Cecil House Feb 5th 1929.

Dear Mother.

I am going to try to tell you my adventures in more detail, the first start off was nearly tragic & I did not mention it in my brief letter.

When we arrived at Cecil House I was handed a letter from El G. I read it in absolute amazement. he had not answered any of my questions about how to reach his out post but he asked me to come in my riding clothes disguised as a man because the people had not seen an European lady, no directions or even name of nearest railway station, we were absolutely dumbfounded. & it sounded so strange that we decided not to go. so went out & wired "your conditions make visit impossible, letter follows." In about two hours time a wire came back, "write me tomorrow" we began to think the man must be mad, any way, we went to bed intending to go to Cooks early Monday morning to see when we could come back home. Sunday morning we had scarcely finished breakfast before he arrived at Cecil House, & then everything was explained. The wire should have been wait me tomorrow

Gral House lam going to his to tall you my adventines in more not mention it in my heef teller handed a letter hom it & I read it in absolute amass. ment. The had not answered any of my questions to come in my nicling clothes disquised as a man because the people had not seen an European nailer station, we were absolutely dampfounded I I sounded so strange that we decided not to go. so went out & wind your conditions make wiset impossible, letter follows in about two hours time a wire came back write me Comown is began to think the man must be mad, any way, we went to bed intending to go to books carly flooday morning to see when we could come back home. I Sarda moning is had scarcely linested breakfeet before he arrived at Boul House . Then very thing was uplained. The wire should have been wait me tomore

he had answered all my questions in a lette five days before (we found it had been miss and in the hold) The disquese he suggested was uplained thus: he missundustood my letter telling him our plans for the day after our arrival in bairs I had said To go to see the pyramids. The thought this meant I was coming to Vicha alone & Unite following later sa as an English woman was would be a 7 days wonder in the village the hough if I was alone it would be better for me to be in riding clothes, then the people would think I was man & would not crowd round & stare so much We thought his explaination absolutely wasonable + of course apprologned + sand we were mach to do what we he suggested so he said he thought it would be best for us if he took us to the outport is let us see it for ourselves. Then return to bairs + collect our luggage & return to take up our abode in the wilds the day after. Unch sommic was. so very taken with him. he says he is so absolutely genuine - 30 of we started by drove through the native quarte, stopped once to get out y see a man making traid on a mative from such a dear old chap. he gave se quite a domonstration & was delighted at our interest. then we usiled his father & mother are did not go to the by family house which is a little way out of the lown part of bano, but to a smaller house when the younge boys live during the school term. The parents spind sundays' which is a holiday) at that house, our welcome was wonderful, atthough nutter could speak inglish them

he had answered all my questions in a letter five days before (we found it had been misslaid^{sic} in the hotel) The disguise he suggested was explained thus, he missunderstood^{sic} my letter telling him our plans for the day after our arrival in Cairo. I had said we must do so & so, then my uncle would like to go to see the pyramids, he thought this meant I was coming to Vicha alone & Uncle J following later, so as an English woman was would be a 7 days wonder in the village he thought if I was alone it would be better for me to be in riding clothes. then the people would think I a[?] was/<was a> man & would not crowd round & stare so much.

We thought his explaination sic absolutely reasonable & of course apologized & said we were ready to do what ever he suggested. so he said he thought it would be best for us if he took us to the outpost & let us see it for ourselves. then return to Cairo & collect out luggage & return to take up our abode in the wilds the day after, Uncle Jimmie was. very taken with him. he says he is so absolutely genuine, so off we started. we drove through the native quarter, stopped once to get out & see a man making braid on a native loom, such a dear old chap. he gave us quite a demonstration & was delighted at our interest. then we visited his father & mother, we did not go to the big family house which is a little way out of the town part of Cairo, but to a smaller house where the younger boys live during the school term, the parents spend sundays^{sic} (which is a holiday) at that house. our welcome was wonderful, although neither could speak English their

whole manner made us feel at home, we stayed about an hour. The younger boys had gone out for a to us, & sat round the room at a respectful distance they are treated as humble members of the same family & expected to share in such an went as a weir from an English lady & gentleman. When we lest the house we were driven to an analo resterant for bunch (5 thought unch I might prefer I to a mid with the family for his first introduction to Eastern ways. wasn't that thoughtful of him) We had some sol of hors down (can't spell it) then a bowl of worderful nich soup, with a couple of the hond ligs & hoofs or some small animal like a little fig a kid. we had to fish these out + but them or a plate, then dink the soup with a spoon o finally tache the ligs o feet with a fock -after that we had head southed in honey o spread with a thick crust of cream. The cream was so thick that it was folded like an omelet. Then coffee, the real coffee. not smell only. afterwards. I just glanad at my hands. instantly ilg. said. You wish to wash? " he beckoned a subant 8/ was conducted to the Cavatory ste. Then we set out for the outport. Such a chive night across the Jamous banage across the hite a most lovely view. Then along earth roads. through villages along by canals, anoss one in one part going our a tridge made of felled tres parted with carth no rail is edge. I not much wide than the can so night angle turn to get on to it. o so on for 50 miles. Our first

whole manner made us feel at home, we stayed about an hour. The younger boys had gone out for a walk. but all the servants came in & were presented to us, & sat round the room at a respectful distance, they are treated as humble members of the same family & expected to share in such an event as a visit from an English lady & gentleman.

When we left the house we were driven to an Arab restaurant for lunch (G. thought Uncle J might prefer it to a meal with the family for his first introduction to Eastern ways. wasnt^{sic} that thoughtful of him)

We had some sort of hors d'ouvres^{sic} {d'oeuvres} (can't spell it) then a bowl of wonderful rich soup, with a couple of the front legs & hoofs of some small animal like a little pig or kid. we had to fish these out & put them on a plate, then drink the soup with a spoon & finally tackle the legs & feet with a fork, after that we had bread soaked in honey & spread with a thick crust of cream. The cream was so thick that it was folded like an omelet^{sic} {omelette}, then coffee. the <u>real</u> coffee. not smell only.

Afterwards. I just glanced at my hands, instantly El G. said, "You wish to wash?" he beckoned a servant & I was conducted to the lavatory etc. Then we set out for the outpost. Such a drive, right across the famous barrage across the Nile, a most lovely view. Then along earth roads, through villages along by canals, across one in one part, going over a bridge made of felled trees packed with earth, no rail or edge. & not much wider than the car & a right angle turn to get on to it. & so on for 50 miles. Θ /O>ur first

true of Yicha it tuha showed a little group of mative houses, a white mosque with a sounded minaret reflected in the waters of a large lake - close to the mosque was the police quarters, a whitewashed building with green shutters. all very clean roiderly. we were taken first to see the troises. I am to have a while anat this Time. El 9 says he is very calm + gentle. I soon made prends with him. he is a little talle than dian old Rujus , more stender -Then we saw the soldiers quarters . The lock up cell + the office & finally were conducted to the hotel!!! where we are to stay; you enter a county and yest inside is a wide wooden bench with a mat + sweet had from the county and to the first floor which we are to share with El g. Vi consists of 3 nooms. his room a room for Unch . I to share . Two bids + a ton bath. I we can arrange it so as to divide it with a curtain The other room is the kelther & servants room. I think we shall be able to settle in quite comfortably - especially as he has had a W.C built for our our private use so that we mud not go to the one down stans that the natives use. Ban you magine any greater consideration for our comfort, it is not many visitors have that done for them is it? our window looks onto the noof of the mosque y in shall be warened in the morning by the prost calling the faithful to prayer from the minarch. or coming out we paused by the open dove. In flow is covered with rush mats , in a shalf of sunlight coming in for a little square window mean the roof we say a white tenberned and kneeling intoning a grayer of we saw a water between the sintenes to touch the floor with his forchard,

view of Vicha el Kubra showed a little group of native houses, a white mosque with a pointed minaret reflected in the waters of a large lake, close to the mosque was the police quarters, a whitewashed building with green shutters, all very clean & orderly. we were taken first to see the horses, I am to have a white arab^{sic} this time. El G says he is very calm & gentle, I soon made friends with him. he is a little taller than dear old Rufus & more slender.

Then we saw the soldiers quarters, the lock up cell & the office & finally were conducted to the hotel!!! where we are to stay, you enter a courtyard, just inside is a wide wooden bench with a mat & several decorated water coolers. then a wooden flight of steps lead from the courtyard to the first floor which we are to share with El G. it consists of 3 rooms, his room a room for Uncle & I To share. Two beds & a tin bath. & we can arrange it so as to divide it with a curtain, the other room is the kitchen & servants room. I think we shall be able to settle in quite comfortably, especially as he has had a W.C built for our own private use so that we need not go to the one down stairs that the natives use. Can you imagine any greater consideration for our comfort,? it isnt^{sic} many visitors have that done for them is it? Our window looks onto the roof of the mosque & we shall be wakened in the morning by the priest calling the faithful to prayer from the minaret.

On coming out we paused by the open door, the floor is covered with rush mats. & in a shaft of sunlight coming in from a little squau/<r>e window near the roof we saw a white turbaned arab^{sic} kneeling. intoning a prayer & bending down between the sentences to touch the floor with his forehead.

We like the look of the lake. El I has the Exclusion rights for wild duck stooting - & he Tells Unch I that there are tots of fish & he can just form a boat to his harts content & the benefit of our supper. Time was getting short the wanted to be back localed the 8 o'clock port. so El 9 told his driver to Take us back to beail House. To go carefully . because I we complained I said he drove whe a devil, he would place him under anoth. so we were landed safely ortside our total after one of the most wonderful days I have wer lufect you will give her this letter to mad.

Your affectionals dang here

Typthe. I upset my nicht letter will be from Vicka al Kubii

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We like the look of the lake. El G has the exclusive rights for wild duck shooting, & he tells Uncle J that there are lots of fish & he can fish from a boat to his hearts content & the benefit of our supper.

Time was getting short & we wanted to be back to catch the 8 o'clock post. so El G told his driver to take us back to Cecil House. to go carefully, because if we complained & said he drove like a devil, he would place him under arrest. so we were landed safely outside our hotel after one of the most wonderful days I have ever spent.

My love to you & Father & to Pat also I expect you will give her this letter to read.

Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.

I expect my next letter will be from Vicha el Kubri