

To be there. I found my way fairly with asking, until I came to a sign board "To the Phoenician temple reservoir & tombs." Turning up the road I went up a hill side, & went out the top of a heap of ^{small} stones to look around. Seeing no temple, I went on along a rocky path, & on, & on, until I got across some fields & over a valley & at last safely out again into the road by which I had come. So I went again to the sign board, & up the road again, & then began to suppose that the stone-heap might be part of the "temple", but I could see no clear signs of age about it. It was a retaining wall with a mass of small stones behind it, curved; & another such wall with a heap of stones at it, & large rough stones between. However I thought there might be something else for the "Phoenician temple", so I went over the fields down in the direct way to what I went before, & at last reached a house, whence on enquiry I found they called the temple Kanēsieh which is the common Arab name for a ruin Kanēseh = Church. And I was directed round a third time, to the same road I had gone over twice before. So seeing that was all I set off back again, about 16 miles, altogether. Thence fair to Alexandria.

Now for our passengers, Ladies first. M^{rs} Hewat a bright & elegant Scotch woman, like Fraulein Schultz lively, with two little girls, returning to her husband in Alex. Miss Ridout, intelligent but rather disastrous-looking; thinking I remembered the name ^{John R} I enquired, & find that her father was a doctor in Bloomsbury, & had a brother John Ridout (who died when she was young) who lived with him. I think there must be the people.

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She was helping in Soldiers Institute at Alex. for
 a year, & is going again there. Mrs Gale, a
 worthy woman doubtless, but such a ceaseless
 fount of twaddle always flowing on, that
 I dreaded the sight of her; happily left at Malta
 with a niece of hers, Miss Turells, a buxom
 bull-necked damsel. I am glad that I am
 not likely to be thrown into Maltese society.
 Then Mr. Gill, a Liverpool ship owner out for a
 holiday, with his son, a very bright fellow of 17;
 nice intelligent people. His grandmother's family
 were Chapple's, but of Devonshire. Mr Grant
 an Indian civil service man, who has spent
 later on three years in Egypt trying to stir up
 agricultural improvements, knew all the official
 people from the Khedive down. Going out to work
 now on reclaiming land, &c, enthusiastic on
 agriculture, a hale old Aberdonian. His son, a
 rather weakly but pleasant fellow. Mr Roe
 a Scotch engineer, who has been in all sorts
 of mechanical engineering in Egypt, & is going
 down again to make a second opening: a
 sensible tidy man. Colonel Jervis, a retired
 officer who left at Algier, going photographing.
 Mr Collier who joined at Malta, a touristical man
 of business I think, rather wordy & superficial,
 but decent enough. A Danish Count who
 speaks English fairly & is on a trip wishing to see
 Egypt: a man of taste & good general knowledge,
 with whom I have had many talks; An Austrian
 who speaks 7 languages better English, short stout
 & red, not attractive. Lastly a person whom -
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 who speaks 7 languages but no English, short stout
 & red, not attractive. Lastly a person whom -
 sitting in my cabin - I heard Mrs Gale describing to a

visitor; saying she could not make out what he was: she thought he was an American when he first came, but she still thought there was something Jewish about him; the only thing certain was that he was not an Irishman. I need not say who he was.

We have seen nothing particular on the voyage beyond some fine lunar rainbows, of which I saw one.

Landed at Alex, but two of my boxes seem to have not been shipped. It is most awkward. Griffith has just gone to Cairo I hear.

This was a mistake

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6
 he got up by 9 ¼. Dr Grant took us in
 most kindly. He is fairly well, & has a W.
 Simpson a young bank clerk, living with
 him at present.

Next day I went to Bulak to get a letter from
 Grebaut, but he never came that day.
 I waited all the morning. In the afternoon
 I got our baggage from the station, & then
 unpacked & resorted it into different boxes.
 Dined with Chester at the Hotel du Nil
 in the evening, Corbett there.

Next day to Bulak but shut on
 Friday & no one there. So I left a note
 to Grebaut asking for an order to let
 me take squeezes. Then shipping &c all
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D.19-

I just finish this at Minieh, where we have
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 engaged a boat which has a cabin about 12 ft
 x 7 built on to it, quite new, as it was done for
 the accommodation of a bride brought up from
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7
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 with men included for 8 to 10 francs a day,
 & for this we only pay 10 frs a day including
 reis & two sailors. We are to discharge it
 whenever we like without any back charges
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 If there is a good wind at Siut I shall
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H.
 Thackeray
 Dec 25/86.

II. Minieh - Dec:27/86.

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with more included for 8 to 10 from a box
of stones we only had 10 to 12 a box including
the stones. We are not sure of it.
When we are the without any back
only appear to take it for 10 to 12 a box
if there is a great many at 12 it looks
certainly so as to show in it.

II. Minieh - Dec:27/86.

20 Dec 1886 to 24 Dec. Rodah-20 Dec 1886 to 24 Dec. Rodah-

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Having now had a good taste of our arrangements I may as well give some account of them. Griffith tried ^{after} ~~about~~ two other cooks in Cairo, but all were dear; & as Said came in with Muhd & seemed much disappointed at our not taking him, & he had shewn that he could cook a little last year, I determined to take him, & so that we could with him. So we went off with Said & Muhd, a plan I liked well enough as we knew we could trust them both, & should have no rows. At Minieh I looked over half a dozen boats, which cost (with men) from £10 to 20 a month; at least we got hold of a small country boat which had a cabin built on to the stern half for the accommodation of a bride brought up from Tanta. The boat was not new, but all the cabin was, bare deal inside & a pale lavender colour outside. I liked the reis very well also, a bright honest-looking fellow, who has shewn himself very willing & active. The whole crew is reis & two boys, the reis & elder boy Abd el Halim do the towing or punting when needful, & the younger one ^{Abd el Min'm} stands with the rudder between his legs on the top of our cabin. Said, I think, whenever he is on board, looks after cooking washing up &c, & G. & I stop just where & when we like, walking more than half the way.

The cabin is about 7½ ft wide in front & 4½ at the back, & 12½ ft long; the stern end has a broad bench used for our miscellaneous property, & along each side is ~~another~~ ^{another} broad bench, widened by a row of our boxes to form a sleeping place, on which we sit

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During the day on our blankets. The rest of the bench serves for cups, plates, &c. Across the end a fold of coarse canvas is nailed up from side to side to hold all our bread store. A table was a difficulty for there is but $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft between our beds so that if we put in a table we could not pass, & moreover we had no table, & I did not want to put our heavy stone boxes high up in the boat, as they were good ballast. So at last I tacked some nails in the roofing bars & hung loops of stout string in which the lid of a large box is hung for meals, & removed when done with. This can be pushed aside to pass, easily.

Altogether we have got just what we want, as well as if made for us; a small boat which can run close to shore, is easy to tow, with a tidy cabin to live in, only needing a man & two boys to manage it, & fairly clean & tidy. The whole affair costing 10 frs a day & 3 frs more for our own men, & we can discharge it whenever & wherever we like without any extra charges. So we are rid of the two objections to hiring a dahabyah - that it must be paid up to when it is wanted, & paid back empty - and yet we have all the advantages we need. So it is very unlikely that we shall throw it up at Siut & trust to picking up a boat again at Kenh; the mere bother of packing up & unpacking is a good deal, & we should be very unlikely to get such a fit again. So I fully expect it is this right on to Assuan.

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As to our tomb-hunting we have seen much the usual run of things, as we expected; our ~~artesa~~ may not have been noted before, but we mainly came here for G. to see the places, & for me to photo. the Asiatics at Beni Hasan; unluckily they are too much dirtied for it to be possible to take them. The whole of the tombs want a good washing down, which might be quite safely done with sponges; the colour does not run or rub in the least with wetting. But I could not take the responsibility of washing painted tombs, after all the outcry about destroying paintings by wetting & squeezes.

G. is enjoying himself much, & so am I, in this sort of working holiday, & we look forward to a delightful six weeks or so a head, going where we like, & clear of civilization.

I have been much surprised to find how old our men are. Muh^d whom I have always looked on as a boy is 24, & Tulbeh who seems far from full grown is 17; I should rather have put them down as 12 & 18 by comparison with English. Said is 30 & perhaps looks it. On the whole it seems as if they aged very slowly till about 25 or 30 to 35 or 40 & then look old quickly. A short mid-life, with long youth & old age seems the rule. Muh^d is married this summer, about three months ago.

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III. Radah - Jan. 3/87 -

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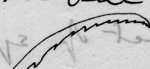
Dec 23 1886 to Jan 1 1887 - Assiout.


I have just seen a curious form of conjuration. A boatman on a boat by the side of ours, tossed a cloth ~~top~~ ^{up} in his hands violently, saying, "Wallah! Wallah! Wallah!" (By God) & then dashed the contents (some small object) into the stream, saying "Rut'teruh wa tegi" (Will you go or come), & seeing it float away he said "Ye Ruh" (It goes).


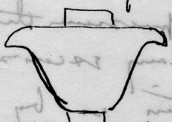

From Roda we walked over to Eshmunên; the mounds are very large, but all late (mostly Copt & Arab) on the surface; at one side however are the bases of very large columns of Philip Arridaeus, & near that are the granite columns of some Roman building still standing. The place is being ransacked over by a dealer Arab, in the interests of Bulak. He is a decent & fair sort of man, one of the Pyramid set, who was delighted to see Muh^d, & knew me at once. Thence we went on to Antinoë, across part of the town, all Roman, [☉] & on to Bersheh to the colossus tomb; very little time, but just enough for G. to see it. At Isbayda we went over the tombs, copying a little; the finest tomb has some very interesting capitals of early age, being about the Vth dynasty [Ⲕ] and [Ⲕ]; this has been converted into a church, & covered with Coptic frescoes, & these again mostly destroyed, & plastered over. In general I presume that Sayce has done everything Coptic, in his many excursions; but certainly he had not done this as by removing the later plaster I uncovered some curious drawings. One was a great unicorn with long serrated horn [Ⲕ], inscribed beside it as [Ⲕ]; another drawing partly uncovered was a lion carrying off a kid with [Ⲕ] over it.





Dec 23 1886 to Jan 1 1887 - Assiout 12








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We then went on to Tell el Amarna for two days. One day for the tombs, & two half-days for the town. I should much like to do some digging there in the houses & site of temple some day: any quantity of little things are found there, & I bought up a good deal, nearly all of Khuenaten. A large perfect jar painted with the blue & red of that age was brought in, two scarabs of Khuenaten, & several broken rings of his, a torso of a daughter of his, half a face of his on a small slab, &c. &c. In one of the tombs are some Asiatics & negroes, & I got a good photo of them with magnesium light. A very curious point is that the tombs, very large chambers, have been filled up with potsherds, of the age of the tombs apparently, among them we picked up pieces of cordage, & a nearly perfect network which had been put round a pot to carry it. 

The next place of any importance was a valley at the N. end of Gebel Abulfoda. Here is a large village on the hillside which looks to me as if of the XXIInd dynasty or thereabouts, but it might be XXXth dynasty with different classes of pottery to what I know . Above Opposite to it are great quarries, one going down about 30 feet, & far into the mountain; at the top are other large quarries, & most interesting - two working drawings of capitals of columns, one  the other with head of Hathor ; all the construction lines are marked out, the latter design being fitted in to a net of squares of half a cubit each. These throw great light on the designing

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 dozens of great graffiti in red paint in these
 quarries. Then we had a splendid wind, just
 when we wanted it, & ran the whole length of Gebel
 Abdulfoda up to Manfalut in three hours.
 We went over to the tombs in the mountain
 behind Beni Muhammed, but found so much
 to detain us in the N. tombs there that we never
 reached the S. tombs at all. We hit on four painted
 tombs, which had been whitewashed & mud plastered,
 & though partly cleaned had evidently not been touched
 by a copyist, as the inscriptions were still hidden.
 By careful scraping we succeeded^{sic} {succeeded} in copying
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 must wait for the present. Next day was a
 fair wind for Siut, but such a fog we could not
 have gone over to the mountain; so we sailed
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We have had continual fogs often lasting till
 two hours after sunrise; & at Tell el Amarna
 the after two hot days a long thunderstorm
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IV. Assiout. Jan 10/87-

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Jan 10 to 18 1887.

VI. Luxor. Jan. 31/87

Jan 10 to 18 1887. / 48/18. mss. 16

From Bellianeh we walked over to Abydos, which the
 Arabs have made into Abu Dosh for the benefit
 of Europeans. The extent of the site is considerable,
 reaching for a mile or more along the plain at the
 edge of the desert, some $\frac{3}{4}$ mile or mile from the
 foot of the mountains. Of course the great temple
 built by Seti I. & Ramessu II. ^(XIX dyn) is the main attraction;
 it is of very fine work for that age, though when
 I came to look into it the sculpture is not anything
 like equal to that of the Old Kingdom. The effect is
 perhaps more complete than in any other temple,
 owing to the colouring remaining almost perfect
 on many parts. And there are many fine points
 in the designing: each column has a slightly raised
 flat band left on the four sides,  not actually
 projecting, but only left just tangent to the circle.
 This does away with the ~~discord~~ discord between a circular
 & square form, the flat surfaces unifying with the
 square building: at the same time the break is so
 slight that it is not perceived at a general glance.
 Another curious detail is the rounding of the door jambs
 thus ; this is but slight, but it gives an
 appearance of great depth to the doorway from a little
 distance, as you see so much of the two faces. The roof
 is carefully arranged to keep out wet, the stones being
 all hallowed away from the joints & slips let in, thus
 where they feared that
 the limestone wall
 might be split or scaled by the weight of the roof, pillars
 of sandstone were built into the wall to bear the weight
 & the wall built up between them  
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Besides this temple we saw the other one built entirely by Ramessu II; far inferior, but still of the same fine school of work, & ruined down to near the ground. There are also remains of another temple within what I believe to be the first great enclosure of the temple of the town, before either of the others were built; at the gate of that enclosure are pieces of fine early statues, of XII dynasty &c. That is the place I should like to clear, as this being the seat of the earliest monarchy, before the pyramid times, here we ought to find the best buildings. Within this enclosure is the ~~first~~ burial ground whence the greater part of the sepulchral tablets known have been brought. Besides this we saw the fort, which is certainly early, & some other buildings, as well as the great cemetery, which we walked all over.

We then had four miserable days of calms or head winds, & only went on half way to Kenh in the whole time. We visited How, where there is nothing much to see, large town mound, & an enclosure on the edge of the desert, with a Roman temple in it covering over a few remains of a Ptolemaic temple; also we went to the town of Chenoboscion, where there is nothing but ruins of houses, & the tombs of which there are two fine sculptured ones of VIth dynasty, & two others with a little figuring. Then we walked on some way, G. turned back, & I went to the next promontory of cliff some few miles further E., but there was nothing there; & then turned down to the river expecting to find the boat ~~which~~ as I had told the men to go on

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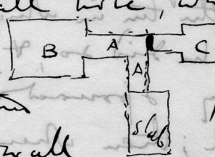
18

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At last we had a good wind, but a nasty, cold, dusty day on shore, & rain right on to Keneh. We had a couple of hours for the outside of Denderah that day, & took the morning to the inside of the temple next day. Of course it is very late, & very wretched as to the art of it; but the construction

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The idea it gives of the details of a perfect temple, are very interesting. It was a cold windy day with dust in the air, & a sickly sunshine, which cut up all appreciation of outdoor scenes, so we were well employed in the inside, where we rummaged about & went into many of the long secret passages in the thickness of the wall, where the treasures were hidden. One is most skilfully placed; in one corner of the small court a slab was raisable, a few steps below it led into a small hole, whence a passage AA turned off at right angles  into a room B; but where it turns there was a sliding stone in the wall (now pushed back enough to get in) by which a descent to another chamber C could be made. The sliding stone acted thus, when pushed straight back on ledges on either side, the remaining part of the wall could be strode over, & one could squeeze down the passage steps. The wall was apparently quite perfect & covered with sculpture. The ledges on which the stone rested on either side are grooved as if slips of metal had been inlaid for it to slide upon. It seems very possible that there may be other passages as yet unopened. *Post mark 21st Jan:*

Up to Luxor, & found not written up; so it must go. Many thanks for all the news, & particularly the letters from Belvedere which I hope to answer shortly. I found a flint chipper's seat, on a rounded block, flint flakes all around, a bit of late Roman pot on one side & the hammer on the other; all brought for Belvedere.

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Jan^y 14. to 26. 1887. Posted at Edfu.

After Denderah we stopped at Koft. The ruins are wide, & it is a place well worth seeing; among the remains of a Roman-age temple are three pillars of red granite still standing, & one of them has one side unerased with Thothmes II upon it; the other sides have been all dressed out ready for some usurpation. I got a good photograph of it [📷]. The walls are also fine on the E. side, of the 1st cent. A.D. with very large bastions; all built of crude brick except a foundation of burnt red & yellow bricks [📷]. We met here a dealer, Girgis, a Copt who told me he had a quantity of weights at Keneh, which I must see on my way down. I bought some things from a man here, 26 Cufic glass weights, two bronze, & a scarab. We also saw the remains of another temple with a magnificent Ptolemaic altar of black basalt (?), & a gateway & base of the same age [📷]. Also a Roman-age temple nearly complete, on the N.E. [📷, 📷].

At Koos there is not much; large mounds, on which the present town stands, & fragments from a temple.

At Shenhur we saw the Roman-age temple, which is almost perfect, but of wretchedly bad work, & sculptured in coarse nummulitic limestone. The most interesting thing is that the ground has risen by inundation about <4 or> 5 feet, & the temple must have been a couple of feet over the water level, so that given <at least> 6 or 7 feet rise here in 1800 years, or <at least> 4 to 4 2/3 inches per century; this is just what I found in the Delta (4 & 4 1/4 ins). We went over the desert for some way <east &> south of Shenhur, but could see nothing of the tombs reputed there.

At Thebes we landed some way below Gurneh, & skirted carefully into the Valley of the Kings tombs, so as to avoid getting a tail of followers. We fell in with one party of Germans, but shook off their guides, &c, & had the western valley all to ourselves all day long, the party having gone into the more usually visited eastern valley.

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 -48/48, notes III

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As soon as we got near the shore at Luxor we heard Chester's voice hailing us, & saying that we were to dine with Mustafa Agha; he then came on board, we dressed up as quick as we could, & then went off to H. B. M. Consul. I had never seen the old man before, though I had heard plenty about him. He has a curious abrupt, reserved manner, different to his eldest son, who has the style of a Maltese. We all dined round a vast tray, native fashion, tearing up excellent turkey, & dipping into various dishes which came on in turn. We left early, & then I set towards it with Chester, & a very nice Livonian Russian doctor who dined with us: he is an anti-official Russ. Next day Chester took us round the dealers, & G. & I splashed in a good deal, but I do not in the least repent it for I got several first class things. Chester came down & lunched with us, & we dined with him at his hotel. We saw a good deal of the temple which is still being cleared; it is very fine in some respects, but all close examination I left until my return. Between each of the columns all round a court stood red granite statues of Ramessu II, but only one of these is perfect.

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III. 20/2/87

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 the other saying that Mr Poole had asked them to
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 found that so many of the boxes in store had our own names
 on them that they could not settle anything; so wrote to
 me up here to know what among all the things
 down in Cairo were public & what where private.
 Of course I could not give a certain answer, but said
 what I could. Also they wanted to know what we had stored
 at Tell el Kebir, when there never was anything of
 ours there. Altogether they have got as bad a wild-
 goose chase to start on as any muddle the Com^{ee}
 have ever yet perpetrated. Chester tells me that
 the Moor had to be imprisoned by Cowan for theft
 as soon as they got to Cairo, & on liberation is still
 the support & stay of his patron, going everywhere with
 him. A good character to take care that nothing is
 stolen! On the other hand was a very satisfactory
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 pretty well all. The night at Luxor I sat up till
 12 writing, & then did two or three hours in morning to
 settle all the correspondence; amongst others was the
 permit to take squeezes, from Bulak, which I answered
 with thanks & a request to excavate at Thebes for
 a little. I shall see if I get it. I saw among other
 things at Todros (Germ. Consul & dealer) a set of foundation
 tools; all bronze, adze blade, model axe, & two chisels, all
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 for his western house in Thebes, & they came from
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 I said to Chester that I thought them worth £16, piece
 by piece, & perhaps he will get them at some price.
~~It sh~~ They shew what sort of deposits are to be had.
 From Luxor we went to Erment; mound uninteresting,
 only ruins ^{are} of a Roman church. Thence crossed to
 E. side, G. went & saw some poor tombs & we walked
 along a lot of desert fruitlessly: having to go back
 to boat which could not come on.
 At Gebelen we found an interesting shrine chapel in
 the rock, in which G. found the name of the place, & we
 made out a good deal of a very indistinct inscription.
 The place is a striking one, several great ridges
 of steeply inclined limestone rising one behind the
 other; one ridge evidently separated from the others being the
 (which appear as one mass from the river) forming the
 "two hills" "Gebel-en" marked as the "two stones" in the
 hieroglyphs. On the top of the isolated ridge is much crude

so have someone satisfactory; but he takes no notice
 of it. I am very sorry to find by this batch of letters,
 that I have lost the full account of the meeting from
 home, <sent to Siut> & only got the etceteras of subsequent letters &
 comments: but I expect from ~~that~~ those that I have
 pretty well all. The night at Luxor I sat up till
 12 writing, & then did two or three hours in morning to
 settle all the correspondence; amongst others was the
 permit to take squeezes, from Bulak, which I answered
 with thanks & a request to excavate at Thebes for
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brickwork of forts (?) &c; and some stone bricks, cut ²⁴ just the size of the mud bricks with which they are used. Below this hill is the plain in the town, much dug into now. And at the N. end of the other mass of ridges is a cemetery. Some of the tombs are new to me; a trench was cut into the foot of the hill, a brick tomb was built in it, covered over with the chips so as to hide it in a smooth slope of talus, & then baked by a uniform great fire inside the tomb, which burnt the bricks halfway through, mortar & all, ^{the wood coffins were still in these tombs, & bones in abundance.} G. went on to another part of the cemetery & there got out a curious rough table of offerings with relief of a leg of meat loaves &c, in red pottery, all in one piece, & a strange cylinder of pottery with three little cups on the edge [☞] & a small cup. There are great waterworn caves in the hill, & I got a good photo in the inside shewing the appearance.

At Esneh we looked over the three different groups of sandstone (Roman); the N. one is built of looted from the temple, the others are original stone. Many curious quarry marks are copied. The middle quay is still perfect to the top, & has two or three feet of the wall above it remaining, & the doorway which closed the quay buildings. The level of the top, so far as I could judge it by the flat plain on the other side of the river (its own side being raised by the town) is about 2 or 3 ft below the present level of the country, or 4 or 5 ft probably above the inundation; & therefore ^{it was} about 2 or 3 ft above the inundation when built. The use of such a high quay therefore was specially to take on ^{above all} stone cargo of all kinds, & specially <above all> building stone & heavy things, during the inundation when transport was easiest, but beneath a firm & dry place above the water was most needed.

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We went & saw the portico of the temple which is of Roman work added to a Ptolemaic front as at Denderah [📷]. The capitals are the best part of it, all varied & all good; two are particularly curious, with palm branches, bunches of dates, & vines; I got an excellent photograph of them, by a very long exposure, shewing more than could be seen up in the dark roof, cobwebs & all [📷]. There is a very nice old Turk there as custodian. We went over to the nearest point of cliff to Esneh, a longer distance than it seemed, about 8 or 9 miles each way; but there were no tombs or excavations [📷]. I was rewarded however by finding high up on the hill a fine flint hache of the palaeolithic style, which might have come from Abbeville or Cambridgeshire by its form. It is much sand worn, on both sides; and it cannot have been turned over for long ages, as it lay on a bit of rise between two stream courses, & the whole hill is a spur outlying far from the main range so that those valleys cannot have been cut at all quickly. It is in fact carried as far back as possible by all the circumstances.

We next stopped at the pyramid of El Kula, about 4 miles N of El Kab on the W. bank. It has been barbarously mangled in order to open it, just as Maspero wrecked the brick pyramids of Dahshur, & by him likewise so far as I can learn. All one side is torn out in a great gash from top to base, right up to the middle, & quite needlessly as the chamber is below the base; the cut too is made on the wrong side, the E <W>. instead of N. [📷] No attempt had been made to just clear the base, & find the proper entrance [📷, 📷, 📷, 📷].

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The deeds of the Bulak department in Egypt remind me of that blackbird in our garden who used to pick off all the finest bunches of currants, eat one, & leave the rest to rot on the ground.

Then on to Hieraconpolis, opposite El Kab. Here we found the whole site, which is a very large one about 1 ½ miles long, thick with flint flashes more or less wrought; hundreds of arrow-tip flakes, many cores, scrapers, &c, were to be picked up in an hour or two, & they were all over the site in all parts, though thicker here & there. The first piece I picked up was a splendid chipped lance head, quite perfect, the finest piece of flint work (but one) that I have seen from Egypt. Owing to a stupidity of our boatman we had an hours walk in the dark to find the boat, & when I got in this flint was gone from my pocket. We tracked all over our path next day, but could not find it anywhere; so I remain bereft.

The age of all these flints is yet unsettled; it is pre-Roman, but & pottery is found with them exactly like some that Maspero got from tomb got from tombs near here <& exchanged to me>;

but he gave me not date for it, & seemed to know of none. It is unlike any Delta pottery, so I am quite at a loss. There is a great number of tombs here, & a late fort built on the top of tombs, rubbish, & all [☐, ☐]. We went to the tombs in the cliff, & I copied one long one, while G. copied another. The latter was in a very bad state but contained drawings of some shrines of the hawk-god, with the dedications by the last of the Ramessides painted on them.

Next we went to El Kab [☐, ☐]. Here is nearly all of the Great town wall, a lesser enclosure in it containing the ruins of the temple, & the town in another part of it [☐, ☐, ☐]. Then some way off are small temples in the valley;

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which I photographed; the farthest one, of Amenhotep III is one of the freshest & most beautiful works I have seen of that age [📷, 📷]. On a rock in the valley are dozens of early graffiti (of priests mainly) some naming Pepi & Teta of the VIth dynasty. Most noticeable is that fact that many look quite fresh yet, lighter than the weathered surface by a good deal; & there are drawings of animals which are far more weathered by the side of them looking twice as old at least. This is the clearest evidence for the great age of the rude animal drawings. Of the other <small> temples of Rameses II & a Ptolemy I need say nothing, both rather curious but not much to describe [📷, 📷]. The quantity of dwellings neatly built around the Ptolemaic temple were interesting; I went to the top of the hill to photograph them.

The tombs of El Kab are grand; the 6 or 8 painted ones, & many plain. The first we copied was one of the XIIIth dynasty, often copied before as to the main inscription, but no one has copied the dozens of private names of servants & family as they were covered with dirt of ages: I washed them down carefully & copied 70 names mostly with titles; they are invaluable as a collection of one period to shew what was in fashion then. The other tombs are later, down to XIXth dynasty. All are curious for the dozens of relations, out to “son of brother of mother of mother”; & in one tomb the nurse of each child is drawn as well, with her name. All the names throughout the whole of these tombs I have now copied so far as condition allowed at the time, & many of the most interesting scenes I have photographed as well: I only hope they will come out [📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷, 📷]. A very cold wind the last several days; it feels as cold as at Beni Hasan where hoar frost lay on the ground till an hour after sunrise.

VII. Edfou. F. 7/87 –

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27 Jan^y to 7 Feb^y 1887 Assouan

VIII.

At Edfu we of course went over to the temple, which is perhaps the most complete in Egypt; having besides all the temple & portico (like Dendera) a great colonnaded court & an enormous pylon, while the whole temple is included in a high enclosure wall all as closely covered with sculpture as the temple itself [👁, 👁, 👁, 👁]. The crowding of every available space with figures & inscriptions is wondrous & wearisome in these Ptolemaic & Roman temples; not only the rows of scenes on the walls, but four or five rows of scenes one over the other all this way up, not only these but all the p^{ill} columns covered with figures; & as one looks up all the ceiling, & not only the ceiling but the architraves both below & on their sides are thick with sculpture. And all of it clumsy & wooden, & bare of all artistic or historic interest. The immense figures of the Ptolemy on the pylon smiting a bunch of enemies are comically bad; he looks as if he was just going to topple over & could only save himself by getting a grip of the lump of enemies in front, while to add to the effect his crown is cut awry & seems as if it would snap across in the middle with his majesty's lurch. I went to the top of the pylon; a winding stair leading up the middle of either half & opening on each hand into great chambers. [👁] On the top of it are many names of the French soldiers in 1799 &c & this rich piece

TOUTS LES / HOMES QUI / ONT SUR / CETTE / EDIFICE / SONT / FRANÇAIS

I expect they used it for a fort, the chambers in it & the strength of it would serve admirably for defence.

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work (of about 350 BC), so finely polished, & so delicately engraved, & yet so huge & ponderous, it looks more like an immense crystallization than a piece of cunning workmanship.

We next stopped some way above Edfu looking for a valley where Harris found a tablet of Mentuhotep & Antef (XI dyn). We had not yet reached it, but found ourselves in the midst of a region of graffiti, scratched by Egyptians from about 2000 BC & onwards, on the river-side blocks of sandstone. We copied & copied all day long; & reached the valley of the tablet we searched for in the afternoon. There were several fresh graffiti also, MAAXIWN, ANOMWNAM, & but the best of the late ones is a fine Phoenician of 11 letters. We found not only the tablet we sought, but a crowd of graffiti all about it. And here I got a proof positive of the extreme age of what are still commoner than the graffiti, - the animal carvings. All over the rocks are animals, cut in all periods, but mostly very ancient, being usually far darker than the oldest graffiti. Here I found a giraffe's head cut across by a much fresher inscription of Amenhotep I (about 1700 BC). These animal figures are I believe the oldest things in Egypt, & I wonder no one has described them before. There are giraffes & camels by the hundred, & elephants, & (at Gebel Silsileh) ostriches: both besides boats & ships & men. The next day we went back to that valley (it is known from the tablet as the Saba Rigaleh or "seven men", though there are but four figures) & I went on up it to see

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how far the inscriptions went. It seems to have been a trade route to avoid going round the rocks of Silsileh: & I found dozens of inscriptions for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up the valley, & Griffith found one of Hatasu & Thutmose III much farther on. The most important we found were a fresh tablet of Mentuhotep & Antef, a name Ra-antef, a tablet of Ra s ankh ka adored by two nobles, all XIth dynasty, & cartouche of Sebekemsaf XIII dyn, & banner of a new king. All these before 2000 B.C. This is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N of Silsileh.

At Gebel Silsileh we copied all the tombs completely. They are of particular interest as they link together the style & the names of the XIIth, & even earlier dynasties to the actual period of the XVIIIth dyn. I very specially examined all evidence for or against the theory of the bursting or breaking down of the rock barrier ^{of the Nile} here in the XIIth dynasty, which has been much named. I completely disbelieve it. No doubt such a ridge of rock has been worn through, & the Nile has fallen above this point in consequence; but I think that was more like 40,000 than 4000 years ago. The quarries I went all over. The way of quarrying was just like that for limestone, cutting out the blocks. I copied all the quarry marks in each quarry, & can now identify in this way the quarries of the buildings of Esneh, Dendera, Edfu &c. Some of the tombs we could only reach by punting our boat along under the cliffs, & then scaling the rock by its ledges & cracks. I very much doubt if they have been copied before. At last we moved on to Kom Ombo (having seen both

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At Assuan I took the boat up well above the town, & pitched tents by the old stores enclosures, & dismissed the boat; not sorry after all to be alone with our own two men again. Assuan is a strange mixture: it is approached through one of the most lovely parts of the Nile valley, thick with trees of all sorts & fertile with beautiful crops of many coloured peas. But here all is bare rock & granite below, sandstone above. Clambering over rocks, while a band plays below, seems like Tunbridge Wells or some watering place, while the crowd of red coats reminds me of Woolwich, the steep rock paths, of Gibraltar, — the black population shews one is nearly into the tropics, — and the rock inscriptions towering above some Greek wine shanty or facing "Thos. Cook & Son" are such as one would only find in the deserts of the Thebaid or the wilds of the Eastern Desert. These rock inscriptions abound here, many of them splendidly cut in the granite: & so many I see do not appear to have been copied before that we are copying all. We went on to Elephantine, & wandered about copying inscrip^s; in the village street, close to the ferry, I saw a round mass of rock, & just looking at it there appeared the name of king Pepi (VIth dyn). As this is far older than anything known before in all the neighbourhood I started at it, & began to examine.

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At the S. end, by Philae, there are hosts of rock inscriptions, & it will take us some days to copy them all, but I hope we shall do it.

I am sorry not to be able to answer any letters later than 13 Jan, as the post closes unconscionably early at 6 pm., & though I hurried back (after being on the trudge since 7 1/2 am) they had closed a few minutes before the time. So I cannot get anything of this mail in time to answer. P.O. of 14th Jan rec^d, & others accordingly. I am in excellent condition now I am glad to say; work from 7 1/2 to 6 without a break, & scarcely ever a feed even. The ferry boy enquired how it was we did not come back to lunch, & cast up his eyes at the notion of not having any.

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From a letter to a friend.

Feb. 1/89^{sic} {7}.

I have had a cold for some days,
 it is now pretty much gone: there
 was a bitter strong N. wind blowing, wh.
 lasted all the way from El Kab to
 Silsileh; & at this place I went about
 in a great coat, & a blanket doubled
 & put all over my head, a pleasant
 costume for windy weather. But
 what a dress for almost in the
 tropics, under a cloudless sky.
 All this has taken it out of me
 & I have let developings, writing
 & such evening work drift on,
 only too glad to escape the breezes
 wh. streamed into our cabin through
 the wide cracks of the boards:
 so my hour for getting snug into
 blankets came down to 7 ½ or 8 <P.M.>.
 It is time we came to a town, for
 we are out of bread, eggs & lentils.
 We have fallen back on our men's
 bread, which is very fair, but has
 a strongish flavour. They make it,
 about ½ cwt. at a time; at places
 where are public mills to grind
 the corn, & public ovens to bake
 the bread. It is made in loaves

From a letter to a friend. ³⁴ (VII)
 Feb. 1/89.

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 the corn, & public ovens to bake
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about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, & these
 are at once cut up into strips
 about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, & dried
 in the sun. Then, when wanted,
 a handful is clipped in the
 river, & left for a few minutes
 to soak, it is then soft & eatable.
 We have been drinking from
 Father Nilus, the whole way,
 only taking care to get a
 supply clear of a town or village,
 always stopping above all the
 houses & boats. The brown fluid
 is sweet & refreshing, if not slightly
 often it is so full of mica-
 ceous sand, that it glitters
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VIII. Assouan
 F: 20/87-

M^{rs} Petrie
 8. Crest Road
 Bromley -
 Kent -

VIII. Assouan
 F: 20/87-
 Mrs Petrie
 8. Crest Road
 Bromley -
 Kent -

E) Assuan-






7th to 14th Feb 1887.

No letters come up here to Assuan, so I cannot answer any.

We walked up the valley intending to go to Philae, but before we got there we saw some graffiti on rocks just in sight of it & stopped, & soon we found a great pile of rocks <(Konosso)> covered with immense inscriptions, some in signs 6 or 8 ins high [6]. Dozens altogether, including many royal tablets; the latter had of course been copied by Lepsius & others, but the others were probably unpublished, so we copied all day [6, 6]. Next day we started with the same intention; but tried a fresh road past along an old wall which runs from Assuan to Philae along one of the many valleys. Several inscriptions appeared, & suddenly just as we got in sight of Philae again, an enormous crop of inscriptions turned up, which lasted us for some days hard copying. Altogether we have got about 80 inscriptions, (beside scraps with just a name or so) from the Assuan & around. These are many of them very valuable as they give a whole family of names, some of a dozen or twenty people. Among other notions I have got from them, I think I have hit on the meaning of [R] "Lady of the house"; it is not a secondary wife (as supposed) as the wife is called so sometimes: it is not a single woman, as they generally have children; it is not an heiress, as they are too common for that; but it does seem to be widow. Such a title would be very reasonable for a widow, & where the wife is called so the husband is dead. More stress is always laid on female than male lines of relation, & so to name widows without their dear departed would be very likely. At El Kab they go so far as to give the "daughter of the sister of the mother of the mother" of the owner, i.e. 2nd cousin; but not a

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36. single paternal relation. These Assuan inscriptions give some of these four generations, & may be tolerably dated in many cases by the names. Nearly all are before the XVIIIth dyn., very few of the XIII, & the bulk of the XIth & XIIth, or 2000 BC & earlier. The value of these inscriptions is as shewing what classes of names were in use at different times, & hence enabling us to date other things (scarabs &c) by the names. Many more inscriptions are illegible from their very rough style, & most of these we did copy required to be worked out letter by letter, while often G. & I. stuck over one sign for five or ten minutes. Here, for instance, is the sort of stuff which can only be read by comparing it with others  "his sister Auhentab". Often again there are mere traces of signs on the rough surface of the granite, e.g.  which from the position is evidently meant for  It is scarcely ever that an inscription can be read off at once & copied as if from a book. Many again are in hieratic  which has to be copied facsimile, through reading thus ; so altogether it is a tolerable business to get through nearly 200 of such things, ranging up to a dozen lines each. Many have been defaced besides, so that only traces of the signs are left to go by. At last we went over to Philae, & also to Bigeh. The temple at Philae is but Ptolemaic, yet it is perhaps the most pleasing of all of them; & from the smallness of its proportions - compared with Dendera or Edfu - & the freshness of its colour, it may best be described as pretty. The finest thing about it is where they have used some of the rounded masses

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of the native rock is found the front wall on, & so in the court the side of a rock is faced down, & a fine long inscription deeply cut in the granite. We saw the Nilometer passage which has been recently found here; a long passage descending to the Nile with cubits cut in the side of it; they are but rough, but I measured most of them. Budge has complete measures & levels of it, as it is a new thing. There were no high Nile records apparently, such as I observed many of in the Elephantine nilometer. There the High Nile of Roman date varied from 60 to 150 inches below the present highest; shewing probably about 8 feet of rise of level since Roman times, which is closely the same as at other places down to the Delta. At Bigeh [] we saw the well known inscriptions which are all in one place, opposite Philae; I walked (or rather jumped) all round the pile of rocks which form the island, ~~over~~ about 1 1/2 miles around. But there were no more inscriptions to be seen anywhere else, unlike Konosso which is crowded with inscriptions.

Beside these sites of inscriptions I found a large batch more (all? XIth dynasty) just below the cataracts on the river bank, among them two dated inscriptions of Mentuhotep II, at least one of which is unknown before. I have copied all that are intelligible of these. The best known probably of all the rock inscriptions about here are those in the town, on rocks by the road side; these we have copied, as some may not have been done before. These inscriptions will fill 20 plates or more, written in close; and the

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38. ~~Stones~~ & other rock inscriptions will fill 10 or 20 more.
 I shall have a fairly fat volume to turn out
 (with Griffith) even if I do not succeed in anything
 else this year. We have now done this place
 pretty completely I think; Sehel ^{island} being the only place
 where inscriptions are known that we have not been
 to, & Mariette copied all there I believe; it is not a
 likely place for small private inscriptions, as there are
 scarcely any on the other Islands of Bigeh or Salib.
 I went over the quarries & made out some details of
 working; but there is not much to examine. All the
 cutting was done by picking lines, & then holes for
 wedges in the bottom of the lines. This picking was
 done with an iron chisel struck so as to stun out
 the stone; ~~rather (I think) rubbed down with some~~
 but how such a smooth surface was made with the
 stunning I do not understand. Hornstone
 hammers were also used for surface dressing,
 & I experimented with those I picked up. I looked
 at the old river bed for a mile or two up from
 Assuan, in which the railway now runs; but there
 were no inscriptions up there. The subject now
 to be attended to here is to copy all the Cufic grave
 stones: I roughly estimated 2000 of these early
 Arab inscriptions ranging about 800 to 1200 A.D., lying
 about in the old cemetery. There is nothing like such
 a mass of monuments of Arab time anywhere
 else in the country, & they are being fast
 destroyed. They ought to build a large rough enclosure
 here & line the wall with all these tablets, three
 high. But someone should come & copy & then
 analyse them all; there would be sure to be a deal of
 interesting matter. I shall post this to go down by the
 same boat we go in to Luxor.

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IX. Assouan. F. 28.

M^{rs} Petrie, 8. Crescent R^d Bromley,
 Kent.

E Thebes.

Feb 14 to 23 1887.

This thin paper is best read
when laid single on a dark surface.

When I met Budge he told me that he had the greatest difficulty to get a passage down from Assuan, as all were taken for 3 weeks to come. This seemed bad hearing; but I replied, then we must go 3rd class with the Arabs. Budge said he could never stand that, they were the filthiest people he had ever seen, &c. I replied they had their own notions of cleanliness (in some ways better than ours), but he said that was a very kind way to put it. However when we had to see about it, we inspected the classes. 2nd had a cabin down stairs & bunks in it; but it stunk of tobacco &c, &c. 3rd had the top deck & nothing else. But then 2nd was about 18/- & 3rd was but 6/-. So, as Griffith & I are both economy-mad at present, we readily fixed on the 3rd.

We felt somewhat out of it however when we found that the Gov^t uses the Post boats for transports, & that it so happened that 60 Egyptian soldiers were to go down with us. They had filled up the 3rd class deck with their baggage, & we had a hard fight morally, if not physically, to get room. We had just space to stretch ourselves on the top of our baggage, G & I sharing an area 2 ½ ft wide x 6 ½. He had however to accommodate a man's foot in his stomach part of the night. There was a large part of the deck sacred to the daily promenade of the 1st class, & gradually at last a few soldiers got squeezed over on to that. With that we should all have been comfortable, & really when the public space is taken up for transport they should stretch rules & let a perfectly unused area be used for the night. Then we had secured the most convenient space for sleeping as we had railing on three sides, so we only had to defend the fourth; & we

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could not spill. When I say that there is only a
 single iron rod <all round> about 30 inches above the deck,
 you will see that there is some chance of
 rolling overboard. Our good place had however
 some disadvantages: it was just aft the
 funnel, so we had a thick cake of soot blown
 out all over our blankets & things in the
 morning, & we had the whistle close to us, always
 blowing out clouds of rain whenever it sounded.
 The arrangement is that the steamer takes
 passengers on board over night, & starts with them
 before daylight, goes all day, & stops late in the
 evening. We had thus one night & day on board.
 To the company I have no objection to make, after
 the first difficulty of getting space we all got on
 very well together. Poor fellows, they had been
 conscripted & marched up to Assuan, stationed
 there for 3 years, & were now hoping to see
 their homes once more. Often when the boat
 came near a man's village he would begin
 shouting out the names of his brothers in hopes
 of seeing one of them on the bank; & as we
 neared Esneh a boy on shore caught sight
 of his brother on board & ran along beside
 the steamer screaming "Hassan, Hassan". Some
 of them were from the pyramid neighbourhood, &
 fraternized with our men, one was from Zagazig.
 All day they sat mending clothes, brushing up,
 reading, & overhauling their bags. I only wish that
 I may never have worse travelling companions:
 Chester said "Well, I would far rather go with them
 than with the dirty German doctor who is in my
 cabin; I have no doubt that he has shut up every

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 cabin; I have no doubt that he has shut up every

chink where the air could get in". The night was ⁴¹
 very warm, & my difficulty was that being packed close
 I got into a stew on all sides except above, & there
 I wanted more blankets than I could bear elsewhere.
 By day it was rather too hot; a khamisin wind
 with dust, a very hot sun on one side, & the hot air
 from the engine on the other. I won't go abaft
 the funnel again. Still I managed to make
 copies of nearly all Griffith's Assuan inscriptions,
 as I sat crosslegged on my baggage. We were
 rather a puzzle to an officer going down with
 his wife. From his 1st class deck they saw us working
 at inscriptions, & came up & addressed me in
 French across the barrier, asking about some
 tablets at Assuan. I replied in French, supposing
 that to be nature to him; & then he turned to
 G. & said "But you speak English I believe" &
 asked him something else. He opened his eyes
 on hearing we were both English, & asked "But
 how do you come then to be here", pointing
 to the 3rd. At which we laughed & explained.
 To those who have blankets, & are accustomed to
 tenting, there is really no objection to 3rd on deck
 when it is warm. I would not ask to go with 60
 soldiers in addition to ordinary passengers again,
 however.
 Before leaving Assuan I had a telegram from Chester
 saying he had very important news for me. So I
 looked out for him at Luxor, as he was going on by
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and I heard that an anonymous friend in England
 had placed a considerable sum at my disposal for
 excavating. This turned my plans over
 somewhat in my mind, & I began rearranging
 matters. But I will anticipate, & state the
 end. On calling on Grebaut ^{on his boat here}, I found him
 pleasant & generally agreeable. But when
 at last I suggested that just for two or three
 weeks while here I should like to dig a little,
 he at once came out dogmatic, said that
 everything here was reserved for the Museum
 & neither here nor Sakkara, nor at Ekhnim
 was I to be allowed to do any excavating. The
 fact that I had nothing to do with the Fund, that
 I had not a sou from it, that Bulak would
 take its half, all this was swept aside in
 a perfectly off hand way as of no account: and
 I was told that we - (the English) had plenty of
 space for working, anywhere in the Delta &
 at Assuan, & if I wanted to dig I must
 go there, & not come into his preserves.
 Todros, the German Consul, hearing this afterwards
 would scarcely credit it, as the fellahin are
 allowed to dig here, giving half to the Museum.
 No, it is an Englishman, & particularly one
 who may make discoveries, that is forbidden.
 It might possibly take something from the
 glories of the French school, & that could not
 be tolerated for a moment. The result is
 that I simply have no possible ground for

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excavation in Egypt. Assuan is Budge's ground,
 & though he has now closed, it is too late in the
 season to begin there. In the Delta I have
 prospected all that is promising for the Fund,
 & I do not feel at all free to make use of
 the information thus obtained for my own
 work. It would be too open to misrepresentation
 to say the least. So I must do as I
 intended, survey Dahshur, & go home. The
 money is here, the worker is here, but - the dog is in
the manger <i.e. he has a nice warm bed in the hay & does not want it
 disturbed.> I am extremely sorry for such
 an end to the generous intentions of my would-be
 helper, & to the hopes of my friends who have
 expected a good result. But I really do not see
 that I can exactly do anything under the
 circumstances. Possibly another year some
 way may be found; but Grebaut was
 evidently in a very impracticable mood, &
 fully bore out what Budge said, that
 nothing could be done with him.

At Luxor we took all our baggage off onto the
 landing stage, & I then sat on it while Griffith
 & the men carried the tent up to the temple &
 pitched it; we then took up our small baggage,
 & after a long chat to Chester, before he
 went on board to sleep with his German
 doctor, we shut up by 12 ¼ or rather 0.15 am.
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44
 baggage over to Karnak, pitching tents
 under some trees, close to the pylon of
 Hor em heb. Three hundred Tommy Atkinses
 were all marched over to see the place, drawn
 up in line, addressed, & then dispersed for an
 hour's ramble over the temple, then
 re-formed, & marched back to their boat
 at Luxor with band playing.
 After a good deal of wandering about here,
 I set to work on the foreigners, beginning
 by taking squeezes of all the foreign heads
 here on the temple walls. I soon found that
 the squeezes were so manageable & clear
 that I determined to do all I could by
 squeezing, & only photograph where squeezes
 were impracticable. The result will be
 that I shall have a gallery of plaster
 casts of some 200 or 300 heads, probably
 when I have worked them all off in
 England; & photographs can be taken
 far better from clean white casts
 arranged in good lights than direct
 from the monuments. Such a set of
 actual casts too will be a fine collection
 either for Franks (as Ethnology), or for
 Oxford under Tylor. Having done all the
 heads at Karnak so far as practicable, I
 set to work on the oldest botanical
 work known, a chamber in which Thuthmes
 had engraved all the strange plants he brought

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Arabia (Punt or Ta neter)
 from ~~Syria~~ There are ⁴⁴⁵ hundreds of sculptures
 & I have squeezed all that are not duplicates.
 Usually the plant or tree is shewn, with
 enlarged sculptures beside it of the leaves,
 fruits, seed vessels, &c, just as in a modern
 botanical book. Either Kew or Brit. Mus.
 should take this up & utilize the set of
 casts, I know Holmes at the Pharmaceutical will be
 delighted with them.
 I have not got much in the antika way except
 inscribed potsherds, of which there seems to be no
 end or diminution. I take 30 or 40 a day, & many
 quite perfect. One brilliant one was legible
 at once being in an ^{almost} uncial hand; a receipt to
 Theodoros Tauros & his brothers for the sum
 of 300 drachmae under Tiberius.

It has been very warm ever since we came
 & I have been wandering about without even
 a coat, shirt & trousers being almost too much.
 There is a little more wind today which is refreshing
 but very hot for our squeezes.

I have been very politely looked after by the Rev^d
 Chauncey Murch the American missionary
 here. He had heard that I was coming, I suppose from
 Dr Lansing; & came down to the boat when
 I was going up and asked me to call when I
 returned. I had not had time to look him up
 when hearing I was at Karnak he came over
 to see me & I dined with him the
 other evening. He improves on acquaintance, his
 breadth ^{him} in body & limbs & face, combined with a
 remarkable shortness not being prepossessing.

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Thebes 22 Feb - 1 March 1887

E⁴⁷

After Griffith left me at Karnak I did some photographing; but unhappily in some of the movings the plates must have been accidentally lighted & they are all damaged, though still useful. The supply of ostraka fell off, as the guards of the place, jealous of the boys' finds, drove them off, & seized what they could to sell to themselves. So the flow came to a premature end, but not before I had got in over 400, of which 70 or 80 at least are perfect. I went over to Medamot, which is not worth visiting in general, only a few columns left, & no scenes but one, which however is curious; - a lion standing on a shrine, to which a king is offering, with three trees behind it.

At Luxor I found the pylon scenes much defaced, & what was ~~within~~ perfect needed a 20-foot ladder. My rope ladder would not do, as the pylon is too high for it, & we cannot well reach the top. So I noted what there was, & left it until I should see if I can get all the same heads elsewhere. But on the outer wall, as far as it is yet cleared, there are a quantity of foreigners; mainly Khitas (Hittites), including the siege of Dapur, which turns up on most of these monuments. I squeezed nearly all the heads, only omitting duplicates which were but poor. Then I left Karnak & moved over to the western side; pitching, after

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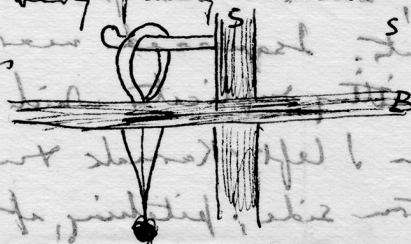
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dark, in a high wind at the Ramesseum.
 Here I am swamped all day long with beads,
 pottery cones (models of bread) with names
 stamped on them, & poor little shabtis. But
 there is nothing fine to be had out of the
 small dealers over here, though I have
 got many interesting scraps, including
 lumps of rock crystal, blue glazed. I have
 squeezed all that seems desirable from the
 Ramesseum, the best scenes for me being
 some unpublished ones of captives led out of their
 fortresses, each fort being named, & 12 remaining
 more or less legible. Also I found two excellent
 overthrown blocks with chariot groups of three
 Hittites & three Amorites on a large scale. Altogether
 it is rather well known & copied subjects which
 are always the best for squeezes; they are often
 damaged in the faces, or inaccessible. Isolated
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 material. I photographed other parts here which
 had too much colour on them to be safely wetted
 for squeezes.

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 over thrown blocks with chariot groups of three
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 it is not the well known & copied subjects which
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 had too much colour on them to be safely wetted
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Three items of importance turned up in a days'
 wanderings. 1st I completely settled the measuring
 of the Egyptian balance details, from seeing
 several very finely drawn balances in a tomb.
 It is thus [R].

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49

The beam is hung by a ring from an arm projecting from the support. This seems obvious when stated, (<the arm being shewn turned sideways, just as the eye is put ^{full} sideways in a face sideways>) but I never understood it, being misled by Wilkinson who took it for a ring to check the beam from tipping too far. Then, ^{fixed on} beneath the beam was a triangle of projecting, with a plummet hanging from the middle. Then in weighing they observed whether the plummet exactly passed the point of the triangle, or no, in order to see if the beam were level. It is a very simple & effective way, exactly like our tongue of a balance read against the suspender. This explains the whole thing; & particularly the care with which a man always examines the plummet.

2nd I found at Deir el Bahri, a "standard" or "banner" not only formed like a false door, (which I had seen elsewhere), but with actually the whole door painted in, on what is erroneously called the "fringe"; there are the hinges, the bolts, & all the cross bars of the door painted as clearly as can be [📷]. This is an absolute clench on a point which I have long been finding evidence on. 3rd I saw, near Drah abul Negga [📷], a bed of Nile mud up to 10 ft over present level, with 4 ft or more of washed pebbles & rubble from the cliffs deposited over it. This proves that Nile mud

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deposits were going on here when the river was at the old high geological level, & when there was immense rain wash denuding the cliffs.

By tracking some objects, I have found the site of a tomb of the first class, next thing to a royal tomb. It appears never to have been opened, certainly within modern times, & I am certain of it within two or three yards. If I could but work here it would be a great prize in every respect probably. As it is I shall keep my information & hope to see better times someday.

There is no work going on here anywhere for Bulak; all the better, as there will be more left for any better explorers in the future.

I have taken squeezes of the splendid heads of the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, &c, &c, at Medinet Habu, & have still a good deal to do there. Altogether I expect to have casts of 200 or 300 heads.

It is much cooler now, almost chilly in the mornings, & workable all day long. I am in no hurry to leave here, & shall not reach Bedrashen & get my letters there till a fortnight later than I named.

This will go to post by a boy who will fetch letters, so I cannot acknowledge a mail.

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XI. Thebes

Mar: 13.

M^{rs} Petrie
8. Crescent R^d
Bromley,
Kent.

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