

G.I.

pp. 1 & 4 <p. 1 only <?>> of letter dated 4 Dec. 1909.  
<MEIDUM.>

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the work. There are six main divisions  
each put under one principal man.  
1) The east face of the pyramid cleared down  
to ground in order to tunnel to the  
central mastaba. Huseyn Osman.  
2) The temple site(?) at the foot of the  
causeway. Hasan Osman.  
3) The big mastaba, of which no entrance can  
be found, & in which I got the lining  
wall of the central pit of the chamber, 15  
ft below the ground outside. Aly a.r. Rahim.  
The above are Wainwright's lot, with two  
fellows tomb hunting.  
4) The deep ruins south of the pyramid,  
probably catacombs of royal family, with  
rock cutting & tunnel found before. Shahad Ah<sup>d</sup>.  
5) The tombs near the pyramid on W. Aly Firmisi.  
6) The tombs far out, south & west of  
the pyramid. Aly Suwefy.  
With two men hunting on N. tombs, all Mackay's  
lot.  
We have on about 100 men & boys, after  
two or three days work, about 40 being  
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I am doing some colored restorations<sup>(2)</sup>  
of the glazed pots from the Ptolemaic  
kiln stuff; using only two flat  
twists, so as to lithograph easily.

It has been cold & showery for a  
week past, beginning with a furious  
dust gale last ~~the~~ Tuesday, & here  
on Sunday night still down to 57°  
in my room, & 51° next morning.

We have now to begin our deeper  
work with pumping in Ptah site.  
Breasted writes that he is sending a draft  
for 100 \$ to me at Univ. Coll. I  
have written to thank him. You  
will see to it at that end.

Mackay is getting on writing his part of  
Meydum, which will be mainly his  
& Wainwrights, I shall only do a  
general chapter.

Your own man

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&lt;MEDUM&gt;

Medum. 18 Jan. 1910.

MEDUM  
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Our work here is essentially speculative, as it is all on the chance of a large return, but only a chance. The largest <sup>MASTABA</sup> mastaba here has apparently never been entered. No passage can be found. So we have cut down over 50 feet in hard <sup>CHIP</sup> ground, a hole big enough to hold a good-sized house. The construction walls around the pit of the chamber are reached, & if we find the chamber unopened there will be a grand burial of a prince of the <sup>Dynasty</sup> III<sup>rd</sup> Dynasty. If.

Then at the S.W. of the pyramid within the enclosure we have found the places of 3 or 4 great stone chambers underground, the sepulchres of the royal family of Sneferu. One has been almost entirely

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Then at the S.W. of the pyramid within the enclosure we have found the places of 3 or 4 great stone chambers underground, the sepulchre of the royal family of Sneferu. <SNEFERU> One has been almost entirely

(4)  
 destroyed for stone, leaving a hole  
 over 20 ft deep & 30 ft square,  
 all to be dug out of very hard rock  
 chip ground. The chambers, one  
 on either side, seem untouched so  
 far as we have been able to  
 examine them; but we cannot  
 take off 8 or 10 feet thick of  
 rocky chip to see all over the  
 top. So we are working downwards  
 to cut our way through 10 feet  
 of solid stone to get in. If either  
 chamber is undisturbed, there  
 will be jewellery of the III<sup>rd</sup> dynasty  
 I hope. If.

Then we dug out 20 or 30 tombs,  
 with big pits about 30 ft deep.  
 But found nearly all the immense  
 portcullis slabs standing still  
 Portcullis

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 over 20ft deep & 20 ft square,  
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Then we dug out 20 or 30 tombs,  
 with big pits about 30 ft deep.  
 But found nearly all the immense  
 portcullis <Portcullis> slabs standing still

raised on piles of stone at each (5)  
 side. The court had left  
 medium, & all the grand  
 graves had never been used.  
 We are also speculating for a  
 possible temple of Sneferu in  
 the plain. We might have a  
 chance of a statue of him if we  
 found it. But the clearance  
 has needed cutting a long canal  
 to drain the water out of the  
 land. There is a brick wall come  
 to light, which may belong to  
 temple foundations; but we have  
 not cleared enough yet to see.  
 And elsewhere we are cutting a  
 tunnel through solid masonry, a  
 metre a day, & expect to cut  
 30 metres yet before we get

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 not cleared enough yet to see.

And elsewhere we are cutting a  
 tunnel through solid masonry, a  
 metre a day, & expect to cut  
 20 metres yet before we get

(6) an answer to a big question.  
 There may be a very great  
 prize, or nothing.

A long trench, mostly cut in the rock  
 for over 400 ft, took some time to  
 trace out. It seems to have been for  
 a tomb approach, abandoned when the  
 pyramid was begun, & carefully filled  
 up with stuff from digging the  
 pyramid foundations.

One interesting result is the season  
 of quarrying, covering six months as  
 shown by pyramid quarry marks.  
 As this season must be April-Oct.  
 it shows - within a century - the time  
 of Sneferu before the XII<sup>th</sup> dynasty.  
 This agrees to Manetho's history.

If one challenges the immense work  
 of the early pyramid age it is a  
 matter of months, not of days,  
 to get a reply. I hope our  
 replies will come in by next month.

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Bedrashen 16 Feb. 1910

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The work at Meydum has been of much interest architecturally, & though we have not found much our work of removing the sculptured tombs to Cairo will be rewarded by a share of those unique works.

After cutting down fifty feet of hard chips, & making a hole big enough to hold a house, we got down to the chamber of the greatest mastaba tomb. It never had any entrance from outside; but its short passage was plugged solid with stone, & then 50 feet of stone piled up over it. The man must have died at the beginning of the pyramid building, & then all the masons chips were used to pile up his tomb.

The chamber & passages are grand inside. There is about 40 feet of passage, about 10 feet high, then a spacious approach, & a chamber 22 ft long & 16 ft high; in a recess is a

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(8)  
 sarcophagus of red granite with  
 a lid. This is the best granite  
 sarcophagus known, & is very  
 fairly worked. In the chamber are  
 many stone beams 10 ft long &  
 5 or 6 feet thick. It is the finest  
 tomb, short of royalty, that I have  
 seen, & is much better than  
 many pyramid tombs. A curious  
 feature is that the corners of the  
 doorway are rounded off in a wide  
 curve of about 16 inches.

Inside the pyramid enclosure on the north  
 we found a mastaba, a wide rock  
 cutting, a finely built stone passage,  
 with plug block & sliding door, &  
 then it simply ended in a small  
 chamber cut in the soft rock  
 which had all caved down. In the  
 chamber there was a burial  
 untouched with a few rough pots &  
 nothing more.

sarcophagus of red granite with  
 a lid. This is the oldest granite  
 sarcophagus known, & is very  
 fairly worked. In the chamber are  
 many stone beams 18 ft long &  
 5 or 6 feet thick. It is the finest  
 tomb, short of royalty, that I have  
 seen, & is much better than  
 many pyramid tombs. A curious  
 feature is that the corners of the  
 doorways are rounded off in a wide  
 curve of about 16 inches.

The body in the great mastaba was  
 Curiously preserved. It had been  
 stripped of flesh, & the bones wrapped  
 separately in cloth. Even the ankle &  
 wrist bones were separated; but the  
 spine seems to have been left together.  
 It was then reconstructed as a whole  
 skeleton. The plunderers had broken  
 it, so we could not say if it were  
 contracted or at length. But from  
 the length of the coffin it was probably  
 laid at length. It had been made up  
 to-el with cloth, & put in a wooden  
 body coffin apparently, decorated with  
 a carved girdle tie at the waist. But  
 the coffin had been carried off. The  
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(10) over the tomb.

The taking down of the sculptured mastabas has been a difficult matter. The stone was all so fissured by pressure that it was in splinters in many parts, & the salt has scaled much of it off. I have strengthened the inlaid colour by soaking with tapioca, but much of it was so loose that it had to be taken out. These tombs are unique in their work, having the figures cut deep in & filled up with coloured pastes. As they had been largely damaged in past years by dealers, Maspero agreed to our removing them entirely. And some of the sculptures will come to us in return for that.

There is still a long piece of stone cutting going on at the pyramid, which may lead to a result; but meanwhile I & Mackay are down at Memphis & begin work there tomorrow. Please send to Mr. Petrie after the meeting.

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Bedrasheyn. 10 March 1910

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The work at Meydum is not yet finished, as the removal & packing of the sculptured tombs there is a long work. Rahotep is now in the Cairo Museum. Nefermaat is being packed. Atet is nearly packed & is coming altogether to England, beside the remaining portions of Nefert. The state of the stone is bad in much of it, being fissured & scaled, but capable of repair. There are however several blocks in good state with all the inlay perfect. It will be a most interesting & valuable asset to us, as there are no other tombs of this work, inlaid coloured pastes. As there is altogether about 30 feet length of it, 10 feet high, there will be enough for several museums.

~~At Memphis~~ Beside removing the sculptures we have been searching for the chamber of Nefermaat. No

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(12)  
 pit could be found, so we dug out  
 the whole depth of the mastaba  
 behind each of the false doors &  
 also in the middle, down to native  
 rock, which is quite undisturbed.  
 We then tunnelled in different directions  
 along the rock, but could find  
 any trace of a chamber. Now we  
 are trying for a pit outside of the  
 mastaba.


The tunnel through the pyramid  
 is continuing in search of a possible  
 ka chamber. We have gone about  
 100 feet, mostly through solid stone,  
 and are now close to the face where  
 we shall get our answer, yes or no.


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
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& the foundations for the columns<sup>(3)</sup>  
 go down over 40 feet; & as the  
 walls were 42 ft high, there must  
 have been sheer walls of over 80  
 ft high. This is the greatest block-  
 -brick walling known. The southern  
 part has been fruitful, so far  
 as we have gone. The fosse has  
 been our main ground. In it we  
 found a massive bronze corner  
 of a door, about 40 lbs weight,  
 18 inches square  with cedar  
 wood inside it, & the full titles &  
 names of Psamtek I upon it.  
 One of the walls had a recess about  
 a foot cube left in it, & inside that  
 were 11 bronze figures of Horus in  
 perfect condition, walled up &  
 plastered over. The largest is 7 inches  
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(14)  
 In the fosse we also found, beneath a Ptolemaic wall, the sweepings of an office of Persian date, with a dozen little wooden labels from parcels, inscribed in Aramaic on one side & Demotic on the other. And - what interests me most - several clay seal impressions of about 500 B.C. The largest shows two men swearing alliance(?) over a gazelle, of which one holds the head & the other the tail. Behind one man is a king seated, with a Greek cup [  ] in his hand, & a bow in a case behind him, apparently of Euxine or Armenian region. Behind the other man is the conventional form of the spread eagle of Hittite use. Another seal shows a Persian monster, with a crown, long hair, the body of a man drawing a bow, joined to a bird, with the fore part of a stag, draping wings, a scorpion's tail erect, & a head instead of a tail at the end. With him is a woman with wings ending in hawk's head, holding dragons by the legs, a type known on early Greek bronzes.

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A border of lotus flowers shows that it was probably engraved in Egypt. (15)  
 Another seal is of the name Aahmes. The [☾] crescent Aah in at the top. Then the inquisitive Greek engraver evidently asked what [☾] mes really was, & bearing that it was 3 fox skins, he engraved a fox's skin hanging up & two foxes rampant as supporters!!



A unique [☾], showing the origin, with a Mediterranean sounding. There are also many other seals.

This year water is short on the temple site owing to the new irrigation. So we began moving again about getting land. We went to the Omdeh, & he said he would help, we could have any of his land. So we discussed - mostly Mackay's affair - & it was all settled & I went to sign

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(16)

Contract for the hire of it for two years, on the forms which we had ready printed two years ago. Then I found a new clause put in that I was to pay £500 an acre if the government wished to take over any of the site! That was too exacting by far, as £150 to £250 an acre is full value.

So we sadly gave it up.

But there had always been two parties in the village, & we had suffered much worry from one party because we dealt with the other. So finding our party had tried to screw us we boldly went to the other. Immediately the other rival notable took up the matter, made agreement for 2 acres of his land, & got another man to do the same, & now a third,

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without any stipulation about our <sup>total value</sup> paying for the land. There is an intense rivalry in the village now, as the selection for Omdeh, or chief sheikh, is soon coming off, & the most popular man will win. The old Omdeh, whom we first dealt with, thought to be popular by screwing terms on us. The rival has tried the opposite course of taking our terms & being the kind friend to landowners to write their contracts & help them - & us also. We met the old Omdeh today, & he was quite civil & friendly, & congratulated me on having begun work!! though it was through his rival. All the owners are now dancing attendance on the rival to get him to make good terms for them with me. So we have profited after all by the village squabbles.


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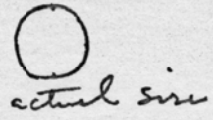
(18)  
 Our friend in the matter owns about  
 1000 acres, or is worth about £1,50,000.  
 But he took care to get all he could  
 screw for his bit of land, & now  
 recommends lower terms for others.  
 We can afford to laugh about it  
 now with 1 1/2 acres secured for two  
 years, & every prospect of getting in  
 all we want. I am paying £40  
 an acre for the use for two years  
 & the right to all antiquities we  
 can find. As it costs about £250  
 an acre or more to ~~turn~~ dig it over, a  
 little more or less to the owner does  
 not much matter. And I am offering  
 1/5 down as earnest money to  
 any one who will make contract  
 to let me work about two years in  
 future. If this succeeds I shall be  
 able to lay out the work regularly  
 so that it follows conveniently; &  
 I shall have an unassailable legal  
 position of right to continue excavations.  
 We have 55 men & 110 boys now on the Ptah  
 temple.

Our friend in the matter owns about  
 1000 acres, or is worth about <£>150,000.  
 But he took care to get all he could  
 screw for his bit of land, & now  
 recommends lower terms for others.  
 We can afford to laugh about it  
 now with 1 1/2 acres secured for two  
 years, & every prospect of getting in  
 all we want. I am paying £40  
 an acre for the use for two years  
 & the right to all antiquities we  
 can find. As it costs about £250  
 an acre or more to ~~turn~~ dig it over, a  
 little more or less to the owner does  
 not much matter. And I am offering  
 1/5 down as earnest money to  
 any one who will make contract  
 to let me work at any two years in  
 future. If this succeeds I shall be  
 able to lay out the work regularly  
 so that it follows conveniently; &  
 I shall have an unassailable legal  
 position of right to continue excavations.  
 We have 55 men & 110 boys now on the Ptah  
 temple.

Bedrasheyn  
13 March /10



Bedrasheyn (19)  
13 March /10

Dearest Heart, I have just made a delightful find. A few days ago there came in a rough stamp of pottery with the name Aahmes,  broken on one side; on the back of it I saw four impressions of a seal, too small to be clear. On cleaning it, & examining with a magnifier I find it is of an exquisite Greek gem, before 500 BC by the name Aahmes, & of the subject we know as Jonah & the Whale.



This shows that the Greeks of the E. Mediterranean knew the story then, & it is the earliest representation of the Jonah story that is known.

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 enlarged from a lantern slide, &  
 we could make electrotypes of it.  
 I must get it in somehow to  
 the "Egypt & Israel" book. Of course  
 the subject is common enough in  
 Christian art, gold in glass, catacombs,  
 &c; but here it is dated by the  
 Aahmes stamp to about 500 B.C.

We have found a nice block of granite  
 cornice of Rameses VI, small &  
 handy for a museum.

Wainwright writes that Atet is all  
 packed, & he is doing Nefermaat.  
 He has at last found the pit  
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G.I.  
LC(7)IIIExtracts from letters dated 1910.

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LC(7)III  
(21)

Rikkeh 20 Jan. 1910. ... As to this place we have at last found the passage to the chamber in the big mastaba. At about 25 feet under ground, or 55 feet from the top, we reached a doorway facing east, behind the false door on the east face; the lintel is an immense block and the passage is plugged with stone. We shall cut through the side of the passage a little way back and then mine door in the stone till we reach the chamber. The whole is immense and with cross walls of brickwork about the entrance all whitewashed. There is no other tomb known like this in the form or the direction of entrance. I believe it is of the prince of the nome who died early in the pyramid building, and was therefore buried in his chamber before the mastaba was piled over him, without any passage or pit from the outside.

Then on the north of the pyramid we have found another subterranean chamber, apparently a tomb and no trace of a hole in its stonework so far.

Maspero agrees that it is best to remove the sculptured mastabas from here, as they have been so much damaged. Rahotep is half gone and Nefermat broken. So we are saving up dozens of big stones to pack, a job of several weeks work. I hope that we may have one of the three for a return to us. It will be a priceless thing for museums, as there is no other example of the inlaid colouring.

27.1.10. ... As to finds here, there are none practically. Last evening we got in to the big mastaba 17, which we have been on all the season. It proved plundered, and skilfully cut into at exactly the easiest spot, by someone who knew the plan to a foot. But though there is only pottery and a few ~~scrap~~ scraps of wood and copper axe models, the building

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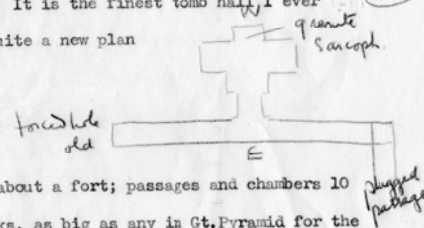
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[Page also numbered 2.]

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All the corners are rounded about a fort; passages and chambers 10  
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roof. Granite sarcophagus the oldest yet known; all hammer dressed. But  
not a word of carving or writing anywhere.

Bedrashen, 13 Feb 1910. ... The palace is puzzling. In the Great Court  
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entrance we have walls ending at 10 ft down, and a brock floor, and  
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Bedrashen, 19 Feb. 1910. ... The winter is more than half gone. I only wish  
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ging over kiln rubbish for glazes found a far neck against a house  
wall with four gold earrings, weight just over £2. The ~~xxx~~ triangles  
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[] W granite  
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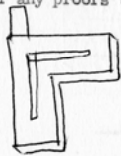
26 February 1910.

(23)

26 February 1910. ... At the palace we have got XVIII potsherds from the burnt stratum, so the date is clear. We are working down for that now. A curious find comes from the wall added in the fosse; behind it is a lot of rubbish with little labels of wood ink-written in Aramaic. We have 4 or 5 and several clay seals, with dozens of arrow heads.


I bought two nice Arab plates the other day from the Fayum. Also a dozen glass bottles   of blue and of amber glass. We are worrying on and off everyday about different pieces of temple land. No one settles; and the Omdah who offered all his land, at the last put in a clause that we were to pay him £500 an acre if was taken by Govt!!! The Crowfoots came yesterday for the day, walking all over the place. ~~She is off donkeying at p~~ They were greatly interested in our Roman kilns and glazed pottery. We are getting dozens of figured pieces, mostly of very rich colours, and also the pots in which they were baked and the details of processes. Fox is doing all that, and is very keen over it.

Bedrashen, 28 Feb. 1910. ... We are still hanging fire about getting temple land, and I doubt if we shall. At the palace some stuff is coming in. There is a bed of dust built over by a Ptolemaic wall; in which we have found a dozen little wooden tickets with a line or two of Aramaic on one side and Demotic on the other! In the fosse we got today another block of the great gate scenes, with three palanquins on it, I think belonging to the Copenhagen scene, but I have not got Memphis II or any proofs to refer to. Also a door corner of cast bronze, 18 inches




each way, and weighing about 30 lbs, the cedar boards are still in it. It is inscribed with full name and titles of Psamtek I; so that shews that he built here and put up doors.

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5 March 1910/

(24)

5 March 1910 .. The other day we had a curious find of bronze Horus's in a wall. A hole about a foot each way had been left in the wall face, eleven figures of 4 to 7 inches high were put in with earth and walled up. They ~~xxxx~~ are very well preserved and of good work. More of the Persian sealings come in. .... The fresh block of the great gate goes on the Copenhagen scene.

Bedrashen, 15 March 1910. .. We found a very perfect iron sword with the ornamental iron of the scabbard, 29 inches overall, in the palace today, probably of Persian age. The Ptah site goes on well. The top 5 ft is off, and the deep drainage trenches begun with pumps to keep them cleared.

Bedrashen 22 March 1910.... The temple site here proves to have been very closely cleared, there are scarcely any foundations so far as we have gone, ~~xxxxxx~~ and not much sculpture. The main pieces so far are a half length of Aahmes with cartouches, in quartzite, and piece of cornice of Ram<sup>s</sup> VI. It seems ~~that~~ in the axis where we are working Ram<sup>s</sup> II must have cleared away earlier building. There is nothing whatever before him, only clear mud soil below.

It is mud work all day for the ~~xxxx~~ men and boys. Each party digs a pit about 6 ft deep below water level, bailing it out into our canal which we pump out. After enlarging the pit up to sunset it is then left to fill with water, and a new pit dug beside it next day. Thus we work over from 4 to 8 square meters each day with a party, and we have 36 such parties. ... The old Omdah has come round, and is to sign today our leases of his land, without the £500 an acre abuse at which we stuck before. So we shall secure plenty of ground for next year.

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25

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Hawara 13 Dec. 1910.

[Copy by Hilda Petrie.]

Extra copy.

Bedrasheyn. 16 Feb. 1910.

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The work at Meydum has been of much interest architecturally, & though we have not found much our work of removing the sculptured tombs to Cairo will be rewarded by a share of those unique works.

After cutting down fifty feet of hard chips, and making a hole big enough to hold a house, we got down to the chamber of the greatest mastaba tomb.

It never had any entrance from outside; but its short passage was plugged solid with stone, and then fifty feet of stone piled up over it. The man must have died at the beginning of the pyramid building, and then all the mason's chips were used to pile up his tomb.

The chamber and passages are grand inside. There is about 40 feet of passage about 10 feet high, then a spacious approach, & a chamber, 22 ft long and 16 ft high; in a recess is a sarcophagus of red granite with a lid. This is the oldest granite sarcophagus known, & is very fairly worked. In the chamber are many stone beams 18 ft long & 5 or 6 ft

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[Copy by Hilda Petrie.]

[8-9]

thick. It is the finest tomb, short of royalty that I have seen, and is much better than many pyramid tombs. A curious feature is that the corners of the doorways are rounded off in a wide curve of about 16 inches. The body in the great mastaba was curiously preserved. It had been stripped of flesh, & the bones wrapped separately in cloth. Even the ankle and wrist bones were separated; but the spine seems to have been left together. It was then reconstituted as a whole skeleton.

The plunderers had broken it, so we could not say if it were contracted or at length. But from the length of the coffin it was probably laid at length. It had been made up with cloth and put in a wooden body coffin apparently, decorated with a carved girdle tie at the waist. But the coffin had been carried off. The plunderers had got in by a tunnel straight to the weakest point of the passage.

Inside the pyramid enclosure on the north we found a mastaba, a wide rock cutting, a fairly built stone passage with plug block and sliding door and there it simply ended in a small chamber cut in the soft rock, which had

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The taking down of the sculptured mastabas has been a difficult matter. The stone was all so fissured by pressure that it was in splinters in many parts, and the salt has sealed much of it off. I have strengthened the inlaid colour by soaking with tapioca, but much of it was so loose that it had to be taken out. These tombs are unique in their work, having the figures cut deep in and filled up with coloured pastes. As they had been largely damaged in past years by dealers, Maspero agreed to our removing them entirely. And some of the sculpture will come to us in return for that.

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