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S.S. CALIFORNIA

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1931.

Dear Mother.

The night before we reached Marseilles we had quite a storm, there was a high wind & the waves were dashing up so that we had to have our port holes closed, they shut all the storm doors as well. lots of people were ill, but I did not suffer from anything worse than a sleepless night, but I made up for that the next day. I did not go ashore at Marseilles, we did not stay very long & its<sup>sic</sup> not a very attractive place & I hav'nt<sup>sic</sup> forgotten the horrid thing that bit me last time I was there.

Lady Constance Perry came into our cabin at Marseilles, she is'nt<sup>sic</sup> a bit what we expected. she is very tiny, middle-aged & homely looking, & the most apologetic person I have ever met, she has never travelled before & is so imbarassed<sup>sic</sup> at having to dress & sleep with two strangers that she



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tries her hardest to efface herself, & hopes<sup>2</sup> she isn't intruding, & should she come a little later so as not to be in our way. She has her bath at 6:30, & hurries back & dresses, so that she won't be bothering us. no protests on our part have the slightest effect. it is really very sweet & charming of her. but Mrs. Cain & I feel rather distressed about it, & do our best to be in the cabin as little as possible.

We also have a Maharajah<sup>sic</sup> on board with his suite. Their table in the dining saloon is just behind the one I sit at. There is a great fuss & to-do at dinner. The head waiter brings in the dishes & presents them to him before they are carved. yesterday the Maharajah<sup>sic</sup> objected to the way something was being served & told the head waiter to bring the dish to him & he would show him the proper way to serve it. They all wear conventional evening dress.

We are having dances on deck in the evening. They start with Paul Jones so people get to know each other & it helps to do away with the stiffness. I have had several dances & find I have not forgotten as much as I expected. one of my partners was an Indian from the Maharajah's<sup>sic</sup> party. he danced beautifully. he was very tall

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 a solid Scot who lumbered round &  
 sang Loch Lomond & thoroughly enjoyed  
 himself. & invited me to have a drink  
 afterwards. I did. but only lemonade.

The next letter I shall send  
 you will be from Egypt. I will post this  
 on board before we get into Port Said  
 & it will go on a homeward bound  
 steamer. A few days ago we passed  
 the Ranchi on her return journey  
 & yesterday our hooter passed the time  
 of day with another Anchor Line boat.

We have had very dull weather  
 no blue Mediterranean. & several days  
 it has rained. I hope I shall not find  
 the climate in Egypt has also changed  
 for the worst.

Lots of love to you all.

Your affectionate daughter

Myrtle.

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