

A LETTER FROM THE FRONT.

Private N. Sineeff, a Russian subject, who was formerly employed at the Dubbo Freezing Works, and is now a member of the Australian Expeditionary Force in training at Cairo, has written to Dr. Burkitt, describing his experiences in Egypt. The effect of the missive would be utterly lost were the letter to be subjected to anything in the nature of sub-editing; hence we print it just as written. Some of the expressions are, and most of the phraseology is, decidedly quaint. Sineeff says: "I found it grand to sit on top of Cheops' Pyramid and look on the panorama below. It is a very hard work to climb those great steps, but when I get there I am awarded. There are sold coffee and fruit on top, which has a pretty big square, enough for 100 men to stand. There stood once Napoleon watching the Nile, looking at distant Cairo, and thinking of his past and future victories. I stood and admired hundreds of our tents, which stretched themselves in regular lines below. There was marching a brigade; light horse was galloping over the hills, and artillery was taking a position. We (or rather the natives) made good new roads to facilitate the supply of our provisions. Long caravans of camels and donkeys are going to and fro. I am proud to say that our battalion was chosen in December last to represent the 1st Infantry Brigade at the ceremony of Accession on the throne of Sultan. We are proud that our

battalion is the best, because we march and shoot first class. I wish I could

and sport with class. I wish I could speak to you on the 'phone, but I will tell you one of many a funny incident. An Egyptian boy came to our camp selling cigarettes. One of our fellows started an argument with him, but seeing its failure, he opened his mouth and began to move with his false teeth, thinking to frighten the boy and get those cigarettes cheaper. The horror stroke the poor boy, and he ran, ran for his life, and never turned back, though he dropped some cigarettes, to the unexpected delight of our chaps. I think I never laughed so much in my life. But never mind that boy, he had been laughing with his countrymen to themselves when we, knowing neither the price of the things nor the value of local money, had been paying that what they asked, and often more than that. Well, dear sir, I will not waste your time in reading my writing of all rumours we have. Whatever happens, you can be sure that Australasians will add to the laurels achieved already by British, French and Russians on land and at sea."