



27.  
P & O. S. N. Co.  
S.S.  
Sat Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 1929.

2<sup>nd</sup> Letter.

Had another hectic day at Marseilles yesterday. In the morning I went ashore with the same lady from Old Cairo. we had a good look at the shops & then spent the rest of the time at the Zoo. we saw a darling baby panther about the size of our Mac. it was playing with a ball just like a kitten. we both wanted to hug it, we saw the lions bears jackals elephants. deer. & birds etc. we got back to the boat by 10 o'clock. Miss Calverley & her brother came on board directly after lunch. Capt C went for a mile round the docks & Miss C wanted to get her hair cut, so we went up town again together, after she had finished with the hairdressers we had coffee in a patisserie (spelling guesswork) the coffee was brought in little metal pots sitting on glasses. one had to wait until the coffee had percolated into the glass. then tip it into the coffee cup & add hot cream & sugar. it was good. When we had finished our coffee there was still 2 hours before we need go aboard to change for dinner so we thought it would be fun to go out in the motor boat to the Chateau d'If. so we found where the boat started & got aboard. there was one other English man the rest were french men of the peasant & artisan class.

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The return fare was 4 francs. so we took our tickets & when the man in charge could not get any more passengers we set off. it was glorious out in the bay & the little boat was pitched all over the place, we had all we could do to avoid being pitched onto the laps of the men on the other side of the boat. you may be sure being Frenchmen they took full advantages of the chances that came their way. Miss C speaks French fluently & she enjoyed having jokes with them. we seemed to be a very long time reaching the island, in fact we seemed to be steering in a different direction all together & then the boatman collected another franc from each of us because he was giving us a tour round the bay. I think he was in hopes we would be sea-sick.

however there was nothing doing & we drew up to the steps that lead up to the fortress. we were told to jump quickly when the wave lifted the boat, Miss C & I were hawled out in the most undignified way admid much laughter. We went all over the Chateau, we saw the cell where Edmund Dantès was confined & the hole he made into the ~~cell~~ cell of the old savant, & the place where he was thrown into the sea. it was all very exciting. some of the old doors & hinges are very fine & the whole place very massive. most of the cells have barrel roofs & huge fire places. we climbed up to the roof of the tower & had a splendid view of the

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of course I could not follow the plot but I enjoyed the  
 singing, & the costumes & the setting ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> very good.  
<sup>before</sup> we had to leave before the end. we were lucky  
 in finding a Taxi man who agreed after much argument  
 to drive us to the docks for 11 francs. I think he was  
 mad at being beaten down from 25f. & thought he'd  
 take it out of us. The distance is a good 20 minute  
 tram ride. & he did it in 7. Taking corners on two  
 wheels & dodging about like a mad man. we were  
 simply helpless with laughter when we arrived.  
 we were also quite broke. but we had had a good time.  
 I think we ought to have a very jolly time in camp.  
 we have not wasted any time in being polite. after  
 half a days acquaintance Capt. C. introduced me to his  
 cabin mate "as one of the worst".  
 We are just off Corsica. Tomorrow we arrive at Malta.  
 I hear we have only an hour's stay there, no time to  
 go ashore. I am going to close this letter now as  
 the mail bags will be collected early to-morrow & the  
 writing desks will be in great demand.  
 My next letter will be posted from Port Said.  
 Love to you both.  
 Your affectionate daughter  
 Myrtle.

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

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