

misdated
 - should be
 1936 Not 1935

Arabah el Madfunah.
 Feb 12th 1935 - 368

Dear Mother.

I am so sorry to hear the sad news about poor Mr Johnson it must have been a shock to Sallie, I wonder how she will manage without his contribution to the household expenses, I wonder if he will have left her anything.

What a pity my letter with the poem of Amice's did not reach you I think quite a lot of my letters went astray before I sent them by the weekly British mail Steamer, I am so glad you get the letters regularly now.

Yesterday Amice & I went to Girga again for an afternoon's shopping. I wanted a lining for my satin

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coat, also a blouse to wear with it.
I got a piece of Chinese silk like
the Sheikhs wear as under galabias.
I enclose a cutting, it is so finely
woven that I have to use the very
finest needle to sew it. I bought
a length of about 9 yards for P.T. 50
(that is 10/-) of course it is very narrow,
about 20 inches. There is enough
for two blouses & a coat lining.
Amice fell for another length of satin.
I enclose a cutting. she wants to use
the blue for furnishings & the new
length of pink is for a frock.
We had a wander round the town
& were looking at one of the doors
of an old mosque & the sheikh
came out & invited us in. so we

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Took off our shoes & went in, we were surprised to find it has a beautiful painted roof. all sorts of quaint conventional flowers like those on persian tiles & there was also some fine wood work. seeing how interested we were the sheikh offered to show us another mosque, he told us that in ancient times a Princess of China who was travelling in Egypt got very ill, & her relations took her to this mosque & she recovered & when she returned to China she sent the mosque a gift of many plates!!!

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sorts of quaint corners into a lovely
courtyard where we removed our
shoes & went up a flight of stone
steps into the mosque. we were
amazed & delighted to find that
the gift of plates from China
was a wall covered with exquisite
Persian tiles. (it must have been
a Persian Princess) we spent a long
time looking at them. at one time
one of the tile covered walls had
fallen but they carefully collected
all the broken fragments & cemented
them on to the rebuilt wall in a
crazy pattern, but the original
wall had its tiles fixed with an
iron nail in the centre of each.
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hand wrought. the sheikh said
the mosque was 600 years old
but of course one cannot go by their
estimates, any more than by their
geography. but you can imagine
how delighted we were to see this,
as of course we never ask to go in
to any of the mosques, so it is
a very great treat as well as a
compliment to be invited in.

I am afraid my account is a
little disappointed, Amice is doing
accounts & is constantly referring
to me about various items.

We both send you lots of
love. Please thank Pat for both
of us for her letters & give her our love
Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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