

The Observer comes very regularly. Thanks very much.

Arabah - 102  
Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1931.

Dear Mother.

Your Xmas Eve letter arrived today & the mail before that came by air mail, but I think it must have only come by aeroplane as far as Marseilles as it took over a week to come, I believe there is an air mail direct to Egypt once a week but I do not know what day you have to post to catch it. The aeroplane leaves Heliopolis on Saturdays this end. (could you let me have some of the blue air mail stamps in case I wanted to send a letter by it. we can't get them here.)

Nanny is very pleased with the carrots. I was glad to have the newspaper cutting of the Amarna discoveries, we had 'nt heard anything here, & are rather glad to be up in the news as one of the men from that camp is coming to visit us on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month. How lucky it was you were able to get the last owl from Woolworth's. a great many of the

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gadgets I brought out have proved very useful. There have been several delicate jobs to be done to the cameras, fitting new lenses, adapters etc, & my little files & tiny screws have saved the situation more than once, we are rather poorly equipped with tools, & what we have have been rather badly abused, Sardu is very handy, but his technique is rather of the slapdash variety.

Could you get us a copy of Old Moore's Almanack. we think it would amuse us & we might have some fun with Nannie.

The Omdah called yesterday to wish us a happy new year, so I got out some of the Japanese magic flowers, you should have seen their amazement when the little slips opened out into fantastic blossoms in the glass of water. I wish I had brought more out, as they are so popular.

You seem to have had quite a lot of presents this Xmas - fancy Uncle Jimmie

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sending such a huge cake. I hope you will not get ill with too much Xmas fare.

I am wearing my new cordory<sup>sic</sup> boots now, they are splendid & very much admired. Sordic is simply thrilled with the zip fasteners on my boots, he politely enquired if they cost a great deal of money

I am sorry Pat has such a bad cold, hope it is better by now, I hope she had a good time at Xmas, it was sweet of her to give you such nice presents,

I have had a letter from Buffles in answer to one I wrote from here, she doesn't say much except to express her disapproval of Florence - I am afraid her narrow life makes her a little bitter, I can't say I am very surprised, she is handicapped.

Joey is very well, he has only had one slight attack of indigestion - last Tuesday Sordic got underneath & let out the dirty gear oil, you should

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have seen the mess. Sardic seemed to get most of it smeared over his person. he adores Joey & is simply crazy to learn to drive but it is not easy to teach him here, the roads are too dangerous. there is a steep bank down to canal on one side & cultivation on the other so that unskillful steering would mean the car overturning & one is always meeting camels, goats, sheep donkeys, all wandering haphazard. The desert is safer in that respect, but unless one is used to changing gears very quickly it is easy to strain the engine. so Amice thinks he'd really better be taught in Cairo at one of the garages. at the end of the season rather than risk having Joey crocked up

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your affectionate daughter  
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