is the oldest arch yet known, & is in good state. Many pieces of inscription have been found, from a long band which ran around the cornice of the tomb: but we have not yet reached the false door chamber. Then a third mastaba is begun upon, with another band of inscription. But we have not yet the name of the owner.



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Mena's mastaba proved blank. The ⁴⁵ well had been plundered long ago, & only two or three rough jars were left in it. But on the contrary we have found two more limestone panels from the outside, with Mena in different dresses. Each of these panels is 21 x 18 in in the carving, with a margin; the hieroglyphs are in half round relief very high, the figure as high. The work is good though not so fine as the IV Dyn. Each panel is certainly a prize for any museum, & we have three now.

There is also more inscribed cornice from Mena. The panels seem to have been in alternate false doors, possibly the others were filled with painted work. I think these panels & drums  are the first direct proof that the panelled brickwork  was actually regarded as so many false doors.

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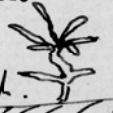
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(46)
 But we find a system of tombs put
 close around mastabas here,
 probably those of a family, like the
 small pyramids around a large one for
 a king's family. Adu had four or
 more, all plundered completely, except
 some remains in one. The remains are
 the curved top & base of a diorite headrest,
 beautifully polished; a large porphyry
 jar, broken in two; & a limestone slab
 with little recesses for models of
 scribes tools, only two basalt
 vases were found of the fittings of
 it. There was also nearly £1 worth of
 thick gold foil from the coffin, now
 disappeared.
 These tombs around mastabas became
 included in the chambers of the (or
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 as they were enlarged: so that the
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
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 place for the stele. Outside of this
 mastaba we found two unopened
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 had been utterly ~~and~~ eaten to pieces
 by white ants, who in search of
 fresh food had constructed tree-like
 tunnels up into the air 
 from the coffin, some 8-10 ins high,
 and pendant tunnels from the roof.
 In the corner had been two fine
 wooden statuettes, now nothing but
 lumps of ant-earth vaguely showing
 their forms: four large jars three
 fine red pans + two or three other
 pots were all that we obtained beside
 the skeleton (woman). Another tomb
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 but best of all I found just by
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I have bought sundry things from dealers. The most important is a bronze open-work plate about a foot high representing Apries standing making offerings. Many such ~~plates~~ ^{plaques} were offered for sale in Cairo two years ago, with Nile figures & no cartouches: & sold off for a few pounds each, having no

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 temple furniture it is a first-rate
 object. These plaques had been
 nailed on round a chest?



I have just this moment got a bronze razor?
 of type like the prehistoric [☞]
 but with ivory handle, perhaps
 prehistoric or early dynasties.



I am rather intending next week to go
 off exploring, as Mace is getting
 business well in hand & shews
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50
 Please forward 4 sheets to
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 Mrs. Pinker 22 Avonmore Rd, Kensington W
 W Petrie 8 Crescent Rd Bromley Kent
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 Norwich
 Dr J. H. Walker 55 Fitzroy Rd Regents
 Park NW
 Mrs. Haworth Woodside Bowdon
 Altrincham
 Miss Harvey Mousehill Milford
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 A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill
 London N.

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