

Arabah.  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Dear Mother

Signs of Christmas have started here. Amice is making her rubber stamps for Xmas cards, otherwise it is very hard to realize that the festive season is drawing near.

We had the new local police officer to tea on Sunday. he is a Copt & his name is Messiah he speaks quite good English & has been in the Customs at Port Said. we are to return the visit to-morrow

We have had to have the pipe man to attend to our well, the pipes were eaten through in parts so that the pump did not draw the water up. so we had to have 3 new lengths. & the man was here all day fixing them. Sandie came to me to request strips of leather for washers which was<sup>sic</sup> supplied by the remains of Little'uns<sup>sic</sup> last boot.

I think the native staff is very sorry

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that building operations have ceased, I told Amice of the custom in England of the owner having to stand drinks to all the men when the chimneys went up. so she promptly bagged the idea & stood the men a goat when the roof went on. then of course there had to be a goat for the Soudanis to celebrate the putting on of their roof.

Last Saturday we all had lunch in the new wing, by way of house warming, so we feel it ought to be really habitable now, & Otto has taken up residence there.

We have had a few tourists in the temple they are earlier than usual this year. We had a visit from Monsieur Lave, the head of the Service des Antiquités, he was very affable & had lunch with us in the temple.

Could Father get me another sheet of the flour sand paper. you could enclose a portion in each letter as before.

Love from us both.

Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

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