

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1931

Arabah

Dear Mother.

Ever so many Happy Returns of your Birthday. I am sending you a little sketch of the Shunit-Zebee as a Birthday card. it is the ruin of the ancient fortress I told you about in my last letter. to the right of it, in the distance you can see the second ruin whose walls shelter the little Coptic community, & again beyond that to the extreme right a bit of the straggling village of Arabah, the tiny white domes are sheikh's<sup>sic</sup> tombs. The ruins in the foreground on the left are those of some mud houses built for Petrie's workmen when he was excavating the Shunit-Zebee. The picture may give you a little idea of the country that Joey has to go over - all ups & downs.

This evening we are expecting the young man from <the> Amarna camp. he is staying a couple of nights I expect he will tell us all about the latest discovery -

Yesterday I had two letters from you

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Yesterday I had two letters from you

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containing lots of news. I am glad you heard from so many people. I expect Florence is so taken up with her new friends that she has no time for the old ones.

You remember the little girl who had her hand so badly burnt? I took a photo of her in her father's arms. She came on Tuesday to see us. She had a new bright pink dress her father was so proud of her. We examined her little hand, & there is not a scar to be seen. Of course a copy of the picture had to be presented & they went off in great glee.

Will you send me out my Coptic Grammar, not the big german one, but the thin green one by Miss Murray. I think it is on the upper shelf of the bookshelf in the studio. Having been to a Coptic service I feel I ought to set my Coptic up again, I find I have quite forgotten it. Send it book post in the ordinary way.

The forget-me-not seeds are coming up.

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The forget-me-not seeds are coming up -

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Nannie is so excited about them. she has sown  
some carrots, the other seeds you ordered have  
not come yet.

Amice asks me to send her love  
& wish you many Happy Returns for her.  
Ahmud asked if I had had a letter from you  
& if you were both well. ~~He~~ he shows great  
interest. he even inquired what your respective  
ages were. he is a funny old boy.

I hope you have a very Happy Birthday  
& that this letter will arrive at the proper time  
Love to you both.

Your affectionate daughter

es Myrtle

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Love to you both –  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle