

of one great Court, & only count they left, & a deal of
mischief they did in knocking holes &c.; & all around
were mounds of crude brick ruins. The temple has
beautiful Courts & Columns left, & a great deal of the
beautiful colour, enough to give one a very vivid
idea of its beauty, the effect of an exquisite enamel.
A white ground & lovely blue, bright red & yellow &
green - In one corridor part of the roofing was ~~lost~~
away, & against the deep, beautiful blue sky came
in contrast the stone roofing, colored blue & covered
with stars, & it was wonderful how much alike the
two blues were! There were grand Egyptian Columns
round the corridors & in some of the court-yards, &
they had bright bands of colour left. Everything, bays,
columns, cornices, covered with sculptures, stories,
hieroglyphics, cartouches, - some cut wonderfully, some
6 inches deep! I wonder whether plain interior &
simple columns will look bare & bare on leaving E-
gypt. On the walls are Remeses' fights & victories, the
fights are generally very confused, owing to the utter
want of perspective, the processions of victories & the
Coronation are more easily made out. While we were
exploring & admiring, lunch was laid in one corridor,
a rug spread over a rough set of stones laid as table, &
then rather luxurious lunches we have, cold meat, & &c.

On the Nile below Keneh -
Feb. 28th - '89 - & on
to March 10th -

My dear Luc.

Dr. Gray kindly wrote my journal
for me, so I was very tired after Elford, & was sure
was it should be finished up before reaching
Thebes. He more two days longer than he expected
to be, being kept back by very uncomfortable head
minds, especially the 10th, when we were tied all day
to a mud bank; had a walk on shore, where to be
sure, the wind was like trying them tossing in the boat,
& saw such a pretty little, wee donkey with its meena.
The wind went down after tea time, so we started
on & walked the next morn. at Thebes. I heard the
blowing off of steam about sun-rise, & looking out on hearing
steamers, saw a fine, handsome steamer, white & gold,
towing a handsome barge, another steamer towing a
barge laden with provisions, another white steamer,
& then another towing apparently, horses & donkeys on
another barge - The Prince & Princess of Wales & suite - so
that was all ~~about~~ we saw of Albert Edward. He saw
some feeble little preparations to receive him at Beni,
half pathetic from their rudeness & simplicity, & the
ridiculous effect they must have had & people used as

they are so much magnificence & thoroughness—
Some of our party saw ~~them~~ sweeping the streets of
Cord—A row of children brushing the ground & sweep-
ing the dirt with their hands! A man driving them
with a whip—They saw also some children who had
been at work all day next to unloading a coal barge, &
who had not finished, all driven down with the hold
at night & shut down there. Charles went over with
Antonia to see about it, & by their interference the
poor things got something to drink ^(water)—For food, they
must depend on themselves or their friends. The
Ficerooy Competition any labourers he may want from
any he can lay hands on, they get no pay, as cash man
must work 3 months in the year for government, &
feed, clothe & keep himself!—It makes me very indig-
nant to see the oppression of the people, & one can
do nothing!—The Prince has no doubt been unconcerned
by the cause of a deal of extra mining—For the poor
people themselves, never get the pay or the presents—
We enjoyed getting our letters Friday morn., & were
all busy reading—Except poor Phoebe, by some mis-
take there were no letters for her—It is four months
since she has heard from home! I was surprised to hear
again though, hearing of Lizzie & Augustus sick, & still
we must wait some time for letters—One gets very
impetuous at times—

Friday aft. some went over to Karnak, & Saturday we
began the business of sight-seeing—We rowed across
the river & found donkeys waiting—The river is so
low we had a long sand-bank to cross, before reaching
the real river bank, but when we at last mounted
it & went on a little way, "the fair" began to rise to
view—It is very useless trying to describe them, one
must see these huge masses in the midst of the
great green plain, the yellow mountains on the back
ground, sitting there in grand, massive repose,
to understand their grand majesty—They are very
much ruined, the outlines very rough & ragged, &
yet still they came quite up to all my expecta-
tions of grandeur—They are quite alone, apparently
without connection with anything else—We stop-
ped to see them, & by the help of a rope ladder, Charles
& George climbed with some of the natives into the
top of Memnon, & struck the stone, which gave a
very metallic sound—12 of us sat & rested in the
shade of the other, some lying on a rug, some sitting,
& donkeys in the outskirts—A good many ladies too,
clambered up the pedestal to read the inscriptions,
Greek & Roman, left in modern ancient times—
Then we took up the line of March to Medinet Har-
boo—A temple palace built by one of the great Ptole-
mies—The early Christians built a church in the centre

most interesting thing there was the enormous statue of
granite, shivered ^{offering} on the inner Court-yard, 80 ft high it
reigned! One solid block! How do you suppose those
ancient men ever cut out such a mass at Acornan, &
then got it all the way there? I rode round it on my
donkey, & Dr. Gray climbed up the mighty mass & stood
where its face had been, for the Arabs have cut it away
for mill-stones. A black granite head of another Colossus
stood on the ground not far off; it looked funny, though
its head was nearly half as high as a man - It was a good
day's work, & we were all tired even when we rowed back
to our boat. Sunday we had service, & some balked
over the temple of Dender - Monday they were at a fete -
cross the river again, & see some excavations making for
a saciphagus in an old tomb, for the Prince of Wales, & see
which the Consul, Mustapha Aga, had invited them on -
calling the Op. before - Then see tombs & tombs - I stayed
quietly at home - Charles & Dr. Gray dined with Mr. Eaton &
Col. Lege, & word was brought in the Op, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, our
fellows-passengers in the City of Paris, had arrived - Dr. Gray
left the dinner (Mr. & Mrs. Woodland were then) to go &
call on them, & then went back & they had singing with
guitars, a very pleasant time - Meantime Mr. Smith,
an American living for some years at Dender, studying
antiquities, called - I was sorry for the poor folks at

niches, bread, biscuits, cake, oranges, figs, dates, Candies,
cold tea, beer, &c. - Then the Worm has a servant, &
one of our waiters, & two or three sailors, & Mrs. Brown
lands man-servant - Imagine our Cavalcade! One
of us, & every donkey has its donkey-boy, one was of
the advanced age of P! Another 6 years old! Then our
waiter Angelo bestrides a donkey, & two carry the
lunch, one ^{for} the Worm & one for the Shi, the sailors carry
great stores, & sundry natives attack themselves, display-
ing mummy heads & hands & feet, mummied Shi,
Serake, & cat, a lot of a mummy case, mummy cloth,
the beads they were ornamented with, scarabaei,
little clay figures, &c. &c. It was sad & pathetic to
me to see these poor hands & feet & heads carelessly
offered for sale, & think how carefully they had been
prepared & laid away, apparently so safely, these 3,000
years ago, & be dragged out & chattered over, for these
strangers of today to carry home as curiosities - One little
child's foot was offered us! - My donkey-boy tried to
speak English, which generally consists in praising
themselves & their donkeys, "good donkey," "passage
good boy," "very good donkey," &c. &c. but one does try to
speak the language & understand it! - Only think tho'
how they trudge all day on their bare feet, clucking &
chirruping to the donkey, & laying on too with a stick,

unless you say 'la'la', (no, no.) Some ~~to~~ carry a camp stool or four stools all the way. And the children attend to carry the "goshes" or water-bottles, which being pious, bring the water delightfully cool. And at night they all cry for "bachsheesh," but are satisfied with a few coppers from each, say about 5cts.

But the patient, good, little donkeys! Imagine me with the handsome, gimped saddle-bags containing the lunch placed across, on that a large Persian rug, perhaps two, & a pair or so of camp stools, & then most likely a waiter or the donkey boy perched on top! And the little feet trudging along the rough road, winding up & down in & out, & the meek head always bending so quietly in front - Good, little donkeys!

After lunch we have a rest, lie down on the rug, or sit luxuriously; Charles' army chair comes in play. The more energetic explore - Then we all mount again. Adjoining the temple, are the ruins of the Palace Pavilion where the King lived. We were very much disappointed to find it quite so ruinous, as the accounts had led us to look for wonderful pictures of the King & his wives playing draughts, &c. &c. Mysterious walls, whose purpose we could not ^{trace} ~~make out~~, & one tower like building none at all we could make out. We climbed up into the first floor of the tower, found two doorways on two

sides, large, handsome mud-brick paintings on the two others, some vestiges of carving & colour, the holes where the shutters & lattices had played, & on the story above, the floor gone, could see at the side of the corresponding window, the King on his throne & chucking one of his ladies, who stands in front of him, under the eaves. But that was all we could make out - the view however was beautiful, especially of "the Plain," they looked so grand & large, sitting there in the plain so far away & yet so massive! We found in the town room, Mr. Elton & Col. Legge, the Englishmen, thinking they were at Thebes some days before us. From the Pavilion we took our way across the plain to the Ka-museum, a temple of Kamose very much admired for the beautiful columns left standing. The propylons are ruined, one wonders at the immense masses of stone, the court yards are just over. Left standing to trace the former boundaries, the hall of columns has some beautiful pillars, almost all standing, & sundry chambers behind, but almost entirely covered, & side walls all gone, so we can ride our donkey through anywhere. Some curious carvings, the walls of the outer part covered with Kamose's fights & victories, & on one of the back chambers the King's name being inscribed on the tree of life by Thoth & some other deities. But to see the

robes & white turbans. We gathered quite a party, one I took the
3 Englishmen (very gentlemanly pleasant men, who rather Arabic) &
the 3 Scotch ladies, ^{being near} were invited. Then on a rug at one side were
Mustapha the Consul, a little, thin, dark Arab with gray whiskers,
Sheikh Abdallah, of whom more later, the Governor of the district, a
great fat Turk, & that lovely Arab gentleman, Sheikh Yusuf, of
whom Lady Tuff Gordon says so much. The cups were on a
folding table at one side, the kettle boiling over a charcoal pan
off in a corner, superintended by several Turkish. Some of us
sat on the rug, some sat on campstools around, & it was
about the most charming picturesque tea I ever assisted at! -
Then we took different positions, & the Bengal lights & Persian
candles, red, blue, white, were lit off in various places, making strange
& fascinating effects. George burnt some magnesian wire which
lingered out almost like day-light, & then there were the
beautiful rockets, always so brilliant & charming to me, & the
strange, wild groups about us. Lighted up now & then. One of course
all the neighborhood had gathered. After awhile we separated,
Mr. Howland (who is an invalid) & I go back to the boats, & the
rest, where do you think? To a supper with Sheikh Abdallah,
Sheikh of Basrah, where they were entertained in an immense
court-yard, squatted round the tables, eat with their fingers or
one upon 11 different courses, smitten, rice, chicken, had
native music, & then dancing girls; just think what fun!
The Englishmen went, indeed the feast was first made

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ready so tired with the long days of expedition, & I had
a cold and felt very dull & miserable, & he stayed
until Mr. Todd us many interesting things about hiero-
glyphics & antiquities, but I am afraid some of his
audience went to sleep! - The next morning, it was
decided to drop the boats down to Basrah. But perhaps
your geography of Shihab is as vague as mine was, & you may
like some account of the lay of the land. Well, the whole
large plain, both sides the river, is called Shihab, & for names
I take rather the modern ones, I suppose. The modern village
is called Lurpur, & is on the E. side, there is an old temple
here, grand & large, but so built up with great houses that there
is no pleasure or beauty in it. I only saw it when we stopped
going up. About 3 miles off, lies in the same plain, Marash,
the grandest building probably ever erected. The W. side
the river was called in ancient times the Babylon suburb.
The mountains forming its desert boundary is where all
the tombs are excavated, & on the plain between them
& the river, an extent of some miles each way, lie various
temples and palaces, each called now by a modern Arabic
name. The main dwelling part of the city was supposed to
have formerly been on this side, but of course all traces
of private houses, except of ruined mansions, has disappeared.
The chief of all the expeditions are on the W. side, & dropping

the entrance ^{fallen} of a tomb, & show me a picture of the rejected
and driven back to earth, in the form of a pig in a boat,
driven by a monkey! Then Dr. Jay, the Schuylers, George
& the Englishmen with guide & sailor went up over the
hills on foot, the donkeys following. & got the fine view of
the plain, & a short cut to the river below; we wound our
way back, the ride seeming even more impressive &
grand than in the morning, the picturesque hills glowing
with sun-set colour, & gradually the green plain open-
ing to view, & across the river Karnak & Luxor showing
out, & then the moon growing silvery bright, as my little
donkey ^{boy} tried to teach me the Arabic name, & the river
glittering with its rays, as we rowed back to the boat, look-
ing cheerful with its bright light in the cabin & the
men's fire for supper. There were quantities of American
& English boats come in to Luxor, Antonio told us next day
all the dahabeeks we had met above the Cataracts, had
come down. There were Russian, French, Swiss, The
French boat next us at Luxor, & fancy belonged to the poor
little man photographing at Edfu. He most innocently
kept crying his picture, & when George asked him if he had
hurt it, & expressed regret, he answered "Oh, madame! le vie
cest pour souffrir!" - There were two American boats, & Mrs. Smith,
son, daughter & Miss Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Scott & daughter, all from
New York, the deacons were with Mr. & Mrs. ^{Henry} Mather of Boston, & an

for them, but you must ask Dr. Brothup to let you see. ¹⁴ Oswald's
journal giving an account of it - for of course mine is all heavenly
& they were all so pleased! Mr. Howland & I had a lovely moon-
light ride to our boats, the palms looked like silver feathers,
the mountains so yellow & the sky so blue! And the air was most
expressively soft & warm & still! I went to bed at once, to be ready
next morning for the tomb of the Kings - the others did not get
home until 11 - Fortunately the next day was cooler, & we
were up early & across the river to find our donkeys
& be off for the "valley of the Kings." - I have found donkeys riding
much easier since I have used my cushion in my saddle, &
my camp stool for every where with me. We had a long ride over
the sand, the river is so low, & we had to be carried a little
way from the boat to shore by the sailors; you would be a-
mused to see how easily they pick us up & carry us ashore.
Then when we had fairly mounted the river bank, we wound
along by cotton fields, lettuce, tobacco, &c., & saw the Cair sitting
proudly in the distance. At length we reached the bare,
rocky hills, all honey-combed with openings of tombs, &
turned into a sharp valley, which wound away between
whitish mountains, bare & yellow in the sun-shine - Never
& signs of human use, all tombs ^{even} left behind, & desolate, no
life, & those golden, copper mountains against the blue, blue
sky. & over them was sailing round & round, an enormous
bird with ^{many} outspread, the wings most sharply marked.

white & black bordered, sparsely as if the winged globe,
the Agathademon, which is over every temple gate &
chapel were visibly embodied to our eyes. - The wound
along the valley floor for two miles at least. The ascent
so very gradual, we did not seem to mount at all -
But on deep among the hills, we came at last to some
cuttings, the entrances of the Kings tombs - One could not
but be struck by the idea of these old monarchs coming

so far away to this desolate spot, to dig out these immense
paves, made or elaborate with carving & painting, & then
sealed up & hid away, so that no man, they thought, might
find them - And I could not but picture as we wound
along, the solemn grand processions, filing along with
all the show they so loved, the earthly judgement ^{process} ~~process~~
which must have been a solemn trial & anticipate,
& for the friends - We went first into the tomb discovered
by Belzoni - It descends a long way into the ground, with
steps & galleries & rooms & passages, & all the surfaces are
covered with paintings - But it needs a profounder
Egyptian scholar than I am to understand what all the
wonderful snakes mean - Snakes like bees supporting
mummies, carried on men's heads in wonderful poses,
or carrying men or heads, snakes with wings & feet & human
heads, every fearful form you can imagine. It is
my chief impression of the tomb, though I know there have
been other things - The air was very close, & I was glad to get out

into the air again - It was the tomb of Sethe I st, the father
of Ramesses. There is some deep meaning to all this,
relating especially to the judgement after death - The
Englishmen had joined us by agreement, & we all lunch-
ed together in the entrance of another tomb - Then the
ladies were left to rest, & the gentlemen went to take
their - Then we explored the tomb of Ramesses III which
was to me more interesting, as the pictures were of every
day life more - There were a series of little rooms open-
ing out each side the main entrance, where it has been
supposed the King's chief attendants, ^{or, butler, stewards,} were buried, as
one room was of scenes from the kitchen, cooking of various
kinds, another arms, swords, spears &c, another fruits, &c, &c,
another furniture, chairs, so peaceful & rich, couches &
wooden pillows, baskets & vases & amors & basins, very
and especially two harpists, playing on harps of graceful shape & all other very
handsome things - Beyond were the larger rooms,
some snakes again, & many gods & goddesses, & the
effect of some magnificent red burnt was very fine.
But we don't succeed very well in burning it steadily.
Each of us had candles, but that only lights a small
area - The columns are high, but it gives one some
these most interesting monuments are being injured
by careless visitors - Bits scaled off, something interesting
cut out & carried away, of the square pillar left to support
but the roof, whole sides broken off, & so many things thus
are destroyed in sequence, a interest? Dr. Bray took me into

tombs - We wound off among the hill fords, amidst masses
of debris of the rock, to an opening in the midst of Arab
huts, & going in seemed to be in a native stable - But
lighting candles & beginning to see, we saw the whole walls
were painted with scenes from every day life, trades, am-
usements, occupations, &c. &c. - It was a long space, high,
& narrow, cut out of the rock, a straight passage running
in from the door, the side walls as you enter - In one of
these is a series of people of different countries bringing trib-
ute of various kinds, animals, ivory, cloth, gold & silver in va-
rious forms, women & children - It is quite a famous scene
down the other passage were series of trades - Brick-making,
carpenters, stone carvers, potters, &c. &c. &c. - Then the great
man in a boat in his pond, drawn about by servants on
the bank - On the opposite side parties, the ladies having
lotuses & wine & entertainment offered them, the gentlemen
the same, & most smelling at lotuses as hard as they
could - The figures are a foot high in rows running along,
& you may imagine the number of figures on a wall
some 12 or more feet high! They are painted on plaster,
much more delicately & nicely finished than in the
tombs of the Kings; though these are carved as well
as painted - But alas, they are somewhat faded, & in
many places defaced & picked away! We spent a long
time looking at them very carefully - Then we went

Englishmen, they carried joint Am. & Eng. flag. - They all came up
to Karnak the top of the illumination, but only just before we left.
As we only saw them a moment, so they were off early the next
morn'g. Perhaps we shall meet in Rome. - Thursday the 21st,
Dr. Gray was up & off early, & breakfast with the Howlands, & across the
river with them to visit the excavations & some new things. The
young ladies went up to Karnak to lunch there, & were joined later by
Mr. Amory & George. Charles went to dinner with Bulmer, & back on his
Smith, & Mustapha the Consul, & Mr. Inglethorpe & Miss Wether-
Mustapha on our boat - Frederick & I had a quiet morn'g by ourselves,
& after lunch took drinks, & for first once a temple whose ruins lie
between Luxor & Karnak, & chiefly interesting for the great number
of black, granite statues of the goddess Pacht, with a lioness' head,
beautifully polished, & sitting shoulder to shoulder round
two large enclosures - Some ruined, some gone, some fallen,
some still sitting quiet there - Then we went to Karnak from
the boat, saw the remains of the avenues of sphinxes all
the way from this temple to Karnak, the other grand
avenue leading from Karnak to Luxor, & one running
at right angles with it. One fine ram-headed sphinx was
left, & nearly entirely whole, but of most only the bases. Think
what a magnificent avenue it must have been! We entered
the temple through sundry pylons & piers-pylons one after the
other, the one of Ptolemy the Great very perfect; clambered about
the ruins a little, met the photographer who took our boat at

Assman, found some of our party, & then mother & I chiefly took
notice of the Hall of Columns, where I wandered about & rested,
& looked at it from various heights, & found bits of bright colour, es-
pecially the head of one king beautifully bright, just peering above
a mound of rubbish, blue enamel necklaces, helmet, bracelets -
There was a very high north wind, & the dust was very un-
comfortable, so mother & I went back early. Besides we were
expecting company to dinner - And I wish I could give you
some of that most graceful & charming, lovely & child-like
Arab gentleman, Sheikh Ghoruf - He is a dark ~~as~~ negro
with us, & yet I don't think anyone thought of his colour. His
features are very handsome, soft & rounded outlines, & the sweet-
est smile & most fascinating, merry laugh! Said, the Consul
says he came with him instead of the Consul, has much more
refined features - Ghoruf was dressed in full Arab costume, bare feet
in slippers, long dark robe & silk undercoat, white turban - He
was a little nervous when we sat down to dinner, mother told
him to eat Arab fashion, as he looked frightened at his knife
& fork, & what does sweet, fascinating little mother do herself, but
begin, in the prettiest way, to eat her dinner herself with
her fingers, & so eat all through - Of course he was very
much more at his ease, & through Said, who talks very good
English, we had a good deal of pleasant, merry talk - Antonio
came out strong too, said pleasant things, interpreted readily,
brought water to wash his hands after dinner, had a
bath of sweet soap for dinner & late the place of mine, served

coffee, &c. Dr. Gray has quite a name & reputation as Hakim -
And they made some fun that only what he permitted
should be eaten - The Howlands came in to tea, & the
Sheikh chanted a little for us, the first chapter of the
Koran, & as Said said very simply after it, he had said
a little prayer for us all, that we might return safely
to our friends & our homes. Then he gave us the muez-
zin call from the minaret - Then our ladies sang to
him, some hymns in fact, first & second & Mr. H. sang.
They seemed to enjoy it, though it must sound strange
to them, as the Arabs always sing only the melody -
Then Ghoruf wrote our names in Arabic for us each,
you must see how handsome they are! He is a very
learned man & accomplished Arabic scholar. When
he went away he gave him some money for the fun
of dinner. He is the Imam (priest) there. It was not
And he asked leave to show us, & early in Arabic. Having as we stood up -
Howlands idea, for she is the leader in all good things.
The next morning, ^{we} rose up early again & across the
river, & divided into separate parties - George & Mr. Amey
went early to go again to the tombs of the Kings; the rest of
us later across the river & our old route to the temple of
Koomuk, - chiefly interesting, as I thought, for the columns
like bundles of reeds - Then mother, Maria, George & Charles
& Medomet Baber, Louisa with a sailor as attendant
& sketched the Pair - Dr. Gray & I with the guide & Hassan
Shamrance one of our sailors & see too of the most interesting

had ordered some of the delicious dates, wonderfully nice they
are! We had services, & towards sunset a Nile boat in
shore, as the rain stopped. Sweet! Such a lovely field of barley.
George went on the horse & dine, & in the eve. Tom Howland
brings his book in the boat, with a lantern, & Baled in boat
Ours! Two sheep are kept in their little boat, so wherever they go
the sheep go too! Most picturesque effect! - Monday Off but
we had great fun during the 60th little days; ^{as we had}
on Wednesday, ^{as we had} must day was another expedition to Abydos,
those who went before wanted to go again, & so many had not
been wanted to go. Tom Howland was to stay, & did not attempt
it, & he came to pass the morn. with me, while the boat dropped
down & up, where the party were to come back to - George
did not go either, as she was not well that morn. - They all came
back at sun set, delighted with the ride through fresh Egypt, &
the temple - Dr. Fay says I had a good idea of the country from
the small tomb & dayr el Bahree, at Thebes - It was 17 miles in
donkey back! - They had a joy, full day, & we had a little sprinkling
of rain - Wednesday was one of the loveliest days we have had
on the Nile or Cairo & I don't mind, almost the first time we
could sail, & the little birds about the deck in clouds! The birds
are beautiful & abundant again, reaching Egypt - We came up to
Veint at breakfast Thursday morn. the 4th of March, found
Col. Leff's boat just in front of us - We were all soon mounted &
off on the most spirited donkeys we have had in Egypt & some
other donkey boys, from the speed they kept us at. So we went

to a small tomb used also by the Arabs, where we had
to crawl in, & could not stand in a large part of it -
It is not large, but covered with beautiful carvings;
one judges it must be old, because all the earlier carv-
ings are more perfect & delicate. There are some pretty
scenes of ploughing, cattle, bringing furniture, &c. &c. Some
scenes of gods & goddesses, & some very fine heads, one es-
pecially of a king, ^{summarized} seated on a very elaborate arm chair,
unfortunately all the lower part buried in rubbish. The
tomb is very much filled up, & the statues, apparently of
the owner & his wife, much broken - There is no sign to tell
whose it was. - It was funny to see Hassan a little inter-
ested at first, but soon tired, & seem to wonder what we
could see! - Then we went to the Museum, & met
the others for lunch - The wind still held, & we could
find no place where we were sheltered from wind &
shaded from sun too, I got rather restless trying to rest, the
more as I had a bad cold - After awhile they came, having
picked up Louisa on the way - After lunch mother, Oliver,
& I took refuge under the huge shoulder of the fallen giant
as the most sheltered place, so we were the only large
ones. Then we started again, Mr. Amory & George appearing
in the distance to join us, & while they all went to ex-
amine one of the largest of all the tombs, that of a priest
of enormous extent, Dr. Fay & I went on to Dayr el Bahree.

all the ground is hollow with tombs, ^{excavated before} & has been dug all over
with little pits to find them, so only donkeys could find
their way so securely & safely. The temple is very beau-
tifully situated, The front was built out with fine ap-
proaches of avenue of sphinxes, of which only scale of stone mark-
ing the site remain, then a long covered passage way, two
rows, colonnades, only the traces left, then a temple cut into
the rock, & above on the hill-side, sundry more chambers
or, cut. The valley leads up to the face of rock, & opening out,
we catch a lovely glimpse of beautiful green plain, palm trees
& river, & the distant Arabian hills. The temple has only re-
cently had great mounds of rubbish cleared away, & there is
a deal of very beautiful carving & color left. Some curious
things inside the little temple, a Doric column, Attic an-
teped the form of a cow; but the great beauty & interest was in
the terraced colonnade. Here were ships of war & processions of
a grand triumph, the soldiers of various kinds, the king's throne
carried in a boat, &c. &c. On another part were ships evidently
for war, with large square sails furled, reinforced, planked
& men carrying ^{trials in baskets between the masts} various things on board, monkeys on the yards,
men furling the sails, provisions hung up just as our men
putting are now; a row, painted below & fishes, boats of every
sort & kind, capitably done, fruit trees, granaries, cattle driven
& stopping to browse, ^{or water} produce in immense heaps, gold, cotton,
cloth, nothing sold in immense scales. So many charming
scenes, the colors so fresh & beautiful! How impossible to believe

it is all so many 1000 years old! The did not stay so late as
the others, for my cold was troublesome, so Dr. Gray & I took
our way to the boat, & getting there, before we were off, another
& Mr. Amory came up. The others were not very late
behind, & the wind having gone down, we had the hope
of getting off. While we were at dinner the son of Shykh
Abdallah, Achmed, a youth of about 18 came in, I think
as I suppose, for a fine hunting knife. Charles had sent
as a present to the Shykh. He could not speak a word
of English, there was not much to say. The Shykh
were not satisfied with all the day's fatigue, & slipped
off, without saying a word to anyone, taking Antonio with
them, Dec. Karnak by moonlight, as it was full moon.
When they came back at 10 o'clock, the three boats
started, & we made some progress for the sailors row
as much at night as by day going down the river, espe-
cially if there be moonlight, & one thing is that the wind
almost always goes down at night. Saturday was very
much given up by me to cleaning up, for Egypt is a
mighty dusty country! Just imagine where it never rains,
& people live in mud huts, & everything decays slowly but
surely. Your clothes seem so full of dust after these expedi-
tions, scrambling to into tombs & temples, it seems as if one
would never be free of it! And with these high winds
the air gets filled. Saturday was not much progress
but Sunday much, first we to Karnak, & pick up our baggage &c.

any we had seen in the bazaar, marked on board for
the gentlemen". They had added as a plea for our stay-
ing to celebrate the 4th. of March. - So Mr. H. gave them
some fire-works, packed them to send them off for us.
The Howlands came on board to dinner (we had sailed
at 2 unfortunately losing our fine wind soon) & we made
as much as we could of the day. At dinner Charles gave
the toast "Grant!" & Mr. Howland responded "Grant!"
Don't you think they were both fine speeches! - Then
we had tea on deck, & Mr. H. sent off rockets & Bengal
lights, very effective & fine, reflected in the water.

About 10 we reached the crocodile pit of Amadi, Dr.
Gray & Charles had proposed going in the night, as the pits
can only be explored with lanterns; but the guides were
afraid to go after dark, so they gave them up, & contented
themselves with a roll of little baby mummified
crocodiles, at a fabulous price I fancy, but at 10 at night.
The next day we were favored with a good wind, a
fine favor, & pressed on eager to reach Minich & more
news, for our letters had been ordered there. We stopped
at Beni Haasan for the Schuyler to visit the tombs,
& the wind went down, so we did not get into Minich
until the next morn'g. When to our great disappointment
there were no letters! - We must wait a day or so before
reaching I close this long long account with love to
all - from your ever aff. slave -

part the Governor's house on the bank, his highness walking before ⁽⁷⁾
in a fur lined robe, scampering along a raised, high way, en-
closed with shrub bushes in view, pomegranates & figs bare
of leaves, almonds in blossom in the back-ground, palm-trees in
flourishing gardens, through a corner of the town where people
were busy in shops or smoking the pipe of quietude, out again
over the high causeway, through green fields of grain, dromedaries,
their foals so innocent & downy looking, beautiful cattle, ugly
buffaloes, fine camels, tents, & horses grazing about them, green
fields again, then a canal & a stone arched bridge over it, plainly
not for wheeled vehicles, from the steps down to road again, & then
turning shortly, as we reached the desert mountain boundary,
we were up a very steep hill to a level, where opened the mountains
^{The very interesting thing its ceiling, with Persian squares & various tracery,}
of a huge cavern tomb, but our great interest was the view, the
ocean of green of various shades spread beneath us, the misty
morn'g making the distant mountains of shadowy outlines,
Mount looking pretty on our left, with 12 minarets & palm trees
sprawling in with the town. The bridge & passing people made
a nice fore-ground & the whole a charming view. It was my
luck at Egypt, for the river is so low I have seen only the
narrow banks, & have missed most of the walls &
the high views the others have got. This did look
like "the flesh-pots of Egypt". Then we descended
mother, Dr. Gray & I went first, as some had proposed
going even higher to the mountain top above us, where

one of the Englishmen who had passed us, had gone. We went to the Bazaar to meet Antonio & his red clay coffee cups, pipe bowls, &c. While there the Howlands passed on their way to the Consul's, & one of Charles Hale, whom they had invited to join them, was there. They found he had been, & gone back to a great ball in Cairo. Meanwhile the others had joined us, & Olivia getting tired, went back to the boat with Mrs. Baird. Dr. Fay, mother & I were following, when a donkey boy came after us, summoning us back. And we found the American Consul. (Who by the way is a very rich man) had requested we would all go to his home. We followed through side-streets, & coming through a sort of passage, suddenly found in a narrow street, & actually two carriages, each with two horses! Two superb donkeys, one white with crimson velvet saddle, the other same colour. Some young men in European dress, except the red fez, shirk hands, & being placed in the carriages &c. Some of these 'the narrow street, & stopping at a large house were ushered through courtyard & upstairs into a large saloon surrounded with dwarf osage, where we found the Howlands. They explained how that party, the Consul, wished us very much to stay ^{the} next day, that they had prepared a fine fantasia for us, & they did seem extremely disappointed when we said we

must hurry on. But the Howlands time is already up, & our days grow short, & besides we were very impatient for our letters. So we had to be firm in our refusal, though we were very sorry to seem so disinclined. There was the Consul's brother, & three sons from 20 to 15 little say. And a pleasant young man, Consul at Kenneh. They are Capt. & very nice people said the mission, any who came in to see us. He is supported by the ^{English} Presbyterians board in the United States, & gives a very encouraging account of his schools & work. The house was large, & the rooms had a velvet carpet, carved wooden ceiling, brocatelle furniture, magenta & gold colour, sofa & chairs from Paris, a very handsome clock & two rich porcelain French lamps on a pier table, & yet such a mixture of carelessness & rudeness! They gave us coffee & champagne, & we went down again to the carriage, & were driven to the boat, ^{the} they accompanying us on the donkeys. The first wheels, except a little cart in the morning, since leaving Cairo! - Then we were on the boat again, they retired & came back with a beautiful ostrich fan, & some lovely fly flaps with ivory handles, apologizing immensely that other things prepared were not ready! Mrs. H. had the same. And just as the boat was starting, some finer clay work turned



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Feb. 28, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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