

workers <sup>(101)</sup> to group themselves so that I can give a dollar, half a napoleon or sovereign, or even a whole sovereign. Most of them have to pay with Parisi's; and these coins have no fixed value, but as they are all genuine they are much preferred to piastres. In ~~the~~ the taxes, a Parisi is only worth  $8\frac{1}{2}$  piastres, in Cairo it passes for 9, here for  $9\frac{1}{2}$  & at Salahieh for 10. These coins so curiously uncertain in value were all struck in Paris for the Eg<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>t</sup>, & profess to be 10 piastres; but of course there was some trickery or jobbery about the business, & their value is anything you please according to locality. One of the greatest blessings to daily business in this country would be a reformed coinage. When you come to deal with  $\frac{1}{4}$  paris<sup>i</sup> worth  $\frac{19}{8}$ <sup>ths</sup> of a piastre, the odd value must be evened by means of copper currency worth  $\frac{1}{7}$ <sup>th</sup> of its nominal value; there is a mess of accounts to be squared at every payment!

I have not yet mentioned Abd er Rahim; he is from Gizeh & came down here on speculation to see if he was wanted. To look at he is not fascinating, a sort of a male old hag. But he is very willing to be useful on odd jobs, & serves as guardian of the premises while we are all out during the day.

I have lots of little scraps & chips handed over to me every day by the men, for which I give bakhshish; scale is thus; — perfect pottery, saucers & small things,  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup> to  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>d</sup>; pieces of small images,  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup>; small coins  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup>, large  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>d</sup>; green eyes  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup> to  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>d</sup>; larger pots 1<sup>d</sup>; & so on. This scale is just enough to make them attempt "plants" now & then; but I think I have rejected all such impositions. There are so many little points that they cannot imitate; the absence of rubbing; the character of the dust in the hollows, & its texture, hard or loose; the slight dampness of larger things; and the incongruities of period; all these points serve to check the genuineness of the finds.

workers to group themselves so that I can give a dollar, half a napoleon or sovereign, or even a whole sovereign. Most of them I have to pay with Parisi's; and these coins have no fixed value, but as they are all genuine they are much preferred to piastres. In Cairo the taxes, a Parisi is only worth  $8\frac{1}{2}$  piastres, in Cairo it passes for 9, here for  $9\frac{1}{2}$  & at Salahieh for 10. These coins so curiously uncertain in value were all struck in Paris for the Eg<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>t</sup>, & profess to be 10 piastres; but of course there was some trickery or jobbery about the business, & their value is anything you please according to locality. One of the greatest blessings to daily business in this country would be a reformed coinage. When you come to deal with  $\frac{1}{4}$  paris<sup>i</sup> worth  $\frac{19}{8}$ <sup>ths</sup> of a piastre, the odd value must be evened by means of copper currency worth  $\frac{1}{7}$ <sup>th</sup> of its nominal value; there is a mess of accounts to be squared at every payment! I have not mentioned Abd er Rahim; he is from Gizeh, & came down here on speculation to see if he was wanted. To look at he is not fascinating, a sort of a male old hag. But he is very willing to be useful on odd jobs, & serves as guardian of the premises while we are all out during the day.

I have lots of little scraps & chips handed over to me every day by the men, for which I give bakhshish: scale is thus; — perfect pottery, saucers & small things,  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup> to  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>d</sup>; pieces of small images,  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup>; small coins  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup>, large  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>d</sup>; green eyes  $\frac{1}{10}$ <sup>d</sup> to  $\frac{1}{5}$ <sup>d</sup>; larger pots 1<sup>d</sup>; & so on. This scale is just enough to make them attempt "plants" now & then; but I think I have rejected all such impositions. There are so many little points that they cannot imitate; the absence of rubbing; the character of the dust in the hollows, & its texture, hard or loose; the slight dampness of larger things; and the incongruities of period; all these points serve to check the genuineness of the finds.

(102)

The amount of supervision that these men require must be seen to be believed. To take an instance; a large & deep hole was being made to clear part of an obelisk, & it was needed to run just where a big stone of about a ton was lying on the surface, so when the hole had been worked close up to the stone I ordered them to cut a hole out sideways to roll the stone into so as to get it out of the line of the large cutting. I marked out where they should go, & left them for half an hour while I went to others. When I came back they had partly cut what I told them, & besides had gone undermining the stone itself on the very side where it was not wanted to go, just over the big cutting; in a few minutes more it would have fallen into the cutting. I turned them out of the hole, & finished the job myself; what between their stupidity in mechanical points, & their unreasoning fear, any thing requiring care, or precision in order to avoid accidents, I have to do with my own hands. After considering various ways, I have at last settled how to manage all the big stones. When they ~~are~~ require to be got rid of in working, digging holes beside them & shoving them down with four or five men, can generally be done. But for the large stelae of 4, 6, 10 or 20 tons, which require to be examined & copied on the under side, the way which I have successfully tried is to clear out a hole under one side, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  way across, copy that part; then block up with a big stone & clear out further, & so on. Yesterday I was for over an hour doubled up in a hole, picking out, brushing, & copying, a long inscription which had not been touched before I believe. The biggest stela of all I hope to do this way, by clearing first one side & then the other, propping up with big stones, & then clearing the middle. Thus I hope that I shall be able to do all I want without any lifting tackle at all; and I can manage lesser blocks of a ton or two with crowbars.

The amount of supervision that these men require must be seen to be believed. To take an instance; a large & deep hole was being made to clear part of an obelisk, & it was needed to run just where a big stone of about a ton was lying on the surface; so when the hole had been worked close up to the stone I ordered them to cut a hole out sideways to roll the stone into so as to get it out of the line of the large cutting. I marked out where they should go, & left them for half an hour while I went to others. When I came back they had partly cut what I told them, & besides had gone undermining the stone itself on the very side where it was not wanted to go, just over the big cutting; in a few minutes more it would have fallen into the cutting. I turned them out of the hole, & finished the job myself; what between their stupidity in mechanical points, & their unreasoning fear, any thing requiring care, or precision in order to avoid accidents, I have to do with my own hands. After considering various ways I have at last settled how to manage all the big stones. When they are require to be got rid of in working, digging holes beside them, & shoving them down with four or five men, can generally be done. But for the large stelae of 4, 6, 10 or 20 tons, which require to be examined & copied on the under side, the way which I have successfully tried is to clear out a hole under one side about  $\frac{1}{4}$  way across, copy that part; then block up with a big stone & clear out further, & so on. Yesterday I was for over an hour doubled up in a hole <underneath a stone> picking out, brushing, & copying, a long inscription which had not been touched before I believe. The biggest stela of all I hope to do this way, by clearing first one side & then the other, propping up with big stones, & then clearing the middle. Thus I hope that I shall be able to do all I want without any lifting tackle at all; and I can manage lesser blocks of a ton or two with crowbars.



The storms alas! are not over. More heavy rain, more  
 droppings & splashing, more mud rolling down off the walls,  
 more cold wind & hail, & thunder also. I never expected  
 to see the hail "run along upon the ground" at Zoan.  
 These boards which have to serve for a roof are only long  
 enough to ~~just~~ just rest on each wall; & all the rain  
 they shoot off goes into the middle of the mud wall, &  
 then comes out in streams between the bricks  
 carrying the mud mortar with it. Two or three  
 days' heavy rain would bring the whole wall down. I shall  
 soon sing a modification of the hymn, "Oh for an  
 iron roof, oh for the wind-tight walls".

I have now at last got under the big stela (about 20 tons),  
 & to my disgust all the inscription is weathered completely off,  
 & only the figures at the top remain of Ramessu II presenting  
 captives to Ptah & Sutekh. The awful stupidity of these  
 Arabs, not only for your business but their own safety, is  
 oppressing me; I can't trust them out of sight; only to day I  
 told a man to clear the earth out between two stones in a  
 hole, he found the job not quite easy, so leaving that began  
 to cut away the sand just under the biggest stone beside  
 the hole, & let it down smash, entirely blocking up the work  
 that I was wanting done. How he escaped I don't know. My  
 nightmare here is Arabs letting stones drop on themselves.  
 I never do anything myself of which I am not quite certain about  
 the safety, (though nervous folks might dislike the look of the work)  
 & I never set an Arab to do what I would not do myself; but  
 it is impossible to foresee what dangers they may put themselves  
 in. If you tell a man in a hole to "dig here", pointing to a spot,  
 he hardly ever looks up to see where you intend, but tries  
 somewhere else, in hopes that will do; if it won't, he tries  
 elsewhere; until one calls him a fool, or gives him a poke with  
 a measuring rod, then he looks up. But they are not  
 all like this, there are some reasonable beings, and the work is  
 to sort them out for the troublesome matters. When one has over  
 20 separate parties, which all require looking after in this fashion, it is hard  
 to find a spare minute all day long.

The storms alas! are not over. More heavy rain, more  
 droppings & splashing, more mud rolling down off the walls,  
 more cold wind & hail, & thunder also. I never expected  
 to see the hail "run along upon the ground" at Zoan.  
 These boards which have to serve for a roof are only long  
 enough to go from just rest on each wall; & all the rain  
 they shoot off goes into the middle of the mud wall, &  
 then comes out in streams between the bricks  
 carrying the mud mortar with it. Two or three  
 days' heavy rain would bring the whole wall down. I shall  
 soon sing a modification of the hymn, "Oh for an  
 iron roof, oh for the wind-tight walls".

I have now at last got under the big stela (about 20 tons),  
 & to my disgust all the inscription is weathered completely off,  
 & only the figures at the top remain of Ramessu II presenting  
 captives to Ptah & Sutekh. The awful stupidity of these  
 Arabs, not only for your business but their own safety, is  
 oppressing me; I can't trust them out of sight; only to day I  
 told a man to clear the earth out between two stones in a  
 hole, he found the job not quite easy, so leaving that began  
 to cut away the sand just under the biggest stone beside  
 the hole, & let it down smash, entirely blocking up the work  
 that I was wanting done. How he escaped I don't know. My  
 nightmare here is Arabs letting stones drop on themselves. I  
 never do anything myself of which I am not quite certain about  
 the safety, (though nervous folks might not like the look of the work)  
 & I never set an Arab to do what I would not do myself; but  
 it is impossible to foresee what dangers they may put themselves  
 in. If you tell a man in a hole to "dig here", pointing to a spot,  
 he hardly ever looks up to see where you intend, but tries  
 somewhere else to in hopes that will do; if it won't he tries  
 elsewhere; until one calls him a fool, or gives him a poke with  
 a measuring rod, then — he looks up. But they are not  
 all like this, there are some reasonable beings, and the work is  
 to sort them out for the troublesome matters. When one has over  
 20 separate parties, which all require looking after in this fashion, it is hard  
 to find a spare minute all day long.

The further sifting in the good room has not produced much, one haematite figure & one of bronze being all that is worth finding; Ali has eyes like a lynx for antikas, & sighted another haematite of Taur & part of a red glass cup, beside scraps various. He said at first that he thought it was a coffin brought down into the deserted house from a tomb & burnt, & I rather agree with him now, as the charcoal layer & burning of the bricks is some way above the base of the room. Ali finds that some Greeks who were at the village on business, whom I saw walking about, went to the men & wanted them to keep things back for these honest Hellenes to buy; I did not like their being about here, & now if I see them again I shall have them summarily cleared away. I let every one know, through Ali, that anything misappropriated will be treated as a direct case of theft, just as if it was taken out of my house.

12<sup>th</sup> March  
 Today - Wednesday - I am delighted to say that we finished the house, plastering & roofing the first room built, in which I had hitherto lived. Just as I had laid all the roof ready to be plastered round there came a sharp gust of wind & lifted it all up into a heap, throwing one piece down. Then as I began to replace it up came a changer with £4 of change, of course I had to attend to him; while doing so another man came in with £8 of change & spilt a lot of piastres on the sand floor, which took a long time to pick up; meanwhile gusts of wind were passing & the disarranged roof clattering over our heads. At last I finished them off, & got the roof finished as soon after as I could. Change is so difficult to get here, & saves so much trouble in paying the men that I never lose a chance of securing it.

Today I shifted some parties on to new work, trenching the ground where Lepsius found the trilingual stone. I took the opportunity to split two girls who were too much addicted to getting up a long bout of singing & clapping in the middle of work. One of them is rather a boisterous damsel, & when she paid out the old man she had to work

The further sifting in the good room has not produced much, one haematite figure & one of bronze being all that is worth finding; Ali has eyes like a lynx for antikas, & sighted another haematite of Taur & part of a red glass cup, beside scraps various. He said at first that he thought it was a coffin brought down into the deserted house from a tomb & burnt, & I rather agree with him now, as the charcoal layer & burning of the bricks is some way above the base of the room. Ali finds that some Greeks who were at the village on business, & whom I saw walking about, went to the men & wanted them to keep things back for these honest Hellenes to buy; I did not like their being about here, & now if I see them again I shall have them summarily cleared away. I let every one know, through Ali, that anything misappropriated will be treated as a direct case of theft, just as if it was taken out of my house.

To day <12<sup>th</sup> March> - Wednesday - I am delighted to say that we finished the house;

plastering & roofing the first room built, in which I had hitherto lived. Just as I had laid all the roof ready to be plastered round there came a sharp gust of wind & lifted it all up into a heap, throwing one piece down. Then as I began to replace it up came a changer with £4 of change, of course I had to attend to him; while doing so another man came in with £8 of change & spilt a lot of piastres on the sand floor, which took a long time to pick up; meanwhile gusts of wind were passing & the disarranged roof clattering over our heads. At last I finished them off, & got the roof finished as soon after as I could. Change is so difficult to get here, & saves so much trouble in paying the men that I never lose a chance of securing it.

To day I shifted some parties on to new work, trenching the ground where Lepsius found the trilingual stone. I took the opportunity to split two girls who were too much addicted to getting up a long bout of singing & clapping in the middle of work. One of them is rather a boisterous damsel, & how she paid out the old man she had to work

105  
with! She slanged him unlimitedly, & kept time to her tongue by banging him with her basket. I threatened if she did not work well I would set her with old Ali Basha, far off in some out-of-the-way part; & as old Ali Basha is about the oldest & dullest old fellow on the premises the threat was serious.

I do not see any very general type among these people at all different to other parts of the country; but two ~~little~~ boys who came over from Salahieh were thorough little Hyksos; broad, flat, faces, high cheek bones, & large mouths. They were very sturdy strong fellows & I was delighted to have them both as workers & as curiosities, & only waited to photograph them. But one day they did not appear, & never came again, to my grief. The most characteristic & peculiar thing here is the speech: it is as broad as west-country English. For "hateh fēn?" as a man about Cairo would say (put it where?) they say "hōtu fi-un"; for hayt & beit (wall & house) they say hē-it & bē-it; for heneh (here) & shil (lift) they say hāna & shail.

There was a fantasia here the other night, & they thought to honour Ali by sending him up the head of a big fish cooked; but Ali did not relish the compliment at all, & it took all reis Muhammed's explanation that the head of a fish here was an honour equivalent to the head of a sheep elsewhere, to pacify his feelings. I think that he has had rather a surfeit of fish, for tonight I offered the water I had boiled some fish in for cobbing their rice, (a thing he had greedily looked after, & reproached me for throwing away, at first) but his answer was "No thank you". "What, Ali, don't you want it?" "No, Sir, don't want any more with these fish" "Didn't you like that fishes head? Wasn't it good?" I asked; "No, I didn't want/ <eat> any, I've had 'nuff fish".

One trouble in my new quarters is the fleas; they must have been brought in in the clean sand for the floor I think. People in England speak of a flea with bated breath (like Beau Brummell's pea)

with! She slanged him unlimitedly, & kept time to her tongue by banging him with her basket. I threatened if she did not work well I would set her with old Ali Basha, far off in some out-of-the-way part; & as old Ali Basha is about the oldest & dullest old fellow on the premises the threat was serious.

I do not see any very general type among these people at all different to other parts of the country; but two little boys who came over from Salahieh were thorough little Hyksos; broad, flat, faces, high cheek bones, & large mouth. They were very sturdy strong fellows & I was delighted to have them both as workers & as curiosities, & only waited to photograph them. But one day they did not appear, & never came again, to my grief. The most characteristic & peculiar thing here is the speech: it is as broad as west-country English. For "hateh fēn?" as a man about Cairo would say (put it where?) they say "hōtu fi-un"; for hayt & beit (wall & house) they say hē-it & bē-it; for heneh (here) & shil (lift) they say hāna & shail.

There was a fantasia here the other night, & they thought to honour Ali by sending him up the head of a big fish cooked; but Ali did not relish the compliment at all, & it took all reis Muhammed's explanations that the head of a fish here was an honour equivalent to the head of a sheep elsewhere, to pacify his feelings. I think that he has had rather a surfeit of fish, for to night I offered the water I had boiled some fish in for cobbing their rice, (a thing he had greedily looked after, & reproached me for throwing away, at first) but his answer was "No thank you". "What, Ali, don't you want it?" "No, Sir, don't want any more with these fish" "Didn't you like that fishes head? Wasn't it good?" I asked; "No, I didn't want/ <eat> any, I've had 'nuff fish".

One trouble in my new quarters is the fleas; they must have been brought in in the clean sand for the floor I think. People in England speak of a flea with bated breath (like Beau Brummell's pea)



I have the same respect for the singular number <sup>(106)</sup> ~~that~~ as when they speak of having an egg. Here one never reckons about less than half a dozen of either article; they are not dealt in retail. Last night I was up three times, & slaughtered about two dozen spring depletors. This is "local colour" very decidedly, but scarcely such as will do for the public; when asked for such, I am inclined to reply like Canning's knife grinder,

Story? Lor' bless you indeed I've none to tell,  
Only to day a digging up at Zoan  
This ~~is~~ old pot & dishes ~~as~~ as you see were  
Found in a cutting.

13<sup>th</sup> - Ali has heard more of the back handed doings of the village. The shekhs tried to stop the people from working, because they did not get the money through their hands; but the people are so glad to get regular pay without any deductions that they say they intend to work, shekhs or no shekhs, as long as there is pay to be had. The Mamur (who was so friendly up here) told the shekhs that they should all desert the village, & leave me without men; of course hoping that I should need to appeal to the authorities at Zagazig, & give them bakhshish to restore order. But as they <sup>shekhs</sup> know that would only result in my having a colony of new men from the surrounding country, they don't cut their noses off to spite their faces. One of the shekhs grumbling to Ali about the money not going through their hands, he plainly said "I'm nearer him than any one else, & yet he never lets me do with the money or say who's work". In fact I have the two ends of the chain; the people themselves, who so long as they are paid regularly defy anything short of open violence to stop them; and at the other end the European authority of Cairo, before which no one can oppose me openly. Hence all the spongy links between find that they cannot absorb as usual. The shekh of the fishings, whose man I had a long row with the other morning about his levying some of my men at random, after he had named definitely

& have the same respect for the singular number ~~that~~ as when they speak of having an egg. Here one never reckons about less than half a dozen of either article; they are not dealt in retail. Last night I was up three times, & slaughtered about two dozen of my depletors. This is "local colour" very decidedly, but scarcely such as will do for the public; when asked for such, I am inclined to reply like Canning's knife grinder,

Story? Lor' bless you M'am I've none to tell,  
Only to day a digging up at Zoan  
This 'are old pot & dishes are as you see ware  
Found in a cutting.

<13<sup>th</sup>-> Ali has heard more of the back handed doings of the village. The shekhs tried to stop the people from working, because they did not get the money through their hands; but the people are so glad to get regular pay without any deductions that they say they intend to work, shekhs or no shekhs, as long as there is pay to be had. The Mamur (who was so friendly up here) told the shekhs that they should all desert the village, & leave me without men; of course hoping that I should need to appeal to the authorities at Zagazig, & give them bakhshish to restore order. But as they <shekhs> know that would only result in my having a colony of new men from the surrounding country, they don't cut their noses off. to spite their faces. One of the shekhs grumbling to Ali about the money not going through their hands, he plainly said "I'm nearer him than any one else, & yet he never lets me do with the money or say who's work". In fact I have the two ends of the chain; the people themselves, who so long as they are paid regularly defy anything short of open violence to stop them; and at the other end the European authority of Cairo, before which no one can oppose me openly. Hence all the spongy links between find that they cannot absorb as usual. The shekh of the fishings whose man I had a long row with the other morning about his levying some of my men at random, after he had named definitely

107  
whom he wanted, sent up in a confidential way to know if I would allow him to send me some milk every morning, & some eggs, &c; of course he wants to be able to take men away, & make them pay him to let them off. My reply was that I never accepted anything from anyone here. I have so long groaned over this abominable system of black-mailing which rots the country all through, that it is one of the most delightful things to me to be able in one little point to stamp on it. If only Egypt was distinctly under a permanent protectorate, & English farmers could be induced to settle, & bring with them regular pay & direct dealing with their men, it would make the country flourish as nothing else could do. It is this brood of sponges, which may be summed up as "all in authority over us", that ruin everything; & as much by their irregularity & illegality as by direct extortion.

Today a man brought in some antikas from the neighbourhood, & told a few miles off. There was nothing interesting, only some plain funeral scarabs & little lapis lazuli figures, about xxx<sup>th</sup> dynasty; as however I want to encourage the dealers about here to bring things in, & want to open relations with them, I bought them, saying that he was well content with about half of the Cairo value or a quarter of the English rate. A little bronze carving was turned up yesterday here of the Greek bull's-head type, very prettily executed, as good as gold-work. I have finished working on a lot of early Roman houses on the N. of the temple, as they were not productive; I only got poor pottery from them though mostly in good preservation. We are now cleaning up the immense mass of granite blocks of the temple; my intention which I hope to carry out is to see every side of every block here, copy every piece of inscription, photograph everything worth having, & make a plan shewing the place of every inscribed block. I began with the stele of Taharka & the XIII<sup>th</sup> dynasty inscription which are the most important, & now I am doing the Ramesside stele, & shall then go on to mere blocks of walling. Meanwhile five men & eight <sup>ten</sup> boys are grubbing out the earth between the blocks so far as is safe all over the place, ready for me to work on.

whom he wanted, sent up in a confidential way to know if I would allow him to send me some milk every morning, & some eggs, &c; of course he wants to be able to take men away, & make them pay him to let them off. My reply was that I never accepted anything from anyone here. I have so long groaned over this abominable system of black-mailing which rots the country all through, that it is one of the most delightful things to me to be able in one little point to stamp on it. If only Egypt was distinctly under a permanent protectorate, & English farmers could be induced to settle, & bring with them regular pay & direct dealing with their men, it would make the country flourish as nothing else could do. It is this brood of sponges, which may be summed up as "all in authority over us", that ruin everything; & as much by their irregularity & illegality as by direct extortion.

<14th> To day a man brought in some antikas from the neighbourhood, a tell a few miles off. There was nothing of interest, only some plain funeral scarabs & little lapis lazuli figures, about xxx<sup>th</sup> dynasty; as however I want to encourage the dealers about here to bring things in, & want to open relations with them, I bought them, seeing that he was well content with about half of the Cairo value or a quarter of the English rate. A little bronze carving was turned up yesterday here of the Greek bull's-head type, very prettily executed, as good as gold-work. I have finished working on a lot of early Roman houses on the N. of the temple, as they were not productive; I only got poor pottery from them, though mostly in good preservation. We are now cleaning up the immense mass of granite blocks of the temple; my intention which I hope to carry out is to see every side of every block here, copy every piece of inscription, photograph everything worth having, & make a plan shewing the place of every inscribed block. I begun with the stele of Taharka & the XIII<sup>th</sup> dynasty inscription which are the most important, & now I am doing the Ramesside stele, & shall then go on to mere blocks of walling. Meanwhile five men & eight <ten> boys are grubbing out the earth between the blocks so far as is safe all over the place, ready for me to work on.

&lt;March 14-&gt;

Having seen all the work of the house finished (although I have not got things put in their places yet inside) I determined to walk over to a big tell that I had long eyed from here. So I was up rather earlier, took the opportunity of reproving the men for coming late, dismissed the kindmost for the day, & after going round all the work & having breakfast, I walked off with one of the men to Tell Dibgu. This must be what is marked on the French map as Tell Ebkou I think, as it is in the same direction, though not so far from San. I certainly could not have gone before, as many places were barely passable even now for mud: and I had to be carried over a canal. The Tell was very poor, though large; all of it covered with small badly baked bricks, I should say about 400-500 AD. Of course there may be older things beneath, as it is about 40 feet high in parts, but the whole of the top is late. I went round the top, across the middle of the area, & around the outer edge, & only found one Byzantine capital worth looking at. But I have seen enough of the country to know that I need not think of going about for a couple of weeks yet.

The finds today were a large eye, inlaid with mosaics of coloured glass, unhappily half lost owing to its excessive fragility, having been burnt(?) and a perfect ~~po~~ green pottery tablet of Petukhanu's cartouche, of which several were found by Mariette, & I have already got many fragments. I find Petukhanu's great wall goes round three sides of the temple; it must have been at least 3 or 4 million bricks each 18.5 x 8.4 x 5.8, or eight times the weight of an/a modern brick.

I must now stop for I have to write to Cook & Dr Grant: the money business is not yet settled when I heard last, & I had to get a second £40 by Khalifa from the post at Fakus; I fear I must have another £40 next week if matters are not f arranged. When I saw the authorities they said they were ready instantly to receive money & credit me with it in three days at San; & yet I wrote six weeks ago to know how I should pay in the money & cannot get an answer, although Pang Pagnon has been to enquire about it.

3 March 14-

Having seen all the work of the house finished (although I have not got things put in their places yet inside) I determined to walk over to a big tell that I had long eyed from here. So I was up rather earlier, took the opportunity of reproving the men for coming late, dismissed the kindmost for the day, & after going round all the work & having breakfast, I walked off with one of the men to Tell Dibgu. This must be what is marked on the French map as Tell Ebkou I think, as it is in the same direction, though not so far from San. I certainly could not have gone before, as many places were barely passable even now for mud: and I had to be carried over a canal. The Tell was very poor, though large; all of it covered with small badly baked bricks, I should say about 400-500 AD. Of course there may be older things beneath, as it is about 40 feet high in parts, but the whole of the top is late. I went round the top, across the middle of the area, & around the outer edge, & only found one Byzantine capital worth looking at. But I have seen enough of the country to know that I need not think of going about for a couple of weeks yet.

The finds today were a large eye, inlaid with mosaics of coloured glass, unhappily half lost owing to its excessive fragility, having been burnt(?) and a perfect ~~po~~ green pottery tablet of Petukhanu's cartouche, of which several were found by Mariette, & I have already got many fragments. I find Petukhanu's great wall goes round three sides of the temple; it must have been at least 3 or 4 million bricks each 18.5 x 8.4 x 5.8, or eight times the weight of a modern brick.

I must now stop for I have to write to Cook & Dr Grant: the money business is not yet settled when I heard last, & I had to get a second £40 by Khalifa from the post at Fakus; I fear I must have another £40 next week if matters are not f arranged. When I saw the authorities they said they were ready instantly to receive money & credit me with it in three days at San; & yet I wrote six weeks ago to know how I should pay in the money & cannot get an answer, although Pang Pagnon has been to enquire about it.



Letter No 18 duly rec<sup>d</sup> with many thanks, & also P.O. (109)  
 With regard to the use of these journals I will only say  
 (pending the arrival of Miss Edwards's letter) that I have  
 already put myself unreservedly in Mr Poole's hands for  
 this season, & I shall be quite satisfied with any arrangement  
 that he may consider suitable. I have no doubt that he will  
 attend to my interests in the matter, far more than I should  
 myself. Ended probably 15<sup>th</sup>

23-Zoan, 26 March

Letter No 18 duly rec<sup>d</sup> with many thanks, & also P.O.

With regard to the use of these journals I will only say  
 (pending the arrival of Miss Edwards's letter) that I have  
 already put myself unreservedly in Mr Poole's hands for  
 this season, & I shall be quite satisfied with any arrangement  
 that he may consider suitable. I have no doubt that he will  
 attend to my interests in the matter, far more than I should  
 myself.

Ended probably 15<sup>th</sup>

[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

23- Zoan, 26. March-

3 1/2 sheets for M<sup>rs</sup> Petrie

15. March, 84.

Those who have not heard it, could hardly realise how largely direct personal abuse is employed by an Arab task master, & to what little effect. Khalifa, who is the most energetic driver that I have, has given the tone to the working, which is copied by Muhammed & Mursi; all day the trenches echo to the shouts of "ya ibn el kelb! Ishtaghal, Ishtaghal, ya bint! Hawafi, ya shekh, Hawafi! Ent' zē hamir!" ("Oh son of a dog! Work, work, oh daughter! Good day, oh shekh, good day! You are like donkeys!" This hawafi is new to me, Ali says it is "good day", but <sup>he</sup> cannot explain the particular value of such a remark, & it seems to be equal to "I've got my eye on you") To all which the reply contentedly, & even cheerfully, is "Hader, ya sidi hader" (Ready, oh my lord, ready) What a realisation this is of the old words in the tomb of Ti to the workmen, "you are like apes", & their reply "your order is executed, the work is well done". Old reis Muhammed sits squat in a heap, wrapped in his black robe, at the top of a cutting, with his rod of correction held duly vertical in front of his nose, and scolds — and scolds — and scolds. He longs to lay about him with that rod, & asked Ali if he might not castigate a man whose strength lies rather in his tongue than in his arms; the reply was that I would attend to the case by a change of work. When a man is lazy there are two good places for him; one, the top man in a trench, as his standing room is cut away by those below, & work he must if he intends to stop there; the other place is between two <sup>or</sup> middle & lowest man to hand up the baskets they fill, to the surface, which is pretty hard work & has to be kept in time with the others.

Whenever I wish to administer a good scolding I bring up Ali to the spot, & inform him of the heads of offence, & he then

I should for Mrs Petrie

15. March, 84.

Those who have not heard it, could hardly realise how largely direct personal abuse is employed by an Arab task master, & to what little effect. Khalifa, who is the most energetic driver that I have, has given the tone to the working, which is copied by Muhammed & Mursi; all day the trenches echo to the shouts of "ya ibn el kelb! Ishtaghal, Ishtaghal, ya bint! Hawafi, ya shekh, Hawafi! Ent' zē hamir!" ("Oh son of a dog! Work, work, oh daughter! Good day, oh shekh, good day! You are like donkeys!" This hawafi is new to me, Ali says it is "good day", but <sup>he</sup> cannot explain the particular value of such a remark, & it seems to be equal to "I've got my eye on you") To all which the reply contentedly, & even cheerfully, is "Hader, ya sidi hader" (Ready, oh my lord, ready) What a realisation this is of the old words in the tomb of Ti to the workmen, "you are like apes", & their reply "your order is executed, the work is well done". Old reis Muhammed sits squat in a heap, wrapped in his black robe, at the top of a cutting, with his rod of correction held duly vertical in front of his nose, and scolds — and scolds — and scolds. He longs to lay about him with that rod, & asked Ali if he might not castigate a man whose strength lies rather in his tongue than in his arms; the reply was that I would attend to the case by a change of work. When a man is lazy there are two good places for him; one, the top man in a trench, as his standing room is cut away by those below, & work he must if he intends to stop there; the other place is between two middle & lowest man to hand up the baskets they fill, to the surface, which is pretty hard work & has to be kept in time with the others.

Whenever I wish to administer a good scolding I bring up Ali to the spot, & inform him of the heads of offence, & he then

(111)  
 pours out a torrent - not of abuse necessarily - but of authoritative  
 grumble, I cannot call it anything else; and the way in which  
 he rolls out sentence after sentence in a gruesome voice of  
 rebuke makes me shy of turning the tap on unless it is really  
 wanted. After a mere remark of mine, that such a thing  
 has not been done as I intended, gives him the text for a  
 long injunction. Arabs when they have a grievance talk  
 exactly like their dogs; first loud, then fading off; then  
 another & another burst, again <sup>slightly & slightly</sup> again; until at last there  
 is a sort of inarticulate murmuring growl, ending in the  
 human species in a grunt which means "There! I've told you  
 my mind; you're a pig; & if you don't take it ~~q~~ quietly I'll  
 give you another dose". Ali has a greater talent in this  
 line than any one I ever heard; Mursi's capabilities lie  
 rather in sending long-range shouts after errant boys or  
 girls in the distance.

We have now cleared up the pylon considerably, taking out the  
 earth from between the fallen blocks, & on Saturday I  
 let down one of the big blocks weighing about 8 tons into  
 a better position to shew its sculpture; first a bed was cut  
 where it was to lie, with a bank of earth to prevent its  
 rolling too far; & then, after undermining it as far as  
 was safe from below, a little loosening of the earth above  
 sent it rolling over to its new place. It is an exciting  
 thing to see such a mass bowling about like a brick-bat,  
 & to know that you can't stop it when it is once off.

My interest in this pylon is increasing, as it is such a strange  
 mass of reworking; some blocks have been used three times  
 over, first by Ramessu II. as is evident by the style; second

pours out a torrent — not of abuse necessarily — but of authoritative  
 grumble, I cannot call it anything else; and the way in which  
 he rolls out sentence after sentence in a gruesome voice of  
 rebuke makes me shy of turning the tap on unless it is really  
 wanted. After a mere remark of mine, that such a thing  
 has not been done as I intended, gives him the text for a  
 long injunction. Arabs when they have a grievance talk  
 exactly like their dogs; first loud, then fading off; then  
 another & another burst, again & again, <slighter & slighter>; until at last  
 there is a sort of inarticulate murmuring growl, ending in the  
 human species in a grunt which means "There! I've told you  
 my mind; you're a pig; & if you don't take it ~~q~~ quietly I'll  
 give you another dose". Ali has a greater talent in this  
 line than any one I ever heard; Mursi's capabilities lie  
 rather in sending long-range shouts after errant boys or  
 girls in the distance.

We have now cleared up the pylon considerably, taking out the  
 earth from between the fallen blocks, & on Saturday I  
 let down one of the big blocks weighing about 8 tons into  
 a better position to shew its sculpture; first a bed was cut  
 where it was to lie, with a bank of earth to prevent its  
 rolling too far; & then, after undermining it as far as  
 was safe from below, a little loosening of the earth above  
 sent it rolling over to its new place. It is an exciting  
 thing to see such a mass bowling about like a brick-bat,  
 & to know that you can't stop it when it is once off.

My interest in this pylon is increasing, as it is such a strange  
 mass of reworking; some blocks have been used three times  
 over, first by Ramessu II. as is evident by the style; second



(112.)

by Siamen probably, who built in Ramessu's work filling the figures with plaster; & third by the Sesonks & Osarkons who cut away half of Siamen's figures to build the block into another place.

The confusion to be unravelled when stones have thus been used three times, & then utterly overthrown, is extreme; & I despair now of restoring the arrangement of the sculptures on paper; all I can do is to copy & photograph the stones as they lie. I have found several pieces of a granite colossus of Ramessu II which was about 50 feet high, cut up into building blocks by Osorkon II; and one of the later kings has made a fresh pavement of in front of the pylon with various irregular granite blocks standing on mud & wedged up with smashed inscriptions of Ramessu II.

16<sup>th</sup>  
The rain class! is not over. This morning then came a gale as I sat at breakfast; at last I put down the biscuit-tin lid (my plate) from off my knees, & got up to watch the roofing. I had had it weighted with a close row of bricks along each end of the pieces, but it creaked & lifted in an uneasy way, & I could see it bending up in the middle; the wind was rushing up the hill & then up the wall so as to make a partial vacuum over that end of the roof. At last I bolted out in the rain & caught up some big stones & chucked them up on to the roof. This kept it quiet; but I see that I must weight it pretty heavily if it is to stand gales. We let down four large blocks, of about 3 to 6 tons each to day, & after a few more I shall be able to cut in some way. As far as I can yet see the pylon section is thus: —  
A blocks fallen early; B mud washed in from about 300 BC to 1000 AD; C blocks overthrown on the mud. It is these latter that we roll down to the level of A.



by Siamen probably, who built in Ramessu's work filling the figures with plaster; & third by the Sesonks & Osarkons who cut away half of Siamen's figures to build the block into another place. The confusion to be unravelled when stones have thus been used three times, & then utterly overthrown, is extreme; & I despair now of restoring the arrangement of the sculptures on paper; all I can do is to copy & photograph the stones as they lie. I have found several pieces of a granite colossus of Ramessu II which was about 50 feet high, cut up into building blocks by Osorkon II; and one of the later kings has made a fresh pavement of in front of the pylon with various irregular granite blocks standing on mud & wedged up with smashed inscriptions of Ramessu II.

<16<sup>th</sup>> The rain alas! is not over. This morning then came a gale as I sat at breakfast; at last I put down the biscuit-tin lid (my plate) from off my knees, & got up to watch the roofing. I had had it weighted with a close row of bricks along each end of the pieces, but it creaked & lifted in an uneasy way, & I could see it bending up in the middle; the wind was rushing up the hill & then up the wall so as to make a partial vacuum over that end of the roof. At last I bolted out in the rain & caught up some big stones & chucked them up on to the roof. This kept it quiet; but I see that I must weight it pretty heavily if it is to stand gales. We let down four large blocks, of about 3 to 6 tons each to day, & after a few more I shall be able to cut in some way. As far as I can yet see the pylon section is thus: —

[R.]

A blocks fallen early; B mud washed in from about 300 BC to 1000 AD; C blocks overthrown on the mud. It is these latter that we roll down to the level of A.

176/ (113) The rain it raineth every day, at least at present that is today; and after hearing it pattering on the roof in the night, & again going on the same when I woke this morning, I proclaimed "no work" today. So I have a clear day indoors for writing, copying inscriptions, & putting to rights. At this point, as the rain cleared off a bit, I turned out to make some shoots of the roofing to take the rain off the roof clear of the walls, as the mud bricks were being cut to pieces by the streams. I cut off the galvanised iron with hammer & chisel, & then hammered out one corrugation thus, [⌘] into [⌘]. As soon as I had done this Khalifa appealed to me for a "cru" <sup>(screw)</sup>, as Ali says, to draw a charge from a double-barrelled gun that would not go off. I investigated the weapon; its condition was appalling; rust above, rust below, rust inside, rust outside. The first thing to do was to take off a band of tin pot which had been soldered round to keep it on the barrels on the stock; secondly having the barrels off, to unscrew the nipples with pincers; & then to deliver it over for general cleaning to the general public, supplying an old knife for scraping, some fine emery paper, some paraffin, & some gun-oil. One of the nipples had a needle broken off in it in some former vain endeavour to clean it. So I set them on the right tack, & bore a hand whenever they came to a standstill. Excellent work for them on an idle day.

Now I must try to give some idea of my house. In the first place as you approach from a distance it looks the same from all points of view, somewhat thus [⌘] and I may as well say at once that it has no pretensions to architectural beauty. (here the paper blew over on to the paraffin tin, hence these marks). The materials are charmingly antique, and in fact these in the remains of past ages actually & metaphorically. Only one room is built with mud-bricks; the rest are mainly of broken limestone, limestone probably brought here by Ramessu II, pillaged from his buildings by Siamen & others, carried off

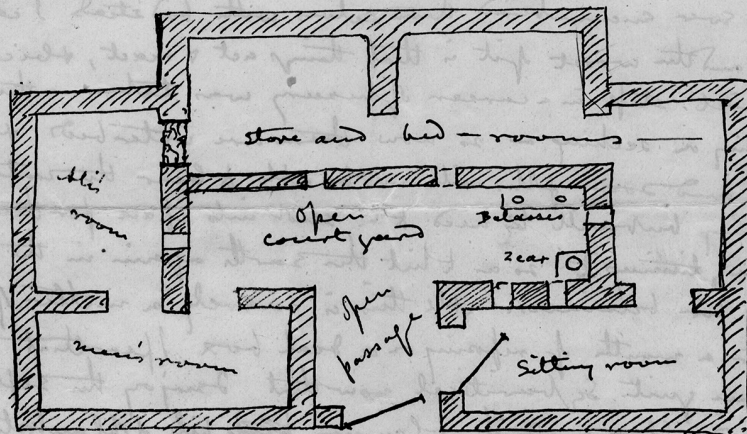
<17> The rain it raineth every day, at least at present that is to say; and after hearing it pattering on the roof in the night, & again going on the same when I woke this morning, I proclaimed "no work" to day. So I have a clear day indoors for writing, copying inscriptions, & putting to rights. At this point, as the rain cleared off a bit, I turned out to make some shoots up the roofing to take the rain off the roof clear of the walls, as the mud bricks were being cut to pieces by the streams. I cut up the galvanised iron with hammer & chisel, & then hammered out one corrugation thus, [⌘] into [⌘]. As soon as I had done this Khalifa appealed to me for a "cru" (screw), as Ali says, to draw a charge from a double-barrelled gun that would not go off. I investigated the weapon; its condition was appalling; rust above, rust below, rust inside, rust outside. The first thing to do was to take off a band of tin pot which had been soldered round to keep it on the barrels on the stock; secondly having the barrels off, to unscrew the nipples with pincers; & then to deliver it over for general cleaning to the general public, supplying an old knife for scraping, some fine emery paper, some paraffin, & some gun-oil. One of the nipples had a needle broken off in it in some former vain endeavour to clean it. So I set them on the right tack, & bore a hand whenever they came to a standstill. Excellent work for them on an idle day.

Now I must try to give some idea of my house. In the first place as you approach from a distance it looks the same from all points of view, somewhat thus [⌘] and I may as well say at once that it has no pretensions to architectural beauty. (here the paper blew over on to the paraffin tin, hence these marks). The materials are charmingly antique, and in fact I live in the remains of past ages actually & metaphorically. Only one room is built with modern mud-bricks; the rest are mainly of broken limestone, limestone probably brought here by Ramessu II, pillaged from his buildings by Siamen & others, carried off

2)

March 17-

by people of Greek & Roman times for their doorsteps & floors, & finally reduced to portable blocks for my walls, which in turn may very likely be burnt for lime after I have gone. The burnt bricks which are lying in piles in my courtyard wherever they can be useful, & weight down my roof, beside being used in the walls, are all of late Roman period; we found a beautiful supply of them in the mounds, where there was a thick wall all laid with mud, so that the bricks could be taken out as if from a modern stack. Even the very ~~sand~~ <sup>mortar</sup> of the walls is derived from the sandy ground of the temple & the mud washed down off Petukhanu's wall. The plan is thus






Ali's room	store and bed-rooms open court yard	Balasses zear[?]
	[R]	
men's room	open passage	sitting room

and I may safely claim several advantages in such a form of house. In the first place you cannot lose your way. Who does not know the misery in a strange house of not knowing the doors, & fearing to open the wrong one? Here on the contrary you only have to go ahead until you reach what you want in either the European or Arab quarter. The dining hall, or sitting room as I have modestly called it above, might perhaps be stigmatised by cynics as kitchen, scullery, & bathroom all in one. The first thing you see on entering is a telescope lying on a couple of nails over the windows, ready drawn out; with this I continually watch how things are going

2/ March 17-  
by people of Greek & Roman times for their doorsteps & floors, & finally reduced to portable blocks for my walls, which in turn may very likely be burnt for lime after I have gone. The burnt bricks which are lying in piles in my courtyard wherever they can be useful, & weight down my roof, beside being used in the walls, are all of late Roman period; we found a beautiful supply of them in the mounds, where there was a thick wall all laid with mud, so that the bricks could be taken out as if from a modern stack. Even the very ~~sand~~ <sup>mortar</sup> of the walls is derived from the sandy ground of the temple & the mud washed down off Petukhanu's wall. The plan is thus

and I may safely claim several advantages in such a form of house. In the first place you cannot lose your way. Who does not know the misery in a strange house of not knowing the doors, & fearing to open the wrong one? Here on the contrary you only have to go ahead until you reach what you want in either the European or Arab quarter. The dining hall, or sitting room as I have modestly called it above, might perhaps be stigmatised by cynics as kitchen, scullery, & bathroom all in one. The first thing you see on entering is a telescope lying on a couple of nails over the windows, ready drawn out; with this I continually watch how things are going




115  
 on down in the workings while I am up at breakfast. I only now wish for a telescopic voice to hit the offenders. Along the wall are sundry boxes, and piles of biscuit tins, & behind the door on a box is the paraffin stove. My easy chair is a box which contained tins of paraffin, and here again I claim an advantage over stereotyped civilization; who ever had a chair which they could vary to three different heights according as they may want to sit up in dignity, to put a platter on their knees, or to work on the floor? Yet all these benefits I have by just turning my seat over   .

The next room I intend for my bedroom & for photographic & other matters, but at present I sleep in ~~the~~ the end room. Why people ever encumbered themselves with bedsteads I cannot see, and the worst of it is that things act & react, & because the first step in a career of luxury was taken - that of sleeping on sacking - so now there are waterbeds & airbeds, and soon folks will not be able to bear the contact of anything but will be need to be shot into space for their repose, timing it so as to hit the earth again in the morning ready for business. All this is merely a matter of habit, & after a month of reposing on a deal box I fear that I shall become quite sybaritical now that I enjoy the softness of a sand floor on which to lay my ~~heap~~ pile of blankets.

Another point in which modern civilization seems to have gone strangely astray is the absurd & needless use of egg cups. Why on earth (or anywhere else, for that matter) should people open an egg at the end; I am neither a big-endian nor a little-endian I am thankful to say; no, I follow the golden mean, & break my eggs in the middle; thus their metacentre is far above their centre of gravity - to use a naval definition - or in other words they won't upset, and the encumbrance of employing special supports is happily avoided.

By the form of my house it will be seen that I have no windows in the outer wall, and but one door; thus there is but one

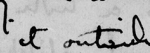
on down in the workings while I am up at breakfast. I only now wish for a telescopic voice to hit the offenders. Along the wall are sundry boxes, and piles of biscuit tins, & behind the door on a box is the paraffin stove. My easy chair is a box which contained tins of paraffin, and here again I claim an advantage over stereotyped civilization; who ever had a chair which they could vary to three different heights according as they may want to sit <up> in dignity, to put a platter on their knees, or to work on the floor? Yet all these benefits I have by just turning my seat over .


The next room I intend for my bedroom & for photographic & other matters, but at present I sleep in in the end room. Why people ever encumbered themselves with bedsteads I cannot see, and the worst of it is that things act & react, & because the first step in a career of luxury was taken - that of sleeping on sacking - so now there are waterbeds & airbeds, and soon folks will not be able to bear the contact of anything but will be need to be shot into space for their repose, timing it so as to hit the earth again in the morning ready for business. All this is merely a matter of habit, & after a month of reposing on a deal box I fear that I shall become quite sybaritical now that I enjoy the softness of a sand floor on which to lay my heap pile of blankets.

Another point in which modern civilization seems to have gone strangely astray is the absurd & needless use of egg cups. Why on earth (or anywhere else, for that matter) should people open an egg at the end; I am neither a big-endian nor a little-endian I am thankful to say; no, I follow the golden mean, & break my eggs in the middle; thus their metacentre is far above their centre of gravity - to use a naval definition - or in other words they won't upset, and the encumbrance of employing special supports is happily avoided.


By the form of my house it will be seen that I have no windows in the outer wall, and but one door; thus there is but one


116  
 attackable point, and I have two windows which command that point. The doorway between Ali's room & the last store room is only blocked up slightly with stones & mud, so that if more room is wanted for the men I can contract, block the next doorway, & leave them another room. The rooms are all about 6 ft wide, & 8 to 12 feet long; height 6 to 7 feet. I have provided for being able to take in two friends if it should be necessary, only one will have to sleep among the pots in the store room. Rain — rain — rain.

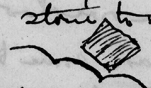
Yesterday I was much puzzled at seeing something in the plain below the house, as I stood in the temple. Yes, it was certainly the capital of a column, yet I never saw it there before; but it can't be anything else; its polished, for I see a glint from it in the sunshine; but how is it that I have overlooked it? It is certainly very strange. I know there are some blocks further on, but I never observed this before. I must go & see what it is. My bath; bowled down the hill some two hundred feet by the wind, & standing upside down, thus . I replaced it outside the door where it had been put to drain in the morning, & an hour after, on looking up toward the house, I saw it just settling down again at the foot of the slope. This afternoon the rain


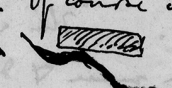
cleared off, & I took down my own men & dug paths for two more granite blocks to descend. One of them would not go head over heels (? why don't we say heels over head, every one stands head over heels) it was so heavy behind, , & it would only slip down bit by bit. Had the greatest difficulty to get these men into proper order for such work. When they are cutting away in front of the stone it may possibly slip down, & yet they will if left to themselves stand just in front of the stone when not working, or just in the way of retreat for those who are at work, or begin

attackable point, and I have two windows which command that point. The doorway between Ali's room & the last store room is only blocked up slightly with stones & mud, so that if more room is wanted for the men I can contract, block the next doorway, & leave them another room. The rooms are all about 6 ft wide, & 8 to 12 feet long; height 6 to 7 feet. I have provided for being able to take in two friends if it should be necessary, only one will have to sleep among the pots in the store room. Rain — rain — rain.

Yesterday I was much puzzled at seeing something in the plain below the house, as I stood in the temple. Yes, it was certainly the capital of a column, yet I never saw it there before; but it can't be anything else; its polished, for I see a glint from it in the sunshine; but how is it that I have overlooked it? It is certainly very strange. I know there are some blocks further on, but I never observed this before. I must go & see what it is. My bath; bowled down the hill some two hundred feet by the wind, & standing upside down, thus . I replaced it outside the door where it had been put to drain in the morning, & an hour after, on looking up toward the house, I saw it just settling down again at the foot of the slope.




This afternoon the rain cleared off, & I took down my own men & dug paths for two more granite blocks to descend. One of them would not go head over heels (? why don't we say heels over head, every one stands head over heels) it was so heavy behind, , & it would only slip down bit by bit. I had the greatest difficulty to get the men into proper order for such work. When they are cutting away in front of the stone it may possibly slip down, & yet they will if left to themselves stand just in front of the stone when not working, or just in the way of retreat for those who are at work, or begin

117  
 pegging away at the top of a stone with a crowbar while others are at work below. I have to make stringent rules & enforce them, whether there is any actual danger or not, in order that the men may get into proper habits; first that ~~no~~ one not actually at work stands anywhere below a stone, but quite clear away at the sides; secondly that each one at work knows exactly where he is to retreat, so as not to get in each other's way; thirdly that no one shall touch a stone at the top while any one is on its path below. So long as such common-sense matters are attended to there is no danger at all, as stones move but slowly when they do go; but I can quite see how it is that Arabs so often get killed in digging, for these men (who are of superior intelligence) seem really to lay traps for themselves on purpose. The path for a stone to roll down should not be flat, but in steps, thus 

so that it shall not rest flat on one side, but each corner go into a hole ready for it; and I have to try & foresee how much slipping will take place, & where each corner will come in the descent, & arrange the path accordingly. Of course if the stone is long  the path must correspond  so as to prevent the long side resting.

Two or three evenings lately we have had lovely sunsets. (Perhaps I should say I have had, for probably no one else loved them). The sky from a light hazy golden went through most exquisite lepidolite colours, both pink & light purple, into blue above. I never saw that peculiar pale pinkish-purple of lepidolite so exactly before.

The night there was the lepidolite-pink & pale purple again, but only on the S-side of the sunset; these sunsets are very unlike those of Gizeh, whether owing to time or place I cannot say. Over the sun instead of the rich yellow turning tawny brown is a cold-looking steely glare of light, almost white; the pink & purple coming above that.

pegging away at the top of a stone with a crowbar while others are at work below. I have to make stringent rules & enforce them, whether there is any actual danger or not, in order that the men may get into proper habits; first that ~~an~~ <no> one not actually at work stands anywhere below a stone, but quite clear away at the sides; secondly that each one at work knows exactly where he is to retreat, so as not to get in each other's way; thirdly that no one shall touch touch a stone at the top while any one is on its path below. So long as such common sense matters are attended to there is no danger at all, as stones move but slowly when they do go; but I can quite see how it is that Arabs so often get killed in digging, for these men (who are of superior intelligence) seem really to lay traps for themselves on purpose. The path for a stone to roll down should not be flat, but in steps, thus [  ] so that it shall not rest flat on one side, but each corner go into a hole ready for it; and I have to try & foresee how much slipping will take place, & where each corner will come in the descent, & arrange the path accordingly. Of course if the stone is long [  ] the path must correspond [  ] so as to prevent the long side resting.

Two or three evenings lately we have had lovely sunsets. (Perhaps I should say I have had, for probably no one else loved them). The sky from a light hazy golden went through most exquisite lepidolite colours, both pink & light purple, into blue above. I never saw that peculiar pale pinkish-purple of lepidolite so exactly before.

<18<sup>th</sup>> To night there was the lepidolite-pink & pale purple again, but only on the S-side of the sunset; these sunsets are very unlike those of Gizeh, whether owing to time or place I cannot say. Over the sun instead<sup>sic</sup> {instead} of the rich yellow turning tawny brown is a cold-looking steely glare of light, almost white; the pink & purple coming above that.



3/ As I have somehow mislaid a lock which I had intended for my outer door here, I was puzzled how to fasten it; happily I had a lock for a box [E] here; so I made a wooden latch, put the lock on the door below it, & the lid-piece of the lock on the latch, so that one locks the latch down & thus it cannot be lifted. It answers very well, and is much approved. I have seen the old hag when he has been going out, lift the latch, look at it, let it drop again to see it work; & then give a little happy, chuckling, laugh. To day they turned up in the same house where the papyri & statuettes were found, a set of 12 <sup>small</sup> figures of deities & animals, fairly good & perfect. The bakhshish of coffee & sugar was duly distributed to the shekhs here, & took them by surprise. They cannot imagine why I should give anything, when I have shewn that I am independant of them; they invite me down for a feed in the village, but I assure them that I have no time to go to all, & I could not go to any one alone. The sooner they get into their heads what I tell them, that a present is a token of friendship, & not an exchange for something else, the better men they will be. The old shekh sent up this morning some rice & eggs & milk; as this could not be regarded in any way as a bribe - as it was only about a quarter the value of my present - I accepted it; but sent word to the village that I should be better pleased if the others would not send anything. As for little donations from the workmen, either to Ali or myself, I always pay them a moderate value for whatever they may bring, & this has checked a practice which might become most pernicious to my men up here, & hampering to myself. 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Developing photos all the evening, so I cannot scribble much. I am glad to hear that Hooker is now a Sanitary Inspector & may come over here; they want such an official badly enough, as I counted three skeletons lying stranded on the river bank just above the village, and they were as far recent that the dogs used to visit them, & have a growl at each other over the memories of past feasts.


As I have somehow mislaid a lock which I had intended for my outer door here, I was puzzled how to fasten it; happily I had a lock for a box [E] here; so I made a wooden latch, put the lock on the door below it, & the lid-piece of the lock on the latch, so that one locks the latch down & thus it cannot be lifted. It answers very well, and is much approved. I have seen the old hag when he has been going out, lift the latch, look at it, let it drop again to see it work; & then give a little happy, chuckling, laugh. To day they turned up in the same house where the papyri & statuettes were found, a set of 12 <small> figures of deities & animals, fairly good & perfect.

The bakhshish of coffee & sugar was duly distributed to the shekhs here, & took them by surprise. They cannot imagine why I should give anything, when I have shewn that I am independant of them; they invite me down for a feed in the village, but I assure them that I have no time to go to all, & I could not go to any one alone. The sooner they get into their heads what I tell them, that a present is a token of friendship, & not an exchange for something else, the better men they will be. The old shekh sent up this morning some rice & eggs & milk; as this could not be regarded in any way as a bribe - as it was only about a quarter the value of my present - I accepted it; but sent word to the village that I should be better pleased if the others would not send anything. As for little donations from the workmen, either to Ali or myself, I always pay them a moderate value for whatever they may bring, & this has checked a practice which might become most pernicious to my men up here, & hampering to myself.

<19<sup>th</sup> March—>


Developing photos all the evening, so I cannot scribble much. I am glad to hear that Hooker is now a Sanitary Inspector & may come over here; they want such an official badly enough, as I counted three skeletons lying stranded on the river bank just above the village, and they were as far recent that the dogs used to visit them, & have a growl at each other over the memories of past feasts.

Find today one, <sup>a part of</sup> a little cartouche tablet of either Pinotem II or perhaps Si-amen; made of pounded granite, moulded, & baked? with a trace of glaze? or white clay? It is the realisation of that libel on Egyptian granite which helpless moderns are fond of asserting, i.e. that it is a "fictitious compound" cast in moulds. I have never seen granite thus moulded before, & I wonder no more has Ali; for whenever anything unusual turns up and I wonder at it, Ali with a self-satisfied air says "Oh I seen so many like that, all come out of tomb there at Gebel Kibli; you not seen them?" Another find which he had to confess ignorance of is a lot of iron knives, all more or less rusted & much broken, but still I can put together a whole one, & several nearly whole; these are probably about <sup>XXVI<sup>th</sup> or</sup> XXX<sup>th</sup> dyn.

<sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup> Ali asked me to write to Wayman Dixon for him, & I gladly took the opportunity to do what I had often wished, by securing a piece of exact verbatim discourse of his on paper. I afterwards stirred him to tell me another matter of his, and I enclose the rough copies of both, which I wish kept. It will be seen that he is rather shady about tenses & persons. I was much amused today at the way in which the thoughts of the people run on fish. They found a block with the characteristic decoration of Si-amen, derived from the lotus I believe,  and they at once pronounced it to be fish. Their ideas come down from the Hyksos period when the kings were sculptured with fish ~~offerings~~ & floppy water-plants.

Our prolific house again yielded a lot more figures today, 34 pieces in all, mostly statuettes about 3 inches high. They are all burnt, but of good work: period, between sometime after Sesonk & before Ptolemies, about 350 B.C. I suspect. There is about 50/- worth according to London sale value; I give about 8 per cent of such value, and nearly squabble about it with Ali, who insists that <sup>about</sup> 4 per cent is plenty. I reply that it is not a matter of money more or less, but of doing whatever will best

Finds to day are <a part of> a little cartouche tablet of either p/<P>inotem II or perhaps Si-amen; made of pounded granite, moulded, & baked? with a trace of glaze? or white clay? It is the realisation of that libel on Egyptian granite which helpless moderns are fond of asserting, i.e. that it is a "fictitious compound" cast in moulds. I have never seen granite thus moulded before, & for a wonder no more has Ali; for whenever anything unusual turns up and I wonder at it, Ali with a self-satisfied air says "Oh I seen so many like that, all come out of tomb there at Gebel Kibli; you not seen them?" Another find which he had to confess ignorance of is a lot of iron knives, all mere rust of course & much broken, but still I can put together a whole one, & several nearly whole; these are probably about <XXVI<sup>th</sup> or> XXX<sup>th</sup> dyn.

<20<sup>th</sup>> Ali asked me to write to Wayman Dixon for him, & I gladly took the opportunity to do what I often wished, by securing a piece of exact verbatim discourse of his on paper. I afterwards stirred him to tell me another matter of his, and I enclose the rough copies of both, which I wish kept. It will be seen that he is rather shady about tenses & persons. I was much amused to day at the way in which the thoughts of the people run on fish. They found a block with the characteristic decoration of Si-amen, derived from the lotus I believe,  and they at once pronounced it to be fish. Their ideas come down from the Hyksos period when the kings were sculptured with fish offering fish & floppy water plants. Our prolific house again yielded a lot more figures to day, 34 pieces in all, mostly statuettes about 3 inches high. They are all burnt, but of good work: period, between sometime after Sesonk & before Ptolemies, about 350 B.C. I suspect. There is about 50/- worth according to London sale value; I give about 8 per cent of such value, and nearly squabble about it with Ali, who insists that <about> 4 per cent is plenty. I reply that it is not a matter of money more or less, but of doing whatever will best

secure getting the things, & preventing dealing elsewhere. I rather think there is a little professional feeling in this, as he fears I shall raise the market in one of the favourite hunting-grounds of the petty dealers, or as he says "all spoil business if you do like that". If I can but get a name in the neighbourhood for giving rather more than they are accustomed to get from other people it will be worth anything to me, as I shall be sure to get all that is found. Now I must set about developing, as I have taken 2002 plates today. & that means working till about midnight.

2.1.85  
I have noted down some more of the delightfully broad Arabic used here. For bint (girl) they say binit, for kwies (nice) kawisa; for yomen, arba yom, khamisa yom, (two days four days, five days,) you hear various pronunciations thus, yo-am-ayun, arbata yo-um, khamista yam; for eiwa (yes) ei-ū; for etnēn (two) et ne-an or etne-un. The men mostly talk as they consider properly to me, & don't generally speak so broadly; it is the small children that speak uncorrupted Sanite. Luckily they have no Board schools here to destroy their dialect.

The prolific house has again yielded a lot of bronze; three large massive ferrules, from table legs or some such piece of furniture, making six that I have now, weighing  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb each. Also a bit of bronze from the corner of a stand, with sockets to hold wooden sides.

I have now ceased to check off the workers in the evening, for some time past; the habit originated in paying them at the end of the day, but as they are all paid weekly now there is no need to take the names twice. I know now on looking over the book 183 of my people here, & can say at once from the name where they worked to day, & could recognise them if they came up now; there is only about half a dozen of the

secure getting the things, & preventing dealing elsewhere. I rather think there is a little professional feeling in this, as he fears I shall raise the market in one of the favourite hunting-grounds of the petty dealers, or as he says, "all spoil business if you do like that". If I can but get a name in the neighbourhood for giving rather more than they are accustomed to get from other people it will be worth anything to me, as I shall be sure to get all that is found. Now I must set about developing, as I have taken 2 doz plates to day. & that means working till about midnight.

<21<sup>th/st</sup>> I have noted down some more of the delightfully broad Arabic used here. For bint (girl) they say binit, for kwies (nice) kawisa; for yomen, arba yom, khamisa yom, (two days, four days, five days,) you hear various pronunciations thus, yo-am-ayun, arbata yo-um, khamista yam; for eiwa (yes) ei-ū; for etnēn (two) et ne-an or etne-un. The men mostly talk what <as> they consider properly to me, & don't generally speak so broadly; it is the small children that speak uncorrupted Sanite. Luckily they have no Board schools here to destroy their dialect.

The prolific house has again yielded a lot of bronze; three large massive ferrules, from a table legs or some such piece of furniture, making six that I have now, weighing  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb each. Also a bit of bronze from the corner of a stand, with sockets to hold wooden sides.

I have now ceased to check off the workers in the evening, for some time past; the habit originated in paying them at the end of the day, but as they are all paid weekly now there is no need to take the names twice. I know now on looking over the book 183 of my people here, & can say at once from the name where they worked to day, & could recognise them if they came up now; there is only about half a dozen of the



small boys who have not distinctive names <(little Ibrahims, Muhammeds, &c.)>, and some newcomers, that I am uncertain in recognizing. I should not have thought that I could have learned such a number of faces with certainty in about six weeks.

Ended Mar: 23-

[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

24- Zoan, Ap: 1-

(21) (with Ibrahims, Muhammeds, &c.)  
small boys who have not distinctive names, and some newcomers, that I am uncertain in recognizing. I should not have thought that I could have learned such a number of faces with certainty in about six weeks.  
ended Mar: 23

24- Zoan, Ap: 1-

March 24. For Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent. (122)

The fresh week began with <sup>seven</sup> ~~four~~ old hands returning & bringing with them eight new ones. It is a very usual thing for people to disappear for a week, while they are attending to their own cultivation of crops, & then to return for a week or two's work. Besides this fluctuation, whenever the fishing boats go out I am short of hands, about a dozen men going off.

There is a south wind today (Monday) and I thought it seemed warm; on looking to the thermometer I found it 81° in my room, & 92° out in the shade where the sun has not shone at all. As it is not more than a few days since it was but 54° in & even less out, the change slackens one considerably, and I only long to drink & sleep. Here I went to hunt for some Citric acid, & while doing so bang went my door, & oh joy! the north wind had come, whirling, rattling, clattering; and though it is 85° it is most refreshing.

The new boys that have come are a wild-looking lot, creatures of an undecipherable sort of age, lean & scraggy, with long lank black locks hanging from their half-shaved heads. The Sanites are thought to be wild, but they seem highly respectable citizens beside these beings who come from I-don't-know-where. Their very names seem barbarous, three brothers are Suleiman abd el Wahab, Sueilim abd el Wahab, and Salim abd el Wahab: the two others Yusēf Salim & Wusēf Salim.

It may seem a curious part of a man's duty to unroof his house every Saturday night: yet those who come from a distance have to do so, bringing up the iron roofing from the house down in the temple where they live all the week. The iron is too valuable to leave out there without any one in charge, so it is brought up when they leave for Sunday, & then carried down again when they return.

For M<sup>rs</sup> Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

March 24-

The fresh week began with five <seven> old hands returning & bringing with them eight new ones. It is a very usual thing for people to disappear for a week, while they are attending to their own cultivation of crops, & then to return for a week or two's work. Besides ~~they~~/<this> fluctuation, whenever the fishing boats go out I am short of hands, about a dozen men going off.

There is a south wind to day (Monday) and I thought it seemed warm; on looking at the thermometer I found it was 81° in my room, & 92° out in the shade where the sun has not shone at all. As it is not more than a few days since it was but 54° in, & even less out, the change slackens one considerably, and I only long to drink & sleep. Here I went to hunt for some Citric acid, & while doing so bang went my door, & oh joy! the north wind had come, whirling, rattling, clattering; and though it is 85° it is most refreshing.

The new boys that have come are a wild-looking lot, creatures of an undecipherable sort of age, lean & scraggy, with long lank black locks hanging from their half shaved heads.

The Sanites are thought to be wild, but they seem highly respectable citizens beside these beings who come from I-don't-know-where. Their very names seem barbarous, three brothers are Suleiman abd el Wahab, Sueilim abd el Wahab, and Salim abd el Wahab: the two others Yusēf Sahim & Wusēf Salim.

It may seem a curious part of a man's duty to unroof his house every Saturday night: yet those who come from a distance have to do so, bringing up the iron roofing from the house down in the temple where they live all the week. The iron is too valuable to leave out there without any one in charge, so it is brought up when they leave for Sunday, & then carried down again when they return.

(123)  
 The weather rapidly cooled down, the afternoon seemed almost chilly by comparison, & the evening was as low as 63°. A drop of 30° in 6 hours is rather sharp. To day I refused to find work for a man who objected to go on where he had been working, on the ground of its being troublesome & dangerous. As it was tunnelling at 15 ft depth in good firm ground, I might allow that his feeling — though not his reason — was justified. So he went off prospecting, and a man who had been of old in the habit of grubbing here did likewise. So long as they only work in late Roman houses they cannot do much harm; and of course they only work on "toleration", & I could take up their work if I wished. Under these conditions nothing could please me better than to have a lot of such workers; I pay for nothing but results, I get the benefit of all their knowledge of the place, & I don't have to keep them up to the mark. It is understood that I have the refusal of all they find, & I think it best to make it an open bargain of naming price & letting them accept it, as then they will not conceal anything. In effect today they both got a trifle over a day's pay, but not equal to pay also for the women who helped. Results — about 16 pots, perfect or nearly so, from a whole amphora down to a tiny bottle; and a good little bronze of Ptah, beside scraps. Pay, 15<sup>d</sup>.

&lt;Mar: 27-&gt;

For two or three days I have not touched this sheet; I have not been right; intolerably sleepy, going to bed as soon as I could after dinner, & sleeping at noon also; sore throat, headache, &c; but strangely no fever nor catarrh <nor was it from sunning>. I do not understand it. However after large quantities of Belladonna I am better now, & up to work. The free-lances have been going on bringing in a dozen pots or more every day, beside carved bone pins, &c, &c. Mursi I have sent away; he has been rather

The north wind rapidly cooled down, the afternoon seemed almost chilly by comparison, & the evening was as low as 63°. A drop of 30° in 6 hours is rather sharp. To day I refused to find work for a man who objected to go on where he had been working, on the ground of its being troublesome & dangerous. As it was tunnelling at 15 ft depth in good firm ground, I might allow that his feeling — though not his reason — was justified. So he went off prospecting, and a man who had been of old in the habit of grubbing here did likewise. So long as they only work in the late Roman houses they cannot do much harm; and of course they only work on "toleration", & I could take up their work if I wished. Under these conditions nothing could please me better than to have a lot of such workers; I pay for nothing but results, I get the benefit of all their knowledge of the place, & I don't have to keep them up to the mark. It is understood that I have the refusal of all they find, & I think it best to make it an open bargain of naming price & letting them accept it, as then they will not conceal anything. In effect today they both got a trifle over a day's pay, but not equal to pay also for the women who helped. Results — about 16 pots, perfect or nearly so, from a whole amphora down to a tiny bottle; & a good little bronze of Ptah, beside scraps. Pay, 15<sup>d</sup>.

For two or three days I have not touched this sheet; I have not been right; intolerably sleepy, going to bed as soon as I could after dinner, & sleeping at noon also; sore throat, headache, &c; but strangely no fever nor catarrh <nor was it from sunning>. I do not understand it. However after large quantities of Belladonna I am better now, & up to work. The free-lances have been going on bringing in a dozen pots or more every day, beside carved bone pins, &c, &c. Mursi I have sent away; he has been rather



careless & troublesome, used to stay out half the night at  
 fantasies with the villagers, and made rather too free a use  
 of Ali's property. Beside this the young gosling was fascinated  
 with a widow down in the village, to Ali's great disgust; &  
 unbidden, & unwished for, his father had turned up, a helpless  
 old fellow, loafing about the place, whom I knew, sooner  
 or later, I should be plagued to take on for work. So I cut  
 the whole affair short by calling Mursi in the evening before  
 he should have his week's pay, handing him the money,  
 telling him I should not want him any further, & that I  
 gave him the following day to disappear in. And he  
 disappeared accordingly. Ali knew a few days before that  
 I was intending to do this, & had apparently imparted the news  
 to Khalifa, for just the evening I dismissed Mursi Khalifa's  
 son turned up; a good-sized strong boy, whom I was glad  
 to take on for basket-carrying. I am in need of boys & girls  
 at present, though I have more men than I want.


The irrepressible Khadijah was too frisky with some of the  
 men, & so the stern old reis Mohammed changed her & some  
 of the other girls off, to work with old Ali Basha, & an equally  
 senile & more garrulous old fellow, Hassanen Gandur. Thus  
 my threat was fulfilled even before I knew of it. After a few  
 days of this bondage they all escaped again to more  
 congenial companions, but even before this Khadijah had  
 tried to bribe the inexorable ancient with the promise of  
 a kiss if he would but let her go back.

Notwithstanding that I have four overseers, & Ali wandering  
 about and stopping wherever wanted, I always find something  
 to set to rights in the working when I go round. A favourite  
 dodge is for a man working with two boys to get down into  
 such a position that he cannot lift the baskets onto their  
 backs; then each boy waits while the other goes & returns, to


careless & troublesome, used to stay out half the night at  
 fantasies with the villagers, and made rather too free a use  
 of Ali's property. Beside this the young gosling was fascinated  
 with a widow down in the village, to Ali's great disgust; &  
 unbidden, & unwished for, his father had turned up, a helpless  
 old fellow, loafing about the place, whom I knew, sooner  
 or later, I should be plagued to take on for work. So I cut  
 the whole affair short by calling him / <Mursi> in the evening before  
 he should have his week's pay, handing him the money,  
 telling him I should not want him any further, & that I  
 gave him the following day to disappear in. And he  
 disappeared accordingly. Ali knew a few days before that  
 I was intending to do this, & had apparently imparted the news  
 to Khalifa, for just the evening I dismissed Mursi Khalifa's  
 son turned up; a good-sized strong boy, whom I was glad  
 to take on for basket-carrying. I am in need of boys & girls  
 at present, though I have more men than I want.

The irrepressible Khadijah was too frisky with some of the  
 men, & so the stern old reis Mohammed changed her & some  
 of the girls off, to work with old Ali Basha, & an equally  
 senile & more garrulous old fellow, Hassanen Gandur. Thus  
 my threat was fulfilled even before I knew of it. After a few  
 days of this bondage they all escaped again to more  
 congenial companions, but even before this Khadijah had  
 tried to bribe the inexorable ancient with the promise of  
 a kiss if he would but let her go back.


Notwithstanding that I have four overseers, & Ali wandering  
 about and stopping wherever wanted, I always find something  
 to set to rights in the working when I go round. A favourite  
 dodge is for a man working with two boys to get down into  
 such a position that he cannot lift the baskets onto their  
 backs; then each boy waits while the other goes & returns, to

125  
 get his assistance to lift the basket; in this way there is always some one of the group at work & yet they all work but half the time. Now & then I hit on a man quietly sitting doing nothing while one of the o/boys fills baskets for the other. Another excellent device is where several boys are together in a group, they get one or two of the baskets put out of the way, & thus some one is always at a stand-still waiting for some one else. All these, & other such ingenuities, I have to clear up as I go round; and particularly to see that the boys all throw their baskets down to the men, before going down themselves, so that the basket is filled ready by the time they get down. They will persist with curious tenacity in following the same path after the circumstances have changed; I set a man to cut a trench thus:  A to B, & the stuff was thrown at a; then he had to turn to B to C; & yet from C the boys were carrying the stuff all the way round C B A a instead of taking it direct from C to a.

Mar: 28 -  
 Again the air seemed warm, with "a sort of balmy softness" to quote M.A.R., & though my room was but 73°, yet on hanging the thermometer out on the north wall it was soon up to 94°. The fragrance of desert plants in the wind this morning was incredibly sweet, & seemed every moment "too good to last". We tapped an artist's house this morning, or at least a place where he threw his rubbish. There were two pieces of his designing tablet, a thin slab of fine limestone, ruled in squares, & much worn by cleaning, & the edges rounded with wear; also a piece of rubbing stone, & a of emery in block, as I think, Sp.Gr. about 4. A jar handle stamped MOYSAIO & a Ptolemaic coin, shew the date. I shall go on clearing about here, as one may find scraps of much interest technically. This is on the top of Pisebkhane's wall, out S. of the hypostyle hall; & this seems to have been a site of workshops

get his assistance to lift the basket; in this way there is always some one of the group at work & yet they all work but half the time. Now & then I hit on a man quietly sitting doing nothing while one of the o/boys fills baskets for the other. Another excellent device is where several boys are together in a group, they get one or two of the baskets put out of the way, & thus some one is always at a stand-still waiting for some one else. All these, & other such ingenuities, I have to clear up as I go round; and particularly to see that the boys all throw their baskets down to the men, before going down themselves, as thus the basket is filled ready by the time they get down. They will persist with curious tenacity in following the same path after the circumstances have changed; I set a man to cut a trench thus:  A to B, & the stuff was thrown at a; then he had to turn to B to C; & yet from C the boys were carrying the stuff all the way round C B A a instead of taking it direct from C to a.

<Mar: 28—>

Again the air seemed warm, with "a sort of balmy softness" to quote M.A.R., & though my room was but 73°, yet on hanging the thermometer out on the north wall it was up to 94°. The fragrance of desert plants in the wind this morning was incredibly sweet, & seemed every moment "too good to last". We tapped an artist's house this morning, or at least a place where he threw his rubbish. There were two pieces of his designing tablet, a third slab of fine limestone, ruled in squares; & much worn by cleaning, & the edges rounded with wear; also a piece of rubbing stone, & a of emery in block, as I think Sp.Gr. about 4. A jar handle stamped , & a Ptolemaic coin, shew the date. I shall go on clearing about here, as one may find scraps of much interest technically. This is on the top of Pisebkhane's wall, out S. of the hypostyle hall; & this seems to have been a site of workshops

2)

Mar. 28.

as in a house somewhat E of this on the wall, they found pieces of artists waste stone ruled in squares; and on the opposite side of the temple there is a considerable space strewn with waste chips of lapis lazuli, and other fine stones, & an adjacent space with quantities of waste drops of copper & bits of copper slag.

I can now see the history of the filling up of the place somewhat; first houses were built against the great wall & the later wall of XXII<sup>nd</sup> dyn(?); then in Alexander's time houses were built against the side of the gateway on the ruined end of the wall; then under the Ptolemies the great wall was cut about, & houses built on it; & on, under the later Ptolemies & early Romans, houses were built on almost 5 feet of mud & sand washed down into the temple area. Under the later Romans, say 3<sup>rd</sup> cent<sup>y</sup>, ~~how~~ the temple above the hypostyle hall was filled up 6 feet deep with mud, & the great mounds of houses all around the temple at some distance were built; finally some of the obelisks were not overthrown probably till ~~at~~ after the Arab conquest, say 1000 A.D., judging by the amounts of deposit. The great wall has protected the temple in rather a different way to that which its builders intended; instead of keeping back sand & spoilers it has protected the remaining stones by being washed down upon them & covering them with several feet of mud & dust.

&lt;March 29 —&gt;

As Ali is going to Cairo, for a few days, to look after his affairs, I think it a good opportunity to get down a quantity of cash, without any one knowing of it. At last I have got an answer from the Ministry of Finances, reversing their

2/ Mar. 28,

(126)

as in a house somewhat E of this on the wall, they found pieces of artists waste stone ruled in squares; and on the opposite side of the temple there is a considerable space strewn with waste chips of lapis lazuli, and other fine stones, & an adjacent space with quantities of waste drops of copper & bits of copper slag.

I can now see the history of the filling up of the place somewhat; first houses were built against the great wall & the later wall of XXII<sup>nd</sup> dyn(?); then in Alexander's time houses were built against the side of the gateway on the ruined end of the wall; then under the Ptolemies the great wall was cut about, & houses built on it; & on, under the later Ptolemies & early Romans, houses were built on about 5 feet of mud & sand washed down into the temple area. Under the later Romans, say 3<sup>rd</sup> cent<sup>y</sup>, ~~how~~ the temple above the hypostyle hall was filled up 6 feet deep with mud, & the great mounds of houses all around the temple at some distance were built; finally some of the obelisks were not overthrown probably till ~~at~~ after the Arab conquest, say 1000 A.D., judging by the amounts of deposit. The great wall has protected the temple in rather a different way to that which its builders intended; instead of keeping back sand & spoilers it has protected the remaining stones by being washed down upon them & covering them with several feet of mud & dust.

March 29

As Ali is going to Cairo, for a few days, to look after his affairs, I think it a good opportunity to get down a quantity of cash, without any one knowing of it. At last I have got an answer from the Ministry of Finances, reversing their



(127)  
former reply, & saying that there is so little cash received at San that they could not supply me. So I must get the money somehow else, & hitherto I have been going on hand to mouth by Khalifa fetching £40 at a time from Fakus every two or three weeks. This is not at all desirable, as of course the post-master there will talk about it, & people here also know that Khalifa fetches money (here I went out to pelt the dog). So I have told Ali to bring £200 from Cook, and he is very discreet as to talking, so that I can trust him not to let any one know of it, and that is the very basis of security. This will keep me going for the greater part of the season.

I must try to give some idea of pay-day. To people who always deal in £.s.d. & have plenty of s & d for the small payments the difficulties here will seem incomprehensible. At one time I could not get change, & had to group 7 or 8 men & boys together, give a sovereign & odd change to the most responsible of them, & leave them to settle it somehow. The cross-cornerism in the village, of over a hundred people owing to one another, must have been awful. Now I have as much change brought up to me by travelling dealers, boatmen, &c, as I want. So about 2½ hours before sunset on Saturday (guessed by the look of the sun, as my watch stopped long ago) I go out with 5 lbs weight of silver in one pocket, and as much copper change as I can get to balance it in the other pocket, and now for paying one man & one boy out of the 140 here. Man here for 6 days, owing 15 piastres. Pay him 1½ Parisis (the only change procurable); and 1 parisi = 9½

former reply, & saying that there is so little cash received at San that they could not supply me. So I must get the money somehow else, & hitherto I have been going on hand to mouth by Khalifa fetching £40 at a time from Fakus every two or three weeks. This is not at all desirable, as of course the post-master there will talk about it, & people here also know that Khalifa fetches money (here I went out to pelt the dog). So I have told Ali to bring £200 from Cook, and he is very discreet as to talking, so that I can trust him not to let any one know of it, and that is the very basis of security. This will keep me going for the greater part of the season.

I must try to give some idea of pay-day. To people who always deal in £.s.d. & have plenty of s & d for the small payments the difficulties here will seem incomprehensible. At one time I could not get change, & had to group 7 or 8 men & boys together, give a sovereign & odd change to the most responsible of them, & leave them to settle it somehow. The cross-cornerism in the village, of over a hundred people owing to one another, must have been awful. Now I have as much change brought up to me by travelling dealers, boatmen, &c, as I want. So about 2½ hours before sunset on Saturday (guessed by the look of the sun, as my watch stopped long ago) I go out with 5 lbs weight of silver in one pocket, and as much copper change as I can get to balance it in the other pocket. And now for paying one man & one boy out of the 140 here. Man here for 6 days, owing 15 piastres. Pay him 1½ Parisis (the only change procurable); and 1 parisi = 9½

128

piastres, so  $1\frac{1}{2} = 14\frac{1}{4}$  piastres. I owe him then  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre. Then look out for two more men who also have worked 6 days; perhaps the next man only worked 4 days, & the next 5 days; at last I get 3 men of 6 days each all en rapport; then I owe each  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre, or  $2\frac{1}{4}$  piastres between them, so I give them  $\frac{1}{2}$  parisi =  $9\frac{1}{2} \div 4 = 2\frac{3}{8}$  piastres; thus I lose  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre & they have to settle the balances of  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre each among themselves. Then boy worked perhaps 4 days, owe him 8 piastres: pay him  $\frac{3}{4}$  parisi =  $7\frac{1}{8}$  piastres, book down that I owe him still 1 piastre, & I lose  $\frac{1}{8}$ ; next boy 6 days, owing 12 piastres; I pay  $1\frac{1}{4}$  parisi =  $11\frac{7}{8}$  piastres, and I gain  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre. But sometimes boy is obstreperous & claims his  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre; so then I have to pacify him with the balance in copper, and 7 piastres of copper pass for 1 piastre of silver; so I must pay him  $\frac{7}{8}$  of a piastre of copper, & he accepts  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre of copper, leaving me a balance of  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre of copper, value in English money, let me see,  $\frac{1}{8}$  of  $\frac{1}{7}$  of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>d</sup>, that is about  $\frac{1}{20}$  of a penny. Such are the pleasures of paying all accounts in a coinage incommensurate with the standard in which contracts are made. And after all I get clear of the awful confusion of dealing with several different standards of coinage. As it is I have perhaps ten or twenty outstanding ~~to~~ balances of  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre or so still due to the men, or overpaid; and these have to wiped off in next week's account. I think to get 140

piastres, so  $1\frac{1}{2} = 14\frac{1}{4}$  piastres, I owe him then  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre. Then look out for two more men who also have worked 6 days; perhaps the next man only worked 4 days, & the next 5 days; at last I get 3 men of 6 days each all en rapport; then I owe each  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre, or  $2\frac{1}{4}$  piastres between them, so I give them  $\frac{1}{2}$  parisi =  $9\frac{1}{2} \div 4 = 2\frac{3}{8}$  piastres; thus I lose  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre & they have to settle the balances of  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre each among themselves. Then boy worked perhaps 4 days, owe him 8 piastres: pay him  $\frac{3}{4}$  parisi =  $7\frac{1}{8}$  piastres, book down that I owe him still 1 piastre, & I lose  $\frac{1}{8}$ ; next boy 6 days, owing 12 piastres; I pay  $1\frac{1}{4}$  parisi =  $11\frac{7}{8}$  piastres, and I gain  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre. But sometimes boy is obstreperous & claims his  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre; so then I have to pacify him with the balance in copper, and 7 piastres of copper pass for 1 piastre of silver; so I must pay him  $\frac{7}{8}$  of a piastre of copper, & he accepts  $\frac{3}{4}$  piastre of copper, leaving me a balance of  $\frac{1}{8}$  piastre of copper, value in English money, let me see,  $\frac{1}{8}$  of  $\frac{1}{7}$  of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>d</sup>, that is about  $\frac{1}{20}$  of a penny. Such are the pleasures of paying all accounts in a coinage incommensurate with the standard in which contracts are made. And after all I get clear of the awful confusion of dealing with several different standards of coinage. As it is I have perhaps ten or twenty outstanding ~~to~~ balances of  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre or so still due to the men, or overpaid; and these have to wiped off in next week's account. I think to get 140

through such a process in 2 ½ hours is fairly quick work; especially when about 1 in 5 objects both coins as worn, & has to be pacified somehow; and most of them require to have the account gone through viva voce two or three times before they are clear about it; & some of them form a tail that follows me, with inec/collude.

Letters & papers duly received all right.

Ext<sup>d</sup> from a private letter -

While the girls are bringing up

[These last two lines as well as the following two pages were written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

129  
though such a process in 2 ½ hours is fairly quick work; especially when about 1 in 5 objects both coins as worn, & has to be pacified somehow; and most of them require to have the account gone through viva voce two or three times before they are clear about it; & some of them form a tail that follows me, with inec/collude.

Letters & papers duly received all right.

Ext<sup>d</sup> from a private letter -  
While the girls were bringing up



3 - Mar: 29

3 - Mar: 29) the mud for my home  
 I used to quicken their pace, by  
 putting an empty tin on the hill  
 above them, & seeing the race up  
 for it; each taking care to keep  
 the precious mud unspilled,  
 even when there was a scramble  
 for the tin. - Of course a dog  
 has attached itself to my house  
 & I have now educated the  
 beastie into understanding  
 that needless barking is  
 prohibited - Yet it cannot  
 resist the temptation to get up  
 a conversation with a distant  
 dog, sometimes; but the moment  
 it hears my door opened, it stops  
 mum at once, & just gives a  
 little growl of disappointment  
 at the interruption - The big  
 black ants, who are always trying  
 impossible tasks, run about in  
 front of my door all day, hauling  
 great pieces of dates or sugar: & if  
 a gust of wind comes, it is most  
 comical.

the mud for my home,  
 I used to quicken their pace, by  
 putting an empty tin on the hill  
 above them, & seeing the race up  
 for it; each taking care to keep  
 the precious mud unspilled,  
 even when there was a scramble  
 for the tin. - Of course a dog  
 has attached itself to my house  
 & I have now educated the  
 beastie into understanding  
 that needless barking is  
 prohibited - Yet it cannot  
 resist the temptation to get up  
 a conversation with a distant  
 dog, sometimes; but the moment  
 it hears my door opened, it stops  
 mum at once, & just gives a  
 little growl of disappointment  
 at the interruption - The big  
 black ants, who are always trying  
 impossible tasks, run about in  
 front of my door all day, hauling  
 great pieces of dates or sugar: & if  
 a gust of wind comes, it is most  
 comical

blown (131)  
 to see them ~~turn~~ over & over  
 catching at anything that  
 can anchor them, & some  
 times blowing away,  
 anchor & all —

to see them turn <blown> over & over,  
 catching at anything that  
 can anchor them, & some  
 times blowing away,  
 anchor & all —

25. Zoan-  
 Ap: 7-

25. Zoan-

Ap: 7-

March 31  
San el Hagar-

What strikes one very strongly, in seeing the dealings of Arabs with one another, is the absence of the practical idea of justice. They may be just toward equals, much as dogs of equal strength will respect each others rights of scavenging, simply from past experience that a row in such conditions does not pay. But the idea of the rights of an inferior seems nowhere. I see this very much in the treatment of the workers here, by Ali & the others. Ali is a favourable specimen of an Arab, he can see the faults of his countrymen, & has had his ideas expanded by intimacy with English; moreover he is a really honourably-minded man to begin with. Yet no sooner does a man complain than Ali rates at him, & tells him to be quiet & work; & if a boy has a grievance, the reply generally is simply to threaten him without stopping to understand the case. With the others, the manner is still more overbearing. I have continually to check their settlement of some objection, & go into the matter myself; of course nine times in ten the dispute is either false or absurd, but putting the tenth to rights makes it worth while. To give a case in family life. There is a poor girl here — an orphan — who has not quite all her wits about her; she was rather a nuisance, as she never stopped at the same work, but went shifting round exchanging with others, and was always getting into a row and going off in hysterical sulks. However, considering the circumstances, I tried generally to find some place that would do for poor Bedawieh; though she managed to squabble with old men & young, with girls & with boys. She began work in a garment that was somewhat scanty & well worn, & it went on from bad

11 March 31

San el Hagar.

What strikes one very strongly, in seeing the dealings of Arabs with one another, is the absence of the practical idea of justice. They may be just toward equals, much as dogs of equal strength will respect each others rights of scavenging, simply from past experience that a row in such conditions does not pay. But the idea of the rights of an inferior seems nowhere. I see this very much in the treatment of the workers here, by Ali & the others. Ali is a favourable specimen of an Arab, he can see the faults of his countrymen, & has had his ideas expanded by intimacy with English; moreover he is a really honourably-minded man to begin with. Yet no sooner does a man complain than Ali rates at him, & tells him to be quiet & work; & if a boy has a grievance, the reply generally is simply to threaten him without stopping to understand the case. With the others, the manner is still more overbearing. I have continually to check their settlement of some objection, & go into the matter myself; of course nine times in ten the dispute is either false or absurd, but putting the tenth to rights makes it worth while. To give a case in family life. There is a poor girl here — an orphan — who has not quite all her wits about her; she was rather a nuisance, as she never stopped at the same work, but went shifting round exchanging with others, and was always getting into a row and going off in hysterical sulks. However, considering the circumstances, I tried generally to find some place that would do for poor Bedawieh; though she managed to squabble with old men & young, with girls & with boys. She began work in a garment that was somewhat scanty & well worn, & it went on from bad



(133)  
 to worse, shorter & more full of splits. At last when it  
 came to the point of an appreciable portion of time  
 being occupied all day long in keeping it together  
 by hand, I thought it time to interfere, & (through  
 Ali) made the munificent offer of an old pair of  
 trousers. (N.B. they came out as packing 3 years ago, & the  
 moths have lived in them since). Then the tale came  
 to the surface; though an orphan, her aunt — with whom  
 she lived — was well off, & her cousins were among the  
 best dressed girls in the place. Her wages, which were  
 plenty for all her wants, were absorbed by the said  
 aunt, & she was left to grub on as well as she could. Ali  
 turned the occasion to good account, with his ready  
 eye to saving money, by declaring that if the said  
 aunt did not reform the arrangement, Bedawieh  
 should be paid in clothes & not in cash. That stirred the  
 stingy aunt; that afternoon Bedawieh came back in  
 an old dress of her cousins (Mem. put on over the rags)  
 & next day she came out resplendent in a new  
 snowy-white garment, from under the edges of which  
 drooped down tails of the old blue rag. She looks quite  
 happy over it; & there is a report — which Ali does not know  
 the truth of — that she is to be married next week.

There seems a great amount of illness here among the  
 children; continually a boy or girl disappears from work, &  
 when I enquire about them I hear that they are ill. This  
 is not merely an excuse, as others are accounted for as being  
 away or otherwise employed. I should think as far as I can

to worse, shorter & more full of splits. At last when it  
 came to the point of an appreciable portion of time  
 being occupied all day long in keeping it together  
 by hand, I thought<sup>sic</sup> {thought} it time to interfere, & (through  
 Ali) made the munificent offer of an old pair of  
 trousers. (N.B. they came out as packing 3 years ago, & the  
 moths have lived in them since). Then the tale came  
 to the surface; though an orphan, her aunt — with whom  
 she lived — was well off, & her cousins were among the  
 best dressed girls in the place. Her wages, which were  
 plenty for all her wants, were absorbed by the said  
 aunt, & she was left to grub on as well as she could. Ali  
 turned the occasion to good account, with his ready  
 eye to saving money, by declaring that if the said  
 aunt did not reform the arrangement, Bedawieh  
 should be paid in clothes & not in cash. That stirred the  
 stingy aunt; that afternoon Bedawieh came back in  
 an old dress of her cousins (Mem. put on over the rags)  
 & next day she came out resplendent in a new  
 snowy-white garment, from under the edges of which  
 drooped the tails of the old blue rag. She looks quite  
 happy over it; & there is a report — which Ali does not know  
 the truth of — that she is to be married next week.

There seems a great amount of illness here among the  
 children; continually a boy or girl disappears from work, &  
 when I enquire about them I hear they are ill. This  
 is not merely an excuse, as others are accounted for as being  
 away or otherwise employed. I should think as far as I can

(134)

remembers that about 1 percent disappear every week, so that they must average an illness every two years. The fresh children that appear from time to time from the village are I presume those who have recovered.

As I looked out in the twilight on Sunday night I saw several men going over the plain to the temple, from the Fakus road; so I started, thinking they might have come to carry off stones. More & more appeared until I counted 17 men boys & girls, as well as I could in the dusk with the telescope. Little Muhammed was also excited over it rather, so I ran down & circuted about to see what was going on; & soon I met Muhammed who had followed me down, & he told me that not only were there 17, but 36 in all. I went & had a look at a room next to one that I roofed, thinking to send down five sheets of roofing that remain; but when I went to the new comers I found them bivouacking very contentedly among the obelisks, & quite above requiring a roof at all. Their only anxiety was to know if I would give them work on the morrow. Now 36 is a serious addition to a family of 140, all at a jump; but I will not refuse any that come from a distance without trying them. My best policy is to have as many strangers as I can, up to half the whole number, as they will not readily combine, & they serve as a check on the residents; and the greater number I have to choose from the better quality I can get for the number that I require. But the coming week is the last one of my present lot of cash, and my first thing business on getting back to the house was to go to the cash box, & drop the bag of Paris into the scale pan

remember that about 1 percent disappear every week, so that they must average an illness every two years. The fresh children that appear from time to time from the village are I presume those who have recovered.

As I looked out in the twilight on Sunday night I saw several men going over the plain to the temple, from the Fakus road; so I watched, thinking they might have come to carry off stones. More & more appeared until I counted 17 men boys & girls, as well as I could in the dusk with the telescope. Little Muhammed was also excited over it rather, so I ran down & circuted about to see what was going on; & soon I met Muhammed who had followed me down, & he told me that not only were there 17, but 36 in all. I went & had a look at a room next to one that I roofed, thinking to send down five sheets of roofing that remain; but when I went & to the new comers I found them bivouacking very contentedly among the obelisks, & quite above requiring a roof at all. Their only anxiety was to know if I would give them work on the morrow. Now 36 is a serious addition to a family of 140, all at a jump; but I will not refuse any that come from a distance without trying them. My best policy is to have as many strangers as I can, up to half the whole number, as they will not readily combine, & they serve as a check on the residents; and the greater number I have to choose from the better quality I can get for the number that I require. But the coming week is the last one of my present lot of cash, and my first thing business on getting back to the house was to go to the cash box, & drop the bag of Paris into the scale pan

(135)  
to see how much I had. It seemed such a share, that I counted them, & found that if I took on all this lot on trial for the week I should only have about 10/- left. This is close work; but if pressed, I could get several men here to wait for a day or two till Ali returns with the money. How I shall manage to look after them all I don't know; with Ali away, Mursi gone, & Khalifa away for tomorrow, I leave but two efficient helpers & the old hag to do everything; and this is not nearly enough for 170 or 180 hands.

One of the shekhs ~~here~~ has suddenly awoke to a distressing sense of our insecurity up here, & assures Ali that he will be only too happy to provide us with excellent rooms. This devotion has arisen after seeing a quantity of stones that we have found, which he much wishes for; and Ali's pungent reply is, if you had such good accommodation how is it that you did not perceive our need when we were shivering in gales & rain with only a tent & some loose boards to cover us? It is too late to turn affectionate after we have a good rain tight defensible house, & have lived in it for some weeks.

~~April 1.~~  
Ugh! I've done my new 36; luckily all the old hands did not turn up; but I have had to settle 162 this morning. To keep matters clear, & prevent crowding & confusion, I broke up the new hands into groups of a working party each, & then marched off group after group & set them on. Happily I want now a lot of shafts sunk, & that does not need much superintendence so I started a quantity of fresh pits. In a few days I shall find out who are the lazy ones, & be able to weed out. Now I must put away £4 of change, shell some beans, & have breakfast. Just as I began up came three men to change

to see how much I had. It seemed such a share, that I counted them, & found that if I took on all this lot on trial for the week I should only have about 10/- left. This is close work; but if pressed, I could get several men here to wait for a day or two till Ali returns with the money. How I shall manage to look after them all I don't know; with Ali away, Mursi gone, & Khalifa away for tomorrow, I have but two efficient helpers & the old hag to do everything; and this is not nearly enough for 170 or 180 hands.

One of the shekhs here has suddenly awoke to a distressing sense of our insecurity up here, & assures Ali that he will be only too happy to provide us with excellent rooms. This devotion has arisen after seeing a quantity of stones that we have found, which he much wishes for; and Ali's pungent reply is, if you had such good accommodation how is it that you did not perceive our need when we were shivering in gales & rain with only a tent & some loose boards to cover us? It is too late to turn affectionate after we have a good rain tight defensible house, & have lived in it for some weeks.

<April 1.>

Ugh! I've done my new 36; luckily all the old hands did not turn up; but I have had to settle 162 this morning. To keep matters clear, & prevent crowding & confusion, I broke up the new hands into groups of a working party each, & then marched off group after group & set them on. Happily I want now a lot of shafts sunk, & that does not need much superintendence so I started a quantity of fresh pits. In a few days I shall find out who are the lazy ones, & be able to weed out. Now I must put away £4 of change, shell some beans, & have breakfast. Just as I began up came three men to change



&lt;April 1.&gt;

£4; in fact they wanted 5£, but would not take a Geo. IV. rather worn, which is the last sov: I have left now. Then I was up & down all breakfast time, printing photos, & now that is done, I must go down & look after the work. When I got down I found 8 returned, in place of two that went away on Saturday; so that makes 170. We had a find to day; the men who were grubbing, on their own account, turned up a little chapel or shrine of Ptolemy II; there was a recess in brickwork with a tablet at the back, 3½ ft high, 20 ins wide and 9 thick; and on the upper part of its <which is> a scene of Ptolemy and Arsinoe <both in long Greek robe> offe standing before Khem, Horus, & Neith(?), below this part is well cut & has been all gilt; below this is a striped pattern of red & blue; and the bottom of the stone is plain. On each side of the recess was a sphinx 18 ins high & 39 ins long. Beside these sphinxes were other tablets, smaller & varied; one, roughly cut & not inscribed, of a king standing before Khem, Horus, Isis, & Neith(?); a finely <well> worked tablet 14 x 17 <17> of Ptolemy & Arsinoe face to face with cartouches; a small rough tablet of a deceased & Osiris with demotic inscription; two rough tablets of Hapi; a statuette of a king, 22 ins high; two crowns from other figures, fixed on by pegs originally; & a part of a foot of a Greek statue, also fixed on by a peg. All these are perfect & uninjured, except the statuette of a king which has been broken in two anciently.

There was a bit of a row about these; as the men wanted to be paid for them at once, without waiting until the evening, as I wished, in order to see if anything more turned up, & if to consider the matter. At last one man, who was always too free & easy, went up to the house, persuading another to go also,

(136)

2/ April 1.

£4; in fact they wanted 5£, but would not take a Geo. IV. rather worn, which is the last sov: I have left now. Then I was up & down all breakfast time, printing photos, & now that is done, I must go down & look after the work. When I got down I found 8 returned, in place of two that went away on Saturday; so that makes 170. We had a find today; the men who were grubbing, on their own account, turned up a little chapel or shrine of Ptolemy II; there was a recess in brickwork with a tablet at the back, 3½ ft high, 20 ins wide and 9 thick; and on the upper part of its <which is> a scene of Ptolemy and Arsinoe <both in long Greek robe> offe standing before Khem, Horus, & Neith(?), below this part is well cut & has been all gilt; below this is a striped pattern of red & blue; and the bottom of the stone is plain. On each side of the recess was a sphinx 18 ins high & 39 ins long. Beside these sphinxes were other tablets, smaller & varied; one, roughly cut & not inscribed, of a king standing before Khem, Horus, Isis, & Neith(?); a finely <well> worked tablet 14 x 17 <17> of Ptolemy & Arsinoe face to face with cartouches; a small rough tablet of a deceased & Osiris with demotic inscription; two rough tablets of Hapi; a statuette of a king, 22 ins high; two crowns from other figures, fixed on by pegs originally; & a part of a foot of a Greek statue, also fixed on by a peg. All these are perfect & uninjured, except the statuette of a king which has been broken in two anciently.

Then was a bit of a row about these; as the men wanted to be paid for them at once, without waiting until the evening, as I wished, in order to see if anything more turned up, & if to consider the matter. At last one man, who was always too free & easy, went up to the house, persuading another to go also,

(137)  
 opened the door, & began to take the tablets out of the courtyard. Of course this could not be tolerated a moment. I ran up to the house, & ordered them to put them back, they hesitated, I punched at them with my fist & they ~~obey~~ obeyed. I then ordered the man who opened the door to leave the place, & never to work here again; but bye & bye I found him down in the hole again at work. I made him clear out in spite of the voluble remonstrances of his confession, and his poor wife <sup>(who was crying)</sup> putting me on the back, & assuring me it was "ma alēsh". That to give him some more fist very emphatically, before he cleared away down to the village. When a man passively defies one's orders, & is so flagrantly in the wrong, it is necessary to be "decisive". The improvement in the readiness of all the others around was remarkable. In the evening I gave the bakhshish to the other man, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of what I should have given, & told him that he would have had half as much again if he had behaved properly. I could not cut him off with a shilling, as it would have looked as if I quarrelled in order to save the money; and it would have deterred him & others from letting me know of things in future. It was as well that Ali was out of the way; he would have made more row by scolding, & used threats that I could, & would, not carry out: I settled the whole matter alone, and was thus able to stick to my rule <sup>or rather never saying that I should have to retract</sup> of never retracting what I have said. I have to be particular about this, as I wish them to learn clearly that it is no good worrying, & if an order is once given, it is absolutely final.

There are several more men asking for work, but I say plainly that I have more already than I want, and when I see who is good & who is bad I shall dismiss ten or twenty.

opened the door, & began to take the tablets out of the courtyard. Of course this could not be tolerated a moment; I ran up to the house, & ordered them to put them back, they hesitated, I punched at them with my fist & they ~~obey~~ obeyed. I then ordered the man who opened the door to leave the place, & never to work here again; but bye & bye I found him down in the hole again at work. I made him clear out in spite of the voluble remonstrances of his confession, and his poor wife patting me on the back, & assuring me it was "ma alēsh" <(no matter.)>. I had to give him some more fist very emphatically, before he cleared away down to the village. When a man possibly defies one's orders, & is so flagrantly in the wrong, it is necessary to be "decisive". The improvement in the readiness of all the others around was remarkable. In the evening I gave the bakhshish to the other man, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of what I should have given, & told him that he would have had half as much again if he had behaved properly. I could not cut him off with a shilling, as it would have looked as if I quarrelled in order to save the money; and it would have deterred him & others from letting me know of things in future. It was as well that Ali was out of the way; he would have made much more row by scolding, & used threats that I could, & would, not carry out: I settled the whole matter alone, and was thus able to stick to my rule of never retracting what I have said <or rather never saying what I should have to retract>. I have to be particular about this, as I wish them to learn clearly that it is no good worrying, & if an order is given, it is absolutely final.

There are several more men asking for work, but I say plainly that I have more already than I want, and when I see who is good & who is bad I shall dismiss ten or twenty.

another child ill today; little Medallalah, a fragile-looking little girl who always reminds me of Mabel Vivian. (138)  
 Ap: 2.  
 To day we have a warm wind again; no sun, thin clouds, sand haze, and thermometer at  $95^{\circ}$ . But the wind is so high, that one does not feel the heat; it blows through everything. I have had to stop work in one place, where a quantity of sand had been thrown to the south, as the wind carried it over the workings in clouds. I despatched two parties this morning at midday, as they were continually stopping. One woman ingeniously walked about with an empty basket on her head. I examine them with the telescope from my house, when they suppose that I am safely away. I proclaimed their dismissal with great satisfaction to Muhammed in the hearing of all the others, "Six bad ones gone today". It is no good scolding or urging them to work, as that only stimulates them while one is there, which is not necessary; by letting them take their own way, & watching who works & who lazed, one can dismiss the inefficient, & so keep the better ones up to the mark. This is the great convenience of having plenty of applicants. The afternoon was a regular khamsin, the air so thick that nothing was visible beyond half a mile, and wherever any loose sand could be caught by the wind it went whirling in clouds. To night is a tempest, howling over my roof, on which I chucked up some more big stones today, to windward. What the weather must be at Gizeh is awful, when it is so bad here, after coming all across the Delta from the S.W. Ali will not be able to look after much of his business today. I am glad to say that I shall at last get some more wood. I sent for it long ago, but

Another child ill today, little Medallalah, a fragile-looking little girl who always reminds me of Mabel Vivian.

<Ap: 2.>

To day we have a warm wind again; no sun, thin clouds, sand haze, and thermometer at  $95^{\circ}$ . But the wind is so high, that one does not feel the heat; it blows through everything. I have had to stop work in one place, where a quantity of sand had been thrown to the south, as the wind carried it over the workings in clouds. I despatched two parties this morning at midday, as they were continually stopping. One woman ingeniously walked about with an empty basket on her head. I examine them with the telescope from my house, when they suppose that I am safely away. I proclaimed their dismissal with great satisfaction to Muhammed in the hearing of all the others, "Six bad ones gone today". It is no good scolding or urging them to work, as that only stimulates them while one is there, which is not necessary; by letting them take their own way, & watching who works & who lazed, one can dismiss the inefficient, & so keep the better ones up to the mark. This is the great convenience of having plenty of applicants. The afternoon was a regular khamsin, the air so thick that nothing was visible beyond half a mile, and wherever any loose sand could be caught by the wind it went whirling in clouds. To night is a tempest, howling over my roof, on which I chucked up some more big stones today, to windward. What the weather must be at Gizeh is awful, when it is so bad here, after coming all across the Delta from the S.W. Ali will not be able to look after much of his business today. I am glad to say that I shall at last get some more wood. I sent for it long ago, but



139  
 there was no boat to bring it from Fakus. Then the canal ran too low for boats. Now they have dammed the canal at the mouth, for the summer, & so the water is high enough for boats; and Khalifa bought the wood, & expects it here tomorrow. I shall now be able to rig up bedsteads for my visitors, & put up shelves. For my own part I am so comfortable now on the ground, that I do not think I shall take to a stretcher bed again. There is an exciting progress with the stairs that we are clearing; I do not remember whether in this weekly periodical (I can't call it a journal exactly) I mentioned that we found two stone walls right across one of the trenches, & clearing between them we found steps. Of course I set them men to follow up this affair; and to day they got so low down the steps that they found the roofing across from wall to wall. Then it is now a passage, but whether to a well or a chamber, a tomb or a temple, remains to be seen. Unhappily it is of late date, for certain; since the walls outside are rough, shewing that they were built against the earth; & that earth I can hardly put before Greek time, since a foot or two over that level is a stratum of broken red brick which must be Roman. What will turn up? Certainly we have here got something that is not ruined & destroyed, since the roofing is there. It was a tug yesterday, getting the large Ptolemaic stele up to the house. I set Reis Muhammed & Khalifa on to the work, with 8 or 10 men, supplied rope & a board or two, & left them to do it their own way; since they were well accustomed to such work for Mariette & others. First Muhammed, hauled it round, & I had it dragged & lifted out of the hole; this was risky, as the earth crumbled under

there was no boat to bring it from Fakus. Then the canal ran too low for the boats. Now they have dammed the canal at the mouth, for the summer, & so the water is high enough for boats; and Khalifa bought the wood, & expects it here to morrow. I shall now be able to rig up bedsteads for my visitors, & put up shelves. For my own part I am so comfortable now on the ground, that I do not think I shall take to a stretcher bed again. There is an exciting progress with the stairs that we are clearing; I do not remember whether in this weekly periodical (I can't call it a journal exactly) I mentioned that we found two stone walls right across one of the trenches, & clearing between them we found steps. Of course I set them men to follow up this affair; and to day they got so low down the steps that they found the roofing across from wall to wall. Thus it is now a passage, but whether to a well or a chamber, a tomb or a temple, remains to be seen. Unhappily it is of late date, for certain; since the walls outside are rough, shewing that they were built against the earth; & that earth I can hardly put before Greek time, since a foot or two over that level is a stratum of broken red brick which must be Roman. What will turn up? Certainly we have here got something that is not ruined & destroyed, since the roofing is there. It was a tug yesterday, getting the large Ptolemaic stele up to the house. I set Reis Muhammed & Khalifa on to the work, with 8 or 10 men, supplied rope & a board or two, & left them to do it their own way; since they were well accustomed to such work for Mariette & others. First Muhammed, hauled it round, & I had it dragged & lifted out of the hole; this was risky, as the earth crumbled under

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>the weight, (6 cwt), & it took a splendid struggle of</sub> Khalifa's to keep it from going over. Then laying the old reis's black robe on the face of it, they lashed it round with rope twice; and then with about half a dozen men to each of the ends of the rope to drag it, & Khalifa & Muhammed behind to push & direct, it was hauled right across some 800 feet over the dust & up the steep slope to the house; up the slope the foremost men ~~there~~ were dragged by hand, by myself & another man in front of them; & then the block was skewed & twisted round, until it stood safely in the courtyard with its face to the wall.

April 3.

Patter-patter-patter on the iron over head, such was the first sound this morning; the parching wind at 95° had — without changing its direction, W.S.W. — turned to a grizzly wet day with a ~~the~~ leaden sky, such as would do credit to England in the end of October. There is a lull now & then, in which I look out round the corner of the doorway, and always see the same sight of an horizon vanishing into grey driving rain. The face of the country is shiney with water, & the ground of the rubbish mounds is greasy with slippery mud. In stead of 95° like yesterday, it is but 66° outside, and a few degrees more in my room. The poor wretches who I settled so gaily under the obelisks two nights ago, & scorned a settled roof, wander about uneasily from stone to stone and are I believe now crowded into the one room which I did provide. Two came up just now & asked for their pay, as they wished to trudge home in the slush without waiting any longer. And this is April — in Egypt — with the sun higher than it ever is in

the weight, (6 cwt), & it took a splendid struggle of Khalifa's to keep it from going over. Then laying the old reis's black robe on the face of it, they lashed it round with rope twice; and then with about half a dozen men to each of the ends of the rope to drag it, & Khalifa & Muhammed behind to push & direct, it was hauled right across some 800 feet over the dust & up the steep slope to the house; up the slope the foremost men ~~where~~ were dragged by hand, by myself & another man in front of them; & thus the block was skewed & twisted round, until it stood safely in the courtyard with its face to the wall.

<April 3.>

Patter-patter-patter on the iron over head, such was the first sound this morning; the parching wind at 95° had — without changing its direction, W.S.W. — turned to a grizzly wet day with a ~~da~~ leaden sky, such as would do credit to England in the end of October. There is a lull now & then, in which I look out round the corner of the doorway, and always see the same sight of an horizon vanishing into grey driving rain. The face of the country is shiney with water, & the ground of the rubbish mounds is greasy with slippery mud. In stead of 95° like yesterday, it is but 66° outside, and a few degrees more in my room. The poor wretches who I settled so gaily under the obelisks two nights ago, & scorned a settled roof, wander about uneasily from stone to stone, and are I believe now crowded into the one room which I did provide. Two came up, just now & asked for their pay, as they wished to trudge home in the slush without waiting any longer. And this is April — in Egypt — with the sun higher than it ever is in

(141) England. Khalifa says he never knew such weather here at this season; certainly this is one of the wettest years known, both in the winter in Cairo & even now in summer. Of course all work is at a stand still & I hear howling yawns from the Arab rooms, on the other side of the yard. When it cleared somewhat, I had the big stele brought in to my room, as I feared it might suffer from the changes, to say nothing of its being wetted. Khalifa had carefully protected it with some matting & the piece of roofing which they have for a door to their room, but still a few drops had run on the face. I hope that some traces of the gilding may stick to the stone, but unhappily there is a tenacious coat of mud which sticks far closer to the gold, than the gold does to the stone. To wash it off would make too much of a mess of it, I fear. About one o'clock, 15 poor miserables came up for their pay, saying that they would rather go home; but they will probably turn up again so soon as it is settled fine. At present the rain has stopped, & there is some sun, but there are driving clouds, & the wind howls awfully on this hill top.




April 4.  
Again I awoke with the rain dripping & pattering, & looking out, I saw a grey sky; so ordered no work, & turned round for a snooze. I soon dreamt of being in a London shop, for something I wanted in the antiquity line, & being pestered to buy studs (a bugbear of mine) & then after that, just as they had brought out a beautiful model of a complex rude stone monument in India, which I was examining, & I heard Khalifa saying that there was no rain, and asking if they should not work. Blue sky sure enough, and as all the windows are inside I never can see the horizon without going out. He assured me that there was no more rain coming, so I told them to go on, & had my bath as quickly as I could. There is rather a

England. Khalifa says he never knew such weather here at this season; certainly this is one of the wettest years known, both in the winter in Cairo & even now out here. Of course all work is at a stand still & I hear howling yawns from the Arab rooms, on the other side of the yard. When it cleared somewhat, I had the big stele brought in to my room, as I feared it might suffer from the changes, to say nothing of its being wetted. Khalifa had carefully protected it with some old matting & the piece of roofing which they have for a door to their room, but still a few drops had run on the face. I hope that some traces of the gilding may stick to the stone, but unhappily there is a tenacious coat of mud which sticks far closer to the gold, than the gold does to the stone. To wash it off would make too much of a mess of it, I fear. About one o'clock, 15 poor miserables came up for their pay, saying that they would rather go home; but they will probably turn up again so soon as it is settled fine. At present the rain has stopped, & there is some sun, but there are driving clouds, & the wind howls awfully on this hill top.

<April 4.>

Again I awoke with the rain dripping & pattering, & looking out, I saw a grey sky; so ordered no work, & turned round for a snooze. I soon dreamt of being in a London shop, for something I wanted in the antiquity line, & being pestered to buy studs (a bugbear of mine) & then after that, just as they had brought out a beautiful model of a complex rude stone monument in India which I was examining, & I heard Khalifa saying that there was no rain, and asking if they should not work. Blue sky sure enough, and as all the windows are inside I never can see the horizon without going out. He assured me that there was no more rain coming, so I told them to go on, & had my bath as quickly as I could. There is rather a



dearth of workers today — comparatively speaking <sup>142</sup> so many went off by the rain, & many regular hands are out fishing. Thus I had 142 to settle. Yesterday they found a charming little Greek vase (neck & handle gone) by the Ptolemaic shrine; it is of black ground, with figure left in brown, a little boy crawling on the ground, with a string round him under the arms. To day they turned up a kneeling figure <sup>17 ins high</sup> holding a tablet of offerings, unfinished, all blocked out in the rough by the artist; it is a good example of the way of working, one arm having the flat side of the block remaining showing part of the canon squares. A bronze of Horus seated was found at the bottom of a trench, 5 ins high, good. Also the top of a tablet with a personal name on it, of which I send a photo. I also send a photo of a terracotta of Harpocrates on a goose, one of the prettiest things I have seen of this work. They reached the end of the roof of the steps today, & now it goes in horizontal. Another head rest of Greek date turned up; and like all the others that I have seen, both here & in collections, both of Greek & also of the earliest ages (Pepi's &?) at Paris) it puzzles me with the height of it; I measured this one, and it is 8 1/2 inches, whereas my present pillow (an old coat rolled up) is but 3 1/2 inches. The old folks do not seem to have realized the restfulness of sleeping with the head low. Another thing that I am not clear about is, how they carried the pointed-bottomed amphorae; the modern balass is plainly intended for placing on the head, being thus  whereas the water vessels of Greek & Roman period are all thus ; this ~~proves~~ shows certainly that they did not then carry water jars on the head, and I rather think they must have taken them on the back, the swell of the jar coming over the shoulders, & a strap keeping it up. 

dearth of workers to day — comparatively speaking — as so many went off by the rain, & many regular hands are out fishing. Thus I had 142 to settle. Yesterday they found a charming little Greek vase (neck & handle gone) by the Ptolemaic shrine; it is of black ground, with figure left in brown, a little boy crawling on the ground, with a string round him under the arms. To day they turned up a kneeling figure <17 ins high> holding a table of offerings, unfinished, all blocked out in the rough by the artist; it is a good example of the way of working, one arm having the flat side of the block remaining shewing part of the canon squares. A bronze of Horus seated was found at the bottom of a trench, 5 ins high, good. Also the top of a tablet with a personal name on it, of which I send a photo. I also send a photo of a terracotta of Harpocrates on a goose, one of the prettiest things I have seen of this work. They reached the end of the roof of the steps today, & now it goes in horizontal. Another head rest of Greek date turned up; and like all the others that I have seen, both here & in collections, both of Greek & also of the earliest ages (Pepi's &?) at Paris) it puzzles me with the height of it; I measured this one, and it is 8 1/2 inches, whereas my present pillow (an old coat rolled up) is but 3 1/2 inches. The old folks do not seem to have realized the restfulness of sleeping with the head low. Another thing that I am not clear about is, how they carried the pointed-bottomed amphorae; the modern balass is plainly intended for placing on the head, being thus [👤] whereas the water vessels of Greek & Roman period are all thus [👤]; this proves shows certainly that they did not then carry water jars on the head, and I rather think they must have taken them on the back, the swell of the jar coming over the shoulders, & a strap keeping it up. [👤] [👤]

<April 5>

To day there was a good illustration of the chance character of digging. I had set a man & two boys on to the end of the ridge of mound on which the house is built; they worked two days & found nothing but mud & dust, not even a wall. This afternoon my wood came, & I wanted men to carry it up; so, as it was about 4 o'clock,

143  
 I called up three men & a lad from a deep & difficult <sup>shaft</sup> to give them a change of work. They brought up the wood; & then, as there was about an hour to sunset, I told them to dig in beside the hole which was so fruitless, just in fact to keep them employed till we left off. In half an hour they hailed me in passing, & handed up a scarab & an agate ring; & when they finished one of them brought up a little bronze Bes, as I thought, *Horus* in his  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre tomorrow, not having small change. Then by candlelight I thought it looked rather horny or waxy on one part, so I dropped it into some ammonia, gave it a brushing, & it proved to be silver. This is the fourth little silver figure that I have got here; & silver in general, is but rarely found. Thus in a spare hour, they found three good little things, ~~beside a hole~~ just by the side of a hole which was quite blank. To day also a foot turned up in the house from which the unfinished statue came yesterday. This is a detached foot on a base, evidently a trial piece of some artist, & so this house is an artist's house probably. We reached the bottom of the stairs to day, and begin to go into a room apparently; but it must be ruined in some part, as it is full of mud, above the end of the staircase roof.

I called up three men & a lad from a deep & difficult hole <shaft>, to give them a change of work. They brought up the wood; & then, as there was about an hour to sunset, I told them to dig in besides the hole which was so fruitless, just in fact to keep them employed till we left off. In half an hour they hailed me in passing, & landed up a scarab & an agate ring; & when they finished one of them brought up a little bronze Bes, as I thought, I promised him  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre tomorrow, not having small change. Then by candlelight I thought it looked rather horny or waxy on one part, so I dropped it into some Ammonia, gave it a brushing, & it proved to be silver. This is the fourth little silver figure that I have got here; & silver in general, is but rarely found. Thus in a spare hour, they found three good little things, beside a hole which just by the side of a hole which was quite blank. To day also a foot turned up in the house from which the unfinished statue came yesterday. This is a detached foot on a base, evidently a trial piece of some artist, & so this house is an artist's house probably. We reached the bottom of the stairs to day, and begin to go into a room apparently; but it must be ruined in some part, as it is full of mud, above the end of the staircase roof.

XXVI. Zoan95

Ap: 15-

For M<sup>rs</sup> Petrie8. Crescent R<sup>d</sup>

Bromley

Kent-

XXVI. Zoan  
 Ap: 15-

M<sup>rs</sup> Petrie  
 8. Crescent R<sup>d</sup>  
 Bromley  
 Kent

For Mrs Petrie Bromley Kent. April 8.

144

I begin to think that the perceptions of these Arabs are not, in some ways, as delicate as our own. Continually when I give directions, I have to repeat them three or four times, before a man seems to realise what I say; I thought that it must be bad pronunciation on my part, until one day Ali was bye and I asked him when a man did not act as I said if he understood me at once, & he replied that the order was quite distinct, & rated the man soundly for inattention. To night I called Muhammed loudly, and though close by he did not hear me at all; and often a man does not seem to hear even his own name ~~at~~ when spoken by another Arab ten times as loudly as I should hear it, & it is not until shouted so loud as to make him attend to the mere noise, that he catches the name. Again, for other sounds; Ali generally challenges who it is, when I open my room door, thinking that it is the outer door; I asked him if he could not tell one door from the other by the sound (as they are very different in all the small sounds) and he said with some surprise & remonstrance that of course he could not tell one door from the other. So much for sound. Next, as to sight; it is said that generally they cannot recognise a picture, but it may be European mannerism of representation that confounds them, as they decorate their own houses with pictures after their fashion which are quite intelligible. But they are brought up, (at Gizeh at least) in thorough familiarity with ancient Egyptian drawings, which is simply form, without any shadows or perspective, to puzzle them. and yet if a figure is damaged, or fragmentary, they do not catch at all readily

For Mrs Petrie Bromley Kent.

April 8.

I begin to think that the perceptions of these Arabs are not, in some ways, as delicate as our own. Continually when I give directions, I have to repeat them three or four times, before a man seems to realise what I say; I thought that it must be bad pronunciation on my part, until one day Ali was bye and I asked him when a man did not act as I said if he understood me at once, & he replied that the order was quite distinct, & rated the man soundly for inattention. To night I called Muhammed loudly, and though close by he did not hear me at all; and often a man does not seem to hear even his own name until when spoken by another Arab ten times as loudly as I should hear it, & it is not until shouted so loud as to make him attend to the mere noise, that he catches the name. Again, for other sounds; Ali generally challenges who it is, when I open my room door, thinking that it is the outer door; I asked him if he could not tell one door from the other by the sound (as they are very different in all the small sounds) and he said with some surprise & remonstrance that of course he could not tell one door from the other. So much for sound. Next, as to sight; it is said that generally they cannot recognise a picture, but it may be European mannerism of representation that confounds them, as they decorate their own houses with pictures after their fashion which are quite intelligible. But they are brought up, (at Gizeh at least) in thorough familiarity with ancient Egyptian drawings which is simply form, without any shadows or perspective, to puzzle them, and yet if a figure is damaged, or fragmentary, they do not catch at all readily



(145)  
 what it has been; and until the connection of parts is pointed out to them they are all at sea. Again they regard any sort of markings as writing, though one could think that they could see what was writing although they could not read it: yet I have often known intelligent men, such as Ali or Khalifa, assure me that a plain row of pick marks on a dressed surface was writing, in all good faith when they had nothing to gain by it. They have no eyes for the texture of material, and cannot usually tell glass from stone, or hard stone from soft, except by biting it with their teeth. On the whole, I conclude that one must put down a great deal of their national inefficiency, not to stupidity in the common meaning, but to a radical dullness of the senses in many respects. Also I should say that they do not recognise each other by the sound; I know each of the six men that live up here (five now) by the step & manner whenever I hear them move about; yet they will call out supposing I am mistaking one for the other.

Ap. 9-  
 Another case again today; I called out repeatedly to a girl to throw the earth near a hole instead of walking a long way with it; and she stared once, & went on just the same; so I had to run down in the middle of breakfast, & make her attend to the matter. They are very fond of carrying earth a long way needlessly, as it fills up time, & makes less work. A set of three weights turned up today in a house, probably Ptolemaic. It is seldom a set together are obtained; these are 5, 2, & 1 kat, & weigh 725 289 & 150 grs; but after allowing for increase by carbonation they were about 692, 279, & 138 respectively, giving kat values of 138.4, 139.5, and 138 which are very concordant. In any case these belong to the light kat of 140, & not the heavy one of

what it has been; and until the connection of parts is pointed out to them they are all at sea. Again they regard any sort of marking as writing, though one would think that they could see what was writing although they could not read it: yet I have often known intelligent men, such as Ali or Khalifa, assure me that a plain row of pick marks on a dressed surface was writing, in all good faith when they had nothing to gain by it. They have no eye for the texture of material, and cannot usually tell glass from stone, or hard stone from soft, except by biting it with their teeth. On the whole, I conclude that one must put down a great deal of their national inefficiency, not to stupidity in the common meaning, but to a radical dullness of the senses in many respects. Also I should say that they do not recognise each other by the sound; I know each of the six men that live up here (five now) by the step & manner whenever I hear them move about; yet they will call out supposing it to be mistaking one for the other.

<Ap. 9->

Another case again today; I called out repeatedly to a girl to throw the earth near a hole instead of walking a long way with it; and she stared once, & went on just the same; so I had to run down in the middle of breakfast, & make her attend to the matter. They are very fond of carrying earth a long way needlessly, as it fills up time, & makes less work. A set of three weights turned up today in a house, probably Ptolemaic. It is seldom a set together are obtained, these are 5, 2, & 1 kat, & weigh 728 289 & 150 grs; but after allowing for increase by carbonation they were about 692, 279, & 138 respectively, giving a kat values of 138.4, 139.5, and 138 which is/are very concordant. In any case these belong to the light kat of 140, & not the heavy one of

146 grs: and they shew that the light kat is late. ~~and a slab to day~~ [?]

<Ap. 10->

We have been clearing a quantity of Roman houses this week, but nothing particular has turned up. The great staircase is not finished as it leads to a large well, apparently, which is not roofed; & so now we must clear away a large quantity from the top, to get down on to it.

Ali duly returned with the money; & so now I can go on for some time in peace. He wishes to go home altogether in about a couple of weeks; so I must see who I can get from Cairo.

Probably ended 10 or 11<sup>th</sup>.

[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

Letters received. As to the keys I am very sorry to say that I do not remember anything about them, not even the fact of my making a third-

146 grs: and they shew that the light kat is late. ~~and a slab to day~~ (146)  
 ✓ Ap. 10 -  
 we have been clearing a quantity of Roman houses this week, but nothing particular has turned up. The great staircase is not finished as it leads to a large well, apparently, which is not roofed; & so now we must clear away a large quantity from the top, to get down on to it.

Ali duly returned with the money; & so now I can go on for some time in peace. He wishes to go home altogether in about a couple of weeks; so I must see who I can get from Cairo.

Probably ended 20 or 11<sup>th</sup>.

Letters received. As to the keys I am very sorry to say that I do not remember anything about them, not even the fact of my making a third-

25/<7>,. Zan, Ap: 22-

2<sup>nd</sup> - Lenc, Apr: 22 -



For M<sup>rs</sup> Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

16. April-

For Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent. 16. April (147)  
 I have been so long settled at San, that setting off for a trip seemed like going into the wide & wicked world, a sort of plunge of dissipation into unknown depths. I took the tent, blankets, stove, & some provisions, which a donkey carried, & set off with Khalifa. We looked at some places on the way on which I shall report, & went nearly up to Fakus (don't call it Fákus, but Fagôôse); there at Khatanah we stopped the next day, & I got a few men to dig a bit, & found one or two trifles which shewed the age of the place. I heard of some big stones over a village near, Ezbet Helmy Basha; so I walked over with a boy to shew the way. There I found three big stones down in a deep hole with some stagnant water & a decomposed puppy, just at the end of the village. I jumped down & began clearing them; soon a man or two came up, & as it was very hot & the smell pretty considerable I asked one of them to clear away, & I got out. Soon there came sailing round a corner under a full spread of umbrella a portly form dressed in white, and I guessed that I had Helmy Pasha before me. He came up, & said that those stones were his, and asserted his rights in a dignified manner; so of course I said that I did not know that, but that I was working on the antiquities about them under authority; so as soon as I asked him to let me examine them he with polite dignity assented, saying that he had sent notice of them to M. Maspero but that they had not yet sent any one to examine them. On clearing them there appeared the lintel & one jamb of a magnificent gateway of Amenemhat I. Helmy became more & more

I have been so long settled at San, that setting off for a trip seemed like going into the wide & wicked world, a sort of plunge of dissipation into unknown depths. I took the tent, blankets, stove, & some provisions, which a donkey carried, & set off with Khalifa. We looked at some places on the way on which I shall report, & went nearly up to Fakus (don't call it Fákus, but Fagôôse); there at Khatanah we stopped the next day, & I got a few men to dig a bit, & found one or two trifles which shewed the age of the place. I heard of some big stones over at a village near, Ezbet Helmy Basha; so I walked over with a boy to shew the way. There I found some <three> big stones down in a deep hole with some stagnant water & a decomposed puppy, just at the end of the village. I jumped down & began clearing them; soon a man or two came up, & as it was very hot & the smell pretty considerable I asked one of them to clear away, & I got out. Soon there came sailing round a corner under a full spread of umbrella a portly form dressed in white, and I guessed that I had Helmy Pasha before me. He came up, & said that those stones were his, and asserted his rights in a dignified manner; so of course I said that I did not know that, but that I was working on the antiquities about there under authority; so as soon as I asked him to let me examine them he with polite dignity assented, saying that he had sent notice of them to M. Maspero but that they had not yet sent any one to examine them. On clearing them there appeared the lintel & one jamb of a magnificent gateway of Amenemhat I. Helmy became more & more

(148)

polite, ordered out chairs, on which we sat in grandeur & sipped coffee out of gilt cups; and on my leaving, he asked me to his house, which I declined for want of time, & then would hardly allow me to go without a horse. He is well liked there, as a pleasant & reasonable man, and is a very favourable specimen of a Pasha. ~~There~~ <sup>17th</sup>. Next day we went back to a place which we had passed on our way, Tell Bedawi. It was a hot day, & somewhere in the 90s, & I only looked over the place in the afternoon. While doing so the old shekh of the Bedawin came up on his donkey, & pressed me to come in for coffee. So I went, & he & Khalifa had a long talk across me with sundry questions, which I had to understand & answer as well as I could. The expectation that the English will bring back Arabi seems general; & he was also wishing to know what became of all Arabi's treasury after Tell El Kebir. He ~~press~~ wished me to put the tent beside his house, but as it was not far from that I begged off; & he asked me to dinner, but as I was hot & tired & sleepy I did not wish for the honour, and excused myself, he insisting however on sending me some victuals. So in the evening his son came to the tent with a large tray bearing a fowl, three pigeons, & dishes of rice, & bread. All this was brought into the tent, & the son, Khalifa, Khalifa's son & myself, all sat round & fed. I could not get through very much of it; but after they were fairly stuffed I produced a pot of Raspberry jam; the shekh's son had never seen such, & thought it delightful, & carried off some for one of the harem who was ill.

polite, ordered out chairs, on which we sat in grandeur & sipped coffee out of gilt cups; and on my leaving, he asked me to his house, which I declined for want of time, & then would hardly allow me to go without a horse. He is well liked there, as a pleasant & reasonable man, as/nd is a very favourable specimen of a Pasha. ~~There~~ <sup>17th</sup>. Next day we went back to a place which we had passed on our way, Tell Bedawi. It was a hot day, & somewhere in the 90s, & I only looked over the place in the afternoon. While doing so the old shekh of the Bedawin came up on his donkey, & pressed me to come in for coffee. So I went, & he & Khalifa had a long talk across me with sundry questions, which I had to understand & answer as well as I could. The expectation that the English will bring back Arabi seems general; & he was also wishing to know what became of all Arabi's treasury after Tell El Kebir. He ~~press~~ wished me to put the tent beside his house, but as it was not far from that I begged off; & he asked me to dinner, but as I was hot & tired & sleepy I did not wish for the honour, and excused myself, he insisting however on sending me some victuals. So in the evening his son came to the tent with a large tray bearing a fowl, three pigeons, & dishes of rice, & bread. All this was brought into the tent, & the son, Khalifa, Khalifa's son & myself, all sat round & fed. I could not get through very much of it; but after they were fairly stuffed I produced a pot of Raspberry jam; the shekh's son had never seen such, & thought it delightful, & carried off some for one of the harem who was ill.

<18<sup>th</sup>>

Next day we did some digging which produced sundry pottery, which correlates the tell here with the San houses. I saw the old shekh out on his donkey again, & exchanged almost an affectionate greeting ~~again~~ with him. He is a genial, kindly, old man, & much liked & respected. He is shekh of all the Bedawin of the district & head of the dervishes also: so it is very well that he is so pleasant & well disposed. I shall probably want to work there next year, & he desires me to take a large guest room that he has & to make myself comfortable. It was as much as Khalifa could do to persuade him not to kill a sheep for me. As his son appreciated the jam, I shall send him down four tins by Khalifa tomorrow as a present.

<19<sup>th</sup>->

Next day we were off by 6, all packed for San. Much of the way I did barefoot as there was continual wading in mud & water. We got in to San by 9; & I had a bath, & breakfast; & then attended to all the various things that waited, entering in all the names of the men from the book kept by one of the boys, a precious creature who can read & write; & then stowing away all the accumulations of pottery &c. It seemed hot, & the thermometer was 88° in my room; when I put it out it went to the top, & I feared it would burst, so brought out my clinical thermo. & that went to 102° in the most cool & shady place outside. Inside went rapidly up to 90°, & the wind rose to a breeze which blew the

18<sup>th</sup>

(149)

Next day we did some digging which produced sundry pottery, which correlates the tell here with the San houses. I saw the old shekh out on his donkey again, & exchanged almost an affectionate greeting ~~again~~ with him. He is a genial, kindly, old man, & much liked & respected. He is shekh of all the Bedawin of the district & head of the dervishes also: so it is very well that he is so pleasant & well disposed. I shall probably want to work there next year, & he desires me to take a large guest room that he has & to make myself comfortable. It was as much as Khalifa could do to persuade him not to kill a sheep for me. As his son appreciated the jam, I shall send him down four tins by Khalifa tomorrow as a present.

19<sup>th</sup>

Next day we were off by 6, all packed for San. Much of the way I did barefoot as there was continual wading in mud & water. We got in to San by 9; & I had a bath, & breakfast; & then attended to all the various things that waited, entering in all the names of the men from the book kept by one of the boys, a precious creature who can read & write; & then stowing away all the accumulations of pottery &c. It seemed hot, & the thermometer was 88° in my room; when I put it out it went to the top, & I feared it would burst, so brought out my clinical thermo. & that went to 102° in the most cool & shady place outside. Inside went rapidly up to 90°, & the wind rose to a breeze which blew the



(150)  
 sand about handsomely. It was such a khamsin  
 that I settled to make it half a day, & stop work  
 in the afternoon; so I paid off all the people as it was  
 Saturday aft<sup>n</sup>. The worst point of tenting about  
 there is that one stops by a village, for protection, & then  
 the dogs bark so incessantly, that I cannot sleep; the  
 consequence is that I am very sleepy all day, & only wish  
 to find shady spots to lie down in for half-hour naps.  
 Last night I had to get up twice to drive off a dog from  
 his own roof, from which he fled without any  
 actual pelting: he was keeping up a continuous  
 growling bark, as if all the world seemed out of  
 joint to him, & he wished to let all the world know  
 his mind. Ended 19<sup>th</sup> April -

Ali has pretty well settled to stay on now, as long as I am  
 here, unless he is much wanted at home.

Very sleepy, midnight now, & was up at 5<sup>1/2</sup> after a  
 scrappy night's sleep, & have had a hot & tiring day. Have  
 done 18 pages of writing & hieroglyphs, this evening.

28<sup>th</sup> April -  
 28<sup>th</sup> April -

Letters rec<sup>d</sup> No 23. Many thanks. No paper this week.  
 I am so run up to do all this writing on Sat. night for  
 Khalifa to go tomorrow that I cannot write separately  
 about the weights. I only have <sup>here</sup> my own set, (which I made  
 last autumn) of 1/10 to 50 grns, & the chemical set of 100-500.  
 There are at home the W.P. set of 1/10-100? grns of wire (in  
 a match box in the scale box, or else in a tin box on top of drawers  
 in store room) also my leaden set of 100-400 grns, on shelf,  
 & my set of 1000-4000 grns (accurate to 1/10 grn) (accurate to 1/2 grn).

sand about handsomely. It was such a khamsin  
 that I settled to make it half a day, & stop work  
 in the afternoon; so I paid off all the people as it was  
 Saturday aft<sup>n</sup>. The worst point of tenting about  
 there is that one stops by a village, for protection, & there  
 the dogs bark so incessantly, that I cannot sleep; the  
 consequence is that I am very sleepy all day, & only wish  
 to find shady spots to lie down in for half-hour naps.  
 Last night I had to get up twice to drive off a dog from  
 his own roof, from which he fled without any  
 actual pelting: he was keeping up a continuous  
 growling bark, as if all the world seemed out of  
 joint to him, & he wished to let all the world know  
 his mind.

Ended 19th April-

[This note was written by Anne Petrie, Petrie's mother.]

Ali has pretty well settled to stay on now, as busy as I am  
 here, unless he is much wanted at home.

Very sleepy, midnight now, & I was up at 6/5 1/2 after a  
 scrappy night's sleep, & have had a hot & tiring day. Have  
 done 18 pages of writing & hieroglyphs, this evening.

27/8, Zoan-  
 Ap. 28-

Letters rec<sup>d</sup> No 23. Many thanks. No paper this week.  
 I am so run up to do all this writing on Sat. night for  
 Khalifa to go tomorrow that I cannot write separately  
 about the weights. I only have <here> my own set, (which I made  
 last autumn) of 1/10 to 50 grns; & the chemical set of 100-500.  
 There are at home the W.P. set of 1/10-100? grns of wire (in  
 a match box in the scale box, or else in a tin box on top of drawers  
 in store room) also my leaden set of 100-400 grns, on shelf,  
 & my set of 1000-4000 grns (accurate to 1/2 grn) <(accurate to 1/2 grn),>