

British school in Egypt.  
Qau el Kebir  
Tima Girgawieh  
Upper Egypt -

Time  
Camp - 5.  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1927.

Dear Mother & Father.

Still more exciting things have been happening. The morning after our dinner party I awoke to hear gobble gobble going on out side, & on investigation saw an Arab boy on a beautiful white donkey with a great big live Turkey. a present from El Gerzawy (our guest of the night before). He had also sent his photo & a letter in which he said. "I will be very much obliged if you could accept my photo to replace me as I could not accompany you where ever you go; as my own wish -" he starts the letter My dear friends all. Of course we were tremendously excited about Thomas as we called the turkey  
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This morning Gerzawy sent an

escort to conduct us to Qau to see the 5/2 parade. After the drill we were taken to see the mens quarters, on the threshold Gerzawy had written in the dust WELCOME a pretty compliment that we very much appreciated. Then he conducted us to his house or rather the house of the Omdah of the village that he has commandeered for the time that he is stationed here. He is a little tin god in his own way & seems to have unlimited power over the people.

We were given very sweet tea, sandwiches & Turkish delight. Then the elders of the village were presented to us, also the tallest man in Egypt, a splendid fellow, 7ft 1 inch tall who had come from a distant village by Gerzawy's special command. We were entertained by a display of horsemanship by an old arab of 70, on a grey arab horse, with trappings of blue & white. After a long wait that we filled in by an

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exchange of compliments. a native <sup>5/3</sup>  
band arrived, & we all adjourned  
to the big parade ground, where  
we saw some wonderful horsemanship.  
The band played & danced about all  
over the place, & round them, & in &  
out among them. danced two superb  
arab horses. Guzawy's black & the  
old arab's grey. The way they twisted  
& turned, pranced & reared, tossed  
their glorious manes & tails, knelt  
just on one knee then on the other  
& all in perfect time to the music.  
Several times during the performance  
guns were fired, but the horses took  
not the slightest notice.

I liked the native music very much.  
it was chiefly drums & pipes, & very  
tuneful, it made you want to dance.

We had a most ceremonious  
leave taking & have promised to  
visit another village on our next  
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5/4

Gerzawy has promised me a ride on his wonderful arab<sup>sic</sup> horse. I wonder if I shall really go - it sounds too good to be true.

Dec 2<sup>d</sup> We had Thomas the Turkey for dinner last night, how Mahomed managed to cook him with only a primus stove passes all understanding but he was done to a turn, & stuffed too. we shall miss his cheerful gobble - but we thought it best to hurry up & eat him before we got too fond of him.

This morning at work we had a visit from Gerzawy to invite us to visit his uncle one evening when we have finished our drawing for the day. we are going the day after to-morrow, & he is sending an escort to fetch us. it is really too thrilling.

Gerzawy is very funny. he says. Oh you English people you think nothing

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5/5.  
 all the time but work work work.  
 We gave him all the magazines we  
 had with us including Punch. &  
 when we visited him he asked the  
 meaning of some of the pictures. he  
 was convinced everything must  
 have to do with politics because  
 English people do not seem to have  
 an other kind of joke. from his  
 remarks it seems the whole village  
 had been pouring over Punch  
 trying to make out what it was  
 all about. their conclusions were  
 very amusing.

I am writing to Uncle J. this  
 mail so must close now

All my love

your affectionate daughter  
 Myrtle.

Tell Pat that Mahomed Hassan  
 el Gerzawy is really a lovely sheik.  
 so if she wants one, she had better  
 come out here. he's awfully keen on  
 English people.

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