Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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From: Douglas James, Mary James, Johnson

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Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China 515063
Christmas Day.                  Dec. 25. 1928

My dear Bob,

I haven't written to you for years - but I hope you will accept these belated wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I have been thinking of you & John & Alice. I really enjoyed your long letter the other night - and enjoyed it again by reading most of it to many of the 'ladies': there were ladies too, so many read another letter, so we had a wonderful evening - it was an hour warmer after Mrs. Green's arrival it was all very jolly too - I am a line team in a comfortable with 5 ladies, Mrs. Green, Balaclava, Fothergill, Jank & Marjorie. Marjorie will stay on here at least till Roy comes in Australia.

Jemima goes on Journeys to March.

Boxing Day. That was all I managed to write today. Better is the day we got Betty's kind Christmas letter - extremely well written! It is exciting to think of you settled into a change. It must be lovely country but you are in a city. I hope you will all be throughly healthy & happy. Sometimes I wish you were here - there is a change from the discipline & regularity - but I dream sometimes you would like to see us out of it. I am hard to please!

Many days she writes to Betty on the voyage, so you will know of her decision to come out & the arrangements for the children. They are better, I think, than we could have hoped: & the ladies seem to be really happy - nice Christmas holidays they are to spend with relations & friends & we don't think they will be having a fine time.

Have you heard the news, you engagement between Walter &
there was. It was a tremendous surprise to us, for no one was
well kept. I heard it on my return from a journey to Shanghai in
September. So here is not my home this coming spring, but waiting to go
with Walter in the following year. The marriage is to be the January, on the
28th, or else he will I am going to take the service. - Walter, on
whom the last three years were tiring very considerably, is rejuvenated and a
very happy man. Though now few opportunities to visit, they make a
very fitting pair once they are united.

In November we had a conference in which 3 delegates from our 3 Chinese Councils - Shanghai, Foochow - to
consider mainly our relation to the Chinese Church. We heard of the good work.
We found it extraordinarily good and came to agree. Afterwards, in addition,
we sent home a memorandum on the question of reinforcements for our
members who were terribly depleted and there is much misunderstanding at home.
We are now consulting our Chinese Pastors' Team about Staff. My one
indicating their wishes. One Chinese Pastor has asked for 2 more
ministers - one educational to take over the school here, one for Shanghai -
2 doctors. Swedeh has not troubled on general question but has not
willing to return to Sweden. I fear he cannot come here.

Religious leaders in church in Amoy are good.

There remains however the problem of really having the opportunity
to put ourself out. It is difficult. I feel a little peculiar at
Wangjiu myself at present. But I think it is only a matter of
adjustment of the country, settling down.

Congratulations on the children's progress in
learning. Isn't it fun to watch them learning? - to see how quickly they
enjoy it when they have learnt. They brought a photo for us with
yourself in some new activities. How big they are growing! I am so glad they are in better health.

William had to write for his keep from various jobs. He sent it out, and it has given great amusement. He even wrote with minor post to show a number of stories, including a medieval missionary legend, the influence of Duns Scotus, the scholastics, and the history of the Dominicans like Roger Bacon's King Thomas III. His dream was to be a diplomat in his return to New Zealand after going home to raise money for a second hospital in the island.

I hope to hear how your ministry program is going. Just write currents whenever you can and don't miss better training! In the words of my letter, "I wish I could be chatty. I am not enough - I wish I could use my time to write to William in Bell.

I must write to Thee before putting this.

I see our recent joint book 'Vision & Hailing' has been released. I hope you continue to read it for you, though it is a bit of a letting whether it will fit into your scheme of reading or not. But it on a shelf till the psychology moment comes if it doesn't.

Much love to Thee yourself and children.

Yours,

Douglas.
New Year's Day.

My dear Edith,

We have just posted a letter to you & Bob. I intended to send a line to you but failed to get it written so am hurriedly to send it after. It was very good to get your letter just on New Year's Day. So to know of your accepting the call to your new Church. I shall look forward to Bob's improving the home ministry so to hear all about your life in the country. It must have been difficult to choose between the two calls, new Holyoke or this one. I am glad you have a good climate & surroundings for the children. Of late, Bob & Edith will have the best of health now.

You will know by now that I have written. We are settled in to the home the mechanics used to have. My many has made it very homely & delightful. It is very good to be together again. I do wish we could see you & Bob coming in at the compound gate & writing us. How delightful it would be.

I am rather perplexed to know what will be our best line for the College. I am not cut out for it. I cannot find justification in trying myself to do it. I think it is in rather a parlous state. The College is closed, & Rev. Weir & many others are present living in Shanghay. We cannot contemplate re-opening it. We are sure it would be wise in any case. So I am pointing off & we want to close the files by visiting. A counting & new discussion take much time but one fails to count something much more decisive. Any work is still rather halting & foreign but I hope it will improve.

We are going to a New Year's dinner to night. How the names are starting for a festivities away at the Fish & two places near them. We shall see your friends but I think, in the English.

With very good wishes to you & Bob & John & their sons. Ever yours affectionally, W.B.
E. P. Mission
Woking
Surrey

April 4, 1929

My dear Bob,

Lettie's delightful letter came a few days ago to Mary, or
following upon it came the books you have so kindly sent us, 'Arden Westminster'
R »ieties among the Hills', 91 came yesterday morning when both Mary
and I were taking a day in bed with slight flu' cold. Mary's has hung about her
rather a long time. I was beginning, so I was free to read it at once to sec the
rest of the day with it, finishing it before I turned the light out at night. I
immensely enjoyed it and got much help from it. It is so bracing of life and
experience, comes so straight from a man who has really won his victory over
life, is so informal yet so searching. The really important things in life, and it
is a great inspiration. Read it so beautifully picture your present surroundings
shows what a tough thing you have undertaken, how very well you did it, in
what joy, after abundance of difficulty - may be it true for you. The great thing is
the opportunity for wise and gracious personal dealing with men at close quarters - just
the reverse of so much that seems to be happening to us missionaries now, when we
are getting more Emma Brown from intimate dealings with men.

Another reason made it psychologically apt for me. If I hadn't read
it I was poor to try to read the Vol. 1 Jerusalem City Report on
'Mission vs. Rural Problems.' I had already seen As it was only 4 done, so
far as things Chinese were concerned, so then to turn to Hersey's book
with his referring to British, the scenery, the scenic place to
his remains in the New River Mission was like breathing mountain air. The
last thing Committees on Rural Problems seem to think of is just dipping into
village life. I stayed there: it is China, so far we have never begun to find men who
will be real Penters. We have a blessed exception here in Wufu when Dr. Tsin
Tsin has been minister for over 30 years. My own home minister was in our
congregation for 33 years too: so we have a minister here.

Anything you or little with news about you work in Cairo will have a
setting so we shall love to hear all you can send.

The Vol. on Rural Problems is the 3rd by Dr. Jaffrelot. Godly
reports I have read. Macleod wrote a short article, as a series, on that on
"The Religion of older Chinese". So these, I read that vol. 3. I
left; just recently I have read the 1st, which I expect is the best - a really
valuable account of relations - of present - help to the other fields. To
Secular Civilization. The treatment of this - secular civilization - a distinct
idea of life, with adherents through the world - gives a feeling really to the
whole enterprise, brings it into focus.

My present position at Wuju; I sum up as follows - having too much responsibility, too little work. I intend to spend a
month this new in Hsin-betta (Shanghai, Tsin-hsia & a trip to
Keruing), or only the night before I went to Lon. This I cannot do. An
old friend in Communist; we visited again - this time in Freisingen,
from Shanghai to the District of the kids concerned. They have
Kidnapped a resident just round the town - they are trying to get a
footstep in the Yangtze Valley. So our friend A. Skye said I must
stay. But because I was going to think I have no further job here.
Perhaps next year then may be a chance to teach theology: if not;
I think here my hands full. Of these, I can't see how we shall produce
enough preachers to fill our gaps in the coming years.
Adams has just spent ten days with us. He was out of sorts with a complication of symptoms. Being alone at Vō-phi doesn't suit him.

Miss Balfour has been tied up with the fu's. There a Harist Fireish. The Fuers had a dog's fit too, but wouldn't give in.

I am happy with the Church here, but am very doubtful in general for the movement for an indigenous or united church. It seems by indigenous to mean not one which assimilates Chinese culture but one in which foreign are substituted to Chinese, by what it means an effective organization with power influence in official circles and the religious institution organically held together by the Spirit of Christ. I may be an unsympathetic, but it seems to me that just as the method of political movement are & one contrast with its ideas so the movement in the church is contaminated by a mixture worldly or revolutionary motive. What I am not clear about is how for the mission in the home churches must take cognizance of this.

If things are coming out as planned William & at Strandz, with the two. The lady he is staying with, the Esther baby & Bill & with the Fireish at Feldentur. Bill wrote cheerfully. - Did I tell you that Megley came to be Moderator? Actually this year?

Characteristically he revises the prospect with dismay.

Much love to letter yourself & the children from - Dad

Date
December 13th

Dear Douglas,

My pen has got a start today on letter writing fluent but illegible. I hope you won't mind if I continue for you. I am enclozing some stuff from my college, which you may be slightly interested in.

If you have doubtless forgotten, I went one year as a sophomore at Rochester, N.Y., (the one that has grown to be some water at Rochester, Drexel, Lewis, etc.) and then went to Amherst. At that time one couldn't get a Bad. from Amherst without a 2nd year of Greek. Since then, this has been relaxed. But the requirement on other lines have been made more rigid, and I have no hope of a Bad from Amherst at present. But the rules at MIT are such that one can get a Bad on presentation of a suitable thesis, provided he is admitted as a candidate.

One is supposed to take his whole course there, but the minimum is one year. That is supposed to be the senior year. I got my courage up and asked them to accept me as a candidate on the strength of my 1st year there. Saying that I thought the number of persons who would make such an application would first be so small that they wouldn't be overwhelmed if they granted the whole lot. And they were kind enough to grant my request.

The revised subject for my thesis is "The present apparent conflict between foreign & Chinese interests with a suggested plan for reconciliation." You will doubtless at this point that in it I felt that the foreign nations would serve their own best interests most completely by offering to negotiate new treaties, which shall be satisfactory to both sides. And ask the Chinese to pay, for instance, what kind of laws & court procedure they intend to apply, what kind of courts to use, what kinds and amount of taxes to collect, and the like. This would alter the Chinese attitude.
to a constructive one. And it ought to be possible to
work out a set of laws, procedures, customs, stories which
would satisfy the Chinese and which the foreigners
would regard as fair.

I thought out this outline before the treaty
commission began to work; I shall have to write it out
after the treaty is made, and I hope it will be eminently satisfactory to you. In the meantime old
China seems to be making remarkable progress in
conquering China 20% by military force and 80% by
propaganda. If he succeeds, will he carry out his
threat to cancel the treaties at once? If he does, can
the foreign nations do anything about it, except to
try to negotiate new ones, and secure the best
terms possible?

In the meantime the Kuomintang is deliberately violating the treaties by imposing "illegal"
duties and by converting the proceeds into funds for
the powers with the statement that "my government"
does not recognize the existence of either the powers
or the treaties. And he seems to be getting away with it.

In any important case, they can just reverse
capitalist by seizing the property by force, as at the
Bel Air in Kowloon (I believe that Tung Ch'ung-hui is now
Jin Phing Ti, or Tsin) and that causes it into the hostile
Chinese court. Under the circumstances I fear to see
the value of treaty in important matters. He it still
makes no sense that went with the brother of organizing
a mob.

To show that he is not so far inferior to Eugene
Welling's Wellington has apparently decided to call
Welshmen bluff. He was doubtless amazed when a paper that
St. B.'s had announced that it was backing up Bly's
for if Koo get away with it, Bly goes another large

chunk of accidental prestige and we have not got employed so that she can espale any more.

Kwan it said in a speech a month or so ago that
the X's members of the Canton Bar were backing the
anti-X movement as strongly as the non-X's men: but
that it really wasn't intended to hurt X: it was just
an effort to bring pressure on the foreign nations to
recognize the C. but just as soon as they do
that the anti-X movement would cease at once.
One can question whether he really knows what he is
talking about; but he ought to know; and I am sure
he would not make such a statement unless he
believed he had good evidence for it. Is the flour
advertisement very? Eventually — why not now?

We had an awfully nice letter from Mary a while
ago. jAppreciated the news. and was very much
interested in the argument. Sooner I hope to hunt
it up. and answer it in detail either admitting the
force of what she says or trying to show why not.
At present all I remember to answer is this: she said
that if Britain had made a display of 'worldly force'
at the very beginning the whole movement might have
been nipped in the bud. and all this would not have
been China as well as Britain. I hope she will not mind
of way that: I think that a display of similar at that
time would have had an opposite effect: there was a
fair amount of it displayed at Thai elsewhere, and
the result has been disastrous: anything larger
of, bombing a city would simply have dumped the
whole kettle of fat into the fire. 2 that if the
use of force had been able to nip this in the bud
I fear that the result would have been similar to
that joined by the Bajah in nipping a movement of
some twenty years ago. If that movement had
succeeded it would have been comparatively mild; the Kaiser might even have succeeded in retaining
his throne; contrast the explosion that took place
later. If the movement had been suppressed a year or
so ago, sooner or later there would have been an
explosion within the camp; with that of the Bolsheviks
perhaps even worse. By worldly force I suppose
she means six large, and means the rise of
non-Xin (unmoral) force to do something that she felt
Xin force wasn't competent to do.

I think a great
many people do hold that view that the power and scope
of Xin are rather narrowly limited; and that in a case
such as that of May 30, the plan of reconciliation is
futile, and only a display of the power of Xin has
any efficacy. I merely say that I disagreed, and I
think the policy of repression as need at that time
was very poorly adapted to meet the situation.

I assume that the above characters are the
ones used in Hokkia. Miss Fields however gives
勢力
the characters, and I mention the
fact to bring out a subtle distinction
for both of those characters mean force; and the
alarming thing about the present situation is that
is the growing conviction on the part of the Chinese
that force, is the only thing the foreigners
understand, and so the only way for the Chinese
to get what they want is to get a powerful army
and navy. There is a serious danger to the peace
of the world in that.

As I read about Russia, I don't grow to love
the Bolshevik government by any means. But I felt
that the attitude of my own nation is open to criticism.
The Bolshevist is trying to overcome some of the main features of the Byrnes government; such a movement was inevitable as the face. Whatever we may think of the methods of the Soviet, their aim to free the people from oppression is more righteous than that of the Byrnes government; to keep the people down and exploit them for the benefit of the ruling caste. We recognized the Byrnes government; we refuse to recognize the present one.

We also recognize Mussolini, who has abolished the last shred of liberty in Italy, and so a serious menace to the peace of the world; we recognize Romania which Sherwood Stock has declared to be the worst governed country in the world. We are not willing to recognize the Kuangtung government which has a wrought aim and is making an honest and partly successful attempt to nurse it.

The other day Senator said to me: "If this K sober had been anti-Ku, the whole church would be enthusiastically in its favor;" and about the same time Bill Tully said to me: "If this Canton government hadn't been so anti-European all the foreigners in China would have been strongly in favor of it."

One more point, very sketchily, and then join this with argument. Intended to start my next letter to you with news, but my pen has been making argument most of the afternoon and it ran away with me. In Mexico the government is "oppressing" the Catholic church in about the way that the Canton government is oppressing missions. And for a similar reason. But it believes that the church, and what it represents, are hostile to its policy. I do not believe that missions are a detriment to China; the priests do not believe the Catholic is a detriment to Mexico. But the government in
I feel that Protestant missionaries ought to be able to take a more worthy attitude than that of the Bathers, who are trying to prevent Americans from hearing anything favorable to the new sect. Are spreading slanders about it, and are trying to get the U.S. to interfere on the hypothetical pretext of preserving religious liberty.

I await with hope and joy an answer from you explaining some of my reasoning or stating that you agree with part of it. My own wish is that you could see me before we go. Am sailing on the middle of March.

Billia and the Kow nee's went up the river. I think I wrote you that. The still shop clerks having won their strike and become unionised, announced that they were determined to overthrow it. Señor told me he was afraid their plan was to murder a few workers and then charge prominent Kow nee with the murder, so that they would have to flee from justice. He said that our direct attack could not be after the ch. but he was afraid this kind might.

Just at that time, there was a lot of fuss about a sailor named who had been killed at the hoist and the Bath's were charged with the deed. Señor thought this might be the first gun in the attack, but it seems to have been a clod. I haven't been to the hoist a lot of time, and don't know all the news just. But between the power that the Kow nee still has, and the fact that a great many peoples have come to realize that it is not a religious of assassination, the result seem to have been rather slight.

The mutilation that refers to in the enclosure (from sending it to the press) leader as a news item) was cutting of penis. The whole matter was rather disagreeable. I can't find out whether there was
anything to it originally or not: a kid from Kīa was kid-napped; that seems to be true; then he was reported to have been found dead on the dikes minus his penis; but I’m sure who told me this. Told me later that on most occasion it was found not true; I am not sure whether he said the boy was not found, or that he was found but his penis was in it proper place. And I am not sure whether he knew accurately about it.

Of course there was a lot of fuss about it. There were accusations that the foreigners had suborned the wicked persons to do the deed, and rumors as to what price foreigners were willing to pay for a genuine penis. Then a woman in Kānje was alleged to have been caught trying to steal a penis; that she gave a sleeping potion to the boy and cut his narrower with scissors but then someone noticed her and stopped her. And that one complete set (kēk hi) and one or more penis were found in her basket; and that when asked she said she was getting them to sell to the foreigners.

I believe this much is true, I believe a woman was given a ride (mān) on the ground of being supposed to have done the deed. I am much doubt whether the rest is true.

Then a woman going from Kē to the city, carrying a nā, was accused by the crowd of being engaged in that nefarious occupation. They sent her into the hands of the police. And when the police examined her and let her go the crowd expressed its dissatisfaction by waving the police station; but the damage done was insignificant.

Then there was another story of a woman who was caught and questioned, and she said she was told by a man and the missionaries told her to do it. I every care it seemed to be a woman.
foreighen espeically the missionaries were beling it. And we wondered if it should be attributed to anti-foreign propaganda. But the Chinese didn't seem to think that was likely.

The phrase "Kia san" was a very common one for a while. I heard it used in a most casual way by two men who were talking about buying a toy for a child. A man bellowed after me twice "I to see "far than Kia san." And a woman whose home is some 30 feet from the K'ê-th'ian girls school, and who therefore is one of our closest neighbors, said to her child after I passed by, something to the effect that "If you don't look out hill cut off your penis."

Apparently the Chinese have advanced some since those days when the foreigners were believed to steal eyes & hearts; there were no excitement and presently the matter was eclipsed by the Thing Che'affair to my great relief. But while it lasted I had some rather unpleasant thought about the possibility of anti-foreign reprisals.

The head of the conservative labor union was Kiong Tong I think. He had to shift of course. So'h th'ou-hia is the head of the radical labor union. He has also had to retire from publicity as the Hâk san'gun are after him. But his union and Phê-b'ainz'ong hut are the super government at Sar at present. Fortunately for us they are quite busy with the capitalists & the landlords and are not giving us what Rambow is getting.

As one might say that it already happened here last year. at the expense of the British. I fear that my feeling that it was unjust to treat Siong & Shamoosn on the S.P.N. was somewhat eclipsed in your eyes by my belief that St-Britain policy was such as to work against Britain's real interest in China. But I still maintain that in saying that St-Britain would be well advised to
took certain steps (which most Britishers disapprove of) to
hold up a real pro-British attitude.

The Bakar's sailed from Seattle Feb 24 (what a
lovely date) and are due in Shanghai Jan 10. Our Sec. Mr.
Franklin is coming out to be with us for a good part of
Jan. or Feb. I assess the probability I hope Jan 22.

Emily Miller has returned to China. Raccoochung to our
delight. She is living at Miss Boas's room at the Bakar's
but eat with us.

Lemis goes on to Amboi Feb

Mather went to Pekin a while ago. He has been
much trouble with asthma and had what seemed to be
a slight prostate trouble. and the doctors that he
had better get a better climate and expect surgical
advice. What he got was an operation for a
malignant tumor in the bladder. That is a layman's
statement. I haven't heard the medical report yet.

It may be disastrous and it may not.

Pohmoe has gone home. JS & JG are due to retire on
January 1st. On or before the end of the present
term. Then they may perhaps be asked to continue.

And we are not asking for new workers; we missionar-
don't feel called on to do so. (And we are not sure
how a new recruit could relate himself to the
status of advisor) and the Chinese church hasn't
seen any occasion for asking for any missionaries,
except doctors, e.g. to replace Leher. If the above 3
continue, it should drop out. That would leave page空白

Lemis Baker, Great Effort.

To Krum & Kher. This is the exec. sec. of our
Lightho Baptist. That is too long a subject to
talk about now. I'll merely mention that he says we
meet the following 3 kinds of missionaries. A skeleton
organization of old timers. to preserve contact between

 organizational.
the church and the Board. 2. some men to teach the Greek Sem, which has is very keen on regaining and there is some reason for thinking he would like to be the head of it. Shakes of Wm. Robinson. 3. some carefully selected experts or specialists - to come out for particular pieces of work.

He omit saying anything about having missionaries to try to deepen and enrich the spiritual life of the church; and that is one of the weakest points in the program of the church. Of course one might say that "3" would provide for specialists in the spiritual life to come out for that purpose; but there is no evidence that he had that kind of specialist in mind.

He sat in my beth thia - from the end of lunch till about 5-30 one day this summer trying to persuade me of a lot of things, the chief of which was that the American people were just waiting for him to move on and try to teach the mission of a Philip Johnson at Befu, and apply to them for the money they were waiting for a chance to give. And if they saw failure to materialize, it will be our fault. I think I could write another 10 pages on that subject but I will refrain.

Kurt Foth has returned to Baf, Katcheza and accepted the job of fit tam Kayalai (evangelist) normally he would work together. Just now Waters is out revising and the Chinese haven't asked anyone to take his place.

As the negro "spiritual" has it "there's a great day coming", I wonder when it will come. In the interest of economy the P.O. has sent cheap clerks who don't know English. to the Sur.P.O. and I have the fun of addressing all the English mail. To add to the fun the Sur. Trade of have grown Crackers and they include a lot of Basel mission stuff in them etc. Their latest exploit was to send me a letter that is addressed to Taiping etc. Best regards to Mary

Bob.
Groceries sold to Adams from Smith's Cash Lot.

5 lb Baking Powder
1.25
Vanilla
1.65
1 tin Oyster Sauce
0.60
1 Paint Brush
2.00
2 Sacks
2.75

1 sack
\$9.25

\$3.25
\$2.75
\$1.95
\$1.95
\$1.00

\$15.65

Vote for Reps.

Campbell 27
Lenm (not really eligible) 5
Leach 27
Spelman 9
Buckett 18
Adams 1
Waters 28
Curgen 4

JS had definitely refused to allow his name to be voted for. When the vote was announced, Tanman asked him if he had voted for himself. His answer was negative.

Ms. Baker 17
Ms. Lesher 16
Giffin 21
Whitman 8
Sage 21
Mrs. Worley 8
Open
The nominees were Lewis & Baker. But Alice had already been elected. So Ben withdrew his name, supported by Monroe who said she didn’t want to take care of the children while they both went to comm., and by Vart who said it was not customary to elect a member of same family & reef.

Miss Spellman had tried to nominate Mrs. Worley as a married woman—after she had been elected. But folks felt that she was a woman’s Board rep. even tho’ she had once been married. So I got up and said I was going to nominate her on the general roster which tallied to the best of my ability. Cowan nominated me, and someone nominated Seedt who went out on the first round. Mrs. Worley and I got about the same number of votes. I tried to get the easy to cast 1 ballot for Mrs. W, but failed. When Betch went to the Board to write the result he put it this way: Mrs. Worley 2

Then he stuck in a little 1. on each figure. But Mrs. W’s 1. was before it 2. and mine was after so I was the one elected.
As an afterthought I enclose this, taken in London, Can., on my way east last June, auto-
togas may hide my dimples but they're there, the other incumbent is a little Scotch
girl, recently become a physician. Together we bring you assurance of health, if anyestion can
avail. c.
South Gate.
June 13th 1925.

Dear Debbi,

I hear that Hira is sending over so will send a line.

I do hope the children are better and you are getting on with packing. I suppose now you will feel much like going off to Shogi. Going back things settle down a bit.

I fear the Bakers' will be in a quandary about meeting Howard.

We are longing for more news of Swallow but the train isn't running today. We also are anxious to hear the result of today's meeting there. The Chinese papers said yesterday that our servants were to be advised to strike but no one has approached them yet.

I wonder how much you've heard. I'll send
In the letter I had from Dorothy yesterday, I hope you’ll be able to read it. Her writing when in a hurry isn’t easy to make out but it was unusually good yesterday. 

I haven’t ordered our boat yet, but have milk delivered from Sat. 2 weeks. I don’t know if I can get a letter through to you. Keep your eye on it. The train is off today but only for one day, they say. Earlier, the soldiers kept it off.

Any word about the on his way back as far as? Their are on the sea but as the KKK men are strong they have managed to retake Canton without his aid and they now say they don’t want him. Have told him not to come.

Our girls’ women’s schools have broken up just as if today. They deemed scared of more fighting so we were glad of that excuse to let them go, as if the strike comes it may be difficult to get enough charcoal etc. We have laid in necessaries today, I hope can manage all right. It’s a mercy it is cold.

The Chineses Xians are much alarmed. The colporteurs, Reen s.s. have had anonymous postcards put up by their houses calling them disgracefully recalc. The colporteurs even threaten his life if he doesn’t. But the news thing is there are none in the city or even anywhere else not here.

Anyway it’s a mercy thing seems quiet in Shanghai. I only hope the mails won’t be held so we don’t know what is happening about Wm. coming back.

Much love

Mary
My dear [Name],

What can you be thinking of me for not having written yet to thank you for your kind gifts to us all at Xmas. I’m sure you know it isn’t that we didn’t very much appreciate them all but, what with one thing or another I’ve just put it off put off till now I’m almost ashamed to begin.

Dorcas’s poor brother needed more care. The daughters who had been here on holiday over Xmas had to go back so January was very full up. Dear Granny found rest at last on the 27th. As soon as we could get off after that Dorcas & I had a week in London. He had to take several meetings in any case & I went with him just for a little lift-up. When we came back his sister who is housekeeper here went for a long needed holiday & I have been nominally in charge in her absence. All this has pushed letter writing badly to the background & I have a very heavy conscience.

I heard from Papa that you expected to be starting for America in March so this can’t catch you in China now & I’m afraid, but I hope may be nearly in time to help welcome you on arrival at your home.

I was so glad to hear that you were getting off rather earlier in the year than you had yourself suggested. It will make a big difference to get away before the heat begins with far more oneself. The children not to mention Bob.

That’s all the length I got the other day. how I begin again but there’s no saying whether I’ll manage to finish this time or not. I hope I shall.
I've been reading over your latest letter last September! None of Bob's enclosed with that this classmate dated Nov. 24th. I can scarcely believe it so long since your letter was written but I know it ceased one from me tenny so I hope you haven't been quite so long as all that without any word from me.

Sirs, 10th: So much! I'll have another trip now and make a big effort to really get this off.

What a minor-up affair in China seem to be in—every day's paper seems to have some fresh complication or combination thereof. He is very smart to hear how badly the anti-foreign feeling has affected even your side of the border at Shantou. The attack on his Peking was a scandal and surely was adding insult to injury, it is all about it that the Chinese papers did. But by now let us hope even the home papers begin to realize just how much reliance they can put on the sincerity of Chinese newspapers.

It just seems one heart to think of all the difficulties discomforts a lot of the far inland folks must have had breathing when ordered to evacuate their stations. Most of them should have got nearer at least to their journeys and by now, but I keep thinking of expectant mothers as those with tiny babies having to travel by chair or in open boats in the northern winter. Yet I can't see that anything could have been gained by just letting the nationalists have Shanghai without attempting any resistance or defense. The anti-religious feeling seems so valid that the missionaries would in the end have had to go in any case.

I have much sympathy with you, Bob in the extreme difficulty you have in planning for the future. It does look as if S. China is all but impossibly bad for both you and the children. But I can't bear to think that you not coming but this eventually.
Our own plans are still in a very liquid state too. We hope to get back in the autumn, but whether any foreigners will be able to carry on by then remains to be seen. It looks as though things may take a year or two to settle down to anything like the normal again. I fear the Southerners have been 'swelling the wind' and the whirlwind will have to be reaped before there can be any hope of permanent peace.

At present we expect to go to Shinghah about the end of April. We may settle the children into school at once, as we may not put them to school for the summer months but try to carry them on ourselves till we know more certainly what we are to be in the autumn.

They both & I all had 'flu just a week or two before Granny died. Ruth has been most pulled down. She had a cough that lasted on for weeks & took a lot out of her. She only had six days at school out of the first half term. But the cough is gone now & she seems to be picking up. This is a very healthy place & is said to get as much sunshine as any other place in the British Isles so she has every chance in that way of picking up.

Nero very fit. Seems to enjoy school though he doesn't seem to have made friends so easily with his new classmates since he was moved up after the summer.

Douglas has had a lot of running up & down the country. He has spoken at various meetings. Everyone seems very glad to hear something reliable about China's recent developments. The average reader of the newspapers the Chinese names are a terrible stumbling block. They all seem so much alike. They are difficult for anyone not used to them to pronounce. Remember so little wonder its difficult to get things straight.
My dearest Lottie,

I fear you must think I’ve forgotten you quite—and yet! I dare say you are busy enough yourself. I know how writing gets pushed into the background & one’s thoughts are often with one’s friends although no letter passes.

I have so often wondered about you all—what you were doing & what plans you have been able to make. But the days seem just to melt away & I almost never feel any writing done at all beyond my daily mail to Douglas of course.

He left us here on October 6th, having managed to wait till just over my birthday. Betty’s presence, spent a day or two seeing his own folks as he went in the motor as far as London. He was fortunate in being able to sell it to Dr. Dale before leaving so used it to go Smith & delivered it over to Chalmers in London which was equally convenient for both as Chalmers hadn’t yet learnt to drive himself.

From London D. flew to Paris by Airways etc. & very much enjoyed the new experience. I was glad he...
thought fit for the excitement fit helped I'm sure to break the final wrench with England home.

From there he went by train to Rome. I had two or three days with his married sister there. One of his grown-up step-sons knows it very keen on old Rome so took him round some of the historic sites — helped him to make the most of the few days.

From there he went to Naples I had meant to go up Vesuvius but was feeling a little upset inside that day so judged it wiser to keep to the hotel & not risk getting worse just before joining the boat which he did there.

His cabin-mate turned out to be another Pembroke College man. Wasn't it strange?

Douglas had to go 2nd class this time — this he found it quite possible to gel — he should probably have had much more congenial companionship & conversation with the first class people.

We had his first letters from Swatow last Saturday. They had come through in three weeks or two days which was very good time — makes one feel we are not so terribly far separated. Of course so much may happen in even half an hour though there at present that one is kept pretty anxious all the time. We both were so sure however that it was the only thing he could do & so that we feel now the only way to look at it is that it will be for the best whatever happens. As time goes on too it is more and more apparent that it was best for me to be here meantime.
I wasn't awfully ill so my sister insisted that I should see a doctor after Douglas left. She tested my blood and found I was pretty anemic. However, after a course of iron pills that came all right. But then, I was having indigestion - pretty miserable with that. I had my teeth X-rayed with the result that my dentist advised having all that were left, 15 if them, out. So that was the next little entertainment! I had them done in Dec. I've been trying to get used to the new ones ever since. But it's a slow process and even now I can't bite anything harder than a bit of bread. Still, the indigestion is gone - indeed it went before the teeth were pulled so I doubt if it had any connection with them.

My sister has been just no end kind and thoughtful for me so I have really got through just as easily as anyone could. The dentist came to the house so I was able to roll straight into bed after the operation. That I was naturally quite ready to do.

The bruises are both very fit. I'm glad today though they have occasional colds with a rise of temperature. The weather has been so curiously variable this reason that it's difficult to avoid catching colds.

Both of them enjoy school. Beth says I just hate when the bell rings into time to stop. Williams has managed to climb to the top of his class which will be good news for Douglas. They were only back to school a few days when he left. They have been so long there that they haven't really had time to miss him as much as I feared they might - when the holidays
come again they will notice his absence more & especially at Xmas. Ruth was saying the other day odd, I wish Daddy was going to be here for Xmas. However everyone is awfully kind to them & doubtless they’d find lots to do.

William. This cousin Jack have made themselves a sledge out of an old packing case we bought from Horten’s. It kept them employed quite a good many Saturdays but is safely finished & ready now. Paul we’ve had no snow yet, and are in no hurry to have it! They are of course keep wondering when they are going to have a chance to try the sledge.

What perfectly awful floods you had recently all about your district. I kept wondering how near you were to the flooded parts & whether you were in discomfort from it at all. It was sad enough to read about even if no personal friends were involved.

What a state of affairs there is in Canton now. One longs to know when & how it will all end. It is terribly disappointing that the Reds should have got so well into power there again when the moderates had been getting things a little ship-shape again.

Things were quiet in Swatow when Douglas arrived but I fear they will be very anxious on teaket holes again now. She travelled up from Hong-Kong with the papers. I think it was awfully pleasant of them to go back after the attack on poor Mr. Page. Howard was with them too. I must
Say I'm thankful William isn't still there now. What a scandalous thing it is that these brigands can just demand ransoms, whatever they like as ransom for Captain Dale's wife; how thankful his wife must be that he is to be rescued at whatever cost. But who will be safe from them if they once feel that they can go on in that way? I am hoping very much that Douglas won't venture up to Hucking-fu. You know the hospital assistant was seized out of the hospital there—the man who helped the ladies escape—only ransomed for 2000 after some weeks?

The Shinghong compound has been looted—everything lost. I believe that wasn't brought away when they left.

I forgot to mention too that the Dales have a little daughter at last—born early in November I believe. Bill Dale told us that if they can't go back to China he thought they'd perhaps go to Africa as missionaries!

The Roecs have settled at a place near Pontefract & Wakefield seem very happy there. They have a lovely old house & big garden, a car to drive over to Wakefield or Leeds when they have big shopping to do. There is a very good Quaker school near to which Peter is going soon—David when he is old enough. He will meanwhile have a governess already has here in fact—a very nice girl.

Malcolm's mother is in town here so I get news of them from time to time.

I forgot if I wrote to you since Uncle Toni's money actually materialised. Dr. took ages to get the business put through from...
S. Africa. But the lawyers were so certain it would be all right
that they advanced enough out of mother's capital to let us go
ahead with getting the gardens started at school etc etc.
It has made it possible to have the old house all repaired
etc. get some new furniture which has made it very comfortable
in every way. We have a jewel of a maid who keeps it all looking
like a new pin. We keep the house washed etc etc. So we really have
very, very much to be thankful for.

All are busy now getting ready for Xmas. The shops are a
dream but I find them bewildering in their variety of choice.
I found a book of songs that I am sending for John Alice
I had thought of 'How We Are Six', but decided that someone
else was more likely to read them than that. I hope these 'Pam's'
ones will be pleasing to you all Cowen's music should be all
right. Let yourself. I have a dressing gown bought at our sale of
'Vest in the church. I wish I had made it myself. I'll put in
the a bit of ribbon that I hope will be becoming to Alice for a
sash. I'm afraid Bob's share will have to be the photo of the bairns.
It is rather stuff looking as they are in it, but will give you some
idea of how they look now.

I had my hair shingled in April so look very different now
I'm sorry I haven't even a snap to send you now however. I must
get a few printed ones and you can sometime.

Lots lots to love & every good wish for Xmas in the
Coming year. Write when you have time. I long for more
certain news from you. Yours ever lovingly Mary.
My dearest Dollie,

I'm watching a pan of marmalade boil, but think at the same time I can manage at least to begin a letter to you. As you may guess, it has been on my mind ever since that lovely book came for the children some weeks ago. Now, I had your long & so interesting letter. Then a couple of days ago came your card saying you had sent a parcel for us & that gave my conscience a very sharp jolt! The parcel hasn't actually turned up yet - but I want to have this letter written ready so that as soon as it does I can just add a P.S. & get it. If I intent any more delay.

My desire to write to you dates from earlier still than the coming of your parcel. I remember now, I didn't actually take your Xmas parcel to the post office, I had no idea that you would have to pay duty on anything sent by letter-post. When my sister who had taken them got there they told her they'd be liable to duty but she feared there wasn't time to hold them up & ask me so just guessed at the value of the contents. I was horrified when I heard. I wanted to write off at once, but you just beforesaw the parcel rather than pay a heavy duty that they weren't with. But I was terribly rushed all the time & couldn't manage it at once why the time I could I feared you'd already have got the parcel so it seemed no use. I'm so sorry the - must try & choose more carefully another time. What a bore duties are!
I was tremendously interested to see the snapshot of you all to see you looking so much less thin & haggard than you did in the group you had done in China. Of course one always has to make allowance for Chinese photography but I hope the improvement isn't all due to the different artist. What a tall strapping lass Alice is. She seems to have quite caught John up in height. She'll be outstripping you & overtaking Bob soon if she goes on at this rate. John looks much stouter than he used to be but Bob on the other hand looks thinner in face any how I think.

All your news was just full of 'interest' don't please don't stop again because you think I'll be tired of reading it. I was quite sore when I came to the end.

I'm glad you have been able to arrange for another year at least at home for I'm sure it should make all the difference to both you & John, to Bob too. For of course it makes it harder for him when you aren't as well as he wanted to see you. Douglas tells me how tall Ronnie Baker has grown - taller than his mother. And Howard, she says, looks a huge fellow in a photograph that he saw. They were both going off to Shanghai to school along with Howard Page one of the Higgins I think. Betty Wyllie & Marion were setting out for Chefoo too. But I don't suppose they will be there very long for the latest news is that Andrew Night (The Gambler by the way) is retiring. His difficulty is that if he doesn't go now when he reaches the retiring age of 60 before so very long now he would have great difficulty in getting into a practice there yet his girls will be about...
the most expensive stage of their education. I don't know whether
as Committee will be able to make any special arrangement so
as to keep him. It seems a pity if they can't get — I mean it isn't
easy to see quite what they could arrange. Most men's families
are already educated by the time they are sixteen.

Her Embile I think feels that there is not scope as opportunity
at present for the kind of work he feels is his so he is giving
in his resignation — has given it in to Council. Whether the home
committee will try to persuade him to reconsider I don't
know.

Hasn't the news from Suo been just too dreadful. I
got crazy to find some way of helping when the letter giving
details of the trouble got home & did try to get in touch with
everyone I could think of, who could make it public to the
Churches without just stirring up aversion to the Chinese
in general. But the conscience of the whole world ought
to be with shame till such atrocities become impossible.

I was glad to hear from Douglas that some American
newspaper correspondent had been to Swatow & actually
had conversation with Dr. Wallace's interpreter, with some
of the refugees who had escaped. So I hope it has got
into the American Press. And the Italians would hear
of it through their folk being involved. Surely if all Jews who
do know pray earnestly about it, some way out will be found for
poor innocent folk be spared such unspeakable suffering...
Dorcas writes quite cheerfully about himself but of course this news coming in cast a gloom over them all. Swanston was full of rumors — it was difficult to get any definite news over Chinese new year.

Poor Mary Paton got news of her sister's death, just on the day preceding after Xmas when they were having the Compound Xmas dinner.

It had been a long strain for the whole family far away back last May the doctor had said she couldn't last more than a fortnight or might go at any moment before that. So it was a blessed release in the end really. But it's sad to think of such a young and ardent spirit cut off so soon.

Then before the end of January there was a cable for Mary saying her father was very ill — recalling her as soon as possible. She was coming anyway this Spring but got a birth almost at once & is due in Marseille on Thursday of this week. Poor Patty I fear it may be a sad homecoming for her. She was seriously ill in the spring of last year too so I fear may not last long.

The children & I are hoping to spend two weeks the Easter holidays with the Rosses in their new home.

I am much looking forward to having a few good chats with Dorothy again, so it will be a nice change for the children. Not that they look bored much
change. They have neither of them looked back since having their tonsils out last summer — look in the paper. They had this half-term holiday last Monday — we all went for a lovely outing on the Pentland Hills which are within walking distance from us here. Unfortunately Mr. turned his ankle in a rabbit hole — remember it — so that he & I had to come back at once. Fortunately we could get a bus part way but it was so swollen & painful by the time we got home I phoned for the doctor who came at once & has kept him lying up ever since till today. He hopes to get back to school on Tuesday but it's a bit risky as the least pressure on it will mean another fortnight or so off school. He had done so well this term that he is disappointed at having to miss his classes set behind.

Nov. 24 — I didn't get very far with this the day it was begun, so went on with it last evening & this morning. I found that your kind gifts — the wardrobe rail will be most useful I'm sure & the little shopping list too, while Mr. is delighted with his little cash-box. He has entered this week's pocket-money right away in it. Beth has so much enjoyed the stories in the Mom's Birthday. We have read most of them together but I haven't found time for all yet. Beth is a treat in store.

Not long after your last letter I had one from Bob. It was just like him to go the second mile — in middle of all his busy sees make time to write to me because he thought I'd be needing cheering up.

Will you please send this on to him & tell him how grateful I am for his kind thought.
The hopes my dental op. was successful. I suppose the answer to that should be yes, but my advice to anyone who contemplates the same is keep your own dentures if it can possibly be done. My new ones fit all right—look well—but are an intolerable nuisance. I suppose I ought to practice more self-control but don’t seem able to keep from moving them continually inside my mouth. I hope in time when I get the permanent set I may get into better ways.

But I’d give anything almost to have my own teeth back again now. You asked about my indigestion. I’m thankful to say that has not troubled me for some time now although I did have a pretty severe attack soon after my teeth were taken out. But I think it was due to some iron pills I was taking at the time. Anyway as soon as I stopped taking them it went.

I was sorry to see that you are still troubled in that way. Have you gone in for Rye Rye Bread at all? We have eaten a good deal of that lately & I find it most useful as a gentle nutritive laxative. I suppose that is what makes it such a good food. It is very free from all the stomachaches of ordinary bread.

Yes, since the Dales came home Essie, the Stanley sisters & Dayles are the only Hakhas at all there, & Evelyn comes home this Spring. From all accounts (except his own)Douglas is getting on well with his language study. He has a Hakka try coming in every day & puts in several times a day, which will be very useful. I’m sure. It always gives him something definite to do & prevents him from or anyone else thinking he is just wasting time waiting around in Swatia till it becomes possible to go out country again. I think that makes all the difference between his case & Rob’s.

How’s long past letters? I had better let this go then. I feel in a poor return for both your interesting letters. Oh, I must just say with what delight I read your sister’s letter. I have been reading Walter Paye’s Letters also since their type. "Imagination & Politics" by J. A. Spencer late editor of the Westminster Gazette. I am in...
This cousin, Tuck,
son of my sister, Alice,
whose photo Bob liked.
My dear Lottie

The above address will astonish you somewhat, I think! It does me even now! I only decided at the end of June that it was going to be possible for me to come back after all as various friends promised to have the trains for holidays & look after them generally & Douglas did most desperately need me as it was possible to go up or down in Harrow for once more.

He was away all August & the first week of Sept. on holiday & had a perfectly lovely one free from all household cares at my beloved Colleen. I hope I shall remember to enclose one or two snaps taken there that will show you how the bairns have developed, & how happy we all were.

It was a bit of a rush getting both these things ready quickly. Patsy has gone to the school where Blundell Cadleford was teacher, at Seasmeads in Kent. It is a perfectly ideal place for her I think. Douglas spent a night there before he went out - right to know Rike the Principal & I went for a week and just before I sailed Patsy Patsy happily settled in. She has been put for her first term into what is called the nursery where there are just 12 kiddies about her own age who have meals together in a jolly nursery with dolls' house, canaries & all sorts of games & other delights. It made it very much easier for her than plumping in amongst bigger girls & regular school life all at once. There are go handers & about 100 day girls at the school. That is a lovely building standing in its own nice gardens & with a splendid playing field just through the garden hedge.
Tim has gone to live with a delightful family in their town so that he didn't have to change his school where he has begun so well. The Rector was very keen to help him and thinks he has a very good chance of keeping his scholarship or winning.

The Buchanan's are with whom he is lodgings here, a boy of 15, a girl of 12 & another by p.7. Besides these they have two little girl boarders & four other boys who all go to the same school as Tim. They are all very keen on music & all the things we most want for him. Have a keen missionary interest too so I'm sure he will be happy & well helped there. Already Miss B. has arranged that he go with her eldest son to Singapore for the Easter holidays. I had planned for him to go there & caster's but when this chance came along of course we jumped at it.

They are both going to the Malayan Races for Xmas & Dorothy, the dear, is already planning what to do in their stockings. The twins & I spent last Easter hole at their home so they knew it & certainly it is an ideal home for a family Xmas party. Next Summer my sister is taking them probably to the same place we went this Summer & I know they'll love that. It's wonderful the way in which things have seemed to arrange themselves for them so that they should be as happy as possible without us. I think it will be much more educational for both for them if they had been just alone with one going to day school. She's taking up a larger household is so helpful. Of course I long for them every day every hour of the day, but Douglas is at the other end of the journey so once I am they make things easier for him & helping in the work any way I can I should have so much time to think about that. The worst part is this whole month without any possible news of them.

Douglas & Freda & Jessie had a good time at their. Y'知 this summer. It was so thankful it had been possible. In the last letter I had from D. at Port Said on Wed? Did this being on the way of starting for a flying visit to Shanghai.

The Chinese leaders were a little anxious about the prospects there I suppose thought the same a foreigner put in an appearance the better. I fear it may be many a long day before anyone can be in residence there yet. I suppose you have heard that the Dales have resigned? So that Douglas is now the only man in the whole Kakeke mission! It doesn't look promising for recruits either - students are few & far between even for the home missionaries.

Now I think that's all we news up to date so now for some comment or yours if I can find your letter to do it in detail.
Sat. — I'm so sorry I've hunted high and
low in the cabin for your letter & can't find
it anywhere, so will just have to trust to
my memory, which is of little use these
days. I seem to forget things as soon as
I hear them. I suppose it's partly because
I've had so many things on my mind.

I very much sympathise with you in
your uncertainty as to the future, still
but hope that before this reaches you,
you will have something more definite
in prospect if not actually in fact. And
meanwhile it is lovely for you to be with
you can dear folk & I am sure having your
children. This will make things seem much
less lonesome for your mother & all your
But of course it is hard to be separated from
At so much - both for you & for him. Still I
hope that was only very temporary
I just hate to think of you not coming
back to China again yet most obviously
your health must be the first consideration.

I was greatly interested in the copy you
sent. Alice seems more and more like you. I wish
you had been in it too. Bob looks rather thin & weak, but I expect he was till prospects
were worse settled.

Forgive this very inadequate reply.
Sincerely yours, 

ژی.
Splendid long one. Do write again when you can find time. I should hate to lose touch.

The heat is pretty great—yesterday and today isn’t conducive to train work!

Lots love—and sorts of good

wishes from

Mary.

Kindest remembrances to your aunt

if she remembers me.

“S.S. "P.A.O.S. N. Companies"
Dec. 30, 1928

S. P. mission
Hw. Kiang-fu.
by Swatos.
S. China.

My dear Lottie,

I write to you from the S.S. Mandela, but felt at the time it wasn’t a very adequate letter. I have been thinking of adding bit ever since. Especially as Xmas came near you were all much in my thoughts. I realized that I shouldn’t get anything sent up in time by way of greeting to you. I’m afraid you are not alone among my friends who have met with like treatment this year.

It took me all my time to prepare Xmas things for the families at home & friends I was to be near out here, when busy with packing etc., before starting. On the way out, my brain seemed dormant, & never got on bit. & by the time we got to Hong-kong there were 1001 other distractions which seem only to have grown more ever since we got here.

So I hope you will forgive me & take the will for the deed & I shall hope to be better prepared next time.

He had a very good voyage on the whole after first the first day or two, but were disappointed not to have more chance of buying things at the ports. We seemed always to get in at night. Leave in the early morning except at Singapore where we had a whole day & till noon if the wind so were able to see Singapore. Day Hugh who is now there alone as Gwen came back to Sydney when Mary Paton went home.

It was when we reached there that we first had news of the engagement. Of Hill & Dr. Wallace. It seemed incredible at first. He must be twenty years older than she – no one had ever had any idea of such a thing. But
they seem very happy about it—this some jumps (I anyway!) I think we could have chosen more nicely for him!!

The wedding is to be on Jan. 28th & all being well Douglas o I expect to go down for it. Meanwhile in a day or two now we are planning deal out for a fortnight or so visiting Ho-pho, bq.-quynh & Vong Kiem Phu. These three stations are said to be the only ones known to be safe if possible for as to go to at present.

Things seem pretty quiet here for the time being—long may they continue so. The local people profess great delight at seeing us back & settling in once more. I think they feel we are not very in need of them, that affairs in the kingdom must be more settled as we smelt venture. Of course there may be another flare up at any time. I suppose it may be several years before the better ones among the nationalists really get strength enough to be able to carry on all the good schemes they have in mind.

I have been visiting church members in the village & renewing old acquaintances & have got a very contented & warm welcome everywhere. It does seem quite the to see those who were school girls in my day here now mothers with children as old as mine some of them.

They all are full of questions about Mrs. & Beth. I think it was wonderful that they were telling what we came away leave them.

Bless them! They hadn't much say in the matter, poor dears!

Just at present we are picturing them very happy with the Roses. I know they'll do everything they can. That's a lot, to give them a good time.
He gets letters every week from Beth, & Han to is supposed to write but his letters don't come so regularly. I think he finds his school work just about all he can tackle. When he does write a letter it is usually a good one. With his last one he sent us his half term essay that had been returned. It was in the form of an editorial notice of himself! The masteres must have got quite a lot of enlightenment on their boys' characters & ideals through these essays. One get more out of Han's than out of a hundred letters, & all unconsciously to him of course.

Beth seems to have settled in very happily at school & I hope when she goes back after the holidays she will feel quite an 'old girl', as if she really belonged there. Douglas's brother his wife went to see her one Saturday said she seemed quite cheerful. Mrs Buchanan, the lady that Han is with, lives in every week. She is a topnotch person. I feel so glad to think Han is with her. She sent me some booklets before I left that I have read & feel that she herself must live by them - that's the impression she made on me at least. I have ordered some spare copies I thought them so good. If they come I shall post some to you for I know both you & Beth would like them as much as I do. Miss Palmer's sister was getting them for me but they haven't turned up yet.

What a lot about ourselves before I begin to congratulate you on getting settled in a home & job I year ago again. I can guess how delightful you will make the former, & how you will both put your backs into the latter. I hope it will be congenial enough not to make it too difficult to do so. The surroundings sound as if they'd be helpful—mountains are generally uplifting if you...
don't have to get too tired climbing them!

I sent you one at two snaps from the boat. I think but will enclose one
of Beth with her cousin Jack (Alice's son) which is the only duplicate I have
by me now. I think. We have given the children a camera cash for their
birthdays. Hope to get some snaps from them from time to time. Beth
wasn't very successful with her at first. Now is waiting for better
weather to try again. I hope at Hemsworth they'd take some. The Roses
have a most ideal home there—nothing grand about it, but very
homelike. The garden is a great delight with hundreds of rose bushes of
every kind of other flowers. Malcolm says that his hobby now when it
wakes and is full of all sorts of plans for improving it. The house
stands at the top of a slope with the garden stretching across it in front a gravel drive, then a small grass lawn with flower
beds at the back of that, then a low wall down which one drops on to
the lower level where are the long rose beds right the length of the
lovely grass tennis lawn, on either side of it. The lawn is
horizontal to the house. Beyond that is an orchard that stretches
down as far as one can see to the bottom of the slope. The view
from the house is across that to rising ground on the other
side of the slope. All is so peaceful & countrylike, yes, the bases
that fly now everywhere take them easily either to Wakefield or
Pontefract. I to York if they like. Malcolm has his new car of
enrave. He has just bought a new one—Morris Oxford saloon. I fear
they are not likely to come out here again now, tho' I think he
often wishes he could.

Sue & Jessie & Douglas had a great time at Nai-Ying this
summer. The inhabitants were much more friendly than they sometimes
need to be, & the two were very fine. Happa, just getting on with study yet feeling it possible to do up on an outing any day that seemed suitable without having to consider anyone else as try to fit in with others.

They did most of the old walks & some new ones. Teda is a most indefatigable walker. She even took Douglas out & then came home seeming as fresh as a daisy.

Tessie is going home in March—taking Harry's passage as Harry is staying on another year till Dr. Wallace's furlough is due.

The Rights have been at Chas. down for but are going to Swatow very soon now as Dr. Fraser starts for home in February. Gladys plans to take the children home in June & settle them at school in Shinko.

Andrew will follow in Spring 1926 when Fraser is back, I suppose.

T. C. Smith is going home in February too. He goes via Loei & Ifphus so is going to see Rome & finish his journey overland. His home is just about seven miles from Beth's school so he may probably look her up & send us news of her. Guthrie Gamble goes in June I think via Canada. As he has quite decided not to come back he has offered to send me some very nice pictures that he is not taking home—also a beautiful crimson glass flower-bowl. I tell him I'll keep them for him till he changes his mind returns!

The new Dr. North & his wife (also a medical tho' she didn't actually qualify) both seem nice & will be a good addition to the Swatow community. The Ubusons are in their way not nearly due to arrive now.

The Beales are not coming back. He has got an appointment in Nigeria, W. Africa, we hear. Can't you see them teaching a lot of little janis-mummies to use a washing machine!!
I think that's most of the gossip I can think of now. I'm promised to leave this page for Douglas to fill close with lots of love to you all from us both.

Mary.
Aug. 28th 1934

My dear Lottie,

I've been meaning to write to you for so long. How those other interesting letters have come from you. But before sending them on to Douglas I must reply to them first.

Douglas left for China on the 9th but we were just able to fit in the move here before he went. Schools broke up in Felixstowe on the 16th July so we got off on the 22nd and unpacked our goods here on the 29th as Douglas had a full week in the new home before he had to go.

We are all delighted with it now we are actually here. Have been able to examine it at our leisure.

Douglas & I spent 10 days in France hunting through all the suburbs of London for a kind of house we wanted. We must have looked over at least 30 in size but there was always something that made us feel we'd take a bit further before deciding. Finally we fixed on this one though it cost so much to begin with that we haven't as much left as we'd like for renovating it still so we feel we've got something well worth while & we shall just gradually do a little bit at a time.

The house is roomy with lovely big rooms that take our old Victorian mahogany furniture comfortably & is all on two floors except the maid's room & one room which are up a short flight of eight steps only. There are big cellars too but we don't need them as we have ample space without.

The garden is an old mature one with lots of fruit trees nearby.
kind of lovely interesting flower in it. Such a garden as I often
dreamed of but never hoped to possess. It has been neglected by
the last owner of the house so will take some work to get into
shape again but the grounds are there & I can get a man at 1/
an hour to come once in it with me & I hope to get it much
improved soon. Ruth is quite keen to work in it too. Bill is uphill
but after to be a bit clumsy & slop dash. Still they both help quite a
bit.

It's simply lovely to feel we have this home which we hope
will be permanent. I've posted you the notes about the house painted
when it was up for auction before we bought it. Bill I'll try to get
some snapshots of house & gardens send you later. It really looks
very much nicer than you'd think from the photo on the booklet.
It's in a quiet country road though there's a good bit of
motor traffic on it too. It is just 3 minutes from Berkeley Station
which is on the Southern Electric line from town. From here we
gain up to the heart of the city in half an hour. Trains are there
trains an hour all day & practically up till midnight. 12.5 am is
the last. It's lovely to feel we are so near town & well in it at all
for there's lovely country all about us here. We are handy too for friends
arriving in London from anywhere. Please keep that in mind. It will
only cost 3/6 more to reach us when you come across instead of
really £3 which it would have cost to go on to their laugh!!

We shall hope very much that some from Street will all come visit us before long.

Dorcas has gone back to Warminster for about a year but
may be able to start back next June. She has to go to India on this way
back but even so may get home by this time or some real year.
Meanwhile I'm undecided what to do. I feel a bit anxious staying on in this big house alone all nights after Bath goes to school Sept 21st.
Bill to Oxford about the middle of October. I'm on the lookout for someone to come & travel with me, but failing that may try to let the house furnished for some months then I'd have to find quarters for Bill myself as the rent be down from Oxford half the year.
They have such long vacations.

We have had a day in Rome with his wife & son of 14 & daughter of 12 on their first visit to England. Everything was thrilling to interest to them so we enjoyed having them. From many things they told us it seems as if in Italy they have many similar things to those we had in China. I hadn't realized how much alike the latitudes were. But they live in a flat in the heart of Rome city as greatly enjoyed the garden where we have a fine big lawn surrounded by trees & flower beds. The weather was ideal to all the time they were here so they could be in the garden as much as they cared to.

I'm glad you too had such a good holiday weather & much happy communion together. How the years do fly away. Who could believe to had gone since we first met at the Chalmers wedding in Sandon. That reminds me I saw the Chalmers this summer when I went to Darlington for a few days to speak at a meeting. She looks if anything younger than ever but he looks rather a week. He has very bad teeth nowadays.

He saw Malcolm Ross too as he had to come to their church when his sister Winnie died. He has grown stout & flourishing. You'd hardly recognize him as the thin young man you knew.

Douglas is taking all a new young minister for Woking after Hilary. He seems a very suitable really nice young man. His fiancée she is to go at join him in two years is an Australian girl. We like her very much too. She is coming to spend the day with us tomorrow. We have also got a new doctor for Woking. He is really a Congregational but the Old S. an
that sending off any more missionaries just now a anyway couldnt afford to send him so were fortunate enough to get him. Im so glad for
A.Shift is getting old now or might crooke up at any time.

We are within reach of Hettie Balmer Lee (She came to spend a day with us)
This Duncan Whyte. She Rian have visited us too. The Jeffries go working for
Came down one afternoon just after they arrived home one just

We have so much enjoyed The Readers Digest that you good folks read
As for Xmas it has been much a delightfull reminder of for every month - not
that we needed that actually but you know what cant is did makes us
Think upon when our minds were full of other things sometimes. Riese has
read every number I think. I havent always managed that I seem then
had as little time for reading lately but each time I do pick up a copy
I find something that interests me as well worth reading. The articles
helps me to converse more interestingly too. I shall certainly order
if to continue. We dont seem to have anything quite like it here in this
country.

When Douglas wrote last he quite meant to tell you how much
pleasure both he & I have had out of that book with the lovely blue
stones on. That sent me Celtic. Each time I wear it he says "I
must write Hettie Celtic how much I like that book. But after all
he forgets to put it in his letters so Im telling you now. Most
of the stones are blue but it goes specially well with two of them
is just the making of the stones really, they would be nothing
without it."

Now I must be getting on to Dwaynas letter for it has to be posted
tonight.

Lots love to you all oodle wishes for the coming autumn
winter. I doubt if I shall be writing again very soon. I seem to
get less free matter as time goes on. But if Im alone a good deal
in winter I may have more time for chats with my friends on
paper.

Love again from us all

ever Mary.
36 Southborough Road,
Bexley, Kent,
Feb 11th 1945.

My dearottie

Your very kind Xmas letter & most generous gift have been far too long unthanked for. I was laid up with a heavy bronchial cold for a fortnight from New Year. I was kept upstairs feeling very lumpy. I am willing to do any letter writing for YOU, which you will need after I leave here. Really tho' I hope you'll forgive my weak knees!

How alas! I have very bad news to send you. On Friday Douglas's office got a direct hit by a V2. She was killed instantly. A friend tells me she was planning to him tonight the exact time. She had just asked how I was. She began to tell her when there was a crash & then silence. She thought it was just a cut-out such as we get sometimes on the line, and thought him to ring back soon. When he didn't she just thought he was busy & had considered the conversation over since the business had just been completed. So we knew nothing about it till the evening about 8:30 when one minute called to ask if he had come home. He had said to me he'd be late so I wasn't worrying, but when I heard of the disaster I began to try & get word of him. No one I asked knew, they were many, knew for certain whether he was actually there, so I had gone out to lecture he had planned to go to. But when it came to 10.30pm there was no word. From him I began to lose hope. I rang up Douglas, who most fortunately was with his wife & baby on leave for a few days. They all hurried into his car, fortunately,
I came home arriving about 9.30 a.m. They only found him Dr. sometime during the night so we didn't know till about 9 a.m. whether he had been found or not, whether he was alive or not. A doctor friend who went to see him says that the end must have been instantaneous. The most probably knew nothing about it which is a great comfort.

But it is a terrible disaster for the church as well as for us personally as besides Dr. there are two other key men—the general secretary and the treasurer were taken too. Besides them there were two clerks & a girl from the bookshop, others were injured—one man has had to have an arm off & probably may lose a leg too. The woman's miss? & I had her jaw broken.

It has all been so sudden that we jut can't take in at all that it means. But I am blessed in having such dear friends. Both the husband came as soon as we let them know yesterday.

I think I shall go back into them today for a few weeks till Rick can get another leave when we shall try to resume to some definite plans for the future. I certainly will not be able to afford to stay on here.

What inventions of the devil these things are! Some of those folk taken had some direct connection with the war.

You'll forgive I'm sure that I don't write more this time. I will try again when my plans are more settled.

I was so glad to hear that you had John safely home again that he was picking up in health seemed to be in good spirits.

The friend Miss Hayes asked about was Margaret Searle. She married Dr. Landsdown's third son who is just a year or so older than Bill is now & a miss? doctor in Churun. chow. He & two other men are the only ones of our mission remaining at their stations. The Work folk just got out in time—the Turks entered Churun. Khamp the day after they left it on their way out. Jessie Bathe was already in this country but I haven't seen her yet. Ida is still in India.
Didn't have much time to see Kobe.
June 3, 1923

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins

Thai Song

Washington

via Polynesia

China