Anabah il Madfunch. score not not france my southing paper very Dran Mother. Stand principal borgers 1 53 Incally have a good opportunity to write today as I am having a day off. I have got a snuzy wild in the head rit is no use trying to do fine poncel chavings

+ blow one's nose way five minules. so lam just staying in bed for a day loget rid of it quickly. I think I must have caught it from It Beagley who came back from Laxon with a bad wed.

Testinday 1984 your letter with the next of the sand paper. I am glad to hear you received my first letter about new boots, as now the canvas ones are quite usetes, the sole has come night away from the upper. I expect an English boot maker could mind them, as with sole & upper are in good condition do only the actual stitching that has gone, but the Egyptian colother is hopeless. The down not understand how our boots are constructed, so at present I am iscoring rubber show & stockings. I do not want to num my new riding boots I am teeping them for swell occasions " it is quite safe to wan show now as all the snakes have gone to steep in them holes for the iscalic. (Thave only seen one since thave been keen)

# **BROOME LETTER 53**

PAGE 1 RECTO

Arabah el Madfunah. Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1930.

Dear Mother.

I really have a good opportunity to write today as I am having a day off. I have got a sneezy cold in the head & it is no use trying to do fine pencil drawings & blow one's nose every five minutes. so I am just staying in bed for a day to get rid of it quickly. I think I must have caught it from M<sup>r</sup> Beazley who came back from Luxor with a bad cold.

Yesterday I got your letter with the rest of the sand paper. I am glad to hear you received my first letter about new boots, as now the canvas ones are quite useless, the sole has come right away from the upper. I expect an English boot maker could mend them, as both sole & upper are in good condition its<sup>sic</sup> only the actual stitching that has gone. but the Egyptian cobbler is hopeless. he does not understand how our boots are constructed, so at present I am wearing rubber shoes & stockings. I do not want to ruin my nice riding boots I am keeping them for "swell occasions" it is quite safe to wear shoes now as all the snakes have gone to sleep in their holes for the winter. (I have only seen one since I have been here)

#### Anabat il Madhimet.

Iscom to be getting through my subbling paper very quickly. so will conomise by using both sides in the Juture. I enjoyed hearing about all your X mas festivities. you scon to have had a very good time, rather definent to my X mas how ever. I am sorry to hear poor Mr Childs has had such a bad Time, A must have been very misuable for him. Tam glad 12= 6. was pleased with my letter, 11000 un She hears all my news through you, but I though she might like to have a letter all to herself We are now settling down to steady work after our many xmas cicitaments. We have had a little bother with Mr Bragloy's work. unfortunately he has had no ancharological Training, but considus his work above criticism because he has studied at the stade - both Miss 6. 1! have done our best To help him, but he scons unable To acquie the Technique, or the accuracy needed for this work + Takes all criticism as a possonal insult. This makes the situation very difficult as D' gordina is trusting to Miss 6's judgment to in This matter. She is the most painstaking a skillful changetswoman I have wer seen. Though she does not claim to be an artist in the mellie of niginal work. It will probably mean she + 1 will have to do wery thing except the quele mechanical part such as nubbings , measurements bapt 5's job is the photography + charge of the

### **BROOME LETTER 53**

I seem to be getting through my scribbling paper very quickly, so will economise by using both sides in the future. I enjoyed hearing about all your Xmas festivities. you seem to have had a very good time, rather different to my Xmas however.

I am sorry to hear poor M<sup>r</sup> Childs has had such a bad time. it must have been very miserable for him. I am glad M<sup>rs</sup> C. was pleased with my letter. I know she hears all my news through you, but I thought she might like to have a letter all to herself We are now settling down to steady work after our many Xmas excitements. We have had a little bother with M<sup>r</sup> Beazley's work. unfortunately he has had no archaeological training, but considers his work above criticism because he has studied at the Slade – both Miss C. & I have done our best to help him, but he seems unable to acquire the technique, or the accuracy needed for this work & takes all criticism as a personal insult. This makes the situation very difficult as D<sup>r</sup> Gardiner is trusting to Miss C's judgment to in this matter. she is the most painstaking & skillful<sup>sic</sup> draughtswoman I have ever seen, though she does not claim to be an artist in the matter of original work. It will probably mean she & I will have to do everything except the quite mechanical part such as rubbings & measurements Capt C's job is the photography & charge of the

statue light orgine . which by the way has had Something go wrong with its innards + has been sent to Hag Hammardie to be repaired. it went by male cart to the river o then by boat. I took a Smap of it being loaded onto the cart. There was a fuss de hulla ba los about it. wer one yells instructions To everyone else, & cach one does cracity what he thinks most suitable until bapt 6 comes on the scene & yells touder than all the thirs; a good Bulish baul makes itself heard like a big dogs back among a pack of yapping little dogs bottles and it sport here it So for. Mr Beaglay is the only one who has Taken any leave. he had a week at Xmas. Hiss & it are Trying to plan a gorquous trip for our have about the end of the we want to issid the Casis of Khaga. To do this one has to go by camel along the anaicht camel Track across the descet. They till us it takes a good candride 3 days s two nights it is own 100 miles, indescet all the way. (we had this in our mind when we did our camel ride To Nag Hammardi) there are sunal Bidawin in our village who have done the Journey many Times & we would have Two as quites as well as Two Join sewants - we should mid 10 camets as one has to carry all the water

electric light engine. which by the way has had something go wrong with its innards & has been sent to Nag Hammardi<sup>sic</sup> to be repaired. it went by mule cart to the river. & then by boat. I took a snap of it being loaded onto the cart. there was a fuss & a hulla ba loo about it, everyone yells instructions to everyone else, & each one does exactly what he thinks most suitable until Capt C. comes on the scene & yells louder than all the others; a good British bawl makes itself heard like a big dogs<sup>sic</sup> bark among a pack of yapping little dogs.

So far. M<sup>r</sup> Beazley is the only one who has taken any leave. he had a week at Xmas.

Miss C & I are trying to plan a gorgeous trip for our leave about the end/<beginning> of Feb. we want to visit the oasis of Khaga. To do this one has to go by camel along the ancient camel track across the desert. they tell us it takes a good camel rider 3 days & two nights it is over 100 miles, & desert all the way. (we had this in our mind when we did our camel ride to Nag Hammardi<sup>sic</sup>) there are several Bedawin in our village who have done the journey many times & we would have two as guides as well as two of our servants. we should need 10 camels as one has to carry all the water

required for the journey + a good allowance over in case of any delay. We have one tony link that we use for a sand closet for our privationse in the Temple, we should take this for dressing & undressing in but we would have to sleep in the open with the camels would'us it be fun. I am not counting too much on doing it, as something very likely will occur to prevent it, but we are both very cages to do some real descel travel in Bedawin style. Sardie is very thilled at the idea. he is a real Bedawi, he belongs to a Tribe of camel men + test makers, + though the has settled in the cultivation & manied a woman of the fellahin (people of the fields) the desurt is in his blood a I believe he loves camels more than his own children . ( don't you love the picture I look of him kissing the lady camel.) We still have a hospital parade sweal Times a weck. they are usually quickly dill inth a bottle of lysol water + a handful of Epson salts. Missb is known among the woman as "Mother of Punges." Shikh about Watid has been up to Gaino to look after one of his sons. he Totd us that he was "behaving badly in the ways of young men & bringing shame upon the head of his family. I was valking through the suice rooms in the timple when I met the Sheikt I stopped to say the usual polite things. I thought I had got through them very well when he spring an entirely new lot of saturations on me + Took me

### **BROOME LETTER 53**

required for the journey & a good allowance over in case of any delay. We have one tiny tent that we use for a sand closet for our private use in the temple, we should take this for dressing & undressing in, but we would have to sleep in the open with the camels. would'nt<sup>sic</sup> it be fun. I am not counting too much on doing it, as something very likely will occur to prevent it, but we are both very eager to do some real desert travel in Bedawin style. Sardic is very thrilled at the idea. he is a real Bedawi, he belongs to a tribe of camel men & tent makers, & though he has settled in the cultivation & married a woman of the fellahin (people of the fields) the desert is in his blood & I believe he loves camels more than his own children. (dont<sup>sic</sup> you love the picture I took of him kissing the lady camel.)

We still have a "hospital parade" several times a week, they are usualy<sup>sic</sup> quickly de<a>lt with, a bottle of Lysol water & a handful of Epsom Salts – Miss C is known among the women as "Mother of Purges."

Sheikh Abdu Wahid has been up to Cairo to look after one of his sons. he told us that he was "behaving badly in the ways of young men & bringing shame upon the head of his family". I was walking through the service rooms in the temple when I met the Sheikh & stopped to say the usual polite things, I thought I had got through them very well when he sprung an entirely new lot of salutations on me & took me

firmly by the hand & lid me to the Temple courty and here a very handsome young man was presented to me who proved to be the eving son. The certainly did'at both the sort who could casely resist the timplations of a gay town like baino, I am nother doubtful whether such a dashing youth will be content to stay on a quiet country farm, but the Sheikel seins quite capable of ruling his Jamily with a firm hand and tond band with and all The last few nights we have been rather disturbed by jackals, they are getting very hungry + bold, & They can smill our chickens, & prost round the house : of course our dog banks frontically . in have to keep him Ted up at night Showise he call go of to the village To viset his lady fiends - sometimes our night quard fires his gun at them but they are rethen superstillions about killing them . dates, just received tathois filto We have not yet eaten all the good things sent us for Xmas, we have a wondaful desut comy night. Tunas 2 delight. stated dates, chowlates, almonds i rasing nongat, candied puits. as well as our local grown oranges, mandarins & bananas\_ the pishoranges are sumply deterious a they come in they baskets with tols of. leaves on them. Our meals and very varied a we make use Malt the local vigitables, just now we are having black canots. a cross between ordinary carrots + bretroots. They are very good.

## **BROOME LETTER 53**

firmly by the hand & led me to the temple courtyard. here a very handsome young man was presented to me who proved to be the erring son. he certainly did'nt<sup>sic</sup> look the sort who could easily resist the temptations of a gay town like Cairo, I am rather doubtful whether such a dashing youth will be content to stay on a quiet country farm, but the Sheikh seems quite capable of ruling his family with a firm hand.

The last few nights we have been rather disturbed by jackals, they are getting very hungry & bold, & they can smell our chickens. & prowl round the house: of course our dog barks frantically, we have to keep him tied up at night otherwise he will go off to the village to visit his lady friends – sometimes our night guard fires his gun at them, but they are rather superstitious about killing them.

We have not yet eaten all the good things sent us for Xmas. we have a wonderful desert every night. Turkish delight. stuffed dates, chocolates, almonds & rasins<sup>sic</sup> nougat. candied fruits. as well as our local grown oranges, mandarins & bananas – the fresh oranges are simply delicious & they come in big baskets with lots of leaves on them. Our meals are very varied & we make use of all the local vegetables, just now we are having black carrots. a cross between ordinary carrots & beetroots. they are very good.

one of our favourilé puddings is date nice, it is nice pudding + chopped up dates, baked until the milk is all absorbed the rice is very Tonder. The plavour of the dates goes all through it. I think you's tathen would like it for a change. When we have chicking we usually have them stuffed with nice & raking. you have no idea how good this is . sometimes the live is toiled , chopped up with the rice (a it may be giblets) we dont have head sauce alas, because the free native head is not suitable for it. The meat is usually rather Tough, it has to be caten so Soon, but we do have good soup. & splendid egg dishes + lots of tomatoes all of which I do full justice to We are most polite over our desart. We always have Jinger bowls. & such dear little cups for own black coffee, in fact we are really in the lap of luxury. Nannic is such a dear old soul & looks after us splendidly. I read her your remarks about her photo, she was so delighted. I heard her repeating them in anabic for Sardic's benefit

dates. Just succived tather's lettre enclosing one form MSwain, the very nice pocket book. for all of strick my very best thanks. I am so glad you are both phased with my times surprise. Maschilds must have managed it splindidly, leftert you must have wondered what was in that big pared. I had an awful job to smuggle it into the house unobserved. I am glad gamages understood my requirements

re: boots 1 apach Ishall get them about the end of the month on carly in Feb. Jan 11 = Bold is better this maning. So shall get up to lunch + sit in the sun. We are planning a lettle repedition for much week. Thus is to be a guat Mohomadan Fistural held at Kena

# **BROOME LETTER 53**

one of our favourite puddings is date rice, it is rice pudding & chopped up dates, baked until the milk is all absorbed & the rice is very tender. The flavour of the dates goes all through it. I think you & Father would like it for a change.

When we have chickens we usually have them stuffed with rice & rasins<sup>sic</sup>. you have no idea how good this is. sometimes the liver is boiled & chopped up with the rice (or it may be giblets) we dont<sup>sic</sup> have bread sauce alas, because the brea native bread is not suitable for it.

The meat is usually rather tough, it has to be eaten so soon, but we do have good soup. & splendid egg dishes & lots of tomatoes all if which I do full justice to.

We are most polite over our desert. we always have finger bowls. & such dear little cups for our black coffee, in fact we are really in the lap of luxury. Nannie is such a dear old soul & looks after us splendidly.

I read her your remarks about her photo. she was so delighted. I heard her repeating them in Arabic for Sardic's benefit

#### <u>Later</u>.

Just received Father's letter enclosing one from M<sup>r</sup> Swain. & the very nice pocket book. for all of which my very best thanks. I am so glad you are both pleased with my Xmas surprise, M<sup>rs</sup> Childs must have managed it splendidly, I expect you must have wondered what was in that big parcel. I had an awful job to smuggle it into the house unobserved.

I am glad Gamages understood my requirements re: boots I expect I shall get them about the end of the month or early in Feb.

# <u>Jan 11<sup>th</sup></u>

Cold is better this morning. so shall get up to lunch & sit in the sun. We are planning a little expedition for next week. There is to be a great Mohomadan Festival held at Kena

which is man To Dendua (Plotomagic Temple) this festival is held wery year + it would be an excellent opportunely for us to suit, as we can probably get the loan of the antiquelies ust house at Dendua & sie the Timple at the same Time. we should have to Travel by Train Wid morning stay Ved night & neture Thins night. Thue is a very curious custom connected with this festival, the King sends \$100 in million piccus. (less than 'hi') These are scattered hoad cash & when the moto rushes to fick them up they are lasted + becter with long whips, the man who secures a coin will be bucky all the year. The more he is beating in getting it the more marit he will acquire, I expect it will be a very butal sight, but one has To remember that these proph an faratical & it is absolutely true that when the relegions penzy is on them they have to no physical Juling what ever. One gets quite a different out book on things out here, Wistern ideas & standards simply wont work in the cast. There will be many other sights besides the coin scramble. There will be the great procession of camets in all their best happings. the dancing horses + native music, Trials of skill, + sing & shile controls, conjuning the Mon 132 Have decided not 15 goto bendere after all as this welthed cold will hang about + I dont want to risk making it worse. I am very disappointed. we find

### **BROOME LETTER 53**

4

which is near to Dendera (Ptolemayic<sup>sic</sup> temple) this festival is held every year & it would be an excellent opportunity for us to see it, as we can probably get the loan of the antiquities rest house at Dendera & see the temple at the same time. we should have to travel by train Wed morning. stay Wed night & return Thurs night. There is a very curious custom connected with this festival, the king sends £100 in million pieces (less than  $\frac{1}{4}^{d}$ ) these are scattered broadcast & when the mob rushes to pick them up they are lashed & beaten with long whips. the man who secures a coin will be lucky all the year. & the more he is beaten in getting it the more merit he will acquire. I expect it will be a very brutal sight, but one has to remember that these people are fanatical & it is absolutely true that when the religious frenzy is on them they have ab no physical feeling what ever. One gets quite a different outlook on things out here, Western ideas & standards simply wont<sup>sic</sup> work in the east. There will be many other sights besides the coin scramble, there will be the great procession of camels in all their best trappings. the dancing horses & native music, trials of skill, & single stick contests, conjuring etc

# Mon 13<sup><u>th</u></sup>

Have decided not to go to Dendera after all as this wretched cold will hang about & I dont<sup>sic</sup> want to risk making it worse. I am very disappointed. we find The fishived is a day soone than we thought + will mean a long turing journey. I wanted thiss & to go with bapt & & teave me at home with Manmie, but she says she doesn't care about going without me so we are leading bapt &. To do as he likes, he is over at NagHarmond' seeing about the engine. MB Beagly is leaving for good Tomorow, then is nelly nothing that he is capable of doing now that the ceiling meltings o measurements are done, it means Miss & it will have a literate to get through but possibly a literate to get through but possibly a literate for good of the England. I am glad my work has proved if to standard. I shall probably have the offer of swind more seasons work out fire.

I wonk down to the Timple to finch to day , the walk absolutily Jagged me out. it's a touch of this beastly the that I've had, there has been one ansolation however , that's the welcome 1gd from the men on my reappearance, the Temple rang inth their Praise be to god the Lady has teturned Old almed took me by the hand & inquired most atmestly after my health, seach time he saw me afterwoods he told me he was happy because I was better, I over heard Sardie Telling Mannie that he hoped I would be back in the Temple soon, as

# **BROOME LETTER 53**

the festival is a day sooner than we thought & will mean a long tiring journey. I wanted Miss C to go with Capt C & leave me at home with Nannie, but she says she does'nt<sup>sic</sup> care about going without me. so we are leaving Capt C. to do as he likes. he is over at Nag Hammardi<sup>sic</sup> seeing about the engine.

Mr Beazley is leaving for good tomorrow. there is really nothing that he is capable of doing now that the ceiling rubbings & measurements are done, it means Miss C & I will have a lot extra to get through, but possibly a lot could be finished in England. I am glad my work has proved up to standard. I shall probably have the offer of several more seasons<sup>sic</sup> work out here.

I went down to the temple to lunch to-day & the walk absolutely fagged me out. its<sup>sic</sup> a touch of this beastly flu that I've had, there has been one consolation however & thats<sup>sic</sup> the welcome I got from the men on my reappearance, the temple rang with their "Praise be to God the Lady has returned" Old Ahmud took me by the hand & enquired most earnestly after my health, & each time he saw me afterwards he told me he was happy because I was better. I over heard Sardic telling Nannie that he hoped I could be back in the temple soon, as

the work did not go at all well in my absence . so widenty I am popular. Even when one has taken off a pountage for oriental mannes I Think this is all my news for the fresent There is just on the thing I have thought of I have had no answer from Bairo about the Turkes I dely el Induced to be sent To you. Mr Beagly has kindly Aud to call of the stop renquice about it I shall to desappointed if it arrives late for your bullday bet any way I upeet my letter will used you in Time Tommore is English mail & I am tooking Inward to my usual letter for you. Lanuel the door to you lot shall be bracked your affection de daug hla work attrift to the Tumple to finel today " He walk absoluted, fagged me out. is a touch of This breaks the that I've had, there has been on consolation however a that's the interme lad from the men on my reappearance, the Temple rang will their Praise be 15 god 1th Lady has kiturned " Old almed a look me by the hand & inquired most constly after my halk scal time to saw me afterwords to told me to was happy hearse I was botton, I over trand Sandie Telling Manzie that the hoped I would be back in the Timple soon, as

# **BROOME LETTER 53**

the work did not go at all well in my absence. so evidently I am popular. even when one has taken off a percentage for Oriental manners

I think this is all my news for the present There is just one other thing I have thought of. I have had no answer from Cairo about the Turkish Delight I ordered to be sent to you. M<sup>r</sup> Beazley has kindly offered to call at the shop & enquire about it. I shall be disappointed if it arrives late for your birthday but anyway I expect my letter will reach you in time.

Tomorrow is English mail & I am looking forward to my usual letter from you.

Love to you both your affectionate daughter Myrtle. PAGE 5 VERSO