

may be obtained in enormous quantities and at reasonable prices. It was not uncommon for one of these rulers to bury several thousands of these small figures in his tomb.

We left the old ruins of Memphis and its surroundings, including a pretty group of date trees which are said to have grown there through the dealers of dates camping on a square in Memphis, while disposing of their stocks of fruit. We saw a number of caravans encamped under the trees. After leaving the date trees we rode for five or six miles further into the desert. The wind had risen to a terrible gale and the sand was so blinding that those of us who had failed to bring glasses or eye shields, had to shade our eyes and allow the donkeys to lead us. It was an excellent specimen of a sandstorm in the desert, and served its purpose to a degree of satisfying many of us looking for an experience. We climbed a dune in the desert, many of our hats being blown off as we reached the top, disappearing into the distance, with the tail-twisters after them. If they were quick enough they got them, but several were lost forever, suffering a burial in the lonely desert.

We stopped at a small one-storey stone building, the only one we could see for miles around us. It was the desert police station, with two policemen who rode on camels under command of an officer. The whole force was out and followed us around the desert until we returned to a safe zone of Egyptian civilisation. Several miles out in the desert we dis-