

Arabah el Madfunah
Feb 24th 1937.

Dear Mother

Thank you very much for the card and birthday wishes they arrived in good time. I had a very nice day, the men all came in after breakfast to wish me a happy feast & they each had a slice of the cake Nannie had made, after work Amice & I went to Sardic's little farm & had our tea there, we had four kids & two lambs b/<p>laying round us & a couple of geese sat & looked on & there was a gamoose & a cow grazing a short distance away & two dogs & a puppy & 48 little chickens in the enclosure not to mention Sardic's family so it was quite a lovely birthday party. The day before was a big Moslem feast, it was the day the pilgrims who have gone to Mecca sacrifice the sheep in memory of the ram who was sacrificed <by Abraham> in Isaac's place. so, as we had not been able to pay our usual visits after Ramadan owing to having guests at the time, we visited all our friends in the two villages & wished them a happy feast, it took us all day to go round & as we were coming

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398

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398

2

Home we were overtaken by a binding^{sic} {blinding} sand storm
we had to tie our handkerchiefs over our faces
& battle along against what seemed a wall of sand,
when we got back to the house we were quite breathless,
of course everything in the rooms was thick with dust
& nothing could be done until it was over, it lasted
until after sunset.

Yesterday (Tuesday) we spent at Nag Hamadi with
the Roches, they had prepared a magnificent lunch
for us, & when Amice said I had just had a birthday
M. Roche sent for a bottle of champagne to drink
my health in. it came up in a bucket of ice, it
is a wonder we did not all get tight because we had
had white wine with the first course of spinach & ham,
red wine with the turkey & then when the omelet^{sic}
arrived M. Roche poured a whole bottle of rum over
it, ^{& set it alight} then we had the champagne, ^{then} liquors^{sic} with
the coffee, not to mention a glass of port that we had
been offered on our arrival. rather a good mixture don't
you think.

Last Saturday we had Russell Pasha & his wife

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398³

to lunch in the Temple, they were very pleasant.
 He is a very important person out here, having been
 chief of Police in Cairo for some years, I expect you
 have seen his name in the papers when there have
 been riots in Cairo.

I am sorry to hear one of my letters did not arrive as
 usual I have posted regularly every week, possibly
 it may have got delayed, there have been a lot of
 extra holidays lately owing to the Kings visit to Upper
 Egypt

We are expecting Junker tomorrow he is going
 to go through the work we have finished so far & I expect
 will be here two or three days, when he has finished
 Amice & I am considering making another trip to the
 Red Sea, we feel we both need a little change as
 we have been working very hard lately.

Lots of love to you both
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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