

P.S. I have just heard that  
Nannie loves "Home Chat" would  
you send a copy occasionally with the paper

Arabah-el Madfunah 1571  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1931

Dear Mother.

I am glad to hear my letters reach  
you at the regular times. I have been getting  
yours a day, or two days apart for the last  
two weeks or so which is much better.  
We are very pleased to have the calanders.  
When you are in Woolworths will you get  
us four rubber tea pot spouts, all our  
tea pots & coffee pots have got their noses  
chipped, & please send them sample post  
otherwise we shall have endless bothers  
with the customs, I am sending you  
"sample post" written in Arabic to stick on the  
parcel, so you need not write it in English  
since the English P.O. make a fuss about it.  
Here, it is the usual thing to send goods value  
under 3/- by sample post if they small & light.  
The customs do not open them.  
Amice sent your rat by S.P. & she wants to  
know if it reached you unopened & if you had  
any excess postage to pay on it.

P.S. I have just heard that  
Nannie loves "Home Chat" would  
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any excess postage to pay on it.

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Our friendship with Amon's sparrows does not seem to progress, they are not nearly as entertaining & jolly as Osiris's little birds, later on when we are working there again I may be able to send you sparrow news.

The tank that I mended with a Christmas card & some plastic wood is splendid, it has made a good watertight filling. To-day an alteration had to be made to one of the lens's fittings on the camera which required a very delicate screwdriver, of course we had'nt<sup>sic</sup> one small enough. so Amice used a dental tool!! we find a use for everything here. specially old stocking legs. There is another child with a burnt foot, & a man with a burnt arm but neither very serious. Our Soudani guard certainly prevent the people from the village from bothering us, they have to show a very definite reason for coming before the guard will let them pass & ladies with obscure diseases or desirous of having

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infants get sent back & of course a great many are too afraid of the Soudani's to come at all.

We had a surprise visit from Mr Oulton & Mr Shirley (we stayed at both their houses at <sup>the</sup> cotton factories on our drive here) they were driving back from Girga, we were so pleased to see them, they were like two bad schoolboys out on a spree & got into all the mischief they could. They played with Amice's rubber stamps, stole two of my Xmas cards, & gobbled up Nannie's preserved melon skins

They had sprung a leak in their car's oil tank so we had to take Joey & go over to the engine room to fetch a spare can of oil. we went over the rough desert track & Mr Oulton pretended to be frightened & yelled at each bump. he made us laugh so we were aching all over.

We are going to spend Boxing Day with the Oultons at Sohag.

Nannie asks me to send her love & wish

you a happy Xmas.

Please let me have a few more printed labels like enclosed

Love from us both to you both  
Your affectionate.

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