

Suptwards Hotel
Cairo

Feb. 10th 84.

My dear Anna,

I feel that I have quite disgraced myself by not having written oftener but while we were on the Nile there was so much to see & do & there our fellow passengers were so pleasant that I always felt inclined for talk & walks. Since we returned to Cairo I have started upon a new line for me. I must tell you that on board with us was a German by name Mr. Thierck who paints & draws remarkably

well. In fact he seems quite a
genious for he also sings & plays
beautifully. With all these accomplishments
he also is very amiable for when we
got back here he most kindly brought
to me his whole portfolio of sketches taken
on the hill & said I might copy any
that I liked. They are very hard to
copy for he goes in for the plan of doing
everything in broad bold washes which
requires a great amount of reckless
daring I find. But I have been using
all my spare moments in these
artistic endeavours. But don't expect
much for my whole stock in trade is
but small. There has been a great

deal to talk here about the defeat of
Baker Pasha & no doubt you too have
been thinking that things are bad here.
We intend leaving Cairo next Thursday
& Egypt next Saturday so we are not
likely to see any great disturbance
but many people here think that things
must be worse before they are better.

Here in Cairo with the English garrison
everything is safe but I think we have
been quite fortunate as regards our
hill trip for I do not think we wd care
to start off up again just now. Everyone
is anxious to hear how Gordon will
succeed in Kartoum. We begin to feel
quite a different interest in the military
here for we now know some of the officers. We

who stays at this hotel is a Major Bayard
we have seen very often & like very much.
He left last night for Luakim. His
wife came fr. England only the evening
before. It did seem rather hard for him
to have to go away so soon. He is a most
amusing man & kept us informed in all
the latest news. There is a most curious
story told of him here but there this is a
most gossipy place. Last winter he met here
a rich widow with whom he fell in love & to
whom he became engaged. Everything was
arranged when at the very last she found
that by marrying again she would lose
nearly all her money. This she was not
prepared to do. But as everything was
ready she suggested that Major B. should
marry her sister in stead. The sister
was on the spot & apparently ready to in the

end it was so arranged. The rich widow
they say supports them both & certainly
here she is in the hotel with them. But

I am very silly to run in about people
you know nothing of.

We have now been in Cairo a week since
our Nile trip & now know our way about
quite well & are really seeing the place
very thoroughly. Strange to say it rained &
hailed here one day. A lady who has been
18 years here told us that only once before
had she seen such a thing. Her black

servant came & told her that salt was
coming down from the sky. I am afraid
that we have given you rather the idea
that we find it cold here. We do find it
colder than we expected but the weather for

winter is perfect. I seldom wear a jacket
out doors when walking but find warm
under things quite necessary. At Assuan
(our furthest point on the Nile) it was quite
hot. blazing in the sun. There it is now
considered spring & the peach trees are in
blossom & yesterday we got a present of
some beautiful grapes ripened in the open
air. It altogether is a contradictory
sort of climate for one feels cold when
it isn't cold but it is always bright &
sunny here & quite warm in the
middle of the day.

It seems like telling an old tale to go
back to our Nile trip but I want to be
sure that you are informed that
while at Assuan I reached the height
of my ambition in one direction & have

actually & absolutely ridden upon a
Camel. Don't you feel envious of me? I am
sure Eric will at all events. It so happened
that we met while there the French Consul
of Hartoum who thinking that "discretion
was the better part of valour" was on his
way to lower Egypt. He seemed pleased to
meet Europeans again & joined the party on
our expedition to the temple of Philae.
Whilst riding there we exchanged a few
remarks & he offered me one of his Camels
to ride back upon. I felt rather alarmed
at the suggestion but as my French is limited
I found it easier to accept. So all the
way back the French Consul & I led the
way on two majestic beasts of the desert.
It really was quite nice - all except the

getting on & off & of course you know the
Camel sits down when one mounts it &
when it get up one is tossed back & forwards
in the most unmerciful manner. It
is if anything worse when it lies down
at the end of the journey. Its legs
snap shut like the blades of a stiff pen-
knife & it has twice as many joints as
most animals. But it was great fun
all together & I should not mind crossing
the desert on a good camel.

Monday. I find that the mail leaves
here early to-morrow morning so will
have to finish this hurriedly
before dinner. This evening we
are going to the Citadel to hear a
Capt Speedy lecture upon Abyssinia
He is the man to take the King of

Abyssinia's son to be educated in England. After this Prince's death he returned to Abyssinia & lived there as the King's first Minister for many years. So he knows all about things there & we hope to hear something pleasant & instructive.

This morning Mother went with one of the American lady missionaries to visit some of the native Mohammedan houses & this afternoon we went first to visit a private collection of Egyptian jewelry & then to visit a most wonderful house. The house itself is about the size of Thos Workman's & is fitted up intirely according to the best Arabian style. The principal rooms are on what we w^d call the second floor &

open upon a central Court so filled with
growing shrubs & flowers as to look quite
like a garden. The rooms themselves
are really passed description. The walls
are hung with rich drapery - the roofs
all most richly inlaid & the floors
also of inlaid marble. Everything is of
the costliest & rarest & one cd never
have imagined such a palace of luxurians
beauty. It was built by a Baron ^{St Maurice}
but who or when he may be I know not.
I believe it is for sale & cost him 2000 of ks.
It is like one of those fairy-look enchanted
palaces - Everything is in its place. Hair
brushes on the dressing tables, towels & sponges
dishes in the pantry & everything & yet
not a person to be seen anywhere.
But I must close now for it's time to

dress for dinner. My clothes are becoming
fewer & beautifully less day by day & I shall
be quite glad to get back to England again
when I shall have a little larger choice of
garments.

We have heard to-day of Gordon Pasha's safe
arrival at Berber & hope that he will be
able to set affairs straight. But the Egyptian
soldiers are really no good. They are nearly
all young boys & they take every opportunity
to desert. Some were sent to Alexandria
the other day 7 or 800 & at the end of the
journey 180 were missing.

Please give my love to Florence Will &
to Miss Carpenter. We never know whether
our letters go by the Canadian mail or
whether we miss it. But we try to write
as often as we can & hope that they get some
way to you. Palestine is even more inconvenient
in its postal arrangements & we are told

that letter late I wish follow to
England.

With best love from Mother & myself

Believe me

Your affectionate sister

Eva.

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P.S.

Thursday 13th

Great excitement in our
habe! The article has been
received for two thousand
of the three thousand troops
stationed here to move im-
mediately to Larashim. Turkish
people say it will no longer
be safe in Cairo. However you
will have the news of this & probably
the result of an attack on the Mahdi's
soldiers long before this reaches you
It is just as well that our
visit is over. We go in the morn.

976(31/186)

P.S. Mamma had just closed
her letter when the postman
handed us yours of Jan'y 22.
As we are just packing & so
there is no time to say any-
thing further; but we write
its contents and rejoice in your
wellfare and in news from
you just before we leave and
when we may be a fortnight
without other letters.

Ever yours
M.D.