


Arabah.
Jan 8th 1935

Dear Mother.

Ever so many Happy Returns of your Birthday. I think this should reach you about the date,


I have been watching the bees in the open rooms in the temple again, as I described in Father's letter & I have noticed that when they go in the nests, end first they have a lot of white powdery stuff all over the underneath of their tummy/<ie>s & when they are sitting on their tails in the nest they rub their tummy/<ie>s with their back legs & scrape it off. I have watched them building up the sides of these nests with mud, they increase it ring upon ring [] working the soft mud with their mouths, one day as I was watching I was sucking a sweet, & when the bee was absent I bit off a tiny fragment & balanced it on the edge of the nest. When bee came back he investigated this strange matter. decided it was not building materiel^{sic}, clutched it

313

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313 2

in his four front legs & flew off with it, he was back again at his job a few moments later.

Three of the nests I have watched grow, one now filled up & neatly sealed with mud.

Last ~~monday~~ Sunday was the Coptic Xmas Eve, so I took the new members of the camp along to the midnight service in the ancient church in the desert. I described my previous visit at length. This was a repetition, except that a different priest was officiating, (Amice was still in Cairo,) the others were thrilled by the novel experience. All our men accompanied us & we had a lantern to show the way across the desert.

Amice returned yesterday, I drove in to fetch her. Sandic has had a slight operation to his eyes & will be kept in the hospital in Cairo for another week. The oculist says his eyes should be all right by that time.

Dr Junker is coming next Thursday for two or three days, I may have to miss the next mail, it is so cold in the evenings now, that we all sit in the middle room with the big

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3 313

lamp & a little wood fire & with a guest there will be so much talking that letter writing will be impossible. I am so glad of my velvet dress. it has been greatly admired & everyone envies me my fore thought.

Next Tuesday we are going to see the Oultons & have lunch with them.

Lots of love to you & Father
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

To-day I received the letter with the cutting from Father's coat. Thanks very much -

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