

Arabah.
Dec 7th 1934

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Dear Mother.

The charms arrived today & Amice sends many thanks, we were very amused to see the baby included among them, we shall not put that in the Xmas pudding, as it might prove embarrassing, so it has been given to Nannie to send to Eva who, alas! is expecting another.

I am still going on in the same way with my lessons, I think Sheikh Jed el Karim enjoys hearing my lists of words. I now make up a sentence in Arabic using each word to make sure I understand the exact meaning. Today I discovered further complications in the verb, there is a form that denotes a permanent action & another for a temporary one. This is how I got at it. The word was "raised up." my sentence was, "I saw a splendid relief carved on one of the stones that are raised above the wall of the temple."

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I then said "The lamp would give a better light if it were raised up a little."
 For this time I was told I must use another form since the lamp could be moved, whereas the stone stayed in its position.
 Can you imagine anything more complicated than Arabic?

Mahommed Kheir came & had a long talk with me about various woods, he was very interested in my eastle, I did not know the arabic for mahogany, so he borrowed one of the thin slatts that I was not using at the time, & went with it to a carpenter who has been sent down from Cairo to do some repairs in the temple. He came back in great glee & said it was maw-hoo-gani. Evidently they use our word, as it is not a local product.

I am afraid my letters get a little rambling sometimes. I find it so difficult to write when there are people talking.
 Lots of love to you both.

Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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