

Arabah.
Jan 30 [1931]

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Dear Mother.

We are nearly half through Ramadan -
fortunately we have very little work for the men
to do now, so they can have several hours sleep
during the day.

I am finishing the last roof. we will
be very glad to say good-bye to them. There are
several little oddments that have been missed
somehow. I am going to copy them with my
camera lucida to save the bother of taking photos.
Sardic calls my toy the "eye of the afreet"; he is
very thrilled with it. I had it fixed ready for
working one day when a party of tourists came
to the Temple, & all ~~the~~^{our} men came & stood guard
over it for fear someone might meddle with
it. they hav'nt much opinion of tourists.

Fancy the American from Amarna
calling at N^o 13. according to M^r Bennitt^{sic} {Bennett} he was'nt
much good. he got fed up & left before the end
of the season & they wer'nt^{sic} a bit sorry. Miss Chubb
had a box of chocolates sent her at Xmas, she

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2

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Bennitt didn't know about it until after the American had gone, else there'd have been a fine old rumpus. B. is out for his blood -

I had a letter from M^{rs} Brunton yesterday asking me if we could put up two members of their camp who want to see Abydos from Feb 10 to 13. As we shall still have M^{rs} Davis with us this will rather strain our resources. ~~as~~ The proposed guests being mixed sexes we cannot put them in rooms leading out of each other. I expect we will have to turn out one of the rooms we are keeping stores in this year.

We are having very cold nights now, it is very cold in the temple too in the mornings the sun cannot get in until late afternoon as the opening faces west, but the north wind manages to get in all the time. I appeared this morning wearing the scarf Sandic made

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3

for me to the great delight of all the men, it made a nice warm wrap & I was glad of it on my draughty perch near the roof.

Here's a nice Arabic proverb. "The head of the idle is the house of Satan." in their language it makes a rhyme. Ras el Kaslān

Bēt ish Shaitān

I shall try to repeat it when a suitable occasion occurs.

Amice has had an accident with her pen. she dropped it from one of the ladders. the little tongue that feeds the nib is broken, if we post it back could Father get an extra part from the people who supplied it? it would be no use trying in Cairo as they only stock certain makes. I am lending her my extra pen for the present but it is not her sort of nib.

We like the newspaper cuttings you send very much.

Love from us both
Your affectionate
Myrtle.

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