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Mediterranean. Said to be off the Coast
of Africa. New Year's Day 1884.

My dearest Anne

We left Naples, regretfully, on
Saturday morn. at ten. It being a high cold breezy
day. On our way we have made pleasant
excursions to various places of note but as we cannot
compass every course we were content to enjoy
the busy scene in the harbours first from the boat
that carried us to the ship "Leyon" as she drew out
out in amongst dozens of larger & smaller
craft & then on board of our vessel whi before
hand we had been told had 15 English speaking
passengers & 5 English Officers. How glad I to see you
will have a jolly time. My first care was to
arrange my wardrobe then a smart Cap-t had done
he will be easily reached before dinner. Lunch he
saw at 12. - as one at table but a few English looking
stature. but as the vessel had not then completed her
cargo we concluded the English fifteen had gone
on shore to visit Naples. I also for the peckishness of the
sea both I & had an unwholesome fast imposed

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of nearly eight hours
upon us. The things offered during this time being
hauled Cablage - Celled soup - Saus - bread & half cold
mutton - paper supplementing the same with macaroni
& mutton & grapes. But he consens to be hurried
in oblivion. It is now seven days a calm sea high
sun & more genial temperature. We are sitting on
the upper deck - paper study of Egyptian history v. 2.
& comfortably wrapped up together after having had
a nice lunch of Cold Chicken, Cheese & Saus - wine
expressing ourselves to wish you & all our other
dear ones - a happy New year - although it will
be only as an echo from afar when the post will
reach you. Tomorrow we shall reach Alexandria
but whether in time to proceed to Cairo the same
day is uncertain - more probably we shall have
to stay over night & take an early train Thursday
morn. I must return to my English fifteen - as
two of them here - two women - one old one mid-
dle aged - speak English & sit at table so I continue
to live in my hammock as I have done for the
past month. D. E. has got to be content with all
things as the paper & some as she has amiably done
since we set out on our travels. That's all
I intend to say about travels as this is a pause in

our wishy life we have been talking over
 distant prospects especially arrangements for
 our home coming! ^{1st} Suppose we reach Amherst
 near to July. ^{2nd} Suppose that Dr. & J. have by that time
 gone to a house of their own. ^{3rd} Suppose that Ellen
 desires to come back to us. We shd then wish to
 engage her for the 1st of July to market Cook
 & otherwise to provide for James Comfort as
 he chiefly must be in Montreal the greater
 part of July & August. Dr. & J. shd go to Paris to
 say the middle of August do we best to engage
 servants before hand & go to town & get the house
 cleaned & arranged for the invasion of English
 Savans. I shd like to pre-engage Miss Wells for
 three weeks. I shd also very much like to get the
 girl Mary who was with us for a few weeks before
 we left - it was she who cleaned your house -
 she went to Raven's Crag - where she was to get
 \$10 as upper housemaid. I think I shd make Mrs
 O'Brien understand who she is. I have also a
 chair to Catharine's (Mrs B. Wells) sister as laundress
 maid. The difficulty with her will be her igno-
 rance about the table at a time when time is
 necessary. As to Dr. I told her emphatically that

That she was welcome to remain at the College till
the Autumn & save the half year's rent & I have
no wish to retract - only I shd like to know as
soon as their plans are decided. Shd Innes College
be open we wd welcome her & will have at
any time during the summer. Besides I believe
Paper wd go there for a week or two if ^{you} were
there. As to service for Innes one wd be enough for
2. or one. & if one had courage enough to believe
it at all likely that this programme wd be carried
out I think I shd like to inquire about Mr Major's
gift & try to procure it - has for July & August.

Paper has not given his unqualified consent
to remain on this side till the middle of June
he wishes to stay in London till the middle of May
when at the Scientific Mgt Class. & we tell him
that we could not well give less than a month
to friends in Scotland. At present I have no hope
of persuading him to remain later. It was your ad-
vice that got him to better to so late a date.

It is our present intention to get new carpeting
for the dining room & library & I forget to measure
the quantity required before I left. I have already
troubled Mr. W. so much about the Innes calling there

these it seems to occupy any more of his time
 I have thought that it will be a good plan
 to ask you to write a note to Mr. Nurse, Ontario
 street asking him to go & measure the rooms
 & tell him I shall want him to cut, make &
 lay them in August. indeed I believe you
 do this & send me the measures. Papa of
 his own free will proposed to remove his
 cumbersome writing table to the Museum & to
 do more of his writing there & to have his
 library more like a private one as he has
 now seen so many gentlemen in England
 have. What will you think of covering the
 front hall with the all library Carpet?
 It is too queer to be thinking of such things
 out of sight of land on the blue Mediterranean

Should you Cross Mrs. Judge Mackays party
 please give her my love & new years greetings
 very true I have followed much of her excellent
 advice & in nothing do you know of a
 than her earnest insistence that a plumed dress
 gown should find a place in even a small
 house. I have been glad of it many times & have
 slept in it while free air has. In fact the plumed
 dress & white hats is dark blue instead before having

London will ever be required even
 in Egypt appears at present problematical
 A certain Mr Johnson - Lewis at Naples & whom
 papa carried an introduction as a fellow
 scientist & with whom he spent some phan-
 tasy hours. told us that it has not been so cold
 in Italy for ten years. This somewhat considerable
 increase of the climate. The Pope however
 has been a decided gain to us. There has been
 so much less risk to health & we have been
 able to explore four times the amount of
 foreign & domestic antiquities. I have
 more than the time than at any other period of
 my life. I only hope the English Government
 will not be so slow as they have been in the
 past. I have not allowed myself to be hurried
 into any thing but the most essential of the course
 & it might be thought that I was going to give
 too little but I have not had time to do more
 than to hope that you will be able to do
 what you wish. I have not had time to do more
 than to hope that you will be able to do
 what you wish. I have not had time to do more
 than to hope that you will be able to do
 what you wish.

who could have made so much better & so much longer use of all the knowledge he had had the opportunity instead of an old woman like myself. Rankine said wisely when he remarked that travelling about he does in the hey day of youth when every new gain pleases & the knowledge obtained wears soon through life.

I now will calculate that you sleepy folks will be awaking to the fact that another year has begun to again & more formally I wish you & Bernard every blessing in the un-announced year. I sincerely hope that whether you are at Amherst or Montreal that he may enjoy a few days of rest & feel re-integrated to stand upon the latter half of the session. Tell the dear Children that when we come on board this ship a man came begging of me just instilled them in French to buy a Carat neck lace. In both English & worse French I offered him about a third of the price he asked after much gratulation & depreciation of my insult he handed me the coin. He then tried to get me to give him the same for an inferior set - but no I was not to be imposed upon so I radically he drew back a second & a

third vol. I finally obtained. These are per
 Edith, Clara & Ruth's new years gifts only
 they will have to be patient till I get back -
 Poor Eric I can never find anything to suit
 him. I shall have to look out for his engine in
 London. I was wanted one day on haggling
 about a Consul but I had had enough & made
 her try her powers - she succeeded in bringing him
 down to a pipe but it is too long a story. All
 business is done in this way in Naples & it will
 be still worse in Cairo. It is terribly demoralizing
 I shall leave the little paper life to add a word
 before mailing.

9¹/₂ P. M. There is every hope of
 reaching Alexandria tomorrow about
 10 A.M. & if so the tale ludicrous
 to go on to Cairo sub: will prevent
 any opportunity to write later. As Thursday
 the mail leaves & it will take quite
 a week to catch the Allan steamer of
 the following Thursday. After this our
 letters are likely to be irregular. We
 have had a charming day on deck & been
 making ample amends for our previous part
 with best love to all inquiring friends & much to your
 Mother.

P. G. Friday. Eva has given up hope of
writing at this time. She says to tell you that I
have made her slave like a nigger at painting.
Historically true, of an exceptionally fine character
James Artist - Mr. Tierck - who made the Nile journey
with us, having lent her some of his sketches & certain-
ly urged her to take the chance of copying some of them.
hence the accusation.

I have thought of telling you that hitherto my
Egyptian nightdresses have not been required. This
does not indicate an entire absence of chills, but
the unusually cold weather has made the game hard
abundant. Yesterday a heavy hail shower occurred a thing
almost unknown. Our night dresses have never

P.S. In regard to dresses in London. I will
still advise to get them wholly made there.
half of a waist pattern & a sleeve pattern or
then the measurements not be enough to guide
an intelligent maker. At any rate, altering
is not so bad as an original head fit. Renew
your whole order for London. Children's things
are the most difficult. — The Londoners are
not so expert as the New Yorkers & be particular