

Arabah el Madfunah.
Nov 30th 1931.

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Dear Mother.

We had our first lesson in Arabic writing on Saturday, the school master arrived punctually at 5 o'clock, very fine & handsome in his best clothes, & after exchange of polite salutations Amice & I sat down with our pencils & paper to learn our Aleph - Be - Te. we did our best to be very serious & attentive, the school master wrote a letter & told us its sound value & we did our best to repeat it after him, we got along very nicely until we came to 9. "wow-w" said the school master, "wow" said we in chorus. wow-w-w. said the cat solo fortissimo. This was too much. our gravity gave way, we laughed & rocked with joy, the school master joining in our mirth, it really was the funniest thing I have ever known happen. we still jelly with laughter every time we think of it, We have since been struggling hard to memorise the alphabet, it is rather difficult as the beginning, middle, & final letters are different & one has to learn three sets. My writing of the Arabic characters has been very much admired, Nannie

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says I write a better hand than any of the Sheikhs.
Amice as usual is very ambitious & has already
ordered an Arabic newspaper!!!

We are expecting Miss Holo^{sic} next week, she will be here
for 3 months for the photography, we have been busy
getting the dark room fitted up with new shelves
so as to be ready for her.

Our Soudani guards are proving very
vigilant, even we ourselves get challenged if we
go outside to the house of good behaviour after
dark.

I hope you have had a more reasonable
estimate for the garage etc, I suppose its the arch
like the arch over the entrance that make it mount
up so.

I am glad you had such a nice day
in town, out here one forgets there are such things
as shops. It was very nice of Miss Tarven to want
some of my things for her show. Thank you very
much for looking after them for me, I had a
letter from Pat last week. please thank her, I was
so pleased to hear all about Kelly's birthday.

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I have just read a book I think you would enjoy
It is "Henry the Eighth by Francis Hackett, it is the
history of his reign compiled from actual documents
of the period & is most interesting, ask Miss Ferguson
to get it for you.

Lots of love to both of you
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle

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