

1895-6  
Suez  
Koussat.  
Athens



20

THE LIBRARY  
OF THE  
SOCIETIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF  
HELLENIC & ROMAN STUDIES.

50 BEDFORD SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C. 1.



1895

Suez et.

Mabel Virginia Anna Bent

13 Great Cumberland Place

London W

The Chronicle of my  
Thirteenth Journey

13.

Theodore & I left London on Monday Dec. 2<sup>d</sup> at 11. We had sleeping berths to Basle where we had to turn out at 6 on Tuesday morning. My berth was No 13.

At Basle we met Mr. Mr. Alfred Cholmley of Place Newton, Kellingham, Yorks. He had determined to accompany us & his wife meant to come with us as far as Cairo & return by the next steamer.

They had with them their cousin Mr. Croshaw. They had started



on Friday that they might take more time over the journey as Mr Cholmley could not travel fast. We slept at Milan & du Nord, very good & at St Danielli at Venice where we arrived abt. 3.30 having been in a dense fog from Milan & in this icy fog we remained till out at sea.

We sailed in the P & O Clyde at 10 of on Wed. morning & the first excitement was the discovery of smoke issuing from the locker where the dirty linen of the ship is stowed. It was soon put out with the hose.

After that we had the strange adventure of accidentally passing Brindisi by abt 10 miles. The attention of the officers on the

bridge was only called by meeting P & O Bullarat coming up from Australia, & mine by finding myself suddenly nearly blown away, awakened by the smash of a chair, to windward instead of to leeward. Theodore who came up from below could not make out how land got to the wrong side of the ship.

We went back & landed to get stamps & the Clydes & the Ballarats inspected each other's ships.

We went on again that Friday night & from that till Tuesday saw no signs of the Cholmley. Mr. Crowshaw also retired but I ministered to her. The others both had the D. & Mr. Cholmley fainted & fell & cut her chin & head behind



her car. One stewardess was quite incapacitated + another for a morning. E + I + a few other stuck to our knives + forks. The Cap<sup>tain</sup> <sup>Neigally</sup> had to have the breakfast table being seasick + altogether we had a very dull voyage.

We arrived on Monday night + landed on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at Port Said -

Manthaios met us and had found a somewhat lovely Hotel de France + here we are 10 of a day a capital room, well furnished + food, including wine, all for this sum + profound peace.

We are awaiting the P & O Oriental with our heavy baggage from London + Mr + Mrs Cholmley + Mr C. have gone on to Cairo.

It is so cold we are covered with

our fur cloaks + it is pouring -  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Wed<sup>r</sup> Its going out, it is too horrid. The Oriental arrived at at 8 p.m. We went on board + had the luggage we did not require send on to Suez + came on to Cairo  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Hotel d'Angleterre where we found the Cholmleys.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> We find this hotel very comfortable. All this time we have been very busy making plans + getting provisions + engaging services. As Interpreter we have Abargues de Sostien, a Spaniard, <sup>quite</sup> rather a rascal but clever + useful so they say + knows the country about. <sup>though</sup> no one has been quite in the part we want to go to. It is no man's land.

Mr Nevill Smyth Queen's Bay wished to come + has got leave. He will help with the surveying + is

\* } no  
D } no



said to be a good draughtsman.  
We have had a most serious anxiety; & if it is a blessing it is a most thickly disguised one. Still there is no use groaning over it & we are trying to be cheerful & thankful that we know our misfortune in time to replace some of the missing articles.

18 packages were left at Aden last April with Cowasjee Dinshaw & these were to be sent to Suez. We got news on Sunday that a certain amount of packages had reached Alexandria & been opened & a list of the contents sent to be identified & claimed.

As the list appears to be very exhaustive indeed, one item being "reel of white cotton" we feel uneasy at seeing no mention of our bucket canteen, large kitchen

box, empty saddlebags, & large hold all, & folding stove & to see no mention of towels or kitchen clothes, my <sup>folding stove</sup> pith helmet & green lined parasols also & my hammock. It has cost us a good lot to replace these things for even if we ever recover them they will not be in time for this year's work.

We have been to the museum twice, & to lunch with Professor Sayce on the dahabieh which is his charming home & have been asked by Miss Brodrick an Egyptologist lady to tea on hers on Thursday.

We thought at one time we should be off today as we hoped to be towed by the Sirdar's <sup>steamer</sup> "Abbas" but this cannot be & we have sent Abargues on to see about a steamer. We find this town very much grown & Europeanized in 1893.



since we were here.

Major Wingate is doing all he can to help us in every way.

Christmas Day Suez. H. d'Oriend

We are ready to embark tonight on a dhows or Sambouk of 80 tons. We left Cairo on Friday & next morn<sup>g</sup> went on board all the available ships in the port.

Abargues had written at 1<sup>st</sup> a ship at 120 a month but I do not think there is a ship at such a price here. He was most unwilling that we should see any but one in which we could not have stood & perhaps not sat upright on chairs. We are to pay £35 a month & have 20 men.

The ship has been charred & 2 cabins made & there is a little space under cover in front of them where we can dine & we expect to be very comfortable. We cannot trust Abargues a bit but

thinking him to be a political agent that Major Wingate wishes to send we take him. If it were not for this idea we should have left him behind as we most seriously talked of doing.

We have made no use whatever of him but we too & Manthaios have made all preparations & on a pretty vast scale too, with 9 persons to feed for 3 1/2 months. However all the tins & c we do not eat are to be taken back at their original cost in Cairo. This is a wild but comfortable Greek hotel.

The mystery about the unpacking of our baggage & its transport to Alexandria is solved. There is a Thomas Bent in the Coast Guard. But how did the 5 old Snider rifles get into our tent, & where are the lost packages.



We are all going at 3.30 to  
Terre Pleine or Terry Plain as  
it is pronounced, a few minutes  
by train & hope to find the  
Ship has been towed thither by  
Steamer, go on board, settle &  
return to eat the plum pudding  
prepared as our host seemed  
brokenhearted at our not partaking  
of the feast & then to sea again.

I have made some crackers to  
surprise my companions at dinner  
& I think they would be much better  
liked afloat than ashore so I  
am sorry to dine on land.

Of course no mottoes were to be had  
so I was obliged to manufacture  
some

Mr. Smyth having been proved to  
possess only 3 rusty needles is to  
have a needle book & his  
motto is

"Cheer up! Mr. Smyth  
And try to be blyth  
Though your clothes may be  
rents"

Says your friend Mabel Bent-  
Mr. Cholmley a box of Ink Pellets  
Ever be good news by Alfred  
Cholmley sent  
In Ink of blackest hue is the wish  
of Mabel Bent

Theodore a knife & fork &

Good appetite to Theodore!  
May he ne'er need to wish for more  
Than may be upon his Table  
To the hope of his Wife Mabel

We duly went on board, prepared  
our beds, returned to Suez for dinner  
& back to the Sambock to sleep.  
She looked rather gloomy, I must



say but that is always the case at first.

Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. We had to wait for the Health permission + then to get our water before we could start. Campbell Psey a very gruff Scotchman has kindly lent us 2 tanks holding 1/2 a ton each. We got off at 10 + had good wind + travelled all night. Dr

Drakos the late hotelkeeper at Massaua was at Suez + gave us a pretty little brown terrier. She had no name he said so we have given her the name of Draka, Dragoness.

The poor thing shook with fright all day + was terrified of every one + we + the sailors were rushing about so with our arrangements that she would hardly eat.

We had our cabins cleaned + we have the green canvas groundsheet

of our tent. It is so high astern that we slip down our beds terribly.

We stopped for the night near Safaia Island.

Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> Stopped at an anchorage called Sheikh Janem, in front of Akrabi light.

Dec. 29 very rolly

30<sup>th</sup> the same though in the harbour of Kosseir where we arrived early after a few hours' journey from our stopping place. We went ashore Draka + all + we bought some pigeons etc. It has been a very large town, when the P + O Ships used to come here from China + India + the passengers went on camels to Kench + down the Nile. Now all is in ruins. There were some very pretty old mosques almost Byzantine in style.

The Dr. Phronista came to see us a Greek from Ios + nephew to Kyrios



Lorenziadis

with whom we stayed twice. He has been educated in Eng. & always says "We English", "We Officers" & in our seas in Eng<sup>d</sup> & Ireland. The officer commanding the little govt steamer Abbas sent a boat for us, Capt Ross, & gave us tea. He is going to try & get us our letters. We sent some off. We tried very hard to be towed by this steamer but could not get permission. She left the day after us & arrived 2 hours before us. Coming straight down "outside". We came dodging the coral reefs "inside" & stopping for the night & I think have done very well.

New Year Eve <sup>1895</sup>. We went ashore in a bay guarded by savage reefs & were glad to have our rolling ship.

There was a good deal of vegetation & I seriously began his Botanical

Collection with a good booty. Nothing was shot but 2 birds which fell into the sea & were snapped up by a shark. The ground we walked over was stony & hilly & sandy & dusty & damp all in turns. New Year's Day 1896. Very violent rolling. In the afternoon stopped under the S. of Wadi Jemal. I have not gone ashore as I have a cold which for 3 days has put pain into every bone & joint but my head & neck, but only when I move & if I pinch myself I feel like a big bruise. Getting up or down from a chair or the floor is a very hard business or any climbing. It is very cool indeed, not to say cold at night. I wear a thick cloak & when we anchor & the ship turns we always have the wind on our cabins. whose boards are pretty far apart, & the sort of veranda, abt. 5 or 6 feet wide on which they open, & where we sit. There is another



deck forwards about a foot & a half higher & a gap between the two which enables us to see every detail of the cooking. And then on top of the cabins is a deck where Señor Don Juan Victor Abargues de Sostin has his tent.

Jan 2<sup>d</sup>. Another very rolling day and again stopped for the night. This time partly round the Cape of Berenice Ras Bernas, a long wandering thing with shoals & rocks & sandbanks hanging about it. The water so shallow too.

Jan 3<sup>d</sup>. Day of arrival. Very calm & slow travelling. The bay is called Ford Bay in every language. Fortunately for us amongst the refuse of To plants the Reis Hamaiah discovered a small bush that is considered lucky & usually hung in houses. He carried it off & stuck it on the bow of the

ship & this preserved us from the rocks. We sometimes went through with not a yard to spare on either side. We anchored abt. 4 o' & my companions went ashore, but no ruins did they see so next day

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> They started soon after sunrise saying they should be back to luncheon. I busied myself seeing after the packing & sending tents &c all ashore several large boat loads & made the best use I could of my time all my most necessary things being gone. However when they sent for luncheon & did not come by three I knew it was too late to make such an encampment as ours so all the baggage came back again. Abt. 4 appeared Abargues fainting with thirst, having consumed a good lot of Maistie spirit so someone had to swim to him with water, the boat having sailed 5 miles



for 6 + 6. + after a good time I was surprised by seeing him heave up over the side an enormous white object in white jersey, swim on board.

It was long dark before the boat came home. All <sup>were</sup> wet, they had to wade  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. Draka too.

They had found the ruins - Jan 5<sup>th</sup> The boat sailed off full & returned + then I embarked with Annibale. There was so much baggage that to make room the 3 Englishmen walked. They were here nearly as soon as I. We whizzed through the water but bumped on stones a very long way out. I had a most awful journey to the land.

Two men first started with me on an Austrian bentwood folding chair but they were not 50 yards before they had hoisted first one leg - then the other on their shoulders +

nearly dropped me. They seemed to have no sense as to making the seat level + while I tried to climb to the high side one held me firmly down by my cloak. They stood there 10 minutes which seemed far longer to me shouting for help. Four men

then took me + soon were in as bad a position. I cannot imagine how I had the courage to risk a header instead of trying to settle myself in the sea. I think I was sustained by a camera I had on + sharks.

Just a man clawed me on to his shoulder quite bent double + held me in that position so that I was quite helpless as to balance. Before leaving the felucca I had put the maximum + minimum thermometer in the ~~leg~~ bosom of my blouse. This is a wooden thing, slid into a tin case + then wrapped in corrugated paper.



The tin case could not have been lost as it was tied to my cloak but I had the horror of seeing that the whole thing was turned upside down & the thermometer was half way out of the tin & nearly gone.

I saved it with a tremendous effort. After some time this man began to shout in great distress & after a bit a man shouldered up against him & so in this wretched way I reached land. I believe the original disorder was occasioned by a turban coming off.

We have a very comfortable camping place, close to the diggings & all pleasantly far apart. We are most pleased to be alone as he had to wait for Mr. S who took 4, 5 min to dress.

We dug 4 days but as we only were finding dwelling houses built of

madrepores, after trying in several places we decided that it was waste of time to go on staying there & on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of our sojourn we returned to the Sambouka.

We found one papyrus with Greek cursive writing on it and the ground was littered with pretty little bits of glass, bronze nails, bits of cornelian crystal & broken rough, non-transparent emeralds, evidently what was known as asanum in ancient days.

In digging immense quantities of textiles in scraps turned up, fine & coarse, nets, knotted work as well as weaving, plain & in colours.

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> we had the "Zaisir" brought much nearer & with a good walk we were able to reach her more easily.

We had great toiling for 3 days stopping always for the night & reached Akai which is marked



on the map Halai on the  
13<sup>th</sup>

The mountains at the back of Halai are magnificent & very much serrated. They remind me of Montserrat. We were a long way from the shore for we got mixed up among the coral reefs & had to lower the sail & anchor very suddenly for there was such a wind that we thought certainly we should be steep on the rocks.

We got into the Katera or smaller boat & whizzed off to land at a great pace. There is a low white tower with a sentinel & a flagstaff and a hedge of heaped up thorny bushes <sup>round it</sup> & a sort of labyrinth of barbed wire within that & then a sort of hamlet of little cottages made of matting.

There is a little whitewashed

It is a fort. He lives in a brushwood & matting <sup>hut</sup>.  
house. where the Egyptian governor is a very civil kind of man who has been here 7 years. He is making a garden & in abt. 20 years it will be very nice. He had melons, brinjols & tomatoes.

Yesterday the 14<sup>th</sup> we went ashore in the morning and walked a long way botanizing and stayed at home & today Lt & Mr Cholmley are gone inland a little on camels. I am soon going to pay an obligatory visit to the family of the governor.

Tomorrow we have the ship again & go to Sawakin Gadin or Kadim it should be north of this with camels, sending the baggage by boat, not our own boat. as only 6 camels can be had

By the bye after 5 days ashore



Abarques brought 6 empty  
brandy bottles on board -

Jan 16<sup>th</sup> Before dawn C + I were up  
+ talking loudly to rouse our neigh-  
bours, + none too early for though we  
were ready far too soon they were not.

We looked a good deal into our  
cabins + first had to wait for the  
other ship to come alongside, then for  
its crew to come off + at length at 7.30  
seeing no signs of the camel that were  
to be ready by 6, landed + at last  
being tired of waiting said we would  
go by the boat, hoping the wind  
would rise + turn from the South  
as yesterday.

We left Abarques + Mr. Smyth to  
go by land. We started 1/2 to 9 + were  
full an hour taking to get beyond  
a cape but at last the wind sprang  
up + we got here in 4 hours + 20 minutes  
just as the camels did -

Now came the difficulty of landing  
Abarques was supposed to have  
seen this boat + to aid we were to  
have oars but we had none but a  
very small paddle + that was for  
a very small dugout <sup>(houi)</sup> which dangled  
behind most of the way but first  
it leaked half full + then shipped  
so many seas that it capsized + after  
travelling some way in that position  
was taken on board.

Our voyage was brought to an abrupt  
conclusion by our going on a rock  
+ nearly capsizing ourselves. We had  
the anchor taken to a coral reef more  
than 1/4 mile from the shore. The  
Houri was launched + with only  
a couple of gallons or so in the bottom  
we had to embark one by one with  
some one to paddle us. Everyone had  
a long way to wade but I was carried  
by 2 men clasping their hands + hanging



them down. I had an ever lasting feeling of slipping down + a feeling as if I must be getting 2 notches like the board seat of a swing.

We were to camp close to the shore but it was at least 2 hours before we could begin to pitch the tents getting the baggage to shore by such slow degrees. The wind was blowing hard + made it very troublesome.

Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. Started digging in a mound. The ground is covered with beads + bits of broken glass bracelets with pretty patterns in great variety. I have a great many but as I have a rival collector in Dr. Cholmley I have not nearly so many as he. He has nothing else to do but search + then the digging to see after. The day has been most awful. I can now understand the terrors of the Khanisir. I felt quite terrified of staying in

\* Everyone's nerves seem to have been affected the tent alone for fear it should blow down. We were nearly stifled with sand, the floor of our tent had to be dug out with a trowel for you would never have guessed there was a ground sheet. Our eyes, lips, ears, noses, + our sticky hot faces + hands were caked with sand + we were so hot + thirsty + excited + restless. The tent was like a drum banging + rattling + always having to be looked after for fear the pegs should start + the outer fly tore badly. Altogether it was a horrid day. The digging was no good. The night so hot that when the wind went down in the middle of the night we opened the tent + lay outside our beds.

Jan 18<sup>th</sup>. This time we had the North wind with great fury all day. I was not blown down however as the



day before. I started soon after breakfast to the digging, Tombs this time, to relieve Theodore who had previously gone to let Anibali\* get to his breakfast.

Theodore can then look about. The tombs yielded nothing but a few bones which seem to have very small heads + very large spines. We had another dig at the high mound, a fine place for the wind, with not much effect. + decided to have this place as soon as we may. The son of the Sheikh was sent off to Hali to fetch camels + was to be back next evening. A very cold blowy night + a very little rain toward morning.

Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Digging went on half the day + was at length given up in despair + the sailors gave themselves a matter, old man, talks Greek with some

<sup>about</sup> <sup>shall we</sup> <sup>up to</sup> <sup>card</sup> <sup>playing</sup> <sup>yesterday</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>who</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>redeemed</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>divide</sup> <sup>off</sup> <sup>tinned</sup> <sup>meats</sup> <sup>bought</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>sheep</sup> <sup>One</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>still</sup> <sup>alive</sup> <sup>Mr. Smyth</sup> <sup>shot</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>gazelle</sup> <sup>Some</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>meat</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>dried</sup> <sup>.</sup> <sup>P</sup>

Akmet whose hand was bitten by the shark came to us yesterday with his right fore finger in an awful state. We put zinc ointment + lint on + today did a deal of washing to the whole hand. <sup>he is presumed to be</sup> <sup>by rubbing</sup> <sup>the hand</sup> <sup>with stones + water</sup> <sup>the hand</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>sup</sup> <sup>better</sup> <sup>last</sup> <sup>night</sup> <sup>so</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>may</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>better</sup> <sup>.</sup> <sup>I</sup> <sup>only</sup> <sup>hope</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>may</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>lose</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>finger</sup> <sup>,</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>who</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>cut</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>off</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>right</sup> <sup>time</sup> <sup>?</sup> <sup>There</sup> <sup>has</sup> <sup>been</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>little</sup> <sup>rain</sup> <sup>again</sup> <sup>-</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>evening</sup> <sup>,</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>few</sup> <sup>drops</sup> <sup>only</sup> <sup>-</sup> <sup>Jan</sup> <sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup> <sup>We</sup> <sup>felt</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>doubtful</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>arrival</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>camels</sup> <sup>+</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>ship</sup> <sup>which</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>brought</sup> <sup>us</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>still</sup> <sup>there</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>sent</sup> <sup>off</sup> <sup>everything</sup>



including Abargues + all his goods  
+ all Mr. Smyth's quite early  
Mr. Smyth then set off to do  
some surveying, with preparations  
for a night out. We dared not  
part from our tents beds or food.

But at 11 the camels came  
+ some donkeys with very precious  
looking packsaddles + after a  
hurried luncheon we set out  
about 12.

First the men said no people  
could go on camels with things  
but at last I was the thin  
end of the wedge + I was to have  
our two red leather boxes on  
my camel + finally we got away  
with less camels than we at  
first feared. My camel got  
up before I was safe though  
a man was standing on his back  
leg so I came off down his neck.

We arrived at Halsei in abt  
4 hours. The gov<sup>t</sup>, called the  
Mamour was most civil + had  
had letters ordering him to help us  
Tea was brought at once + the  
tents pitched for we could not  
undergo the bother of getting the  
baggage backward + forward for  
the Caïssi.

We hoped to start in the morning  
for the Wadi Haïet. After  
dinner just as our patient came  
to his hand dressed rain began  
which lasted all night though  
the Mamour + our Captain, the  
Reis Hamaia said there was  
sure to be none. It lasted till  
Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 but <sup>then</sup> has never  
been sunshine, only wind.

Mr. Smyth came in at 10.  
Now we find we cannot get to  
the Wadi Haïet, It is over the



Egyptian frontier & we are afraid  
of the Dervishes taking us to  
Khartoum. We must stay  
here all tomorrow & our next  
move will be by sea again.

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. Soon after breakfast  
we went on board the Tossing  
Fair, very like Robinson's  
Cruises visiting the wreck, car-  
rying things to leave & fetching  
others & we had a very cold  
& windy day.

We went to some Bisharin  
huts low round beehives of  
matting and bought a head-  
dress abt. 2 feet high, funnel  
shaped & with cowries all over  
it & long hanging tassels of the  
same which the women wear  
dancing at weddings.

Then I went again to visit  
the Marnour's family. They

welcomed me very kindly  
into the yard with brushwood  
walls where they dwell. There  
are 3 small cabins 12 by 8 made  
of brushwood & matting with  
very low doors. One is the kitchen  
one the bedroom & one the bath  
house. These latter connected  
by a shed where the store of water  
jars are kept. The wife is a Turk  
& she has a plain grown up daughter.  
There was also an old lady who  
made the coffee with ginger and  
a black maid slightly clothed  
& draped in a once white sheet  
now piece black in some places  
& the rest deep gray. Considering  
that the Marnour has been  
god here 7 years he has not  
made himself very comfortable.  
All the furniture Isaac was  
3 3-foot bedsteads & a mat on



two 3 Austrian chairs, a very  
common wooden table & a  
little round iron one on which  
was put a new pink cotton  
cover with a tight petticoat  
to the ground. It was all very  
clean except the maid. I  
liked the coffee better than  
the tea which I had the other  
day, boiled & a little burnt.

The lady thought her dwelling  
so much better than mine  
in the wind that she kindly  
invited me to sleep with her  
in one bed saying tents were  
only fit for men. She wore  
a string round under one  
arm of 7 or 8 charms like  
pinecushions & handkerchiefs of dif-  
ferent coloured silks. Draka  
had accompanied me & as I was  
afraid of his chasing the chickens

& I put him out, but I was hor-  
rified to perceive he had got in &  
was sitting under a bedstead, most  
quietly beside me. We sat in the  
yard to be in the sun. But  
Draka never stirred though a  
kid was on the transparent bed-  
stead over him, till they asked his  
name & began talking to him when  
he moved under my chair. The  
fact is he likes none but Europeans  
& was somehow, mercifully afraid  
to growl. When I rose he came  
forth in a most chastened way  
till we got outside the yard when  
he went wild with joy. He has  
now got over all terrors even of  
the boats & loves us. He sleeps  
under my bed. He will not let  
the black people touch him if  
he can help & once I had to be  
carried ashore a long way because



he would not be caught to put into the boat. As an amusing companion he is a success but as a watchdog he is useless because he growls at our black friends.

We had a very cold night Jan 23. Up at sunrise + not off till 20 to 11. with 10 camels. The son of the Bisharin Sheikh known as the Batran accompanied us as before. A charge evidently finds himself too fat for a camel ~~we~~ rode a donkey. He once told us a camel in the desert was his delight.

But he never tells the truth.

Our road soon became very pretty between low rocky hills + acacia bushes, but the road always smooth <sup>It was not a good one even</sup> + good. I know <sup>path really but I mean</sup> that we had no other <sup>at a half</sup>. We ~~are~~ are near high

mountains + among rocky hills + now have a fire in front of the tent. We rode through swarms of a kind of green locust some times in sheets 12 feet across + piled 4 inches deep. Draka did not like them much. There was so much wind yesterday that the outer fly of our tent was torn to ribbons.

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> After breakfast we walked 2 miles or more over loose sharp stones to see the ruins reported to us + which turned out to be the remains of some miners cottages though what they mined is not clear. iron I should think. I rode home on a camel, and after a hasty lunch we moved about 2 hrs up the Wadi Shelal, quite close to the foot of the mountains. We are pitched on 2 sides of a river bed + are very



comfortable. As it appears from all we hear to be impossible to get further into the interior on account of the possible Der vishes, Theodore decided that we should stay here several days to enable Mr. Smythe to get as much mapping as possible.

It is quite certain that that horrid Abargues de Sostén cannot bear travelling & though at first he saw nothing he liked so much as camel riding, now he goes on a donkey with 2 camel loads of baggage.

We are always arranging plans to get rid of him & the present one is on our arrival at Halei to tell him he can go to Sawakin alone & then if he has not done us mischief by letter at Mohand should he can if he phases go there alone, at any rate he will

have his money & we shall have paid for what we like, his absence. There is a great deal of vegetation about this place, the trees are mostly acacia, some with pretty creepers & parasites & some wreathed with garlands of a lovely red fruit, an ~~also~~ edible gourd with a thin skin.

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> In the afternoon we went about an hour, to the foot of the mountains & saw more ruins of the same disgusting kind. Mr. Smythe went up Shelal & sent for some good sag, he should stay up & go on next day but the wretched messenger told him we should move on the

morrow so he came down early  
~~Jan 26~~  
We have with us Butran the Sheikh of the Bisharins son, & 2 soldiers.



In the evening Abargues came to me for quinine. Theodore, ~~John~~ I + I + Annibale walked to the water, a stiff story but repaying walk. You go quite into a gorge + the water comes out of a cave.

Jan 27<sup>th</sup> The first thing this morning Abargues came + said a tribe of wicked people had settled in the mountains quite close + the Bisharins who <sup>with us</sup> were quite frightened. That we could stay today but must go tomorrow + that his fever was very bad + that I re could go into the mountains today.

We sat down to breakfast to discuss this + said his fever could not be bad as he could smoke + was only to avoid a climb + that he most likely had

no more brandy + wants to get back to Halei + the danger could not be very imminent if it could be compromised with by our staying a day + climbing the mountains.

Presently Manthacos came to the table + said <sup>Y<sup>a</sup> Bakeri</sup> Hamid, Mr Smyth's servant heard him tell Batran to tell us this story because he has no more brandy.

We mean to try + stick on here + wander round if we can camp no further.

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> My birthday. I must go back to yesterday. I started off at 12 to go to the gorge where the water is + take photographs attended by Annibale. It is not more than half an hour's quick walk + I hoped to be back in 1/4 hour that I might be back to guard the kitchen + let Manthacos free + also watch



and note my aneroid to compare with Mr. Smyth's. Alas! I trusted to Annibale's knowing the way back. There is a dim candle path which does not show on loose stones but by ducking under acacia trees one can go quicker.

The result of it was that I was tramping 4 hours without once sitting down. I was afraid for my parasol might be out of sight of Annibale when we were separated, & afraid to rest for fear of losing time. He seemed quite to have lost his head & refused to come with me but I thought it best to stick together & said we would strike back for the water. Even up to the last we had great arguments but I said I would go my way & stepped out alone & in a few

steps we found the tents.

Early in the day a messenger came from the Mamour with enquiries "how we were? & did we want any thing?" Sostén at once translated this as an immediate recall. I sent Mantharios at once & he found out the truth. The real reason is that his brandy being done he is wild to return. I told Annibale we knew this & did not believe a word he said. Knowing that A who is his great friend & sleeps in his tent would repeat it to him. Annibale acknowledges this was the reason of the danger at Berenice.

A Sheikh of a tribe at war with ours (so we hear) also rode hither alone yesterday to find out about us.

Sostén has been saying he is a Beg &



the chief person. However his power is now tottering before the promise of very good bakshesh.

The chief soldier came at dusk & told us there was very little danger & also Batrain said the same.

This morning Batrain was promised much if he would start secretly with Mr S & take him round a mountain & it seems likely if no one knows beforehand of their sleeping out. There seems certainly no way over the mountains into the Soudan.

We are getting so suspicious now of everybody & thing that we went through some hours' anxiety for nothing. Annibale Piacentini a Maltese whose parents have long lived in Suva & who has very good papers was engaged as general handy man. He talks English with Mr Cholmley

& Mr Smyth Italian with the hateful interpreter Abargues de Sostin & he prefers to speak Greek with us & also with Manthaios & this we find useful when we do not wish Abargues to be mixed up. He talks Arabic & so does Mr. He was I believe recommended by A de S. to Major Wingate who strongly recommended him to us. A de S. has him to sleep in his tent & they are great friends.

This morn<sup>g</sup> he was given a very few things to wash & started to the water ab<sup>t</sup>. 7 of & as he did not come back at midday the whole camp was confirmed in its already formed opinion that he had been secretly started to Kala by Sostin for Brandy.

However he returned at 3 having been found sleeping by Mr Cholmley.



under a tree while the clothes dried. He is good natured + lazy + the only thing he does with zeal + ardour is to look after our evening fire. Theodore + I do not believe that he meant to lose me on purpose yestr. but some do! He will be greatly surprised when he finds his friend forbidden to set foot on the Tairir.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> A warm night + a dull cloudy muggy day. Mr Smyth off with Batran + to go round Shindi + meet us tomorrow or next day at Halei. Calmness + peace in camp, now at 5.3 it is raining a little so I have just been giving directions to put every thing safe. We expect to return to our ship tomorrow.

We brought two sailors with us from the ship to dig if necessary but

we have made no use of them.

There are 2 soldiers + Batran or 3 or 4 Bisharinis. Mr. Smyth has a Bisharin servant Hamid Ali by name who helps a little in the kitchen, washing up + so on + Mr. Thornley a Somali Tak Mohamed Tak is a capital fellow, always busy + useful + waits at table.

Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Though we rose betimes we were not off till abt.  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 10.

We saw Soster take his huge tent down all alone + unaided + he stayed on his side of the river bed. He had to ride a camel till he took to his legs as Mr. Smyth would no longer lend him his nice little donkey saddle + had bucked it up. This little saddle has only the seat + stirrup leathers and is bound over a blanket with a surcingle - so it is very portable. We were abt. 5 hours on the journey.



going through clouds of the same family of locusts we had seen before. They had quite changed colour + instead of being green grasshoppers clouded with black, had red legs + gray + black speckled bodies, + had grown wings.

We were greatly rejoiced to see Mr. Smyth + the Batran come in sight as they would be a great support to Theodore in the very trying battle that was before him.

We stopped at a little hamlet of matting huts of wandering Bisharin shepherds. Many of the huts seemed not long enough for a human being to lie at full length in + certainly none high enough to stand. The men + women were wrapped in filthy once white sheets + the little children in girdles of beads with a tassel of cowries in front. The men

wear their hair in a few standing up at the top + little curls all round like a fringe  + a stick stuck through to scratch with.

The women have innumerable tiny plates, like bootlaces with cowries + beads at intervals + a little plate of silver or brass with a little hook at each end hooked on to their left nostril. All the hair most filthy + matted + dusty.

One young man had elephantiasis and a woman, who was weaving a sort of goitre on her arm.

I thought the weaving arrangement the rudest I have ever seen.

The yarn had been wound over 2 sticks at 20 feet apart + one <sup>stick</sup> end, that at which the weaving was begun was tied by two ropes to 2 pegs in the ground, about a foot off. The other was simply strained out by 2 pegs.



At this end a couple of threads had been run across to keep the warp in its place. There was no attempt at separating the alternate threads in order to raise each set in turn.

Half way there was a stick raised abt. 5 or 6 inches by two forked sticks to separate the upper + under parts of this endless warp of 40 feet.

The weaver sat on her web of goat hair + never could get her shuttle all the way across. It was a thin uneven stick abt a foot or 15 in long.

She had to separate 12 to 15 threads with her hand + then ~~stick~~ stick in a sort of peg abt 10 inches long, an inch + a half thick + pointed, to keep the threads apart while she passed the shuttle. <sup>that far</sup> Then she beat the thread into place with this tool + so went on.

Well, we reached Halei at last +

The Mamour + some of our sailors + our Captain Rees Hamai'a came out to greet us + the one with the finger saying it was better. an we got safely through the barbed wire + thorns into the fortress.

Suddenly off ran Theodore as hard as he could! He had perceived Soster sneaking round a back way to the pier with his 2 laden camels meaning to get quickly on board.

Once there it would have been very difficult to dislodge him + there would not have been so many witnesses.

I said to him in French. "It is no use your taking your baggage there, keep it apart for I shall not allow you again to set foot on my sambouka."

Soster turned perfectly livid + said "Of what do you accuse me? I must be accused of something."



↳ being on his guard said  
"You are quite useless to me & you  
tell lies"

By this time Mr. Cholmely said  
to me "Shall I join Bent?" & I said  
Yes, he'll be glad of your presence  
& you too Mr. Smyth go. So they joined  
the two who were gradually surrounded  
by the Marmour (Ismael Effendi)  
the two soldiers who had been with us  
& the rest of the soldiers, the 2 sailors  
who had been with us, the Capt. & the  
other sailors, Manthacos, Tak, Hamed  
Annibale & in fact everyone who  
could get there quick enough.  
I was sitting on the baggage 5 ft off  
but really further to walk by reason  
of the barbed wire.

Several lies were proved to him &  
the Marmour said he had asked him  
to frighten us. & at last Sostien roared  
out "I have never lied" which was

the biggest lie of all & all the Company  
came over to the place I had been  
sitting in the distant background  
& I arranged with the Marmour  
that the boat in which he goes to  
Sowakin should have its papers  
made out with only permission  
to land there & not at ~~Mohammed~~ <sup>Mohammed</sup>  
Jel. & He & I were both to write  
to the Gov. of Sawakin.

Abargues de Sostien has however long  
ago written to Mohammed Jel & may  
have made mischief. But the  
Marmour was to write again. Mr.  
Smyth went on board at once &  
got off a boat load of his baggage  
I went the second time. There was  
plenty more brandy besides empty  
cases. & after more arrangements  
had been made the others <sup>came on</sup> ~~were~~  
here on the <sup>boat</sup> ~~boat~~ Kaiser unpacking  
again



The first thing Sostem asked was his passage to Sawakin which T. D. promised. In the evening a humble letter asking for \$5 for food & if T. did not think this due he promised to repay the loan in Cairo.

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> I went ashore & consulted the Mamour & he considered \$2 was enough, considering a sheep can be bought for 8<sup>rs</sup>, so a receipt was made out for \$ to sign saying the Mamour had \$ for a boat & he \$ for food. This he refused to sign or take the money.

The Mamour paid us a visit & drank white Currant Syrup & was given some little presents for his wife & daughter. He himself got a watch. His pay is \$70 a year & he has been living in an arbour for 7 years.

Connibale stayed with his friend

all the morning & had he not come off for luncheon his baggage would have been sent ashore. He is very much fretted about at his friend's disgrace.

Later on the Mamour brought a receipt, made out by S. receiving all the \$2 himself & for boat & \$8 for food, countersigned by the Mamour so the money was sent & we thought we had done for a while with this most dangerous rascal.

I wrote a letter to Major Wingate signed also by Mr Smythe & Mr Cholmley.

Jan February 1<sup>st</sup>. Strong wind and we feared not being able to start but hearing preparations we rose to get safely washed before the shaking began which it did soon. Our cabin became scenes of confusion



The basins which had not been emptied emptied themselves & luggage flew about outside, where we dined. The kitchen things went all over the place, including the 2 stores, but we were getting on famously.

We sat on the upper deck, now cleared of Sostin's tent & all on board but Annibale felt the joy of being rid of him. He had sent his parting shot in a letter delivered after our start by Serroier one of the sailors a negro, whom he had asked to remain as his servant. He said he was now delivered by his disgraceful & unworthy conduct from all respect or consideration for him, & let him say now that a man with more elevated sentiments than to swear by his word of honour that when they regulated their accounts in Cairo he would suffer

for his behaviour -

We got on well till we began to turn into the harbour of Menna Shenab an uninhabited bay shaped like the Lake of Lucerne, a cross -

The second sized sail that we had up was taken down & a smaller bysail was put up. After a little the sheet slipped & flew up in the air with its block & tore all across. This was a frightful sight as we were among coral reefs. The men flew about, casting off garments in the mean time & got a smaller sail & that tore up very soon - & we got on the reef. Then the smallest sail of all was taken & that got us off with some grating & the cap<sup>t</sup> & another standing with water halfway up <sup>to</sup> the knees pushing with all their might -

Next that sail gave way at the top & fell into the water.



One anchor was sent out in the boat + then the other + when they tried to get up the first it was so entangled that they were a long time at it, we being kept off the reef with poles + when it was got one of the 5 flukes was broken. That anchor was taken to shore + very thankful we were to be safe.

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> When I went out this morn<sup>g</sup> He told the Cap<sup>n</sup> we should have started already the wind was fair for getting out N.W. + after various excuses ending that the sailors were tired it was agreed to start, but perhaps a raven sitting on the bow may be an evil omen, for we had one + did not get away -

They were hours + hours over the anchor that was in the reef

+ greatly feared having to cut away + leave it. But in the afternoon it was got safely to land + kept not far from the other on a sandy spit.

The sails were also taken ashore where they could comfortably mended.

Long before the anchor was up ab<sup>o</sup>g the wind had gone north + very violent. We went ashore + I got a good many new flowers.

The ship was drawn quite close to land + I took 2 photos of it. Everything seems so ready if we start early we ought to get to Mohammed Gul in one day.

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Started early, got out easily but afterwards had a tremendous tugging. We had 2 more patients a very old sailor Abou Inoussa with a cut on his heel + he had Friar's Balsam + Calve feverish



+ given numerous pills.

We arrived at 2 p.m. at Mohammed Joud, in south of Ras Rowaia

It is not so pretty as Hali, which in itself is a hideous place because it has not such a fine background

There are very fine mountains a little South of this place.

It has a wide stone, or rather madrepore pier running, not far but into deep enough water for the steamer to touch. As the tide was low there were 2 very nasty tracts of black mud on each side. The houses are far larger than Hali at least one could easily stand up in some parts. There is a fort close to the sea with a most smelly moat round it

The Mamour sent word to us not to land, he was coming on board to visit us.

He is a little + very dark man with a very honest, snub nosed face decorated by 3 transverse cuts at 2 inches long across each cheek. His secretary a smaller man still was adorned in the same way. The Chief of Pobie a very fat goodhumoured man has 2 little downward veils put at the sides of his eyes. They had coffee + were most polite + gave promise of our being able to go about a good deal. There certainly is danger from the Derwishes in some parts

After a short walk in the village which is situated on a damp plain white with salt we retired to an arbour where tea was brought + the Chief of the Kilab tribe a thin old man with a very unsmiling face + also some of the Kourbab tribe who live in the neighbourhood



After a long discussion we passed through a crowd of most sullen savage looking men, very different to the Bisharin + went on board again + subsequently had another visit from the Mamour.

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Came on shore with the Mamour + declined to have 2 tents close to the pier rooted up <sup>or the blue mud</sup> or to have a camp on the brink of the moat or to have some houses torn down, but went abt.  $\frac{1}{4}$  a mile to some sand with sprinklings of mesembryanthemum bushes just off the salt + here we are.

After we had chosen T + I + the Mamour + Ali Debatop the Sheikh of the Kilab, who is going with us + 16 others arranged about the camels + route, with no interpreter.

We bought some shields, some

honey + the only 2 pots of preserved ginger.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Waiting patiently for tomorrow. Bah + 2 sailors doing well. wrote letters.

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Left Mohammad Goul for Hadi 3 hours off where we were to stop + fill our water skins from a well of remarkably sweet water. We therefore only took a couple of skins with us. We had 14 camels.

The Mamour took the greatest interest in the loading + was busy the whole time. We had to provide camels for the 2 police we take with us.

The Mamour started with us on horseback on a very smart indiano saddle reaching nearly to his shoulder blades + with a red shawl wound round his head though in European uniform. The Chief of the police



did not come far being fat.

We went out of our way northwards a little to see 2 ruined Kufic towers, Tombs I suppose + had a most touching parting from the Marmour who held to hand a long time while recommending him to the care of the Sheikhs who were going with us.

We reached our camp abt. 2 o' clock surrounded by low pointed stony hills, the spurs of the very serrated Elba range.

Theodore took a basin to the well at once to give Draka a drink + came back with a rueful face + the washing basin full of what looked like porter, full of little fish, leeches &c. We put Alum in, which precipitated the mud + then filtered which without making it very good was a tremendous

dous improvement.

Later there came Sheekh Ali Mohamed Debalöp (long o) + others including a wife. He is the chief of the Kelab tribe a thin old man scarred all over the head + face.

Some of the men have very fine profiles + one is very handsome. Their hair is done something like the Bisharinis, but the hanging part is not curled. Their heads are white with tallow hanging like dips round them.

We had a warm night + our tent, beds, + even clothes were full of beetles, grasshoppers + moths. Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Filled the water bags for 3 days as they said we should find no more water and started for Jounatiewa. No seen on the way. Our companions are armed with



swords spears + shields.

Some of the men are very nice  
+ some look awful. One <sup>is the son of</sup> Sheikh  
Ali Nothamid is a slave dealer.

We have some of the Kourbat  
tribe too.

All day we went among these  
little pointed hills + over little  
passes. Some, indeed many are  
marked with most curious  
veins of ironstone, sometimes  
in cross-bars. We saw 3 gazelles  
+ several hares.

Our interpreter Hassan Bafon from  
Arabia into Hadendawi has 3  
coursing dogs with him. We  
got on splendidly without Soetis.

None of ourselves understands  
Hadendawi. Hamid N'Si man  
is a Bisharin.

We are now again among the  
foot hills not so pretty as last night.

We have our Captain Hamia  
with us + 2 sailors. They made  
us stop before we expected saying  
there was water somewhere. a  
camel has been sent.

We passed many enormous  
tombs of stone heaps, some with  
stones roughly set round + all  
with a slight hollow in the centre  
with larger stones in it. No one knows  
now who made them.

Feb 9th. We had a pleasant + long journey  
abt. 7 hours. rather more + arrived abt.  
2.30. Before we started however  
but before after we were mounted the  
Reis came + said they had not a camel  
a piece + would go back so after a good  
deal of bawling they were taken at their  
word + a camel was got for them + we  
felt we had another rather jarring ingre-  
dient to our camp + consented calmly.  
A camel was got + so the three



sailors said adieu to us in a great  
rage, but will be delighted to  
see us again. They were always  
so tired, or wanted to eat instead  
of pitching the tents & we can  
do as well without them.

At about 1/2 hour we got  
into the Wadi Journatiwa  
& met the camel that had been  
sent early for water. We cannot  
imagine why we did not camp  
there as that was the place  
named by the Marmouks or  
Sheikh Ali Debatop as our  
2.<sup>d</sup> night's camp. Hadei,  
Journatiwa & the 3.<sup>d</sup> day  
to reach Hadei.

We spent the day going from  
valley to valley & always winding  
to the left. At the end of the  
next one to Journatiwa was  
ended by a very curious mountain

the mean time was seen on the  
tops of various hills. mapping.  
We were always going from one  
room to another of valleys & always  
ascending & turning to the left.

By afternoon you are  
It is very interesting going among  
these valleys. You always have  
something new before you & as  
there is no visible opening you  
can speculate as to where you  
will get out, only the sun helps  
you to guess the direction it moves  
in.

Sheikh Ali Debatop has his wife  
with him, going home, a plain  
woman who always snuffles her  
face when even I look at her.  
I tried to take her photo on the  
camel but don't now if the  
jiggling enabled me to do so.  
Our camels here are easy



sailors said adieu to us in a great  
rage, but will be delighted to  
see us again. They were always  
so tired, or wanted to eat instead  
of pitching the tents & we can  
do as ~~without them~~

As to guides, Besides the  
rope round their noses & necks  
they have a fine leather one through  
their left nostrils. It takes  
much steering to get through the  
acacia trees without tearing  
one's clothes or baggage.

We camped in a river bed  
abt. 3 & soon had the shade of  
a small hill & had a fine fire  
& a very cold night.

Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. We travelled abt. 6  
hours, stopping after 3 hours for  
an hour or less, & unloading ~~which~~  
waiting for a camel which had  
gone for water. Mr. Smyth in the

the mean time was seen on the  
tops of various hills. mapping.  
We were always going from one  
room to another of valleys & always  
ascending & turning to the left.  
as before.

We passed a curious mountain  
standing across the end of a valley  
something like this. It  
 looked rather  
like a rhinoceros feeding, among  
the trees. Mr. Smyth went round  
one side & we the other & soon  
after came to a strange winding  
very narrow gorge better to go up  
than down. The pair of boxes  
on my camel nearly went over  
the camel's tail & I should have  
gone too had not I been able  
quickly to explain that the band  
fastening the saddle to the camel's  
neck had not been tied. So off they



to get, + stop the procession behind me. As far as I could make out the name of this pass is Tödin.

We got over the watershed, camped again in a river bed a little off our path but rather a pretty place + it looked cheery enough in the evening with 8 fires.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. We only went 4 hours to Hadai at last + here we now are in a little wood of acacia at the branching of 2 valleys.

There is a good deal of water here, some in pools + some to be got by digging.

It was quite a fable about the water being so good at Hadi that we must take little from Mohammad Goul + fill up for 3 days at Hadi. We could have

camped near water every one of the 4 nights of the journey.

After luncheon the Debalop party departed + they came + got some quassia chips tied up in a cloth to strengthen Mr Debalop. She is gone home + he was to meet Theodore tomorrow somewhere to show him some ruins.

Above the river on the other side is a little plain with a good many tombs of the present day + some old ones including a better domed building.

The present tombs are heaps of stones + a row of stones in a circle outside + at one side of this a few standing ones. Some of the circles have a few divisions of rows of small stones.

Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. This morning Mr Cholmley + I stayed in camp + Mr Smyth



went off with food + courage  
to attempt a hasty flight into  
the enemy's country but came  
back soon after ~~was~~ sending  
the men he had with him  
up to climbing. Both are patients  
of ours. E is gone off to see if  
the ruins are worth moving to.  
It is supposed to be 3 hours.

He came back excited + delighted  
at having discovered an old set-  
tlement of goldminers. The remains  
of their huts were there + many  
mills for crushing quartz.

Of course I wanted to see this  
and also the village that E had  
passed on his way so those  
Sheikhs who were in camp were  
summoned. Sheikh Ali Hamid  
of the Kourbat tribe was anxious  
to get us on to his country + Sheikh  
Hassan Bafori was also against

us so we said we would wait  
till Debatop came. He was to arrive  
"immediately after sunrise".

I had been amused by the people  
having a sham fight so I went out  
+ took some photos; also later one  
of them walked about a good deal  
on his hands with his long hair  
hanging down.

We had a strong wind in the eve  
+ a cold night but quite dry where  
as the night before the water was  
streaming off the tent.

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. A dull cold morning  
made the fire very pleasant for  
breakfast. Soon after E + I walked  
off to look at some tombs or what  
ever they may be which certainly  
did remind us of Zimbabwe -  
small things of which E. has made  
a plan. Debatop did not return  
with his wife till we were at our



12 of luncheon, bringing us 2 pairs of These horns + some sour milk. He consented to take us; but tomorrow as it is too late today we promising<sup>an</sup> extra present on reaching Mohammad Ghoul.

It is now gone up a hill to look at a building there.

We took another look at the stone heaps + climbed a hill to look at a little beacon of stones set up on it.

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> There is a difference of 2 days among us as to the date.

We consumed for breakfast the Artificial Horizon that Mr. Smythe had used last night to take the latitude. It was very good. It was not quicksilver, it was Golden Syrup.

Debalop had a different wife with him this time. He did not come

with us, but went round another way by his village, if such it may be called.

We went on till for way we came to a hamlet of 3 small matting huts.

I bought a gazelle trap a little circle of thin sticks abt 6 or 7 inches across, bound round + round with bark + between the bindings are little thin sticks set in like a wheel but overlapping each other thickly in the middle.

This is put under a tree over a hole + on it is laid a rope noose.

The rope has a stick 3 or 4 feet long tied into it abt a foot off the end + that is fastened to a tree. The gazelle steps through the earth which is scattered over the trap, rope stick + all + by the time he can disengage his foot the noose has caught him + the stick prevents him going through the bushes.



We had ridden to within a couple of miles of Wadi Gabait when we came upon a group, consisting of 2 or 3 old men, a couple of young men + a girl with some camels under a tree.

Sheikhs Hassan Bafou + Ali Hamid made us stop at 100 yds off while they went forward to parley. Iak went too + everyone but Mohammed Tarnail + we were told they were there brandishing their spears + shouting that we should not go on. They were of the Kilab tribe so I said he would wait for Debalop. In the mean time our two soldiers got their guns ready + made I + M.C. take guns too + all the shields were taken off the camels + the spears + large sticks.

At last we were allowed to go a little

forward, really quite close to them but Hassan would not let us go to them + he + Ali Hamid who had been dull + cross all day + not talking so much as usual with his harsh voice took each other by the arms crouched down with their backs to us whispered + came saying we must go back - I refused + said we were not frightened + after a great deal of shouting backwards + forwards during which we made it clear that they feared our finding their water, I said we would wait no longer so we walked on, our caravan having all come up + very soon our own Kilabs brought our own camels for us to ride. I led the way as he knew it straight to the water in a small round <sup>valley</sup> basin filled with rude remains of cottages + quantities of broken + nearly perfect mills.



The waterskins were to be <sup>filled</sup> patched in case of any difficulties about water <sup>afterwards</sup> first of all, so I went with W. S. & C. up a little pass down into a larger valley & as they went on I returned the other way round the hill & came face to face with the enemy on foot & camels.

I walked up to the worst old man with my sweetest smile nearly got his hand saying "Leil 'Gak saidi" to him but he drew back horrified waving me away. Hassan was there & tried to make him. I laughed & the soldiers rushed forward so I sat down & said I want to look at them. They had all seated themselves under a tree. Annibal, Hamid & W. S. Smyth & guns arrived.

I imitated that old enemy to Hassan then & they all laughed & I said why should anyone be

afraid <sup>of them</sup> as he was afraid of one lady so I then retired having explained to W. S. Smyth all that had happened.

He was riding with one man on his camel behind, taking a reconnaissance when Hamid who had reached Gabait galloped back, took the other man on his camel & made W. S. gallop past the enemy. He rushed on & seeing me there & not the other thought they had been slain & then been spared.

We pitched our camp in peace & very soon the Debalops came & there was a deal of talk of course & then I sent for them all & they wanted us to go tomorrow but I firmly said the day after tomorrow & everyone told me not to be afraid now!

"Peace! Peace!" had been shouted previously. "Aman! Aman!"



I told them "I liked it. Every day  
we had travelled + seen nothing  
+ now today we had a "Fantasia"  
This is one of the mongrel seaboard  
words like Mangaria food  
Antika: curious, <sup>which</sup> may be applied  
to a beetle or a flower.

Then I went out + found a  
Greek word on a hill, roughly  
cut + our next excitement was  
<sup>special</sup> a post from Sauakin. A letter  
for C. from Mr. or whatever he  
is Heygate telling him "he had received  
his <sup>young</sup> letter from Mr. Abargues de  
Sosten who I am sorry to hear does  
not suit you." I paid £2 for a  
special messenger from Halsei before  
we started to Shelal to H. 2. the God of Saur  
so how Sosten got the letter we do not  
know, In it he asked for a Haden  
clawi interpreter to be sent to M. foul.  
The latter informs me that it is yr

intention to visit the Khor Hayato.  
If such is your intention I need  
hardly say that I can on no account  
accept the responsibility of sanction-  
ing your proceeding there owing to the  
disturbed state of the country.

"It is only safe at present to go abt. a  
day march from Halsei or M. foul  
in the direction of the Derwishes. I am  
in possession of fully corroborated  
evidence that the Ds are abt. & make  
serious raids into our country.

territory consequently I have given  
strict orders to the Mamours + Sheikhs  
under my orders to be responsible  
for the protection of all under our  
protection. I trust however that it  
is not your intention to proceed so  
far - &c &c."

The Khor + Wado Haiet were  
quite impossible so we had to abandon  
that project but here we are 68 miles



at least, as the crow flies from  
the sea.

Debalop got a letter from the  
Gnamour also + wanted to return  
today but we decided to remain  
till the day after tomorrow + no  
more was said.

Then they said we should go on  
the sea side below Erbar + Selala  
but at last we persuaded them  
to adhere to the original higher  
route + said we: sign a paper  
to protect the heads of Sheikhs  
Ali Hamid, Debalop + Hassan.

They said they did not themselves  
expect any danger.

We had a most quiet night.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. This morning I has  
gone with W. C. + a few tools to look  
at the veins of quartz + W. S. has  
gone on a "shooting expedition" with  
Sheikhs Hassan + Ali Hamid

with food to try + stay out the night.  
+ the camp seems quite deserted.  
I have been a stroll or two + up to  
take the squeeze.

After dinner a man came + said he  
knew of ruins + only  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour off.  
+ after a tremendous discussion as to  
safely it was settled that with one camel  
for me + the rest on foot we sh<sup>d</sup>. visit  
this place in the morning.

Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Some did + found that it was  
the place the mills had been made, saw  
no trace of houses but a good deal of  
scum + signs that the miners had  
prospected all round. The sand  
seemed to glitter with gold.

We returned to our camp + set out  
about 10 + in 4 hours reached a bare  
place called Hambulli. We pitched  
under a large tree. Alas! we arrived  
without our little Drake. She strayed  
on the way + ran up a hill + through



Two search parties have been out  
one with Sheikh Hassan & himself  
as far as Gabait it has been in vain  
The thermometer down to 50 in the  
night. poor little beast.

In the afternoon came more letters  
one very arbitrary one to G from  
the Gov. of Souakin & one from  
the Mamour in a terrible fright

Our Sheikhs certainly don't expect  
aid on their camels as they graze  
out at night. our camp is wide spread  
we have so many large fires & the  
shouting & singing could be heard  
far off... Of course there were many  
councils & consultations all the  
evening but we went to bed persuaded  
we should go along the upper  
way.

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Very cold. The soldiers now  
poor fellows made a difficulty but  
at length G wrote a letter to send

by the messenger to the Mamour  
By Excellency we have decided  
to go by Erba & Seltala & hope to  
reach M. G. in a shorter time by  
that route."

We are now in the Kowbat country.  
We did not start till at 8.30. delayed  
by the loss of 2 camels. However after  
this delay all sorts of changes were  
made & we got away. Sheikh Hassan  
giving G his camel. & I had the water  
one. On the way Sheikh A had to  
take Mr. Smyth's & go after one of his  
hounds which he did not find.

We camped after at 4 hours &  
a very desert ride near some trees  
which however did not afford us  
a fire at night. We were a good way  
from water, We had to carry it this  
far from Gabait. It was thick with  
sand & earth. It had been got by  
digging. The messengers of the Mamour



Moussa Manahn  
a Sheikh joined the party.  
We rode 6 hours without any ad-  
ventures + camped in a beautiful  
place in view of Erba or Elba  
as it is indifferently called though  
the latter must be right.

We had fine fires at night +  
made some charcoal to carry off.

This is Sheikh Hassan Bafou's  
country. His tribe is a branch of  
the Kourbats.

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Started 7.30. + wound  
about among the mountains  
twice we had to dismount +  
walk over passes. One was a  
very fine one with very bold  
rocks + cliffs. We had not long  
mounted our camels again after  
this + were in a very narrow place  
when stones were bowled down  
from above without hitting any  
part of our caravan but there

was great shouting at the offenders  
by the principal Sheikhs who  
desired one of the soldiers to  
fire his gun which he did +  
they laughed very much when  
I said to Sheikh Hassan "Last time  
it was Sheikh Debatop's + now  
your people".

We are now among the high  
cliffs of the Khor Kour + it is  
well we are near water for when  
tea was to be made for luncheon  
it was found that that beautiful  
white water of last night had  
been put into the dirty skins  
with the mud of the last place  
+ was horribly dirty. The water  
yesterday took <sup>over</sup> 4 hours to fetch  
with camels.

Our companions the Kourbat  
+ Kourbe Kilab constantly  
plaster their hair with tallow.



till it is quite white. They say it is to make it look nice + to make them see far.

Tah told me in English when I asked about one of his tribe "that their hair may not appear black".

We were not allowed to pitch our tents too near the rocks for fear of stones being thrown.

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> When we were only just out of bed Sheikh Hassan was calling out "Al Khiam! al Khiam! 'tents! tents!" seemingly in a great hurry to be off.

We were gone the earlier + off at 7.30. Yesterday it was supposed that we were to go on one hour more + that one hour or one + a half today would take us to what is put down in the map as the Oasis of Sellala.

as Theodore thought it would divide the journey better to stop in the Khor Kour. Fortunately good water was near.

It took us an hour to get out of the Khor Kour winding among high rocks, most beautiful shapes + shadows + then we got into a very ugly wadi. Amadet by name.

The floor of it was very up + down + high rocks + little hills stood about, whereas all the others have been quite flat. But round this ugly valley there were ranges of most fantastic mountains, range behind range + at last we got into another Khor or narrow rocky valley or rather river bed Rabrabda + finally to a great sandy desert.

We were always looking out for the oasis where we meant to rest.



few days + wash etc.

On we went trotting all the way 4 1/2 hours to a place which consisted of a dirty little well with a good many round troughs built of mud, for watering camels, as for a village we saw nothing of one. A few matting huts are hidden among sand hills + the fine mountains

Feb 2 among which we had been travelling were quite obscured with dust + sand. They might not have been here. We settled to leave tomorrow.

We pitched our tent in a tiny cleft, tied to stones up on each side of the sandy slopes + had to keep our sunny end open as the other end was too windy. In this little place we had only 2 winds to trouble us + not all 4 as outside.

This is the headquarters of the

Sheikh Ali Hassan + he soon came to see us with several other sons besides Mohammad who had travelled with us + a good many children of the latter clothed + naked. They sat in a semicircle outside our tent + we soon found, what we might have known before that it would be impossible to go tomorrow.

We were sent a sheep + much milk + indeed our Sheikh Mohammed brought a huge basket full <sup>of milk</sup> when we were at dinner in our tent, because of the wind + lack of firewood.

It was this sort of shape + a foot  across.

In the afternoon I + I went to the huts + sat in a semicircle outside + bought a few things: long tassels with little red rags tied into them & hang on each side of the women's camels. Some earrings, quite Byzantine in style + a bag.



girder its only garment consisting of a string of large Cornelian & Venetian glass beads & some little baskets. We already have some huge things like extinguishers ornamented & tasselled with cowries which are put on poles to support an awning for the women.

Everyone seems most friendly & danger seems far.

The life of the sheep is spared as Mr Smyth got an antelope. We always have a flock of vultures near, large & white ones with a little black under the wing, attracted by our food. I saw 7 sitting together one day.

Feb 22<sup>d</sup> We are waiting for camels to go 2 hours off & see some ruins & inscriptions! Little hope have we. Waiting all the forenoon with W S & his map in our tent & afternoon we

set out Mr C. E. & I with Annubale & a soldier, the tall black Abdullah under the guidance of Sheikh Mr. Ali Hanid & another & went at a fast & ceaseless trot to a heap of rocks some of which were enough were scribbled over with the very red of pictures of elephants & camels & other objects.  I can hardly write it is so cold & windy as I am waiting for our start on Feb 23<sup>d</sup>. The rock is black & the first set of scribbings were weathered red like the surrounding rocks. Some were white. In about 10 minutes we set off again, having seen the ruins of a tower visible from the sea. The wind was very strong.

When we got home we had tea & cake kept for festive occasions, such as New Year, Deliverance from Soudan & in honour of the joyful news brought by the returned soldier Ali that poor



little Drake had found its way  
over hill + dale + wending wade  
<sup>at least 100 miles</sup>  
without water from Gabeit  
all the way to M. Joul + swim to the  
ship, causing great terror to the Mammo  
who thought it was the sole  
survivor. <sup>Ali had died very shortly after the attack</sup> No doubt I has overcome  
their fears. its horror of black men, specially sailors.  
Sheikh Hassan who has lost a 2<sup>d</sup>  
dog also has heard of their safe arrival  
at home.

A very nice man of the Achraf tribe  
Sheikh Seyid Bakr has turned up. He  
had many testimonials + lives in the  
forbidden W. Haisit + gave useful infor-  
mation as to the geography + the course  
of valleys. We have decided to forgive  
the map, which is after all a rough  
heavenly one at Selala. There are  
5 Selala, which means a water place  
+ there is an Oasis. We have been  
in another Wadi Selala  
to get an answer to "The two-pound

letter" addressed to Halau Halaib or  
Halei Dated Jan 26<sup>th</sup> very civil +  
promising that a Hadendowei  
interpreter should be sent; rather  
late + we are getting on perfectly  
without

No doubt the Curt incivility of  
these latter letters are caused by the  
leis of Sostin.

Mr. Smyth started off with 3 day  
food + Sheikh M. Ali Hamid + to  
consent to get a peep into the W. Haisit.

We travelled abt. 6 hours northward  
passing 2 towns with a window  
on each side of one that had 4 side  
+ the same number in the one that  
had 6. The windows were abt. 6 feet  
up + by climbing we could look in  
one contained the scattered bones  
of a man + a skeleton laid on its  
side + partly covered with its clothes  
a sheet, as if the person had died in



his sleep. The wind was very high  
+ cold + we do tried to find a  
sheltered nook when we got to  
the mountain but it was quite  
too dirty to camp in + we had  
after all a windy place + for  
the first time instead of sand  
to blow in, dust + that very smell.  
We were nearly smothered with it.

The water was very clear + soft.  
"Harboub" is the name of the place.

Feb 23 We continued our northward  
course for abt 2 3/4 hours + then  
turned W up the Wadi Ambaio.  
In the outer part there were people  
living but we continued into the  
narrow gorge over a good many  
boulders, passing an opening that  
goes towards W. Adatterik where we  
have already been. We do not get the  
sun till we have finished breakfast  
+ it is hidden quite early in the

afternoon. Mantthaco's has a beauty  
kitchen in the middle of the  
gorge with a fine flattish boulder  
for a table.

The water is hard + some way up  
the gorge. There is a path to it higher  
up on the left bank but E + I went  
up the enormous boulders. very  
picturesque.

Feb 24 We were all busy. There was  
bread making, preserving of antelope  
heads, washing + charcoal burning  
for the servants. + we found plenty  
to do besides.

In the evening we were glad to have  
Mr Smyth back in safety.

Feb 25. We stay here today + go on  
tomorrow.

In the afternoon E + I went a brief  
and a scramble far up the gorge  
to the further pools of water. The  
scenery was splendid. Huge boulders



and lovely pools + little cascades  
high cliffs + long curtains of creepers  
up above. Mohammed Erkab  
carried my camera + I carried  
a cup, some citric acid + sugar.

We met 2 of the Kowrabat tribe  
who having used them as a fore  
ground we gave them some lemon  
soda which they took with  
much suspicion but liked.

Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. We travelled abt. 5 hours  
+ reached a well of very good  
water called To<sup>hai</sup> <sup>hai</sup>. Our tent  
was pitched under a large tree  
of which there were several about.

Mr. Cholmley had another fall  
from his camel, this time on  
his back on stones + got a good  
deal bruised.

Sheikh Hassan Bafri gave me  
a head of an ibex yesterday.

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> By 8 of we had finished

our journey into Khor Korkout  
a veritable frying pan. We have  
hardly room to pitch our tents or  
to get into them when pitched for the  
boulders + hollows where water has  
swirled about. There is very good  
water quite close.

I went up the gorge + said <sup>there</sup> it was  
awful climbing but splendid  
views so as it is impossible to take  
the tents we are going to push on  
on foot + spend the whole day to  
morrow.

We have two messengers today one  
Hassan Gabrin from Sawakin to  
guide us by land, or if we go by sea  
to say we were to go quickly. The  
other was from Mr. Sol with greetings  
from the Mamluk + enquires

Poor little <sup>Draha</sup> cannot have got fond  
of the sailors whom he used to hate  
for he jumped into the sea + swam



from the Lancer to land + ran  
away but has come back. I hope  
he'll be there when we get back.  
We hope to do so the day after  
tomorrow.

Feb We started early according  
to our plan + had indeed a fine lot  
of climbing as much down as up  
it seemed but we were 500 feet up  
by the aneroid when after passing  
the gorge we reached a few huts +  
had a long rest + much milk. S.  
Hassan's mother was there, so old  
that she looks like the last stage  
of "She". I sat with her some time  
watching 2 women making butter  
by shaking goat skins, which were  
hung in a tree under which they  
sat. They have their hair plaited  
in tiny plaits with beads + cowries hung  
on the ends. Their hair only reaches  
their throats.

We declined the offer of having  
an infant kid slain + roasted +  
climbed away till we found a  
shady place to lie down + lingered  
about till the sun was off over  
very hot camp about 4.

Feb There was no trouble at  
the camels coming in the morning.  
They were all anxious to reach  
M.ammad gol (this is the way  
I hear it pronounced.)

First we had to walk some way  
on account of the big boulders.  
Then we went round by Tok'hais  
to get water + also to pick up Sheikh  
Hassan Bafori + Ali Debalop.

The latter had been invited by  
the former to pass the night there  
and both had been granted to  
leave to leave us.

We saw the accommodation for  
the guests. A piece of matting



large enough for them to lie on  
and a rother piece supported  
on sticks at a yard high on the  
3 windiest sides.

Some milk was awaiting us in  
a very clean bowl. It was sheep's.

They were playing with a very  
large lizard which had no teeth  
but a very very long tongue forked.

They seemed afraid of it but  
I dare say it was harmless. Of  
course with a string round its  
neck + kept at bay with a sword  
it was far from happy.

We stayed some time round  
the well + after all was arranged  
the luggage + servants went to  
M. Jol + Sheikh M. Ali Hamid  
+ we with a large party, some of  
whom we had not seen before set  
off at a trot northwards to Wadi  
Ak alabileh where there were a

few huts and a few crushing  
mills + gold in the sand. Hadei  
the dirty well lay south of us.

Each of us had a man behind  
us on the camel that no foot  
passengers might delay us + at  
a fine pace we reached M. Jol  
ab- 11.

The little Mameur Mohammed  
Effendi, rather a vague sort of a  
name + his companions seemed  
delighted to see us + we were soon  
all seated in his hut drinking sher  
bet.

How different looked all the smiling  
faces of those we knew so well from  
the terribly scowling ones we saw  
when first we landed.

Having heard that Draka had  
run away for 3 days we anxiously  
enquired about her + heard every  
one praising + wondering at her



"Beni Adam," said the Mamour  
do not know as much as that  
dog."

Indeed no one of Adam could  
find its way as well.

First the poor thing went to the  
pier + jumped into a boat, <sup>small</sup>  
it + found it was not the right  
so climbed up the pier again +  
got into ours + being seen was  
brought on board, its poor legs  
trembling with weakness + its wailing  
described as very small indeed.

It did not catch much at first  
but afterwards did in a frightful  
way for the sailors have teased  
it so. It ran to our cabins + knuckled  
at the doors + waited + whined  
+ ran all abt. the ship + smelt  
our luggage + howled + lamented  
day + night + after 2 days jumped  
into the sea + followed some camel

+ was seen running in all directions  
up valley + came back to the sea  
+ to the ship + at last it was away  
3 days + so the Capt. gave it up  
as hopeless but it returned +  
they all declared climbed up the  
ropes into the ship one evening.

After that the Cap. tied him  
up a day + you may fancy the de-  
lighted meeting with us all. He still  
growls at the sailors + flies from  
them.

We found the S. Wind blowing if  
it can be said to do so in a dead  
Calm - perhaps "prevailing" is a  
word that might be used.

We finished the day settling  
into the ship again.

Feb Next day was pay day  
+ I went ashore with Annibal  
+ Manthaco + more than £40  
The 3 Sheikhs got, by advice of the



Mamour & 2 each. The soldier  
10/- each, far too much he said  
+ Mohammed Ismail, Sheikh  
Kissein Gabrin. Sheikh Mousa  
Manahn. Mohamed Zakab  
Ahmet (the overdressed) got 5/-  
each.

Besides this other presents were  
given.

Through the list of our lost or  
rather saved possessions not being  
quite correct C + I had each got  
an extra quilted cotton coverlet  
to be used as a mattress + had  
not used them so Debalop + M.  
Ali Hamid got them + + Hassan  
a blanket +  
a very smart silk Keuffich and a  
sword belt + A.H. got a cartridge belt  
They were so pleased + all seemed  
well satisfied. They had all been  
very nice to us.

We had a visit from the Mamour

in the evening. no refreshments  
had to be offered as it is Ramadan.  
It was given an opera glass +  
a silk blanket.

March We hoped to be off  
but the south wind still blows

Mr. Smyth went to Lokraia + brought  
some water back, as he had not  
seen that place.

C + I went ashore + the Mamour  
gave us each a walking stick +  
one for Mr. Cholmley made by cutting  
off the outside of an ibex's horn + putting  
grease on it + softening it in the  
fire till it can be made straight

They are very nice. He also gave  
me 4 pairs of loose horns (so I now  
have  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pairs) + a pair on the  
beast's forehead.

His secretary then gave me a huge  
camel stick of ebony, very thick  
+ heavy and a little stick made



of ibex horn to use on horseback  
and also a head scratcher, which  
they all said was most handy  
thing to have by one.

Everything damp & wretched on  
board.

March. Weatherbound yet! Storm  
staid today. We are rejoicing that  
that the wind is freshening as we  
till it does so & wind will come.

I forgot at its proper place to say  
that one day Sheikh to Mr. Ali Han  
who had got on a camel with baggage  
asked me if a black cabin trunk  
of Mr. Cholmley was made of pig  
skin. I asked him why & he said  
because it smells so nasty. It was  
made of oilcloth.

Two questions have been asked  
me which amused me hugely.  
One was if we ever thought of drying  
a flat iron. I said we had never

needed one & who could use it?  
It was explained to me that  
only a box 1 foot square was  
needed. When one thinks out  
all the details it is a very absurd  
notion.

The other question was  
Why don't you go to the South of  
France for a change sometimes?  
March We remained on board  
all yet. During the night the wind  
changed Eastward & in the morning was  
blowing strong N by E. I got up as there  
were no signs of stirring, as he always  
has to do, to tell. Reis Hammaia to start.

He appeared quite surprised but  
preparations began. Before breakfast  
we had a farewell visit from the  
Mamour & his 2 companions & soon  
after weighed anchor & rolled most  
violently the whole day only having  
the smallest sail. Everything banged



about, beds jostled each other + altogether it was not a very pleasant day. Though it was delightful no longer to feel wet + sticky as regards ones clothes, bedding + the whole ship.

We stopped near Darour among reefs of coral. It had been promised us that we were to have a calm voyage all the way among reefs, but this proved a fallacy.

The wind blew strong + when we anchored the boat whizzed round to leeward + very soon the anchors dragged + we went back on a reef only a little though. The anchors had to be got up + taken as near a reef <sup>by boat</sup> in front as possible + it was very hard on the sailors, who are all fasting for Ramadan that all this work should befall them at the very minute the sun set + they might eat.

## Sawakin

Gentlemen + servants all helped to haul us off.

But we went to bed after all with an uneasy feeling that we might drag again + we made some little preparations for a possible swim in the night.

March 4<sup>th</sup> We were all safe however in the morning and to having hauled the sailors up as usual we started just as we were at breakfast + almost the first thing we did was to grind over a coral reef more than the keel's length + got off without disaster. Now we are shaking along without much wind + the big sail is up. An awning has also been made up on the quarter deck + up I go further.

We arrived at Sawakin at 5.30 went at once for letters, glad to find our family well + to hear of 2



engagements.

We then went to Gov<sup>r</sup> House. <sup>Hackett</sup>

Pain Bey has arrived 3 days ago & is acting gov<sup>r</sup> over the head of Major Keygate who has been acting up to this in consequence of the illness of Col Lloyd.

He kindly invited G + me to take up our quarters at Gov<sup>r</sup> House. Mr Cholmley + Mr Smyth at Major Keygate's.

We passed our last night on the Kaiser, mosquitos, cockroaches + the mouse being particularly lively.

March 5<sup>th</sup> We have a good many large rooms at our disposal. As Pain Bey lives at the mess we do for ourselves. Manthair has not been able to get us any meat today but we have fish + really feel so relieved that

no one can suffer but our selves that we do not care.

We feel somehow quite tired today. Theodore is able to cast his great responsibility off his shoulders.

They have been very uneasy about us + have sent a telegram of our safety to Cairo. I hope it may be in the papers for our friends to see.

We hear that de Sostenfist wanted to go to Sawakin by land but was not allowed; then the boat went on a reef + lost the rudder near Ras Rouaya + he wanted to put in at Mgoul ber but was not allowed. He then has told quantities of lies about us here but the question has not been gone into thoroughly yet. He told someone that we would



not obey his orders so he left us.

Any how he managed to be very well received by Major Keggate who gave him a passage in the go<sup>o</sup>. steamer. <sup>also £10. as I had paid him nothing.</sup>

We also are to go by <sup>Behera</sup> that steamer on Wed. next. not by Jedda and Zamboti as we hoped but touching at M. Sol.

It is quite nice + cool here March 7<sup>th</sup>. A grand dinner at the mess. After it we were sitting out in the Veranda puffing + blowing + fanning ourselves when suddenly the wind changed + out blew the lamps + off blew their shades + we had to hasten into shelter hurriedly + very thankful we were not anchored to a coral reef at the time.

The Behera, which means "the Delta", was delayed + delayed by telegram + at last on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

it was found that the 9<sup>th</sup> <sup>Soudanese</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> was ordered to Dongola + they all expected to be off next day in the Behera to Kossair. + thence by land to Kenek. We still could have been taken but it would have been uncomfortable on account of the crowd + as the post boat had come in + it was by no means certain when the Behera would be off, our party to avoid delay embarked on the Rahmanieh Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. leaving great excitement behind us. We left our poor little Drake sadly behind with the sergeants of the Army Service Corps. Those that we knew here in the way of officers were Mr. Blunt A.S.C. Surg. Capt Hill Smith. Major Keggate + Major Racket Pain Bey go<sup>o</sup>. + Mr. H. V. Ravenscroft. He is recovering from



+ not fit to go with his reg<sup>t</sup> so  
has come with us + hopes to join  
by going up the Nile if strong enough.

We have had a tiresome voyage  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> so far, roughness  
made the most of by the empti-  
ness of the ship, screw often out  
of the water.

We have put in to Jedda + Zembu  
but could land at neither  
port, as coming from an Egyptian  
port we are unclean with sup-  
posed cholera.

Today we are to touch at Tor  
the port for Sinaï + hope to  
reach Suez tomorrow morning  
Sat<sup>y</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup>. We arrived at Suez after  
arranging our baggage, depositing  
+ insuring it we came to Cairo which  
we reached about midnight.

It was most fortunate we had  
not waited for the Behera, for

Major Wingate was going off to  
Wadi Halfa etc on Sunday night.

Theodore saw him in the morn<sup>g</sup>  
+ he was so pleased with the  
map that he gave Mr. Smyth an  
appointment in the Intelligence  
Department + he is to follow him  
on Tuesday. Great was the delight  
of Mr. Smyth + all of us. He is taking  
Tah + Hamid.

The map is considered too good  
to be published for fear it should  
fall into hostile hands + only  
a reduced copy of it is to be  
shown.

I went to see Mr. Wingate +  
saw Major W. in the evening.  
Abarques de Sostein has gone  
to law with Theodore, sending  
a bill for 4 months + for  
"nouriture" from Halaïb to Soudan  
+ other things for which Chas  
the receipts



I have put the affair into the hands of M. Carton de Viard a very good French Advocate who has already won 3 cases of extortion against Cabaques. It may not come on for months & then may be referred to Alexandria so there was no use waiting & we must hope for the best.

What we fear is false witnesses Mr. Cholmley Mr. Smyth Manthanos Zaha Hamid & Theodore all signed a declaration of what they knew & what they had heard reported.

We remained in Cairo till Friday 26<sup>th</sup> having had the pleasure of having Miss Booth & Miss Brocklehurst in the hotel with us, & then with Mr. Cholmley & Manthanos we went to Alexandria & embarked on the

Thedivich steamer for the Piræus Mr. C going to Marseilles - The steamer was most crowded I had a cabin with 5 Greeks - & I was one of 5, for 2 nights -

We arrived at the Grand Hotel Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March Athens.

Fannis the proprietor, Spiros & other waiters were warm in their welcomes - The town was gay & more than I have ever seen a town in Holy Week as it was being all beflagged & illuminated for the Olympic Games which were to take place on Easter Monday. We went to see Miss Trehouper in the afternoon, & called at the Legation & the English School & some other places & <sup>now Sir J. D. Gordon</sup> Mr. Egerton & Mr. Cecil Smith returned over visits and the former asked us to go to the Legation that evening, which



we did + the latter, to go to lunch  
at the Eng. School on Monday.

It was very pleasant seeing  
so many old friends. During  
our 9 days stay we dined once +  
lunched twice at the School +  
dined twice besides the evenings at  
the Legation + lunched with  
Mr. Bouchier the Times Correspondent  
at the Gr. Bretagne + we  
were to have dined at the Maoro  
Michalis; but the King sent  
for Kyrios Kyriakoulis Maoro  
Michalis who is minister of the  
Interior + we could not go the  
night they asked us to go instead

Mr. Smith being away I was  
asked to superintend some  
digging that must otherwise  
have been stopped but he did  
not find the site a good one so

it was abandoned. It was by  
the Kephissos, below the  
Olympicon + they thought it  
was the Kyrosargos. We also  
lunched with Mr. Palli

We left on April 7<sup>th</sup> via Corfu  
having seen the first day of  
the Olympic Games

We stopped in Milan 3 days  
+ saw a good deal of Professor  
Conte Giuseppe Ricchieri who  
had stayed with us for the  
Geographical Congress. + we  
dined with him + his pretty  
wife + Sig. Rossi was there also

We went I brought home from  
there with the help of sleeping  
carriage + reached London  
on

April 13<sup>th</sup> 1896.

T.O



In 1898 I was in Cairo again  
alone. We had heard no more  
of Soltens' Case & I hoped I should  
not, nor did I. I felt quite  
calm as all the papers were  
quite conclusive on our side  
& in good hands. I suppose our  
enemy knew he was quite  
powerless.













































































































