Anabah. El-Madfunah. Nov20=1929. Dear Tather

It was jolly getting such a long fetter form you. I loved hearing all about the Garavan in Red picked out with blue, on vices verse & the Lady (colour not mentioned). All the sections things seen to happen when I am away. still I must not quentle. I'm finding life full of excitements just now.

The log bundle of paper anioed quite safely also the invelope. The contents will help towards decorating the smass Tree splindially. Mannie was so delighted with the forget me not seeds, she went shareft away & pulled something up to make room to plant them. We have had the cress & mustard, & the lettices will soon be ready. When I first described the gardens to you tam a paid I very much underestimated the size, the immensity of the described makes werything else appear very Tiny, now that my eyes have god wid to the proportions I realize they are much larger that I first thought.

BROOME LETTER 41

Arabah-el-Madfunah.

Nov 20<u>th</u> 1929.

Dear Father

It was jolly getting such a long letter from you. I loved hearing all about the Caravan in Red picked out with blue, or vice versa & the Lady (colour not mentioned). All the exciting things seem to happen when I am away. still I must'nt^{sic} grumble. I'm finding life full of excitements just now.

The big bundle of paper arrived safely also the envelope. the contents will help towards decorating the Xmas tree splendidly, Nannie was so delighted with the forget me not seeds, she went straight away & pulled something up to make room to plant them. We have had the cress & mustard, & the lettuces will soon be ready. When I first described the gardens to you I am afraid I very much underestimated the size, the immensity of the desert makes everything else appear very tiny, now that my eyes have got used to the proportions I realize they are much larger than I first thought.

2 41 I am so glad the favendu water was a nice sentrise I was very much torn in two about it. I did so want to have the fun of giving you your buthday present before I left home, & at the same time I didn't like to think of these being a blank when the day really came so I compromised by giving you The Jade first & leaving Yandley's with Mother. It was hiday the letter arived in Time atso, so for the mail seems very good. The natives simply love my lettus with the big address they always recognize them & hung them shargel To me, they feel shey can really understand English writing. Today ahmud hought about 's of the white fluce all beautifully spin, it is all as fine + wen as The sample I posted to you a week a so ago The Talunc scoms harsher than English wool but when woven it makes a beautiful supple etoth which does not pull a ravel. If I could procure a pound a so of this spun wool would it be any use To Miss bollins, the red hour sheep here

I am so glad the lavender water was a nice surprise I was very much torn in two about it, I did so want to have the fun of giving you your birthday present before I left home, & at the same time I did'nt^{sic} like to think of there being a blank when the day really came so I compromised by giving you the jade first and leaving Yardley's with Mother. It was lucky the letter arrived in time also, so far the mail seems very good. The natives simply love my letters with the big address they always recognise them & bring them straight to me, they feel they can really understand English writing.

Today Ahmud brought about ¹/₃ of the white fleece all beautifully spun. it is all as fine & even as the sample I posted to you a week or so ago the texture seems harsher than English wool but when woven it makes a beautiful supple cloth which does not pull or ravel. If I could procure a pound or so of this spun wool would it be any use to Miss Collins. The red brown sheep here

41 is a lovely colour, (like a bay horse in shade) the word is slightly coarsin in Feture & I believe less aponsive The black is the cour coarsest & cheapest. I do not yet know the cost of the spin wool, but in time Ishall find out all the details. The rugs they make in the village are not heavy enough for what we want. They are woven nugs not pile rugs, I will see what I can do in bais I believe old Hammadans ; Boltane's are very scarec now. I am having a hariging made for the door between the studio & library, the wearn is to do the usual native pattern in The 3 national shades of wool, it will be nice 2 heavy & I blick changest poof the method of weaving is like this. I is rather like warp thread 3 basket work pattern but is bealin up very Tightly Nov 2012 We had a glorious day yesterday, Miss C's frends Mas alliss full came, so we took the aflernon of I & had a picnic up one of the waddy's. we told the men that we should require two

is a lovely colour, (like a bay horse in shade) the wool is slightly course in texture & I believe less expensive the black is the coar coarsest & cheapest. I do not yet know the cost of the spun wool, but in time I shall find out all the details.

Nov 22^{<u>nd</u>}

We had a glorious day yesterday.. Miss C's friends M^{rs} & Miss Firth came, so we took the afternoon off & had a picnic up one of the waddy's^{sic}. we told the men that we should require two

To carry the lice othe gun, (we never go for in the disul without a weapon because of wolves & wild cats) but They all came, five men a three donkeys, we prefered to walk, so the donks trotted along with us just as dogs would. We walked about 1/2 miles along slightly undulating sand other we came to the glorious pink cliffs, The waddy is a natinal heak in these stifs forming a long winding trail that finally leads to the Top. The inhance to the waddy is like this y Imagine blue sky, pink cliffs shading to manue in the distance & golden sand sprinklid with silver dust. The loss of these cliffs are while alabasta & the word flows the while dust onto the sand diffs. (the dots in are us) we wound our way up rup writed we came to a part where a great bank of sand led up to the very Top. The shoants

to carry the tea & the gun. (we never go far in the desert without a weapon because of wolves & wild cats) but they all came, five men & three donkeys, we preferred to walk, so the donks trotted along with us just as dogs would. We walked about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles along slightly undulating sand & then we came to the glorious pink cliffs. the waddy^{sic} is a natural break in these cliffs forming a long winding trail that finally leads to the top. the entrance to the waddy^{sic} is like this \downarrow Imagine blue sky, pink [€] cliffs shading to mauve in the distance & golden sand sprinkled with silver dust. The tops of these cliffs are white alabaster & the wind blows the white dust onto the sand drifts. (the dots [\Re] are us) we wound our way up & up until we came to a part where a great bank of sand led up to the very top. the servants

PAGE 4

5 41 donks, & Mrs Fulz, & Mr Blagtay, remained there while the four of us attimpted the climb. It was something like this -> (Thave drawn us much) It was like a song glacin, we had to go on all jours & hugh slipping back, but after a violent struggte we got to the lop It was writh it, the view was simply mmense, nange alter range of hills with great sand drifts between These hills are crowned with rocks of alabastin & on lop and all silve agold. We did not take so long coming down, we choose a still steeper stope it was simply Turyfying to approach the codes it seemed to fall right away the angle was the angle of ust for sand, about this I think we sat of flopped & she down

donks, & M^{rs} Firth, & M^{r} Beazley, remained there while the four of us attempted the climb. it was something like this \rightarrow (I have drawn us much too large for correct proportion)

It was like a sand glacier. we had to go on all fours & kept [元] slipping back, but after a violent struggle we got to the top It was worth it, the view was simply immense, range after range of hills with great sand drifts between. These hills are crowned with rocks of alabaster & on top are all silver & gold.

We did not take so long coming down. We choose^{sic} a still steeper slope. it was simply terryfying^{sic} to approach the edge it seemed to fall right away the angle was the angle of rest for sand, about this I think [\Re] we sort of flopped & slid down

PAGE 5

all yelling with the joy of it, Then we reached the level we found Tea ready, our mon had made a camp fire & boiled the kettle. Dusk came on before we had quete finished & the camp fire with the shaddowy forms of our anabs a the dorkeys all grouped, among the sand drifts made an unforgettable preture like the one of Mr Brustons only a little more light for the affingtors of the surset.) We came home by startight, & went we just glad of hot baths & clean undices when we got it. To-day we had another excitment, Miss Bol were relinning to funch on our tooles with Sandie ahmud, , ahmudabdu-Sellam, we heard our dog barking violently, (he was chained) & when is came in sight of the house is saw a wolf like creature running round in a shange sort of way, it didn't seem like a dog. 2 yet the colour was too light for a wolf, our these men were off like a shot gallabes's tucked up all showling at once. The animal

all yelling with the joy of it. When we reached the level we found tea ready, our men had made a camp fire & boiled the kettle. Dusk came on before we had quite finished & the camp fire with the shaddowy forms of our Arabs & the donkeys all grouped <together> among the sand drifts made an unforgettable picture (like the one of M^{rs} Bruntons^{sic} only a little more light from the afterglow of the sunset.)

We came home by starlight, & wer'nt^{sic} we just glad of hot baths & clean undies when we got in.

To-day we had another excitement. Miss C & I were returning to lunch on our donks with Sardic Ahmud, & Ahmud-Abdu-Sellam, we heard our dog barking violently, (he was chained) & when we came in sight of the house we saw a wolf like creature running round in a strange sort of way, it didn't seem like a dog. & yet the colour was too light for a wolf, our three men were off like a shot, gallabea's tucked up all shouting at once. The animal

4 made off, still running in circles a Tospo. they all got out of sight own the need sand hills, then we heard two bangs, we left our donks at the house & scrambled after the hunt, we found Sandie had shot the ciceture it proved to be a mad dog. it was very quant & its month was all dubbling & Juamin It was a heartifully clean shat through the head! & a very lucky thing Too, these half inted dogs offin do go rabid & cause a lot of trouble. (anothen reason for carrying a gun) When we got back to the house we looked our dog over well to make sure he had not been bitten but he was all right, we have to keep him chained as they are poisoning a lot of dogs in the village or account of ratis. (It is a cruel country in spile of all its beauty) Same day later. Just heard some exceling news. Because the mad dog had been round our ductling & because one of us caused its soul to be torn for it's body all who saw it are

made off, still running in circles or to & fro. They all got out of sight over the next sand hills, then we heard two bangs. we left our donks at the house & scrambled after the hunt, we found Sardic had shot the creature it proved to be a mad dog. it was very guant^{sic} {gaunt} & its mouth was all dribbling & foaming It was a beautifully clean shot through the head, & a very lucky thing too, these half wild dogs often do go rabid & cause a lot of trouble. (another reason for carrying a gun)

When we got back to the house we looked our dog over well to make sure he had not been bitten but he was all right, we have to keep him chained as they are poisoning a lot of dogs in the village on account of rabis^{sic}.(It is a cruel country in spite of all its beauty)

Same day later.

Just heard some exciting news. Because the mad dog has/<d> been round our dwelling & because one of us caused its soul to be torn from its body all who saw it are

41 in danger of being entired in by the cost spirit (in such a case our subarts are one of us, we provide them with the means of living therefore They are like blood relations) In order to avert this duadful thing the pricest is coming Tomorrow To read prayers over us, I we are all to zat head that he has blessed, even our dog will he included in this enomony, also the donkeys we were riding . This wening the Omdat called, Miss & was staying on later in the tempte so I had to neccive him, I am afraid my cononschion was timited but Nannie filled in the gaps. I have heard that Turkesh delight is sure grape juice sweetined with honey & boiled "boiled until It becomes a thick glutinous mass.

in danger of being entered in by the evil spirit (in such a case our servants are one of us, we provide them with the means of living therefore they are like blood relations) In order to avert this dreadful thing the priest is coming tomorrow to read prayers over us, & we are all to eat bread that he has blessed, even our own dog will be included in this ceremony, also the donkeys we were riding.

This evening the Omdah called, Miss C was staying on later in the temple so I had to receive him, I am afraid my conversation was limited but Nannie filled in the gaps.

I have heard that Turkish delight is pure grape juice sweetened with honey & boiled & boiled until it becomes a thick glutinous mass.

Nov24.

We had the ceremony to protect us from the with spirit that possessed the dog. I will try To nomber the retual . First the prived was provided with a mak , a stool, on the stool he placed y loaves of head (like poincakes) +7 dates + a Tiny cup of oil, beside the stool was a water jar. Then, when we had all gathered round & our own dog was hought into the circle, he began to read from a book. These was a cutain holy man who had been bitten by a mad dog. I he was second by a great fear. but he prayed To god for deliverine othe coil was averted, it was this mayor the priver read out, then he Took a stick & struck cash of us lightly on the head saying, "Depart of Jear," Then three smalle boys who came with him walked round us y Times one way & y Times the other chanting some ritual, they stopped before the prish & the said to the fist boy. What do you want myson. a the boy replied Of Master I nave deliverne from wil, then the mist tools the y lowers loaves 1 consecrated them with the holy oil, she officed the

Nov 24.

41

We had the ceremony to protect us from the evil spirit that possessed the <mad> dog. I will try to rember the ritual. First the priest was provided with a mat & a stool, on the stool he placed 7 loaves of bread (like pancakes) & 7 dates & a tiny cup of oil, beside the stool was a water jar. then, when we had all gathered round & our own dog was brought into the circle, he began to read from a book.

There was a certain holy man who had been bitten by a mad dog, & he was siezed^{sic} by a great fear, but he prayed to God for deliverance & the evil was averted, it was this prayer the priest read out. then he took a stick & struck each of us lightly on the head saying, "Depart oh fear." Then three small boys who came with him walked round us 7 times one way & 7 times the other chanting some ritual. They stopped before the priest & he said to the first boy. What do you want my son, & the boy replied "Oh Master I crave deliverance from evil," then the priest took the 7 loves loaves & consecrated them with the holy oil, & he offered the

10 4 head to the boy, who banked , I bit sawagely at it, I This spat out the mouthful, Then he did the same with the dates. The cord spirit was supposed to pass into the food which, being blissed had the pown To distroy it. Each of the three boy's repeated The coromony, Then the pricest pound oil into the water jar & sprinkled every one in turn while The 3 boys nan round banking & snapping at cach of us in turn, This was to to intice the coil spirits To come out of us so that the holy water might destroy them. It was a most impressive encomony & it was mally delightful to see how anarous our suvants were that our dog should get the full benefit of it. Sandic sat hugging him, I impland the prive to hit him well with the stick, I half deened him with holy water, they have great faith in its effectiveness. We gave the priest coffee, & his 3 boys sweet biscuels, We also (Miss 6+1) gave him PT 10 (24) Each for charity. I a fine red silk handkuchief to map

bread to the boy, who barked, & bit savagely at it, & then spat out the mouthful. Then he did the same with the dates. The evil spirit was supposed to pass into the food which, being blessed had the power to destroy it. Each of the three boys repeated the ceremony. Then the priest poured oil into the water jar & sprinkled everyone in turn while the 3 boys ran round barking & snapping at each of us in turn. This was to to entice the evil spirits to come out of us so that the holy water might destroy them.

It was a most impressive ceremony & it was really delightful to see how anxious our servants were that our dog should get the full benefit of it. Sardic sat hugging him, & implored the priest to hit him well with the stick, & half drench him with holy water. They have great faith in its effectiveness.

We gave the priest coffee, & his 3 boys sweet biscuits, we also (Miss C & I) gave him PT10 (2/–) each for charity. & a fine red silk handkerchief to wrap

11 the holy book in. Miss 6 has made notes, the are going to write it up carefully because as far as we know such a thing has never been published in any works on modum Egyplian magic. We should noon have heard of it if it hadn't been for the mad dog being killed outside our house by one of our savants. Will you keep this account handy in case I want to refue to it when I come home. Tell Mother I will answer her Letters as soon as I have started this on its journay. I was very pleased with all the scraps & ribbons she sent, also the peneil protectors arrived safely rare being used. Love To you both Your affectionale daughter Mystle.

the holy book in. Miss C has made notes, & we are going to write it up carefully because as far as we know such a thing has never been published in any works on Modern Egyptian magic. We should never have heard of it if it had'nt^{sic} been for the mad dog being killed outside our house by one of our servants.

Will you keep this account handy. in case I want to refer to it when I come home.

Tell Mother I will answer her letters as soon as I have started this on its journey. I was very pleased with all the scraps & ribbons she sent, also the pencil protectors arrived safely & are being used.

> Love to you both Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.