

I enclose two more sections of Plumer's story.

(12)

Apt. 16
346 Route Cohen
February 20, 1938

Dear Mary,

I am sending you a copy of a part of a letter that I have just written to Harriet. The first part of it was answering questions she had raised in her letters, and I did not think would be of any interest to you. This past week has been wonderful! After weeks and weeks when I had no mail at all and felt completely cut off from all the family it seemed almost too good to be true to have a whole lot of letters come more or less together. Almost every day this week I have had something from some member of the family, including several from you. Some were ones that you had sent to me in Kuling, and some were ones that you had addressed to Plumer in Nanking, but which have never gotten there. There has been no mail communication with Nanking now for about three months, that is since the end of November. I have finally gotten the post office to redirect all our mail here to me, whether it is marked to Nanking or Kuling. This week brought me letters written as early as October, and others as late as January. Now I feel that I am in touch with the family again, and when I have answered these letters we will be all caught up on news.

Thank you for sending Harriet's letters on to me. Of course I am glad to have anything from her. Now that she has a typewriter, and also has found her pen I hope she will write a little more legibly. That is one quarrel I have with modern education. So few of the young people of today write well. Harriet has had the average sort of primary education, and has proven that there is nothing the matter with her mind, but she certainly writes abominably. The same is true of Angie. Now neither Plumer nor I write particularly well, but I think that either of us writes better than either of the children, and any way is handwriting a matter more of inheritance or of training? I think there is something the matter with our present day schools when a large per cent of their products write so poorly. I am going to begin on Angie with an old fashioned copy book, and see if I can improve her writing before she gets much older. I am urging Harriet to work at her typing till she masters it. I want her to take some lessons if she can't get it alone by practise.

Thank you for the check you put to the credit of our account in New York. It is dear and generous of you to help Harriet each month and then add to that with a check at Christmas time too. I don't feel that we ought to take it from you, and yet somehow we do take it and use it, and do nothing more than say "thank you" for it. But I hope you know that we appreciate it more than mere words can express. Maybe some day when the children are educated we will be able to repay you in some way. And right here I feel that I should explain to you my suggestion to Harriet that I bring or send her a white rabbit coat or something else from China. That may look like rank extravagance to the outsider, but as I see it, it is like this. As you know many things

(12)

are much cheaper in China than they are in America, and there are some things that a girl must have. If I can get those things cheaper here than Harriet can at home, then it is wise for me to get them here. Not that a fur coat is a necessity. But when I can get a fur coat here for no more, if indeed as much, as she would have to pay for a cloth one at home, then she might as well have the fur one. What I have said about the possibility of this being a sort of last chance to get things here is only too true. We do not know what is ahead of us, and it is certainly not out of the realm of the possible that when this war is over, if Japan is in control here, many of us may find ourselves persona non grata with the authorities. This may be especially true of the men who have been in Nanking this winter. They know too much. So if you or May or any other members of the family have a strong urge to possess any particular thing that I can get here you had better let me know before I start home a little more than a year from now. I do not know what is ahead of me for next winter, but I am assuming that we will stay in China till our regular furlough is due in the summer of 1939. We may get back to Nanking, or I may have to stay on here in Shanghai, but just now I am not expecting to go home this year, and I know Plumer is not planning to go yet.

I was so very sorry to hear about May's accident. I sincerely hope she is better now and able to get about with ease. It seems to me that she has had more than her share of troubles recently. I wish that I could share my superb health and unusual strength with her. I have certainly been fortunate in being so well all my life.

I am going to send Harriet some clippings that you may be interested in too, so I will ask her to send them on to you when she has read them. Thank you for the ones you have sent us. I am glad to know that some at least of the truth has been published in America.

In one of your letters you asked about the Stewards and Miss Wixon. I thought that I had written you a good while ago that the Stewards went home in September. Miss Wixon went to Hongkong on the same train that we went on, but I did not see her after she got there, and I really do not know where she is now. I have a feeling that she too has gone to America. A very large part of the Nanking community is here in Shanghai, and many others from other parts of China too, but a lot of people have gone home.

Harriet wrote that she did not know what she was going to do in her spring vacation. Of course she would love to go south, but there is the ever present matter of expense. I think we did the right thing to send her to Wellesley, but I am sorry that she is so far from the family, and I just don't see any way out of the difficulty. She will probably get a job at Silver Bay this summer through some V. M. C. A. friends of ours, and that will pay her summer expenses, and leave her with a little cash to start the fall. If she takes this job she will have to be there all summer, which means that she can't go south. But if she doesn't take it she will have the expense of travel south and no income, since I do not know of any job she can get down home, so there you are. I wish that she could be with the family, but on the other hand I think it is a mighty good thing for her to have something to do, and also to have a job so that she will feel that she is helping to pay her own way. Oh Mary, being a parent is such a responsibility! I do so want the children to be the kind of people we want them to be, to get and give the most they are capable of, and

OVER

it is so hard to know when I am helping them most and when I am just hindering their natural development.

This is getting far too long. Please give my love to all the different members of the family, and pass on to them any of this letter that they would be interested in.

Much love,

Corulia!

I am sending all your letters up to Plumer by one of the gunboats that is going tomorrow or the next day.

My cook is in Nanking with Plumer - working with the group
 I mean them. My amah is in Kozai - and I am very anxious about
 her as the fighting gets nearer there. I offered to keep them both with me
 in Kuling - but they naturally wanted to get back to their families.
 Mission property in Nanking has been looted to some extent, though
 not as it was in 1927. Some places have suffered more than others. I
 have not yet been able to get Plumer to give me in any detail any
 thing about our own place, though from his very general statements I
 gather that we have gotten off fairly lightly. Elmian suffered more.
 Perhaps he has written you more fully about it than he has told me.
 George Fitch was able to get out of Nanking and come down here for a
 visit of about a week, and of course all the Nanking people wanted to
 have him tell all about our homes. He seemed to think that our place
 had not suffered too severely. Wang has been there all the time and
 has done the best he could for us, though of course no Chinese can do
 much now with any Japanese. George's own house suffered pretty badly
 I am afraid. I don't know much about the Smith's place. No one has
 mentioned it at all except to tell of the encounter there. Some had
 there with Japanese soldiers who wanted to use it for some military
 headquarters. That was finally adjusted however. I have sent you
 copies of protests etc. telling all I know of that affair. I hear
 that the Thomson place has not been touched, and that bear out scrip-
 ture better than anything I know! Claude probably got out more of the
 their belongings than any one else was able to do, because he was one of
 the last foreigners to leave Nanking before the fighting; and also they
 have more of this world's goods than a good many other people. To him
 that hath shall be given! I have sent you copies of everything that
 Plumer has sent me from Nanking, and I think he has sent some things
 directly to you, so you know as much as I do about conditions there.

I sent you last week copies of some documents written by the
 men in Nanking, telling of what has happened there. I marked them not
 for publication. I do not mean that you cannot use any information
 they contain, but please do not use direct quotations as such, and by
 no means use names. We do not know what attitude the powers that be
 will take towards the men who have stayed in Nanking, and we must be
 sure not to complicate things for them by using their names. I will
 try to send you some more clipping about recent happenings. I would
 like to send you the North China, but don't see my way clear to that
 just now. I'll try to get together clippings telling the story of the
 shipment of beans to Nanking for use for refugees suffering from ber-
 beri. The end of that story has not yet been written, but I'll tell you
 how it all came out when I know.

What fun to have an S. A. S. alumni association! I hope it
 works out, for it would be a fine way to keep up with old friends.

I did not get your letter asking for a sweater till just a
 few days ago. If I had known you wanted one I could have made it and
 sent it to you by Eleanor Wright. Maybe I couldn't have either, for
 there was no wool in Kuling after about the first of September. Now
 ever there is plenty here in Shanghai, and also Eleanor gave me a
 lot that she had so I can begin right away on a sweater for you. I
 have a lovely shade of fine green that will make a nice sweater,
 also a yellow, and another shade of yellowish green that is not very
 pretty alone, but is lovely with dark brown - just the combination
 of colors that you should wear. Maybe I'll make you all three! The
 wool is very fine, and there is loads of it, so I can make sweaters
 for both you and Angie out of it. If I can get your rug out of

CSM
 to
 HCM
 Feb 20/38
 incl in
 letter to
 MHH
 of
 2/20/38

(13)
 sent them home Nov. 1 - when I moved into the school.

Nanking - provided it is still there - and if I can persuade any one to take it home for me I'll send it to you. If I can't get it to you that way I'll bring it when I come next year. If I have the money to get you anything, either to send by someone or to bring you myself, what would you most like to have? I thought you might like a white rabbit evening coat, or would you rather wait till about your senior year and put it all towards a new fur coat, which you would doubtless need by that time. Or is there something else you want very much? Let me know. I don't promise to bring it, but we never know how much longer we will be allowed to stay in China, so it may be that what we want from here we will have to get pretty soon.

I think that I told you about seeing Doris in Hankow, and about having lunch with Enid here soon after we got here. Lossing is moving his office to Hongkong, and is there himself now, but I am not sure whether Enid has gone yet or not.

This is getting pretty long - maybe you will have to take it in broken doses. However now I think I have brought you up to date on family affairs, and answered most of your letters, so we can start from scratch. Angie and I like our little apartment, and are very comfortable and happy here. I have the Vanderbagg's amah as a servant, and she can do just about everything for us, including most of the cooking. Of course we live exceedingly simply, and she is able to do lots of things. Her husband, who is a cook out of a job just now, came in the other day while I was at school and baked a sponge cake and made it into a jelly roll for us, also a few cookies, and a nice chocolate pie for lunch. That was very nice of him, but I hope he doesn't feel moved to do it often, for it has taken Angie and me almost a week to finish the jelly roll, and they get rather hard in that time! Our month here is just about up, so the first of March, which is next week, we will move over to our other place, where we will be till the end of June. After that I don't know what we will do. That address is Apt. 49, 382 Route Cohen. Getting settled is quite a chore. I spent all yesterday morning getting my electric and gas deposits transferred from this aptment to that one, and even now I am not sure that they will be connected when I get there. There is so much red tape about all these things, and distances are so great here in Shanghai, that it just takes a day to get anything done. I have not yet figured out how I am going to get moved. The people are still in my new apartment and wont leave it till March 1st. I have to vacate this place by March 1st. And March 1st is a school day, so everything will have to be done in the afternoon, and I have no man servant to help with heavy moving etc. Mrs. Young's servants did all that for me when I came over here. Maybe I can get amah's husband to come in for a day and help. I'll work it out somehow I know, but I haven't gotten all the details yet. When I get over there I'll send you a plan of the apartment, and tell you what furniture I have so that you can picture us in the place.

Angie and I are going to dinner with Ruth and Cliff today after church. It is always nice to be with them. I still feel more at home with some of the Y. people like Ruth and Lucile Oliver and Annie Todnem than with the Mission people that I don't know so well.

Please write to me regularly. You can't imagine what I have gone through with these months that I have not heard from you, or how

Feb. 20, 1938

(13)

happy your letters which came this week have made me. Up to this week I had had no mail from you for weeks - rather months - nothing from my family dated later than Nov. 2, and nothing from Plumer's family later than about the end of October, except a Christmas letter from Will and one from May. And a good part of that time I was not hearing from Plumer either. I felt that - had just about come to the end of my rope - that something would just have to be done about it, as - could not live completely cut off from all my family any longer. And then this week I began to get mail! Lots and lots of it, everyday, letters dated as far back as October, and scattered all along through to January. The world took on an entirely different color! Now I feel that I can face anything, moving, or even the rowdy seventh grade with equanimity. Don't plunge me into the depths again.

You are constantly in my thoughts, my dear child. I want only the best for you, not the easiest or most pleasant necessarily, but the best. That means that you must put your whole self into what you do. You must not be lazy in any way, physically, mentally, socially or spiritually.

Much love from all of us,