

Dear Mosh.
I went to the festival at tina aflic all. my wold was so much battue Tuesday evening that a the last moment ur decided To go just for the Mulch. I have vising the Temple near by for some The Time. We were off by $6.45^{\circ}$. cauget the Fain at Baliana 830 revived at kina a little before 12. we look Sardici with us, enough provisions for the day. whad lunch in the tain to save time. When we arrived we had a good look sound. it was a wordufil sight. a real Lastun crowd. we found is so dusty r difficult Io push thought the thong that we hired a caniage. we could only 90 along at a footpace, the driver shout Ting hire ya sigil." (Take a cons of man) all the Time. once, when ir got quite blocked a nice police office came to our rescue, i gave us two policemen to clean a way for on cameag2, we hove all sound the fain $r$ saw all the stalls. fruit sects. fancy pods tc This festival is held in honour of a curtain very holy stiles who's tomb is at Rena. we saw this Tomb, it is like a Jainly longe mosque. The road way going all sound it. (like some down town halls in market places). Thus

First stocking arrived safely.
ever so many thanks.
I love the colour.

Dear Mother.
I went to the Festival at Kena after all. my cold was so much better Tuesday evening that at the last moment we decided to go just for the Muled, \& leave visiting the temple near by for some other time.

We were off by $6 \cdot 45$. caught the train at Baliana $7 \cdot 8 \cdot 30$ \& arrived at Rena a little before 12. we took Sardic with us, \& enough provisions for the day. we had lunch in the train to save time. When we arrived we had a good look round. it was a wonderful sight. a real Eastern crowd. we found it so dusty \& difficult to push through the throng that we hired a carriage, we could only go along at a footpace, the driver shouting "h'oa ya ragil". (Take a care oh man) all the time. once, when we got quite blocked a nice police officer came to our rescue, \& gave us two policemen to clear a way for our carriage, we drove all round the fair \& saw all the stalls, fruit, sweets, fancy pots etc.

This Festival is held in honour of a certain very holy sheikh who' se ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ tomb is at Keno. we saw this tomb, it is like a fairly large mosque. the road way going all round it. (like some of our town halls in market places). There
whe wonduful young man in stripped sain robes a flowing hcad-dusses in vivid colours on Tall camels with gorgeous Trappings glittering with emhorduy + sequins. The hides decorated with masses of araficial soses. They were all riding like mad sound s sound the mosque, we joined the throng orin horses unged $10^{\circ}$ a gallop to keck up i sound we went Twice camels to the reg it of us, camels bend us t camels in front. it was a thill. They all scemced dunce with eceeternent, we left them to continue going sound the prescribed number of limes. (y/belicere) while we went to see moue sights. We watched naboot man giverig an cifichition of singlesticte, I we saw a most uthodisiony sword dance. Thus were two nous of men lying flat on the pound like this, with shown swords laid blade downwards across their Tummys. The chums opripes flayed wind uciling music. ta man supponicd on cither suede by No The men lept from man To max alligeting on the swords cact Time, the men scored to be aftmost hyptonized. They were hatting very quicicly bit made no sound. At was a very curious sight + uredenth had some signifteane that we did not undustand, we did not inquire of the on looks as the people are very fanatical at the Tine +ct is not advisable to be inquisetion about these malleus. Wis did not see any Ate cmopeans crape a panty of Enghist mon who are instructors at c lang local school
were wonderful young men in stripped ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ satin robes \& flowing head-dresses in vivid colours on tall camels with gorgeous trappings glittering with embroidery \& sequins, their bridles decorated with masses of artificial roses, they were all riding like mad round $\&$ round the mosque. we joined the throng our horses urged to a gallop to keep up \& round we went twice camels to the right of us, camels behind us \& camels in front. it was a thrill. they all seemed drunk with excitement. we left them to continue going round the prescribed number of times, (7 I believe) while we went to see more sights. We watched naboot men giving an exhibition of single stick, \& we saw a most extrordinary ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ sword dance. there were two rows of men lying flat on the ground like this [ $\widetilde{\mathbb{R}}$ ] with drawn swords laid blade downwards across their tummy ${ }^{\text {sic }}$, the drums \& pipes played weird exciting music. \& a man supported on either side by two other men lept ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ from man to man allighting ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ on the swords each time, the men seemed to be allmost ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ hyptonized ${ }^{\text {sic }}$. they were breathing very quickly but made no sound. it was a very curious sight \& evidently had some significance that we did not understand, we did not inquire of the on lookers as the people are very fanatical at this time \& it is not advisable to be inquisitive about these matters. We did not see any other europeans ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ except a party of English men who are instructers ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ at a large local school
we spoke To them to ask when the liq procession slactiod．I cunionsty anowat I recognised two of them．They ween spending Xmas al the Thebes Hotel，Luxor the yean／was there．wasint is funny．They invited us to have tea with them affine the show． The procession of camels is the climax of the festival．I have new h seen such on cetiodinany sight．cact canc canned the unhoidered cover from some famous shake Tomb thus coors are called＂holy carpets＂．Br l they ane really decorated materiel i not carpets．They an shciched on large frames he this 余总通 and au all sorts of colours． these $q \circ$ in procession sound the Town，it the peoph shicict up + Touch them as they $90^{\circ}$ by en once $10^{\circ} \mathrm{gel}$ special blessing，all the canal sidus follow also． some of them were why beautiful in then festroal robes s Some of the saddles had priceless boktana rugs own them．it was impossible to sec werything at once．We were very fortunate，we wee adinsed to chive To the square 10 sec the procession．when we stopped There，a very prlili Eqyptian came o asked if we world lite to watch from the balcony of his haney．of curse we were deliqeled．So we lift sander in the canine 2 weer escorted ups．The husband was not permitted is－ entire hus own harem，as his wife was entaläncing visiluas．Bul he turned us own 15 an ancient dame． Th．lady of the house nseuierd us very lindy．St cold speak
we spoke to them to ask when the big procession started．\＆ curiously enough I recognised two of them．they were spending Xmas at the Thebes Hotel，Luxor the year I was there．was＇nt ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ it funny．They invited us to have tea with them after the show． The procession of camels is the climax of the festival．I have never seen such an extrodinary ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ sight，each camel carried the embroidered cover from some famous sheiks ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ tomb these covers are called＂holy carpets＂，but they are really decorated material \＆not carpets．they are stretched on large frames like this［ $\bar{R}$ ］and are all sorts of colours． these go in procession round the town，$\&$ the people stretch up \＆touch them as they go by in order to get special blessing，all the camel riders follow also． some of them were very beautiful in their festival robes \＆some of the saddles had priceless bokhara rugs over them，it was impossible to see everything at once．we were very fortunate，we were advised to drive to the square to see the procession．when we stopped there，a very polite Egyptian came \＆asked if we would like to watch from the balcony of his harem，of course we were delighted，so we left Sardic in the carriage \＆ were escorted up．the husband was not permitted to enter his own harem，as his wife was entertaining visitors，but he turned us over to an ancient dame． The lady of the house received us very kindly，she could speak
a little English. She tooth us out onto the batarny where the then lades were assoc Used To uar the stow. Some of them wee very bowel a some val fat + uninTacstong. They seemed way phased To see us, o we could see conything pufecthy. aftien the camels had all passed by. The represent latior of the king rode through wist an escort of mounted police otatimen It the famous Sudanese card regiment; he thee handfuls d) coins rights left among the crowd. There was a mad shamble. The police were armed coth long whips o Hey bat the popple as thy sum thad for the monas. we could ont sec the singing throng, the whole aftaie was soon oo. We bade om hoskès fancurell, a chore to our school master fiend 's' house when e we had a way nice Tea. Then we had another walk sound the fair ground. saw it all lis up. went to a conjoiners catertämment, made seconal small punctacus. 90 is the stallion about 8 , arrived thur a lith before midnight, way weary, lat vayphased with ourselves. Thar was another curious thing I forgot $15^{-}$ mention. in the center of the marketplace there es a longe Thee with a boat hanging from it. The people say it is a very very ancicat custom o we thank it is probalth the sunvirad of om of the boat festivals of the ascent Captions Finite I was so anxious to describe the Muted that 1 forgot 15 describe the wombs of the previous day. On the Tues day we paid a inset is The boplic Priest. That is a little Goplic community living nan here. They have built them kith village of mend horses
a little English. she took us out onto the balcony where the other ladies were assembled to watch the show. some of them were very lovely \& some very fat \& uninteresting. They seemed very pleased to see us, \& we could see everything perfectly. After the camels had all passed by, the representative of the king rode through with an escort of mounted police \& a $<$ detachment $^{\text {sic }}>$ of the famous Soudanese camel regiment; he threw handfuls of coins right \& left among the crowd. there was a mad scramble. The police were armed with long whips \& they beat the people as they scrambled for the money. we could only see the surging throng \& the whole affair was soon over. We bade our hostess farewell, \& drove to our school mastx[?]/<master> friend's ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ house where we had a very nice tea. then we had another walk round the fair ground. saw it all lit up, went to a conjurers ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ entertainment, made several small purchases \& got to the station about 8 , arrived here a little before midnight, very weary, but very pleased with ourselves. There was another curious thing I forgot to mention. in the centre of the marketplace there is a large tree with a boat hanging from it. The people say it is a very very ancient custom \& we think it is probably the survival of one of the boat festivals of the ancient Egyptians

## Fri $17^{\text {th }}$

I was so anxious to describe the Mule that I forgot to describe the events of the previous day. On the Tuesday we paid a visit to the Coptic Priest. there is a little Coptic community living near here. They have built their little village of mud houses
inside the ruined walls of a very ascent fortes (probably 4000 years old) lupect they choose this selandion in the
days when they days when They were so pusecutcd. We went in $10^{\circ}$ the bite chinch, past of it is our old, supposed to be sixth centwy AD. most Goplic Ghunctes claim to belong To this period, A probably was a Time when they flomisticd + did a lost of bielding ( $\alpha$ a los of wanton destivelion to temples de) The Priest shoved us some old picluncs cit great pride, one was a very crieling one d 5! Surge slaying the dragon. (I wonder fy you know that our faction saint ariqinall, came from the vast) / Gust our gasps of amazement ween takes for adminaliö. bal really boplic painting is the climax of the truly awful. The old boplic Bible was really beautiful, Allie vicusing the chunct the Priest tool us to hus house, regaled us on unnammon tic sinsisied on puseating us with a cock on our departure. Miss b. had ques him a var fine coven for his reading desk. At was made ont of the remains of a cucan salian coning chess (the joins disquirid wi fatten slitting) ut a large boptre boss in apricot silk sum on To it. A looked very handsome i pleased him Themendoushy.
Tuesday night was a spcual lime for Motamedans. At was the night on which the Heavens open. if any one offers
a prague at the crack moment their desire is quantic. also if any one dies al that vaytine they go stiaugts lo Heaves whorl any prepinixary judgment n punistiment for their sins. On that nigel also the Angel of Death stakes the Tree of Life
inside the ruined walls of a very ancient fortress (probably 4000 years old) I expect they choose ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ this situation in the days when they were so persecuted. we went into the little church, part of it is very old, supposed to be sixth century AD. most Coptic Churches claim to belong to this period, it probably was a time when they flourished \& did a lot of building (\& a lot of wanton destruction to temples etc) The Priest showed us some old pictures with great pride, one was a very exciting one of $S^{\mathrm{t}}$ George slaying the Dragon. (I wonder if you know that our patron saint originally came from the East) I trust our gasps of amazement were taken for admiration. but really Coptic painting is the climax of the truly awful. The old Coptic Bible was really beautiful, After viewing the church the Priest took us to his house $\&$ regaled us on cinnamon ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ tea $\&$ insisted on presenting us with a cock on our departure. Miss C. had given him a very fine cover for his reading desk. it was made out of the remains of a cream satin evening dress (the joins disguised with feather stitching) with a large Coptic Cross in apricot silk sewn on to it. it looked very handsome \& pleased him tremendously.

Tuesday night was a special time for Mohamedans. it was the night on which the Heavens open. \& if any one offers a prayer at the exact moment their desire is granted. also if any one dies at that very time they go straight to Heaven without any preliminary judgment or punishment for their sins. On that night also the Angel of Death shakes the Tree of Life

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and the pcople whose names au wnetten on the leaves Hat
Iall will dic wi/tin the year. The pcople make a special
kmal of hacad fon the occasion wits wheat 2 somm milk, cac&.
one gives away hus our loaves, + )f conse neceives form this
ficans, Thuc is a spccial thessing in the hacad whict onty
acts when it is a gift. all om men hought us loaves. I
we had to cat some of cack. It is so nice iobe included
in all thein little fcasts + they arc so dcliglkicd hecause
we are intucsicd. I must say some of the hcod is nathue nas!
uspecially. The loaves hought by the very poovones, buet we
were verycarguel to cat equal quantilics of all of them,
Youn letth with the second log anived safcty Today. I was glad
to hear Churiopter was will + I was plecsed to have a cheny
note form hime. The slockungs ane torch, muchtro good 10
wean hue./ shall save thern for somen swell occasion
on for wean on my ncturx journay.
    Oun wok celebated om alsence forn home on
    wednesday by calling is the local bouben to pull out
    a dorbl looth that had becs acking. the wsult was
    the looth was hoven off short + the poon man was ncanty
    wasy with pain. Miss b sent hum off to assint fust theng
    in the morning to the Angto Amcricas hospital wath Sandic 10
    look aftice fime. They gol back this mouning. The wok
    proudly displaying thuce awful fangs. He saed the dentisi-
    got Them out writhout hunTing him. They both scencel To have
    quiti cajoyed the exparionce.
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and the people whose names are written on the leaves that fall will die within the year. The people make a special kind of bread for the occasion with wheat $\&$ sour milk, each one gives away his own loaves, $\&$ of course receives from his friends, there is a special blessing in the bread which only acts when it is a gift. All our men brought us loaves, \& we had to eat some of each - It is so nice to be included in all their little feasts \& they are so delighted because we are interested. I must say some of the bread is rather nasty especially the loaves brought by the very poor ones, but we were very careful to eat equal quantities of all of them, Your letter with the second leg arrived safely to-day. I was glad to hear Christopher was well \& I was pleased to have a cheery note from him. The stockings are lovely, much too good to wear here, I shall save them for some swell occasion or for wear on my return journey.

Our cook celebrated our absence from home on Wednesday by calling in the local barber to pull out a double tooth that had been aching, the result was the tooth was broken off short \& the poor man was nearly crazy with pain. Miss C sent him off to Assiut first thing in the morning to the Anglo American hospital with Sardic to look after him. they got back this morning, the cook proudly displaying three awful fangs. he said the dentist got them out without hurting him. They both seemed to have quite enjoyed the experience.

Now that Mr Bugle has left we shell not need any more coss and puzzles. On tome being fully occupied with far moue exiling, icatuesting things

1 must $t \frac{1}{}$ of $10^{\circ}$ had now. I am so glad
To hear you got so muck enjoyment out of my tellus
lapect quilt a let of pope imagine thane a very dull monotinous Tenne living out in the desert - putiaps it is dull Ion soma peoph. M-Bcaglay gorinthm bored. bal Jon Miss $b$ oI it simply Terms with inlãesiLois of fore 10 you worth
also to Pat ot h Ghilds.
your affeolionde
dang tin
Myntter.

Now that $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Beazley has left we shall not need any more cross word puzzles. our time being fully occupied with far more exciting \& interesting things

I must be off to bed now. I am so glad to hear you get so much enjoyment out of my letters I expect quite a lot of people imagine I have a very dull monotonous time living out in the desert - perhaps it is dull for some people. $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Beazley got rather bored but for Miss C \& I it simply teems with interest

Lots of love to you both also to Pat \& the Childs. your affectionate
daughter
Myrtle.

