

ing with the great awkward jeltank, a long beam of wood
a donkey or buffalo or perhaps a Camel, pulling side
apart. It was hard to calyge a village when we passed it,
for I can scarcely get take in, that people live in these
little huts of mud with their flat roofs, ^{that the} some, perhaps, thick
on the top. They look like heaps of dirt, or the half ruined
walls of some old place. Very few windows, that is holes for
light & air, & all heaped together without regularity, ~~that~~
I can see. Then all this uniform colour with the earth.
But one sees why mud is the material it build with, for
there is generally nothing else. And in this climate with
so little rain, it stands for a long time.

We reached Cairo about 12, & found Charles at the R.R.
Station, a great comfort, as he had the Commissionaire for
the Sétet & his dragoman, & the better of looking for baggage
& getting what you want where you can't speak the language
or understand what is said! Our tickets for the baggage
were all made out in Arabic! And the amount they
charged for overweight, besides the fare was enormous.
We found them all at Shepherd's, now Zech's, Hotel &
we had a room on the first. Tried to eat, but it made
telling me to take a nap at the theatre! I had a quick
nap minute to see what was going on, & when once looking
out one could scarcely turn away. The side walk was side in
front of the hotel, & a sort of verandah ran out just in front,

16. On the Nile Dec. 23rd. 1860
My dear Sue,
My ^{brod.} ~~brod.~~ has come in such a whirl
since landing in Alexandria, that letter writing has
seemed almost impossible. Indeed description is
perfectly impossible, one's brain is confused, one's eyes
dazzled, by the variety & picturesque, the unreality,
the colour, the constant change. Even fancy, yourself
dreaming the Arabian nights, & in ~~traveller~~ ^{traveller} see one thing,
than something the other side attracts you, & on side
through the street are, "look here!" "did you see that?"
"do turn round!" "is just in front!" &c. &c. But indeed I
wish I could sketch for them. I might be able to help
you a little to some of the stranger sights!

We landed at Alexandria in the steamer for the night
passengers, & drove with them in a bus to the hotel, leaving
Dr. Gray on the steamer in the hands of a turbaned boatman
& a dragoman, as he called himself, in a fee, to look after the
baggage. I rested, while Sophie went with some friends who
had made, since Pompey's pillar & Cleopatra's needle, others
to dine with the departing passengers, as a sort of farewell to
them. Dr. Gray arrived, & sent to look up a French physician
to whom he had letters, & from whom he got paper to make
specimens on the Nile. The only passenger I that I should
have seen before again on the P. & O., was an American, a young

never else wear a black silk cloak covering them, head & all, as the un-
closed photo shows, & a most characteristic way is that holding it with
both hands - underneath may be very fine garments, pink or lilac
or green silk, sometimes two or three one each other are displayed -
The white veil or else dark blue - Sometimes the whole wrap is
white - One thing surprises me, the immense variety of colour -
I had supposed there were more fixed costumes, but you see
a great variety in shape & colour, especially with the men - And
so many beautiful turquoise rings, neck, waist, etc. etc. - There were
some such pretty children, & when we looked & admired one
too conspicuously, the little things all around would spit at
us - To keep off the soil etc. - There were little, delicate cakes stuck
on the head for sale in large bags, & constant pictures
of men bargaining, or selling, or arguing - Just read the Arabian
nights & imagine yourself walking about in it! - First saw the
European shops; then came the native ones, a large inn door
carried in, & the man seated on the floor, & they lay together, were
silver things as moved Dr. Faustus soul with every, then jewellers,
with staffs, embroidered, suits so beautifully draped up, pinnies, &
presently saddles, & leather robes, & we often saw all the process
of making - On turning into a side street we were warned by
the crowd was explained by finding a procession coming along,
the thick of it for Ramadan - Very gorgeous it was, with wonderful
variety of dress - magnificent burnouses purple & gold, brown & gold,
support camel hair shawls, as turbans or sashes, embroidered robes

leaving a semi-circular neck, where were seated all day, &
tall figures in cloaks, or coats, & turbans or fez, some Arab,
some Persian, some Europeans - Drained, guides, underfed etc.
etc. - Then a string of carriages with drivers in gay habits,
red fez, white turbans, white gown, blue gown, black cloak -
Dondy boys in long blue night gowns & red fez, & those
charming dandies, to which I have lost my heart - 'Fey &
black & white mixed, with the great saddle nearly cov-
ering them, & their little feet & long ears - 'By potent & so
gentle looking, & trudging along, three in the road, under
such loads! Then riders of all kinds, English, or a grave
Turk, or a wild or sunn boy, or a bearded woman, or a
an old man, generally a monkey boy running behind, then
camel laden, sometimes one, sometimes a string - Almost
carriage preceded by a runner, a boy in white drawers
& white shirt, belted in with the immense cloaks, & holding
his elbows out, & running so lightly & gracefully it is a study
in motion, he calls "Mor!" & clears the way - The style & ad-
vance of a carriage is reflected in the runner - For a hard
coach, often only a ragged little man in one garment, but the
private carriages have these snow-white shirts, & sometimes
and superbly embroidered jackets - We saw a wedding procession,
only a small affair, a heap of women on a camel, holding a
red camel hair shawl over their heads, & some attendants by
& behind - The variety never ending, - all the day.

The hotel was much like other hotels. The ceilings higher, the wood work & finish ruder, the furniture more scanty & inconspicuous. Breakfast 7, lunch 1, dinner 6. Half English style, though more French. Table d'hôte.

Monday morn. Mother, Charles, Olivia, Dr. Jay's myself
went in a carriage to see the boat, which lay about some
miles away, for Cairo is a little back, on the east bank of the
river. The boat I'dragman were already engaged, a large
boat to take the Ladies & Dr. Jay, a small boat for the
three single gentlemen. - George went with us in a donkey, &
I wish I could sketch his tall figure & long legs on the side,
grey thing, trotting easily along, a merry, donkey-boy in long blue
gown behind; the donkey was "Biddy Barlow". The drive was ^{there was} ~~was~~
a poor suburb, but full of pictures, the cupboards of shops, ^{collected}
bread, & trinkets, & pots, & bowls, the tall veiled women, the
poorer ones with blue veils held up on the forehead with three
broad ribbons of yellow metal, almost every one with ^a bracelet of
some sort on her well-shaped arm. Little girls dressed the
same, or without a veil, of a child - ^{travellers} ~~travellers~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} mother's
shoulder, women squatted in groups, or cooking, or as idle as
men, selling small wares of little worth, or heaped round them
in the group. - The wide shops sometimes, with wonderful huts
painted above on the front. - The boats are all ^{moored} ~~moored~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in~~
a long line against the dusty shore, Arab sailors squatted,
mending a huge sail on the bank above, groups unloading the
wide crockery of jars & pots & pans - Cans & vases, & dunks, & caddies.

smoking patiently, waiting their loads or riders. Rather dirty-looking & musty complexions - We were welcomed by an Hattisi, Rais, dark, with short grey beard, long, dark ^{black mustache} ~~dark~~ red eyebrows, turban, & Sapienza on dragonman, a young ~~Maltese~~ ^{Maltese} in European dress, except one of these Bedouin rolls sometimes round his throat, sometimes round his waist, always a red fez - He makes the contract for the trip & back, pays every expense, & feeds & takes care of us - The boat I shall describe when we come to live in it - Monday aft. Charles took a cab

to leave in it. Monday Morn. Charles took a carriage for Ghise, Dr. Gray & myself to go to the Citadel. Quite across the town, down the principal St., & so named that it needed a runner ahead, besides the constant cries of our driver, to clear the way among the crowds of men & women in every variety of dress who thronged the streets, carrying trays & baskets & jars on their heads, or bargaining at the little shops or walking or riding in donkeys. To say nothing of loaded donkeys & camels occasionally, the street was lightly covered in overhead & from the houses each side projected the lattices one has seen print of - But houses, lattices save a dusty, decayed look, often out of repair, giving, with the frequent beauty of their designs, a very shabby look - The more in luck - It was the day before Ramadan, a sort of Carnival - In the morn. we had met a lively procession with drums & trumpets proclaiming the fact, & we could not understand the crowd in the aft. Every street of steps to the mosque, or area, or corner filled with crowds of women & children, & later, it seemed more than the last seen - The women of the

work inlaid with fine silver work, leads into the room which
is the tomb. The room larger than the mosque, the tomb, ^(in the centre)
the true Turkish shape in stone, a rough ^{rough} ^{cross} ^{barred} fence
high around it. Opposite the mosque was the hands-
omest house in Cairo, Charles Stiles, with strange flat
arches worked into the wall, columns, the stone dove tailed
into each other,  & elaborate lattices - But everything
here has the dust of ages on it, & nothing the fresh, bright
look with us, thanks to our clean, heavy rain -

Tuesday Jan. 2 Mrs. Howland called, she was one of
the New York "Prosecco", three ^{books} ~~days~~ before getting through - "they
were going up the Nile to -" Mother, Maria & I went out
(with little black Abdallah as interpreter) to do some shopping.
First tubs, straw hats large & white, tarlatan to cover them,
sc. sc. it took us long, for we did not always find what
we wanted or always make ourselves understood, & the
shops were small & little variety - But we succeeded pretty
well. I came back very tired & rather poorly, & did
not go down to dinner - Chas. Hale came to dine with our
party, & after dinner came up into our parlour, & told most
amusing stories of Egyptian experience in the civilised way.
Wednesday I was put, except another turn of packing; for we
found with so many in our boat there was no room for trunks,
& I must rearrange all my things - Dr. Gray got a magnifi-
cent, great, copper basin or pan for my foot tub, & I made a bundle

saddle cloth, heavy with old work, handsome to see, and ³
pairs of every shade & colour, some very handsome, some fine,
some quite black, some stupid, some colonial. There were
bigger troops of men & boys mixed in, carrying what looked
like lanterns on the end of long sticks, & covered with white
cloths & halves of every colour & type, now & then a Camel
hair - Soldier, very military in their convenient dress, although
it was a right well worth seeing. But I agreed with Maria and
with Charles, that, though we or two looked pleasantly & said good
day in Italian or French, as a whole the impression was of dislike,
& of some exceedingly disagreeable, as if ^{the} ~~the~~ women were about
for expedition as in a plume march, & we would like to copy the
Eastern fashion & cover our face - The were in a carriage drawn
up at the side of the street - After they were passed we drove on
through narrow streets, with the overhanging lattices, occasionally
seeing a face peeping through, by a mosque or a beautiful en-
closed fountain (Chas. photo.) or then a gateway, or saw a lovely
carved dome, & at last climbed up to the Citadel, a huge forti-
fication surrounding the city, & enclosing besides, a large mosque
by Pachomet Ali, a palace &c. The mosque we got out of the
carriage here, stopped between two doors & I took my things
over our backs, & entered the large courtyard surrounded with
abacut columns, & the fountain covered with a pillared dome
in the centre - There and stand, fountain means a large or
small pool of water, not necessarily a jet - Alabaster is not

as handsome a material as sands for building, it looks
like poor marble - But the courtyard was large & handsome,
& every mosque has a courtyard & fountain. - The huge
giving in, I think very fine, with its great, central dome
& the small domes & half domes all working in it, as
perhaps you may form some idea of from the photo. -
It was all colored & illuminated inside, with filling &
texts from the Koran in Arabic letters, gold on a green
ground; the floor quite covered with Turkey carpets &
rugs, the pulpit of light carved & filled work, the niche,
opening towards Mecca, always empty, several glass chandeliers,
brilliant with drops, hanging from the roof, & a circle
round the building of glass globes for lamps. ^{It must be brilliant in the day!} It was altogether
less bare & more gorgeous than I had expected. The tomb
of Mehmet Ali was in a corner. The people in thro' the
gilded, grated door, & saw the catapalque covered with caperly embroidered
cloth, with gold, & a pair of silver candlesticks some 4
ft. high, & candles as big as your arm. - The minarets of this
mosque are Turkish, Charles says, rather than Persian,
but very slight & graceful & tall. - After leaving the mosque
we went for the view from the walls, a magnificent
stretch of Cairo & the ^{green} valley of the Nile, the desert greyish
in the distance, the pyramids ^{due} on the farther verge, the
river a line of silver, & the city below, with minarets, & beautiful,
carved domes, & flat roof tops with the little stunted
beet-house to catch the south wind -

On our way back to our carriage, Dr. Fay & Shirin went to
Joseph's well, a very deep well centuries old, & very curious.
Dr. F. said, the water raised by three sabbias - We had for
guide & interpreter a Turkman, Ali, deep black, but not
negro features, more sharply cut - dressed in dark blue,
full cloth drawers just above the ankle, jacket the same,
with bright sash & gay waistcoat, & red fez with red turban
tall, well made, & a beautiful foot in white stockings &
half boots - Charles had thought of taking him as a guide
for the trip, but that he might not look out so well for our
comforts as Sapienza, & we might have had things done
in Arabian style. For the Empires of Europe are over -

On our way back we went to the mosque of Sultan
Hassan, built or begun in 1328, & still in wonderful
preservation in this dry climate. - Surrounded by shabby
houses, we climbed up through heavy, entering porch
& long arch-ways, & came into the court with the beautiful
covered fountain, of which I enclose a photo. & where
some men were washing face & feet, preparatory to prayers.
The mosque itself is small, only a deep, deep arch, with
straw matting on the floor, a plain pulpit, & a sort
of raised box for a choir, but running round it a deep
inscription in Cufic, like the most beautiful Arabic.
In the photo. you see the mosque or praying place, that
arch behind the fountain, & with a place for contraze the
inscription in the right. - The door behind of beautiful bright -

sort of range of soft stone or fire bricks, a few holes in the top for charcoal.
underneath, & an oven on one side, all covered by a little wooden penthouse
two or three ft. deep. On deck stands too, a great wooden box containing the
water filter, under the stairs to the upper deck are the china closet, & store
closet; mysterious bundles in white wrappers dangle along a rope, & sometimes a
green, sometimes a bunch of bananas peep out. The part of the upper deck
towards the stern is carpeted ^{with red} ~~green~~ with the cushions each side, a table in
the middle. And behind me sundry boxes of mysterious things, in front
of theudder ^{is} ~~is~~ a long ^{wooden} ~~wooden~~ frame containing the dark bread for the crew,
& opposite a box with our bread. The crew, some of them, lounge on this
part of the upper deck, & a broad sort of shelf runs round the deck &
low the windows which they use to pass along by, so a pair of black legs
& a black or blue skirt passing by our windows are no uncommon sight.
Our crew is of 10 men with our stately Capt. or Davis, a man & steer, such a
good-natured, pleasant face, & a black boy whose thin coat, calico shirt, & tiny
smallest, to the end of that immense yard, whence flows our beautiful
streamer, 45 ft. long. The ibis (every body admires it, little Kate) hangs at the
top of the other yard, & the American flag from the hind mast. On the
Andrie is the streamer Charles had on the Nile before, Lapin's flag.
a Maltese cross, & also an Am. flag. For our own especial service we have
a cook in a turban & red clippers, an assistant cook, & wonderful it is what
is produced from that very small kitchen! For an admirable cook he is,
& you must open your eyes at our table of fare. Then Lapin, the shipman,
who sleeps however on the other boat, Lorenzo a tall Greek or Maltese, in
European dress except always a red fez, & his head waiter & chamber-

of that in my water-proof cloth, packed with underclothes,
& with the square basket box & carpet-bags we got on -
Thursday was cold, with a strong wind dead ahead,
& we decided not to try to start. We had but little sun
shine in Cairo & it was cool, really cold, in some of the
Dr. Gray & Olivia & Georgie Schuyler went to breakfast in
the Howland's boat (they went aboard on Wednesday, &
delayed sailing to join us) & came back with magnificent
accounts of such a breakfast, Charles Hale was one. But
Charles was very hoarse, so could not talk, & Dr. Gray took
his place. We had changed our parlour Thursday, &
on coming up from dinner found a new, fresh, coal fire!
It was really very comfortable! C. Hale called again, having
just come from the Howland's. So indeed the breakfast was
dinner, & they had only tea after it.

Friday we decided to go on board at any rate, & to
put out the trunks to be packed away at the Hotel, finished
bundles &c, which were loaded on two long, truck carts, one drawn
by a horse, the other by an ox, & departed in detachments. Dr.
Gray was to join Olivia & me, who went to do some shopping,
& had not been out since Tuesday, & we set off in a carriage
with a new runner in an old white gown, a little black &
dallest as interpreter & guide; a red fez, a common sack coat
over full of the drawers of dark blue, having a funny effect
on his short person. We finished our errands, went back

to the hotel & picked up Dr. Gray & bundles & boxes, & took us
away to the boat. We found them all busy unpacking & stowing
away, Charles arranging books &c. in the saloon, another officer
in their staterooms, Dr. Schuyler resting, & George on deck reading
the Arabian nights. I felt it worth, & great was the demand for
hammers & hobs & gunst & blacks. Lunch soon came in the cabin,
& Charles said Sapienza was charmed at our first meal being
so quiet & refreshment as lunch; for we put the matter both
whether French style, a cup of coffee & hot of bread early, & dinner a
la fourchette at 12, & dinner late, or English style, hearty breakfast
fast, lunch, fruit & bread, butter &c. dinner late, & adopted English
with hours also, breakfast 8 1/2, which generally means 7, as prayers
come first, lunch at 1, dinner at 2 o'clock so that we may be indeed
for sunset, & dusk means about 7 1/2 to 8. I put in, besides the
photo of a dahabieh or Nile boat, a round picture, that you may un-
derstand how we are stowed. A few steps down from the deck,
where live the crew, leads into the cabin, ^{thru'} a narrow passage dividing the
Schuyler's stateroom, & double door at each end, containing, where
the doors enter the saloon on the inside. Her saloon has a high cushioned
divan on each side. Three windows, as you see, a little in the middle
enlarged at meal times, a few chairs, book shelves at each end, &
looking places each side, ^{the door} leading into the passage to the stern, also cur-
tain, & as the windows, with a swollen stuff striped with
purple & drab & dash of buff, crimson, & green thrown in. Miss Schuyler
brought with her some very pretty oil-paintings of views from their home
on the Hudson, & a photo of Gen. Gray which adorn our walls, as also at

brother, Thomas Charles 1817, & some curious Japanese paintings of his,
& a photo of our house in Cambridge. The opera glasses & spy glass,
the pretty feathered hat of the young ladies, ^{hanging on the wall,} & some handkerchiefs, &
red stripes on white, & pieces of red muslin, extra and kind
covered with gay patch, &c. &c. make it look very home-like, it
is really wonderful with how much comfort so many people
are accommodated, how little crowding, & how easy we are, & spa-
cious of an Ep, when the Dr. moderate camp (the same pattern on
the voyage as at home!) lights our table, & some are reading, some talking,
some playing cards, bezique, solitaire, whist, or backgammon, & sing-
ing. The ladies' cabin, as you see, are not large, but live a good
deal of stow away room, & also over the bed, & in the corner over the
ward stand, which are cupboards & shelves, underneath, & behind the
door is a good hanging place; under the bed is held a large drawer, &
the rest a stow away place, taking in quite a sizable trunk. Dr.
Gray & I have a larger room, being in the stern, that is a rest deck
more room to stow about in, but less hanging-room; underneath our
beds is all drawer. The middle comes up in the stern & is cased on
each side, & that gives us two flat places for bags & chests, & the pa-
ces for Dr. Gray's plants, to me call it the herbaniun on one side, the drawer
the other, where he hangs ^{up} cloak & shawl against the bags & makes a
seat à la Turque. Her wash stand is against the middle case. We do
not think of chairs in the bed-rooms, but have camp-stools, if we choose.
The crew live chiefly on the deck in front, over which, at night, an awning
is spread, & a large stone pot holds their fire, over which the iron pot is
placed for their cooking. The kitchen for us, is in front of the mast, a

a grove of acacia & lycamore probably. And we came at
one place to a fine view of the pyramids of Ghizeh in the
distance, on the desert. For unless the river banks are high,
the desert hills, yellow in the sun shine or pink at sunset
to gray in shadow, are our side background east & west. The
Howlands had landed too, & after awhile we overtook them,
& sat down on the dry, cracked mud. To wait our boats slowly
pulled along. There came a little wind at noon, out. & kept
us across the river, & there we drew up at sunset. The next
morning was showery, but the clouds cleared, & we all had a long
walk again, coming to a village, partially sheltered by palm
trees, & camels coming down to the shore laden with stone; for
back on the East were hills of stone, sharp & broken, & in them
quarries still, & with the marks of where the old Egyptians
had stones for their great rocks thousands of years ago. The boats
took a rest at noon, & when they came up mother, Charles & I went
on to the Howlands' boat to call. Their little cabin is very prettily &
cozily fixed up, & we had coffee, served by a black servant in a white tunic,
in the loveliest little porcelain coffee cups, Turkish, with stand in-
stead of saucer. Dr. Gray, Olivia & George stowed off for the desert,
& came back after a hour or so, reporting wonderful sights. Then
they were tracked again, wind still ahead or calm, firing us per-
haps a breath at noon, but leaving the river like a lake at
sunset. The days slide away one does not know how, we read
a mile a day, get a walk when there is the chance, the three

[illegible]

over saloons; clowns being some pictures & arranged for effect, I made
a curtain for my wash stand, & Olivia began a skirt & side padlock.
Mr & Mrs Howland came over from their boat & made a pleasant
call. The museum party came back to lunch delighted with what
they had seen, & in the afternoon we all had to fetch Mrs Perce's
purchases, for George is the great shopper & one thing he was to get
was something for presents if wanted, up the river; their value may
be estimated, a dog's skin for 1/-! But he shows great bargains of
Porcelain cups, silk scarfs, shawls &c. &c. — Sunday we had
come together, Mr & Mrs Howland came, we had prayers read,
a chapter, hymns sung, & then one of Mr Church's sermons read,
which all liked. After lunch, & which the Howlands stayed, came
the first news that there seemed mind was to make a start, so
they hurried on their boat, the great sail was spread & we were ac-
tually under way! But the wind was faint & did not last long,
& our men had to take to poling & tracking. We had crossed to
the opposite side of the river, & they had to get us along the long
string of trading boats, & it was a curious sight to see them clamber
along the sides, over the loadings of beans, & down, chaff & wood, up the
bank, down again, & such shouts & cries & monotonous rail in chorus.
We got far enough to see the minarets of Cairo, the palaces of some
definitaries on the river bank, the arsenal, & the gleaming bayonet
over the wall of a regiment on Ep. parade, then a fine palace, & the end
of the island of Rhoda, which is covered with palaces & gardens. The palaces
are not magnificent, I must say on the inside, being only large edifices with
low windows, generally covered with lattice or screen blinds, looking as if nobody

would be there. The sunset came, we on the west bank, & the river side
before us pale & reflecting the soft light from the blue sky & faint
clouds above, palms feathering up against the sky, the eastern dunes
that lovely pink grey the distance. Later here, & the Citadel rising
up against the hills, with its tall, late minarets, clear & light
seem to have new meanings here, ^{dimly} birds are in use, there is
something softer, more beautiful in tone, that sets of everything.
The next morn. no wind, & the men had to track. It was very
like canal in the smooth motion, only for a line, 10 boats in line
& brown & white, with turbans, each a separate rope attached
to the long one that draws the boat, the rope passed in a loop over
the men's shoulders, so they draw like a horse's collar. And instead
of the even tow-path, that ^{appears} ~~is~~ on the shore, sometimes was
a long level place, sometimes up a steep bank, then wading as
march, then poling a shallow, or clambering round the boats
tied up against a village. Hard work it seems, & the more that
it was the beginning of Ramadan, & they must not eat from
3 A.M. to 1/2 an hour after sun-set. They were very diligent
the first day or two, but as after that, they had some very hard
work poling & pulling against the current, they take now
some broad & minor, perhaps ^{more} easy. — We went on shore for a bit
after breakfast, along the bank on the edge of the river, a narrow
road that runs the length, high or low as runs the land, but
always higher than the river fields, so serving as dyke at the
annual inundation. — We saw some lovely palm groves, more
sweet look than I had expected in the distance, for there was quite

a trumpet, & holding in the other hand an American flag. How much was Sapienza's handiwork. I cannot say, but he said something mysterious was going on all day. Then came oranges & bananas, pretty, Parisian, candied, fruits, juicy cakes, finger wraps, balmade, ~~divino~~ white almonds with them, pears. The fruits arranged with pretty, lace papers, & the pears & ham etc. with rosettes of colored paper. And all so delicate & nicely cooked! Our cook is a genius, & is estimated highly, for he gets 45 \$ to the trip. — After coffee & tea were served, we tried some French games. They must needs be quiet from the size of our room! We had each person write a question & a word, then draw from a hat, & put in your answer in poetry, then read you draw. Then we had 20 questions, & quite a puzzle over it. We drew up to the bank for the night about 9 o'clock, & then Mr. Woodland let off on shore, some pretty rocks, they were especially fine when they broke close over the river, & were reflected & then extinguished in the water. As we sat on deck looking at them, Mrs. H. expressed the general feeling that it seemed more like the 4th. of July than Christmas! — But we all voted it had been a pleasant day to be remembered —

Dec. 29
To day a fine wind again, so that we ran rapidly, indeed at noon it was almost too fresh; we were off early, the boats drew up to take gentlemen on for breakfast, & then the ladies went alone; but some accident, & her rising put her so far behind that not only did she not get up to the shore to wait for her, & so I got a walk. We were again while at dinner, & now the boats are gone for the night, &

meals take some time. The shore is a never ceasing panorama, for the road on either side is the great highway, & something is always passing, donkeys loaded, a camel, or a buffalo, a solitary figure stalling along against the light, a group of women, two children squatted on the bank, then villages, sometimes very pretty in the distance under palm trees, looking too matched when on the bank, to our fancy eyes, used to white paint & trim door yards. — But so many things seem to make me feel as if moving among Egyptian illustrations. You come in walking, upon a flock, first the heavy sheep & white, little lambs, then some black & partly-colored; mixed in at one side goats, long carib, & their pretty, soft graceful kids, & one thinks at once of separating the sheep & the goats. — Then shadows, the water hung up in baskets from one rock to the other, or sahliis, wheels with fans & worked by oxen, or a horse, or donkey, & sometimes steam. — The pyramids were ever coming in sight, & the citadel of Cairo with its late minarets we only bade good bye to on Thursday morn'g. — Then came the pyramids of Sakara & Dashour, one broadly stepped. — I advise you to get Mid Martinian or Lady Duff Gordon, or any book on Egypt, & follow our travels. — Wednesday I took only a short turn on land, but mother, Elina, Jennie & Charles went again for a desert walk, & came back reporting bedouins & camels etc. etc. — The generally go on deck when the sun-set, & I like to watch

the crew getting ready for their 8th meal - One takes a heap of the dark bread, now generally soaked in water, & each man has coffee ready, pipes are prepared, cigarettes made, & as soon as the sun is down some ten minutes, they smoke, no drink first, & then coffee, a ~~one~~ cup, & eat the bread - Later you see them in a circle round the great earthen pan all eating together porridge of lentils, of bread cooked over their fire ~~in~~ in each a pint earthen pot - Thursday we had some wind, & sailed fastly almost all day, one felt very glad to have the men ulinck, but the relief was not so great when we ran aground, as he did several times, & they must push us off by main strength, which cries & such a noise, & Thursday night was not so good for sleeping, for we ran aground & bumped & shook, & the men cried & shouted, & a sheep we had got & was behind floating in the little boat, bared for his abandoned home, & the chickens were head midnook moon light for mung. & the pigeons cooed for sympathy - So I for one was glad when we tied up to the shore about 1 o'clock for then our men began to prepare for their night's eating - Olivia was quite laid up all Thursday, rather overdone, so we had her to nurse -

Christmas day, Friday, would not seem like Xmas, in this soft air & bright sky, palm trees on shore, green mountains, & nothing in season! However we tried to get up some celebration, & found on our plates in the morn. some wonderful tropical things - There was a joy & my amazement when first the canvas curtain, which is dropped all round the cabins at night, was lifted in the

morning, & one could look out, but it soon ^{cleared} ~~refined~~, the wind freshened, the bachelors went on their boat, & away we flew - The day before they had to be on our boat all day, as ours is the fastest sailer of the three, so it was that better to fasten them to us with a rope, & let us tow them - The two lands had looked in as we were at breakfast & wish us many things, they had also received some wonderful sugar things, a cupid & a piper with poetry, & sent their thanks via rhyme of Egyptian hieroglyphics, they were to dine with us - The three boats kept in sight, but there was no communication all day, no landing for a walk, but we sat on deck, & stole & read, sewed & were busy, & it is astonishing how time slips away! The boats drew together at dinner time & rather the sea thence - & our visitors on board, & then away again, for the wind was so fresh we made a fine day's sail - For dinner was truly uncommon, Lapiega laid himself out - Soup, then a boiled turkey & caper sauce, boiled potatoes, pigeons with olives & mushrooms, beef-steak pie & croquette, chickens boned & stuffed with force meat, & cauliflower, roast force, fried potatoes & salad - Little radishes on the table cut in points - Then a famous plum pudding with burning brandy round it, a most delicious kind of steamed custard pudding, & a famous great column looking like a cake, but made of chopped almond candy, ornamented with silvered almonds & balls & white sugar ornaments, a wreath of these roses round the dish, 'tis to be dining in white sugar on the cake, & surrounded by a protegible figure of a woman with chips & chips



Gray, Jane Loring. 1868. "Gray, Jane Dec. 23, 1868 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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