

Arabah
March 31st 1931.

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Dear Mother.

I had such a nice long letter from you today with the 3 dear little violets. They still had a little scent left.

I am glad you had such a nice time at the old Vic. Is the new theatre an improvement? I expect Pat enjoyed it. I am glad she is going to look after her uncles business. I hope he gives her a good salary.

The L.H.J. came today also. I hav'nt opened it yet. The Observer also comes every week. The post seems very good this year. It's only the customs that have gone completely batty. They charge custom duty on postage as well as value of contents. They even charged 10^d on the brushes that came sample post. It's the first time they have made any charge for sample post.

I hope Father's shoes will arrive safely. There was such a fuss sending them off. I told you how I had to go into the Post Office at Baliana & fill in umpteen forms - well the next

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day the postmaster sent a man to say there was another piastre needed for the despatch of the parcel. can't imagine what it was for, as I had all ready paid the regulation charge by weight. however I sent it & hope the parcel is really on its way. I should be a bit surprised if it ~~does not~~ comes back from Alex of Port Said because the authorities object to the colour of the paper or the way the string is tied, or something.

We had a burnt child brought this evening, the mother had spilt boiling tea over its leg, from thigh to foot, fortunately the burns are not deep & a lot of the blisters are unbroken, so with our new process it will soon be healed, but for the first day or two the dressings are bound to be very painful. it's a little boy of 3 years old.

The man with the leg is quite cured. there have been a lot of people lately with ophthalmia, most of them hopeless cases, they don't realize it is serious until the sight is destroyed, & then of course nothing can be done.

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We saw a large drove of camels on their way from the Sudan today. They were resting near to the Temple, so we went out & had a look at them. The men in charge of them were nearly black, they were on their way to Cairo to sell their beasts in the markets there.

There seem to be lots of baby camels this year. We often see them running along beside their mothers. They often wear a sack over their backs with a hole for the hump. It looks so funny. Yesterday we went to see Sheikh Abdu Wahid's family. They are living out in the fields now. In a straw shelter, they had some baby rabbits. I had one to cuddle. Such a soft downy thing. They were very anxious for us to taste some of the milk & cream from the cows. But we excused ourselves. We said it was our fast day!!! The wheat is turning golden. When it sways in the wind it makes a noise just like the sea. They have gathered the harvest of beans. The grain will come next.

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Our baby chicks still cause us a lot of amusement. They are getting so big that they can get out of their pen. Sandie talks of making a walled enclosure for them. We have had to do some repairs to the house. The white ants had eaten the rafters in the men's room, so we have had to have the roof removed & new beams put in. I think the wall of my room will have to be rebuilt this summer, it is cracking, & the other night the wind nearly blew the window frame out, (or rather in) it was a very disturbed night, the West Wind & the North Wind had a battle in our wady, & the N. Wind won I am glad to say, so it is not quite so hot now.

Bed time. (we get up at 6 now)

Lots of love from both of us.

Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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