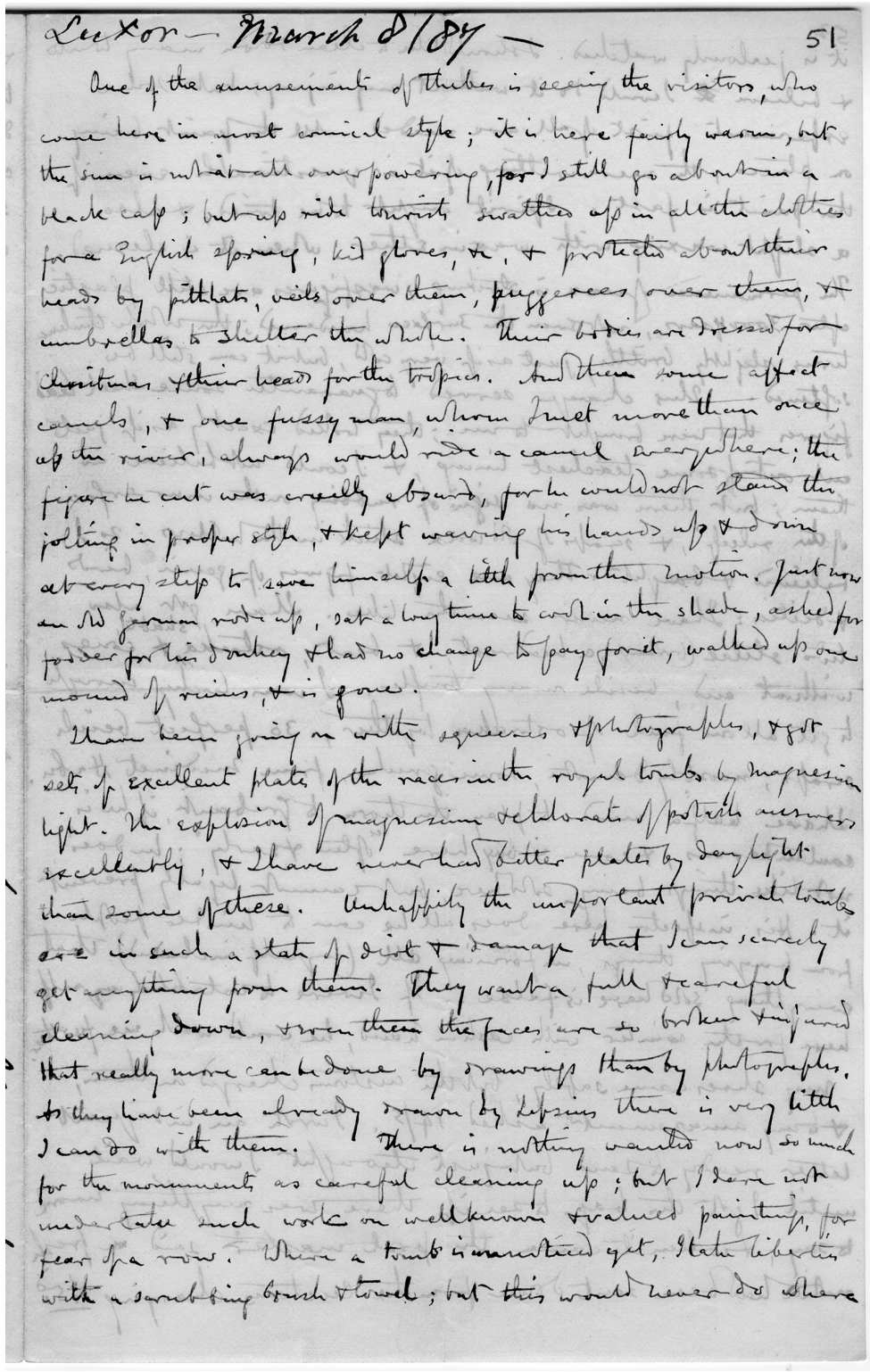
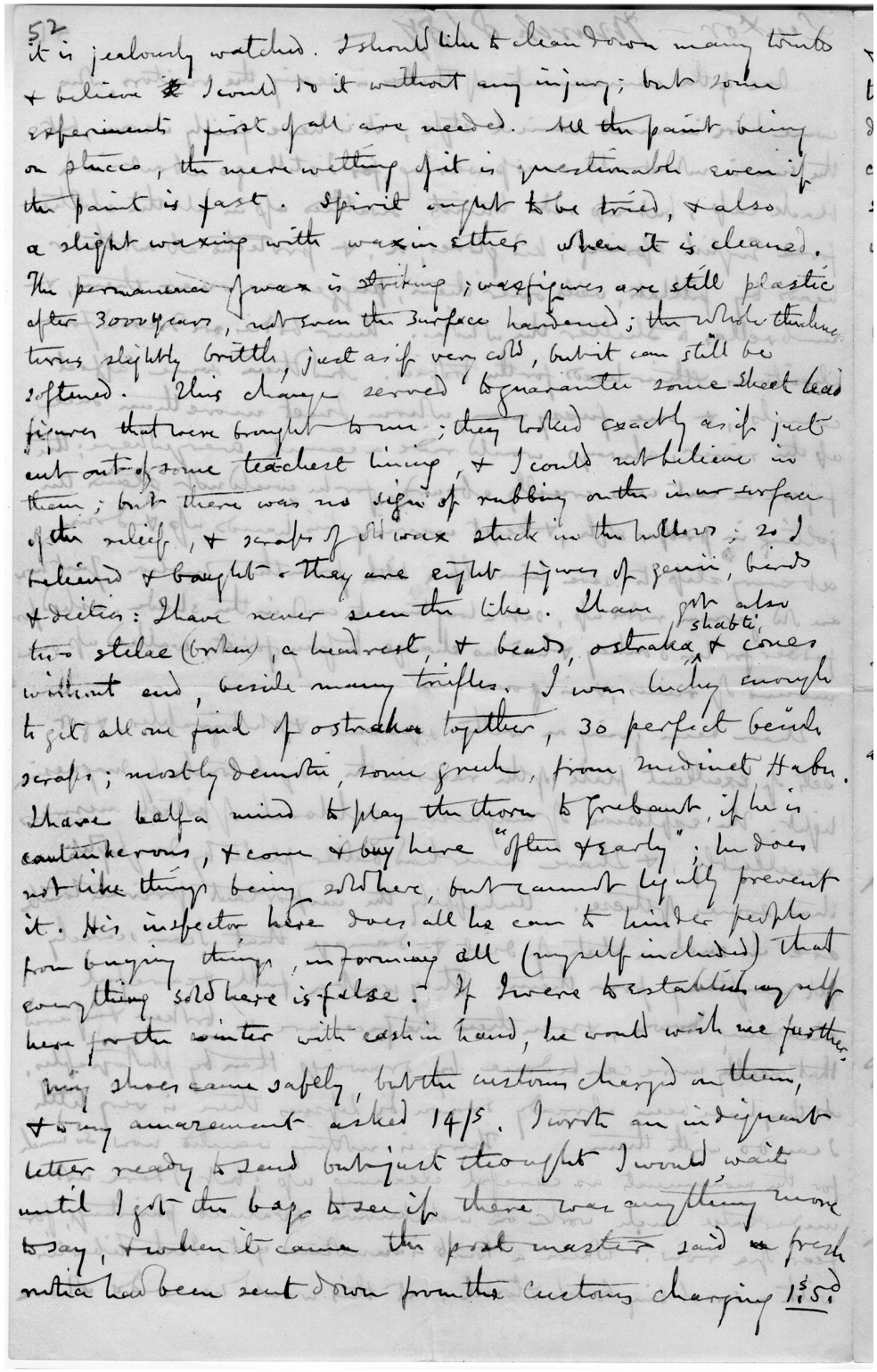


Luxor – March 8/87 –

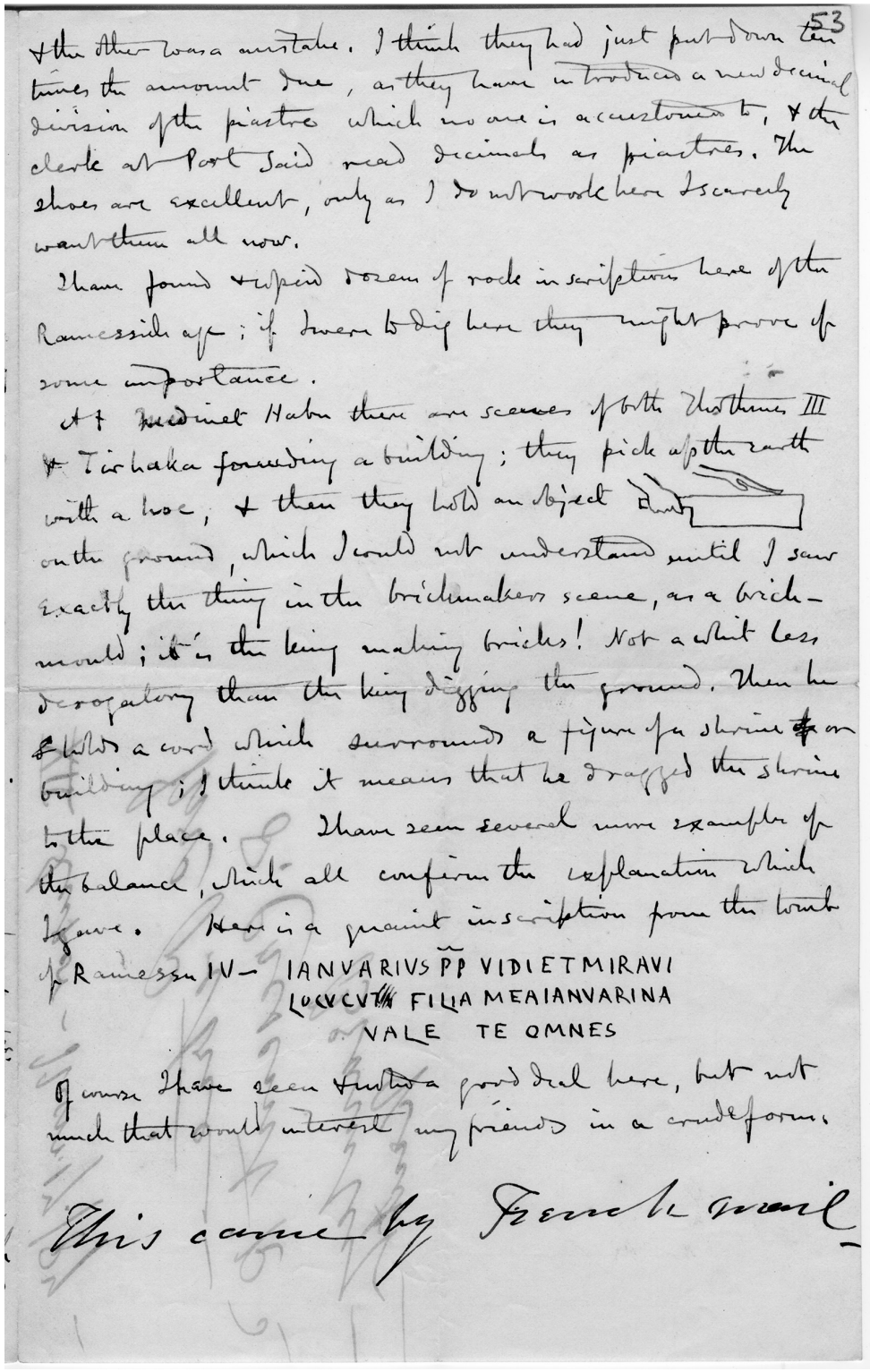
One of the amusements of Thebes is seeing the visitors, who come here in most comical style; it is here fairly warm, but the sun is not at all overpowering, for I still go about in a black cap; but up ride tourists swathed up in all the clothes for a English spring, kid gloves, &c, & protected about their heads by pithhats, veils over them, puggerees over them, & umbrellas to shelter the whole. Their bodies are dressed for Christmas & their heads for the tropics. And then some affect camels, & one fussy man, whom I met more than once up the river, always would ride a camel everywhere; the figure he cut was cruelly absurd, for he could not stand the jolting in proper style, & kept waving his hands up & down at every step to save himself a little from the motion. Just now an old German rode up, sat a long time to cool in the shade, asked for fodder for his donkey & had no change to pay for it, walked up one mound of ruins, & is gone.

I have been going on with squeezes & photographs, & got sets of excellent plates of the races in the royal tombs by magnesium light. The explosion of magnesium & chlorate of potash answers excellently, & I have never had better plates by daylight than some of these. Unhappily the important private tombs are in such a state of dirt & damage that I can scarcely get anything from them. They want a full & careful cleaning down, & even then the faces are so broken & injured that really more can be done by drawings than by photographs. As they have been already drawn by Lepsius there is very little I can do with them. There is nothing wanted now so much for the monuments as careful cleaning up; but I dare not undertake such work on well known & valued paintings, for fear of a row. Where a tomb is unnoticed yet, I take liberties with a scrubbing brush & towel; but this would never do where



it is jealously watched. I should like to clean down many tombs
& believe ~~it~~ I could do it without any injury; but some
experiments first of all are needed. All the paint being
on stucco, the mere wetting of it is questionable even if
the paint is fast. Spirit ought to be tried, & also
a slight waxing with wax in ether when it is cleaned.
The permanence of wax is striking; wax figures are still plastic
after 3000 years, not even the surface hardened; the whole thickness
turns slightly brittle, just as if very cold, but it can still be
softened. This change served to guarantee some sheet lead
figures that were brought to me; they looked exactly as if just
cut out of some tea-chest lining, & I could not believe in
them; but there was no sign of rubbing on the inner surface
of the relief, & scraps of old wax stuck in the hollows; so I
believed & bought. They are eight figures of genii, birds
& deities: I have never seen the like. I have got also
two stelae (broken) [📷, 📷], a headrest, & beads, ostraka, <shabti,>
[📷] cones
without end, beside many trifles. I was lucky enough
to get all one find of ostraka together, 30 perfect beside
scraps; mostly demotic, some Greek, from Medinet Habu.
I have half a mind to play the thorn to Grebaut, if he is
cantankerous, & come & buy here "often & early"; he does
not like things being sold here, but cannot legally prevent
it. His inspector here does all he can to hinder people
from buying things, informing all (myself included) that
everything sold here is false. If I were to establish myself
here for the winter with cash in hand, he would wish me further.
[For other objects bought at the same time, see: 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷]

My shoes came safely, but the customs charged on them,
& to my amazement asked 14/^{s}. I wrote an indignant
letter ready to send but just thought I would wait
until I got the bags to see if there was anything more
to say, & when it came the post master said ~~a~~ fresh
notice had been sent down from the customs charging 1^{s}.5^{d}.



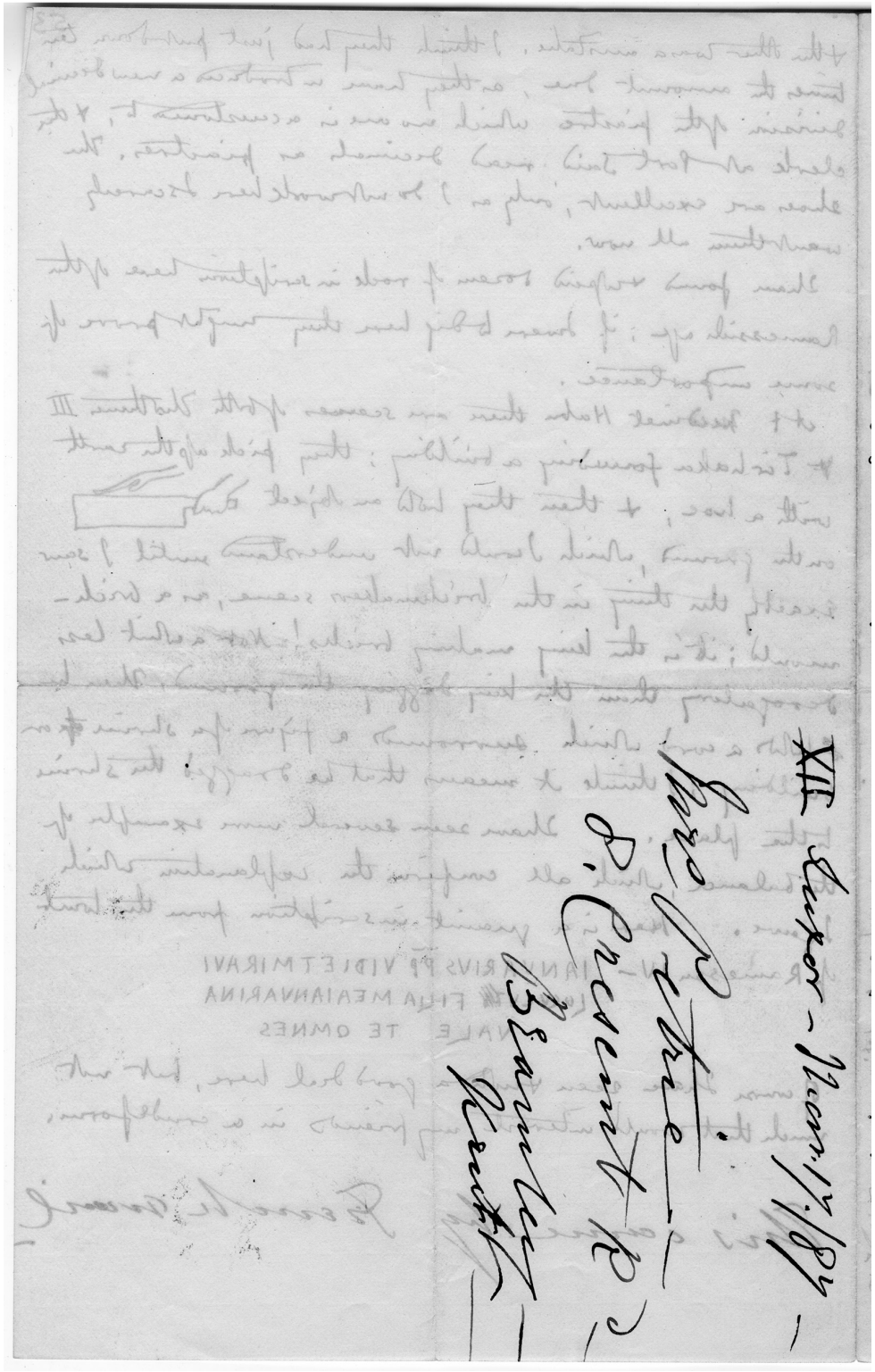
& the other was a mistake. I think they had just put down ten times the amount due, as they have introduced a new decimal division of the piastre which no one is accustomed to, & the clerk at Port Said read decimals as piastres. The shoes are excellent, only as I do not work here I scarcely want them all now.

I have found & copied dozens of rock inscriptions here of the Ramesside age; if I were to dig here they might prove of some importance.

At Medinet Habu there are scenes of both Thothmes III & Tirhaka founding a building; they pick up the earth with a hoe, & then they hold an object [𓏏] on the ground, which I could not understand until I saw exactly the thing in the brickmakers scene, as a brickmould; it is the king making bricks! Not a whit less derogatory than the king digging the ground. Then he ~~s~~ holds a cord which surrounds a figure of a shrine ~~of~~ or building; I think it means that he dragged the shrine to the place. I have seen several more examples of the balance, which all confirm the explanation which I gave. Here is a quaint inscription from the tomb of Ramessu IV – [𓏏]

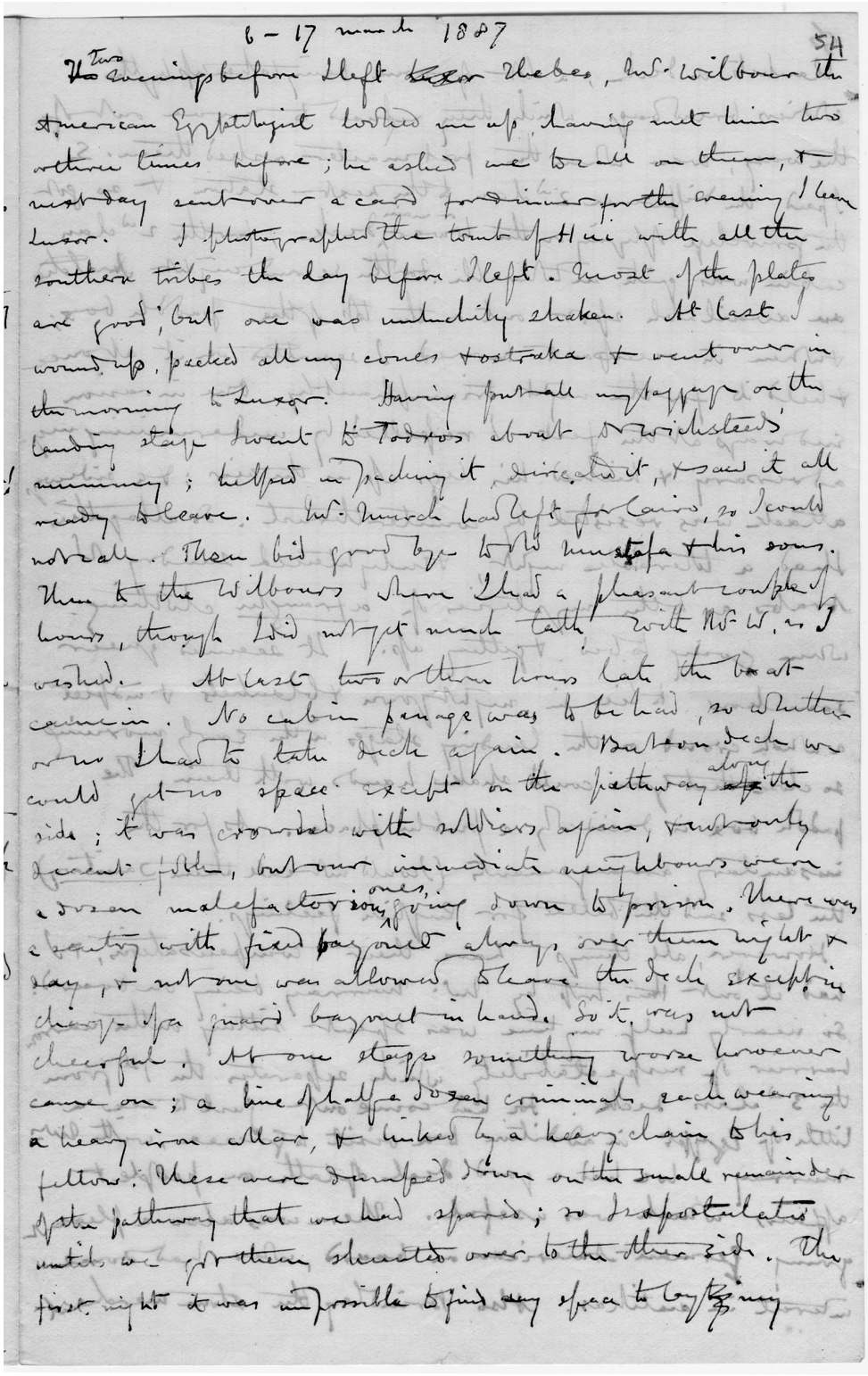
Of course I have seen & noted a good deal here, but not much that would interest my friends in a crude form.

This came by French mail.



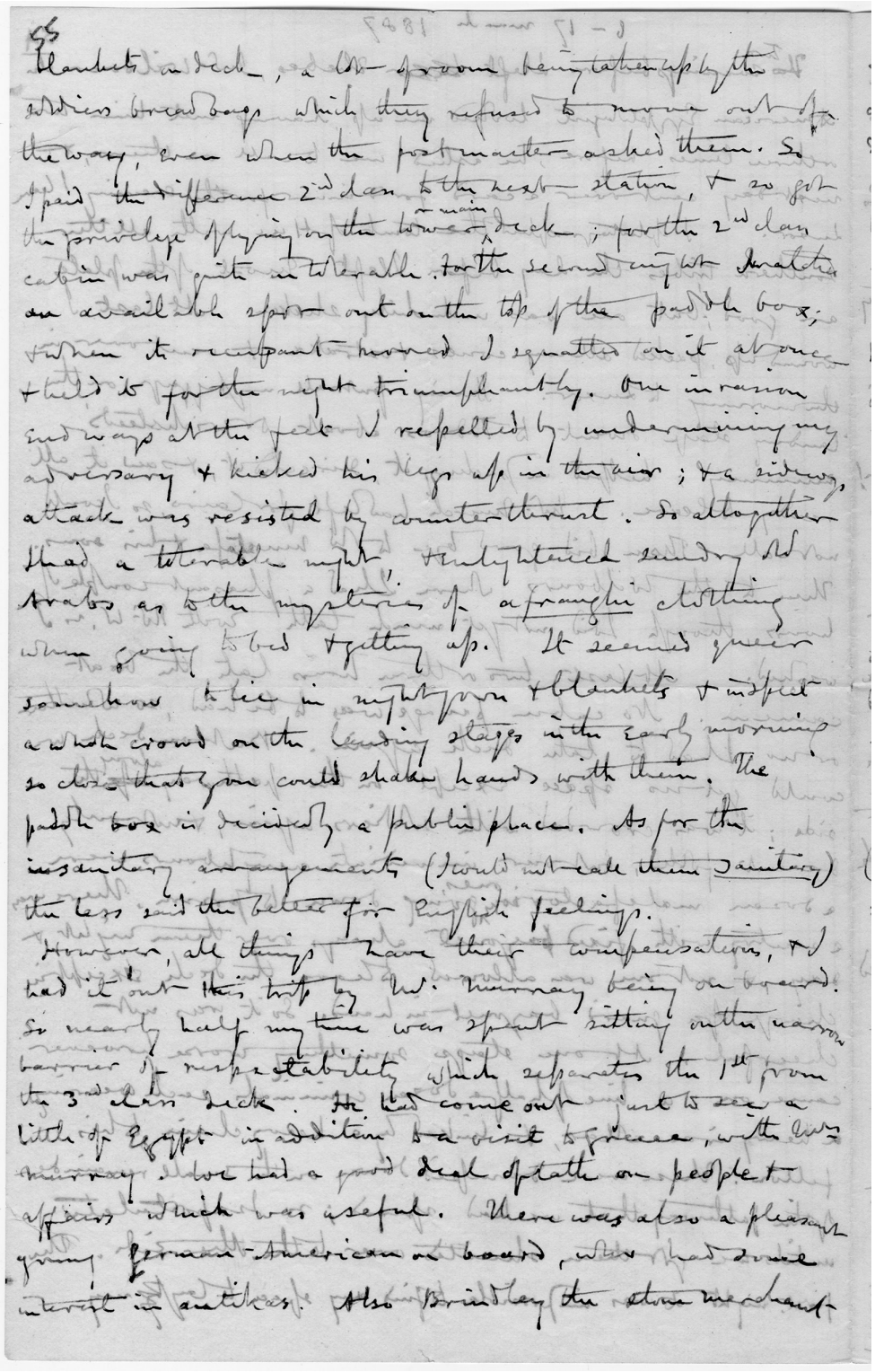
XII Luxor – Mar. 17./87 –

Mrs Petrie–
8. Crescent Rd
Bromley–
Kent–



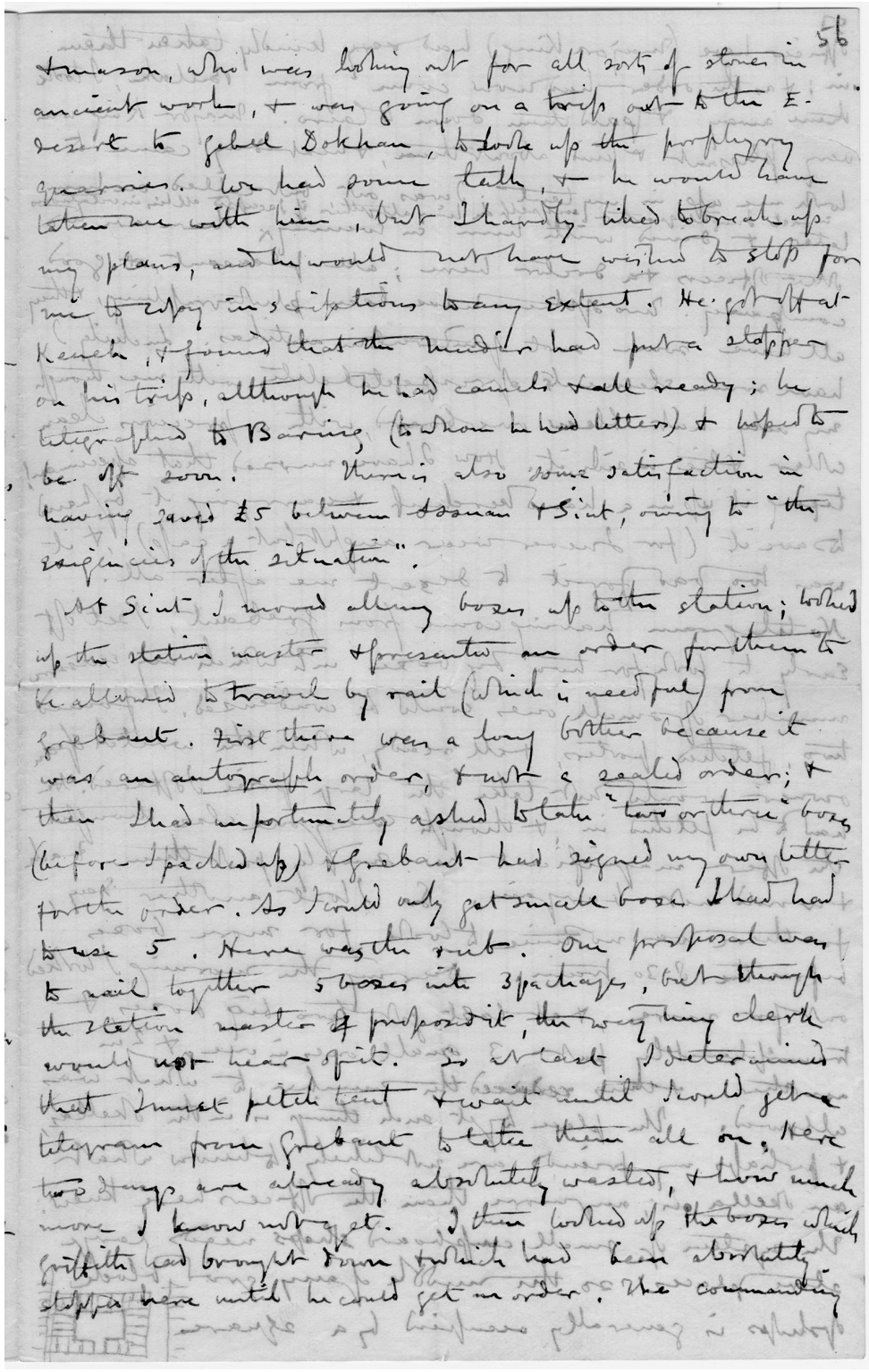
6 – 17 March 1887

~~The~~ <Two> evenings before I left ~~Luxor~~ Thebes, Mr Wilbour the American Egyptologist looked me up, having met him two or three times before; he asked me to call on them, & next day sent over a card for dinner the evening I leave Luxor. I photographed the tomb of Hui with all the southern tribes the day before I left. Most of the plates are good; but one was unluckily shaken. At last I wound up, packed all my cones & ostraka & went over in the morning to Luxor. Having put all my baggage on the landing stage I went to Todros about Dr Wicksteed's mummy; helped in packing it, directed it, & saw it all ready to leave. Mr Murch had left for Cairo, so I could not call. Then bid good bye to old Mustafa & his sons. Then to the Wilbours where I had a pleasant couple of hours, though I did not get much talk with Mr W. as I wished. At last two or three hours late the boat came in. No cabin passage was to be had, so whether or no I had to take deck again. But on deck we could get no space except on the pathway ~~of a~~ <along> the side; it was crowded with soldiers again, & not only decent folks, but our immediate neighbours were a dozen malefactorious <ones> going down to prison. There was a sentry with fixed f/<b>ayonet always over them night & day, not one was allowed to leave the deck except in charge of a guard bayonet in hand. So it was not cheerful. At one stage something worse however came on; a line of half a dozen criminals each wearing a heavy iron collar, & linked by a heavy chain to his fellow. These were dumped down on the small remainder of the pathway that we had spared; so I expostulated until we got them shunted over to the other side. The first night it was impossible to find any space to lay ~~by~~ my



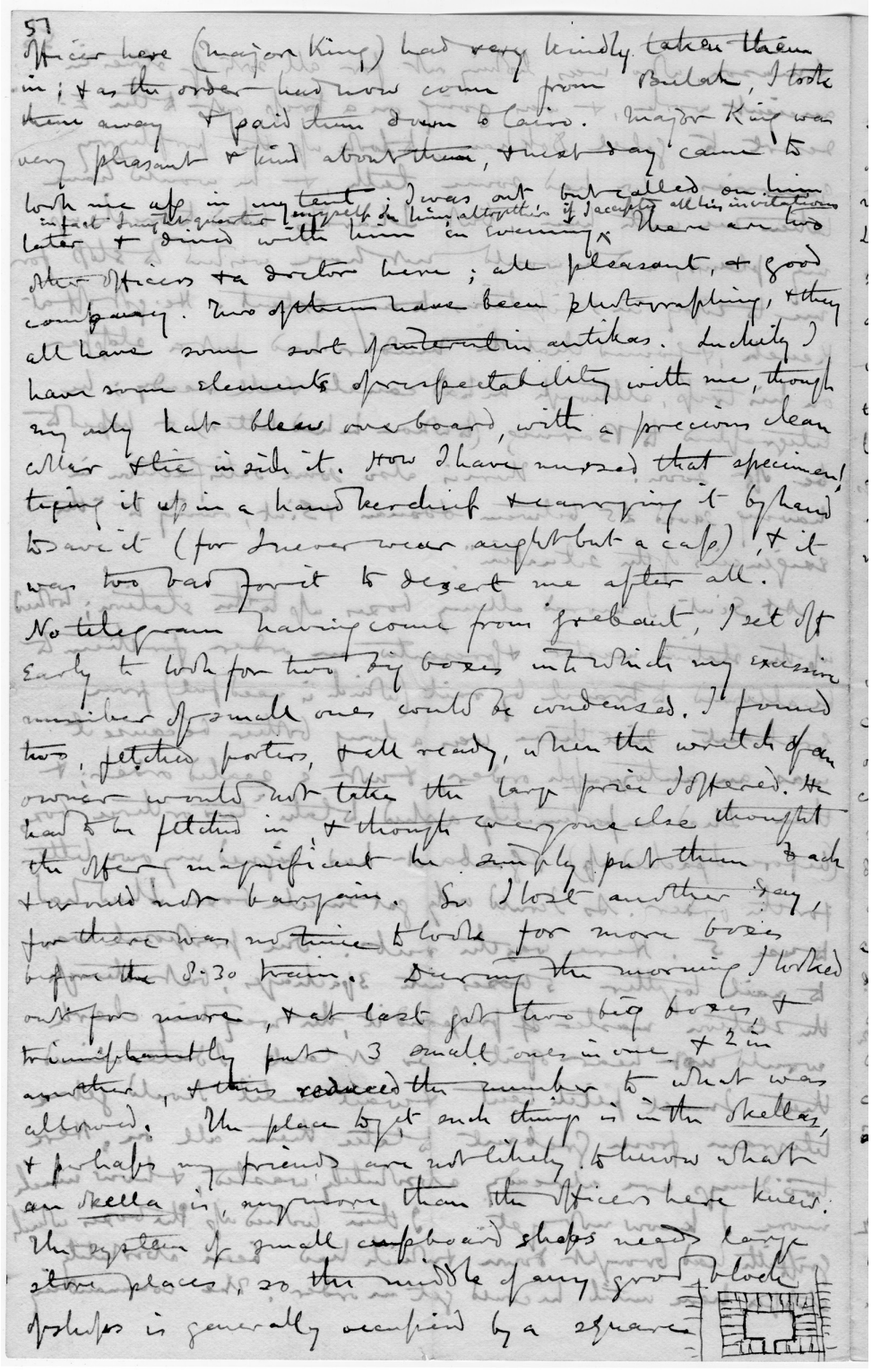
blankets on deck, a lot of room being taken up by the soldiers bread bags which they refused to move out of the way, even when the postmaster asked them. So I paid the difference 2nd class to the next station, & so got the privilege of lying on the lower <or main> deck; for the 2nd class cabin was quite intolerable. For the second night I watched an available spot out on the top of the paddle box; & when its occupant moved I squatted on it at once & held it for the night triumphantly. One invasion end ways at the feet I repelled by undermining my adversary & kicked his legs up in the air; & a sideways attack was resisted by counterthrust. So altogether I had a tolerable night, & enlightened sundry old Arabs as to the mysteries of afranghi clothing when going to bed & getting up. It seemed queer somehow to lie in nightgown & blankets & inspect a whole crowd on the landing stages in the early morning so close that you could shake hands with them. The paddle box is decidedly a public place. As for the insanitary arrangements (I could not call them sanitary) the less said the better for English feelings.

However, all things have their compensations, & I had it out this trip by Mr Murray being on board. So nearly half my time was spent sitting on the narrow barrier of respectability which separates the 1st from the 3rd class deck. He had come out just to see a little of Egypt in addition to a visit to Greece, with Mrs Murray. We had a good deal of talk on people & affairs which was useful. There was also a pleasant young German-American on board, who had some interest in antikas. Also Brindley the stone merchant



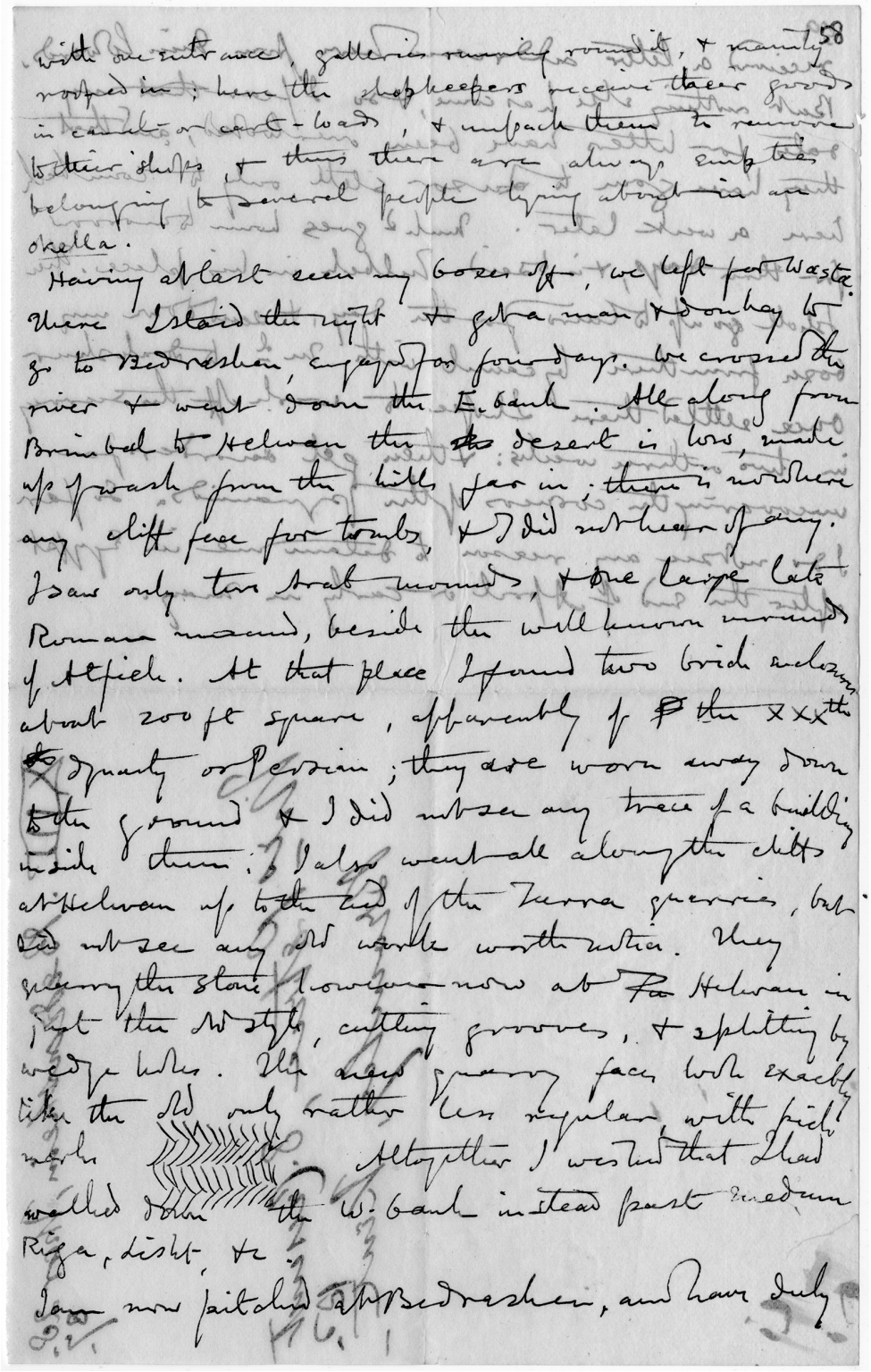
& mason, who was looking out for all sorts of stones in ancient work, & was going on a trip out to the E. desert to Gebel Dokhan, to look up the porphyry quarries. We had some talk, & he would have taken me with him, but I hardly liked to break up my plans, and he would not have waited to stop for me to copy inscriptions to any extent. He got off at Keneh, & found that the Mudir had put a stopper on his trip, although he had camels & all ready; he telegraphed to Baring (to whom he had letters) & hoped to be off soon. There is also some satisfaction in having saved £5 between Assuan & Siut, owing to "the exigencies of the situation".

At Siut I moved all my boxes up to the station; looked up the station master & presented an order for them to be allowed to travel by rail (which is needful) from Grebaut. First there was a long bother because it was an autograph order, & not a sealed order; & then I had unfortunately asked to take "two or three" boxes (before I packed up) & Grebaut had signed my own letter for the order. As I could only get small boxes I had had to use 5. Here was the rub. One proposal was to nail together 5 boxes into 3 packages, but though the station master ~~of~~ proposed it, the weighing clerk would not hear of it. So at last I determined that I must pitch tent & wait until I could get a telegram from Grebaut to take them all on. Here two days are already absolutely wasted, & how much more I know not yet. I then looked up the boxes which Griffith had brought down & which had been absolutely stopped here until he could get an order. The commanding



officer here (Major King) had very kindly taken them
in; & as the order had now come from Bulak, I took
them away & paid them down to Cairo. Major King was
very pleasant & kind about them, & next day came to
look me up in my tent; I was out but called on him
later & dined with him in evening <in fact I might quarter myself on
him altogether if I accepted all his invitations>. There are two
other officers & a doctor here; all pleasant, & good
company. Two of them have been photographing, & they
all have some sort of interest in antikas. Luckily I
have some elements of respectability with me, though
my only hat blew overboard, with a previous clean
collar & tie inside it. How I have nursed that specimen!
tying it up in a handkerchief & carrying it by hand
to save it (for I never wear aught but a cap), & it
was too bad for it to desert me after all.

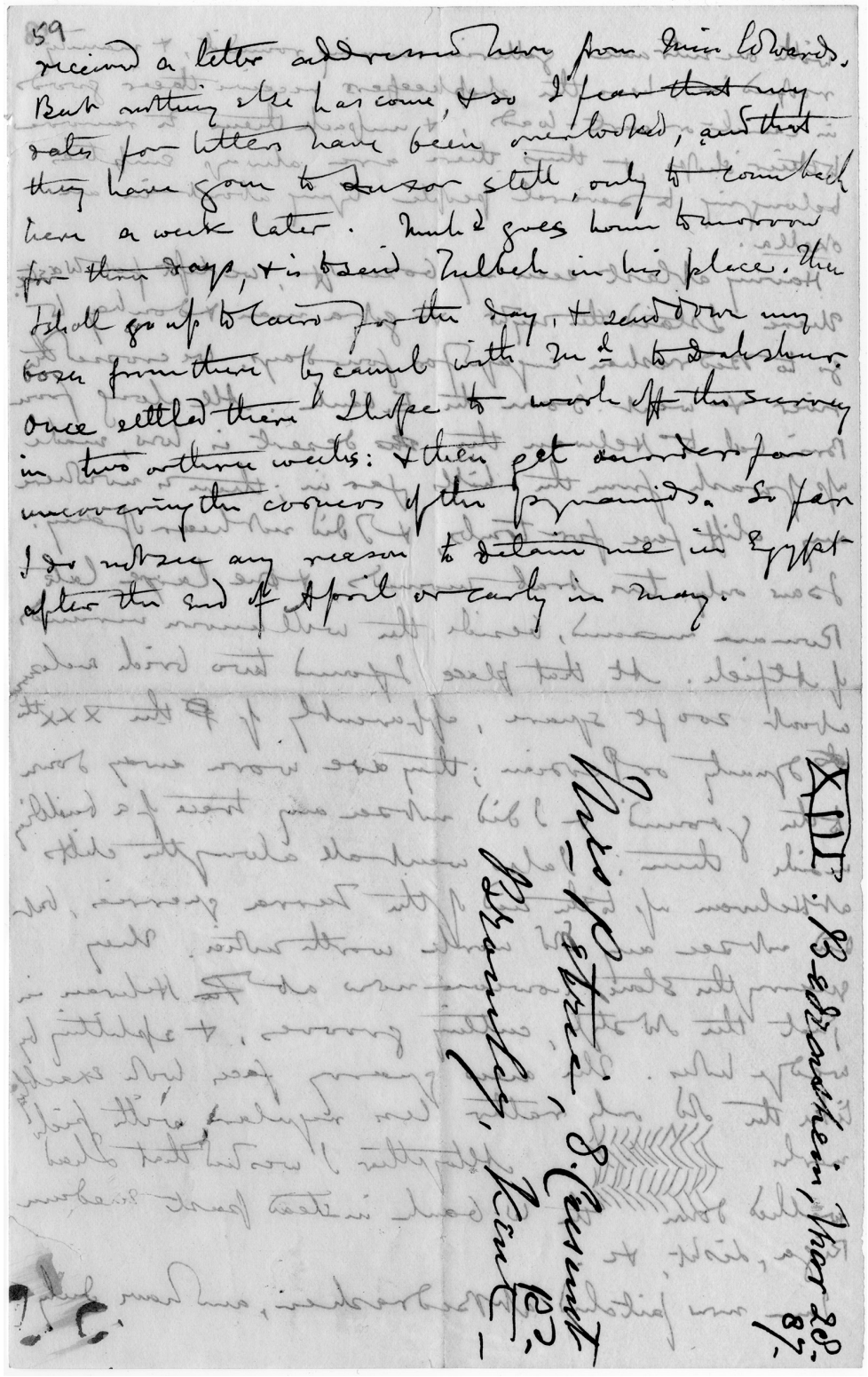
No telegram having come from Grebaut, I set off
early to look for two big boxes into which my excessive
number of small ones could be condensed. I found
two, fetched porters, & all ready, when the wretch of an
owner would not take the large price I offered. He
had to be fetched in, & though everyone else thought
the offer magnificent he simply put them back
& would not bargain. So I lost another day,
for there was no time to look for more boxes
before the 8.30 train. During the morning I looked
out for more, & at last got two big boxes, &
triumphantly put 3 small ones in one & 2 in
another, & thus ~~some~~[?]/<reduc>ed the number to what was
allowed. The place to get such things is in the okellas,
& perhaps my friends are not likely to know what
an okella is, any more than the officers here knew.
The system of small cupboard shops needs large
store places, so the middle of any good block
of shops is generally occupied by a square [𓉐]



with one entrance, galleries running round it, & mainly roofed in; here the shopkeepers receive their goods in camel or cart-loads, & unpack them to remove to their shops, & thus there are always empties belonging to several people lying about in an okella.

Having at last seen my boxes off, we left for Wasta. Here I staid the night & got a man & donkey to go to Bedrashen, engaged for four days. We crossed the river & went down the E. bank. All along from Brimbal to Helwan the desert is low, made up of wash from the hills far in; there is nowhere any cliff face for tombs, & I did not hear of any. I saw only two Arab mounds, & one large late Roman mound, beside the well known mounds of Atfieh. At that place I found two brick enclosures about 200 ft square, apparently of the XXXth dynasty or Persian; they are worn away down to the ground & I did not see any trace of a building inside them. I also went all along the cliffs at Helwan up to the end of the Turra quarries, but did not see any old work worth notice. They quarry the stone however now at Helwan in just the old style, cutting grooves, & splitting by wedge holes. The new quarry faces look exactly like the old only rather less regular, with pick marks [⚒] Altogether I wished that I had walked down the W. bank instead past Medum Riga, Lisht, &c.

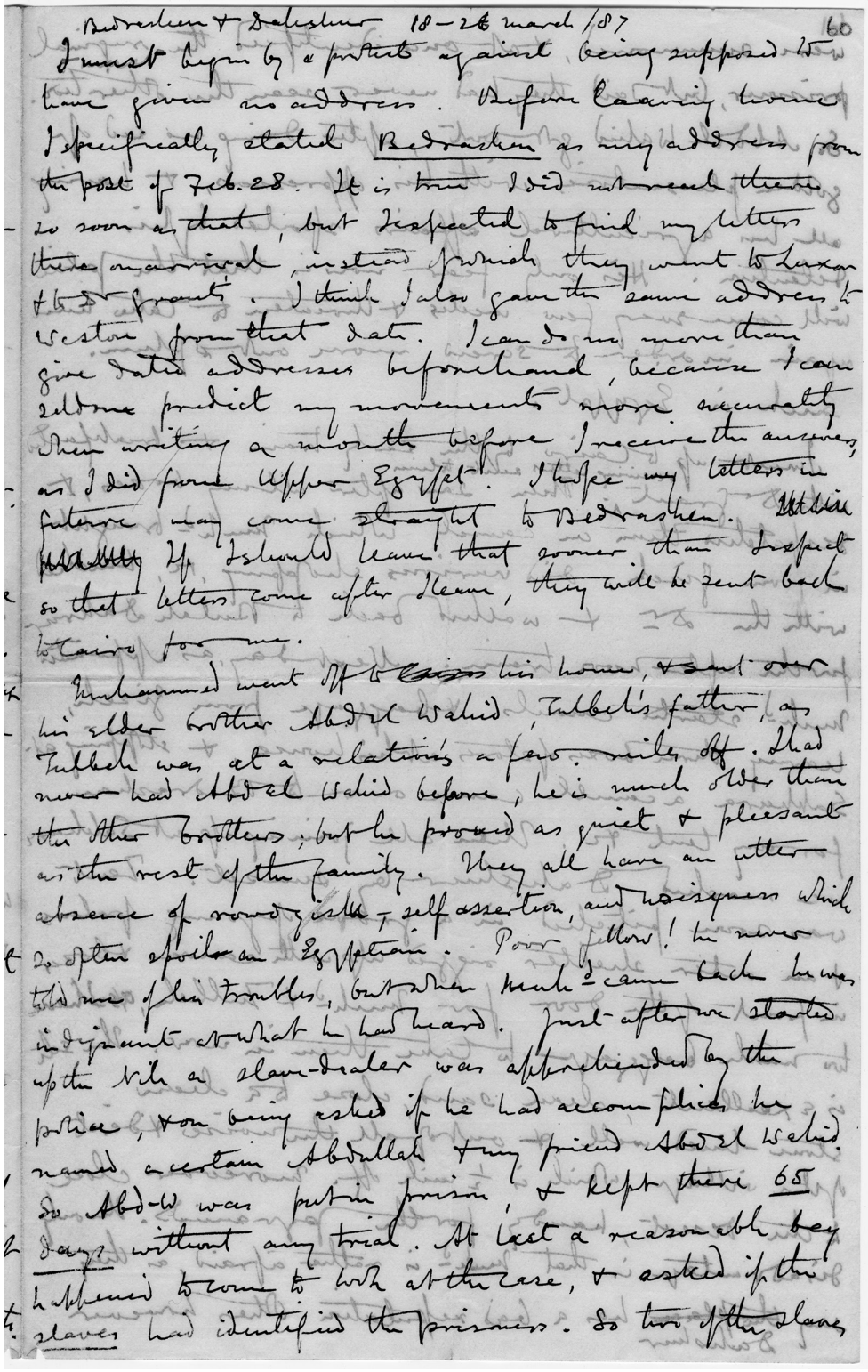
I am now pitched at Bedrashen, and have duly



received a letter addressed here from Miss Edwards. But nothing else has come, & so I fear that my dates for letters have been overlooked, and that they have gone to Luxor still, only to come back here a week later. Muh^d goes home tomorrow for three days, & is to send Tulbeh in his place. Then I shall go up to Cairo for the day, & send down my boxes from there by camel with M^d to Dahshur. Once settled there I hope to work off the survey in two or three weeks: & then get an order for uncovering the corners of the pyramids. So far I do not see any reason to detain me in Egypt after the end of April or early in May.

XIII. Bedrashein, Mar 28-87-

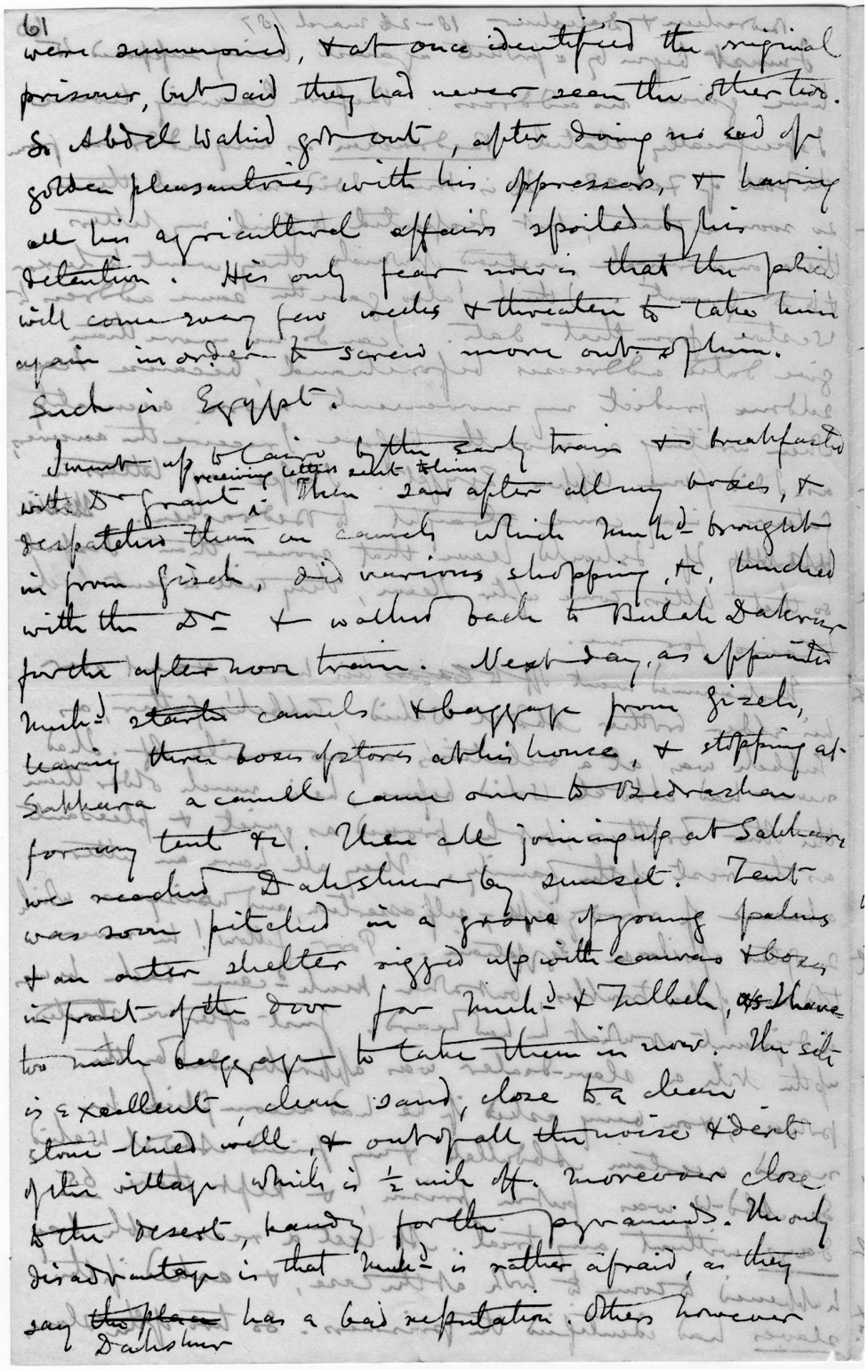
Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent R^d
Bromley, Kent–



Bedrashen & Dahshur 18 – 24/<6> March /87.

I must begin by a protest against being supposed to have given no address. Before leaving home I specifically stated Bedrashen as my address from the post of Feb. 28. It is true I did not reach there so soon as that, but I expected to find my letters there on arrival, instead of which they went to Luxor & to Dr Grant's. I think I also gave the same address to Weston from that date. I can do no more than give dated addresses beforehand, because I can seldom predict my movements more accurately when writing a month before I receive the answers, as I did from Upper Egypt. I hope my letters in future may come straight to Bedrashen. ~~It will probably~~ If I should leave that sooner than I expect so that letters come after I leave, they will be sent back to Cairo for me.

Muhammed went off to ~~Cairo~~ his home, & sent over his elder brother Abdel Wahid, Tulbeh's father, as Tulbeh was at a relative's a few miles off. I had never had Abdel Wahid before, he is much older than the other brothers; but he proved as quiet & pleasant as the rest of the family. They all have an utter absence of rowdyish;/<->self assertion, and noisyness which so often spoils an Egyptian. Poor fellow! he never told me of his troubles, but when Muhd came back he was indignant at what he had heard. Just after we started up the Nile a slave-dealer was apprehended by the police, & on being asked if he had accomplices he named a certain Abdullah & my friend Abdel Wahid. So Abd-W was put in prison, & kept there 65 days without any trial. At last a reasonable bey happened to come to look at the case, & asked if the slaves had identified the prisoners. So two of the slaves



were summoned, & at once identified the original prisoner, but said they had never seen the other two. So Abdel Wahid got out, after doing no end of golden pleasantries with his oppressors, & having all his agricultural affairs spoiled by his detention. His only fear now is that the police will come every few weeks & threaten to take him again in order to screw more out of him. Such is Egypt.

I went up to Cairo by the early train & breakfasted with Dr Grant <receiving letters sent to him>. Then saw after all my boxes, & despatched them on camels which Muhd brought in from Gizeh, did various shopping, &c, lunched with the Dr & walked back to Bulak Dakrur for the afternoon train. Next day, as appointed Muhd started camels & baggage from Gizeh, leaving three boxes of stores at his house, & stopping at Sakkara a camel came over to Bedrashen for my tent &c. Then all joining up at Sakkara we reached Dahshur by sunset. Tent was soon pitched in a grove of young palms & an outer shelter rigged up with canvas & boxes in front of the door for Muhd & Tulbeh, as I have too much baggage to take them in now. The site is excellent, clean sand, close to a clean stone-lined well, & out of all the noise & dirt of the village which is ½ mile off. Moreover close to the desert, handy for the pyramids. The only disadvantage is that Muhd is rather afraid, as they say the place Dahshur has a bad reputation. Others however

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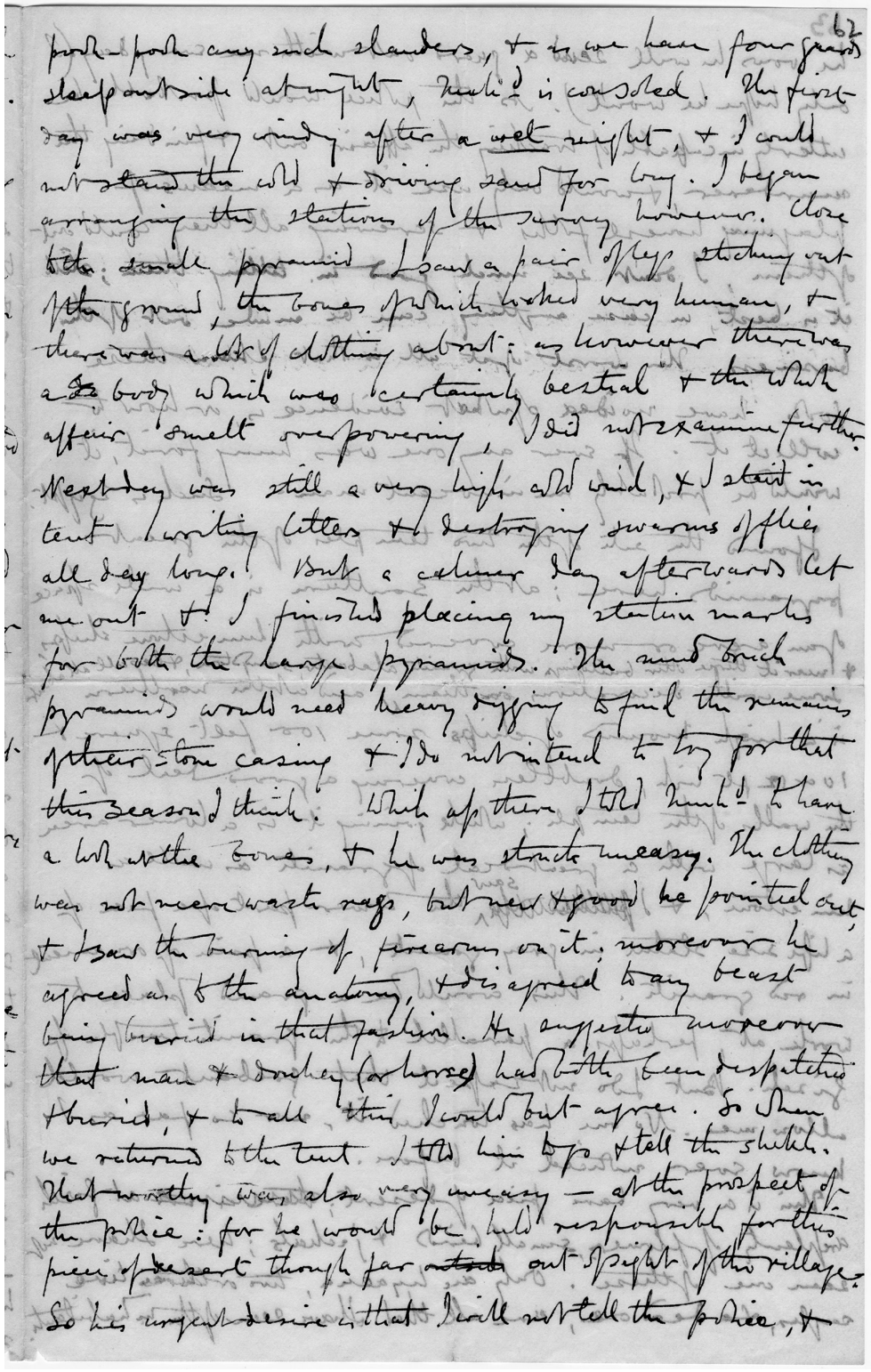

pooh-pooh any such slanders, & as we have four guards sleep outside at night, Muh[d] is consoled. The first day was very windy after a wet night, & I could not stand the cold & driving sand for long. I began arranging the stations of the survey however. Close to the small pyramid I saw a pair of legs sticking out of the ground, the bones of which looked very human, & there was a lot of clothing about: as however there was a ~~de~~ body which was certainly bestial & the whole affair smelt overpowering, I did not examine further. Next day was still a very high cold wind, & I staid in tent writing letters & destroying swarms of flies all day long. But a calmer day afterwards let me out & I finished placing my station marks for both the large pyramids. The mud brick pyramids would need heavy digging to find the remains of their stone casing & I do not intend to try for that this season I think. While up there I told Muh[d] to have a look at the bones, & he was struck uneasy. The clothing was not mere waste rags, but new & good he pointed out, & I saw the burning of firearms on it; moreover he agreed as to the anatomy, & disagreed to any beast being buried in that fashion. He suggested moreover that man & donkey (or horse) had both been despatched & buried, & to all this I could but agree. So when we returned to the tent I told him to go & tell the shekh. That worthy was also very uneasy – at the prospect of the police: for he would be held responsible for this piece of desert though far ~~outside~~ out of sight of the village. So his urgent desire is that I will not tell the police, &

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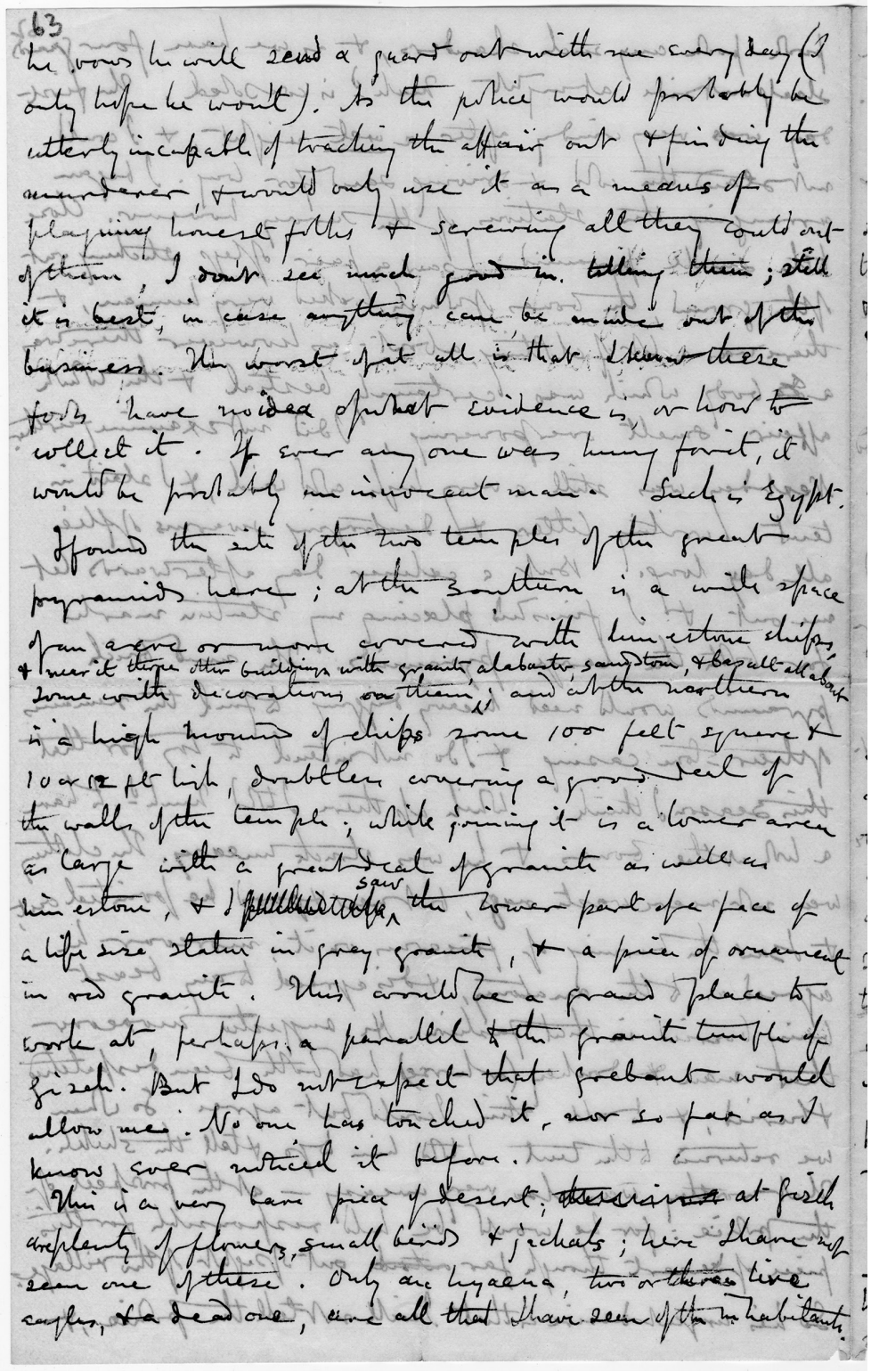
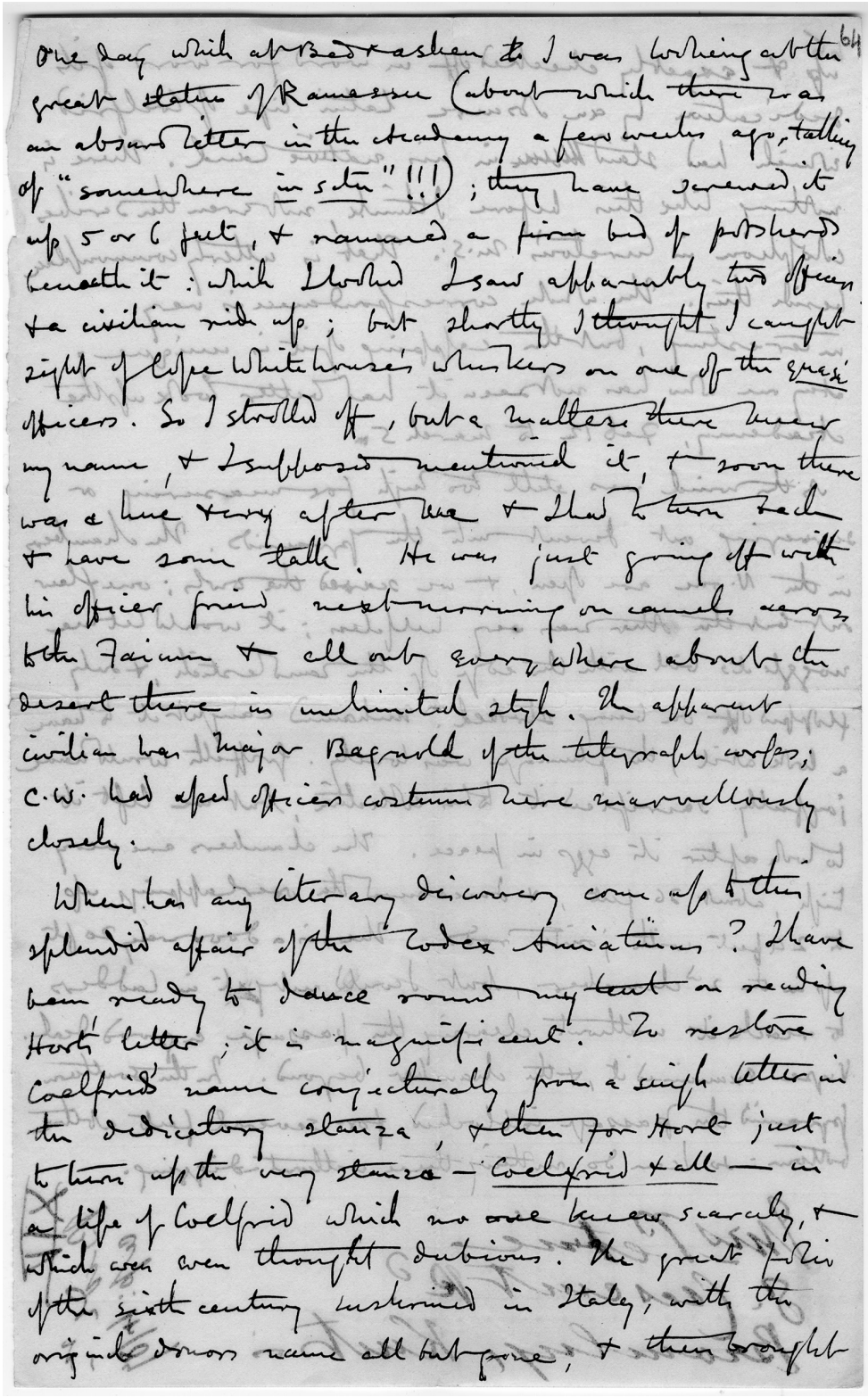


he vows he will se~~n~~/<n>d a guard out with me every day :/<(>I only hope he won't). As the police would probably be utterly incapable of tracking the affair out & finding the murderer, & would only use it as a means of playing honest folks & screwing all they could out of them, I don't see much good in telling ~~them~~; still it is best, in case anything can be made out of the business. The worst of it all is that I know these folks have no idea of what evidence is, or how to collect it. It ever any one was hung for it, it would be probably an innocent man. Such is Egypt.

I found the site of the two temples of the great pyramids here; at the southern is a wide space of an acre or more covered with limestone chips, some with decorations on them <& near it three other buildings with granite, alabaster, sandstone, & basalt all about>; and at the northern is a high mound of chips some 100 feet square & 10 or 12 ft high, doubtless covering a good deal of the walls of the temple; while joining it is a lower area as large with a great deal of granite as well as limestone, & I ~~picked at a~~ <saw> the lower part of a face of a life size statue in grey granite, & a piece of ornament in red granite. This could be a grand place to work at, perhaps, a parallel to the granite temple of Gizeh. But I do not expect that Grebaut would allow me. No one has touched it, nor so far as I know ever noticed it before.

This is a very bare piece of desert; ~~there is not~~ at Gizeh are plenty of flowers, small birds & jackals; here I have not seen one of these. Only one hyaena, two or three live eagles, & a dead one, are all that I have seen of the inhabitants.



One day while at Bedrashen ~~t~~ I was looking at the great statue of Ramessu (about which there was an absurd letter in the Academy a few weeks ago, talking of "somewhere ~~in situ~~"!!!); they have screwed it up 5 or 6 feet, & rammed a firm bed of potsherds beneath it: while I looked I saw apparently two officers & a civilian ride up; but shortly I ~~thought~~ I caught sight of Cope Whitehouse's whiskers on one of the ~~quasi~~ officers. So I strolled off, but a Maltese there knew my name, & I supposed mentioned it, & soon there was a hue & cry after me & I had to turn back & have some talk. He was just going off with his officer friend next morning on camels across to the Faium & all out everywhere about the desert there in unlimited style. The apparent civilian was Major Bagnold of the telegraph corps; C.W. had aped officer costume here marvellously closely.

When has any literary discovery come up to this splendid affair of the Codex Amiatinus? I have been ready to dance round my ~~tent~~ on reading Hort's letter; it is magnificent. To restore Coelfrid's name conjecturally from a single letter in the dedicatory stanza, & then for Hort just to turn up the very stanza – Coelfrid & all – in a life of Coelfrid which no one knew scarcely, & which was even ~~thought~~ dubious. The great folio of the sixth century enshrined in Italy, with the original donors name all but gone, & then brought

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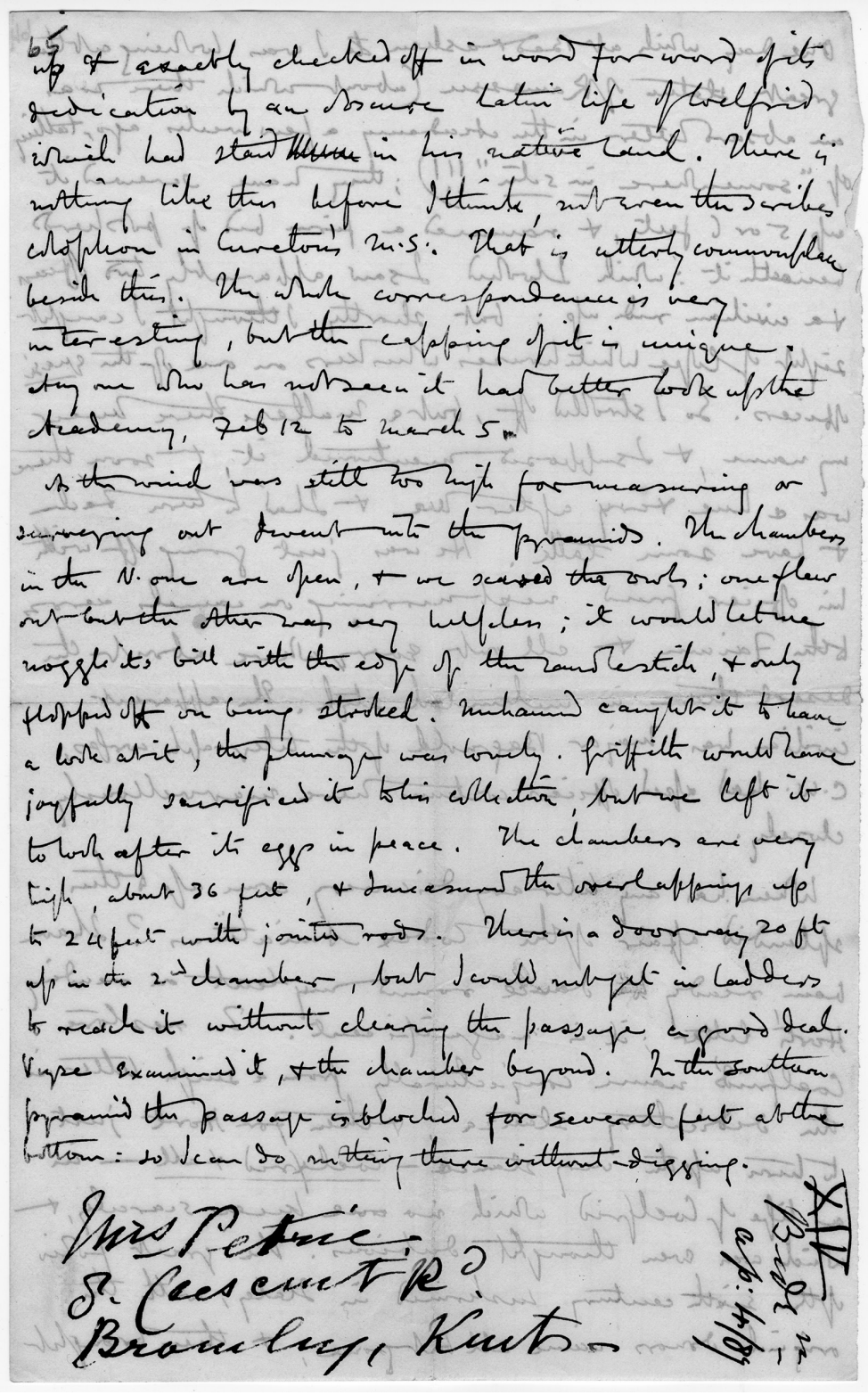
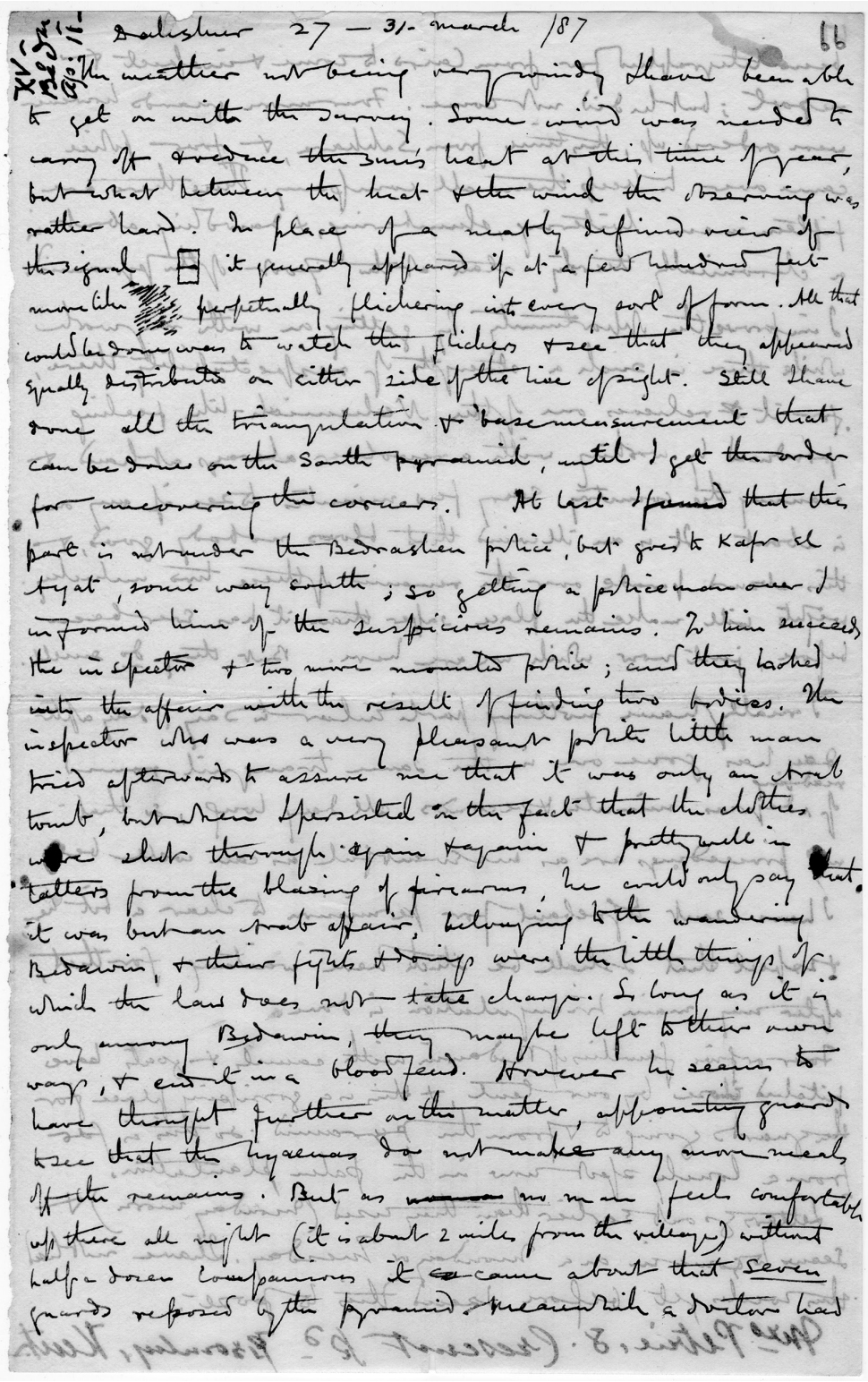


up & exactly checked off in word for word of its dedication by an obscure Latin life of Coelfrid which had staid ~~there~~ in his native land. There is nothing like this before I think, not even the scribes colophon in Cureton's M.S. that is utterly commonplace besides this. The whole correspondence is very interesting, but the capping of it is unique.
Any one who has not seen it had better look up the Academy, Feb 12 to March 5.

As the wind was still too high for measuring or surveying out I went into the pyramids. The chambers in the N. one are open, & we scared the owls; one flew out but the other was very helpless; it would let me noggle its bill with the edge of the candlestick, & only flopped off on being stroked. Muhamed caught it to have a look at it, the plumage was lovely. Griffith would have joyfully sacrificed it to his collection, but we left it to look after its eggs in peace. The chambers are very high, about 36 feet, & I measured the overlappings up to 24 feet with jointed rods. There is a doorway 20 ft up in the 2nd chamber, but I could not get in ladders to reach it without clearing the passage a good deal. Vyse examined it, & the chamber beyond. In the southern pyramid the passage is blocked for several feet at the bottom: so I can do nothing there without digging.

XIV
Bedrn
Ap: 4/87

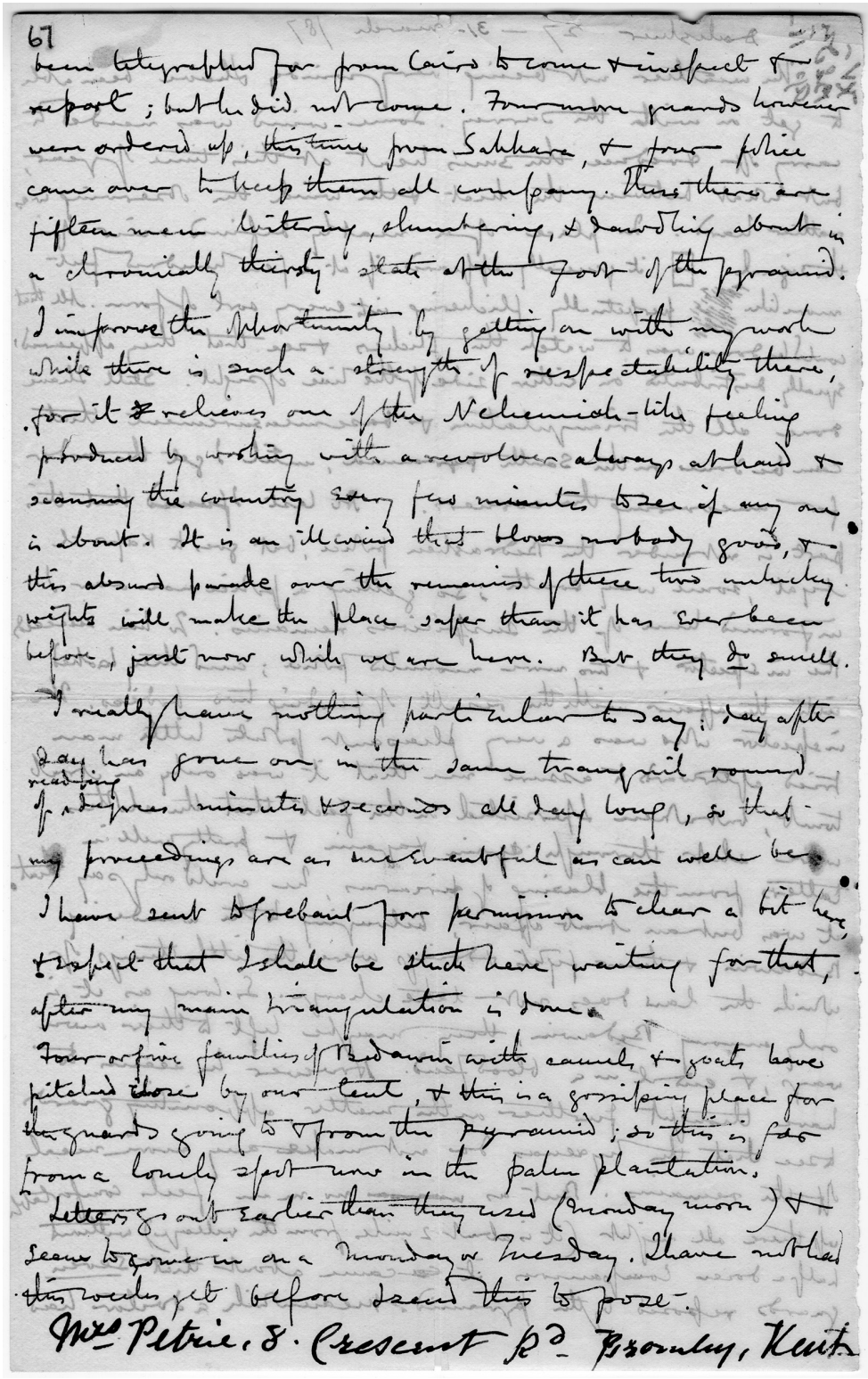
Mrs Petrie,
8. Crescent Rd
Bromley, Kent–



XV-
Bed^{n}
Ap: 11-

Dahshur 27 – 31. March /87

The weather not being very windy I have been able
to get on with the survey. Some wind was needed to
carry off & reduce the sun's heat at this time of year,
but what between the heat & the wind the observing was
rather hard. In place of a neatly defined view of
the signal [⊞] it generally appeared if at a few hundred feet
more like [⊞] perpetually flickering into every sort of form. All that
could be done was to watch the flickers & see that they appeared
equally distributed on either side of the line of sight. Still I have
done all the triangulations & base measurements that
can be done on the South pyramid, until I get the order
for uncovering the corners. At last I found that this
part is not under the Bedrashen police, but goes to Kafr el
Ayat, some way south; so getting a policeman over I
informed him of the suspicious remains. To him succeeds
the inspector & two more mounted police; and they lashed
into the affair with the result of finding two bodies. The
inspector who was a very pleasant polite little man
tried afterwards to assure me that it was only an Arab
tomb, but when I persisted in the fact that the clothes
were shot through again & again & pretty well in
tatters from the blazing of firearms, he could only say that
it was but an Arab affair, belonging to the wandering
Bedawin, & their fights & doings were the little things of
which the law does not take charge. So long as it is
only among Bedawin, they may be left to their own
ways, & end it in a blood feud. However he seems to
have thought further on the matter, appointing guards
to see that the hyaenas do not make any more meals
off the remains. But as ~~no one~~ no man feels comfortable
up there all night (it is about 2 miles from the village) without
half a dozen companions it ~~ca~~ came about that seven
guards reposed by the pyramid. Meanwhile a doctor had



been telegraphed for from Cairo to come & inspect & report; but he did not come. Four more guards however were ordered up, this time from Sakkara, & four police came over to keep them all company. Thus there are fifteen men loitering, slumbering, & dawdling about in a chronically thirsty state at the foot of the pyramid.

I improve the opportunity by getting on with my work while there is such a strength of respectability there, for it ~~d~~ relieves one of the Nehemiah-like feeling produced by working with a revolver always at hand & scanning the country every few minutes to see if any one is about. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good, & this absurd parade over the remains of these two unlucky wights will make the place safer than it has ever been before, just now while we are here. But they do smell.

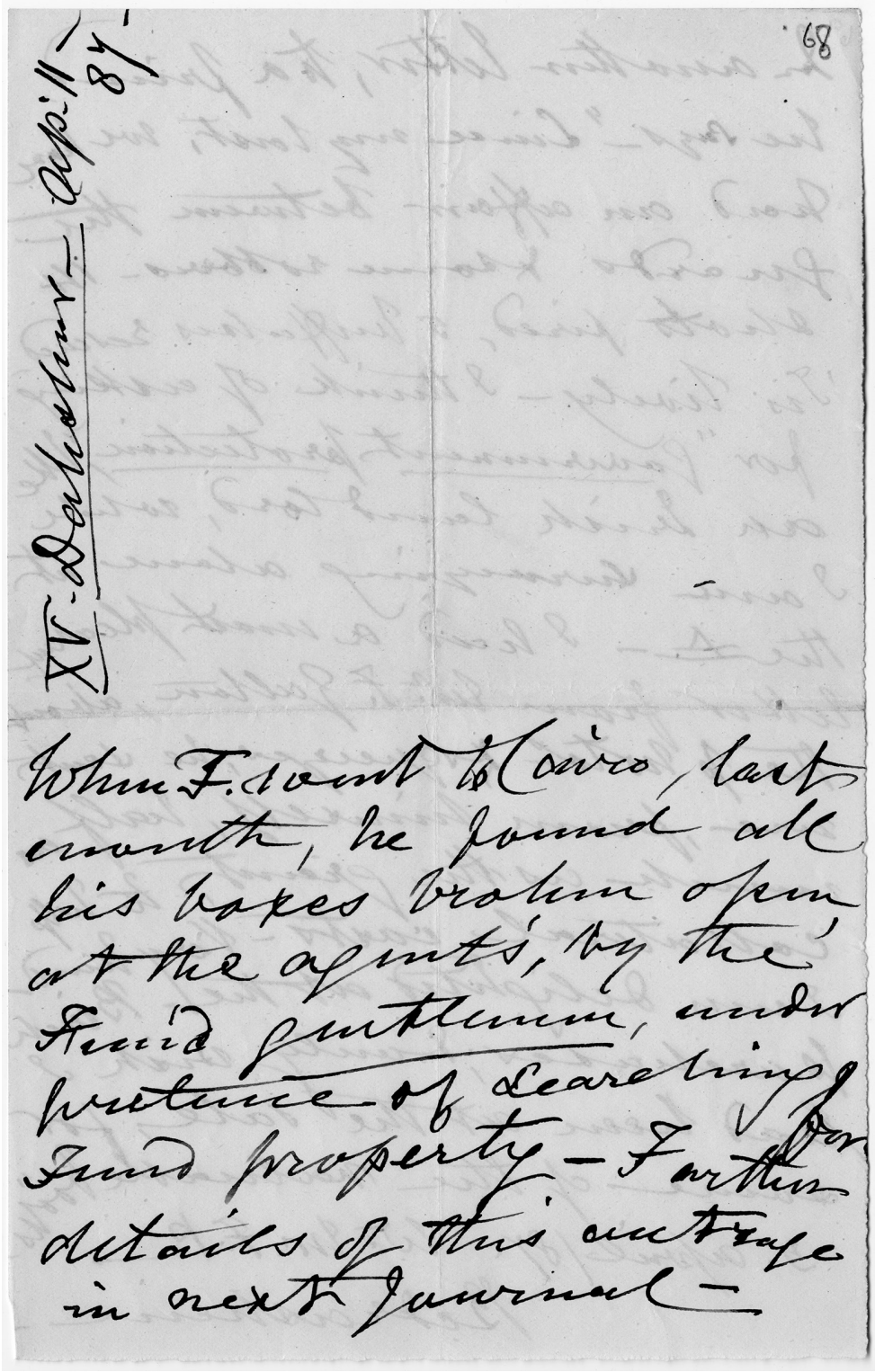
I really have nothing particular to say; day after day has gone on in the same tranquil round of <reading> degrees minutes & seconds all day long, so that my proceedings are as uneventful as can well be.

I have sent to Grebaut for permission to clear a bit here, & expect that I shall be stuck here waiting for that, after my main triangulation is done.

Four or five families of Bedawin with camels & goats have pitched ~~in~~/<clo>se by our tent, & this is a gossiping place for the guards going to & from the pyramid; so this is far from a lonely spot now in the palm plantation.

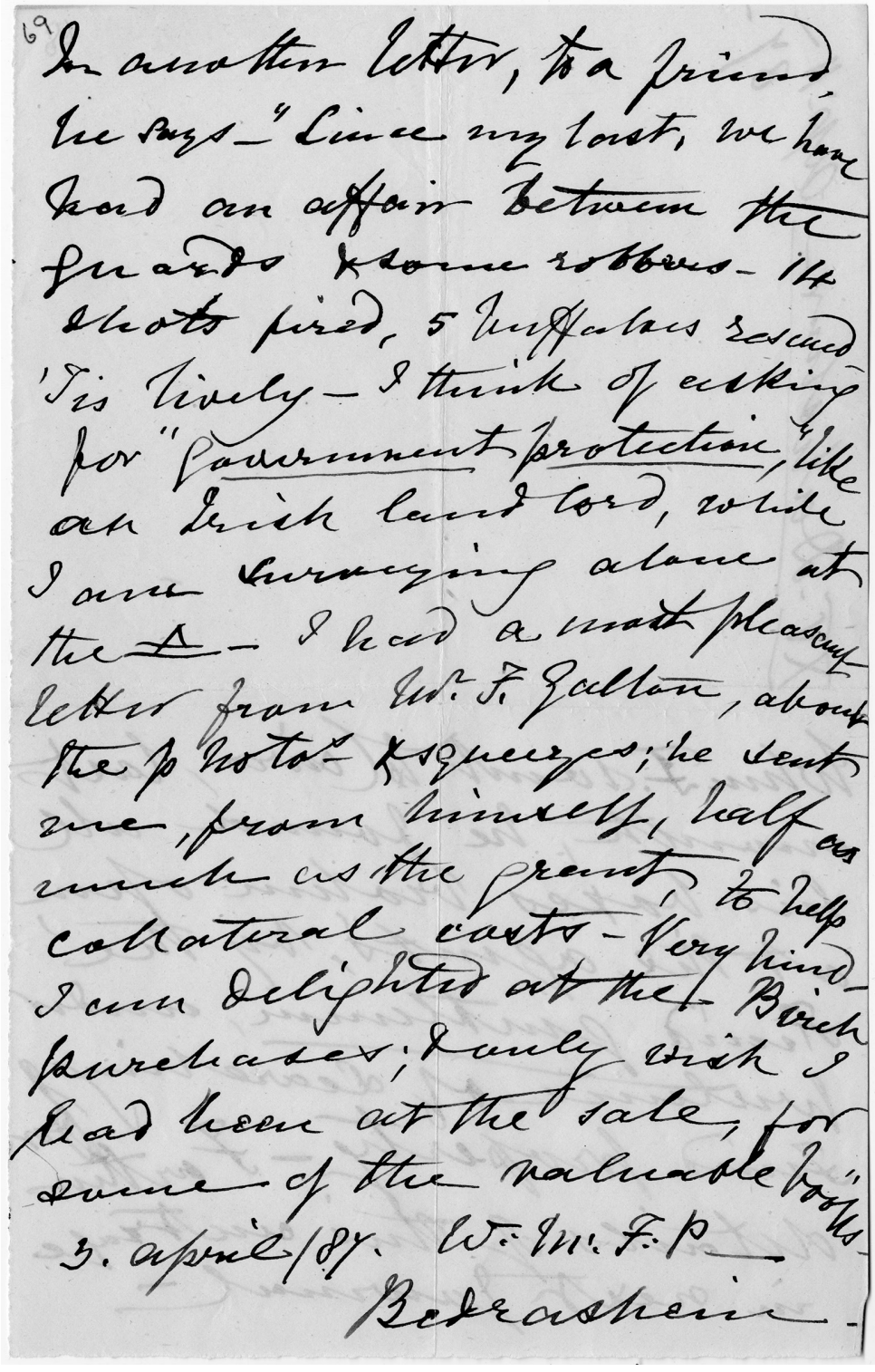
Letters go out earlier than they used (Monday morn) & seem to come in on a Monday or Tuesday. I have not had this weeks yet before I send this to post.

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Rd Bromley, Kent-



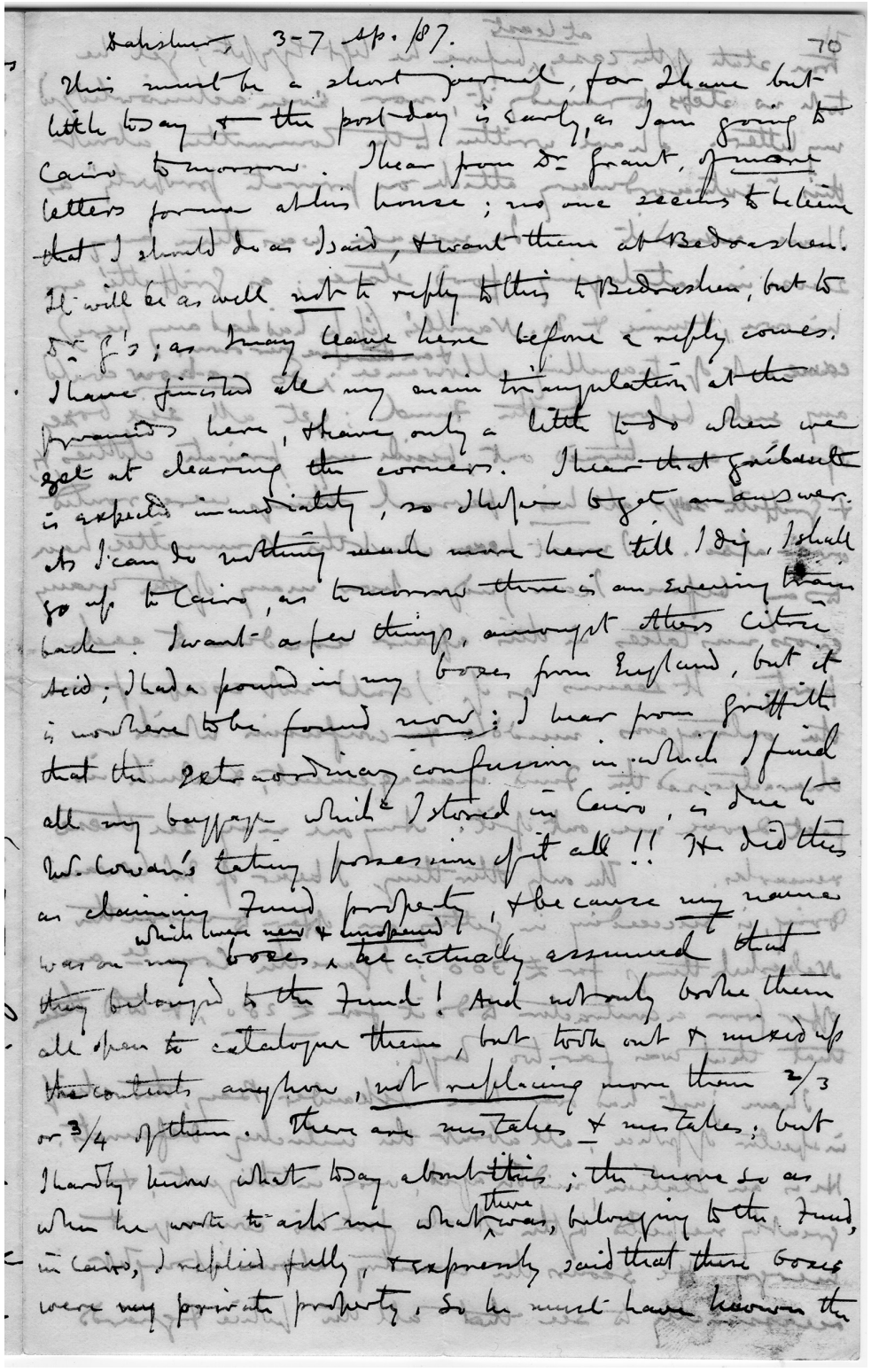
XV- <u>Dahshur-</u> Ap: 11-87-

When F. went to Cairo, last
month, he found all
his boxes broken open,
at the agent's, by the
Fund <u>gentlemen</u>, under
pretence of searching for
Fund property – F writes
details of this outrage
in next journal –



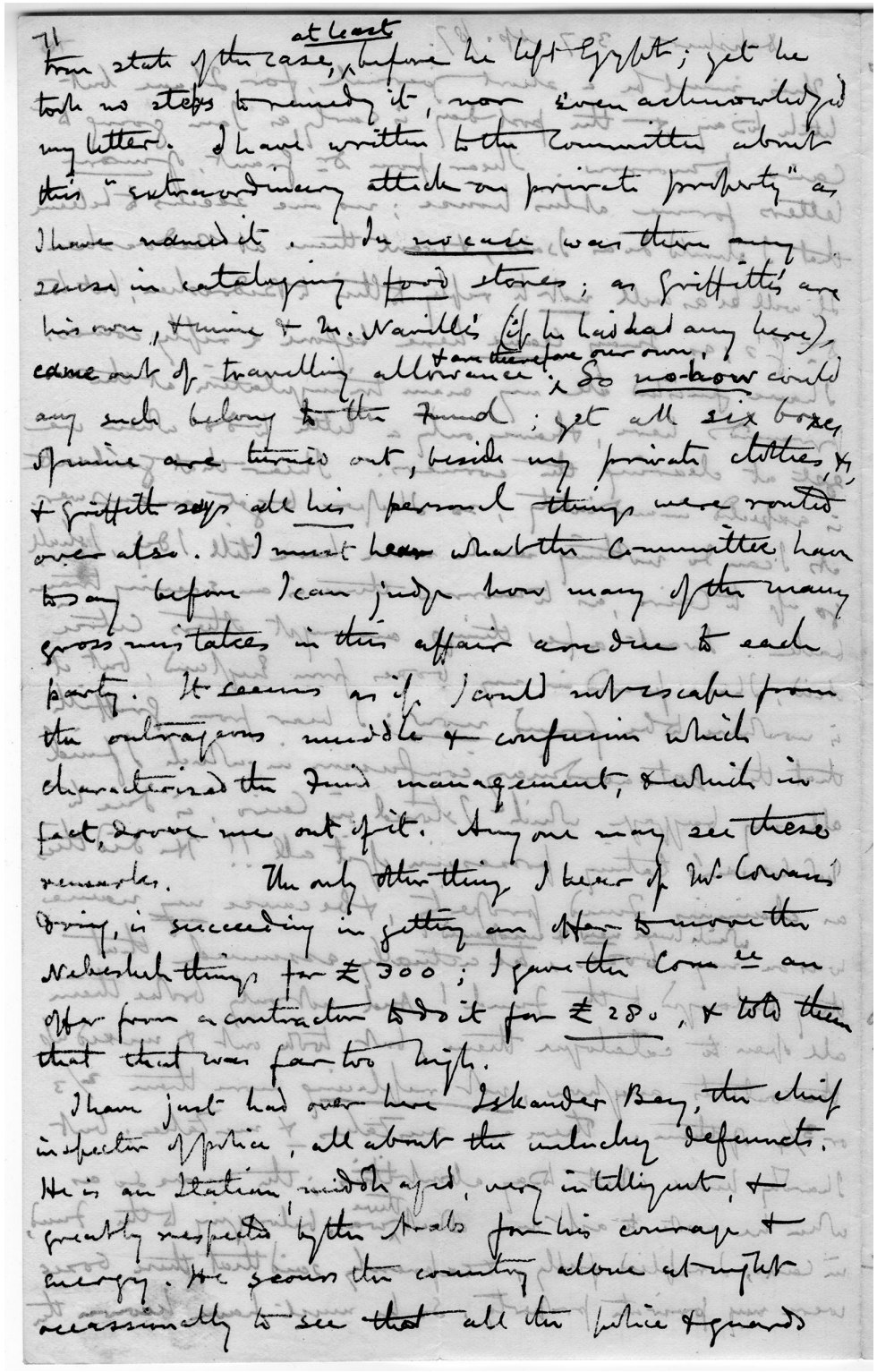
In another letter, to a friend, he says – "Since my last, we have had an affair between the guards & some robbers – 14 shots fired, 5 buffaloes rescued – 'Tis lively – I think of asking for "Government protection", like an Irish landlord, while I am surveying alone at the [𓂋]– I had a most pleasant letter from Mr F. Galton, about the photos & squeezes; he sent me, from himself, half as much as the grant, to help collateral costs – Very kind – I am delighted at the Birch purchases; I only wish I had been at the sale, for some of the valuable books."

3. April /87. W:M:F:P –
Bedrashein –



Dahshur, 3 – 7 Ap. /87.

This must be a short journal, for I have but
little to say, & the post day is early, as I am going to
Cairo tomorrow. I hear from Dr Grant of more
letters for me at his house; no one seems to believe
that I should do as I said, & want them at Bedrashen.
It will be as well not to reply to this to Bedrashen, but to
Dr G's; as I may leave here before a reply comes.
I have finished all my main triangulation at the
pyramids here, & have only a little to do when we
get at clearing the corners. I hear that Grébaut
is expected immediately, so I hope to get an answer.
As I can do nothing much more here till I dig, I shall
go up to Cairo, as tomorrow there is an evening train
back. I want a few things, amongst others Citric
Acid; I had a pound in my boxes from England, but it
is nowhere to be found now: I hear from Griffith
that the extraordinary confusion in which I find
all my baggage which I stored in Cairo, is due to
Mr Cowan's taking possession of it all!! He did this
as claiming Fund property, & because my name
was on my boxes <which were new & unopened> he actually assumed that
they belonged to the Fund! And not only broke them
all open to catalogue them, but took out & mixed up
the contents anyhow, not replacing more than 2/3
or 3/4 of them. There are mistakes & mistakes; but
I hardly know what to say about ~~it~~/<this>; the more so as
when he wrote to ask me what <there> was, belonging to the Fund,
in Cairo, I replied fully, & expressly said that these boxes
were my private property. So he must have known the



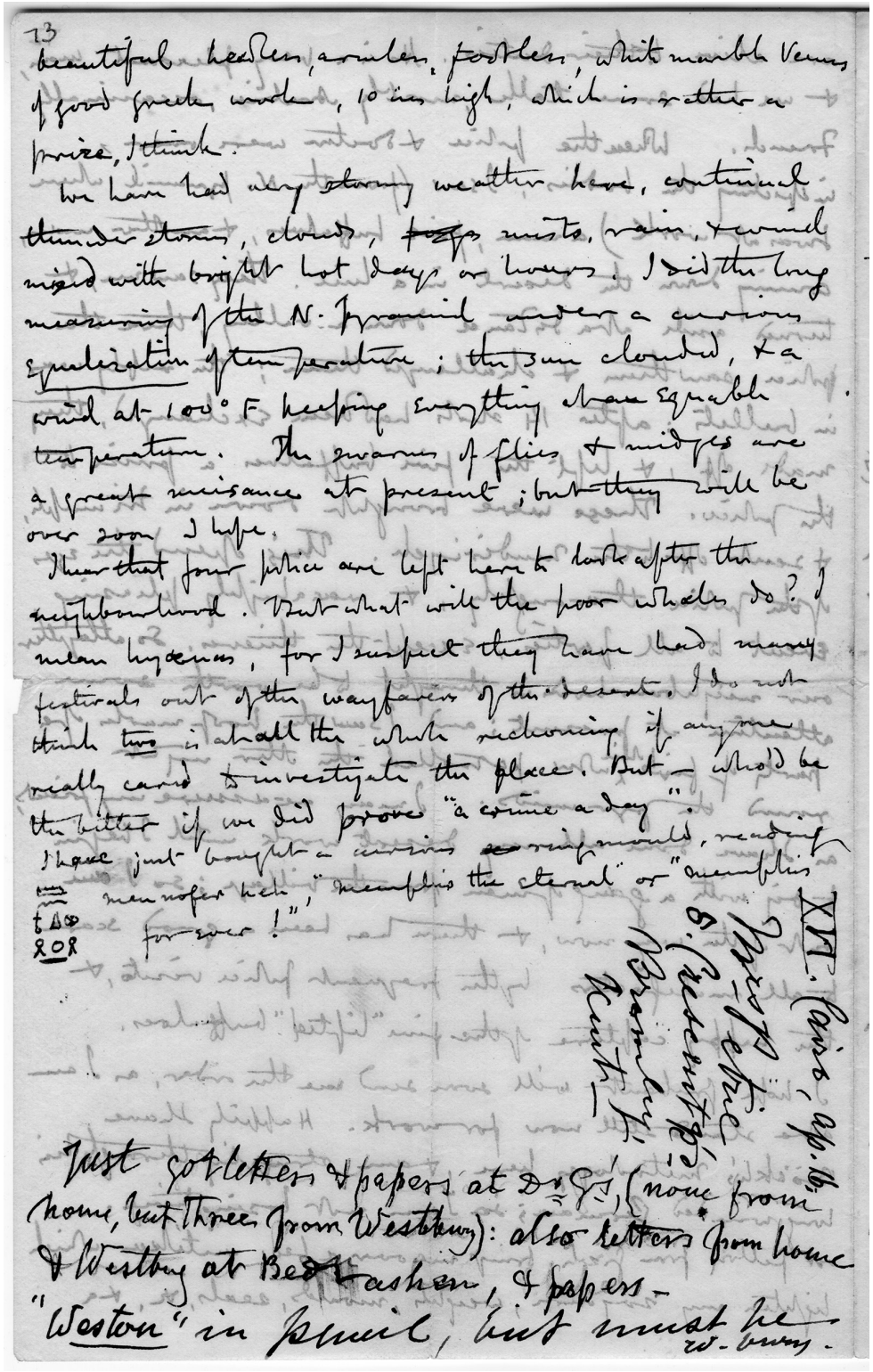
true state of the case, <at least> before he left Egypt; yet he
took no steps to remedy it, nor even acknowledged
my letter. I have written to the Committee about
this "extraordinary attack on private property" as
I have named it. In no case was there any
sense in cataloguing food stores; as Griffith's are
his own, & mine & M. Naville's (if he has/<d> a/<h>ad any here),
on/<came> out of travelling allowances. <& are therefore our own.>
So no-how could
any such belong to the Fund; yet all six boxes
of mine are turned out, besides my private clothes, &c,
& Griffith says all his personal things were routed
over also. I must hear what the Committee have
to say before I can judge how many of the many
gross mistakes in this affair are due to each
party. It seems as if I could not escape from
the outrageous muddle & confusion which
characterised the Fund management, & which in
fact, drove me out of it. Any one may see these
remarks. The only other thing I hear of Mr Cowan's
doing, is succeeding in getting an offer to move the
Nebesheh things for £300; I gave the Comee an
offer from a contractor to do it for £280, & told them
that that was far too high.

I have just had over here Iskander Bey, the chief
inspector of police, all about the unlucky defuncts.
He is an Italian, middle aged, very intelligent, &
greatly respected by the Arabs for his courage &
energy. He scours the country alone at night
occasionally to see that all the police & guards

are alive to their duties. He is a very pleasant man, & we had some talk, mostly Arabic, occasionally French. When the police & doctor were over, inspecting the bodies, I saw (from the N. pyramid where I was at work) a man, five buffaloes, & another man, coming down the desert in a line. They saw me, & turned aside at a distance down a valley, there the police saw them & challenged them; the reply was in bullets: after 14 shots had been exchanged, they made off, & left the five buffaloes a prize to the police. These were brought down in triumph, & sent off to the Mudiriyeh. This opened the eyes of the police thoroughly, & was a highly pleasing event to all parties, except the thieves. So altogether our neighbourhood is thought to be worth some attention at present; and I saw the hoof marks of a party of five <police> who patrolled the other night round the pyramids. I may reassure my friends, as I have done all my desert work, until I begin to dig with a gang of men from the village; so I am out of the way now, & there has been a good scare to all malefactors by the frequent police visits, & the happy capture of the five "lifted" buffaloes.

I hope Grebaut will soon send me the order, as I am at a stand still now for work. Happily I have Böckh's Metrology here, & am struggling through his long winded German; so I am not losing time.

A fellow from Gizeh brings me over a few antikas which lighten my sojourn, weights, moulds, seals, &c, & a



beautiful headless, armless, footless, white marble Venus of good Greek work, 10 ins high, which is rather a prize, I think [📷].

We have had very stormy weather here, continual thunder storms, clouds, ~~fogs~~ mists, rain, & wind mixed with bright hot days or hours. I did the long measuring of the N. pyramid under a curious equalization of temperature; the sun clouded, & a wind at 100° F keeping everything at an equable temperature. The swarms of flies & midges are a great nuisance at present; but they will be over soon I hope.

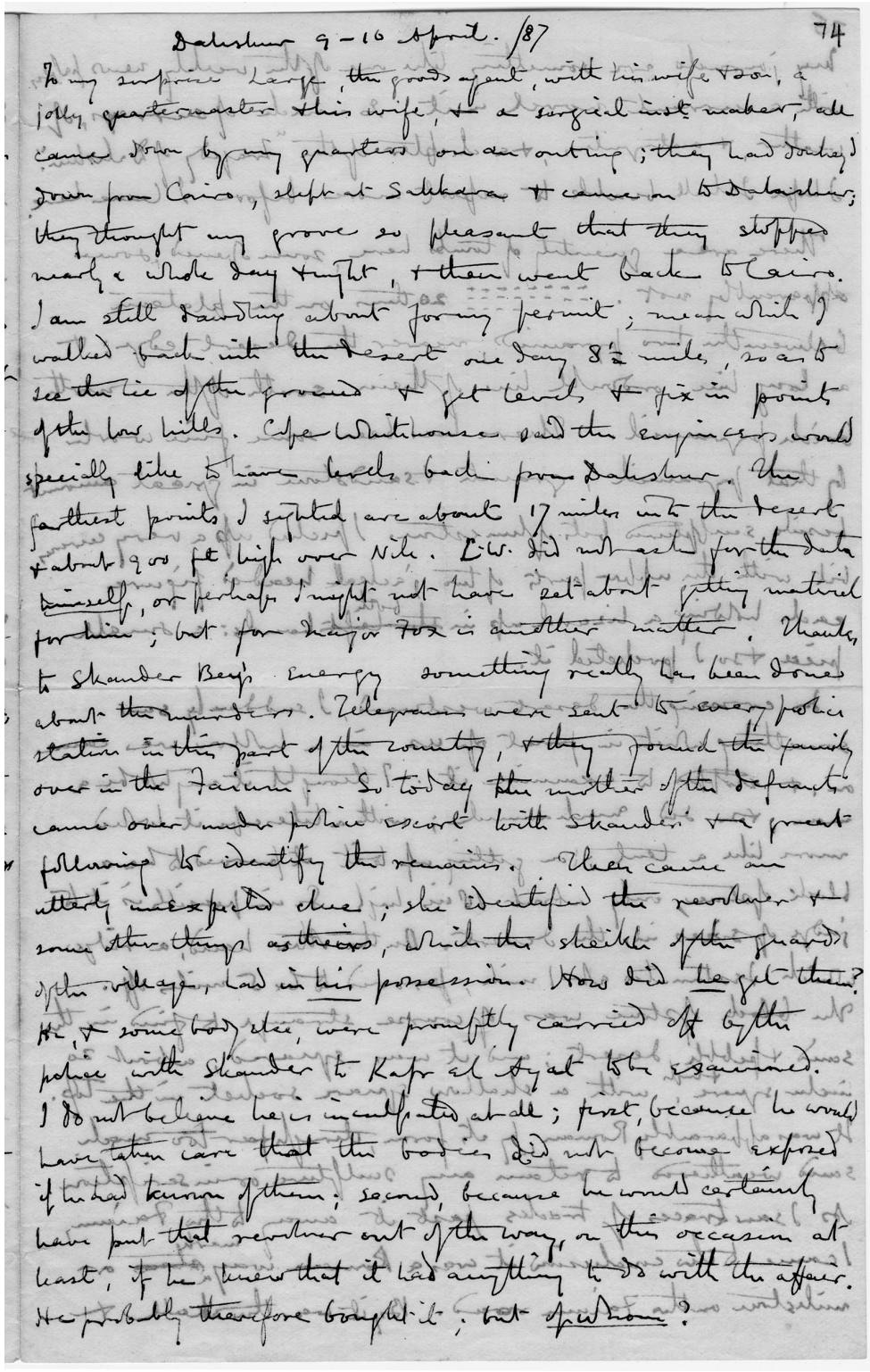
I hear that four police are left here to look after the neighbourhood. But what will the poor whales do? I mean hyaenas, for I suspect they have had many festivals out of the wayfarers of the desert. I do not think two is at all the whole reckoning if any one really cared to investigate the place. But – who'd be the better if we did prove "a crime a day".

I have just bought a curious ~~sea~~ ring mould, reading [𓋹] Men nofer heh, "Memphis the eternal" or "Memphis forever!"

XVI. Cairo, Ap. 16.

Mrs Petrie,
8. Crescent Rd
Bromley,
Kent–

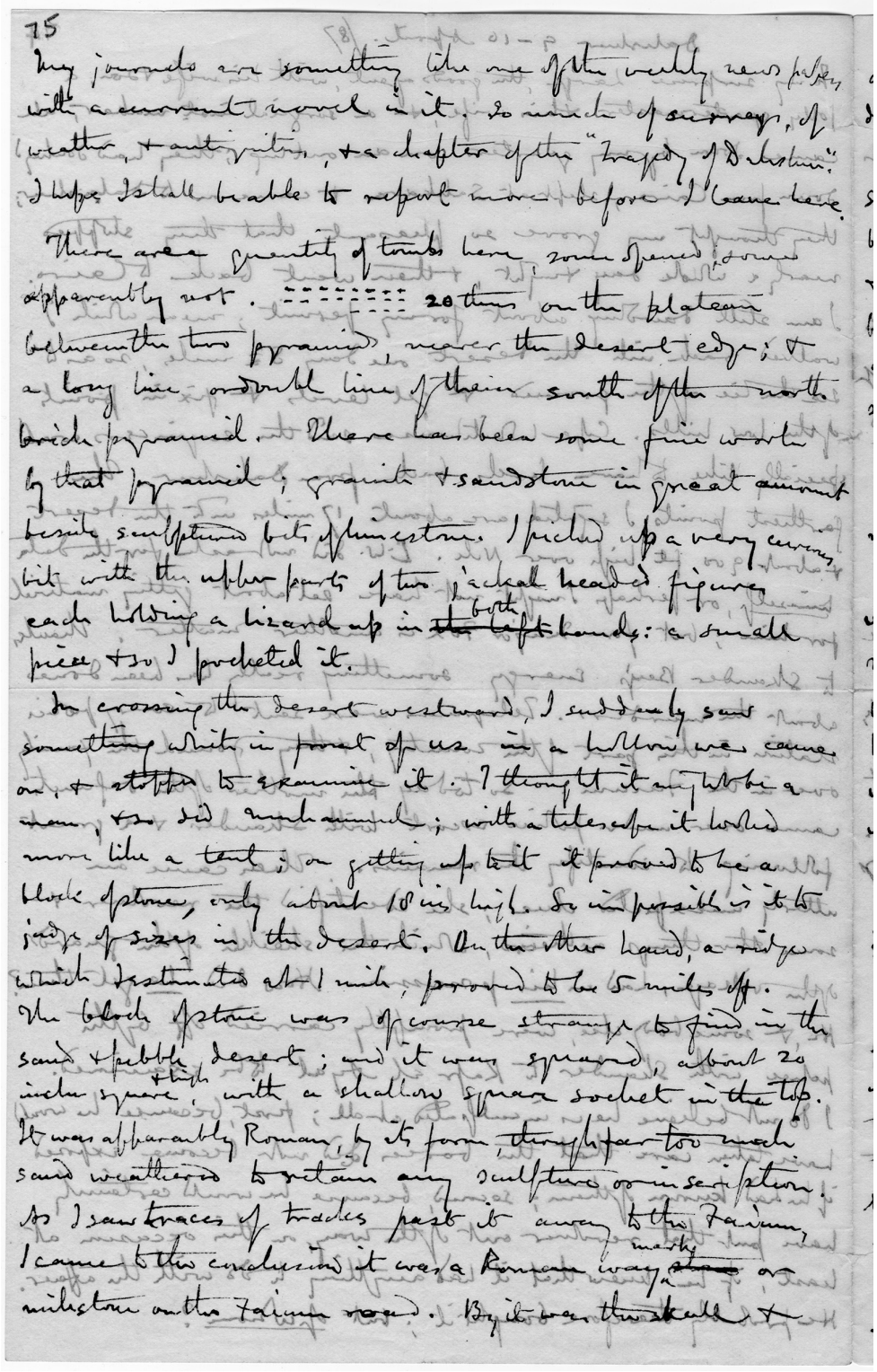
Just got letters & papers at Dr G's, (none from home, but three from Westbury): also letters from home & Westbury at Bedrashen, & papers – "Weston" in pencil, but must be W.bury.



Dahshur 9 – 16 April. /87.

To my surprise Large, the goods agent, with his wife & son, a jolly quartermaster & his wife, & a surgical ins[t] maker, all came down by my quarters on an outing; they had donkey[d] down from Cairo, slept at Sakkara & came to Dahshur; they thought my grove so pleasant that they stopped nearly a whole day & night, & then went back to Cairo.

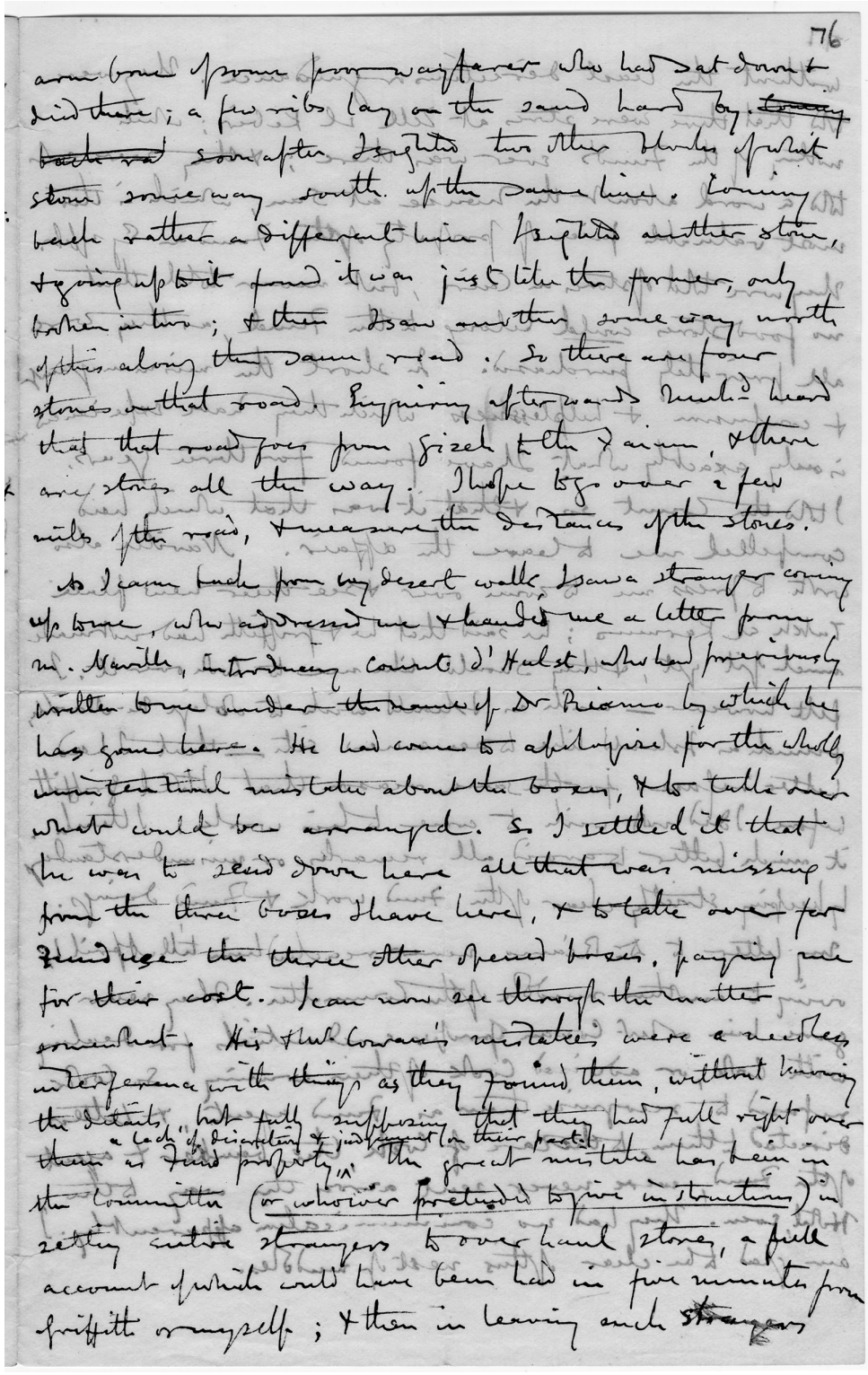
I am still dawdling about for my permit; meanwhile I walked back into the desert one day 8 ½ miles, so as to see the lie of the ground & get levels & fix in points of the low hills. Cope Whitehouse said the engineers would specially like to have levels back from Dahshur. The farthest points I sighted are about 17 miles into the desert & about 900 ft high over Nile. C.W. did not ask for the data himself, or perhaps I might not have set about getting material for him; but for Major Fox is another matter. Thanks to Skander Bey's energy something really has been done about the murders. Telegrams were sent to every police station in this part of the country, & they found the family over in the Faium. So today ~~an~~/<th>e mother of the defuncts came over under police escort with Skander & a great following to identify the remains. Then came an utterly unexpected clue; she identified the revolver & some other things as the[m]/<irs>, which the sheikh of the guards of the village, had in ~~his~~ possession. How did he get them? He, & somebody else, were promptly carried off by the police with Skander to Kafr el Ayat to be examined. I do not believe he is inculpated at all; first, because he would have taken care that the bodies did not become exposed if he had known of them; second, because he would certainly have put that revolver out of the way, on this occasion at least, if he knew that it had anything to do with the affair. He probably therefore bought it; but of whom?



My journals are something like one of the weekly newspapers with a current novel in it. So much of surveys, of weather, & antiquities, & a chapter of the "Tragedy of Dahshur". I hope I shall be able to report more before I leave here.

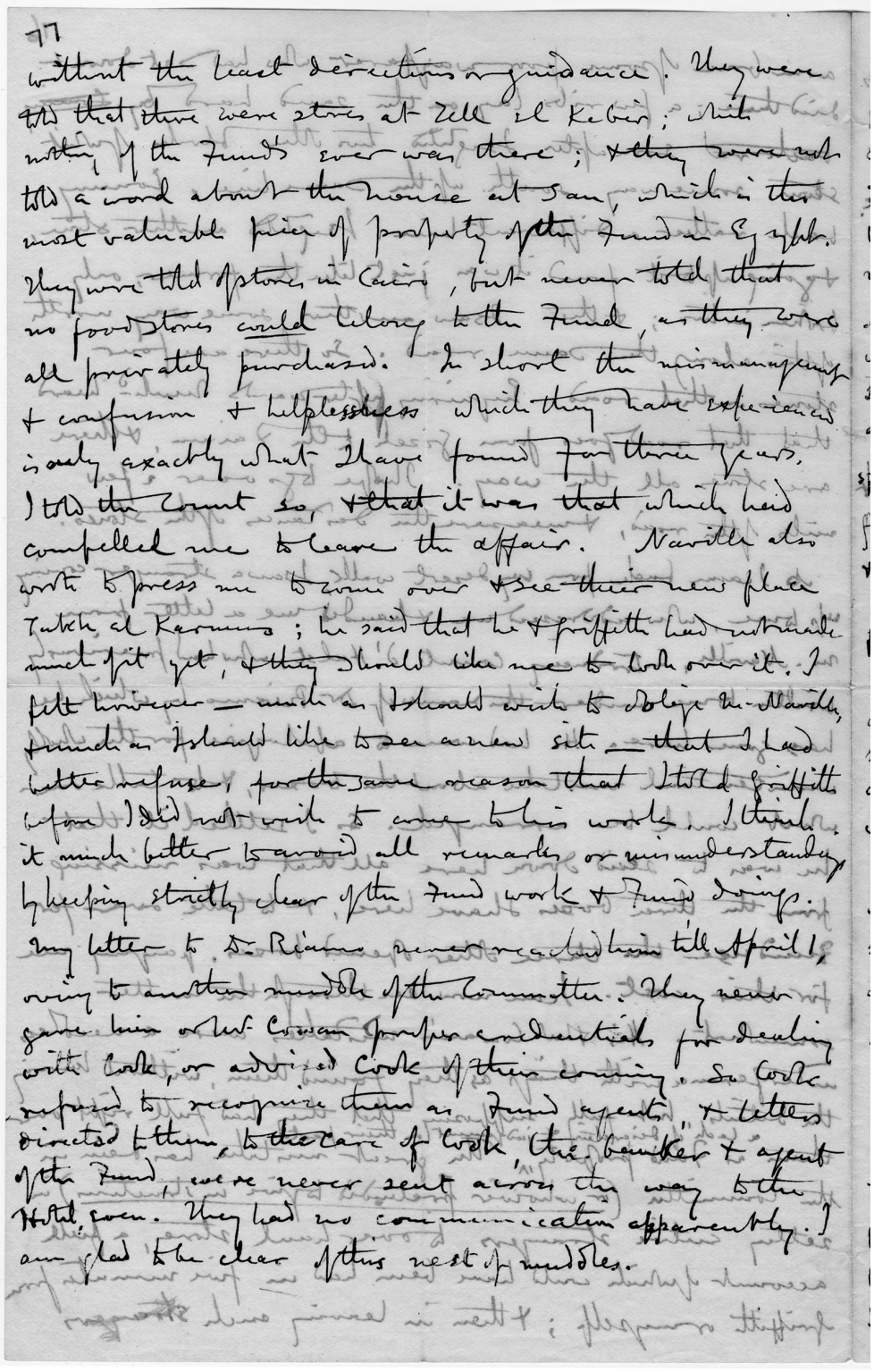
There are a quantity of tombs here, some opened, some apparently not. [𓎛] 20 thus on the plateau between the two pyramids, nearer the desert edge; & a long line or double line of them south of the north brick pyramid. There has been some fine work by that pyramid; granite & sandstone in great amount beside sculptured bits of limestone. I picked up a very curious bit with the upper parts of two jackal headed figures each holding a lizard up in ~~the left~~ <both> hand<s>: a small piece & so I pocketed it.

In crossing the desert westward, I suddenly saw something white in front of us in a hollow we came on, & stopped to examine it. I thought it might be a man, & so did Muhammed; with a telescope it looked more like a tent; on getting up to it it proved to be a block of stone, only about 18 ins high. So impossible is it to judge of sizes in the desert. On the other hand, a ridge which I estimated at 1 mile proved to be 5 miles off. The block of stone was of course strange to find in the sand & pebble desert; and it was squared, about 20 inches square <& high>, with a shallow square socket in the top. It was apparently Roman, by its form, though far too much sand weathered to retain any sculpture or inscription. As I saw traces of tracks past it away to the Faium, I came to the conclusion it was a Roman way ~~stone~~ <mark> or milestone on the Faium road. By it was the skull &



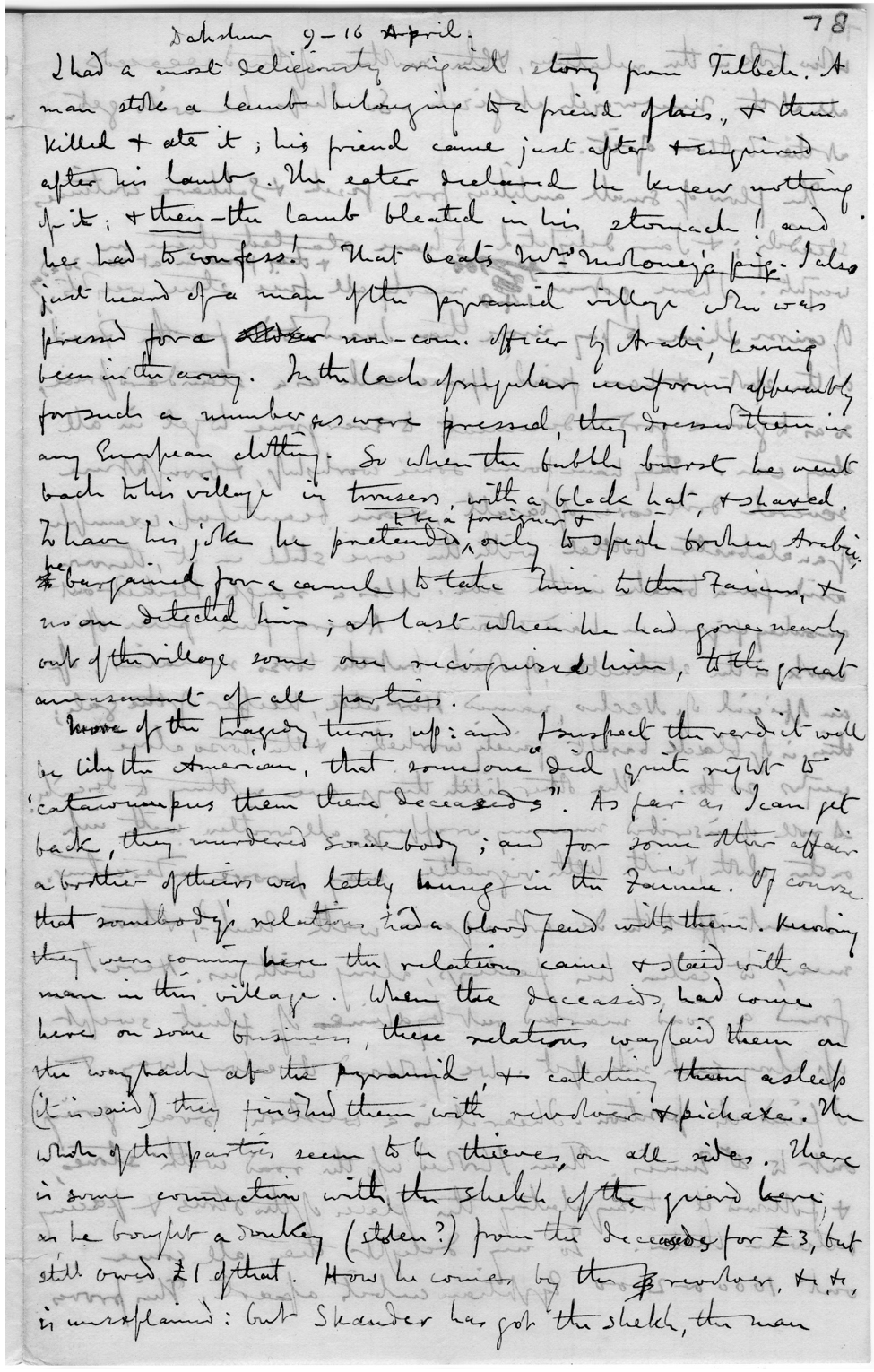
arm bone of some poor wayfarer who had sat down &
died there; a few ribs lay on the sand hard by. ~~Coming~~
~~back rat~~ Soon after I sighted two other blocks of white
stone some way south up the same line. Coming
back rather a different line I sighted another stone,
& going up to it found it was just like the former, only
broken in two; & then I saw another some way north
of this along the same road. So there are four
stones on that road. Enquiring afterwards Muh^d heard
that that road goes from Gizeh to the Faium, & there
are stones all the way. I hope to go over a few
miles of the road, & measure the distances of the stones.

As I came back from my desert walk, I saw a stranger coming
up to me, who addressed me & handed me a letter from
M. Naville, introducing Count d'Hulst, who had previously
written to me under the name of Dr Riamo by which he
has gone here. He had come to apologize for the wholly
unintentional mistake about the boxes, & to talk over
what could be arranged. So I settled it that
he was to send down here all that was missing
from the three boxes I have here, & to take over for
Fund use the three other opened boxes, paying me
for their cost. I can now see through the matter
somewhat. His & Mr Cowan's mistakes were a needless
interference with things as they found them, without knowing
the details but fully supposing that they had full right over
them as Fund property, <a lack of discretion & judgement on their
part.>. The great mistake has been in
the Committee (<u>or whoever pretended to give instructions</u>) in
setting entire strangers to over haul stores, a full
account of which could have been had in five minutes from
Griffith or myself; & then in leaving such strangers



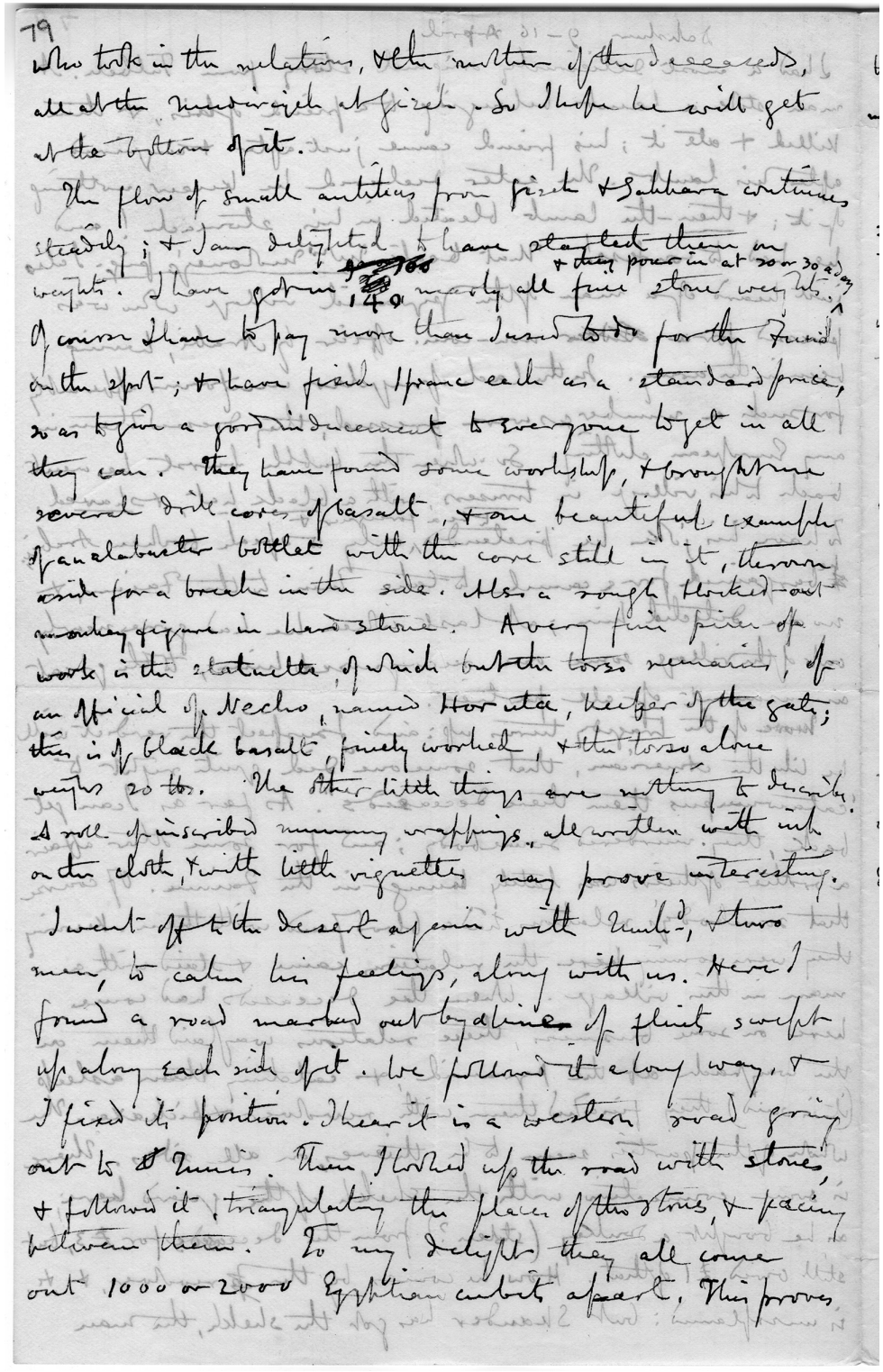
without the least directions or guidance, They were
told that there were stores at Tell el Kebir; while
nothing of the Fund's ever was there; & they were not
told a word about the house at San, which is the
most valuable piece of property of the Fund in Egypt.
They were told of stores in Cairo, but never told that
no foodstores <u>could</u> belong to the Fund, as they were
all privately purchased. In short the mismanagement
& confusion & helplessness which they have experienced
is only exactly what I have found for three years.
I told the Count so, & that it was that which had
compelled me to leave the affair. Naville also
wrote to press me to come over & see their new place
Tukh el Karmus; he said that he & Griffith had not made
much of it yet, & they should like me to look over it. I
felt however – much as I should wish to oblige M. Naville,
& much as I should like to see a new site – that I had
better refuse, for the same reason that I told Griffith
before I did not wish to come to his work. I think
it much better to avoid all remarks or misunderstandings
by keeping strictly clear of the Fund work & Fund doings.

My letter to Dr Riamo never reached him till April 1,
owing to another muddle of the Committee. They never
gave him or Mr Cowan proper credentials for dealing
with Cook, or advised Cook of their coming. So Cook
refused to recognise them as Fund agents, & letters
directed to them, to the care of Cook, the banker & agent
of the Fund, were never sent across the way to the
Hotel, even. They had no communication apparently. I
am glad to be clear of this nest of muddles.



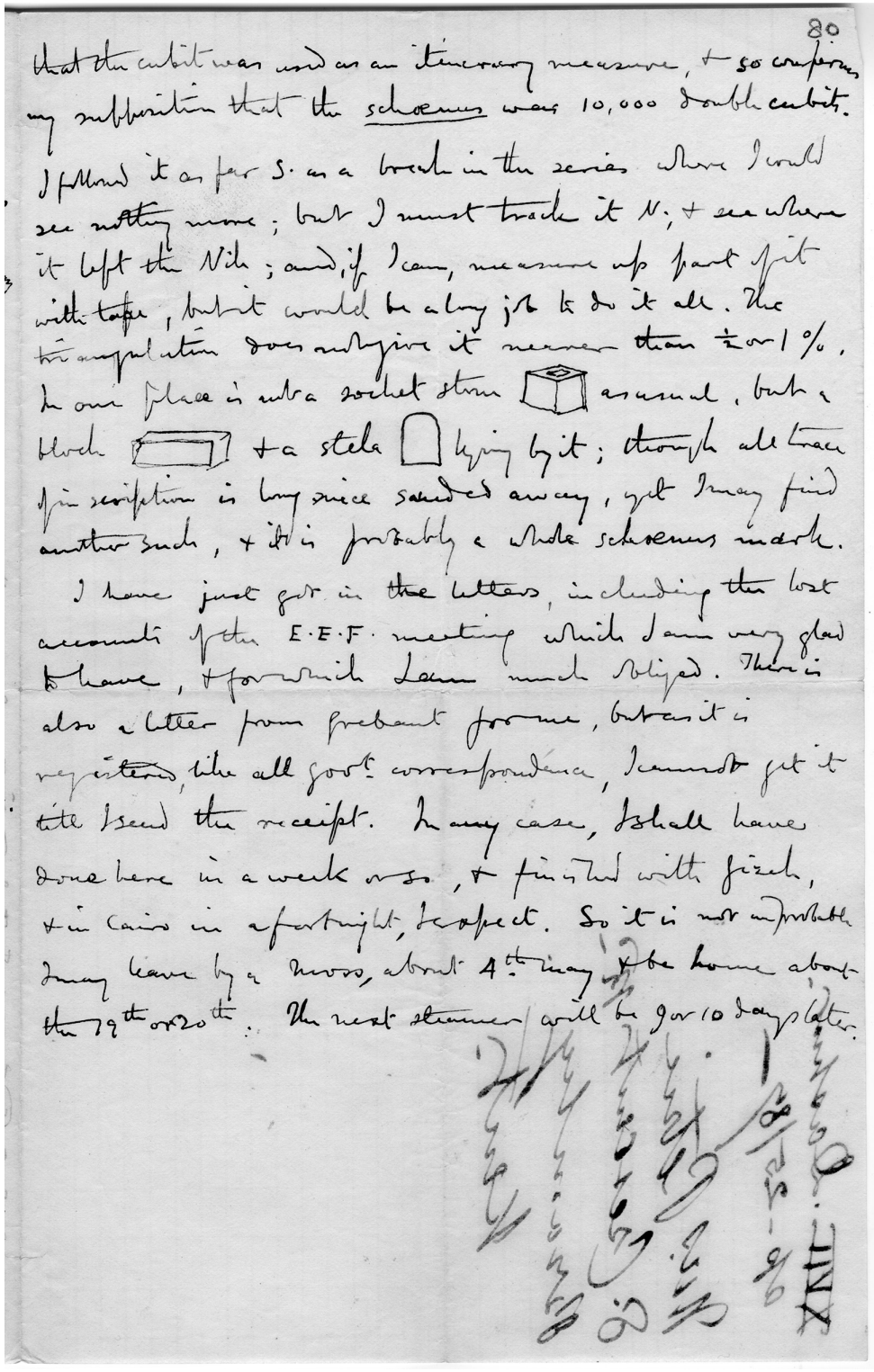
I had a most deliciously original story from Tulbeh. A man stole a lamb belonging to a friend of his, & then killed & ate it; his friend came just after & enquired after his lamb. The eater declared he knew nothing of it; & then – the lamb bleated in his stomach! And he had to confess! That beats Mrs Moloney's pig. I also just heard of a man of the pyramid village who was pressed for a ~~soldier~~ non-com. officer by Arabi, having been in the army. In the lack of regular uniforms apparently for such a number as were pressed, they dressed them in any European clothing. So when the bubble burst he went back to his village in trousers, with a black hat, & shaved. To have his joke he pretended <to be a foreigner &> only to speak broken Arabic;
~~&~~ <he> bargained for a camel to take him to the Faiyum, & no one detected him; at last when he had gone nearly out of the village some one recognised him, to the great amusement of all parties.

More of the tragedy turns up: and I suspect the verdict will be like the American, that someone "did quite right to catawumpus them there deceac/<c>eds". As far as I can get back, they murdered somebody; and for some other affair a brother of theirs was lately hung in the Faiyum. Of course that somebody's relations had a blood feud with them. Knowing they were coming here the relations came & staid with a man in this village. When the deceaseds had come here on some business, these relations waylaid them on the way back at the pyramid, & catching them asleep (it is said) they finished them with revolver & pickaxe. The whole of the parties seem to be thieves, on all sides. There is some connection with the sheikh of the guard here as he bought a donkey (stolen?) from the dece~~acde~~/<aseds> for £3, but still owed £1 of that. How he comes by the ~~p~~ revolver, &c, &c, is unexplained: but Skander has got the sheikh, the man



who took in the relations, & the mother of the deceaseds,
all at the Mudiriyeh at Gizeh. So I hope he will get
at the bottom of it.

The flow of small antikas from Gizeh & Sakkara continues
steadily; & I am delighted to have started them
on weights. I have got in ~~58~~ <~~90 or 100~~> <140> nearly all full stone
weights <& they pour in at 20 or 30 a day>.
Of course I have to pay more than I used to do for the Fund
on the spot; & have fixed 1 franc each as a standard price,
so as to give a good inducement to everyone to get in all
they can. They have found some workshop, & brought me
several drill cores of basalt, & one beautiful example
of an alabaster bottlet with the core still in it, thrown
aside for a break in the side. Also a rough blocked-out
monkey figure in hard stone. A very fine piece of
work is the statuette, of which but the torso remains, of
an official of Necho, named Hor uta, keeper of the gate;
this is of black basalt, finely worked, & the torso alone
weighs 20 lbs [📷]. The other little things are nothing to describe.
A roll of inscribed mummy wrappings, all written with ink
on the cloth, & with little vignettes may prove interesting.
I went off to the desert again with Muh^{d}, & two
men, to calm his feelings, along with us. Here I
found a road marked out by <a> lines of flints swept
up along each side of it. We followed it a long way, &
I fixed its position. I hear it is a western road going
out to ☥ Tunis. Then I looked up the road with stones,
& followed it, triangulating the places of the stones, & pacing
between them. To my delight they all come
out 1000 or 2000 Egyptian cubits apart. This proves

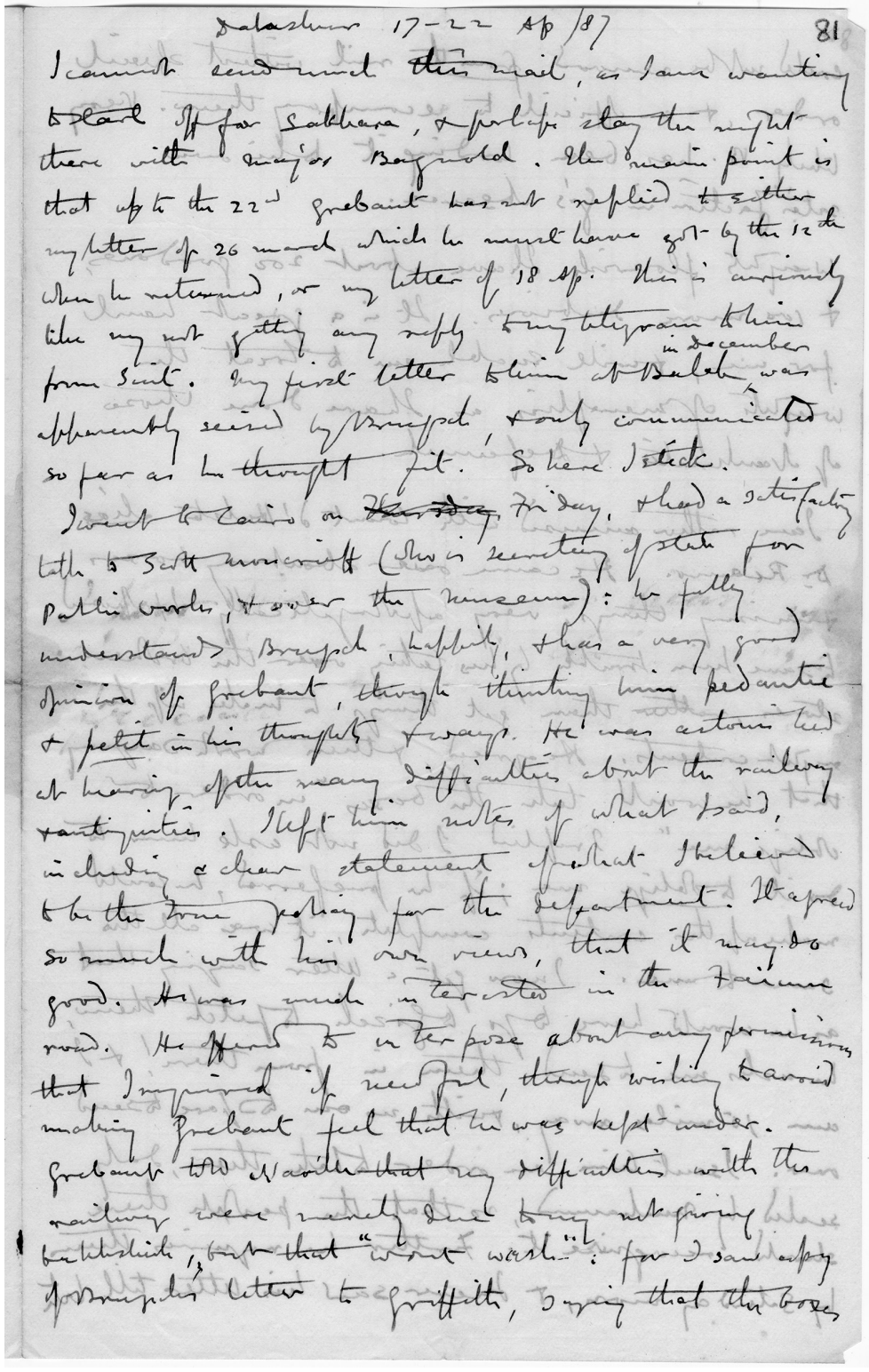


that the cubit was used as an itinerary measure, & so confirms my supposition that the schoenus was 10,000 double cubits. I followed it as far S. as a break in the series where I could see nothing more; but I must track it N., & see where it left the Nile; and, if I can, measure up part of it with tape, but it would be a long job to do it all. The triangulation does not give it nearer than ½ or 1 %. In one place is not a socket stone [𓉔] as usual, but a block [𓉔] & a stela [𓉔] lying by it; though all trace of inscription is long since sanded away, yet I may find another such, & it is probably a whole schoenus mark.

I have just got in the letters, including the lost accounts of the E.E.F. meeting which I am very glad to have, & for which I am much obliged. There is also a letter from Grebaut for me, but as it is registered, like all Gov^t correspondence, I cannot get it till I send the receipt. In my case, I shall have done here in a week or so, & finished with Gizeh, & in Cairo in a fortnight, I expect. So it is not improbable I may leave by a Moss, about 4th May & be home about the 19th or 20th. The next steamer will be 9 or 10 days later.

XVII. Dashur.
Ap. 25 /87–

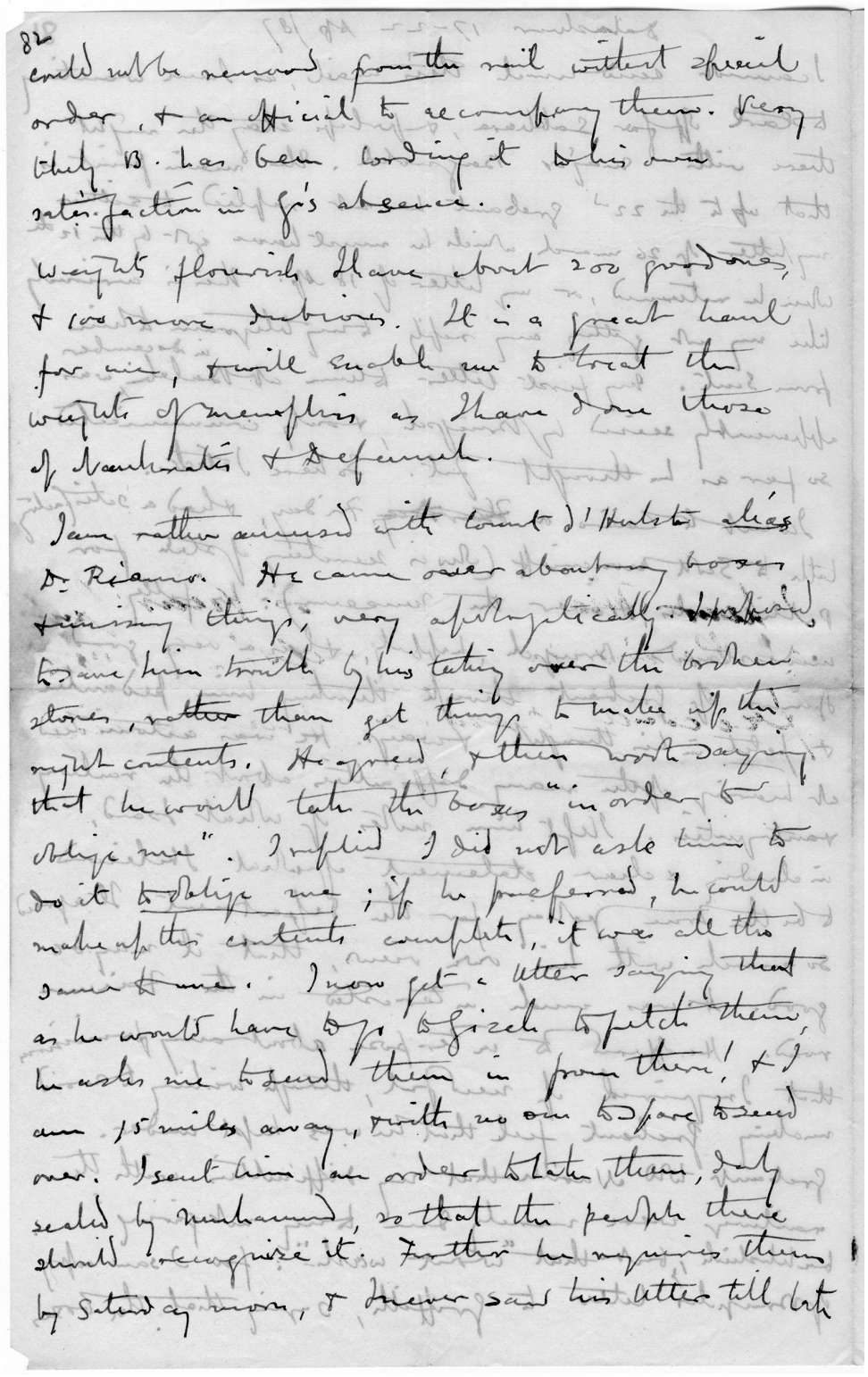
Mrs Petrie
8. Crescent Rd
Bromley
Kent-



Dahshur 17 – 22 Ap /87

I cannot send much this mail, as I am wanting to start off for Sakhara, & perhaps stay the night there with Major Bagnold. The main point is that up to the 22nd Grebaut has not replied to either my letter of 26 March which he must have got by the 12th when he returned, or my letter of 18 Ap. This is curiously like my not getting any reply to my telegram to him from Siut. My first letter to him at Bulak <in December> was apparently seized by Brugsch, & only communicated so far as he thought fit. So here I stick.

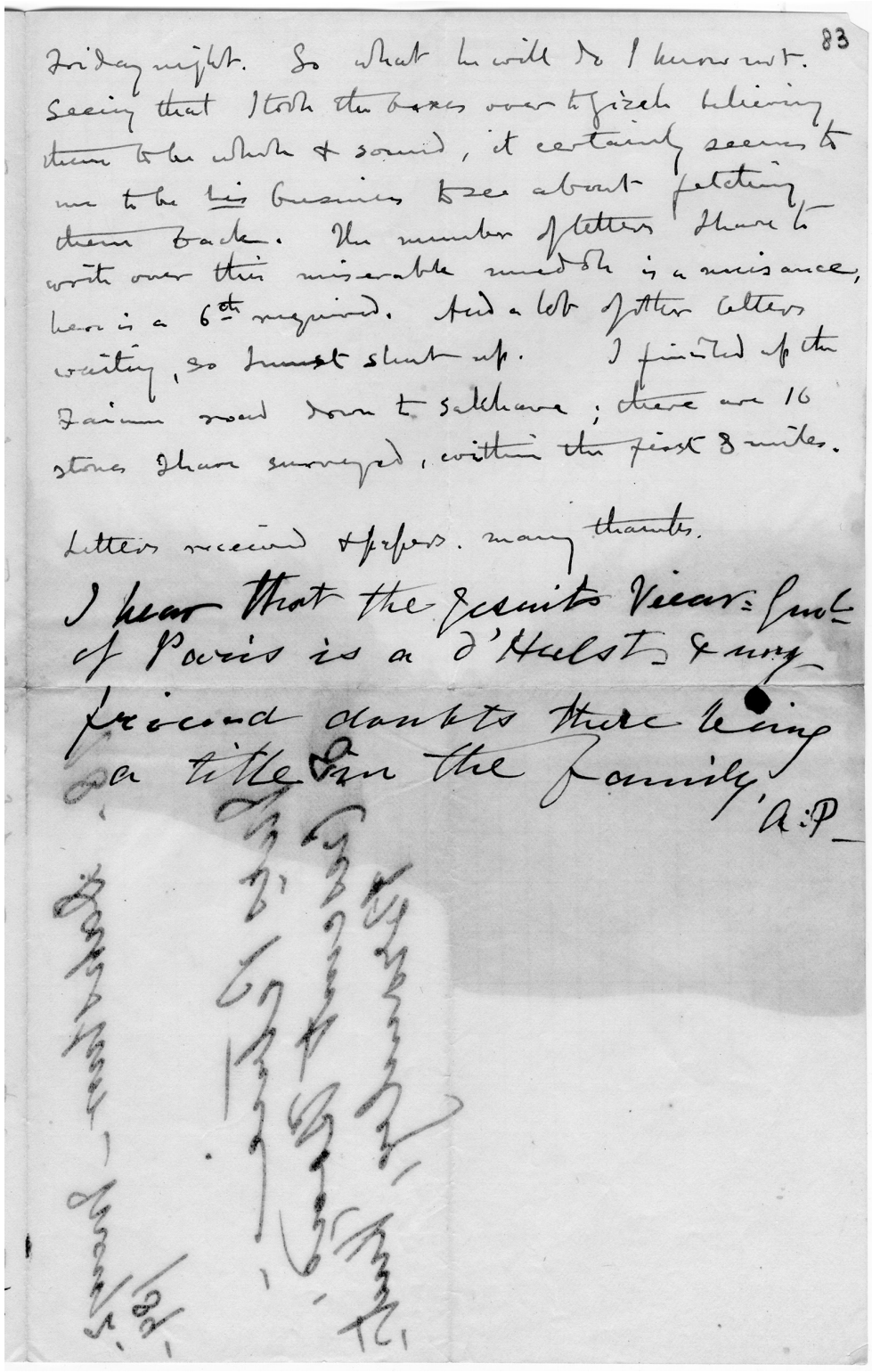
I went to Cairo on ~~Thursday,~~ Friday, & had a satisfactory talk to Scott Moncrieff (who is secretary of state for Public works, & over the Museum): he fully understands Brugsch, happily, & has a very good opinion of Grebaut, though thinking him pedantic & petit in his thoughts & ways. He was astonished at hearing of the many difficulties about the railway & antiquities. I left him notes of what I said, including a clear statement of what I believed to be the true policy for the department. It agreed so much with his own views, that it may do good. He was much interested in the Faium road. He offered to interpose about any permissions that I required if needful, though wishing to avoid making Grebaut feel that he was kept under. Grebaut told Naville that my difficulties with the railway were merely due to my not giving bakhshish, but that "wont wash": for I saw copy of Brugsch's letter to Griffith, saying that the boxes



could not be removed <u>from the</u> rail without special order, & an official to accompany them. Very likely B. has been lording it to his own satisfaction in Gr's absence.

Weights flourish I have about 200 good ones, & 100 more dubious. It is a great haul for me, & will enable me to treat the weights of Memphis as I have done those of Naukratis & Defenneh.

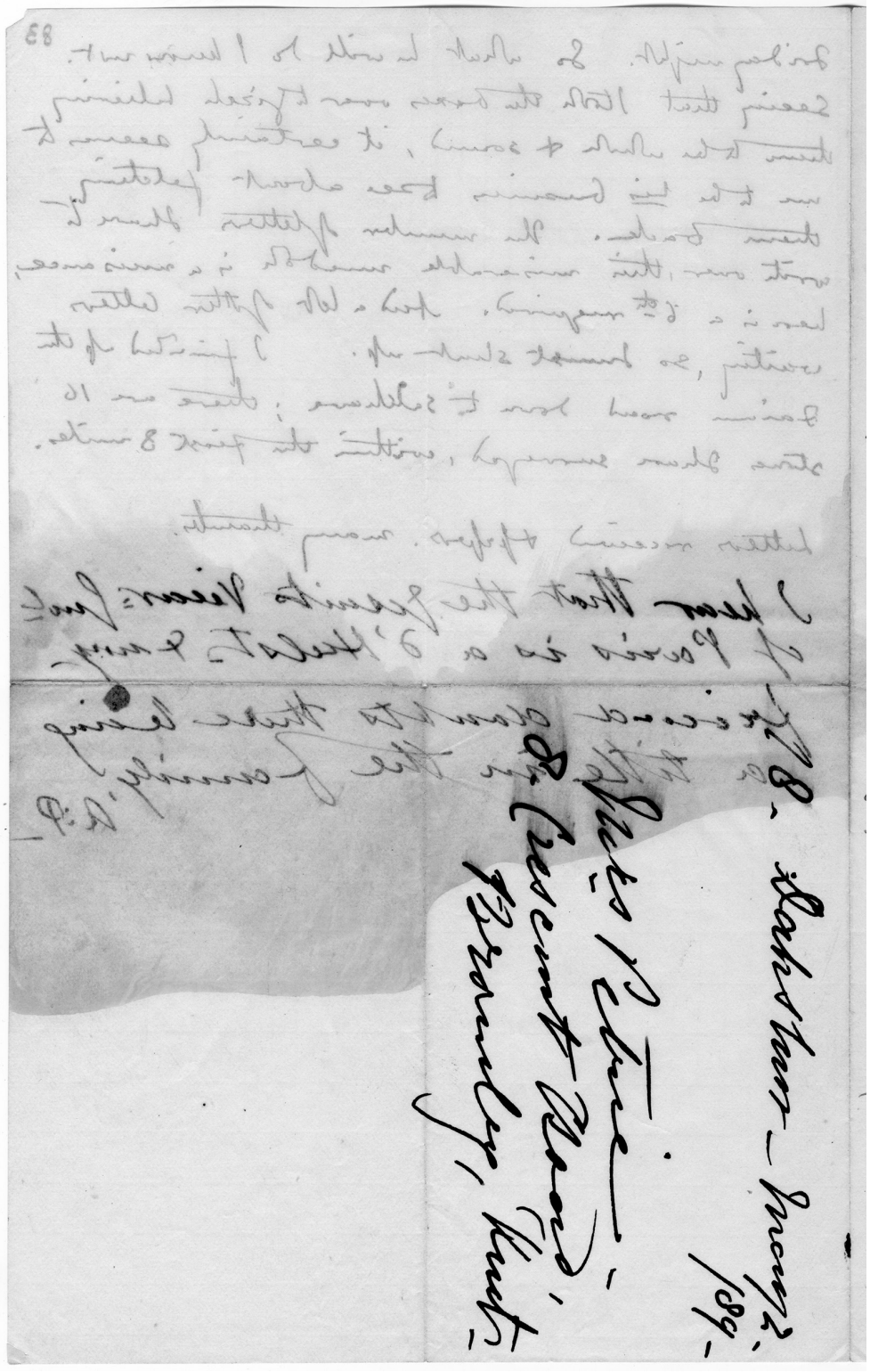
I am rather amused with Count d'Hulst <u>alias</u> D[r] Riamo. He came over about my boxes & missing things, very apologetically. I proposed to save him trouble by his taking over the broken stores, rather than get things to make up the right contents. He agreed, & then worth saying that he would take the boxes "in order to oblige me". I replied I did not ask him to do it <u>to oblige me</u>; if he preferred, he could make up the contents complete, it was all the same to me. I now get a letter saying that as he would have to go to Gizeh to fetch them, he asks me to send them in from there! & I am 15 miles away, with no one to spare to send over. I sent him an order to take them, duly sealed by Muhamud, so that the people there should recognize it. Further he requires them by Saturday morn, & I never saw his letter till late



Friday night. So what he will do I know not. Seeing that I took the boxes to Gizeh believing them to be whole & sound, it certainly seems to me to be his business to see about fetching them back. The number of letters I have to write over this miserable meddle is a nuisance, here is a 6th required. And a lot of other letters waiting, so I must shut up. I finished up the Faium road down to Sakkara; there are 16 stones I have surveyed, within the first 8 miles.

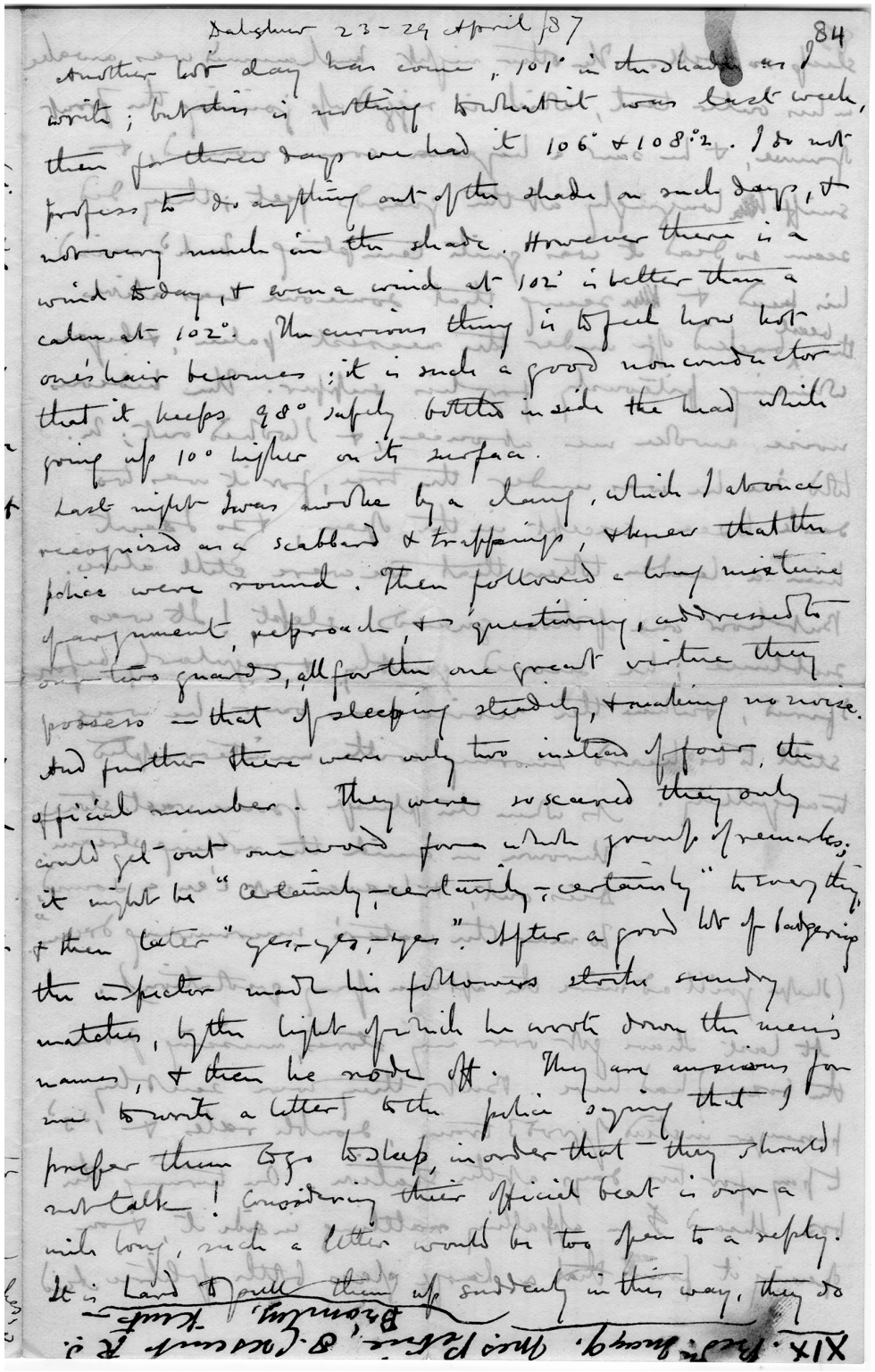
Letters received & papers. Many thanks.

I hear that the Jesuits Vicar: Genl of Paris is a d'Hulst & my friend doubts there being a title in the family.
A:P–



18. Dahshur – May 2.
/89[sic] {87}.

M[rs] Petrie-
8. Crescent Road,
Bromley, Kent-



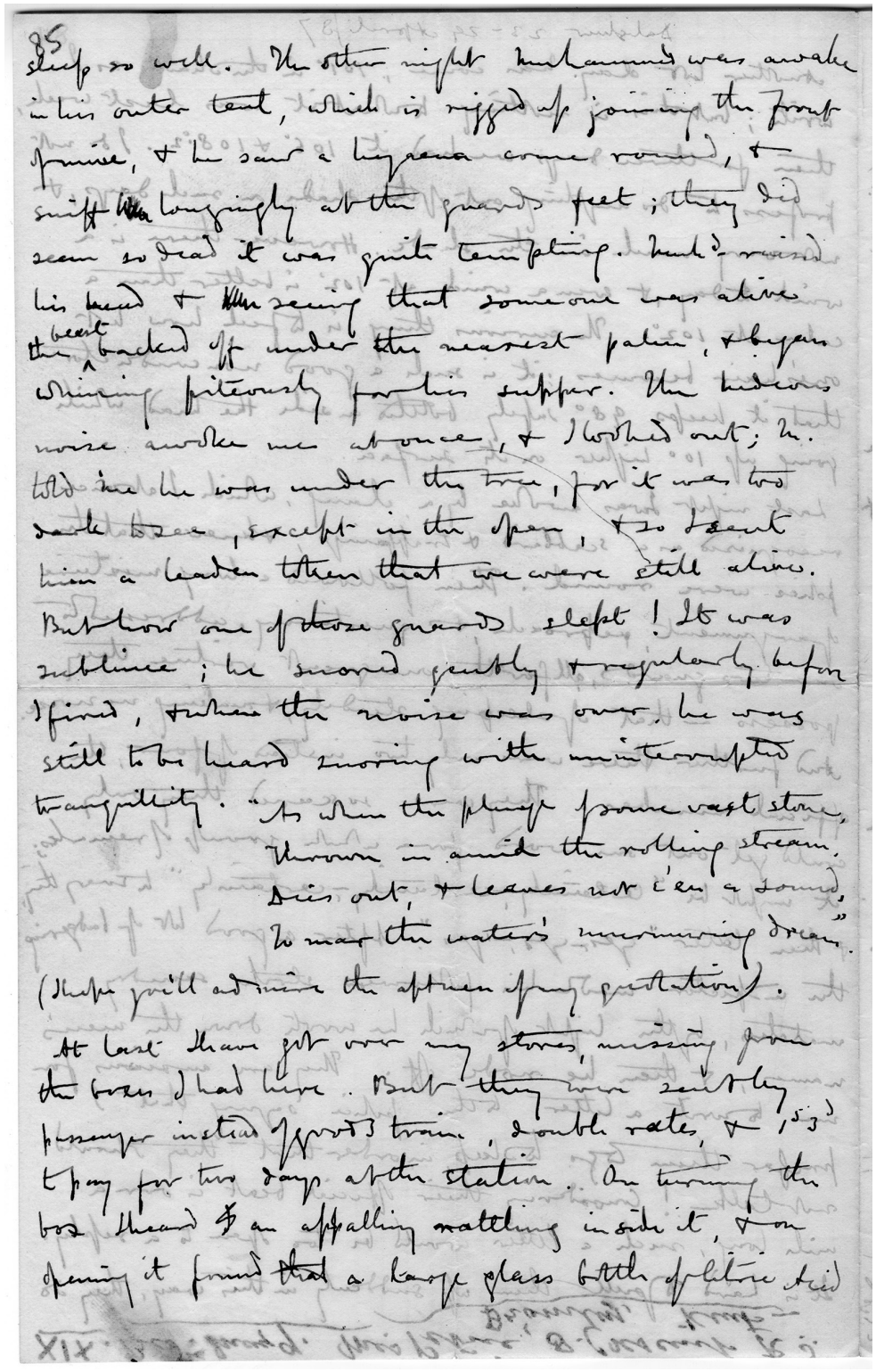
Dahshur 23 – 29 April /87

Another hot day has come, 101° in the shade as I write; but this is nothing to what it was last week, then for three days we had it 106° & 108°.2. I do not profess to do anything out of the shade on such days, & not very much in the shade. However there is a wind today, & even a wind at 102° is better than a calm at 102°. The curious thing is to feel how hot one's hair becomes: it is such a good non conductor that it keeps 98° safely bottled inside the head while going up 10° higher on its surface.

Last night I was awoke by a clang, which I at once recognized as a scabbard & trappings, & knew that the police were round. Then followed a long mixture of argument, reproach, & questioning, addressed to our two guards, all for the one great virtue they possess – that of sleeping steadily, & making no noise. And further there were only two instead of four, the official number. They were so scared they only could get out one word for a whole group of remarks; it might be "'certainly ;/<–> certainly ;/<–> certainly'" to everything, & then later "'yes ;/<–> yes ;/<–> yes'". After a good lot of badgering the inspector made his followers strike sundry matches, by the light of which he wrote down the men's names, & then he rode off. They are anxious for me to write a letter to the police saying that I prefer them to go to sleep, in order that they should not talk! Considering their official beat is over a mile long, such a letter would be too open to a reply. It is hard to pull them up suddenly in this way, they do

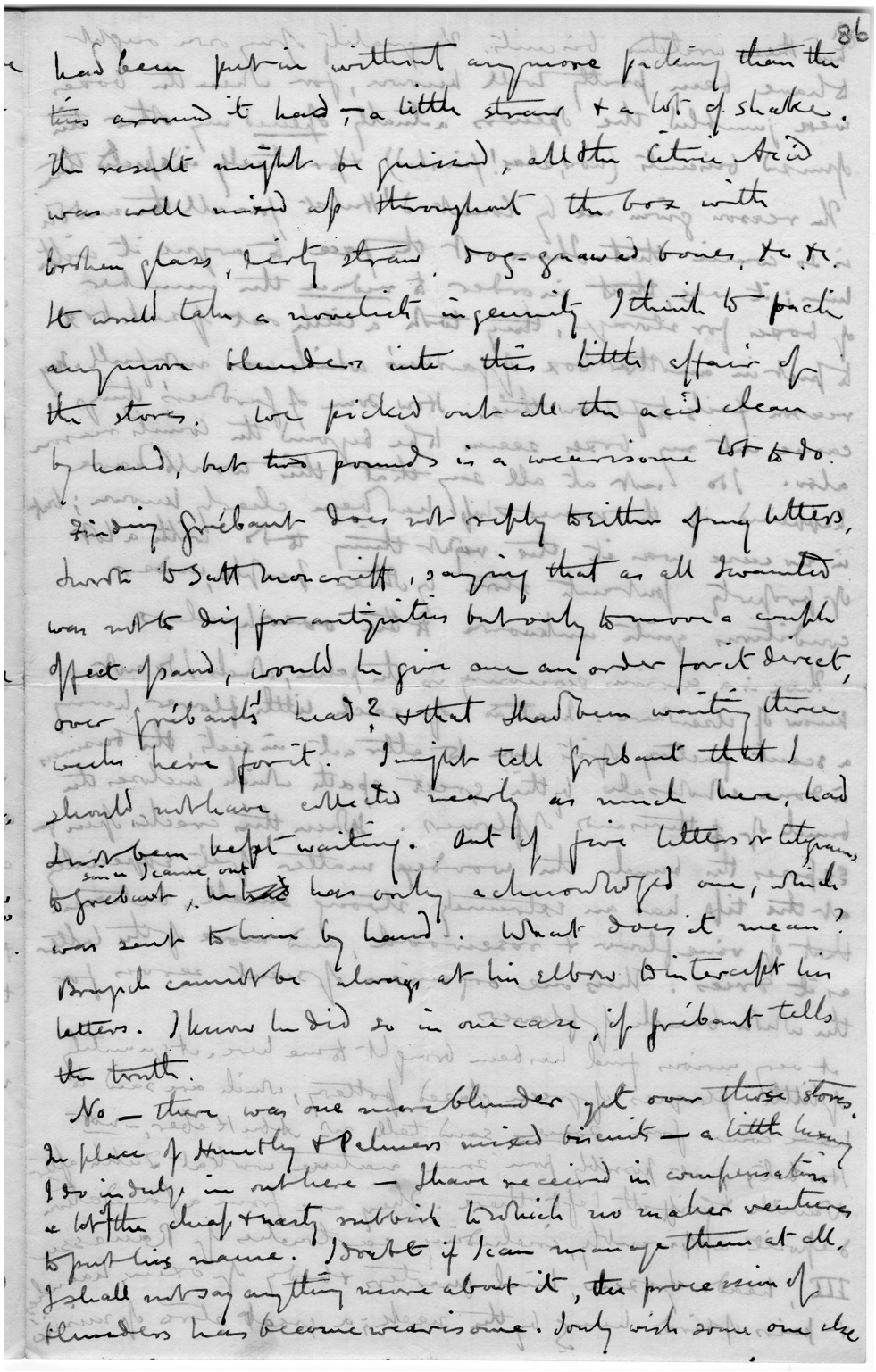
XIX. Bed^n May 9.

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent R^d
Bromley, Kent–



sleep so well. The other night Muhammed was awake
in his outer tent, which is rigged up joining the front
of mine, & he saw a hyaena come round, &
sniff ~~th~~[?] longingly at the guards feet; they did
seem so dead it was quite tempting. Muh^{d} raised
his head & ~~in~~[?] seeing that someone was alive
the <beast> backed off under ~~a~~/<t>he nearest palm, & began
whining piteously for his supper. The hideous
noise awoke me at once, & I looked out; M.
told me he was under the tree, for it was too
dark to see, except in the open, & so I sent
him a leaden token that we were still alive.
But how one of those guards slept! It was
sublime; he snored gently & regularly before
I fired, & when the noise was over, he was
still to be heard snoring with uninterrupted
tranquillity. "As when the plunge of some vast stone,
thrown in amid the rolling stream,
Dies out, & leaves not e'en a sound,
to mar the waters' murmuring dream."
(I hope you'll admire the aptness of my quotation).

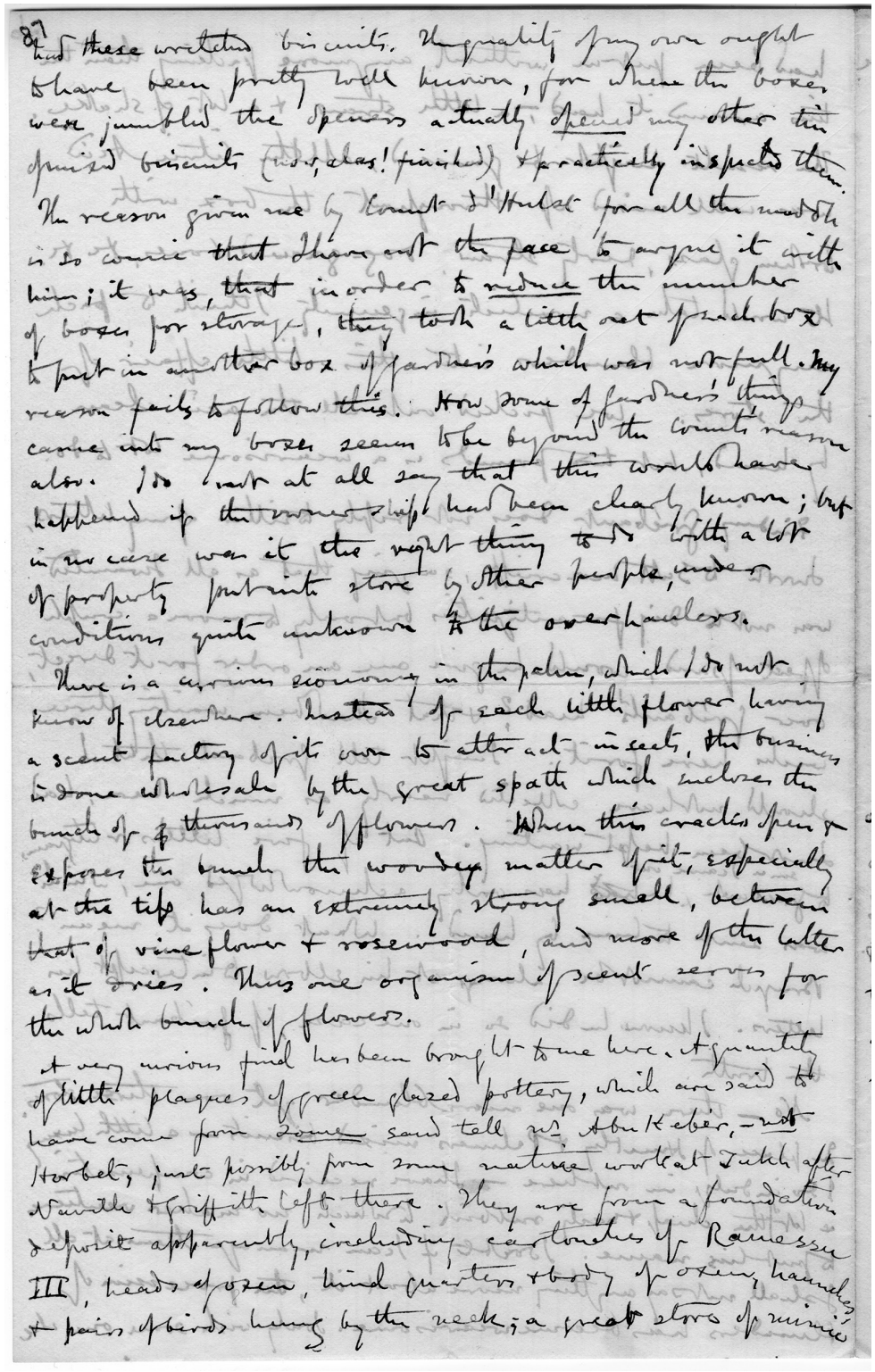
At last I have got over my stores, missing from
the boxes I had here. But they were sent by
passenger instead of goods train, double rates, & 1^{s} 3^{d}
to pay for two days at the station. On turning the
box I heard ~~I~~ an appalling rattling inside it, & on
opening it found that a large glass bottle of Citric Acid



had been put in without any more packing than the
tins around it had ;/<–> a little straw & a lot of shake.
The result might be guessed, all the Citric Acid
was well mixed up throughout the box with
broken glass, dirty straw dog-gnawed bones, &c, &c.
It would take a novelists ingenuity I think to pack
any more blunders into this little affair of
the stores. We picked out all the acid clean
by hand, but two pounds is a wearisome lot to do.

Finding Grébaut does not reply to either of my letters,
I wrote to Scott Moncrieff, saying that as all I wanted
was not to dig for antiquities but only to move a couple
of feet of sand, would he give me an order for it direct,
over Grébaut's head? & that I had been waiting three
weeks here for it. I might tell Grebaut that I
should not have collected nearly as much here, had
I not been kept waiting. Out of five letters or telegrams
to Grebaut <since I came out> he ~~had~~ has only acknowledged one,
which
was sent to him by hand. What does it mean?
Brugsch cannot be always at his elbow to intercept his
letters. I know he did so in one case, if Grébaut tells
the truth.

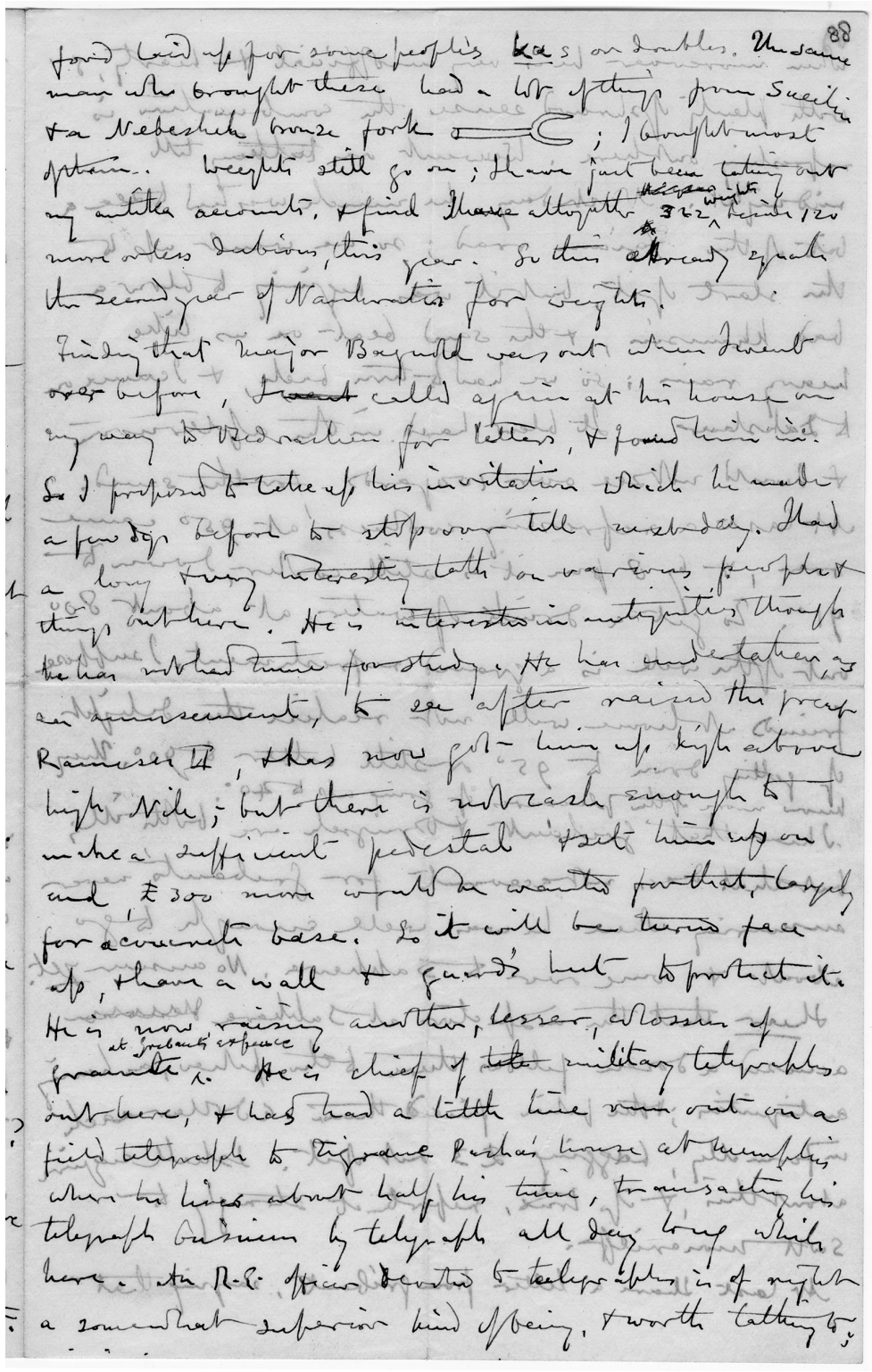
No – there was one more blunder yet over ther/<s>e stores.
In place of Huntley & Palmers mixed biscuits – a little luxury
I do indulge in out here – I have received in compensation
a lot of the cheap & nasty rubbish to which no maker ventures
to put his name. I doubt if I can manage them at all.
I shall not say anything more about it, the procession of
blunders has become wearisome. I only wish some one else



had these wretched biscuits. The quality of my own ought to have been pretty well known, for when the boxes were jumbled the openers actually opened my other tin of mixed biscuits (now, alas! finished) & practically inspected them. The reason given me by Count d'Hulst for all the muddle is so comic that I have not the face to argue it with him; it was, that in order to reduce the number of boxes for storage, they took a little out of each box to put in another box of Gardner's which was not full. My reason fails to follow this. How some of Gardner's things came into my boxes seem to be beyond the Count's reason also. I do not at all say that this would have happened if the ownership had been clearly known; but in no case was it the right thing to do with a lot of property put into store by other people, under conditions quite unknown to the overhaulers.

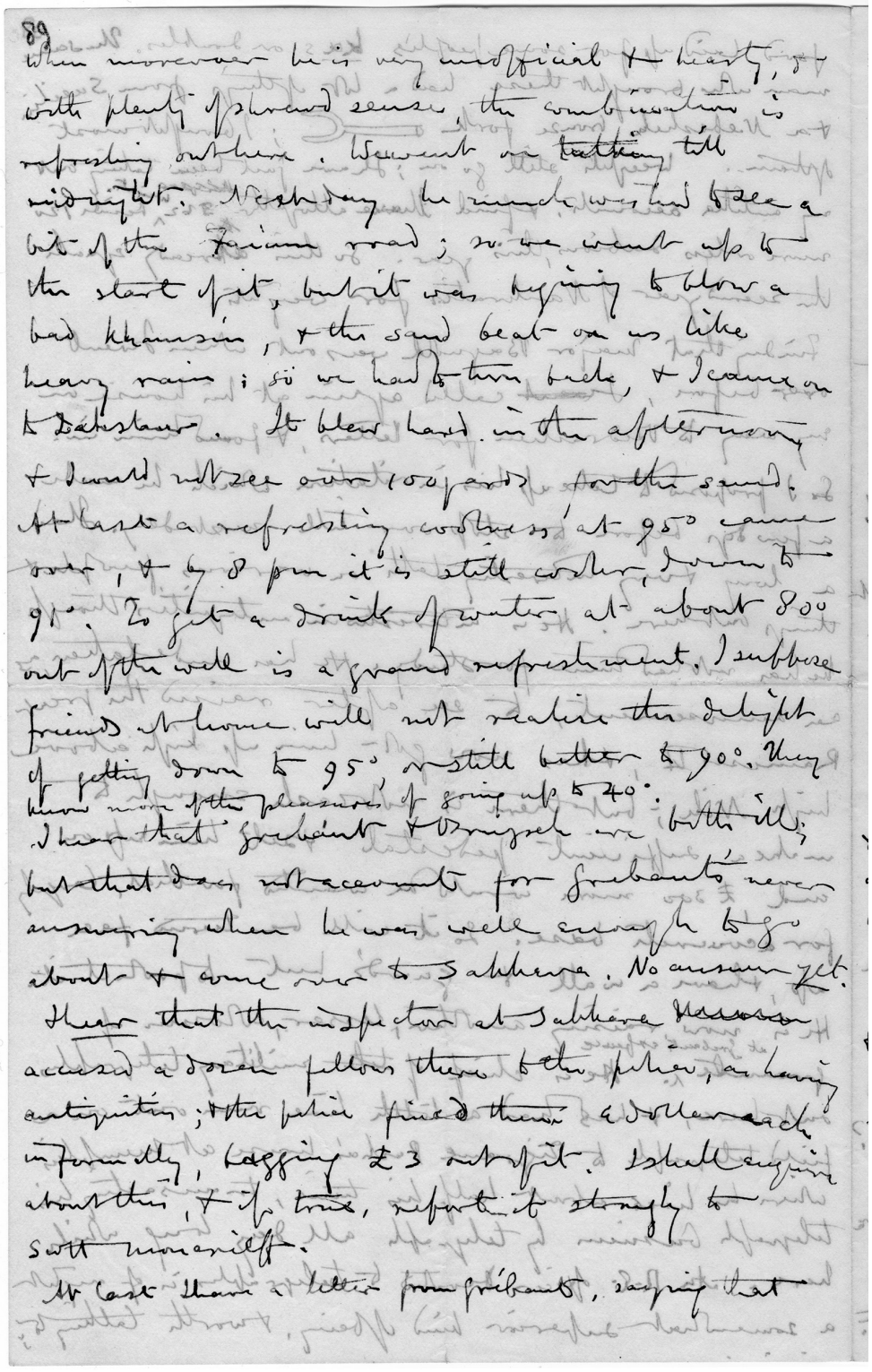
There is a curious economy in the palm, which I do not know of elsewhere. Instead of each flower having a scent factory of its own to attract insects, the business is done wholesale by the great spath which encloses the bunch of f thousands of flowers. When this cracks open & exposes the bunch the wood~~en~~/<y> matter of it, especially at the tip has an extremely strong smell, between that of vineflower & rosewood, and more of the latter as it dries. Thus one organism of scent serves for the whole bunch of flowers.

A very curious find has been brought to me here. A quantity of little plaques of green glazed pottery, which are said to have come from some sand tell nr Abu Kebir, – not Horbet, just possibly from some native work at Tukh after Naville & Griffith left there. They are from a foundation deposit apparently, including cartouches of Ramessu III, heads of oxen, hind quarters & body of oxen, haunches, & pairs of birds hung by the neck; a great store of mimic



food laid up for some people's ka<u>s</u> or doubles. The same
man who brought these had a lot of things from Sueilin
& a Nebesheh bronze fork [𓊪]; I bought most
of them. Weights still go on; I have just been taking out
my antika accounts, & find I have altogether <~~this year~~> ~~7~~/<3>22
<weights> beside 120
more or less dubious, this year. So this ~~at~~/<al>ready equals
the second year of Naukratis for weights.

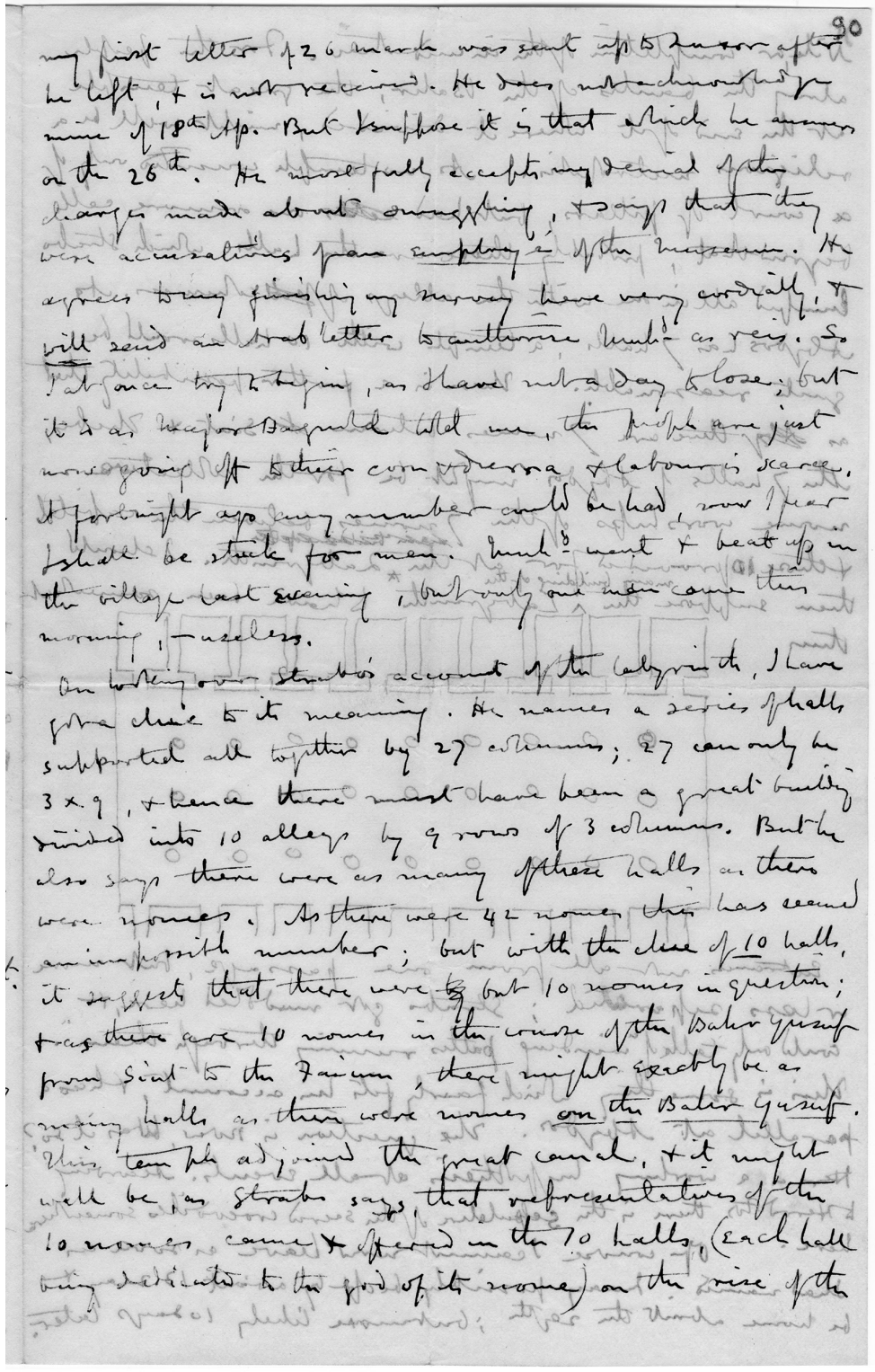
Finding that Major Bagnold was out when I went
over before, I ~~went~~ called again at his house on
my way to Bedrashen for letters, & found him in.
So I proposed to take up his invitation which he made
a few days before to stop over till next day. I had
a long & very interesting talk on various people &
things out here. He is interested in antiquities though
he has not had time for study. He has undertaken, as
an amusement, to see after raised the great
Ramesu II, & has now got him up high above
high Nile; but there is not cash enough to
make a sufficient pedestal & set him up on
end, £300 more would be wanted for that, largely
for a concrete base. So it will be turned face
up, & have a wall & guard's hut to protect it.
He is now raising another, lesser, colossus of
granite <at Grebaut's expence>. He is chief of tele military telegraphs
out here, & ha~~d~~/<s> had a little line run out on a
field telegraph to Tigrane Pasha's house at Memphis
where he lives about half his time, transacting his
telegraph business by telegraph all day long while
here. An R.E. officer devoted to telegraphs is of right
a somewhat superior kind of being, & worth talking to;



when moreover he is very unofficial & hearty &
with plenty of shrewd sense, the combination is
refreshing out here. We went on talking till
midnight. Next day he much wished to see a
bit of the Faium road; so we went up to
the start of it, but it was trying to blow a
bad khamsin, & the sand beat on us like
heavy rain; so we had to turn back, & I came on
to Dahshur. It blew hard in the afternoon
& I could not see over 100 yards for the sand.
At last a refreshing coolness at 95° came
over, & by 8 pm it is still cooler, down to
91°. To get a drink of water at about 80°
out of the well is a grand refreshment. I suppose
friends at home will not realise the delight
of getting down to 95°, or still better to 90°. They
know more of the pleasures of going up to 40°.

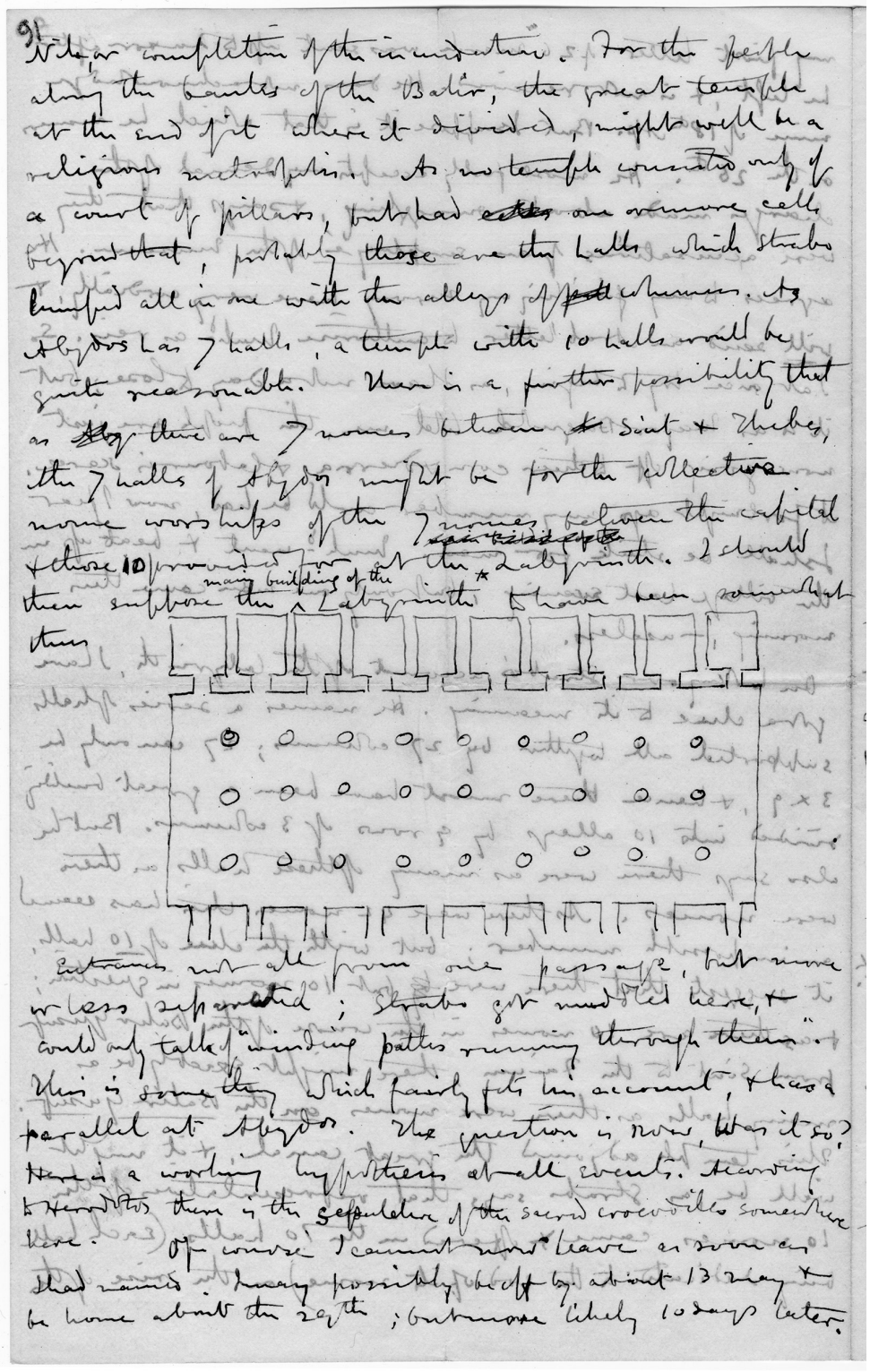
I hear that Grebaut & Brugsch are both ill;
but that does not account for Grebaut's never
answering when he was well enough to go
about & come over to Sakkara. No answer yet.
I hear that the inspector at Sakkara ~~denoun~~
accused a dozen fellows there to the police, as having
antiquities; & the police fined them a dollar each
informally, be/<a>gging £3 out of it. I shall enquire
about this, & if true, report it strongly to
Scott Moncrieff.

At last I have a letter from Grébaut, saying that



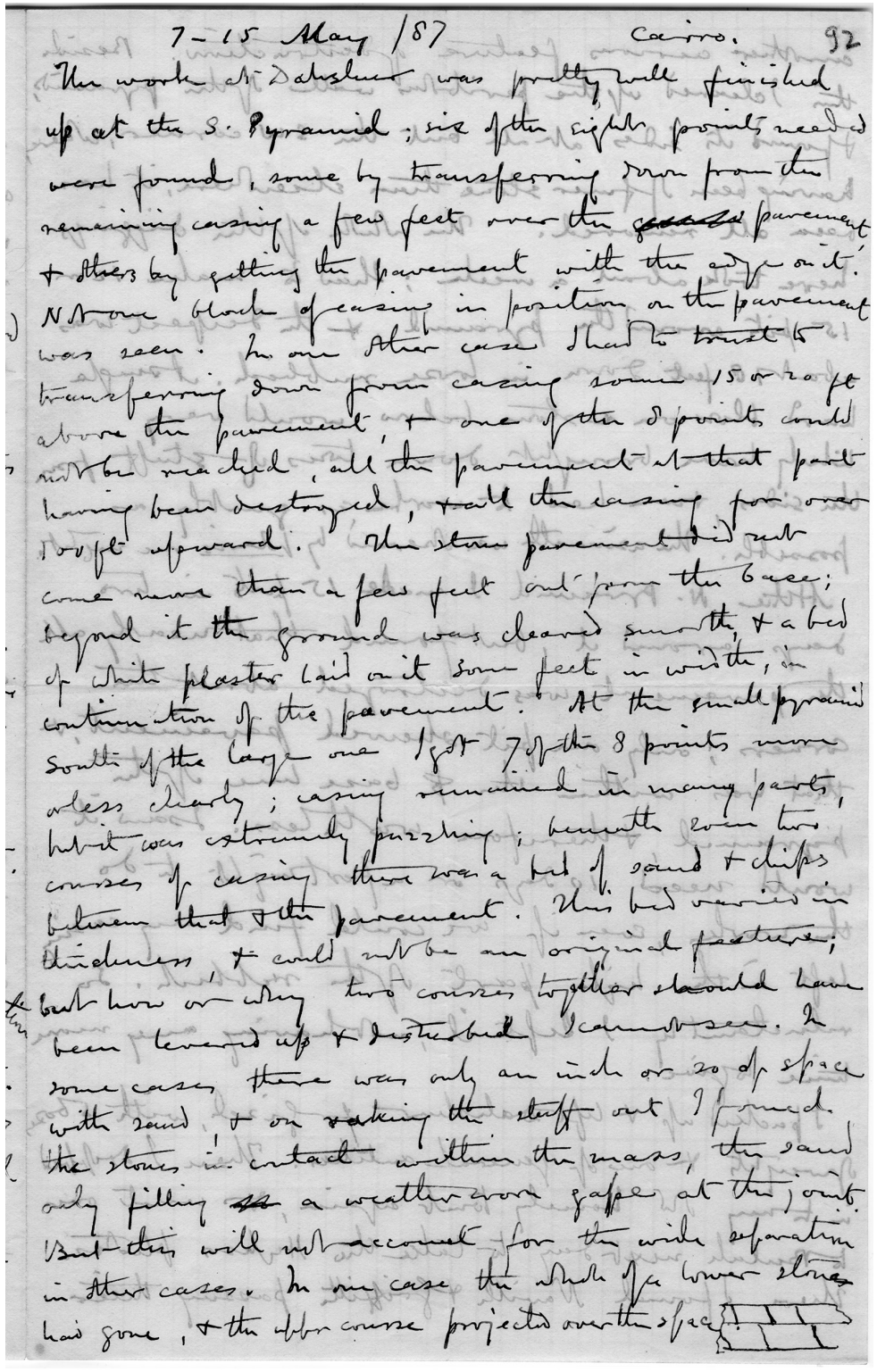
my first letter of 26 March was sent up to Luxor after he left, & is not received. He does not acknowledge mine of 18th Ap. But I suppose it is that which he answers on the 26th. He most fully accepts my denial of the charges made about smuggling, & says that they were accusations of an employé of the Museum. He agrees to my finishing my survey here very cordially, & will send an Arab letter to authorise Muhd as reis. So I at once try to begin, as I have not a day to lose; but it is as Major Bagnold told me, the people are just now going off to their corn & durra & labour is scarce. A fortnight ago any number could be had, now I fear I shall be stuck for men. Muhd went & beat up in the village last evening, but only one man came this morning, – useless.

On looking over Strabo's account of the labyrinth, I have got a clue to its meaning. He names a series of halls supported all together by 27 columns; 27 can only be 3 x 9, & hence there must have been a great building divided into 10 alleys by 9 rows of 3 columns. But he also says there were as many of these halls as there were nomes. As there were 42 nomes this has seemed an impossible number; but with the clue of 10 halls, it suggests there were ~~by~~ but 10 nomes in question; & as there are 10 nomes in the course of the Bahr Yusuf from Siut to the Faium, there might exactly be as many halls as there were nomes on the Bahr Yusuf. This temple adjoined the great canal, & it might well be, as Strabo says, that representatives of the 10 nomes came & offered in the 10 halls, (each hall being dedicated to the god of its nome) on the rise of the



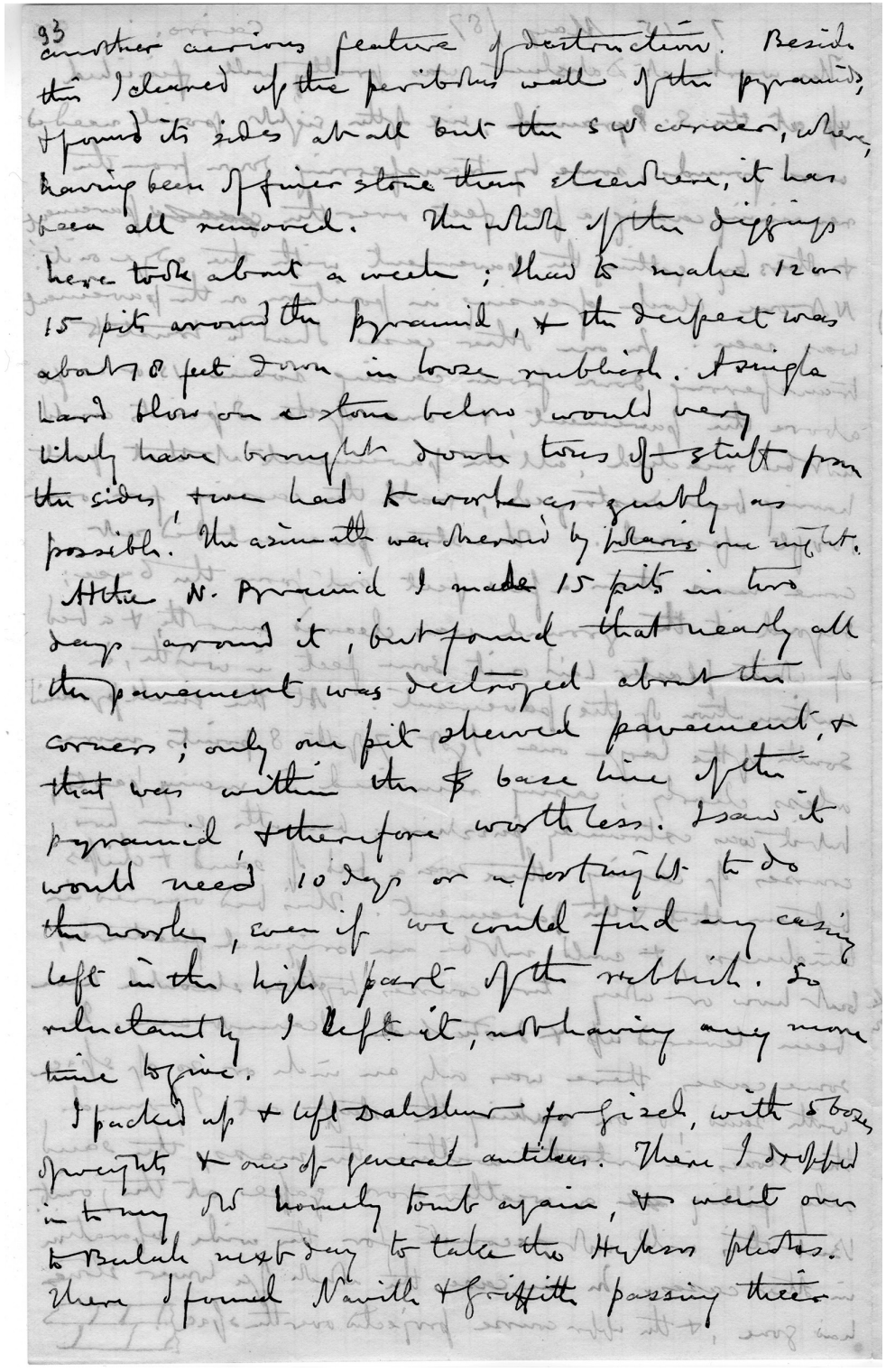
Nile, or completion of the inundation. For the people
along the banks of the Bahr, the great temple
at the end of it where it divided, might well be a
religious metropolis. As no temple consisted only of
a court of pillars, but had ~~cells~~ one or more cells
beyond that, probably those are the halls which Strabo
lumped all in one with the alleys of ~~pill~~ columns. As
Abydos has 7 halls, a temple with 10 halls would be
quite reasonable. There is a further possibility that
as ~~Aby~~ there are 7 nomes between ~~A~~ Siut & Thebes,
the 7 halls of Abydos might be for the collective
nome worships of the 7 nomes between the capital
& those ~~12~~/<10> provided for at the <~~main building of the~~> Labyrinth.
I should
then suppose the <main building of the> Labyrinth to have been
somewhat
thus [𓉐]

Entrances not all from one passage, but more
or less separated; Strabo got muddled here, &
could only talk of "'winding paths running through them'".
This is something which fairly fits his account, & has a
parallel at Abydos. The question is now, was it so?
Here is a working hypothesis at all events. According
to Herodotus there is the sepulchre of the sacred crocodiles somewhere
here. Of course I cannot now leave as soon as
I had named. I may possibly be off by about 13 May &
be home about the 29th; but more likely 10 days later.



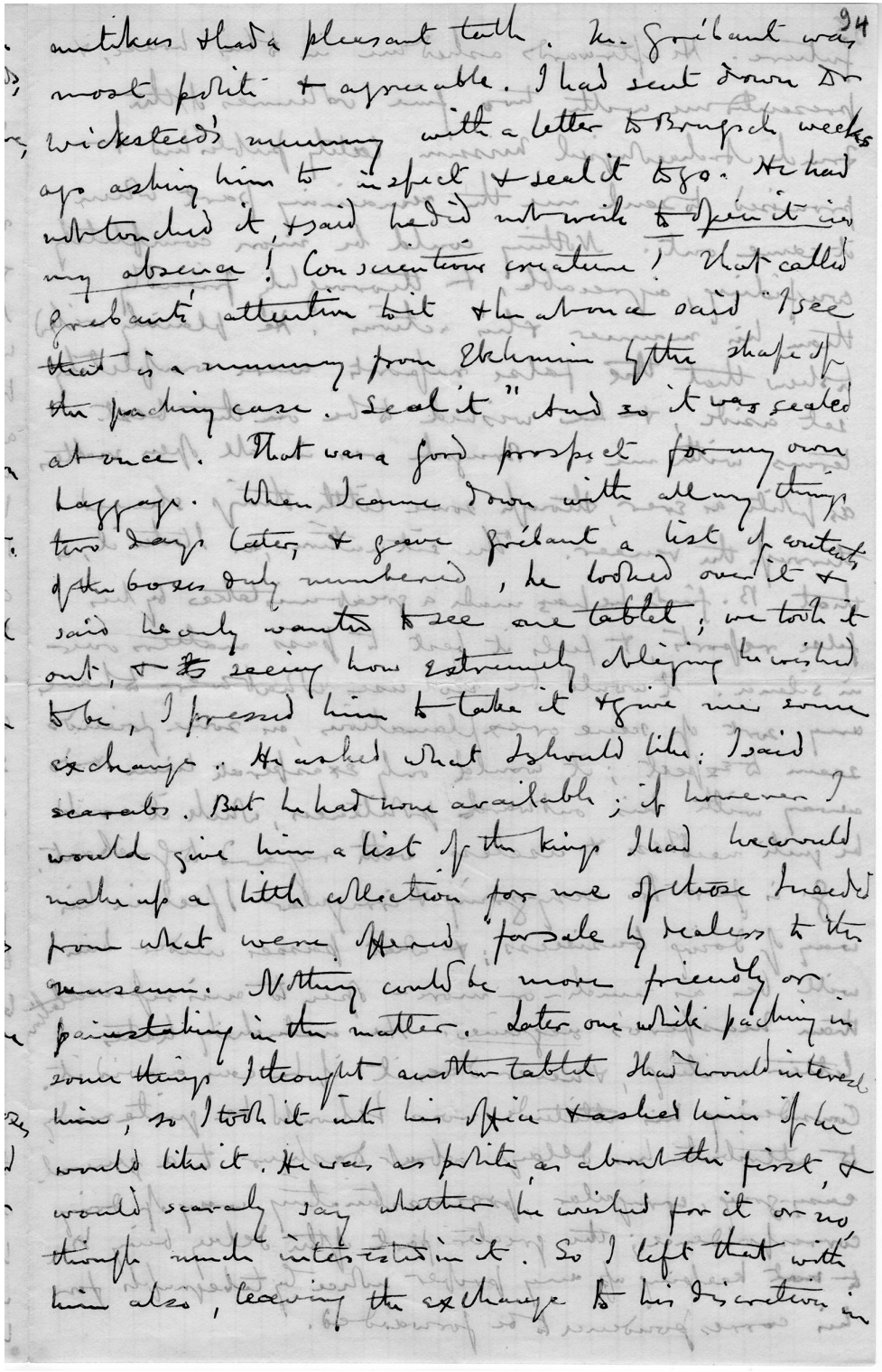
7 – 15 May /87
Cairo.

The work at Dahshur was pretty well finished up at the S. Pyramid; six of the eight points needed were found, some by transferring down from the remaining casing a few feet over the ~~groun~~ pavement, & others by getting the pavement with the edge on it. Not one block of casing in position on the pavement was seen. In one other case I had to trust to transferring down from casing some 15 or 20 ft above the pavement, & one of the 8 points could not be reached, all the pavement at that part having been destroyed, & all the casing for over 100 ft upward. The stone pavement did not come more than a few feet out from the base; beyond it the ground was cleared smooth, & a bed of white plaster laid on it some feet in width, in continuation of the pavement. At the small pyramid South of the large one I got 7 of the 8 points more or less clearly; casing remained in many parts, but it was extremely puzzling; beneath some two courses of casing there was a bed of sand & chips between that & the pavement. This bed varied in thickness, & could not be an original feature; but how or why two courses tog<e>ther should have been levered up & disturbed I cannot see. In some cases there was only an inch or so of space with sand, & on raking the stuff out I found the stones in contact within the mass, the sand only filling ~~an~~ a weather worn gape at the joint. But this will not account for the wide separation in other cases. In one case the whole of a lower stone/<es> had gone, & the upper course projected over the space [℞]

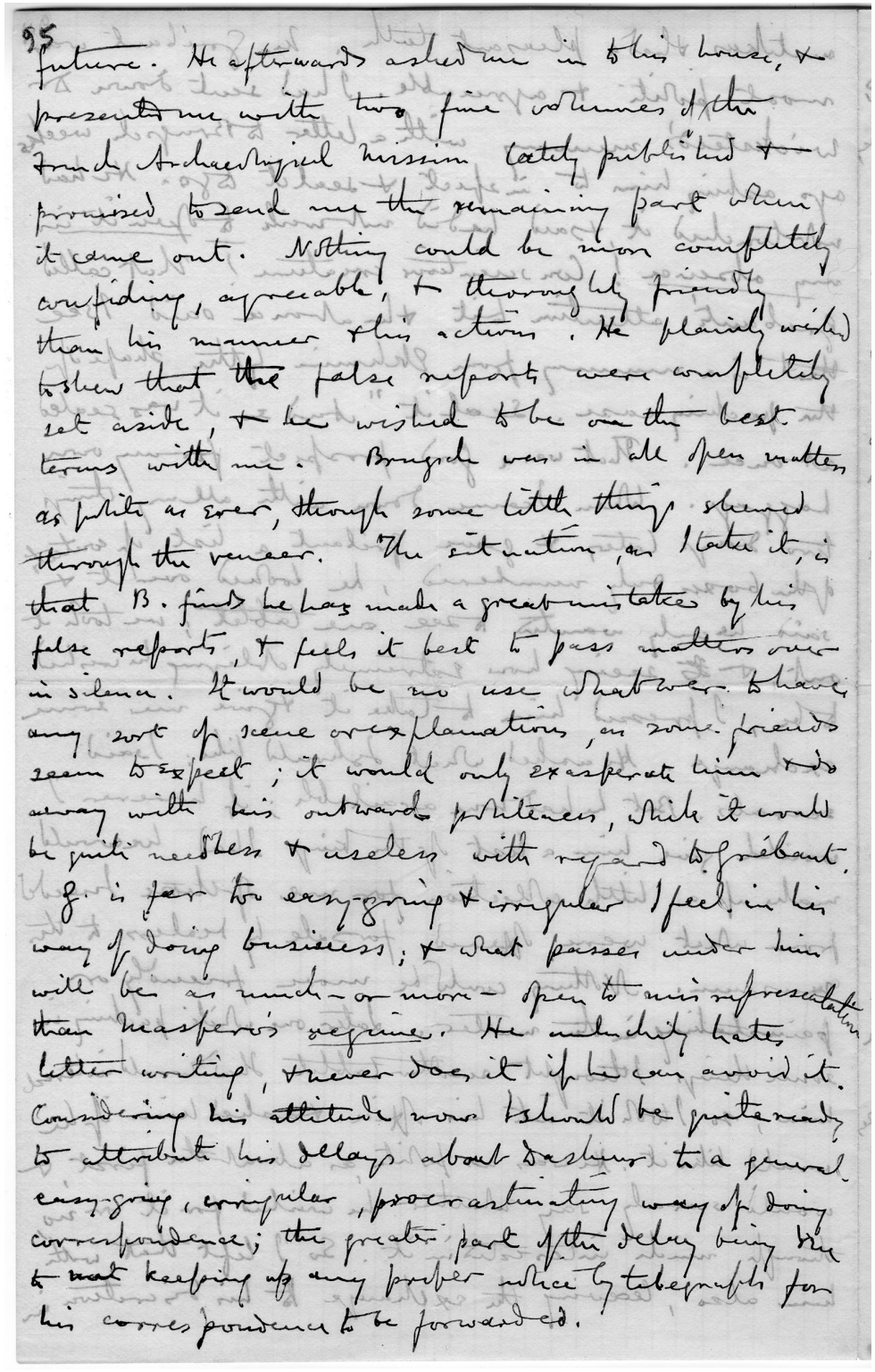


another curious feature of destruction. Beside
this I cleared up the peribolus wall of the pyramids,
& found its sides at all but the SW corner, where,
having been of finer stone than elsewhere, it has
been all removed. The whole of the diggings
here took about a week; I had to make 12 or
15 pits around the pyramid, & the deepest was
about 8 feet down in lose rubbish. A single
hard blow on a stone below would very
likely have brought down tons of stuff from
the sides, & we had to work as quickly as
possible. The azimuth was observed by polaris one night.
At the N. Pyramid I mak/<de> 15 pits in two
days around it, but found that nearly all
the pavement was destroyed about the
corners; only one pit shewed pavement, &
that was within the f base line of the
pyramid, & therefore worthless. I saw it
would need 10 days or a fortnight to do
the work, even if we could find any casing
left in the high part of the rubbish. So
reluctantly I left it, not having any more
time to give.

I packed up & left Dahshur for Gizeh, with 5 boxes
of weights & one of general antikas. There I dropped
into my old homely tomb again, & went over
to Bulak next day to take the Hyksos photos [📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷].
There I found Naville & Griffith passing their

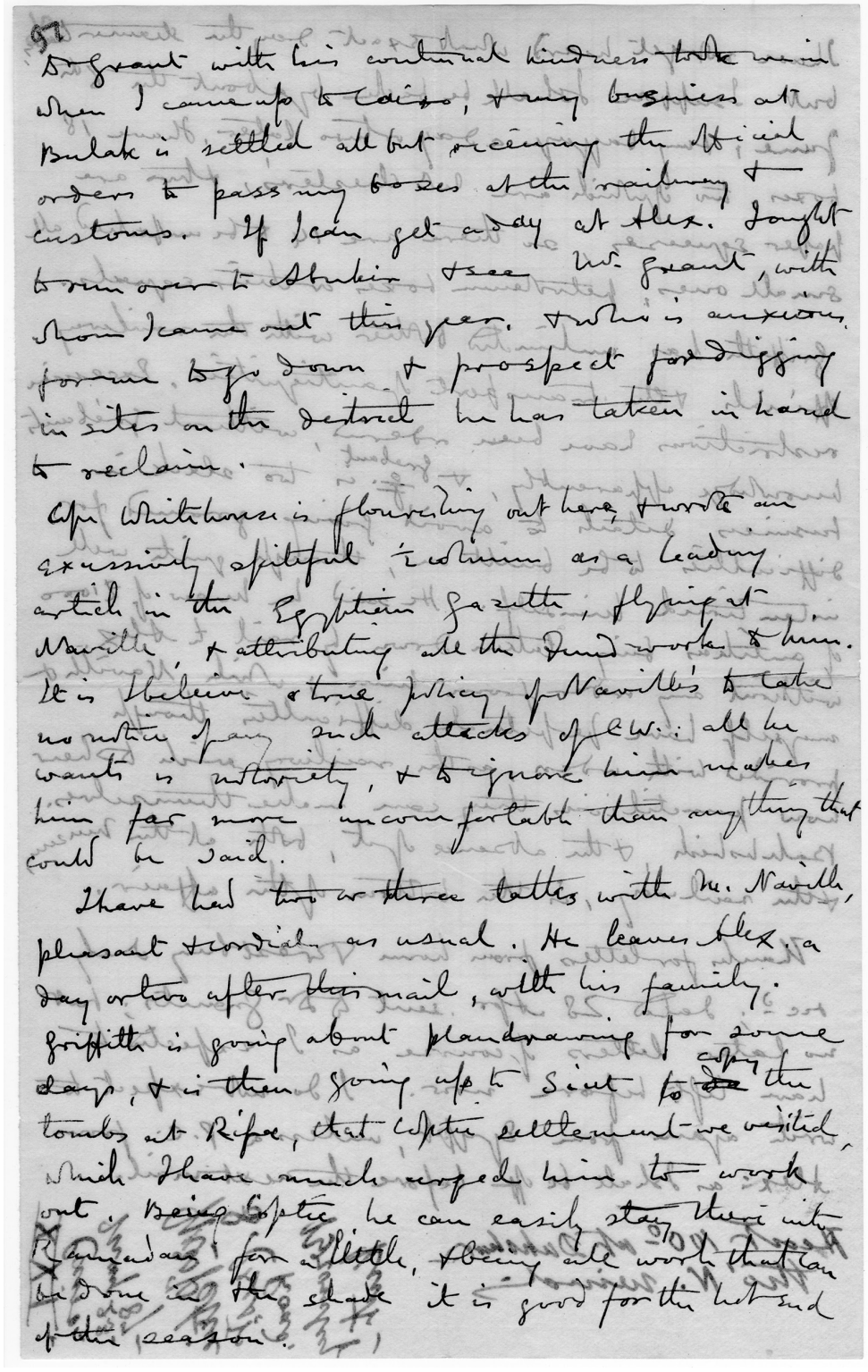


antikas & had a pleasant talk. M. Grébaut was most polite & agreeable. I had sent down Dr Wicksteed's mummy with a letter to Brugsch weeks ago asking him to inspect & seal it to go. He had not touched it, & said he did not wish to open it in my absence! Conscientious creature! That called Grebaut's attention to it & he at once said "I see that is a mummy from Ekhmin by the shape of the packing case. Seal it" And so it was sealed at once. That was a good prospect for my own baggage. When I came down with all my things two days later, & gave Grébaut a list of contents of the boxes only numbered, he looked over it & said he only wanted to see one tablet; we took it out, & seeing how extremely obliging he wished to be, I pressed him to take it & give me some exchange. He asked what I should like: I said scarabs. But he had none available; if however I would give him a list of the kings I had he would make up a little collection for me of those I needed from what were offered for sale by dealers to the Museum. Nothing could be more friendly or painstaking in the matter. Later one[sic] {on} while packing in some things I thought another tablet I had would interest him, so I took it into his office & asked him if he would like it. He was as polite, as about the first, & would scarcely say whether he wished for it or no, though much interested in it. So I left that with him also, leaving the exchange to his discretion in



future. He afterwards asked me in to his house, & presented me with two fine volumes of the French Archeological Mission lately published & promised to send me the remaining part when it came out. Nothing could be more completely confiding, agreeable, & thoroughly friendly than his manner & his actions. He plainly wished to shew that the false reports were completely set aside, & he wished to be on the best terms with me. Brugsch was in all open matters as polite as ever, though some little things shewed through the veneer. The situation, as I take it, is that B. finds he has made a great mistake by his false reports, & feels it best to pass matters over in silence. It would be no use whatever to have any sort of scene or explanations, as some friends seem to expect; it would only exasperate him & do away with his outward politeness, while it would be quite needless & useless with regard to Grébaut.

G. is far too easy-going & irregular I feel in his way of doing business; & what passes under him will be as much – or more – open to misrepresentation than Maspero's regime. He unluckily hates letter writing, & never does it if he can avoid it. Considering his attitude now I should be quite ready to attribute his delays about Dashur to a general easy-going, irregular, procrastinating way of doing correspondence; the greater part of the delay being due to not keeping up any proper notice by telegraph for his correspondence to be forwarded.

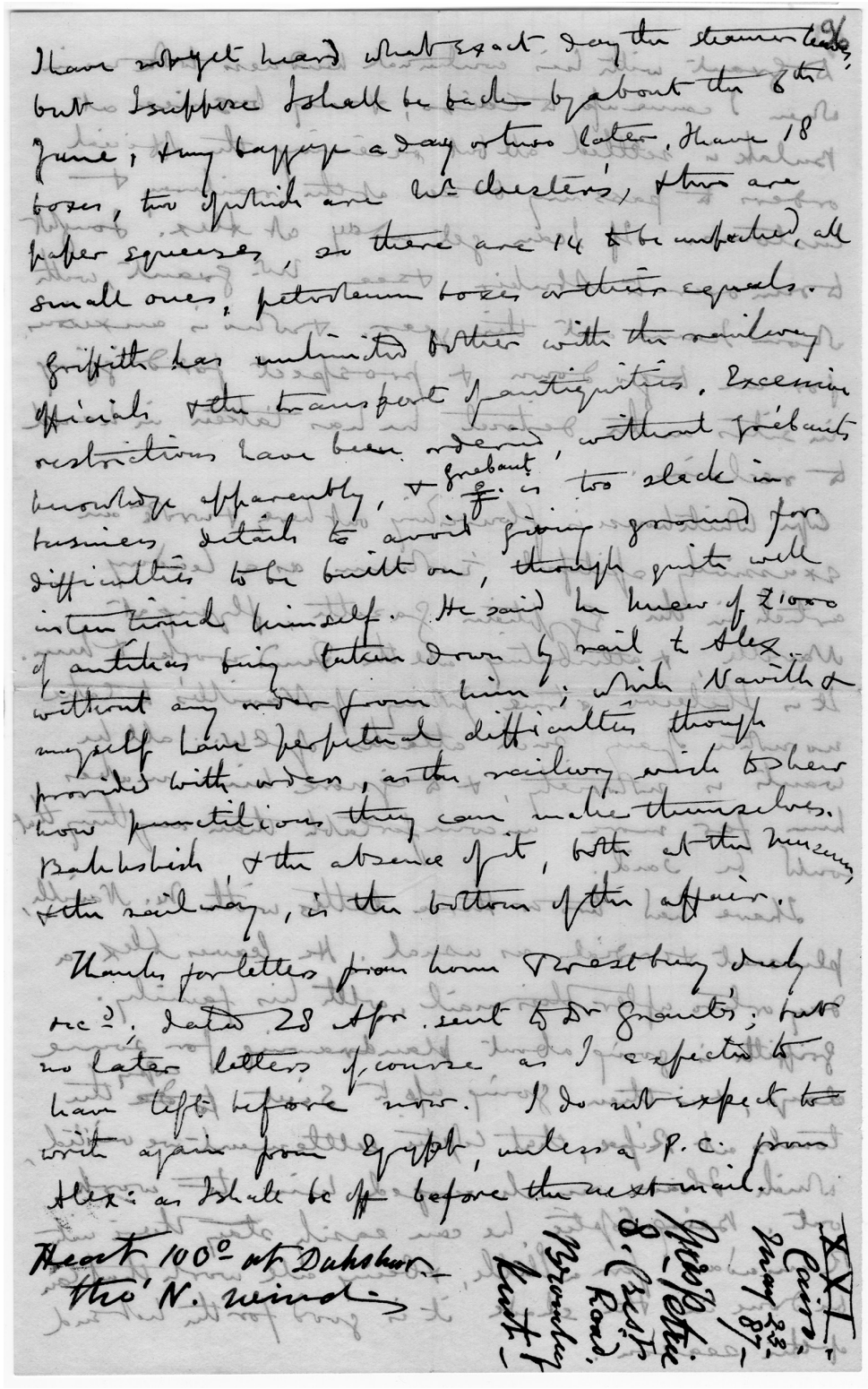


Dr Grant with his continual kindness took me in when I came up to Cairo, & my business at Bulak is settled all but receiving the official orders to pass my boxes at the railway & customs. If I can get a day at Alex. I ought to run over to Abukir & see Mr Grant, with whom I came out this year. & who is anxious for me to go down & prospect for digging in sites on the district he has taken in hand to reclaim.

Cope Whitehouse is flourishing out here, & wrote an excessively spiteful ½ column as a leading article in the Egyptian Gazette, flying at Naville, & attributing all the Fund work to him. It is I believe a true policy of Naville's to take no notice of any such attacks of C.W.: all he wants is notoriety, & to ignore him makes him far more uncomfortable than anything that could be said.

I have had two or three talks with M. Naville, pleasant & cordial as usual. He leaves Alex. a day or two after this mail, with his family. Griffith is going about plan drawing for some days, & is then going up to Siut to ~~do~~ <copy> the tombs at Rifa, that Coptic settlement we visited, which I have much urged him to work out. Being Coptic he can easily stay there into Ramadan for a little, & being all work that can be done in the shade it is good for the hot end of the season.

[The numbering of pages 96 and 97 is transposed.]



I have not yet heard what exact day the steamer leaves, but I suppose I shall be back by about the 6th June, & my baggage a day or two later. I have 18 boxes, two of which are Mr Chester's, & two are paper squeezes, so there are 14 to be unpacked, all small ones, petroleum boxes or their equals.

Griffith has unlimited bother with the railway officials & the transport of antiquities. Excessive restrictions have been ordered, without Grébauts knowledge apparently, & G. #Grebaut# is too slack in business details to avoid giving ground for difficulties to be built on, though quite well intentioned himself. He said he knew of £1000 of antikas being taken down by rail to Alex. without any order from him; while Naville & myself have perpetual difficulties though provided with orders, as the railway wish to shew how punctilious they can make themselves. Bakhshish, & the absence of it, both at the Museum, & the railway, is the bottom of the affair.

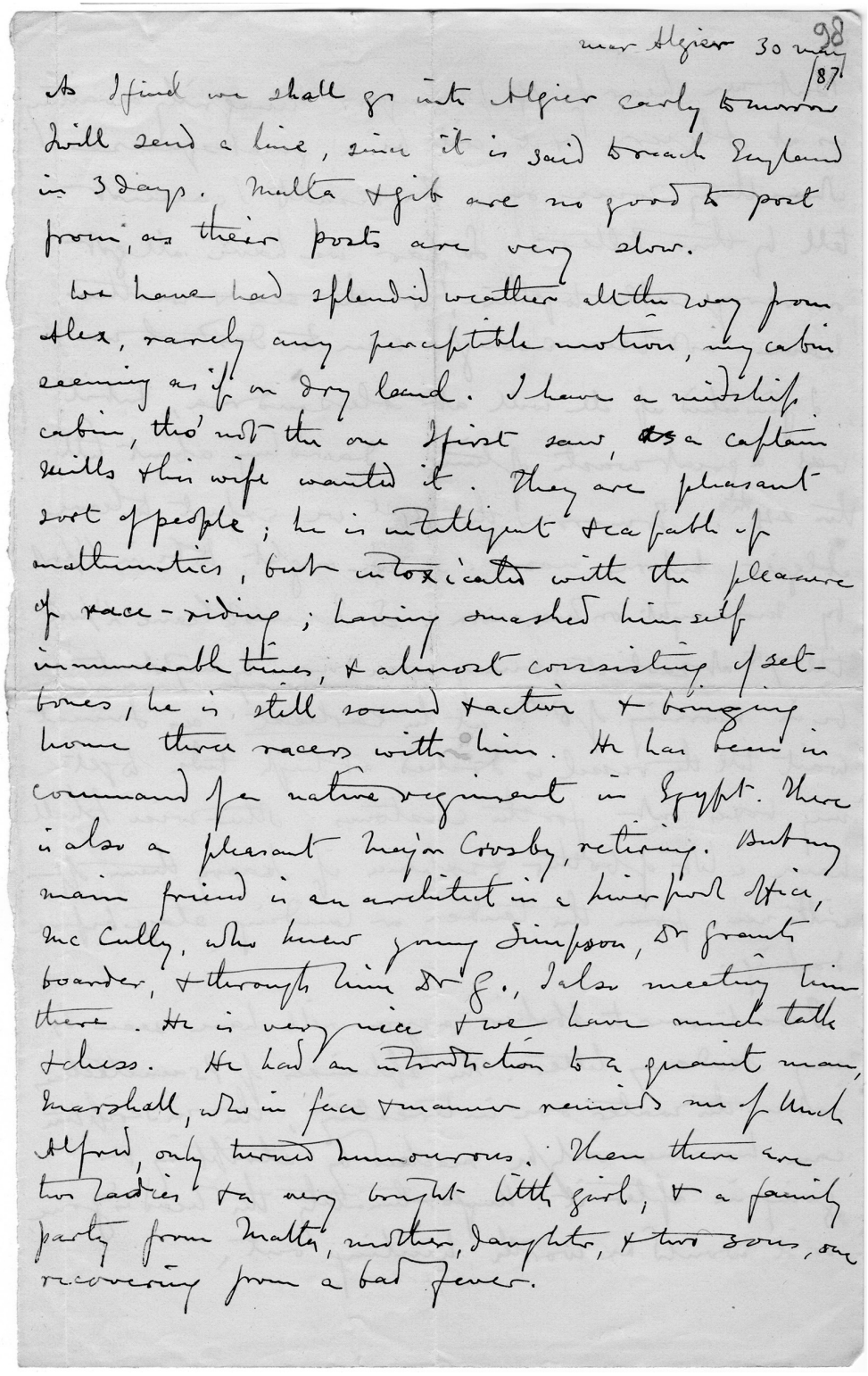
Thanks for letters from home & Westbury duly recd; dated 28 Apr. sent to Dr Grant's; but no later letters of course as I expected to have left before now. I do not expect to write again from Egypt, unless a P.C. from Alex: as I shall be off before the next mail.

Heat 100° at Dahshur.– tho' N. winds.

XXI-
Cairo-
May 23-
87–

Mrs Petrie
8. Crest
Road.
Bromley
Kent–

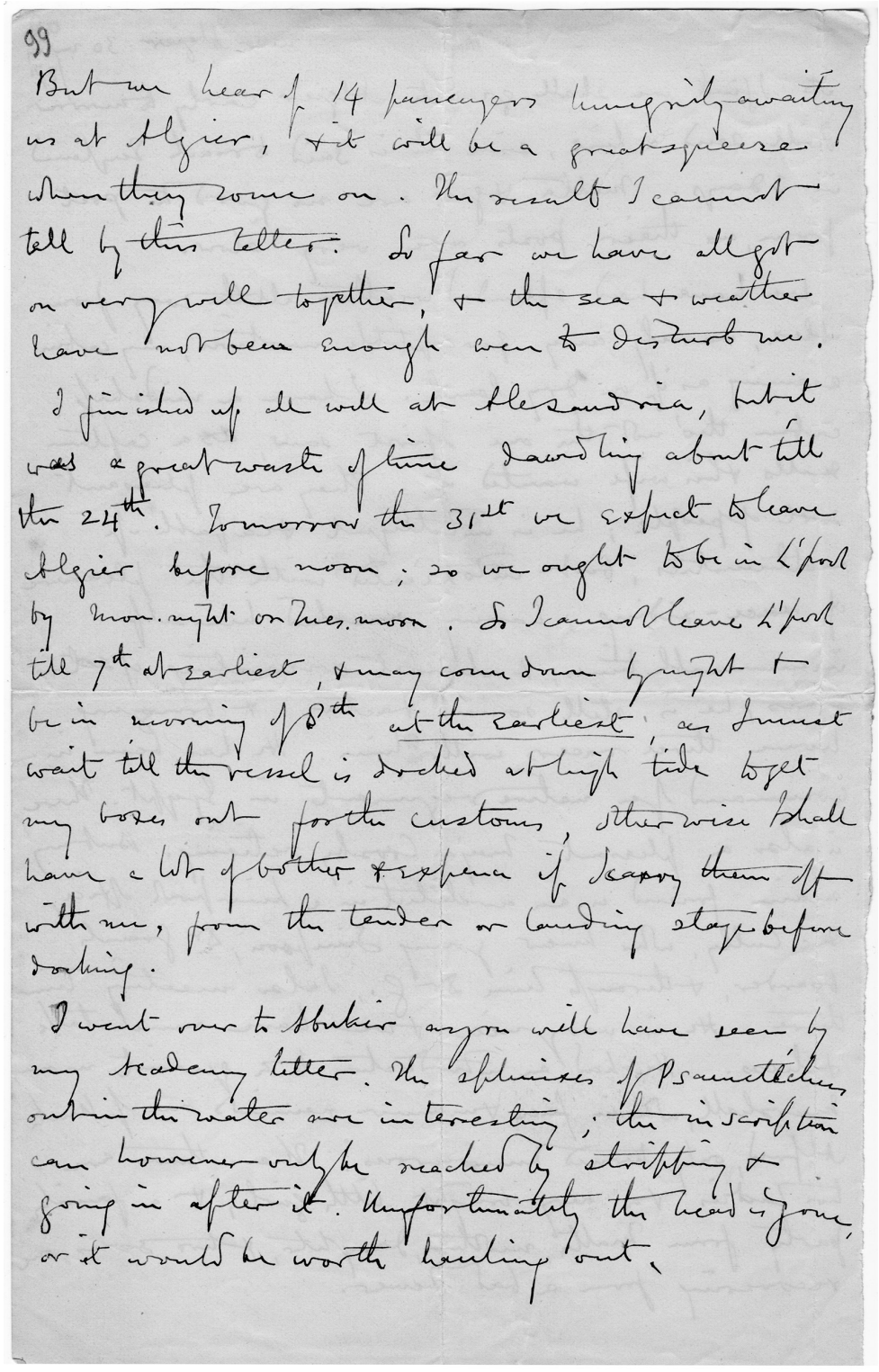
Ŧ/<H>eat 100° at Dahshur.–
tho' N. winds.



near Algier 30 May /87.

As I find we shall go into Algier early tomorrow I will send a line, since it is said to reach England in 3 days. Malta & Gib are no good to post from, as their posts are very slow.

We have had splendid weather all the way from Alex, rarely any perceptible motion, my cabin seeming as if on dry land. I have a midship cabin, tho' not the one I first saw, &/<as> a Captain Mills & his wife wanted it. They are pleasant sort of people; he is intelligent & capable of mathematics, but intoxicated with the pleasure of race-riding; having smashed himself innumerable times, & almost consisting of setbones, he is still sound & active & bringing home three racers with him. He has been in command of a native regiment in Egypt. There is also a pleasant Major Crosby, retiring. But my main friend is an architect in a Liverpool office, Mc Cully, who knew young Simpson, Dr Grants boarder, & through him Dr G., I also meeting him there. He is very nice & we have much talk & chess. He had an introduction to a quaint man, Marshall, who in face & manner reminds me of Uncle Alfred, only turned humourous. Then there are two ladies & a very bright little girl, & a family party from Malta, mother, daughter, & two sons, one recovering from a bad fever.



But we hear of 14 passengers hungrily awaiting us at Algier, & it will be a great squeeze when they come on. The result I cannot tell by this letter. So far we have all got on very well together, & the sea & weather have not been enough even to disturb me.

I finished up all well at Alexandria, but it was a great waste of time dawdling about till the 24th. Tomorrow the 31st we expect to leave Algier before noon; so we ought to be in L'pool by Mon. night or Tues. morn. So I cannot leave L'pool till 7th at earliest, & may come down by night & be in morning of 8th <u>at the earliest</u>, as I must wait till the vessel is docked at high tide to get my boxes out for the customs, otherwise I shall have a lot of bother & expence if I carry them off with me, from the tender or landing stage before docking.

I went over to Abukir as you will have seen by my Academy letter. The sphinxes of Psametichus out in the water are interesting; the inscription can however only be reached by stripping & going in after it. Unfortunately the head is gone, or it would be worth hauling out.