

Cairo February 13th 1884

Thank you very sincerely

for a long & most interesting letter written
after you had spent a few days with

Anna at Umias. I fear Anna has had

a rather trying winter with sick children
husband & a sharp illness herself. I almost

fail to notice these events because I hope
that long ago they are past & forgotten, & you

may think that I continue to hark about
them which I really do not in any chronic

way. There has been & is so much that is
new & deeply interesting in Egypt that I

have enjoyed every hour of my stay in it
& shall leave it with regret. The larger

part of the Nile especially will live here in

my memory as a charming episode
 in my life although not so far
 limited as; having once drunk of the
 waters of the Nile never to feel happy till
 I have drunk a second draught. To those
 familiar with Eastern scenery & life I
 think it possible that they might call
 the Nile valley monotonous. but to me
 the palms & the people the green plain
 bounded so sharply by the black chain of hills,
 advancing & receding & even occasionally
 forming abrupt cliffs hemming in the
 water the numerous mud hillsides & the
 busy out door life of men, doukeys & Camels
 the shadows & gabbahs; at every bend ^{of the river} ~~of the river~~
 & upland pictures lovely as novel, & when
 one adds the changing lights & some magnificent
 sunsets & afterglows never tiring panoramas.
 One sees scenery hills to Temples & Tombs
 gave much variety & lured our mental
 powers both here & after each excursion

trying first to get them to obtain some
 knowledge of each locality. I know
 but little but certainly I know more
 & am more interested both in the
 present & past history of Egypt than I ever
 would have been by reading any. Even
 the present political events take form & life.
 The whole is full of military people & since
 we came miners have heard of the death of
 their husbands - other officers that we have
 come to know a little have been ordered to
 the Sudan, among at these a Major Haggard
 with whom we had become quite friendly left
 last Saturday, his wife having arrived from
 England to join him here over the day previous.
 Such events passing before our eyes give a reality
 to affairs totally new to me. We have too many
 interesting people here. Cap. Speer the Ethiopian
 braves who led Gen. Napier's army into this
 country to relieve the prisoners English Missionaries
 who sits near me at table & from whom I have
 got many details about that country. Prof. Sayce
 of course known as a learned Egyptologist

On the same occasion I visited
 four other native houses but
 of the middle & lower class. They still
 all have slaves & although illegal to
 sell them I am told that there is a
 constant traffic carried on in some
 measure way. There is yet another house
 that we saw as a high - the owner being
 absent in Europe - it is built, decorated
 & furnished in the purest Moorish style & is
 a dream of beauty such as I could never have
 conjured in imagination - it is a temple for
indolent luxury - half light in gemlike rich
 soft colouring. but I must not attempt to
 describe the intricate & if I like I might try
 to tell some little about its inlaid doors - its
 soft rugs - its pountains, divans, hangings &
 cloths of gold. It cost £70,000 & its owner
 occupies it three months in the year. The
 huzars too are very picturesque - very numerous.

things each trade occupying
 a quarter by itself. I have generally bought
 the things they sell. & After coming so far
 I am surprised to find only familiar
 things. I am sure that your remark, that
 there was nothing in Europe that you could
 not get in London is applicable here - &
 unless one is an expert in the article to be
 purchased & has unlimited time to come
 to town about it could be got cheaper
 there than here, however we have managed
 to pick up some remembrances of our visit
 & as papa had ten boxes of stores to ship we
 have got a corner in one of these in which
 this my box & I have bestowed our treasures.
 The trunk with the interior has been inter-
 rupted so these things peculiar to India are
 scarce & costly. Now all the pleasures we have
 enjoyed here are drawing to a close. Tomorrow
 at 11 o'clock we take railway for Port Said
 staying a day at Smailie en route

At Port Said one of the Mediterranean Steamers
 take passengers on board & land them
 (weather permitting) at Jaffa, thence
 by stage two days to Jerusalem, where
 papa hopes to stay about two weeks, return
 to Jaffa & take ship again to Beirut, one
 of my first desires is to go to Damascus but at
 present there appears no likelihood of its being
 gratified. From Beirut to Venice where
 I shall not forget your advice to mount
 St. Mark's tower one of the first things. As
 to our route beyond that I do not know
 I have told papa your plan but have not
 heard his opinion as to its merits. He has made
 an engagement in London for April 7th so
 that gives a limit to our time. Your father
 is happy & bright while interested in the geology
 of the spot visited but Art. & Man's designs seem
 only to irritate him, neither does he take interest
 in living human beings unless they ^{have} tastes sim-
 ilar to his own. The friends we made on the Nile
 trip have enabled Eva & I to see much more

of Cairo than otherwise we should. Yesterday
 we Coached papa to go to see some of the hayans
 as he had never been the result was thus
 one of the first things he said this morn-
 ing was that he cd not sleep thinking of the
 "miserable stinking place". I trust you will
 not for a moment suppose that I write
 this in any spirit of Complaint or fault
 finding - it is only an amusing difference
 between looking at the same thing with other
 eyes.

In all my letters I have I know spoken of
 the Calidness of the weather. it has been dark
 here & all the South of Europe an unusually cold
 winter & we expected much warmer weather here
 than we find usual at this season but how will
 you reconcile my feeling it cold if I tell you that
 roses are abundant tropical trees & plants in the garden
 rueliches, green pees & fresh oranges on the table.
 It is hot in the sun but the combination of cold &
 ground is an enigma to me. We are wearing
 our Canadian winter garments & are told to provide
 warmer things for Palestine. Even papa send
 this love to you. & will you accept the
 warmest love of your ever affectionate Mother.