

[Earlier entries for this season are missing.]

Feb 10th

Sir John Evan's^{sic} {Evans'} visit today went off very well; Petrie shewed him all the finds, and then brought him up to Om el Qa'ab. He started from Baliana at eight this morning and will have done about fifteen miles donkey riding before he goes back there at sunset, which is 'nt bad for a man of seventy seven. Three men were summoned to Baliana today, to give evidence as to the row, but I have 'nt yet heard the result.

Feb 11th

Another visitor today, a young Belgian who came in and introduced himself. Petrie as usual lay low, and left me to do the entertaining. He talked most beautiful English - why is it that all foreigners put us to shame in the question of languages.

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Feb 12th Market day. I stayed quietly at home all day, so have nothing to record.

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April 10th, which means that I shall be through my business in Cairo the first week in May, and so may get back to England about the middle of the month, which is considerably earlier than usual.

Feb 14th Last year we heard a story that some of Amélineau's men, while working one of the royal tombs, stole a basketful of fine stuff, and hid it, meaning to take it away afterwards. This they were prevented from doing owing to the director of the work ordering them to heap the sand over the place. Tomorrow we shall clear the place in question, and as we think it very possible the villagers may make a raid tonight, Ali and I are going to sleep up there tonight. The idea is to sleep near the place, and then, if they come, let them get well to work, and slip down, rouse the rest of the men, surround the place and nab them all.

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Feb 15th At about ten o'clock Ali and
I set out in pitch darkness, with a
roll of blankets, a gun, and a ~~big~~ revolver.
First we drew the pits, but they were
as silent - as the grave I was going to
say, but of course they were that - and
then stumbled along up to Om el La'ab.
When we were within a few hundred yards
of the tombs, as I judged, I told Ali
to wait with the things, while I took off
my shoes and crept up to inspect. The
first thing I did was to stalk a stone,
under the impression that it was a hyæna,
and the next to lose myself. I walked on
and on but I could not find those
tombs anywhere, and at last gave it
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he was. Just as I was making up my mind I should have to tramp about with bare feet, and a revolver in my hand, all night, I struck a hill which I knew was quite close to the tombs, and which put me in the right road. Noone was visible, so I went back to Ali and we brought up the things and curling ourselves up in our blankets, we lay down and went to sleep. Unfortunately, after all our trouble nothing happened. I slept peacefully until about an hour before sunrise and then returned home to breakfast. The buried treasure has not turned up today, though the men have been working like fiends. If it is further on there is no chance of anyone getting it out at night yet awhile. The sand is heaped too high above it.

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Feb 17th Its a curious thing that the best things always happen to turn up on the work when Petrie is ill or away. Today we got some very nice things, the best being an important wooden tablet of Mena, the first King of the first dynasty. I am afraid the Petries will be rather done up when they get back, as we ~~have~~ are having a very warm spell.

Feb 18th I have been reckoning up the mens' accounts all the evening, and am so muddled I hardly know what I am doing. I have 150 to pay off this week, which is no joke.

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Feb 19th I seem to have been doing accounts all day long, and am very tired of it. MacIver came over to lunch, and stayed most of the afternoon: he seems doing very well on his site. The rain has made things grow here: yesterday I found a solitary blade of grass growing all by itself about a mile back in the desert; quite an inch and a half long.

Feb 20th The Petries have just returned, quite late this evening, so our nice quiet time is over. I astonished some of the men this afternoon by dropping on them heavily for slacking which took place

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Now it will get gradually hotter and hotter for a week or two till it ends in a khamsin and, another week of cool.

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Feb 27th

Market day. I have spent pretty nearly the whole day sorting Ushabtis, and copying off their inscriptions, and I don't much mind if I never see another all my life. About fifteen hundred I worked through altogether. Miss Johnson returned this evening, having enjoyed herself much at the rival camp. I rather think I shall run up there while the boats are going down to Cairo. They are going to stay out all the Summer probably.

Feb 28th & 29th

I have spent the greater part of the last two days making sections of frame for the tunnel, and crawling in to fit them together. I measured the length today, and found it came to 140 feet, just fifteen feet off the middle. If I strike the middle and find nothing I shall have to leave it for this season, and to tell the truth I shan't be sorry to see the last of it. We are a huge party now. Our table is hard put to it to accommodate nine people,

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March 2nd I really have come to a full stop in my pyramid now. I found a tremendous quantity of sand had fallen in front of my tunnel today, so I started clearing it out. But as fast as I cleared more kept pouring down, the descending sand began to lose its clean appearance, and I realised that it was the filling of the pyramid that was coming through. Either of two things had happened ~~to~~ I had struck the pit, which was an uncased one, or else the pyramid had been built on a slope, and the desert surface had run down till it was level with the tunnel. In either case I can do nothing further in there, as the stuff

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March 3rd This afternoon I made a start on my stela, and a nice long job it promises to be. Luckily it is so big that I can stretch myself full length on it, and so work in comfort. MacIver and I met a large party of tourists today, and they did stare. They probably took us for Greeks, though one kind and not yet

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March 4th & 5th

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March 6th

The great move was made today, and a rather wearing time we've had of it. None of the three of them know any Arabic to speak of, so I don't quite know how they are going to set on. They have two of the village guards & sleeping

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The great news about the move just arrived. I think it sounds delightful. When does the great event take place? I am afraid I shall hardly be home in time to assist. And what does Putley say? Please say good bye to all the

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March 9th A horrid cloudy day, and a high wind. I tried to draw in the afternoon, but the light was so bad and the wind blew my papers about to such an extent, that I lost my temper and had to give it up - the drawing, not the temper. This morning we had the police Inspector over from Belianeh to protest against the Von Hügels camp,

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to take a pick for it, so it may have something good left in it. It might even have a passage into the pyramid at the bottom of it. Who knows? The desert camp have had a most unfortunate accident. Baron Von Hügel somehow managed to get his hand crushed under a stone, and so has to go down to Cairo to have it seen to. He went off this afternoon. It is not very badly hurt, but wants appliances which we have not got here. He hopes to return in a few days. Meanwhile MacIver is sleeping up there to look after their things for them. No photograph this week. I haven't had time to print any.

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Miss Waterman
Homewell Tenterden.
Rev. F. Cox -
5. Montacute Gardens
Tunbridge Wells.
W. Neuman.
1 Pittville Lawn
Cheltenham
Mrs Blyth -
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