

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Folder label: LLH to Carrie and Everett Lane (parents), from Swatow, Chaochowfu

Dates: 1915 Jan-Mar

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Bridgewater Southampton
Rockford: J. W. O. P.

~~Rockford~~
Capefield.
Holyoke
College

Singtau China
Jan. 17, 1915.

Dearest Family Mine,

I happen to be home for an hour or two and so I'll take advantage, for no one can tell when I shall be able to sit down again. You see we are moving. We packed all this last week, - that is, Elbin packed and I did some much needed writing (some notes, some playing and a very little packing). He has fortunately been a packer he has done all the hard work and has made me take my nap and burn everything that was ripe. You people who only saw us at home that summer after we were married can't imagine how congenial and happy we are together out here. How to be? Oh, I know! We could have really exciting quarrels and such things if we wished, - and there are still enough people left to have some company. Of course at the City we shall have to be really very careful - for after the Peking go there will be nobody to depend upon but the English Consulate.

Well to be serious - our worldly goods are (I expect) half at Chaochowfu & the City - and half on my shelf all boxed up ready to go except for the kitchen utensils and a few odds and ends here and there. Elbin went to the city with Mr. Baker yesterday to see about landing the goods (They go by boat up the river). He will return (I hope) tomorrow and then after the rest of the things go, we shall go by train. All of these plans dependent on wind and rain etc.

I had two noon here clearing all day yesterday - and it seemed good after the confusion of the week. The piano has not gone yet. I had dinner with the Methodist-day, and I am to have tea and supper and a walk on tomorrow with Mr. Mildred and the Rev. Mrs. T. - tomorrow night if I is back - we take dinner with Mrs. Johnson. Very exciting. In the meantime the tailor is

is trying to fit me out for the Tailorless City. I have had him make a yellowish lytorn suit for hot weather - and a plain good dress to wear in these frightfully cold houses. Of course they are not up to date - but the linen suit is very pretty. I had my dark brown linen to match it and so I had him make dark brown sailor collar and cuffs ~~and~~ detachable. It is a Norfolk jacket but I shall wear it as a dress. The brown suit was what I had left from the former dress. Do you remember?

The wool dress I am not as pleased with. The waist is like the black and white dress that Mother sent me - with blue satin collar and cuffs. The skirt has an over skirt.



I think I can make it look pretty after I get to mending it and change it a little here and there. It is too dark - and a little clumsy - but it is warm.

The shelter suit made over too - very pretty.

I am asking Mrs. Withheld to be my agent in buying us new wardrobe for next winter.

It was 30° this morning ⁱⁿ and that feels as cold as at home. When one has no grate fires in two rooms - and the hall of the house open most of the time.

I hope the men slept warm at New City.

I took a hot bath, had a hot water bottle on the bed, and all the extra clothing we had unpacked - but the men were depending on clothing from the boat - I hope it got there all night.

Looking half - as that was our program for the week, there is little else to chronicle.

Had the services here for supper Monday night, and used the beautiful table cloth that Mrs. P. gave

to me and Mrs. Russell embroidered for me. I had candles on the table - but I had no candle shades - so people who are hunting for ideas for birthdays or homes - just resort to the .05 and .10 stores - and get one two cheap little shades. P.

Mrs. Gibson the wife of the Senior missionary on the other side (Swatara) died this last week after a serious illness of several months. Perhaps it was cancer of the throat. At any rate there was no hope either in this country or at home. Alas people miss her so sadly they were glad to think she need suffer no more. She leaved a husband and son here, and a son and a daughter in Scotland I believe. She was a very dear, sweet woman between fifty and sixty I think, and the sorrow has left a gloom over all. The funeral was Thursday from the Chapel. It was not nearly as pathetic as the funeral of Dr. Jackson's baby girl for the mother was bitter and the decorations were beautiful.

Next Sunday we shall be at the City, I expect, but don't be worried if mail is a little slow in coming during those busy days of sitting.

I hardly know whether you have received any mail since last week or not, but I think not.

I just love Father's picture. That won't be packed until the last minute.

Bushels of love to each member
of my dear family -
Lottie.

To Everett Lane, finally.

We had sort of a progressive dinner on
Wednesday evening. Ending up here with
Coffee and candy and a musical program.
People were here practicing Monday and
Tuesday evenings, and so I enjoyed some
good music. In Red soup at Mrs. Redmond's
Chicken and salad at Mrs. Corley's, Fruit, preserves,
Cake at the Bungalow and the end here.
I was proud of my pretty percolator I have
enjoyed it very much.

Then bought some blue serge like colored
sample - at 4.00 American - a yard - about 50 gold - (30
inches wide. Say it good quality? I don't
know. The tailor is making it for me. Waist
like black and white dress. Pretty. Sent me - skirt
Juba all change 220000 for dress - 650 gold.



I suppose this will be out of style - by time this
reaches home even. It is impossible
to keep up with the times.

I am having him make over my
blue gingham waist over my new white
girdle. And I think I shall have
him make a yellowish Chinese
liver. I have bought - just Norfolk
jacket and skirt. Because it
will be difficult to get a tailor
when I reach New City.

Don't address mail any
differently until I tell you. Swanson
is all right for present and probably
must appear on the envelope when
I give you new address.

I gave Red charge of music at conference
and have had church of childrens hour
one morning and afternoon. That day has

Any typed miss subject from Jennie then send. Hope you are well Jennie

helped to keep me busy. Besides I served tea to the crowd yesterday here. That is always pleasant but takes most of an afternoon.

I have had heaps of good letters for which I am very grateful. I should try to answer but I am greedy to send this to - whomsoever happens.

The game from Carol and the tartaric acid came from Rochester. So glad I made a quest and more of Pecking powder at once. So glad to have the games! I am sure we shall be a little lovelier at the City at first if not too busy settling.

Ellison is very well and a constant joy to me. I think living out here makes husbands and wives think more of one another even than at home and if it will give you any joy to know, I want you to realize what how great things I have to make me happy. It would be nearly hard to bear if things did not go happily, but he is very dear to me always, and loves all you people so much that it makes me happy. I just hope you are all happy too and I wish I could come in and talk to you. I never did succeed in doing much to help anyone of you. I wish I had done more. Just think - five years from this spring I expect to be coming home! All keep well and strong till I come. Maria don't worry if you can help it. I wish everybody in the family would pray hard for John all together. We have all tried ourselves to reform him. Let's get help.

Best love and kisses of love to each and all.
Lottie.

On the 20.
Ringside
Bathhouse
Hollywood
Museum
for
some
time
Monday
Infield

Cheochowfu, China
January 22, 1915.

Dear Family,

Do you see the new address? We are really here! To be sure only a few of our things have come, but they are all on the way. The Bakers and Hilberts together had three boat loads. One has come, but ~~has~~ ^{is} on the way. In fact we rather expected one to-day, but there has not been much wind to help the boats up the river, and so they have been very slow. The third boat will not probably arrive before Monday. Well, I never moved more easily in my life. We did not have to hurry, and Ellison took all of the hard work so that we were scarcely rushed or tired at any time, and I had time to do all the last things (except to see that all the paint was scrubbed and clean sorry to say that some of that was omitted).

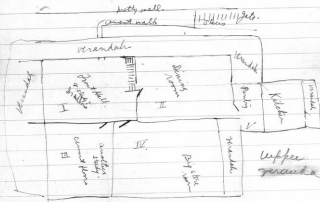
(over)

The boatmen are rather careless about the things, and so our bookcase top was loosened, our bureau handleman chipped, and my desk has a strip 8 or 10 inches long pulled off. I only hope that the piano, and mirrors, and chairs, desks etc. will arrive safely to-morrow. The boat has arrived and the carriers are all engaged for the morrow.

It is such a relief not to have to keep house. Mrs Baker is going to keep house for five weeks and then I will. By that time she will be going to America and I hope to have her cow and some of her servants.

It is such a pleasure to have good milk and cream again. We hope to buy the cow but do not know what we shall do ^{with it} during the summer.

We shall try "to take pictures of this house, of course, as soon as possible. It has a beautiful situation and is much larger than the one we have been living in for it has upstairs and downstairs.



Upstairs is just the same except that I is living room. Stairs go up into it. II is our bed room. Bath room is where pantry is and a little vranda opens off bath room where I have V. III & IV are bedrooms.

Mr. Kemp formerly lived here. Also Dr. Adkins who is in a home

Brakins' furniture for bedroom and study is still here, and as it is pretty, we are very glad to have it to help fill up some of the big rooms.

The verandah is very wide and withal it is a nice house built before the carpenters learned how to use poor materials and poor workmanship in their contracts. To-day one cannot get such work - that is with the amount of money at our command.

Some papers came for us from home (Papa & Mamma) just before we started, but we have not had time to look at them yet. Thank you. Also Cartons made its appearance to-day and I greeted it like an old friend. It was very nice to have it just as home. Peggy and I looked it all over as I lay down for a nap which I must take.

By the way - I did a kind trick yesterday - I was hurrying home from breakfast, (we have been invited out frequently during these last days) - when I stubbed my toe and fell flat as quick as a flash. I could feel my head come down with a bang (I have ^{the worst} ~~to~~ and my nose was flattened as a pancake. I thought surely it was broken - but no such thing it is almost all right to-day, just a few scratches. It swelled my neck and stiffened my knee and slightly sprained my wrist. However, and Ellison & I had several good laughs over my deformed appearance - but - I am very wise you know, and by night to-day I feel as stiff as a lemming or as aware of everything. It is terrible but you see I am very well. Night!! When I got back home at 11:00 P.M. I was very tired. E. was over 200.

We have finally bought the room at the young.
I want to tell you other things; but must send
this letter if it is to go to-day.

The 3rd boat arrived unexpectedly fast,
and so all our things including the piano
arrived this morning. We are very glad.
All well and happy. Love.

Saturday, Jan 20, 1915.

Received ^{mail} 17th. all packed.

And not send to Peter or Corbett for any more
Copy sent home.

Helena
Washington

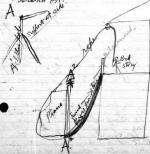
Cherchenpa, China
February 6, 1915.

Dear Coco,

Wish you could be here to see all
the excitement. We have had fifteen or twenty men
raising the piano from the first to the second story.
Each a noise as they made and such faces.
They don't understand much about heavy work,
and so each man thinking his ideas far superior
to those of any other person, shouts out at the
top of his voice - and we have a veritable Pandemonium.

Beside these piano coolies, we have four
workmen while washing and doing carpenter
work, and my two boys are scrubbing windows
and white paint in his study where I am
writing now, and also keeping ten eyes on their
work. They do very well, but they will not
wash out their cloths at the end of the day's work,
and so they come with half-soiled cloths, not
understanding that it makes work much harder.

To go back to the piano. The men placed two
heavy pieces of wood (the side pieces in an old
pair of stairs) against the braced floor,
where they had already removed the railing.
Then they took our clothes poles from the back
yard and put up supports for the men to
stand on.



Place A' on A''
and you can
imagine that you
are the supports at
the ends

Men on ground, on supports,
and on verandah, on
ground lifting, and above, full
on ropes carried along
a heavy beam on roof of
verandah.

E has made a ~~last~~
better diagram.

Board from
second floor
to pole. Now
stood on this

Roof
lines - refer

Man on ground
E. Dead with
boards at / at
taken with boards



Of course we had covered the
piano with old blanket,
rugs and matting.

I am certainly am glad to
have the piano on the second
story and hope that we shall not have to move
right away again.

More musical work to-day. One note on
my organ had developed a silent stretch, and
so E took it entirely apart and was clever
enough to find that a little piece of brass needed
pushing down. That took some time, but now it
is all right and I am so glad! I find that my
husband can be very mechanical when necessary.
Several people at Kakehish used to call on him to
mend typewriters and such things.

The men have whitewashed the dining room
and pantry and have yellow washed the living
room. We forgot that the living room connects with
the study by stairs and wall, where we asked the
men to use yellow above. They had not intended to
do anything to the study, but now we have an
abrupt line of yellow beginning at the lower landing,
and it does not look very well. Perhaps we could
get some Japanese panels to make the difference in
color less noticeable.

Another workman is mending our fork case
that got bent on the trip and also the one that
we bought from the Kimpote.

So you see, we are a busy household. That is
why I am writing for husband - because there
are many things that he can do, and rather few
for me, just now with everything so upset.

What have we done this week? Ellison has studied except one afternoon (when he felt rather miserable from a cold etc.) and part of the day when the contractor came to look over the house to see what was to be done. I have studied very little on account of the many interruptions of house cleaning and sitting.

I had intended to go to Cheoyang next week to visit the people there while the husbands including E-gent on a hunt, but now that the workmen are here I do not feel like going. I could not stay home, altho I want to, for it would break up the hunt; I can still go a day or two later if I care to, but I have so many things to do that I can easily content myself here.

We have had callers from the Presbyterian side one day - and another day we went over there and had a game of tennis with rather poor balls on a grass lawn scarcely full size.

Miss Tollman from Khekchik was with us Tuesday until Wednesday as she had to come to the city to examine the school there. Mrs. Butler, Richard, and I went down after 5 p.m. to see the children receive their prizes, that is, to see three or four receive prizes - (dolls that could about their size) and the rest receive joint plain every day dolls. It was the first time this school had ever received any gifts and you should have seen the delight of the boys (as well as the girls over the rather homely china dolls that were on exhibition for them to choose from. You never find the boys choosing a toy instead of a doll, and they have no feeling of shame at having a doll, but take to it as naturally as if they were mothers.

It is getting dark - and I must get ready for supper.

We are trying to decide whether to buy Mr. Baker's cow or not. It gives such good milk and one gets much nice fresh butter that we want to have it.

We have appreciated all good letters very much,
and hope you are all well.

Will try to run & draw plan of house.
He wants to add note also.

Lovingly Lottie

Copy sent to Tokyo. had not send, therefore.

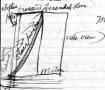
Chaochow China
February 6, 1915.

Dear Cousin All,

Wish you could be here to see all the excitement. We have had fifteen or twenty men raising the piano from the first to the second story. Such a noise as they made and such fuss. They don't understand much about team work, and so each man having some idea that he considers far above that of any other man, about cut at the top of his stick. Babylon is the result truly enough.

Now too, we have four workmen white washing and doing carpenter work, and my two boys are scrubbing window and white paint on the study where I am writing now, and also keeping an eye on their work. They do very well, but they will not wash out their rags after cleaning one day and so they come with half soiled cloths and do not understand that it makes the work all the harder.

So go back to the piano. The men placed two ladder sticks (formerly used for stairs) against the verandah floor where they had already removed the railing. Then they took over clothes poles from the back yard and put up supports for the men to stand on.



Men stand on the cross stick and on the verandah floor and on the ground. Those on the ground lifted. Those on the side pulled and guided - and those on verandah - pulled on little ropes and on two big heavy ropes that had been thrown over a heavy beam in the verandah roof.

The piano slid up the stair pieces and was on the verandah floor safe in a few minutes. Of course we had tired at the piano entirely with hands, legs and sweating.

I certainly am glad to have it on the second story and hope that we shall not

Have to move right away again.

More musical work to-day. One note was sometimes silent on my little organ. I took it entirely apart and was clear enough to find that a little piece of brass needed pushing down. Now it is all right. Isn't that fine! I find that I have a mechanical husband after all - oh joy!

We had got quite comfortably settled in a temporary way, but now everything is upside down again, but after that upheaval I can settle permanently I hope.

The men have white washed the dining room and now they are yellow washing the living room. We forgot that the living room connects with the study by stairs and wall when we asked them to use the clear color in the living room - and so we have an abrupt line of yellow where at the lower landing and then everything is white. It does look rather queer. But we can get some Japanese panels or something similar to break the snake the brush has noticed.

Another man is mending our book case that got hurt on the trip, and the one that we bought from the hemp estate.

What have we done this week? Ellice has studied eight or half day when he felt rather miserably from cold etc. and the day when the controller came to figure on doing the work that we have to be done here. I have studied only a very little on account of the many interruptions of house cleaning and settling.

I had intended to go to Chao yang next week but now that the workmen are here, I do not feel like going. I could not stay plenty of weeks to, for it would break up the household, and I can still go a day or two late if I care to, but I have so many things to do that I can only content myself here.

I am thinking of sending David a check for a few dollars, and asking him to send me a box of samples of his products. Wouldn't that be an idea? I am quite pleased about it.

You say I am well on my second year's work. I really have ~~not~~ worked hardly any! There have been many many interruptions since the first of December. Ellison does not want me to take the other exams, for fear I will work too hard. I really should like to do it, but it is not an absolute necessity for a wife. However, we shall see. I am really anxious to get back to work. So glad to hear of your list of presents. Stay out here where we can not see, it is awfully rich to see the lists.

Marion, you were going to write yours, but forgot. I think when you like to tell me about the youth conference.

Thank you for photo of Irene. Glad to see.

And dear Ruth Benson, I was very much pleased to receive such a nice letter from you. I am simply amazed to think you could get away kind of thing out of my letters from China. I should be interested to know what you wrote.

Your list of presents was interesting and your marks at report very fine. Don't work hard enough so that you are not strong and well tho, for that is most important.

Ellison is waiting for this and I cannot send it without special note to Father, Mother, George, John, Carl, Ruth. who have sent such 'good letters'. Will try to write again to them. Glad for every word.

Kisses of love,
Lothie.

Chaochow, China
February 5, 1915.

Dear One,
Such good mail came from you on Saturday and Sunday! I was not content until I had read every word and reread some. How good you are to write to me so much.

I'll have to answer you all in a lump. I guess for everything is so upset!

First, the lovely letter from Marion with Dec. 20. Aunt Edie's letter gave me the news about Nathan and yours, a little later, Marion, gave me some hope. I am so glad that it is not so bad as you all must have feared.

What a heap of things came with the Youth's Companion. I don't see how they can afford to do it. Your dishes alone would alone a good prize to me, and then to get the pines, the garden, the Bible, the Bunsen, and to write seems almost too good to be true.

Someday if I'm writer, I should like to hear about the condition of business now.

You will laugh to hear that I am the one to show Ellison to his account. I have been trying to get extra stuff ever since we came here because I know that that helps so much in getting acclimated, and I think it has worked wonders, for we have lived here without any seeming differences in our health. Praise it!

I must look thru January "missions" to see what is of local interest. I think there is a picture of the woman's school and a letter from Mrs. Wadley. It seems that ever since I got the magazine to George, he has been full of local interest than ever who had been up to that time. But then it gets to the magazine where he, and John and the Rockford folks can read whatever there is, and some things not of local importance are extremely interesting.

It seems nice to think of Dick being a little house keeper and keeping the house neat!

Very much love to you all.
Dinner time.

Dear Aunt Alice, your letter was lovely as usual. I thought surely that I remembered Christmas last either in the box or in a letter going at same time. Maybe it fell out at Tacoma.

Did you arrive in good connection?

Did it smell Chinese?

How much was the duty? I'll promise not to send any more, but I have already arranged for its payment. I do want to know how much it was and how much value I placed on the box. (No always, under value 25 or 40 % by advice of customs), because I want to plan about sending another time. Did they put duty on a soap shirt as well as other things?

You divided them up just about as I had planned - let me see if I can remember.
Katie - Petticoat ruffle.

Charles - six photos.

Bella - round duty & 1/2 yds. tatting.

Arthur - Irish lace collar.

Mary - small doily

Egbert - "

Zucile - crocheted yoke

Tom - six photos.

Marion - square small table cover tatting

Boys - money

Polly - crocheted yoke.

The doilies for Marion and Bella were of equal value and I didn't care which had which, so I hope they chose to suit themselves. Otherwise everything was guessed just according to my list wasn't it? How clever of you to know.

The tatting was made by an old lady - I never have seen her, but she is said to be the only person around who knows how to do it so beautifully. Say it's perfect, and it does look so pretty on a child's dress or a dainty waist.

At Holyoke they had to pay \$1.50 duty on what I valued at 2.00 gold. and I suppose your was equally high.

Shanghai

Changfeng

Feb. 21, 1915.

Tell Mr. Baker came home from Shanghai where he was interviewing Mr. Franklin about Central China) on Monday, and you may believe we were glad to see him again. He brought some groceries from Shanghai for us. Flour (a 50 lb. bag) - @ 4.50 Mex. That is very high, and 11 lbs. of sugar @ 1.25 (Mex).

That day (Monday) being the first day after the Chinese New Year. Mrs. Baker had hosts of callers. I went over to her house to meet them because I did not want to open up my house to such large numbers until it was fully settled. First B. had them only down stairs. I played the little organ for them and the kiddies sang a song. Among the visitors was a spirit medium and when the Bible women talked the medium asked many questions. I could not understand them, but, I could see that she had brains and was a little suspicious of Bible truths. There were many heathens among the callers. One can usually tell them by the paint and powder, if not by the very expression on their faces, for the fells in those cases, show a very decided and noticeable change after the softening influence of Christianity has been at work.

I was cleaning and settling Monday and Tuesday of course. A village boy helped my wife and I, and intended and did things they could not do. But I was certainly glad to see Ellison come back on Wednesday. He brought a nice fat goat. The men had had good luck and caught twelve in all. I think he will write about the trip. He has gone off on a trip to a church about 100 miles away - to visit and inspect with Mr. Baker. They went directly after breakfast and will return late this P.M. I expect.

On the same train with I - came Dr. Bacon and Miss Northcott to visit Mrs. Baker, and as we have had jolly evenings with music and our new games. I have been as grateful for all the games. They have been a lot of pleasure.

One day we walked down to the pagoda which I can see from my window here but several people climbed it, but as it goes up 40 or fifty feet without any rail - just Harrison alone at the top did not attempt it. It isn't bad going up but makes one diggy coming down when one's knees are tired.

Mrs. Baker invited the English over for tea on Friday and we had a nice walk too.

On Saturday Dr. B. and Miss D. left, but Miss Traker and Miss Culley came up to visit a few days. Miss Traker is to visit in Chinese homes during day, and I hope to go with her some. Dr. Willard and a Soochow girl were here for a few hours too, but could not stay over night.

The house looks much more homelike than last week. The pictures are mostly up - and the curtains. That makes a big difference you know.

We have the water color over the piano - as always. I do enjoy it. The Manufacture stills are now a lot far away on the other side of the fireplace in a beautiful light.

We have put some beautiful black framed pictures on the wall covering up stairs and they show up beautifully against the yellow stained background.

The dining room table is not up yet and the big bedroom is not settled. No one the store room and carpenter shop in order, but still that is hardly to be expected yet.

I begin to study to-morrow. I think I shall call with John Traver and study beginning Wednesday or Thursday.

Nothing very exciting for this letter.

Sorry!

Chaochowfu - Cefa.

Chaochowfu, China

February 21, 1915.

Dear Ones,

A letter has just come from Rand Cole, written in answer to mine describing my first trip to Cefa. It seems agreeable to read it when we are here. You feel the same prejudices that I felt before about the place or know much about out-stations. You see no more social life - but in mine a whole lot of gossip, too, and yet the simplicity and lack of freedom from social demands! altho we still have a good deal of social intercourse with the Presbyterians across the way. Mr. and Mrs. James, 2 Miss Wells (just returned from England) Miss Paton (relative of Southern Paton) - another Miss Paton just fresh out from England and a good old sport - find tennis (Papa) & Mr. Smith who has been here about a year. Then there are people constantly coming to and fro especially in the Presbyterian Mission. They have a tennis court there. It is not as good as ours, to be sure, but is much better than nothing.

Ellicott does not take charge of the work here, but continues study till his last year is up - next November. Does that seem possible? - Of course he being the only American representative may be called upon for some duties - but it is good training and probably would not be so much as Kakchih demands.

We do not live in the city at all, you know - From the house we see only big hills and the river except for the city across the river. There is a village at the foot of our hill, but it is not as near as the village at Kakchih.

The beauty of the place in fact matters is such a rival of Kakchih that some people declare this more beautiful. I am torn between the two positions. I don't know which is more beautiful. I rather think that on account of the day, I might say Kakchih was a little more beautiful, but then I should remember the beautiful view of the river with the mountains all nestling around it - and the ~~beautiful~~ head in the river with the ancient pagoda on the bank above it. a view which

I can see now as I sit at my desk. — mountains in this direction too, but somewhat diminished by haze now. But he has had the sun for three days now, and it has been much appreciated because you. You have only to be without it for ten days or two weeks to appreciate the feelings of the ancient sun worshippers. We have all enjoyed these lovely days and nights too, for the moon is beginning to be wonderful as it shines across the river with the same silver path it makes at home.

Well, can you really know now, that men in a wonderfully beautiful situation and are not anywhere near the huddled homes of Chinese village or city — and yet in no way engaged to get to meetings, and to call, and to haze, then come here for friendly calls is for advice!!

I do wish you could see it. Maybe we can get some pictures soon. Dr. Lecher has some good films. ^{as before} In had beautiful roses now, and has had nice ~~enough~~ all winter.

When Mr. Baker was in Shanghai there was snow! He wore three suits of underwear to keep warm.

You will know too, that we visited the Lechers shortly after the Pei City trip. I must find their pictures to show you. — When put them in an envelope so that everybody can see. They are a dear family!

I was so grateful, Aunt Alice for your picture of the beautiful snow and ice stream. It certainly did help me picture it. One utterly forgot out here. If it is cold, one thinks that that is all there is to it.

So sorry Father has had such a severe cold and hoars. Little Howard Baker used to be troubled persistently with them, and Mrs. Baker found that it was indigestion. She experimented and he experimented with his diet until finally she has freed him entirely.

Yes, the trip to Cifu was the first trip by train in China.

Most of the houses we went to were those of the poor or middle class of people. The poorer houses were extremely dirty. One almost feared to sit on the benches they pulled out for us. Only one or two of the houses in the two days visit were respectably neat. Always in the reception room if they were healthy, and most of them were, were ancestor tablets and images and half burnt goat skulls set in dusty bowls. As well as a dish of fruit or food for the ancestors. All were covered with dust. In one of or two of the wealthier homes big scrolls were hung up on which were imposing paintings of great (even) ancestors dressed in gorgeous mandarin coats. Some fine facts too!

In these homes a well dressed older lady would appear; then two or three daughters or daughters-in-law with patches of pink paint on their well powdered faces, and a touch of vermilion on the centre of the lower lip. The eyebrows had been shaved off and delicately powdered in charcoal a little higher up. The hair is almost always oiled and never a stray lock is allowed to wave in the breeze - if the woman is well kept. They have beautiful gold hair ornaments for the pig behind.

But the poorer houses are almost indescribable. Here is one.



When grinding rice into flour by slipping on end of long stick which is then to release other end is then lifted and falls down on the kernels which have been placed in this hollow rock represented by the bowl.

In one old big deserted temple room were drying cloth - and behind it we found a place where they usually had theatre. I saw the stage about 6 x 12 - and the floor filled with benches and set off by bamboo screens to prevent crowding. You have no idea how the Chinese crowd when they want to see anything. They squeeze into the smallest space imaginable.

Most of the homes where we visited seemed friendly toward the new religion. They were all invited to come to Chapel on Sunday but I don't remember seeing many new faces this morn. However that is a big feast day and that may account for it.

This week Burns brought the new bookcase which should have been finished last September. We were surprised enough and neither ready in space or cash to have the thing.

Long - clear thought - I was entirely without a China closet & and so down into the dining room we put it and it will make a very satisfactory cupboard until I get another.

We have put the mending down in the big bedroom this week - and that leaves only small odds and ends to be looked out for now. It is a relief to be so nearly done. Ellison has been refraining a number of our pictures taking but things we did not care much about and putting in pictures that we have long wanted to have framed.

Much love to each and everyone

Lottie.

Please tell Charlie that I have been told that the seeds will keep fairly well over the hot season if they are put with glass cover in a dark case, and so I am going to try to keep them. I have ~~been~~ beans, squash, melon, lettuce, radishes etc. etc. coming up now. They all to be ready to eat before June 1st.

Ruby
P. B. B.
P. B. B.
P. B. B.
P. B. B.

Chaochuang, in Szechuan, China
February 27, 1915.

Dear One,

Another month in the new year gone, and it scarcely seems as if it had come. Is it the same way with you? The weeks fly by so fast. Mrs. Baden had company this week until Wednesday, and as our evening was full, during the day time we made calls or shopped. Then, Hugh and got the floor and went calling with Mr. Baden. I stayed while he called, and set the house, and etc. and he studied - and so the days melted away.

The Badens have decided not to sail until May 4 - and so I shall not begin housekeeping for another week which will give me another respite.

Today I made blanket protectors for my best white blankets. I took a piece of white cloth ten or fifteen inches wide and sewed it over the tops of the blankets so as to protect them from trucking use. I hope it will prove a good plan. Then too I am trying to take up the blue serge dress that the tailor made for me. It was too black and somber and the lines were not very good - but I think I can improve it. When no woman to mend for me here, but there is a little girl who has learned to sew, and I am going to try her on stockings on Thursday AM. I hope she can do it.

We have had warm days so that we did not need a fire here, and I liked the AM, but this PM the wind sprang up, and it is cool again. We are thankful for any bit of cool weather, for tomorrow what is coming later. I hope goodness we have the room at Chaizong to go to. That is a blessing!

Bed-time - so good night until tomorrow.

Sunday AM - a beautiful cool clear day - a little soft haze on the mountains in the distance.

I have not spoken so much about my roses this winter, but they bloomed profusely, first in left Szechuan, and here in Szechuan, the or there at a time about in around here. There are big rose bushes

in the yard, too, and we have had there as well as some beautiful nectarines.

Our calls of Monday and Tuesday were most interesting.

We walked down one hill and then the dirty, narrow streets of a village along the river side, to a village far up beyond the bridge, which we have to cross to reach our house.

Big black figs - hollow backs.



They look like a horse.

were eating out of the open sewers that line most of the streets. Chickens and hens were after picking their breakfast. We often passed the open doors of a big temple where we could see the gaily painted gods dust covered and diminished inside. Once in a while we would see an old woman with board feet thrusting before a god's little god statue in her hands and bowing again and again as she muttered prayer after prayer.

Sometimes a young stylishly dressed Chinese would be passing in front of god after god - burning three or four sticks at each one and paying - then finally taking several sheets of paper money and setting it on fire - a prayer for riches it supposes.

As we went farther along the side of the river, we found a big cement dike had been built to protect the people in flood time. Anger and highly ornamented temple has come to us. I looked in and saw chicken. I exclaimed "Chicken!" and a Chinese young man spoke up. "Chicken, where?" "Inside" I said.

We looked - and said "Yes".

Then he continued, - "This temple cost very much money - thousands of dollars."

At that time I was afraid the "Nan-ai's" - unchained girls I with me would think we were indiscreet and so after another remark or two, I stopped - but afterwards I noticed it had talked to him more and found out where he studied etc. Wish you could see the carving and ornate decorations of this temple.

Biology classes
Rochester
Bakerfield.
unhappy
mom

Shanghai, China
March 3, 1915.

Dear Cousin M.,

Your good letter came yesterday telling all about Aunt Lily's birthday and Mother's and Father's anniversary and also mentioning that Richard has grown to be twelve years old - and that Benson has passed another mile-stone. "How the children do grow up!"

I wish that the person who sends me the birthdays and ages of my cousins would send me the birthdays and ages of my nieces and nephews!!

I really am interested and I want the kidding to know it even tho I don't send even a postal card. I'll try to do. It really is hard to remember so far ahead - and remembering so far ahead I sometimes forget when the actual day does come. But doesn't always I am rather especially absorbing and Mother's which means in America until for 12 o'clock in your morning and from about 7:30 P.M. up your evening. The rest of the time I am usually peacefully sleeping.

I am so very sorry about so much trouble in Charlie's family. I can easily see how his every minute is filled and how every thought is busy. I certainly wish that Father is working nicely and Father Benson too.

Little Howard Baker has had him and I told you I think that the root of the trouble was indigestion. Mrs. Baker has also found chronic rheumatism to be basic trouble altho it does not manifest itself in any pain. She gives him good treatment persistently for weeks and gets him into good condition again. I must find from her what the more exact symptoms are and also the exact treatment. Rigor is, however, one of the accompaniments of chronic rheumatism. I do hope that Father will grow strong and well and healthy.

It was so nice, Aunt Lily, for you to write me some details of your birthday. It was the first I had heard and I had two eager for the news

I imagine it is three or four years before the
Locals will go home again. About board feet, I
have seen quite a little of it in Swanton, but much
more here in this city - especially in some of the
houses where we called. One woman seemed to have
no toes at all - just stumps. It is terrible, terrible!

Oh, Aunt Let. in next letter if you had not done so
already send me the amount of duty on your
birthday presents. I want to keep my account with
you straight and I shall guess at it (at a high rate) if
you do not tell me. I also should have had no duty
on the napkins as they were made in America and
were hand too.

My imagination would be pretty big & hand cloth
but I shall probably send you a hand cloth some day
and then it will match. If you could use this in
a dress or underclothing, you can turn in the paper
so that it does not have to match. I am afraid
a dress of the same material you would consider too
thin - and I could not match it without a
sample and would not be sure even then, but I
will try if you wish me to.

Yes, it was lovely that Jennie could be with you
on your nice birthday - Just grand! What a
good time you did have! Wish I could have
been on some of the details and I am sure
Miss Carter enjoyed it, too. Oh, I see that Della
has written a little about your birthday, and probably
I shall receive that some day soon. What a clever
family to make so much poetry!!!! I wonder who
the Misses Bennett are. There was a Miss Bennett
who taught in Glen Ridge when I first went there and
her sister, I remember, was teaching in D.C.

I have a few references to Dr. Warren and altho I
can't gather from them what changes there has
been, it seems to feel a difference in atmosphere.
What is it?

Did Clifton have diphtheria and is
Harvey's case entirely recovered from rheumatism?

Thank you Aunt Let, for enclosing letter of Ruth's Carol's
Mother and Uncle George. All good!

Glad Ruth heard such good music; ~~but~~ what a lot of work in connection with primals. I am afraid that I should faint. Am anxious to hear about her letters.

Ruth, when I was in G.P., I used to feel the same way about storms that ~~you did~~ ^{seemed} to miss the wild wind that comes from the sea.

What is your permanent savings and how much is it? I may be asking you to put a pound in a tin to send me next winter.

But all the family remember. There would found, unless it is dry food and unrealized at any time of year except from October or better November until February & March. I would hardly dare trust anything later. As it gets warm here in April.

That is: - things which would not pay in hot moist weather are all right if arriving late in November until middle of March.

To have a check book Ruth, you must have a bank account and that you could do, by providing you had no other, by putting the money you pay Aunt Lila into the bank. It would probably be easier for her to receive it in mass. And then you could also keep your own money in that way, and so get hold of it easily. I should think it would be easier to have money in a Rockport or preferably a Stonegate Bank. Be sure to get a reliable one. Reliable banks sometimes pay 2% on check accounts. That is good. Perhaps I Mr. Merrill could ~~and pay~~ pay you for my saving in check. But I doubt it.

So glad Ruth has Cornell songs. I used to play them at G.P. Some very good ones.

So glad father is a delegate to Worcester. He certainly will enjoy seeing the city which he worked in as a boy. It certainly will be very different too. Peter arrived March 6. Good time. Hope he can stay at Mr. H's too.

Yes I like seeing some Journal very much and good housekeeping too. Mrs. Pegg has just sent me four copies of that.

Two fat envelopes came in Jennie's handwriting
in the mail and I was glad to read. Appreciated
especially Isaac's and George's letter. \$25.00 is a
good price for Cuen. May that would buy a big hollow
like ours, but a thick and a small table or so out
here in China. Also glad that the new dog is so
satisfactory.

Wish it were that last week I was worried
about the furman paper and this week comes G's
letter saying that he has traded me. Did you see
whether they? So pleased!

So bid you here to visit the dentist. It is
a bad business.

Thank you Papa, for your letter and for your mother.

Mamma how on earth did you make I wonder?
Lol! that mean inside and out? That seems
wonderful to me. This having ailments & so on
doesn't keep one strong to go hard work! I shall
be a perfect baby when I come home.

How old are you Ruth Benson? Is it thirteen
or fourteen?

Did Maddy get to Port a while Jennie was
at home to take charge of house?

So glad Margaret Allen likes M & H.

It was very nice of Mrs. Mackin to want
to be remembered to me.

Mell - I suppose you will be more interested
in our week's news than in my two hours'
comments on letters old to you & so
I've gone!

Nov 7.

Yesterday Rand I were sincerely trying to finish up all the odd jobs around the house such as putting dining room table together, making the dining room curtains, putting the frames for mosquito nets on our brass beds etc. etc. etc. without end! when Mrs. Baker reached in and said Dr. Franklin and Dr. Jacobus are coming here on the next train.

Dr. F. is the man who was the head of all our foreign missionary work in China and he is returning in America, but came out here with the Pages to straighten out the Central China miscap-

(We were all pleased!)

Just one hour before I must go to train to meet them! Now we did rush around putting things in order, not that they were bad before but I had the boys wash the rooms, make up beds fresh, dust, prepare fresh drinking and bath water etc. while I got out fresh linen and soap and overlooked their work, and did little things. Not very long after Dr. Franklin arrived. I had met him only once after he had made a grand big speech at Detroit - but I was very favorably impressed with him and so glad that he could come here. He is on his way to Kiating the station next to the farthest away. and returns for a conference with all of the missionaries toward the end of next week. I had reasons that we must go to Kiating next Friday (or a few days) I shall be rather glad to see these old friends and have a gathering of friends again. But we had a dance, given of course this week Friday at the Presbyterian compound. The men went over early to talk co-operation with Mr. James and no women joined them for tea and tobacco a little after four. They had good balls this time and it was fine!

Well - to go back to Dr. Franklin. There is not very much to say except that he talked to us last evening about Central China and preached to-day with the aid of Dr. Jacobus as interpreter.

He has been resting and writing letters all day. But it is nice to have a big man with no pond now when he gets back to Kiating, if you happen to be there you can ask him how he looked, and how

the house is arranged and what it all looks like.

He told the boys that E's face was rather disfigured by his treatment of a little insected cut on the chin - which luckily he and Mrs. Fisher got at him in time to save him from being scarred any deeper. He will say that E is wearing the same Chinese suit that he made a year ago, and that he really got to have a new lighter weight suit. If I only had a decent old suit to give the tailor as a model! And I am wearing the same clothes that I had when I left America - oh, there is a bit of change in the addition of a bit of lace or something of the kind, but practically the same.

He will tell you that we both are quite stout and healthy. Altho we do not show our weight very much - E - 146 lbs. - I 175 - on the scales here. I don't like to weigh so much.

He will say that our house looks cozy and homelike for he said it to us.

This evening they took the boat for Kiating 3 ex feet.

E's teacher has been sick this week until today. I have had a little girl mending for me one day.

Chinese calling came to see E. on Tuesday. This man was the head of a school and had a fine face. He was about 40 yrs old I judge or so. With him was his son dressed in foreign clothes. They were much interested in music and the boy played some Chinese music on our gramophone. He played almost all together on the black keys but in octaves with triplets thrown in. It sounded very queer indeed. It seems that he has been taught a little music at school. He kept time very well indeed. I was as intrigued that I wanted to write the air, but he said he would write it himself. He sat at my desk and began to write - but in figures and queer marks that I cannot read. I hope to get an interpretation some day.

There has been queer celebrations at grave
this week. On Wednesday we saw a whole
family on the hillside opposite us. Well, it was
a whole family except for women and girls.
They are unimportant you know. The
whole crowd goes to the grave staying later
money all around and working a big dinner
part of which they offer to the spirits of the
departed. They burn fish sticks and other like
things.

But the strangest thing of the day was
a village celebration. It is the day of the annual
giving of the gods. At noon we heard the
beating of the tom tom, and the rattling of the
drum, and shouts. When I looked out I saw
a long procession in single file. In hand chains
decorated with palm leaves and the village idols all
nearly gilded and painted. It was certainly a strange
sight but not so strange as what we saw
at 12:30 that same night, for we were
awakened by a loud noise, and looking out
from the verandah we saw another
procession approaching with twisted torches
of bamboo sticks or torii but long - scattering
shards all along the way. The torches
looked more like burning serpents than
anything I have ever seen. But in these
rattles hung on the rattlesome chairs were
the same idols that had been carried by
our gate on the day before. They were not held
very steadily as these men brought them up the
steep rough path and it was a weird sight
the long line of half clad men - the long serpent
like torches dropping bright pieces all along the
way. The tip of chairs and the odd strange
voices.

Wouldn't you have liked to see it even
to make you realize that men really, truly
believe in heathen gods and worship much
more persistently than some of us at
home. If the same persistence could be
retained in them, surely they would at the
same time be Christians, what devoted
followers they would be.

In the village the village were heathen theaters
of a small sort like a Parnass and Judy show.

A box like structure about 6 x 4 ft and encased in bamboo screens is built up on four legs. A stage about 4 feet by 1 1/2 is arranged in front. Inside are two or three men to move the puppet figures and behind that sitting on open benches the orchestra. I was so amazed to see them (four or five men and boys with all their travelling possessions at least in that little space and being their open trunk as orchestral seats it so crowded me that I forgot to count and each could only see that the cracks it would not hinder very accurate.

On the stage a figure enters. It is manipulated from within by a wire attached to its back and another wire attached to its arm. The figure is made to pick up the furniture and put it on place. Then the characters manipulated by similar wires are picked in and begin to articulate while a voice behind makes excited remarks. It is all just for funning for anything. Just as we walked thru the village, maybe three or four such village theatres!!! all in celebration of ancestor worship.

Well - Dr. Franklin, Dr. G. E. & Mrs D have started off to find their boat and I must write at least one other letter today - so good night to all my dear family.

I am just beginning to realize how lonely Luba must have been many times without father and mother, and Jennifer without her mother. Not that I am lonely, but I just realize what it must have meant to them.

Bushels of love.
Lottie.

Quite warm for this season of the year.
About 77° in the house at 6:10 PM at Mrs. Babcock. We have shed our woolen clothing in as far as possible.

Please
send some for
the
new affects.
653 Broadway
New York
Meriden
Conn.
Enfield.

Suatore China
March 14, 1915.

Dear Family, See where I am! And I am having such a nice time! You see Dr. Franklin called all the new missionaries together for a short conference here and so we started in a morning train on Friday. Luckily, the rain clouds stopped when our train reached the railroad station and we had a very comfortable trip down, arriving about 7:00 AM. That evening we met together only for a short time, but on Saturday we had regular conference session taking up important points of policy. We have to face next year an actual reduction in amount of money available for work and that calls for careful planning.

Monday evening.

Supper is just over and I am writing for a few minutes before we go over to Mr. Papp's for a social evening. (By the way, it would be such a comfort to you if you could call in at the rooms at Boston sometimes and see Dr. Franklin. For he has slept in our house at Chaochow and he will tell you how well we look. Why the Papp's just stopped still when they saw us and exclaimed, "How well you look!")

Dr. Franklin is doing us a world of good. We have a very sweet disposition. He is very manly and manly - but there is always that expression that reminds one once in a while of what Christ must have looked like when he looked with longing on the world. I have never had since I have been in China such a feeling of spiritual uplift as I have had since I have been here. Dr. Franklin's ideas are so broad and so un denominational, and so helpful, that we all get a new vision. I think of you all every day.

I hope Papa will have a nice birthday. I have been thinking of him.

It was so nice! When I arrived here not expecting any mail I found three letters had been detained for postage due and among them was one from Mrs. Revell and one

from home. That is one time when I was very glad for insufficient postage.

Where shall I begin to tell you about things?

On Wednesday of last week we went into the city to meet Mr. Cannon and Mr. Maclellan and to see a big celebration. It was the day for the city idols to be paraded and here an airing. All the streets, as we passed, we saw huge long bunches of fire crackers of various size, just waiting for the approach of the procession to be set off. After we arrived at the chapel, we heard drums in the distance and then a bunch fully a yard long was lighted and began to splutter and hiss. I drew back on account of the noise and smoke, but it was hard to get away from it. As soon as the last cracker shot off (in fact all these the time children were darting under the hanging bunches of lighted crackers) - the children rushed among the surging fragments to find any which possibly might be used again.

All the heathen procession approached on the narrow street. Men with green coats carrying trumpets; other men carrying red fleeced banners with black white characters on them; soldiers; a poor apology for an orchestra, composed of fife and drum squads, men with half a dozen hats (this ship) on their heads and interspersed between the groups, big and ugly idols dressed in the gayest garb.

Last week when I described idol procession here perhaps I did not say that the idols were small - but in the city they were larger and in big Chigiro. Everyone hurried and no one turned the men ran.

Of course the shops and streets were crowded. The little children clad in their best garb, with faces painted and powdered, stood lot with folded hands singing tunes whenever an idol passed. It was rather a pitiful sight - and yet again and again I marvel at their devotion to their religion and the extent of their worship.

Menden
E. Field

Chaochow, China
March 3rd 1915.

Dear Ones All,

This is a wet morning, but Mr. Baker has decided to go to Swatow to do a little necessary shopping. I don't see how she can plan anything for her trip home. It certainly is hard to get clothes which will look right, to arrange for washing and such things for two children and Mr. B. and herself.

I have given the cook directions for dinner, and the boy directions for cleaning the study - and so I have had time to do a tiny bit of mending and to come to my desk to write before it is study time with a whirl. My study has been so interrupted that now I have decided to prescribe a definite hour when I will study and also to do more of it now, but there is not half as much time as I would wish.

I have a new teacher now. When we came here he had a man who was having a two month vacation. He was a man of good class, and it was an advantage for E. to have such a man. Now he has a Christian who is an equally good man, but who has not had equal training in politics. He is a man who makes religion his life. - and who preaches on Sunday without getting a cent for it. It is unusual to find a man so willing to spend himself freely.

Yesterday I entertained the Presbyterians at tea. - having biscuit, jam, jelly, oatmeal, marmalade and meringues. I have not had a short walk on the hills but it began to rain a little for the first time for a week I think.

On Sunday evening we have begun co-operative work with the Presbyterians. It means, however, that if the men go in for it, they must stay over night and sleep in the chapel as the city gates are closed, locked and sealed before 7 P.M. I think - and the keys are taken to the home of the chief magistrate. Mrs. George is coming here here to stay with me this Sunday night and I am going to sleep with her some other night.

On Monday afternoon I went into the city calling with Mrs. Pades. The people were more curious than ever to see us and some climbed up on the roofs to get a glimpse of us as we sat in somebody else's house. Two or three times people came out into the street and invited us into their houses to visit them. We did not have time to go into many places, but we did go into one and there we saw a woman make silk thread in a most skillful way. She had about six spindles, each one weighted with a lac-cash, and these she ~~spun~~ deftly lifted on the backs of her hands (using her fingers and thumbs to guide them), so as to make a single thread. It was very pretty work.

In another place we found a girl embroidering fishes and flowers on silk shawls. She got what would be equivalent to nearly five cents for two or three days work!!!

Some days it is quite warm and other days it is cold so that we still enjoy a fire.

I am hearing quite a little more bird music than in Suatou; and get down to play piano a little almost every day as well as the my afternoon nap - and sometimes a little morning nap in addition if I have to lie on my feet a good deal.

Hope Father had a nice birthday. I am thinking of him often this the day, as I thought of Mother, too. Ladies.

Monday

Scrap.

Answering good letters.

Aunt Lillie of Kith W.

I am glad you know a what it is to have days slip away from you before you know when they have gone.

Friday is that way with me.

I can't think of any I was lost just now. My head is too full of something else! A little new and fancy needle was I found very acceptable this year. Only I should not want to be flooded with it. A pattern of a ^{style} shirt or waist - (just come in) - might prove invaluable.

I think I should be glad to have Ruth buy one and mark down ready made dress at end of this season which I could wear. They already for next spring. I shall need a full 28 inch ^{waist} and 28 ^{length} I suspect. Perhaps by then I should be "glad" of an American white cloth waist. Probably my pretty ones will be about worn out by then. I should also send ~~that~~ ^{you} mark down cake.

Be sure - you and Ruth too, to keep me informed about how my accounts stand with you. I shall worry and fuss about it if you don't.

Do you ever have to pay duty on goods sent out of country?

I may need black stockings by next June 1st. I want to find a good durable black stocking medium weight. Those from Jordan Marshes did not wear very well, and Titon's did not wear well. Have you found any?

I'll try to find some dictionary choice things but it is difficult to send them by mail.

I have not had to pay duty here on things from home.

Leona Ward (M.H.C.) - is to be near Doan's in Congregational work, - teaching, I think.

Send Lillie. There are no wilds in this So. Indian field. Every place is within easy reach in this district. The Hakkas dirtiest people are a little farther away, but the farthest only two weeks or so to go. Dr. Franklin sent to our farthest station but they leaving here Sunday night and he was back Friday P.M. of same week.

Thank you for two envelopes of letters. Very welcome of the Aunties - Best!

Charlie's of Feb. 11.

Thank you so much for note, Charlie; I appreciate every word, especially as I know in part how much is on your mind as well as how much is on your hands. We are having fresh radishes & thanks to you, and will soon have lettuce and then the other vegetables one by one. We do appreciate it. We have planted millions and watermelons. Only a few plants have come up tho. Hope they will be good.

I am so happy that Nathan is better again. It certainly is a miracle. And the warm days of spring ought to help your father to improve even more.

Have you a tennis court? Hope girls will learn to play early. The English evidently begin at it as children and they are perfect virgins.

What are matters with Carl, Mother? I don't like to hear his sick.

Thanks for Ruth's good letter of Jan. 31. I lost the first. It was denouncing the closed pagoda after 10:00. It brings back the old days to hear of discipline!

How many classes have you now, Ruth?

Schedule for letters.

What's the

(1) Mother

(2) Boys?

(3) Kitty

(4) Wilyoke

(5) Jennie

(6) Ella

(7) Irene

Have again if worth it.

This does not mean a poor scrap of a letter like this much but every that are worth while.

If I say send to Dad, it should go after Jennie - has seen it.

Remember the pad this summer for letter writing.

Thank you for newspapers & paper. I still have ^{but} five to read yet. Good to see.

Shanghai, China.
March 23, 1915.

Dear Family, It is a rather cloudy windy morning.

Later -

The dinner bell rang a little early, and as I had to go - and now it is afternoon. I have been reading a story in Ladies' Home Journal's "August First" it is called - and it was very interesting.

By the way I am ashamed that I let you people send me foreign magazines when the postage is so great. I learned lately that one can order them much more cheaply from Shanghai. American mail comes to Shanghai at the same price as it would come to a place in U.S. Then Shanghai people forward with Chinese postage which is cheaper than at home, so that in all it makes quite a saving. - So please don't send me any more subscriptions - but if you want to very much - either order them Shanghai or let me.

We have had company over Sunday. Mrs. Worley and Edwin, my two, well to go back a little further. Mrs. Baker had to go to Santee last week and she brought Edwin Worley back with her, then Mrs. Worley followed on Saturday and stayed until this morning. She changes with her her good as she works very hard in the school. She is the one whose husband a doctor, was drowned in the bay six or seven years ago.

Then Mr. and Mrs. James came for supper last evening and Mrs. James stayed with me all night because the men worked in the city and had to sleep there.

Next week I shall go to her I expect.

We had a very pleasant evening. I had made some Turkish paste out of Knox Gelatine according to Marion's recipe and we enjoyed that while we talked & played and Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Worley came over a little later to sing hymns. We sang -

"There come three kings -"

"We hear of day -"

Berkel.
Rockport.
New York.

I believe I grow more lazy each day I don't
get my letters written, and I don't seem to
accomplish much of anything -

E. & Mrs. Decker were at the little church Sunday but got
hung for a late dinner and I was home all P. M.

He is down in his carpenter shop now. He seems
to like that very much and has made us several
nice little arrangements that make life simpler
and pleasanter.

Last Monday I went calling on Mrs. Baker.
but I guess I have told you of that, and of
having the Presbyterians for tea on Tuesday. I
intended to spend tea on the porch but it began to
be windy a little rainy and cold and as we stayed
inside in living room.

We have fixed some boards so that we can
play hand ball. and we are going out to play
soon this afternoon. Now I have to make
for ketch-ball and then we shall be quite well
fixed for amusement.

My Dakers do not sail until May if the
cock is good. really better in many ways than
my old cock. He knows nice ways to fix
nightingale makes delicious coffee - and is
always clean.

Sometimes he cooks carrots in dice form
and then heats with butter, salt, sugar, and
vinegar and they are very good.

Most tired of the same old vegetables.
Just now we can get Chinese celery and
capers, and cabbage, and cucumbers.
The cook boils the cucumbers and makes
a milk and butter sauce to pour over them.
They are delicious!

I must go out to play - This is not
worth sending.

Love by Tony
Latta.