

Canadian Mission.
Assyût.
Egypt.
Nov 21st 1927.

Dear Mother & Father.

I have seen the Pyramids & the Sphinx
& Tut ankh amen's glorious golden coffin &
all the treasures from his tomb & many
more things beside. I am telling you
this rather out of order but I feel I must
announce the wonderful news before
I continue my adventures where I left
them in my last letter.

We arrived at Alex. had our passports
examined on board & had to pay
15 piasters to the health officer before
we were allowed to land. (as I write
there is a man in the street below singing
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up & I was charged 35 piasters on what I declared. I had to open my trunk, but they only glanced inside & did not disturb anything.

We were bundled into a taxi & made a rush for the station as there was a train at 3. The next was 6 o'clock & we were very anxious to get the first so as to go through the delta in daylight. Just as we reached the station the train steamed out & our taxi arab offered to overtake it

& get us on it at the next station for 40 piasters. so we said yes. & we did have an exciting chase but we succeeded in catching the train. Wonderful ride through Palm Trees & fields of sugar cane & little mud houses with flat roofs. Donkeys, oxen, & camels, all passed along the dried mud roads with their various loads. It was just a series of pictures that might have happened in Bible Times.

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2/2.
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At dinner we were waited on by Arabs in white with scarlet sash, fez, & shoes.

Sunday morning Mr Wainright called at 9 o'clock & escorted us to the museum where we saw the Imp. He has promised to show me the sights when I return & says he can get me a room any time without much notice. we spent the morning in the museum. I will not attempt to describe it now - but I can only say it more than surpasses my imagination.

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The Sphinx is very beautiful & not as battered as the photos lead one to believe. There was some excavating going on near the Temple of the Sphinx & the Arabs were carrying baskets of sand up a slope, & running it away in trucks. A small boy stood by the edge of their track & sang as they worked, & they all joined in the chorus - it was really beautiful.

We had Tea at Mena house & then met N d G Davis who was staying there for a while. His wife was there & has asked us to call on them when we go to Luxor.

We spent the evening preparing for our eventful journey into the desert we had decided to go by day train to Assiyut. Stay the night there & go on to Tema in the morning

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There is no really European hotel in Assyut. it is a real Egyptian town & it was suggested that we should go to the American Mission & ask if they had a room they could let us have for the night. otherwise we should have to go to the Arab Hotel.

Mr Wainright kindly met us again in the morning & put us on our train. there was another gentleman in our compartment so Mr Wainright asked if he would be travelling far as there were two english ladies going up country alone & it turned out that he was in charge of the Canadian Mission in Assyut & when he heard we were breaking our journey there he offered us their guest room, & as he was getting out of the train a few stations before Assyut he gave us a letter to his wife & full instructions how to get there, of course when we got out of the train we were

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besieged with porters who fought over our luggage. & yelled for more ~~backs~~ bakhshish, but we only gave them what M^r Black told us & waved to our driver to start & got off all right. At the Mission M^{rs} Black very kindly took us in - in a tall house in a native street & while the room was being got ready for us one of the young missionaries took us out in their car right to the foot of the cliffs. we left the car in charge of an arab & climbed right up the cliff to some 10th Dynasty Tombs. The entire cliff is riddled with small tombs. in fact it's an immense grave yard - every where one goes there are bits of bones & in some of the little tombs the mummies were still there, broken up of course by tomb robbers. it was rather eerie. In one of the large tombs we saw a beautiful grey owl. & lots of bats.

We had supper when we returned, grace before & prayers afterwards.

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On our journey here we saw the Step Pyramid of Sakkara - the Pyramid of Medum & the Tombs of Beni Hassan. The country is wonderful. The inundation is subsiding & the arabs^{sic} are out working in the fields - we saw them ploughing with an ox & a camel. one of the prettiest sights to be seen is the tiny children in charge of the buffalos - quite a baby will lead a string of these great placid animals, or even ride on their backs.

We continue our journey tomorrow morning. Mr Black has promised to see us safely on our way. & as we ought to be turning in

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