

Arabah el Madfunah
 March 18th 1932

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Dear Mother.

We had pigeons for supper last night, & today Amice & I are feeling very sorry for ourselves, they must have been extra rich for we both developed a bilious^{sic} attack during the night. We don't usually fare so sumptuously in the evening, but an unexpected male from Chicago House turned up ~~unexpectedly~~ on his way to Cairo & pigeons were the only solid other than eggs procurable at short notice, we had had rather a good stew for lunch & in the normal way would have had a very light evening meal. We drove him in to Bahiana to catch the night train & we hope he is not suffering from any ill effects.

Sardic also has been on the sick list the last few days, he had such acute headaches & pains down the back of his neck, we got the doctor from Bahiana hospital to come & see him, & he said he had had a severe chill & neuralgia, & sent some medicine^{sic} & embrocation, & today he seems better.

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(181)

Amice is sending you two ½ stamps that were enclosed in letters she received, she thought you might use them & she would only loose them - she sends her love, & says she enjoys ~~hearing~~ hearing the scraps of news from your letters,

I have been reading Aesops Fables in Arabic for my lessons, they are excellent, as I can get the drift of the narrative without having to look up so many words in the dictionary, which takes up so much of my precious time, One of the other stories caused me quite a bit of fun & added to my knowledge of natural history, it was about a cat, & it described its habits & its looks, & it said - on its front legs it has five toes in all, & on its hind legs it has four toes in all. I began to wonder. Had I made a mistake in my reading, or was it really so, I asked Amice & Nannie how many toes a cat had on his hind legs, they shouted with laughter at the question, but thought like I did that there were five toes on all four legs - so we sent Abdullah to

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find Bijou-Bast-Anta & when he brought him we carefully counted his toes. There were only four on his back legs. did you know this - ?

I shall not have many more Arabic lessons this year as the school closes the end of this month, & Shaht Sarbit will be going to his own home near Sohag. I shall miss the lessons very much. It has been very hard work & I have had to devote every moment of my spare time to struggling with it. but it has been great fun, & I could not have had a better or more patient teacher in spite of the fact that he knows no English; he never gets the least bit annoyed when I keep repeating the same stupid mistake, I often feel like kicking myself

There is very little news this week. I am glad you have heard from Buffles, & I hope she will repay you on the date she promised

Lots of love to you both
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

Hope Fathers^{sic} cold is quite gone.

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