## 34

Anabah zl-Mad funah. Oct 25 体 1929 .
Den en Mother.
I haver had the thill of thills today. I node on a neal dessitcamil. It happened thuswiss. When our beds + Sitter things came up a fer days ago on camels 1 got my camera out r took a snap to the great delight of the camel man. Today some more stores came ot he camels were unloaded just which ur were ready to start for the temple, so the camel max asiced mu if / would lite to ride his camel. you may be sure i ied not say no. so the gaudiest blankets in the house were fetched + chaped over the saddics + then 1 mounted one camel a Miss $l$. the other. the man made a hissing noise o the camel hraurd up his behind. nearly shot me oven his head. Then up went his foot logs o I thought I should slide own his Tail. Then he set off with his tong swinging stride, it was pafectly wonduful the easy swinging motion going up + down the sand hills without a sound, it was fine

Dear Mother.
I have had the thrill of thrills today. I rode on a real desert camel. It happened thuswise. When our beds \& other things came up a few days ago on camels I got my camera out \& took a snap to the great delight of the camel man. today some more stores came \& the camels were unloaded just when we were ready to start for the temple, so the camel man asked me if I would like to ride his camel. you may be sure I did not say no. so the gaudiest blankets in the house were fetched and draped over the saddles \& then I mounted one camel \& Miss C. the other. the man made a hissing noise \& the camel heaved up his behind. nearly shot me over his head. then up went his front legs \& I thought I should slide over his tail. then he set off with his long swinging stride, it was perfectly wonderful the easy swinging motion. going up \& down the sand hills without a sound, it was fine
beng able to view the dessit from suck a height
When the camel hokes into a Got Incally thought
my spine would be janed through my head
but I think / could soon adapt myself to the
motion. The folding up of the camel for me io
dismount was afso rather alarming, but 1 am glad to say i managed werything without loss of dignity, Of course this adventure caused huge delight among the scruants, They rode on despised donkeys t There were hoots of joy from weeny body. The final incident was almost the most delightful when the canal man thanked us most profusely for honoring his cancels by condescending to ride them.

I have ncaiurd two obsuvers sue have been has we all appiciale them var muck. when finistice for reading they do to Pine shictues akexp dust of things. Today you tutu with the photo's Midabell took came they ane not to bad. They make really pretty pictures. lIam sony to han mushrooms still do not agnes with you.
being able to view the desert from such a height When the camel broke into a trot I really thought my spine would be jarred through my head but I think I could soon adapt myself to the motion. The folding up of the camel for me to dismount was also rather alarming, but I am glad to say I managed everything without loss of dignity, Of course this adventure caused huge delight among the servants. they rode our despised donkeys \& there were hoots of joy from everybody. the final incident was almost the most delightful when the camel ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ man thanked us most profusely for honouring his camels by condecending ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ to ride them.

I have received two "Observers" since I have been here we all appreciate them very much. when finished for reading they do to line shelves \& keep dust off things. Today your letter with the photo's $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}} \mathrm{La} /<\mathrm{e}>$ bell took came they are not too bad. they make really pretty pictures. I am sorry to hear mushrooms still do not agree with you.

Today Strike t Abdul Wahid presented us unto a charm $1 \bar{o}^{-}$ protect us form wort spinils, it is composed of aria in chapras from the Koran beautifully wilton out on ships of paper of folded is a special way. This Shack is a very holy man $r$ it is a peat compliment, for it is very none for a Mohamedin to give such a Thing to a Christian.
Yes Tinday our poor little house boy

Abdullat came running in screaming saying with fight, hic had bun sent on an wand to the village I had delayed his atiunn till dusk. He told us that he had sech a ghost rise out of the desist rit came towards time, he was in a great static of Thor ur thionic he must hair secs the wind lifting up a little whim of sand as it does sometimes tet probably looked very wind on the half light these people ane very umaqualiue o supastílious. They buber this place is haunTed. I hate to br out alone after dark.

We ans having a very hot spell just now,

- they call it the second summer, it is not passible to

Today Sheikh Abdu Wahid presented us with a charm to protect us from evil spirits, it is composed of certain chapters from the Koran beautifully written out on strips of paper \& folded in a special way. this Sheik is a very holy man \& it is a great compliment, for it is very rare for a Mohameden ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ to 4 give such a thing to a Christian.

Yesterday our poor little house boy Abdullah came running in screaming \& crying with fright. he had been sent on an errand to the village \& had delayed his return till dusk. he told us that he had seen a ghost rise out of the desert \& it came towards him, he was in a great state of terror. we think he must have seen the wind lifting up a little column of sand as it does sometimes \& it probably looked very weird in the half light these people are very imaginative \& superstitious. they believe this place is haunted. \& hate to be out alone after dark.

We are having a very hot spell just now, they call it the second summer, it is not possible to
work after 12. So Miss $b$ al gut up at $5.15+$ ane starling work in the Temple by 6.15. We nest in own norms after lunch till 3.30 o thin manage to get is an town ta half's work before sunset. but corn then it is very hot because the sand altsolts so much heat. when we get back on the wining my clothes ans all west though but I dour feel in the Past distressed, as soon as we get in we all have hot baths. That means that a large copper bowl beg enough To set of ionzel in is placed in own som, also a langue can of hot water + ditto of cold, so we ane able to get a really good sponge down. 1 wash my vert r stockings at the same Tome put all cican thongs on for diane. the things / wast ane dy y before bed Time. We have had a present of a live tinker form one of the quads of the Temple. This gift has caused quetia If 0 discussion, because it is against camp rules to accept -presents, on c has to make var define utes because the nation will hong such uhtodinary
work after 12 . so Miss C \& I get up at $5 \cdot 15 \&$ are starting work in the temple by $6 \cdot 15$. we rest in our rooms after lunch till $3 \cdot 30 \&$ then manage to get in an hour \& a half's work before sunset. but even then it is very hot because the sand absorbs so much heat, when we get back in the evening my clothes are all wet through but I dort feel in the least distressed, as soon as we get in we all have hot baths. that means that a large copper bowl big enough to sit or kneel in is placed in our room, also a large can of hot water \& ditto of cold, so we are able to get a really good sponge down. I wash my vest \& stockings at the same time \& put all clean things on for dinner, the things I wash are dry before bed time.

We have had a present of a live turkey from one of the guards of the temple, this gift has caused quite a lot of discussion, because it is against camp rules to accept presents, one has to make very definite rules because the natives will bring $\&$ such extrodinary ${ }^{\text {sic }}$
things +ur should gat all sorts of horne insets + umpleasantrncssis about the place. also we would br bound to gie a gift back, the situation would become impossitk. We trice to uptaen this to the ownin of the Tanka, he es a splendid old fellow t he was dreadfully upset. it scams Miss Gafurnfey had been very good to his family whin his children were ill + as he is a very poo man he had nothing the dared offer, So he sassed this Turkey from the E99 so that he could ling it to the camp when she nturncd. under those cucumslänces it was impossible To refuse, but it was an enormous gift fa one of these props to make. It was like an english farm labored rearing a horse 10 give away. Miss $b$ is uniting to the Army o Navy stoss To have a blanket sent out from England for him.

We arc planning to make a festival of
A bu bhistmas for the native chillon $\delta$ shave a decorated their for them. I want to make some papa Toys for it. So could you enclose snaps of hight
things \& we should get all sorts of horrid insects \& unpleasantnesses about the place. also we would be bound to give a gift back \& the situation would become impossible. We tried to explain this to the owner of the turkey. he is a splendid old fellow \& he was dreadfully upset, it seems Miss Calverley had been very good to his family when his children were ill \& as he is a very poor man he had nothing he dared offer, so he reared this turkey from the egg so that he could bring it to the camp when she returned. under those circumstances it was impossible to refuse, but it was an enormous gift for one of these people to make. it was like an english ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ farm labuorer/<orer> rearing a horse to give away. Miss C is writing to the Army \& Navy stores to have a blanket sent out from England for him.

We are planning to make a festival of Abu Christmas for the native children \& <to> have a decorated tree for them. I want to make some paper toys for it, so could you enclose scraps of bright

## $34 / 6$

coloured stiff papain some of your etas.
pieces the size of and sonverpope will do. you will find lots in my chest, if you lift out the box that was my dolls house you will find another underneath. There should be lot's of, coloured samples thence. I have a vol of gum papa hance with me. So could make all sorts of papa Toys if
I had suitable papa.
Oct 26". We had the police officer to dinner, he does not go about witt suck an army at his hulls as El Inzawy did. But his outpost is not so important. he has not long loft the military school, he speaks English very will but has to think his sentences out carefully, +we have to sprat slow by, distinctly. I think he enjoyed his dione panty, we had soup. roost Turkey. Potatö́s, beans. caramel custard. Watrimelon, pomegranates $r$ coffer.
Oct 2 y la $^{2}$ Two gentleman firm the village called this weneng, crank coffer s made polite remarks; sweral times, in fact in each lull in the conversation they enquired after my ticallf. I I assumed them that I was
coloured stiff paper in some of your letters.
pieces the size of an $\langle$ big $\rangle \mathrm{e} /<0\rangle$ nvelope ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ will do. you will find lots in my chest, if you lift out the box that was my dolls house you will find another underneath. there should be lots of coloured samples there. I have a roll of gum paper here with me. so could make all sorts of paper toys if I had suitable paper.

## Oct $26^{\text {th }}$

We had the police officer to dinner, he does not go about with such an army at his heels as El Gerzawy did. but his outpost is not so important. he has not long left the military school, he speaks English very well but has to think his sentences out carefully. \& we have to speak slowly \& distinctly. I think he enjoyed his dinner party, we had soup. roast turkey. potatoes \& beans. caramel custard. watermelon \& pomegranates \& coffee.

## Oct $27^{\text {th }}$

Two gentleman from the village called this evening \& drank coffee \& made polite remarks; several times, in fact in each lull in the conversation they enquired after my health \& I assured them that I was
veny well thanks be to allaR. Miss $B$ ri anc askerd to altend a cucmony whach is to be hold for the hencfit Of ore of their wives. This is called a Zan + es neally a ceromony for propiciaing a possessing spinit.
It suemo one of these ladics has got in $10^{\circ}$ a highby navous a hysterical condilion. So a unich doctor is called in. The womon sit un a cincte beating chums o swaying thim bodics about, the possessed woman $q$ cts into a soit of thaner + the spinit spcals though hice mouth $\alpha$ demands certoin things to br given it, the cunious thing is that these spinils anc mals \& the voice is thic gruff decp vrice of a man, after the domand has bien madr the things are got. Then anothen engeeromony is ananged. The women woik thansclues up ento this hypnotic state o the offerings ane made 10 the spirit. This is the part of the cescmony we anc To winess. This sprcial spiuit has demanded 3 gold rings, a fish Talesman, while nobes ra shecp. I shall be able to rell you all about it later on. of course the mon can not go To this, we are vary lueley lo get the opportunity.
very well thanks be to Allah. Miss C \& I are asked to attend a ceremony which is to be held for the benefit of one of their wives. this is called a Zar \& is really a ceremony for propiciating ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ a possessing spirit.

It seems one of these ladies has got into a highly nervous \& hysterical condition, so a witch doctor is called in. the women sit in a circle beating drums $\&$ swaying their bodies about, $<\&>$ the possessed woman gets into a sort of trance \& the spirit speaks through her mouth \& demands certain things to be given it, the curious thing is that these spirits are male \& the voice is the gruff deep voice of a man, after the demand has been made the things are got. then another big ceremony is arranged. the women work themselves up into this hypnotic state \& the offerings are made to the spirit. this is the part of the ceremony we are to witness. this special spirit has demanded 3 gold rings, a fish talisman, white robes \& a sheep. I shall be able to tell you all about it later on. of course the men can not go to this, we are very lucky to get the opportunity.

## $34 / 8$

Oct $28^{\text {u. Wee have fen lereping a doctor's shop Today, }}$ at dawn this moving just as we were stälin̄g off Two women aviived, a pathetic little wife of 15 with hen mothers baby. Thisquil had a chcadful gathering on hen hast. is looked as if it ought is be lanced. she sand it had been bad for 10 days. probably The baby bit hin + noting was done at the time. the only thing 10 do was 10 send $5^{\circ}$ the doctor at Baliana 11 miles away. Miss Capoestoy wite a note for he to läke saying we were willing to do any necessary dressings according to his instructions sine it would be umpossette for the poor child to make that jouncy even day. ur are nathan hoping she coll be sent 10 hospital but of course they arc Tenificd at the idea. She neonly cried when we said she must go to the doctor Jo treatment. This corning a man came with a guat gash in his shin. hid done of 5 days ago. it was a nasty cut but not inflamed a septic so we nomored dust i dent with lysol water put hot boracic lint on abound it up. hi is

## Oct 28 ${ }^{\text {th }}$.

We have been keeping a doctor's shop today, at dawn this morning just as we were starting off two women arrived, a pathetic little wife of 15 with her mother \& baby. this girl had a dreadful gathering on her breast. it looked as if it ought to be lanced. she said it had been bad for 10 days. probably the baby bit her \& nothing was done at the time, the only thing to do was to send the to the doctor at Baliana 11 miles away, Miss Calverley wrote a note for her to take saying we were willing to do any necessary dressings according to his instructions since it would be impossible for the poor child to make that journey every day. we are rather hoping she will be sent to hospital but of course they are terrified at the idea, she nearly cried when we said she must go to the doctor for treatment. This evening a man came with a great gash in his shin. he'd done it 5 days ago. it was a nasty cut but not inflamed ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ or septic so we removed dust \& dirt with lysol water put hot bras $/\langle\mathrm{c}>$ ic lint on $\&$ bound it up. he is
coming again To mono to have fest fins put on.
these people arc so pathetic they hair no idea how
to fook afire themsclocs. They just go on suffering
a hair no idea how to sour themselves so much
pain by a little canc o common sense. it is all as Blat wills. They thine Inglest people have some special power. They can get all the epsom Salts they equine in the village but they always come hus for a dose. They say what we giver them has qucaté power - So we dote out Epsom a get mach adit than by. This sort of life is full of intricst than is no chance 10 be dull hae Oct $29^{\prime \prime}$ Om man patient annie very carly, the lysol compress had done its work during the night ow were able to get the cut propuly clean. it was a chcadful gash the bone was uposed, ot he poor man had been going about with it uncooked among dust aflies for $5^{\text {d days. }}$ ar painted it with iodine. Miss b. Explained that it would furn like fire, he said it hd not matter, he never. Turned a Rain during the operation. he went of neath y bandaged with
coming again tomorrow to have fresh lint put on. these people are so pathetic they have no idea how to look after themselves. they just go on suffering \& have no idea how to save themselves so much pain by a little care \& common sense. it is all as Allah wills. they think English people have some special power. they can get all the Epsom Salts they require in the village but they always come here for a dose. they say what we give them has greater power - so we dole out Epsom \& get much credit there by. This sort of life is full of interest there is no chance to be dull here

## $\underline{O c t ~ 29}^{\text {th }}$

Our man patient arrived very early, the lysol compress had done its work during the night \& we were able to get the cut properly clean. it was a dreadful gash the bone was exposed. \& the poor man had been going about with it uncovered among dust \& flies for 5 days. we painted it with iodine. Miss C. explained that it would burn like fire, he said it did not matter \& he never turned a hair during the operation. he went off neatly bandaged with

## $34 / 10$

much mors faith than we have that all will be will.
This is market day round day of Mist, we had hncalefast at 8 insicād 05 5.45. Miss bol have been wasting our more delicate garment's
that we do not like is hist io the native wash woman, ur had Tubs out side in the shade of the house o Atedullat fetched hot water for us a canicd the bowls of wing out cities when us to hang them on the tine it was a wash de lux.
l am enclosing a special stamp Mi J. bell may lite to hair it, it is on l issued for a short
Tue.
Will you ask Father to got me a couple of pencils with-proteclõs. wi want these protectors To use with short fongtis of parcel. It honk they will come letter post in a strong envelope.
I think some of this nous might in least Unit Jimmie will you post it on for hum $10^{\circ} 1 \mathrm{kad}$ when you hour all pursed it. I am oncfosing.
much more faith than we have that all will be well.

This is market day \& our day of rest. we had breakfast at 8 instead of $5 \cdot 45$. Miss C \& I have been washing our more delicate garments that we do not like to trust to the native washerwoman, we had tubs outside in the shade of the house \& Abdullah fetched hot water for us $\&$ carried the bowls of wrung out clothes while for us to hang them on the line it was a wash de lux.

I am enclosing a special stamp $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Rebel may like to have it. it is only issued for a short time.

Will you ask Father to get me a couple of pencils with protectors. we want these protectors to use with short lengths of pencil. I think they will come letter post in a strong envelope.

I think some of this news might interest Uncle Jimmie will you post it on for him to read when you have all perused it. I am enclosing

## $34 / 11$

the frist-fot of snaps. 1 am operining an account with Kodak's in Cavio post all my firms off for them to dial with
This is proving the fath in of falls. There are so many ctciling happenings o/ want to tell you all about than. later on. When the weather is coots ur shall wok forge hours +my lotus will hare to be shorter in consequence Yestuday I cut Capt baton fy's hair I shaved his node, hied been m 10 Batiana 10 sec about some things the blacksmith was mating for him scams in absolutely costed. shouting for a hair cut at once - his sister was bathing so he sicced on me for the job. At was such fum. He has em fly hair Il was able to make a ven good attempt. ti said it felt coolie o hats all he caned about
Manic has just asked me if I could get hae some forget me not seeds. I promised io asks you to send me a packet when you ask uniting.
the first lot of snaps. I am opening an account with Kodak's in Cairo \& post all my films off for them to deal with

This is proving the Father of letters. there are so many exciting happenings \& I want to tell you all about them. later on. when the weather is cooler we shall work longer hours \& my letters will have to be shorter in consequence

Yesterday I cut Capt Calverley's hair \& shaved his neck, he'd been to Baliana to see about some things the blacksmith was making for him \& came in absolutely cooked. \& shouting for a hair cut at once - his sister was bathing so he siezed ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ on me for the job. it was such fun. he has curly hair \& I was able to make a very good attempt. he said it felt cooler $\&$ hats $^{\text {sic }}$ all he cared about

Nannie has just asked me if I could get her some forget-me-not seeds. I promised to ask you to send me a packet when you are writing.
My wask was dry sn Ton minules, it is now
isoned oput away.
Let me inow if any of my fि\#icrs anc excess
werghi I hauk no means of werghing Thom
-Sondic Takes on maul bag + gives of 15 the
postman when he visils the village Shict
has no postoffice
I cally thinve imust himo This to
a crose. my pion is nean? dhy
Hcaps of for To you Goth also $10^{-}$
Pat o Mas Ghilds
Yoon affectionaté daug tiò
Myites.
P.S. Ihope Father's follce ansiuded on tome for his hininday.

My wash was dry in ten minutes, it is now ironed \& put away.

Let me know if any of my letters are excess weight I have no means of weighing them \& Sardic takes our mail bag \& gives it to the postman when he visits the village which has no post office

I really think I must bring this to a close, my pen is nearly dry

Heaps of love to you both also to Pat \& $\mathrm{M}^{\text {rs }}$ Childs

Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.
P.S. I hope Father's letter arrived in time for his birthday.

