

Cecil House
Cairo.
Oct 10th 1929.

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Dear Mother & Father.

Here I am in Cairo again. we did have a hectic day yesterday. we arrived at Port Said about 11 AM. Books man met us on board & saw to the removal of our luggage. The Director General of Customs had sent a man to deal with our luggage ^{at the Custom House} & it simply went straight through. all our heavy stuff including my trunk was registered straight on to Baliana & our suit cases etc were put on the Cairo train. We were too late to catch the 12-15. & the next was 6.15. so we left everything in the charge of M^r Cook (who, by the way, was most impressed by our importance) & went along to the Eastern Telegraph Hotel for lunch. we were a little early so we sat out on the Hotel front (like French Café's.) & watched the world go by. it was very amusing. of course we were pestered with natives selling tourist traps. Miss C dealt with them in Arabic most effectively. they soon sheered off when they found we were

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not just helpless tourists, one man was very persistent, she told him quite politely to go away, we did not require anything, then to "clear off." but he still persisted, so she told him to "go to the Devil" in very forcible Arabic - that did it. he said, "all right" & went, we were amused.

Capt C. wandered off on his own after lunch & we had a tidy up & a rest in the lounge. he returned very pleased with himself & told us he had found a perfectly good tea party for us. it seems he had looked up the Padre of the English Church who he knew during the war, & the Padre had invited us all to tea at 4:30. To fill in time we had a walk along the sea shore, such a stretch of glorious sands. we picked up some sea shells, I will try to enclose the tiny ones in this letter, but I expect they will be in bits before they reach you. It was hot - but a strong wind made it bearable. The tea party

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was most restfull, & the nice kind Padre took us to the station in his car, & delivered us into the hands of the waiting Mr Cook who had reserved our compartment & put all our goods on the train. We arrived in Cairo 10-45 & were met by Miss C's aunt & uncle. Capt C. went with them, & Miss C & I went to Cecil House.

We had a very disturbed early morning, part of the house across the way is being rebuilt, & the workmen arrived at dawn & it was just babel & pandemonium - we have decided to move to Gresham House for the rest of our stay in Cairo - Mr Beasley is staying there & he says it is nice & peaceful.

We had a very busy day today, we called at the Consulate & I registered there, so that they know where I am to be found should anything unforeseen arise, for instance, if the local natives started a kick up like they did at Jerusalem the R.A.F would send a plane to Abydos to pick us up, wouldn't it be thrilling,

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I was introduced to Mr Lamas the English Consul & we had a jolly chat with him - we are to leave our passports in his charge when we go up country. From the consulate we went to the National Bank to see if the funds had arrived everything was O.K. so we proceeded to the Museum. saw the Imp. also Mr Gunn. then to the Antiquities Dept. to get our permits. & then it was lunch time. After lunch I started this letter & when the big heat of the day was over I went to get my hair cut. I also got a pair of silk stockings to go with my crepe-de chine frock as the ones I had were all too pinkish, & I wanted to be very swish as we were having tea at the Sporting Club which is the smartest gathering place in Cairo. I met some nice people who invited Miss C & I to lunch tomorrow, we are dining with the Imp. & having lunch on the following day with Miss C's Aunt. so you see we have a gay time before us. we hope to get up country Saturday by night train.

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