

(3)

12th Dynasty; the only Old Egyptian thing beside the <Δ &> & labyrinth in the Faium.

Monday 3 April.

At 1am I was stirred up by a native being shewn into my room, but he objects to it, & backed out, finally taking another room. I had to get up three times in the night, to clear out the fleas, so was rather disturbed. Up at 6 ½. Down to Mason Bey after breakfast. Off about 8 ½ on camels, the roads being now practicable again. We went down to the "ancient dyke" as Linant calls it, which bordered Lake Moeris, according to him, but nothing clearly ancient is to be seen about it, the wall on it being clearly Arabic. I took sundry photos there [📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷], where we stopped for lunch. I was rather sickish owing to a greasy omelette &c, &c, & walked most of the day. We went on to the tomb of Shekh Abu Nur (not ancient) & struck over a long stretch of desert plateau, which ended in the broken steps of strata, & descended over scrubby ground to Garak, which is the ~~out~~ farthest village in the cultivated land. We got there by 7, in the dark, & went through the narrow lanes of the village in search of the shekhs house; the camels scrubbing their heads against the mud walls, & the dogs running along the roofs barking just at the level of your head. There was a good moon so we could make our way, but the shekh had gone to Medinet to pay his respects to the new Mudir, & the people were not at all friendly. So at last we camped just on the S. side of the village, at about 8 ½. Had a long talk with sundry Arabs about the neighbourhood, roads, distances &c: & to bed by 11 ½.

Tuesday 4 April.

Up at 6 - my bed consists of one blanket doubled between me & the ground, & 3 over me; but I got quite accustomed to be punched with pebbles before our

12th Dynasty; the only Old Egyptian thing beside the ^{Δ &} labyrinth in the Faium ⁽³⁾ ²⁰¹

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Tuesday 4 April. Up at 6 - my bed consists of one blanket doubled between me & the ground, & 3 over me; but I got quite accustomed to be punched with pebbles before our

trip finished. Then we had a long talk about guides, ending by our taking two fellows at 2 1/2 frs a day each, though they asked £2 at first. I went round the village, & took a set of observations from the high wall of rubbish that surrounds it. We got off by 10, stopped at 12 at the limit of cultivation to pick some green stuff for the camels, & then up a long hill side for some miles, over an enormous site of a late Roman town; ~~the~~ the potsherds cover the ground thickly, nowhere ~~is~~ a hand breadth between the chips, for about 3 miles, & in many places heaps, & brick walls. On the top of a small hill are two limestone columns. I carried Mason Bey's large aneroid all day, slung on my shoulder, taking readings for altitude constantly; also carrying sextant & prismatic compass for position observations. The camels turned tired, not being fit for desert work, & we had to stop after 14 miles, in the Greater Wady Reyan, by a curious cliff about 250 ft high, with a slip of rock cracked off it. We walked up the hill, measured a base & took observations to distant points around. We had already over run the places assigned to Wady Reyan & Wady Moyeh by Linant, & were told by our guides that we were ^{still} only half way to these objects of our journey.

Wednesday. April 5. Our camel men would not go on, mainly because they knew nothing of desert, & were scared about supplies for the camels; also they did not relish the travelling; so considering all the difficulties, real & imaginary, W. was compelled to decide on turning back again. We then went up the hill again, & I took aneroid; after looking at some points W. went back & started the party back, while I walked on two miles farther W. into the bottom of a valley to get its depth by aneroid; it appears thus to be (this was about 12 miles S. of the S. end of Birket Kurun)

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2) far below Nile level, hence if the Fayum was allowed to be
 filled by the Nile it would be an arm of the lake. Then after
 taking a series of bearings, I hurried back, picked up the tracks
 of the camels, & followed them until they stopped for me ~~at~~
 on the top of a ridge about 4 miles from camp. Then W. & I
 measured a base & took set of theod: readings to fix distance
 of hills &c: & then on to Garak. I only rode for a mile, when
 my camel got bogged in a marshy bit, & came down
 almost falling: I quaked for reasons aneroid, but got off
 safely without falling. Got to Garak by 4 1/2, & after seeing tent
 up, went for a bathe with W.: we found a perfect bathing
 ground, a fair stream ^{1 1/2 ft deep} sand bottom, vertical banks,
 flat grass all along it, & water about 75°: so I had a long
 soak. Back to supper, & bed by 9: walked about 18 miles.
Thursday April 6 Off about 9 1/2. A khamseen came on,
 & we pushed a head in a haze of hot sand, wind up to 91° &
 barometer falling 1/20 inch in an hour. We stopped at Tutum, &
 took our lunch into the house of the surveyor there, where
 W. had been before & knew the soldier servant, a nice fellow.
 Then after getting a guide, we started for Kalamshá; W.
 catching the surveyor showing a talk to him on the way.
 The sand storm was bad, & the walk anything but pleasant.
 On reaching Kalamshá the shekh's servant would not
 shew us the house, & tried to put us into a little dirty
 room (dirty for Arabs) out of the way; but W. refused
 & at last we got a visitor's room in the shekh's house,
 or rather courtyard, but the upper & better room was
 filled with the ^{surveyors} things. While Lorenzo cooked
 dinner, we went round village guided by an intelligent
 fellow who shewed us in all 6 blocks of ancient
 granite, & much limestone, which must have been

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brought from some site. After dinner a long talk with
 our Arabs about Wady Reyan, which is a sort of small
 oasis. ¹²⁰⁴
 Good Friday -
 Friday April 6 Off on foot by 8, leaving camels to go to
 Medinet. W. & I went with a grandly armed guide
 up to the most ancient convent in the Faiyum up on
 the side of Gebel Sedment. We had been told of it by our
 Coptic boys, who pressed us to come up & see all the
 people, as all the Copts who can go up there for Easter.
 We found a large assembly there, & were well
 received; our three boys turned up & acted interpreters.
 We went to the church, but it contains nothing
 before the 4th cent^y I think, & even all that is
 re-used; a few capitals & shafts being probably of that
 date, & some Byzantine pilaster capitals irregularly
 built into the wall, probably much later. After general
 talking, W. secured the loan of a donkey to help him
 down to Howara; & we set off. We passed the site marked
 "Ruines" by Linant, but it is only early Arabic. On
 crossing the Bahr Yussef in a ferry, & reaching Howara
 we discharged our guides, had lunch in shadow of the
 shekh's house, & then engaged two men to guide us on
 to Medinet. First, after a roundabout, we reached
 the canal, & were carried over by our guides; the water
 being over their waists. Then I carefully looked
 over the Δ of Howara, & the ruins of the ~~bi~~ building by
 it, which looks to me far more like the remains of the
 labyrinth, than the brick buildings there, so called by
 Lepsius. I took several photos. A large stone paving
 two layers thick is being smashed up for building; the stones
 are so large that old Vassalis of the museum reported
 them as being rock, & so quarrying is allowed; but

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 Mason Bey saying otherwise (4) I examined them found (205)
 joints, pick dressing of stones, & red quarry marks. So I must
 stir Maspero on it. How the Labyrinth itself has
 disappeared is evident, from the immense heaps of chips
 about 10 ft high, of fine limestone, which overlies all
 the pavement. The paving is reported by natives to
 extend all over the site, & under the A. I took
 photos from top of A of all the site. The brick wall
 chamber called the Labyrinth, by Lepsius, look later
 to me, & have a filling up of Roman pottery. I hear
 that the Bulak museum people quite abandon its
 identification. Then after being carried back over
 the stream, we walked on to Medinet. Mason Bey
 who had been out shooting overtook us, & W. was
 glad of his donkey: so I walked back with M. B: got
 from him his barom. readings ^{at Medinet} during our journey,
 but unhappily he only read to $\frac{1}{10}$ inch, whereas I
 need to $\frac{1}{1000}$, or say $\frac{1}{400}$; hence his readings are
 not of much use. Then on to Greek restaurant, & had
 dinner with W.

Sat. April 8. Off with W. by 8.0 train for Cairo. We
 reached Bedrashin, where I had appointed with Ellis
 to meet me, at 12, & got out. But I could not
 hear anything of Ellis, so after enquiring at the ferry, I
 took a donkey for my things, & set off for a 14 mile
 walk to my tomb; this is the fourth time I have walked
 along the desert edge from Sakkara to Gizeh, & a
 very heavy walk it is, owing to the sand in many parts.
 Got in about 5, & found that Ellis was over in
 my tomb. I had lent him my second key in case he wanted it.
 He came in at sunset, & told me that he could

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 He came in at sunset, & told me that he could

not get Hassan when he wanted him, so filled up time⁽²⁰⁶⁾ by coming out here to sketch again. Hassan is however engaged by him from tomorrow onwards, but as he wishes to help me in work on coffer, he will send for Hassan up here for a day & go on his sketching bout beside the Nile afterwards.

Sunday April 9 a furious khamseen day, sand in showers, nothing visible over a furlong, & a gale at 95° to 100° blowing so that one could hardly keep ones feet. As Elli intended going tomorrow, & cannot spare more time on any account (as he must get some certain work done & return in good time for London season, & appointments that he has) he kindly offered to do the coffer; so in the afternoon we went in with the big callipers & gauged the thickness of the S. end at every 3 inches all over; & finding it so roughly irregular (varying .76 inch) we did the other sides at every 6 inches all over. Then coming down for dinner, we went off after it about $8\frac{1}{2}$ to coffer again, with a stock of bits of board, two crowbars, anvil for fulcrum & bit of sheet steel to avoid bruising the granite. Then with Ali alone we set to work prizing up the coffer; but soon found that two piles of wood looked too risky to support it on; hence a hitch. Then I descended into the excavation about 12 ft deep under coffer, & got out a large block of stone about 1 cwt which was just right height for coffer to stand on. Then we went on & raised it to about $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins over floor. E. thought the steel tubes looked too risky to stand it on, for fear of collapse or tilting during

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the wriggling about of levering the coffer up: & I
 did not feel at all happy about them: so they
 were not used, & finally the coffer stood on one
 stone & two piles of wood, so placed as to step out
 as little of the surface as possible, ^{done about midnight.} But the coffer
 stone is rather a low one; & the theod would not see
 under coffer by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; after trying to raise it a
 little more we had to leave it, & put theod in a broken
 hole in the floor. There I read off the offset from
 a horizontal plane at every 6 inches all over the
 bottom surface; then marked a pencil mark exactly
^{at theod level,} on a rod, which E. held fixed; then raised theod onto
 tripod near on same rod again, putting pencil mark
 on it (thus avoiding any question of errors of reading
 in the most important point); & then took heights
 depths from a horizontal plane to bottom of coffer inside
 all over at every 6 inches. This took till about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ am.
 Then we lowered the coffer again onto its stone,
 first cleaning out everything but fine dust from
 under it: and (the only time I ever did such a
 thing) I chalked on the bottom of the coffer "Lifted
 9 April 1882 W. M. F. Petrie", Ellis putting his
 name & date on the floor under it. Then we
 finished it off about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ am, & returned to tomb.
 I got to bed about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ am. ^{Ellis & Ali both so sleepy they could}
Monday April 10 ^{hardly work, but I did all the reading, & took}
 did not sleep after 6, so got up
 at 6: Ellis up soon after. & it was another
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 I got to bed about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ am, <Ellis & Ali both so sleepy they could
 hardly work, but I did all the reading, & took care against mistakes.>

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Did not sleep after 6, so got up
 about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ellis up soon after. As it was another
 khamseen, or rather the tail of the previous day

it was useless for E. to go on, so he stopped in ²⁰⁸ tomb. His donkey boy brought out my two weeks letters, for which many thanks to Glebe & Crescent. The 2 notes received safely. I think the reply to this mail had better be addressed to Cairo, as I hardly expect to be off before 2 1/2 weeks. Ellis is going down to Helwan, &c, where Funch will join him, for work on quarries; & this will take me till probably 8 days hence; I have also some bits to do here still, & packing will take some days. It is better to finish here as thoroughly as I can & skip matters altogether, than to leave points unsettled here.

I have written up all this journal from notes, during the khamseen in my tomb, surrounded by thousands of flies, who take refuge from the heat; hence some erratic points in writing, for a fly on ticklish places is worrying. The photo sent by White of Reading was of Adm Fowler, & will be found in the Flinders cupboard, in a small deal box as sent; if it has not been sent to Shilling Lane, about which I forget-

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29. Cairo-

M^{rs} Petrie-
8, Crescent R^d
Bromley,
Kent-

29. Cairo-
Mrs Petrie
8, Crescent R^d
Bromley,
Kent

Monday, 10 April, writing up journal in morning. Sent
 it off by the donkey boy of Ellis's, who was going to Cairo. Reducing
 coffer & measures in evening, & developing 17 photos of Faium trip.

Tuesday 11 April Air rather clearer, & so Ellis
 determined to go off & be ready for work, leaving here
 in the morning. Reducing coffer measures all the afternoon:
 there is a lot to do in reducing from offsets of level plane to
 offsets from mean plane of coffer bottom, i.e. eliminating
 slight tilt of coffer position. The general result is that
 mean thickness of coffer bottom is 6.89 ins; extreme variation
 from mean ^{parallel} planes, outside .17 thinner & .14 thicker; inside
 .26 thinner & .20 thicker. ^{max.} varⁿ of thickness .27 thicker .31 thinner.
 General thickness .10 more at S. & .10 less than mean at N. end.
 The thickness of sides as calipered is mean 5.67 N 5.88 S
 5.90 E 5.84 W. Extreme variations on N 5.48-5.96, S 5.62-6.38
 E 5.71-6.13 W 5.59-6.17. These are at about 1 inch over bottom,
 but bottom ^{sides} thickness rapidly at bottom & are .1 to .2 more there.
 Developed 24 photos of Faium trip in even; some of them are
 very good, average fair, & but few poor; one on the great
 canal surrounded with gardens & palms is very beautiful, the
 steep banks of the stream giving it an un-Egyptian look.
 Certainly the Faium is like no other place; the abundance
 of running water everywhere, & the strange point that
 the smaller the stream the farther it has run, the water
 being branched up in exactly the opposite way to ordinary
 streams.
 Wednesday 12 April Finishing coffer measures in morn. Making
 frame to go on coffer in aftⁿ. Into Δ by 5, & arranged frame
 of wood to lie on top of coffer; nails sticking out about ½ inch at the
 corners had a silk thread stretched over their heads; thus
 forming a rectangle of straight, stretched, silk threads. Then
 a plumb bob was hung over the edge of the frame, its distance from
 the threads noted, & then the offsets taken from it all down coffer.

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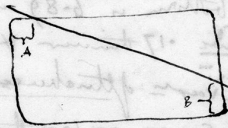
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 but bottom <sides> thicken rapidly at bottom & are .1 to .2 more there.
 Developed 24 photos of Faium trip in even; some of them are
 very good, average fair, & but few poor; one on the great
 canal surrounded with gardens & palms is very beautiful, the
 steep banks of the stream giving it an un-Egyptian look.
 Certainly the Faium is like no other place; the abundance
 of running water everywhere, & the strange point that
 the smaller the stream the farther it has to run; the water
 being branched up in exactly the opposite way to ordinary
 streams.

Wednesday 12 April

<Very fine & clear, & much cooler.> Finishing coffer measures in morn.
 Making frame to go on coffer in aftⁿ. Into Δ by 5, & arranged frame
 of wood to lie on top of coffer; nails sticking out about ½ inch at the
 corners had a silk thread stretched over their heads; thus
 forming a rectangle of straight, stretched, silk threads. Then
 a plumb bob was hung over the edge of the frame, its distance from
 the thread noted, & then the offsets taken from it all down coffer.

Thus the section was thus, & the distance from the horizontal thread to the coffer known at each point.

This virtually surrounds the coffer with perfect vertical planes, & from which offsets are taken all over at every 6 inches. After this is done, a 100 inch rod is laid on the top of the frame & the distances of the threads measured at each side; then the diagonals to give the angles of the threads with each other; but as they run round nail heads there is no corner, so they are measured thus; rod brought onto threads, corner measured



This occupied till 10^o, when I returned had supper & to bed.

Thursday 13 April Partly reducing measures in morn^g. Another very fine day. Altering frame in afternoon to do inside of coffer. In to Δ by 4; measured inside, by virtual planes as the ~~oth~~ outside was done. This occupied till 8, when I returned to supper. To morrow go to Cairo; and I expect on Sat^y Ellis will send up a donkey to fetch me to Masara or Bedrashin. The reason that he did not write to the station master at Bedrashin, as we agreed, was that he wrote to me, care of Mason Bey, as soon as he found that he could not be there as we agreed; and the letter must have been lost, as I saw Mason continually before & after that time, so that he would have been sure to give me any such letter.

Thus the section was thus, & the distance from the horizontal thread to the coffer known at each point. [R]

This virtually surrounds the coffer with perfect vertical planes, & from which offsets are taken all over at every 6 inches. After this is done, a 100 inch rod is laid on the top of the frame & the distances of the threads measured at each side: then the diagonals to give the angles of the threads with each other; but as they run round nail heads there is no corner, so they are measured thus; [R] exact inch divisions of rod brought onto threads, & distance from virtual corner measured by hand scale.

This occupied till 10 1/2, when I returned had supper & to bed.

Thursday 13 April

Partly reducing measures in morn^g.

Another very fine day. Altering frame in afternoon to do inside of coffer. In to Δ by 4; measured inside, by virtual planes as the ~~oth~~ outside was done. This occupied till 8, when I returned to supper. Tomorrow I go to Cairo; and I expect on Sat^y Ellis will send up a donkey to fetch me to Masara or Bedrashin. The reason that he did not write to the station master at Bedrashin, as we arranged, was that he wrote to me, care of Mason Bey, as soon as he found that he could not be there as we agreed; and the letter must have been lost, as I saw M/<M>ason continually before & after that time, so that he would have been sure to give me any such letter.

14th

14th Letters rec^d of April 6. 211
 As to the Delta Society, Sayce has been the negotiator with Maspero, & is altogether in it; he knows well enough that I would have a hand in it, if I could, for I suggested as much, when we talked of it; so if there is an opening for me there, I shall probably hear of it. At present, funds are nowhere, I believe, & arrangements of course wait to see what may be forth coming -

This letter had better not be answered ^{at any length}, as I may leave Cairo before the return mail, & am uncertain whether I shall return via Alex^a & Moss, or Port Said & "British India", who go to London direct, & so save fare & goods from L'pool -

We find these B. Indias come in every Wed^s -

I come often. 6. per mo. so he may arrive May 17 - but I don't think he can be so early -

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The letter of April 2nd to the effect that we had been the
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 India, who go to London first, the last
 fare & goods from I took -
 We find there P. Johnson
 comes in every week
 I have often, I fear, no
 but he may arrive
 about 1/2 past 1 o'clock
 he can be so early -

30. Cairo -

(1)

Friday 14 April

Off by 7 ½ for Cairo: a strong W wind blowing which sprung up quiet/te suddenly, & made a sand haze. Went first to Museum to see Maspero, but he was out; so then up to D^r G.; saw him just before going on his morning round. To post, & then sat in Ezbekiyeh for a while reading Pub. Op. as I had to wait. Then dinner at restaurant at noon, & to D^r G. just to be polite to M^{rs} G. before their dinner. After a little talk I left when they went to table, & rode down to Museum again. Saw Maspero, & shewed him all the best of the antikas I had got (all <that> costing 5 frs or over) & offered to exchange any that he might wish for Museum. He did not however wish for any of them, though I thought ~~one~~ of the tablet he would have kept (I took photos of <2> large stones); so thus I stand straight with him about exporting them, but I find that he is not <quite> square with the authorities quite himself apparently, as he refused to detain or seize antikas unless wanted for the museum; whereas the officials (ministers & customs) wish to keep all they seize for somebody's benefit, somehow. I suspect Brugsch has a hand in this move, finding Maspero's policy too liberal to suit him. M. told me of more than one case in which things were sent to him that he did not in the least want, & on his saying so he was rebuffed by being told that he was not to judge of that but to keep things. He recommended me to carry little things away in my pocket, & asked about the relative safety of Alex^a & Suez customs; imagine consulting the chief of the museum, in whose interest rules are supposed to be made, as to the best way of avoiding them! Thus if any of my things are seized M. will not be offended, & I shall probably get them after some

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delay; but I shall give D^r G. the largest, a shrine of Ptah ²¹³
 dedicated by ~~an~~ ^{an} architect of Memphis, Ptahmes, he said that
 if I could get it to Europe I had better do so; & if he had it, he
 might be asked some day if he wanted it, if building
 stone was required! I think he has noted the somewhat
 brutal force of character of old Mariette. Being a
 Frenchman is included in the dislikes of the National
 Party; & is accordingly snubbed & thwarted at their
 mercy. Such at least is the impression he gave me
 from what he said. He made three woeful mistakes
 in technology during our talk; ¹ supposing that a fractured
 surface of basalt was sawn, because it was a flat fracture,
 i.e. slaty; ² supposing a vitrified green paste was the same
 as a class of forgeries in plaster colored green; ³ remarking
 that it was a pity the Arabs had cleaned a bronze by scraping,
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 little slips suggest that he is more of a book student, than
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 He decidedly recommended me to run the cargo as well as
 I could; & if the things were seized & sent to him, he must take
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 Then after leaving him, at which he was most polite, & accompanied
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3 I went over to see the Deir El Bahari things at the museum ⁽²¹⁴⁾
 for I have never yet seen one of them; to my disgust
 it was Friday, & museum shut accordingly.
 So as bridge was not open to traffic yet, walked back to Cairo
 from Bulak, had hair cut; then back to Δ. A bitter
 cold N. wind blowing, but the sand subsided as it changed from
 W. to N. To drop from 98° on Sunday to 57° on Friday is a
 sharp change. Supper, & to bed by 10.

Saturday 15 April just as I threw out my bath water at
 8, a donkey boy came up from Ellis to fetch me, as we had
 agreed. So after breakfast speaking I set off at 10.
 We went all cross country between the hills & the Nile, & for a
 long way along the railway, which is everybody's road here.
 By 2 I reached Shekh Otman & found Ellis; my feet were
 damaged rather, by the rough inside of a pair of shoes which had
 begun to decompose; the smooth leather lost, & the pasteboard
 sole cracking up. So I rested till 3, for it was 11 miles walk.
 Then went over to the quarries of Turra just opposite, on the East
 bank of the Nile, about 2 miles off. The ferry boat was attempted by
 a boy, who ^{at first} would not get it out of the little harbour against
 the wind, & then had to cross the stream five times tacking to get
 past an island; at last he stopped at a shoal close to the
 main shore, & I tucked up my trousers & waded to the shoal,
 but in going from that to the shore it was deeper water, & I
 went in over half way up the thigh, soaking my trousers utterly. However
 they dried in a short time. As I went up to the cliffs two young
 fellows ran up, & joined on to me: I could not shake them off,
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the 15th of the month to which I said, "yes of the Frank month" so then he pulled out an almanach & shewed me. After this I knew that I was all safe, as it shewed he was a superior sort of fellow, not a lewd fellow of the base sort. So I had a look at some of the galleries, & copied a lot of inscriptions. Then back, & found a boat just handy, come over for an Arab woman. Had dinner & to bed.

Sunday 16 April went over shed a long ramble all about the Turra hills, taking one of the donkey boys. But the little rascal was so cross about not finding a road down off the hill when wanted that he actually threw away the water gulleh: I got on the top of the cliffs & could not get down for a long way: even the tops of the valleys have a precipitous cliff round their heads: at last where the rock had given way over old quarries we scrambled down. The quarries here are amazing; often a great domed chamber, about 150 or 200 ft diam^r & 40 or 50 ft high, formed by the Arabs cutting away the pillars left by the Egyptians & the roof caving in & falling, thus

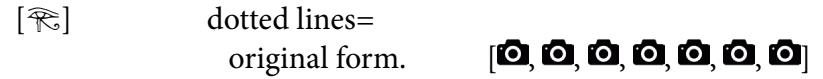


Then, where not quarried later, the halls of the quarry are perfect, about 400 or 500 ft square, with pillars about 30 ft square & galleries 40 ft wide between them. These are about 40 to 50 ft high. And most of this stone is of the fine casing-stone quality; so that I suspect the casing came from Turra & not Mukattam. Some of the galleries open direct to the outside without branches, these are 20 to 30 ft wide & 30 to 40 ft high, running in 300 or 400 ft: others branch & join, so that you can never tell what may occur on entering one. I saw the celebrated stone on a sledge drawn by oxen; it is at the bottom of a tablet dated in 22nd yr of Aahmes I of XVII Dynasty. There is also another exquisite little tablet of same king coloured blue in an gallery near.

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(2)

17 I set off back in very good time & got down to the shore ⁽²⁾ not ⁽²¹⁶⁾
 1/2 mile from our tent by 5 1/2. Here I waited for a boat, but
 soon a strong wind sprung up blowing clouds of sand, & no
 one would try to cross against such a breeze. Ellis offered
 5 francs to any boatman to go (& there are a dozen boats there)
 but they all refused, & left to go home. Now there was close
 to where I waited a large double mast boat, & soon we
 enquired of them; they were waiting to fetch back a funeral
 party of shekh of Bedrashen buried on the Helwan (Turra)
 side, & they would not object to taking me as well. ^{though there were 60 in the party.} So
 we went off to the boat, profiting by my experience of the
 water yesterday, (for I had to cross the same place) took off
 my trousers to begin with. Once on the boat I knew I was
 safe to get over some time: but the wind blew a gusty gale,
 & the sand hid even the opposite shore sometimes. I sat on the
 little half deck, while the boatmen got under the deck & chattered
 away, some one jumping up every 10 minutes looking over the
 side to see if the funeral party were in sight. So we waited.
 At last having watched some stars setting, & turning sleepy
 I got down & lay on the inside of the boat, half asleep. I had been
 on board rather over a hour, when there was a shout & a
 sway, & looking up I saw the mast flying past the stars - we
 had dragged anchor. Jumping up I stood on the windward
 side of the boat which heeled heavily with the breeze, &
 held the rigging ready to get up it in case of an upset; for
 boats on the Nile are wrecked by slipping a sea & settling down
 with masts sticking above water. The boatmen however
 rounded her head safely & we spun over to the opposite
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Monday 17 April

Monday 17 April While getting up I saw the funeral party, which had staid for the storm, coming down to the shore at 6 o'clock to the boat, which had crossed again in readiness. After breakfast I went off on donkey to Be Memphis. Here I set to work to settle the age of the various mounds by the character of the pottery, & was able to get a good notion of the matter. About half of it is of Greek & Roman, date; but on the N. there is a large mound containing very good houses of Ramesside period: some of the houses are three floors high, the holes for the beams shewing plainly: their bricks are very fine & in good condition, & the walls very thick. I picked up a piece of syenite, which one might suppose the Egyptians had sawn on purpose for a specimen; it has 4 sawn faces, & a saw cut across the only rough side. I spent about six hours examining all the mounds; on the S. side I found the site of kilns that D^r Grant had mentioned to me: they were the great source of the beautiful blue glazed ware found at Sakkara: quantities of bits of spoilt pots, stuck together by glaze, or overfired, lying about; & enormous amounts of very rough pottery, flat, with ^{coarse slaggy} glaze on one or both sides, which I think are the tiles which lined the ovens. Then down to Bedrashen, where I picked up my donkey boy whom I had sent on to get his food; & who had secured another donkey to carry my baggage tomorrow. Rode back to tent by about 5^{3/4}.

Tuesday 18 April Up before sunrise, packing up. Saw Ellis off with all his baggage by a boat, going to sail down stream for a few miles then land & take his traps up on his donkeys to the tombs of the Khalifs where he is going to paint. I walked & rode across country, getting in to my tomb about 11. Getting lunch & attending to various till about 3^{1/2}, when I went up to Δ . Went down to subterranean chamber. Put theod at bottom of

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entrance passage; 3 candles, (1) in end of South horizontal passage, (2) at beginning of horizontal, & (3) at N. door of Subt. chamber. No (1) was invisible from No 3 & theod: so sighted it on its line of with No (2). This passage is not over 2 inches out of line, which is within its waviness, for it winds about 6 inches in & out.

Then observed on signal in center of entrance for candles (2) & (3). The result is that there is not over 5' skew in making the bend of the passage about 1 inch on 50 ft observed. This might be done by a couple of plumb lines about 100 ins apart, thus sighting them in line up entrance & then in line on southward horizontally. If so this skew is about 1/6 inch on 100 ins & so might be easily done as accurately as this in such a way.

Then took levels of passages so as to connect them all together. After this took out the theod leaving it with Ali at the door, & having measured breadth & height of passage in going up, measured roughly the length of it by 140 inch rods laid on floor as I went down again; but the floor is so encumbered that nothing accurate can be done; still this will just check Howard Vyse.

Then with the long rod measured the chamber. It is very awkward to do, being piled up with stones; had to lie on my chest on the stones, with only just room for the thickness of my body & then wriggle rods about with both hands, & to get into this position one had to crawl forwards quite flat, pushing with one's feet & dragging by one's hands. At last I got it down thus N side 553.5 S side 554.1 E end 325.9 W at 100 from west wall 329.6. Walls far from flat. Maximum height, on floor by well about 160 ins but hidden by earth: from ceiling to the top square of the well 198, to lower square 265; the well being thus a smaller well in one corner of a larger.

entrance passage; <3> candles, (1) in end of South horizontal passage, (2) at beginning of <S.> horizontal, & (3) at N. door of Subt. chamber. No (1) was invisible from No 3 & theod: so sighted it on its line of with No (2). Thus S. passage is not over 2 inches out of line, which is within its waviness, for it winds about 6 inches in & out [☞]. Then observed on signal in centre of entrance & on candles (2) & (3). The result is that there is not over 5' skew in making the bend of the passage [☞] or about 1 inch on 50 ft observed. This might be done by a couple of plumb lines about 100 ins apart, thus [☞] sighting them in the line up entrance & then in line on southwards horizontally. If so this error is about 1/6 inch on 100 ins & so <it> might be easily done as accurately as this in such a way. Then I took levels of passages so as to connect them all together. After this I took out the theod leaving it with Ali at the door, & having measured breadths & heights of passage in going up, I measured roughly the length of it by 140 inch rods laid on floor as I went down again; but the floor is so encumbered that nothing accurate can be done; still this will just check Howard Vyse. Then with the long rods I measured the chamber. It is very awkward to do, being piled up with stones; I had to lie on my chest on the stones, with only just room for the thickness of my body & then wriggle rods about with both hands, & to get into this position one had to crawl forwards quite flat, pushing with one's feet & dragging by one's hands. At last I got it down thus N side 553.5 S side 554.1 E end 325.9 W at 100 from west wall 329.6. Walls far from flat. Maximum height, on floor by well about 160 ins, but hidden by earth: from ceiling to the top square of the well 198, to lower square 265; the well being thus [☞] a smaller well in one corner of a larger.

[☞]

Having done this, & measured the south passage (which is plaguey²¹⁹ being only 29 ins square & encumbered with stones in part) I came out at 8 1/2 & down to supper. After that writing this I to bed about 12. I was astonished to see how much the rain had done: it had cut out a groove about 6 ins wide & 4 deep in the rubbish laid on the floor of passage, & left a deep deposit of mud in the first horizontal passage, which was only just stiff enough to bear me; then it had run on into the chamber, & so into the well, which contained enough to splash when a stone was thrown in - copying graffiti from Turra for Birch.

Wednesday 19 April Beginning packing & arranging small things in morn. Out in aft to Δ . Set theod levelled at upper end of granite plugs, so as to look up ascending passage, chalked marks on suitable points of floor & wall, all up this & Grand Gallery <9 points in each>. Then clamping altitude & leaving theod free in azimuth, Ali went up holding an offset rod against each of the floor marks, which I read & noted. On reaching top he came down holding it to the wall marks, theod. being clamped in azimuth & free in altitude. Thus I gauged the straightness of these passages. Beside the G. G. being steeper it has about 1.5 <.9> inch rise above floor of ascending passage, ^{this, much exaggerated.}

In straightness of floor there is not over 1/2 inch error in any part of either passage; & in the wall about .8 maximum error. Then taking theod up into King's Ch. I set it up so as to just sight over the top of the coffer; then took level to six points inside bottom, to connect to past measures & to find how much coffer was tilted when standing on the floor. Then took level to points all round it on the ledge cut out, & to 6 points of original top; thus fixing height of pit. Then had a rod held at about every 50 ins all round walls, standing on floor, thus levelling floor, & reading at same time the first course so as to level that also. It varies fearfully being

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(3)

as much as 2.26 higher at NE than at SW of chamber: and this cannot be level error of theod as the difference is mainly at equidistant places, & the level bubble was observed continually. Then putting theod in Antech'. I levelled all along from Kings Ch floor to great step. The step is much out of level being about 1 inch higher at W than at E side. Then came out, & down to supper. I had felt fever coming on while I was at work, & was so queer with it that I went to bed immediately after supper, temp^r 102°.4; all the regular signs were on, sore throat, wandering in the head, & aching as bad as rheumatism in all the muscles of the body & arms; this last is curiously constant with fever.

Thursday 20 April After 12 hours sleep & good perspiration I was better, temp^r down to 99°.2; but still not feeling up to work outside in sun & wind. Packing, & reducing coffer observations all day.

Friday 21 April Packing most of the day, finished all my antikas & pottery; also reducing coffer measures farther. I reduce to a system of mean planes for each side; the angles of the planes with each other being thus mean angles of sides, & the distance of planes = the mean dimensions for volumes; also the differences from these planes shew the curvatures & irregularities of the sides. Writing to Birch in evening. Shall post this in Cairo to morrow.

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On looking over the Delta affair I think it best to return
 to England as quickly as I can. I have written to
 Birch about it (which please post); but Poole is the
 secretary, & if he is strong in it Birch is probably not
 much in it, (& his name does not appear which is striking)
 as they do not pull together. Now I
 do not know Poole enough to write to him, except
 as a stranger; but when I go to Coin Room I
 can see him & Head (who is also named) & have
 a talk, which is more satisfactory. Though this society
 would not probably take up Δ s, ~~still~~ their probable field
 being Zoan (Tanis); yet to get onto such an affair
 (which might last several seasons) is far too important
 to be lost or risked for the sake of stopping about
 a few remaining things which can be done as well
 here any other time.

What remains is ¹ plan of top of Δ & photos thence; ² photos
 about here; ³ levels round Δ (for which season is too
 advanced now, & which do not at all affect anything
 else); ⁴ Medum tombs (which I may manage in a
 day), but which are not promising as the measures
 that I took of two of the Third dynasty tombs there are
 hopelessly unmetrical: especially ⁵ Malta in my return;
 which I think I shall omit, both as it is rather late & hot
 for that, & also as it must take a week. ~~the~~ Further
 reason for returning is that I am rather down with
 heat, & this slight fever, & cannot work hard just now.
 So I may possibly get off from Port Said in about a week;

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 which I think I shall omit, both as it is rather late & hot
 for that, & also as it must take a week. ~~the~~ Further
 reason for returning is that I am rather down with
 heat <81° in tomb & hotter outside now, at midnight,>
 & thus slight fever, & cannot work hard just now.
 So I may possibly get off from Port Said in about a week;

222

It thus be in England three weeks hence; or about
 12 days after this arrives. It depends rather on what
 Ellis does; he returns soon, & it would be
 convenient to come with him if I could hit it within
 a day or two. There are so many steamers, goods
 & passengers, going through canal daily, & all stop to
 coal at Port Said, that by going there one is sure to
 get one in a day or two at the outside. The reason for
 taking that way is that the Alex^r line, Moss, goes
 to Liverpool & that is £2 or so extra ^{in England} & a long train &
 delay for goods, whereas British India & others from
 Port Said go to London, saving a little time also.

I can apply personally to Franks, Poole, Head, & Sayce
 who are on Delta business, & through Loftie probably
 to Amelia Edwards. None of the other names I have any
 hold on; unfortunately I just missed seeing Villiers Stuart
 this year.

On second thoughts I have written to Sayce (which
 please post) as there is nothing to lose by so doing, &
 it may be of use.

31- Cairo

a packet, and a letter
 Suez next Sat^r, Ellis goes by it
 & I shall do so also if possible.
 Letters safely rec^d & D^r G. with 5.
 Many thanks.

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 31- Cairo -

Saturday 22nd April.

26
 Saturday 22nd April: Off to Cairo by 9 1/4, having overslept;
 first to Bank, & drew £15. Then to P.O. & got letters; finding
 one from Mr Whitehouse with Barometer readings of Cairo
 Observatory, & of Mason Bay. To Sebah's; got the 60 copies of
 photos that friends have ordered from the sight of those I brought
 last year, & got 10 new ones of other points that I wanted. Then
~~met~~ met Beaman, & heard that Ellis was going next Sat^r,
 (which is the very day I had settled to go if possible) & that he was at
 tombs of Khalifs still. Then to Dr Grant; found Mrs G. at home
 alone, the Dr sent word that he was luncheon with a patient;
 however Mrs G. scribbled a line saying I was there. I looked at
 some books, &c, Mrs G. wants to go to Scotland; & after all, the notion
 of a box that I was to take with mine, faded away; as the things were
 not very much, & were to go to three different people; so I offered
 to take them in my boxes, & then send them by rail to their
 various addresses. Soon after sitting down to lunch at the foot
 of the table, as the Dr was out, I heard his cheery subdued whistle
 coming along the passage, & in he came. On hearing of my
 notion of the Delta business he much approved of it &
 thought I stood a good chance. Wayman Dixon he also thought
 would do well, but then he is engaged in some profitable business
 now; & he said he hoped Chester would not be put on to it.
 After seeing some new antikas of his, I left to see Ellis; leaving
 my gold purse with the Dr, as I was going to the Khalifs. After
 some enquiries I hit Ellis's tent, close to where I was robbed; there
 is no guard now at that point. Found that he has not seen the
 agent, but will do so on Monday, so asked him to secure
 passage for me also by same ship if he could. The fare is
 the same from Suez as Port Said, & Suez is cheaper journey, so I
 shall go that way. He also offered to engage & send out cart for
 my things, so as to save my coming in again till I leave tomb.
 Then left him. Did shopping; to Dr G. again, fetching purse &
 things; he pressed me to come & sleep there the night I stay in

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Cairo, or it may be two nights, so I accepted thankfully. Then to Hotel Royal to Whitehouse. He was delighted to sight me again, as he wanted to get some immediate rough results of our work. He had an hour's talk with the Khedive (^{our Lord} Effendina); is flourishing with chief of railways, Maspero, &c, &c; he had borrowed the only complete map yet compiled of the Faium (an Arabic, native, one) to copy; had got original field books of the railway levellers, &c. Had a difficulty to get away from him & "my theory": probably he will be in London some time this summer; but he never makes up his mind what he will do, but lets events drive him as they come. He was urgent for me to go off to Oxyrhynchus with him to strike into the desert to the Wady Reyan from the south; introductions to the chief surveyors there &c, &c, but of course had to decline. Then back to tomb; getting in by 8. After supper looked up a dozen of the best of the Faium photos, & touched their flaws, to send to W.; he wants to print them off to have something to shew to Khedive when he next interviews him. According to him no one had any notion that the valleys were so deep (below sea level) where we went. To bed lateish.

Sunday, 23 April. MF out all day. Feeling very washed-out as I have done lately, & rather fearing fever might come on. Whether two doses of quinine have kept it off, I don't know. For the last two or three weeks (since the heat) I have never felt any energy for anything, & can only enjoy sitting still & making observations; this is one reason why I want to get away as soon as possible; also I have no appetite, my stomach is uneasy, looking over things in tomb, & straightening up matters. It seems so far likely that I shall return in some way here, that

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24 I think it best to leave everything that is not of importance, & that I should not be vexed at losing; only taking away, or packing up, for Dr G's, things that are really worth carrying about. In bringing things to & fro one has to remember that if they may be wanted again here, it involves two transits & two packings to bring them back to England.

Monday 24 April After breakfast out photographing. There were several important points not yet done, & I did 13 plates. Also went down Δ^3 passage to measure distance of positions of candles used for azimuth. Then back, & packing for two or three hours. Adjusting level of 5 inch, & finding zero exactly. Then out to level round Δ^1 . The previous levelling, though only very rough, agreed with Inglis to .15 inch except at SE socket. So began by connecting SE with NE. I could not well manage to fix in the remains of pavement in the holes ⁽¹⁾ because the phenomenal rain of a few weeks ago had washed down stones that required men to clear them out - & this was hardly worthwhile now as I could not do them thoroughly accurately ⁽²⁾ because I should have needed to run the line of levelling much higher to see over the tops of the holes, & this would have been too high for Ali to manage the rods to level down to the sockets. Hence what I did was to put two rods, each with a paper scale of alternate black & white inches, at the two rods of second course, NE & SE corners; then with theod ^{nearly opposite mid of face} level from one to the other. Then with theod close to NE ~~level~~ level by long staff held by Ali (with similar scale on top of it) from rod in 2nd course down to socket, & to rock cut to level of pavement at corner. Then with theod at SE level down to socket there; the second course not being higher over socket, than the length of rod that Ali could manage. Then I carried a line of level all round Δ by short ^{stationary} rods, on 2nd course at each corner; & independently took less accurate levelling down to sockets. Had much difficulty to find ground low enough to see

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the second course level from opposite Δ face on S & W sides. The NW-NE at finish was the shakiest part of all as there was a breeze & bad light. The whole difference in going round is 1.1 inch = 6" on whole run, & this is not bad for a 5 inch theod I think. I did not use the 10 inch as it would take vastly more time; & I just managed to get this done ~~in the~~ before sunset so that I had very little heating; working in shade at first (E side) & not going into sun till an hour or so before sunset; there was a cool slight wind, which was very good for it. The above 1.1 I consider practically all due to N side error of NW-NE, & assume it quite correct round NE-SE-SW-NW. The results then are for sockets

	NE	SE	SW	NW
working before	-28.5	-39.9	-23.0	-32.8
clearly wrong in SE)	28.75	39.95	22.95	32.65
should adopt	28.6	42.2	23.0	32.8
	28.5	39.9	23.0	32.8

i.e. the work of today.

It is really strange that these independent workings should all come so very close: there does not seem to be much uncertainty.

The whole of today's levels run thus: -

	NE	SE	SW	NW
2 nd course	+107.7	+105.5 worn	+111.2	+106.6
1 st -	+58.6		+57.6	+58.0
pavement	0			-1.2 at near end W side
sockets	-28.5	-39.9	-23.0	-32.8
basalt pavement	-2.0			

Applying this to the levelling up A we have 57.6 + 5329.4 = 5387.0 from NE pav^t to SW top, -1.06 across top, = 5385.94 to NE top, -5385.67 down NE = .27 inch difference in going NE-SE-SW-top-NE corner.

Hope all parties will be satisfied, - I am just finished by dark, & down to supper. This cool wind has bettered me, & I was really up to work this afternoon. Developing photos in even.

Tuesday 25 April. Packing all day, & dog-tired in evening; so having nothing to say will say nothing. Good night.

the second course level from opposite Δ face on S & W sides. The NW-NE at finish was the shakiest part of all as there was a breeze & bad light. The whole difference in going round is 1.1 inch = 6" on whole run, & this is not bad for a 5 inch theod I think. I did not use the 10 inch as it could take vastly more time; & I just managed to get this done in the before sunset so that I had very little heating; working in shade at first (E side) & not going into sun till an hour < & 1/2 > or so before sunset; there was a cool slight wind, which was very good for it. The above 1.1 I consider practically all due to N side error of NW-NE, & assume it quite correct round NE - SE - SW - NW. The results then are for sockets

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	NE	SE	SW	NW
2 nd course	+107.7	+105.5 worn	+111.2	+106.6
1 st -	+58.6		+57.6	+58.0
pavement	0			-1.2 at near end W side
sockets	-28.5	-39.9	-23.0	-32.8
basalt pavement	-2.0			

Applying this to the levelling up Δ we have 57.6 + 5329.4 = 5387.0 from NE pav^t to SW top, -1.06 across top, = 5385.94 to NE top, -5385.67 down NE = .27 inch difference in going NE - SE - SW - top - NE corner. Hope all parties will be satisfied, - I am. Just finished by dark, & down to supper. This cool wind has bettered me, & I was really up to work this afternoon. Developing photos in even.

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Packing all day, & dog-tired in evening; so having nothing to say will say nothing. Good night.

Tuesday 26th April going on packing all day. (227)

Wednesday 27th April finishing tidying up, & out to A down to Subterranean Chamber to measure height over doors, & to fix place of end of rock in passage. Cart came up by 2. & I loaded things, got them to station by 5³/₄ & sent them off to Suez. Then to D^r G. where I left the three boxes of instruments in his storeroom. Settled in at the D^{rs} for a day or two.

Thursday 27th 28th To Bulak Museum in morn to see the mummies, which I cannot stop to describe now. In aft classifying the D^{rs} coins.

Friday 28th 29th going on with the coins. To Genl Stone (out) to Corbett (out) to Borg at Consulate, very polite & pleasant. To Bank & drew out balance. In evening to Corbett, had a chat.

Saturday 29th 30th Finishing naming coins in morn. Off by 11.30 to Suez, meeting Ellis at station. We got to Suez by about 7³/₄. I walked up to Hotel d'Orient.

Sunday Posted this, the "Hallamshire" is late, not due till Thursday, so we hope for the "Priam" from (India today), to sail tomorrow if so, may be home Tuesday 16 perhaps - (At office, they say Wedrd 18th.)

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Monday-

Posted this, the "Hallamshire" is late, not due till Thursday, so we hope for the "Priam" from (India today) to sail tomorrow if so, may be home Tuesday 16 perhaps -

(At office, they say Wedrd - W.P.)

Sunday 30 April. Out strolling round the town of Suez ^{P28} in the morning; on enquiring heard that a steamer, the "Priam" was expected that afternoon on Monday, for London: but the "Hallamshire" would not be in till the 5th though advertised for the 1st M 29th April. ^{on the strength of which we came here.} After staying in during the heat we went out for a stroll again in the afternoon, & to bed early. This hotel, d'Orient, is not first class; but is only 10 fr instead of 20 fr as at the Suez, the great one. It is clean, & very fair in feeding, kept by an Italian & his wife a Dalmatian; a civil, pleasant, people. Very few English come here, mainly French, Germans, &c.

Monday 1 May "Priam" not in yet, out in morning. In afternoon walked down to Port Ibrahim 2 miles off at the end of the Canal. One cannot go off to any distance, for fear the ship should come in. Doing some reduction of measures.

Tuesday 2nd May No ship in yet for us. Heard that Hallamshire will not be in till 8th, & there is another much better ship ^{Almora} due ^{also Brit. India} than. We have just come at a lull in the traffic, several ships went through before we came, & there will be several again about the 8th. Of course we might have gone by P&O or Orient, but they are £22 & 20 instead of £15 by "Priam" or 15 gs by Brit. India. ^{walked over the flats to the cemetery.} We fetched up all our luggage from the station in case a ship should come in late or early, when station is shut; & we might want to be off instantly.

Wednesday 3rd May The agent says that Almora will be in before her time, ~~in~~ by Fri: morn: for certain; ^{a mistake of ours} this is comforting as the other agent thinks Priam must have broken down as she is not in yet. Walked over the flats to the cemetery with Ellis & saw five steamers coming down the canal in succession, all outward bound. Doing some reduction measures. Patience, Patience.

Thursday 4th May Priam not in yet. On going to office saw that Almora is posted up for Sat morning. <Down to Port in morn, & went on Kaiser i Hind for India.> Over in afternoon to

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the cemetery on the flats with Ellis, trying a new rifle of his; the cartridges are old, two missed fire, & at last one burst & bulging the side plate somewhat, ~~and stopping~~ the proceedings. So back to our quarters. Ellis is getting on well with rough of a book on sketching that he is bound to write; but I am fearfully lazy, sleeping continually during the day beside fairly long nights, & feeding heavily for me.

Friday 5th May. Out in morn; saw agent for Almora, who now says that she very likely may have no room!! But he will take us off to her in his steam launch bag & baggage, & bring us back if we can't be taken in. Then after a turn Ellis went back, & I went on some way, along the old railway (disused) to Cairo. I passed the mound, now with a couple of pyramids on the top, & a chateau of the Khedive's which is called Kom el 'Olzum supposed to be site of Kolzum or Olysum. There is much late Roman pottery & glass, & nothing Arabic as far as I saw. I also passed one of the salt pools colored bright pink with microscopic crabs, which make it smell like violets. Got back rather hot & had a snooze till near lunch, after lunch talking, & beginning to arrange account of Δ work. Up to roof for sunset, & saw a most pugnacious duck in the street: it would not let some hens pick up a scrap without flying after them, & it often ran at the boys heels, flying with outspread wings when they ran away: it did not waddle, but ran along straight for its ordinary pace. In the evening a boatman came saying he was sent to tell us that we must be off at 5 am tomorrow, & wanting us to engage his boat overnight. Some points made us doubt him; so we sent a line to the agent asking, & found he was merely trying for a job, & that agent would send his own man when the Almora comes in.

Saturday, 6 May. After packing up, writing & snoozing went on in a desultory way till at 4 o'clock a

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The people are very tolerable but no one interesting. I am unlucky in my cabin; (1) a barrister, rather deformed, & addicted to nightly potations of gin, before & after he comes to the cabin, sometimes getting rovingly muddled; (2) a factor from Java, eat not drinking quite so much, & capable of putting up a great deal more; (3) a quiet sensible Scotchman, in the building trade in Brisbane, much vexed with the bottleous proceedings. (1) & (2) do not finish their whist & retire till 11 or 12 or 1, & talk after that, never putting their light out, but letting it burn out after they are fast asleep. The Purser is a very good natured man, but is going to check them off if they do not reform. There are several children, 3 of one family from Batavia sit & sing quaint little Dutch songs on deck sometimes. There is a young lady from Fiji who plays very well, & has a long memory.

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are a pleasant & very decent set.

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of us; but had to wait & resume position again, as there
were vessels coming down from Ismailiyah. We got up
to Ismailiyah by dark, & lay to.

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33. P^t Said --

Sunday aftⁿ. S.S. Almora 50 miles off Plymouth

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 After we left Port Said, all went well for a couple of days; & then a stiff N.W. wind blew hard, it bore down the Adriatic, & made a rolling breaking sea; the storm which began thus about noon one day, increased all night; I ventured up on deck in the morning, & was soon washed down by a wave which soaked me; so I had to go below again, & groan, as I heard all that morning the waves breaking over the deck (which is a high deck all along); we rolled & pitched, mainly the latter when it was not the former: the doctor consoled me with a couple of black draughts with Bromide Pot. which kept me rather more self contained. At last after about 36 hrs of this, the wind went down, & soon we had peace. Since then, beyond a mild swell in the Bay of Biscay (very mild - for its reputation,) we have gone on happily enough. We expect to go inside Plymouth Breakwater at 10 tonight, send off mails & some passengers per tender, & then run on our way to London, which we expect to reach Tuesday afternoon. As it looks like calm weather I shall go on in the ship, & hope to be home Tuesday evening.

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