1868

Bursley, Annie

Susan Hale

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Monday evening.
Alexandria.

March 6, 1863.

My dear Mary,

How are you? How is my little girl? I hope you are all well. I am not as well as I was, and I am afraid I shall not get well. I am much disjointed and dispirited.

I do not want to be a soldier, but I must. I must do my duty. I must help to support my family and be a man. I must be strong and brave. I must fight for my country. I must fight for the Union. I must fight for the freedom of the negroes.

To your husband and children, I will write soon. I will write to them and tell them how much I love them. I will write to them and tell them how much I miss them. I will write to them and tell them how much I want to see them again.

I will try to be brave and strong. I will try to fight for the Union.

Yours affectionately,

[Signature]
taught to believe the "de ladylike" Fanny on the Pond is like a touch of last winter. Snow for you skate with girls of course he is the best to skate with. Food for you about your skating. Only with Fanny did know — I think in spite of Mr.'s great disapproval it is rather disagree of Mary to speak the girl about her

Amie E. Willa

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love, so I wrote her it was a great chance of her could get them; and just as like, he hasn't bought them at all. I had a short letter from dear Dr. Hedge — Oh dear! my letters are what I live on. I shall probably be in Paris, Annie — you might send the advice on the chance. If you don't, I'll get the thing. Think I shall get myself some jet earrings, but I shall not likely want to lay out very much I can find. I can't help hoping we may find you at your dear old house.
To Miss Annie Bursley.

Near Cairo,
Thurs. Jan. 16th, 1869.

Dear Annie:

What a big gap there is between this date and the one I began on. I soon gave up the idea of a journal, for it would have taken 3 volumes like a novel, and fatigued your eyes and brain. We have kept a kind of journal which we shall send home, and I will ask Nathan especially to send it to you, and just finish this up with a few general remarks. We expected our letters at Sint on the way down, but they didn't come by some stupid Arab mistake, so we haven't heard a word from home or any civilized place since we started Dec. 17th. It was a horrid disappointment, but we shall get some more very soon, for we reach Cairo Saturday.

And so will end our delightful Nile voyage. Long will my nephews and grand-nieces hear the tales of wonder and delight connected therewith. I must hasten to mention that I am not engaged in the slightest degree to either of our gentlemen, although they have both been just as nice as they could be;--and I should like to bring Mr. Van Lennep to America to let you see how agreeable he is. Always good-natured and amiable. I haven't once seen him "mad" or in the least put out. Marvellous for one of his sex, isn't it? But I won't say more lest you should think etc, etc, which I'm not.

I talk French a good deal with Mr. Tarvil, for he is a little awkward at English, but speaks French perfectly. He is flattering, by the way, about my French, but it is beastly. I shall miss them after we part although I daresay we shall meet frequently in Alexandria. As for the Lesleys, I don't know what we shall do without them; for Mr. Lesley is very nice--very learned, but ready for fun and accepts any amount of sarcasm from me--and Mrs. Lesley is perfectly lovely, sweet and disinterested and funny. The young men are devoted to her. I call her "Sister Lesley" in fun, and you ought to hear Mr. V.L. say "Seester Les-lee"--when he means a joke.

We have seen heaps of ruins and hieroglyphics and cartouches, and I know lots about Rameses and Memnon and all the old coves which you never would suspect me of--though less than any of the party, for I can't pay much attention to the subject. Double Acrostics are quite scarce. Luc. and I get out the book sometimes, but Charles snubs them, and you can't expect our foreign males to be up on English Quotations, though they are well-informed. 150 is my number of guessed. It makes me mad to think that you (or rather the Hs) have the Key, for I must suspect them of taking occasional peeps, or at least giving up too soon. At present we are stuck on "My first whene'er tried is found wanting."

To tell the truth, though we've had such a splendid trip, I shan't be sorry to get into a bed I can turn round in, a room ditto,--to see a looking-glass and take a reasonable bath--nearly five weeks in a small cabin the size of my closet at home is enough. If it were only America we were steaming to! Dear Annie, every night I count the months that are gone and those to come before April. I hope we shall sail in April, and I really think we shall. I shouldn't be contented a minute longer. I haven't told half or quarter of our experiences, but I must. # # #