

Arabah
Jan 19th 1937.

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Dear Mother

There was great excitement here last Thursday when the King came to visit the Temple, Amice & I were presented by the head of the Services des Antiquités, & we made our curtsies as advised by one of the Residency ladies, it had to be quite a low dip with the knee not quite touching the ground, Amice & I had practiced it the day before, & did not in the least need the very helpful uplifting handshake that the King gave us, he is a nice looking lad, a little too plump & floppy perhaps for English standards, he has quite a fair skin & grey eyes, the Queen is really lovely she has the real oriental type of features with enormous dark eyes & a pretty slim figure, it must be an extraordinary experience for her to come out into the world & go about with her son like a European lady after

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living shut up in the hareem during her husband's life time, she wore fashionable French clothes & no veil, some of the ladies-in-waiting wore a tiny yashmak over the lower half of their faces. The four princesses were with her, the youngest is six years old, they were all very nice looking & one of the middle ones was quite beautiful. We showed them the books & some of the work we have done this year, & they were very interested. The King & the Royal Family had lunch in a tent specially erected for him over looking the desert, & the head of the S.^{de}A. had lunch with us & the King's ~~the~~ English tutor escaped & joined us & we had a very merry time. After lunch we went down to the Osirion to see the lighting arrangements in the underground chamber, a special engine had been brought out to make electric light but the electrician had not realized the size

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of the chamber & the globes he had brought were not nearly powerful enough, so Amice had one of our large mirrors brought down & a silver paper covered reflector & by this means flooded the place with sunlight & quite out did the electricians efforts, his lamps looked like fathing clips. so our method was used when the King came & he was very interested & went & had a look at the reflector that Sardic was holding & gave Sardic such a nice smile, you can imagine how proud Sardic was,

I forgot to tell you that our own native musicians supplied the music during the Kings^{sic} lunch, we had got them all collected ready & Amice asked the Master of Ceremonies if they might perform as she could personally recommend them, so it was arranged, & they sang a special song of their own for the King & he was so delighted that he gave them £5. you can imagine the state of excitement they

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have been in ever since. Today the rubaba player came round to tell us that the Omdah had got an illustrated newspaper, & there was a picture of them playing in front of the King; & he said "there was the whole story of it written out so that all the world could read it."

Our male staff were unable to appear on this historic occasion. They had decided to cope with the lack of barbers (European) by shaving their heads!!! & wearing a sort of turban to hide their nakedness. They had got hold of the idea that this would strengthen the roots of the hair & prevent baldness later. Of course they could not appear before Royalty in that condition so had to remain in seclusion at the house.

I expect you remember hearing Amice speak of her cousin Jan. she has come out to visit her brother who is with one of the regiments stationed in Cairo & may be coming to visit us next week. Amice is very excited about it.

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I think we are going to entertain the Mudir of our province to lunch in the Temple. Sandie is looking out for a suitable Turkey for the occasion.

The bundle of humorists have arrived & we are all enjoying them

Amice joins in lots of love

To you both, I hope all the colds are quite well now. I have had a bit of a cold the last few days it is very draughty in the temple when the North wind is blowing & we have to muffle ourselves up so I have been getting on with some work that can be done at the house,

Lots of love

Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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