Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Dear Miss B.,

You would surely be interested to see this boat load. We have just left a big launch that is about at this angle on the water, when it is perfectly calm, when it is rough and all the people are to the lower side to see the passengers get off and on as they usually do. Do you wonder that foreigners are a little shaky about riding on these Chinese launches!

Well, to go back to the boat. We have about twenty seven people on the boat, four or five being Christians who are returning from the convention which we have just attended at No. King's. We sit in camp chairs in the middle of the boat with our baggage around us. An old preacher is sitting behind us preaching away. It has talked of the nature of God, and the old stories. Elijah, Rebecca, Moses, Daniel, etc., in quick succession.

The cook is at our right.

An old absolutely toothless man sitting at the head of the boat. Now he has sat down to help the men row. Up to this time they have been drifting with the tide. Finally, the cook asked them to row and made them laugh saying that we would not reach our destination before night. So they have gone on with good nature. I pity might have drifted for another half hour if he had not spoken. It is very warm here now, but we have had cool nights or nice cool comfortable sleep on the boat coming Monday morning.

People are dressed in many ways. The man beside me has on a pair of trousers which reach to his knees. They are grayish and coarse. This suit we have. Other suits worn, but it is not buttoned up, and at his waist is a much patched cloth bag for his money. It is a flat bag, worn around the waist by all men. I think in this way, their pockets are never picked.
I have knitted a soldier's cap this week in 5 spare minutes. I guess I could have made another if I had had the wool.

He arrived at 9:15 Tuesday P.M. and attended meetings three times a day red. or Thurs. At least the men did this! I stayed home evenings in spite of the beautiful moonlight.

Dr. Newman and his wife were married last November and they went to Hong to live East February. It is much lonelier than Chefoo where, but they have had a house to themselves, and have Dr. N.'s built up quite a hospital in the little Chinese village around the hospital. He has interesting cases coming in every day, and operates twice or three times a week. I admire him and he is a real expert.

Mrs. Newman is going down to Hongkong for confinement. She will go with the rest Saturday I expect.

Wednesday October 10, 1917

This letter should have been finished several days ago.

Tell from that ferry boat on which I started this letter, I got on to a small boat to come up the river to Chefoo. It took us only about five hours to get down there, it took us from 4:10 P.M. until 9:00 A.M. to get home by the same route. We could not see any of the boats, all of which were small and crowded, and we kept meeting other boats all of which wanted to exchange greetings and ask our destination and business.

We were certainly a sleepy house hold on Saturday but it did not take long to get rested, all the men were very busy every day.

Ellison had gone to Swatow to-day, to see about a teaching job in hopes to get for a new school which they want to start here next spring, also to see the consul about my pass-permit, and get some soda for work, as well as out about some boxes from home, money, etc.
He will not be home until to-morrow P.M. late.

He has invited the people from the other side to come over and take supper with us to-morrow evening. They are so troubled by exchange that they had given up their afternoon tea — a thing which you adjut • a Briton to give up. Last Fall, and are having a combination tea and supper at 6:00 P.M. We did not invite them out of July, but those two remember happened to come together.

A nice very nice letter from George came this week and I was very glad to hear. I am unusually mailing now of 6 and now. It certainly at to come in the next mail.

Since I came back the cook & I have cleaned out the stove closets and summer floor, cereals etc as well as dried fruits. The cook does all the hard work and I oversee. The boy and cookie have done a huge wash or ironing.

E & I have straightened out our personal belongings and our accounts for the year and gathered up a little stay correspondence in 70 minutes. He has also had business in the city, and was attending an examination of students this AM before going to the Swatro.

While I was away, my boy pleased my heart by cleaning all the silver, making all windows (a big job) and scrubbing white being scrubbing all floors, putting down the big rug, and ironing some of E's suits. I blessed his heart! — I never had a boy so willing before. It was an immense amount of work for four days. Of course the cookie helped some that he doesn't amount to much.

I want this letter to go in to the city with the cookie who is taking E's lunch and so I'll say good-bye with very much boost each one.

Weather very comfortable now and enjoyable.

Go to party thing on Saturday.

Love — Letter.
Dear Ones,

I suppose you hardly expect to get a letter headed “Abide House” these days. It doesn’t seem possible to stay at home at all. I know you will not believe, and I know that I can hardly believe that that wonderful birthday box came last week Thursday. No! the week ago Thursday, October 11, and I have not had time to sit down and write a quiet word since!!! It was a wonderful wonderful box not at all common as Aunt Celia dared to say it was, and I had the time of my life with it. But let me go back a bit into the history to explain why I have been so long in writing.

I wrote first on Oct. 10. I believe. E was in Swanton. I had invited the Jamey for supper on Thurs. Oct. 11. Well— I worked hard all the time. E was away, putting the house into livable order again, sending on old dresses for Hong Kong, packing some, and also preparing for the guest a little. At 5:45 in lake E from Swanton with three parcels, from home. The Montgomery yard boxes and all the news boys get from a trip to go. At about 6:10. When I had had just time to send mail, and had my third the home parcel. In came the guest, and it had a nice jolly supper and music afterwards. I showed them some of the things too—in fact everything I had opened and she thought they were lovely and immediately took the mangoes from to cut on out for herself!!! Clothes are a help to everybody else. I don’t know how many people copied that silk waist which Morton B sent me the first year, and I am still wearing it!!!

Well, the next morning the boys school came over to visit our horses and grounds, and then it was rush around to pack or oversee the packing of E’s food packet for a two week’s trip, and to pack myself for the trip to Hong Kong.

We left the city early the next morning, and at Mrs. James’s urgent request, stopped to call on Mrs. Whistle—she has been
Very sick. She had uterine pregnancy you remember, and nearly died. We had on Oct 12, been home from Hong Kong hospital only two days. Well, she seemed doubtful whether my specialist was in Hong Kong. She seemed doubtful that I might wish to return again to the U.S. and consult my husband Dr. Myte about the specialist. She said that Dr. Myte would know absolutely.

We hurried to Suez, tour for lunch with Mrs. Cahn (by invitation) and them immediately hurried back to Suez for lunch with Mrs. Cahn. Immediately, when I arrived at Dr. Myte's house, I learned that the specialist to whom Dr. Herman had recommended me had left Hong Kong probably for good.

You can imagine how glad I was finding out before the expensive trip, and how very glad that it stopped to see the Mytes. (Note: if Dr. Herman had not had foresight to write ahead, I would have missed it. In fact, he had told me that he would do so.)

Well, I was relieved! Everybody was surprised to see me I suppose. We had a very full Sunday, Elinor preaching at English service, and then a very full Monday when we tried to get the Selkirk freight off. I visited Sunday school and children's schools and girls' schools etc.

Mr. Cahn insisted on showing us all the new property acquisitions of the mission. We left our books to be unthreaded and hurried home on Tuesday.

Then we opened our M. W. boxes andImmerly and packed away perishable things. Did not buy so much as usual because prices so high.
I shall have to do some of the food packing for E. over again, because know I was to be with him on the country trip and plans were different. In fact I was busy most of the day getting him and my things ready for the country trip and seeing the James’s with whom I had to settle some business matters, because of my not going to Hong Kong.

On Thursday E started off early, but I stayed home two days longer in order to do necessary things and write some letters. I had only the coupon as E had the cook and the boy was on vacation & one rush because of my proposed trip to Hong Kong.

Well I write all the H.U. mostly business - listing Dr. Adams goods, etc., & making accounts to Babes, etc. & fixed some little things and began getting ready again in the spirit.

The next day I had just begun on the next same job, when in walked the pianist. I was glad enough to see him, for I had not been touched for three years (although I was not very bad—just coarse toned)—The hard part was to get dinner. You will laugh at me to think I wanted two or three hours tending to that man serving him tea, and then a simple dinner of

Stewed Beef flambeed with onion. 
Boiled potato by each
Creamed Onions. 
Stewed pudding left by cook & sauce I made

But if you knew Chinese charcoal stoves and kitchens etc, you would not be so much surprised at a novice!
How I begrudged that time. I did not at all begrudge his 10 for tennis or 3.80 for 1st class railroad expenses etc from the tour. But I did begrudge paying 7 for his hotel bill for the day. Wouldn't you?

I rested a few minutes after he went for I was tired — and then I began again for Xmas presents. I was very anxious to send them before we went into the country for this two weeks!

I told the cookie I did not know whether I could get to say the early train or not and did not dare let them call bearers and food until 6:30 AM. When most of my things were packed and the larger ones present we ready to send.

So — these are some of the reasons I have not written although I have wanted to every day.

Yesterday I found a big mail when I arrived in at 9 AM — and read until 11:15 steadily without entirely finishing 3 letters from Aunt Cele — covering 60 who I suppose — 8 too from Mother. I had been looking for them all so anxiously but only chances references to Carol are made and I was most anxious all to hear about her. I was so glad to hear 16 of other things — Reserve! The pictures were great — most of them! Especially Aunt Cele mother of Uncle Geo — & the other group where Marion & Della are.

Only letters from Mrs. Gilchrist — Fena — etc
I was so sorry not to write or prepare Ruth for Bob's engagement but I did not hear definitely and could not find a quiet time to sit down and think how to say it. I will write her some day.

Charlie's letter has not arrived. Wonder if Bob will be the instructor of Simeon?

Glad Ruth Benson is at college. Present plans not to go to H. Kong since specialist has gone back to write once.

Saw to spend tomorrow in Swanton city and leave on Tuesday about 5:30 AM to join Mr. & Mrs. Hatters and Ellis for two weeks in the country. I feel tired today but I think when there is no excitement in the country I will find time to write more adequately.

Mother dear please please don't worry about that interest money, I told Father to keep it to pay Babe's extra expenses in going to Gloucester, and I wanted to give it to you at any rate.
Those I'll get Xmas package off tomorrow while I am in Swatow. It does not please me so much as some years but it can't be helped. Some things I ordered here not come.

Mother O. sent me a beautiful voile with hemstitching & embroidery lovely! for my birthday.

Thanks to lovely knitting grass basket came safely. I put it to immediate use.

I shall send Xmas presents to Auntie & ask her to pay duty & charge to my account carefully also charge stamps or paper, ribbon or string etc please every bit.

Hope they will arrive in time.

Very very much love to each one.

I'll write more about that lovely box.

Lottie.

By the way, dear people, if you declare a value of over $10.00 U.S. on a parcel no here to pay duty at this end. It doesn't amount to much only about $15.75 I guess, but I'll let you know so that you won't send too valuable parcels!
Dear Ono,

Wouldn't you like to look in upon us? Well look.
Four of us are in this little boat and have been travelling since 6:10 am.

On Tuesday morning Oct 23. I took the early launch and joined Mrs. Waters and Mrs. Elton. We had a service that afternoon and the men went out visiting and preaching.

The next day Wednesday we called at 2:00 PM. The first house we went to consisted of about 30 rooms, fairly good sized at least perhaps better so filled with things that little space was left. A table, a bed, a big place for cooking, a sewing machine etc. These done of the furniture into that small space and up in every available space. Furniture climbed nearly forty children and twelve or fifteen broken women and people filled the other way to see the "foreign child." 

It was a sad sight to look at the children. There was not a small one whose head was not sore with boils, and many of the children had very sore eyes, one little girl already blind in one eye, and with the other affected. We told them of the hospital, but it is hard for a woman who has never left the village to go that long distance (6 miles) to a place they don't know about. Not only the children but the women were suffering from diseases, and I do not wonder that Christ wanted to heal. The most of it is that many of these things could be cured with the exercises of common intelligence and care. The child was probably going blind from worms.

From there we started for another place, but outside the door the crowd gathered again—about a quarter of the children ran naked and masturbation is the commonest thing and wife. I saw no wonder some of the women are weak.

You will not believe that it is still pretty warm in the daytime. We just pack with the exerting walking and are filled by the going,
altho I saw dark glasses, a felt hat, and an umbrella with ten covers, one black and one white.

From the house we went to the house of a man who has become a leper, and his brother has become a beggar to support him. The care was very sad and the mark seemed very appreciable and thoughtful. Here again the children were crowded with robes, and I imagined every other on a potential life.

We visited only two other places that morning, but in the afternoon we went to villages farther off. One home we visited was that of a girl who had studied in our schools and it was comforting to see how intelligent and mild—she looked how clean the house was, and how clean the children—in spite of chickens and pigs all around in the court. She lived on tea and bread that sometimes ordered milk. Another home whom we also visited—more mild, I was told by her husband because she had become a Christian. She had helped drying all around the court, so she was going to learn to be a nurse doctor.

We visited an old woman almost blind from preventable causes, and every now and then, women came out asking her for medicine to put on their eyes, as they were getting blind. It makes one wish to be a doctor you may be sure.

One day I visited the Bible school at Kigungu and it was just my to see old people sitting trying to stretch their arms and bodies as energetically as the little kiddies. In the primary school the children had just received word that they were going to die. They were a few weeks to them telling them to go to God while they were away, and gradually everyone of them began to weep until the whole system was settling and weeping with her. Young and old were snuffling and wiping their eyes in their sleeves. It was funny in spite of the passion.

During the visits we went to a tailor shop and saw the Tailleurs at work. A woman and a daughter, perhaps (30 to 40) came to the bigtable in front of the shop. She laid down a small amount of cloth. Immediately the woman began to fold it, made a few lines with colored chalk, and using any random Chinese ideas began to cut the long coat without a measurement! So fine to the natural cuto
Dear Ones All,

I am really at home and have been here since Monday. It seems almost like a dream to go to be true. I do not like to be away all the time!

I don't know when I last wrote, but I imagine it was on the trip with Mrs. Waters. I joined her at Hah-Khoi on Tuesday, October 23. On Thursday she went to Kyi-yang, and stayed one night with Mrs. Justo, and Dr. Mildred, returning to the houseboat on Friday.

Then on Monday we went to Loo-Kiu, and on Tuesday, house-boat to Hsi-li, where there was an association. By Wednesday, we started up the river, farther up, and arrived at Han-chin about 4:30. We could not get back to the city here until Saturday, November 10. Since then, there has been a great deal of activity, but I have been glad and thankful to stay at home, although I feel as if I ought to be with them.

The houseboat is a clumsy affair, and while it is more comfortable than a native boat, still there is not very much room in it, and we found it very crowded, when five people had to take their meals in it.

When we went from Loo-Kiu to Hsi-li, the men walked across country (which is much shorter) rather than crowd the boat.

The country trip was interesting in many ways. One night Mr. Gratze gave us a lecture, in the hall, and a talk at the funeral, the next day. He had been done ten years ago. The hall was crowded—hundreds and thousands of people were watching, but not much could be heard on account of the crowds.

Another interesting thing which happened was a funeral. Twenty years ago—or perhaps ten—a man who had been a spirit medium, and regularly possessed by some power, which made him rigid and able to tell things about the future or to carry on conversations with the dead or both, became converted. Then round that if this spirit medium
could go by the Chinese New Year without falling a victim to this evil one, they would believe.

On Chinese New Year, this spirit medium came to the chapel and men prayed with him all day. The stood the test and had been a great power and witness since then. Well, he died recently. The family was poor but wanted a big funeral as all Chines do. In fact it is about the greatest ambition in life to have a big funeral. So this poor family sand, the coffin and put up the burial until the men gathered for association at Khoi Lai.

He walked a good distance to the house where a big crowd had gathered. There was a song, scripture reading and prayer and then a procession was formed. I can't tell you all who you in it, but I guess it was an eighth of a mile long (single file of course). That was a narrow rice path.

Here were little boys with bamboo people with banners, men with drums and trumpets, figures of coffin, mourners in queer seed cloth costumes, also female relatives with sound jugs dressed in white linen, napets and skirts. Foreigners, delegates to the convention, church members! Hm! it was a grand procession and a great consolation to the bereaved family.

The whole village came out to see.
The procession instead of going straight to the burial of the way to the burial, without a long detour around the village - just to shout off!

They say that this great funeral and procession will make a great impression and will help the influence of the church greatly.

Another interesting thing was the feast given the delegates. We were very much surprised that they invited felt it necessary to prepare a little different food for the foreigners and serve us after the others.
When we went in we found to our surprise that Mrs. Waters, and all were invited to eat with six men! This is very unusual as women never ate with men in old China! The eight people had a table about a yard square. They had attempted to follow foreign custom (always a mistake) by putting a white cloth on the table. By the time brown sauce was slopped all over it, we should have been unwrapping for such a cloth to stay in a kitchen not to mention a dining room.

Then followed about sixteen courses of meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, etc., almost all delicious.

The custom is for the leader to say "Chia," after filling all four large tea cups with tea. All drink them and place chopsticks in hand, and again the leader says "Chia," and all repeat and then all try to get something out of that main dish. If happened that the delicious tid-bits of fish fried in deep fat to perfection, then the custom is to put one's chopsticks on the table and to drink tea which the leading men has again poured. Before the delicious fish was taken away, another dish was brought on some other well-fried in deep fat—perhaps chicken or goose. Well, the dishes followed one another in quick succession, one never being entirely empty and all always being on the table at one time. One dish was very salty and another was very tough, but the others they were very palatable. I still think of eating without a knife or fork.

The trailing too one a sight—men stripped to the waist and all in a hurry to get the dish on the table before it should cool.

I wish everybody could not entirely ignore Carol. In this letter, when you have told me as much as you can, you might as well keep me posted even if it is uninteresting. I want to know.

Nov. 1917

Some good postal from Mother yesterday and a letter from Aunt Cele. Glad to hear also a fine letter from Gregg. Hope the Xmas parcel will arrive safely.
and in time to be distributed. Hope the duty will not be too exacting. Aunt Celie please charge it to my account.

Have so enjoyed the mildly mother sends in my birthday box. It was just the thing for my visit to Dr. Milford and at Nashville. It is a little hard to arrange one's clothes lines etc. for the country where one can not have washing and ironing done very well. Ruth's pretty tie just matches it.

Thanks also for the Butterick's which keep me a little in touch with the changes. clam pretty well lost as to style by now however.

Mother I may have seen that same sunrise you saw so I was up early that day. Of course it would be twelve hours later here.

I am enclosing face edge crocheted by Lucille for me - and more of the snap which you asked me to return.

The typhus was a shock to Aunt Celie as well sudden and limited only to territory around today. Some of our Chinese going back to Shanghai were rushed, but all very smart.

So glad you could visit Bridgeport.

Ruth B. enjoys college.

Andy ain't Annie Parachly also.

If I am making knee caps, but hope to get some American wool soon.

Must send this along also there are many messages I would send to each one of you.

With very much love and also best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Lotta.
Dear Ones, I am all mixed up about time and when I last wrote, but I know that I have been trying to write all the week and have not succeeded. The last two days have been especially busy.

On Wednesday, I've had quite a lot of one coming to Beijing when about 5:30 PM, I came. Mr. and Mrs. Whitman and Miss Foster on their way to Peking. Mr. Whitman has just returned after staying eleven years in America and Miss Foster is the eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Foster who has just come from America to be single again's miss at Peking. She is a fine girl. Her brother is out here for two years in the Academy at present.

On Thursday they left with bag and baggage, but in a few hours came back saying that the place the steamer were all taken and they could not go. On Friday they obtained their passage in advance on a good boat and next to it was a lady and a man. What was our surprise on Saturday night, to receive a note from them saying that they had been unable to go because soldiers from the north had commandeered all steamboats. They had been able to sleep on the boat all night, but their accommodations were uncomfortable and they had not slept much. So they came back to the up to get made up, and had tea and then started off in a New Nanka boat to go up the river. By my God, this boat, they will be on the way just about a week instead of two days as they planned.

Evidently the northern soldiers want to get South as soon as possible in order to prevent the Southerners from coming North. There is not likely to be actual fighting, but even if there should be it would be far from us, and even if you should hear the name of our city as having fallen into the hands of the south, you needn't know that we were a peaceful captive, for all the cities are unguarded and given peacefully at once in order to avoid destruction of property. Besides that, we are not safe among the hills and
in a very nice situation.

However on account of the commandering of the steamboat we shall probably be unable to have our annual conference where we planned. That will relieve us of the long hard journey.

Last night I dreamed about mother; it was all mixed up, but she had fallen and hurt her. I hope there is nothing true in it. To be careful, mother.

I think of you all each day even if I am busy, and that means that I think of you individually and hope that you will have a good day and one full of profit. China is the right place in the world to advance in. I am a much weaker, less fine person (I feel) than when I came here. Maybe it is only the depressing influence of the climate, but it makes me wonder if all the badnesses which are brought out by the climate I were not in one all the time, but yet restrained and held back by the happy life and pleasant surroundings at home.

Since I don't know when I last wrote perhaps I had better go back in the history a little.

On Sunday Nov. 11 - Elijah and I went to Philadelphia which is translated "Rising Plain" where there was a baptism and communion. We met a lot of Christians and had a nice time with them and good talk with the preacher. Then in the evening after we had reached home, we went again into the city for evangelistic services. I was so tired that I went straight to bed. I wonder how he can stand such a full day.

Then Monday - oh - the work is starting again, with the prospect of things being more or do it was only two days this time. - but it is a joy to be able to pick up the working at home and to be able to sit at my own desk with all my things around me and write and plan a little do to necessary things.
I got some of the hand-work (sewing) started at the girls' school. Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Gray sent me quite a bundle of pieces, and later I expect to receive a few from one of my Rock Ridge girls and also from the Oakland Church that supports us. This will quite suit us out. If the home church at Rockport should feel like having a remnant of cotton goods left, I should be much pleased and they would be doing a good work. By remnant, I mean anything from a little scrap, suitable for patch work up to a yard or more — as large a piece as one would wish to send!

Then the next day I tried to get in a few stitches for myself and managed to cut out a dress from the pattern which came in my birthday box. I was as glad to have it.

On Wednesday we started for Kachchkh and the dentist. It is a new man just out from home — sent out as a missionary to reside at Foochow, but making annual trips to Swatow and Amoy. I think the Methodist Board sent him, but in all this is a very grateful one. I did not need any work and he said that I very much needed to have replaced those teeth which I have the rest of my life. He did not think it was too bad to be refilled. And yet, thank you, I have too vivid memories of how I felt when that was done.

Well, we had to work on Dr. Adams's things and see the tailor etc. The day when we can get the clothes which cost in China has passed. It is going to cost $35.00 for Elison to have a cotton suit which includes two pairs of trousers. Isn't that quite a price!!! Then probably it will not be presentable to wear in America!!!

This at Kachchkh we stayed at Miss Culley's. She was a rich contralto voice and a nice soft toned organ from home and I enjoyed some good music.

There, we also called on the consul and his wife. A Smith girl (1911 — very pleasant.)
On that Sunday, a week ago we had Union service at which E. preached, at the South Gate and then had dinner with Mrs. James afterwards. Then I returned as Sunday School at our little school and Elliot went to E-ji for communion and to the city in the evening. Another full day!

Then it was this Monday (the 19th) when I could look forward to about ten days at home or at least with home as a base, and I was glad. Then it was I began to clean up my desk and plan with the teachers about Christmas program and write a few necessary notes. My mail came Tuesday and I was glad to hear, but sorry that Carol's case hangs so long. He and anxious to hear more and think it would be far better for you to tell me details then to let us imagine them. I try not to think of it, but of course in an anxious Tuesday.

Then on Wednesday the work continued, some time at dishes, straightening and business of Mrs. Baker, sometimes thinking about starting to prepare for local Xmas remembrances and something planning meals and preparing house for possible guests who turned up about 6:30 PM. When I had given up all hope—the Whitmams and Anna F. whom I mentioned early in the letter. I also visited both the schools starting the teachers and pupils in the drill for Xmas songs.

Tell the rest of the week as you are, I was pretty well taken up with guests and singing and gymnastics and preparing Xmas presents some of which I must go to with the Whitmams.

Be as giving almost everybody at a set of four knitting needles this Christmas as I heard—very appropriate.

By last night I was a tired lady and wanted to go directly to bed instead of writing a reading of playing & Elliot...
Don't let my mentioning feeling tired make you think I am weak, because it only shows how strong I am to do so much (and I have really walked a lot going into city and going to R. R. station to visit people etc.) and not feel anything more than tired.

I do hope that you are all well and happy and unworried. I am anxious to hear when Dele expects to be sick. And I hope that Carol's trouble is all over by now. Well it would be useless to go into my hopes for each one by one and they are often too personal to go into a general letter.

The government says that we send parcels at various risk for the present, that means that parcels are not very safe, and so I hardly dare send the wedding presents which I have been planning and thinking about tentatively.

Our letters are often opened in Canton now by a censor.

I should like to see that letter of Semir's which speaks of Bob and it is going the rounds.

Mother's pecans are so good and I am always glad to get them. So nice you have vegetables! I am glad to hear that Dad is writing for I always love to hear from him too.

Last letters received Oct. 17.

With Renae's letters especially interesting since perhaps the roommate will develop more of the Holy Ghost as time goes on.

So sorry Ruth L. was sick with cold.

What was Papa cutting? Was it the old fashion furniture he sold this summer?

I have not Aunt Ale's letters of Sept. 21 and Oct. 15. Hope I haven't missed the one in between. I don't think I am receiving any. It was so nice to hear of Aunt Ale's visit to Ruth and to know that Ruth was better.

I shall be anxious to hear of Ruth's interview with Bob and Beth. Poor child, she must not
write too much. I hope the winter will not be too hard for her.

Such fun for Aunt Celie and Della to go to the theater.
I think a great deal of my sweaters. Aunt Celie and me we have one or the other almost all the time now, although we have not yet needed a fire.

I think two weeks is a very short time to make those big clothes sweaters.

What kind of treatment is Marion having?

Have appreciated the snapshots. So good to see you all.

It seems queer to have Ruth B. Agah & Mrs. Fairbanks go "an old white hair lady." Remember her when her hair was quite black. I think. And doesn't seventeen seem very old compared to sixteen?!!!

We are anxiously awaiting news of Russia and Italy!!!

Then just read one of Della's notes of the summer. It was good to see it.

8:10 P.M. Ellis came home had bath and such fun and was off to the city again in the hour. It is beautiful moonlight and so ill send messages of love to each one of you.

Good Night. Lotti.

It is very beautiful out side. Deep, dark, silvery blue of the river and the yellow of the sand, the dark trees and the bare harvested fields. The grass has just been cut this week. The pond belongs to all dry because there has been no rain.

That sure was a big fish you caught, Carl. What kind was it?

What did Seymour's tracker look like?
December 2, 1917

Dear Ones,

Still at home as you see by the heading. Isn't that nice! So the war hasn't accomplished very much but knit, but even that is quite satisfactory, for you can see easily the results. Wish one weren't, there seems to be no end to labor.

This is Sunday night, and I am not alone for than "we will shrink"; Murray's little boy, with me. She has been spending the days since fixed day here so Murray has been in Shantung. But to-day he came back and so they both plan to go to Shantung tomorrow, the baby is to stay with me over night. Then I shall take him over to-morrow morning.

Mrs. James (Mary) and I have had a very nice quiet visit together and I have enjoyed having Baby right in the house where I could watch them and take care of them. She is almost perfect with children and teaches him such pretty manners. He never南北 himself but when he eats, but keeps as clean and tidy as a grown-up person. He speaks two Chinese dialects (Kuotan and mother talk one, and the nurse another) as well as English.

Remember he is not yet two years. He was born Jan. 8, 1916. Yesterday I was looking over some boxes of pictures and dusting them. He was especially pleased to find a picture of Ellien to me and not the recognized it, turned turn to his mother and bay, "Uncle Bob!" (Ellien's grand college nickname, "Bob" a good deal out here).

Then he would turn to his Chinese nurse and say "Hi' Mok-tau" which translated is "The Reverend Mr. Hilfricht."

He would do the same thing with my pictures and it was perfectly amusing to him. I think I should send home this snap shot of him so it shows his characteristic humor. He is so merry and full of fun, and so very loving and affectionate.

Frankly knew it was Thanksgiving. During the summer we had invited guests but they did not
come. Ellison had to be in Swatow to attend the meeting in preparation for the big Eddy campaign next spring. I originally intended to go, but finally decided to stay at home. He says that the meetings are wonderful, and he seems quite inspired by them. He came in last night but went again this morning to finish up the course. He will be back again tomorrow afternoon I expect.

We were to have conference at Kayins that the province seems somewhat depleted and so it is hard to get troops and chains and m-ban decided at least to postpone it.

The political situation is most interesting, too complicated to try to explain and it seems very romantic to be in the midst of the changes and possibilities. Don't be alarmed if you are the name of our city in the papers as you did in the baby revolution of 1910. I wish the Chinese would get sufficiently awak to resist Japanese influence.

Hope my Christmas parcel will reach Ayng Cele safely. I feel rather on-hazard about my Christmas preparations this year. It has not been possible to get just what I wanted and I am not had much time to think. I am thinking of you all daily. May many blessings come to each one.

With love,
Lettu.
Brooklyn
Dear Ones:

This is Sunday night and I am not alone for I have "Wee Willie Winkie", Mrs. James' little boy with me. She has been spending the days while Mr. James has been in Ithaca. He came back today and as they both plan to go to Ithaca tomorrow, the baby is to stay with me overnight. Then I shall take him home tomorrow morning.

Mrs. James and I have had a very nice quiet visit together and I have so enjoyed having Baby right in the house where I could watch him, and also see her nurse him. She is almost perfect with children and teaches him such pretty manners. He never messed himself up when he eats, but keeps as clean and tidy as a grown-up person. He speaks two Chinese dialects as well as English. His parents talk one dialect and the nurse another.

Remember he is not yet 2 years old, for he was born Jan. 6, 1916, yesterday. I was looking over some boxes of pictures and finding items. He was especially pleased to find a picture of Ellian and me, and if I recognized it he would turn to his mother and say "Uncle Bob" (Ellian goes by his college nickname). He would turn to his Chinese nurse and say the best Chinese "Hi, Mr. Li!" which translated is "The Reverend Mr. Hildreth." He would do the same thing with my pictures, and it was perfectly amusing to me. He is a dear little fellow, so merry and full of fun, and so very loving and affectionate.
I hardly knew it was Thanksgiving Day. During the summer we had invited guests, but they could not come. Cicely had to be in St. Louis to attend the meetings, in preparation for the big Edly campaign next Spring. I originally intended to go, but finally decided to stay at home. He says that the meetings are wonderfully good and he seems quite inspired by them. He came up last night, but went again this morning, to finish up the course.

We were to have conference at Kajing, leaving home Monday, but the province seems somewhat upset and as it is hard to get boats and chairs, the conference is postponed.

The political situation is most interesting, too complicated to try to explain, and it seems very romantic to be in the midst of the changes and possibilities. Don't be alarmed if you see the name your city in the papers, as you did in the labor revolution of 1916. I wish the Chinese would get sufficiently awake to resist Japanese influence.
Dear Ones, well at last there is news enough to sound exciting, even if it isn’t to me make the most of it and write as if it really were something big and then you subtract about fifty percent to get at the truth. I am a refugee. Think of that! Left my home late Thursday at the suggestion of the consul. I did feel like a runaway and ashamed is no word for it! As I went thru the village the people laughed and said “Do you are going to run away, all you?” and I had to say “Yes” But I wished that Elinor would stand by the ship!!

Now you will want to know what it is all about, and I have forgotten what I last wrote.

Mrs. James and Miss Willie had been visiting me while Mr. James was in Swatow at the Buchman mission. On Sunday he returned and said that they thought best for the women folks of their mission to go to Swatow. So Mrs. J- and he went home to pack up and they left the baby with me for the night—a very peculiar thing.

During the evening the cow came upstairs looking rather white, and said, “They have already begun its flight. I heard the guns just now. All the people too, are fleeing from the city.”

Well, I had not heard any guns, but when I went out on to the porch, sure enough, I could hear the shrill of hundreds of voices, and the shouts of people and the lanterns moving to and fro in the city—a great commotion.

Last one began to plan with the cow when they were to find people if they came to us for refuge. But the noises soon quieted.

It turned out that the soldiers had fired a few shots because they thought that an enemy was advancing and as the noise had all immediately hurried to a safer place down the river.

Pretty soon however, Mr. James appeared and insisted on having us go this here.
across the river, so we bundled "We Willie" up, got the amba out of bed, and started on our first walk across the soldier guarded bridge - awfully interesting.

The next day the men on that side went to funerals, but I knew that Ellison was coming home and I did not think there would be any trouble and so I stayed, and was exceedingly glad I did, for he got in about 6:00 PM all tired and foot sore and would surely have been disappointed to find me away.

He stayed on happily and quietly, but the soldiers began to find why the hill was a little odd. The gravel went up 9 little steps, saying that he trusted I was in Peking, and after these did not seem to be much trouble, there was danger that brigands would follow any trouble, and I was being a man. It was compelled to give in. They said that a man can rest in case of danger, but that a woman is a great hindrance. Ellison also would have felt uneasy to keep me there after the consul had warned us, and so on Thursday we came down.

He went over to the station to return only to find that there was no train. The next morning early he had to start out to walk those twenty-four miles. He certainly must have run much more last time, and I was glad enough to receive the parcel containing his new ground. I have it safe. The price was appalling. He and must wear shoes.

I'll be back by Friday afternoon before daylight and by night I know that they have destroyed and the telegraph wire had been cut. I have no doubt he arrived safely and is having a fine bachelor party with Mr. James and Dr. Hero.

A courier took mail up yesterday.
Chiang Kai-Shek Wed To Miss Meiling Soong

Christian Religious Service and Chinese Civil Ceremony for General and Mrs. Sun's Sister.

Shanghai, Dec. 1.—(AP)—General Chiang Kai-Shek, former generalissimo of the nationalist armies, and Miss Meiling Soong, young Wellesley graduate, were married today.

The couple were married by a Christian religious service and then by a Chinese civil ceremony. Although only intimate friends, attended the religious service, 1,000 Chinese and 200 foreigners, making up the most prominent members of the Chinese and foreign civil and official circles attended the civil ceremony.

By the marriage General Chiang Kai-Shek became the brother-in-law of Madame Sun Yat Sen, widow of Republican leader Dr. Sun Yat Sen, and of T. V. Soong, Chinese financial expert.

The first service, that of the Episcopal church was performed in English at the home of the bride, the service being translated into the Mandarin, the prevailing Chinese dialect. It was read by Dr. David Yu, widely known Chinese worker in China and general secretary of the national committee of the Young Men's Christian Association.

The Chinese civil ceremony took place at the Majestic hotel in the international settlement and was conducted by Dr. Tsai Yeu-Pei, education in the Nanking nationalist government.

The bride wore a white satin gown of foreign style laden with jewels, while General Chiang Kai-Shek wore a morning coat. The ceremonies were conducted throughout by Chinese except with the assistance of one foreigner, E. L. Hall, of New York, a member of the national committee of the Y. M. C. A. who aided in the civil ceremony.

Both ceremonies took place in the glare of brilliant motion picture lights, presenting striking spectacles as Chinese and foreign movie men cranked their cameras.

WOMEN CALL MILLS' CHARGE UNTRUE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

be glad to furnish them such data if they so desire.

Mrs. Porter's letter follows:

Blames Road Houses.

"I wish to express for the executive committee of the Connecticut Women's Law Enforcement Committee, who (through the president of the New Haven council of churches) invited Mayor Mills to speak in Wooley hall on Monday night, that the good name of our city is as dear to us as to any citizen of New Haven and that our aim is never to stand sponsor for any accusations unproven by facts. We regret that Mayor Mills, without producing proofs, made the statement that New Haven is one of the wickedest and most licentious cities in the country."

CHIANG KAI-SHEK

—[AP]
Dear Ones,

There has been almost too much going on for me to tell a straight story. Conditions change so much in a few hours that one almost loses faith in any news that comes.

Now I knew that I had come to Swatow and why. Well, last Sunday evening we were awakened by what seemed like very loud fire-crackers going off incessantly. (Maybe I have told you this) Mr. Wyly and I slipped our battock on and went to Mrs. Waters' porch where we found that shooting had begun outside Swatow. We could see the light from the bombs, and they were steady firing of guns and cannon. We thought the temple was near our house and went to bed again about 10, but the next day we learned that the fighting had been just outside the eastern end of Swatow and that two English families who live in my house close to the Anglo-Chinese College had been right in the midst of the firing. Dr. Wyly (the one who has been so very kind to us) went out and told the firing and made arrangement for the women to be brought away a little later. During the night they had been lying on the floor in the kitchen, for they could find too much to baby of two men. Two bullets entered the house and were raking outside all the time so that it was not safe for them to stand up or move about. The two women and baby about 15 minutes old came over here and lived with Mrs. Wyly — during the night they had been burning in the house in the kitchen and had been baby of two men. Two bullets entered the house and were raking outside all the time so that it was not safe for them to stand up or move about. The two women and baby about 15 minutes old came over here and lived with Mrs. Wyly — during the night they had been burning in the house in the kitchen and had been baby of two men. Two bullets entered the house and were raking outside all the time so that it was not safe for them to stand up or move about.

The two women and baby about 15 minutes old came over here and lived with Mrs. Wyly — during the night they had been burning in the house in the kitchen and had been baby of two men. Two bullets entered the house and were raking outside all the time so that it was not safe for them to stand up or move about. The two women and baby about 15 minutes old came over here and lived with Mrs. Wyly — during the night they had been burning in the house in the kitchen and had been baby of two men. Two bullets entered the house and were raking outside all the time so that it was not safe for them to stand up or move about.

Sunday evening while we were having evening prayers, heard Ellis stand and reach out in the midst of them to say him thinking that he had heard that there was fighting at Swatow and had come down to see that all was well—but to our surprise, we found that he had heard nothing of the firing.

At Chao-choufu they began firing the night I came away (Thursday) and had been keeping it up one night, but Mrs. James and Dr. Flag — had been asked to mediate and having had a long conference all day Sunday and up until midnight, they decided that Ellis should come to Swatow to see the consul. He found fighting going on but walked straight thru the firing lines (not many soldiers but nobody tried to shoot) they shooting where they mean to. He talked with the consul who told him that he could not go thru—but he did having...
a white handkerchief and then talked to the northern and came on. It was a rather dangerous thing to do, but I am glad he did it. Alto, some criticize him as being foolhardy!!! (Such is missionary life!!!).

He said very few agreed, so this was the 3rd time he had walked the long distance within eight days, but he was lucky enough to find a pair of shoes and so on. He did not want to wear new shoes when he is just one, but Grundy could be perfectly comfortable that one can do even that.

All the men here objected to Ellinor going back than the lines, but he was very anxious to get back to the city and relieve Douglas and Dr. Tobe who are bearing the responsibility of the negotiations and wanted the consul’s approval of their actions. Circumstances forced him and he was able to go on a launch with the consul and two from the country without going than any lines until he reached 2/3 of his town. This letter which I will enclose will tell how he spend the night with the Southern commander and how he had a big escort of 20 soldiers and a chair (paid for by the Southerners). Also his letter and my notice will explain what has been happening at the city.

At Swatow fighting ends on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In the afternoon, all became quiet and it learned that the trouble was over. It appears that the northern leader has been bought off and that they left Thursday night. The Southerners now come to Swatow on Friday. But before the real armament there was a great deal of looting and shooting in Chinese property - so much so that Dr. Plynt called in the Japanese marines to preserve order. They are good soldiers and very glad to get a chance to come in, of course.

Post China!

When the real Southern men arrived, notices were put up that anyone found shooting would be shot, and some men shot. Policemen were unanimously killed in the early morning and men claimed they were in league with the North. A house was set fire to on Friday night - quite a large fire and burning - and not near the English houses.

Now people are returning to Swatow and every
Dear Jane,

It seems that before I finish one letter, it is time to begin the next. But when I look at my notes, I see that it is more than ten days since I wrote the last time! Things have not been so exciting since then. I had just made up my mind that I should have to stay in Shanghai until Christmas, and that I might as well do it gracefully. When word came from Ellison that the train was running and that I could start the next day—my! but I was glad! I began to pack immediately and to return borrowed garments, and get last minute baggage.

Such a crowd and such a heap of miscellaneous luggage you never saw in your life, I can well believe.

When people (Chinese) run in China, they have to carry all their living interests as well as their treasures, for there are no hotels for them to run to even if they could afford them. One woman who came to Kachchh brought her three little pigs. That was her greatest treasure. And it was mostly meatless or leporid, only dry meat people who fled to Kachchh?

All who had a room to rent put up their piece of the sky! It is amusing to think how they would take advantage of one another.

When I came home you can imagine me again setting the house in living order, unlocking boxes, and getting out the silver, etc., and also getting ready for Christmas, getting all pretty or more local (and of course smaller gifts). We had almost every missionary a set of four bamboo serving needles. By the way would any of you people at home like some? Just speak up if you do, for they are easy to get. They are suitable to make patches, beds, caps, helmets, caps, etc. I also tried to make over my blue silk wedding dress and skirt; it is not finished yet and I don't think that I shall ever attempt to do it again. I was in despair one and over again and kept on until then, actually no more time. I ought to be able to dress better—but must only do I hate to take pains on the little things. But it is impossible for me to fit myself with not a need to help some people could, but I surely must admit that I am not clever enough.

I also went on to the city to try to help on the
Christmas hymns which had been sadly interrupted by the rebellion, Civil war, or revolution as you may call it.

I had a new waist foundation.

I find new always not a skirt.

Then I cut off bottom & stamped it down it to a cotton foundation while I used the upper part to make the skirt of the same. I used the old cuffs on the front or the back part at the top of front instead of at the bottom. Some big pockets are to be put in and then it will be quite a patch work affair. I can not get any style at all in anything when made otherwise.

On Tuesday we went in to city in Aug. E was horribly disappointed because he was invited to a big Chinese feast (at work) which he could not refuse. It had to do with this mediation business, and so had to be done!!

Well I must tell you all about it. First

On Monday he went to Swanton to take our gifts and do some American business. (We had been home for lunch one day already in camp back from Swanton. Poor fellow.) This was nothing a good deal in stations.

Well, we talked things over and I decided I simply could not stand either a trip or more behind sickness this year and as Tuesday was to be very busy, I decided to stay...
our parcels Monday eve.
So we got everything together and opened them before
the nice grate fire and had a happy time. Then
we opened the three California rocks and there was
great fun.
We had heaps of things. No one else-

Music book from Aunt Jane
13.00 from the Hildutches. (Let me have an explanation)
from whom or what.

That great surprise box? Chocolate from Dad. Oh, so good!
The beautiful picture? Mother.
Pretty violet dress goods from Aunt Celie, wish to match.
The beauty Princess slip from Pattee. Formosa, Pattee.
The calendar of pictures and crocheted cord from Messie, 
or the knit mob cloth from Emma. Wow! That was 
The necklace for Ethel from Jennie and the brace from
Massie, also picture. Holy, for me and a bible card
from Mrs. Lightbody. It certainly was more
I was happy to have such lovely surprises!

Shall I go on with the long list?
A beautiful knit mob cloth from Miss Farnell and
a box of candy for Ethel, as well as a little doll from Nettie.
A box of candy from Mrs. Lewis who has 2 children under 10.
I think. How does she ever get time to make such delicious
things in so many different kinds. Of course these boxes were
small. In Ethel crocheted you from Miss Farnell a short
brown scarf from Dr. Stahl several little books, a booklet
and songs and pictures and a little Japanese book from
Miss him and a lacquered dish and a beautiful
Knitting bag from Mrs. James, as well as calendar
and cards and flowers.

Most of these lead especially one for us both because
I gave Ethel a pair of mittens I had made, a brass
chimney Stick, and a cushion which I covered with a Linen
Cover, his mother had made for him years ago. It had the
names of all his old friends stitched in colors. and
he was pleased to use, you may be sure.

He gave me a box of Baddow's chocolate (yell) and
some real cloth (his first coat). Something else, I can't
remember now, but you will see why when I tell you what
happened the next morning.

For a wonder, I got up first and opened the door to
got the hot water. What do you think, dear thing? A lovely
lot of Chrysanthemums, and a nice stool for my
dressing table, as well as a big locked tin. When December
that it was full of all sorts of parcels & things—candies, nuts, oranges, oranges from Italy, peaches, and most of all a little white tea pot on which he had had written in Chinese characters before the pot was fired, a lovely quotation about a wife—This was a lovely lovely surprise wasn't it? And he was so good and thoughtful all day—not that he isn't practically always so—but even more than usual and that is saying a good deal.

There was a big celebration in city checked in Pen. and at the school near here in P.M. and then almost as soon as that was over we had to dress for the evening dinner to the Joneses. I hadn't any suitable gown to match E's dress suit, but I threw a pretty scarf over my dress and hope its deficiencies were partially covered over.

He furnished the goose, the stuffing & apparels, and Mrs. Jones furnished the rest. Mr. Ross & Mary Wells had us over for Christmas tea (12:00) on the next day—she stayed all night with the James's and enjoyed it.

I am not attempted to answer the letters I have received yet, but shall probably have to send this one for it is near my bed time, and I shall be busy busy preparing for his gueets ov the week-end. So now I get settled from that, shall probably have to leave home again, for a reference committee or something.

I am constantly thinking of Delia and say she is in good health and spirits, also about picturing very vividly Ruth, Damaris's home coming from college. I am nice it must have been!

Hope Aunt Cal is well and happy. I tried to imagine you all this morning, Mrs. Hope my small parcel arrived safely and intact. Prettier from collection this year I am sorry to say.

Now I must say Good Night with love.