

one of the three or four water-pots broken during their search.

When we entered, as much rubbish as possible was taken from the pole-roof chamber, and then the left hand room, D, was entered. The chain of basket-boys and men passed it up to the surface, and from there it was thrown on the dump heaps. A little of the rubbish from the right hand, D, was also passed out, but as soon as the former was fully measured and planned, we began to pile rubbish in it. F was the next room cleared. The rubbish was put into baskets and carried back to where we were piling it. To move it along the 75 ft. of the passage E, made it necessary to employ the smallest boys who could carry a basket full, for the passage was so piled up that they alone could stand upright.

As soon as one room was cleared it was carefully planned, and then used to hold the rubbish from the room beyond. In the passages, however, the men merely dug and threw up behind them. In this way we worked through the great rooms and passages, which extend nearly 650 ft. into the rock.

43. We followed the first plunderers through every part of their work. They had used every inch of room possible to pile up the rubbish from their tunnels, and all this was worked over as carefully as possible. Even the tunnel they had so fruitlessly dug under the granite plugs

had been filled. This was very difficult to clear out, but we had no idea what it was, and so followed it to the bottom. One day while this was being done I came in to find the men in the sarcophagus chamber. They were called back, and sending Ali, the son of Omar, just ahead of me with another candle, I started to work myself down the little tunnel. He wormed himself along in silence till he came to the end of the part that had been cleared, and then nervously pointed up. The rock supporting one side of a pair of the great blocks above us was broken, and it looked as if very little was upholding the great weight. Ali looked at it for a moment and then said, "I have three wives and eight children, and I always have bad luck." Although in my own case these eleven ties to life were wanting, I was not much more anxious to remove any more rubbish from under the blocks, so that part had to be calculated from the other end, when we found the limestone wall that divided the plugged passage from the sarcophagus chamber.

Even while we were working, the sand twice over blocked the entrance to the tomb; so that a long chain of boys was needed to clear the way again; and when the place was left alone to the long steady sweep of the sand-bearing winds, the entrance was soon filled up, and the kindly sand closed from view and preserved one of the largest tombs that is known.