

Cairo

Jan^y 14/84

My dear Mr. Feltz,

We are to leave
to-morrow for our trip up
the Nile so I send you
a few lines before our
departure. We have spent
two very pleasant weeks
in Cairo. The weather
is delightful and every-
thing new and strange
in the people, the vegetation
and the aspect of the
Country. ^{& its monuments.} We have found
also many kind and
pleasant people among
the English residents,
and many interested

in the Geology, antiquities, &c,
 I have had opportunity, with
 a German Geologist here, to
 study and collect in the
 rocks and ^{of the Mokkattam Hills,} ~~prairies,~~
 and have learned much
 of the geological history of
 Lower Egypt and have
 made considerable collections
 of fossils. Brugsch Bey the
 assistant director of the
 Museum at Boulaq, to
 whom Sir E. Baring kindly
 introduced me, has also
 promised to aid me in
 securing a collection & has
 present the economic
 mineralogy of the ancient
 Egyptians, & specimens of

of their work in various
 kinds of stones, salts, &c.
 We have also received
 much kindness and
 obtained much information
 from Col. Scott Munroiff,
 Col. Stradach, and other
 gentlemen connected with
 the engineering and
 surveying operations now
 in progress under the
 auspices of the British
 Government, and which
 will be of permanent
 benefit to the country.

Last week I made
 a run out to Suer, along

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The probable route of the
Exodus as now definitely as-
certained by the discoveries
of Naville at the ancient
Bethan, and obtained a
much clearer view than
I have had previously of
the line of march and
stations between Beers
and the Red Sea, which
I think can now be
pretty satisfactorily made
out, and illustrate very
clearly the accuracy of the
short notices in Exodus
and Numbers and the
excellent generalship of
Moses, who seems to have
taken the best possible
advantage of his ground,

without reference to any
~~particular~~ remarkable instances
 mentioned in his behalf.
 I was very much struck
 in this regard with many
 points in the topography
 of the country which I
 have not seen previous
 noticed. I was not
 prepared to find the
 old land of Sothen be-
 coming so much of its
 fertility and beauty. It
 is certainly, though ^{in a limited} ~~in a~~
 extent, one of the finest
 agricultural districts in
 the world, and in some
 respects better than any
 other part even of this
 exuberantly rich country

that I have yet seen. Nothing
I am sure short of the
interest of preparing coral
have induced the Israelis
to leave it; and the
contrast between it and
the desert beyond the Red
Sea must have been
most trying.

I had also opportunities
when at Suva to study
the interesting cretaceous rocks
of Lehel at Nakta, and
to collect good specimens
of their fossils, as well
as those of the Mishka
sandstones as in the
desert, which contain
the recent shells of the
Red Sea, and show
how recently the lower

part of the desert here
 has been under water.
 There is however more
 than I can undertake
 now to tell in the geology
 of the country around Suva.
 I am very favourably
 impressed with the Fellabehn
 population here. They are
 strong-limbed, large boned,
 active, cheerful people, and
 most patient and diligent
 cultivators; though their
 implements are of the rudest
 and their husbandry far
 beyond description. There
 is perhaps no country in
 the world where bad
 government has produced
 so sad a contrast between

the productivity of the land
 and the purity of the people,
 where taxation is well nigh
 intolerable. It is hoped that
 the British regime may
 lead to some improvement
 in this respect. All the
 leading men here, among
 others the new prime
 minister Mr. Robert
 Lee seem to be convinced that
 the first thing for the im-
 provement of the country
 must be to open the
 borders of the people.
 In the mean time, efforts
 are doing a little for them,
 those of the American Board
 seem very active and efficient,
 and the native people Christians

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the morning in the matter of education.
Mr. Deussen met last week a capite
school in which there were said to be
700 boys, many of them sent English schools.
He also visited with photography & prints about
four 500 pupils.

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No more was left of Cassia down
the little of Sept. but hope to learn more
in the maps of the Nile. As no returns are
very much a letter longer in pairs, especially if
the quantitative relations which are at present very
high because eastward in force, and kind reports & in nature
of the
at present
of remain
Sweet
M. Deussen