

Spoiled with Raspberry jam (51)

Monday, 1, Feb. we had an active day, for a tomb=chamber was found, with four ^{unrifled} ~~unrifled~~ bodies, & we had to open them one ^{by one} ~~one~~ to remove the amulets of stone and ^{porcelain} ~~porcelain~~, recording the position of each as it was found. The richest had 57, & the poorest 27 amulets on it; scarabs, hearts, eyes, discs, tats, &c. If only we could find a few more such chambers, out of the hundreds here, we should do well.

A few days later, as a man was clearing a large stone chamber, partly ruined, he found in the corner, the whole deposit of funeral images, unhappily not one inscribed with the name of the deceased. I cleared out the lot, which stood on end in the sand, just as they had been placed in a wooden box, which had decayed entirely away. There were 204 ^{green porcelain} ~~green porcelain~~ figures in this lot, & 62 more in another corner of the same tomb. This is the ^{biggest} ~~biggest~~ lot from any one tomb, that we have yet found.

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somewhere about 30,000; beside hundreds of lapis lazuli & silver beads, and a quantity of little silver-gilt figures. This tomb had been runned down, & flatted over, with another large set of tombs built on it; these had been rifled, & reused later on, walls being added, built upon heaps of bones; then all were rifled in ancient times, again by Arabs, & finally cleared out, by my men.

Another instance of foundation deposits has been found, of which some notice will appear in the Academy.

We are pretty well supplied with labour, as I have refused many men, & have 138 hands going now; quite as many as we can properly see after, as half of them are on the cemetery. The temple is going on slowly, & nothing more has been found, except some stone foundations of the gate of the enclosure, & foundations which I think may belong to a second temple.

The weather here has been very fine & warm for this time of year; so that I

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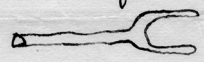

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I am sending this earlier than usual to post, ^{as} we have a man going in to Fakus for charcoal; there are several ways of getting things here, but none very convenient, all many miles of bad roads, and most needing some fording of canals.

More bronze spear heads have been found, & one iron one; also some curious forked bronzes found with the spearheads, and about the same size , and one ; what these are for I cannot imagine: possibly fish spears. We are getting many good glass beads, & a good bronze bowl came in this week. But one of the best finds is a large bronze pail with two handles, about a foot across, & with a flat lid.

I am sorry to say I must knock off now for it is 10 o'clock, and I have had a lot of writing to do for an Academy letter, beside Mr Poole, & <D< Lansing, & one to Milford.

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Papers & letters arrived, only one Pub. Op. missing -

10. Feb: 1886.

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Then as I came back from the temple Griffith led me to a tomb where two fine alabaster vases were just found, which I cut out of the earth; one about a foot high; with an engraved lotus pattern on one side; a fine thing notwithstanding the loss of one handle; the other is plain, both handles gone & the neck broken, but all there.

XII.
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56
 Then in the afternoon, Griffith cleared out the
 sarcophagus containing 20 or 30 amulets, &
 saw the lower part, from ankles to waist, of a
 lifesize Ptah in black granite, got out at the
 temple; it is of Ramessu II with cartouches, &
 very good work, highly polished: but I fear it
 is hardly worth carrying off, considering its weight.
 The day before, we cleared out 320 wretched
 uninscribed green figures from a tomb; they
 were placed upright in two boxes, one on each
 side, & that is the most interesting fact about
 them. I hate the sight of an uninscribed
ushabti now, we are so swamped with them.
 Worse still, on the 11th, 300 more blue ushabti
 from men outside our work; I give 1/10^d each
 for them, but the puzzle is to know what we
 can do with them. As for broken shabti
 they are used to plug up rat holes.

Our day's work here begins by our getting
 up at sunrise; Griffith has a cup of coffee
 & something to eat before he goes out, a bad
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 vain. Then by half an hour after the sun,
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breakfast. This always consists of half a dozen (57) fried eggs each, bread, jam, & coffee. Then out again, & over the work before starting it at noon. In the noon hour I either attend to anything that I want to do while the men are away, or else come in for writing or drawing. Then in the afternoon we circulate, & look to the work till sunset. We then come in, & have dinner ^{soon} ~~at once~~, about 6 o'clock now. In the evening there are quantities of things to be marked & put away, photographs to develop, writing to do, and if there is a spare half hour, I thread some beads, as that takes scarcely any attention. We get to bed about 10, ~~is~~ so as to be ready to turn out before 7, next morning. Our dinners generally consist of lentil soup, ducks, rice & jam; coffee & bread of course.

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13th.

13th. - *Mr Petrie, 8 Crescent Rd Bromley*
 We have had a khamsin to day, but not very hot. After considering everything, I have decided to take all my excursion in one, and I shall go to Nebireh, take next week about the neighbourhood from Tel el Ferain (N.E. of Desuk) ⁽⁵⁸⁾ up to Kafr Zayat, &c; thence train to Mansura, & be a fortnight around that neighbourhood, hunting up tells & ruins. Thus I shall be out 3 weeks, unless any other cause should make me divide my trip. My stores will be sent by train from Fakus, for two weeks; & the first week I take with me from Nebireh. In case Griffith wants me, he can get me at the end of the first or second week, by writing. Cook has orders to forward any letters. But I may not write punctually, and not very much in any case, while knocking about thus in a tent.

I must now see to putting my things in order here, for I must settle everything pretty well before hand, as I shall be away so long. I have shaken off the old shekh a bit, for his son carried off some bricks from our work, & I made a row, & made him rather ashamed of it. I saw it was a convenient way to check him a little without being rude. He is an affectionate as ever, bid me good bye to day, with much kissing, & called me his brother, an address generally kept for Muslims. I have written to Mr. Poole.

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(59)

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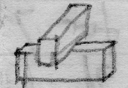

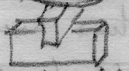
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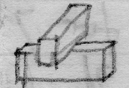

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 I saw two almond trees, about 1/3 out, the only
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this is within a mile of where I had put down⁽⁶³⁾⁵
 the city of Kabasa to be looked for, according to
 Ptolemy. The mound is all Graeco Roman so
 far as I could see, it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile across, &
 where the town stands on it is still 20 to 30 ft high; but
 half of it has been dug away for earth, & remains
 heaped with red Roman brickbats 5 feet deep. I
 got a few coins from one digger, but three different
 people told me that a dealer had been over the
 place the same day before me & cleared off things.
 I hunted all through & round the town for inscrip^{ns}
 but could not find any, not even in the mosques.
 One mosque, which had fallen in a year ago, I was
 very politely shewn over by the inhabitants to
 whom it belonged. Altogether I saw 14 <17> wht marble
 bases, square, 27 pillars, two red granite pillars, & 13
 marble capitals; & several red granite millstones on
 two of which I made out ~~NETTA~~ ~~NETTA~~ &
 NETTA, like a stone I saw at Xoia two years ago.
 The town is very ruinous & irregular,
 & continually you see ruined parts, which have
 been dug into to get out bricks for rebuilding,
 leaving great gulfs, sometimes 15 to 20 ft
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 Altogether Shabb Senhur will be as good a
 representation of the important, coin-striking town

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(64)

of Kabasa as could be wished for, it is close to the place indicated by Ptolemy. A far better find however awaited me; as soon as we left Senhur I saw stretching in front of me the great mounds of Tell Ferain, the supposed Buto according to my examination of Ptolemy; & though I knew them to be five miles off they seemed but one mile, they stood so prominently in view. As we neared they came up larger & larger, and every mile I said to myself more confidently, this must be Buto. The way was bad, & got worse, & our unlucky donkey was often helped over bad places by one man holding his neck-rope, & the other his tail. At last we reached the village of Ubtu, at the foot of the mounds. When I got to the top of one mound of homes I found a wide plain before me, and another, larger, mound beyond that ^{60 feet high}: while apart from the houses stood unmistakably a great temple enclosure, such as those of Tanis, Sais, or Heliopolis. I went over at once to the entrance - what should I see, statues, building, or what? Alas, as I walked in, there was a great square place where the temple had been, all dug out, & heaps of flakes of sandstone & granite around it. Whatever there is left of the temple of Uati is beneath the

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(65)
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 The old river bed runs close by the town on the W, not a mile or two off like the modern canal; and this bed we crossed on our way, some miles to the S. ~~It is~~ The water in it is about 10 feet below the present canal, shewing its age, before the country had risen so much by deposits. There are two or three beds to be traced, altogether the hollow is a furlong or more wide. The country begins to

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(66)
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 & goes worse & worse; mud is waste at Buto,
 & to the north the water is badly about, between
 that & tells to the N. So I had to leave them
 unexamined, hearing that country was not
 passable till May. No inscribed stones or
 antiquities were to be had; but the people
 only dig in the late houses, & turn up
 Roman bricks & scraps of broken limestone.
 No work is done in the older parts of the temple
 now. I heard of one slave, with a man,
 woman & child, broken up for building.
 Going south to "El Aguzgaa", really El Aguzeyn,
 I went off, leaving the donkey, to a high mound I
 saw to the E, which must be the ~~unnamed~~ unnamed
 village below the word Ahmar on the map. This
 is the most striking Arab town I have seen. There
 was a very high tell here, some 50 ft high, &
 still living on the top of it is an Arab town which
 has deposited more, & is now some 70 feet
 above the plain, or 80 ft to the tops of the houses.
 The extent of view over the flat Delta is
 amazing, about 10 miles around. A good part
 of the ancient town has been dug away, close up to
 the modern part, which thus stands on a cliff
~~down~~ over which the people throw all their
 rubbish. Near the top of the hill, on a flat place,

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stood a large long tent ^{about 15 feet by 30} of blue & white, ⁽⁶⁷⁾ with
 coloured hangings, open at each end, with mats
 inside; the audience place of the old shekh who
 sat there, looking over the country, with his
 officials. He was very polite, came out &
 pressed me to coffee, &c, which I declined on plea
 of time. About half way down the slope stands
 the mosque, with a great high white portal which
 may be seen for ~~3~~ miles off. I saw four ancient
 columns & 3 capitals in the mosque, & white marble
 columns & capitals were being burnt for lime.
 The whole of the ancient site is about half a
 mile across, & the cleared away parts shew
 that it had straight streets. The Bahr
 Sefeh which we crossed is a navigable
 stream, & the ferryman is a fisher, who
 spends his time casting his net all about
 the ferry. When it pleases him, he comes to
 take you aboard; he then goes on casting his
 net, hither & thither up & down stream, &
 when it pleases him, he is good enough to
 go over to the shore you want, & let you get
 out, only you must not think of being in a hurry,
 fishing is the one paramount business of life to
 him. To my surprise I saw that the bottom was
 clean & stoney with shells, & not all mere mud.
 The roads going south were miserable; they


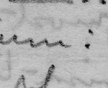
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
(68)
 never are anything but twisty field paths, & sometimes they cut them up altogether for canals to pass, perhaps jumpable, perhaps not. The donkey had to be unloaded, & everything carried across. At another place, a road along side of a canal was deliberately all cut to pieces into a deep irregular trench; elsewhere it went into a mass of deep black mire & water. At last we reached Sais, & there I picked out a place for the tent close to a large new building which I supposed to be a store for the government produce or some such affair. I had some notion the shekh might invite me, so I left my tent & things by the road side in charge of the men while I went off to the mounds, so as to shew. However to my relief I found them all there when I got back, & so began pitching at sunset. Just as I had done, up came the shekh and an aged official of his, & were shocked at my doings, & told me that the building I had pitched by was a great guesthouse of his. I had to give in, & go off with them. Nothing could be more polite, but the case stood thus; I had had breakfast at 7 1/2, only a scrap of bread & water since, & it was now 5 1/2, & I was just wanting a quiet feed. Instead

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of that, I had, sleepy & hungry, to sit up (59)
 talking till 8 before I got anything. Of all
 the nuisances of travelling this dining with
 shekhs is the worst. They then shewed me to
 an excellent room with two iron bedsteads &
 mattresses, and sent in water to drink, & a big
 copper basin & ewer for washing, the only
 thing I really cared for. I felt altogether, as
 Cape Whitehouse says of New York hotels, "in the
 utmost lugschury". The room was curiously
 prison-like, lighted by three small windows about
 12 feet from the floor. As it is a free-standing
 building, with fields on three sides, they might
 just as well have made a low lookable through
 windows. Villiers Stuart had been there, &
 the old man particularly remembered him, that
 old man was most pleasant; a quiet, intelligent,
 business-like, clear-thinking fellow who knew
 how to make me understand better than all the
 others did, & was most agreeable & kindly. Next
 morning, I was up & out early, and a brother(?)
 of the shekh's led me off to the cotton mill, where
 was a Greek, who could speak English, & had antiquities.
 I found a very pleasant & refined young
 Greek, P. Alfieri, who shewed me a large case
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70
 full of bronzes &c, among which I took note of
 some remarkable things, & looked over all
 his scarabs. But he told me that all their
 best things were in Alexandria, & they had a
 hundred fine scarabs there. Then in the
 garden, squatting across the channel of a
 newly finished water basin & fountain,
 was the lower part of a small statue in grey
 granite, of a certain Bek-s, a prince under
 Psamtik I, offered to the gods of the nome  &
 devoted to the gods of Anp  & to Tum: but
 no mention of Sais on it. He was evidently
 proud of this figure, which was certainly very
 good, & told me he had offered £10 for the top
 if anyone would find it. I copied all the
 inscriptions. He also shewed me a bit of
 limestone, from the temple I think. His wife
 came out, speaking English & French. They
 struck me as a bright and intelligent young couple,
 and I wished I could have had breakfast with
 them, as they asked me, but I wanted to get on.
 It came on a high wind as we went down the
 side of the river. At the Nekleh ferry were over
 100 people waiting to cross the river beside 8
 beasts. I let one ferry boat go without trying
 to get in, it was so crowded; & then pushed for
 the second, in which we were 42, two
 buffaloes, & a few donkeys. It was market day

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(72)

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I think now I have made amends for my short accounts of some time past. Posted at Kafr el Zayat, Feb: 22--

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XIII. Kafr el Zayat
Mar: 2--

M^{rs} Petrie
8. Crescent Rd
Bromley-
Kent-

XIII. Kafr el Zayat-
Mar: 2--
Mrs Petrie
8. Crescent Rd
Bromley
Kent-

From F. 22. (I think my last sheet was p 13, so I mark 17)
(73)

From Kafr ez Zayat, where I posted my last, took train to Talka, the station opposite Mansura, & found that it was a station & nothing more; an Arab village lies about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from it, but the real use of the station is as a way to Mansura, a small fleet of boats waiting to take passengers over. I went over & got my letters & papers. Griffith sent the ^{railway} order for my bag of provisions here I find, as well as sending the bag. I had arranged with him to ~~send~~ write to Kafr Zayat, and was on the point of waiting a day there for his letter, but thought - happily - that it would be more convenient to wait at Talka, so left orders ^{at K.Z.} there to send on his letter to Talka. At Mansura I found it, & got my bag. Then pitched tent by the station. It was raining moderately, & next day there were many showers, & high wind. Happily the nights are quiet for me in tent; but the day weather has been very cold & wet, for so late in the winter. I expected to have found it getting hot by the last week in Feb^r. At Talka I had to take another donkey, so as to ride for a day or two, having pressed a tendon with my boot, & so swollen it. Behbit el Hagar is a fine place to see, a heap of immense blocks of granite, with delicate Ptolemaic sculptures, lying in confusion in the middle of a great enclosure: but it does not seem at all a promising place for work. There is no ancient town to be traced, no pottery, no houses, only the temple. And most of the ground

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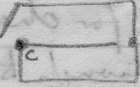
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(74)
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(75)

I omitted to say that there are fine gardens at Kom Hamada full of oranges, bananas, and almond trees. I am ~~not~~ noting the peculiarities of dress of the women, which is very different in parts of the Delta. The great distinctions are, the wearing, or not, of very full blue or red trousers to the ankle, with short upper robe; and the use of face veils. In the W. there are no veils, about the mid Delta veils begin; in the E. they are commonly yellow, & absolutely universal. In the W. the robe is long, & no trousers below it; in the mid Delta the robe is shorter, & very baggy bright coloured trousers are worn; in the E. the dress is as in the W. I want to note the limits of these changes as far as I can, they are very sharp, within a day's walk, and must I think shew a difference of race.

I saw by the railway scales that my tent weighs 80 lbs, with the poles; but I make use of its size by taking in Aid Jabri, and the donkey man, if he wishes it. Having a piece of canvas which I brought for an outside shelter for my men, thinking the tent to be small, I now use it to stretch from pole to pole (that sounds large, doesn't it?) & so divide the big tent in two  then closing it up by big pins at the corner c. I make a private room of my own, which cannot be reached except by going through the other. This is warmer, & it

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(76)
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 told that I am inside, & they do not see
 any direct way to get at me. I always look
 after weighing of any kind, as mistakes are apt to
 occur. In buying a stock of oil for Griffiths
 frying, &c, the man, I half believe innocently,
 got some kilogramme weights from a neighbour,
 & then treated them as okas: I did my reckoning,
 & he did his, & then seeing he took them as
okas, I pointed out the little difference, so he
 most apologetically sent for oka weights, to
 convert kilos to okas being outside of his
 arithmetic. The currency is worse than ever;
 change scarce, & half of it repudiated by every
 one who sees it, & much more than half
 repudiated by all Gov^t Offices. Copper & gold
 are the only
 safe metals; copper, because only being worth
 the metal, no one can forge it, & no wear
 can make it to be worse repudiated than it
 is. Silver in all forms is wretched, parisis,
 piasters, Austrian, Spanish, Italian, & even French,
 for if a little worn, francs & halves will not go.
 Had to wait about ½ hr for change at the station;
 mine was not good enough to be taken, even some
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From Behbit we went up to Semenud; the mounds (21)
 there are very wide, but mostly shallow, & late, on
 the surface. The temple site is in a most
 unhappy state, the moderns have carried off
 the greater part of the stones for bridge building,
 &c, a quantity still lying by the railway, waiting to be
 broken up; the ground has been so far dug out
 that it is half underwater, & only dry in summer,
 & the soil is excessively salt, faces of cuttings
 being covered with a thick crust. The whole of
 it is, however, of XXXth dyn: to judge by the stone
 used, & the style of some fragments. At Abusir
 is a mound about a mile W. of the town, but
 there is only brickwork & chips in it: it is however
 not late Roman. For about half a mile from
 Abusir, along the river south are remains
 of a town, and I was told that a quantity
 of marble & granite columns & capitals which
 saw in the large mosque were from there.
 Abusir stands on a mound some 30 ft high,
 but the top 10 ft, at least, is modern rubbish.
 I suspect the old mounds go under it at 10 ft
 high, as on the South, & all the rest is Arab.
 I thought I had seen probably most in the mosque,
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(78)
 the door I turned aside & looked, & saw a
 fine & perfect figure of Darius, seated, with
 name & titles. It is a good relief, & I think
 very uncommon; I shall ^{have} written to Maspero at
 once, to know if he wants it. The shekh &
 his followers came out, very civil, but knew
 of no other such stones. The shekh's house
 is a fine new building, a broad private
 road in front of it, a strip of enclosed
 garden in front of that, then the river-
 side road of the town, & the river below.
 Then crossed the river & searched the villages
 S.E. of the place Onuphis should lie, but as I found
 absolutely nothing as far as I could see, about 3 miles
 E. & N. & S. up to Mit Ghamr, it seems that the
 Roman town just S. of Abusir must be Onuphis;
 there is no other ancient town hereabouts, &
 that is within 2 miles of Ptolemy's place for it.
 The names are as wrong as usual on the map -
 Salaniyeh for Salamiyeh, Hariss for Harit,
 Mit Nezu for Bezu, Shabra Daish for Wesh, &
 Bashta for Bishleh. At Mit Ghamr I could
 not see or hear of anything ancient; but at
 Dakadus there are some fine capitals of Roman
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 A curious sight is a camel carrying a water wheel;
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diameter, & I met two camels, each with a wheel
 lashed on a-top of it; it looked more like a
 wobbling top, on four legs, than anything else, as
 it went swinging about. Our donkeys boys
 ways are erratic. One is a great, long, strapping,
 bawling fellow, the other is a little brown boy, who
 is not at all bad. The big one went off after ~~fish~~ we
 stopped, and took his donkey to feed, leaving the little one
 minus food for himself & donkey, for the mite is
 not up to foraging for himself. ^{This turns out to be due to Aid's stupidity.} I refused at the
 first, to have anything to do with feeding either
 boys or donkeys, as I know that is all paying
 out without any check. The result is our
 travelling might be called a progress of plunder;
 every unguarded clover field is invaded, & an armful
 plucked; and the long boy disappears all night
 with one or both donkeys, as I believe to pasture
 them in the fields of the neighbourhood. Brother
 muslims must settle all that between themselves.
 We never start early, as the tent needs to dry
 first, especially if it has been a wet night, and
 also I make a protracted breakfast, & then go on
 till dinner after sunset, sometimes with a scrap
 in the afternoon, sometimes not. This saves unpacking
 anything all day, and is much the most convenient.
 Of course, I always pitch tent myself, as my men
 would never attend to the details; the tent has been
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(80) Hence I have to adjust the tensions all round so as to save the weaker parts. Then if there is rain, I turn out in the night, & loosen the ropes, as a well-pitched tent, in the day, would almost tear itself when soaked. The Arab would never look to this. At Nebireh, the handle of one of our ^{door} locks had been lost; so instead of getting another handle, or sticking something in for a handle, they ~~took off~~ had taken off the plate from the door post, cut off the part in which the snap ^{bolt} of the handle lodged, & put on ^{again} the piece for the lock bolt. This was their way of getting over the difficulty of the door snapping & not being able to open it. There is a Coptic quarter & church at Dakadus. At Kom abu Nur, N.E. there is no mound visible: the shekh's house is very grand, painted tracery of the best class, done by first rate Cairo workmen, evidently. At Atmidah (E.N.E.) are three ~~st~~ blocks of red granite but no mound. At Tell abu Id, (E.S.E.) are three low mounds, with Roman pottery & bricks in the dust but nothing more. At Gharb Nagm (E.) is a slight Roman mound. At Tell Kadi there is no Tell, nor remains. Here I heard of a new tell 3 miles N, called Tell Jered; it proved to be entirely of heaped earth, except one or two walls in the middle part. It is about 400 x 800 ft. & 25 ft high, probably larger formerly, as it is being dug away a good deal now. It is thus of the same class as ~~at~~ Dahariyeh, and probably also a raised station

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(81) (25)
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March 1 -

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XIV- Abu Shokuk March 9-

M^{rs} Petrie
8 Crescent R^d
Bromley, Kent-

XIV- Abu Shokuk - March 9-

Mrs Petrie

8 Crescent Rd

Bromley, Kent

March 1-86-

27

March 1-86. (82) 27
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March 8. (Account to P. B. Smith)
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M^{rs} Petrie, 8 Crescent R^d Bromley,
 Kent-

part, & when I climbed up it there lay
 before me a plain about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile
 square surrounded by a great bank.
 It is almost flat inside, but with a little
 pottery strewn in one half. The enclosing
 bank is a puzzle; in parts of it are walls
 & chambers, but the bulk seems to be heaped
 earth. I am inclined to think it was a great
 camp, or city enclosure, of the XXVI Dynasty; it
 fell to ruin, & then was roughly repaired in
 Ptolemaic times by heaping earth over the
 damaged walls all round. Some of the
 people about were rather pleasant, but one man
 was ruder than any Egyptian I have met before,
 persisting in following me & wanting to look at
 my things. I walked back to Tukh & pitched tent.
 Bye & bye a Greek (I presume) walked into my
 tent & lifting my middle curtain calmly
 stared at me, I bid him good evening & stared
 at him; two or three natives followed him, &
 then one or two more; one turned on another
 & told him to go out, in an instant a row
 began, & I jumped up to turn them out. Out
 they went, & had a thorough good row for
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(84)

to be heard in the dim being "Iskut ya shekh",
 (Be quiet, oh shekh). After this was over
 my donkey boys came in asking for their money,
 & to be off tomorrow. They have given notice
 that they are going atleast once a day lately,
 so I had taken no notice at last of it. I began
 to count out the money, when the big fellow
 recanted & said it was only the little one who
 wanted to go; so I counted out the boys money,
 & then was told he could not be allowed to go
 off with it alone; & so they settled to go on
 with me tomorrow, & leave tomorrow night.
 Bye & bye, down came the shekh of the village
 (who had been to ask me to his house very
 politely before) & with him two of the inevitable
 Greeks, who insisted that there were thieves
 about, & I must go & sleep at his house; that
 I could not camp about unless I had an
 order from the gov^t for two soldiers as
 a guard. As I had got my main point
 well in progress, that is an immediate &
 quiet dinner. I gave in to the sleeping
 arrangements. I had had only some jam since
 breakfast; and the other day I had no bread left
 for breakfast, & so began the day on half a tin
 of jam, & some cold water, & this was all I got,
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another road, & tells took me longer than I ⁸⁵
 expected. I paid for that starving with a headache.
 generally I make a good breakfast, & then get
 something during the day, generally wandering
 over some mound with a tin of jam in
 one hand & a silver spoon in the other. The
 next morning after coffee with the shekh I went
 out while the tent was being to look at a
 small tell near, four inhabitants persisting in
 going with me. I never saw people so
 inquisitive anywhere before; when I came
 back to the tent there were thirty or forty
 men about. Also a police officer & two men were
 there, and I had a little talk with the officer
 who was very pleasant & polite, only saying that
 I had better have a government order for
 travelling about, as all parts were not alike,
 & in bad districts it was wanted. Whether wanted
 to awe the ^{people} shekhs into good behaviour, or to prove
 that one was respectable he did not explain. I
 heard it said that the shekh had sent over
 for the police to see me; certainly their timely
 arrival, waiting to see me, & having nothing
 else on hand apparently, seems like it. Thence
 the baggage went direct to Telbaneh (between
 Thmuis & Mansura) & I went with my donkey, by
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 for the size of it, the ruins go for about two
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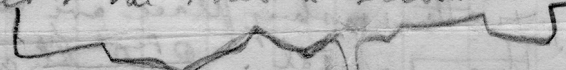
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 mound being here divided, the older mound <being to the N.>,

and the Roman town, instead of being on the previous one, is separate to the S. forming another tell. This is a great advantage for work here, as the surface of the old N. town is of the XXVI to XXX dyn without anything later on it. I thought there was a small military tower near the top of the mound, & only on getting near did I see it to be a monolithic granite shrine, about 18 feet high. It stands on a block of granite, & four courses of limestone which raised it some 18 feet more above the pavement of the temple, which again is of two thick courses, so that there is a mass of construction some 40 or 45 feet high. This stands in a brick enclosure about 200 ft. square, which has been paved all over with two courses. At present I found this pavement being quarried for a new railway line near here. This enclosure seems to have been what Brugsch partly cleared; but in front of it is a large space of temple ground covered with chips 15 feet deep, which has only had a small trench run into it. I think there is good scope for work here, not only on the temple site but on the town. There is another temple site perhaps NW of the monolith, with a finely worked lotus capital, & a dozen rather rude sarcophagi cut out of black & red granite, but only about 21 x 57 ins inside. They must have been for some sacred animals. In another place I saw a

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black granite sarcophagus inside a limestone (87)
 block which measured 13 ft 5, x 9 ft 2, x over
 7 ft high. The only name I saw was that of
 Ramessu II, on a block on the space in front of
 the monolith enclosure. Thmuis is the
 Tell el Emir Abdullah which I have heard of;
 and evidently things are found there as all
 the people knew the word antika, though I
 found nothing to buy. There is a large
 business here in systematically mining the
 Roman town for bricks, dozens of people
 are employed at it, and the donkeys have
 special wooden crate-panniers to carry the
 bricks in. It is an impressive place, &
 far more promising for work than
 anything I have seen since Buto, better
 than Behbit or Semenud. At Tamud el
 Hagar (Tammüd) there is no mound, &
 only a few Roman scraps in the mosque.
 But a little further I saw a mound, & turned
 aside to walk over to it. Here I found a
 third of the square enclosures - camps? -
 such as Tambul & Heklêh. This was not so
 large, being about 1100 ft square, or about $\frac{1}{4}$
 mile. But the wall is of brickwork, there are
 quantities of chips of limestone &c about it
 in mounds, & about fifty large blocks of
 granite just outside on the W. Among them

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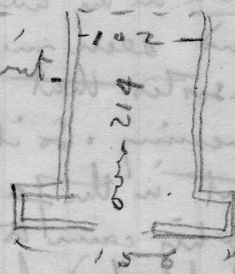
two unfinished capitals of black granite, ⁽⁸⁸⁾ ⁽³³⁾
 six feet across; but no sculpture or inscription.
 This place is close by the railway (at the m of Kafr
Amshanti on the map), and is known as Tell
 Naūs. I would rather spend a week's work
 here digging, than at most places I have seen.
 I suppose it to be of the XXVIII or XXX dynasty.
 Tambul is the most striking of these square
 camps; but having been heaped over later, it
 would be confused to work on; Heklēh is mostly
 under water, very dusty & salt; but this
 Naūs has plenty of remains of stonework about
 it, & scarcely a scrap of Roman pottery, all
 earlier. The road to Telbaneh is somewhat
 thus  going about
 half a mile along a canal to a bridge & then back
 to ~~be~~ exactly opposite where one turns. The
 donkey boys have really taken their money at
 Telbaneh. Aid says that misguided shekh of
 Tukh really did fetch the police from Sinbelawin
 to examine us, believing that we were travelling
 thieves! It is really too rich for people with a
 big tent, a couple of donkeys, &c, to be thought
 to be gypsies by the Egyptians. I should think
 that police officer made the shekh feel small, for
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 At Telbaneh is a slight mound of Roman age.
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 The "Koms" about here do not imply ancient remains

but only a slight rise beneath a village. ⁽⁸⁹⁾ This
 I found at Kom Durbi, Kom Banymaras
 (not Marash) & Kom abu Talib (not el Tauleb).
 At Tannah is a mound of about 30 feet
 under part of the town, but it has been much
 cut into, & shewed that it was all Arab: this is
 important as proving that mere elevations in
 a village do not mean necessarily anything
 ancient. There are some blocks of granite
 at Tannah, and I was told there was one
 inscribed, now beneath a rubbish mound, but
 that might mean nothing. In the mosque are
 12 or 15 marble columns, one beautiful
 twisted one, & in the washing place are two columns
 & a fine Corinthian capital. ^{Probably} all these
 came from Mendes or Thmuis. From Tannah
 I set off for Mendes, hearing there was a
 good road, & it was only half an hour. About
 half way, we came to a broad & deep canal
 with stakes of a bridge remaining, & men
 fording up to their waists. It was a cold dull
 day, & I was in no mood for fording, so
 hearing of a bridge I rode off for it. After
 going half an hour along the canal, we came
 to it: and then found a second & lesser canal
 beyond the first. I thought this probably was
 only a field feeder, & if we went outside it

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 only a field feeder, & if we went outside it

(19) we should have continued trouble, so I stuck
 to the main bank, between the canals; after half
 an hour more, we got back to the ford
 & there found there was no bridge over the
 lesser canal. So I waded it & went off
 for Mendes, leaving my donkey & man on
 the ridge between the canals. ^{Tell Billeh} Mendes is
 not at all a striking place, not $\frac{1}{6}$ of the
 size of Thmuis; just a rounded mound of
 salt dusty earth about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile across &
 not over 40 feet at the highest. The
 front part of it is low, including the temple
 sites. Where Brugsch found the tablet I
 cannot see as scarcely any digging seems
 to have been done at Thmuis, so I suppose nothing has been done at M.
 There is one temple almost
 completely traceable by the sharply defined
 difference of colour of the earth over its
 wall, the surface being quite smooth. Some
 blocks of a shrine (uninscribed) are lying in it.
 The area is about 200 x 100 ft.
 So would not be serious to clear out.
 Besides this are many blocks of
 a broken shrine, & some thick
 walls traceable about them.
 Also a sharply rectangular area of chips,
 probably filling up a large hall. The whole
 mound is like a map, the house walls



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shewing, by difference of colour, all over it. ⁽⁹¹⁾
 A plan might be made without putting
 a spade into the smooth heap of dust.
 The surface pottery seems to be early Roman
 at the latest; scarcely a scrap of late Roman
 ribbed was to be seen. I think work here might
 pay, because the temple areas have evidently
 not been cleared at all, & they cannot be at all
 deep, as they are in low ground. Coming back
 I waded both the canals. I do not object to the
 water, though getting back into one's clothes, all wet,
 is rather undesirable; but the bottoms are always
 such deep & slippery mud, that any crossing
 above the knees requires great care to avoid
 tipping over & being soaked altogether. It was
 market day & between 100 & 200 men &
^{beside much cattle} women ^{all} had to wade for lack of a bridge.
 I asked the shekh in the evening why no body put one;
 the reply was, they were all fellahin, & no one
 knew how to make a wooden bridge! - I was rather
done in the evening; a Frenchman stationed ^{at Tannah} ~~here~~
 had seen me in the morning & most politely
 insisted that I must come to his house in the
 evening. So it would be rather rude to pitch
 tent in the face of that; but neither he nor any
 of his came to ask us in, at sunset. The
 shekh had also left word to invite me. So I waited.
 Bye & bye the shekh came, & led me to his house.
 After a time he had a portion of fish & a big plate

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 Bye & bye the shekh came, & led me to his house.
 After a time he had a portion of fish & a big plate

of savoury rice brought in for me, & left ⁽⁹²⁾ ⁽³⁷⁾
 me to feed in peace. Next morning when I bid
 him good bye, I handed him a little douceur
 of a pocket knife with which he was much pleased.
 I went to Kom Darbi, & found nothing, but was
 just in the nick of time to look after a large
 agricultural engine; I found it with one ^{main} wheel
 down off the cranky path, up to the axle, & into
 the mud, the engine tipped so that it seemed within
 an inch of going a summersault over into a
 deep black pond, over a hundred men dragging
 & howling fruitlessly at the ropes, every pull only
 wriggling the low wheel deeper, the scraggy little
 Arab engineers scared out of his wits, & the
 portly Pasha off his horse, & standing on his
 venerable legs, to look closer into the business.
 Without any ceremony I told him to have the
 earth dug away under the high wheel on the path
 so as to level the engine, the bed of which was
 awfully wracked. He called for a fas at once, &
 when I came back from the village in a few
 minutes, I found about 5 inches dug out; they
 ought to have taken a foot to do it well, but
 this was enough; one pull, & the ^{high} wheel settled
 down into the ^{new} hole, & this righted it enough
 for the engine to go on the way merrily. To
 lower the rest of the engine because one
 part was too low, did not seem to be within
 their range of expedients.

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(93)
 The amount of valuable machinery that one sees lying about the country, because they have put it out of order. I have not the sense to set it to rights is fearful. A few travelling engineers to patch engines up, & use up wasted material would reduce imports by $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ I should say. At Mansura I reckoned on getting the afternoon baggage train to Abu Kebir, & so catching the bi-weekly train to Salahieh which is much more convenient for getting to Tell Nebesheh. But I found that today that train would not run; it went yesterday, & would go tomorrow, but - apparently for fear anyone should find it convenient for Salahieh - it would not go today! - Egypt!!
 The station master was most civil, explained it all, suggested that I should go round by Talka Tantau & Zagazig, offered me a room if I stopped here, and as I preferred tent, told me to pitch wherever I liked in the station premises. So I got some bread for I had not had any breakfast, it was about 1; & then went into the town & had my boots patched; & bought a pair of native boots, to try if their massive clumsiness & rudely genuine leather will stand work on the mounds better than English towny stuff. I timed pitching the tent, & found that this tent 11 x 10 ½ ft x 8 high, with two poles, can be done with one man to help in 12 minutes, from being in a lashed up bundle to being set up firm, & 5 min. more for extra pegs & ropes, 17 min. in all. This was without any hurry, & on very hard ground.

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for the pegs, so one may reckon that pitching
 such a tent with two pairs of hands is $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs work. ⁽⁹⁴⁾
 Packing the tent is 10 min. work, from pitched to lashed up, in
 abundance.
 I saw another mound to day $\frac{1}{4}$ mile SW of Gididet
 el Halah of Roman & Arab date; about 700 ft
 across & 15 ft high, dug for sebach. Some pieces
 of granite are lying about it.
 I stopped at Abu Kebir next day for 3 hours,
 walked over to Horbet. The mound is about
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile across, and 25 ft high at the most. It
 is much dug for earth; but the apparent site
 of the temple is mostly cultivated now, &
 only a few rough blocks are to be seen about.
 In the town ruins I saw two inscribed fragments,
 one with the cartouche of Nekht harheb, which
 had been reused. There is very little Roman
 stuff on the place; most of the exposed
 buildings being of the XXVI-XXX dynasty
 by the sizes of the bricks. The Roman stuff
 is limited to the S. side. Altogether it is
 not nearly so promising as Mendes or
 Thmuis to work in. Thence we went
 to Fatous; pitched there that afternoon.
 I found the proofs of Naukratis come, so
 I read over Cecil Smith's chapter, and then
 settled all the paragraph numbers that
 had waited for it. Then setting to, I read the

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 to Fakus; pitched there that afternoon.
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 I read over Cecil Smith's chapter, and then
 settled all the paragraph numbers that
 had waited for it. There setting to, I read the

(95)
 whole through roughly, & made an index,
 not as full as I should have liked - only
 160 entries - but as much as I could do in
 four hours. Packing it up, with corrected
 contents, & list of plate contents, I reposted
 it back next morning. Then got a
 donkey & came over to Tell Nebesheh.
 Griffith I found was over at ^{3 miles off} Gemayemi &
 had been working there all the week, with
 good success, apparently, by the fine pieces
 of bronze furniture work, &c, which I find here.
 I had to spend an hour in shuffling, for
 there was no room to sit down, and
 barely to stand, when I came in. The place
 is liveable in now, in spite of all my baggage
 additional. G. was over here today, & sends
 me word by the man who takes his dinner
 over from there every afternoon, that he will
 come tomorrow. I hear of a new statue at
 the temple, of an ~~ins~~ sculptured tomb found
 here, and find many good things in the
 room. G. has been getting on with the packing
 & wants to see it done, & to be off to
 Kantara & Defenneh. I must now set
 about writing up the full reports on the
 places I have been to, & plot the plans. This
 is the end of my general journal and no one
 must expect such an exuberance of verbosity again
 now that I have got back to long work. Mar 6 -

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Mar: 6-

XV. Tel Neb Mar. 17.-

6-13 March./86

Miss Edwards should see this.

I found that the work had been fairly successful after I left, as in three weeks they had turned up an interesting group of three figures (only the legs left) with a long inscription naming Am again; also a colossal statue of Ramessu II, complete <seated, 6 ft 10 high> & only a little knocked about on the face; and a unique monument, a clustered pillar of red granite with a figure of Merenptah kneeling on the top overshadowed by a hawk; all these belonging to the temple. In the cemetery a tomb I had begun on has resulted in giving three large sarcophagi, all inscribed, & all mentioning Am, one is a fine basalt figure=coffin, with long inscription all over it. But work had been given up four days before I returned owing to the need of working out Gemayemi, <3 miles N.W.> & work still goes on there briskly now, the 10th day there, & will go on for two or three days more. There is there an enclosure, & a building in it, or the site of one, & evidently workmen's shops have been in the enclosure. A quantity of good bronzes have been found, & today a large steatite Isis of the finest late work, about 16. ins. high, squatting. Not a bit of inscription however has been found there, & everything is late, XXXth dyn: or Ptolemaic, so I am anxious

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I found that the work had been fairly successful after I left, as in three weeks they had turned up an interesting group of three figures (only the legs left) with a long inscription naming Am again; also a colossal statue of Ramessu II, complete ^{seated, 6 ft 10 high} & only a little knocked about on the face; and a unique monument, a clustered pillar of red granite with a figure of Merenptah kneeling on the top overshadowed by a hawk; all these belonging to the temple. In the cemetery a tomb I had begun on has resulted in giving three large sarcophagi, all inscribed, & all mentioning Am, one is a fine basalt figure=coffin, with long inscription all over it. But work had been given up four days before I returned owing to the need of working out Gemayemi, <3 miles N.W.> & work still goes on there briskly now, the 10th day there, & will go on for two or three days more. There is there an enclosure & a building in it, or the site of one, & evidently workmen's shops have been in the enclosure. A quantity of good bronzes have been found, & today a large steatite Isis of the finest late work, about 16. ins. high, squatting. Not a bit of inscription however has been found there, & everything is late, XXXth dyn: or Ptolemaic, so I am anxious

that ⁽⁹⁷⁾ work should be closed there, so soon as the immediate find is worked out. Foundation deposits of a rude style have been found in each corner of the building, & each corner of the gateway: ^{rough} pottery vases, ^{a few plaques & tool models} & rude models of corn rubbers ^{& mortars}, most interesting as shewing the generality of the custom.

I have been engaged for two or three days in writing up reports on all the places I have visited, meanwhile just setting a couple of men to dig for chips broken from the fine basalt coffin. I only have Tulbeh here, beside Mursi (who keeps house, & cooks a dinner sent over to Griffith daily); so I cannot do much ^{digging}, and my time is taken up otherwise. I have made the survey of the cemetery. At the temple, Griffith had cleared the earth from one corner, but never dug down for the foundation deposit. So to day, I thought I would put my men on that. In a couple of hours they came down to some pottery shewings, so I at once stopped them. As it was only a couple of inches above water level I took off my boots & stepped in, & began picking the red pottery vases, or rather models of vases, out of the sand & water; soon it was only a matter of

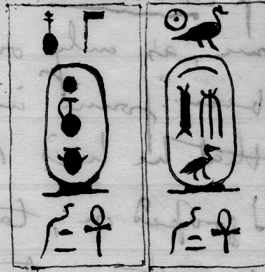
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groping in the water, & then I made a deep (98) grope, & brought up a porcelain plaque; I rubbed the sand off eagerly & read the cartouche of Aahmes. This was an entire surprise to me, as only one rude scrap with his name has been found in the temple, & I had no idea that he had built this last temple. Then I groped on, taking out the sand by handfuls, from the water & into baskets, & having it carried out & spread on a block to be examined. Plaque after plaque came up, the greater number pelt as I groped about, & others picked out afterwards. I cleared out all the sand for two or three inches below where the plaques were, & then grubbed about for some inches deeper, & found nothing more. So I conclude I worked the find out; the lowest things were about 5 or 6 inches under the water, but I worked down to 18 inches under water afterwards, to find the bottom of this imported sand & the brick wall which retains it, but could not reach it. Unhappily it is impossible to bale the water out, as being in loose sand, it percolates indefinitely quickly & would only make a mess of quicksand by running it; groping is the only

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way to do anything. The whole find is as follows: - 13 model vases (mostly varied) 2 model stands, 10 model bowls or saucers, all in red pottery, (only one slightly broken). 5 green porcelain plaques with cartouches of Amasis on either side: -



2 gold plaques with cartouche of Amasis stamped on one side only, done entirely by minute curved & straight punches with beautiful neatness.

2 silver plaques, one copper, one lead. Four agate plaques, & four beryl, one red limestone? Thus it will be seen that there are no tool models, & strange to say, no mortar nor corn rubbers. I might have lost a few small things under the water, (though I doubt it,) but large mortar or rubbers must have been found, if there.

I think for the possibility of an older deposit being lower down, & to find how low the wall & sand go, it will be worth while to work this out, below the water, to some depth. *Nothing more was found.*

I put the men on as soon as this was done to find the other corners. As one of the boys said, "Deh nehar el leben", "This is a day of milk", i.e. of good things or feasting. Another corner is found, but not cleared yet. I have nothing more to say particularly. So will not begin another sheet. Griffith comes back tomorrow -

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
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XVI. Tel Neb: Mar. 23.-



M^{rs} Petrie, 8 Crescent Rd, Bromley, Kent-

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

15. March /86. To day another foundation deposit
of the temple ^(N.W.) here was cleared. It was not so
good a deposit as the first (S.W.), but as it was a
little higher up, & thus just out of the water, I
could clear it all in detail; & having Griffith at
hand as scribe, we noted the position of everything
found, pottery, plaques, & all. The pottery
was almost in one layer, only a few things on
another; none of it upright, or arranged,
simply laid loosely together. There are 7 saucers,
2 conical cups, 8 small round vases (varied), 6
long vases, & one larger dish, 24 in all, models,
in roughish red pottery, of larger vases, such as were
probably used in the ceremonies. No stands of
pottery such as were so curious in the S.W.
corner. Beneath the pottery, lying all within
an inch depth, & about 4 inches width, were the
plaques; one of gold like the previous, (these are
not merely thin foil, but good substantial sheet, too
thick to bend, & very neatly wrought), 2 of silver, a lead,
& a copper; a green porcelain with  on each side,
a piece of bitumen, & 2 squared & polished plaques

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