

after dark, & in the night the Garuda got aground, & the ship
following ran into her, & had to turn Charles out of bed!
The Baron got aground too, & the doleful wail of the men in
concert, as they stood in the water trying to push off, lasted a
long time - He had strong head wind again, in the day, & so did
up at a native village, where all the tempting baskets & plates
of food were out for sale, & a deal of buying went on! - They tried
rowing again in the aft., but soon the river grew narrow, the
current rapid, & with a strong head wind the ship was com-
pletely unmanageable, & the men from the Baron & Garuda came to
help us pull up to shore, & heartily we were moved in! - It grew
calm in the night & they went on, & the next morning we tra-
velled at Hiddah - Mr. & Mrs. Bowland dined with us Tuesday.

Tuesday, Feb. 4th. was a lovely morning. & after breakfast Dr.
Gray & I went off together to explore the "sacred island" - Two of
our sailors ran to help me up the steep bank, & then we made
our way along the high ^{path} which formerly surrounded this whole
island, & of which a large portion was left, to the pretty hy-
pothetical temple, vulgarly called "Tharalhi's bed", of which you
have seen so many photographs & pictures - Hypothetical, means
without roof - Its great beauty is seen from the water, & every-
body is with that blue sky for a background, & a clump or
two of palms to make a harmony of colour & break the foreground.
It was curious to see inside that it was unfinished, one side
and the carved cornice, the wall below covered with sculpture &

P.O. 18th, 69

My dear Sue,

I thought at the end of 6 sheets it was as well
to stop & begin a new letter, so I left off at Sunday, Feb. 5th, just
reaching Kalabcheh, where there were two interesting temples
to see, one old one of the time of Ramesses, the other as late as
the Roman Emperors - Two iron chains were ripped up this time,
in the old temple, Rhyddel Palace, was some distance off, & a very
rough climb over heaps of stone - One would think from the
amount of fragments, it must have been a large & handsome
temple. Half Said & Abdallah of our crew took me, & lightened the
way up the hill with their "W. W. Lake" they say when pulling a rope,
etc! The little temple is approached by a passage way cut between
rocks, & is a small temple hollowed in the rock, consisting of the outer
hall supported by two Doric columns, a shrine on either side, & the sky-
line, or body of deity, all is covered with paintings of life size or larger, the
inner side, each side the doorway, Ramesses holding his captive by their hair,
in the rest, ^{he is} offering incense, ornament, etc. & different jobs - Some of them are
wonderfully fresh in colour, & the figures & expressions beautiful - In the
apartment, in Anubis, with her crook of ostrich plumes, suckling the king.
She is the goddess of domestic ties & purity, every peaceful & sweet it is
then Kneeph, the ram-headed god, the spirit of God, puts the sign of
life to the King's lips, & grasps him by the hand to welcome him, &
shows him with eternal life - Two still partly covered with mud &

plaster where the early Christians hacked over the old idolatry, which to them, the new ~~concepts~~, had become only the symbols of ignorance & unbelief - One can feel that they were right in wishing to hide from their eyes the symbols of superstition, & their Christianity meant something better - But still it is wonderful, when one sees the enormous amount of sculpture everywhere, how every temple wall - ceiling was covered, & found nothing of licentiousness or impurity, how the symbols, as signs, if understood, meant only what was pure & good - So different from the Greek & Roman mythology! The mind of the early Christians was generally a pure precursor, & one may thank them for it; not so much for their chipping of noses & breaking up heads, & hammering figures out of balls - This old temple was long & like the old of a carefully scored off the walls - The entrance passage is very interesting. On each side are carvings on the wall telling their story - The King, gigantic in his chariot, goes to fight a thick-lipped race, vanquishes them, the chief is wounded & carried away by his men, the king's son throws a dart in his head, & another runs to tell his mother, cooking under a tree in the woods - Then the unexpected king springs, strikes - their eyes, & feathers, a camelopard, lion apes, ibex, gold rings & darts in eyes, ebony elephants tusks, &c. &c. - The opposite side he fights another people, attacks them in a walled town & vanquishes them - The vanquished are brought in, &c. - From this little temple we were carried to the great temple of Kalabshah, a very large structure, but only the walls & some broken columns left, & the inside such a mass of ruins! Such huge stones one wondered they

ever could have been raised to form the roof, & did not wonder at the destruction caused by their fall, carrying down great portions of cornice, chipping the capitals of columns, & shattering others, & lying all together in such heaps & masses of ruins - It really seemed as if it must have been the work of an earthquake - Mr. Rosland compared us to flies crawling over lumps of sugar in a sugar bowl! It was too hard work & I did not venture far, but sat & looked at the painted sculptures still left. Can you believe it? There was so much difference in time between the little rock temple & this great temple built in the times of the Caesars, as between the Caesars & our time! And for beauty & simplicity of design, the early temple is far superior to the great temple, when show & ostentation was the prompting motive, & the old faith was gone - We found a school of the village children, close by the temple, they were all studying aloud from slates before them with the lesson written on them, & when I came back they were presenting the slates in turn, reciting to the schoolmaster, seated on a native bed-stead, as chair of honour - He snatched the slate indignantly from one of our party who ventured to take it, I suppose because it had a sentence of the Koran written upon it, & unbelievers must not touch that. - We were off before dark, & as to get down some rapids before daylight was gone - Only little rough places in a narrow passage between jagged rock islands, where the current was rapid - They rowed again

The temples at Philae were particularly dedicated to Isis,
+ commemorative of her death, ^{rejuvenation} symbolized annually by the
Nile's overflow, + the land rising out of the water in fresh life
+ vigor - Isis his wife seeks him, + born in their child - So
these subjects are occurring again & again - Isis was the judge
of the dead, + after they had passed first the earthly judge,
only on whose ascent could any body be buried, + then the 42
judges in the next world, they were admitted by Isis to her
only joy, + called *Bevidon*. The next morn. we had a
row round the island to see it from all sides, landing for a
short time on Biggeh, to get some idea of the huge structure
+ how it lay from a distance - In the afternoon I went up
once more, up ~~by~~ the arched Roman entrance, whereas
the great quay, over the mounds of the ancient, *Pagan* town,
+ then through side entrances to the little temple of Horus -
I explored a little, but sat none + looked, + then coming
through the Hypethral temple down again on to the beach,
+ to the boat, hoping to carry all away as a permanent memory.
It was a place of wonderful power + riches in its day, + had
its honours from many a monarch. - ~~Said~~ The others explored
all about, + sketched, + climbed - One could spend an im-
mense time there, if one only had the strength - And one longs
to make out where passages + doorways led, + what was the
use of sundry dark rooms - The story goes of a subterranean passage
under the river. And if the Pasha instead of spending his money on

or cuttings, even the remains of bright columns, + the other still ⁽²⁾
the rough stones in some places, for it was very evident they
were then + finished the stones after the wall was built, as
the French do now - It has been cleared out inside, so the
inside area is nearly smooth. One wishes they would pre-
sent farther ruin, for there is one byetime cracked or
ready to fall, half dilapidated - And one can see the ruin it will
bring in its fall, breaking certainly some of the beautiful cap-
itals of the columns below, + the cornices of the entrance door-
ways. Thence we made our way over mounds of rubbish
to the great temple - It is hopeless to try to describe *Philae*.
The great colonnade with its columns with varied capitals,
palm-leaves, lotus-buds, acos., which answered to the cloisters
of a cathedral, the great pylons, one cut through as a door-
way to a small temple, ^(Horus) on the side of the court into which
the first pylon leads, built outside an ancient doorway, contrast-
ing with its colour + work from the more modern; another
^{front} column opposite the Horus temple, ^{in front of} niches of apartments, ver-
hopes, then another huge pylon leading into a corridor? half
open, half-roofed, + 10 great columns, the tops finished with
painting instead of carving; + beyond the inner chambers, +
all covered with sculptures, in some places the columns still
quite bright - But there seems an endless number of courts +
columns, dark chambers + porches, little temples + porticoes -
One leading to a doorway that seems as if ^{it} were to the entrance

leading from the Nile, but when you reach the door way it seems only a perpendicular wall below, but it commands a fine view of the island of Baggah opposite, its wild rocks in all fantastic shapes, the two Roman columns & some few remnants of wall, all that is left of its temples - This portico was interesting too, from showing how the carvings were made on the walls - The red shalke squares drawn all over, in which the figures were marked out in certain proportions, according almost to the same rule - We could see the lines, ^{then} the figures drawn, the carving not half finished - Then we climbed the long flight of stairs to the roof, descended again to a little room built up, containing the death & embalmings of Rameses, & his judgement, - or rather reception in the heavenly regions after death - It seems very probable it was used for the embalming, which was done by the priests - It was inhabited by an English gentleman & his wife, who was staying there for his health, & ^{old} ~~summer~~ the beds & wash-stand, & looking-glasses & beer-bottle looked in the Rameses & interesting room - I did not climb to the top of the great pylon, though most of our party did, there being staircases & little rooms on the inside - The outside as well as inside is covered with carving, though not the finish & quantity of the inner rooms. But outside on the great pylon, was the huge figure of the king holding about a 100 prisoners by the hair, & immense figures of certain gods & goddesses - The early Christians had pecked

most of them all over, but some were left, none could still tell the devices of almost all - But the style of the carving ^(Thule) - the figures are, not so fine, as in the earlier temples - These were of the time of the Ptolemies - What was curious was, that often some colonnade or porch or temple seemed to be built to command some great quay, & some grand flight of steps leading up from the water - But the steps are not there - Instead they are in a narrow passage at one side, so that the impression is given very strongly that it was a fortress, & every flight of steps is arranged as to be defended from attack - I wish you could read some book on Egypt with my letters, for of course there are a thousand details I can't put in, & I think each would gain in interest - Miss Martineau is our great stand by, & Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians - As yet, dear Luc, from Charles' books in Mr. Vernon Place, his copy, I am sure you will find it very interesting, if only to look at the plates - We have here only the small copy which does not go into the Egyptian religion, which is too complex & bewildering to get more than a general idea of which does not seem to be fully made out even yet - Each new discovery makes many corrections necessary - But the manners, customs, &c. are exceedingly interesting, & to us indispensable to understand - But the most charmingly descriptive is the short introduction in Stanley's "Sinai & Palestine", one only wishes he had written more! -

as Georgie said: For we were still in the midst of rocks & currents -
The storm was before us, & sped out of sight. Then & then, the wind
went down in her. And when at length we came rowing up the
slopes, they greeted us with a salute, & our own crew, as we came on
our boat, must all shake hands, & "Tis! Tis! Tis! Tis!" "Good, very good,"
& "Salam" rounded all around - Meantime the wind had risen,
& the rain, who were also to take the wind down, having come in
the air all the way & down, could not get back in time; for the
boat can only come when there is no wind & make steering difficult.
So, to our regret, we must stay all day & wait for the next morning. But
the family amused themselves with shopping - British feathers & eggs,
baskets & straw platters, Indian knives & spears, &c. &c. It was a fine day
day to those who wished to sell! Meantime the Heron went on. He
was very sorry to part, but it was not time to them. Depend the day
there, & we hope to see them again later - We had one dinner
^{early had a second breakfast on coming for some time & so forth,}
earlier, so Charles & George were to go back to the Heron & sleep & come
down in her the next morning. - And after dinner, Brother, Georgie, Dr.
Gay & myself went to call on Lady Duff Gordon, introduced by
Sapienza. - She was very pleasant & interesting, gave us very pitiful
accounts of the oppression & suffering of the people, who are taxed to
the very uttermost. - But she is very fair & agreeable, quite free in contempla-
tion. - She said the season was most unusually cold, & the Nile lower
than it had been recorded for 100 years! That makes great misery, as
parts of the land must remain uncultivated, & the raising the water
for irrigation, so much more laborious. - He could all thank her heartily
for his book. - It is charmingly interesting now. -

French actresses & idle shows, would only clear off the heap of
outlets, & lay the courts & chambers bare, & the ground about,
so that it might have a piece settling for its magnificent
ruins, he might ^{have} come permanent, patitide with
himself. - He sailed at sunset the short way down to Mar-
hetta, the little village at the head of the Rapids, that we might
be ready to start by sunrise next morning, & take advantage of the
calm; for the wind does not generally rise until an hour after
sunrise, & falls at sunset, though often most uncomfortably strong
through the day. - That sunset sail was lovely! The beautiful
hypothetic temple, so exquisitely beautiful from the water, stood
out against the soft sky, the palms making a peaceful tinge at
this side, & as we sailed round "the beautiful Isle," passed the
Roman arches & the modern wall, the grand pyramids -
masses of building rising to sea, short in each side by the wild
towering rocks, which gave you a sense of huge temples, strong
massive steps, without any help of human standing, the
placid river, the palm trees skirting the base of the distant Nu-
bian hills, & the sky of every soft, brilliant, beautiful color, &
each turn & change only something fresh & admirable, it was
such a pleasure as we have not often have, & left a memory of
beauty & grandeur continued, that we will long remember! -
I got too, a new idea of the effect of the outside painting of
these ancient Egyptian buildings; it is one great contrast to all
the effect of buildings of any kind at home, that these phantoms



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Feb. 18, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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