

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 97631
REF. 14

Jerusalem February 24<sup>th</sup> 1884

My dear Anna

Dating as above this ought to be a special letter full of enthusiasm about first impressions, but as in fact I am still murmuring after the pharaohs of Egypt letters, I think, to defer saying anything like letters unwise & more intimate knowledge may raise my opinion of men & things here. So back I'll go to draw old Cairo wh: in leaving we parted with all that is refined & luxurious. Left Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, we went by rail to Isondia. wh: we reached about 5 P.M. putting up at a one story hotel, running around four sides of a square, in the centre of wh: was a garden of orange & other trees, each bedroom having its separate door into it. No sooner had our trunks been deposited than we hurried off to see the sculptures that have recently been

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evacuated from the site of <sup>the height to Semaikie</sup> Pithon - the  
Treasure City built for Ramesis I<sup>st</sup> by the Seraptes  
Just my men were early mounted on donkeys  
& off to the desert to see the second days' camping  
ground "on the edge of the desert" it was huge  
& high & we had a most delightful dinner  
on a flat sandy plain. Coming out on the  
banks of the Sweetwater Canal & following  
up its course, entered Semaikie again from  
the opposite side - a substantial meal &  
Cup of tea & we were prest for a short  
walk to the Suez Canal where we got on  
board a small steamer & started at 7 P.M.  
for Port Said at wh. place we landed  
about 11 P.M. The few passengers who shared the  
trip were Arabie, Staker & German so we aban-  
doned ourselves to a long talk as to the proposition  
you made in your letter to me of Jan<sup>y</sup> of Eng<sup>l</sup>  
& I remaining in England beyond the date  
of Japans' probable return to Canada. The result  
of this Conference Japa has consented to go from  
Port Said. & as time now is extremely precious

for the many sights in Jerusalem & excursions to surrounding places that I will not go back upon any of the decisions then made except in two points. First that if Mrs Skilton should not wish our Cottage that this be do few others to whom I should wish it to be rented that I fear it may entail misery upon you but I should be satisfied with whatever you may do. The other is that I ask as an especial favour that no delicacy on your part will lead you to hesitate to accept the rent of my Cottage to help to complete yours. Papa said \$100. as I thought it well take the \$25. to meet taxes & other current expenses. I mean you to draw the rent & put me to no further trouble. The herculean of course is a matter between W. & me & last year's rent. I expect to have that outlay. Do you think Mrs S. will give more rent on acct. of this additional comfort? Should you require to make any payment before papa's return W. can supply the money from his acct & papa & I will square afterwards. Well to return to Part said we spent the morn. of your birthday picking

up shells on the shores of the Mediterranean  
 & then walking back to the town, wh. is a kind  
 of miniature Liverpool, we went to several  
 shops & asked for East Indian pens but we saw  
 nothing but common Japans & some European  
 ones much dearer than we sd purchase on our  
 return to the Continent. About 4 P.M. we got  
 into a little row boat to go on board the Austin  
 thence wh. was to carry us to Jappa, but there  
 was such a gale of wind that instead of sailing  
 as sd. it lay in the shelter of the Canal until  
 10 P.M. & so we did not reach Jappa till Sunday  
 afternoon, the wind <sup>was</sup> still high & heavy rain falling  
 notwithstanding the Captain hired the plug  
 to intimate that the passengers were to be landed  
 about a dozen boats rowed by six or 8 men  
 came off. & for the Stern that followed we saw  
 some of the descriptions you have seen of  
 shipwrecks. The ship stood very high out of  
 the water. The ladders were tied up to prevent  
 the boats as they rose in the waves from striking  
 on it. When it came our turn the passengers

Crept along the ladder <sup>Miss</sup> was Clarkson; on  
 the ladder was a man in front & another  
 following, the moment she reached the last  
 step they seized her to prevent her holding on  
 to anything. the boat below was dashing against  
 the ship, rising, falling, heaving in rapid suc-  
 cession - the six or eight boatmen were  
 shouting & yelling in all kinds of languages, but  
 when a favourable moment arrived the two  
 men who held her dropped her <sup>over the boat</sup> & half a dozen  
 boards stretched at her & quickly stowed her  
 in a corner ready to repeat the feat. I had on  
 my fur cloak & it struck me I should be dropped  
 out of it & they were just too late that it was  
 all that had to be stowed away so I quickly took  
 off my necktie & tucked it on over my cloak, resign-  
 ing myself to the inevitable, & slipped down the ladder in  
 a sitting posture - shut my eyes & trembling & faint  
 found myself at the feet of Mrs Allison - who on  
 her lap the Eva & Papa were safely  
 huddled beside me. Mrs A. & Miss C. relieved this  
 calamity with tears. but in a few minutes  
 we were chas of the ship & Mr A. said

in a hurry tone. "Come Come it is time to sing  
 & give thanks we are all right now." & it is  
 wonderful what a help a brave word is. but the  
 landing was before us & we saw the spray  
 dashing against the rocks in an awful way,  
 but it was managed by skillful men & one  
 by one we six were thrown up some six feet  
 on to a kind of wall a few yards out from a shore.  
 In the eve & we the little here had baked  
 my Churches but they had a good dinner for us  
 & late we had a fire put on in the parlour  
 & had a nice time reading over the scriptures  
 incidents connected with Joppa or Joppa. We  
 spent Monday morn'g visiting the town, a filthy  
 place & of course saw the traditional house where  
 Peter raised Dorcas to life. by 2 P. we were bump-  
 ing over shockingly bad roads in a waggon  
 like an ancient Carrier's Cart but the first part  
 was through beautiful orange orchards laden  
 with ripe fruit - six for a penny - & then the plain  
 of Sharon spread before us, till it did not  
 look so beautiful as it wd. in sunshine & genial  
 temperature. We stopped at Ramby for the

per the night & there had our first  
 experience of a Jewish Inn. In the lower  
 flat opening from the Courtyard were the  
 dining room & from the same yard a  
 flight of outside steps led to the stone flagged  
 sweep from wh. the bedrooms opened. They were  
 very neat & very clean but stone floors, stone walls  
 & stone steps in a cold dripping rain & no  
 possible way of getting a fire was dreary.  
 We kept on all our outdoor wraps tried  
 to get warm over a nice hot dinner with  
 wine from Bethlehem. Called at die breakfast  
 at eleven & off again over indistinguishable  
 roads but our Arab man Counselled us by  
 telling us they were the best in Palestine, & now  
 we believe him. We reached Jerusalem  
 at sundown, about die I think, & found  
 another of these solid stone hotels where every  
 time we walk from the parlour to our bedroom  
 we put on our rubbers. & from the various  
 excursions we have since made it wh.  
 paper has described to us every spare minute

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has been spent trying to dry our wet garments around the parlour fire - all delicacy has been laid aside by guests & stockings & dresses & cloaks of puppet strangers are steaming amicably together while I write. As this is a somewhat dark picture let me say that our spirits have never flagged, there is so much of real interest so much that is new & so many comical things are said & done by those around us that there is a great deal of fun interspersed through sufferings & doggings yesterday we were seven hours on horseback but I will start off tomorrow again through rain wind & cold rather than miss Bethlehem Rachel's Lamb (genuine) Solomon's Pools (in good repair & twice as large as our water works) here I must leave you to papa's descriptions. The American Consul & his wife live at this hotel they have been most kind to us & will probably accompany us to the Jordan. Their name is Merrill twice they have had a Cup of tea waiting for us on our return from excursions & in many other ways have shown us unusual kindness. He is the author of "Sabbath in the time of Christ"



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of another long volume on Eastern Palestine  
the title of wh. I have forgotten. The whole  
country is intimately known to him. he also  
was connected with the Exploration Society  
as Archaeologist.

I wish very much to go to Damascus, it is  
only one days stage. Coach-journeys are  
a good deal from Beirut. I fear paper  
will not allow us however. I must not  
break through my rule. I plan beforehand, we  
have the re-embarkation to go through at Jaffa  
& the homeward long sea voyage back to Europe,  
when Eva & I will keep each other company  
with responsive sighs & groans. "Pray that  
your flight be not in the winter" was  
like every other word of Jesus no sentimental  
turn. I think we wd. have done better if we

~~have given her throats. In March & April~~  
~~all nature will here be gay, continual~~  
~~sunshine <sup>with</sup> warm but not oppressive tempera~~  
~~ture just as we had it in Egypt wh: notwithstanding~~  
~~its coolness I will always think of as~~  
~~bathed in floods of sunshine. A letter Con-~~  
~~veys such a homeopathic dose of our doing.~~  
~~I thought it is open to one side that it dis-~~  
~~appoints me to close, but I cannot write~~  
~~longer now & I can not write only one letter~~  
~~each week to Canada while we are travelling~~  
~~so constantly to please, with my great love~~  
~~to George, William Flurence & outside friends~~  
~~explain, my especial love to Mrs C. She I know~~  
~~will not complain. I have noted all in yours~~  
~~last received letter altho' I have not even thanked~~  
~~you for it. My dearest love to the children & Bernard~~  
~~your loving Mother.~~

~~to thank you~~