

Cecil House
Cairo
Feb 14th 1929.

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Dear Mother.

We have booked our passage on a Dutch boat (it name is something like Tjerimia) which sails from P. Said Feb 18th & is due at Southampton Feb 28th.

Since Ramadan has so abruptly ended our stay at Vicha & El Gerzawy has been unable to get the leave he applied for, we decided to return by the first boat that pleased us. This leaves us plenty of time to see all we want to of Cairo.

The last four days we have been staying at the hotel that El Gerzawy's servant conducted us to. It is entirely Arabic. Uncle J & I shared a huge room with three beds in it. evidently for the man & his two wives. My few words of Arabic were very useful. I could make the servant understand most of the things I wanted but when he spoke to me I was lost. One time when we were getting into an awful

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muddle he said "Istanna shughaiya" which means "just a minute" & rushed off. He returned with a young Egyptian, the nephew of the hotel proprietor who could speak English. This Egyptian is a Copt & has been very kind to us. After he had translated my conversation with the servant he told me that his uncle wished him to say that the whole hotel was at our service, anything we wished they would do etc. That same day he came to our room again with a lovely bunch of flowers for me, 10 eggs, & several packets of picture postcards, that he insisted on my accepting, I am afraid I have added another Egyptian to my list, (I think it's just as well I am coming home soon). In return for all his kindness we invited him to supper. The next day he invited us to tea with him, he does not live at the hotel but with another uncle who has a flat near - his home is in Alexandria but he is studying at the

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school of Engineering in Cairo.

He has been to see us every day & given our instructions to the servant. once Uncle J happened to mention I had enjoyed the honey at Vicha. the next morning he sent me a large pot of honey.

This afternoon he took us to visit The Hanging Church. which is a very ancient Coptic Church built on a Roman fortress. it was most interesting.

We have moved back to Cecil House for the last four days of our stay. we would rather have stayed at the Arabic Hotel it is about half the price, but we had left part of our luggage at Cecil House & said we should stay a few days on our return also. I shall be calling to see the Imp & he would probably have a fit if he knew we were staying in a native hotel.

I have received two letters from you & have written to the P.O to have others

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I am dreadfully disappointed at the way things have turned out. we were having a glorious time at Vicha. our only trouble was mosquitoes. I am afraid it is also a great disappointment to El G also. he had great hopes of getting leave for the rest of our stay. he did everything he could for our comfort.

We are both very tired tonight. yesterday we did the Tombs of the Caliphs & Mamlukes. today the Muski & the Bazaars we managed everything without a guide & I find I can remember my way about from last year very well. Uncle J is very delighted with everything he has seen & he says it would have been impossible for him with out my previous knowledge & my little Arabic. I am able to go into a ^{native} café & order a simple meal & pay the bill, but I cannot enter into conversation. El Gerzawy

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I must try to send a short note
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your affectionate daughter
Myrtle

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