

Mr. Forster's letters to his wife.

Dec. 19th. It has not been possible for me to write you since my last letter which was sent to you by Mr. Durgin of the N.Y. Times. We have been through an even worse hell since he and the other correspondents left. It is impossible to write all that has happened, but I never dreamed that such human beast existed as we have had to deal with. They have not loved us foreigners since we insisted on staying here when they did not want us to be here to see all their fiendishness. On the 15th and 16th they searched for soldiers and took off men in droves regardless of whether they had even shouldered guns or not. They murdered most of them in cold blood. We heard that they took a group of two to three hundred to a pond, shot them one by one and let them fall into the water. Another big group was forced into a mat shed, surrounded with machine guns and burned alive. Fourteen men from Mr. Chen's congregation at the Model Village were carried off several days ago and have not yet returned. Among them was Mr. Chen's oldest boy about 16 years. He had not yet returned either. Then the soldiers have been looting and raping to their hearts' content. John and I usually spend the day taking women and wounded civilians to the hospital and in guarding the two residences where most of our Christians and many others, particularly girls, are taking refuge. Our presence there helps to keep soldiers out. We also sleep there.

Kola and his Tartar friend stay on guard here. We have about 100 people in our house including a Buddhist nun. The number increased when the raping assumed such large proportions. It was quite evident that the soldiers were out of hand. Today seemed better in some ways, as some officers seemed to be patrolling this afternoon. But this a.m. it was one continuous succession of soldiers going into houses to get whatever they wanted. Many civilians have been killed. John was in Hsiakuan with one of the secretaries of the J. Embassy yesterday a.m. The only buildings left standing are ours, which have been looted, the Yangtze Hotel and Socony Installation. He said the streets were littered with hundreds of corpses. The J. Embassy people have been decent, but have lost face over their inability to accomplish anything with the military. All property, foreign and Chinese, have been looted and tumbled upside down. We are hoping that things will get a little better. I had a long talk this p.m. with a J. soldier who is a merchant from Yokohama on Benton Dori. He said their soldiers were very short of food upon their arrival, since their service of supplies could not get things to them as they neared Nanking. So for several days their soldiers were desperate for food. Now that the River is open and the motor road being repaired, they are getting supplies again. He was very decent and told me lots of interesting things. We hope that foreigners will soon be able to get back to Nanking to help us as the job is getting impossible for the few of us to handle. Over three thousand women and girls are headed into Ginling, some have been carried off by the soldiers, women and children have been raped in the Univ. of Nanking library building, and other Univ. buildings which are crowded with refugees. Last night several soldiers got into the nurses quarters in the Univ. Hosp. and frightened a number of girls almost out of their wits. Yesterday p.m. they raped one of the Model Village women. Last night they raped some Buddhist nuns who had crossed the street from our house to get supper and then were afraid to come back because of soldiers in the street.

We are cut off from all news here, so do not know what is happening. None of the foreign embassy people have returned, and we suspect the J. do not want them back for a while.

This is now the 20th. We have had a quiet uneventful night and I have just returned to the house where I am standing guard. It is a great life if one doesn't weaken. The J. are trying to get Kola to get the electric light company running again. He is certainly an very interesting clever youngster, and has been grand in adapting himself to the situation

and helping in every way.

Dec. 26th. We have just had Morning Prayer in No. 25, at which I preached on St. Stephen and baptized two infants for Rev. Mr. Chen. John is staying at our house (Mr. Schultze-Pantine) for the service for the Christians in the Model Village. He baptized seven persons yesterday. Last night he did not spend at 25 as he had gone home for supper and on his way back slipped and sat down too hard on the end of his spine. So I was responsible for guarding No. 17 and 25. Two soldiers climbed over the gate at No. 25, bent on mischief, but I was called in time and drove them out. I did not know that they had stolen a watch from one of the men, or I would have demanded it from them. They had their eyes on a girl or two, but fortunately my arrival on the scene prevented that. When they saw and heard me, they walked out rather sheepishly. John is o.k. this morning but the fall shook him up somewhat. The soldier who is carrying a letter to you left this a.m. I think, so I hope you will have news from me soon.

Yesterday I heard that five J. soldiers who are apparently Christians joined in the service the Methodist pastor had at the woman's Bible School and contributed \$5 to the offering. Mr. Negami is not a Christian but I gave him a N.T. in Chinese to take along. Also two boxes of sardines, a cake of soap and two dollars for the journey. He was very decent and very grateful, anxious as anything to get back to his family in Japan. I am afraid they have found Nanking poor pickings, as we have been cut off from supplies for so long, and they cannot get fruit or fish and the things they are accustomed to eating. With our water supply dependent upon wells or ponds, they have not found the water very appetizing either. Our presence is a help to the people here in their distress and a tremendous witness for the Gospel.

Christmas Day. I am wondering where and how you are celebrating Christmas. It is a beautiful day here and we have just had a service at No. 25, Mr. Hansen's. Rev. Mr. Chiang and Dr. Tong took the service because I feel that the Chinese Christians should interpret the great days of the Church Year themselves. Besides I am still doing police duty, keeping unauthorized soldiers out of the house, etc. I had to go into action during the service as three came in for a look-see. One of them spoke some English. He lingered while the other two disappeared. Apparently they had been to the house before when neither John nor I were on hand, had had some coffee and relieved some of the people of their bedding, etc. They asked for coffee this a.m. but Mr. Hanson's cook could not supply any, so the one who lingered had to be satisfied with tea and sugar.

Conditions seem to be improving from day to day, and I think before long the people will be able to move back to such homes as they can find. Practically the whole southern part of the city has been burned down. Our buildings on Tai Ping Road and Pei Hsia Lu are about the only ones standing with the exception of a few that in some unaccountable way escaped the flames. I went down to our place on Thursday to see if our buildings are still intact and discovered one of the Christian women who had refused to leave with the others before the soldiers came and then found her escape cut off. I had tried to find her the week before, but unsuccessfully, so we assumed that she had either gone to some other place or had been killed. She was in the Church Tower for ten days during the shelling and bombing, burning and looting and she escaped unscathed. She is the widow of a former catechist at St. Paul's. Since she is also a trained nurse, we hope that she can be of service in the Univ. Hosp. which is filled to overflowing with sick and wounded persons. We had rain on Thursday which made it hard for the refugees who have to sleep outdoors and semi-outdoors as at Ginling College where there are innumerable women and children.

Miss Vautrin and Mrs. Twinum are living at Ginling to look after the refugees. Military police have been on duty there for several days, so conditions are better. Today a man returned who was carried off by the soldiers about ten days ago. He brought word that one of the Christians from All Sts. Church, Shanghai, who was also carried off at the same time, is still being held by the soldiers outside the city where is looking and working for them, but he has been promised his freedom in another two weeks. His name is Tsu An-sheng, and he is nephew of a former or present catechist at All Saints'. He was living with us here, having refugeeed from Shanghai when he was taken by the soldiers. You might communicate this to Mr. Wei of All Saints. The fact that some men have returned gives us hope that the others of our acquaintance may still be alive and will also return. All the foreigners here are well. We have no news of the outside world and we hope very much that other foreigners will try to get back as soon as possible as they can be of tremendous service to us in all sorts of ways. Whether they will be permitted to come is another question. We assume that the Newspaper correspondents got through all right. Much has happened since they left. No diplomatic officials have been able to get back yet excepting the Japanese. The latter are doing their best but seem to be having their own difficulties with the military... I had to interrupt this letter in order to see about two soldiers who paid a visit to one of our houses. They turned out to be two who were here this morning during the service. One is a policeman in Osaka. They have just left.

This has been a quiet uneventful Christmas, but God has given us the Lord, Christ, so we need not ask for more.

Dec. 27th. Just a few minutes ago the J. sargeant brought back Tsu An-sheng, the young boy whom they carried off a week ago. They have released him to our great joy, and apparently treated him quite decently. We wish that many others whom they carried off had had as good a fate... Yesterday p.m. I drove down to St. Paul's with Miss Chang to try to get a few more of her things. We moved the parish hall piano into Mr. Kuo's house. It had been taken out on the lawn and Mr. Kuo's piano was carried away. The shell which struck the parish house did so at an angle. It penetrated the roof and went diagonally across the room and out through the front wall which will have to be rebuilt. The floor is not damaged, though much plaster is fallen. Another shell fell and exploded on the concrete driveway inside the main gate of the Church compound. The wall is badly nicked by shrapnel but it is standing. The wooden gates are all down, so that the compound is quite open. We are not yet able to do anything about it since life has not yet returned to normal. Miss Chang has been taken on as a nurse in the Univ. hosp. I spent several hours yesterday afternoon helping Mrs. Twinum salvage some things from her house which has been looted. She is living at Ginling. We hear various rumors about what is going on in the outside world but nothing very certain. One thing is that the railway is functioning after a fashion, but I doubt that very much. If it were, I am sure some foreign men would be returning. We are still only a small group as before.

Dec. 28th: I have been doing police duty at 17 and 25 again, but have not had any troubles to deal with, thank the Lord. Last few days, I have had a chance to get in a little reading. John spent the night at 25 and I was here at 17. Then I went home to breakfast and John went later. He does not usually get up until about eight and by that time I am eating breakfast. He has not returned to relieve me here, so I may decide to eat Chinese supper and not go back to our house. The two servants are well. Yu-fok seems to have recovered, but has gotten quite thin and white. They are both functioning under difficulties as the house is so full of refugees they can scarcely move. Things seem to be better in general, as a great many troops seem to have left town, and the people feel freer about walking on streets.

They are still scared as stray soldiers are still looting and raping, and men suspected of having been soldiers are still being executed. But it is still much better in many respects than it has been and we are no end thankful. If only more foreigners would come back and help out it would be a great relief to the congested conditions now obtaining. At Ginling college alone there must be over ten thousand women and children. We do not know when people will be allowed to move in and out of the city freely. The problem of finding food for so many is getting very acute. We hear that the farmers outside the city are destitute, too, since their grain, farm animals and implements are largely gone. Fires are still being set in some sections of the city, so that the southern part is mostly ruin. No plea on the ground of humanity seems to be of any avail. Don't worry about us. We are o.k.

Dec. 29th. Every morning we people have prayers together. I picked out some hymns and practiced for New Year's Day and Sunday. We are planning to have a service on New Year's Eve which will probably take the form of a litany and Penitential Office with meditations and suitable hymns. You will be glad to know that there are five groups of people preparing for the catechumenate, etc., which consist of persons who have been refugeeing with us. There is also a Bible class for Christians and many people are helping to make padded garments, which are much needed, since many of the people have been robbed of their warm clothes and bedding by the soldiers. The situation in that respect has improved a great deal by the withdrawal of troops to other places. All men in the city are required to register with the military authorities which are combing out all soldier suspects. Machine guns were working again yesterday. We do not know whether it was regular drill, or Chinese ammunition being destroyed, or men being executed. Countless people, civil and military, have been done to death. God grant that it may soon end. God has been wonderfully good and we have entrusted ourselves to Him entirely.

Dec. 30th. This has been another quiet day so far. All of our people went off to be registered early this a.m. and found that only the men are required to be. The J. are still "moping" up which would be more accurately described by another name, as they are systematically combing out all soldier suspects. The report is that no men between the ages of 18 and forty will be allowed to leave the city. That will not be so bad if they do not molest them while they are in the city. We have heard that they are trying to force them to be soldiers against their own compatriots. I have spent a greater part of the morning preparing a form of service for New Year's Eve, and now at No. 17 I am reading Morton's "In the Steps of the Master".

Dec. 31. John has just been in to say that the International Committee wants me to help inspect some rice kitchens that are being run for the refugees.

I have some sad news. When I woke up this a.m. I found a note from Mr. Lu and his purse. (He has been acting as catechist in Tangshan and Tungliu). He has become very morose over the situation and in his note indicated that he was planning to commit suicide by drowning. He was to have registered today. He had nothing to fear in that respect as he is over forty, and went off early this morning alone. I ~~went~~ looked at some nearby ponds but could not discover his body so I hope he has changed his mind. I had heard that he had been entertaining such thoughts lately and last night before retiring tried to encourage him to live for China, as long as God wanted him to do so. He was a very quiet gentle person but I am afraid not one to be easily diverted from his purpose when once he had made up his mind.

Mr. Rab, the Nanking representative of Siemens Co. and chairman of the International Committee, has had three letters from his wife in Shanghai via the J. Consul, from which we gather that you know nothing of what has been happening in Nanking since the J. occupation.

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We hear some American Consular people are on their way here. Their presence will not be especially welcome here since ours is not particularly acceptable. Things on the whole, however, seem better. It is now nearly one o'clock and we have only inspected one place where about 3000 people are being cared for. It was some sight but on the whole the people seem to be making the most of a hard situation. Our servants have come back from being registered. That is a big relief to us and to them. I am enclosing a copy of the form of service for this evening. We hope we can hold it without interruption. Do you remember that we were in Nagasaki last New Year's Day? We are hoping that the soldiers will not overstep bounds in their celebrations here. We can only warn people to stay indoors as much as possible. We wish that regular transportation were re-established between here and Shanghai so that news and people could go back and forth but I am afraid it will be some time before things are regular again. Some J. merchants I hear have been bringing up some supplies by truck and cars so that may be a possibility of getting supplies. We are living largely on the groceries we brought from Yangchow, but will soon be out of a few staples like milk and sugar. Eggs have been and still are very hard to get. Yu-foh brought three before Christmas and with two made a Chocolate cake, but we cannot complain when we realize how little other people have. May God grant you a very blessed New Year full of joy and many happy surprises.

P.S. Please be circumspect about retailing news about conditions here, since the J. are anxious to keep as much under cover as possible.

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Mr. Forster's letters

Jan. 2nd: Just to let you know John and I are both well. We haven't much contact with the outside world so we have to depend upon occasional opportunities to send a message by someone who is going to Shanghai. This time it happens to be some merchants who are doing a little freighting and who are bringing supplies to the Japanese army. I am glad that the weather so far has not been too severe. Otherwise the suffering of people would be much greater. John and I spend most of our time doing police duty. The last few days I have been helping to inspect the refugee centers to see that the people have been getting enough food. Yesterday was a general holiday with lots of flags and fire crackers. I do not know where the latter appeared from, but for many people they broke the tension of the past two weeks. Conditions are gradually being brought under control.

(Brought down by Japanese messenger)

Jan. 3rd: Our Committee went out this morning and inspected two refugee centers. Several mass meetings were held for the inauguration of a self-government society for the city. It is significant that the old five barred Chinese flag was used with the J. flag, and that no flags of the central govt were in evidence. In fact at the mass meeting which was poorly attended, all the sins of the latter were exposed by the orators, and the blessings the people might expect from the new regime were proclaimed. John and I had been invited to a New Year's dinner at the Univ. of Nanking, but we decided that I was to go and John was to stay on guard. John was persuaded by George Fitch to attend the dinner anyway, so he went. But we had just finished eating when Catechist Fan and Paul Tong came running to say that some J. soldiers had entered No. 17 and were raping the women there. We rushed over immediately and in Geo. Fitch's car but the men had left about three minutes before. We tried to trace them but unsuccessfully. As I got the story, what happened was this: Two soldiers came into ~~Chiang's room~~ Chiang's room, the Chinese priest from Puchen, and stole his sweater and a pair of gloves. They saw Mrs. Chiang and decided to come back for her. She managed to escape, however, by a bathroom door. Then one of the soldiers went to the 3rd floor and started to rape an unmarried girl there. She resisted and succeeded in tripping up the soldier and thus escaping. Then the soldiers attacked two young married women on the second floor. We took them to the hospital for treatment. A soldier beat one of them and Mrs. Chou who was trying to protect her with a bayonet. Mr. Lu, the Chinese helper at Tungshan and Tungliu has apparently carried out his threat of suicide. He has not returned since early morning of Dec. 31st. Neighbors told us that they saw a body in a pond nearby which they think is his, but we have not yet received permission from the authorities to drag for the body. It is very sad. He seems to have entertained this idea for some time and his determination has increased by the sufferings of the people, since the occupation of the city. Yesterday I preached at the service for the Model Village Christians. We had a good service and the people listened well. After lunch I went over to No. 17 to relieve John who had worshipped with the Christians from Hsiakuan and St. Paul's. I spent the afternoon typing our report of the inspection we have made so far. John came back to house 25 to spend the night and reported two incidents that had happened. About 4:30 a Jap. soldier tried to rape the mother of five children. Her husband was at home and struggled with the soldier so that his wife could escape. The soldier left in anger, returned with his rifle and shot the man dead. John went to report the matter and found that Mr. Fitch was already on his way to Mr. Rab's house to report the case. While they were conferring, neighbors rushed in to say that a J. soldier was trying to rape a woman in a nearby hut. John and George rushed out

and drove the fellow off...So it goes.

At the Woman's Bible School the soldiers have been doing a good deal of raping and looting. After much protesting a group of military police was stationed there. The other night one of them went in and raped a woman. Yesterday afternoon several men came in to report happenings at the Texico Installation outside the Han Hsi Men. The place was looted by J.soldiers who took down two Am.flags, stating that since America and Japan were enemies, the flags could not be flown. They made the servants at the point of guns sign and fingerprint a statement to the effect that they had sold the loot to the soldiers for a sum of money, and then forced one man and his 63 yr.old father to push the motor cars and trucks which belonged to the Texas Oil Co. to another place. The men had one meal in three days. They killed a number of people in and around the installation. In one family of nine, only a woman and child escaped. The soldiers fired on them and then set fire to the dugout. The woman escaped by covering herself and the baby with a heavy quilt and then running through the flames. These are just samples of what has been happening here.

Things are somewhat better though it is quite evident that neither the military nor civil J.officials have the soldiers in hand. What has happened here has been repeated I fear all along the line of march. Yesterday we had a visit from the Chinese planes who dropped some bombs at Hsiakuan and outside the south gate in the airdrome. There was anti-aircraft firing for a few minutes. Then all was quiet again. There are rumours that Yangchow is now in J.hands as well as Taichow, Iwling, Tai-hsien, etc. so I guess we may expect the worst. Today for the first time in many weeks we have electric lights again which means also that we can get radio news. Unfortunately, John's is not functioning....

I have just had lunch and taken a woman to the hospital for treatment. Ru-yuan went along to see his richsha coolie friend who had to have his leg amputated below the knee. He is getting along all right. I have taken him on as a servant for various reasons as I think he can be more useful and he certainly can't pull richshas any more for a living. He is very grateful for all we have done for him.

I surely would like to have some news from you. Maybe I shall Bor we hear that somebody from the German and American Diplomatic staff is returning. For Christmas Mr.Rab gave each of us a nice leather-bound diary ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ with the compliments of the Siemens co. and for New Years he had special greeting cards made with the Safety Zone emblem on the front and the signatures of all the foreigners in Nanking on the back. It will be a very nice souvenir of this experience. I wonder whether you have yet received the note I sent by Mr.Negani. I sent another by some J.merchants just to let you know that we are O.K. and that you are not to worry.

~~xxxxx~~ Jan.7th: Yesterday I was most happy to receive letters from Bishop Roberts, Althea, Leslie, Steve and K.P. through some American officials who have come to the Embassy. The letters were all old, Dec.12-20th, but from them I learned that you had reached Hongkong safely and I certainly was glad for the news. Things are better in certain respects. There is hope that communications will be restored to a more normal state. So far we have been completely isolated. I do not know therefore what is happening at Yangchow or anywhere else. The Embassy people reported our Wuhu property as O.K. and Lanphear and Sister Constance safe and well. I am sending you letters I have written and accumulated. You must use your own judgment about letting the contents be known as it may have an unfavorable reaction upon us here. We have been a thorn in the flesh of the J.military as it is. And if any letters or statements were published at present, it might make difficulties for us here and the people here still need us very very much. I am sure you will understand.

Jan.10: This is to let you know that I am all right and there is no reason to worry. I sent you a whole batch of letters the other day that I have been waiting an opportunity to send. They will tell you all about things there. This a.m. I took various persons to the hospital and also rode down to our Church and residence compound. Things there are much the same as before. A part of the old Kongkuan burned but not very much. Everything has been looted, but many things are still left, though all topsy turvy. I chased a J.soldier out of Miss Sims' house this a.m. Was he scared! Then I called at the Embassy since I had not had a chance to meet the officials who came. Had a nice talk with Mr.Allison who was formerly consul in Tsinan. We do not think our places will be spared further looting unless somebody, a foreigner, lives there. That isn't easy since there are too few of us to go around, but people are more important than things. Officials of the British and German Embassies have returned too, which ought to make things better. Yesterday I was on duty at 17 and 25 all day. We had Morning Prayer in 25 at which Rev.Chiang of Puchen preached. There was a large attendance, including many non-Christians. John preached at the service in the University yesterday in the a.m. and at the English service in the Union Church in the afternoon. I could not leave to go. We have recovered Mr.Lu's body from a nearby pond in which he committed suicide on Dec.31st. It is very sad, but I think he would have carried out his intentions even if we could have stopped him this time. Allison said somebody had inquired through the Secretary of State about John's and my welfare. I guess it was Father or Dr.Wood. We are both o.k.

Jan.11th: What a grand Christmas present I had yesterday afternoon when John brought me your letters of Dec.16th, 26th and Jan.5th, together with those from Father, Betty and Sophie. I was just in the midst of writing to Althea, K.P. etc., when he brought me the pack, and was I ever glad to get mail! I am so happy that you have reached Shanghai safely and that you made the trip from Hankow safely. You probably know I called you by long distance the morning before you left Hankow and Frances Roots took the message. Life goes on pretty much the same from day today. We had an uneventful night. John and I came back to Mr.Schultz's house for breakfast and then I took the car to the Univ.Hosp. taking with me a nurse who has had her training at St.Andrew's, Wusih. She did not graduate as her grandmother got sick and died before she could take her N.A.C. exams. but she has had about four years' training and the hospital is going to give her a chance since they are so short-handed. From there we drove to the Presb. Girls' school with Miss Lucy Chen to get some clothes that had been contributed for refugees, and from there I went to the Embassy to leave some letters and to tell them at their request about the Texas Oil Co. property in which we have been living. It doesn't sound as though I had accomplished much in the a.m. but we had to wait in each place. John and I were both grateful for all the mission news. We were sorry to hear about so many having been sick, but were most interested to hear about what you and everyone is doing. Please give them our regards... Do not worry about our food. We still have some supplies and expect to get more soon. The Embassy has offered to get some for us so we are putting in an order through George Fitch who will buy through the Commissary Dept. in Shanghai.

The servants are both well. They do not venture out much alone since men are still being impressed for coolie work by the soldiers. Our servants have escaped so far. I saw the richsha man in the hospital yesterday. He was very cheerful and is getting along well. His wound is almost healed. He is so grateful to have had his life saved. John and I still do guard duty, though I think it may soon become unnecessary. It is usually when one is off one's guard that trouble happens. John and I are both well. Yesterday I sent cables to the family, (Newton and Phila.)

to the effect that we were well and that you were expected in Shanghai. That was before I knew that you had actually arrived there. Today we are trying to send one to Dr. Wood. By now you know how we spent our Christmas. They had made some festive decorations for the big reception room in 25 and everything was very nice. It was a gloriously mild day. I was on guard the whole day.

John baptized some people from the Rev. Mr. Chen's congregation on Christmas. I baptized two infants the day after Christmas. I know how you would love to be here, but conditions are too uncertain to warrant your coming provided you could get permission to come. Now I must hurry off to leave this at the Embassy for delivery to the boat.

Jan. 12th: I am waiting for the barber to cut my hair which hasn't had the shears since the first of November. In the first place it is hard to find a person to do it and in the 2nd place it is hard to find time and a suitable place to have it done. John and I have just had breakfast. At 9 o'clock I am to attend a meeting to consider plans for rehabilitation. The Committee which investigated various refugee centers made its report and recommendation and was asked to consider itself a rehabilitation committee, and formulate plans for enabling people to get back to their homes and work. I was busy yesterday p.m. taking medical supplies to the Univ. hospital. The municipal health dept. had turned over a lot of them to us to use at Hsiakuan. When we came into the city we brought them along and decided to turn them over to the hosp. since we no longer had use for them. We had no other transport but the small car, so I had to make several trips. I also took Miss Chen along to get old clothing for refugees which had been stored in the Presbyterian Girl's School. The women are planning to make some of it over so that it can be used when needed.

Things were quiet enough for both John and me to come back to Mr. Schultze's house for supper, the first time we have been able to do so in many weeks. I think the presence of the officials in the American, German and British Embassies are responsible for the difference. The J. have no face at all over the looting of foreign property (even the Embassy) by their troops, and they cannot put the blame on the shoulders of the Chinese for very often when the foreign officials go around to examine the state of the foreign property they find J. soldiers on the premises in the act of looting. They stole all motor cars they could get, even took out cars that were put in the American Embassy for safekeeping. Now the J. Embassy is trying to collect all they can get back from the military as a face-saving gesture. But I don't think it is setting very well with the foreign officials. If things like this have been going on here, one does not need much imagination to know what has gone on in Yangchow and other places. Of course we have no news here of Yangchow or Chinkiang. I am anxiously waiting to hear whether you have received the letters I have sent on various occasions once by a J. soldier and another by a J. merchant, etc. An old lady, aunt of one of the Model Village Christians, died this morning early in the hospital. She was 69 years old and was ill with I don't know what, exactly. John and I sent a long cablegram to Dr. Wood yesterday through the kindness of the Embassy in reply to his cable about us. We hear that the J. want the people to leave the refugee zone and return to their own homes. That is easier said than done since so many persons have nothing but ruins to go back to. Also there is utter lack of transportation facilities, since all were taken by the soldiers. What riches there are are all tyre-less or out of commission. Bicycles have shared the same fate or have been carried off. Motor cars the same way. Fortunately I have saved your bicycle and mine so far. I think I brought all of our things from Hsiakuan except the two over-stuffed armchairs. Whether they are still left I do not know. Will you please send me some two cent stamps as we cannot buy any here. We have electricity in Mr. Schultze's house again, but no running water yet.

Jan.13th. John took the letter to be left at the Embassy yesterday, but failed to do so, so I'll just add a line this a.m. to let you know that we are well. I slept at home (Mr.Schultze's house) last night as we think it no longer necessary for two people to be on guard during the night at No.17 and 25.

It is cloudy today and is trying to snow. I am going out in a few minutes to help investigate another refugee center. Then I shall take a sick woman to the hospital and leave the letters at the Embassy.

I hope all is well with you. Please tell Gilmore I shall send him a statement very soon. It is simply a case of checking up his statements of deposits and typing out my accounts for him. We can't work at night because we have no electricity at #17 and #25 and the days are occupied with many activities.

I am eagerly awaiting the next mail from you. Perhaps I'll find some at the Embassy when I call there.

Jan.14th. It is my turn to sleep at home tonight, so I am in the dining room - the only place we have a stove - and am writing letters. ...John went to the hospital to take some patients there and also to take some pictures. I staid on guard and spent the time writing a letter for the family which I am enclosing. There are two extra copies which you can send to whomever you think best. This afternoon after John came to relieve me I went over to Ginling College to see Mrs.Twinem and Miss Vautrin whom I hadn't called on for some time. Mrs.Twinem was home alone...She gave me two pots of mincemeat which she had salvaged from her home. It had been looted by soldiers who also stole her motor car. They were going to burn it down, having already taken out their magnesium matches to do so when the servant had presence of mind to show them her visiting card, indicating that she was a foreigner, even though she has taken out Chinese citizenship. The soldiers left the house but did not take the matches along. We have samples of them.

Tonight we are having some lovely radio music. John's radio was broken in transit from Hsiakuan, but we have retrieved a fine one from the Sino-British Cultural Association which we will keep till some responsible person comes back to take it over. Just now they are playing Paderewski's lovely record La Campanella and the Nocturne in F by Chopin. There has also been some grand opera.

It has been a quiet day. I heard that the night before last a J.soldier climbed over the wall of the University Middle School and abducted a girl. When resistance was offered he fired twice and hit a blackboard in one of the classrooms full of refugees. He got the girl over the wall, but before he could get himself over, she ran away and climbed back over the wall in another place, so he was foiled. Last night, however, another girl was taken. Unfortunately she did not escape so successfully. Dr.Bates was called over to Dr.Brady's house yesterday and found two J.(a soldier and a military police) looking over the place. It is constant occurrences like these which make the people afraid to go back to their ~~homes~~ homes.

John went over to the Central Theological School with Dr.Tong this afternoon, and found things there in an awful mess- everything topsy-turvy and many things looted. The houses everywhere are in the same condition.....I feel ten pounds lighter and ten years younger. Guess why? I had my hair cut this morning! We had tried to get the University barber several times, but that gentleman seemed to find 8 a.m.too early to ply his trade, so in desperation I called in a barber who lives across the street. He did a pretty good job and I feel much better. It's funny what a difference such little things make. Oh, for a chance at a good hot tub bath or shower, and a dry cleaner for some of my clothes....

11.

Jan.15. Before I go over to #17 to spend the night I want to send you a little note with my love. I just heard that a British boat is leaving tomorrow so I want to get this mail off by it. I think the contents will explain themselves.

I was busy this a.m. with the car, first going to Ginling to arrange about our workers helping with evangelistic work among the refugees there. We have agreed to go five afternoons every week - two of us each day- to preach at 2 p.m. to different groups of women. Then I had to take a number of sick people to the hospital clinic. By the time they had been seen and we got back to the house it was already noon. John was out all afternoon and is now at the J.Embassy for Sukiyaki supper to which he and a number of others were invited. I am to celebrate Holy Communion tomorrow morning for the Model Village Christians and to take the Union English service tomorrow afternoon. This afternoon I read and wrote and then played with some of the children at #17. We just kicked a tennit ball around but they enjoyed it immensely and we all got some good exercise...

Nanking, January 21, 1938.

Dear

This is just a little note to let you know that I am still well. There is a chance for mail to go down to Shanghai in the next day or two so I am sending this along with the request that Crisso forward it to you. It was good to have your cablegram yesterday afternoon thru the State Dept. From it I saw that you had received my cablegram of the 10th and I gathered that you are all well. I am glad of that. I hope that Grandma and Aunt Gertrude are as well as can be expected and that they are not suffering too much.

There is not much news here lately. Things go on pretty much as usual; i.e. as they have been going since the occupation of the city. Efforts are being made by the authorities to get the people to go back to their homes(!) but without much success as so many people have no homes to go back to and there is still considerable risk in doing so. As one group of soldiers is transferred elsewhere a new group is sent to replace them; and so the old difficulties crop up anew. But conditions on the whole are much better than they have been, in general at least. There is a great deal of suffering among the people many of whom have used up the little reserves of food and money they brought into the Refugee Zone with them. With transportation and business at a virtual standstill it is impossible for them to recoup themselves. We have also had rain, and snow all day yesterday, with the consequent cold raw weather which we expect at this time of the year. On the whole, however, the weather this winter has been quite moderate, for which we are thankful.

It was good to hear of the amendment which Rep. Hamilton Fish is making in Congress to the Naval Appropriation Bill for the calling of an international conference on naval limitation. It is rather late in the day to be proposing such a step but it is best to be optimistic of the possibilities of such a proposal. It can do no harm and may even yet be the guide-rope to keep this old world from sliding over the abyss of chaos.

I need not write about the military situation as you are probably much better posted by radio and newspaper than we are. Needless to say I have received none of the letters which you, Father, have been writing so faithfully each week and addressing to Nanking. They are probably held up in Shanghai and it is very possible that Crisso has received them. We hear there is possibility of mail coming to us by a British ship next Tuesday. It will be wonderful to know what is transpiring elsewhere and how you all are.

I have had no further word from Crisso since the letters that came on Jan. 10th but I assume that she is o.k. else I should have had a telegraphic message thru the Embassy. It will be a grand and glorious day when we can all get together again and talk to our hearts' content. Let us hope that that day is not too far distant.

With much love to you all,

Nanking, January 28, 1938.

Dear

This has been a grand and glorious day for this morning we received mail which was brought up for us from Shanghai by E.W.S. Aphis. It was wonderful to have your letters, Father, written in December, and to know how things are going with you. We are sorry that you have had so much anxiety about us, but we know too that you have all had faith to sustain you through everything and to let you know that nothing can happen outside God's love. We are also glad that you have been kept informed thru newspaper items and the kindly co-operation of the State Dept. It is fine to have such a gentleman as Mr. Allison here at the Embassy. He has had experience in Japan where he formerly taught in a Y.M.C.A. School and he has been consul for some time in Tsinan where there is a large J. community in times of peace. He has taken a very firm attitude since his arrival in Nanking about American rights and the generally conceded points of international law. That, of course, has not increased his popularity with the powers-that-be. You have probably heard of his being slapped in the face by a J. soldier, since the comments of the J. spokesman about the incident were broadcast at noon today. Of course they are trying to make it appear that he was in the wrong. In a technical way he perhaps was, though he was but two feet inside the gate and when the soldier began jostling him he pushed him against a wall so that it was impossible for him to move outside the gate! But they have not mentioned the rage of an officer nor his insulting language to Mr. Allison which stirred the soldier up to striking him in the face. They do not like Allison because he took matters up directly with Washington and Tokyo when he could get no satisfaction out of the J. Embassy officials here. They simply pigeon-holed all his protests and made light of the outrages which their troops were committing and still are committing all thru the city and even in foreign-owned property. Only on Wednesday of this week the remaining portion of our big Chinese residence at St. Paul's was burned down, and a fire had been started in the sacristy of the church itself where the ashes of burned hangings and the charred and scorched wardrobe for hanging vestments are mute evidence. Cases of rape are daily occurrences, and the treatment given some of the women who were carried off by the soldiers is too terrible to tell. But I must not enlarge on this subject or the letter may not get thru. I have been telling about various incidents in my letters to Grisse who is probably transmitting to you whatever she thinks you ought to know. Conditions in the city are much better since the arrival of diplomatic representatives of England, Germany, and America. Also the direct dealing of Washington with Tokyo, confronting them with facts that they cannot deny, has been having some effect. We have been experiencing what Rome experienced with the invasion of the barbarians in the fourth century. And we are proud enough to think that the age of barbarism has passed!

The mail will go off again tomorrow morning but must be handed in by 9 o'clock tonight. Grisse forwarded some letters by a certain source earlier in the month but they have not yet reached me. I hope they are not lost. We cannot understand why some of your letters have not come thru either. It is very kind of you to be so interested in us and our doings out here; but please don't make us out to be objects of canonisation yet. We do not belong to the Church of Rome!

I presume that Crisso is keeping you informed about Mission news at her end of the Diocese. The January edition of the Newsletter contains much information. I was surprised to see in it so many extracts from my letters to Clariassa. Perhaps there will be some more in the next issue. She is finding her time pretty well occupied with Chinese study, sewing for refugee relief, helping with the St. Luke's clinic etc. Since there is no chance of her getting to Nanking I am glad she is so fruitfully occupied as it will keep her from getting too lonely, and it is enabling her to be of help as she wants to be. She writes me that her teacher is a member of St. Paul's Church Nanking! This is a small world.

Thank you for sending the enclosures in your letters. Some of them were missing. We wonder whether they were taken out or whether they missed being put in. Crisso also sent up copies of the Living Church, the National Geographic, the Readers Digest, etc. so we have plenty to read and keep us out of mischief when we don't have other things to do.

I am a member of the Rehabilitation Committee, one of the sub-committees of the International Refugee Zone Committee. Its purpose is to find out and help, so far as is possible, to rehabilitate some of the poorest and most destitute cases. From a pond at the end of the street where we are living, the corpses of more than 100 men were fished out the day before yesterday, having been in the water since Dec. 16 when they were shot and thrown in by the J. soldiers on the accusation of having been C. soldiers. Many of them were taken out of houses just around us, and we know they were not soldiers. But the thirst for blood and vengeance was too strong and they were sacrificed. In many cases they were the bread-winners for their families who are now destitute. Thousands also have had their homes and places of business burned. With a little financial help they could be set up again and enabled to begin earning their own livings once more. We do not know how much of that sort of thing we can do since conditions in the city are still very unsettled and the people are afraid to venture outside the Refugee Zone. For older men it is more possible, but not for women or young men. Many men who have gone back to live in their former homes have been beaten or killed because the soldiers demanded money or women from them. But we are trying to formulate some plans of operation so that we can proceed when the right time has come to do so.

This afternoon I led a Bible class at the University of Nanking where many thousands of refugees are living. I was there on Tuesday also. We studied Matt. 19 then, and Matt. 20 today. Each time there was an attendance of several hundred persons who listened very attentively. On Sunday I shall preach at our usual service in House #25. It is very encouraging that many people are taking an interest in Christianity. We have many instruction classes going on during the week. Our Chinese workers have also been helping every afternoon at Ginling College where there are about 5000 women refugees. At one time the number was over 10,000; many have gone back to their homes in the immediate vicinity of the college. The attendance at each meeting there has been limited to 200 because of the seating capacity.

Hoping this will find you all well, and with much love to you all,

Ernest