

Arabah
Jan 5th 1934

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Dear Mother.

In my last letter I quite forgot to tell you all about my visit to Sohag. Amice's sudden arrival put it out of my head.

I started off soon after eight o'clock with Sardic & our fine fat ombashi in the back, in England we do not think anything of forty miles, but here with dirt tracks to drive along & constant droves of animals to pass it is quite another matter, it took me nearly two hours to get there which was good going.

The Oultons were very bucked to see me & I discussed the matter of Sardic's government pay with him & he said he would go round & see the Mudir

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about it. so then I went upstairs
to see Betty & found her in the
midst of preparations for a childrens
party. (I think Sohag is able to
produce 7 European children of various
ages.) & she was delighted to have
my help. her idea was to turn
the drawing room into a snow palace.
she was painting the windows with
epsom salts & water to represent
frost, & paper icicles hung from
every where, the great idea was
to have a snow man & she did
not know how to manage it. so
I undertook the job. I got one of
the servants to carry up one of the
huge sacks of raw cotton from the
yard & with an old sheet, lots of
loose cotton, old boots & a hat.
I made a paper snow man, I also

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huge sacks of raw cotton from the
yard & with an old sheet, lots of
loose cotton, old boots & a hat
I made a perfect snow man, I also

decorated the little tree that formed
the table centre & hid the pot in
a cotton wool snow drift & cut out
little red paper ~~knomes~~ ^{nomes} ~~nomes~~
& made them dance in a ring
round the tree on the snow bank.
it was very effective.

We had lunch on the balcony &
Charles returned with an extension^{sic}
of time limit for paying the wages
to the Government of 15 days - so I felt
very relieved.

at 3 o'clock I started home
& arrived just before dusk, after a
very enjoyable day. They were so
sorry I could not stay for the party
that evening - but I think I had the
best of the fun in the preparations
To-day in the temple we put a little
beetle on my pocket looking glass

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 he was so funny, he tried to bite
 his reflection & got so agitated about
 it & stamped with rage. Amice & I had
 a good laugh at him.

Mahomed Kheir is back & I gave him
 the threaders & bodkins & he was
 delighted, he had never had such
 wonderful ones before. he sends you
 many thanks

I have received the transfers, there
 are a lovely lot & I think will be
 enough for now. also calendars.
 Thanks so much

I am afraid I cannot tell you where to
 find M^{rs} Thomas's amber, as the beads
 are all mixed up together, I will have
 to select a nice string when I return
 & take them over to her. they are a
 present from me -

Lots of love to you & Father
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle

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