

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. Curlett - 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 ^{the} 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~~ ^{but} 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~~ ^{hollow} 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 ^{each}. 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~~^{displaced} 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 Casselle & 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 Nicholls'
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 him.

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