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Mariette Pacha  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 1927.

Dear Mother & Father.

I am quite safe so far. & am having a very exciting time. I will try to tell you my adventures. the journey to Folkestone was quite uneventful. also crossing to Boulogne. no trouble with the customs porter took our things straight to the train. I think I have told you all this before on the P.C I posted at Paris.

At Paris two men got in to our compartment much to our disgust but eventually we were delighted with their company. one was a boy going to Marseilles to join the Foreign Legion<sup>sic</sup> {Legion} & the other a middle aged man. both French of course. our other companion was a delightful elderly lady going to Genoa for the winter. in the morning we all got very interested in each other & as Miss T speaks French very well we gained a lot of information. From Paris to Valence all

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The fields were covered with snow & we needed all our wraps. but as we got further South the climate changed to early autumn. it was very beautiful. we followed the Rhone for many miles. a far finer river than the Seine at Paris. I am in love with Avignon. it is a dream of beauty.

At Marseilles we were met by the Messangurie's man. who passed us through the customs put us into the bus & conducted us right into our cabins.

The Mariette Pacha is a very beautiful boat as far as decoration & fuss goes. but the lavatories are very inferior & accommodation generally not so good as on the P&O. Meals very wonderful & endless. I am tired of French cooking all ready. there is too much of it.

The first two days the boat rolled quite a bit & many people were ill. we were not.

Mediterranean is really blue. but very uncertain. In the sun one needs the lightest of clothes. but when it goes down & a wind springs up it is all winter coats & rugs.

There is a little English colony on board about 15 I should say & we are all together in cabins & at meals so it is very nice. I find most of the people have been vaccinated & innoculated. & they seem surprised I have not been done. Miss T has been done but she

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says the Petrie's don't make a point  
of it at all. Miss Murray never mentioned  
it to me - & Shack never asked about it when  
I told him I was going to Egypt. so I suppose  
it will be all right. most of the people are  
staying in the East for 6 months or more  
so that is rather different.

The night before last was very exciting.  
we passed Stromboli at 2 o'clock AM.  
so Miss T & I got the night steward to call  
us. it was worth going to on deck to see  
the flames from the volcano shot up  
at intervals & once we saw a stream of  
lava flow down the side. We were up  
again at 5 AM. to see the Straits of Messina  
we could see the outline of the Italian coast  
on one side & that of ~~Italy~~<sup>Scicily</sup> {Sicily} on the other.  
We were dreadfully tired the following day  
but it would have been a pity to miss  
it. Crete is our next sight of land.  
then Alex at 12.30 Tomorrow.

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Miss Murray told me Badari, so I will write to P.O at Badari & ask for all letters to be forwarded to Tema if it is so.

The 70 francs for the two of us was absurd. we have spent that & my 130 & I have had to change 10/- Egyptian into francs to cover the rest of tips etc. - its lucky I came well prepared.

Just had lunch. I cannot remember what we had. but it took 1 1/4 hours - wine is included. I should prefer water but think it safer not to drink any. It seems pretty certain that all banks are closed in Cairo.

The steward tells us we arrive Alex 12.30 to-morrow & trains go to Cairo 3 & 6, so if we are delayed by customs etc & miss the 3 o'clock. I think I will go to the National Bank of Egypt then & ask for M<sup>r</sup> Anderson. I shall of course first enquire what time the banks close. but its no good making definite arrangements, its just an idea in case we have time to kill. We have to pass the health officer before we are allowed to land.

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3  
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This afternoon 4 of us had races. walking  
on one plank on the deck. then we tried  
skipping using my riding whip for a  
skipping rope, it was great fun.

There was a concert in the saloon, but  
we preferred to stay in the sun on deck.  
I wore my pink silk dress to-day.  
I hear there is an 8 % duty on unworn  
clothes.

Just going to turn in so will  
close.

Love to you both  
your loving daughter  
Myrtle -

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