



Assouan  
Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> 1884

My dearest Anna

We have just been  
staked to the shore at this our  
farthest point on the Nile. All  
passengers desiring to make a farther  
voyage having here to disembark & re-  
embark above the Cataract. The majority  
of our fellow passengers have gone on  
shore to see the town & paper & I  
have strolled off to look at the rocks. I  
prefering to be quiet am going to give you  
a few minutes off my hour in the  
hope that a mail steamer close by us  
returns to Cairo before we do. as we re-  
main two days here & have to take a  
long excursion of two hours donkey ride



2  
tomorrow to some place, the name  
of which I do not know. We have  
had excursions daily & find it  
difficult to keep abreast, in my  
walking, of the localities before we reach  
them, indeed, altho' all is of a pleasant  
character, there are no unoccupied min-  
utes. The days fly & now, if the Lord will,  
little more than a week will see us  
back again in Cairo, where we have  
to decide when & how our travels into  
Palestine are to be made. We hope the  
quarantine will be off before we return  
& if so our original plan will likely be  
followed that of going to Joppa by sea  
if not I have no idea what paper my do.

The weather is now warmer which is more  
pleasant on deck but more fatiguing  
when on our land excursions, which  
notwithstanding this & the worry of "bakshush"  
"Antiques" & all the host of Camp followers  
I continue to enjoy. I only & always wish



that you could be a participator.  
 At this moment <sup>I pass</sup> the shore opposite  
 the town (I am told it is an island),  
 a low bare hill with a pretty well painted  
 line stands out against the western  
 sky where the sun has just set groups  
 of lines of palm trees break this outline  
 of the gold & apple green behind which  
 enchants your artist soul. The sounds  
 too are altogether foreign the creaking of  
shadoofs - the Chatter of Egyptians, the  
 low rumbling groups of donkeys & Camels  
 familiar yet new. I do so wish that  
 you might share all this pleasure.  
 We shall however I hope spend  
 my pleasure <sup>eyes</sup> relating, as writing  
 cannot, our experiences & personal  
 incidents. It was dark here we  
 reached <sup>on Sunday night</sup> Edge where we had to see  
 a finely preserved Temple of somewhat  
 later date, we marched off however,  
 as it was near the landing, on foot  
 with several lanterns & on our way



4  
turn the <sup>walking</sup> ~~were~~ on a bank where the  
roofs of  
some of the houses were not much  
above its height, one was covered with  
sugar cones laid across & I pushed aside  
some & looked down, wholly unobserved  
by two women sitting on the clay floor  
one mixing bread the other blowing  
up a little charcoal fire over which  
hung a pot with some white liquid  
like milk in it - no furniture a mat  
for a bed & a few pottery jars & dishes  
for cooking a clay safe & a few gar-  
ments hanging on a rope was every  
thing in the miserable house. It will take  
too long to tell you of a better class house  
I have seen. Tonight we are having  
some chymney of Asouan to dinner he  
has only just arrived from the Soudan  
& brings the latest news the Moudah is en-  
croaching Col: Forster is expected here on  
Wednesday first on his way to try to mediate  
with him but all this week week you  
by telegraph so I must write much love  
to P. & all Mrs C. & M. & the young Mother