

from \$3 to \$5. I sell Coovers  
in gal. Coovers work but  
the want the same price. Silver  
nickles & dimes are cheap  
them in dollars. I have  
at a market but I do not  
think any one family will  
come for any. Mr. Attycat  
there is a Russian kind of  
pottery made & we got a dozen  
of them. Some bases there. Here  
we have got some pieces of  
which embroidery is very  
common. fabric in gold colored  
like. Two things of Indian work  
to a basket. You Bernard to  
see at Peter when Coovers  
try to find. This is an excellent  
piece of work. I have 2. b of in-  
scriptions. Mrs. C. Miss Macle. Miss d. & Adell.  
Covers & much to verses & B. Weather.

to Cairo I mailed immediately after  
I had found an early Coovers piece  
which already knew that our charming three  
charming weeks on the Nile live only in  
memory, but I think it is a never-to-be-forgotten  
journey, & one that I begin to write about  
I shall be unable to write about anything else  
so as you intend to write to me by the same  
mail I shall talk of things in your last most  
acceptable & interesting letter of January 6<sup>th</sup> & just let  
me ask you to apply the same rule to anything  
I may have said, as apt as ever as may say, that  
indicates anything unpleasant "considering their  
only passing feelings" for the most part occur  
ing, a small space in the general current

of my thoughts. For really family griefs have  
 been greatly supported by the new scenes  
 that have occupied me. Although each & all  
 of you live in me as an extension of self &  
 all the circumstances known to me affect me  
 as personal troubles or joys wd. & the hardest  
 grief wd. be your suspected concealment of  
 anything. So please think of me as interested in  
everything affecting the interests of my children  
 but not by any means prettling or harassing  
 myself unduly. You know where I carry my own  
 & your joys & sorrows & I have ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> I hope, except  
 in so far as human action seems required.  
 I express myself freely, but as that matters  
~~not~~. yet I must add I don't think it contra-  
 dictory that I do often draw a contrast between  
 your incessant toil with the daily life &  
 my idle pleasures & am sorry that I cannot  
 share it, at least, with you who <sup>so much</sup> need a little  
 rest & wd. make so much little & longer use of  
 all the knowledge that is to be got in visiting  
 different & foreign countries. So however your  
 utmost not to overtax your strength - you have

had a number of severe illnesses in your  
 married life, besides the attack of typhoid fever,  
 & lack of these hours you has able to bear the  
 most strain. Another thing that occurs to me  
 is, that your sympathy with your children  
 is so intense that even in handling them  
 you unconscious by accident your motives to  
 this which do that when life to ordinary kind  
 need the change grows to be a severe trial to them  
 I am very glad that you have decided to send  
 Eric to the gymnasium. I only wish he wd. he  
 put into Cooper's hands for other education  
 for three hours daily. I feel sure that it is not  
 best either for children or grown people to be  
 too constantly together & a few hours per quiet  
 is more valuable than a chance one. I do think  
 children shd. be taught that there are times when  
 they cannot get access to their mothers - a certain  
 respect wd. spring from this that I dare know  
 anything else so likely to teach. I am also very glad  
 to hear such delightful acts of Edith. I wd. have  
 written oftener in reply to her kind remembrance  
 of us. but writing is one of the difficult necessities  
 of travelling, such as we have done, to Canada

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in the Continent so full of sighs & weeping,  
to be done in such a hurry that it always came  
off necessary business or sleep. - I am really sorry  
to hear of Mrs. H. Scott's state of health. I remember  
when she had the fistula Rankine's remarking  
"that if she had a cough in addition her life  
was not worth more than two years". I feel much  
that it is a serious matter. Mr. S. is also delicate  
& his anxiety has been been mostly on his part.  
It seems to me it wd be well for him to send his  
eldest girl (& heyr two perhaps) to a good English  
boarding school. Cheltenham wd be my choice.  
do many & sincere thanks for your thoughtful  
wise action in regard to Will. I know he  
is tasked to his possible powers, & such a position  
as you name wd weigh him down with its  
responsibilities. I do hope they will get a healthy  
comfortable house. I notice also the improvement  
you see in S. & am gratified accordingly & had  
such a nice long letter from him the day of  
our return here - Tuesday - no, Monday the 4th. Please  
give my love to Mrs. J. H. R. Malver - I feel most  
sincerely sorry to hear of her being so unwell & can  
experimentally by writing with her in the

kind of illness from which she suffers  
 It may well be a time of life that with  
 care she will outlive the course & be afterwards  
 strong. The fresh air of the hills will be the  
 tonic needed but I will by no means advise  
 people with weak lungs to attempt the voyage.  
 The sudden changes from heat to cold at  
 sundown, or by a land storm, will prove  
 fatal. It will have been pleasant to meet  
 Mr. Dunlop's relations at Florence or Rome  
 but truth told we were all dozing  
 at night & did not spare an hour during  
 the day so it will be just as well to have missed  
 them. I doubt we saw as much of these  
 cities in a week as they & most people see  
 in months. I am almost glad to hear that  
 Helen is found by others to be troublesome.  
 I am so apt to Cornelius that I myself am  
 the guilty party. I have never yet met the  
 good Cook & the Char, faithful woman  
 combined. I think we probably did not do better  
 than begin our town housekeeping with Helen

She will safely be trusted to go into the house  
 behindhand & get perhaps Mrs. Carpenter's Char-  
 woman to clean in preparation for our  
 arrival. I dread, in prospect, the dreadful  
 week of the meeting of the British Ass.: It looms  
 up sometimes as a coming nightmare  
 both on paper & my own account. I have  
 been pleading with him to go to the Windsor  
 for that time & I will devote myself to doing  
the job. I shall first have said that I have  
 proposed to remain on this side until Aug<sup>t</sup>  
 & accompany the Severns to Canada & take up  
 our quarters <sup>for the week</sup> at the Windsor & get our own  
 house arranged & go into it afterwards. He  
 won't listen to this proposition so I suppose  
 we must take chance of having all our  
 store of renewed strength worked out in  
 the cause of science. I wrote some time  
 ago that so far as present appearances indicate  
 I think it likely that June will be the month  
 of our baggage out, & if so that our Metric College  
 shall be opened to induce papa to spend some  
 part of the summer there. As the time nears I shall

I shall again refer to the probabilities.  
 You have several times mentioned your  
 ignorance of our plans. I myself have some-  
 how been rather in the dark about even  
 the general plan, papa has the ordering  
 so entirely in his own hands. but in this  
 region there has been much uncertainty from  
 causes known to you. We left All delays  
 to be arranged in Cairo & hitherto we have  
 been most fortunate in being able to carry out  
 all papa's desires. In regard to the Nile, I feel this  
 doubly because there is really almost no travelling  
 here on acct. of the unsettled state of political affairs  
 & our boat <sup>the Agamemnon we went in</sup> is the last one there is not another  
 going up <sup>the Nile</sup> this season. The news of the defeat  
 of the Egyptian troops (officered by Englishmen) on  
 this way from Suakin to Berber has caused  
 great excitement & great despondency here. We  
 passed General Sordani, on our way down the  
 Nile, on his way to the Soudan to treat with  
 the Mahdi & also <sup>hope</sup> as that his difficulties  
 will be greatly enhanced by this late success.  
 The water here is full of military, some of them  
 who are in charge of Egyptian & other foreign troops  
 in hourly expectation of being ordered off to reinforce

the small army that remain & to push  
 forward to the relief of those who are now  
 beleaguered in one of the small towns of the  
 sandbar. There is to us now such a real reality  
 about all this war, but I must not enlarge  
 on facts you will see in public prints.  
 On acct. of the late Cholera there <sup>has</sup> been no getting out  
 of Egypt anywhere without quarantine & expensive  
 quarantine; indeed there has been no way into  
 Palestine but by the Desert. wh. Costs £3. per day  
 per each person, & five days quarantine added  
 to the time of the journey is almost prohibitory.  
 Lately the news has come of the removal of the  
 quarantine & the first steamer will call at Port  
 Said on Sat: the 16<sup>th</sup> we shall have to leave here  
 Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> so again the way seems to open before  
 us for Palestine. We shall only have had a deten-  
 sion of about five days longer here than you re-  
 quired for his geological explorations. Apsa has accu-  
 mulated an immense number of rocks, he has already  
 packed some eight or ten boxes & we are taking  
 the chance to add various collections to our own  
 satisfaction. Only I am afraid to tell you but I  
 raise your expectations too high: In the sense of knowing  
the world is small. It is difficult to get anything new  
 & when one's purse is scantily supplied the endeavor  
 is "head swelling". One of the prettiest things to be got here is em-  
 broidery but the price asked is very high. Gold embroidery on a best