101 12 Tema -The non and way be and all DEC 5.4 1927. an mar have moh Jeloy 0. Dear Mother + Jather. suppose it's about time to wish you with a Happy Xmas. Iwish I could send you a little of this real unchallerchiel sunshin & glorious an. I am wordsfully fit . up at service avery day without the slightest effort. & very full of lears. Tou amusing things have been happenerg. 1 think 1. Told you in Hal Matomig Hassan last celle Thrawy had would us all 15 his incle younday commp-Il we tell work carly & possied & wailed - but no Ingawy & no so we wondered and excert whithe h might have been knifed by the relations of one of the men his been anusting lately. his queli expecting such a thing Theppen,

P.S. I hope you are not having to pay over weight on my letters. I dont^{sic} know the limit for 10ozs. & could'nt^{sic} weigh it later.

> Tema. Dec 5^{<u>th</u>} 1927.

Dear Mother & Father.

I suppose its^{sic} about time to wish you both a Happy Xmas. I wish I could send you a little of this real unadulterated sunshine & glorious air. I am wonderfully fit – up at sunrise every day without the slightest effort – & very full of beans. More amusing things have been happening. I think I told you in my last letter that Mahomed Hassan el Gerzawy had invited us all to visit his uncle yesterday evening. Well we left work early & poshed up & waited – but no Gerzawy & no armed escort - so we wondered whether he might have been knifed by the relations of one of the men he's been arresting lately. he's quite expecting such a thing to happen,

6/2 I such things really do occur out here quili as a matte of comse among the natives, The anal who comes up to keep guard at might has asked permission to carry a rifle, because his bother recently killed a man in the orleage Fire , the whole family are waiting for the next move. no one seems to think anything of it - in fact when on lives among such primitive peoph ones values change absolutely. - but To continue - I am glad to say nothing heppend to our Friend. for this morning a most attractive anal shoant arrived from Rim canying a Tolorse as a peace offning, & a message to say that he had been delained in one of the villages he was useding, d did not git back until midnight

& such things really do occur out here quite as a matter of course among the natives. The Arab who comes up to keep guard at night has asked permission to carry a rifle, because his brother recently killed a man in the village here & the whole family are waiting for the next move. no one seems to think anything of it – in fact when one lives among such primitive people ones values change absolutely. – but to continue. I am glad to say nothing happened to our friend, for this morning a most attractive Arab servant arrived from him carrying a tortoise as a peace offering, & a message to say that he had been detained in one of the villages he was visiting, & did not get back until midnight

6/3 she hoped we would acapt the Torkise and to very angry with him of come we were delighted will gift & very much amused, I wash you could have seen the messanger. The was simply beautiful the might have slove for a pretine of Ethnist priaching To the class. that itiguet is delightful, ya surant hopes a message he never goes until you give him formal have to depart by saying mesetaen 18. go in prace - also if one meets an and he ques you with May allah bliss your day. & you ncply. May your day be good & blessed a vie versa. We see Genzawy next to hear all the story of why he did not come to

& he hoped we would accept the tortoise & not be very angry with him. Of course we were delighted with the gift & very much amused, I wish you could have seen the messenger, he was simply beautiful he might have stood for a picture of <the young> Christ preaching to the elders.

Arab etiquette is delightful, if a servant brings a message he never goes until you give him formal leave to depart by saying "masalaam", ie. "go in peace. Also if one meets an Arab he greets you with "May Allah bless your day." & you reply. "May your day be good & blessed." or vice versa.

It will be very funny when we see Gerzawy next to hear all the story of why he did not come to

Jetit us. I apact he will be along in a day or two with some of my photographs. I finished a roll of films the morning be sport in Gan il Kobie a directly he saw me take it out of my carrier he look it from me & dispatched it by a missenion on Toseback to assignt To be printed, My walt slopped a few days ago 2/ was in an aisful stew about it. so I posted it to Mr Vainight Gains append him to take it to a good watch making a get it seen to: In will's to say that the report is That the balance is bent, & it wants cleaning ... a will work P. 50 - 12. 10/3-The is keeping it for me little I get to duker a will send it registered to me there . The other army after dimmer we

fetch us. I expect he will be along in a day or two with some of my photographs. I finished a roll of films the morning we spent in Qau el Kabir, & directly he saw me take it out of my camera he took it from me & dispatched it by messenger on horseback to Assyut to be printed.

My watch stopped a few days ago & I was in an awful stew about it. so I posted it to M^r Wainright^{sic} {Wainwright} in Cairo & asked him to take it to a good watchmakers & get it seen to; he writes to say that the report is that the balance is bent, & it wants cleaning!!! & will cost P. 50 – ie. 10/3 – he is keeping it for me till I get to Luxor & will send it registered to me there.

The other evening after dinner we

all sat out in the moonlight. Thave never seen anything like it. you would sec to read casely. The stars have in space For lite lamps & do not work the holes in the stray like they do in England. The birds have an brantiful in the evening we have a flight of storks pass over the . the Oralic nami for strik is abu Sand. I think the pretterst name I have con heard is their norm for the puty little way Tails. They call it "The Father of promenoding. Then are the most chamous homels here. They took clarming al Just. about as long as this - but they really are very harmliss & fiendly, we have

all sat out in the moonlight. I have never seen anything like it. you could see to read easily. the stars hang in space here like little lamps & do not look like holes in the sky like they do in England.

The birds here are beautiful, in the evening we have a flight of storks pass over here. the Arabic name for stork is Abu Sard. I think the prettiest name I have ever heard is their name for the perky little wagtails. they call it the father of promenading.

There are the most enormous hornets here. they look alarming at first.. about as long as this [\Re] but they really are harmless & friendly. we have

6/6 on that visits is in our tont at mal times, we call the Henrielto she got into the comply treacte In Today & fil her legs sticky, & had to be filled out with a spoon. I canied Timothy the Intoise home in my satched from our working Tomb, I when we had climbed up our chif I showed here to Matomed & he shought I wanted him to cook him for dinner, One day Suzawy gave us a plove the had shot in fact he still the ploon to allect on attertion, he loves dong spectacular things lite that - we were not a all phased really, but we had to accept the bid with a good grace, I he really was a blissing for Mahomed made him into the most wondafel

one that visits us in our tomb at meal times, we call her Henrietta she got into the empty treacle tin today & got her legs sticky, & had to be helped out with a spoon.

I carried Timothy the tortoise home in my satchel from our working tomb, & when we had climbed up our cliff I shoved him to Mahomed & he thought I wanted him to cook him for dinner. One day Gerzawy gave us a plover he had shot, in fact he shot the plover to attract our attention, he loves doing spectacular things like that – we were not a^{sic} all pleased really, but we had to accept the bird with a good grace, & he really was a blessing for Mahomed made him into the most wonderful

soup. We have notive head. Hat how cakes, very near when new. rother running. but longh when stale If the small Santa Maria with the world or the hed is not sold. will you send it to the following address. Mas Lional Tufnell, 21 Onstow Square London - S. W. 7. I repect taken will devise a mians of packing it for the post. I aprige ad to hear my things an doing so well at the Soulash lish I am uniting this during our hickfast interove, I for our parch in the cliff I can look across the whole width of Egypt. There are lots of white sails of dakabeas on the Nile the morning - I shall be very sony to have This place, camp life is simply glowns. we do have such firm. All the party are trying to preside me to go on to Palistine with them. I'd love to go but

soup. We have native bread. flat brown cakes, very nice when new, rather gummy, but tough when stale.

If the small Santa Maria with the world on the lid is not sold, will you send it to the following address. M[™] Lionel Tufnell, 21 Onslow Square London. S.W.7. I expect Father will devise a means of packing it for the post. I am glad to hear my things are doing so well at the Eastcote 'bish –

I am writing this during our breakfast interval, & from our perch in the cliff I can look across the whole width of Egypt. There are lots of white sails of dahabeas on the Nile this morning. I shall be sorry to leave this place, camp life is simply glorious we do have such fun. All the party are trying to persuade me to go on to Palestine with them. I'd love to go but P.T.O

I don't see how I can manage it 6/ b Unch) to say Ishall publish be relenning The & beek in lan . Iman phhaps Thente Ce5724 ycana consisting is makes Samples me The work has been getting Icustand, held samed my the hand the we all go up to fuxon. The 3 claus; + myself for about 10 01/14 with to Tenny To have all tellas fortrandice Tom clasor. The Bruntons are at a sele from the I we are trying to half 150, on day that a men ist propose all going on everne gue my love to all prese nuss. I tope to send I shall not ake hold Tide alli This glorious predon hornet had a feast jan Today. She is so for walk own our hands. mender that we your low daughter

I dont^{sic} see how I can manage it this year. for one thing I have written to Uncle J to say I shall probably be returning the 2nd week in Jan. but I think I may perhaps come out another year – everything is so absolutely beautiful – it makes one feel happy simply to be in a place like this. I wish you could both be here with me. life here is so simple – ones needs are so few. The work has been getting on splendidly. I certainly have earned my keep. we think we should be finished by the $15^{\frac{\text{th}}{\text{th}}}$ then we all go up to Luxor. the others for about 3 days. & myself for about 10 or 14. I shall write to Tema to have all letters forwarded to me at Luxor.

The Bruntons are at a site about 12 miles from here & we are trying to fix up to meet half way one day & have a picnic.

Give my love to all friends & pass on the news. I hope to send some P.C's from Luxor, I shall not like hotel life after this glorious freedom.

Henrietta the hornet had a feast of blackberry jam today. she is so friendly that we all let her walk over our hands.

Your loving daughter Myrtle.