

Dec 4th 1929.
Arabah el Madfunah

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Dear Mother.

Another nice long letter from you. We get the English mail Tuesdays & Thursdays & I do look forward to those days.

I will first answer your questions. Yes I have had the silver tissue & the packet of seeds. The envelope was open at one end, but whether by chance or by post office inspection I do not know. The contents were safe anyhow. I think I sent you a message in one of Father's letters to say I had received the packet, also pencil protectors, but the letter may not have reached you yet. I have also had two other lots of ribbons & scraps which I have made up into little gay bags. also wool etc in two letters

The silk stockings sound very tempting & everything else has come safely so far & I would love to have them of course. We do try to make ourselves look nice for our evening meal, I always put on one of my pretty frocks (not my two evening ones of course). As to camp

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literature we are really over supplied. we have about 50 cheap edition novels, presented by various visitors & contributed to by ourselves we have Illustrated London News, Overseas Daily Mail, Punch, Spectator & my Observer & barely time to do more than skim through any of them. life here is too full of live interest to leave any time for reading, also our eyes are a little weary after a days steady drawing, so we thank you for the kind thought, but will be content with the weekly paper & the L.H.J.

Mr Lucas is here for 5 days. he is a nice man it is an awful feather in our cap to get him out here as he is quite a famous analytical chemist. he has worked a lot for the C.I.D & has helped detect a number of criminals. he is now finishing his work on preserving all Tuts^{sic} stuff.

To-day after our mornings work when we had had lunch in the temple we went across the desert to some old remains of excavations

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He told us all sorts of things about the various chips of stones, pots etc that we picked up. by the way, my Observer came at lunch & when I opened it the bundle of D.T Cross words fell out & there were hoots of joy from both Beazley & M^r Lucas. they are both enthusiastic about them, they have been busy with them ever since dinner.

Tomorrow M^r Lucas is going to experiment in cleaning the painted surfaces of the temple we have found him bowls for different solutions, various old brushes, sponges rags etc, he is going to have a glorious time.

We have been having an awful bother with Ahmud Abdu Sellam. he's the one whose sheep provided the wool that is being spun for us. we want to pay him, & he says no, he is happy, & his sheep is happy for us to have the wool & that is enough. we know the dear old boy cannot afford it. he needs ^{all} the money he can get to keep himself & his family through

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the summer when there is no regular employment so we were in an awful fix, at last Miss C. hit on a splendid plan. she told him that we would be delighted to accept the gift with our right hands, but our left hands must offer the correct price. but since the right hand knows not what the left does this will not matter nor will it make it any less a gift. Ahmud agreed to this, the subtle reasoning appealed to his oriental mind, & his pride is not hurt. we have the wool. he has a sum of money & we all agree that there is no connection between the two & everyone is satisfied

My Arabic progresses very slowly. I can give the necessary directions about ladders, pencils & all requirements for my work. fetchings & carryings etc. but I get stumped in ordinary conversation & I hate to keep asking, what did he say? all the time. I pick up bits here & there, & am learning names of things but I am not at all quick at it.

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I am glad to have the photos of the weaving
& will take great care of them.

Thurs Dec 5. Received your letter containing the
little pink ribbon, it will be very useful.

I am so glad to hear you enjoy my letters &
photos & that they arrive fairly regularly. I have
tried to write every day, but of course can
only post when the man is going in to meet
the incoming mail, just now I have very
little time, as we have lunch sent to us in
the Temple, we leave here about 6.45 AM
& return about 5.45 PM. then we have hot
baths, change for dinner at 7. & go to bed at
9 o'clock. between dinner & bed I am giving
Mr Beazley lessons in hieroglyphs, so I have
to scribble my letters while I am waiting
for my bath as now, or write in my room
by candle light before turning in as I did
last night. I shall have to write to Miss Murray
& several others for Xmas, (I have already
written to Uncle Jim & to Buffles) so for the

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I expect by now you know that I have had all your enclosures, it really takes quite a long time to get a reply back, (it is about a month since I sent your little cap)

I am so glad you are having such good help with your new dress, it is very kind of Pat & her mother. please give them both my love. Do let me know how my things went at Miss Collin's exhibition. I am glad she has had better sales for her own work.

I must close now.

All my love to you both
your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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