Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

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Folder label: LLH and ESH to Lucelia Wetherbee (aunt of LLH), from Chaochowfu, Peking, Peitaiho


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Dear Paul, Bahnie,

I have been wanting to write you especially for a long time, but it has been a rushing time when I haven't been able to control time or thoughts so much as I wish.

Now about the hospital experience; it was not consciously omitted. You see, when in Peking, I wrote to Ellison fullly and asked him to mail my letters to U.S.A., after letting the Bakers read them. When I reached home, I found he had withheld two letters, the one written after the nose operation, and the one written after the curtagia and radium treatment.

Of course, they gave more or less unpleasant details. He said, 'I held these back, questioning whether I should send them or not.' So when I read them over I said to myself, 'These things are too much in detail - I'll just send my calendar pages and that will...
ly a letter. But my calendar pages wanted to write and put notes into my face year diary which I had not taken to Peking, and so I could not send them until I found time to transfer some facts. I did not realize at all that you would miss as much or be as anxious to hear. In fact, I did not realize the gap.

Now I'll read over your letters, and see if I can find out what you want to know most, and write that.

Alice is writing on extra georgette paper on a little rough table by my desk. John is playing with dominoes in the next room. It is nearly time for me to go down to the Kie-thien church to play.

I have ordered two books for you and Della, and Charlie, and they will be here soon to other members of the family. I am sure that the book on autosuggestion will help both you and Della. You can both be cured and with speed. There is no question about it. Give yourself over to the influence of the book, and do as he says. Notice that he himself lived a Christ-like life, and both has been a wonderful help to me, and
I think that you would appreciate, put your name in the books. Auntie Liddy and then let those who read the book write their names. It makes the book more interesting. (They are yours)

I have received another in fact two interesting books for Christmas. One is "Christianity and Progress" by Tredick. (Read one lecture). The other is "A Musical Pilgrim's Progress" which Marion especially might appreciate. It is written by a friend of Mr. James, and is creating quite an interest in England.

I must stop to go to church. Much love.

Later. Children have eaten their mid-morning oranges and are out doors somewhere with the mares. They surely will miss these barren hills when they go to flat Swatow.

I do enjoy the enclosures from Ruth, Mary and Esther. I wish I could know them better.

I am concerned that Della is flowing again, but hope it will cease. How old is she? Do keep me informed about it. I know it must stop soon. Make it hard for you too!
It is too bad that Miss Curtis is so narrow and uninformed. You have forgiven her a lot, Aunt Cel, and you'll have to forgive more as long as you are in contact with her.

I am glad you did not send anything extra for John's and Alice's Xmas. They had heaps of things and are so happy with them all! The telephone is a little old for them yet. In two or three more years maybe they would appreciate the value of such a toy. We shall be able to get electric supplies in Swatow. I am glad to say.

You shouldn't have ordered anything from Jordan Marsh for me. I have notice of two parcels in the City, but they have not yet arrived. This may be one of them.

I would like to see picture of Lucile in coat and knickers.

I was so glad to get the letters from Ruth on Thanksgiving Day, and am so happy that you were all together there.

I do hope that you and Della will read together for at least fifteen minutes daily. I know how hard it is to get it in, but any good book is such a help and inspiration.

The children love to read your messages in the letters, and John is always asking questions.
Dear Dalmie,

I want to tell you how much I think you are and how wonderful it is that you can help out at Bridgewater so. I well know that it is hard for you. I feel sometimes that it is too hard, but I don’t dare think very much from this distance. I know that if you and Della together could conquer, so that you felt the strength, self-confidence, and health that is promised by Brecher’s method—It is not a method by using will power or struggling. It is a method of passivity—of training the subconscious so that it controls and overshadows the fears and makes thoughts of the conscious.

I do hope that it will help you to happiness and content so that you will no longer feel dissatisfaction with yourself.

You have done so much for me, Dalmie. How can I ever thank you—or do enough to show that appreciation?

My deepest love to you.

Lottie.
P.M Jan 7, 1923

Dear Bahnie,

The book has just come and with the joy of prospective reading, is distress that you should send so much to us. I don't feel right about it. So please don't do so much again.

I shall look forward to reading it with a great deal of pleasure... and then I think we should send it to you to enjoy too. Would you like to have it reach you first?

I forgot to mention in my letter and don't know whether I mentioned or not, that I sent your birthday presents before I left for Conference. It is an army of books from feeling. I am afraid it will arrive early but better early than late. Which do you prefer? I am sure
Ellen will enjoy the old N & E flavor in this book you have sent us.

Many many thanks

Dear Pauline -
Love

Lottie.
Trying to answer questions.

On Sept 25. I had ether and curettage to find if the tumor was malignant or not. All findings seemed to prove that it was not.

Then 25 cc. of radium in a tiny glass tube was inserted in the uterus. Of course, I knew no pain because I was under ether. Had nothing to eat for forty hours or so, and suffered some discomfort from ether (not much). Had an uncomfortable night as one always does after a hospital operation (30 hours).

Before the radium was taken out, it caused slight pains but nothing at all hard to bear. I was glad to get rid of it.
The former method was to have two or three treatments with smaller amounts, but now they know how to give correct and, in 1867. (I am thankful for this.)

Dr. Maxwell told me she should have one per week period and then no more, and that almost next week be careful, and should expect to be O.K. after three.

It had the one period on the way home and 2 weeks later another one, which caused the doctor's a little worry. Since then I have been more careful, and have not only passed seven times without feeling but have had other symptoms of the menopause (hot flashes) etc.
so I feel quite certain that I am O.K.
There should be not only full recovery, but I
should be stronger than I have been for years.
I probably had this tumor while I was at home.
And I like to think that to excuse myself
a nice bit, for letting folks and especially
you, do so much for me. As I look back on
life, I feel I have been all too willing to let
mother and you especially, and other folks
too, do for me. I'll try to get more
unselfish, and more independent.

The radium shrinks up all unhealthy
tissue. I used to find it painful to stand up
after sitting awhile. Now that pain at base of spine—caused by tumors and backward tip of uterus is all gone.

Yes Alice Brown Frame was the one whose husband was taken with typhus on the way home.

I am sorry you got news from and almost Peking in such a strange fashion. Some letters must have gone very fast, and so got to you before my explanatory letter written on the boat to Shanghai arrivals. Or maybe that letter never reached you. Did it? I remember I was glad that I could put off writing until that time, for you would have less time to worry, but I wrote a full explanatory letter in the very month.

Ellian appreciated your good letter to him written in October.

How much much love,
Accomplished hardly anything all day except to pay the cook for sweater trip & h. h. expenses to date and to run around after John - and prepare baby's milk, putting strained oatmeal in for the first time. She seemed to like it - but I expelled nearly half of it this p.m.

Some home mail came to day, a letter from Beth Sargent, one from "Dear Nahnie" - whoever that is. John, "Who got this toy?" no matter what it is, his first answer is "Dear Nahnie."

He read for nearly an hour on the crib yesterday showing Teddy Bear the pictures in Black Sambo and Benjamin Bunny.

1921

Saturday April 16
Miss had John most of the while I got flowers, table linen, clothes etc., ready for Mary. She came with the 2 children about 11:00, and we had a nice day. John a quelled a good deal. Beavers started for Canton. Miss Bros went to Swocton, but came over at night to stay with us.
Aet finished with cook
Cut out some water
John fell asleep at noon
I fell asleep with him in etc.
I went out on fields with him after tea. I came home about 6:00.
I wrote a little while John played on sand pile in Ann
Miss Jones - all in - after trip to Sweater yesterday. He found Miss. Bette's passport open; sent it to him. He had forgotten it. Sister did not take much milk.

Wednesday 20 April 1921
John had no nap and so went to
sleep early at night.
Illison home for dinner. Left
Alice home with nurse to be. I took
John over to call on Mary after tea.

Moon beautiful all night & day
lovely - John out most of A.M.
We went down with E. in A.U. to
side of river - when E. was
starting for school and nurse
brought him back... I cut out
a suit for him.

Boys cleaned four upstairs
rooms and the three bathrooms.

Sister was not very happy
while I was away, nurse said.
Beautiful day warm
Sanned room of Eithy
matted in newspapers, marked
& packed away. Changed Children's
dressers so as to give him one
more.

Milked cow on account
and again in ere a little.
I had candy is delicious in
hand piece or two after each
meal.

Beautiful moon. Prepared
mail for E to carry & told him
about errands & parcels

1921

Friday April 22
Another beautiful day
Cleaned out my small bureau
drawers, and a few others.
Cut out a collar for J. W. mist.
John out until 11:00.
Carpenters have nothing on
sleeping porch.
I went toSwatow to preach
tomorrow.
I fell asleep in Jinn in e.o.
I went to church in our leaving nurse by boy.

Alice was at 10:00. John was not very happy.

Alice very pretty all over.

Two men came to fix roof.

Gutters, but I told them it was Sunday and they could not work.

Saw little girls carrying coal in bucket.

Sunday, April 24, 1921.
Planned meals, prepared sewing for nurse, wrote note to many or looked over thin clothes trying to get things ready to wear.

Recent word from Swartsen that he would not come until Tuesday, and that our freight from America had arrived - 13 boxes.

Shall be glad to have a high chair and little chairs and many other commonness, including mosquito netting for rooms and porch.

1921

Monday

April 25
Our freight arrived from America, and John at least has a highchair to sit in. Ellinor came about 2:00 and brought Mr. Whitman for a late dinner. He also brought the remainder of our set of dishes that had been lent to Dr. Ross.

Very hot - very many mosquitoes. Dress John only in a suit, Alice dress in drapery or their shirt.
Dec. 31.

He felt no motion from Jack. earthquake (Sept. that I can remember.

He do not see the Outlook.

Aunt Celie's thin envelopes have come this O.K., but don't seem awfully strong.

Does Gene develop musically?

What is Ralph's new business in Medford?

Candy

Was there duty on X mas parcels?

If so, how much and on what?

Jan. 1, 1924.
"Should I have mentioned the lying in bed two days? I did not know whether to or not. I was flowing excessively. Mrs. Satchi says that the uterus was relaxed with the hot climate and had fallen a little but was not what you call prolapsed. I have had douches and etheol treatments and have been very much better. There was a little ulcerated spot, that is also quite well healed and should judge by what she said. I went down to see her when I had lunch at the Consul's."
I am having a nice time stiffing on Mother’s shoes. Dec. 18
get into Honolulu Sun. Am Dec. 19

Dear Habnie,

Every thing to see and to do. See you soon.

Love

[Signature]
My new waxnet is invaluable, and I am mighty glad that I wasn't stuck to hair dressers and learned a different way in which to do my hair.
From John Oct 29, 1928.

Send and check soon please.
MOTHER DEAR, I
LOVE YOU
 JOHN

+
Dear Nanzie,

There is time to write a little more in answer to your good letters of September and October. It was so nice to get them before the operation. I think they both came. If not both then one was before operation, and one while I was still in bed.

I have been packing my trunk (what little was necessary) today, and now everything is ready for me to leave. I am just waiting for a friend, Southern Baptist (Mrs. James) to come and get me and go with me to the room she has rented for me. Our always seems to meet kind people, and the only thing that worries me is that I seem unable to do as much for others as they continually do for me. It has been...
so all thru my life. Look at all you have done for me and how mean and insignificant has been my return. Some day maybe I'll come near my ideals! I hope so. I do hope that you will have joy and blessedness these days. Do you find it helpful to re-read the small volume of Coxe?' I should think it would be. I intended to bring it here but couldn't lay my hands on it, but I had had so much help that I really didn't need it.

I am so glad you had the trip to Stroudsmoor this summer. Wish I could have been there too. Hope you folks won't blame me for not coming home. I felt I was deciding for the best, and I can't imagine what would become of me if it were broken into this year.

I can't imagine what would become of me if it were broken into this year, and I can't imagine living either at Holyoke or Rockport without greatly overworking somebody and confusing the household.
I hope that time will prove it the right decision. Of course I wanted to come badly enough to make it seem temptation. I wish you could come to this fine hospital.

Just what are your heart attacks like and when do they come? I have been told that the causes of such attacks can be entirely nervous. Do you know whether yours has the nervous cause or some organic cause? Have you seen the book "Outwitting Your Heart?" I read it on the way up here. It is a little helpful.

I have read a little of Papini's "Life of Christ," but was a little disappointed in the first chapters or two. I did not read enough to form a judgment, but shall try to see more of it.

It would be lovely to be with Marion for a little while, wouldn't it? You asked of her writing. What does she plan to do?

I want sometime to send you a little dress. I cannot probably get me like mother's as that was from India, but...
I have ordered a bolt of heavy white crepe from rare China and I hope it can be dyed any color on request. It is always uncertain whether such orders will reach us, as there are bandits, soldiers, and dangerous rapids to be passed before anything reaches us, but I have hope.

Oh, please tell Carol (I am going to write as soon as I can) - but I want to thank her for the box of hats which arrived safely. The box was crushed together but all the hats were not badly hurt. Miss Bose was helping me and that silk tape chantier me bought awfully nice to her, as I gave it to her. I bought the brown one - like fancy? I brought the brown one and the two with me here. I was mighty glad than the many colored me for a pattern. Hope she did not rob herself.

I am so glad Mother has a nice coat. Tell Carol when she has time? (When will she?) to make me a little sketch of Mother's dress and her new one too.

There were no dogtown from the train, I shall not forget. Wonderful! Wishes of love. Lottie
American Board Compound
Peking  Dec. 19, 1923.

Dear Nehnie,

Your birthday is coming on next month and I want you to have a letter - since I had to send the small gift so far ahead of time. Your last letter was so dear! And I do appreciate them so much when I know you are so busy. I wish you knew what a blessing you are and have been to us all and especially to me. I am sorry that you felt badly at not having sent any gift with the package that Mother and Carol sent. Please don't feel badly. You know that the gift itself means nothing, in one sense. When it comes, it is a material pleasure, but there is a much deeper spiritual pleasure that comes from the knowledge of your deep love of which we have so many proofs. The children not only will have more gifts than they ought to have, but I think I left some things which maybe I have laid aside at Christmas or birthday times, as things which they were not ready to play with, and have
given them anew at this Xmas. One I am sure was marked with your name, and one with Grandma Lane's. And they will forget ever having seen the thing before. So don't think that you will be forgotten by the kiddies on Xmas Day — and don't feel surprised if you are thanked for something which you gave a long time ago, or which you have forgotten.

These preparations I made for Xmas are quite hazy in my mind — and I can't remember distinctly whether I left anything in particular from Mummy or not, but I think I did — and I'll hope it is true, for it is too late now to send anything from here. I know I left things for everyone else at Cape — and if I left out my own kiddies, it would be rather queer.

Many times I have felt that you have spent too much money on us all — and I do beg you earnestly, if you must remember us, to let it be not your heart's desire, which could be something very wonderful, but just a slight token.

Then written in a very slurred manner this fall. Hardly mentioned Christmas Greetings to you — but I hope you will remember.
how upset the days have been, and how my mind has been rather "half on the job" so to speak for the time when I was so busy, and the time when I was sick. After I ordered the magazine, I let it slip from my mind. Hope and know that you will enjoy it, if it is not too fine type for you to read.

Then just ordered another book for mother's 60th anniversary, which I am quite certain that you, too, will enjoy, for the type is good. "The Outlines of Science." Did Father enjoy the National Geographic?

I thought that he might and Marius's family too.

Oh, and I never wrote very fully of the parcel of baby clothes I sent on. How I did want to handle them myself and take more time about sorting and sending them! Among them was the little bathrobe you sent to Alice unused. It was not that we did not appreciate it, but she happened to have others at the time that she could use, and I thought that there was no need of spoiling it for such an insignificant thing, then it was not necessary. I did not mean either to send it back, but since it came back to you, won't you lay it aside as your gift to some baby?
I know you will enjoy unpacking and handling the things.

I was so glad to hear of Carol's plans. If I had come home, I might have been able to attend the wedding, although I fear I should have been in the hospital or just out - and the children would have been dreadfully in the way.

Now that I know that there was no malignant growth, it would seem simple, except from the point of view of 8½ work, to have come to U.S.A. But we couldn't tell at the time, and I feel quite sure that we have followed God's leading. I hope that you will not be disappointed. You say that if I had come home, it would have settled your problems, but I know it would have put too great a burden on you, before I was strong enough to take my share. I wish you could be out here with me this winter and summer and next winter. That would be wonderful!

I wish you could get some relief from the heart spells, for I know how troublesome and uncomfortable they must be merely from a nervous point of view, not to mention the physical - with which I am unfamiliar.

Can you eat any more these days? And do you sleep any better?
I hope that you will not take definite work.
Would you be good enough to let me know once more about how you stand financially now and whether you need money?
I am going to make out another check for fifty dollars, and I don't want you to be afraid to use it for the things you want to do or buy. If you do not want to use it, put it in the bank where you can get at it when the day of need comes. Now don't feel any compunction about taking this. It has come with practically no effort in my part - thanks to dear Mother 13 - and it is for you. So please don't write me saying you feel badly - I want you to feel glad!
When you loaned me money for college, you said you thought it was a good investment - but I never fulfilled your idea of that - and so let me try to fulfill it in the only way left at present. Maybe some opportunity will come some day to fulfill it better.
I sincerely hope so.

John [signature]
Do wish I could help Marion. Is she lacking warm clothes or shoes? Do keep me informed about her.

How is Della getting on? When I pray about her, I have a wonderful feeling as if my prayer helped her in a way that I have about no other person. Perhaps thought wants do help in some cases more than others.

George writes as if there were a little difficulty in the Morton drawn work business. Do you know about it? I should be glad to hear details. I am rather disappointed. I am writing him as soon as I have opportunity. Hope he has made no mistake in estimating what is due him in price. He always has estimated it too high when sending money to me, and if there is any little disagreement, it sometimes is very embarrassing. For interpretation, it sometimes is very embarrassing in money matters especially. I wish I knew enough detail to advise him.

You can already hear, I am sure, how your letter arrived just in the nick of time the night before my operation, and how they kept me busy every minute — and how I had a wonderful night to sleep the night before the
I wasn't nervous at all. And I certainly had fine care, and was never from all unnecessary pain. There was only once when the gas pains were so bad that I shouted, and the nurse was rather slow in coming. Every other time they were very prompt, and so kind and thoughtful and attentive -- Chinese nurses -- and American Red Cross nurses. It hurt pretty badly when they changed the dressings the first time, but it was late in the day and I was too tired to stand pain easily, and I had not met Miss Gould and learned how to bear it. At that time, I felt as if one of us should go to show them there was a pain and where it was -- as if they could be more careful -- for pain and where it was -- as if they knew that well knowing that it hurt. But gracious -- they know that well enough and are as careful as can be.

If you had put Dr. Maxwell's name on an envelope addressed to Peking, it would doubtless have reached me, for he is very well known.

If I had gone home before the operation, the Red Cross would have sent a children's nurse, but if for any reason they should judge it needed to go now I can't say. They would not send me unless I really needed to go, and if I needed to go, I might need help. But they have no
intention of sending me home now.

I do feel that you are in the right place at Lane's Inn. And I feel so much happier than to have another alone especially in the winter time.

How is Frank now? Was he always kind and grateful? I feel certain that that is what he would want to be.

Carol will enjoy the trip West and the new sights. I hope that she feels more like her old self now. It is about two months and a half for her now. Too bad she had to spend so much money unnecessarily - same as we have to - that we have to pay only $300 for the remainder of the medical expenses - so it is much better.

Ruth had glanditis by the next letter. Do she constantly overdoing? I do hope not.

And I am anxiously waiting news from John and Gladys. I do hope that all will go well with them. I was pleased to see the letter you enclosed.

You're right, it is hard for illness to have no home and to be buffeted around. The worst of it is that I thought for a time that Dr. Maxon would send me out West for the winter, and then he had to destroy those hopes! It was hard luck!

Has little Walter trouble with mastoid done? Too bad if it is so. Very much love.

N. B. Mother read card.
Jan. 21-

Dear Mabnie,

For more than a month now I have been turning over in my head thoughts about your coming to China. Although you would like to, I do not know whether you want to, or whether you would think it possible— but will you consider it? I will run briefly over the details that I have thought of:

1. Expenses of trip: Ellias and I have always promised you— and I talked with him about it before I married him. He can manage that to the full extent I think.

2. Even tho’ the spring is an unusual time to come, there are always folks coming to Peking and the Board would make every effort to find some.
one for you to travel with.

3. Then you could spend the summer with us in the north, then the winter in
Swatow, Chechingpo. If by that
time you (spring of 1925) you didn't like
it, you could return with folks from
the mission - but if you did like it,
you could spend the summer with
us at Thaiyong and stay until
the next spring 1926 - then if
you still liked it, you might stay
until our furlough is due.

It would be wonderful for
us. Whether it would be too lonesome
for you, I don't know. Whether the trip
would be too hard or not, I am not
sure.

It can be done fairly easily with
someone as companion who knows to
Take Canadian Pacific to Vancouver
or Seattle. Take a Swift Pacific boat.
to Shanghai. Take train to Peking. We could give you full directions from here, or you could easily get them in Peking, Shanghai. In any case, if you come, send letters telling the name of boat and route so that we could have mail awaiting you. Shanghai will need your address and feed you and put you and your baggage on the train.

I. Clothing.

Coming this route clothing would bother you very little. The traveling dress for a dinner dress, and another dress for every day would be all you would need, as it is cold all the way. You would need a steamer rug—a new trunk—and I don’t know how you are for shoes and hat. Winter coat would do.

For this clothing and even for most of underclothes, you could probably do better out here than at home.
I enclose a letter to the Board, and an order on the Bank. Please destroy both if you do not use them.

With love,

Seth. Please feel free to use the money for you.

I think it would be best to cable (their the Board) — if you were coming.

They have a code and could send it in 3 words:
- Eliot's name - one word
- Eliot's address - one word
- Coming

You need not sign, I'm quite sure you understand.

If I do not hear from you by the middle of April — or say April 30, I shall know that you think it best not to come this spring, but will still look for word about the fall. Our furs - is not due until spring of 1928. I'm sorry!
Dear Rhame,

This will be lovely if you can do it. Do you suppose you can? This is exactly the year for you to do it, if you can see your way to cross the Pacific, which really is peaceful, or an ocean, and all the rest of it. We shall want impatiently to hear from you.

If you cable, you can do it in plain language as Katie has suggested. Or you can have the cable put it in code. They have a wonderful code. For instance, if they were already sending a telegram out here, the addition of one word would mean the end of it. If not, you'd have to break it up in more detail. Think a message like this:

Miss Hildelette, the aunt of...  

Pacifie Shanghai June 10th - could probably be put in 2 words.

Or if the cablegram was sent to me direct, it would be addressed Hildelette Swanson, and then the date of arrival, and the line of steamers would be put in one word, or two at the most. Of course when your cable you may not yet know about date.

Please excuse hasty note.

Much love,
Dear Father,

If you are really coming on that boat that leaves August 14, I haven't many more chances to write you. It seems too good to be true, and I hope and pray that he can make you happy and comfortable.

I'd just come from Ellison yesterday that we can go back to our own house at Cheongchungfoo by about the first of October, and that would fit in very nicely with tentative plans we have made.

I do hope that you have secured passage on that boat and with good friends. Then you can see a little of this lovely Peitaiho which fascinates the children, and which reminds me so of home.

I shall watch the mails anxiously. I don't see how the folks at home are going to get along without you. They will miss you terribly. I hardly dare hope that we shall be so fortunate as to get you really here. And I only hope and pray that we can make you very happy. We never fear for an instant that you will be a burden,
but I am sometimes anxious lest my old tongue won't talk enough.

I see John and Alice now approaching from the beach with the nurse. They have had a lovely time filling a near basket I bought this a.m. for sea-bathing with sand. It has not been in bathing today, because John has a cut in his foot, and because I took a long walk, not returning until 11:30, and felt a little tired. It is so cool that they have sweaters on—Alice, the little white sweater with a blue edge which you sent on in 1915—and John a white sweater which Mrs. James made for him. By the way I have just received two pounds of wool from England & ordered long before. I had any idea you would come, but you will not need to bring a supply, will you? I wish I knew what you needed. I think I had better send you another check for fifty dollars. If you need it, please use it. If you do not need it, at that end, bring it along and we'll use it for part of your fare South in late Sept. or early Oct.
How is Mary Cottee now. Much stronger. I hope
So very the new High School was lost in Rockport. It
is so necessary!

I was so glad to hear that little George was getting on
all right, and I hope that he gets back much strength this
summer. So nice that George has a good vegetable garden.

I am just sending your letter of May 7 to Ellen. It is
such a nice letter.

Today had a nice walk - seeing a Russian monastery,
a Chinese temple, and a Chinese light house.
Now the supper bell is ringing.

Much love,
Lottie.
Cabot, Vermont

Jan 20, 1932.

Dear, dear Nahnie,

We are thinking of the birthday that is coming this week, and how thankful we are that you are spared to us. Can it be possible that it is the 75th? I shall be fifty next year, and I cannot realize it, for I still feel young and undeveloped from my point of view. There are so many mistakes that I can see that I make (that I can improve), that I feel as if time were running away with me. At any rate I am very thankful for these years in Vermont; they have helped me physically, mentally, and spiritually. And I hope that the spring days will make it possible for you to get here, and live with us for awhile.
We have no car yet, and E. yesterday started out walking to Handweik, nine miles away. He got a lift from trucks or autos both ways - and it was lucky, for he was carrying thirteen pounds of lead type!

Now he wants to buy trays and galleys for them.

We are sending a little parcel from here which is hardly worth opening - a wee gift the children took delight in making. They washed their hands scrupulously two or three times, but I am afraid their fingerprints still show. They wanted me to make an angel cake and frost it and put three figures on it, but somehow the figures did not seem steady even. John's artistic eye saw a snow scene!
Cabot, Vermont

Thru the National, I ordered three white nighties for you. — and I don't even know whether you need them but they had long sleeves and collars and I knew that you liked that kind. The price was low and I hesitated to get them on that account, but I could find no collar in any other type, and so I thought I would try them, since cotton is so much cheaper now.

I asked them to send you a catalog, and so you can exchange them for anything else you need. Don't hesitate to order anything else up to $2.00 if you wish to exchange, and I will pay the difference. We hope you'll have a wonderful birthday, and we wish we could be there.
I have put in my calendar today which I no longer need for Carol to disburse. It will give an idea of my activities.

I also put in a little jeweler's box two pieces of jade which I hope to sell. I bought them from a girl in China who wanted an Education and had no other way to pay for it. I want Marie to have them if she is willing to have them valued for me in Boston. They may not be worth the $7.00 which I paid. But on the other hand they may be worth a little more, and so I want to know their value.

Tell her not to hurry, but sometime when she has to shop and even so, she is always hurried I fear.)
I wish she would take them in to some dealers in precious stones and ask them to value them so that I can price them correctly.

Dinner time.

I gave a surprise party to his 4th Boys at Laura Cabot last Sat. and we had a few lift, also a little chicken and potato, and I have added vegetables and dessert.

Much love and may this New Year bring the greatest of blessings to you.

Seth
Aug. 18.

Wendy to write a letter to Mamie come home: "I'll and dear Mamie to cum home, Howard." (playing with him at the time.) "Oh, let me write it."

Yesterday when I bad cheese balls for dinner, John was quitte insistent to have some. "Don't you remember what an awful face you make when I gave you a taste of cheese before?" he said.

"I'll make a good face, Mammy," he replied.

Aug. 20.

Dear Mamie,

How are you? We are all pretty well and in the gay whirl of the liveliest time, hot summer with invitations about every day and sometimes two or three. In about ten days most of the folks will be gone and they want to make the most of the time here. A large party started off on the twelve mile trip to the canyon this A.M.
the day is not proving very good — some showers. I do not take very many of the trips this year but my time will come. It is lovely just to be here. Last evening we had the unmarried young folks here for a sing and it was jolly. There is always difficulty in the mixed crowd that the English and American will not mix well but each did their part. Last evening we had eight men and more girls — perhaps about a dozen some solos, some quartets, some choruses some popular music some not. Miss Bors brought her mandolin and that was nice. (about piano age) Tomorrow Ayleen Edmunds has a birthday party and Alice may celebrate with her although her birthday is about such a way. To-day Mr. Speicher and Ruth Pape took dinner with us. We have seen the carpenter about an addition to our room — a bathroom 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 and verandah 4 x 8 — and we can have it for about $65. — so that I think we shall do it. They will be a low room 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 for the nursery too and roof for second
Dear Aunt Ale,

Your letter was awfully good. So John getting
money enough to pay you a little regularly now.
To help with boys' manorial, you ot be insured on
his paying 1.00 each on miles - at once and regularly.
I do not think of it himself.

Strawberries sound good. I don't suppose we
shall see one or thinking until in return.

Why did you call us a family of four?
Quinn & I are only two. The servants eat
their own food. We don't provide them.

I wonder if by any chance you got to Boston
Convent, and said Mrs. Shafford or Dr. Foster,
Mr. Nellums.

Thank you so much Jennie for
letters. Grandfather was full of news too. Hope
you can get out to A this summer.

Has Marion had examination yet?

Puther note via J.M.W. much appreciated.

Marion, how is that finger that you put the machine
well there? wasn't it awful!!! I am so sorry!

Heaps of love,

Lotti

And Aunt see we are writing Mr. Butter to
send you a check for $2.00. Will you take out
the 101.5 for the stockings and send Ripa
stamps for the postman who brought me to gen-
er and help balance postage and expenses in doing the little errands. I hope you
to do so often.
For Ruth.