

<Nov<sup>E</sup>> <1935.>April<sup>sic</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>.

Arabah el Madfuna.

Nov<sup>E</sup> 1935April<sup>sic</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 347

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Dear Mother.

I received two letters from you yesterday, one was forwarded from Cooks<sup>sic</sup> as it had not arrived before I left Cairo. Thank you for sending the piece of linen it is the right piece, also for the little calendar<sup>sic</sup> & my bank account.

I had a nice surprise yesterday. Sheikh Jed-el-Karim arrived with a basket in front of him on his donkey & he told me there was a present for me inside it. when I opened it there was a dear little tabby kitten, it was trembling with fright after its hours<sup>sic</sup> donkey ride. he had brought it from

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the village where his school is.  
I lifted it out & cuddled it a  
bit & though it was very frightened  
& clung with all claws to the basket  
it never scratched my hands -  
after a little it began to purr very  
softly. we took it out to the kitchen  
& gave it milk & scraps of chicken  
& left it to get used to its new  
surroundings while I had my  
lesson. As soon as Sheikh-Jed-el  
Karim had departed, Abdullah  
told me the headmaster of the  
school from Beni Monsur was waiting  
to pay his respects, so in he came,  
he had brought his small daughter  
& his assistant teacher & we all  
said polite things & when they  
had departed I had a scramble  
to get my bath & be ready for supper

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This morning I took the kitten round the house & introduced it to all the rooms, it was very frightened at all the strange places but seemed content as long as I held it, the men had it in their room all last night, it seems quite used to being handled & I think it will soon get over the strangeness of everything & settle down, it takes its food without the slightest hesitation.

The guards dog was wild with delight when he saw me again he lept up at me & put his paws on my shoulders, fortunately I had a piece of nice new bread ready for him, Old Mahomed is very proud of him, when he sees me coming he says to the dog, "Rise up Oh my brother, the lady comes."

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our soudani guard have arrived,  
 the first night <sup>they were here</sup> they found a viper  
 in their room curled up in the sand,  
 so I have ordered a brick floor to  
 be put down in the room as  
 snakes will seldom enter where they  
 cannot make a hole to hide in.

the men are now busy putting down  
 the bricks, During the summer

a viper was caught in a rat trap  
 they say it was a yard long.

I have learnt a nice Arabic idiom  
 (not from my school master) instead  
 of saying of two friends. "they are  
 hand in glove" - you say "they are  
 two bottoms in one pair of drawers".  
 This may amuse Pat.

Lots of love to you & father  
 also to Pat.

Your affectionate

daughter

Myrtle.



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