Asabah. IDD Xmas Em Dear Mother This is the bath interhide so lan Taking the opportunity of starting a Petter. We are having exceptionally hot weather for now. last imas tor it was billaty and after sunset, but this Time we find it hand to keep cool in our thingst clothing. wer the natives feel it. Sheek Abde Wahid came into the timpte this morning , had quite a long conversation about the weather, The said we were having the try sun like in the summer o he was sweating so much that he felt quile uncomfortable, as it is widently a polite thing to say we assend him we were also suffaing for an access of sweat. We are not having a bhustmas the but are just giving the children bags of swiets, so Sandic has puckaced on our behalf about 20 lbs of the most finice horners which he says will delight the hearts of all

Arabah – Xmas Eve [1930]

Dear Mother,

This is the bath interlude, so I am taking the opportunity of starting a letter. We are having exceptionally hot weather for now, last Xmas Eve it was bitterly cold after sunset, but this time we find it hard to keep cool in our thinest^{sic} clothing. Even the natives feel it. Sheikh Abdu Wahid came into the temple this morning & had quite a long conversation about the weather, he said we were having the big sun like in the summer & he was sweating so much that he felt quite uncomfortable, as it is evidently a polite thing to say we assured him we were also suffering from an excess of sweat.

We are not having a Christmas tree but are just giving the children bags of sweets, so Sardic has purchased on our behalf about 20 lbs of the most lurid horrors which he says will delight the hearts of all

2 100 The children. we do not doubt him, but We have grave missgivings as to the effect on Their Tummys. , Joisee many future demands for Eppy or Gastor Oil. Our guest arrived yesterday, Today She has been sizing the sights under the quidance of old Ahmud while we were at work in the Tempte. We came back for an Easty Tea & went of for a desut rick in fory. it was fun we bumped along over a Sunface like this sometimes we came to a wady like this + we had to prospect a little to make serve we could get out if we want down. when we saw the rise the other side had a fanty firm surface This sursh went for down into the sandy gulley, then snaling + putting up the went the other side & waddlig along unlit he came to the next obstacle. We got as close to the great timestone cliffs

the children, we do not doubt him, but we have grave missgivings^{sic} as to the effect on their tummys^{sic}, & forsee^{sic} many future demands for Eppy, or Castor Oil.

Our guest arrived yesterday, today she has been seeing the sights under the guidance of Old Ahmud while we were at work in the temple. We came back for an early tea & went off for a desert ride in Joey, it was fun we bumped along over a surface like this [😤] sometimes we came to a wady like this [₹] & we had to prospect a little to make sure we could get out if we went down, when we saw the rise the other side had a fairly firm surface then swish went Joey down into the sandy gulley, then snorting & puffing up he went the other side & waddled along until he came to the next obstacle. We got as close to the great limestone cliffs

3 100 as we could there are usually great sanddures at their base & joy cannot Tackk them, but in parts the going is fairly firm; About 8 miles from our camp, we saw some square cut holes in the face of the cliff about half way up. They must be either quantys or Tombs "I we have decided to go raplox Them some day, it was loo mean sunset to attempt it thin. We returned under a Staming sky own a desort all inted with soft pink rood & manue with the word green ship of the nike valla, in the distance, Christmas morning, Such a hot morning, Thisked you lotte a Happy Ymas + Losted lould send you a little of this surshine. I would much rather have my present on my return, I have rather set my heart on a new box for water colorns with clips to hold pans. but in the meantime the camp tilrary would be very delighted to have a copy of the Puscan Art book if you could send us one.

as we could, there are usually great sanddunes at their base & Joey cannot tackle them, but in parts the going is fairly firm; a/<A>bout 8 miles from our camp, we saw some square cut holes in the face of the cliff about half way up, they must be either quarrays or tombs & we have decided to go & explore them some day, it was too near sunset to attempt it then. We returned under a flaming sky over a desert all tinted with soft pink & gold & mauve with the vivid green strip of the nile^{sic} valley in the distance.

Christmas morning.

Such a hot morning, I wished you both a Happy Xmas & wished I could send you a little of this sunshine. I would much rather have my present on my return. I have rather set my heart on a new box for water colours with clips to hold pans, but in the meantime the camp library would be very delighted to have a copy of the Persian Art book if you could send us one.

Amice is sending you a Christmas card inthe her new stamp of our house. Dre 26: We had such a jolly day yesterday. in did not go to the Tempte at all, had a neal lagy maning, superintended the distribution of the

call that was to form the men's share of the Jeast & necessed the good wishes of all our mation friends who came to call on us in honor of the occasion

Gen Tinkey was a gorgeous bind & we had peas & sweet pololois with him, & a Ymas pudding lo Jollow & then fruit & sweets o wofter. It was so very hot that we all had a snoose in the afternoon & when it got works towards wening we decided to go for another describ upedilion in Jory, our sleet was delayed by the anivel of the Boplic privet, so we had to entertain him to coffee a sweets, it was nearly sunset when we started, we had intended showing Miss Bytes our favornike wady, going as Jan in Jory as possible &

BROOME LETTER 100

Amice is sending you a Christmas card with her new stamp of our house.

Dec 26th

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We had such a jolly day yesterday, we did not go the temple at all, had a real lazy morning, superintended the distribution of the calf that was to form the men's share of the feast, & received the good wishes of all our native friends who came to call on us in honour of the occasion

Our turkey was a gorgeous bird & we had peas & sweet potatoes with him, & a Xmas pudding to follow & then fruit & sweets & coffee. It was so very hot that we all had a snoose^{sic} in the afternoon & when it got cooler towards evening we decided to go for another desert expedition in Joey, our start was delayed by the arrival of the Coptic priest, so we had to entertain him to coffee & sweets, it was nearly sunset when we started, we had intended showing Miss Byles our favourite wady, going as far in Joey as possible &

100 walking The nut. we had to make sconal detoms to avoid long high sand ridges, + it was dark before we reached our destination There was faint moon light. so it wasn't really dank) we looked round for to see all was well before proceeding a short way on fost, & discounce a flat Type. of course The only Thing to do was to put on our spare wheel, none loo casy a job in The dim light, however, be managed it without loosing any bolls or washers, of course it delayed us some what, also we mistook the light of a nation camp fic for the light from our house & went rather out of our way in consiguence. The result was poor Nannie got into an augul star & sont all our sucants oit to look for us. we met them about half a mile from home & there was a great juss I rejorcings to find we ware all right. After dinner we had The fantasia. on This occasion Joay provided the time light

walking the rest, we had to make several detours to avoid long high sand ridges, & it was dark before we reached our destination, (there was faint moonlight, so it wasn't really dark) we looked round Joey to see all was well before proceeding a short way on foot, & discovered a flat tyre, of course the only thing to do was to put on our spare wheel, none too easy a job in the dim light, however, we managed it without loosing^{sic} any bolts or washers, of course it delayed us somewhat, also we mistook the light of a native camp fire for the light from our house & went rather out of our way in consequence, the result was poor Nannie got into an awful stew & sent all our servants out to look for us, we met them about half a mile from home & there was a great fuss & rejoicings to find we were all right.

After dinner we had the fantasia, on this occasion Joey provided the lime light

100 + The and ince sat round in a circle The play was more like a screes of impossineling a boy took the part of a monkay led round on a chain by its master, the othus Teaped it. + it's infuniated attempts to attack them fed to more amusing tumbles in the sand , + amazing agility on the part of the monkey. The same boy Took the part of a water beffeto with a small unchin for its calf. These two were hought to market to be sold a the attempts of would be punchacon to cramine The wares caused the on tookens a lot of fun; To see the calf taking representer & the biffeto affectionality licking The bare back of its of spring was very funny & our sides simply ached with taughing. Another sune represented a tomb (packing case) & in This lomb was a cheadful afrect who made ghastly noises & sound all the passors by. so the prophe brought a holy man who sal & mumbled prayers to drive the afrect away. but

& the audience sat round in a <semi> circle. The play was more like a series of impersinations^{sic} A boy took the part of a monkey led round on a chain by its master, the others teazed^{sic} it, & its infuriated attempts to attack them led to most amusing tumbles in the sand, & amazing agility on the part of the monkey. The same boy took the part of a water buffalo with a small urchin for its calf, these two were brought to market to be sold & the attempts of would be purchasers to examine the wares caused the onlookers a lot of fun: to see the calf taking refreshment, & the buffalo affectionately licking the bare back of its offspring was very funny & our sides simply ached with laughing.

Another scene represented a tomb (packing case) & in this tomb was a dreadful afreet who made ghastly noises & scared all the passers by, so the people brought a holy man who sat & mumbled prayers to drive the afreet away. but

100 The wasn't a success & The afred canced on worse than wh. so they tried another holy man, this one was so holy that his timbs had got a promanent bend through kneeting at his prayers so long, Two men had is help him walk. but he class was Equally unsuccessful. so they hought a still more holy man. This one was blind , shaking with the patsay I had an impediment in his speech. The was led to the haunlid Tomb, I he prayed the nocked him self about 1 waved his arms about & carried on to such good purpose that the affect with one auful yell burst out of the Tomb (2x packing case) + was heard no more. These was lots more that one cannot very well describe in words, one needs to be in The atmosphere of the desort, to see & hear the people, + enter into the fun of it all with them + to have seen the places of the Things They imitale, for instance they did a market

he was'nt^{sic} a success & the afreet carried on worse than ever, so they tried another holy man, this one was so holy that his limbs had got a permanent bend through kneeling at his prayers so long, two men had to help him walk, but he alass^{sic} was equally unsuccessful, so they brought a still more holy man, this one was blind & shaking with the palsey^{sic} & had an impediment in his speech, he was led to the haunted tomb, & he prayed & he rocked him self about <to & fro> & waved his arms about & carried on to such good purpose that the afreet with one awful yell burst out of the tomb (ex packing case) & was heard no more.

There was lots more, that one cannot very well describe in words, one needs to be in the atmosphere of the desert, to see & hear the people, & enter into the fun of it all with them & to have seen the places & the things they imitate, for instance they did a market

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scene with no properties at all crapt the wooden box. I get one knew cractly what wants each man offered for sale, there was a walter carrier, of on the goat skin, he strong a small boy across his back, it was perfect, in the dom light one was quile Taken in, the attillede of the outline was cract.

There was another item that was really loo absend. the local magishate issued an order that it was a crome for two mon to wear the same garment, the police scanched the place & found two men wearing one mat as a sort of cloak, they'd made a hole in it & put both their heads in it, these two of course ran away & the police gave chase can you imagine a grass mat. with two heads & form legs running round & round? of course they got hopelessly entangled r were captured & chagged off, These pople have a genius for the with absend. I cant till you properly how really furny it was.

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scene with no properties at all except the wooden box, & yet one knew exactly what wares each man offered for sale, there was a water carrier, & for the goat skin, he slung a small boy across his back, it was perfect, in the dim light one was quite taken in, the attitude & the outline was exact.

There was another item that was really too absurd, the local magistrate issued an order that it was a crime for two men to wear the same garment, the police searched the place & found two men wearing one mat as a sort of cloak, they'd made a hole in it & put both their heads in it, these two of course ran away & the police gave chase – can you imagine a grass mat, with two heads & four legs running round & round? of course they got hopelessly entangled & were captured & dragged off, these people have a genius for the utter absurd. I cant^{sic} tell you properly how really funny it was.

100 9 While the players were having a rest two small boys played a splended game. They were beth blind julded, one had a Tin with stones on it which he nattled occasionally, the other, Jullowing The sound gave chase; it was very furmy to watch. some Times The boy with the ten would shake it violently other dark off, but of course not being able to see, There was The possibility he might run into his pensuer instead of away. another truck was to lay on the sand & nettle the Tim & keep quite still, The other quided by the sound might pass quite close, even step our him without finding him. I think it would be quile a good game for English kudders to play at the sea side on good sands it intainly gives the on lookas lots of fun. These was some dancing & nabout stick play, & the audience which regarded With the a sweets & when at about 11-30 we gave the signal that the party was

While the players were having a rest two small boys played a splendid game, they were both blind folded, one had a tin with stones in it which he rattled occasionally, the other, following the sound gave chase; it was very funny to watch, sometimes the boy with the tin would shake it violently & then dart off, but of course not being able to see, there was the possibility he might run into his pursuer instead of away, another trick was to lay on the sand & rattle the tin & keep quite still, the other guided by the sond sound might pass quite close, even step over him without finding him. I think it would be quite a good game for English kiddies to play at the sea side on good sands it certainly gives the on lookers lots of fun.

There was some dancing & nabout stick play, & the audience <& performers> were regaled with tea & sweets & when at about 11'30 we gave the signal that the party was

100 oun they came & said good by E in a most orderly manner & seemed to have throng they injoyed the woning. This morning we speeded our parling quest i settled down to work again, it is still ony hot. The prople say last be was the coldest they had con known , o this year it is the hottest. we are hoping for the north Land soon. Jois of four To you but + a Happy New Year to all. Youn affectionale daug Elis Mystle.

over, they came & said good bye in a most orderly manner & seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

This morning we speeded our parting guest & settled down to work again, it is still very hot, the people say last Dec was the coldest they had ever known, & this year it is the hottest, we are hoping for the north wind soon.

Lots of love to you both & a Happy New Year to all.

Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.