

d 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, TEMPLE OF SETI I. ABYDOS
EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
AND
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

63

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP
ARABAH EL MADFUNAH
BALIANA. UPPER EGYPT.

Dear Mother.

Just a frantic note to tell you our Kharga trip was a great success. I have never had so many thrills in my life. I will describe my adventures more fully in a longer letter or letters, but I want to catch this mail in case you are a little anxious, the people here, including the local police were scared stiff at our undertaking. but we have carried it through in spite of many warnings, & now find ourselves quite celebrities. We have trekked 130 miles across waterless desert in 4 days. average speed with pack camels. $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 miles per hour.

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[probably 15 February 1930]

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Just think what that meant. we had
 to push on no matter how tired & stiff
 we were because everything depended
 on our water supply lasting out.
 I have been through a night mare
 land, endless plains of stony desert
 & sandy desert with the wicked mirage
 shimmering on the horizon, across
 a land of fantastic rocks like prehis-
 toric monsters frozen to stone, across
 a land so cruel & pitiless
 that one felt even the gods were
 dead & buried there under strange
 rocks of tomb like shapes, across
 vast wastes of sand strewn with
 black round stones, going on & on
 westward all the time, until we
 came to a place where we stood on
 the roof of the world & looked down
 on a country of sand dunes, tossed
 up rocks, dotted here & there with
 specks of green where the springs
 bubbled up & ringed round with
 a chain of limestone mountains

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I never imagined such wild fantastic beauty. we stood & gazed & gazed & could not speak a word until we had to pull our selves together to face the descent; how we got down I do not know. it was simply marvellous. our camels slid on rocks wallowed down sand slopes & we floundered ~~after~~ after them until we reached the level plain in which the Oasis of Kharga lies. many feet below sea level. we still had 20 miles to go across the plain but half way there was a well at a ruin of a Coptic Monastery where we ~~water~~ watered our poor thirsty camels & rested for an hour & a half. then on again arriving at the Oasis itself

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 I must close this scrawl
 In the post. & will write a more sane
 & readable letter for next mail.
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 & Pat & other friends
 Your affectionate
 Myrtle.

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