

Date, End of NN. 1904

HOTEL DU NIL  
CAIRO

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CAIRO



My dearest heart,

Had a long trudge in search of Sir W. G's house; the Directory was entirely wrong & I went about 2 miles extra. He had left for office. So went to office. He saw me; & I put my enquiry as shortly as I could. He assured me that I had no objection whatever; that each time it was M. who said that he preferred to have S. left entirely in his hands. He let me state my reasons for wanting S. & for not wanting to work except for history. He was quite pleasant, & took the line of having no objections. He said there was no personal objection whatever to anything that I had done. He scoffed a little at any one stuffing him with tales; & seems to have no prejudices from such. Two objections

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that had been raised by others I promptly <sup>(2)</sup>contradicted.

Then I rose & go in 4 or 5 minutes. He motioned me down again, & began to enquire about Sinai & talk over it quite friendly. Altogether I staid  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr or so; & he asked me to come in future if there was a reason.

There was no word that was not all to the good.

I see you have left a whole lot of stuff behind, gown, books, &c. My poor bag! just as I had it stuffed with small antiques in place of your extras.

I went to Nahman & got 47£ for NY & £29 for self. Main pieces, a man Apis bull headed, bronze; a ~~fine~~ amethyst with heads of 7 days & 12 signs of zodiac, time of Antonines: a lovely green cartouche of a Ptolemy, all unique. Then went to Kitty to shew Frost the gold coins, & ended by buying a fine gold of with no dates, rare & fine portrait; Frost thought it better than the one there is in B. Mus. It will be good for Thompson.

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(3)

The Dean was out; & I got 50  
photographs for NY, & 40 new ones  
for self. Also started Zacharia on  
getting M & A.

So I have done all my Cairo chores.

Weill is very pleasant, & has talks at  
meals. He walks a great deal; always  
about new places, rather than drive.  
Always carries a map of a new place.  
He has not ordered any wine since here,  
so evidently he will take none: &  
I don't think he smokes. Every way  
I think he seems to fit our work very  
well. He was delighted to hear that  
we should get the new survey map  
supplied. He has never been in Egypt  
before; went today & saw Maspero.  
He & Porch come on a day after us.  
I proposed that he should manage the  
tents & he was quite pleased to do so.

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(4)  
 Now I must march off; 10.20 & I want  
 to write to NY about things.  
 Ever your own man  
 F.

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Ever your own man

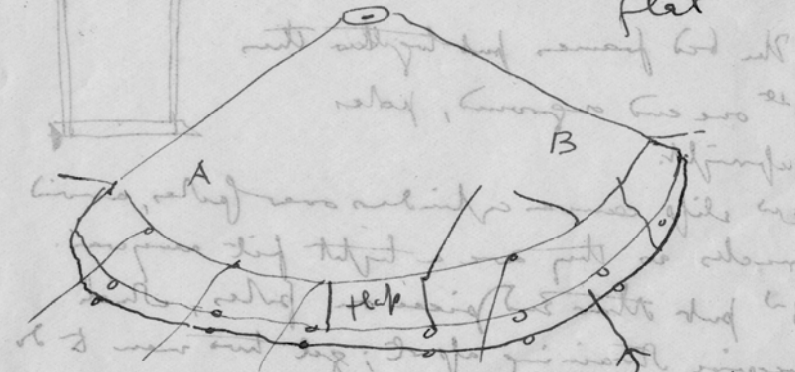
F.



## Travelling notes.

Travelling notes. (5)  
 Bedding is best rolled up & corded, & then packed inside tent, to keep clean.

For riding on, spread out tent on ground flat



put blanket bundles to inside tent at A & B;

then fold over lower edges & top, &

lash round middle into two lumps.



This thrown over camel, will make a good seat, if the lumps are kept near together, about 1 ft or less apart.

It is very needful to start early, as they want to pitch early. We put all our feed outside first; then roll up bedding; then let men pack tents while we

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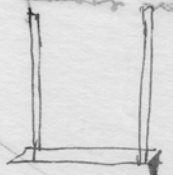

[  $\infty$  ] < (A - B - flap) >

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[  $\infty$  ]


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⑥ feed in the open. *rather quietest*  
 Take lunch with you in pockets on camel, so  
 as not to need to stop at noon, they will  
 go on all day & so save losing time.  
 The bed frames put together thus   
 1<sup>st</sup> one end on ground, poles  
 upright.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> slip canvas cylinders over poles, avoid  
 rucks as they are a tight fit anyway.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> put other end piece on poles, which  
 require straining apart; get two men to do  
 this.  
 Then do not let the frame twist   
 as it is liable to split the ends.  
 The frames can be put on a box at  
 each end; or else on 4 2 lb tins / at  
 each corner, & the earth scraped out  
 a bit in the middle, to let it sag with weight.  
*without ever being lifted or moved into place, these  
 traps can be left there*  
*the lowest is, just that of the ground  
 the first thing to do is to dig out the middle of the trap  
 so that it will not be too high; just that of the ground*


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Notes for Sinai journey.

At Ismailia there is no food except by going over 3 lines of rails to Buffet outside of station; & nothing but bread & cheese to be had there. The trains from & too Port Said, go out before the Suez train, which starts westward.

At Suez Hotel D'Orient is close to station

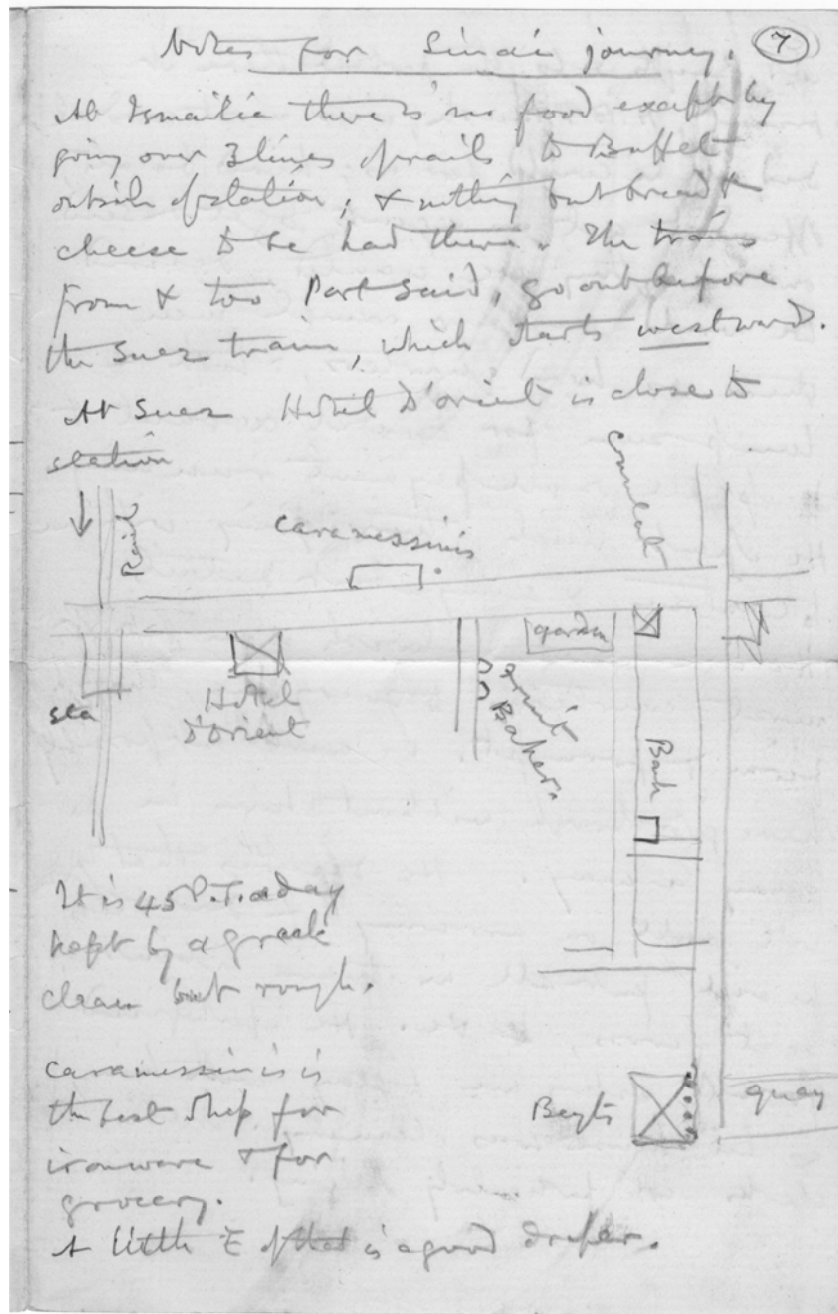
[ ₹ ]

(Rail – Caramessinis – Consulate  
Sta – Hotel D'Orient – fruit – Baker. – Garden – Bank  
Beyts – quay)

It is 45 P.T. a day  
kept by a Greek  
clean but rough.

Caramessinis is  
the best shop for  
ironware & for  
grocery.

A little E of that is a good draper.



⑧ At Beyts & Co the partner there at present, H. B. Bush, was most cordial. Did all he could for us; hired boats, offered to act as agents to get & send on everything we wanted, desired we would send our camel men there as head quarters, & took a lump sum for credit account to keep all small payments running. He spent much time going with me to Customs, & seeing about details. He is a short sailorish man, but most courteous to every one, though firm & prompt. We could not possibly have got through without him in so easy a way. He desires that you will call on arriving, & doubtless he will put all in train about boat across, &c. He apologised for not asking me to stay with him, as his house was cleaning. All his clerks were particularly obliging.

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It is necessary to catch a boat by round 2 miles or so to Es Shat on the Arabian coast, a quarantine station, where you might sleep.

But it would be best probably to get over early, & have time to go 2 hours camel south to Ayun Musa & sleep there.

At El Shat there is filtered water to be had, & the stock of water in the tanks should be filled up there enough for two nights, if not for all five. But water is said to be found at Gharandel. needless

At Wady Maghara.

After our journey down, which took 6 days & could have been 7 had I not been pushing the men, there is no question that the best way is to come by boat to Berdis, & then walk in 14 or 15 miles. There is nothing on the coast or way, no food, water, camels or people. So it would be needful to stay 30 or 36 hours there or else while a man fetched camels, or

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(10) else break up & leave all goods  
to follow by camel.

As here we must live in tents there will  
not be any to spare to send over, for  
covering on the boat or for tenting  
on the shore. So a tent must be  
bought in Cairo, & taken down to Suez  
ready. The mines here are nearly  
all being worked, & it is clear that  
we cannot live in any of them, & must  
all live in tents. Moreover another  
tent would be needed if Miss E. came,  
Weill & Frost are together, Button will go with  
Currelly, & I shall have stores &  
dining room in my tent.

For a boat to go down to Bardis with all our  
baggage we paid £5 on condition of its waiting  
till camels came. Mr. Bush managed it all  
for us & would do so for you.

I will send in a good man by Jan 3 as I said,  
but he will not bring anything. Tent must  
be brought <sup>bedding</sup> & food by you. Only the  
stone hill send. Spirit is only 2 1/2 PT a big bottle  
candles 2 1/2 PT packet at Caramessinis.

date about Jan 11. 1905.

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to follow by camel.

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not be any to spare to send over, for  
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Private memo.

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(11)

My dearest own heart, I feel that really it might be best for you not to attempt to come out here at all. It is all so rough; the utter aridity of the air, the harshness of the rock & rock chips we live on, the impossibility of putting things into a tidy form when living in tents, & the distances of relief of any kind. The mental atmosphere of it would depress you I am sure; you would be worried all day long about not being able to get things as they should be; & the conditions & surroundings would enforce all this, & make you miserable. I care much less about my surroundings than you do, & yet I feel it strongly. Weill is almost doubled up, entirely from the sense of helplessness, on the top of slight troubles (a sore foot) which he takes with great good nature.

I should feel much the responsibility of your being here, & Miss E. also: as here we live or die without any possible alleviation from outside. Do not be alarmed about us. We are all well, in sound health;

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(12)  
 We have abundance of food & water; &  
 our relation with the people is  
 perfectly smooth. It is not any  
 obvious difficulty or trouble that I dread  
 for you at all. I believe it is 20 to 1  
 that you would come & go quite safely.  
 But it is 2 to 1 that you would be  
 unhappy here from the conditions.  
 They are so very different from our  
 homelike life in Egypt, which is more  
 like Hampstead than like this.

Now I am not going to request you to  
 do anything but what you think best.  
 I have put all the case to you, & shall  
 in any case send a man to Suez, <sup>by Jan 3</sup> to come down with  
 you by boat - if you come. Mr. Bush  
 at Suez is as kind & considerate as if he  
 were an old friend; & especially wished  
 you to call, & let him do all he could  
 for you. He is the partner of Beyts & Co  
 acting there at present.

All our party are most good natured &  
 work up to their limits. Frost is the

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most valuable companion, has bossed (13)  
all the activities of our camping (my feet  
being helpless with blisters), & he has gone  
off to check over all our boat of baggage,  
with a roll of blankets to sleep out. Button  
has worked hard, & is excellent at house  
chores, washing up, &c. Weill is rather  
helpless, with feet hurt, but is always  
content & cordial. Porch & his men are  
very obliging & do a fair share for what they  
have from us.

Be assured there is nothing that I am not  
telling you, & telling you the worst of.  
There is no other reason against your  
coming, except the roughness of things  
& the conditions, which would I believe, in  
one case of three such cases, make you  
mentally unhappy. Much of your way  
depends on how you are getting on at  
Saqqara. If you are comfortable &  
happy in your work, that weighs much  
against coming here. If you feel  
that it is undesirable to go on there,  
then it would be in favour of coming  
over.

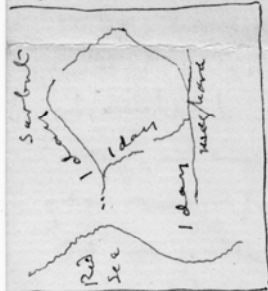
I enclose for an order on Cook for £50 in  
case you elect to stay on at Saqqara.

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(14)  
I think that perhaps we shall not stay all the season here, for it would be too scorching in March & on. But as we do not want to get to Greece till Ap. 15 we might do a bit in the Delta with some of our men; having tents & arriving at Suez & being at the dry end of the season would all be convenient for Delta work; & there you could come & join us about beginning of March. That is probably the alternative to your coming at the beginning of Jan.



Your very own husband,  
Who loving you entirely  
wishes you to be as happy  
as possible. 7.

We have had a hard day getting everything arranged permanently. I have 11 boxes & black trunk in my tent, two tables, a bed, & seat 5 people for dinner! That is packing! If you don't come, here is order for £50 on Cook. And if you do come please bring down £30 here, for which I enclose cheque on Suez. There is another course for you, to come about 20 Jan, when we may be going to Sarbut, where there are mines accessible & we may be more comfortable. If you elect for this you can write here in time.

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[ R ]

(Sarbut - Maghara  
1 day - 1 day - 1 day  
Red Sea)

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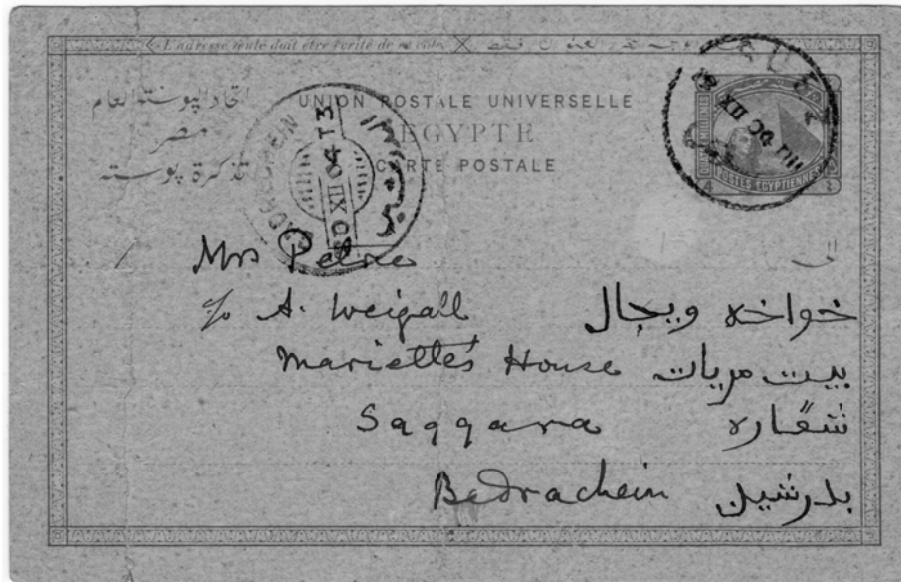
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We are at Wady Maghara all right; but there is some difficulty owing to the people screwing for high prices for camel hire. At this moment we have about a day's food left, & our stuff is 15 miles away. We have been on short rations all day. It is only any affair of having to pay  $\frac{1}{2}$  too much, & nothing serious. Ayrton or Currelly had taken all the food out of the Desuq boxes & put in mattresses, hence our shortage at present. It will be far better for you to come by boat; & if you call at G. Beyts & Co, Mr. H. B. Bush has the question of boats in his hands, & has most kindly asked that you should call to make arrangements. I will send up a man & tent. Yours, F. I do not feel quite certain however that it is desirable for you here

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M<sup>rs</sup> Petrie  
% A. Weigall  
Mariette's House  
Saqqara  
Bedrachein

Lay this on a black  
surface to read.

Wady Maghara  
16 Dec 1904  
sent night 17<sup>th</sup>.

Lay this on a black  
surface to read.

Wady Maghara (16)  
16 Dec 1904  
sent night 17<sup>th</sup>.

My own dearest heart,

We are all well here, but there is no sign of Currelly & men. If they did not start till after Beyram, they need not be here till the 20<sup>th</sup>. I am expecting up a boatload of stores tomorrow & have sent down 3 camels to the shore at Berdis to look for it. Berdis is only a landing place, without water or people.

Owing to rivalries of different shekhs we have been bothered; but I have got hold of the real head, who is a nice old man; & he is now on the way to Suez, & his son I sent after him next day with a letter for the Consulate, to make a contract with the shekh for all our camels & protection in future. Pilferers have been a nuisance; one night camels brought up boxes very late, & next morning the old & new boxes of treacle were both stolen. Another night they carried off our new petroleum stove & worst of all - our big roll of copying paper! I wrote next day at once to Capt. Lyons asking him to order for us 200 sheets sq. metres of paper down from Cairo. But it will be 3 weeks before we get that, & then we shall have done with this place probably.

Altogether I have had an anxious time of it

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[Page misnumbered as 18.]

[Page also numbered 2.]

(2)  
to keep everything going as well as I could.  
When the old shekh returns I hope we shall have all smooth. I have a guard of his household now, a nice careful man, who sleeps close to my tent door. Both I & our 2 men remark on the nice, reasonable, & kindly manner of all the old shekh's people.

But I feel ~~ever~~ as much as ever that it would not be well for you to come here. My reasons are, 1<sup>st</sup> what I said before, that it is more likely than not that the isolation & sense of not being able to get away or connect with anything, would be bad for you; 2<sup>nd</sup> that any women being here would make the Arabs feel they had a tighter hold on us, & be more troublesome to negotiate with; 3<sup>rd</sup> that in the best conditions (boat to Berdis) you would find the journey trying, much worse than anything you have done. I therefore revoke what I said before, & shall not send a man to Suez for you, or send to meet boat at Berdis. I send this letter off by 18<sup>th</sup>, hoping that you will get it by 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>, in good time to save your breaking up at Saqqara. (As precaution I shall send some statement to Beyts to meet you at Suez, in case you go miss this & go there.)

As to this place much has disappeared owing to destruction by mining recently & hiding by mine

to keep everything going as well as I could.

When the old shekh returns I hope we shall have all smooth. I have a guard of his household now, a nice careful man, who sleeps close to my tent door. Both I & our 2 men remark on the nice, reasonable, & kindly manner of all the old shekh's people.

But I feel ~~ever~~ as much as ever that it would not be well for you to come here. My reasons are, 1<sup>st</sup> what I said before, that it is more likely than not that the isolation & sense of not being able to get away or connect with anything, would be bad for you; 2<sup>nd</sup> that any women being here would make the Arabs feel they had a tighter hold on us, & be more troublesome to negotiate with; 3<sup>rd</sup> that in the best conditions (boat to Berdis) you would find the journey trying, much worse than <anything you have done.>

I therefore revoke what I said before, & shall not send a man to Suez for you, or send to meet boat at Berdis. I send this letter off by 18<sup>th</sup>, hoping that you will get it by 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>, in good time to save your breaking up at Saqqara. (As precaution I shall send some statement to Beyts to meet you at Suez, in case you go miss this & go there.)

As to this place much has disappeared owing to destruction by mining recently & hiding by mine



[Page misnumbered as 17.]  
[Page also numbered 3.]

heaps. We have only found 4 large tablets & 8 or 10 small, among these are 4 new ones. All of these we can copy on the stock of drawing paper which I have, so we need not delay leaving here by waiting for paper from Cairo. I do not see that we need be here later than Jan. 1 or so. Then we shall move to Sarabit el Khadem 2 days journey worth of this. There I hear that there are large mines, & not any recent working, so I hope that we shall all get good quarters. That district is under our old shekh also, so one contract will cover all our stay. I doubt that I shall go over to the convent region. It is 3 days from here, & so would take at least a fortnight out to do any good. And as I should not be likely to make discoveries there, being so well known a district, I do not want to delay. I should think that by Feb 15 we might wind up all, & go back for a month in the Delta, where of course you would join us.

We have been in such a hurry & bother over all the affairs that I have not got a wash more than once in 3 or 4 days, & brushed my hair this morning after a week of towse. Frost is much more than I expected in thoughtfulness & kindness, & willingness for all emergencies. Weill & Button are quite as good as I hoped. I have never been able to open 3 of the boxes of household stuff from Dahshur, there is no possible room for them.

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[Page also numbered 4.]

We rub on very well with what we have out; & Frost agrees that we could not possibly have ore stuff about in our tent. I have got things fairly arranged & can reach all we really want. But it is such close quarters that there is not an inch to turn round # in.

As you will be requiring ~~for~~ more stores, & I have had half of mine left at Beyts, I enclose an order to Beyts for them to send you round as many boxes as you want from Suez to Bedrashein by rail. The small boxes are reckoned at 5 weeks for one, & the larger are supplementary to the small, for stock things, as biscuits, tea, &c, 1 larger to go with each 3 or 4 of the smaller.

Dear Dear Heart, We have had each other for 7 years; & we must put up with two or three months apart. Be assured I am doing the kindest & best for you, & that I shall not stay in Sinai a day longer than the work requires. I shall be glad to be out of the responsibilities of it as soon as I can, & very glad not to have more responsibility from your being here.

Camel is waiting to go off tonight so God be with you my own, own, woman, & keep a good heart & a sound body till we meet after this trip is over.

Yours only  
F.

(4)  
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F.

24 Dec. /on

24 Dec. 1904 (20)

Dearest Heart: I have read & read over again your letter (no date), 3 post-cards, & last letter posted 16<sup>th</sup>, Suez 17<sup>th</sup>, & here 23<sup>rd</sup>. I am not certain what days I shall send in the post, so far I have sent on last Sunday & tomorrow Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, because the most important point was to communicate with you in time. You will have got the paper my card of doubt, my letter dissuading you, & my last letter saying that it would not do for you to come here. I still feel that clearly; & so far as Currelly & Frost can judge of the circumstances here affecting your coming they feel it strongly also.

It is sad to have to give up our life together for so long, but I am sure that you are far better off in the civilization of Saqqara.

And as you are getting on happily in the work & with every one I feel comfortable about you. You talk of "bearing the anxieties of the work"; but all that is nothing compared to the worry of keeping 34 people from ever being short of food, at 10 days from ordering any supplies, & yet not being loaded up here

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(21) as anything brought here must be used or  
 wasted, as the transport to take it away  
 costs more than all the value of the stuff.  
 Then given mistakes of the stores, & everything  
 stuck for 3 weeks late, & you see I  
 have serious cause to avoid a risk of  
 starving. I have everything in safe  
 shape now, so that I think it cannot go  
 wrong.  
 We are all well, all good tempered, &  
 getting on. There is no further risk  
 about affairs; the old sheikh's contract  
 is settled, & all is now in his hands.  
 He is master here & at Serabit, &  
 we shall have no one else to deal with  
 till we reach Suez again.  
 My present scheme is to split camp  
 Jan 15-15; be all at Serabit till Feb 14  
 or so, up to Suez by Feb 18, & then in  
 Delta till April 10.  
 I think of asking for a permit to search  
 sites in view of future work, along the Wady  
 Tumilat & at Athribis (Benha). Don't  
 let this out, as I shall not ask till I  
 see more closely what our work here will

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 we shall have no one else to deal with  
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 Jan 8-15; be all at Serabit till Feb 14  
 or so, up to Suez by Feb 18, & then in  
 Delta till April 10.

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 sites in view of future work, along the Wady  
 Tumilat & at Athribis (Benha). Don't  
 let this out, as I shall not ask till I  
 see more clearly what our work here will

lead to.

Please burn the cheque on Suez which I sent to you.

I have done 7 letters & there are more waiting <13 in all>, so I cannot say much more now.

Dearest, whatever disappointment this change may be to you, be thankful that you have such kind friends to be with, such good work to do, such good certainty of our condition, & so loving a husband to join you in a few weeks. Be thankful for it all, & enjoy what good you have, without grieving.

Just developed 34 photogs this evening. It is 11.30 pm & camel goes very early tomorrow. Bye bye sweet heart & sleep you well.

Your one man,  
only yours,  
F.

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Please burn the cheque on Suez which I sent to you.

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30. Dec 1904

23  
 30. Dec 1904  
 Dearest Sweetheart  
 I got your letter posted 19<sup>th</sup> by last  
 camel 26<sup>th</sup>. You ought to have had my first  
 card before that, but the boat may not have  
 gone back straight to Suez. You would have  
 my letter of dissuasion a day or two later  
 I hope. It is grievous to me to block what  
 you were planning & intending, as we had  
 arranged; but it was necessary, for I am  
 sure it would be wrong to bring you out  
 here to be unhappy. You are well off at  
 Saqqara, - place, work, & friends. Here there  
 would be no work for you, & the position &  
 arrangements all against you. The copying here  
 is all ladder work, & straining at heights  
 which would be very bad for you.  
 I found the one great plum which pays us  
 for all the trip. A figure, with most carefully  
 done head, of Sa-nekht, the 1<sup>st</sup> king of III<sup>rd</sup> dyn.  
 He was a thorough Ethiopian, more so than  
 Shabaka & Co of the XXV<sup>th</sup>. So there was an  
 Ethiopian invasion after the II<sup>nd</sup>; & the IV<sup>th</sup>  
 must have been another revolution. We  
 cannot get at it, for it is 30 ft from ground.  
 But we have drawn it by telescope; &  
 Currelly has made a most careful crayon

<If you are / ordering / cases from / Beyts, / any up to / 24 are / ordinary /  
 stores, / 36, 37 are / extras to / supplement / those, 1 to / each 6 of / ord<sup>l</sup>  
 boxes. / They now say / the Sarabit / caves are / inaccessible / for living & /  
 we must / go on in / tents / as at / present.>

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 But we have drawn it by telescope; &  
 Currelly has made a most careful crayon

(24)  
study of the head. This clears up the early history more than anything. It is probably the most important historical point which there was to settle.

I have had great worry & anxiety about delays of stores; more than once only a day's food left for our 30 men. We are now tolerably safe, about a <sup>months</sup> fortnight's stock in hand, but it has been a horrible boggle about delays of stores both from Suez & from Zor.

I enclose Mrs Flint's letter; & as she wrote to me I have replied with news in brief to her.

The Eg. Gaz. sent me the number. It is just a journalistic muddle. I sent a letter saying that as they had chosen to make statements about me I wished to correct them, which I did without giving any news about our party.

Probably Currelly & Button will go over to Serabit in a few days, & I shall follow about a week hence. We have nearly done here.

Dear Heart, it will I am sure be good for you to have to take some responsibilities in the Saqqara affairs. You will feel your feet more in life, & be stronger & less shy of things. You really know all that is wanted there, & more; only you need practise. We are quiet & fairly peaceful here now. Currelly is getting on well with all the mining natives & folks. But how your soul would be fretted with the enforced jumble of our crowded tents! I do keep things usefully straight, & can lay my hand on all I want, but you would be miserable over it all. So different to our regular but life. Your own, own man, always loving you, F.

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Maghara  
3 Jan 1905  
before breakfast.

My dearest Heart,  
I have your letters of 1) no date, about coming here, 2) card 22<sup>nd</sup> 3) card 26<sup>th</sup> 4) letter 26<sup>th</sup> about not coming here.  
About Sarbut I feel clearly that it would be better for you, not to come. But I will make arrangements if it seems at all practicable. From what I hear we cannot get water up by camel nearer than 600 feet ~~from~~ <sup>below</sup> the temple: we cannot carry up all that is wanted. So either we must live below & climb up 600 ft every day to work, as Major MacDonald did; or else we may try to live up in the high level caves which are all at the high level, & leave all our workmen below. I doubt if that would be workable, as all our water supply would have to be carried up 600 ft in buckets, & we should have no body guard of men. What would you do if you stayed all day down in the valley, with every one but the cooks up on the top? How would you like to have to climb up 600 ft every morning, much like ~~the~~ going up Abydos gebel every day? Either way you would feel stuck, & be unhappy.  
As to living, if we cannot live up in caves, which seems unlikely, you will have to go on living with Miss Behnstein in your tent, or else she will have to sleep in the public dining room.

My dearest Heart,

I have your letters of 1) no date, about coming here, 2) card 22<sup>nd</sup> 3) card 26<sup>th</sup> 4) letter 26<sup>th</sup> about not coming here.

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As to living, if we cannot live up in caves, which seems unlikely, you will have to go on living with Miss Eckenstein in your tent, or else she will have to sleep in the public dining room

(26)  
 tent, which - as I know - one can never call one's own. The meals & preparations & interruptions make it quite public ~~so long as~~ from dawn onward. We have no small tent, as Currelly did not bring one at all. We should have to make two feeding tents, as one could not take in 7 people at meals. So the only possible plan I see would be to pitch your tent & mine side by side, & for you two & myself to have meals in your tent, & leave four to feed in my tent.  
 Of course if it is possible to get living caves anywhere within reach of camel water supply, it will be much more handy. But, until Currelly goes & explores, that seems so far impractical.  
 There is 4<sup>th</sup> & I shall send in a camel out of course on 5<sup>th</sup>, so you should get this by 12<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>. Currelly ~~is~~ is to go over to Sarabit on 5<sup>th</sup>, & we shall follow probably on 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. Thus I may send in a camel on 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> with final news about places there. You ought to get that on 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, with plenty of time to make your plans. But I must make arrangements for you without hearing whether you come or no. You have tent, stove, blankets, but need the two bed frames, which I will send to Suez. All this is tentative, the final details I will send from Sarabit.

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Here is 2<sup>nd</sup>/<sub><4<sup>th</sup>></sub>, & I shall send in a camel out of course on 4/<sub><5<sup>th</sup>></sub>, so you should get this by 9/<sub><11<sup>th</sup>></sub> or 10/<sub><2<sup>th</sup>></sub>. Currelly & is to go over to Sarabit on 4/<sub><5<sup>th</sup>></sub>, & we shall follow probably on 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. Thus I may send in a camel on 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> with final news about places there. You ought to get that on 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, with plenty of time to make your plans. But I must make arrangements for you without hearing whether you come or no. You have tent, stove, blankets, but need the two bed frames, which I will send to Suez. All this is tentative, the final details I will send from Sarabit.

Currelly thinks you must each ride a camel, <sup>(27)</sup>  
 & I doubt if ~~the~~ one of these camels could carry  
 two people with boxes & bedding in them. So  
 you will <sup>each</sup> have to put two boxes on a camel  
 & then spread out a pad of bedding to ride  
 upon. We cannot send camels from here  
 in the uncertainty; so you will have  
 to get camels from Abu Gudeyl the Suez  
 dealer, as we did, at £2 each. So soon  
 as you decide on the day for certain, write  
 to Beyts & Co in advance, & ask them to  
 arrange for <sup>such a day at</sup> El Shatt. <sup>through Abu Gudeyl or otherwise, not over £2 each.</sup> The camel we send in ~~may~~  
~~take your water tanks~~ must do your  
 water supply. <sup>No camel can take over 300 lbs.</sup> We cannot spare tanks to  
 send over; as we shall be in difficulties  
 to keep up our water supply at Sarabit, &  
 shall need all our tanks, for the distance  
 is at half a day to water & back, with 32  
 people here the water supply is a very serious  
 matter; & we have trouble in keeping it  
 up here with one camel three times a day.  
 There we shall be at double the distance <sup>from water</sup>  
 & have to keep two camels going. Even  
 here washing is difficult, & I only get a wash  
 in two or three days; & developing has to be  
 secured by putting aside a basin of water  
 during the day. So you will have to use

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 is at half a day to water & back. With <32> 40  
 people here the water supply is a very serious  
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 here washing is difficult, & I only get a wash  
 in two or three days; & developing has to be  
 secured by putting aside a basin of water  
 during the day. So you will have to use

(98) water skins, (or barrels if Beyts can supply them); Currelly has six water skins and then over for you. Sarabit is 5 days (not 6 like this) from El Shatt. I will send details of route when I see what is possible at Sarabit. The boat would take almost as long, (anything from 2 to 7 days), & need exact meeting by camels with a long days ride to get up to Sarabit. So camels all the way is the best transport.

I am in excellent condition. Can climb cliffs quickly, & am not at all gouty; I am enjoying lemonade, which I have been off for a long time past, & want but little drink. A little rheumatism is all that I can find amiss. All the party are well, & eating handsomely.

I still feel that you will not find two or three weeks of Serabit worth the hardship & grind of 10 days camel journey there & back, (the exposure is hard, & if it rained it would be horrid); & you would do much better to stay at Saqqara, or go up to Thebes, until you join me in Feb. in the Delta. That would be much better for you, & I hope for your sake that you will not take that tiring journey. My own best love of peace to you, looking forward with all my heart to a quiet peaceful time together when this strain & worry is over. The ceaseless striving, & extortion, & going back on bargains, here is an incessant worry that I long to be out of. Ever your own  
F.

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I still feel that you will not find two or three weeks of Serabit worth the hardship & grind of 12/<0> days camel journeys there & back, <the exposure is hard, & if it rained it would be horrid>; & you would do much better to stay at Saqqara, or go up to Thebes, until you join me in Feb. in the Delta. That would be much better for you, & I hope for your sake that you will not take that tiring journey. My own best love of loves to you, looking forward with all my heart to a quiet peaceful time together when this strain & worry is over. The ceaseless striving, & extortion, & going back on bargains, here is an incessant worry that I long to be out of. Ever your own  
F.

Jan 9 1905

Jan 9 1905 (29)  
 Dearest Heart,  
 We are in course of moving over to  
 Serabit. Currelly went on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 4 loads,  
 I sent 10 loads today; & we all leave on  
 the 11<sup>th</sup> with 10 loads more, 24 loads in all,  
 cost abt £5 to move, as Currelly has  
 been awfully unpleasant to them &  
 screwed & bullied far more than I  
 should have tried. They are all the  
 pleasanter for it.  
 His report is that we must pitch at  
 the valley head, as camels cannot get further  
 with water. That means a rock climb of  
 150 ft up, & then a walk of a mile of  
 slope up to the Temple <sup>each day</sup>. He cannot  
 yet find any mines fit & handy, & so  
 we must probably go on in tents all  
 the time.  
 Now if you choose to come, you will have  
 five days grind of camels to get down, & same  
 back, & have very little water for washing  
 when here. Of food there is plenty, &  
 we can get any quantity from <sup>our</sup> stores at  
 Suez. You need not bring any. Our men

Dearest Heart,

We are in course of moving over to  
 Serabit. Currelly went on the 5<sup>th</sup> with 4 loads,  
 I sent 10 loads today; & we all leave on  
 the 11<sup>th</sup> with 10 loads more, 24 loads in all,  
 cost abt £5 to move, as Currelly has  
 been awfully unpleasant to them &  
 screwed & bullied far more than I  
 would have tried. They are all the  
 pleasanter for it.

His report is that we must pitch at  
 the valley head, as camels cannot get further  
 with water. That means a rock climb of  
 150 ft up, & then a walk of a mile of  
 slope up to the Temple <each day> ~~We~~ He cannot  
 yet find any mines fit & handy, & so  
 we must probably go on in tents all  
 the time.

Now if you choose to come, you will have  
 five days grind of camels to get down, & same  
 back, & have very little water for washing  
 when here. Of food there is plenty, &  
 we can get any quantity from <our> stores at  
 Suez. You need not bring any. Our men



30 10 01 P  
 have plenty, & have reduced their lentils &  
 oil of their own accord, so there is  
 no grumble now.

If you come you will find a man Qufty  
 arrive at Suez on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. He will  
 bring two bed frames <sup>water skins</sup> & a stove for spirit.  
 Our skins are small, & you must have large skins or barrels.  
 but nothing else. You had better bring what  
 you reckon to want from Saqqara. Suez shops are  
 very good, varied stocks, for such a place.  
 As soon as you decide on coming you should  
 write to G. Beyts & Co & say that you shall  
 want so many camels <sup>including one for water with skins</sup> carrying 3 kantars each  
 on (say) morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> ready at Esh Shatt.  
 You had better get to Suez night of 20<sup>th</sup>, & look  
 round on Beyts on 21<sup>st</sup>; H. B. Bush is the  
 partner whom I saw, who offered to do anything  
 for you. If they can get camels under £2  
 each to go to Serabit well & good, but at  
 worst Abu Gudeyl will supply them at  
 £2 each: he really paid the men 1 ½ naps =  
 24/. <sup>Beyts will pay for the camels from my account.</sup>  
 Bring the £30 from the bank at Suez,  
 for which I sent the cheque. Also £10 or 15  
 if you happen to have it over. ~~Though I sh~~  
 All this is if you come, which I still do not  
 think worth the time & fatigue to you &  
 Miss Eckenstein. There is no map better than  
 Baedeker for most of the way. Your

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As soon as you decide on coming you should  
 write to G. Beyts & Co & say that you shall  
 want so many camels <including one for water with skins> carrying 3 kantars <each  
 300lbs>

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31  
 Itinerary will be in camel hours  
 1<sup>st</sup> day pass Ayun Musa 2 1/2 hrs from the quarantine  
 at Esh Shatt where you can get good water for  
 the 3 days journey. Ayun Musa water is poor.  
 2 1/4 hrs to a pitching place in a little valley by  
 two flat topped hills. If you get off very early from  
 Suez you might get this 5 hrs done in the  
 1<sup>st</sup> day.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> day 8 hrs to Wady Werdan: broad valley very shallow  
 1-2 miles wide of bushes.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> day 8 hrs to Gharandel, running water in  
 valley, good. Some palms &c.  
 4<sup>th</sup> day 8 hrs to Wady Homr, pitch n<sup>e</sup> Sarbut el Jemel.  
 5<sup>th</sup> day 8 hrs to Serabit el Khadem  
 So you must have water for 3 days from Esh Shatt  
 + refill for 2 days at Gharandel.  
 We found the best way to put out of the tent at  
 dawn our breakfast, & lunch provision, then  
 pack beds, rolling up the blankets in the tent  
 to keep clean. Then while the camel men are  
 loading up we get breakfast out in the open.  
 Then mount with lunch in pockets, & eat on the  
 camels at mid day. In the evening they need  
 pushing on to near sunset. But it always took  
 us 1 1/2 - 2 hrs to pitch tents, collect bushes, boil a  
 pot + get dinner ready. The pitching place  
 must always be by bushes, both for fuel & for  
 the camels to feed during the night.  
 The arid glare of that long bare desert is trying &  
 exhausting. You must have a riding camel each.

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The arid glare of that long bare desert is trying &  
 exhausting. You must have a riding camel each,



32  
 I do not think that one of these weak camels would carry you two, & two boxes, & bedding. Your riding camels should take abt 100 lbs (1 kanter) of baggage under you in two parcels so as to form a broad seat. So if you can arrange four bags of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt each they will make four platforms. Get a large basket in Suez to hang on the camel to put in lanterns, & small things wanted during the day. But - as I said before - to those about to travel, "Don't". If it is wet it will be horrid. I met a Major Kelly just before we started, who said he had not had dry clothes on him for 3 days. We had two days incessant showers here. Our boat was delayed by 3 days of heavy rain at Suez which we were travelling. And we had heavy clouds just lately, slight rain, & probably heavy showers between here & Suez. So within 5 weeks there have been four bad times of rain on that route. And, once on the way, there is nothing to do but to sit out whatever wet comes; if you stop you run short of water. And your bedding may get ~~wet~~ wet in the tent on the camel. So take your choice with your eyes open. I have finished the map of the valley, & positions of steles; also the plan of a hundred huts on the hill here. All the inscrips. are copied full size & checked, & photographed. But Lyons has never sent us any of the paper I asked for, now the copy of the geological map which I ordered now 5 weeks ago. I cannot understand it. Only a small stock of cartridge paper has been our salvation here for copying, & we have not a scrap left for Serabit. Currelly has written to Edgar to send some paper on at once.

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If you are in Cairo it would be well for you to get <sup>33</sup>  
 us about 200 sheets of paper (about 4 sq. feet a sheet)  
 as a further reserve, for we cannot tell when  
 or what we shall get. We want a soft  
 coarse paper like Times, which will not break  
 too easily on the rough sandstone. So many  
 orders fall through this year that I have got into  
 a habit of getting a part from many different  
 sources, so that there is more chance of at least  
 one succeeding. We don't want a stiff sized  
 paper, as we need it for <wet> squeezes as well as for  
 drawing.

Our men have not had a single letter from Quft  
 Aly abd er Rahim desires you to tell Ib.  
 that they are all well here, & wishes him to  
 write this to Quft. They have sent several  
 letters to Quft themselves.

Now dear, dear wife, I do so want you to be  
 happy that I do not encourage you to come  
 down here, for it is harder than you think  
 for, quite different from little trips along the  
 cultivation in Egypt. After 4 days Weill tried  
 to get Porch to turn back with him & give it  
 up altogether. W. is well satisfied now, & quite  
 cheerful, but the long desert ~~would~~ was  
 much for him. I still quite think that it  
 would be best for you to stay at Saqq. or go  
 up to Thebes, until we get to the Delta in Feb<sup>y</sup>.  
 But after four letters insisting on wishing to come

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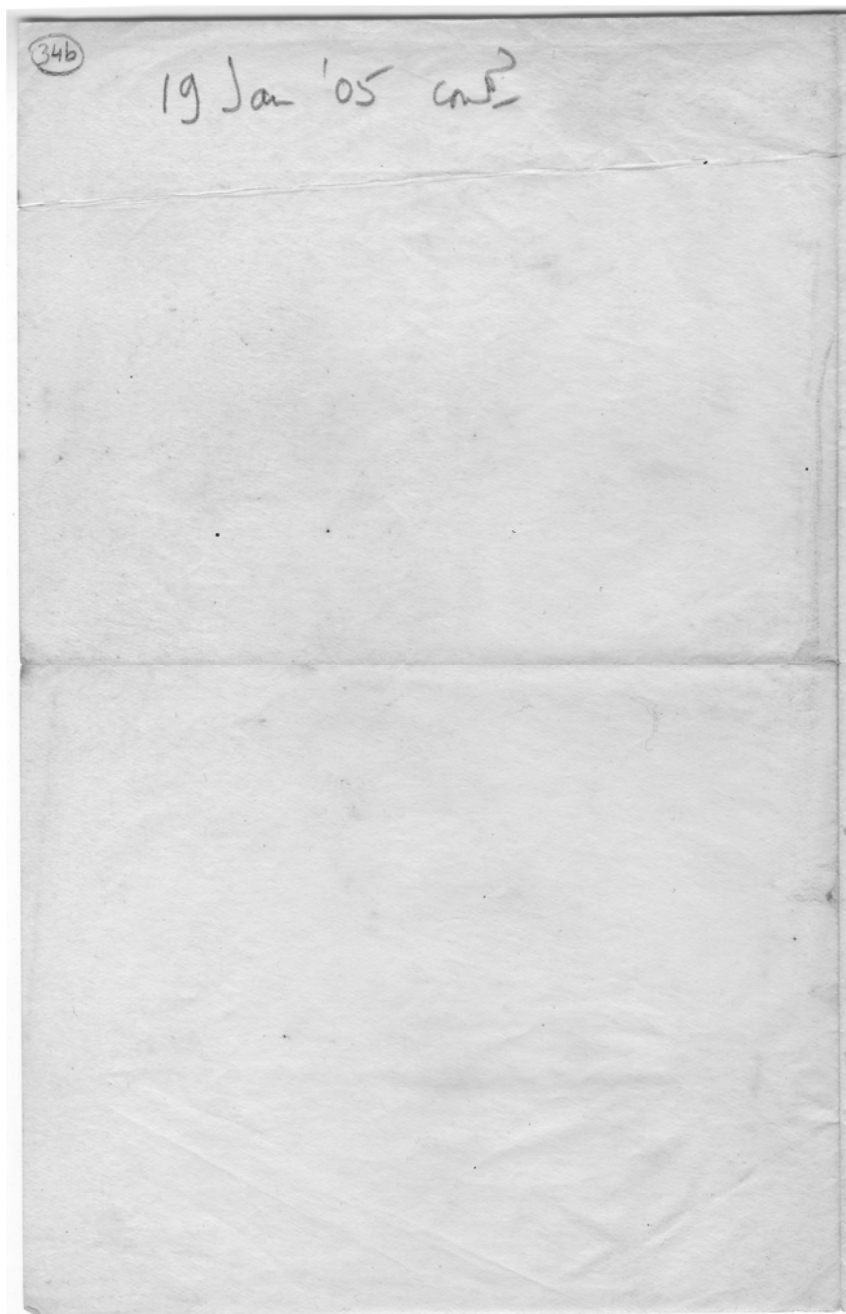
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 But after four letters insisting on wishing to come

I will make the arrangements which depend upon  
 me, by sending in a good Qufti. I shall try  
 to send Yusuf Abadi as he understands desert  
 travelling & can look after water & details.  
 But his going to Suez is a very trifling affair,  
 compared with your coming all this way. So it  
 does not fix any thing: and you must consider  
 all that I have said, the hard desert journey,  
 the isolation here, the crush of living packed in  
 tents, the lack of all the little regularities of life  
 that we have in huts, owing to the impossibility  
 of having so many things about. The minimum  
 of plates & things, no water jugs because there is  
 no place to put them, only a big tin which is  
 emptied on alternate days, & fresh boiled put in.  
 Everything as jammed as it can be, & no room for  
 half the things we are accustomed to in huts.  
 All this will worry you all day long, & I don't  
 think that you will be at all happy with such  
 a plaguey life. Every day one feels that it is just  
 enduring one day more of it, & hoping that it  
 will soon be different. Now I have to finish  
 packing tonight to be ready for an early start  
 tomorrow. I have done nothing but pack for two  
 days, & am weary of it all. Dearest, keep  
 a good courage, & do good work, & have some  
 pride in your own season, & then you will  
 look forward with a firm heart to our meeting  
 in Feb., which I am sure will be best for you.  
 Always your own man longing to make you  
 happy & looking & longing for a quiet time of rest  
 with you. 7

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 with you.

F.

19 Jan '05 con<sup>d</sup>



Sarabit el Khadem.

Dearest Heart

I send in a line to reassure you about this place. It is far better than Maghara; the air excellent, fragrant with aromatic plants. We are also well settled with the sheykhs; as we are still in the region of the old sheykh, but close to another more powerful one whom we have just made good friends with, & hired a night guard from, so that both are now responsible for us.

The temple is rather far, just half an hour over rough ground, & about 4/600 ft climb. But there is a great deal to do there both in copying & in clearing it of fallen stones. We shall be 6 weeks over this place I expect. Dr Ruffer & his party are coming about mid Feb<sup>y</sup>.

Yussuf was quite cheerful about coming in for you, & will be far the best man you can have. He is son of a large sheykh & quite rules all the desert folk of his region, so that he will manage your camel men better than anyone else could do. I have told him about the water supply on the road, & he will see that you have skins enough for the

Sarabit el Khadem.

35

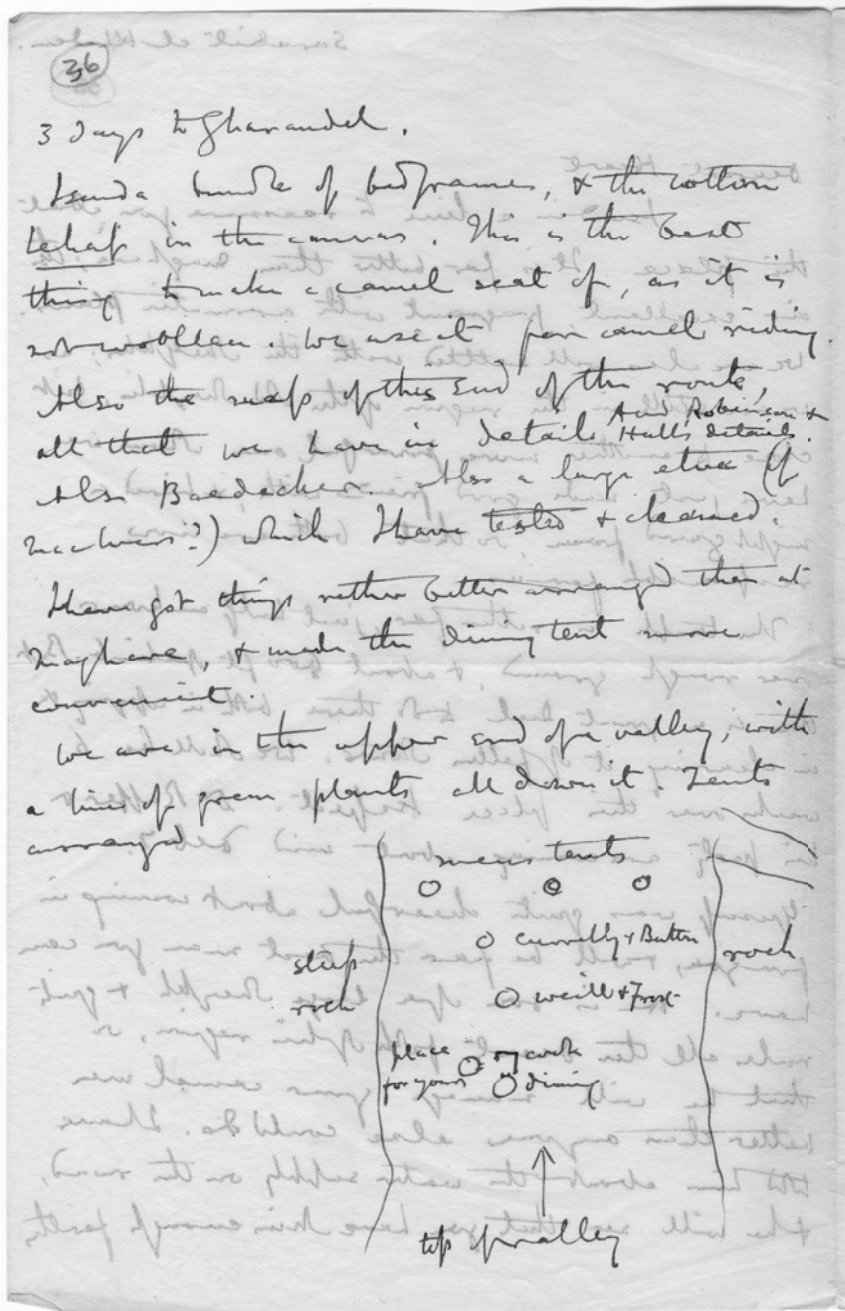
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3 days to Gharandel.

I send a bundle of bed frames, & the cotton lehaf in the canvas. This is the best thing to make a camel seat of, as it is not woollen. We use it for camel riding. Also the map of this end of the route, all that we have in detail. <And Robinson & Halls details.>

Also Baedeker. Also a large stove (of MacIvers?) which I have tested & cleaned.

I have got things rather better arranged than at Maghara, & made the dining tent more convenient.

We are in the upper end of a valley, with a line of green plants all down it. Tents arranged

[ ☞ ]  
(mens tents)  
strip / rock - Currelly & Button - rock  
Weill & Frost  
place / for yours - cook  
dining  
top of valley)



(37)

The cook sleeps in a hut made of stone boxes in front of my door. Your tent must go at right angles to mine, so that feeding can be supplied to each easily. There is convenient cover just up the valley.

I feel this is far more comfortable & satisfactory than Maghara. The scenery is extraordinarily wild, with deep gorges in all directions on the way to the temple. We have got in 200 sq. metres of paper now, & the map from Cap<sup>t</sup> Lyons. But if you have brought more it will be useful for squeezes.

If, when we get to the Delta I shall be very happy to see Misses H & K settle by us for a bit. As to Athens pray tell Miss Eckenstein that I said nothing because I would say nothing. I only know that delegates of universities have been asked to assemble, & that I have been named a delegate. No one else can join the meetings for money or asking. But I presume that a delegate may be supposed to have a wife in Athens, & that travelling privileges & sights may be also accorded. But I cannot say anything for

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(38)  
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 of the Greek Govt certain persons are named  
 & that no one else can have anything to  
 do with it, unless by favour. Sometime  
 I suppose I shall hear more. The meeting  
 will be about Ap 25-29 & after it we  
 must scuttle home as quick as we can  
 & I should like to get to Athens about  
 Ap. 15. leaving Alex Ap. 10.  
 I am reckoning on your bringing the £30  
 from Suez; if you don't come of course I must  
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 Ever your own man, doing  
 all he can to make you comfy.  
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