

(Mrs. Robt. Brewster)

Cairo

S. S. "Seti"

III. 17. 1911.

Dear Mabel

*Distinction*

Our last morning on the Seti - such a glorious trip! Please make a memo of the name of the boat and of Akmed Barondi, the dragoman, as you & R.B. must make the trip before long. If in 1913, & all are well, you might take me as physician (& playmate) of Sylvia. There is plenty of deck room for her to play, and no risk. I would not come unless you brought Uncle Ned. The boat holds eight comfortably. We have had some splendid days on our way down. Abydos with its old tombs, and the ruins of the city of the Horizon which ~~is~~ <sup>the</sup> idealist Pharoah founded in the 15th century B.C. If you wish to read a touching story get Weigall's book about him - published last year, or read Breasted's chapter on him in his history of the Egyptians - the first individuality in history. He tried to introduce the worship of the one god, loved nature, loathed war and devoted himself to his family and friends - and incidentally wrecked a great empire! Yesterday we spent at Memphis - all that is left of it. The desert covers the site of one of the world's greatest cities - only the tombs remain. I was specially interested in the step pyramid, built about 3000 B.C. by Imhotep, a physician & architect, for Zoser - the earliest stone monument of antiquity. The tombs of the old princes are extraordinary - among the earliest and the best so far as mural decorations and historical value are concerned. One can see, in stone representation of weaving, baking, brewing, carpentering, boatmaking &c. Many show methods still in use in the immutable land. Sand, sand, sand everywhere, blown in from the desert & gradually covered the ruined city. Excavations are still being made & every day something is brought up. We sail next week - 22nd for Naples & I should get home by April 1st. Let me know your summer plans - any chance that you may come over? After this long holiday I shall have to stay quietly at work. I have my new edition of the text book on hand. which will keep me very busy.

Love to all yours &amp; a kiss to the darling

Affectionately yours

W<sup>m</sup> Osler

✓ Abydos 1st of May  
Breasted  
Zoser 2