

Arabah el Madfunah.  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1936.

Dear Mother & Father.

A very Happy Christmas to you both  
I expect we will have the usual programme  
here, we may have some guests from Luxor but  
nothing definite has been fixed.

I am sorry I cannot describe the visit of  
Glanville & his hareem as he has'nt<sup>sic</sup> been  
here after all, it was a series of muddles,  
he wrote first from Sakkara suggesting  
a date & Amice wrote back to say it was  
convenient & expected to hear the train they  
were arriving by, & then he wrote to say  
that as he had'nt<sup>sic</sup> heard from her, he would  
make his visit a little later, we found  
that he had left sakkara the day after  
he wrote so naturally the <answering> letter did not  
arrive until after his departure, so we got  
everything ready for them to come a second time

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& the day before they were expected he sent a  
 wire to say he had altered his plans & would  
 come on the 15<sup>th</sup>, well Amice had invited  
 three of her friends in Bano to come for two  
 or three days as they wished to see Abydos,  
 & as the end of Ramadan is a public holiday  
 it was the only time they were free, so she  
 had to go into Baliana to wire to Glanville  
 to say we could not accommodate his party  
 until the 18<sup>th</sup> & he wired back to say  
 that he must cancell<sup>sic</sup> his visit to Abydos.  
 Then later that same day there came  
 a wire from two of the expected guests to  
 say they could not come, so then Amice  
 sent another wire to Glanville to say we  
 could put them up after all. but we have  
 not heard anything more from him  
 One of Amice's guests arrived this morning  
 a lady doctor. she goes round inspecting  
 the girls schools, such a nice interesting  
 woman, we are enjoying her visit very much

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We were not able to pay our usual round of visits in the village to wish our friends a happy feast at the end of Ramadan but we have promised to go later. We had lots of loaves of feast bread brought to us & we carefully eat a little of each & wished the giver a happy year, it is a very solemn occasion. Amice says to me. "Have you eaten Little Mahmud yet?" & I say "No, I am just finishing Old Ahmed" & then perhaps she will say "Singab tastes very good this year" & I may remark "Semman has got a little burnt." & so on.

I had a note from Mrs Brunton she says she has sent Father an Arabic wooden puzzle I shall be very eager to hear all about it. The bundle of Humorists arrived & are very welcome Amice always refers to them as Pa's vulgar paper.

We have been very concerned about the Kings abdication & the events that led up to it I imagine there must have been a very tense

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feeling in England, both Amice & I are very relieved that the nation would not accept a Queen who was not above reproach, but feel very sad that such a scandal should be the cause of England ~~loosing~~ loosing such a beloved & able King. The English people in Cairo have felt it very keenly.

I had to leave my letter writing until bed time to-day, as it is difficult to write when we have guests, so I am afraid this is rather a scrappy letter but anyway it is full of good wishes for a Happy Xmas.

Please wish Pat the best of everything for the season from me, & Amice of course joins in with Xmas Greetings to you all.

Lots of love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

Happy Xmas to May also -

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