


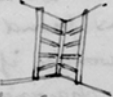
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EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY, 's Camp.
 Arabah el Madfunah, TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
 Baliana. LONDON, W.C.1.

TELEGRAMS,
 USHABTI, WESTCENT, LONDON.
 TELEPHONE,
 0866 MUSEUM.

Dear Father.

I wish you could see our carpenter. he is a most beautiful person in a long white & blue striped nightie. but I am afraid his tools & his methods would make your hair stand on end. he gnaws holes in wood with a chisel that wont cut a bit of string. his pet saw for cutting up planks is like this  & his method of using it is to squat in the sand & hold the plank with his toes, then he hacks away gaily & all the unoccupied servants stand round & say Ya Allah!! & hand him the wrong things at the wrong time. He had a lovely time cutting an extra window in the mud brick wall of the tower room which I am to inhabit. the dust & dirt fell through the cracks in the floor onto the belongings of the person who lives underneath, but no one minds. if one points out such a trifle, he smiles sweetly & says "What matter! the boy will clear it up."

On my return yesterday from the temple this joyous carpenter pointed to the tower with great pride & said "See Oh Lady I have made for you two windows & Praise be to God they will both open." To-day this carpenter is fixing corner shelves in my room. he has erected posts & cross pieces for the shelves thus.  but when it came to cutting up odd bits of plank up with the correct angle to form shelves he got in a hopeless mess. Miss Calverley & I had to go & measure up the wood & mark it out for him. he is now getting on with it.


My tower windows have two of the most perfect views one could ever wish for. one across the desert to the pink hills, the other across the Nile valley.


My leather trunk is due to arrive today. it started to come here by goods train with various other things direct from the ship

TELEGRAMS,
 USHABTI, WESTCENT, LONDON.
 TELEPHONE,
 0856 MUSEUM.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY, 's Camp.
 <Arabah el Madfunah> 43, TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
 <Baliana.> LONDON, W.C.1.

Dear Father.

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My tower windows have two of the most perfect views one could ever wish for. one across the desert to the pink hills, the other across the Nile valley.

My leather trunk is due to arrive to-day. it started to come here by goods train with various other things direct from the ship

Ten days ago. yesterday news came that certain boxes had arrived at Baliana station so camels were sent. Later news came to say that by the Will of Allah the train had come too late for the things to be despatched that day. so today the camels set out before dawn in the hopes that the will of Allah will be more favourable for us.

We have a small boy. the nephew of the head man who is being trained as a house servant. he is a good little boy. but oh so puzzled by all the things the Excellencies require to eat with. yesterday he came running in clutching a cucumber in each little brown fist, & was promptly sent back to bring them in on a plate. his name is ~~Abd~~ Abdullah.

We have lots of fresh dates; when they are first picked they are a beautiful golden colour & are as crisp as an apple. the flavour is lovely. later on they will ferment & be like the dates we have in England. yesterday Captain Calverley & I gave our donkeys some dates. much to the amused amazement of their owners. who held up their hands & said "Ya Allah. but the donkeys are indeed honoured." Our importance is simply terrific, our servants are as the sands of the desert, of these about 5 are paid by the society. but all their friends & relations come in swarms so that they can swank in the village as having had the honour to serve their Excellencies. yesterday in the temple a small boy came to Miss Calverley & said "Oh Lady. the noble Prince wishes to drink." she dispatched him to the engine room with a tin mug of cold tea for her brother. but he was as proud as if he were carrying the crown jewels at least. You will wonder if I ever do any work myself. so far I have made two scale drawings of the great sandstone doors of the temple; later, when the photography is completed the details will be filled in by tracing direct from the negatives.

I must now go & see what the carpenter is doing -

Heaps of love to you both.
Myrtle.

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