

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
ARABAH EL MADFUNAH
BALIANA UPPER EGYPT
<19. 12. 32>

Dear Mother.

This is the last market day before Christmas, so as Amice is away I have told Sardic to buy a calf for the men's feast & a small sheep for our Soudani's, I expect he will have a lovely time examining all the various animals

I have been working hard at Arabic this week. Little Un has been busy with his Christmas cards so Mamma & I have been on our own, so I have taken the opportunity to get her to dictate to me in Arabic, I am usually in disgrace with the schoolmaster over dictation, but last lesson he was amazed at my efforts. He showed it to Sardic with great pride & told him I had written it straight off without any hesitation

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We had a new Inspector of Antiquities visit the Temple this week, he was very pleasant he tells me that Mishrekey Bey who was in his place last year, has broken his leg, & has had to go on a long leave I like this man much better, he inquired about the matter of the Effendy who came with the police officer & struck Ali Azib across the face because he would not allow him to enter the temple without a ticket, he insisted on the police officer apologizing to Ali Azib & to himself, & we are all very glad about it, as we do not like this new police officer at all, he comes in bothering us with questions & invitations at all sorts of times & will not take a refusal but asks why-why-why all the time, we call him the camel fly because he is unquashable, he is one of the

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 tiresome effendi class who try to ape
 European ways but treat their own
 people under them like dirt.

The garden is looking nice & green
 we have a fine crop of peas coming on
 & yesterday we had a dish of English
 Tomatoes. Nannie is upset because
 the beans have not done as well
 as usual, but they were put in
 too late.

Nannie has been making
 lots of cushions, M^r Oulton sent us a
 fine sack of raw cotton, & we bought
 some gay cotton ^{stuff} for covers in Baliana
 so we are very fine.

Abdulla is getting very tall
 he has grown out of last years galalbyas
 & we are having new ones for him.

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 this Christmas will be over, & you will

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be getting thank you letters for all the presents.

The small garments I made for the children have been very gratefully received, & if wishes are granted I am in for a very long life!

Sheikh Abdu Wahed sprang a new form of greeting on me the other day, I was quite flumuxed^{sic} as I didn't know what was a suitable reply. so I produced a piece of paper & got him to write it down, I have looked it up & it means "How does your morning progress" -? so I now answer. "Favourably The Lord be Praised."

Love to you both

your affectionate daughter

Myrtle.

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