

(I find this paper smudges on the
ruled side but is quite all right
on the back.) Arabah el Madfunah¹
Dec 13th 1930. 96

Dear Mother

I am sorry to hear you have had another
of those nasty attacks. Have you any idea
what caused it. did you get wet or anything.
I hope you are taking proper care of yourself.

We are now back in our own camp
& we do not at all regret the grandeurs of
Chicago House, it is really a branch of the
university & not a camp at all, it contains
a splendid library containing nearly every
book on the subjects allied to Egyptology
some of them very rare editions & the staff
includes a librarian

One thing caused us a lot of
amusement, there were two rocking chairs
in our room, of course I promptly sat down
in one & to my amazement found it
was made of tin painted & grained to
imitate wood!! we then examined the
rest of the furniture & found it was all metal;
chest of drawers - looking glass, writing desk

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book case etc. We learnt that there are 70 ~~bed~~ rooms, & they are all furnished with this metal furniture which came all the way from America & of which they are very proud. Of course it is really excellent for the climate as the white ants cannot eat it; but it is so awful to have it made to so exactly imitate wood, even to grooving & turning. & in the lounge they actually had imitation wicker work chairs made with metal wire painted to look like the real thing. I don't see why metal furniture shouldn't have a special design of its own, it could be really very nice.

Dr. & Mrs Nelson were very kind to us, if we wanted to do any ~~the~~ sight seeing there was always a car at our disposal, (they have five). The chief colour artist very kindly showed us all his methods & gave us quite a lot of useful hints, & we got quite a lot of information about retouching photos

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so we feel our visit was not waste of time. Of course we enjoyed going to see Mrs Davis, she has a charming little house & has given us an invitation to go & stay with her some time.

The first two days after our return we spent putting our house in order. we have made a really splendid book case out of a packing case, it is all neatly lined with brown paper & is really a handsome piece of furniture. I have made a stationary case to hang on the wall for our special paper, post cards, telegraph forms etc.

I have also fixed a hanging wardrobe in my room & found some of my Woolworth purchases very useful.

We have now started work in the temple, we are cleaning the walls ready for the colour work. the upper scenes are badly discoloured with smoke,

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The Temple was used a lot in Early Christian times as a dwelling & their cooking fires did a lot of damage to the walls. We have got quite a lot of the outer coating of smoke & dirt off by washing carefully with soft sponges & clean water. We keep two men busy constantly washing the sponges for us. To-morrow we hope to finish cleaning the scenes we have to reproduce in colour.

All our people here were pleased to see us & gave us a splendid welcome, we have had endless callers, the Coptic priest, the Omdah, the Sheikh el Gaffir, Sheikh Abdu Wahid etc have all been to pay their respects, Our dog looks fat & well he is now promoted to a collar & is the envy of all the dogs in Arabah el Madfunah he was so pleased to see us again.

Bijou-Bast-Anta ^(the cat) is also flourishing, he comes in to see us each dinner time & is

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Bijou-Bast-Anta <(the cat)> is also flourishing, he comes in to see us each dinner time & is

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very friendly while food is about.

Garden is looking very flourishing. Nannie is very disappointed that I have not brought any carrot seeds as they did so well last year & Amice says could you get some tobacco plant seeds (nicotiana) as well as carrot seeds to send us.

I forgot to tell you that old Ahmed made most anxious enquiries after the health of both my parents & offered many thanks to Allah when I said you were well.

The wool has proved most disappointing it is no good at all out here, it dried up during the summer & split into tiny lengths when they tried to spin it. they could not do anything at all with it, isn't it a pity - Sardinie is very sad about it.

Tell Pat I am simply longing to hear all her news about Mr Beazley etc, I am sorry to have such bad news of Miss Jonas, I do hope they will be able to save her thumb

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I expect you are preparing for Xmas, I dont expect we shall celebrate it this year there is no time to arrange anything.

I hope now to send my letters more regularly, it was rather difficult while we were moving about so much.

Joey had an attack of indigestion through eating too much sand, he has had a dose of oil in his carboretta & two new plugs & is quite himself again, his first job was to take our electric light engine over to Nag Hammadi to have some repairs done, we brought out the spare parts but the mechanic who came over to see about it said they would have to be fitted at the workshop.

This is all my news for the present. Lots of love to you both & mind you get well quickly

Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle

Have received L.H.J. &
two papers
Thanks

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