**Arabah Jan 23. 1934** 

Dear Mother.

Amice & I had quite an exciting time to-day we went to Girga to see the silk weavers. it is about 20 miles from here, we had to leave Joey in Mahomed Kheir's charge & we went with Sardic down a narrow lane, then through a stable, up a ladder, through a hole in the wall, & down a rickety ladder on the other side & there we found three weavers at work, two weaving silk & one cotton the looms were the same primitive affairs that I described to you before, with the weavers sitting in a hole in the ground, one of the silk weavers was making a pattern in red, black

263 Anabah Anabah Amice of had quite an cecling time today we went to Dige to su the sick waver. it is about so miles for Luc. we had to have Joy in Hatomed Klais change o we went with Sarchie down a nanow fam, then through a stable, if a ladder through a lote in the wall, o down a richarly ladder on the other side . There we found three weavers at with, Two weaving silh , one cotton the booms were the same primitive affairs that I disculed to you before, with the braves silling in a lote in the ground, om of the sich weavers was making a pattern in red, black In three the red shutth I was your so far. I then made the black

shatth meet it, Amier of each purchased a lingth about 6 yards for about 25/- the pattern is

then is a plan piece And with striped edge. The stripes all

across. Her the demond polling chang the edge & soon. This

Type of weaving is only done in this

for their work, they have a very

clean divin for keeping the width

itactly the same they clip a ship

of wood or the part just finished

## **BROOME LETTER 263**

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and white, using three shuttles at once. he was working a border in black & red like this (Red) [ ₹ ] (black) it was wonderful how he threw the red shuttle just so far. & then made the black shuttle meet it, Amice & I each purchaced<sup>sic</sup> a lingth<sup>sic</sup> about 6 yards for about 25/– the pattern is not the same all the lingth<sup>sic</sup>. there is a plain piece of red with striped edge. then stripes all across, then the diamond pattern along the edge & so on. this type of weaving is only done in this district. & these weavers are famous for their work, they have a very clea/<v>er device for keeping the width exactly the same they clip a strip of wood on the part just finished

which holds it out Tanget like this

ship of wood

They damp the threads of the warf is font of the bumper or for it ustil it is just just the proper dampness before proceeding with the weaving. they say this makes the work hie Had o wer, it entainly is absolutely won a regular of one cannot believe I possible that such work can le done in such a primitive way. They were of worner delighted with our visit of suchaecs. There we west to punchase feather. we had To down through a lovely bagaan. the word was all world over, & there were colounfull stalls on

which holds it taught like this

[  $\Re$  ] (strip of wood)

They damp the threads of the warp in front of the bumper & fan it until it is just just sic the proper dampness before proceeding with the weaving, they say this makes the work lie flat & even, it certainly is absolutely even & regular & one cannot/<hardly> believe it possible that such work can be done in such a primitive way. They were of course delighted with our visit & purchaces leather. We had to drive through a lovely bazaar. the road was all roofed over, & there were colourfull sic stalls on

on each side, one felt most out of place in a motor can there. we saw some secting mals of wood all gay stupes o we each purchased one, then we visited the leather muchant o with the and of Halomed Khai we purchased shins, I have two lovely given good shins, I do not know what want then for. but I could not resist them. amice bought som to work he cushion o make book covers. Thy cam to about 2/- for a goal shin. they are sold by weight, Halomed Their enjoyed himself immonsty he was soon sunounded by a pile of shins that he rejected as burg not mie o when finally In Lad selected for us sking that

In said wer "not very bad" there

on<sup>sic</sup> each side, one felt most out of place in a motor car there.

we saw some exciting mats of wool all gay stripes & we each purchaced<sup>sic</sup> one, then we visited the leather merchant & with the aid of Mohamed Kheir we purchacedsic skins, I have two lovely green goat skins, I do not know what I want them for. but I could not resist them. Amice bought some to cover her cushion & make book covers. They came to about 2/– for a goat skin. they are sold by weight, Mohamed Kheir enjoyed himself enormously he was soon surrounded by a pile of skins that he rejected as being "not nice" & when finally he had selected for us skinx/<s> that he said were "not very bad" there

263 was the coalement of weighing them · settling the price, of course all the passers by Lad to stop assist in the argument & when they pushed Two close round us Hahoned Khen drove then back with his whip. we are Londoned to these onslang els now, they are not as tempying as they sound, the last just beals some of the dust out of their galabrass , may puhaps call a boy or the leg & make him squeal, but after a faw misules they are all back again

We arrived tome with our purchases all very phased with our selves a had much needed baths a have just finished our evering much. amice is so sleepy that she is off to bed. but I have

was the excitement of weighing them & settling the price, of course all the passers by had to stop & assist in the argument & when they pushed too close round us Mohamed Kheir drove them back with his whip. we are hardened to these onslaughts now, they are not as terrifying as they sound, the lash just beats some of the dust out of their galabears & may perhaps catch a boy on the leg & make him squeal, but after a few minutes they are all back again.

We arrived home with our purchases sic all very pleased with our selves & had much needed baths & have just finished our evening meal. Amice is so sleepy that she is off to bed. but I have

a lisson to prepare for to monow Shahl Santis will be back , I do not want to disgrace myself of the first lisson will him again, especially as he told me to "pull up my suchs!!!" before he left tast for the Mamadan Loldays -Lots of love to you both your affectionality dangeling

## **BROOME LETTER 263**

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a lesson to prepare for tomorrow Sheikh Sarbit will be back & I do not want to disgrace myself at the first lesson with him again, especially as he told me to "pull up my socks!!!" before he left last for the Ramadan holidays—

> Lots of love to you both Your affectionate daughter Myrtle –