

Aventino
Nov 19th 1930.

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Dear Mother & Father.

This morning we are off the coast of Greece it looks very rugged & mountainous.

Yesterday we said good-bye to Italy, we arrived at Bari 7 o'clock in the morning, so, as we had only 3 hours there, we were up & off early. we engaged one of the local horse drawn vehicles, a cross between a bath chair & a hearse & set off to see the sights. First we visited the fish market & saw many strange spikey fish. Then we went to the ancient Church of St Nickola, it is a magnificent relic of the 11th cent. obviously built of materials taken from Roman temples it is spacious & massive in construction & ~~has~~ (with the exception of the altar) has not been spoilt by the tawdriness of modern times. There was a little chapel under the high altar they were holding a service there so we only peeped in for a few minutes. There were some fine pillars & carved stone work there also, but they had fairly let themselves go in the matter

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of candles, gilt plaster & tinsel.

We got a funny old man who acted as door keeper to let us go up the tower & from there we had a lovely view all over the harbour.

Then we went to another church. This was also very early, but had been restored!! They have now realized the awful sins they have committed & are removing the coating of plaster from the splendid marble pillars & chipping the ghastly rococo scroll work to expose the splendid carved capitals^{sic}, we also went into a smaller church where they kept the images of the saints in glass cases, they had most splendid robes but poor things, they did look stuffy.

By then it was time to return to the boat, we were sorry & we had'nt a longer stay as the old town looked very fascinating & we would have enjoyed a prowl round on our own.

By five o'clock we were at Brindisi where we landed our bulls & cows. Amice & I went for a little walk, but it was getting dark

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& we are hoping we shall get there before it is too dark to see anything.

Amice & I are still the only First class passengers, dinner conversation with the Captain is rather heavy going, he is hot on politics & hates the French, so having heard him hold forth at length on that subject we are doing our best to steer clear of it, we have also discovered that frivolous conversation is apt to become a little embarrassing, we find the best plan is to get him to talk about his family past & present, & by making tactful murmurs at intervals we can keep him going for several courses

I have told you all our news up to date, hope to continue this letter later, the coast is getting so exciting I simply must go up on deck to see it better

Later - We have been among the Greek Islands all to-day, they are perfectly lovely - we did not get

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I must be off to bed now as it is nearly 11:30, have had an interesting evening talking to the second officer he speaks English very well
 Love to you both
 your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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