

Arabah el Madfunah.

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1929 1

42

Dear Mother

I posted Father's letter this morning. so now I'm going to answer yours. I was so pleased with all the enclosures. & have started to make little purses out of the scraps of silk & ribbon.

I am sorry to hear such bad news of poor Sallie it will be very serious for her if the club has to close. she ought to have a pension after all she has done.

I am also sorry Muriel is not strong again. she seems to have had rather bad luck lately.

We saw a most interesting sight this evening. One of the great camel droves have made their encampment quite close to our house. There are 200 h camels resting on their long trek from the South to Cairo, we walked out to see them after dinner. it was a picturesque sight. the men were gathered round their camp fire cooking their food & the camels were lying all around them. the head man came & talked to us & showed us the fine white riding camels

BROOME LETTER 42

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that one reads about in novels. They are very fine looking beasts, & their coats are short & beautifully smooth like a white pony. The camel men invited us to take coffee but we excused ourselves & thanked them for their courtesy. we did not dare think of the probable state of their cooking pots.

I am just off to bed. Tomorrow is market day, our day of rest. we have planned a picnic I hope to describe it to you later on.

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Today we packed our lunch & our tea in two big baskets, loaded the donkeys & set off for the day. there were Miss B & myself & Mr Beazley Sardin, Ahmed-Abdu-Sellam, Mahmud & Abdullah & three donkeys. named "The Black", "The Steam Engin" & the "Father of Tiredness". Their names are of course in Arabic & are very descriptive.

We walked across the level desert to the cliffs, & clambered up one of the big passes. we had our lunch before the steep ascent & left two of the men to look after the donkeys & started the stiff climb up the cliff. near the top we found

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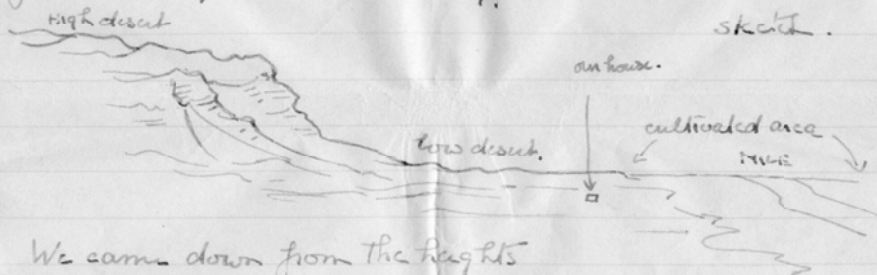
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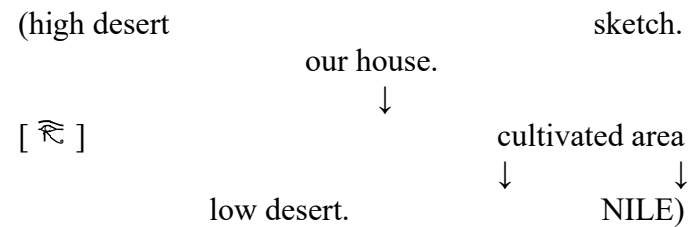
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an ancient stone quarry, when we went in, we disturbed hundreds of bats, we were able to go quite a way back into the limestone cliff & could see how the great blocks were hacked out. After leaving the quarry we continued our upward climb till we reached the top & could see the high desert with its outcrops of rock & great sanddrifts stretching away as far as the eye could see. Egypt is like this little



We came down from the heights by one of the great sand drifts, it's a gorgeous feeling taking great strides & then sitting & sliding in an avalanche of yellow sand. we had tea at the foot of the cliffs, then being weary we mounted the donks & rode home, our journey covered about 8 miles, part of it very stiff climbing so am feeling nicely exercised.

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We would very much like <sup>some</sup> Cross Word Puzzles from the DT. (also solutions of same)

I have enjoyed looking at the L.H.J. but have no time for reading the stories. I seem to be letter writing all the time I have to myself. my evenings are rather full as I am teaching M<sup>r</sup> Beazley hieroglyphs. he does not know them at all & consequently is very hampered in his

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to copy have bands of inscriptions on them  
I am sorry poor Mr Childs is no better, it must  
be very trying for him to have to be so helpless  
I posted a very fat letter to father two days  
ago. Sardinia nearly had a fit when he saw me  
sticking on 4 stamps, I hope the letter arrives  
safely as it contains an account of a very curious  
ceremony.

Our men killed a lovely little snake outside the  
house to-day. we have put it in a bottle of spirits  
& hope to get it identified some day

I am so glad the rug is a success, have  
you decided where it is to go yet.

Lots of love To you & father.  
also to Pat.

From Myrtle -

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