

Arabah el Madfunah
May 2nd 1930

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I received your usual letter yesterday. what a surprise it must have been for you to see Aunt Clara, Ivy & Co walk in. I expect you all had a lot to talk about.

It is rather amusing that M^r Payne should make M^r Childs those two offers. evidently he has not been able to find any one else so satisfactory.

Nannie was delighted when I gave her your congratulations on her daughter's engagement.

We have had a luncheon party to-day M^r Ellison sent one of his engineers over to see our engine to advise Miss C what spare parts to bring out next season. M^r Milne came over in the Government^{sic} car & brought his wife & daughter with him. so it made a nice little change for us

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I expect Charlie Barnard came over also, on his way to the Cape & back, but we did not know till afterwards so did not look out for him -

I have collected quite a long string of amber I think I shall be able to make several necklaces out of it by stringing them on silk cord with knots to separate the beads, they dont really look well strung close as they are roughly shaped.

I do not know if I shall be able to get the bag for Uncle Jimmie, if I get the boat I want I shall be in Cairo during Byram Week, which is a very important Moslem festival & all Government institutions, museums & Exhibitions will be shut, also the Ministry, so I may not be able to do any more shopping in those quarters the public holiday ends the day before the boat leaves, so if I can go by the evening train I may just have time to get the few things I want.

Later. such an amusing thing happened this evening. the omdah came to call & brought a friend with him. after the usual salutations Miss C sent a message to the Hadj to make coffee for the guests. Sandie brought it in on a tray & they each took a long noisy guzzle. & then - oh dear you should have seen their faces. our holy cook had been so absorbed in his prayers that he had put salt instead of sugar in the coffee. one of our guests had to retire to the garden to spit. we made profuse apologies & sent for more coffee with sugar. they took it in very good

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part & roared with laughter. when we went to the kitchen afterwards to inquire into the matter we found the Hadj also convulsed with mirth & not at all in a contrite state of mind, it seems the salt tin stands next to the sugar tin. but since the sugar is in lumps & the salt in powder it is not easy to understand how one could be mistaken for the other.

We are struggling hard to get the remaining drawings finished, where possible we are leaving repeating details to finish in England as there is quite a bit to do still. we work for six hours in the morning, after that the temple gets too hot to work in, it has been 115 in the shade midday. fortunately it is cooler in the house, about 102 in the inner room.

My bath is ready
 Lots of love to you both, also to Pat.
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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