

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 1929.SS. Tjerimai . 22  
off Stromboli . 1

Dear Mother.

We passed through the Straits of Messina about two hours ago.

We are having quite a good time on this boat. Uncle J & I are the only British passengers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, but all the Dutch are so very friendly & delighted to see us, several can speak English fairly well. The stewards & cabin boys are all Malays, & it is a little difficult to make them understand, but now they know our habits we get on very well.

We have heard today that unless there are more passengers come aboard at Marseilles or Tangiers for Southampton it is unlikely that the boat will call there, but will continue her course for Rotterdam. The company will pay our expenses at an hotel for the night & give us tickets for a boat back to Harwich, so I am unable to tell you just when to expect me. It will be rather fun to have a cheap trip to Holland.

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Uncle J was quite sorry to leave Egypt. he likes Cairo very much, & I think this time we have done it very thoroughly. It was very unfortunate our visit should have happened in Ramadan. even in Cairo which is so very cosmopolitan all museums etc are closed at 1 o'clock every day, & all along the pavements you will see the natives lying with their faces covered, trying to sleep away the hours of fasting, since they may eat only at night.

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late at night I shall probably stay at Crouch Hill  
& come on home the next morning.

Much love to both  
your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

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