

Arabah.
Feb 8th 1935.

Dear Mother

I think your idea of a divan bed for my room is splendid & I would simply love it. I was thinking of re-distemping the room this summer & re fixing the bed curtains, & this, with a divan bed would be simply perfect.

I have been doing the Eve stunt. I sent Omdah Faiz a big basket of the finest apples that could be got in Sohag as a return for his oranges. Little Mahmud was my ambassador & returned simply dithering with excitement, he had had the day of his life. he had been received by the Omdah & offered a chair to sit on in his presence, he had been refreshed with relays of coffee, the Omdah had called him "my child" (M. is about 30) & as a final honour had himself accompanied him a short distance through the village when he left. Little Mahmuds^{sic} comments were amusing he said. The Omdah of our village treats me like dirt because he has to make people see

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that he is a bigger man than I am. but this Omdah is so great that he can treat the humblest of us as a brother. Rather cute observation dont you think. He brought me back a very polite note beautifully & carefully written.

Amice thanks you very much for getting the cash book it arrived with your last letter, she has only three pages left in the old one so it was most opportune.

I have received the receipt for my Income Tax I asked to have it sent here, & asked them to kindly note my correct address in England.

Amice has got a new worry. she finds she has underestimated the cost of the larger staff. especially the food supplies, she had reckoned that six people would eat twice as much as three, & allowed a little more as Otto is a bigger man than Little un. but as it works out. the two Austrians eat as much as the four English. & they dont reckon a meal as a meal at all, unless they have huge helpings of meat. when we have chickens Erica & Otto have one between them. we four others share the remaining chicken. They are Catholics so

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we naturally thought they would like our arrangement of having just vegetables & eggs or bread & butter & cheese ^{on Fridays} but not a bit of it. as fish is not procurable they don't consider it necessary to fast at all. so the Catholic's eat huge meals of meat on Friday, & the Protestants prefer the humble bread & cheese or Amice has egg & salad: rather funny don't you think, but of course it is rather worrying for Amice as she had promised that the costs of this years expedition should not exceed a certain amount. I think she is going to refund a months salary to make up the difference as she finds she is unable to do anything like the usual output of work with so many to coach. it will be all we can do to finish Volume III this season & she had reckoned on having some of the colour plates ready for Vol 4.

You will probably receive my copy of Vol II soon I have asked for it to be sent on as I thought you would enjoy looking at it. I enclose a copy of Rockefeller's remarks about it. I thought we might keep it with the book.

Lots of love to you both
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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