

Sayce likes nonsense verse so I shall send him this

Sayces saice at Saïs says
Since Sayce at Saïs sees
Saïs is scarce Sesostris's
So Sayce sad Saïs flees.

Monday. <7. Jan.> Cook has
never sent my letters,
so, I must go on
without them -

[This last note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

For M^{rs} Petrie
Bromley
Kent.

XIII- Benha-
Jan. 15/84.

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For Mr. Petrie

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(57)

7-Jan probably-

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(52)

Now that I have got safely off from Benha, I can sit down quietly to write about it. For three days was I stuck there, not waiting for a wind, but waiting to get rid of a wind; all that time we had a strong wind, which sent up the Nile in ripples all over it, just in the very worst quarter for going on; ahead, but rather across the river, so that we could not safely get out from the bank, for fear of being blown upon boats lying in front of us. Beside this of course the current is against us, & a very decided hindrance at this time of year. I worried & shivered about getting on every day, but the old reis had logic on his side; so I went over to Athribis continually to console myself with potsherds. To add to the bother Cook never sent on my letters. I wrote to him on Friday to send them, telegraphed on Saturday, & yet till Monday ^{though it is only 3/4 hr from Cairo} nothing had come. Then I wrote to him again, telling him to send to El Menashi (Barrage), & left orders that anything for me was to go there. I then sat in the cabin watching every boat that passed, but they were all poleing on, in a way that was impracticable with such a boat as this, owing to the cabins catching the wind. At last I saw one sailing, so out I went & poked up the old reis, who answered with a torrent of Arabic which was incomprehensible, my only reply being to point to the boat, & tell him to go like that. Two men were ashore however, so little Abd el Hakim was sent off to hunt them, & I soon followed, & we made a house-to-house visitation of the coffee shops of Benha until they were caught. (Mem. never send one man to look for another, you lose two instead of one; go yourself.) Then after a shower of rain we set sail & got ~~down~~ up about a mile, running right into a most awkward corner, with a block of old masonry of an embankment just in our way, past that however we tracked on, & so did about two miles by sunset.

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53
 One day as I was coming off the mounds, Khallil, who had been intelligent & active as usual, said something about going back to Cairo; I did not see his meaning & dropped it. But after I came back Ibrahim came to me saying Khallil wanted to desert, & he had threatened him ~~that~~ with police, prison, &c if he attempted such an escapade. I saw there must be something wrong, as he is a peculiarly quiet, attentive, & intelligent fellow, & never showed any sulkiness to me, but was always ready for work. So I had him in & talked it over with him & Ibrahim. It seems that the other men were jealous of his going out hunting with me when they were working the boat once, though he has done far more ^{hard} work in that way than he has escaped; but they had evidently been plaguing him over it, & the poor fellow's tears were on his cheeks. So I thought it best to shew him my hand, & try encouragement, telling him that I did not want him to go, that he found antikas well, & that when I went to San I wished to take him on with me from the boat, & would give him the same money there as a man. He is a Berber, the same as Ibrahim, so Ib.^m is kindly disposed to him; & he is an old boy & quite up to doing an average Arab's work, with more than an average head. Next day he ^{was} up & ready when there was digging to do, & when left to himself one day he went off mound-hunting on his own account & brought in to me a bronze lance head & a rude scarab; he also had secured for me very neatly a large dish of blue pottery that I saw high up on a mound. He is altogether the most capable fellow that I have ever found in Egypt.

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The sum total of my hunts at Athribis result in a fine block with scenes of Ramessu II offering to a god on each of the four sides <(this we almost entirely excavated)>, two or three other blocks of the same building; and

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from these all being together a fair presumption as to where we should find the rest if it was wanted. A block with a lot of inscription of XIX dynasty. Three pieces of a building of the XXVIth dyn. inscribed, & other blocks, of the same. ~~Also~~. Several Roman columns, capitals, &c, in red granite. The Roman camp, with all the walls shewing, though much ruined by the Arabs. A quantity of blue glazed pottery in a mound, which proves ^{the place} the age, to be about 250 A.D., including a dish almost perfect. These are all new finds I believe, as Ebers only knows of a lion of Ram^s II, removed to Europe, & does not mention anything else. What mainly strikes one in going over the place is its richness in Roman times; the quantity of blue glazed ware in common use, the abundance of glass, & the fine quality of it colourless & engraved (one bit of glass bowl having a vine branch & grapes on it) the goodness of the common pottery, & the way in which almost perfect things ~~were~~ thrown away. So the stoppage there was not wasted altogether, & it is not a bad place, fairly clean for Egypt. Zagazig beats every place I have seen for dirt & disorder.

Now we have still a headwind but not strong, & so it is practicable to track against it, at 1 or 2 miles an hour, going against stream as well. But we shall soon get to some bends where we ought to sail, ^{as the river goes thus} 5 miles round, ½ mile across. It has been miserably cold lately with this high W. wind; now up to 59°. I am enjoying the warmth, but it has dangled about 50°, & down to 47°, in the cabin for many days past; & that, without any warming, & with a high wind, is melancholy.

9 Jan^y Another day just as slow, & I now see that all my plans must be broken up & recast; a process that cannot be done in five minutes, & I have been at it for the last 24 hours, puzzling as to what can, should, & might, be done

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55
 under the circumstances, and above all what the varied
 interests & minds of the Committee & purse-fillers, & purse-
 bearers would say should be done if they could be all
 in conclave here dragging along at 1 mile an hour, &
 treated as this boat has been to day, i.e. spun round
 four times in whirlpools in which it took every
 muscle on board to pull it straight again, & twice
 stuck tight aground. In fact I am tired out with
 worrying over it. Should it be Desuk or San? Am I
 justified in going to Desuk at all, when my instructions
 are to go to San as soon as Maspero comes, & he has been
 here for a month? Yet this was tacitly agreed to,
 when Mr Poole wrote approvingly after I had hired
 this boat for 2 months. And I am still more in
 the dark owing to not having last mails letters. The
 best thing that I can see to do now is to get to Cairo
 as quickly as possible ^{since I must come up as far as the Barrage, to reach the Desuk arm} & then leaving my baggage on the
 boat, go off for a week's tenting to somewhere
 Desuk, ^{Desuk} &c, with Ibrahim & Khallil. In this way I shall
 do all within two months, & only sacrifice ⁽¹⁾ the small places
 en route & ⁽²⁾ the chance of a little excavating. ~~£3 or 4~~ ^{£3 or 4} pounds
 for railway ^{will be balanced by saving bridge tolls for the boat.} This is the best finish that I can make to
 such an untoward delay of bad winds. Of course it is not
 nearly so pleasant as going on in a boat with all one's baggage
 about one, but it is the best thing that I can see to be
 done under the circumstances. I can hardly make up my
 mind to abandon altogether the hunt for the rest of those
 Carian statuettes. Perhaps I may be able to sleep in the stations,
 for at least in the N. Delta in Jan^y will be very cold work. Even
 on the boat it is so cold & damp, that every morning the upper
 two feet of my ^{topmost} blanket is covered with drops condensed from
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I have received letters No 9 (delayed after Brindisi mail) & No 10; also Pub. Op. Jan 4, but previous one is lost (& another paper also?) & a letter I fear from Mr Poole. All have strayed between Cairo & Benha. He got

Mr P's letter, after all, before
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[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

Letter to Miss A. B. Edwards⁵⁷
 "I came by the Passage. It
 is a most quaint place, all
 in gimcrack Arabicized Gothic,
 of an undefinable period, backed
 with rich masses of trees. It
 reminds one more of the
 drawings of Carne Moysel Anglo-
 Indian things, than anything
 else. -- The stone bridge at
 Zagazig, prevents a dahabiyeh
 going to San. So I had to pack
 up everything, tight & safe
 in boxes again, I must go by
 rail to Fikus, & by camels to San.
 I am living somehow, nohow,
 on the boat, among boxes, with
 all my fetishes packed up, &
 a few tins & biscuits about
 to pend on, until I go!"
 Yours, L. Petrie
 14. Cairo - Jan. 24

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[This letter to Amelia Edwards was copied
 by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

14. Cairo - Jan: 14

For M^{rs} Petrie,
 Bromley, Kent.

This journal about the Greek sites (1) should not go to any one beyond our safe friends who are sure not to mention it. 58

On Monday ^{Jan 14} I packed up all the traps that I left on the dahabiyeh, finishing stowing them in the boxes, & then saw all that I wanted to take put on a donkey, Khallil mounting on the top of all. He went round to his house & then on to the station, while I went up to Cairo with Ibrahim. I saw the tent all right, improved & finished. Then sent Ibrahim to fetch his things while I went for shopping. Went to Dr Grant to bid him good bye, & happening to mention that I had a sore throat he took temp^r which I had not thought off; to my surprise I was 1 1/2° up, & he prescribed alum gargle, & aconite tincture. Then got some American cloth to wrap round my blankets, & for an under-cloth when sleeping. Sent Ibrahim off to station with tent &c; & then bid the Amos's good bye, Mr. A. hearing of my cold at once said why don't you stop; I said I would risk it as I could always run back to Cairo in a few hours if really ill; & then she said that she must insist on my coming there to be nursed if I wanted it, that she should be very much hurt if I went anywhere else. Nothing is such a comfort here in Egypt as to feel that one can throw oneself on some one's care in case of illness; & now here are two houses - the Grant's & Amos's - to either of whom I can go. As everything was arranged for going, & as I did not feel any of the fever, or wandering, aching, or frustration, I decided to go on with care, & trust to running back again if lurching up.

At the station I found that the 11.30 did not go to Tell Baroud, & there was no train till 2.45. (N.B. There is only one timetable there, & that is on the platform, which is locked up except when a train is going; that timetable only gives the main stations, & all the lesser ones never are printed.) So I went back to the Amos's, saw the children & Miss Martin & told them how I was stopped, & then on to the Grant's to dinner. They are rather a sick house as Jessie & Miss Mullock have been laid up for some time, Jessie with fever colds. The Amos's have also all had bad colds, sometimes in bed, & several friends have had colds, so I must

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 pleased about the stone D^r G found with me, & sent Brugsch
 for it, (but it is wakf property (mosque endowment) & so there
 will be a long round to get it; meanwhile it will not be destroyed.
 Left by the 2.45, & got to Tell el Baroud after dark; as I got out,
 carrying my share of baggage (i.e. bale of blankets, large
 saddlebag & handbag), the station master (who spoke English)
 pounced upon me "Did I want to get out there"; "Yes"; "But this
 is Tel el Baroud"; "Yes, I know"; "But do you want to stop
 here"; "yes"; "but where are you going"; "to Damanhur, to-
 morrow"; "By horse"; "No, by train"; "But why then do
 you not go on in this train"; "Because I want to stop
 here to see the Tell" No one could believe in any person
 stopping gratuitously at such a place as Tell el Baroud.
 After hearing when I was going on, &c, the station master
 said there was the waiting room & I should sleep there; &
 so I settled in. Afterwards he came in for a talk; he is a
 pleasant intelligent man. He asked if I was He remarked
 that it was great trouble to go about in that way from
 place to place with all the things; & then asked if I were
 doing it for government. No, for an English society. And
 how much do you get? Nothing, I do it because I like it,
 and if I were rich I should do it all the same for myself;
 but, do you not expect to have anything afterwards, he
 asked, unable to believe in my motives. No. Well then he
 dropped that as too incomprehensible. Temp^t none the worse for travelling.
 Next morning I went over the mounds & found them Roman,
 but with an old wall in the place. We left there by a train
 at noon for Damanhur. There the tent was pitched in a
 void place by the station, & everything put straight. After
 that I strolled about the town, "Tema-en-Hor"; & found various
 pieces of Roman work, & one inscribed stone of Psamtik much

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1.2)

1.2) worn. I hear in Cairo that two clergy & one layman have been sent out by Arch^p Cantuar to inspect & examine the Coptic church; but it was a case of biter bitten, for a Coptic priest & monk got hold of them, & began ~~ch~~ catechising them about the English church, & putting them through an elaborate explanation of the Athanasian creed, & requiring their definition of individual will in the Trinity, &c, &c, with all the oriental love of metaphysics. It reminded me of that sweet old Swedenborgian Dr Bayley, who went to enlighten & instruct the Theban Presbyterian Copts & was kept up half the night discussing Free Will, & the origin of evil. A man must be well up in scholastic theology if he intends to talk with Copts.

At Damanhur there is an English gun, on a carriage & platform, but how it came there I cannot imagine, as it is after the old war, being marked 12th Pr.

1816
29-0-14

The weather has been anything but pleasant. Just as I was hoping for the fine warm change to continue for tenting, the old S.W. wind, strong & bitter, has sprung up; raining a little the morning I left Cairo, & blowing all that day so fiercely that out here in the Delta the air was so thick with sand that I could not see anything beyond a mile. At Tell el Barud it was still bad but it calmed down at Damanhur during the afternoon. The night however was very cold in the tent; as though blankets kept me up to perspiring point, yet any chink in my wraps was like a knife. I found that I had lost ground in the morning being 2° to the bad in temp^e. However as I still felt up to work I thought I would try to do Nebera & walk my fever off. The cold in general had also progressed from throat to chest & head, & I was rather miserable in that way. So at 9 I set off with Khallil for Nerib which I supposed to be a map-mistake for Nebera. After going some way we at last found a man who knew what I wanted, & I found that Nebera was quite another

worn. I hear in Cairo that two clergy & one layman have been sent out by Arch^p Cantuar to inspect and examine the Coptic church; but it was a case of biter bitten, for a Coptic priest & monk got hold of them, & began ~~ch~~ catechising them about the English church, & putting them through an elaborate explanation of the Athanasian creed, & requiring their definition of individual will in the Trinity, &c, &c, with all the oriental love of metaphysics. It reminded me of that sweet old Swedenborgian Dr Bayley, who went to enlighten & instruct the Theban Presbyterian Copts & was kept up half the night discussing Free Will, & the origin of evil. A man must be well up in scholastic theology if he intends to talk with Copts.

At Damanhur there is an English gun, on a carriage & platform; but how it came there I cannot imagine, as it is after the old war, being marked [R].

The weather has been anything but pleasant. Just as I was hoping for the fine warm change to continue for tenting, the old SW wind, strong & bitter, has sprung up; raining a little the morning I left Cairo, & blowing all that day so fiercely that out here in the Delta the air was so thick with sand that I could not see anything beyond a mile. At Tell el Barud it was still bad but it calmed down at Damanhur during the afternoon. The night however was very cold in the tent; as though blankets kept me up to perspiring point, yet any chink in my wraps was like a knife. I found that I had lost ground in the morning being 2° to the bad in temp^e. However as I still felt up to work I thought I would try to do Nebera & walk my fever off. The cold in general had also progressed from throat to chest & head, & I was rather miserable in that way. So at 9 I set off with Khallil for Nerib which I supposed to be a map-mistake for Nebera. After going some way we at last found a man who knew what I wanted, & I found that Nebera was quite another

[This page is mis-numbered as 71, but from the text it is clear that it should follow after page 59.]

way, a little village marked en-Nobeirah on the map, & the geographical description of my Pyramid friends was in fault. It was much nearer in fact to Tell el Barud; however looking at the time, &c., I determined to walk on to it direct. It was a bitter morning, a high cold wind in our faces, & I was longing for a great coat, though I had on a suit fit for an English frost. And so we went on & on, mile after mile, village after village; I found two new sites of Roman period on the way. At last ^{at 3 pm} I got to Nobeirah, & there asked people about figures; one man at once recognized my figure & said that idols from the pyramids had been there & taken away such, & that they came from the Tell just beyond. So we went there, & as I neared the place I met two Arabs, and they were my old friend Sheikh Ruhumah (Ali's brother) & another pyramid Arab. They were astonished to see me, & after a good deal of greeting & laughing over it, I brought out my figure & told them I wanted the rest of it. They assured me that they did not know where the rest was, so I said I wanted to know where that was found. Then Ruhumah straightforwardly took me direct to the place & handed to me, at once, two other Greek statuettes in marble & some pieces. These are minus heads & feet, & weathered; but still prizes, as they are early. And then - oh! what a feast of pottery. The whole ground is thick with early Greek pottery, and it seemed almost a sacrilege to walk over the heaps with the fine lustrous black ware crunching under ones boots. Pieces with fret pattern, honeysuckle pattern, heads, arms, legs of figures, horses, & such like lovely things were soon picked up; both in black figures on an orange ground, & red figures on a black ground, mostly with incised outlines. It seemed as if I was wandering in the smashings of the Museum vase-rooms. Such a half hour I never had before. Khallil found ~~the~~ a figure (minus head & feet) & two heads in drab limestone & one head is peculiar from having a lamb carried round the neck.

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[This page is mis-numbered as 72, but from the text it is clear that it should be inserted between the pages 59 and 60.]

(2) 1

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 Beside the portable finds I got valuable information on the age of pottery. I knew the native pottery there quite well in style, & it is what I have hitherto supposed early Ptolemaic, from the vague indications that I got at Gizeh. ⁽⁶⁰⁾ I now know it to be about 2 or 3 centuries earlier; & ~~all~~ ^{most} of my definition of pottery as of Greek period may be read as early Greek. It is the first time that I have found such pottery with dateable remains. Among it however was some very like what I made out at Tell Basta to be probably of XXVIth dyn. & this is so far corroborated.

At last I made up my mind to leave, after about half an hour's hunt in just one part of the mound. I had found the top, & that was enough in one sense, as I could not hope to do anything at working there while on this preliminary trip. I was still some distance from Tell el Barud, & I had to get there before dark. So I talked seriously to Ruhumah; told him that he was a good man to show me the images at once, & I therefore gave him a couple of dollars (7/- is not dear for a few archaic statuettes & heads ~~to~~ even as things go here). I further said that if I came there to work I would give him some money (for it is only through him at Gizeh that I ever heard of the place, & no khawaga has been there before) & further told him that I wanted all that he found, & would give him cash down if he took things to Dr Grants for me. This was necessary, as it is very important to know all that is found there, in view of excavating there. He was very accordant, & assured me that I should have all that he found. & from his manner, & the honest way he dealt in showing me exactly what I asked for without any mention of price or bakhshesh or bargaining, I have some good hopes in that quarter. He pressed me to stop in the village with him, but I could not afford, ill as I was, to part from the comforts that I had in the way of blankets, stove, & good food.

While waiting at the station the station master (who was so

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While waiting at the station the station master (who was so

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 obliging when I slept there) had a talk with me. He said that an Arab found a ring at En Nobeirah which was so good that he sold it for £3 to a jeweller, who resold it for £50 to someone who got hundreds for it. Also that an Arab found, & sold to an Englishman at Shepheard's, a file (he must have called it so because it was like a saw-file in shape) which had on one side writing that was to draw fish out of the water, "Yes, true, he read it from his books"; & that the purchaser said he could get hundreds for it in England. This, if true, must have been a Greek charm. He also told me that at Eshmunain (^{or} Roda up the Nile) is a very rich place for antiquities, and that a Copt there can get at the treasure when he wishes by going to the top of the hill at 12 noon, on Fridays (i.e. when all good believers are at mosque, like going to some diablerie at 11 o'clock on Sundays in England); that he calls, and a door is open for only about 5 minutes, & he goes in & takes as much gold coin as he can, large gold pieces, & that once the door shut quickly & cut his heel, yes, true, the station master saw the wound, and he is now a very rich man by all this gold. I relate these things as they are told here, as Herodotus says.

At last got back to tent by nearly 7; Ibrahim frightened, & sending men to make a fire in the way I went, as a beacon. The personal result of 23 miles, mostly in a high wind, is that I have gone down from 2° too high to only about $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; not at all tired or fagged, chest better, & actually no blistering on my feet. So walking it off has been a success. I write all this lying down with a blanket or two over me, so pardon irregularities in it as I have to lean on my elbows. Supper mainly on a large pan of tapioca, excellent diet for sick folk I believe, is it not? and now I must have a lot of apples last thing, & sip Aconite whenever I wake in the night. I call this making

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the best of both worlds, & giving a bad cold and antiquities such an impartial share of time & attention.

To my astonishment next morning, after an excellent night as to warmth, I found temperature up 2° again. This opened my eyes to the fact that I have a diurnal fever, as well as the cold on the chest; & so I must not reckon temp^r as showing about ~~the~~ my cold. At night temp^r is down again to only $3/10$ over normal. Of course I allow in this for diurnal range, but even absolutely it is as high in morn as at night, & even a little higher. Still, in spite of the combination, I feel strong & well otherwise; so I set off for Desuk, the traps all on one donkey (it is very desirable to only carry one donkey-load in all, as it simplifies matters) with a small boy perched on the top. The mixture was a queer one, bags, sacks, stove, lantern, pail, & two tent poles crossing, & sticking out on each side fore & aft, making the whole look as if it was boy, donkey, & et ceteras, trussed for roasting. I went on foot, generally some way a-head. It took a long time to get ferried over, then they went wrong for the station & then I had to see to pitching, so it was nearly 4 before I got off to look about. I catechized the station master & about half a dozen men; they all said that there was no such place as Kom el Eswud which is marked hard by on the map, & that there was no Kum or Tell in the neighbourhood, except inland some miles at Tell Farain. I went out past the place marked, but there is nothing there; & on over a ferry to Mehallet Malek, which looked rather high, but there are only small low mounds of the village & burial place. At Desuk itself there is no high ground, & I went all through it. So where Naukratis is I don't know. Now, as I might spend some days hunting & do nothing, & as - Desuk

^{2.2}
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thus failing - it is desirable to look up the authorities for Naukratis before trying much for it; and as further ⁽⁶³⁾ I want to get two or three days rest at Cairo before going to San, after this cold, and as finally I am getting off my feed & beginning to feel rather tired, I intend to go straight on tomorrow for Xoïs. I have done altogether 17 miles today, and never walked so far in Egypt before as these two days, it is like my trips at home. To day was lovely, a light wind behind me, & a brilliant warm sun, perfect for walking.

Next morning we were up & packed early, being off by the 7.45 train to Kallin. There I left Ibrahim with the baggage to come on afterwards while I & Khallil walked on, as there was no train until the afternoon. I got to Sakha about 12, & sent Khallil on to Kafr esh Shekh, with a note to Mr Gibson in case he was there. I then came upon an inscription of the Antonine period, & began copying it; whereon two very polite Italians belonging to the land survey came up, told me that Maspero had taken an ink impression of it, & pressed me to have lunch. I declined, & went on over the mounds. There is nothing visible before Roman times, though much may be there. I went on to Kafr esh Shekh by sunset, found Khallil with some friends there: saw Mr Gibson's house & man, who had had no letter about me at all, but seeing that I knew Gibson he invited me in for the night. Bye & bye the baggage came with Ibrahim by train, & settled in. The servant asked me to come out to another room as it was "nice, and I could see all Kafr esh Shekh": I went, & stood out on a wooden balcony, Kafr esh Shekh was before me, & I beheld what he evidently thought a

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(3)

pleasing prospect. Before me was a very narrow turn of a narrow street about 10 yards long, a fruiterers was partially visible with some oranges (the only presentable object), but the main centre of attraction was a butchers shop. On the one hand was an expanse of mud roofs, covered with rubbish among which some dogs wandered, & on the other hand was a very large, very stagnant, & very filthy pond, or lakelet, on the other side of which stood the station house, a square block of brick pierced with sundry windows, looking rather more hideous than any combination of bricks & mortar which I could have imagined to exist. Such were the beauties of the prospect which I endeavoured to shew my appreciativeness by admiring. There was some shadyness about when the train (the only one of the day) starts from this melancholy place in the morning. Was it early? Yes very early. Before the sun? No, about with the sun. Another authority said at 4 o'clock afranghi (European time) another said before sunrise, another said an hour after the sun, while at last Ibrahim announced with great authority that it was at 7½ afranghi. To finish the subject, it really went at 7.5, & professed to go at 7. Officially. Khallil slept with his friends, & was not up on the platform when we got to the train; so I paid for his ticket & said he must have it when he asked for it (Gibsons servant was there, & explained matters copiously to the station master); but Khallil just rushed up in time as the train started. At Kallin we all had to turn out & walk 200 yds up to the train from Desuk; & then at Tanta we had to wait 1¼ hrs. I strolled through the town, but saw nothing important; & we reached Cairo by 2. I went up to the Amos's to see

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^{how} matters stood; the Prof^r said that they were expecting me & had a room ready, & then Mrs A. came in & further made me promise to come there, & afterwards informed me that their spare room was taken up with Mr Moore, & I was to have ~~her~~ ^{her} room, while she turned into some other place ^{in this mysterious collection of apartments.}. I begged her to let me off, but she insisted on this arrangement in the kindest way; so I gave in thankfully as I was beginning to feel rather bad with my cold. Mr Moore is another charity of theirs; a very old-fashioned style of man, who has been in the Consular service, retired from ill health; came here to Cairo & took up working for some private Company, & after living a long time at Shepherd's is thrown overboard by the Co. who refuse to pay his expences. So stranded thus in debt, the A's take him in indefinitely until he can rearrange his affairs. Then I went off to Dr Grant, who tells me to stick to Quinine until I get rid of the fever. Then I paid off Ibrahim & Khallil, & went down to the boat with the latter to fetch a few things that I wanted. Coming back Khallil to my great disgust said that he would not go to San. I was quite reckoning on the boy he was so intelligent & good, but San frightens him, & no persuasions that he should have full man's wages, live in a brick house, & be with Ali Gabri, would induce him to go. Little Abd el Halim I also lost, because his father was just going up the Nile, reis of a boat & took him; so I am left without any one but Ali.

Sunday ^{20th} I went to church in morn, but Mrs A said strongly that I should not go in evening the wind was so cold. I met Col. Scott Moncrieff at the church door, & he at once said that he had given orders about the trees on the pyramid avenue

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which had mentioned to him as being in danger. He is a most unofficial man & very active, & is already reforming & stirring here in a businesslike way. He is to be the under Secretary for Public Works, actually doing everything under the name of some Egyptian who will be nominally in the ministry. It is most interesting to be here at the present time & see all the people who are here to reconstruct Egypt. — Scott Moncrieff, Edgar Vincent, Sir Evelyn Baring, &c. The grand puzzle which no one is yet agreed on is how to set about it. Col. Gibbons says very sensibly that he believes it should be done by splitting the country up into independent little states each under the absolute autocracy of an Englishman who would be only responsible to the Khedive; and that after setting matters to rights thus they might get on afterwards. Arabi when he was rising went to try & get sympathy & help from the American Consul; the American said that under certain circumstances, & if he followed their advice, they might materially & directly help him. But what is the advice? asked Arabi. "First, absolute religious equality; & secondly, universal free compulsory education," & Arabi did not try for American assistance.

21st 4/1
Scott-Moncrieff came in Monday aft., & I had a long chat with him; he is a very satisfactory man, so clear-headed, honest, & pleasant, without a scrap of ostentation. My cold does not progress, but I will promise not to go to San until I am properly moveable; & Mrs. Amos looks after me quite as ^{far} as I appreciate being meddled with. Nothing could be kinder.

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Letter No XI received with extracts & P.O.
 Many thanks for all the news. The R. S. Edin.
 paper is apropos to my paper on the English
mile finding a home there. I am sorry rather
 that any notice should be taken of C.P.S.'s remarks,
 as there are so many points to notice if any
 are touched on, and a review written in that
 spirit is it best to leave alone altogether.
 Beside which the only persons who will credit or
 even see what he has said about it, will never
 be affected by what anyone else says.

15. Cairo - F: 1 =/ </ > 84-

Friends will kindly
 observe the caution
not to name to
any one, where
 F. has been - as
 the sites & discoveries
 belong to the Society
 & must not be talked
 about.

[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

(67)
 Letter No XI received with extracts & P.O.
 many thanks for all the news. The R. S. Edin.
 paper is apropos to my paper on the English
mile finding a home there. I am sorry rather
 that any notice should be taken of C.P.S.'s remarks,
 as there are so many points to notice if any
 are touched on, and a review written in that
 spirit is it best to leave alone altogether.
 Beside which the only persons who will credit or
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For Mrs Petrie Bromley, Kent, (68)

Cairo Jan 28.

Unhappily I have nothing to tell this week beyond the mere fact of getting better. My cold has proved obstinate, & after stopping indoors for some days without clearing it off, Dr Davis said I must take to bed. So I have laid up for nearly three days, & Mrs Amos has been looking after me with hot slops & messes in the kindest fashion. I have now got over the congestion & general muddle in my chest & head, & barring a little scraping & clearing up I am pretty well right & hope to be off in two or three days. The weather also is improving, but it has been wretched. High cold winds in Cairo; heavy rains in the Delta, Tanta almost impassable; snow on the Gebel Ataka at Suez at midday; & at Alexandria three days storm, thermometer at 36°, five ships lying in the offing unable to get into harbour, & those in harbour unable to discharge cargo. Clifford Lloyd & Blum Pasha both laid up with bronchitis, &c, shew the effect of such weather; & Dr Grant has had fever & complications which have kept him in bed for some days. To day he is better & will be about again tomorrow as Dr Davis hopes. Mrs Grant is worn with nursing him, but is

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(69)

not knocked up with it. Jessie is well again as usual; & Miss Mullock is better, & out again. Fraulein Schulte is coming out to a family in Alexandria.

Mr. Maspero & Col. Scott-Moncrieff dined here on Friday, but I was unhappily in bed. However I had a pull when Maspero came today to lunch. He does not seem to know any of the English here; & the Amos's having made acquaintance, he seems very sociable, & inclined to long chats when he comes; so Mrs. A. is going to further his knowledge of the powers that be, here at present, as far as she can. Capt. Speedy has also been here twice. He is the man who was a long time in Abyssinia, brought home Alameyn, & shewed more sense than the authorities by wishing to educate him in India. He is a marvellous talker for imitation, & descriptiveness; in fact his accounts & stories are as much acted as said. He is now waiting for orders to go up to Abyssinia on a mission to smooth matters & give the Abyssinians something whenever the Egyptians can make up their minds what it shall be.

Chinese Gordon has come & gone; & much I regretted not being able to see him. The Sultan

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(70)

of Darfur, (said to be a lad of 18 or 19) he takes with him; they went by special train, & the Sultan asked ~~to take~~ three days to collect his household; Gordon was indignant; then might he take his wives? Yes. So at 10 o'clock about when they started he appeared with 42 black women. Whether they were all shot into the train seems dubious.

I had a talk with Col: Baker here, the other night. (no relation of Samuel or Valentine), & he offers to do anything he can, about police for me at Sān, if required. He is most friendly, as well as Col: Gibbons; & as they two are heads of police for all the delta, I have useful friends here.

My time, here in Cairo, has not been wasted, the various times that I have been here, if only for the advantage of knowing the various heads of police, public works, &c; & so being able to appeal at once about anything that may arise.

^{No 12}
Letter received with the notice of Maspero's catalogue, but no P.O. this week.

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XVI. Cairo. F: 8-

[Pages 71 and 72 are misplaced and misnumbered. Here they follow page 59, where they actually belong.]

XVI. Paris. F. 8—

(1)

For M^{rs} Petrie Bromley Kent.

For Mrs Petrie Bromley Kent. (73)
 Jan / 84
 On Tuesday 29th I went down to Bulak in the afternoon to finish packing my baggage, as there were a few things still to see to. But the rain came on again thick & sharp, & though I started back again in a lull fit, I was pretty wet by the time I reached Cairo. Next day, when I hoped to move the boxes, was wretchedly wet, & I only ran out for a chat to Dr Grant in the afternoon. Next day again was wet in the morning, & the mud was awful; the Amos' french governess fell twice in the slippery mess that day. Moving was out of the question, so I went to Dr Grant's & copied 60 of his scarabs. He is better, but still on the sofa all day; he has had not only fever, but sundry complications. Mrs Grant keeps far better than could be expected, able to nurse her husband. Jessie & Miss Mullock are pretty well, & about again. Fraulein Schultz is coming to an engagement in Alexandria. Dr Cruikshank who is director of prisons came in the evening to the A's; he is a very pleasant & intelligent man, & is reforming as hard as he can; he is teaching trades in the Cairo prison which is his head quarters, & turning out very good carpentry. Next day the mud abated somewhat, though there were some drops of rain; so after doing 35 scarabs at Dr G's in the morn, I went down to Bulak with Ali in the afternoon to move the baggage. We hired a promising-looking cart & horse, & loaded up all the baggage;

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but the ¹⁴rub was that the horse would not go; the
 load was not over 13 cwt, but the brute
 refused, he would allow himself to be led round
 round — to the imminent danger of upsetting the
 cart — but to start off for Cairo was what he
 decidedly would not do. So at last the man
 unhitched him; & mounting, rode off for another
 horse. After ~~about~~ nearly an hour he came back
 with another man & horse; & this beast would
 go, so off the cart went over hillocks & holes,
 swaying & lurching, held up & pushed on by
 three men miscellaneous around it, through
 the narrow streets of Bulak. The mud was still
 so thick & deep that they had to stick to the side
 of the street which ensured as much tilting about
 as possible with the greatest number of close shaves
 of running down small children & blind grandmothers.
 I expected every minute to see the whole thing go over
 in the mud, smash. Then the first horse & a boy
 turned up, & were always struggling to be taken on
 again; & at last when close to the station the owner
 of the cart saw it with a strange horse, & pounced
 out: then came a row between the owner, drivers, &
 every one else who chose to go into it; pulling, dragging,
 struggling & shouting. Meanwhile it was getting
 late, & I knew the station would be shut soon, & all
 my baggage was at a stand still in the road. At last
 the first horse was hitched in again & we went on;
 & after another burst of rowing a little further on
 we reached the station. There I had a long hunt
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& after unloading part & running hither & thither I
 found the magazine for it, shut up & officials ⁽¹⁵⁾
 just going being after sunset. But with some
 grumbling they stopped, reopened, & all was weighed,
 paid, & put in the van for Zagazig, where it is
 trans-trained for Fakus. Then sundry things of the
 Amos's were put on the cart & taken up to their house;
 & so ended my connection with the dahabiyeh.
 In the evening I went out with Mrs Amos to look up some
 people. One man gave a most unpleasant account of
 the wetness & misery of the San district at present, &
 strongly advised my stopping in Cairo for a month until it
 was drier. But we went to another friend of Mrs A's
 who had just returned from near Mansura which is
 hard by San, & he said that he thought it was all
 right at present. As he is the most reliable & most
 direct witness I stuck to his opinion. Both however
 agreed that there was no reason to stop work until
 July or August, as the heat is kept down by a cool
 sea breeze, & it is only when the water rises that it
 becomes unpleasant. This is very favourable. We
 tried to see Gibson, but he was out at his club.
 On Saturday ^{2nd Feb} at last I got fairly off. It is the
 first day without any rain, & really fine, that we have
 had for a long time, & the last few days have
 been far warmer; so it seems promising. After
 some shoppings I bid good bye to my most kind
 hosts, & the whole family came out to the outer gate
 with me, with many farewells. It seems strange in
 two months to have made such intimate friends; but to
 live with people who hate all formalities & shams & are
 altogether plain-spoken, on a boat, & sharing the cares of the
 cooking pot, & afterwards to be nursed by them, makes an
 acquaintance such as ten years of afternoon calls would not create.

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(76)
 I reached Zagazig in due course, & hunted up Mr Clarke; he was as friendly & helpful as before, & gave me a letter to the telegraph agent at Fikus; also introduced me to the inspector of posts, who happened to be there (I know I had talked to at Ismailiyeh) & he promised to write to the post at Fikus to tell them to give me every facility about my letters. I must arrange to have letters sent over every week, & the messenger to take back my letters. Then we went on to Fikus, & there I pitched tent beside the station, & then went off over the mounds; but there is nothing early to be seen. Ali meanwhile unbidden went & made all possible enquiries about conveyance. Camels are dear, but the canal to San is still open, & boats going, so that will be the best way. Happily tomorrow is market day, & there will be boats & people up here. There is no idea of any disturbance or want of safety in the country about here; everything is just as it might be in the quietest parts. There are wolves however giving tongue in the outskirts of the village, & exciting the dogs. Our party consists of self, Ali, Muhammed his nephew (who used to sleep with black Muhammed as my guard), & a man that I had digging called Mursi. I am glad to have "little Muhammed" as he used to be called, (he is grown up now) as he is a nice quiet fellow, & being one of Ali's household — an adopted son — is a safe attendant, & Ali of course is more comfortable in having him with him. While I was putting things straight in my tent, four Greeks came up & were much amused at seeing all the arrangements, petroleum stove, &c. They were cotton dealers or shop-keepers or some such thing, very polite & respectable fellows, & one of them remarked that it would be cold in the tent & offered to take me in; an offer which I declined with many thanks as I had all my baggage about me here.

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(2)

The weather has really changed, and the night ⁷⁷ ¹² was brilliantly clear & yet not very cold. Strange to say this tent-sleeping gives a complacency to ones feelings, quite different to what one feels indoors; I found it so when out before, in spite of my bad cold, & only can suppose it due to the absolute freshness of the air. I strolled about after breakfast, over the old town & about the new, & then had a look at the train when it came in at noon. My boxes I saw all safe, in a van which was locked & sealed; and one of my Greek friends of the last evening very kindly glanced over his *Egⁿ Gazette*, which had just come, & then handed it to me, before he jumped into the train for Cairo. Then I went with Ali through the market, it being market day. It is an important affair, about 3000 or more people from all the country round; & vegetables, meat, fish, sugar cane, sweets, eggs, poultry, cows, buffaloes, donkeys, shoes old, shoes new, & many other necessities of Arab life were all strewn about in the crowd. In the afternoon the boatman whom Ali had spoken to came up, & after a talk, agreed to take me & all the baggage to San for £1, half of which goes in taxes. This is but half of what Baedeker names, so I am well content. Ali got some necessities from a Greek shop here, candles, sugar, soap, petroleum &c, & so I am all ready to start tomorrow. The post to day brought a letter from Clarke, enclosing one from the inspector of the post to the post office here, to enjoin the man here to attend to my letters properly & give all assistance required. I must arrange for him to send my letters over by a messenger who will

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bring back my replies, & I hope this will ^{7.8} ~~as~~ ^{work} so that in general I can answer by the next mail.

I have received letters & paper this week all right in Cairo, but mail was a day late owing to weather I suppose. Many thanks for No 13 & all the news, & for a delightful long chat from Glebe Road, to which I hope to reply soon from Zoan. Jas. Moore I met on the steamer, coming out the second time; I sent him a contents of Δ book. If Loftie's scarab book is out I ought to have my dozen copies. I should wish for 6 of them out here, directed to ~~the care of Dr Grant~~ ^{circulate a copy, please} as I do not want them all down at San. The graffiti paper I will distribute ^{when} I come home. As to accounts please ~~keep~~ ^{record of the} balance due to me; I have £39 due here, out of the Fund accounts, for things I bought in England, & I shall not nearly want all that. There are strong & long articles in unlimited praise of Gordon in the Egyptian Gazette.

I have now got real Egyptian weather, after all the miserable cold & mess of the last few weeks: it is cloudless & windless, except just a light northerly breeze in the afternoons. Long may it continue so. There are several Greek shops here of a very fair class; even stove lampwick & tinned & bottled provisions can be had, and all ordinary groceries there is no difficulty about.

Ended Monday, F. 4 -

XVII.
Fakus.
F. 12-

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XVII,
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F. 12-

For Mrs Petrie Bromley Kent. 79

On Feb 4th we moved down the baggage to the boat, from the station at Fakus. The boatman had professedly been cleaning the boat; and perhaps it was as clean as a fish boat could be, well-scrubbed, & cleared out; but of course the smell was irremovable. At first it seemed impossible to stop in it, but it is astonishing what one can become accustomed to. There was also a Greek going by the boat, & some Arabs, beside the boatman & his brother (two quiet, respectable old men) & their families. At first we continually ran aground, but the canal deepened further on, & even a little tracking was possible; but in general we went with the stream & a little poling. In some places the current winds so much, in the broad expanse of about 50 feet of the whole canal that the boat had to be turned across the canal Z-fashion to get along at all. There was a little cabin — or rather roof — at one end of the boat, about 6 feet long, & when it was too windy & cold in the evening to lie or squat on the top of it (N.B. it was arched [⌢]) I turned in below on my boxes, with the Greek, & had supper. We started at 11 a.m., but though the distance is but 21 miles by water, it was about midnight before we reached San. I had gone to bed, undressing & settling in between my blankets; & after the boat had stopped, & the tramp of the polers was over, & after a long conversation between the boatmen & their friends, I had some sleep. Next morning before sunrise I was off shore to see the position

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80 2.
 of things, & to settle where my house should be. The
 mounds are not I think higher than those of Bubastis
 were, before they were cut away so much: but the
 outskirts of the site are very extensive. The great
 temple has no mounds over it, nor indeed within the
 high enclosure walls, but it is buried under about
 10 feet of stuff ^{partly} washed in from the walls, & partly composed
 of limestone chips, which shew how much has been
 destroyed. The temple itself has been cleared down
 to the level of its base by Mariette, but whether he
 has reached the boundaries of it or no is not certain,
 most probably a good deal remains to be found
 beyond the limits of his clearance; and there may
 be earlier things below the level of Ramessu II.

I soon saw that there was but one really suitable
 place for a house, on the enclosure wall by the
 entrance to the temple area; this commands the
 temple & also the village outside. And there were
 walls of a Romano Greek house to be traced there
 which would give an excellent foundation. The
 mounds in general are fearfully loose for building
 on, & their unsuitableness was exaggerated by the
 recent rains, which made them boggy in places.
 Then the shekh's sons & other Arabs came up to see
 what was going on, & who we were; so going back
 to the village I interviewed the official of the fisheries
 & the shekh. The personal letter of permission was
 read over & considered satisfactory, & I gave them
 an outline of what I wanted. The old shekh is not
 a very prepossessing specimen, but the fisheries

of things, & to settle where my house should be. The
 mounds are not I think higher than those of Bubastis
 were, before they were cut away so much: but the
 outskirts of the site are very extensive. The great
 temple has no mounds over it, nor indeed within the
 high enclosure walls, but it is buried under about
 10 feet of stuff <partly> washed in from the walls, & partly composed
 of limestone chips, which shew how much has been
 destroyed. The temple itself has been cleared down
 to the level of its base by Mariette, but whether he
 has reached the boundaries of it or no is not certain.
 Most probably a good deal remains to be found
 beyond the limits of his clearance; and there may
 be earlier things below the level of Ramessu II.
 I soon saw that there was but one really suitable
 place for a house, on the enclosure wall by the
 entrance to the temple area; this commands the
 temple & also the village outside. And there were
 walls of a Romano Greek house to be traced there
 which would give an excellent foundation. The
 mounds in general are fearfully loose for building
 on, & their unsuitableness was exaggerated by the
 recent rains, which made them boggy in places.
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 what was going on, & who we were: so going back
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Official seems a pleasant good nature sort of man.
 It is said that they take about £ 30 a week here in
 dues, and the collector said that he could get in more
 by having the dues over from other stations if
 required; so there will be no need to send any money
 down from Cairo to supply what I may want.
 Then the boxes were unloaded, arranged on a clear
 spot by the village, & the tent pitched over them; so
 thus I have the boxes as a floor, all accessible, &
 raising me well off the ground. After this, & having
 some breakfast, we went up to clear the
 ground for the house, having first to make out the
 plan of the old walls & then fit the rooms on them.
 I also went round all the mounds of the temple
 neighbourhood, & over to the large blocks at the
 S.E. These do not seem to be remains of a temple (as
 Dr Lansing supposed) nor bases of sphinxes (as M. Naville
 suggested) since they are lying loose on the surface,
 & never were equal in size; for, though much
 weathered, there is not around the smaller ones
 any amount of debris which would make them up
 to the size of the larger blocks. They seem to have
 been looted from some building, & rather roughly
 arranged in lines in later times.

Next day we got several men & boys, & cleared up
 the walls of the old house & settled the lines for
 building on. Then they made some mud mortar
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midst of the big puddle, & serving as a steady point⁸² to the men as they trampled up the black batter. Next they hunted for stones, bricks, & anything that would do to build with; for yesterday I had tried all the old brick houses, & not found any bricks sound enough to bear being taken out & re-used: so I am short of building-material, and had sundry negotiations going on during the day for Arab crude bricks. The rain came on today in showers, & about night a gale sprung up which seemed certain to carry off the tent; and after that a drench for hours. Ali I have sleeping in the tent with me, as he has a cold; & Muhammed & Mursi had made themselves as happy as they could with my boards. Yesterday the ground was all so sopped that it was quite hopeless to work, & so no men were

taken on, & everything is at a stand still. Between the showers I cut up the wood into the lengths that I should want, & tacked it roughly together into a shelter for the men. I am glad to say that I keep well, but if this weather goes on I must go into a room in the village, ~~but~~ though I dread the dirt & smells of it. The tent leaks somewhat on the windward, & one cannot help fearing that it may be blown away; otherwise life is very bearable. The country is cultivated down to San, but north of this it is all barren salt ground on the east, & but little cultivated on the west. The tells on the horizon look most tempting, but the ground between is half mud half water.

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²
It cleared somewhat in the afternoon, & I went out over the most passable-looking places; but the ground was so soft that I went in often over my toes, & had the mud running in over the tops of my boots. There was only a brief shower of hail in the afternoon. Happily the temple is a dry place as it has been dug down to the sand, & hence it drains well.

Next day I had several men & boys up hunting for stones & carrying them up for my house. Among the boys one girl came & gave name as Muhammad Hassan. So I asked Ali how it was a girl had such a name. "Oh they think you not take a girl for work, so that call her father's name"; "Did they think I could not see it was a girl?" I asked. "Oh time Mariette work here, so many girl, they dress in white, & send work for boy" (men, girls & women wear dark blue, & boys & men wear white & brown). We carried up a good lot, & pretty nearly exhausted the most convenient ground of the moveable pieces; these are all the chips broken from the immense quantity of limestone blocks cut up & removed in various ages from the temple.

Next day as more people came up, & as I did not want to do more for the house, I began to clear up the statues to see what was known here. About 40 men & boys came up, but I only put on 28. The results of the clearing I have sent to Mr Poole; there are six large statues of early date, many later ones, hosts of Ramessu II & his son Seti, "all mashit" as Ali says, & half a dozen Hyksos sphinxes in various stages of smash.

Feb. 11.
On Sunday, I could wander about in peace, without having to attend every minute to various parties of men; & as it was a fine day it was very pleasant. The evening

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On Sunday <Feb: 11>, I could wander about in peace, without having to attend every minute to do various parties of men; & as it was a fine day it was very pleasant. The evening

was the ⁸⁴first time that it was warm enough for me to get a wash in the river; it would have been madness before to do so, in the cold winds we have had. Ali tells me that the people about here cannot believe that I have come for antikas only; they say that some of the 20,000 soldiers (who have been telegraphed as coming out time after time,) will be stationed here; & that I have come to begin quarters for them. Some outlying villagers said that I had 22 khawagas here, & they thought of fleeing the neighbourhood, so much was their fear of the coming garrison. Mariette's way of working was to get a requisition for so many men from a village, & then send over a reis for them; the reis levied the richest men he could venture on, they bribed him to get off, then he tried the next, & so on until he had fleeced all but the poorest, & they were marched off to work. No wonder that dealing by free contract, without any reis or shekh, is not identified as the museum style of dealing by these poor people. I have the satisfaction of knowing that no man or boy comes who does not wish for exactly what he will receive, & that none of it sticks in any man's hands between their & mine. They are not angels by any means, but they are not at all bad according to their light & way of life, & they do deserve honest treatment. I put down every worker's name, & against it the day of the month when I go over them in the morning, & then mark it through when paid in the evening. Thus I hope to keep accounts straight & avoid confusion.

On Monday many more workers came up, & though I took on 52 several went away disappointed. A quantity

was the first time that it was warm enough for me to get a wash in the river; it would have been madness before to do so, in the cold winds we have had. Ali tells me that the people about here cannot believe that I have come for antikas only; they say that some of the 10,000 soldiers (who have been telegraphed as coming out time after time,) will be stationed here; & that I have come to begin quarters for them. Some outlying villagers said that I had 22 khawagas here, & they thought of fleeing the neighbourhood, so much was their fear of the coming garrison.

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of girls came up finding their working was not objected
 to; two of them were quite grand young ladies for this
 village, with face veils ornamented with gold & silver wire,
 (each had four gold & 25 large silver pieces); & it seems
 strange to pay anyone with such a lot of bullion on them
 5^d a day for work at carrying platters & bowls of
 mud. We began a large trench up to the most
 accessible point of the temple boundary wall, as I want
 to see the ground level there; & also did some of
 other trenches, finding one piece of inscribed statue.
 The builder came from a neighbouring village, &
 he got up the walls of my first room about two feet. It
 is queer after English prices to pay 15^d a thousand for
 bricks; but then they are small, & of such mere
 crude mud & straw that they could not be carried
 for two or three days after the rain for fear they should
 drop to pieces. A wall looks as if of straw outside, here;
 the rain washes about an inch of mud off the face of
 the bricks & then the straw protects the rest inside.
 I have been disappointed of the messenger who was to
 take in letters for the mail to Fikus, & I do not know
 how this will go, by Italy or France.

They have not sent the letters from Fikus so
 I cannot answer. And worst of all
 the bill of lading for my roofing is not
 received, & so I am sticking here, with
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18. Zoan. F: 25

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[The page contains several paragraphs of handwritten text in cursive script, which is largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. The text appears to be a journal entry or a letter.]

For Mrs Petrie,
Bromley, Kent. San 15 Feb 84

(86)

I cannot write much this week, but hope to have more time when I get into my first room, which is now finished as to walls, & into which I hope to move in a day or two, putting up somewhat of a roof of the spare wood. I do not expect to get my iron for a week or ten days yet, so I must make the best of it. It is not so wet as it was, but there is some rain almost every day, & occasional thunder & hail. I have to take plenty of sleep in order to stand the cold & wind, & this occupies time. This, with as much feeding as I can get through, & as much clothing as I can bear, has kept me going all right. I am rigorous in taking morning & night doses of quinine or of strychnine, & that has prevented any fever. I have now over 70 men boys & girls going every day; & the duties of timekeeper & paymaster to such a crew is no joke, especially as the names are duplicated & variable, & attendance is very irregular. But more of this in some letter afterwards.

At present I am mainly clearing up in the temple, finding points of construction, & preparing for a plan of it. There is not much in the large way to be found in the temple now I think; &

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the other ground is still too wet to work on.
 As I look around the country I see as much
 water as land nearly, & almost all the land
 barren saltish mud. There is very little
 cultivation, & no trees but on the distant
 horizon. Isn't it a cheerful scene?

Two men that Ali knows have turned up here, one
 from Gizeh direct, the other a Gizeh man settled
 near here & addicted to antika hunting. This
 increased our party to 6 men in all, & the
 people here are such quiet folk, & so much afraid
 of soldiers coming down upon them, that there
 is no question about safety at all. I hear that
 the people who have not actually had to do with the
 working & the pay, are not yet satisfied but
 think the work is only a blind to some official
 matter. Another canard is that all the money I
 have is false. These sort of reports one can live
 down without any trouble.

Letters were safely received (No 14) with enclosures &
 paper. Surely the pamphlets can come to Egypt, I
 thought it was $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce book post to here.

Now I must stop, 10.30 pm, & I want 10 hours
 sleep, & to be up at 7 tomorrow, for I have to be
 out all over the place after the men at 8 every
 morning.

XIX. Zoan,
 Feb. 26.

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For Mrs Petrie,
Bromley, Kent.

San el Hagar
22 Feb 1884

All the time that I can spare for writing this week has been taken up with a long report on the present state of San, and I must now cut into my sleeping time tonight for a page or two on things in general.

I have got matters pretty well organized now, and have most of the men ~~who~~ worked into my ways. An Arab's notion of digging is to sink a circular pit, & lay about him with his pick hither & thither; and I have some trouble to make them run straight narrow trenches. I have three different classes which I keep distinct according to their ~~tea~~ work, ~~pit~~ trenchers, shaft sinkers, & stone cleaners; and I always keep the same workers together as far as possible. They are all in small gangs, generally two men ^{with picks} & 3 or 4 children or women to carry, the largest parties being 3 men & 6 children. Thus I can see exactly what each does, & lazy men are left out in the cold. ~~Having~~ The number has steadily crept up from a dozen to 89, and I have had to turn away 10 or 20 every day, owing to being short of money; but as I have got some in now I can expand. Such a number of men, women, boys, & girls, all split into small parties require a great deal of individual attention, and I have to save my time as far as possible for what I must necessarily attend to. Happily beside Ali, Muhammad, & Mursi, an old reis of Mariette has turned up & a ^{son} nephew of another; both are from Gizeh, but settled here after the work, & have spent the last 25 years in plundering the district of antikas, so I hope to get a lot of information about sites when I can move about across country in the dry weather. B The nephew is my messenger to Fakus

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XX
Zan.
Mar. 4

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as he lives ⁽⁸⁹⁾ between here & there, and the post-master
 at Fakus sent to say that he could not get a man
 to come here at less than a dollar (19 piastres) a
 time, which meant that he wanted heavy bakhshish;
 this man I give 8 piastres to for his two days to
 Fakus & back & he is well content. Being at a pinch
 the other day, & the country being still flooded so that
 wading is needed on the Fakus track, I sent him to
 fetch £40 from the post. Ali assured me of his honesty
 so I sent him without shewing any want of confidence &
 treated the matter as if it was 40 pence: but I was very
 glad to hear him back again. The old reis is a fine
 figure, with a commanding voice; always with a large
 black wrapper over his head, & falling down around him;
 wearing a pair of huge black goggles, which with a nose & a grey
 beard are all that I have seen between the edges of his
 overall wrap; he always, sitting, or standing, or walking,
 carries a long stick bolt upright, ready to smite
 the wicked. The people were scared at seeing him come
 up to inspect, as they remembered his former doings
 under Mariette, but Ali assured them that he would
 not be allowed to go on in that way now. One man that
 was refractory about carrying a big stone from work
 for my house, he gave a fearful whack to the
 other night, & Ali had to come in as a moderator.
 It is very well to have such a man here, he will
 serve as a ferocious sheep-dog, who would bite if he dared;
 the Arabs will appreciate mild treatment all the more, &
 I can let him exercise himself if occasion requires. He
 cannot do harm so long as engagement, dismissal, &
 the money-bag, are all in my hands, and any one can
 complain to me at once. I mainly want him for the sake
 of knowing exactly where things were found, & what
 ground has been worked; and he may easily double my
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 results in this way.

The course of work here now is thus; the men come up
 about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, & all the old hands go about a to where they
 left off before. I wake as soon as I can, have a bath, &
 out before 8. Then I go round, every man or boy
 gives his name, & I enter against that in the wages
 book the day of the month; I set them each their work
 if it is different to the previous day, & give directions for
 going on; then I look over the new hands who may be
 waiting, pick out all the best of them, & set them their
 work, entering their names. Then by about 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ or
 10 I get back to my room for breakfast. At 11 I am
 out again, & round all the men till a little after 12, directing
 & helping in any work that may be difficult. About 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ or
 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ I give a whistle, & there follows a wild hubbub
 & babble of boys as they all rush off from work. After
 about an hour I expect them to be coming back, and if
 late, whistle them up from the village; and then they go
 on till sunset. About $\frac{3}{4}$ hr before sunset I begin to
 go round, each gives his name, and if wanting pay then
 the day is marked through in the book, if to be paid on
 Saturday a dot is put after the figure to shew that it has
 been checked. Thus I see their work last thing, & at the
 same time pay them or check them, so that there is nothing
 to do after the work; as soon as I have got near the
 end about sunset I give the whistle again & they all
 stream off. Thus there is no chance of personation or
 question of identity as each is paid or checked while at work, &
 as it is done while I inspect the work there is the least
 amount of time lost. Sayce writes to me that Schliemann
 spent over an hour every night in paying his 161 men;
 but by this way work is going on while they are being paid,
 so that they don't wait idle. Whistling them off all at

The course of work here now is thus; the men come up
 about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, & all the old hands go at once to where they
 left off before. I wake as soon as I can, have a bath, &
 out before 8. Then I go round, every man or boy
 gives his name, & I enter against that in the wages
 book the day of the month; I set them each their work
 if it is different to <the> previous day, & give directions for
 going on; then I look over the new hands who may be
 waiting, pick out all the best of them, & set them their
 work, entering their names. then by about 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ or
 10 I get back to my room for breakfast. At 11 I am
 out again, & round all the men till a little after 12, directing,
 & helping in any work that may be difficult. About 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ or
 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ I give a whistle, & there follows a wild hubbub
 & babble of boys as they all rush off from work. After
 about an hour I expect them to be coming back, and if
 late, whistle them up from the village; and then they go
 on till sunset. About $\frac{3}{4}$ hr before sunset I begin to
 go round, each gives his name, and if wanting pay then
 the day is marked through in the book, if to be paid on
 Saturday a dot is put after the figure to shew that it has
 been checked. Thus I see their work last thing, & at the
 same time pay them or check them, so that there is nothing
 to do after the work; as soon as I have got near the
 end about sunset I give the whistle again & they all
 stream off. Thus there is no chance of personation or
 question of identity as each is paid or checked while at work, &
 as it is done while I inspect the work there in the least
 amount of time lost. Sayce writes to me that Schliemann
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 but by this way work is going on which they are being paid,
 so that they don't wait idle. Whistling them off all at

(91)
 once answers best as there is no room for individual
 conscience as to what is ~~is~~ noon or sunset. The
 awful row & confusion of paying or checking after work,
 when I had only 50 on, was such that it took far longer
 than my walking round. Nearly all, except a few of the
 poorest, ask to be paid weekly; this shews that they have
 confidence now, & shortens the work of checking off, so that I
 can get through more than 100 an hour. I begin to know their
 names tolerably, particularly if they are distinctive; but what
 with Hassan Ali, Ali Ibrahim, Ibrahim Muhammed, Muhammed
 Hassan, Ali Hassan, Ibrahim Ali, Ali Muhammed, &c, &c, &c it
 is rather puzzling; & such distinctions as Riavi, Dafani,
 Shergawi, Adib, and Gandur are refreshing changes. They
 regard the weekly payment as a sort of sign of respectability
 & "nahr es sebt" — seventh day — is generally added on by the
 children to their names "Muhammed Hassan Dakabieh
 nahr es sebt andak" is run out all in a string (andak
 = "you have it" = it is booked so); and one says proudly to
 another "ana maktoub" — I am written.

I have got one room built, roofed with loose boards,
 of which I had just enough & not an inch to spare. The
 dust blows in in showers between the boards, & the
 rain makes little pools here & there, but then I can
 see the night is fine by looking for the stars as I lie in bed.
 I shall be glad to get that iron. Our builder, after getting
 his pay on Saturday disappeared, & has not come back,
 leaving Ali's room half finished, & the other rooms not
 begun. Tomorrow Khalifa when he takes this to Fakus is
 to hunt for another; I only wish that I could spare a day
 or two to run up the walls myself. I cannot begin
 photographing here until I have a room to get chemicals &
 things out, for I am crammed here in one room; and I must
 have a dust tight roof before gelatine plates can be left
 about. Now I must turn into my blankets, 10³/₄ pm &
 eyes heavy. Up at 7¹/₂ must be, at latest, and I want lots of sleep.

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(92) Probably Mar: 6.

I had just remarked to Ali the other night that we had no mice at present, when in half an hour came a mysterious clatter in the corner, & I knew that a new inmate had come. As we are $\frac{1}{3}$ mile from the village, up a hill, I think it was very enterprising of the little beastie to find us out; but all the same I wished to end his enterprise. So I ordered a mouse-trap, but it did not come. Mousy however found my feet in the blankets to be a delightful place at night; and I found in return that I could nab him in the blanket, & finally chuck his corpse out — "on the bare earth exposed he lies". But no sooner had I put out my candle, after this, than I found that there was No 2 here; & No 2 tried to burrow in under my head for a warm berth, in return for which I nearly nabbed it; but after a while it went under the blanket the same as No 1, & I very gently sat up & finally nabbed No 2. Much as I wish to be rid of them it is not pleasant to act the live mousetrap thus all night.

A new builder has been fetched, & is getting on fast with my other rooms; and to my joy on ^{Monday} ~~Monday~~ night, a man came up saying that my roofing had come, and that the boat men wanted to go for fishing. So I went down & saw it all taken out & landed; & then next morning all my workmen were set to each bring up a piece: there are 50 pieces in all, 8 ft x 2 ft, weighing about 22 lbs each. I shall have some to spare, as my house is not as large as I had intended; & as we have cleared out some well-built ^{or Ptolemaic} Roman houses down in the temple, I shall roof in two or three rooms there for workmen from a distance if necessary. One of the shekhs was up here, talking to Ali today, saying that I should pay more than 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ piastres; Ali replied, "Why you should see the lots of people that are here in the morning, from other places, all waiting for work, & willing to go for 2 piastres, rather than leave here."

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"Then, said the shekh, I shall not let those people from other places stop in the village" - "No matter", replied Ali, "we shall build a big house up in the temple, for all the other people, & have so many of them". So the shekh shut up, finding that his interferences would only make matters worse for his friends. I enjoy having got him at my mercy, in this way; the people are quiet enough themselves, & I have too many strangers here now for any row to be made about it.

One afternoon, a man came up asking for work; I refused him, as I have as many as I can attend to at present; but he took my answer so quietly, & looked such a capable man, that I strolled round past him again, & ended by taking him. It seems that he was at Tell el Maskhuta last year, & he presses for work by the metre, instead of by the day, saying that the wages are low. This shews that he made more by the metre; but it is impossible to work by quantity at present, as all is uncertain, & I can never tell 10 feet ahead what I shall want.

Our new builder is really a plasterer, & his building is as skew as any Arab could wish; but when he comes to daubing on a coat of mud at the last, he finishes in grand style, so smooth that one forgives the general pillowiness of his outlines [R].

An Arab came about, the other day, who is in the habit of hunting over the mounds for antikas; he felt his way by sending in a scarab by Khalifa, saying that he had found it here, & was afraid to keep it. So I told him plainly, that he was welcome to work about here, so long as he kept clear of my workings; & that I would buy of him anything he found at a fair rate, such as I paid my men here; & I gave him

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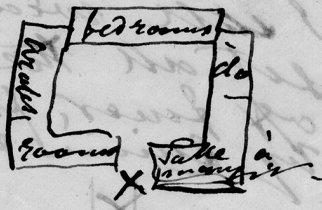
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2 piastres for the scarab, which was quite as much as he could get otherwise. Such a man may be a useful auxiliary, & if not in hand, would be dangerous, as he might carry things off.

I have spent so much time copying inscriptions, this week, that I cannot now write any more.

Letters & paper safely received; but I should like to have a copy of the Saturday Review, & of the lecture, by some means or other. Please forward enclosed to Sam Loftie in which I find the following, wh. I copy for other friends- "The roofing was kept at Said, because they said there was nobody at Sān who could want it. So Rayle wrote to Cook, & C. delayed, & it was still kept back till the 3^d & then landed by moon-light; & next day, all the men went down, & pitched each a piece. The house is to be made thus, —



round a centre court, windows inside, & only one outer door, so that he can sit in the salle, & see out into the temple, & all the work people.

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[The second part of this page, starting with 'and Loftie' was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

"In all I find, Rameses II is
 disgustingly prevalent, & 'tis quite
 refreshing to see how Si=amen
 & Osorkon pillaged ^{him} wholesale, as
 we did from others. The unlucky
 earlier kings fare badly among
 all the depredators, & a scrap of
 anything before Rameses, is a
 delightful change. - The people
 can't believe in all they see
 & get: - now they say my gold
 is copper. They are quiet, simple
 fisher folks, with whom I get on
 very well. now I have about
 120 at work. I take every one
 by their looks, not by recommendation
 & I know all my men now by sight.
 I still wear warm clothing, &
 get all the sleep I can, keeping
 off fever, from the marshes,
 by Quinine & Strychnine daily."

Finished March
 7 or 8-

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 & Osorkon pillaged <him> wholesale, as
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[This page was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

XXII. Zan.
 March 10-

For M^{rs} Petrie,
 Bromley, Kent.

XXII. Zan.
 March 10-

Bromley, Kent.

For Mrs Petrie

March 8. 1884 Sun

(96)

On Saturday night, about 8 or 9 o'clock, there was a stir & a shout outside, — an answer, a shout, & an answer again; Ali shrieked out "da min, da min, da min" (who's there) & came trotting out of his room; I sat finishing my dinner, with my thoughts turning toward my revolver. After a question or two Ali came in saying that some soldiers had come over to see to my safety, & to impress the people here; this I presume is the police protection Col. Baker kindly ordered for me. There were four of them, mounted, & they brought a letter for me, & another for Ali, from the chief of police at Fakus; these letters were to say in general that they had been instructed to see after me, that if any person ~~was~~ was troublesome here I was to send at once to Fakus & soldiers would be sent over, & that they wished to have a letter from me acknowledging their visit to send to Cairo, to shew that they had carried out their instructions.

I made coffee all in a scramble from some that Ali had (my own was run out days ago) & then told Ali to go & sit up in dignity in his room, with the soldiers, while Ad/**b**er Rahim (the male hag) brought in coffee for them. I reserved my presence, waiting in ~~my room~~ to shew them the light of my countenance if necessary; luckily it was not necessary, as they soon went down to the village to billet for the night. Next morning one of the boys here who can read & write (what a treasure a scribe on the premises is I cannot tell) told out in a long sing-song drawl the contents of Ali's letter; which hearing going on, while I had my bath, I called Ali as soon as his letter was over & handed out mine to be read. Then I had his verbal report as to what it was all about, & wrote an answer in English (which would do to send to Cairo, though they could not read it at Fakus) thanking them for their attentions, & saying that the people were all quiet, & I had no reason to suppose that I should

March 8. 1882/<4> Sun

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need any exercise of authority. They say they have orders to come once a week; I earnestly hope that they won't. Said the builder when he heard that soldiers had come "What's the good of my going on with the house, if you are stopped in the work". Said the people in the village "Here's an end of all our excavating & all our pay". So little notion have they of soldiers doing anything but stopping somebody; the bare idea of their coming over when there was no one to be punished & no black-mail to be levied, was outside of their "practical politics".

Just before this I had been consulting Ali as to how I should give a mild bakhshish to the shekhs here; as there are five in the village one cannot do very much for any one. But as I have now got everything going smoothly without any assistance from them, & without their getting a penny of benefit, & had (through Ali) snubbed them pretty well when they tried to interfere, it was now time as they were quiet to shew good will. To this end he suggested at least to send them each 3 lbs of coffee & 10 lbs of sugar, making about £2 in all; & so as our old boatman who brought us over was going to Fakus, Khalifa got the things there, & he will bring them down here in the boat.

Monday ^{10th} was an interesting day; in a house of Ptolemaic date (or rather earlier) the boy who was digging turned out a quantity of burnt papyri. They had been in a wooden case, with the reeds, & all had been burnt with the house. The case was broken up, & most of the rolls broken; but I carefully gathered up & examined whatever could be of value. One roll shews no trace of writing, but another shews the demotic writing clearly on its glossy surface of carbon. Another little roll about 1/2 inch diam & 2 1/2 long I got perfect with the strings still round it. The three larger rolls are unhappily all broken; but the legible one is a very long one, making a roll about 1 1/2 inch diam, & I have some hopes of this when it is laid out on gummed paper. Besides

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these there were quantity of burnt garments of different textures,
 of which the carbonized threads held together sufficiently for me to
 collect pieces: also a quantity of green eyes & statuettes, & two
 or three larger statuettes in porcelain 4 or 5 inches high of very
 fine work. ~~Also~~ Pieces of a large bronze vessel & the neck &
 handle of a bronze jug were all got, broken anciently in the fire:
 & several bronze staple-rings which had been inserted in the wooden
 boxes, an armlet, a kohl pot in alabaster with bronze stick, & other
 small objects. I shall now sift over all the earth taken out
 of that room. I do not consider it at all worth while to sift
 all the earth that is moved, there are so very few things in
 the mere mud washed down into the temple; but where anything
 good is found then I sift over what has been taken from the
 place. I had a good instance of the produce of sifting in another
 house which I cleared. After finding some good small glass
 objects, I had all the stuff sifted, & the produce of the sifting
~~did not add~~ more than half as much ^{again} as what had been got
 by simple digging over. As the sifting took as long as the digging,
 it follows that sifting is not worth while where the material
 to be examined is practically inexhaustible as it is here, except
 in case of specially good things being found. I had one of
 the most intelligent of my diggers working here, & ~~there~~ I have now
 put on another good fellow, who with his brother has come from a
 distance; this will be a check on anything being secreted as neither
 party can trust the other. I have now a capital test as to
 whether things have been really ^{just} found where the men are digging;
 if an Arab keeps a thing in his pocket for a day or two it smells
 "Arabic", & so I always smell carefully each thing they
 produce, & tell ~~by~~ thus whether it is a genuine find. Pottery
 continues to flow in daily until I can hardly find room for
 the perfect or nearly perfect specimens. As yet I can date
 to a century or so, by the coins found with it. The other night

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 to a century or so, by the coins found with it. The other night

a man brought up an enormous foot pan, I cannot call it anything else, holding about 9 gallons; I have four (99) amphorae nearly perfect standing in out of the way corners; & as for jars & cups & plates they have swallowed up every scrap of open space in my room, & completely buried to my clean clothes bag which is somewhere beneath an accumulation of tender crockery. I dive wildly into various boxes to try & find a stray shirt which has been used in packing, & sometimes I succeed. When I get all my rooms, & can expand, I shall be able to get things straight.

Next day the room next to my first room had to be roofed, & so I then took down the bricks out of my inner door & moved round into two rooms finished before, as I want my first room plastered. The mud bricks had been very good; they crumbled perpetually into dust which fell on everything, & they smelt as only things can smelt that Arabs have had to do with. It is a pleasant change to get into a room fresh plastered down, with clean mud & sand out of the temple. The builder though a plasterer by profession came with his float broken; such a float as an English plasterer would never recognize, a bit of iron somewhat bent, & very rusty, with two large nail holes in it, & a rough hewn handle, split, & half off. He asked for a nail; I cut him wood for a new handle, & his man really reasonably succeeded in smoothing it with a gouge. I lent him. But someone — either the Muezzin or Mursi — thought to improve on it, & got chopping at it with some unknown instrument. Of course they smashed it up, & then there came an appeal to me to day to "mend the handle" as before. I refused to spend any more time over the thing, handed them some nails they asked for, & the last I saw of it was Mursi — who has about as much mechanical sense as a turkey cock — repairing it with string, &c. They have been sifting the contents of the room which we partly cleared yesterday; but only the head of one statuette & a few little eyes & crowns have turned up.

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Next day <11th> the room next to my first room had to be roofed, & so I then took down the bricks out of my inner door & moved round into two rooms finished before, as I wanted my first room plastered. The mud bricks I had were not good; they crumbled perpetually into dust which fell on everything, & they smelt as only things can smelt that Arabs have had to do with. It is a pleasant change to get into a room fresh plastered down, with clean mud & sand out of the temple. The builder though a plasterer by profession came with his float broken; such a float as an English plasterer would never recognize, a bit of iron somewhat bent, & very rusty, with two large nail holes in it, & a rough hewn handle, split, & half off. He asked for a nail; I cut him wood for a new handle, & his man really reasonably succeeded in smoothing it with a gouge I lent him. But someone — either the old hag or Mursi — thought to improve in it, & got chopping at it with some unknown instrument. Off Of course they smashed it up, & then there came an appeal to me to day to "mend the handle" as before. I refused to spend any more time over the thing, handed them some nails they asked for; & the last I saw of it was Mursi — who has about as much mechanical sense as a turkey cock — repairing it with string, &c. They have been sifting the contents of the room which we partly cleared yesterday; but only the head of one statuette & a few little eyes & crowns have turned up.

XXII.
Zoan.
Mar. 10.

(100)

For the first time since I came up to this room, I had a heavy storm this afternoon ^(23rd): first came dripping, through between the boards, and finally there was hardly a dry spot to stand in; the rain then began to run down the wall inside, & gutterings of mud came dropping down the earthy wall, while the splashing drops made a paste with all the dust that the past windy days have accumulated on everything. My bed I kept dry with the American-cloth wrapper of the blankets: at least when I say bed, I mean the heap of blankets on a deal box on which I have slept for the last three weeks. I cannot fit up my canvas sacking bed until I get another room built, and Ali's room has to be finished first, and the builder has deserted us. So, the floor is the only air tight part of this room; the two mud brick walls that have no professed openings, ventilate freely between the bricks for lack of proper spreading of the mud; a third wall is nearly all door, with gaps above, beneath, & all around; the fourth wall has two small windows & a large doorway (to lead into the room that is to be), & these are merely loosely filled with piled bricks; & to the roof it is airy, the spaces between the warped boards lighting the room with a curious diffused mild light by day, & shewing the stars by night. The rain was so heavy that the men could not do anything, and a hundred human beings were all tucked away so safely in trenches, pits, & under stones that not one could I see from my doorway which commands the whole temple. At last in a lull Ali straddled down in the mud, & gave word that they had better all go home & have their week's pay tomorrow. So there was a rush. Afterwards by sunset when the storm was over about 2/3rd came up to be paid. Now paying money may seem simple enough when you have it to pay, but it isn't. Firstly I cannot get enough change here, & have to persuade the

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