









For Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent., Apr 21.

I do not think that I have mentioned that at last the shelves are up, & thus the congested state of my floor space is relieved. Fitting in shelves to rooms of Arabic building is not easy; the corners all go pillowy, thus so that nothing will fit in; & the walls are never flat or parallel. I had to cut away a quantity of wall to make anything go in fairly. The male hag assisted in the building, and his structural ideas are peculiar; as far as I could systematise them the principle seemed to be to place masses in unstable equilibrium & maintain them thus by means of mud. If he got a sloping stone he used to place it thus  instead of ; his windows go slope-away-wise-skew-ish  thus ; and his walls have a knobby surface." data-bbox="52 103 491 520"/>

Thirty feet length of shelving is covered with pots, stacked close, small ones in large, so that they would cover 100 ft or more if properly set out; and I have about as much again stowed in a box. How, when, & where, all this is to be packed & disposed of I do not know. Prof. Amos sent over by Ali a big budget of papers, and I have been luxuriating in reviews & news most delightfully. An Athenaeum or Academy is an engrossing treat, from the sales at the beginning to the music at the end; and as for old Times, or even the Daily News, I realise the state of the Brit. Mus. attendants who say that they read even the advertisements on shut-days. It is strange how reading becomes part of one's nature, & one requires a certain amount of it in order to be comfortable. All my news comes from England, Baker Pasha's defeat & Graham's victories both came to me from home;

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12.10.83 (152)
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I tried getting some stores from Cairo, but that is not a success. I confess that, after the injunctions to live well here, I have been rather indulgent in the carnal pleasures of mixed biscuits & jams; and have needed a supply. Ship-biscuit also was running low. The chocolate is not Anglo-Swiss as ordered, but Moore's; overdouble the price, poor flavour, & always mouldy at top. The milk is not Anglo-Swiss, but another Swiss Co; it is yellow & cheesy, won't mix, and has to be accompanied by a strong-flavoured jam. The jams are right, except that a dozen are what I did not order, & don't care for. The salmon is excellent, a pale delicate quality, "Skeena River", but triple English price. As for the biscuits, alas! — they sent some miserable little dried loaves — neither brown, nor biscuit; they say they supply them to Cook's desert parties, I pity the C.D.P.s. These are a sort of edible pumice; hardness about 5.0 I should say, frangible with difficulty owing to the porosity, very vesicular, edges very sharp when broken; on the addition of H_2O reducible to a pappy mass internally, before the hard glazy coating is affected, the whole mass having a distinctly acid reaction. They have ship-biscuit at Fakus, & I must get some there; I only feared it might be old stock & maggotty.

But for real mortification of the flesh give me

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Arab cookery. I dread to be asked for a plate, for ¹⁵³there is a prelude to some fearful mixture which I must get through. One lot of rice & milk was so utterly smoked, that even with a liberal allowance of Raspberry jam I could not get it down, and I do not at all mind what most people call smoked milk in England. Another lot I am sticking in the middle of now; it was cooked out of doors in a Khamsin day, and there is a grain of sand between every two grains of rice. "Man wants but little here below, but wants that little good"; is my reading of the couplet.

When at Khatanah, I saw a flock of bright green birds flying about in an excited way, & I thought they were catching flies. I edged up to them very slowly to see them closer, & still they did not fly away. Then suddenly I found out their motive. On the ground there lay a spotted snake with a bird he had caught; when I saw him he had the back & head all in his throat, & was trying to push the body down into his hole, & retreat. But finding that I came on he disgorged the head, & tried for the hole alone; I shewed fight; he shewed fight; I clove him in twain with my "iron hand", as the Arabs call my little archaeological implement; the upper half still made for the hole, but a tap on the head finished the matter. He was brown on back with dark spots, white under, diamond head, & about 3 ft long: a customer one would rather see dead than alive.

I have at last got a pair of the lecture & the Scarab book. The latter is charmingly got up, though the sharpness of the drawings has suffered by the process of reproduction. I should prefer photo-liths myself. In the lecture there are very few misprints

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23.23.
 On Wednesday I went off with Khalifa & a man from here, taking tent, &c, on a donkey; we went down to a settlement of Bedawin near Tell Zenin, & pitched there, as there was good water. I wanted to visit some tells on the S.E. of San, but had to go thus far beyond in order to get round to them as the country was too wet to go direct. We got down to the settlement by 11; but though I had the sun in front of me all the way I had got a headache with it. So I slept nearly all the rest of the day, in any scraps of shade I could find, & took plenty of Belladonna tincture. I find that a teaspoonful of the pure tincture makes no immediate difference, but just benefits one in two or three hours. The shekh was out, with his sons — two fine pleasant lads of about 13 & 15 — came down to the tent; they were most polite, pressing me to have horses to go over to the tells. I declined for that day at all events, and strolled over in the cool of the afternoon with them to Tell Zenin, about a mile off. In the evening they sent down a dish of rice & mutton, having killed a sheep in my honour & for the general benefit. 24.24.24. Next day they came to the tent again, and asked me to go with their horses; so, though I would far rather have walked, yet considering that I had a big blister on one foot & could hardly ~~walk~~ step, I saw that I must give in. Very soon they brought up two fine horses, one for the eldest son of the sheikh & one for me, & then with Khalifa on the donkey, the second

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son generally riding double behind Khalifa, & a little negro trotting beside us, we set off to see the tells. We started about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6, & got back by 11, after going over four tells: there was nothing of importance to be seen among of them, as they were all late Roman on the surface; but I got a set of bearings from the top of each, & I can now settle the geography of this region which is hitherto quite uncertain on the maps. I find that the Arabs themselves make continual mistakes as to the names of the tells that may be seen around any point; & one cannot trust to the names, but must plot the results quite independently, & affix the names by what one is told when actually standing on each point. In a country where one can seldom see more than 5 to 10 miles from any point, owing to the curvature of the earth & the dead level of the general surface, & yet where low sand ridges continually block the view, it is not easy to fix the positions of places without visiting them. Some of the country about this eastern district is cultivated; & I should say that with a steady water supply, & proper drainage to take off the winter rains, it would be highly productive. There does not seem to be much salt, & the horses sank a foot deep into the light dusty brown soil. It was very hot day, & one could ~~do nothing~~ ^{do nothing} but sleep till about half past two. Then I thought of returning to San, but Khalifa had got knocked up in his head with the morning exposure, & the wind was blowing along tall whirlwinds of dust all over the uncultivated ground; so I settled to go early next day. The shekh's

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son lay in the shade playing Arab draughts with Khalifa in the afternoon; & I went over to Tell Zenin again with the younger son & our man carrying a spade. We cleared round a block of granite there, but a polished side underneath it was quite plain. In the evening they sent us again a dish of rice & mutton, or I should rather say brought, as the boys came & dined with Khalifa. I had my dinner before, & was in bed when they dined, as I wanted to be off early next day. The moths swarmed so round the candle that they choked it with their bodies, & an occasional flying beetle, or locust, or dragon-fly came knocking up against things. I enquired through Khalifa discreetly what sort of bakhshish I might offer, & he came back to me saying that they would not touch any money, as they were rich people; so I must fall back on sending some jam, which they appreciate, & a couple of good pocket-knives for the boys. I liked them much, they were so open & obliging, and yet so dignified. They are accustomed to Europeans, as Lesseps goes over there often, with his family & friends, when they want to tent out for a time.

25.4p.

Just as we were packed & moving next morning, we saw the two boys coming from their tents, & the little negro with them bearing a large bowl of fresh milk which I was asked to drink; I took a good pull at it, & then it passed to Khalifa & the others. They offered their horses again, but this time only as a

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 as I was going up to San; and we parted with many
 bows & salaams on each side. I got up to San by
 9½, and after a bath, went to look round the work.
 My room at 84° seemed a harbour of coolness, &
 outside it was anything you please in the sun: I
 danced like a bear on a hot plate when I got on
 to a patch of dark ground. The work here has
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 as to go down deeper, for I find that there is about
 15 feet of Roman & post Roman dust in the
 place where there is least accumulation over earlier
 remains: this means of course that about 40 or 50 tons
 of stuff have to be taken out of any hole we make,
 before we can begin to touch anything of pre-Roman
 period. The great stone stairs lead down to a well
 for certain, as at the end of the stairs is a small
 circular flight of steps around the side of the well which is
 about 9 feet diameter. This is a big job to make in
 excavating, as the well does not begin till we reach
 below 8 feet of dust, & we have gone down about
 15 feet ^{in the well} & now come to water. I should much like to
 clear it down to the sand if we can, as it would ⁽¹⁾ settle
 the ancient water level, ⁽²⁾ probably turn up a quantity
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I must put the men on to this a little later when the water sinks lower. The great foundations that we are clearing I now see to be the base of the stone peribolus wall of the temple, inside the brick wall; in one place we have found the pavement left beside it.

To day is roasting, 95° in my room, & hotter out. Khalifa is in a hurry to be off for the afternoon to get down to his house before night; so I have to scramble off all my writing.

Ended Ap: 26-

[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

29. Zoan- May 6.

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29. Zoan- May 6.

sent 3.5.84

For Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

Ap. 26.

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After sending off my letters by Khalifa at the noon halt, the wind rose a good deal, & the sand blew about so that some of the men came up to know if I would pay them off, & reckon it half a day. I had no objection, for I rather disliked the prospect of going round to pay them with a heavy bag of silver, as the wind was 102°, quite apart from sunshine; so I paid off at my house during the afternoon, the wind keeping up to 102° all the time, & blowing fiercely. Inside it was 99°, & now that it is down to 95° it is quite a relief. To have to keep a large paraffin stove burning, half an hour at a time, in one's room to boil water, is scarcely reasonable, but it has to be done. I observed body temp^r in this heat, as it is said to be higher in tropical countries; & as I have had a baking for several days at about blood heat, it was a good instance. I found it .8° over normal for the time of day, & I have nothing like fever at present. This paper has now a crackly surface as if dried over a stove; & as for gummed envelopes & stamps, they are curled up anyhow. Suddenly the wind rose higher, until it blew almost a gale, my roof creaked & shook & I expected to see it fly off, the sand outside blew in wreaths along the ground, I could not see across the ~~tem~~ temple area, & as for the heaps thrown out in excavating there was a cloud blowing off them like the smoke of a furnace. But the wind was cooler, somewhere about 95° or 92° I should think, & more to the north; the hot wind having been from S.W. & W. Soon there was a cool refreshing wind from the north, down to 82°, a drop of 20° in little over an hour. The night was fairly cool, under 80° & next morning there was rain for ¼ hour or so, & a pleasant N. wind not over 87°, quite agreeable, even at noon. Ali says this is the sort of weather we ought to have, hence forward

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 during the summer, & that the long stretch of khamsein that has lasted so many weeks is quite unusual. The rain is not uncommon at this time here; some years ago the harvest was all spoilt with rain. It is now the height of barley harvest, & wheat harvest beginning, so I am short of hands for work: I have still nearly all the children from San, ~~and~~ but only about half the men & about half of those from other places. Thus I am reduced to about 90 to 100 workers. As soon as harvest is over I shall have them all on again I expect. At present I have put the larger boys on to men's work in digging, while the little ones carry. The flies are pretty thick now, & they sting here though only the common house fly: about every minute I have to flick them off my feet, not having socks on. Corbett has a ben trovato about my life at Gizeh, that some one asked me for the loan of a waistcoat at my tomb, & my reply was "a waistcoat! why my dear fellow you might as well ask me for a pair of socks". I shall have to follow the principle of the little Cronacher, & keep a collection ~~is as~~ on view of the articles I do possess, but don't actually use, — socks, waistcoat, fronts, cuffs, ties, &c.; & label it "Ethnological Collection; Class B clothing; subdivision Q Celto-Teutonic; from lat. 51° long. 359°".

↑ sad result of eating cucumbers while writing.
 While I was laying out the axis of the temple with the theodolite, our water girl — Halimeh — came up with a miserable little bird in her hand, an unhappy wretch who could only just flutter, as it seemed likely to come to grief in an anatomical sort of way, if it was pulled about so, I accepted it & dropped it into an empty pocket for the afternoon. And now the difficulty is what to do with Joseph (for that is the name it has somehow acquired in my own mind); at present he lives in a large rat trap & is taken out five times a day to be fed. I earnestly hope he will be able to take care of himself soon, & I can then

during the summer, & that the long stretch of khamsein that has lasted so many weeks is quite unusual. The rain is not uncommon at this time here; some years ago the harvest was all spoilt with rain. It is now the height of barley harvest, & wheat harvest beginning, so I am short of hands for work: I have still nearly all the children from San, and but only about half the men, & about half of those from other places. Thus I am reduced to about 90 or 100 workers. As soon as harvest is over I shall have them all on again I expect. At present I have put the larger boys on to men's work in digging, which the little ones carry. The flies are pretty thick now, & they sting here though only the common house fly: about every minute I have to flick them off my feet, not having socks on. Corbett has a ben trovato about my life at Gizeh, that some one asked me for the loan of a waistcoat at my tomb, & my reply was "a waistcoat! why my dear fellow you might as well ask me for a pair of socks". I shall have to follow the principle of the little curiosities, & keep a collection ~~in my~~ on view of the articles I do possess, but don't actually use, — socks, waistcoat, fronts, cuffs, ties, &c.; & label it "Ethnological Collection; Class B clothing; subdivision Q Celto-Teutonic; from lat. 51° long. 359°".

↑ sad result of eating cucumbers while writing.

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turn him loose. At first he did not understand being fed; but now when he is taken out he opens his beak prodigiously, shewing a translucent pink cavern ever so far down into his inside, and gobbles away at mock turtle soup from a silver spoon, & bolts sopped breadcrumbs as if to the manner born. Really to set more in this fashion to a small bird is an addition to my duties that I do not covet. Joe's delight is to get loose & scuffle off into some corner behind stones & pottery, but I cannot have such a creature wandering about in an irresponsible way.

May 1 -

Though we had no more S. khamsin we had a furious east wind, which blew the sand about in clouds; & today the wind is brisk & cold from the west (i.e. about 75°). The workers have nearly all gone harvesting, & I am left with only about 40. This however gives me all the more time for my own work of copying inscriptions. I find on examination that the colossus of Ramessu II was the tallest statue ever ~~made~~ sculptured, as far as we know; by the fragments that I have seen hitherto it was a standing figure about 90 feet high to the top of the head or over 100 ft with the crown. It was doubtless monolith as there are obelisks as long, & statues nearly as heavy, but it is the biggest statue known. The effect when there were no high mounds here, & a temple not over 50 ft high probably, must have been astounding as seen across the plain for miles. The tallest obelisks here were not 50 ft high, so the statue must have towered up far above everything else, the whole body clear of any surroundings. I have also found that the whole of the pylon was built later than Ramessu (probably by Sesonk) as his name is written the lowest block of it has Ramessu's cartouches on it, evidently a stone stolen from the temple.

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sent 3.5.84

(163)

Joseph, my protégé, departed this life after three days; I suppose the dietary did not suit him, but he had plenty of it, & I thought gelatinous scraps from the soup were the best approximation to worms. He was sharp enough for sometime, but at last I had to finish my charity towards him by a wring of the neck. I am very glad to be rid of him poor birdie, & have the satisfaction of knowing that I have "done my duty by him", as they say below-stairs.

It is much cooler now, down in the 60s, & I almost want a thick coat again, but the wind is as furious as ever at times. Yesterday was fearfully sandy in the afternoon, columns & clouds of sand riding along up in the sky overhead, & the ground in a sand-fog.

I have now got into summer hours. Work begins about 5 1/2, then I go out & set all going for the day. Then sometime in the morning 7, 8, or 9 I go back for bath & breakfast. Then stop from 11 1/2 to 2 1/2, & then go on to 6 1/2. Such is life here now, & the only fault of it is that I cannot get sleep enough.

I am getting on with my catalogue of the inscriptions, & have done all the worst of it. Then next I shall do the survey having the description of each block ready done to refer to. After much consideration by day & by night, on the ground & at home, I have decided to survey by my old three-fixed-point method, only having two rods always on the axial line (which I have marked all along with the theodolite), & placing one always so as to get a clear line out to the 3rd rod for measuring the base for each triangle. This will I think give the greatest accuracy practicable over such a wilderness of blocks & at the same time be fairly quick.

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164

Just as I was finishing this, they came up saying that they had found an inscribed stone; so I ran down to see it. It is only Ptolemaic, a Ptolemy adoring Isis & Osiris (?) with a quantity of inscription. It is a broken block from a building. This is in a pit in the middle of the plain S. of the temple near the E. end; I began sinking there as I saw a lot of chips of limestone & lime slag lying about, & the ground is full of broken stone. This block shews that there was probably a Ptolemaic temple in this area, about 6 to 10 feet deep, and I think it is worth clearing about for the chance of an historical granite stela. It shews that the second wall on the South was most likely built to enclose that area in Ptolemaic times. I see that the great pavement of the temple area (which was 3 layers thick) was built before Pisebkhanen, as his brick wall outside it clearly shews, by the arrangement.

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30. Zoan. May 13-

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sent 10 May 1884.

Vit:

May 5 ~~Ap. 10~~

As from an "unofficial communication" it seems requisite to somewhat alter the arrangement of this periodical, I may as well say somewhat about it. I have slipped into putting more of antiquities into this, as I can record thus how things go from day to day, without waiting till I know the whole of each subject so as to be able to really report on it. I look on a report as serious, it is (for the time) a final summing up & judgement on a point; & I scarcely like to write thus about things here where my knowledge is growing & opinion changing from day to day. What I can report safely are inscriptions, & those I have sent in all large or important examples; and the plans which I have sent are condensed reports of the progress of work. As it now seems that the transient notes of these pages may be utilized for as informal reports, I will alter the arrangement into putting all matters of antiquities on to separate sheets, though still noting them from day to day, without pinning myself to the final accuracy of what I note down. ^{Like Josephus} Ant: et Bell:

As to photos. I am very glad to hear that they are in request at all; I have let them be crowded out by other work as I supposed they were not used. The only mention of them that I have had this season was an answer to a question of mine, as to whether they were fixed in England, or merely left as I sent them. I will certainly send extra copies of such as may seem to be likely to be wanted in two places at once. May 6. ~~Ap. 12~~

Harvesting is pretty well over now I hope, as I saw today most of the fields cleared as I walked to Sueilin; some

sent 10 May 1884.


<May 5 ~~Ap. 10~~>

Vit:


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 Several of them hailed me, & had a shake of the hand, &
 "Salaamat", "tayyibin", &c. For I went off as soon as I
 had booked my men here, & had a bit of breakfast;
 & a dozen men from here had gone before with
 Khalifa, & I started about 7 after them. It is hot now
 at noon, in spite of a cool N. wind today; & the rest
 from 11½ to 2½ I enjoyed with my head & shoulders in
 the a gap of a thorn bush, on the top of which I spread
 my coat for shade. The rest of my body was roasted,
 insomuch that I recoiled from touching my buttons they
 were so burning hot. By 5 I started back again,
 leaving the men & Khalifa there with the tent; I
 find the tent useless for the sun, the air inside becomes
 so fearfully hot. One day (at Tell Bedawi) I put up
 the tent doubled, two sides together, so that it formed
 a flat screen for the day, & then pitched it open
 at night (N.B. It is a long tent ) Now for results
 see Ant: . That done it is 9½ which is quite late enough,
 so good night. I can only do photos on a Saturday night, as I
 can lie in bed Sunday morning; other days needing to stir
 by 5 or 5½, I cannot stop up till midnight developing
 plates. ~~May 13~~ 7.

Next day I went over to Sueilin in the afternoon, meeting
 several of my old friends down in the fields on the way.
 (vide Ant:) Today is a brisk cool wind which keeps down the
 heat so that it is very pleasant. ~~14th~~ 8th
 Again I went over to Sueilin in the afternoon, & brought
 back about 130 eyes; see Ant: In the fields all along from

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here to Sueilin the people are camping out for their harvesting, and threshing and winnowing in groups.

<9th>

This afternoon I took the camera over to Sueilin, & I hope that I have got some groups on the way, camels, &c. At Sueilin I probed about to find any other sarcophagi, such as one they found yesterday. I soon hit on a stone & we cleared it, & opened the coffin. I emptied it all myself very gently, but found nothing whatever of antikas, nothing beside the mummy, very fragile, wrapped in pitched cloth. I hope that I have got photos of it, but cannot sit up developing till tomorrow. Over 100 more eyes.

Cucumbers are in now, 3 a penny, so I feast on them.

<10th>

I have duly received all letters weekly from home up to now, <& from Milford last week,> though I fear that I have sometimes not acknowledged them. If anything is done with the remarks on Arab perceptions, Francis Galton had better have them; as they just fit his subject of Human Faculty. I wish I could write more, but I must take the letters over to Sueilin this afternoon for Khalifa, & I want a noonday nap; last night I was up & down hunting a cricket (a black monster that made noise enough for a whole family, just in our little courtyard) & when he was despatched past midnight, well — like Calverley's dog in "Butter & eggs & a pound of cheese" I will say nothing but ——. Altogether only about 4 hours sleep, & not much more last <the> night before.

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31 Zoan- May 20,

Mrs Goche
25. Upper G-R

31-Zoan - May 20.

Mrs Goche

25- Upper G-R

Sent 10 May 84

Ant:

(168)

At Tell Sueilin we worked in the low ground south of the slightly higher Tell. This is where the large inscribed chamber stood, & the first thing is to try to find any other such chamber that may exist there. The ground is covered with square patches of dark earth amid the sand. These are the sites of burials, which seem to have been arranged thus: - first a ^{shallow} pit about three feet deep & 30 feet square was cut in the sand, there a wall of very poor crude brick was built around it as a lining, & then burials took place within the enclosure, sometimes pell-mell, sometimes with a flattening down of the earth over the body & a coat of whitewash over all; and this whitewash is occasionally painted red & blue in patterns or even gilt: it ~~can~~ only be got in small bits as the mud over it is tenacious & it has no strength itself. These bodies buried thus were seldom mummified or ornamented, & seem to have belonged to the poorer classes, probably of Roman times. Although we obtained about a dozen little blue porcelain things, the best of which is a cat with a kitten between the forepaws; also a quantity of poor blue beads. There are also mummified bodies of late period buried irregularly in the sand all over the place, but it is from these that the best objects are obtained.

Work here is very slack owing to harvest; today only on these sites; two excavations in the chips of the Ptolemaic temple, one man clearing at the gate, & three pits being sunk in the Ptolemaic site. At the gate we have now cut our way through the whole of the mass of blocks, letting them down out of the way, until we have reached

sent 10 May 84

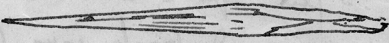
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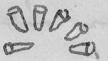
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¹⁶⁹
the foundation of the wall of the S side of the pylon. Here there are in situ two pieces of ~~the~~ ^{quar} sandstone path obelisk of Ramessu II broken up & built in for the core of the wall. Below is sand, so this is the foundation.


Next day at Sueilin I found that they had only got some more eyes beads & of no interest, so I left orders for them to move about a mile to a higher part & work there, as they could not find any more stone walls near the destroyed chamber. For several days past the diggers in the block of Ptolemaic houses have found quantities of bone pins  about this size, ^{& larger}, well pointed at one end but roughly finished at the other. There is a whole large cubic biscuit-tin full now of bits, for but few are quite perfect; several thousands in all. What they can be for no one can suggest.


We turned over today a large piece of arm or leg of the big statue; as it has been cut up thus  it is rather hard to see at first what part it belongs to, but there is a trace of a muscle on it which I must compare with other statues. The worst of dealing with such a colossus is that the largest pieces one finds are only equal to 4 or 5 inches of a living body, hardly enough to identify what part it belongs to, in the clumsy & stiff style of the Ramesside time.

At Sueilin they have begun on the higher tell, but found nothing; but on rather lower ground on one side they have turned up a quantity of burials. It seems to have been a cemetery for some small carnivore, Ichneumon I rather think. There are ~~but~~ hosts of pots lying as close as they can in the sand; some only containing dark earth, but most of them with bones, lying in juxtaposition. In one place I saw six pots 10 ins diam & 20 ins long, lying thus  sloping at about



(2)


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

45°. These contained the small bones like the others. I collected³
a lot of characteristic bones to be examined afterwards.


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They also found a stone sarcophagus  which looks more Roman than Egyptian. I heard of another found there — a small one — which was all inscribed; but it was broken up for stone, as this will doubtless be before long.

The whole of that sand island appears to be a cemetery, about half a square mile in area; but hitherto I have seen nothing but what is of late times, late even in the Renaissance (say XXVIII or XXX), so perhaps the early tombs are at San.

Another sarcophagus I found next day by probing; this ~~sarcophagus~~ was full of sand at the top, which I carefully took out by hand, shaking it all loose so as to see anything in it. The body ^(66 ins long) was lying on its back, with the forearms doubled backward, and each hand turned back to its own shoulder. The bones had not been soaked in pitch, & were very friable; but the cloth

45°. These contained small bones like the others. I collected a lot of characteristic bones to be examined afterwards. In one place they found human burials, & I saw five skulls lying all together in the earth thus ; & below these bones is a great quantity of blue glazed sacred eyes, though scarcely any other emblems. The eyes lie together about 50 or more in a square yard. They appear to have thus sanctified the ground for the pell-mell burials which took place there. The eyes are coarse ones of the thick rough form; & also open work pattern  of good green & blue, bright & hard, but rather rough. I am inclined to put all these to Dyn XXX. in default of finding any coins or Graeco-Roman pottery; but I should not be astonished if they proved to be as late as Roman times.

They also found a stone sarcophagus  which looks more Roman than Egyptian. I heard of another found there — a small one — which was all inscribed; but it was broken up for stone, as this will doubtless be before long.

The whole of that sand island appears to be a cemetery, about half a square mile in area; but hitherto I have seen nothing but what is of late times, late even in the Renaissance (say XXVIII or XXX), so perhaps the early tombs are at San.

Another sarcophagus I found next day by probing; this ~~contained nothing~~ was full of sand at the top, which I carefully took out by hand, shaking it all loose so as to see anything in it. The body <(66 ins long)> was lying on its back, with the forearms doubled backward, and each hand turned back to its own shoulder. The bones had not been soaked in pitch, & were very friable; but the cloth

4) (141) wrappings about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, were rolled with pitch. There was nothing beside the body in the sarcophagus. Over a hundred more eyes were found, all coarse poor work. A great quantity of pots containing the small animals (ichneumon?) were found; I photographed a group of the larger ones, & a set of the smaller I shall bring away. From the forms of some of these pots & the style of some of the eyes I now see that these burials are coeval with the village & remains east of the Great Pyramid, & that I now know to be just pre-Ptolemaic. Some of the pots also are like those which I should say were of XXVI-XXX dynasty here. So I think we may safely put all these down to that age. In one hole they turned out some large balls of dung, like scarabs' balls but

up to 4 inches diameter; they were made with concentric coats. I have examined several scarabs' balls & never found any eggs in them, & have seen scarab beetles begin to roll the balls without depositing any eggs; hence I think the egg story is a myth, & that the ball is merely the way for conveying the greatest amount to the maggots in the hole, or for some other purpose.

Ali has found a large granite basin, of Roman age, without inscription; but as it weighs about 70 or 80 lbs I hesitate at bringing it to England. Also he brought in to day a basalt weight apparently; it is about 6305 grains, & hence seems to be 50 shekels of 126 grains; it cannot be a 4 or 5 uten.

P.S. I shall be glad for some of my private friends to see this sheet, when it is no longer immediately required for purposes of the Fund: returning it to Mr. Poole when done with.

4)

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(1)

sent 17 May /84

<10 May.>

I went over to Sueilin again in the afternoon, & found some more eyes there, some of them large ones. I have now some 300 from there, beside other little things; altogether the work has paid, as it ought to do when it is antika-hunting, & not for inscriptions or architecture.

12 May 1884

We have just past the worst of an awful storm. It thundered almost continuously, & rained & hailed heavily. I was woke from my noon nap at 1.15 by the hail & rain, & now at 2.40 it is not yet over. The hail was so thick that at one time I estimated that half the ground was covered by it, large stones $3/10$ & $4/10$ inch diameter; I ran out & picked up many $6/10$ & one $7/10$ diam: these were about half as thick, with concentric structure & jagged edges. The thunder was remarkable, the best defined discharges being first a loud & sudden bang like a large gun, followed by a rushing sound which lasted perhaps two or three minutes coming on in louder gusts every 5 or 10 seconds; it was just like a tearing high wind in its sound, but yet there was no wind to speak of, & it was loud enough for me to hear it above all the clatter of a furious hail storm on a bare metal roof. For some time, I was watching what I could, looking in our courtyard, & speculating on where all the rain would go, for I had only provided a small dry well in the middle. Soon the well choked, & a lake formed in the yard; but after that, it suddenly cleared away to my dismay <dismay,> for I knew that it had got an underground vent, & that must be under some one of my walls. The rain was such however, that it formed a lake again; & when it cleared down a little, all the ground was sinking & everything around tipping inwards, with ominous cracks under <in> one wall. And now the rain is coming on again as bad as ever. It had already wacked my walls

sent 17 May /84

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(173)
 bare of mud mortar, & the stones stood out in a painful way which seemed to say they could not stop in their places much longer. Then the rain came down as heavily as ever, but by 3.20 it stopped so that I could get out & see the damage. I have said the thunder was continuous in a rushing sound, but I could not be certain of its nature while under the roof. When I went out I listened more carefully, and I can declare with certainty that for half an hour the rushing, gusty, swishing sound of the thunder never ceased; to the best of my belief it was the same during the two hours while I was indoors, but for the last half hour out of doors I can be positive that was never a single break in the noise. It was seldom loud, & only once or twice lightened; but the noise rose & fell just like a gusty high wind, without any crashes or explosive bursts, & with very little bumping or knocking sounds. I tried to get some definite idea of the rain fall; in two cases of ^{pools} on hill tops, where the catchment area was not over 4 times the size of the pool the water was 5 inches deep; & in another case where the catchment did not seem to be over half as much again as the submerged part it was 2½ ins. This gives ^(beside soakage) 1¼ to 1¾ inch rainfall in the two hours. The results of such a downpour are tremendous; there was a rushing torrent in the plain below the house, dashing over obstacles, & roaring like a Dartmoor river. In one place two large holes have been caved in in the ground, & the water was pouring into them. All pits & excavations of every kind are flooded, 5 to 10 feet of water being in the holes where we were at work. The temple is a lake, in spite of its sandy foundation; the

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obelisks lie across the expanse of water, out of which rise heads of sphinxes, & shoulders of statues; all the smaller figures are covered. In front of the pylon the water is 5 or 6 ft deep; and over in the great excavation by Mariette on Osorkon's temple the water has filled it to within ³ feet of the brim, about 10 or 12 feet of water.

The canal was filled to its edge, rising about 3 feet I should think; & all the flat expanse of country is a sheet of water, with stalled buffaloes & an unlucky camel who seemed quite helpless. The wheat & barley is pretty well ruined; it was all guttered, brought to the village, & laid on the ground to be threshed; whenever there was a gap in it there was nothing but water to be seen.

The unhappy folks who had come here to work, had their rooms all flooded, & food spoilt; & excavated some fresh shelters all in hurry before the night. The very dog outside picked the driest place that he could under the lee wall, & scratched a dog-hole to sit in.

And now for the damages to my premises; the rain rose in the courtyard until it began to stream through the walls into the rooms; & three out of four were flooded; now there is a quagmire 6 or 8 inches deep in one room & the others all soppy. The walls ^{in parts} have all the mud washed out from between the outside stones & the stones are loose & even falling. A whole corner of the house has sunk, so that there is a crack $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide in the wall. Along one edge of the roof where it joins a wall

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(175)
the rain washed through & brought down as much as an inch of mud on my shelves, on books, papers, & various things. The tablets which I had carefully washed & stacked in my room are mostly covered with streaks of mud; happily the big tablet is quite safe.

After I had taken out the mud as far as I could, I then went out, camera in hand, to see & photograph the state of things out of doors. Of course all our regular work will be impossible for days to come, & we can only excavate some houses on the hills. I should think that it will cost some pounds to clean away the effects of this storm in places that I want to refer to again in the excavations. Khalifa arrived from Fakus in the middle of it, & so avoided the worst. Letters from Bromley & Brit. Mus., & from Mrs Amos to say that she will come someday this week with her son: I hope I shall be dry by that time.

There was so much grit washed into the lock of my door that I could hardly turn the key.

Next day, of course, I had to make fresh work for all the men, but only $\frac{2}{3}$ of them came, 42 instead of 63. They turned up a quantity of little things, among others see Ant: — And we got another Ptolemaic sphinx in the morning, & a new tablet of Ptolemy & Arsinoe in the afternoon, & hope for more tomorrow.

But nothing more turned up there, though we dug all around the place; and on the other hand our best Roman house produced just before sunset a fine haul, a portrait statue 21 inches high, with name & title, I presume, in two lines of Demotic, & Tahuti in alabaster, 14 high, & a lot of small things. In the evening we had a consultation as to a travelling tobacco & antika dealer, who had come to the village & was

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<Antiquities>

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sent 17 May /84

trying to persuade people to sell things to him. This cannot be tolerated; so legally or illegally we despatched old Reis Muhammed, the sternest of the party to inform him that if he did not clear off early tomorrow he would be handed over to the soldiers here, for endeavouring to corruptly obtain the property of the Bulak Museum, as everything legally is that I find. The soldiers are here partly ~~apropos~~ to Mrs Amos, for Col. Gibbons who is head of police for some parts is coming to escort her, & the police consequently quake for fear he should report them as careless. They have blown up the shekh of the guard for leaving a dead dog unburied, & they threaten to fine each house 10/- for not being properly cleaned up in front of it; probably this is to get a bakhshish from the people to be let alone. They also have come to arrest a man who fought somebody or other; one soldier came for him a week ago, & returned + <with> half sov., - <without> man, saying that he could not be found.

Next day I was swallowed up in dealing with a bucketful of papyri all burnt & in bad state; but still some were legible, & I had to pick them out & pack them.

Saturday just before finishing this, a very pretty Roman terminal figure has turned up in a house; the pillar is 4 x 5 ins & 27 high to the top of the head, which is a female head with fillet & tresses. It is of the best Graeco-Roman work: & only a scrap of the tip of the nose is damaged. This is in a new house that I am on now. Letters were duly received. Many thanks. Mrs Amos not come yet, though reported to be coming today.

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32. Zoan- May 27-

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(1)

sent 17 May /84

<Effects of the storm>

Ant: <2>

After hearing about the Ptolemaic inscription all the week, they have now found a pavement beneath the block, somewhat disturbed. So this proves that there was a building there, & that the block was not brought from elsewhere. Many fragments have been found there, one large piece of the wig of a female figure in Ptolemaic intaglio; & part of a bird wing; probably both these belong to a large figure of a queen in the wall with vulture headdress.

The work at Sueilin was finished on Saturday; altogether I have over 280 eyes & many small objects. The interest of such a set is that they are all of one eye, & shew therefore what varieties are co-eval. The general result is that the Sueilin necropolis is probably all late; no part of it is high, & nearly all is merely on the surface of a sand island; as we have tried several parts & found them all the same age, & nothing of early time has been turned up here by Arabs — according to all accounts —, I suppose that this is only the late necropolis of San, to which was resorted to when the spread of the town had covered available sites at San. If so, the older necropolis is most likely below the outlying Roman sites here. Happily these are not very high, only 20 or 30 ft at most, & so there is some prospect of cutting through them sufficiently to see what lies beneath.

Ali has been prospecting further in a house in which I found some good things before; just on the N. side of the great pass between the mounds E. of the temple. A large granite basin, 70 or 80 lbs weight, quantities of iron nails, two keys, broken bronze vessels, &c, &c; one piece of an ivory tessera [P] ..πιω..., and best of all


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(2)

(178) (2)
 a dish with impressed stamp COPV . This looks
 like the 5th cohort; what legion had titles beginning VP? &
 when was it in Egypt? The dish is peculiar, 
 the spout seems as if intended to pour
 something very thick, not a fluid; and I
 think that it must be for girdle-cakes such as
 the Arabs make now with thin flour & water poured
 on a hot iron plate. ~~Another piece of~~ A block of
 granite seems like a weight by its shape, though it may
 be only a grinding stone; as it is 14900 grs it might be
 10 uten, or more likely 120 shekels — the double mina — as a
 basalt weight from the same house is 50 shekels. If so
 it could throw the shekel in Egypt on to Roman times;
 certainly neither of the stones are the libra.

I am glad to say that Khalifa began enquiring about
 work in prospect, & wishes to go either with me to W.
 of Delta, or to work about here, as I may wish. He
 was pleased to find that I had already been writing
 about his working next season.

On working in Roman houses, after the storm, they turned up
 a small bronze cube, probably a weight = $\frac{1}{10}$ kat, as it is 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ grs. Also
 6 lbs weight of Alexandrine potin, of about the Antonine period
 by the size; but so much eaten that I doubt if any will be
 legible, though some may be better in the middle of the lump.


The rain, though spoiling our work so much, has cut various
 trenches in the mound, and in one of these, just at the ^{south} end of
 the plain E. of my house, Ali spied part of a sphinx this
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
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
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
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Some more nice things turned up in the good Roman house today; a granite cup; a finely worked basalt mortar; & a grinder of a new form , with a spur on one side to go over the thumb in holding it, which gives an admirable grip, preventing the thumb from slipping up. There is a sharply defined gap in the mound E. of the temple, as there also is on the W. These gaps must have been protected by law as highways, otherwise the mounds would certainly have spread over them; then along the sides of the E. gap is a row of detached houses four or five on each side; these probably belonged to magnates who could trespass on the building laws, & put their houses thus in the most convenient & desirable place, and it is one of the largest of these houses, which has been burnt & thus never ransacked, that proves such a good source of Roman objects. We have not nearly finished it yet.

The Roman house was again prolific. A fine globular blue glazed vase was found, but it was so completely rotten (like all the other glazed pottery from here) that it fell into bits as soon as it was touched, though I cleared round it as carefully as possible. It was decorated with leaves around it from base upward . After that an iconic statuette was found 2 1/2 inches high, well executed, with demotic inscription on the


place, & just before sunset they found another Ptolemaic tablet, 18 ins wide x 22 high. It is very much like these found before on the N-W. hill, being of Ptolemy & Arsinoe adoring Khem, Isis, & Horus as far as I can see in the dusk. It, & the sphinx, were both standing in situ, not over thrown; so we shall doubtless find the other sphinx & perhaps some more tablets tomorrow.

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The Roman house was again prolific. A fine globular blue glazed vase was found, but it was so completely rotten (like all the other glazed pottery from here) that it fell into bits as soon as it was stirred, though I cleared round it as carefully as possible. It was decorated with leaves around it from base upward . After that an iconic statuette was found 2 1/2 inches high, well executed, with demotic inscription on the

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front of the base
(sent by post-card to M. -Naville)
The figure is clad in
a long robe with a
shorter flap round the front of the body which is held
by one hand. Beside this an alabaster statuette of
Tahuti 14 ins high, a little broken at one foot & the
beak missing, probably of metal. Also a very well cut
small mortar & many other small objects.
Photographs of the statuettes I hope to enclose.
Next day not much was found. A very large amphora; a
number of statuettes of gods, about 3 to 4 ins high, blue pottery;
a scribe's pen holder; several small articles in blue glaze, & one
large pot 10 ins high & 8 diam in fine blue glaze. This last is
so far firm that I have some hopes (with plaster & tape) of getting
it to England; it is too fine a specimen to allow to break up
if it can be helped. We have now cleared out the cellar of
the house, into which the greater part of the furniture &
things fell when it was burnt. There are other rooms
yet unopened; but I think it is of great importance for
the age of things to get such a large number & variety
of objects all together, & with a few coins that may fix
the date exactly: they are too far ^{gone} to be made out without
careful cleaning. There is also a curious relief of a winged
sphinx with turnetted head dress; I never saw such before.
2 days work in the Roman house was again productive. We
finished clearing the cellar, into which everything above had fallen
at the burning of the house; & in clearing the steps down to it
we found at the turn of the passage a ^{bronze} lamp with three legs &
a long handle to hang it by against a wall, ending in a goose's
head. This was evidently kept lying handy for going down into
the dark cellar, as it was tucked away close beside the wall, not

front of the base
<(sent by post-card to M.

[>] only a break?

-Naville)>

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(5)

17 May /84

<(Ant):>

as if it had fallen. The cellar when we cleared it was very full of large jars which ~~clearly~~ had certainly been placed there originally; & they seem to have so blocked the cellar, that the old people had laid some more amphorae along the wall all up the staircase for lack of proper room. ~~And then~~ Then in a cupboard under the stairs they had stuffed in a straw basket crammed full of waste paper, apparently old letters & memoranda not wanted again; bits crushed up in the hand, rolls doubled across, scraps folded up, all of different sizes & written in many different hands, both Greek & Demotic. When the house was burnt, & fell in, some bricks fell smash onto this basket of waste paper, & the whole pit was burnt, mostly carbonised, some gone to white ash. This morning an Arab found the place, & lifting out the whole mass of dust & ashes put it in a basket, & handed it to me when I came. I spent about four hours this afternoon, in getting through about two-thirds of it. First finding the extent of each document in the mass, detaching it, examining one or more leaves to see if it is legible, & if so carefully wrapping it up in soft paper & putting it in a small tin biscuit box in which I hope it will travel safely to England. <They would all crush to powder by the weight of the mass, if travelled as at present.> I do not think any are quite perfect, the whole lot is so fragile, being not only burnt but lying in a damp & salt place for 1500 years. The greater part are illegible from various causes, some from bad papyrus

17 May /84
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which burns with a rough surface & will not shew any ink, some from ink which burns glossy like the papyrus, & some from being smoked. I hope to get 3 or 4 dozen of 50 or 100 words each, (some long ones are perhaps 1000 words) & about as many scraps of which a word or two will shew the sense or subject. Some are written on both sides, but I hope that the greater part may be even permanently preserved by gumming on card; at all events they could be transcribed by any one who reads demotic. We shall now know something about the affairs of the old man whose statue we have found, & whose gods, & pots, & dishes, & bronzes, form such an interesting collection. I think a taking chapter in the San explorations may be made from this house; beginning with the owner (from his papyri) & his furniture & surroundings, & explaining the burning of the house.

Next day in a neighbouring house, which is also burnt, we found a small but very good term in white marble with female head, filleted, & long tresses on the shoulders. It is of the best Graeco-Roman work. I think that it has supported a shelf or table, as it has a flat space on the top with a hole in it & a wooden peg remaining. It was found upright in situ with two slabs of limestone beside it. It is not burnt or injured at all, except just the end of the nose anciently broken a little. We may find another this afternoon. It measures 4 x 5 x 27 inches. A much broken figure of Taur in limestone, rude work, about 22 high originally, has been found by the site of the Ptolemaic tablet No. 2.

6)

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(1)

Sent 24.5.84.

Ant. (3)

The lump of 6 lbs of potin which I reported some days ago turns out to be late Ptolemaic tetradrachms, perhaps fake ones as there seems to be no silver; I see the eagle & ΠΑ on one which I cleaned somewhat. I think I mentioned long ago finding two plated Alexander tetradrachms.

I reserved the cupboard under the stairs in the Roman house, to clear it myself: and on working off the fallen bricks & earth I found another large basket full^{sic} {full} of papyri; but these, owing probably to having a free space of air over them in the place, were mostly burnt to white ash, leaving a layer about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick of carbonised papyri. They are far more fragile than the others & break into scraps by their own weight, so that I cannot hope to get much from it. My guess from the variety of hands that they were letters, is proved by the beginning of one of a Greek one ΑΠΟ ΑΜΩΝΙΩ /// ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓ. Who will read them all? It needs a fluent knowledge of epistolary Greek & demotic, a facility of guessing for words to fit damaged parts, & the utmost delicacy of mechanical management to break them open between the sheets without breaking across. I shall have much over a hundred of pieces from arranging say 2/<3>0 words, many being long ones, beside dozens of scraps of a few words each. I do not hope for much connected sense they are all so broken, but the general subjects of such a quantity will be of great interest as they all belong together. I found one piece of a book in columns, with apparently a Greek Α in the margin at a chapter, though the writing is demotic; if so it must be from a large work, one column is nearly perfect, the adjacent one is crushed up anyhow.

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
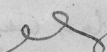
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2 (184)
 I believe the house was plundered before being burnt; that the inhabitants took but little with them seems plain from their leaving much bronze, & the portrait statue, behind; & that the house was not burned accidentally is shewn I think by there being no silver or gold, & the beak of the alabaster Tahuti — which was most likely of silver — being gone. Also from the corn being spilled about in the place, such all in jars; & from the first basket of papyri lying on the cellar stairs just outside the cupboard; as the owners had choked one side of their stairs by stowing amphorae all up them, pulling the basket out thus crossed the staircase entirely; the owners would hardly leave it thus; but a looter after tipping out the jars of corn in search of hidden valuables, dragged out one basket of papers from the cupboard, & then seeing only another basket there, left it just as he pulled it out on the stairs.


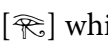
At last I have cleared out the cupboard; & find, not one, but five more baskets of papyri. They are all miserably burnt; it was pitiful to lift a mass of white ash half an inch thick, consisting of dozens of leaves, & see it break open shewing nothing but the rubrics, which had been written with ochre & thus were preserved. These baskets contained mostly large rolls, all thrown by anyhow, not stowed on end; put by by some very tidy person who liked to get "all that rubbish" out of the way. One papyrus was in hieratic, with figures standing, like a funeral papyrus; only a very small scrap of this was unburnt, or rather I should say remained carbonised. I first of all cleared off all the sand & earth from over the layer of papyri, checked continually by suddenly hearing the silky rustle of a fresh papyrus in

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some unexpected part, as I gently cut away the earth ⁽¹⁸⁵⁾ with a pocket knife. Then when the layer was exposed I undermined it from one side, cutting out the earth & rubbing away the burnt basket with my fingers, & then lumps of papyri dropped off, only too often breaking asunder & shewing nothing but ash. Each papyrus was examined ~~too~~ slightly, & if it was legible it was at once wrapped up in soft paper. If not I turned up leaf after leaf, & if the whole was illegible it was thrown away, as the mass of illegible pieces would have only made a useless confusion afterwards. I expect that full a third of those I have kept will be pronounced illegible when any one tries to read them continuously. Still I think there is no doubt but that we shall know the subjects — & somewhat of the sense of some dozens of papyri all belonging to one time & one man. ~~These~~ I have now finished clearing up the first basket-ful, which was by far the longest job, as they were not at all burnt to ash, & were all small papers, many of them slips just folded in two or three with a few lines on them. There is every variety of writing from a minute hand like this  up to great scrawls half an inch high: and the Greek is some fit uncial απιο & some a running hand  which looks hopeless. This basketful has taken me 10 hours to separate, examine, & pack.

The people were getting later & later in returning to work in the afternoon, & whistling to them was not of much use. I always gave them three hours before calling, but they took half an hour more. So on Saturday I cut off the last man & boy, paid them for half a day, & told them

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that they were too late. But they were all just as bad on Monday; so I went down before they started & dismissed them all at half a day, only having some that were already up & those from a distance. I have the best of the bargain thus, for the morning is 6 hours of the 10 & fresher work. This had the desired effect, for Tuesday they all came up early, & waited ~~until~~ about the house until I said that time was up. This is a simple remedy & I hope effectual, & one that they cannot quarrel with, as if they want to work they must prove it by being ready.

I was sorry to see that the statue found in the Roman house, was shewing signs of crumbling; the limestone having been burnt was going to powder in various parts, & the face had already suffered. Something must be done to it, & I concluded on giving it a coat of rice-water; this has very slightly glazed it, so that it looks now as if carved in brown wood, but I expect this glaze will wash off if required. Rice-water has the advantage of being colourless, & of darkening but little, & is sure not to deliquesce like gum. I also gave a good many coats of it to the scribes penholder, the wood of which was in a very powdery state.

A piece of glass was turned up in a house next to the good Roman house which is very curious. It is plano-convex, 2.6 diam, & .5 thick, the surround side spherical; it is colourless glass & looks as if intended for a condensing lens. It has a coating of pearly decomposed glass on it, which prevents any experiments with it. A bronze weight was found today, which though of the kat standard is of the Assyrian barrel form; it is 142 grs, less 3 or 4 for carbonation, 138-9; so this is the light kat like the set found before. A square weight of 88 grs was found in the good Roman house; this seems like an old Aeginetan

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(5)

sent 2.4.84

sent 2.4.5.84 Ants. (187)
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I have been cutting into a large mound lying isolated some way east of the so called "avenue of columns"; it is beyond the limits of the French map. Three days work, with about 15 to 20 hands, made a long cut into the mound reaching its highest part, & about 12 ft deep; this shewed that so far it was all Roman, burnt bricks occurring low down, & two large pots [P], which apparently stood in a room that we cut through. It was all hard mud, so hard that the men never found the difference on going through the walls; and it did not seem at all probable that it covered early tombs, which I had examined it. All around it are the traces of houses, & this seems merely to have been a part more often rebuilt.

I therefore moved up the men to the avenue of great blocks & began to examine them. Mariette had dug under some & found that they have no foundation; & he had cleared a brick enclosure at the W. end, which contained fragments of statues & chips of limestone. He also made sundry holes in the line of the avenue. I observe a quantity of broken sandstone, of the whitish Ptolemaic sort, at the E. end of the line of blocks thus: —

as if the fragment of a small pylon, or low terminal walls with an entrance between. This shews that the avenue did not extend farther; & at the other end it is terminated by some

<Ant.:>

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[There is no page 188.]

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 blocks of a gateway(?) & the brick enclosure. So we know its limits. The men found the piece of statue with a Ptolemaic cartouche, among the pieces Mariette had left there.

The last week & this we have had about half the men on the good Roman house & others near it; & about 15 to 20 hands on clearing the shaft in which we found the well & wall a fortnight ago. The storm not only choked the shaft, but undermined & cracked the sides, so that we have to enlarge it to a great size. Since finding that fresh sphinx & Ptolemaic tablet near that hole, & some 10 or 15 feet above the well & wall, I have hopes that I have here reached something pre-Greek.

They only found a quantity of those mysterious bone pins (such as I described before) in the avenue of blocks: & by a curious coincidence it is the same boy who found most of the previous ones, who finds these.

Some pieces of a life size statue in hard white limestone were found among the rubbish outside the good Roman ho. The two clay impressions of a seal found with the papyri are from an engraving of late Consular period I should say; the eagle's head is somewhat like those on late Italic uncial coins, & the row of four bearded heads beneath is like the taste of the Augustan period. I suppose such a seal is not known historically; it would be a prize to find an impression of Maecenas's frog.

Some more papyri were found in the next house to the important one, & on my clearing the place carefully I found a basketful. They were in a most hopeless state;

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they had been thrown into the basket along with wooden objects, pen case, &c; next, the mice had made a nest in them; then they were burnt in the house, not well carbonised but just done brittle-brown; & then they had been rotting for 1800 years in a damp soil. If a papyrus is well carbonised, it is in the very best state for keeping; but these half-burnt things with enough organic matter to rot & mould are miserable. I rescued 30 or 40, many large rolls squeezed out of all shape, by the pressure. The greater number are Greek; & I think it would madden an academic man who spends his days on the rectification of a text, & wears his nights with conjectural emendations, to see handfuls of papyri covered with the most delicate & beautiful uncial Greek, all rotten, & dropping to pieces when they are lifted. I much doubt if those that I have kept can be separated into leaves, but at least they may be broken open in some parts so as to glean enough to know the subjects.

They have dug down in the sand within the brick enclosure to about 12 feet down; here is water level, & all is clean sand down to that. If there are interments then under it, as I suspect, they will need a pump to reach them. The contrast of this sand to the black soil outside the enclosure is striking, & all the more so as the ~~black~~ black soil extends, like the sand, down to water level.

Just before I send this I have been taking out the fragments of a large sheet of glass from the second good Roman house. It is as colourless as the best modern window glass, & has a design on one side, which from one bit appears to have been the

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8/ (191)
 signs of the zodiac; it has been thrown down flat, broken,
 & burnt, & unhappily the gilding has nearly all come off; there
 are about 140 pieces, so it will be a long business to join
 it up. I must clean the gilt pieces, & ~~jo~~ cover the side
 with rice water or white of egg to secure the gold. Apart
 from the design I think this is of interest as a large sheet
 of colourless glass. 62 pots this morning; what
 can I do with such a supply?

I enclose photos of the bust on a term mentioned before. The
 more I see of it the better it seems. There is a dignity
 & yet a sweetness about it, which looks to me to be
 of the best class. It does not profess to be anything
 important or more than merely decorative work; & as
 such, without any great finish about it, it nevertheless
 seems to be so good that it must have come from
 a good master. I suppose it is about the first century
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Dear Miss Edwards,

Don't you enjoy the cupboard under the stairs!

yours W.M.F.P.

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(1)

Ant: (4)

(192) ✓

on cleaning up the fragments of the glass zodiac I find that there were ~~heads~~ four heads of the seasons on it. They are of purely Roman work, done in red ochre, about equal to the average of Pompeian painting. The figures & lines in gold are nearly all lost, as the gold leaf had scarcely any cohesion to the glass, and only two signs — capricornus & aries — are distinguishable. Around the circle was a square border line within the square edge of the glass, & between the border line & the circle the ground is covered with stars marked by rhombs of gold leaf. I had a touchy job to dust off all the dirt with a camel-hair brush, & hit the medium between getting rid of the dirt & losing the gold. Then I touched all the gilt parts with thin shell lac varnish, which fixed it so well that I can brush the glass stiffly with water, & wipe with a towel, without removing any gilding. Duly wrapped up in paper, I hope that these bits will go safely home, & that I shall put the dissected puzzle together. I think painting on glass like these heads is very rare.

A beautiful sacred eye in translucent obsidian was found on the mounds the other day, & brought in to me. Secured it, with some scraps, for the munificent bakhshish of 6^d.

From one of the Roman houses on the top of the hill the upper part of a figure of Venus in marble was found. It was about 10 inches high; the attitude, leaning to the left side, with the right arm raised high, the left arm bent up from the elbow, & holding a scarf in both hands over the head. The fragment is broken off at neck, right shoulder, left wrist, & over hips. It is of fine work, about the best of Roman work, the details of the position being carefully rendered. The head appears recently broken off, probably in a clearance of the same house two or three years ago.

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2/193
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They reached the base of the wall of the enclosure at the end of the avenue. It is founded on the hard sand of the gezireh quite different to the soft thrown sand which fills it. The wall is 12 ft high; and the base is just at present water level. We are making holes in parts near this to see the constitution of the ground.

A fine bronze mirror was picked up today by a man; it is very little carbonated, 6 1/2 inches across, but with a crack in it. We have been making a lot of holes in the ground S. of the great mounds, which is covered with houses. The houses have produced nothing; but I want them to go down to undisturbed soil & to see if there be any tombs below.

These holes all went down to clean sand & two feet into it in most cases: but not a scrap of anything funereal was found. So it seems that there were no tombs in that district. The men as they finished these holes were moved up to some houses, between them & the avenue of blocks; but nothing was found. They will all go tomorrow to parts further South. In one house there were seven pots standing in a row, visible on the surface

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as the ground has been denuded. Nothing was to be found in them but earth & fragments of pottery, except a bowl of unbaked mud which of course fell to pieces. (194)

To day we began on the end of the long low tell to the south. Some houses just on this side of it in the plain proved quite barren; we dug down about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to water. When I have a pump it would be interesting to clear & pump out some of the lowest houses as an indication of old water level. On the tell there is about 5 or 6 feet of made soil, apparently late Greek; & in that are Roman interments about 2 feet deep. Below the made soil is clean sand of the original gezireh. We got a fairly good amber necklace 2 feet long, & a little bone Venus, from one grave. In another part a half of a funeral barge was found, made of pottery, & fairly executed; of course the rowers are gone. There is the usual run of little trifles picked up on the mounds: the men who lodge here spend part of the 3 hrs at mid-day in hunting, & get something every day. I make a rule to buy up everything I see so as not to leave any stock here to encourage traders. What is reckoned rubbish here will be welcomed in county museums in England.


We have tapped the Roman cemetery in earnest, on the N. part of the long southern tell. Bones are found wherever we dig, & in some tombs are ornaments. We got two gold foil eyes (odd ones) & a tongue-piece; also glass eyes, a quantity of delicate inlaid glass from coffins, & two pair of ^{small} glass wings of very fine mosaic work; also a quantity of scarabs, eyes, &c of rude work. The history of the mound appears to begin with the early Greek settlers, as on the

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
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Sent 24.5.84

May 24/<3>-

The dog of the establishment is becoming very friendly; she never allows me to touch her, & will not feed if I am within some feet, & yet she goes out with me every day, trotting round the mounds behind me, stopping when I stop for work, & lying down for a sleep if I remain long in one place, but always jumping up when I move on. But she never goes out more than once each day with me, though I may go several times; and if at the house when I return I am greeted with something between a whine & a growl, the very pleasantest noise she can make, with her head cocked on one side, bowing to me with the ears laid back, & the tail waving about. Ali cynically remarks on such conduct, "Yes, I think she so hungry"; but as she never gets fed when out perambulating I generously disbelieve this construction. Things go on much as usual; but to my great regret M^{rs} Amos cannot come, as her son who was to come was taken ill & she has to go to Alex. with him for change, & fears the long ride here for him in any case. I hope they manage it by breaking the day at Tell Bedawi with the good old shekh, or sleeping there. I am much disappointed, it is 15 weeks since I saw a European (barring one or two frowzy Greeks whom I greeted in Arabic) & of all people to miss M^{rs} Amos & Maurice is sore to me. Now I must to bed & get all the sleep I can before I stir up at 5 tomorrow as usual. I am generally an hour or two short, there is so much to be done here.

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(197)
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 matters. He was much interested in all going on here;
 but he will not make mischief about things, as he quite
 understands the necessity ^{do not} interfering with the works, &
 had already warned his man before coming here not
 to try to buy anything. He was delighted with all
 the pots, & says that they are worth a good deal more
 than the carriage if taken to London. In fact he
 reckoned that the big jar 3 ft high would fetch £8
 or £10 ~~for~~ from a pottery collector. The large blue
 vase he much admired.

May 24.

For all the details of the many baskets of papyri &c
 &c which I have got lately, I hope my friends will
 in due time see the antiquity sheets of my journals —
 No time for writing duplicate accounts of
 things here, barely time for sleeping. 62 pots came
 in this morning alone, to be dusted numbered
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(198)

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[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

33. Zoan, June 3-

89. Zoan, June 3-

<27/<9> May, 84.>

199 27 May, 84.

When Hooker and I were down in the temple, we suddenly sighted a big lizard, making for shelter; as I saw his head above some stones, it looked as big as a small cat's head. We went over ~~to the~~ ^{to the} stone, & found him tucked away underneath; and the sight of his tail near was so astonishing, that at last with a stick we got the end of the tail out from under the stone. I caught it, & then Hooker took it & held on. He kept up a steady pull, but that was no good; lizard only hissed like a little steam-engine blowing off. So he pulled first to one side & then another, while undermining lizard's hold below his hind legs. At last ~~he~~ he gained steadily, lizard swearing horribly all the time. The claws of the feet were as large as a cat's claws, & by the time the hind leg was clearly visible I measured the tail as 21 inches, from the thigh; I knew that his tail would be immeasurable when once his head was out. As more & more of the body became visible Hooker said in an interested tone, "I wonder if these fellows bite"; & at last — with a jerk — out came lizard, Hooker jumped back two yards, & I took to the top of a small block. Lizard held his head up, with an outraged manner, execrated us both with fearful hisses, & made for another shelter. Luckily this would not shelter him, so as he tried to huddle himself into a rather open angle under a block, we could see more of him. I held the stick against his body, & made certain that from his head to his hind leg was full 18 inches. And a lizard of 3 ft. 3 in, in a state of indignation, who opens his jaws to a wide angle, & blows off at you fiercely, is ~~scarcely~~ ^{scarcely} a cultivable acquaintance. After

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(200)

somewhat worrying him by inspections in his new quarters, he bolted out, (& we bolted), & he returned to his old hole, in which we left him, undisturbed, but hissing in a grievous manner.

A quantity of new hands have come up, about 30 I hear, so I shall have a lively time tomorrow morning, to set them all to work; & I am going to shift about 30 old hands, so I shall have to score out work for 60.

We are stopped again in clearing a well by coming to water; the wells are so important — not only for objects to be found in them, but also for the old water level — that I think it will be best to bring a small portable pump shore next year, & so pump them out as the men work.

~~They reached the bottom of the well of the en. see Ant.~~
One of the men said that they were very close packed, "like fish", under the spare roofing, & after that some more old hands came up. So I had to inspect, & see that they were fairly allotted. There were 47 in all stowed away under 15 sheets of roofing, or only 5 square feet each. Overcrowding with a vengeance, but then the ventilation is complete with one side of your room open to the sky, & the other sides very airy. They make up five small rooms, each about half or three quarters covered with roofing. I have now 128 in all.

The course of life here is now generally thus. Up at 5, round to see after all the men till 8. Bath & breakfast. Then dust & stow pots, or copy inscriptions in temple, or other work till 11½. Men whistled off; receive tribute of all that is found, do some writing, & have an hours' nap. All go to work again by 2½, & I go round for 2 or 3 hours in aft, to

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