

1905 Toronto - Interesting

Re Egyptian tombs

107 Homewood Ave.

Wednesday P.M.

My dearest Mother,

Acc. 12-11

We have had a most-fascinating evening so I am going to try & pass it all on to you while it is ~~all~~ quite fresh in my mind. We had a Mr. Curletti - an Egyptologist to dinner. He is from some small Ontario town. He is chiefly English & about to Italian & that part has given him his name. He came to Toronto when quite a small boy & went to the University where he studied for the Methodist or Baptist Ministry - then he was out west among the cowboys & lived a rather roving life for a time & then he went to England en route for Europe where he was going to work as a labourer in order to get at the Social

conditions re of the labouring  
 classes. In London at the  
 British Museum one day a  
 little cutting with an illustration  
 of some Egyptian scarab or  
 some like thing fell to the  
 ground. A man picked it up  
 handed it to him & asked  
 him if he were interested in  
 such things. During <sup>the</sup> conversation  
 Mr Curcell said he had always  
 thought he should like to go  
 with an excavation party.  
 Why not? asked the man. He  
 knew no one to apply to re re.  
 The stranger who afterwards  
 turned out to be the Treasurer  
 of all the Excavation Funds &  
 one of the chief Contributors  
 gave it to him his card & told  
 him to take it to Petrie (I  
 think that was the name). He  
 was at once given a  
 position & went out to Egypt  
 after staying some time in.

place where he studied up languages & they  
must have taken the "Hau" on his face" so to  
speak & I think they did wisely. He is a  
most able looking man, & with the most  
clear mind - he can't be more than 30 or 32.  
He has a most-peculiar face - very fat-  
~~ness~~ <sup>but</sup> with a great-deal of character. He told  
us about all the excavations in such a  
fascinating way. He discovered the tomb at  
Abydos where the King "who knew not Joseph"  
was buried. He drew a plan of it for us. I  
thought I had it - quite clear & now I can't  
remember if this King's name was Akhmes, or  
Useratesu (2600 B.C.). However the tomb he  
came across rather by accident. He was coming  
along a ridge of hills overlooking a river bed &  
it struck him that at one point there was a  
peculiar ~~structure~~ <sup>hollow</sup> which he thought could  
not have been made by the current of the  
river. He took his men there & after digging  
a little way down they struck a brick & they  
went on digging & finally they when they  
got the whole tomb unearthed it was 640  
feet long. In one part the whole passage  
was blocked with enormous blocks of  
granite weighing over 64 tons <sup>each</sup>. How they could  
ever have got them into that passage he  
could never imagine, for the blocks were only  
three inches smaller than the lime-stone-lined  
passage. The mummy of this King had been  
found some time ago with a number of  
others that had carefull been removed by  
a later dynasty. The case that had been

taken to conceal the tomb was  
extraordinary. All the entrance  
part was made like that of the  
very poorest people of the time  
so that no plunderers would  
think that it was the tomb  
of a King. Mr. Curly said they  
could trace each movement  
of the people who had removed  
the mummy. They found pieces  
of beaten gold they had got  
broken off the coffin in the  
removal. Near the tomb were  
fragments of very handsome  
alabaster vases which the  
thieves had smashed to atoms.  
The next thing that puzzled  
him was where were all  
the stone chippings put that  
had been removed at the  
time of the building of the  
tomb? It was a subject of  
great mystery. Search was made  
in every direction. At last  
an idea struck him. He went  
to the tomb & estimated the

amounts of the varied kinds of  
stone that must have been  
~~removed~~<sup>displaced</sup> or then hid him off  
to the pyramid that has been  
tunneled & retunneled in search  
of the body which was supposed  
to be buried there. He found that  
the whole pyramid contained  
the chippings that had been  
removed from the place where  
the tomb had been built, so  
that the pyramid was simply  
built to receive & to hide all  
traces of where he really had  
been buried. There is still lots  
more, but it would take too  
long to tell & I have written  
you a very bad account &  
I am very sleepy. Thursday  
Today Mr & Mrs John Smith,  
Mr & Mrs Fernon, Mrs Warren & Mr  
Felix Cobbold are coming to lunch.  
Mrs John Smith - lunched with  
us one other day & is so nice  
I think. Audrey came back Monday  
night & on Tuesday we went

together & dined with Mrs Warren. I have not seen  
her since as she has been feeling too miserable  
to see anyone. We were at the Cascils one night -  
when Mr Arthur Cassette & Dr Sainp were there.  
Mrs Allan asked them both to come to dinner  
here the next night - which they did. Dr Sainp sang.  
One afternoon I had tea with Mrs Ramsay tonight  
& yesterday afternoon we both went to the  
chemistry building & Dr Sainp showed us over & performed  
experiments &c. He walked home with me afterwards.  
Really he ought to have taken more exercise he  
literally pants even when he walks slowly. He  
was going to take me out after the sight seeing  
yesterday for a drive with a pair of greys but  
it poured! Funny we always thought in Montreal  
that he was in love with Miss Frier. Here it is  
one of the Nordheimers! Please thank Clare for  
the parcel. I sent down the "Divine Fire" which  
I hope arrived safely. When you are through if  
one of the chicks could leave it at Dr Nichol's  
office on Peel Street. I do wish I could  
hear of your being settled. It is so wretched  
to be going on indefinitely like this. I am  
trying to hear about Aunt Eva. Love to her  
& from me to you all

from

N.B. Will wrote & asked me to ask  
Mrs Allan if he might get a typewriter  
with the money she gave him. She says yes.  
Did he want me to get it here? If so he  
will have to send the money as I will see  
that you see his own cost me \$5.00. It  
seems to me it would be better if I should  
give my typewriter to him for the time  
present. It  
is not being  
used. Should  
be returned  
to me if  
you will.

In great haste per usual! Sad  
deterioration in my hand-writing!!!