

Arabah el Madfunah.
Dec 6th 1931.

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Dear Mother

We have had another amusing lesson from the School master, he is a very fine handsome young man, he evidently considers it a great honour to come to teach us, & I think he puts on all his ceremonial robes one over the other in order to be equal to the occasion - he fair rustles. I produced my beautifully written out alphabet & he was astonished, he examined it well & pronounced it excellent, then to my amusement he turned the paper over & told me to write it out from memory in front of him, I do not know if he thought I was playing a school boy trick on him. anyway I wrote it quite successfully. He made Amice do the same. He was amazed at the ease with which we write the Arabic, now that we know how the letters should be formed we can write as well as he can after two lessons. he is not used to teaching pupils who can draw. It is quite another thing when we try to read it, we stumble along making the most

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extrodinary sounds, he is a very good teacher, he makes us repeat until we get it right. Of course we get into awful difficulties over some of his explanations as he uses a lot of words & expressions we do not know & then we have to get Nannie to come & translate & then Nannie & the Schoolmaster have arguments because Nannie speaks with the Syrian accent & the Schoolmaster speaks the real Bedawin Arabic. Amice & I sit & chuckle & thoroughly enjoy it. here is my beautiful arabic alphabet, you read it from R to L.

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض
ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و ل ا ي

We are making preparations for Xmas. we very much hope the Oultons from Sohag will come to share our Xmas dinner, we have had such a fine turkey presented to us.

Lots of love to you both
your affectionate daughter
باتل

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