

Arabah  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1933.

Dear Mother.

I thought of such a good story to write in Arabic for my last lesson. do you remember in Bernard Shaw's play of Cleopatra how she sent for the harper & asked how long he would take to teach her to play the harp, & when he had made a flattering reply she told him if she made any mistakes after the time he stipulated he would be beaten. I made this up into quite a good Arabic story with a few frills & when the two school masters turned up as usual I produced it. Sheikh Sarbit set to work to correct it, reading it out sentence by sentence, by & by I saw a very puzzled look come over his face & he went back & read it over again to

held this over the lamp to dry the ink

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956  
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2  
~~253~~

see if he had mistaken anything, the  
Sheikh Jed el Karim who was listening  
saw the humour of it at once & burst out  
laughing, then Sheikh Sarbit also saw  
the point of the story & laughed too.  
they were very tickled at the idea of  
the master being beaten for the pupils'  
faults. I told Sheikh Sarbit that it  
was fortunate for him that I was not  
Cleopatra when he was giving me my  
dictation lesson -

I am going over to Sohag  
to-morrow to see M<sup>r</sup> Oulton, Amice's  
procrastinations have put me in a bit  
of a fix, I wrote & asked her to send  
me instructions about paying the money  
to the Egyptian Government for Sardic's  
wages as a special guard, she wrote back  
asking me to write to the Mudir when the  
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3

attend to the matter personally on her arrival at the end of the month as she wanted some alterations made in the present arrangements. I did this - now she has put off her coming & I have no idea when to expect her. she said she was writing the next day over a week ago. & the Government have sent a demand for the money £18 to be paid before Jan 1. so I think the best thing is to ask Mr Oulton's advice in the matter. for once a sum of money is paid there is a very poor hope of getting it refunded if she intends Sardinia to be a civil servant <sup>only</sup> & not under the government as at present & if she wants him to continue there will be trouble if the money is not paid within the time limit.

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588 4

with delight thanks so much, I think  
 I now have enough to satisfy every one.  
 I am sorry my writing is so squiggly,  
 I get a sort of cramp in my hand from  
 doing such fine detailed painting all day  
 that when I come to write the pen wont  
 run over the paper easily.

Love to you & Father & Pat.  
 Your affectionate  
 daughter  
 Myrtle.

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