
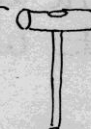










2-9 Feb. 1897





2-9 Feb. 1897

(116)

Further clearance round the pit of the statues has brought up some more fragments. The bases of the two large statues have been broken up, & we can only recover some pieces. The main result has been completing the group of man & wife, 2 ft high, which has been much broken, & some pieces burnt. And the two separate statues of man & wife, about 18 ins high, are now complete, all but one leg. So we have now almost complete: — the two large statues^(2/3), the two seated figures ($\frac{2}{3}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$), & the two pairs of figures ($\frac{1}{3}$ & $\frac{1}{4}$ life). The tomb-well which I believe to be that of Neukhetefka is not yet done. At about 25 ft down we found in the well two coffins with many jars of XVIIIth dynasty, two globular black vases, a Phoenician , & an alabaster kohl pot. Evidently the well had been partly opened to put in two burials of the early XVIIIth dyn.


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The pit with the mallets & chisels proved to contain also a pierced-head mallet [] [] the others being all one piece [] []

(417)
 and a pair of baskets, & the ropes for
 drawing them out. So the Egyptians have
 kept to just the same way of clearing
 a pit for the last 6000 years. The baskets
 are of the same make as those figured in
 the Old Kingdom sculptures; & thanks
 to having been buried in clean sand,
 they are still tough & strong.

In another tomb, which had been early
 opened, the sand had run into the coffin
 & so preserved the clothing that was
 deposited there. The linen shirt with
 hemmed sleeves is almost perfect,
 as also a shawl with fringed border,
 both quite tough where they were well
 covered over. To get such perishable
 things as clothes & baskets still in
 firm condition seems to bring us very
 close to the people of 3500 B.C.

We have now got four wooden coffins
 fit to build together again for a museum.
 One is in one block, the others in loose boards.
 On two coffins I have found the eye on
 the left hand side , & on one of
 by the head

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 <by the head>

these the two legs [] on the foot end,
 which is an important parallel as (118)
 bearing on the meaning of the eye.

I have finished copying all the interior of
 Shedu's tomb, but wait to do the outside
 when there is less wind, & less sand to
 fill one's eyes, sneeze, & cover the paper.

I have got a good light on one point. Often
 we see a large ox being dragged down by
 several small figures. Here two are named,
 & one is said to be the man's son. This shows,
 then, the sons of the man catching the great
 sacrificial ox, probably part of the ritual
 duty. And the scene at Abydos is not
 Sety riding Ram^{II} to catch the sacrifice;
 but Ram^{II} doing the ritual as son of Sety
 catching the sacrificial ox to slaughter
 in his father's funeral temple. There are
 also some scenes of work & daily life
 which I have not seen published from
 any other source.

The other sculptured tomb I have begun upon.
 It is of ~~the~~ Antha & Min-mert, []
 & is finely carved & painted, so far
 as it remains. There is one large

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 which is an important parallel as
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I have finished copying all the interior of
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 fill one's eyes, & neck, & cover the paper.
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(119)
 scene of great interest, the Egyptians
 fighting the Sati in the open field, &
 attacking a fortified camp of theirs,
 both by a scaling ladder & by mining.
 The Egyptians are leading off some of the
 women they have captured, & one man
 has thrown a girl over his shoulders & is
 carrying her tight by the arm. This is far
 the earliest battle scene known.

I chanced to hear a new system of counting,
 & on enquiring I was told that it was only
 used for beads. 1 (wahed) = habiyeh,
 2 (etnen) = gōse, 4 (arbá) = dōra. Gōs is
 of course the usual word for a pair; dōra I
 can only find as Ⓜ a turn or rotation; &
 habiyeh is not in Spiro at all. The
 count is thus; - gōs u habiyeh = 3, dōra = 4,
 dōra u habiyeh = 5, dōra u gōs = 6, dōreten
 = 8, dōreten gōs u habiyeh = 11 & so on.

At last we got to the bottom of Neukhetefka's
 well, & reached the chamber. It was nasty
 going down the ladder, for it was 45 feet &
 much of the side hollowed in, so that one
 began to spin about without any hold

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 going down the ladder, for it was 45 ft &
 much of the side hollowed in, so that one
 began to spin about without any hold

B)

B) to steady one against the side of the well. (120)
 And 45 feet is a long pull almost entirely on one's arms. I crawled in, with only just room to get the depth of my chest through the hole, & there - after ten day's hard work - we found a blank iii (I can only express this by inverted notes of exclamation). A massive sarcophagus of limestone stood in the chamber, and the lid (which would be fully a ton) lay upside down on the floor. It had not been opened by any trivial tools, but by some one who lifted coffin lids like dish covers. I carefully turned over all that was in the coffin, about a couple of inches of sand, with some flakes of gold foil, & a bit of thin bronze. On the floor of the chamber I found a small bronze chisel $2\frac{5}{8}$ ins long. The plundering must have been before the XVIII dyn, as the burial of that date was only about 25 or 30 feet down the well.

Another line has however proved of interest. We found in a shallow well a wooden statuette 2 ft high: unluckily it has been a good deal weathered, but

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(121)
 the features are quite plain, the feet are gone. Also, close by that, another statuette, about 18 in high, but the face of it almost vanished. And, yet, close to that a life-size head in wood, with hardly a trace of features left. So these are more curious than valuable, & only show what we might yet get if we had a good tomb here.

Two very nice perfect headrests were found in a plundered tomb, & in another a pair of wooden models of sandals, full size, painted white.

A strange thing is a piece of a skull with a long quantity of repetitions in Coptic, probably a charm, as it is too regular for an exercise. A Saint with triple nimbus occupies the middle & $\tau\iota\omega\pi\kappa\epsilon\rho\omicron\kappa$ $\alpha\omega\pi\iota\delta\iota\delta\alpha\mu\epsilon\delta\pi\iota\omega$ is oft repeated. And these beasts destroyed all the fine early sculpture that they could

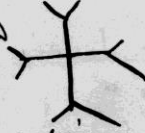


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(122)
 get at; and destroyed it with the most
 vilely ignorant fanaticism, smashing
 not figures of gods but all the fine
 scenes of daily life & all the history of
 their forefathers. It was enough for
 them that they could neither produce
 nor understand such work, &
 therefore they destroyed it, which
 they gabbled of Homousion & Homoiousion,
 & daubed stark crosses in red
 all over the walls.



Any decent intelligent Egyptian would
 certainly have said - like the good old
 Goth - that he would rather go to
 hell with his forefathers, than go to
 heaven with the new folks. The only
 way we can realise it is to suppose the
 Salvation Army maddened by great
 success, & turned loose in Westminster Abbey
 for every one to smash whatever he thought
 might be repugnant to his notions.

Geere is back from working at the Roman
 site north of this, but has got nothing

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 might be repugnant to his notions.

Geere is back from working at the Roman
 site north of this, but has got nothing

(123)
 but a small amount of papyrus, & a few
 common glass bottles II.

Please forward to
 F. L. Griffith 75 Ridgemount Gardens,
 Gower St. W.C.

Dr Walker
 F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Norwich
 Miss S. Harvey, Milford, Godalming
 A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill. N.

but a swap or two of papyrus, & a few
 common glass bottles [R].

Please forward to
 F. L. Griffith 75 Ridgemount Gardens,
 Gower St. W.C.

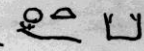
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9-16 Feb 1897


9-16 Feb 1897

(124)

In clearing one tomb we found the explanation of the account (in the tale about Sneferu) about the palace damsels rowing clad in fishing nets. Some linen turned up ^(sample enclosed) woven so openly, with threads about 1/4 inch apart, that it would naturally be called "fishing net" stuff, though not actually made for fishing. So they wore "fishing nets" just as in our days people wear "coalscuttles" or "chimney pots".

Here is Nenkhetefka 

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Here is Nenkhetefka []

[photograph missing]

[] [] [] []

125
 from one of the heads of statues that we found. This head is $\frac{3}{4}$ life size. There is a slight difference in work & quality between the two ^{large} statues; but that with the better work has no feet, the inferior has one foot & half the base. Being more complete it is certain to be that selected for Ghizeh. So we seem pretty safe to get the finest to London.

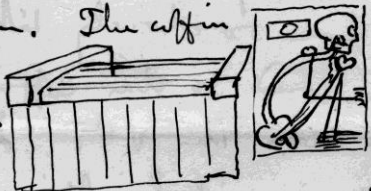

In one tomb was a red bier, which by all appearances belonged to the Old Kingdom burial. And now in another tomb we found a bier, & 4 baskets with lids, probably for funeral food. There was nothing in them but sand. It is strange to find rush baskets of 3500 B.C. in good firm order.




The men came & said that they had finished a shallow well, & there was nothing in it; & they hammered on the rock floor to prove that it was finished. So I asked each of the four on that pit if he

from one of the heads of the statues that we found. This head is $\frac{3}{4}$ life size. There is a slight difference in work & quality between the two <large> statues; but that with the better work has no feet, [] the inferior has one foot & half the base. [] [] [] [] Being more complete it is certain to be that selected for Ghizeh. So we seem pretty safe to get the finest to London.

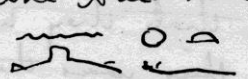
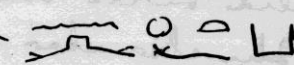
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

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said that it was done; each said "Yes". (126)
 "Then I will give it to someone else"
 "Oh! No! No!" So I told them to cut down
 one side, which was the door of the tomb
 so neatly blocked that they had not
 seen it. Inside this was the first
 contracted burial that I have found
 here. The chamber was over 5 ft x 3 ft
 inside, but the body was jammed into a
 coffin only 20 x 31 inches inside. Yet it was
 a large old man. The coffin
 was curve-topped
 with upright strips
 for the sides:

 but too rotted to bring away. So I
 measured it all fully, to draw it.
 Behind the head was a head rest

 but no other objects, not even
 pottery, in the tomb. The
 backbone was nearly all united in
 one piece by growth on the inner
 side.
 Soon after I had news of an inscribed
 coffin, the first we have found. So

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(127)
 I spent fully two hours in clearing
 it & getting it out. It has one line
 of large hieroglyphs in blue round the
 outside, like Amamu, with the name
 & title of  Nenkhetefek
 whose figure
 as a little boy appears at the side of the
 statue of his father 
 Nenkhetefka. Now the father's statues
 can hardly be later than the Vth dyn,
 they are so closely like those of the
 IVth. And so this coffin can hardly be
 later than the Vth. It is therefore the
 oldest inscribed coffin known. Inside
 it has an elaborate ~~the~~ doorway
 painted on the foot end, a list of
 offerings in columns with numerals
 along the left side, a list of vase
 contents at the head, & the right side
 plain. Outside it has a pair of eyes
 near the head end, on the left side,
 none on the right. The writing is all
 in blue paint which rapidly drops
 & rubs off. So I shall have to preserve

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B)

B) It all, probably with wax in benzol. I must copy it all full size, before we risk travelling it, for it is older (128) than any such coffin known, & so shows what the later ones were developed from. The lid had been taken by early plunderers, who had also dragged the body upward somewhat. Each limb was elaborately bandaged separately, & certain parts artificially modelled up to ~~the~~ ^{their} full size before shrinking. Thus it recalls the style of the earliest mummy known, that of Ra-nefer from Medum.

The inner wrappings were too completely charred black to hold together. I kept the legs & arms complete, but the rest I had to bring away as bones. A well-made head rest lay over the body. I turned over every scrap of earth in the coffin, to see if there were any beads or small things, but in vain. I was pretty well choked with the fine

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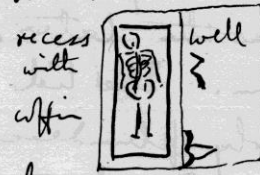
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129

black dust which gets down into the bronchial tubes, & takes a day or two to work away.

At the foot end of the coffin, in the well lay a calves head, the skin & black hair of which was still firm. Near the foot end lay the haunch. Probably the head had been by the haunch, & had been thrown aside by the plunderers. It was fortunate this tomb had been robbed, as the sand & earth falling into the chamber preserved the coffin & much of the clothing quite firmly.




Inside the coffin was a good deal of clean sand, under the fallen rock chips, &c. Inside Nenkhetefka's great stone coffin there was clean sand sticking bit high up. So I suspect that they filled up coffins with clean sand to preserve the body

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better. Certainly there is nothing ⁽¹³⁰⁾ prevents decay like burying in fine sand or dust, as the air cannot change, & oxidise the material. In nearly all the unopened tomb chambers the wood & clothing, standing in air, are hopelessly rotted.

We found another unfinished tomb, with the tools left in it. Five heavy mallets  of hard wood, as firm and strong as new; seven chisels of hard wood; a large mallet cut from a stem & branch all in one piece; & a coil of rope. Unluckily there were no baskets, as the well was not deep; but this is a very interesting lot.



Another fine case of mutilation before burial was fully noted. The body to all outward appearance was intact, swathed in linen, & lying in the rock chamber without any coffin. I never


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Another fine case of mutilation before burial was fully noted. The body to all outward appearances was intact, swathed in linen, & lying in the rock chamber without any coffin. I never

(131) suspected that it was not intact, until I began to remove the bones. It was a woman of about 30. The shoulder blades, collar bones, & upper arms were all in position together. But the whole of the vertebrae had been completely severed, no two were in connection. None were near the head, most lay sideways, or turned anyhow. They were mostly in their approximate places within a few inches, but some of the neck vertebrae were in the pelvis. The ribs were all separated, perfect, & neatly arranged with vertebral ends crossing. The top rib however was down in the pelvis.

In both arms the radius was side by side with the ulna, but reversed, shewing that it had been cut away & replaced. Both hands were cut away & laid with the palm on the end of the arm. The pelvis was cut to pieces, the two hips in place on the thighs but separated from each other, & the sacrum quite out of place to either. The legs & feet were neatly swathed up separately & then bound together. But -

suspected that it was not intact, until I began to remove the bones. It was a woman of about 30. The shoulder blades, collar bones, & upper arms were all in position together. But the whole of the vertebrae had been completely severed, no two were in connection. None were near the head, most lay sideways, or turned anyhow. They were mostly in their approximate places within a few inches, but some of the neck vertebrae were in the pelvis. The ribs were all separated, perfect, & neatly arranged [] with vertebral ends crossing. The top rib however was down in the pelvis. In both arms the radius was side by side with the ulna, but reversed, shewing that it had been cut away & replaced. Both hands were cut away & laid with the palm on the end of the arm. The pelvis was cut to pieces, the two hips in place on the thighs but separated from each other, & the sacrum quite out of place to either. The legs & feet were neatly swathed up separately & then bound together. But -

C)

On looking closer, an ankle bone lay in the knee; & both splint bones were ⁽¹³²⁾ cut away from the shins, bound in linen, & replaced down the front of the shin. The feet were entirely dissected, each ankle bone wrapped in linen, placed together without any order; only the longer bones of the foot put in, all the toes being missing.

Now here is a crucial case. Body quite untouched in the strong & perfect wrappings, no later disturbance. Complete dissection of all the spine & pelvis, of lower arms & legs, of hands & feet, down to every ankle bone. And all reconstituted so as to appear as closely like an undissected body as possible. I describe this in detail because I find people are inclined when I name mutilations to assume every impossible cause, - rats, enemies, compression to place in tomb, accidents of death, &c, &c; and every one seems so strangely shy of the obvious & palpable truth, - that the Egyptians of the old

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133
 Kingdom in many cases entirely
 or partially dissected the body, &
 with all care reconstituted it, or
 rearranged it with feet, hands, &c,
 placed in special positions.

The next body was likewise in cloth
 lying in a chamber. But not a bone
 was out of place. A third one was
 similarly wrapped, not a bone displaced,
 & all the ligaments & cartilage so strong
 that I could scarcely separate the
 joints. The mode of wrapping of all
 these was alike, there was no trace
 of their being secondary interments, &
 they were like others of the IVth-Vth dyn
 in every respect.

I have now grown my gloves very well,
 & can grub for hours in sand & pebbles
 without getting sore fingers. It is very
 needful, as the first week or two makes
 one's hands unhelpful, until the skin thickens.
 I have been asked why I do not wear gloves
 to excavate!! I suppose some people
 would skate in a go-cart to save falls.

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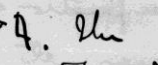

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Another mutilated burial was found, quite undisturbed in its wrappings. It was ¹³⁴ even more cut to pieces than that which I have described; beside parting all the limb bones & the pelvic bones, the shoulder blades, collar bones & arms were all apart, & the skull turned facing the ~~toes~~ feet, or where the feet should be; but there were no feet on, the cloth wrapping round the ends of the shins, & the ancles & toes being put between the thighs.

In front of the body lay a child of about 8, quite complete & un-mutilated, in its wrappings.





Just last thing in the afternoon before sending to post, we found another inscribed

coffin, of Mera, $\overline{\text{Hathor!!}}$  $\nabla \rightarrow \Delta$. The coffin is unfortunately in bad state; badly made with very bent wood & very wide joints,  so that it will not hold together;

& thickly stuccoed for painting & inscribing, with the stucco much coming off. Round the outside a line of titles, $\overline{\text{Hathor!!}}$ $\nabla \rightarrow \Delta$ \square \star , & two eyes on left side by head. Inside, a false door painted at left side, a list of offerings at head, figures of clothing &c on right, & a

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 row of four granaries inscribed at the feet. [] Outside of the coffin at the feet was a pair of wooden models of sandals, & inside the coffin another pair. At the side of the coffin stood a board tablet leaning against it, 29 x 14 ins, painted with figures of servants preparing food on one side, & two boats on the other. An ape is seated on the top of the mast of one boat, & another is running up the rigging to it. There are two holes, & a bit of string still in one of them, shewing that it has been hung up. It is in fact one of the panel pictures which we know the Egyptians painted (by a figure of a painter at work) but which we have never yet found. And this is Vth dyn or VIth at latest. By the head lay a solid block headrest [] elaborately grained with paint, & with a line of titles & names written down the middle.

But the body itself was a puzzle. It did not appear to have been mutilated at all, & was intact in wrappings. But, — the shins were bolt upright, & the soles of the feet pressed against the lid of the coffin. It was not a case of being buried in a trance

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D)

D) & struggling to get out, as the wrappings lay loosely & not displaced above the body & arms. And yet the knees cannot have been bent square except when still fresh. To suppose that it was deliberately buried with the soles of its feet skyward up in the air seems too strange. The coffin lid was shifted about 5 inches along, & the pegs spit out of place; yet the body was not dismembered anywhere & the wrappings lay on it. The only theory to account for all this seems to be that the undertakers' men went & pillaged some valuables away a few hours after burial, left the lid shifted, turned the body to get off something, & so left the feet kicking up to the lid, & yet did not displace any bones because the body was still fresh.

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137

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Gower St W.C.

(you can shew the head at Com^{ee} if in hand at the time)
Dr Walker

Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon,
Altrincham.

F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham,
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16-23 Feb. 1897

16 - 23 Feb. 1897




138

We are having an unusually cold winter here. For over six weeks I have never been too warm; & most of the time the high, tearing, cold winds have made me keep to my thickest coat. Today I had even to wear a cloak, for a gale at 50° chills me down.

The Kenah dealer came over here on his way to Cairo, as I had given him notice when I was. I got a batch of things from him, including some New Race things: a perfect flint bracelet, two bright bowls of white line on red, a few pots, & a lot of ivory combs broken. The strangest thing is a pottery snake  16 ins long with a stamp on it, which does not seem Egyptian. The  group is what occurs on a class of scarabs which I thought to be Hyksos, but they might be of New Race age. This snake I should think to be of New Race, after that on the jar lid. It is said to come from our place at Ballas.



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(139) The painted panel found in one tomb has an interesting group of titles on it. The theory that the name of Memphis ^{so called from the pyramid of Pepi} is affected by this. The man seems to have been named Men nefer em nef Memphis "The good pyramid haven for sailors". He is the director of the funeral boats, & so has a sailor's name. But here we have a very early form of the name of Memphis, as old or older than Pepi. And it is not the Mem to Delta "good haven of the pyramid" as in later times, & like the name of Pepi's pyramid, but "the pyramid haven that is good"; this is the more likely for a town name, & cannot be derived from the pyramid of Pepi Mem to Delta.

I am doing as much copying as I can all day long. Each morning I work on the coffins & painted wood work here at the huts. For if they are good they are very likely to be taken at the Museum, and perhaps never seen again. If in

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 A long pit tomb (made long to let down
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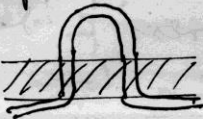
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 Beads & small amulets were on the right wrist, & on the left I succeeded in lifting all the cloth & noting the order of the things. A string of green glazed stone (?) beads was round the wrist, & lower a double thread of amulets in carnelian, &c. Open hands, clenched hands, frog, lion head, double lion , jackal head, & many

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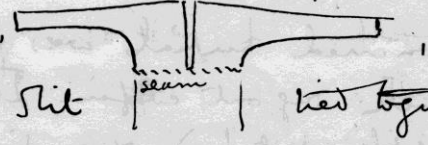
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B) eyes , not like later ones . The style of these reminds me of the small amulets - cats, frogs, &c, of amethyst of the XII dyn, but these are better done. Everything about the burial was certainly Old Kingdom, & there is no doubt that these amulets are as early as VIth or perhaps Vth dyn. So they take back the history of amulets far earlier than we have hitherto had them. On the lid of the coffin were four loops of copper in a line down the middle  so as to carry it by a pole passed from end to end. This burial is a good step in our knowledge of ways & things of the early time. Another untouched burial was found in a single block dug out coffin. The body was slightly pitched, & so firmly dried, skin & all, that I brought it down unshifted, stuck tight in the coffin, with the head rest under the head. The interest of this was in the great quantity of clothing laid over the body. All

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(143)
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 great care I managed to separate
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 tight sleeves, exactly the modern
galabieh except in the neck cutting.
 It was open back & front for a foot
 down, , & the edges
 of the slit (seam) tied together with 3 pairs
 of strings in front, & the same at back.
 The length is most strange; the shortest 50
 inches, most 65 & one 68 inches from
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145
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 while the actual dress had widely departed
 from that. This seems more likely than
 supposing that this burial was quite
 exceptional. As in two untouched
 burials we have found so much clothing,
 it seems likely that the other coffins
 have been very early robbed for the sake
 of the mass of clothes in them, probably a
 few weeks after burial. Such a quantity
 of clothing would be worth a month or two
 of wages now, & much more before
 machine-weaving. Hence it would be
 well worth a night's digging to get at it.
 And in two cases I found some clothing
 half dragged out of the coffin, & hanging
 over the edge.
 It never rains but it pours. Another
 tomb with clothing buried in sand & gravel,
 & in good condition. One of the smocks
 perfect, & so white & fresh that I folded it
 up & put it by as if it were clothes just
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 London about 25 March. So no more letters
 can reach me unless an immediate one to ^{Hotel du Nil} Cairo.
 Forward to F. L. Griffith 75 Ridgemount Gardens, Gower St, W.C.
 Dr Walker. Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon, Altrincham,
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23 Feb - 2 Mar. 1897

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(146)

I heard that the tomb-guard had been levying on the boys' wages from the work. So I made enquiries quietly of the boys, and found that two had had a piastre each (half a day's wage) screwed out of them on the pretext that they came from the next village. So I payed this pillage back, and when pay day came round I gave the guard 12 instead of 14 piastres, and remarked that as he had 1 piastre from Abu'l 'Elah & one from Aweys that made up his money. Of course he shouted "No, No", but I walked away & heard no more of it.

He explained affairs to my men by saying that the boys had been repaying a loan that he had made to them long before !! This guard is a typical Bedawi. Capable of more prolonged indolence than seems possible; never doing anything that can be avoided, fond of watching others work, and of reproving their laziness.

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147
 In short he is a thorough-going loafer. I suppose every race goes through a loafing stage, which we elegantly term "pastoral life", & our loafers are but reversionaries or families left behind in the transit to industrial life. That a race can change thoroughly is seen by the Germans, who were utter loafers in Roman times, & shewed none of the chronic laboriousness of the modern. But the loafer is a fretful plague to those who will work; & if you want to see his picture in society drawn full-length read Turgeniev's denunciations of him.

Ali has been keeping Ramadan like all the rest, with the expected result that his stomach has broken down the third time this season. This horrible alternation of 14 hours day-starving with 10 hours night-gluttony is enough to upset any one. After a fortnight of it I had to insist on his having "medicine"

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Ali has been keeping Ramadan like all the rest, with the expected result that his stomach has broken down the third time this season. This horrible alternation of 14 hours day-starving with 10 hours night-gluttony is enough to upset any one. After a fortnight of it I had to insist on his having "medicine"

as I called it, because he was ill. This medicine being a decent midday meal with me. (148)

I am writing this on the bottom of a basin put on my legs, as I sit cross-legged in a tent at Ahnas. I had done most of what was needed at Deshasheh, and as I was anxious to see if there was anything within immediate reach at Ahnas, and had only a fortnight of the season left, I determined to push on, try Ahnas, & if important - go to & fro leaving Ali to look to it in my absence. If there be anything where I expect it will only be large blocks which no one can destroy or steal in a hurry. My time has been more occupied than I had expected at Deshasheh as I found that Geere could not copy accurately, & the little that he did do took me far longer to correct than if I had done it all myself.

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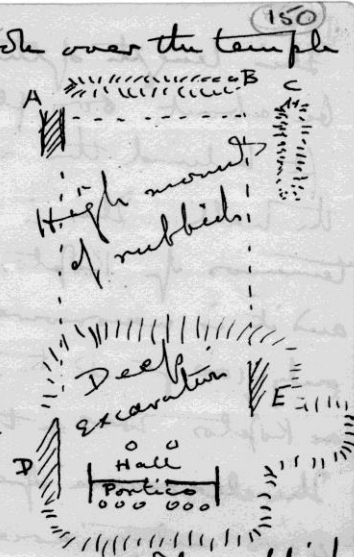
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149
 So I was in for 180 ft run of 5 ft high
 of tomb walls. All is now done except
 the outside passage & façade of Shed, which
 I cannot do until these winds
 are over. At present it is still
 blowing cold gales at 50°; such a thing
 as I never knew at the end of February.
 My old worker Mekowi, who is back
 from his soldiering, has just lost his
 son, a boy of four or five, & is evidently
 cut up by that. Having heard from England
 a report that Kitchener was disliked
 for his severity, I asked Mekowi
 about it; but he says that "Kittin"
 - as he is abbreviated - is all right with
 the good soldiers, but very hard with
 the careless or dirty. Certainly his
 service has done Mekowi good, and
 he would do well as a chief workman
 in any place; he is orderly, respectful,
 & clear-headed, & knows how to give
 directions & manage other men. I
 have left him in charge of my room at
 night while away, & fully trust him.

So I was in for 180 ft run off 5 ft high
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 & clear-headed, & knows how to give
 directions & manage other men. I
 have left him in charge of my room at
 night while away, & fully trust him.

B)

B) I have now had a look over the temple site here. What is exposed is clearly only the front portico & part of the peristyle hall. Hence the heart of the temple must be far behind that. On looking back I found a massive wall A, & two blown rubbish mounds B, C forming three sides of a square. The rubbish had evidently been against a wall that has now been destroyed; but the long straight line is a clear indication of structure. On carefully aligning the portions of the temenos wall D.E. exposed by Naville's excavations, I found that they ran, D just on to A, & E just within the rubbish line C. Hence I can hardly doubt that the back of the temple enclosure is at A.B.C. The alignment is right, the direction is right, & the breadth A.C. is right.



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[R] (A - B - C)
 High mounds of rubbish
 Deep excavation
 D - E
 Hall
 Portico)

(151)
 The length of the temenos would thus be about 600 ft; for A. B. C. is 400 ft behind the masonry remaining of the hall. This is not more than the temenos of Koptos, if I remember right; and it is narrower than Koptos, being only 100 ft D to E, which is natural as Koptos was a triple temple.

The clearance of all this would be about 4000 metres area, & perhaps 8 or 9 deep to turn over to lowest foundations. Say 35,000 metres, which would cost £300 or 400. Still I think that would be well worth while on the chance of a quantity of early sculpture.

The clearing already done by Naville does not go below the Ramesside pavement, & there ought to be a good deal below that. While $\frac{2}{3}$ or more of the site is still deep in house ruins, according to the indications I have just noticed.

Of course I cannot in just the tail of

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Of course I cannot in just the tail of

a season do anything at finishing ⁽¹⁵²⁾
 this. All I propose is to test for
 the temenos wall, to find its limits,
 & to sink in the exposed part already
 excavated to settle how deep the
 foundations go & whether they
 include inscribed stones. A week
 on this will show how much remains
 to be done another year.

Our first day was not very active, for I
 could only get four - a man & 3 boys - to stick
 to the work, beside the three men I brought
 with me. Two pairs of men began work,
 & went on till near noon, lazier & lazier,
 until at last their loitering around filled
 all their time, & picking up their wraps
 they went off without asking for any
 pay for what they had done. But we
 proved that deep foundations of three or
 four courses exist under the walls, &
 we got ~~one~~ ^{two} inscribed scraps & a bit of
 two curious figures in low rough relief,
 although we only touched a very few blocks.

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 we got ~~one~~ ^{two} inscribed scraps & a bit of
 two curious figures in low rough relief,
 although we only touched a very few blocks.

(153)
 This at least proves that old material was used up in the Ramesside foundations, & that this is not a temple de novo apart from the nome temple, but is built on the old site; for the pieces were too small to be worth bringing as material from another place. Hence it is certain that the whole site should be turned over down to water level. At present the lowest courses are in water; & in Nov. the infiltration reaches the pavement level. So the upper parts might ~~be~~ be cleared in the winter, & the low levels turned over in Spring. I also tracked out the temple wall running on far beyond where it was yet known. Altogether I spent 3 days on the temple with a few men. The foundations so far are continuous, never grubbed up for stone; & it is in the lowest courses that I should expect any early sculptures by the analogy of Koptos. We found the walls running on right up to the extreme back of Naville's clearance, and

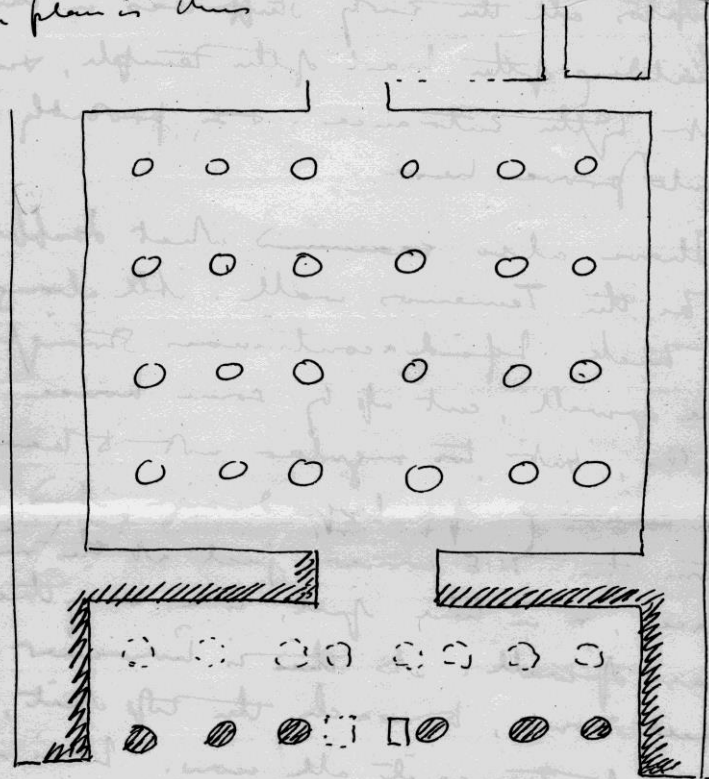
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C)

c) reached the back wall of the hypostyle hall + part of a chamber beyond that. The plan is thus



//// is the sandstone dado + granite bases exposed by Naville's work. Some of the other limestone bases were also visible, but all the rest of the plan was never bared till now.

The foundations have, in one place where we dug right through them, yielded four

reached the back wall of the hypostyle hall & part of a chamber beyond that.

The plan is thus

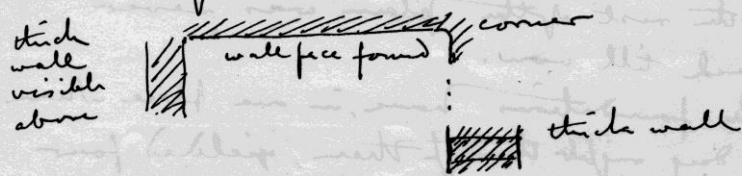
[𐀀]

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The foundations have, in one place where we dug right through them, yielded four

(155)
 fragments of earlier work. So there is doubtless much to be got there. At Koptos all the early stuff was in the building of the heart of the temple, just out by the entrance; & so probably it would prove here.

I have also examined what I supposed to be the Temenos wall. All along the back I find a continuous straight line of wall, cut up by some house walls, but too regular not to have its meaning of a large design. And it turns the N.E. corner just at the right place, & in line of it is a very thick mass of wall. As this is however 6 or 7 feet down, to reach the top of it, I cannot trace it all now. It is only a wonder that I could catch the plan at all considering that there is 20 ft thickness of houses on the site.



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[R]
 (thick - wall face found - corner wall visible above - thick wall)

So it seems pretty clear that there
is a length of 400 ft still to be
cleared here. (156)

I go back to Deshasheh today,
& leave this place for a future
season, having settled what there
is to be done.

Please forward to
F. L. Griffith, 75 Ridgmount Gardens,
Gower St, WC

Dr Walker
Mrs Haworth, Woodside,
Bowdon, Altrincham.

F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham,
Norwich.

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2-9 March 1897

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(157)

Drawing coffins + finishing off the copying of the outside of Shedui's tomb is the business in hand, while I arrange & look after Geere's packing. G. has now fully measured all the skulls (Roman) which he brought from Bahsamun; so that they need not all be packed unless there is easy time.

The Keneh dealers came down again with a good cargo, and I took most of it. Twenty stone dishes & jars - alabaster, basalt, &c - of early times. Two fine flint knives (Egyptian, not New Race), one beautifully veined. A small bronze Set. A little group of two vultures & uraeus in gold. A lot of gold pendants XVIII dyn. And a finely cut stone of XXVI dyn in the original gold swivel ring. Beside these, sundry other things of usual style.

Ali's sister came over with their mother on the way to a town a little beyond where she is to be married. She is much like A., with all his refinement of expression. I gave her a blessing in words & in cash as she went off; & was glad that done so, as just after I had to play a different part.

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The bad brother turned up again, in spite
 of all the solemn threats & warnings that
 had been dealt out to him officially before.
 This I would not stand. So I ordered
 A. & my soldier Mekowi to arrest
 him, but they were very half-hearted.
 A. in fact had slunk into the dining room,
 & had left him in possession of the field.
 So I seized his defieh wrap & stick, worth
 a pound or two; & told them to take him
 to the shekh. But they began mere
 bland expostulations on the way. So I
 followed up, & had a long time of talk
 to & fro at the shekh's. Of course
 every one said "Oh let him go, & next
 time then shoot him when he comes
 to." The usual style of weakness &
 tall talk. I ordered the guard to
 take him in to Beba to the police.
 But after the guard had made a great
 fuss with him he turned to me & said
 "Now give him his donkey & he will never
 come again". My only reply to all this
 was that ~~this~~ this was the last

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 But after the guard had made a great
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 "Now give him his donkey & he will never
 come again". My only reply to all this
 was that ~~this~~ this was the talk of the last

time; & we must do much more
 now, there was no room for mere ¹⁵⁹
 words. Evidently none of them
 reckoned on finding a will in the
 place. My soldier was worth anything.
 He stood sentry guard at once; he
 bound the man's arms when I told
 him; & we then set out, two villagers
 in front, the soldier & prisoner, &
 myself riding the man's donkey in
 the rear. I went about 8 or 9 miles,
 & then handed the affair over to the
 soldier to finish at Beba, ^{late} as it was getting
 Here arose a delicate question. If I
 gave absolute orders to police the man,
 there was strong likelihood that
 they would not be obeyed. I should then have
 spoiled my soldier, by making him both lie
 & disobey, as there would be the greatest
 temptation to let the man go. So I
 began by telling the soldier that I knew
 they would want to let him go, & if
 they did so I should be annoyed, but
 that would be the end of it. If however
 they did their duty properly, & brought me

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written ⁽¹⁶⁰⁾
 a reply from the police on the matter,
 I should give the soldier three days
 pay. Thus I should avoid spoiling my
 valuable man over a small matter. This
 openness answered. They came back
 late that night, with the police answer,
 & left the man in custody to be
 handed over to his own village as
 a disturber of the peace. How much
 the police will do I care not. There
 was a tolerable donkey & some good
 clothes as the man's visible assets, &
 these give good scope for blackmailing.
 What happens we need not enquire.
 All this breaks up matters. Geere refuses
 to have Ali & Fatma here after I leave,
 as he cannot boss the business in
 case of trouble. So they must go to
 Behnesa. And if I work anywhere in
 this region again I will have to
 choose between F. and the work, and
 I told him so. I had a talk with him, &
 he seemed crushed next morning. Fatma
 had tried to bolt again on hearing that
 the brother was cleared off. But as she

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B)

B) took the little girl, A. followed & brought her back. So it is evident that she prefers the rascally half-brother, who has just been two years in prison, to the virtuous & laborious - though somewhat faddy & exacting - youth, who should be her all. Alas! for perversity. I told A. plainly that he was very weak in the business, & must be more of a man. He must get more fire & grit about him, or he will have a bad time in life.

On our way up to the tombs in the afternoon he said that he had made up his mind to be quit of Fatma finally, & should send her off next morning; & in the evening he told me that she had torn her garments & was much distraught at the notion. Thinking that his position was rather embarrassing in his hut, (a servant staying out a month's notice is nothing to it) I said that if he was annoyed he might like to come & stay in the sitting room. "No, I am not annoyed, what should I be annoyed about?"

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162
 Another sentence throws some light on his mind. "I had better pay £6 or £8 for another wife than break my word to you, after I promised that there should be no more rows". "They are all liars, and if they are going to tell lies like that I had better have done with them". It really seems as if it were one friendship pitted against another; & the worse must go to the wall.

This is all dreadfully unarchaeological. But there is nothing going on but copying & packing; & as some folks seem to be interested in this study of human nature I give this continuation of it. It is scarcely ever that a fellow's mind can be known so intimately, so it is well to understand it, & see the total absence of motives which are the strongest in other races.

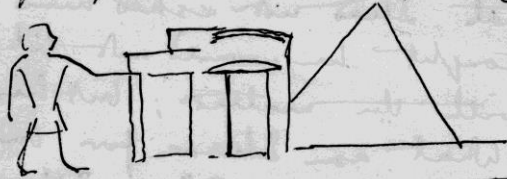
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I found one good thing. On the outside of Shedus's tomb, which is badly scaled,

there is a sculpture of a pyramid & its temple, with a man opening the door (163)



This is the first representation known of a pyramid; but unluckily it is so de-faced that it can hardly be defined. Yet it is certainly there.

Next morning we had an awful hour or two getting Fatma off. She was ill & could not go, - she would not go, - & was altogether obstreperous. Whenever things came to a deadlock they came to me; but as far as possible I kept out of the business. So far as I could understand, ^{& observe} there was not a trace of personal feeling in the case: it was mechanical declamation against an unpleasant situation. Ali complicated matters by trying (illegally) to keep the child. My soldier came up excellently; & volunteered - as we could not get any one from here - to be one of the two to go & take

there is a sculpture of a pyramid & its temple, with a man opening the door [R]

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(164)
 Fatma back. He pulled Ali round about
 the child, & got the party fairly off.
 I told him that I had not asked him
 because I thought he would not like to
 have to do with the matter; but his
 reply was "What am I here for but
 to do what you want?" So I thanked
 him, & hope that I have seen the last
 of this unwholesome business.
 I must do Ali the justice to say that he
 was wheedled into having Fatma by his
 mother, contrary to all his inclinations,
 as he declared he would sooner have
 the blackest negress. So he cannot be
 expected to have much feeling in the
 matter, considering ~~his~~ behaviour. The
 whole thing seems a hideous travesty,
 meanwhile the bad brother is haunting
 the villages near, & got a shekh to send
 in a guard with a peremptory demand
 for his wrap "by order of the police". I asked
 to see the order of the police, which was not
 forthcoming; & I hear that the said shekh
 is fit to kick himself at his bluff having
 failed. We had Ali in to dinner, as all the
 other men were away. He enjoyed himself.

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 forthcoming; & I hear that the said shekh
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 failed. We had Ali in to dinner, as all the
 other men were away, & he enjoyed himself.

165

[photograph missing]

Here are the amulets from one of the
 Vth dyn. tombs, which I described before. I
 have just noted them here in case by any
 chance they should be lost; for they are
 the most important as to date that are
 known, & may serve to fix the age of
 others. The top line is from the neck, about
 half of thin silver, with a Horus with hand
 to mouth in the middle. The amulets are
 from the wrists, as also the small green glazed
 stone beads at the bottom. Lazuli was known,
 as there are four or five pieces of it.

There is again a gale blowing, so that we
 can scarcely keep a lamp alight in the room.

[photograph missing]

C)

Here are the amulets from one of the
 Vth dyn. tombs, which I described before. I
 have just noted them here in case by any
 chance they should be lost; for they are
 the most important as to date that are
 known, & may serve to fix the age of
 others. The top line is from the neck, about
 half of thin silver, with a Horus with hand
 to mouth in the middle. The amulets are
 from the wrists, as also the small green glazed
 stone beads at the bottom, Lazuli was known,
 as there are four or five pieces of it.

There is again a gale blowing, so that we
 can scarcely keep a lamp alight in the room.

(166)
 It has been raging now for 24 hrs; but is not so cold as winds before, only about 65°. Yet it is not pleasant in a country where everything is done out of doors, & where no light comes into rooms except by open doorways, which face the wind. Here is nearly the middle of March, & we have not had a single hot day yet, only two or three pleasantly warm.

I have done over 80 negatives of things here, all passable & some very good. So I shall have plenty for lecture use. I have also drawn facsimile all the inscriptions from the coffins, (which are fine hieroglyphs of the early style), & coloured facsimile of all the coloured work on the coffin & painted board of Mera. This ensures us against loss by breaking up in travelling by the Ghizeh Museum, & will save time in preparing material in

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England. There will be about 1000⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ square feet of pencil-drawn sheets of tomb copies to be joined up & inked in for lithographing.

There will hardly be another journal to go round, as I shall be back in London almost as soon as the next journal would arrive.

Please forward to
 F. L. Griffith, Riversvale,
 Ashton u- Lyne.

Dr Walker
 Mrs Haworth, Woodside, Bowdon,
 Altrincham.

F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham,
 Norwich.

Miss S. Harvey, Milford, Godalming.

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