

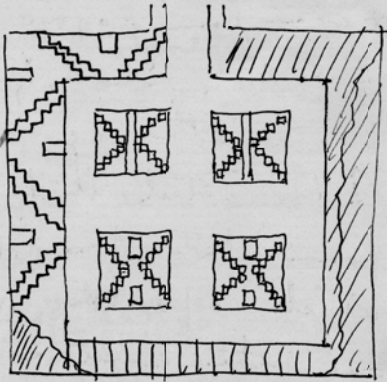
17 Nov /96 - 26 Nov.
My address is Beni Mazar

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Left London, had a baddish crossing, which
needed plenty of balancing to keep straight;
slept in Paris, & through to Marseille
as usual. There to the Chateau Borelly
Museum next morning, & found two
extraordinary statues lately come in.
They are called Gaulish, & may be so,
or anything else yet unknown. They are
of limestone, life size, & headless. Both are
seated cross-legged, the
left arm has been on the
chest, the right broken
off. Both wear a kilt
which appears to be
separate from the upper
part of the dress. The
legs are very rude &
puddingy, without any distinct feet.
On the back is a square board, or
shield (?) with pattern on it, apparently
connected with a flap which covers
the upper part of the chest. On this

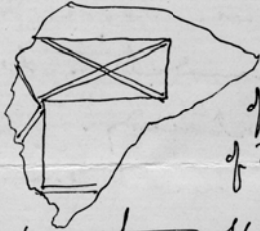


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On the back is a square board, or
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the upper part of the chest. On this

(2)
 board is an incised pattern,
 partly painted
 in red, as also is
 the dress of the
 figures.





From the pattern it
 looks like plaited
 leather or basket
 work. The only use
 that I can imagine
 is that it was
 intended to turn
 round the neck, by the collar
 which I have named, & so come in
 front as a breast plate.



fragment
 of back
 of other statue

I have never seen anything of this
 style of work, nor of such an object.
 It has no sign of the Celtic ornament,
 the spirals & circles; and I do not
 remember anything that could throw
 light on these. They were evidently

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 partly painted []
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 which I have named, & so come in
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 style of work, nor of such an object.
 It has no sign of the Celtic ornament
 the spirals & circles; and I do not
 remember anything that could throw
 light on these. They were evidently

lying close to the surface, half exposed,
 & come from Roque Pertuse près Velaux ⁽³⁾
 (B. de R.). The city gave 2000 frs for them
 two months ago.

I also noted that there is a Siptah
 foundation stone, exactly like those
 which I found, & doubtless from
 one of the eastern corners of his temple
 which are more denuded. So some
 of his foundation deposits have been
 taken already.

Here one begins to live again, for
 it was mere existence in the last
 few weeks of English weather. The
 rich thymy air from the hills, the
 deep blue sky & bluer sea, the
 warm slopes around the chateau
 crowded with flowers in fullest
 bloom, the luscious scent of heliotrope
 & maze of humming bees, all give
 one a double vitality, & make more

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(4)
 hideous than ever the memory of
 Sheffield & Newcastle. There is no
 decent life north of the Alps; & why
 mankind ever went off the
 Mediterranean seems a dire wonder.
 The trees are still half green half
 yellow, loth to unclthe; and the glittering
 dark ilex full of red berries looked
 perfect against the blue sky.
 I can't believe the wisdom, & even doubt
 the sanity of folks who will stay in
 chilly fogs, enduring in terror of
 something worse, when the full
 life of the senses in every sight &
 scent awaits them only a single
 day from London. (Specially intended
 for my East Anglian reader.)
 On the train I met with De Morgan,
 who began two long conversations. He
 is as cordial in manner as he ever
 was, and evidently wishes me to
 understand that any restrictions which

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On the train I met with De Morgan,
 who began two long conversations. He
 is as cordial in manner as he ever
 was, and evidently wishes me to
 understand that any restrictions which

he makes are solely official, & not
 due to any ill will. On board I have ⁽⁵⁾
 also had some talk, & he raked into
 his baggage to give me a copy of his last
 book. In that he boldly sweeps all the later
 flint-using people in Egypt into one
 class as Neolithic, & puts them all to the
 prehistoric age; all, including IVth dyn.
 New Race & XIIth dyn., as I have learned
 to distinguish them. I cannot find a
 single fact quoted to prove it. He
 shrugs & says that he knows that I
 do not agree with him, that nothing
 is done without some mistakes, &
 that the future will decide what is
 the true view. He has not a single
 close fact to rely on, such as our New
 Race people in IVth dyn tombs. However
 he has put down his foot, & I am only
 glad that I have Nagada already out
 before I saw his book. The volume is
 finely illustrated, with 500 drawings &
 many coloured plates of the decorated

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pottery, so it is a valuable storehouse,
 only its classification is unhappy. If
 he had but spent the two months in which
 he wrote it, & the drawings, on publishing a
 full report of his digging in New Race
 cemeteries, & waited to hear all the facts
 before he committed himself & wrote
 a standard work, it would have been
 happier, both for himself & for students.
 His studies of the geology, metallurgy, &c, in
 the volume are very valuable.

Our voyage so far has been delightful. The
 smoothest seas & bluest skies were ours
 down to Sicily. There I saw for the first
 time the whole breadth of the island
 clear, without a break from side to side
 of the clear horizon. And, above all
 the wild dark tumult of the Sicilian
 hills, - rough like a sea in storm, & black
 with cloud, - there rose high-shouldered
 snowy Etna glistening in the morning
 sun. Never have I seen it from this

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northern side across the island before. Clouds hung over the Straights, & the end of Italy looked strangely forbidding; above, brilliant sky; then glittering white cloud, under which a murky darkness covered the land, whose shore came out into full sunshine, while the sheen of the white cloud on the sea in front filled the eye.

That night we ran into a continuous thunderstorm & rain, which lasted with little break till the next afternoon. The thunder travelled with us, keeping within three or four miles during at least 70 miles of run. However, as the sea was smooth, the rest did not matter.

We have the usual assemblage of French officials, English tourists, Levantines of mysterious origin, & some clerics, &c. One is the saddest sight one sees on the Mediterranean, a goodly youth condemned to the debasement of the

northern side across the island before. Clouds hung over the Straights, & the end of Italy looked strangely forbidding; above, brilliant sky; then glittering white cloud, under which a murky darkness covered the land, whose shore came out into full sunshine, while the sheen of the white cloud on the sea in front filled the eye.

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⑧. priest hood; he already has caught a touch of the villainous face of his companions. If ever a system was condemned by its fruits, the sight of the face of the average ^{Francisco-Italian} ecclesiastic would make hideous forever the system which could produce such beings. The few ascetic enthusiasts which one meets among the Franciscans are the only men who seem fit for humanity, out of all the Papal products.

At Alexandria we were first off the boat - we being W. Geere and myself, & up to the station. I went & settled about forwarding baggage with Moss, & then off to Tantah. Here we got out to hunt for a site of mounds marked on the French map of 1801.

After a false start, owing to an error in the name of a place, we got on the track. The large site of mounds by Shoneh has been nearly all dug down

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[...]

[At least one sheet (= four pages) is missing between pages 8 and 9.]

c)

c) which is at the same level on ^{either} ~~each~~ side of it. Of course the limestone ^④ has been all denuded from around, & must have been at least somewhat higher than the basalt originally. The dyke is nearly parallel to the Nile valley, running rather east of south. Along the edges of it the limestone is altered by heat, brown & red; the flints are yellow jasper, & veins of chalcedonic quartz are common. It is strange to find a parallel dyke so close to the great fault of the Nile valley.

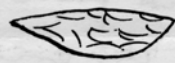
Both going & returning I looked for worked flints, but did not see one among the million or so that I must have looked at.

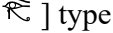
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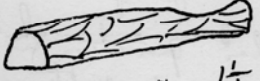
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(10) be connected with others that we have already found. They are certainly not New Race, nor IV or XII dyn, nor Palaeolithic. They are most like IVth dyn, but rougher, & I should be inclined to put them to the age next before the historic. They are found all along the outcrop of seams of flint, at 5 to 15 miles back in the desert. They are mainly knives of  type with large coarse flaking. There are also bracelets in various stages of work, the flat disc of flint, the hole begun in the middle, (a stage often fatal, as the number broken across shews) & the ring of flint nearly finished. These shew that Pitt-Rivers notion of the bracelets being chipped out of natural ring flints is not always - if ever - true. At these workings there are


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coarse implements,  broken in the working, all along the seam. (11)

But the finely worked pieces are all together in one place, ^{at each quarry,} where a master-chipper sat, to whom the flint was brought. There are hammers also of triangular section

 about 10 to 20 inches long, & 1 1/2 - 2 ins wide. These are more cherty & amorphous in texture. The whole find is most interesting; Seton Karr has swept off all that he thought worth taking & sent several hundredw^{ts} over to England. He is wishing to go up to Dongola, but will not have time now before his trip in Somali land, where he is due Jan 71. He seems to be incessantly on the move all over the world.

Our friendly Shekh, who took us in the

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¹²
 first night, came over & insisted on
 our going to dine with him. We
 had much the same dinner as before,
 but rather fuller, including a quarter
 of lamb, which was duly pulled to
 pieces by the party; for a few spoons
 are all the appliances which they
 use here.

At last the bricks were dry enough
 to run up my first room, but they
 needed very careful handling or they
 broke across; for a pat of mud is not
 a tough thing until it is very dry
 indeed. The men turn out 1500
 a day now, & so I hope to see a room
 done every two or three days. A tent
 6½ ft square, containing seven boxes,
 2 bags, bedding, & miscellaneous books,
 &c, is rather a small dining room
 for three people & it has been
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[...]

[At least one sheet (= four pages) is missing between pages 12 and 13.]

A)

26 Nov. 1896 - 1 Dec.

26 Nov. 1896 - 1 Dec. (13)
 Frazer came in and had a long talk before returning to his survey-work in the Delta. He tells me that a roll of early Greek poetry, Bakkhilides, found at Eshmunen has been bought by the Germans for £300. Next day I found Sayce much put out by the news, as he had hoped to get it to England. I went to one dealer & found a pile of things just brought down from the south by two dealers whom I know there. So they picked out all I cared for; & I went off to their native inn, & saw the rest of their stocks & took more, some twenty vases, &c: including a very fine palette of wood with 8 places for colours, several remaining filled; also some very sweet beads, & the greater part of a cylinder of $\overline{\text{R}}$. Corbett came & had a long talk in the evening. A telegram from Quibell at Luxor said that Ali was

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(14)
 coming down by the Sunday train to
 Beni Mazar; so my plan of going
 up on Monday morn will do well.
 It will be a great pleasure to have
 him about me again; for I feel as
 if all must go well with such a
 faithful, quiet, unselfish right-hand
 to help. As far as character goes he
 is really more true than almost
 any of my own race. Few men, I believe,
 have worked harder for me or trusted
 me more. Perhaps none are sorer
 at parting, or gladder when we meet
 again. A curious link in life; but a
 very real one, as character is at
 the bottom of it. Kipling's "East & West"
 is the only expression of such a link
 that I know in black & white.

I went down to the Museum with Geere
 & introduced him to Brugsch, for the
 business in future. Brugsch was very
 amiable, & shewed me a room not

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 up in groups the New-Race pottery that
 he found, along with Amelineau's
 1-III dyn pottery. Of the latter they have
 duplicates & of the sealings with the
 ka names, & De M. promised to let
 me buy some; so I raised it to Brugsch
 & bespoke all that he could spare
 me. Brugsch does not ^{at} all agree
 with De M. about the New Race being
 before the dynasties, but takes our
 dating.

A most surprising thing is that on
 Amelineau's large jars of the 1-IIIrd dyn.
 there are in every case marks cut
 in while wet, like the Kahun marks

ψA	oψ	o##ψ	##(ψ)	ψ
□	⊕	⊗	∞	∥

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(16)
 which turn up in the I-III, XII, & XVIII dyns.
 & have no connection with hieroglyphs
 (except the Libyan royal emblem the
 bee). In these I am inclined to see
 a Libyan writing, older than the
 Mesopotamian civilization which
 brought in the elements of hieroglyphs.
 All of these marks should be published.
 Daresy very cordially turned all the
 jars round for me to copy what was
 in the museum. How rapidly things
 are moving now! The interests hardly
 seem to have any connection with
 our ideas of ten years ago.
 In the museum is a splendid limestone
 statue of Amen Bubast III. It is
 identical in each feature & in
 expression with Naville's two great
 heads ^{with which it is placed for comparison} from Bubastis. I can hardly doubt
 but that they are of Am^t III. This does
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B)

^B But certainly the type is not Hyksos, ⁽¹⁷⁾
 & probably Am^t III was partly descended
 from earlier foreign conquerors, as
 I supposed in the History. I find that
 Wiedemann is of the same view.
 He laughs greatly at the absurd fallacies
 of Borchardt & the Berlin school,
 about all early statues being made
~~made~~ in the XXVI dyn. as restorations.
 I had a talk with him in the Museum.
 He & Frau W. will come to stay with me at
 the latter part of my work. They
 are both as open & genial as ever.
 They have lately got into the garden
 at the Museum a grand standing
 statue of double life size, in pink
 granite, of Amenhotep son of Hapu
 the great architect. After putting
 up the two Theban colossi of Amenhotep
 III, I suppose a subject might be
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 The nose is a little the worse, but

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(18)
 otherwise it is perfect, except being
 broken in two across the angles.

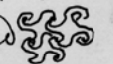
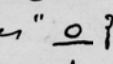
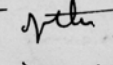
Called in on Sayce at his boat on
 my way back. Justice Scott came
 in while I was there, & was very
 cordial as he always is. Sayce tells
 me just what I hear & see all
 round, that matters are going worse
 & worse. There is no check on pillaging
 & places are being destroyed in every
 direction. The police & magistrates
 will not act, & the guards of the ~~museum~~ department
 are mostly corrupt. It is a horrible
 look out, all due to accursed politics.
 All we can do is to save from the wreck
 as much as possible while we can.
 All agree that Behnesa is less
 worked out than any other region, &
 think that I have a fine field.
 Even the grand mastabas of the IV dyn.
 at the pyramids are being cut up &
 brought in by Arabs to sell in Cairo.




otherwise it is perfect, except being
 broken in two across the angles.


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
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I have done a good deal of dealer-
 hunting not yet noted. Certainly (19)
 I must have seen about two thousand
 papyri, & searched them all for literary
 pieces. Nearly all are accounts, but I
 have a few scraps of literature, &
 eight complete letters in Greek. The
 great haul at present is from Eshmunen.
 This shows that there are plenty to the
 south of my region, as well as to the
 north. I tried to get a fat roll of
 demotic, but could not for £30. Most
 of the demotic rolls are contracts,
 but this roll was probably literary.
 I did get several pieces of a late hieratic
 roll, about 2 sq. feet of it, with rubrics,
 & not Book of the dead which is so common.
 Of scarabs I have searched at least 4 or 5000,
 but only got 40. One of Hatshepsut with
 scroll pattern field , one of Akhenaten
 "the Sun of Princes" , & one unique one
 cut in Peridot of the XVIII dyn, only .
 A fine jasper ring, double, of Sety I & Rams II,

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 "the Sun of Princes" [], & one unique one
 cut in Peridot of the XVIII dyn, only [].
 A fine jasper ring, double, of Sety I & Rams II,

(20)
 But the thing of all others is an ebony
 statuette 6 ins high of a young ^{Nubian} ~~Sudan~~
 girl about 12 years old, driving before
 her an ape which bears a disk on his
 head. This is one of the supreme
 pieces of carving of the early XVIIIth
 dynasty, finer than the boys at
 Liverpool, or the girl at Turin. The
 modelling is superb, full & muscular
 without losing anything in dryness or
 hardness; the suppleness, - the grace,
 the movement of it, - with the back
 foot half raised, & the sweetness of
 the expression, are beyond any
 of the carvings that I remember. The
 structure is exquisitely true, & yet almost
 hidden by the firm plump flesh, so
 that it is only by searching that the
 full beauty of it is seen. Not a single
 detail is scamped, the under side of the
 chin is perfect  & the back &
 shoulders are perhaps the finest part
 of all. The owner merely thought it
 a fine figure, without seeing how far

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 statuette, 6 ins high of a young ~~Sudan~~ <Nubian>
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 chin is perfect [] & the back &
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 a fine figure, without seeing how far

C)

c. it exceeded all others: if he had known ⁽²¹⁾ more about it I should have had to pay with three figures I expect; as it was, he only asked a small fortune. Certainly I have never found, nor seen on sale, anything to equal it; & I doubt if any of the finest carvings that I know can come up to it in all points. It is a perfect joy to look at the silhouette of it in every direction, for its elasticity & expression.

A very strange collection that I saw was about thirty royal head-dresses & crowns of various kinds, beautifully made in ~~sheet~~ hammered lead, very well finished & thin. They would fit statues about 2 feet high.

The evening before we left Cairo Grenfell & Hunt turned up, & we had a long talk. They were glad enough of the Greek letters &c which I had secured for them.

The next day, 30 Nov, we left at 8.0 for Beni Mazar, Wiedemann & his wife going

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(22)
 together with us to Bedrashen, for
 a couple of days at Sakkara. They
 will come to stay at the work near
 the end of the time.

At Beni Mazar I found Ali waiting
 + all our baggage ready, from Luxor,
 Alex. + Cairo. So we got camels
 for it, + then I went on quickly on
 donkey to see over Behnesa before
 the baggage should come; I took with
 me Mahmud, Ali's younger brother, whom
 I had as a small boy years ago. He is
 a good, observant, sweet-mannered lad,
 much like what Ali used to be; rather
 more lively, + with less of that
 strength of righteousness about him of his
 elder brother. I am very sorry to find
 that though Ali is so saving he has not
 the power of keeping money. Out of the
 fortune that he got last year from
 the work, about £25, but little is left.
 His family sponged on him for pounds

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after pound, not for necessity but ⁽²³⁾ simply to get it out of him into stuff they could keep. After three months he went away south with what he had ~~could keep~~ ^{left}; but even then he took not only his wife & baby, but a destitute little girl - a cousin - and his younger brother. I fear that he is too kind-hearted to hold his own. As he has an elder brother in good business there is no reason for him to be sponged on thus.

I went over the immense mounds of Behnesa, about a mile long & $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide. All I saw was late Roman, excellent for Grenfell but not for me. But there must be a fine cemetery here somewhere. I finally fixed on a piece of spare ground, by the canal, & surrounded with young palm groves, to make our camp. No camels came, & I met a police sergeant waiting about. He proved to

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No camels came, & I met a police sergeant waiting about. He proved to

(24)
 be a very tidy fellow, & we had a long talk. He was over, exactly like myself, to look for a settling place, as a police house is to be made here. This is excellent for us, as on this west side of the canal the place is very open to Arab raids, & most of the villagers have decamped & live on the east side to be safer. I have settled that if we are attacked we shall all leave the goods, & let them take what they like. They could not do more than a few pounds of damage, as our goods are quite useless to Arabs; and a single broken limb would be a greater damage. All my money is safely buried.

Still, as no baggage came, I sat waiting on the bank, but at sunset we, myself & two policemen - had the most pressing invitation from a dumb man to come over & stay with him on the east side. I had sent Mahmud to search for bread, & would not

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D)

I leave till he turned up. At last he ⁽²⁵⁾
 came, breadless, & so we all went
 over the canal. The dumb man was
 younger brother of a rich shekh who
 is building a very grand house. He
 received us most cordially; coffee, a
 long talk, & dinner followed. We had
 the regular big tray, a large dish of
 rice & a couple of disjointed fowls,
 plates of spinach soup & piles of bread.
 He had spoons, so we did not need
 the graceful dexterity of sweeping up
 mouthfuls of rice in a pinch of flap-
 bread, & we each excavated our hole
 in the rice round the edge of the dish.
 Then Geere & I had a room with
 mattresses & rugs. But the cattle &
 dogs outside kept me much awake.
 Next morning after a dish of hot bread &
 milk we went off. The baggage had
 come up the night before about two
 hours after sunset. We went to see the

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(26)
 village jeweller who makes nose rings
 for the Bedawi women of the desert.
 He had "a statue with a golden girdle"
 which proved to be a little Roman
 glass figure, with a twist of gold
 wire around it to hang it to a
 necklace. He also had a few Roman
 gems: the only one of value a convex
 amethyst with rather a good figure:
 worth perhaps a pound or two in Europe,
 but here thought far more of, as all
 gems are.

We pitched tents, stored all our baggage,
 opened all the old stores & took out
 what is most wanted; & planned out
 our house, which will be of 10 rooms
 if I find enough to keep me here,
 that is for sitting 2, 3, Geere & self, 4, 5, Hunt
 & Grenfell, 6, 7 visitors, 8, 9, Ali & men, 10, cook.
 Late in the day we had a light rain for
 some hours, but all was under cover by then.

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 what is most wanted; & planned out
 our house, which will be of 10 rooms
 if I find enough to keep me here,
 that is for 1 sitting <2, 3> Geere & self, <4, 5> Hunt
 & Grenfell, <6, 7> visitors, <8, 9> Ali & men, <10> cook.

Late in the day we had a light rain for
 some hours, but all was under cover by then.

Please forward to
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 Ashton u. Lyne,
 Dr Walker 55 Fitzroy Rd Regents Park
 NW
 F. C. J. Spurrell
 Bessingham Norwich
 Miss S. Harvey
 Milford
 Godalming
 A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill
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A)

2 Dec. 1896. - 9 Dec.

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(27)

When I first came here I looked out for bricks & enquired the price, saw two good stacks of about 18,000 & thought we should get on. But it seems that the village is being slowly shifted over from the west to the east of the canal, & there is evidently a good deal of prosperity here, & everyone is intending to build or rebuild. So it comes about that no bricks are to be had. The first day Ali went & hunted the prosperous side, but no one would sell bricks. The second day he hunted this side, but no one would sell. The third day he engaged a man to come & make bricks, but the man returned the earnest money instead of coming. So I settled that my own men must do it, and I started making a brick mould, but found the saw was ground out by cutting up cartouche bricks last year. So our building began by my sharpening the saw to

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28
cut the board, to make the mould,
to mould the bricks, to build the
huts; which is beginning rather
far back in the story.

I cannot begin to excavate yet, awaiting
the official permission. It is of course
only for careful work that any such
permission is needed: for plundering
& destruction any native may do what
he likes & no one hinders him.

So after getting our tents in order,
& marking out our intended 10 roomed
house (don't be alarmed at the grandeur
of it, the cost will be about £2 or £3)

I began a survey by fixing the
positions of a line of minarets &
other landmarks exactly, so that we
can plan everything by them. I then
struck out to the north & west to
explore & found far-stretching mounds

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of Roman buildings, & many small ⁽²⁹⁾ isolated mounds which seem to be either separate villas (as at Amarna) or tombs. They are very promising to examine. Then we struck back into the desert at sunset, & found buildings running about two miles back, one large one with Corinthian capitals lying about. We had a posse of village boys running by us, all very good friends & not annoying, & I tried to see how far they would go after sunset in the desert, as that is always a dread to the fellah. All dropped off but two, who stuck to us till nearly dark, when we turned & came back at a 6 mile trot, which is one of the best paces for covering sandy ground, with a short shuffling step. Next morning we went

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(30)
 off southward exploring, & found on
 a slight ridge, two miles back, a
 line of heaps of flints, perhaps tombs.
 It was a splendid fresh morning, &
 I did much of the way barefoot on
 the sand. Then we turned to reach
 the canal, & had a long stretch of
 mud soft, & mud hard, ditches
 & sloughs, to wade. This ground is
 pasturage for half settled Arabs,
 & those we came across were most
 pleasant & friendly. All the people
 about here are unspoiled, & many
 are as good as one could meet with,
 while none are troublesome or
 offensive.

Our dumb friend came over to see us
 & we had a long conversation. He is a
 very sharp fellow, & sees the meaning of
 anything that is shown to him very quickly.
 He gave a long & moving account of our
 dangers on this side, & how the Bedawin
 with masked faces would attack us, take every scrap of

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B)

^{B)} clothing & leave us wounded. I replied ⁽³¹⁾ that they might take what they liked, there was hardly anything of use to them. So he expatiated on the wound; & gave a comic description of the visit of enquiry by a pompous official who would count up everything. He urged me to always carry a revolver in a belt; but unluckily for me my revolver has disappeared in the division of baggage up at Luxor by Quibell. He pressed me much to go over & dine with them, and I vaguely told him I would in a few days. He enquired about my large Arabic vocabulary, & took in at once that it was for Arabic & English. He travels about the country, knows Cairo, & the Zoological garden there. I see that the people here talk to him very freely about business by signs, & he certainly gets on remarkably well without language.

Our brick difficulties seem slowly bettering. After engaging three men, who each

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32
 failed to come, we have got now
 two who do 1000 a day, & I hope
 to begin some building in a day
 or two more.

On returning after my morning's
 surveying I found my dumb friend
 here, & after lunch he went round
 the ruins to shew me what he
 knew. The mass of stone work which
 has served the town as a quarry for
 years past has passages & chambers
 in it, & from other people I hear of
 3 statues having been found in it.
 They were smashed up, & made into
 coffee mills. It looks to me as if
 it might have been a catacomb
 for the sacred fish, a tomb for
 any one prince would not be so
 large. Then he shewed me the
 city wall, at the end where it was
 scarcely visible, & went some way
 along it, till I told him that I knew it
 & had planned it the day before. Then

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33
 he told me that quantities of papyrus were found there, & began grubbing; in a couple of minutes he turned up a piece of Greek accounts 2nd cent. AD. But so soon as we got on the Arab part of the mounds - though I had not yet noticed the difference - he observed that there were not any papyrus there, that was all no good, all of Muslim age. But the whole of the Roman part not capped with Arab contained writings. He is also very anxious that I should beware of untrustworthy men about the place. Altogether we get on as well with signs as with speech.


Having planned all that I can do here before digging, & not yet ^(7th Dec) having my permission (which was supposed to be granted on the 1st), I went off to see the hills back in the desert, & to

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(34)

search for tombs. On the higher ground, gently sloping up from the town for four miles, there seems to be a great cemetery. Some mounds must be tombs, thousands of hollows may be tombs, & there certainly has been a great deal of salt digging which leaves the surface all in holes. So how much there is to be found I dare not yet say.

Then Ali & I went on further west to hills about 8 miles back, which I thought might contain rock tombs. But what was my surprise when I walked up them, to find that they were all of columnar basalt. This is a great eruptive mass about two miles long, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide, & up to 100 ft high, worn into rounded hills 

It springs up from the plateau of nummulitic Eocene limestone.

search for tombs. On the higher ground, gently sloping up from the town for four miles, there seems to be a great cemetery. Some mounds must be tombs, & there certainly has been a great deal of salt digging which leaves the surface all in holes. To how much there is to be found I dare not yet say.

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Ali reported that he had seen some bricks at double price. So I sent for them, as ours take so long to dry. But the reply was that they would not be sold for five times the price. Ali then offered all round, half as many bricks more, to be delivered as soon as finished, if any one would let us have stock at once. But all in vain.

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Meanwhile I ran up a room for myself

(36)
 from the still soft bricks, with the result that the borders cracked, two corners gaped, & the bricks have yielded so much that I expect one or other wall to topple over. However, I have a passable room now, 12 ft x 7½, which is a great improvement on the tents. All the ground in front of our premises is covered with bricks laid out to dry, about 10,000 made, & 4,000 more have to be done. We shall hardly get rooms up before Grenfell & Hunt come to work, & our visitors come to stay.

I went over for a long walk to the north, mainly to see a village called Kom el Hassal, but there was no Kom there now. Zigzagging about the fields & canals is tedious work; Ali & I were on the tramp over rough ground for seven hours, but did not get many miles away after all. I have now searched for six miles round here in each direction; but the desert cemetery is the only place of importance

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[photograph missing]

In the impossibility of doing anything ³⁷
 more here until I get the permit, I am
 reduced to sitting out on the mound
 with brush in hand. Here is Behnesa
 from the south ^{over the rubbish mounds}, with a curious minaret
 the top of which is supported on wooden
 poles, so that at a little distance
 it seems to be hung in the air over
 the lower part.

All the town of Behnesa is in a tumble-
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[photograph missing]

38
 live in Sandafah on the inland side
 of the canal. The fine old mosques are
 all falling to pieces, & seem as if a year
 or two must bring them down. The
 scattered tombs with domes & minarets,
 in the desert outside the town, are half
 gone, & the less pious inhabitants
 attack them for stone & brick. The
 minaret above has been nearly half
 cut away, & while I was looking at it
 a man began hacking at the hollow to
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 the town Ali found out an old public
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[photograph missing]

B) much of it filled up with rubbish, but
 still having a brilliant inlaid pavement
 of coloured marbles in the hall. It is
 very instructive as shewing how
 buildings have been anciently buried
 in heaps of ruin. I see here the present
 formation of a Tell or Kom of ruins
 before me. Away to the north
 stretch a mile of mounds, beyond which
 is the desert, the green strip of bushes
 fringing the cultivated land, & in the
 distance the white limestone cliffs, as
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the ⁴⁰ canal bank near sunset I heard
 that our boy Mahmud was returning
 from post (he has been 22 miles every day
 looking for that permit), & with him a
 man in coat & trousers. This proved to
 be a miserable little worm of an Effendi
 sent down to spy on us, at 4^s a
 day ^{from us} as I learned when I read the
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signed the agreement under protest
 & written to both Brugsch & De M. (41)
 about it. Of course it is a game of B's
 to plague us. To De M. I have said
 that keeping us here a fortnight idle is
 equal to £30 loss on the expences of the
 year, & so I hope he will not impose
 a charge of £25 more. Also the
 agreement is for Behnesa only, without
 saying anything about the voisinage,
 which was to include the whole region.
 I have asked De M. about this, as
 otherwise I may easily find that I
 cannot turn a stone outside of
 this place without waiting weeks
 for a permission. All this petty
 annoyance is just like what has
 been the rule in that Office ever
 since I knew it.

So on Monday morning I began to enlist
 men, having been over the market the
 day before to look for suitable fellows.
 I began work on the isolated small

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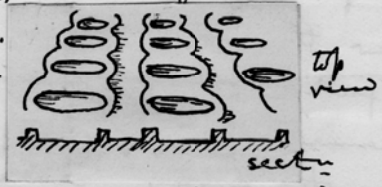
(42)
 mounds outside of the town. Later on
 I tried some of the rubbish heaps. On
 Tuesday night Grenfell came, & stayed
 Wednesday looking over the place. The
 result of three days work has been to
 show that the isolated mounds are
 small villas perched on platforms of
 brick, & that they are IInd-IIIrd cent. A.D.
 The great stone building I have not yet
 tackled; but the ~~piece~~ flakes of the statues
 smashed up there show that they were
 Roman. by the quality of the marble, &
 the style of finish. And immediately
 outside of the enclosure wall are heaps
 of pottery & pieces of papyri of the late
 IVth cent. A.D. The enclosure wall is
 of good stone well dressed, but small
 blocks. My impression is that it is a
 great church & monastery of Helena's
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C)


place is a space about 40 ft square (43) with rows of shallow pans made all over it with mud brick cemented over. The pans are 4 ft across & 6 ins deep. Those in one row are a foot apart, & the space between the rows is as deep as the bottoms of the pans. The use of this is yet unexplained. The cement is too slight to hold water, as there is only mud brick below. They cannot be holes for bases of columns, as there is no sign of removing ~~the~~ any stone from them. There are 6 or 7 rows of 6 or 7 pans each. Having got together a very good gang of 40, beside my four here, & got their confidence for weekly payment, &c, I then announced that every one must bring a water bottle, & we should all go into the desert to hunt tombs. No one objected, & most of them were anxious to go, although it means 8 miles walk daily.



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44
 Ali has started an oven, for baking the wide papery sheets of bread which they eat here. The section is thus  the fuel being burnt in the lower half, & the hot air & flame passing ~~it~~ over the floor of the upper part. When in full blast a rush of red hot air & flame comes out of the upper mouth over the bread. A large pan of paste is made; a small girl picks out a handful & ~~tosses~~ throws it on a circular fan of palm slips about 18 ins across, held by an older girl; she then tosses the lump on the fan until it spreads to 9 or 10 ins across, & then gives it to Mrs Ali who sits cross legged in front of the furnace. She tosses the flap until it spreads to 15 or 16 ins, slips the fan into the oven, & with a jerk whips the fan back leaving the flap of bread in the oven. ^{by the side of one other that is finishing} In about a minute it is baked. A long iron is used to stoke the fire below, & to rake out the flaps as they are done. Altogether stoking, tossing, & raking out flaps is pretty hard work for the baker,

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45
 who sits facing the blaze the whole time
 for hours without rising. I mention
 this because it is very seldom that the
 woman's work of the fellahin can be seen.

We have now tried for three days about
 the desert for the cemetery. About
 four miles out on a ridge are some
 pits, with two or three rough chambers
 about 3 ft high at the bottom of each. But
 without any trace of bones or burials, &
 only a few jars of Coptic or Arab
 pottery. They may be tombs cleared
 out to serve as shelters in the
 Christian or Muslim troubles, or possibly
 originally cut for such purpose. The
 mounds which looked so much like
 graves are all natural. The ground
 is largely composed of gypsum &
 flints; & where a great pocket
 of extra sized flints was naturally
 swept together in deposition, they
 have formed hillocks of flint as
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46
 by denudation. We cleared also large patches of 30 or 40 square yards of ground to search for tombs in the most likely places; but, so far, all beyond a few rude pits are a patch of Roman graves about a mile behind the town. Hope that I may find more; if not, I shall soon leave here exploring up & down the country.

Please forward to
 F. L. Griffith, Riversdale, Ashton u. Lyne
 Dr Walker, 55 Fitzroy Rd, Regents Park,
 F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Norfolk.
 Miss S. Harvey, Milford, Godalming
 A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill. N.

A second letter from Dr Walker is all that I have to acknowledge from my journal friends.

"The fruit of a fig tree is not perfected at once & in a single hour" saith Epictetus. No more is an excavation; & so I console myself.

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[At least one sheet (= four pages) is missing between pages 46 and 47.]

D) here now for the night. So I hope ⁽⁴⁷⁾
 that I shall hear no more about
 the dismal terrors of our palm
 groves, the shadows of which are
 full of thieves to the native
 imagination. There is certainly
 no place for miles around so
 pleasant as ours; a piece of open
 field on the canal edge, the water
 being about 20 feet below now,
 & palms on three sides of it. The
 younger plantations fill the ground
 entirely, as their branches still
 spring from ground level; the
 older trees form a fair shade,
 in which we sit during the day &
 have lunch, the stems being tall
 enough to carry the heads out of
 our reach. A little of this may be
 imagined from the next page.
 And yet I wait for this ridiculous
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D)

(48)
 camels carrying off tons of stone
 from the important building of
 the place at which I may not yet
 turn a basket full of earth. I hope
 that I may get the document by
 the messenger who takes this in
 to post.

The only letter received from any
 of my journal friends, as yet,
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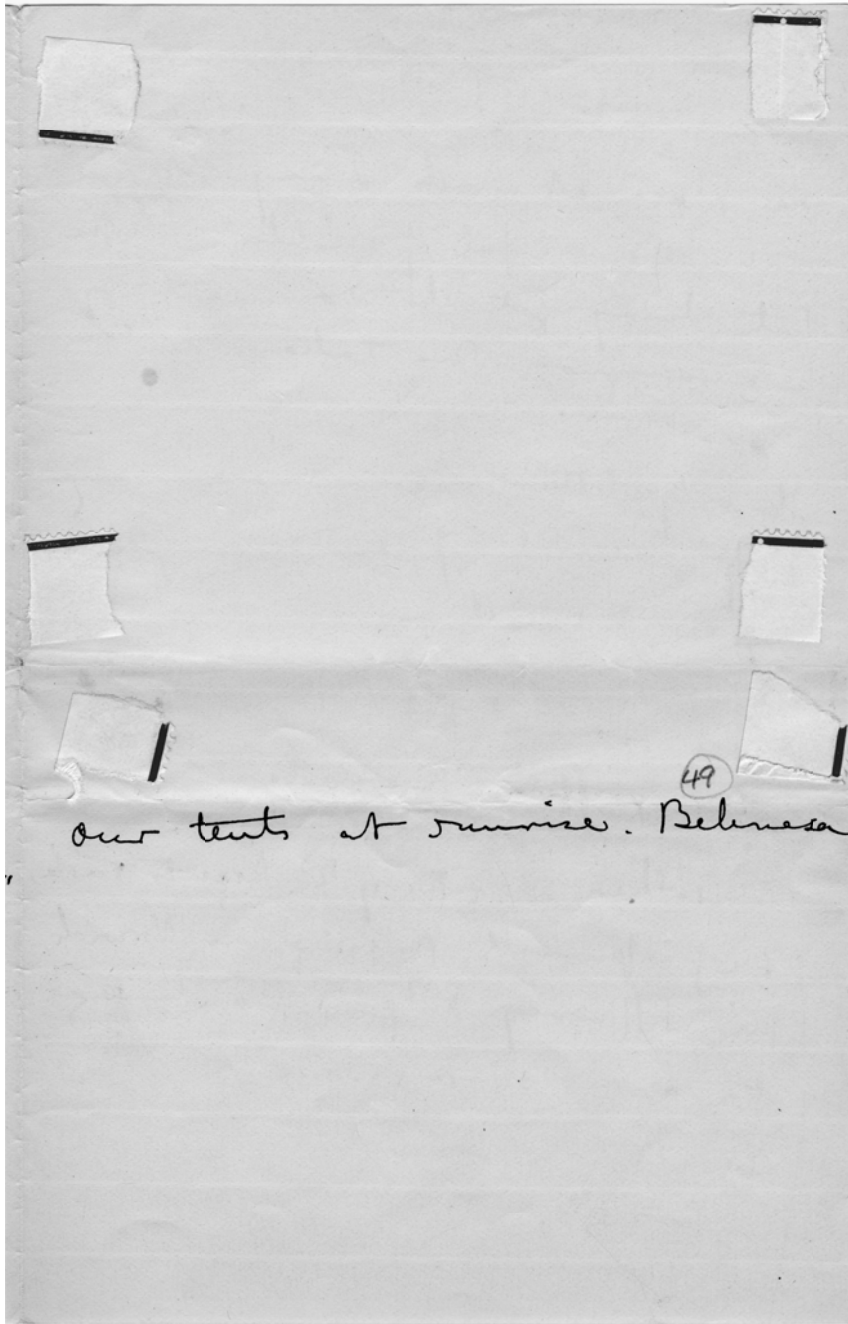
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[photograph missing]



Our tents at sunrise. Behnesa

21-27 Dec. 189621-27 Dec. 1896

(50)

Having tested the outlying parts I concentrated the men on the Roman cemetery that I had reached. We found about 20 graves, mostly poor, or else plundered. In one were the pieces of a painted limestone statuette of the deceased, about 2 feet high. As all this proved only Roman, & Grenfell & Hunt had come & settled in, I then handed it all over to them, & prepared to go exploring for a site.

The hospitable Shekh here came to ask for some broken limestone to burn for lime to plaster his house. So I said that if they picked out a heap of it they might take it, but no quarrying in the ruins could be done. Two days after I see camels laden with stone going down to the river, as before. And on going up to the church I find eight men digging up stone as before, & quarrying tools

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(51)
 lying about. I ordered them out
 altogether; & told them that though they
 might have taken scraps, yet as they
 would quarry the walls there was an
 end of it. Of course they talked
 profusely but did not go. So I
 pounced into the hole, caught up
 the two crowbars about 30 lbs each,
 gave one to Geere, & marched off.
 Then the old sinner ^{the quarryman} followed, &
 began all sorts of usual lies &
 promises. Three times during the
 day he brought up village
 worthies to play compurgator,
 ending with the Shekh. But all
 to no purpose. I laid down that as
 he refused to go at first, & had then
 made a false excuse to get in again
 for lime-stuff, & again refused to
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I then went off for five days camping out with Ali, to search the country between here & Minieh. I first noticed a large space of old quarrying in the nummulitic limestone along the desert edge. We saw two town mounds (Roman) & went along the desert edge until by sunset we reached a large ~~town~~ place, with a square enclosure probably an early monastery. It was all Roman. There I struck into the cultivation, & some Arab settlers told us that our donkey with

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(53)
 baggage was awaiting us in the village close by. So I pitched on a bit of spare ground, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the village on one hand, & $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Arabs on the other. Both parties protested that we could & should not do so. But I sat out their protests, & assured them that I should not go to either party, as I would not be near the dogs. So I slept in peace. All along this W. side of the country 3 to 6 miles in width is swallowed up by Arab squatters, who run up durra straw fences round their tents, & so make settlements which last for years. All the Egyptians are much afraid of them; & they have a flavour of wildness in their outfit, as every respectable man carries a revolver & a blunderbuss. The first is fully loaded ready, as I saw one

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B)

B) looking over some of them. Robberies⁵⁴ are usual here. The next morn we left these ruins of Tenideh, passed several cemeteries of Roman age, & some ^{graves} where beads shewed the pits to be of XXIInd dynasty. It is almost impossible to know where you are when on the desert, as a high line of sand dunes cuts off all view of the villages of the plain.

At last near sunset we struck on to the dunes to get into the cultivated land, & reach water for the night. In place of one or two lines of dunes there are several parallel ridges of sand, each 40 or 50 ft high, & between them are lakes, which dry off at one end into wide green meadows of short grass. This gives most

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(55)
 delicious barefoot walking:
 the cool moist ground, &
 grateful soft tufts of young grass,
 being perfect to the foot. The
 next morning was even better
 when it was covered with a sheen
 of dew. When the sensation &
 perception of the foot is lost in
 a hard boot, half the pleasure
 of walking is gone.
 That night I struck up to a town
 mound of Roman age, which is covered
 with the tents & shelters of Arabs,
 who have dug it to pieces in the
 last 30 or 40 years. It has the Roman
 name of Kom el Ahmar, "the red mound,"
 & is just east of Mahdiyeh on the
 map. There I pitched a little apart,
 where I should not hear so much
 of the dogs. First we had a fine old

delicious barefoot walking:
 the cool moist ground, &
 grateful soft tufts of young grass,
 being perfect to the foot. The
 next morning was even better
 when it was covered with a sheen
 of dew. When the sensation &
 perception of the foot is lost in
 a hard boot, half the pleasure
 of walking is gone.

That night I struck up to a town
 mound of Roman age, which is covered
 with the tents & shelters of Arabs,
 who have dug it to pieces in the
 last 30 or 40 years. It has the common
 name of Kom el Ahmar, "the red mound,"
 & is just east of Mahdiyeh on the
 map. There I pitched a little apart,
 where I should not hear so much
 of the dogs. First we had a fine old

(56)

shekh with grey beard & a splendid silver-plated blunderbuss. He of course objected that we must go to the house or tent of some one, & was with difficulty appeased. Then came a suave midshaped shekh or guard, who had also to be talked over. Then came up a bullying shekh of the guard, who blustered furiously about being there, & swore by everything that we should go to his house. He also was talked down. Lastly came a jolly old shekh, with a thorough a "make-myself-at-home" manner as any Yorkshireman. He bundled into my little tent, filled half of it ^{as he settled down}, & was positive that I must move; but of course to no effect. He was a fine, vigorous, old hand,

shekh with grey beard & a splendid silver-plated blunderbuss. He of course objected that we must go to the house or tent of some one, & was with difficulty appeased. Then came a suave midshaped shekh or guard, who had also to be talked over. Then came up a bullying shekh of the guard, who blustered furiously at our being there, & swore by everything that we should go to his house. He also was talked down. Lastly came a jolly old shekh, with a thorough a "make-myself-at-home" manner as any Yorkshireman. He bundled into my little tent, filled half of it <as he settled down>, & was positive that I must move; but of course to no effect.

He was a fine, vigorous, old hand,

(57)
 with a cock-eye, a slit nose, & a
 cheery patronising way about him.
 Next morning, after seeing some
 wretched pieces of late Roman carving,
 we left the tent ^{pitched,} & went off for a
 day out & back, to the south. After
 going for a little - about 5 miles -
 we found two Arabs following, who
 had been sent out to protect us. They
 shewed us cemeteries, & I found
 at last where those painted plaster
 heads come from, which have been
 sold during the last 2 or 3 years
 as being from the Oasis or from Meir.
 The pieces were lying about, & the
 guards told me that they had
 found them coloured, as those we know.
 Coming back from our furthest,
 which was 1 or 2 miles south of Minieh,
 I found rows of parallel dunes,

with a cock-eye, a slit nose, & a
 cheery patronising way about him.
 Next morning, after seeing some
 wretched pieces of late Roman carving,
 we left the tent <pitched,> & went off for a
 day out & back, to the south. After
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 found them coloured, as those we know.

Coming back from our furthest,
 which was 1 or 2 miles south of Minieh,
 I found rows of parallel dunes,

C)

c) and at one point I saw four ⁽⁵⁸⁾
 long blue lakes lying between
 the yellow sands, one beyond the other;
 while on the other side were two more.
 Each lake is about half a mile
 wide & two or three miles long; they
 make a scene utterly unlike anything
 else in Egypt, & I suspect that
 hardly anyone has any idea of them.
 No tourists ever go there, & probably
 no officials; from the cultivated land
 it seems as if the rolling sand hills
 were the interminable desert, & there
 is no sign of the lakes between. So
 far as the map goes it is absurdly
 wrong, & has no relation to the actual
 form of the ground. This region, so
 far from the Nile, beyond a band of
 swamp, & apparently all desert, is
 outside of even the tax collector's ken.
 The scattered Arabs who live by pasturing

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 long blue lakes lying between
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The scattered Arabs who live by pasturing

(59)
 their flocks in the meadows, are a friendly race, & we had no trouble with them. The girls wear four or five bangles, large enough for the arm, put through the ear; not by the lobe, but through the shell of the ear, which becomes a mere band of flesh to hold up the jangling gauds.

Our usual day's routine was that Ali began pot-boiling before sunrise; when the boiled water for the day was done, & coffee made, we had breakfast. Then packed up, loaded our baggage-donkey, & sent him on with his owner to our next station. Ali & I then rode our donkeys or walked all day along the desert, lunching on some bread & a tin of food, & reaching our station by sunset. Tent was then

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pitched; shekhs, guards, &c, all
 talked over, Ali cooked a pot of
 lentil soup & boiled more water,
 we had dinner, & an hour's talk
 after it before lying down for
 the night. To have "domestic
 providence" (as I called him last
 year) always at your elbow,
 ready for shekhs, donkeys,
 cooking, & everything else, & withal
 one of the pleasantest of friends
 to be about with, is the luxury of
 travelling. I have heard more of
 his ways in these five days, &
 respect him even more than before.

The next day we sent on our baggage
 14 miles north, & went with guides
 to see a pit tomb out in the desert,
 which was described as 2 hours off
 to the west. After going about six
 miles to the south west, at last was

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 to be about with, is the luxury of
 travelling. I have heard more of
 his ways in these five days, &
 respect him even more than before.

The next day we sent on our baggage
 12/4 miles north, & went with guides
 to see a pit tomb out in the desert,
 which was described as 2 hours off
 to the west. After going about six
 miles to the south west, at last I was

(61)
 shewn a ridge about 5 miles further
 & told that the pit was there. So
 I had to give it up, & found ourselves
 10 or 20 miles from our night's rest,
 near noon, with donkeys fagged
 out far back in the desert. The only
 resource was one's own muscles: so
 I went off a long stretch of about 12
 miles without a break straight across
 desert, much of it heavy sand, with
 sun full on our backs, & no wind
 except a faint hot south air. Getting
 down to a meadow we had lunch,
 twenty minutes on one's back, &
 then on. Donkeys were no use, the
 sand was so heavy, so it had to
 be all walking to near the end. I
 have not had such a pull for some
 time past; some 17 miles at full
 speed, on mostly very heavy ground, &
 a hot close day. However, it suited
 me as well as ever; & I was not
 very tired, & quite fit next morning.

shewn a ridge about 5 miles further
 & told that the pit was there. So
 I had to give it up, & found ourselves
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D)

2) We visited three more Roman ⁽⁶²⁾ towns on our way back to Behnesa, where we got in about the middle of the afternoon. Now, after two days refitting, we go off on a nine days' round northward: so no journal need be expected for a fortnight after this.

Grenfall has been getting plenty of Roman tombs, but nearly all plundered, & nothing important as yet.

Please forward to

F. L. Griffith, Riversvale,
Ashton u. Lyne

Dr Walker, 55 Fitzroy Rd, Regents Park,

F. C. J. Spurrell, Bessingham, Norwich,

Miss S. Harvey, Milford, Godalming.

A. L. Lewis 54 Highbury Hill. N.

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