

[Earlier entries for this season do not exist or are missing.]

- 1 Clifton
- 2 - Parkstone
- 3 - Westbourne Terrace
- 4 - A. Foster Esq. 9 Shore Rd S. Hackney.
- 5 - Rev. W. Cooke - back to Putney please.

[Addition by an unidentified member of the Mace family.]

S.S. Congo.
Near Corsica
Nov 1st

Once more I start a journal: it seems only yesterday I left off. Please don't let more people see it than is absolutely necessary. Roshier came to see me off at Charing Cross, so I was not quite friendless. We left at 10 and reached Paris at 5.40, a pretty quick run. After dinner I was sitting on the salon of the hotel when I ~~let~~ heard someone outside enquiring in loud tones for Monsieur Mace, and in sailed Miss Oldroyd with her niece Miss Borwick. They came to take me to the theatre, so off we went to the Porte St. Martin. Cyrano de Bergerac was the play. I could'nt follow very much, but it was worth going only to see Coquelin. On the way back we bought some chestnuts, which we all three eat as we walked along.

Nov 2nd

After breakfast I went out for a stroll to buy one or two things which I had forgotten to get in London, and eventually found my way to the Louvre, where I had arranged to meet Miss Oldroyd. We had lunch at a café, and then she drove down

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with me to the station to see me off.
 Left Paris at 2.15 and got to Marseilles
 at half past five next morning. Unluckily
 the carriage was full, so that one could
 not lie down. It was a corridor carriage
 however, so that one could stretch ones
 legs and get a smoke occasionally. Moreover
 there was a very nice little French girl,
 about six years old, in the carriage, to whom
 I quite lost my heart.

Nov 3rd When we got to Marseilles I
 got a boy to carry my bag and walked
 to the hotel. Everyone was asleep so we
 had to ring the establishment up. After
 lunch I went out for a walk with a
 German staying at the hotel who talked
 English fairly well, and came back by bus
 just in time to drive down to the boat.
 We got off at half past five, an hour and
 a half late. At dinner time I debated
 where to sit and finally - took a place next
 to some people who looked English. Five
 minutes after dinner had started they
 mentioned Flinders Petrie, so there I was
 at once. Do I look like a Frenchman?
 I hope not. Everyone seems to think I am one
 until they begin to talk to me. Then they
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Nov 4th

Nov 4th A bit of a sea on today, so there are several gaps at the tables. Nothing very much however at present. About midday we came through the straits of Bonifacio, as desolate a looking country on either side as ever I wish to see. I think there are seven English people on board altogether, two of them officers in the army. My cabin is full, four berths. One of the other three is one of the cut-throatest looking villains I have ever seen. I found him examining my tooth powder when I went in once. He had apparently never seen anything like it before.

Nov 5th We have been in sight of land the greater part of the day; first the Lipari Islands, with Stromboli in the distance, and then the straits of Messina, at about four o'clock in the afternoon. (this effect of black and white is caused by the eccentricities of my fountain pen, which is behaving outragis). We still keep up a pretty stiff wind, and consequently the sea is not as calm as it might be. Some of the passengers have seen far more of the insides of their cabins than of the rest of the ship so far.

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in my cabin was an Egyptian who has spent the last four years in London at a training College. He was sent over by the government, and is now going back to teach in the government colleges. He is a very nice chap indeed and I have made great friends with him.

Nov 7th A really calm day at last: no wind and hardly a ripple in the water. All sorts of odd people are turning up today whom one has never seen before: two English people amongst others. I find we have a French personally conducted tour on board. They are going to have two days in Cairo, and then going in into Syria; a three weeks trip altogether. Today they had a lecture given to them in the saloon as to what they were to do in Alexandria. Further they all wear badges, and call themselves a scientific expedition. Some of them would further the cause of science better if they had themselves stuffed and set up in an ethnological museum. But that's by the way. They say we are to get in to Alexandria by half past nine tomorrow morning, so I may as well send off this sheet there. I don't know when I shall be able to get off any more.

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Nov 8th We reached Alexandria at about half-past ten this morning. The next Cairo train did not leave till after four, so I left my things at the station, and did some shopping: bought a revolver amongst other things. At the train nearly all my fellow passengers turned up, and I came up in the same carriage as the ^{English} people whom I sat next to at meals. The station people played us a very mean trick. The train was apparently too heavy for the engine, so they quietly uncoupled the front half of the train and sent it off, we sitting in our places like good little children the while, wondering why the train did 'nt start, and then came and told us that the second train would not start for another half hour. Consequently we were an hour and a quarter late at Cairo. One of the porters here says that the only time the train is ever punctual is when there are no passengers. Such is Egypt. We got to Cairo just too late to catch the train comfortably, let alone get any food, so Quibell who was at the station to meet me persuaded me to give up the attempt, and stay with ~~him~~ him at his hotel. So I decided to stay over Wednesday in order to pay my respects to the Museum people, which after all I suppose was my duty, and go on by the morning train on Thursday. Too late for dinner at the hotel, so we dined in the open air at an Italian café.

Nov 9th after breakfast I donkeyed up to the Museum, called on Brughsh^{sic} {Brugsch} Bey, who gave me a ticket for the

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tombs and temples of Upper Egypt, thereby saving me a guinea, and left a card for Loret, who fortunately was not there. Spent the morning in the Museum, (our last year's things are put out, and look very well) and lunched with Quibell and his colleagues ~~at the Museum~~ ^{there}. It does seem natural being back in Cairo again: I don't seem to have been away more than about a week.

~~Just Hotel~~
Nov 10th Got up, train, went to bed. That is the sum-total of my doings today. I left the Cairo hotel at seven, and arrived at Luxor at half past twelve, after nearly seventeen hours of train. I got the hotel people to put me up some lunch, and out of what they gave me I managed to make a three course lunch and a four course dinner, finishing up with a cup of Turkish coffee, which an old man brought round at one of the stations. When I arrived at Luxor there was no conveyance or donkey to be seen, so I got a man to carry my goods round to the hotel, where I again had to knock them up (I am getting rather good at knocking up hotels).

Nov 11th at last I have got to Thebes, and am happy. After breakfast I ferried across the river to Gurneh where Newberry and Spiegelberg are digging. I found them hard at work on a most magnificent site, where they are sure to have some magnificent finds. They have taken over an Arab house and very kindly asked me to stay a few days with them, which will be very jolly, especially as Newberry knows more about Thebes than any Englishman alive. I had lunch with them

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Rev. F. H. Cox. Sydenham Villa
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His address
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 -
 Clergy &c -
 -
 Rev. J. C. M -
 River Cottage
 & Great Harwell.
 Herts
 -
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 London Rd - Tonbridge
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[These notes on pages 7 to 10 were probably added
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2/

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Nov 12th after breakfast I took my leave of the hotel and went over to the West side of the river again. Newberry and Spiegelburg were out on the work, so I followed and stayed with them till lunch. After lunch I went up to Deir el Bahri where Carter and Sillem are carrying on another branch of the Exploration Fund's work. They are engaged in restoring the temple and copying the wall inscriptions, and a very good job they have made of it. Carter showed me over the temple and I stayed and had tea with them. When I got back I found that Ali and five of our old men had arrived for instructions. I had written before to Ali, from England, telling him to look for me at Luxor about the 13th.

Nov 13th In the morning I took a long walk with Ali,

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Nov 14th In the morning I walked over to the 'tombs of the Kings'; Kings that is to say of the XVIIIth and XIXth dynasties, which are quite as wonderful in their way as the pyramids. They are cut clean out of the face of solid rock, chamber after chamber, and run back, some of them to a distance of about fifty yards. After lunch I got a donkey, rode down to the river, ferried across and walked to the station. I took my

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Nov 15th Arrived at Keneh at about eleven o'clock, and went up into the town. Here we had several purchases to make, wood for the house etc. While Ali was bargaining I went to

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¹⁴ call on Gergis; the antica-dealer who was so kind to me last year. I also met several other people whom I got to know last year. I lunched at a Greek café, and eat strange things. We left Keneh late in the afternoon, having taken on board 120 planks, five native bedsteads, and innumerable other articles, including several water-melons about as big as the dome of S. Paul's. Naturally the boat is a bit crowded. It's a lazy kind of existence drifting down a river all day long like this, and would be very jolly if one had'n't a house to get built in a certain time, and waint anxious to get started on it. At about sunset I bathed from the boat, slept on board again, and slept like a top.

Nov 16th When I woke up I found we were moored at Doshneh, which in all probability is to be our post-town. Here we made further purchases, grass mats to serve as doors, etc. The men also laid in a stock of sugar-cane, so for the rest of the journey we all chewed assiduously. After about three hours more drifting we arrived opposite Sheikh Ali and landed our goods, thinking we had got to the end of our journey. To get to our site we found there was about three miles to go to the village, then a canal to be crossed, and then about a mile and a half along the edge of the desert. Then came a big corroboree

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3/ about the price of camels, in the course of which the camels were sent away and recalled three times. We reached the village about an hour before sunset, and found that the only means of getting across the canal was a tiny ferry-boat. It was impossible to get to our destination that night, so we plumped our goods down in the middle of the village, and Ali and I walked on to choose the exact spot for the house. When we got back I was just settling down for a meal (by the way all the food I got till seven in the evening was a piece of native bread, some melon, and a few dates) the village sheikh turned up and insisted on my going back with him to dine and sleep. I would much rather have stayed where I was, but I could not very well refuse. I tried to excuse myself on the plea that I must stay to look after the things, but he replied that he would send some guards

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round to watch during the night. The dinner was delightfully Arabic. We sat round a small table, and a tray was brought in containing a ~~sa~~ turkey, two basins of broth between five people, and a dish of a kind of stuff resembling - I really don't know what. Knives, forks and spoons of course we had none: when we wanted turkey we plunged our fingers into him and secured what we could. After dinner we held a kind of reception. The sheikh had apparently never had anything to do with Europeans; ~~and~~ I heard him asking one of our men all sorts of questions about us. Finally he accompanied me up to my bedroom, where we had a final cup of coffee (cups of coffee had been coming in at intervals all through the evening); after which he departed, leaving a servant who refused to go out until he had seen me to bed and tucked me up.

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Nov 17th

4/ 17
Nov 17th When I woke this morning I found my faithful attendant waiting with a glass of most delicious milk, and when I got downstairs there was the Sheikh with the inevitable coffee. We had to wait in the village a considerable time even now, as we had to wait until the village people had finished with the ferry, so that it took us the best part of the day to get all our things conveyed to the site. It is a relief to get on to the desert again. I have set up my tent and am happy. We have ordered 10 000 bricks which are to be delivered tomorrow.

Nov 18th This morning I sketched out a kind of ground plan on the desert with bricks, and we started building. The bricks are very small, and I am only building one brick thick, so I am rather doubtful whether the whole thing won't blow down. The people round take a great interest

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18

in our proceedings: they come and squat around, and watch, and criticise freely. We are in a part of the world where tourists never come, so naturally they are curious. I had my first ride on my spirited Arab stud today. He seems rather a bargain, but ~~as~~ I have no saddle yet, and riding him bareback is rather like riding on the edge of a knife.

Nov 19th Three of our old men turned up today, who had gone to ~~Quf~~ Gurneh after me and been directed on here. I expect I shall have plenty more coming in in a day or two. I am getting my own room finished first, as I want to move all my things into it as soon as I can. I can hardly move in my tent, I am so crowded out.

Nov 20th Got my roof on today, so moved

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in: a nice big room I have got this season. I hope it will soon be full of antiques. People here have the vaguest notions of the kind of things we want: a tiny child came running after me today with a bit of desert flint. They were much astounded to hear that we wanted bones as well. Went for a walk with Ali today into the village to search for more bricks. We secured 4000 more at a most ruinous price, $\frac{1}{6}$ a thousand, but I am afraid that even that will not be enough.

Nov 21st This morning, over sixty men turned up, and are now sleeping about the place. I daresay by the time Petrie comes I shall have getting on for a couple of hundred here. Four rooms are now roofed in and plastered with mud inside. I must try and get a couple more done tomorrow. This

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Nov 22nd Six camels delivering bricks all day today, but the supply is again exhausted. If I only had the time to spare I would set to and make the bricks myself, but they would take three or four days to dry, and I expect Petrie will turn up in a day or two.

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5/

21
I have been investigating the ground a bit, whenever I dared leave the men to build by themselves. All round the camp seems delightfully tomby, but I am afraid that is all Petrie's share. My part of the cemetery is some three or four miles off, and I have not been able to get so far yet.

Nov 23rd I hope Petrie wont turn up tomorrow, or I shant have got the house finished. I sent in to ~~Ken~~ Dechneh today, but the boy must have muddled it somehow, as the man at the office refused to believe in him or give him the letters. This afternoon I had my usual visit from the native official who wants to know what right I have to take possession of the desert like this, and so on, but luckily I had a copy of last years permit with me, so I was able to settle him pretty quickly.

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6/
Nov 24th

Nov 24th Ali returned this morning after a great struggle with his father-in-law: he found that his house had been completely rifled. We got the roof on the dining room today, and a most palatial room it is - twenty feet by nine, and over six feet high. Theres luxury for you. Tomorrow I hope we shall have finished, so Petrie can come as soon as he likes. I borrowed a saddle from the Sheikh today, and went for a good long ride into the desert. I must get hold of a saddle of my own as soon as I can.

Nov 25th What with all this pottering about, and getting no exercise but an occasional ride, I am getting quite fat. I shall be very glad when the great man turns up. I am getting very keen to start digging. Talking of the great man, I got a letter from him today, dated Nov. 7th, from Edinburgh. We are to be

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 is to work here this year, and will arrive about
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 Petrie and his friend there is a Miss
~~Orme~~ Lawes coming to assist with any
 drawing that may have to be done. Fancy
 three ladies in our camp. We shall soon
 be all dressing for dinner in the evening.
 Petrie also says 'build another room between
 ours and yours', which is impossible, as they
 are finished already. I believe I really am
 getting on in Arabic a bit: I have spoken
 no English for just on a fortnight, so I suppose
 I ought to. That's the worst of being with
 English people out here: you don't have
 to talk Arabic, and so don't get on as
 you might. Ali has been making himself
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 the great man today: there was a convenient
 train which I thought he would take advantage
 of. Now I don't know when he will come: he
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 we wanted about three hundred bricks
 to finish, and Ali had made arrangements
 for a thousand to be delivered early. By
 eleven o'clock they had not come, so Ali and
 I went off to investigate, only to find
 that the owner of the bricks had gone off
 for the day, presumably to have a spree
 with the five piastres he had been advanced
 on account. This was too much, so we secured
 camels from elsewhere, quietly counted out a
 thousand bricks, and were making off with our
 plunder, when the man's brother turned up. Then
 there was a glorious row. ^{Presently} the father of the
 owner of the bricks turned up, and tried to smooth
 things down. He offered to send the bricks off at
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 going to send them away again. We must have
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 Finally the five piastres was collected, with great
 difficulty, and in tiny contributions from various neighbours,
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Nov 27th Ali went off to Dechneh today, and brought back a letter from Petrie, saying that they met with a terrible storm, and were two days late getting to Alexandria. He could not say exactly when they would arrive here, but possibly tomorrow. Talking of letters, why don't you use foreign paper? I have had to pay double postage on each of the letters you have sent. Two newspapers also arrived for Petrie, which I promptly opened and devoured. One of the boys waiting here was caught stealing in the cultivation today, which has lost him his chance of getting work. That's the worst of having a hundred men waiting about with nothing to do: they are sure to get into mischief. I would start digging, had I not been forbidden by the Museum to do so before Petrie arrived.
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Nov 29th First thing this morning we set about weeding over the enormous crowd of men we had waiting about. The selected ones set to work to put up huts for themselves, and about fifty went off disconsolate. We also set about a dozen of them digging a well, as the canal will soon be dry, and is not

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The rest of the day we spent carpentering, putting up shelves etc. Our dining room looks quite swell, with table & that is to say the lid of a large box put across four store boxes) and actually two chairs. Alas one of the walls is bulging, and will have to be buttressed up.

The bricks were too small. Tomorrow is market day, so we shant begin work proper till Thursday. My ground begins about a mile and a half south of the house, and extends for two or three miles.

Petrie takes the part all round the house, and MacIver will probably work to the North, so we ought to clear all the site pretty thoroughly. We make quite a village now, with all the men's huts, and the noble steed browsing in the foreground completes the picture. Not that he finds much to browse on in the

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Nov 30th Digging began this morning close to the house, mostly eighteenth dynasty burials, but nothing of much importance yet. I did not start on my ground today, but shall do so tomorrow morning. MacIver and Iles turned up together this afternoon, so now we are seven. It does seem a large party: we can't turn anywhere without seeing somebody English. We successfully came to water today ^{in the well} and planted a large jar in the bottom to bale from. We also sent in to market and purchased five turkeys, which have been put up on the roof for the night for fear of jackals. So now our household is complete.

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Dec 1st

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 and planted them down on an old kingdom
 cemetery about a mile and a half from the
 house. When I had got them well started
 I walked on to an XVIIIth dyn. cemetery about
 four miles from the house, my furthest limit, to
 inspect the ground. There I found three
 men having a private dig on my cemetery,
 my own private cemetery, if you please, so
 I went and ordered them off. They went.
 What I should have done if they had refused
 I don't quite know. ~~It~~ apparently the
 villagers for miles round have been
 in the habit of digging here for years.
 When I got back to my men I found they
 were mostly on graves. One small tomb
 had two human skeletons in it and an
 ibex skeleton, so there wasn't much room
 for me. Working so far away, it wastes too
 much time to come back in the middle of the
 day, so I take my lunch with me. I managed
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got back in the evening dead tired.

Dec 2nd I seem to be in for a lively time
of it this winter. I decided to move on
to the far cemetery today, as plundering is
going on there, so I marched my men off
again. When we had got nearly to the
XVIII cemetery we found about 20 men
digging on a New Race cemetery. They
ran when they saw us coming, and we
went on with the pits they had kindly
started for us. This seemed to annoy
them considerably, and presently they began
to collect at a little distance, and
after a bit had the cheek to bring up a
hoe, and start packing at the ground.
I wasn't going to stand this, so I got
my measuring pole and charged. The majority
of them turned and fled, but one stood
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Dec 3rd. Miss Lawes and Iles came out to my cemetery. I am getting her to draw my pots for me as it takes me such a long time. Not much bother today with the villagers:

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some of them started throwing stones from a distance, but a charge soon put them to flight. We have represented to our 'reis' from the museum that it is his duty to keep people off the work, so for the present he is to come over to my work every day and mount guard. New Race burials are very interesting to work. They are the people who used to cut up their dead before burying them, and apparently boil them, probably a remnant of cannibalism. They take a long time to clean, and want careful notes, as the skeletons are not always put together accurately, but put in their wrong places etc, and very often the skull quite apart by itself. It is so hard to tell sometimes whether you are excavating a cut-up burial, or whether it has been disturbed before. Mrs Petrie is not well again, and has been in bed for a day or two. I hope she is not going to have an illness like last year.

Mrs C. Bromby - after to Mrs Blyth & to [?]
Please forward to
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[The entries for Dec. 4th 1899 - Jan. 27th 1900 are missing;
some may have never existed.]

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Jan 28th

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 delicate about speeding the parting
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 into Kench"; he pleaded pathetically, "Send
 me into the desert for the day and
 then you tell them. But the great man
 was obdurate, so Ali was obliged to
 tell them they weren't wanted. This,
 however, produced no effect: they probably
 knew it well enough already. A second
 message was sent in: no notice was
 taken, and by and by the great man,
 going out, saw the old lady calmly sitting
 in the doorway as if the whole house
 belonged to her, and we were her guests.
 This was too much, so the great man
 went up and gave her half an hour
 to clear out with all her belongings.
 What we should have done if they had
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Jan 29th

I seem to have struck a bad part of the cemetery just now: all the tombs have been robbed anciently, so that I can't note the positions the bodies are lying in, which is what I go for chiefly. We attacked another large mastaba today, some way away from the house. It is about the third largest in the cemetery, so it should belong to a person of importance.

Jan 30th

Miss Oldroyd and Davies went in to Kenh today and brought back post. It fills me with horror and dismay to hear that my effusions are going about the country like that. They were intended for home consumption merely. It behoves me to write circumspectly. This morning one of the men came up in great glee and announced that he had a bricked up tomb, so I went to inspect, and there

we came in some time afterwards they had gone.

Jan 29th I seem to have struck a bad part of the cemetery just now: all the tombs have been robbed anciently, so that I can't note the positions the bodies are lying in, which is what I go for chiefly. We attacked another large mastaba today, some way away from the house. It is about the third largest in the cemetery, so it should belong to a person of importance.

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sure enough at the bottom of a deep well,
 which I descended with the help of a rope,
 (I have discarded my ladder) was a
 fine place with a bricked-up entrance,
 evidently untouched, a self-respecting
 tomb of that size, I thought, would surely
 contain some fine alabaster or diorite
 bowls, so I eagerly opened up the door and
 began to clear, the man squatting just
 outside and watching, expecting every
 handful of sand to produce five or six
 scarabs at least. But, alas for my expectations
 of a good find, and the man's hope of backsheesh,
 all that it contained besides the skeleton
 were two ordinary earthen pots. It took
 a long time to clear too, for when I came
 to the surface again I judged from the
 sun it must be near lunch time and
 going in found it was a quarter past
 three. After lunch I sallied out again,
 and tried another tomb, which behaved

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23/

23/

37

very well for a time, but after a bit I struck a lode of tiny little common pots. Fifty I turned out without a murmur, and it went steadily on, but when I got to seventy five and it shewed no signs of giving out I turned tail and fled the spot. I suppose I must finish it tomorrow. I am sure that man's 'ka' must have over eaten it self if it consumed all those pots of offerings. Mr Petrie takes the weekly Times I find, so I shall always see that. Still I shall be very glad of other papers.

Jan 31st I finished my pot tomb this morning and took from it the grand total of 138, of which I kept about ten and left the rest in the tomb. We seem to spend all our time going to bed here. We get up and then it is time for lunch, and then about an hour after that it is evening again. This evening after dinner we varied

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our usual programme of marking bones by taking a moonlight walk over the desert. I mean we three; not the great man of course. Miss Oldroyd departs on Thursday, and then we shall be left for a brief space to our original number, who is to be the next visitor I don't know: I expect Rosher.

Feb 1st Mr Petrie came in to meals today for the first time for nearly three weeks. It seemed quite funny to see her there again. Miss Oldroyd took a lovely photograph this morning of two of my men sitting on top of a grave watching me clearing it out. They are Soudani blacks, the most gloriously ugly old boys you ever saw, and made a lovely picture sitting there watching intently. Our prize today was a pair of untouched Ptolemaic sarcophagi, from which we got some really good amulets. I have had very bad luck lately.

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all my tombs have been plundered: a great shame I call it to rob the dead like that. Tomorrow is pay day again. I must go to bed and try and get a long night to clear my brain for it.

Feb 2nd I got through my accounts today with flying colours, but was somewhat amazed at the smallness of the amount. Two pounds fifteen shillings does not seem excessive for fourteen men and boys, and yet they all seemed very pleased with what they got, and thanked me profusely for it. Next week I think I must be a little more liberal. You see we don't pay them a fixed amount per day, but reckon everything by measure. As they finish up any piece of work we measure it with our sticks, and put down so much opposite them in a book. This afternoon I got through all my work before sunset so Miss Oldroyd and I went for a stroll.

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down to the village of Dendera. There we met the son of the temple 'reis' who insisted on our stopping and having some coffee. So we sat down under the shade of a tree in front of his house and waited while he went in and brought us some out, which we drank while the village watched. It was really rather exciting, as the village was bringing out its animals, and every now and then a sportive camel would dance past with its four legs all kicking out sideways and a small child dangling at the end of a rope some four or five yards behind. A varied collection they seem to have too: camels, horses, cows, buffaloes, oxen, sheep, goats, dogs, turkeys and chickens, to say nothing of the children. Tomorrow Miss Oldroyd departs, her steamer leaves Keneh at half past six, so I am going to get up very early to go down with her and see her off.

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24/
Feb 3rd

24/

41

Feb 3rd This morning I was awakened ~~at~~ shortly after five, and after partaking of a cup of cocoa we set off for the river, followed by three men carrying baggage. It was quite dark ~~when~~ as we stumbled over the desert, picking our way warily among the many pit-falls left by the excavations, but when we reached the edge of the cultivation the Eastern sky began to brighten and just after we reached the river the sun came up. It had been arranged that the steamer should call for us at Dendera at half past six, before it went across to the Keneh landing stage, but ~~as~~ as no steamer was visible when we arrived we decided to charter a native boat and get on board there instead, after I had seen Miss Oldroyd off I crossed the river again on ^{the} up steamer which was taking the tourists over to see the temple. The tourists were an odder looking lot than usual, and

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included two or three clergymen, one
 very like the Birmingham parson in
 'The Tragedy of the Korusko'. It is interesting
 to see the way the natives get themselves up
 on tourist days. They have great ideas
 of looking interesting. One small boy I saw
 this morning had discarded all his clothes
 for the occasion and was going about
 in a grass girdle and ^{with} a kind of wreath
 of green stuff round his head, under the
 pleasing delusion that his appearance was
 calculated to wring backsheesh out of
 the stoniest hearted foreigner. Carter, who
 is working for the Fund at Deir el Bahri
 once saw a little girl plant herself down
 in the path by which the tourists were
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 at her feet, and begin to cry bitterly.
 Doubtless she kept the whole family by
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Unfortunately a small boy caught sight of us so we had quite a large assembly to witness the performance.

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Today we were in luck again, as we found three fine tablets outside the East wall of a mastaba. There will probably be several more of them, as there is a good stretch of the wall yet to clear. It seems quite funny being such a small party again. Miss Oldroyd had been here five weeks, so we shall miss her.

Feb 5th

Two more Merra tablets turned up today, making five in all. There will probably be seven or eight more, and the man who found them will get about 10 shillings apiece for them. The present arrangement is for the great man to go off on his expedition on Wednesday. If he finds anything good he will settle down there himself, and leaves us to look after things here.

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Feb 6th

44
Feb 6th Read letter day. You ask me how many letters a week I average - I have had none since Christmas except from Putley. I have just been looking through my notebook, and find I have cleared with my own hands about a hundred and twenty skeletons and over a thousand pots. Things will begin to mount up a bit by the end of the season. Tomorrow as the weather is getting hotter we are going to start a new system. Up at six; get a snatch of something to eat and out on the work till eleven. Then breakfast and stay indoors for a bit; and then a long afternoon till sunset. I am pleased to hear the measles are better, but you really ought to be careful. Your letters to me go to Port Said, which is a most cholera-y place, so that my letters back might easily carry infections. I think Mr. Riley ought to be warned.

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It would be terrible if the baby caught whooping-cough in consequence.

The Arabs have a very curious notion as to the reason why we take so many skeletons. They think that in England we are very short of men, and so, being great magicians, we take these bones and bring them to life again.

Feb 7th I invented a new way of going down a well today: you start at the top; rest all your weight on a stone that won't bear you; and then you're at the bottom. It's simple and saves time, but still I think I prefer the ordinary way. What you save in time you lose in skin. One really does want to save time going up and down wells. I have been popping up one hole and down another all day just like a rabbit. Sometimes when I come to the top of a pit I find three or four others waiting, each wanting to be seen to next.

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Past eleven, and I must be up soon after six. I always write up my journal in my own room just before I go to bed.

Feb 8th We got the names of the owners of three more mastabas today, and also a large stone which at present we cant make head or tail of. It is entirely covered with tiny incised hieroglyphs, five or six thousand signs in all, and apparently contains nothing but personal names. It may be a kind of pedigree of his family, or list of his servants, or something of that kind. This morning we had our first taste of a hot south wind. When they set in later on it is apt to be unpleasant. The exploring trip has again been put off - for three or four days. Mr Petrie hopes that

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Feb 9th I have had excellent luck today with my tombs. This morning I got two nice lots of beads, and this afternoon as I was clearing an untouched tomb I came on a splendid bronze axe-head, worth about three pounds. It was a treat getting a thing like that after all the worthless pots I have been turning out lately. Going down these wells I find is rather disastrous to my clothes: I shall soon be going about in rags, and as for coming home, I think I shall have to come in native things. I don't know where I should be without Hilda's work case, which only wants one thing, and that is some fine cotton. Coarse thread is all very well for sewing on buttons, but for the finer acts of needlemanship it is quite impracticable.

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one cant herringbone artistically, for
 example, with 35, even if one knew how
 to which I dont. The size of the needles
 too I feel is a distinct insult. There is'nt
 a single one there that I couldnt thread
 in five seconds. We have got a little bit
 of amateur detective business on now. Two
 days ago one of the men lost a purse containing
 thirty shillings and suspicion fell on a boy
 who had been seen near the other mans cloths.
 Today the purse was found with only a sovereign
 in it carefully dropped in a place where it
 was bound to be found, and the Arabs, by
 some curious method of reasoning jumped to
 the conclusion that it was another boy who
 stole it because he was nearest to it when
 it was seen. As a matter of fact it
 probably was the other boy who stole it, and
 then finding that there was a great uproar
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 He was known to be very much in debt to
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26/
Feb 10th

26/ 49
Feb 10th Kench market day again, so no work.

Davies started off early to see about this reported tomb in the hills, with a man to shew him the way. He got back about four o'clock and reported that there was no tomb there at all - it was an anchorites cave, with Coptic graffiti on the walls.

What a lonely life he must have led, right away in the desert four or six miles from the cultivation. I damaged my foot rather going down a well yesterday, so I have been pottering about the house, marking bones etc. Today there descended upon us an animal we have been dreading for some time, a reis from the museum; that is to say a native official whose duty it is to see that we don't try and conceal any good find. Now we shall have him pottering about every day, getting in the way, and very possibly getting bribed by dealers to supply them with things. And the iniquity of the thing is that we have

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Feb 11th

to pay him so much a day to do it. Feb 11th This morning I made a real good haul. I was clearing out the floor of a most uninteresting tomb, very hard to work as it was firmly set. I had cleared all the bones up to the neck, and then started by finding the remains of a necklace. Then about a foot away from the head I came on a nice bronze mirror. That seemed to be all; but after a bit working up the side of a wall I came on a nice little alabaster pot, then a small porphyry bowl; then one or two little alabaster vases. Then I came on what I took at first to be a large shell, such as we sometimes find in the graves, but when I looked at it closer it fairly made me jump. It was a beautiful diorite shaped like a shell, and cut very thin. Mr. Petrie has never seen another like it. Altogether I got from this corner 2 diorites, 3 alabasters, 4 stone vases, and 1 porphyry.

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 ever seen. The worst of it is I am
 afraid they will bag the shell for the
 Boulaq museum. This was only a side
 chamber from a mastaba pit: if the
 principal chamber has not been robbed
 I ought to get some really nice things
 out of it. Inshallah, as the Arabs say.
Feb 12th If it werent for this journal
 I should get hopelessly wrong in my dates.
 I think I should be inclined to put it
 down as about the beginning of January
 or something of that kind. Another nice
 false door turned up today; an earlier
 one this time probably fourth dynasty (4000 BC).
 My only find besides pottery was a necklace
 of the tiniest beads I ever saw. I suffered
 agonies from cramps getting them out, as the
 tomb was a very narrow and low one, and
 I had to screw myself up into no space at all
 to avoid getting in my own light. I think I

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Feb 13th Today in one of the mastaba pits the men came upon a large stone sarcophagus with all the inside covered with inscription. We shall be able to judge of its value better when they clear all the sand out of it. A nice fat envelope by the post tonight. You ask if the heat at night is excessive - I find three or four blankets none too many. You also suppose we have long evenings. We dont get in now till about seven. Then by the time we have had more or less of a bath, and considerably more than less of a dinner there is not a great deal of

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27/

evening left for a person who goes to bed early. How very sad about Jones. I sent him a letter only about a fortnight ago. When did it happen?

Feb 14th

This afternoon I saw rather a funny sight. I was some distance away from the house when I saw a party of tourists on donkeys riding from the temple, evidently bent on paying the great man a call. So I watched them. Presently as they passed a mound I saw two figures slink round the other side and when they had passed, make off in the opposite direction. It was Mr and Mrs Petrie. It was no use, however, for presently the visitors' donkey boys found out from the men where they were, and so they pursued and captured them. One of my men surpassed himself today. He was working along the inside face of a wall, and I told him to find the outside face and work that instead. Presently he came to find me,

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in great tribulation, and when I enquired what was the matter he informed me that there was no outer face to it. I know the Arab has a lively imagination, but I didn't think it was capable of producing a wall with only one face. I asked him if he'd ever seen a wall with only one side before; which seemed to make an impression on him, for he went away thoughtfully and found the outer face.

Feb 15th A fine XIII dyn stela turned up today containing figures of a man, his wife, several children, and down in the corner a servant called Ada making cakes. Quite a nice little family scene. The lucky gang who found it got a pound on it.

Feb 16th The Petries are now going off on their exploring expedition on Sunday. Whether it will really come off this time I don't know. On Saturday and Sunday

in great tribulation, and when I enquired what was the matter he informed me that there was no outer face to it. I know the Arab has a lively imagination, but I didn't think it was capable of producing a wall with only one face. I asked him if he'd ever seen a wall with only one side before; which seemed to make an impression on him, for he went away thoughtfully and found the outer face.

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56

men for those days. I have actually got through a day without clearing out a well. Almost all the men are on mastabas now, so I have not nearly so much to do. Our Effendi wanders about the work disconsolately now, and sometimes lies down on a bank and goes to sleep. I don't think he knows of anything that's found. The men seem to enjoy hiding things from him: when they see him coming they spread their clothes over anything they have found. We actually had a nice warm day today. A most unpleasant high wind that has been blowing for some time dropped, but unfortunately it seems to be getting up again tonight.

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S. Hackney.
Clergy &c - at S. H.
Rev. J. Mace Amwell.
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W. L. Newman 1. Pittville Lawn
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[The text at the bottom of the page was probably added by an unidentified member of the Mace family.]

29/
Feb 17th

29/ 57
Feb 17th This morning Davies and I went up to the temple just when the tourists were leaving, and while the guards were busied with them we slipped in and lost ourselves in the darkness of the rooms. By great luck we found the doors to two of the crypts unlocked, and by still greater luck I happened to have a candle with me, so we got a nice quiet view of them. There are twelve crypts altogether in the temple, constructed in the thickness of the walls, and entered by tiny doors, originally concealed, some near the floor and others high up in the wall. They are all beautifully sculptured, and of course being inside are in beautiful condition and quite unharmed. Just when we had finished these we heard the guard calling us, and so we boted up the staircase onto the roof, ~~from~~ whence you get a fine birdseye view of the work.

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There we sat and waited for the guard to find us, which he presently did, very much out of breath, and having evidently been looking all over the temple for us. The crowd of beggars and people who frequent the temple on tourist days evidently know us now, for they content themselves with saying 'good morning' and make no attempt to get anything out of us. This afternoon we went down for our bathe in the Nile, where we were again much plagued by the population. We are so crowded out with skeletons now, that I have been compelled to give one important one a refuge under my bed. Now when I feel lonely, all I have to do is to look down, and the skull grins sociably at me through the bars of the wicker frame. Its quite company like.

Feb 18th Another nice false door turned

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up today. That is good, because now we are bound to get one of them through to England. Davies got a nice string of carnelian and amethyst beads.

Feb 19th A fine haul of bronzes this morning; seven pots and three axe-heads. The great man thinks they must have been stolen from the temple and buried. The lucky finders got £6 for them. The Petries start off early tomorrow, and leave me in possession. I don't think I shall have much to do, as today is the last of Ramadan and the great Mohammedan Festival is celebrated: so the majority of men are off for a day or two's feasting and enjoyment. MacIver turned up just as we were sitting down to dinner, having ridden all the way from Luxor on a camel and regretted it more every mile he came. After dinner we took him round and shewed him the

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piles of bones and skulls we have for him to measure. He said nothing but only looked, and looked again.

Feb 20th This morning there was a great commotion and stir: a hurried early breakfast, and then all the blankets and tents and provisions were brought out ready for the start, but - no donkeys turned up. It had been arranged that four donkeys, one for Mr Petrie to ride, and the others for provisions, should be here by sunrise: but the sun kept on rising and still no donkeys. At about half past eight the travellers started off to walk, leaving directions that the donkeys were to follow. So they vanished into the desert. At ten there appeared four tiny, tottering, knock kneed apologies for donkeys, barely able to support their own weights, let alone blankets and stores. Obviously these were impossible, so they were dismissed, and Ali was dispatched to

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30

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to the village to procure something better. at half-past one he returned with the cheering intelligence that there was'nt a donkey to be had for love or money, but that there was a camel available for tomorrow. Here were Mr and Mrs Petrie as we thought getting further and further away with not a scrap to eat or drink and nothing to shelter them for the night. So I sent Ali off again with instructions to bring the camel at all costs and hurry off. This time he was successful and returned with the camel, but just as we were loading it up in walked the Petries. That had gone four or five miles, sat down and waited for two hours, and then come back. a pretty good waste of a day althogether. Tomorrow morning they are to make a second attempt, this time with three good donkeys from Kenah and a camel. every single man has now cleared off

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Every single man has now cleared off

for the festival, at least all except one.
One man of about thirty explained to
me that he didn't want to go to the
fair himself, but he had to go home to
take his father. You say I never answer
your questions. I will do so now.

Firstly. I should like the climate very
much if it weren't so cold.

Secondly. Am I growing dark and how is
my beard getting on? I have grown so
dark that charcoal leaves a white mark
on my face, and I have to walk warily
lest I trip over my beard and sprain my
ankle.

Thirdly - I have not yet seen the Sphinx.

Fourthly - I am sure the Sirdar knows
far less about the movements of the Dervishes
than the 'Chronicle', and I know even less
than he.

Fifthly - my teeth have so far been behaving
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Sixthly - Do we often have turkey? We
polish one off nearly every day.
Seventhly, lastly, but not by any means leastly,
I have not yet been eaten by crocodiles
while bathing.

Feb 21st I write this in the great man's
room in which I am sleeping while he is away.
All the more valuable anticas are kept here,
as well as the stock of money, so that it
doesn't do to leave it empty. The travellers
really did get off this morning. They started
in style at about 8 o'clock; with three donkeys,
a camel, three men, and enough provisions
to keep a hungry family for weeks.

I am having a nice little holiday while the
men are away fairing. This morning I
went for a good walk into the desert in
search of flints and tombs. I found no decent
flints, but came upon one or two places which
may be worth clearing out. The afternoon
I spent pottering about the temple rubbish.

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 I am also seizing the opportunity of
 doing a little reading, which I have'nt had
 much time for yet.

Feb 22nd This morning while I was helping
 MacIver with his skulls, Golénichoff, a Russian
 Egyptologist, and a friend rode up to call
 on Petrie. He being away it fell on me
 to discourse them, so I shewed them our
 finds and made myself polite generally.
 They tried to make me talk French at
 first, but I professed absolute ignorance,
 and they knew quite enough English. Why
 dont they teach French at public schools.
 Nothing but Arabic will come to my tongue
 now when I try and squeeze up any French.
 Today was the great Festival day, and
 the cemetery being the most natural place
 to festinate in the whole population crowded
 out to enjoy themselves. Their idea of a
 real good time is apparently to crowd together

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I find MacIver is an old Radley boy and knew William there. He also lives at Clifton, so possibly the All Saints people know his family.

Feb 23rd The men have begun to come back from the Festival. I expect by tomorrow night we shall be in full swing again. We three are having nice games while the great man is away. We smoke in the dining-room and all sorts of wicked things like that. I find I am the youngest of the three. I generally find I am younger than other people. Am I

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very young, or do other people get old quicker
than I do. This afternoon we went down
to the river and had a very jolly bath.
It is very humiliating trying to swim
against the current. You go in, swim
violently up stream for about five minutes,
and then deciding that it is hardly safe
to get any further away from your clothes
you turn round and find that you are
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32/
Feb 24th

32/

67

Feb 24th The men have been coming back by twos and threes all day, all dressed out in beautiful new clothes bought at the 'Fantasia'. Tomorrow we shall be properly at work again. The Petries may get back tomorrow night. I expected to have a tremendously busy time while he was away, but, thanks to the Festival, I have had less to do than ever before out here.

Some very sad news came from El Kab today. The Quibells have a certain Miss Pirie working with them this year, and about a fortnight ago a friend of hers came to stay a few days with them. She seems to have been taken ill directly she arrived and died last Sunday after about ten days illness. It must have been terrible for them as they were miles away from a town. I am afraid poor Miss Quibell must be utterly worn out with nursing and anxiety.

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Feb 25th

68
 Feb 25th Fifty men, all working on mastabas,
 are quite enough to keep one well employed.
 I have been walking about from one to
 another all day long. A very good day's
 work too: plenty of stone, including a
 fine little statue about five inches high.
 The Petries came back about dinner time,
 somewhat to my surprise. I did not much
 expect them till tomorrow. They report
 several miles of cemeteries to the north
 of us, so that I expect he will settle to
 come there next winter. Shall I too?
 I wonder.

Feb 26th The great man has now handed
 over all the looking after and paying
 the men to me for the rest of the season.
 He is going to spend all his time
 photographing and surveying, so I shall
 have my hands pretty full. Moreover
 in a fortnight's time, if it gets very
 hot, he may have to bolt and leave us

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We got a very nice little twelfth dynasty statuette today, a group of a man and woman seated. Unfortunately the man was minus his head.

I am also trying just now to master the intricacies of surveying by means of a box-compass. We put up three conspicuous points to form a triangle at one end of the ground, and then at each point to be fixed read off with the compass any two angles with the points of the triangle. Thus the position of each mastaba is fixed by its two angles and can be plotted into the map.

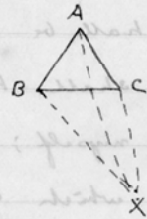
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general plan of the work afterwards.

For example —

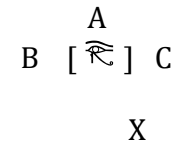


If ABC is your triangle and X the grave whose position you want to fix, you determine with the compass the angles BXC and BXA or CXA, and then working out from that the distance of X from the triangle you reduce it to the scale required for the plan.

Feb 27th What very interesting news I seem to have given you last night. I must have been half asleep. One really is'nt fit for much in the evenings here. I find fifty men are quite enough to keep me going; and trotting about from one mastaba to another and clambering down steep wells all day long is

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33/

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71

tiring work.

It's no good: my mind's a blank. I
must go to bed. I can't even draw
spidery triangles tonight.

Feb 28th It really is beginning to get a bit
warm now: one is glad to get out early
in the morning and take a couple of
hours indoors in the middle of the day.

We get such a nice long day now too;
the sun doesn't set until nearly half past
six.

March 1st Another month gone. On April 1st
I expect I shall be here all by myself, and
May 1st trying to worry the things through the
Museum at Cairo. I am getting crowded
out with small anticas in my room
now. I have to assess all the backsheesh
now so all the small objects find their
way into my room. Small boxes are what
I badly need. I have got 18 pill boxes
full of beads, and various match-boxes,

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72

and things like that, but I want some rather larger. My aim is to get all the small objects in packing trim as fast as they come in, but it is very hard to keep pace with them. However I am not quite so badly off as my next door neighbour MacIver. His room is generally so full of bones that he can hardly get into bed. Tomorrow I am not looking forward to much. I have got to reckon up and pay a fortnight's wages for to between fifty and sixty men: a more complicated business even than usual, as they were all away for three or four days and had various sums handed over to them on account. Next week will be much easier, as I shall start fair on my own account, and have everything down in my own book.

March 2nd I have paid off sixty two men and have'nt a figure left in my head.

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73
 One sum I struck at. A gang wanted to leave most of their money in and have only one boy's wages, namely two-fifths of half 351 piastres. That was too much of a good thing, so I insisted on their having the whole amount. I think we have got nearly all the plums out of this place now. We shall soon begin to reduce the men. It will take, I calculate, about ten days getting the things down to the river and about ten more by native boat to Cairo.

March 3rd Market day, so I spent my time marking pots and clearing up a bit.

In the afternoon we went down for our bathe. It is delightful swimming with the current; almost too nice, as before you know where you are you have got half a mile below your clothes. Coming back we made a long cut through the village, and the children, taking us for tourists, began to pester us for bakhshesh. One little wretch

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74.

went so far as to dress for the part, which consisted in taking all his clothes off. This was too much so MacIver chased him and chastised him, after which we finished our walk in peace. It is simply amazing the way the crops grow here. You can see the difference in height every week; at this rate I shall see the harvest through.

I wonder if it is possible to cut your own hair. Mine will soon be over my shoulders, and I see no chance of getting to a barber's till I get back to Cairo.

The great man turned up tonight with his beautifully short, but I guess Mr Petrie cut it. I suppose one could if one had scissors and a glass, but then I have neither; at least I have about five inches of the latter, but that, being Arabic, is so bad that you can't see straight in it.

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34/

March 4th

34/ 75
March 4th A day of visitors. When we were having lunch today two ladies rode up on donkeys to call. We must have looked a funny sight. The great man in a pair of native trousers and not much else; M^{rs} Petrie with her hair flowing down her back, and MacIver and myself in - well not in dress clothes: all sitting on store boxes round a clothless home-made table. Then later in the afternoon Sayce turned up. He has been up the river at El Kab, and seems to think Quibell's finds very important. He certainly has been very lucky this year. One thing he has found, a golden hawk's head, is said to be worth about a thousand pounds.

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76

He will be here some weeks I expect, and may possibly stay on after we go. It depends on whether he gets permission to clear Tanis: I think I told you that the Americans were trying to get leave to do that. Our party now numbers six again. We distribute ourselves now as follows - The great man photographs or works at plans all the morning, and surveys in the afternoon; Davies spends most of his time down a tomb copying inscriptions, and looks after the dozen of men he is in charge of. MacIver measures bones most of the day, with an occasional turn round the work with me, and I spend all my time trotting about with a big stick and pretending to look after the men. What Rosher will do I don't know yet. If he stays he will probably take on our men as we thin them off, as we shall begin to do in two or three weeks. Post day today and a fat letter which

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gladdened my eyes until I opened it and found that its fatness was caused by an anti-Roman tract, and an appeal for a subscription to a Keble College barge. The idea of tracts and barges in the desert. You horrify me more and more by what you tell me about my journals. I think I must alter my style: as thus — I think I have already told you that our work here consists mainly in tracking out, and, so far as the ravages of time and depredations of natives permit, in accurately planning, the walls of the mastabas, or burying temples, of the Ancient Egyptian. It would seem fitting therefore, not merely from the interest of the subject, though that is undoubtedly great, but also because by this means you will more readily be enabled to recognize any technicalities that may in future epistles drop from my pen, that I should give you some slight sketch of the history and development of the Egyptian tomb.

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78

The mastaba then may be considered to have descended from — I think really it must be bedtime. Tomorrow I'll borrow a guide book.

March 7th or is it 8th? If it weren't for this journal I should lose all idea of dates. The railway to Luxor is at last open, and we shall be able to go back by train: at least the others will, for I suppose I shall have to go down by native boat with the things. I get Mac Iver to clear most of my skeletons now, so that I really spend a large portion of the day aboveground.

March 8th The great man thinks he will have to stay on another three weeks now: he wants to finish copying a sarcophagus before he goes, and reckons it will take him about that time. I hope he won't make up his mind suddenly one evening and start the next morning. He did that one year with Quibell. I get far

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35/

35/ 79
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 I do from the untouched ones. Today I
 had a beautifully-bricked up tomb and there
 was nothing in it but some common pots;
 whereas in the ~~same~~ plundered pits I am
 finding quantities of nice beads and
 small things of that kind, with now and
 then a scarab. Flints are as plentiful
 as anything here. I picked up a very
 nice Palæo. in the desert the other day.

How funny it will seem to have rain again:
 I have quite forgotten what it looks like.
 But then everything will seem funny after
 this, opening doors when you go into rooms,
 and wearing collars, and not emptying
 things onto the floor, and suchlike.

March 9th Pay day, and pay day under
 difficulties for there was a regular
 sandstorm blowing which pretty well
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 and shall probably see a good deal of
 him as both the Davies are going to be
 in London in the summer and attend the
 lectures at the College. Davies I like
 very fairly too, but Rosher I don't care
 about. Why am I so hopelessly ignorant?
 Here's MacIver can talk Spanish, French
 and Italian fluently, and Davies German
 easily and French slightly. I never meet
 anybody now but what they can talk
 three or four languages. Rosher goes in
 for Kaffir and things of that sort.
 MacIver's idea is not a bad one, to take
 lodgings in London at a German or
 French 'pension'. Tomorrow I think I
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 Kenah to get my hair cut. It is a
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Keneh at about half past seven and had a very jolly day. One of the first things we did was to go and inspect the new railway station: It was quite nice to see a real live engine again after all these months in the desert. Then I went to have my hair cut and it was a quainter performance even than last time. Ali who was with us being of an economic turn refused to let me go to a swell shop and insisted on my going to a small native shop, whose proprietor had evidently never seen so much hair on one head before and distrusted his ability to tackle it. However he was reassured by Ali and set to work. He began bravely enough & he cut from the back of my neck to the top of my head with a clipping machine which I afterwards discovered had been nearly as effective as a razor. Then his courage failed him and he appealed

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to Ali. So Ali came to assist and
a great discussion ensued as to how the
operation was to be performed. The barber
certainly made up in enthusiasm what he
lacked in knowledge: when he had once
started he could not be induced to leave
off and cropped me so close that now
a parting is an absolute impossibility and
each individual hair stands independently
erect. Meanwhile that brute MacIver was
sitting roaring with laughter at me. I
should also mention that two nice little
Arab boys ~~were~~ assisted in the operation; one
holding a pan of water and the other a
hand mirror. We lunched on bread and
dates at a coffee house and got back
about three. My head is the great source
of amusement here now, but what of that
I shant have to have it cut again until

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Order of Importance

A. Foster. 9 Shore Rd	Rev ^d F. Cox.	W. Newman 1. Pittville Lawn
Clergy &c.	London Rd	Mrs C. Bromby Chelt.
& Jack.	Tonbridge. ^{sic}	Mrs Blyth. 84. Birm ^m . / Rd
Miss Waterman	xxx[?] F. Rogers. <Esq>.	Hamilton House* Walsall.
Homewell. Tenterden.	Wells	

*Lansdown. Bath.

[The text at the bottom of the page was probably added
by an unidentified member of the Mace family.]

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[The entries for March 10th - April 3rd are missing or do not exist.]

<I>

March^{sic} <April> 4th<?>

MacIver and Wilkin returned today, having arranged with our guide to come here on Saturday afternoon. By present arrangements we shall walk over to Garstang's, sleep with him, and start about an hour before daybreak the next day. I shall have rather a rush to get done: whatever happens I always have twenty boxes left to pack. I must come to an end some time I suppose.

April 5th

Alas! Our party has ~~decr~~[?]/<wi>ndled to three. MacIver got a letter today which summoned him to Port Said to meet some one, so that our party is reduced to Wilkin, Dr Myers and myself. I have now ten boxes to pack, and the whole place to clear up, which is likely to keep me pretty busy tomorrow, if I am to get off before sunrise. I am dead tired, and am going to bed.

83

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84
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I have had a rush today, from before sunrise till after eleven, which does not leave me much time for sleep.

April 7th Directly after I got to bed last night our donkeys turned up, and a big discussion naturally ensued. Then I got to sleep for a bit, and was again waked up by Smain, who is to stay here as guard, wandering disconsolately round the courtyard, looking for things that had been left out. About seven hours later the camels turned up to take the last lot of boxes down to the boats, and another big row ensued. At half past two we had had enough of it, so got up.

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made some tea and started off. Garstang's camp we reached just before sunrise, where we found them all peacefully sleeping. Much to their disgust we roused them up and had breakfast: as was to be expected in Egypt the camels had not arrived. After breakfast we waited about an hour, but as there was still no sign of camels, we MacIver and I took the opportunity to get a couple of hours sleep, which we badly wanted. Still no camels, so we had lunch, and just as we were finishing they gurgled up, and after a reasonable amount of talk we managed to get loaded up and start. Quite an imposing procession we made - first Wilkin hung round with knives and Mauser pistols; then Myers, much behelmeted and befong-garreed[?]; then myself, followed by the guide and two baggage camels; in all six full grown camels.

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~~Please~~

a baby camel five months old, and an escort of five camel men, and my man Ahmed, who is going with us to look after our things, while we are out for the day. So we set out over the desert, passing on the way Garstang's big royal tomb, a fine place, with a pit ninety feet deep; up through a winding gorge in the cliff to the high desert plateau, which we reached about two hours before sunset. By this time, not being used to camel-riding we had had enough of it, so we got off and walked, striking gradually inwards and away from the water courses which furrow the edge of the high desert. At sunset we stopped, and consulted the guide as to a camping place for the night. "Oh", he said, "there's a beautiful place just a quarter of an hour further on." So we trudged on

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We attempted to boil a kettle, but there was too much wind, so we decided to give up all idea of a hot drink till we arrived at the Oasis, and went to bed.

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was somewhat disturbed owing to
 the inquisitiveness of the baby camel.
 At sunrise we got off, after a
 hasty breakfast, and trekked slowly
 all day over a flat, stony, rather
 uninteresting looking country, not
 even stopping for lunch. Once you
 get used to the motion camel riding
 is not at all unpleasant, except for
 its abominable slowness. I got so
 sleepy today that I dropped off once
 or twice, and only just saved myself
 falling off the camel. At sunset
~~Mace~~ Wilkin and I were walking
 on ahead, when we made a find,
 nothing less than a real live telegraph
 post. Once upon a time the
 Government took it into their heads
 to connect the Oasis with the Nile
 Valley by telegraph. At great cost this
 was carried out, and congratulatory

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messages were sent through. Then,
 as was certain to happen, the Bedawi
 came along, and with many thanks
 to Allah that the country was so
 well governed that firewood was
 provided for them in the desert, helped
 themselves: a week or two, and the
 telegraph was gone, posts, wire, everything.
 Well, as I say, we found one of these
 posts and jumped at it, seeing hot
 drinks ahead. We weren't going
 any further that night, and told
 the camel men so: They objected, but
 a judicious kick soon settled matters
 with them. Then we set to work, and
 smashed up some of that post, made
 a glorious fire, and feasted luxuriously.
March 9th Off again about an hour
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fifteen hundred feet up I should think.
 All day we jogged on, with a short
 break for lunch, till about two hours after
 sunset, when the road got rough and we
 were afraid to go on for fear of spraining
 our ankles. We were fagged out, so
 we ate what first came to hand, and
 lay down where we stood, and went
 to sleep.

March 10th This morning we met the
 first people we have seen on the way,
 a party of three Arabs with a cargo
 of baskets to sell in Egypt. We were
 due to reach water by midday, so
 we breakfasted on some bread and
 hard-boiled eggs, and made up our
 minds not to stop again until we
 did get there, a resolution I for one
 bitterly regretted. For about six hours
 we kept along on level ground, wondering
 when the descent was going to begin,

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when all of a sudden we came to a stop on the edge of a precipice, with one of the most glorious views in front of us I have ever seen. Below us was a sheer drop of about eight hundred feet, and stretching out in front, further than we could see was the Oasis valley, long lines of sand drift with a thin stretch of green palm trees in the far distance. Enclosing the valley on each side were two lines of broken irregular cliffs, and in the foreground, standing straight up out of the valley, were two solitary flat-topped hills. Here we had to get off, and the camels were led down a steep winding path in the cliff. Then two hours more at the bottom brought us to the 'Deir', which turned out to be a fine Roman fort, afterwards used by the Copts. Here there was a small pool of semi-stagnant water, not good enough to drink, even though the

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water in the skins was getting rather
tasty. However the camels seemed to enjoy
it. It was by this time about four in
the afternoon, and we were starving,
so we determined to camp for the night.
Luckily there were a few scraps of palm about,
so we raised a fire and actually made
some soup, which was a great treat
after the short commons we had been on.
The fort is rather an elaborate place, and
in very fair preservation. About a quarter
of a mile away there are two ruined
Coptic churches, and the remains of quite
a large village, but all quite deserted.
Also scattered all round the site are
quantities of more or less worked
Palaeolithic flints, which shews that
the spring must have been used as
first halting place from the desert since
prehistoric times.

April 11th I see I have been dating all the

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The fort is rather an elaborate place, and
in very fair preservation. About a quarter
of a mile away there are two ruined
Coptic church[e]s, and the remains of quite
a large village, but all quite deserted.
Also scattered all round the site are
quantities of more or less worked
Palaeolithic flints, which shews that
the spring must have been used as
first halting place from the desert since
prehistoric times.

April 11th

I see I have been dating all the

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other days March, but no matter. We did not hurry to get off this morning, as we had a lot of sleep to make up; nor did we know what a long way we had to go before we really arrived. Nearly six hours going we had, across long stretches of sand, and, what made it the more tiring, we had the palm trees ^{of the village} in sight all the way. As the camel men said, the village would not stay in its place, but kept walking away from us. We finally arrived about the middle of the afternoon, and pitched our tent just inside outside the town. The first thing we did was to send for bread and water, as our supplies of the one had quite given out, while the other was getting too bad to drink. So far we had hardly seen a soul, but about an hour after ~~they~~ we arrived we began to have visitors, and presently up

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94
 came the Omdah himself, whom we
 were luckily able to receive with a
 cup of tea. Such a refreshing change
 these people are after the Nile valley people;
 quite a hearty welcome they gave us,
 cordial and unaffected, and, so far as
 we could see, not at all with the idea
 of getting anything out of us afterwards.
 The Omdah told us that most years
 they have a good many Europeans here,
 but that this year we are the only
 ones who have come.
April 12th Today we have taken things
 very easily, and fed enormously, to
 make up for past deficiencies. In
 the morning we went for a stroll in
 the town, which is the most curious
 I have ever seen. It seems they
 have a good deal of rain here, and
 so all the streets are roofed over. You
 go through a gate, duck your head, and

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<4>

4
 immediately you are lost in a labyrinth
 of narrow streets, quite dark, and with
 doors opening from them in all directions.
 For the most part the streets are quite empty,
 but now and again a small child scuttles
 away into a dark hole like a rat. In fact
 all the people seem to have a curious
 weazened kind of look, a regular
 underground type of face. - all the people
 we met were interested in us and
 stared at us, but in a most polite
 unobtrusive way: one man invited us
 into his house for coffee and very good
 coffee it was. After lunch we slacked
 about and wrote up journals, which we
 had had no time to do on the way,
 and towards sunset we set off to pay
 a return call on the Omdah. He lives
 in the more aristocratic quarter of the
 town, which is open and very pretty, the
 streets opening onto gardens and palm groves

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 town, which is open and very pretty, the
 streets opening onto gardens and palm groves

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and crossed at intervals by tiny streams.
 The Omdah we found sitting on a bench
 outside his house, which is a fine place
 as Arab houses go. He received us most
 cordially, and invited us into a
 delightfully cool room furnished with
 diwans, on which we sat and discoursed
 him to the best of our ability. Of course
 coffee came in, and as it was not brought
 in the best company cups another lot
 followed, and after that some beautiful
 oranges. The Omdah amused himself by
 going through the names of the people
 who lived here before us, and asking
 if we knew them, which as he pronounced
 them was a difficult thing to know.
 We got away with some difficulty
 and only on condition that we went
 to see him again the day after tomorrow.
 When we got back to the camp we found
 a lot of small girls with baskets to

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 who had been here before us, and asking
 if we knew them, which as he pronounced
 them was a difficult thing to know.
 We got away with some difficulty
 and only on condition that we went
 to see him again the day after tomorrow.

When we got back to the camp we found
 a lot of small girls with baskets to

sell, quaint things, of which we should lay in a good stock if they were't such a nuisance to carry away.

April 13th

sell, quaint things, of which we should lay in a good stock if they were't such a nuisance to carry away.

April 13th This morning we saddled up our camels, hired a guide, and set off at a good trot (fine healthy exercise is a trotting camel) for a temple of which we had heard rumours. After about an hour's riding we came to it, and it turned out to be a temple erected by Darius, or rather by Darius' orders, with additions by Nectanebo, the last Egyptian king. Further back on the hill we came on a much more interesting ~~site~~ site, a cemetery of large early Coptic tombs, fine places of interesting construction, with arches and pillars that were more like Byzantine than anything else. In one we found two rough figures painted on the wall, and above them the names ABPAM and ELAK.

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Posing about we presently came on a ceiling painting of a very different order of merit. The ~~rest~~ roof of the tomb was a beehive-shaped dome, and round it ~~round~~ were painted the figures of fourteen saints; more after the style of the Pompeian frescoes than anything I have seen, and really quite as good as most of the things one sees there. The names of the figures were painted over them, and was as follows:—

ABRAHAM, EISAK, and SARAH, with a rascal
caught in a thicket close by: -

ADAM and EYA with the serpent in a tree:

ΠΑΥΛΟΣ and ΘΕΚΝΑ (curious what an
'impression' the cups give - The clay is of fine
MARIA, ~~the~~ best quality - some make no sign

NW: A, in the mid. west. several conf. divisions:
a dove is flying from one ind. to the next.



EIA//WB (? Jawb) etc on 2nd of Aug

EYXH : MAA98A


Poking around about we presently came on a ceiling painting of a very different order of merit. The ceiling of the tomb was a beehive-shaped dome, and round it were painted the figures of fourteen saints; more after the style of the Pompeian frescoes than anything I have seen, and really quite as good as most of the things ones see there. The names of the figures were painted over them and were as follows: –


$[\text{𐤠}]$, $[\text{𐤡}]$, and $[\text{𐤢}]$, with a ram caught in a thicket close by:

$[\text{𐎲}]$ and $[\text{𐎲}]$ with the serpent in a tree:

[, ] (curious what an importance the Copts give Thecla).

$[\text{𐤀}], [\text{𐤁}]:$

[], in the ark with seven companions:
a dove is flying from one end.

[] (? Jacob)

[]:

<5.>

ΑΙΧΑΙΟΚΥΝΗ, with a pair of scales in
her hand;
ΤΑΝΙΗΛ, in a den with two very spirited
lions.

ΕΙΡΗΝΗ: holding the crux ansata in her
hand.

These things, from the style of them
be very early of but the condition is in such
poor preservation that it is hard to
believe. At present there are only
three or four Copts living here, but in
early times they must have had it
pretty nearly all to themselves.
Nestorius, was banished here, and he
probably made it a centre of his teaching.
So far we have found nothing here earlier
than Darius, which is disappointing.
After exploring the tombs we went back
and had lunch in the temple, and
made our way back leisurely to camp
in the afternoon.

[Ⲭ], with a pair of scales in
her hand;

[Ⲭ], in a den with two very spirited
lions.

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and had lunch in the temple, and
made our way back leisurely to camp
in the afternoon.

April 14th

100
 April 14th Such a collection of people up
 here this morning to be treated by Myers,
 and such extraordinary complaints they
 expected to be cured of. Wilkin and I
 left him at the camp and went for a
 walk round the gardens of the town, which
 are much more elaborate than the
 Egyptian ones, and contain palms in
 any quantity, oranges, lemons, pomegranates,
 olives etc etc. Wilkin took a good many
 photographs: if all his plates from here
 turn out well, we shall have a very nice
 series. On the way back we thought to make
 a short cut through the village, so dived
 under an arch and advancing confidently
 in the darkness straightway lost ourselves.
 However the people know their way about
 I don't know; what seems to be a main
 street comes to a sudden stop inside
 somebody's house, and what you take for
 the entrance to a stable is in reality the

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 series. On the way back we thought to make
 a short cut through the village, so dived
 under an arch and advancing confidently
 in the darkness straightway lost ourselves.
 However the people know their way about
 I don't know; what seems to be a main
 street comes to a sudden stop inside
 somebody's house, and what you take for
 the entrance to a stable is in reality the

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 principal thoroughfare. The only thing
 to do is to select the least likely looking
 tunnel, go confidently ahead, and if
 you do find yourself all of a sudden
 missing at a family gathering, withdraw
 with the best grace you can. After about
 a quarter of an hour of this sort of
 thing we found a place we knew and
 made our way home. The wind has
 dropped, and consequently it is getting
 warm, something over a hundred I
 should think, against which the shady
 side of a small tent is a somewhat
 inadequate protection for three people.
 After lunch Myers and Wilkin went up
 to the village to measure some of the
 people's heads: I was lazy and stayed
 at home. About an hour before sunset we
 went to pay our promised visit to the
 Omdah, taking coffee on the way with
 some people who were sitting outside their house.

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 to do is to select the least likely looking
 tunnel, go confidently ahead, and if
 you do find yourself all of a sudden
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 to the village to measure some of the
 people's heads: I was lazy and stayed
 at home. About an hour before sunset we
 went to pay our promised visit to the
 Omdah, taking coffee on the way with
 some people who were sitting outside their house,

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and refused to let us go by. At the
Omdah's house we found the Omdah of
another village some ten hours away.
It seems there are four villages in this
Oasis, each with its little strip of
cultivation, and with four or five hours
of desert between each. At the Omdah's
we sat and talked for some time, and
presently a large tray come in covered
with small dishes of various kinds
of meats, and we all had dinner. The
Omdah talks of coming to England some
day, so we gave him our names and
addresses, and told him to come and
see us. So if a stray Arab turns up
any time when I am not at home, be
kind to him: the only English he knows
is 'yes'. It was quite dark when we
got away, so we insisted on sending
a guard with a lantern to shew us the
way.

Back again all right: going down to Cairo in
a day or two

Handwritten notes in margin:
Hawkhurst / Clifton / Parkstone.
Blyth. The Crossways Highgate Walsall. -
Rogers. Hamilton House Lansdown. Bath. Frost. Westbourne
Terrace. (112) London
Miss / Waterman / Homewell / Tenterden

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Blyth. The Crossways Highgate Walsall. -
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Newman.
Frost. Westbourne
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[This marginal note was probably added
by an unidentified member of the Mace family.]

1/
April 15th

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1/
April 15th Our last day at the oasis,
so we took it very easy. Wilkin and
Myers did a little head measuring of
the villagers, and I went for a lazy
stroll round the village, and that
was about all we did. In the
afternoon the Omdah's brother came
and paid us a long call, and we
plied him with many strange drinks,
such as tea, lemonade and Eno's
fruit salt. Wilkin also shewed off
his Mauser which I am afraid made
the old man rather covetous. We
did a little preliminary packing up, and
went to bed early.

April 16th Such a dark cloudy morning
we woke up to, with a liberal allowance
of wind, and a ominous look of rain.
However we struck tent and got our
things together, and then collecting our
camel men from various quarters of

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104

the village, we set off across the sand
and the village faded away behind us,
a kindly, foolish, forgotten little place
as I ever I saw. We had 'nt been
going very long before the storm burst
on us, a regular hurricane of wind
that nearly blew us off our camels,
and a good smart shower of rain.
Towards noon, however, it cleared up
and the rest of the day was lovely.
We went up the pass to the high
desert just about sunset, and
you can imagine how glorious the
view was. Arrived on top we marched
into darkness for about an hour and
then camped.

April 19th No time for writing the
last three days, as we made rather
a forced march of it. Up about half
past four, snatching a hasty breakfast
while the camels were being loaded, we

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past four, snatching a hasty breakfast
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started at about the false dawn each day, and, with an hour's halt at noon, trekked steadily till about half past seven at night; then supper by the light of a lantern, and immediately afterwards we rolled ourselves up in our blankets and went straight off to sleep. As we went on we found that the rain had been much heavier in Egypt than in the Oasis: all the last part of the way was marked by pools of water two or three inches deep: In fact if we had known we could have crossed without taking any water supply with us at all. Last night we slept on the cliffs above Araba, and this morning Wilkin and I walked on, leaving the camels to go straight, and dropped down on Garstang's camp, much to the surprise of everybody, as we were not expected till the next day.

started at about the false dawn each day, and, with an hour's halt at noon, trekked steadily till about half past seven at night; then supper by the light of a lantern, and immediately afterwards we rolled ourselves up in our blankets and went straight off to sleep. As we went on we found that the rain had been much heavier in Egypt than in the Oasis: all the last part of the way was marked by pools of water two or three inches deep: In fact if we had known we could have crossed without taking any water supply with us at all. Last night we slept on the cliffs above Araba, and this morning Wilkin and I walked on, leaving the camels to go straight, and dropped down on Garstang's camp, much to the surprise of everybody, as we were not expected till the next day.

106

Garstang provided us with some breakfast, and oh how good ^{hot} tea was after several days of nothing but stale skin water), after which we took donkeys and rode to Araba. We had agreed to go back to Garstang that night, as the Araba camp is not a very nice place to stay at just now, especially as they have a bad epidemic, possibly typhoid, going on in the village: so Wilkin and Myers packed up their things and donkeyed back early in the afternoon. I had about an hour and a half's surveying to do on my cemetery, and a good deal to do at the camp, so did not get off till sunset, and rode the last part of the way in almost total darkness; rather an exhausting day altogether. It is good to be back, but we are sorry our trip is over: it's a grand life up there on the high desert, and so wonderfully

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2/

2, 107
 healthy. Before we started we were all
 feeling a bit done up, and now we
 feel just about as fit as we have ever
 done in our lives.

April 20th This morning we slept late,
 about three hours later than we have
 been doing, and yet at breakfast time,
 we discovered that it was not yet
 eight o'clock. After breakfast Wilkin,
 Garstang and I took donkeys and rode
 to Girgeh, and from there ferried across
 to pay a call on Reisner, who is working
 just opposite. There we found Grenfell
 and Hunt, so we had a great gathering.
 Wilkin and Garstang went back in the
 afternoon, but Reisner persuaded me to
 stay the night, which I was only too
 glad to do.

April 21st Grenfell and Hunt went off
 early this morning, and I spent the
 day lazing and looking over Reisner's work,

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 feeling a bit done up, and now we
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April 21st

Grenfell and Hunt went off
 early this morning, and I spent the
 day lazing and looking over Reisner's work,

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which is most interesting. Just before sunset I started off again, ferried to Girgeh, and met Wilkin and Myers at the station. We got some dinner at a Greek restaurant close to the station, and caught the train at about half past eight.

April 22nd Our train was late, so we did not reach Cairo till about nine o'clock this morning. At the Nil we found ~~Mr~~ MacIver, very much bored with his fortnight alone in Cairo, and very glad to see us. In the morning we did a little shopping, and after lunch Wilkin and I drove up to call on the Quibells, with whom I am going to stay while I am in Cairo. Such a jolly house they have now: the Museum was the Khedive's old palace and the baths have been turned into a house for them, a long low place, one story, with enormous

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rooms, and tremendously high ceilings.
 Mrs Quibell was at home, but Quibell
 was away at Alexandria, and did
 not return till the evening.

April 23rd Spent the morning in the
 Museum, calling on Maspero, Brugsch
 etc. No sign of the boxes yet. I am
 sorry to say: the violent north-winds
 we have been having must have delayed
 them. In the afternoon I went down
 to call on Sayce, who is still living
 in his dahlabah. There I met Artin
 Pasha, of the Education Department.
 I dined at the Nil with MacIver and
 Wilkin and met Dr Elliott-Smith and
 another man, who has a billet in the
 Finance.

April 24th This morning I borrowed
 Quibell's bicycle, and rode down to
 Cairo to do some shopping. Riding
 in Cairo is rather exciting work, as

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there are no regulations as to keeping
your own side of the road, and you
have to thread your way about among
camels, donkeys, carriages, and people
of every nationality under the sun.
In the afternoon Quibell and I took
some photographs in the gardens and
manufactured a dark room. Later we
had a somewhat dull tea-party, as
five very melancholy, and somewhat
quarrelsome ladies of the American
Mission came in. Then we all went
out to dinner with Somers Clarke,
whose dahibiye is anchored close to
the museum.

April 25th Spent a lively morning over
accounts, which would not come right.
Went down to lunch with Edgar of
the Cataloguing staff, and met several
people there. For a wonder we dined here,

and had a quiet evening.
Clifton Blyth. Crossways Highgate Walsall. Newman.
Parkstone. Rogers. Hamilton House Lansdown Bath. Homewell
Frost. 112 Westbourne Terrace. Waterman. Tenterden.

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accounts, which would not come right.
Went down to lunch with Edgar of
the Cataloguing staff, and met several
people there. For a wonder we dined here,
and had a quiet evening.

Clifton Blyth. Crossways Highgate Walsall. Newman.
Parkstone. Rogers. Hamilton House Lansdown Bath. Homewell
Frost. 112 Westbourne Terrace. Waterman. Tenterden.

[The text at the bottom of the page was probably added
by an unidentified member of the Mace family.]

[Later entries for this season are missing or do not exist.]