

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY. TEMPLE OF SETI I. ABYDOS  
EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY  
AND  
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP  
ARABAH EL MADFUNAH  
BALIANA. UPPER EGYPT.

79  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 1930

Dear Mother.

There is corn in Egypt. The Nile Valley is now a yellow strip of golden grain, we have watched it change from the waters of the inundation, to black mud, to vivid green & now to light yellow. at the actual moment I am writing it cant be seen at all as there is a sand storm raging. it was very hot this morning. 98 in the shade before mid-day. we sat & dripped. I had a bowl of water on my guntera to keep cooling my hands, I got tired of climbing down every half hour or so to wrinse them so got Sardic to bring me a private bowl of my own. I hope this storm will not last till tomorrow as it makes drawing impossible. even in the house there is grit everywhere. it is on the paper as I write. I had such a nice letter from D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner a few days ago. I am enclosing it for you to read, please keep it for me; isnt it nice to work for a boss like that?

April 11<sup>th</sup> The sand storm is over. it seems to have cleared the atmosphere. there is a north wind, so it is much cooler Nannie is in great fettle just now. her only daughter has just got engaged. she <sup>(Nannie)</sup> is going up to Cairo on Monday for the formal betrothal which seems to be a very serious affair & nearly as binding as a wedding. it seems the young man

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1930

Dear Mother.

There is corn in Egypt. The Nile Valley is now a yellow strip of golden grain, we have watched it change from the waters of the inundation, to black mud, to vivid green & now to light yellow. at this actual moment I am writing it cant<sup>sic</sup> be seen at all as there is a sand storm raging. it was very hot this morning. 98 in the shade before midday. we sat & dripped. I had a bowl of water on my guntera[?] to keep cooling my hands, I got tired of climbing down every half hour or so to wrinse<sup>sic</sup> them so got Sardic to bring me a private bowl of my own. I hope this storm will not last till tomorrow as it makes drawing impossible. even in the house there is grit everywhere. it is on the paper as I write.

I had such a nice letter from D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner a few days ago. I am enclosing it for you to read, please keep it for me; isnt<sup>sic</sup> it nice to work for a boss like that?

April 11<sup>th</sup>

The sand storm is over. it seems to have cleared the atmosphere. There is a north wind, so it is much cooler Nannie is in great fettle just now. her only daughter has just got engaged. she <(Nannie)> is going up to Cairo on Monday for the formal betrothal which seems to be a very serious affair & nearly as binding as a wedding. it seems the young man

is desirable in every way. he owns a paint shop in Cairo  
he is a Syrian, a Catholic, of a suitable age, good looking  
& does not desire a dowry with his bride, so at present  
everything in the garden is lovely.

The poor garden here is looking a little sad.  
the heat & the sand storm has nearly done it in, there are  
still some hollyhocks & larkspurs in bloom but they look a  
little the worse for wear.

I hear the Bruntons are leaving their camp  
next week. I expect we shall be about the last to go, we are  
having a hard struggle to get as much work finished as we  
hoped to.

I am glad you & Pat enjoyed Bulldog Drummond  
so much, it must have made an exciting play, I expect it  
was a treat to see some decent acting after your former  
experience, one can always depend on Henry Baynton giving  
a good show. I am glad to hear he is looking stronger.

I expect you have been remarking that my writing  
has not improved since I have been here, its the result of  
having so much to say in a short time. I really haven't  
excuse in this letter as there is really no news this week  
but its got to be a habit now - any way I hav'nt  
rivalled M<sup>r</sup> Lebell yet. have you seen him lately?

Lots of love to you both

Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle

is desirable in every way. he owns a paint shop in Cairo  
he is a Syrian, a Catholic, of a suitable age, good looking  
& does not desire a dowry with his bride, so at present  
everything in the garden is lovely.

The poor garden here is looking a little sad.  
the heat & the sand storm has nearly done it in, there are  
still some hollyhocks & larkspurs in bloom but they look a  
little the worse for wear.

I hear the Bruntons are leaving their camp  
next week. I expect we shall be about the last to go, we are  
having a hard struggle to get as much work finished as we  
hoped to.

I am glad you & Pat enjoyed Bulldog Drummond  
so much, it must have made an exciting play, I expect it  
was a treat to see some decent acting after your former  
experience. one can always depend on Henry Baynton giving  
a good show. I am glad to hear he is looking stronger.

I expect you have been remarking that my writing  
has not improved since I have been here, its<sup>sic</sup> the result of  
having so much to say in a short time. I really haven't<sup>sic</sup> that  
excuse in this letter as there is really no news this week  
but its<sup>sic</sup> got to a habit now - any way I hav'nt<sup>sic</sup> rivalled  
M<sup>r</sup> Lebell yet. have you seen him lately?

Lots of love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.