

Dec 29th 1931Dec 29th 1931159¹

Dear Mother.

We had a lovely time on Xmas Day. The men had a calf for their feast, & when it had been cut up & divided into so many equal portions Amice & I wrote numbers. (2 sets) on bits of paper & one set went on the portions of meat, the other set in a bag & the men drew from the bag in turn & took the portion that had the same number, it was great fun. I had a very bright idea, among the papers with numbers we put 5 others in the bag with orange, chocolate, bread carrot, onion written in arabic^{sic}, & as they were drawn Soudani read them out & we produced the goods, the men were so surprised & delighted. Our Soudani guards had a small sheep to themselves; as they are Soudanese it would not have been suitable for them to share with the Arabs. we have to observe very strict etiquette in these matters.

The Christmas tree was a very big branch cut

Dear Mother.

We had a lovely time on Xmas Day. the men had a calf for their feast, & when it had been cut up & divided into so many equal portions Amice & I wrote numbers. (2 sets) on bits of paper & one set went on the portions of meat, the other set in a bag & the men drew from the bag in turn & took the portion that had the same number, it was great fun, I had a very bright idea, among the papers with numbers we put 5 others in the bag with orange, chocolate, bread carrot, onion written in arabic^{sic}, & as they were drawn Soudani read them out & we produced the goods, the men were so surprised & delighted. Our Soudani guards had a small sheep to themselves; as they are Soudanese it would not have been suitable for them to share with the Arabs. we have to observe very strict etiquette^{sic} in these matters.

The Christmas tree was a very big branch cut

159 ²

from a tree in the cultivation & planted in the desert behind the house. it was decorated with nuts & sweets tied in ^{cotton} gay hankies & oranges. Fifty children were entertained, & after the gifts from the tree were distributed we got them to run races, & gave sticks of sugar cane for prizes. There were races for big & little boys, & big & little girls, three legged races, sack races & tugs of war & the children entered into the fun thoroughly although the methods were new to them & they all behaved beautifully. I produced the magic shells we bought in Falmouth Woolworths & they were a huge success, we could not sail the little camphor boats because there was too much wind. but when the omdahs called at tea time & we entertained them in the terracina (a great honour) I set one sailing in a soup plate, they were very amused.

In the evening we had the fantasia it was very like the ones I have described before & we enjoyed it as much as ever.

from a tree in the cultivation & planted in the desert behind the house. it was decorated with nuts & sweets tied in gay <cotton> hankies & oranges. Fifty children were entertained, & after the gifts from the tree were distributed we got them to run races, & gave sticks of sugar cane for prizes. There were races for big & little boys, & big & little girls, three legged races, sack races & tugs of war & the children entered into the fun thoroughly although the methods were new to them & they all behaved beautifully. I produced the magic shells we bought in Falmouth Woolworths & they were a huge success, we could not sail the little camphor boats because there was too much wind, but when the omdahs called at tea time & we entertained them in the terracina (a great honour) I set one sailing in a soup plate, they were very amused.

In the evening we had the fantasia it was very like the ones I have described before & we enjoyed it as much as ever.

159³

We had another lesson Sunday evening. we have got through the three & four syllable words in the reading book, & are starting on real sentences, we stumble along making noises like a demented menagerie. Amice was having an awful tussle with a long word full of k's & gh's & the school-master tried to help her out. she said No! No! very indignantly, I caught a very amused twinkle in his eye. I don't think he is at all used to having pupils refuse his kind offers of assistance. he told Nannie we were getting on very well. Will Father please give the enclosed to M^{rs} Anderson. I wish I could write you a longer description of ~~but~~ our Xmas. but I have about ten "thank you" letters to get off to-day, so many people have sent us sweets, fruits etc. I seem to spend all my spare time writing now. since I have been here I have spent over £2 in stamps Your letter with the balloons arrived yesterday. they are in perfect condition & we are simply delighted with them. amusing little things like

We had another lesson Sunday evening. we have got through the three & four syllable words in the reading book, & are starting on real sentences, we stumble along making noises like a demented menagerie, Amice was having an awful tussle with a long word full of k's & gh's & the school-master tried to help her out. she said No! No! very indignantly, I caught a very amused twinkle in his eye. I don't^{sic} think he is at all used to having pupils refuse his kind offers of assistance. he told Nannie we were getting on very well.

Will Father please give the enclosed to M^{rs} Anderson. I wish I could write you a longer description of ~~but~~ our Xmas. but I have about ten "thank you" letters to get off to-day; so many people have sent us sweets, fruits etc. I seem to spend all my spare time writing now. since I have been here I have spent over £2 in stamps Your letter with the balloons arrived yesterday. they are in perfect condition & we are simply delighted with them. amusing little things like

159⁴

these give no end of joy out here.
So glad you liked the rat etc.
Lots of love from us all
your affectionate daughter
Marjorie

these give no end of joy out here.

So glad you liked the rat etc.

Lots of love from us all
your affectionate daughter
[R]