

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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From Alice and Ben Baker, to the Hildreths and copies of letters to others
(no dates)

[Bakers were American Baptist missionaries in South China)

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Feb. 6th.

Dear Patsie:-

I am distressed to think how long it has been since I wrote last. - I hope Bob is writing what he sees of the children. They are both well as can be. Bob was sick a day, Thurs. & Fri., last week. I said he would not be back again for a while.

We are having quite a G. Y. party. - unexpectedly. The party that planned to go to England decided not to attempt the trip because of reports of things in that direction. - So they came up to visit Mr. Brown, - since Roberts are away. - & brought supplies so as to set out there! We have them over here for 1 meal each day. - but they seem to be having happy times over there the other meals. Will not stay after tomorrow, I think. They are Emily, Edna, Mary Agg & Paul. Paul has his room over here.

We are having rainy weather for nearly 2 wks now. Cold, & drizzle. Yesterday it warmed up, & last night we had a very hard storm. - like a small typhoon. - for, ^{at} ^{any} ^{rate} ^{however}, Rain fell in torrents. Filled our little reservoir, - put 2 ft. water in cistern. Wet my bed pretty badly. Alice was protected by plaid, & rubber sheet, - so was quite safe. Today it has drizzled a little. Looks so tho we shall have difficulty getting washings done this winter.

I heard some news today. - John informed me that "Every-Body killed a cat, - once!

Sandy shocked us all by bringing the carcass of a "dead" cat into the front yard to eat. - a day ago. Mum came in & said "Kia! to chieh si ngio.

Then Ben came in and said that Sandy was eating a dead cat. Then Alice took it up, - & repeated it over & over, as a specially choice bit of news, - that Sandy was eating a dead-di-nigis! She loves to get hold of a new phrase.

Money has been here since 8th Aug. - after 6 days in Swatow during rainy weather, - quite ill with cold & sore throat. Went to bed for 3 days, - then was much better. Isn't free from cough yet, tho. Many others have severe colds, - but John has never had a suspicion of one, so far. Alice only had a slight cold while Lewis & children were here.

You suggested making board at 40, as instead of exactly 4.25 per. da. So I have charged you with that, for John. It is a fairer price than the other, especially as they have him employed at 4.00. John always drinks a glass or, said for me a month, - she is fat as can be & evidently does not need it now, - she rarely drinks over 1/2 glass, - often less. This is 1/2 of a glass, you know. But even 1/2 is even more, - I think. Thought this would be much less, I feel. There should not be so much, - or best for all. There should not be so much, - or perhaps - for water carrying if rain continues, with washing for 11 people so regularly, here on the hilltops - & 13 when Bob & Ed Child are at home, - we have had Daisy Nix carry a full day each week.

You asked if J. has malarial symptoms & if he keeps good colored without maps. He has had no symptoms at any time since coming here of fever, never seemed to look or act as tho he had a trace of one. Temp. hasn't taken temp. for three has had no indication that it was necessary.

He would expect hard to manage without maps if he did not get enough sleep at night. But he goes to bed with Alice, - promptly at 7. - or

sometimes earlier. Nowadays I give them supper at 6.00 - & ourselves at 6.30. In that way, they are in bed & ready for prayers when I come up soon after 7.10. So they get long sleep. J. has to stay in bed until 8.00 in P.M. - as Beth does. & that saves energy even tho' he go doesn't sleep. I never let him have a book, - or anything tho' would keep his thoughts occupied. He is like Bessie - never will rest if he can find anything to think about. He is fat, - the color hasn't increased as much as I would like to see it.

He is never fretful, - or irritable, - neither if there are, - except perhaps once or twice, recently. They had to be together on the porch for rest, - & instead of resting they romped. I couldn't be there to look after them, the B. came & said they weren't rest. That day they were fretful for a while. I put them in separate chairs & had them rest there - then they went out of doors. & trouble passed off.

A. would always sleep if J. would let her.

I hope we need not have the guestroom in use much after this - so I can put him in there for nap. It would do no good to put him in the east room & send B. to park, - for I frequently have to come & go that that room, - & Beth too - no other way to get at things when guestroom is closed.

Olivia has had little red spots, - like rashes at one end of mouth & around lips - that heal up & break out again. Began early in Dec. for a long time wouldn't heal under any treatment. Then they would heal & skin show merely red area underneath for a few days, - then raw area appear again. I thought that well they were gone for good. But now it comes back again.

Have tried various changes in diet. Gets no
eggs, - recently not even a bit in desserts.
Am inclined to blame it on oranges, - now give
one only occasionally. Since it has broken
out again, - shall try stopping oranges for
a while, & see effect. It isn't pimples, - just
a little raw red area. Doesn't itch or annoy
her.

I looked up her urine analysis ^{today}, which Dr.
B. made in Oct, - & find that it was faintly
acid. Should be neutral, you know. Shall
talk with Dr. B. about her, again. Dr. B. is such
a comfort! wants to help everyone, - is just
naturally helpful. She will examine this
blood soon.

About clothes; - Alice's white coat & hat may
be if dyed. Dam or fading, - is faded some.
Shall rip button apart, - then dye brown, &
hope it comes out well.

Adrian's taken drawings for shoes yet, - will
hope to get them in this week. ^{if not}

Mamma has made 2 machine aprons. One is
too small, - apparently! Bigger one just
right for Alice. Shall try the little
one herself for Alice.

John's new blue serge trousers ^{are} finished,
& look well. Shall have to ^{spare} find down
suspenders, - or else let down them on knee
of Mrs. new knitted trousers, - they don't
let stockings above knees. Haven't taken
time to examine carefully what is best to do,
shall do so soon.

Thank you for the check, - you have \$3.25

think it is, - to your credit. Forgot to change for
 straw to muckin' for opium. Will put it on this
 month. Have loads of muckin' piece left, - gave
 about a yd. @ 45¢. covered it.

Work on the trousers of Ah. pink sweater suit
 was a failure. Quite too small. - & didn't get
 right for sweater is too short in skirt to cover.
 Sweater is tight, - bugs too close at waist &
 arm holes, - anyway. Does better for over-
 sweater. Beth gave her an old brown
 sweater which she wears everyday. Heavy one.
 Now it is bedtime.

Bob spoke of taking children to you,
 possibly, before Dr. F. comes - thought you
 suggested it. Don't know how much will
 stand cold! I never saw a Chinese mind
 cold so. Why we have fire, - even tho it
 is not too cold for children to play about
 in bedroom with sitting-down open to room
 up, - she brings her wash basket & all her
 work & sits down in sitting room, regardless
 of whether B. is studying there. And one
 day she did same thing - children coming
 out to play too, - little Ben was spending
 morning at my place - on acct. children
 who active. haven't minded cold of porch
 or bedrooms. But she takes them down
 to lower hall by stove, - unless I watch
 her, - where it is too warm. She talks a
 good deal about cold up north - says
 the disposition is siang in chin! I
 John usually begs not to wear sweater, &
 I have not put it on except on rare mornings

when his hands were cold, - in house, I mean.

I know you are wanting them with you.
And after Dr. F. leaves here, - it would
be nearly April before they could come.

I am on Ref. Com. this year. So I shall
try to have everything ready for their trip
before Dr. F. comes, - so that I will not
have work to finish after meetings are over.
That is, - if they wait until late March.

Now I must go.

His letter today shows better conducting,
I much interest in his work.

We all send love,

Alise

+

I thank you for the pictures. Aren't they good?
You've said interestingly what he did, etc. Thanks.
Valentine's Day - 1908.

Dear Lottie:

I must just send a note before
taking a hot bath. - I'm going to bed. This
is my uncomfortable day! But if I put off
writing until tomorrow something may
present me.

I am getting ready to have Bob leave
with children on 2nd, 1 wk. from tomorrow.
He will come home Mon, I presume, then
we will know about date more definitely.
I do hope you are not going to feel the
effort to have them with you too heavily.
The relief from the separation will more
than balance the strain - I hope.
Very much can be left to A. Sin.
She shows great intelligence in planning
their clothes, what is fitting to wear, etc.
John doesn't like to have her do
things for him - but he can almost
often quite dress himself anyway.
He - like B. used to be at his
age - doesn't always tell a

straight story about things - so
you won't have just too much
confidence in what he says!
He came to me while I was milking,
one day, to ask me to help him
with his jersey. I said, - you
should have asked Edin, - she
would help you & he promptly
replied - She wouldn't! I could
hardly believe she had refused
so questioned closely - & he
quickly admitted that he hadn't
asked her.

Howard used to say to
me, - when he was seven, -
"Why, mamma, - you simply
can't believe a thing Bessie says!
She tells you things that aren't
so."

I didn't mean to start this out
with a complaint about John's
lack of veracity - he is merely
going thru a phase.

We have dyed A's. coat & hat.
Quite successful, - shade not
very dark but all I had. Makes
it look much better to wear over

the long brown sweater.

Mrs. J. says she is knitting
leggings for her, - don't know
what color. Is coming over for
me on Sat. - to try on.

I think I have things planned
to keep them warm enough, -
except feet. And if they don't
need woolen stockings, - they
will be all right.

Alvin wants to go home first
so shall let her go a day or two
ahead of Bob & children, -
probably Wed.

Bob spoke of using steamer
trunk. Wonder if we can get all their
clothes & bags too. You will need
many of the bags. I'll sort!

They are so happy over going.
We had a group of six
Eng. speaking young men from
city over here for games this P.M.
with Jack Rids. J.K. is helping
Ben this vacation. - Ben is much

pleased, - shows a fine spirit &
more earnestness in the work than
anyone we've had for some time.
Preached 2 very good sermons.
He has developed surprisingly.

5 Weather is continuously rainy
& dull, it will be difficult, I fear,
to get children's sweaters, etc.,
nicely washed.

I wrote about W's. spots
around mouth. Have had no
reappearance for about 10 days.
No orange in that time.

Dr. Brown & Mr. H. both
agree that these "Grand" oranges
are more acid than Calif.
oranges, - & I know at home,
Calif oranges are considered more
acid than Florida fruit.
Dr. B. cannot eat these often.

There is so much I want to
tell - but just can't do it
tonight. Having very cold, deep
weather. Children have taken
colds, after all - but rapidly
throwing them off.

Sole to Eddie - from us all,
Aunt.

Shaochowfu, April 30.

Dear Folks at Home:

We are both writing letters this morning. Since coming up here we have been getting up earlier for a 7 o'clock breakfast and we do not feel like doing any writing after supper, especially as we often had a long day in the city. We usually read a while, then attend to the necessary accounts and such imperative desk work, and then get to bed early. We try to get at least one morning a week for letters, but it takes more than that if one is to keep up with business letters, reports and all sorts. You are being somewhat neglected, I am sorry.

Clara, we were more than glad to have your letter of March 11. I had been thinking you must be sick since we had not heard from you. It is so good you can have Lena near enough to be with you when you need, and good that she is so situated that she can leave home to be with you. By this time I hope you are feeling vigorous again, as vigorous as one can hope to be in the springtime.

Most of our spring has been pleasant so far. Just now, however the oppressive days have come when mental work is hard labor, and when the perspiration "drops off one's face to the ground as we walk into the city. There had been little sun all day yesterday, but last evening, as we sat near the lamp, the visible drops of moisture stood on my hands because the atmosphere was so saturated that it could not evaporate. The temperature was not very high. I did not look at the thermometer.

We are looking forward to a long summer with Howard and Beenie in Shanghai, in a summer resort where many Shanghai people go. Oh I write of that once before, I wonder? We are so interested in all the duties we have here in Chaochowfu that we do not want to leave so soon, but at the same time it is a joy to think that we shall be with H. and B.

soon. Bessie has had Mumps, is all right by now I presume. We haven't heard from her for some weeks, I am afraid she has also had Flu. That has been epidemic in the school. H. didn't mention it, however, and he has probably had Mumps since he wrote last, too. Mumps is such an insignificant thing to have to be quarantined for ten days, so I have dignified it by a capital letter.

Ben is writing a general letter about recent events, so I shall not take time for anything but personal affairs. In the recent Communist attacks, and robber depositions there have been some instances of personal protection given Christians that are plainly the Lord's hand showing in a most evident way that He is watching over his people, and the faith of all of us is being strengthened and our hearts buoyed up by the sense of His presence. We shall get some of this written in a later letter.

"Ince writing this far we have had a busy four hours. Had two unexpected foreign guests for lunch, and since noon Dr. Marguerite Everett has arrived to stay a while with us, also unexpectedly. The luncheon guests were missionaries from Seaton, of the 7th Day Adventist Mission who had come up to attend the funeral of an old woman who was mother of their preacher here. She herself was a Baptist, and had been Bible woman in Kakehish hospital for 20 years, so the funeral was attended by members of both churches. The grave was here near our house, and when I found the Nagels had come up, and were here at the foot of our hill about noon, I could not let them go away without lunch. We had not left the table when Dr. Everett arrived.

Dr. Everham has been sick with grief, and has not had resistance enough to recover from it, so they have sent her up to see if the change will help. She has never been well since last summer when she was the only foreign doctor on the compound in Kachikah during the two months when we had the dysentery epidemic. She gave herself without reserve to the other patients, just as she did for Winkie's case, but it was more than one woman's strength could bear. She needs to go home this summer for rest, but it is Dr. Velva Brown's turn to go home on furlough, and it is a hard question to face.

Post Confessions

The Academy is running pretty strong. I understand there are about 280 pupils. It is most surely under Chinese administration. Lin Hsiao Tsho carried his responsibility well while I was there. I should conclude he is holding up to the task, which as you know is by no means an easy one. But in specific matters I am not in a position to tell you how it is going. We are all especially interested in the efforts to give Christian character to the institution. A Chinese was gotten from up north to take the course in Religion. I am not sure how he is making out. But after all, in my judgment, we do not want to be too stringent in our requirements during this period of readjustment. They, the young people, are not like they were before. They are not yet settled down to what they will be, I feel sure. But they have made no little progress. My last term as teacher was wholly different from the term last spring, the spring after you left. The bottom dropping out of the propagandists movement has resulted in a reaction. Here in the City the children of our school are as they used to be, I believe even more cordial. And I should not consider lightly the opportunity of teaching China's young folks now, even though they may not act as we wish they would. Your place is waiting for you, and I am sure you will better be able to do what has lain on your heart to do for the boys (and girls) during the past. Your freedom from administration will put new life into your other activities. I find it so here. Our school is far from what we would see it under present administration; I am not sure what will become of it; but it is a very, very great and real relief to be out from under its management. You will live longer now and have more time and strength for the vital work you will be wanting to do.

Indications are that we are coming to a period of splendid opportunity for presentation of Christian truth. China has tried the doctrine of infidelity and hate and found it wanting. She has looked at the injustices of the West, which are very real of course, and was so blinded as to see only those. Now she has found all is not gold that glitters, and there is a disposition to look for it where it may be found. China recognizes in the terrors of her recent experiences that she needs and there seems to be increasing a willingness to give the West credit for its good and to give Christianity a hearing. It is the time to give the Chinese the Truth thru the printed page. People at home should give now that we might really sow down China with Christian truth. You will find yourself happy to come back to the new order. This may all be in a measure changed if the Nationalists fall up north. There may be years yet of disturbed conditions; but in my humble opinion, I think China has learned her lesson in these regions, and the future will be for the better. I do not believe we will see a reign of Communism any more. Had they been mild and worked more slowly, there might have been worse times further on; but they have gone to such extremes and the real venom in the movement has been directed at the Chinese rather than at the foreigners, so that thousands have come to understand. Getting rid of the foreigner and religion was only the first step to ridding China of her many of her best and more capable citizens. Misery makes comrades and we find sympathetic friends in many of those who felt themselves marked if Communism should come to stay. The spirit to recognize the people as equals and to treat them as friends meets a hearty response. And with that comes our opportunity to win them on to Christ. I am glad to be here and in the work of the cause that was so surely buried by the American newspapers, but which is surely coming back to a golden age. Christianity is getting ready to make its real advance in China—if only we have that brand that really puts spirit above the material. The contest from now will be, not with those who oppose us and our faith as foreign, but with those who choose material good in preference to spiritual. If spirit is really supreme it will win in China.

Now I must stop. I have knocked at this machine until my head is going round. We have had a good heavy storm this afternoon following a fine rain all morning. Now the sun is out and I must get out and look after our "beauties".

Kim Pheng I was buried here on our hillside this morning. Her son is the Lak-jit-tue man here. Her grandson or nephew is a member of our church. So we had the missionary and his wife from Swatow with us for dinner. We had a most pleasant time together, and I think we can build on this spirit of cordiality. They seem very good people, the Nagels. I am not sure how the name is spelled.

While we were at late dinner, and in the midst of a good rain in walked Dr. Everham. Dr. Brown had sent word she was sending Dr. Everham up for a visit with us, but we had not gotten the note. It has just come a few minutes ago. She got thru all right. We are so glad to have her with us, and you can believe we shall do all in our power to build her up. I trust she realizes she can feel absolutely at home. I am concerned, as you will note from what I have written Waters. I do not want to be unduly alarmed, but Dr. Everham gives herself with such abandon we must take all precaution to keep her from sacrificing herself. She did so much for us with Bessie last summer, we can never pay her back; but we shall do it if possible with the greatest joy now that we have a bit of a chance. However I may be in my judgment of the situation, right or wrong, we need extra medical help in our Tie Chiu field. Do what you can to get the help we need.

With all best wishes and all the gratitude of our hearts for the daily reminders of your thoughtfulness for us, I am,

Fraternally yours,

Kakchieh, Aug. 24th.

Dear Howard:

You have about another month of vacation, while B. must stay back in two weeks more. School opens on the 10th. Haven't heard when yours opens. 'Whew!' how the summer has flown, as usual. It is a way summers have. I hope you are satisfied with yours. We are fairly well satisfied with ours, even tho' it has been so different from what we would have planned. I can see how it has been a better plan for several of us than our own was. B. has kept well, except for a little digestive disturbance that might have happened anywhere. The expedience for her of quite giving up our own comfort and plans for another's need is something she needed, there has been too little of that in either of your lives, aside from the fact of your living out here. I do not forget that there has always been much sacrifice required from all of you who grow up here, but there have been the compensations, too, haven't there. In B's case this summer, I am so happy over the sweet way in which she has adjusted herself to the difficult situation. It has been stupid enough for her, but she has read much, and learned more sewing, and some housekeeping. As for Daddy, he has been grateful that he did not have to go down to the Island with us before this, for there have been so many calls on his time here, and so many meetings of committees and school trustees to attend to, it would have required that he come up here for the day frequently if we had been at the Island, and that is not restful. I am sure this is the coolest house on the compound, we have been fortunate.

Mr. Giffin is now walking about a little. He is gaining strength and plans to leave for Shanghai on Wed. If all goes well, we shall then go down to the Island on Thurs and will have at least a week before B. leaves. Mrs. Worley is there alone now.

Mr. Giffin has made lots of fun for Besse since he has been feeling better. He has his bed out on the big front porch where she goes and comes all the time, and she loves to do things for him, for he always makes a laugh over it. The nurse left on Fri. Yesterday I shaved his face, and this morning he said it was too much trouble, and when callers came they couldn't see he had been sick if he looked so spry and span, so he went without his shave. Tomorrow we must have a barber come from somewhere to cut his hair. On Tues. we plan to get a sedan chair and have him carried over to Prescott House to oversee his packing for Shanghai.

We have a new consul's wife here in Swatow! Mr. Berger was married a week ago, in HK, to a Miss Mott of Calif. She and her mother have been visiting him for about a month, they must have been engaged when they came up, of course, but her mother said she did not know when they were ready to be married. They only told her at the last minute. Miss Mott, or Mrs. Berger, is very young, only 21. She is tall, very sweet looking, seems capable, is unassuming and friendly. Hope she will be good for Mr. Berger! Her mother is an ardent prohibitionist. He brought them over here to call before they were married. We were all so engaged with Mr. Giffin that we could not go over there.

Daddy is in the city again today, and was up last Mon. He plans to come down on last train. B. is finishing a letter she has written to Dr. Heinkel, her M.D. in Phila. Wonder if you have ever written to Mr. Williams. He and his sister have asked for your address, I suppose Daddy has given it to them. We hope to have a letter from you soon. With our hearts' love.

This has been waiting for you this long while. Didn't realize how long it has been since we wrote. I must explain Mr. Giffin had typhoid was taken very ill and died. Mrs. G. was in 3rd class - everyone else leaving attempted for infection. So he took Mrs. G. to Japan home - and for a month from HK. + Dr. Giffin delighted her too, a month, it is all right.

Monday, 29th. Aug.

Dear Lizzie and all of you:

I have a whole list of things I want to write to you about, I tried to get a letter started several days last week. Now, - I just looked at my calendar, & find we may have to let the children go a week from Sat. - 10th. The days left are so few, - I shall let your longer letter wait.

The waterbottle parcel came nicely. - thank you. Miss C. was immensely pleased with the pins, - & sent for Feb. 18th.

Long ago I should have mailed this bill to you, - didn't realize it had been in my drawer so long.

I shame! On Sat. - I took that bill out of my drawer preparing to put it into the envelope ready for my letter. Now, - can't find a sign of it. It may turn up. It is a bill from Mrs. John
Sol. C.

for \$15.00, - dated May sometime.
I haven't enough left in your acct to
pay this. Hope to write all this
after N.Y. B. go.

They have been well, & we have had
a fine summer. Enjoyed 17 days at
the Island very much. Ben is exceptionally
well & extremely lucky. Had only about
a nick at the Is.

N. is off to Swatan with David
Campbell, - Dorothy's brother
from C. I. M., - who is visiting
her.

Love,

Alice

Swatara - Sept 17. Katchich.

Dear Lillie & Bob:

I will send only a note now - letter later. Here I am with Ben, - living in Delia's room for the present. Arrived last Wed. eve. Left Bessie in Amer. School Sat. evening. Other girls had come into the dorm, so she was not alone. Must write more about her later, - she has changed fast this past year. I am proud & happy as I leave her for her 1st year alone. Rebecca Lewis & Stockers were delayed & could not leave Swatara until day school opened in Phila, - so they have been about 4 days late. I took 4 full days to come down, - for we lay out at noon 24 hrs. because of telegraph signals.

Ben & I & Emily went to Cape, on Sat. Emily has decided to stay up there alone if we do not go up this fall. Until the Waters come - early next month, - Ben couldn't know when he must remain here this fall or not. Being the only man here this summer - he is dead & taxes. for the Miss. - & has much the same position under the new organization of Singing Council. They plan now to have a foreign & native sec. - equal positions. Ben hopes Mr. Waters can take his Council Secretaryship. Then, perhaps, - we could get to the city.

Had such a heartwarming welcome at H. & L. H. & at church. Many asked about you. Thong. Chieh especially asked to be remembered to you by name. Tsa-Sau is ill & does not expect to last long. Some stomach trouble. We took rickshas & rode out to see him at E-Ja Sun. P. M. He was looking bright & happy, & was comfortable. Gets up & down as he likes.

Howard writes that plans were made for next at U. of Ky. He is happy with Ben's folks there in Versailles. College is at Lexington, - only 12 m. away.

Elise K. is not well - she & Miss Salomon had a poor summer at Kailan. Elise is keeping quiet & improving. Others all here & well except Mrs. Capen who remained in Baguio. She will come after her 1st year. - is pretty well. Bessie & Mrs. B. who are in B'hain. Waters & Bobfields on the way out.

Hope, you are all well & happy in your work. We love you all. Affectionately -

Miss
Pleasant
Sundell
Cater & Co.
to Philadelphia
Monday, - Nov. 19th.
Dear Louis,

I have left you a whole
week without a word. - I am sorry.
I wanted to write before the end of
the week. Day after day things
occur that I want to write about,
or the children do some cunning
thing that I wish you could see.
They did the very funniest thing today.
It shows how hungry their little hearts
are for you. Just before dinner I
was in the dining-room & they both
came running to me, - eyes downing
and asking - "Auntie Alice, - will
you be our Mama, - play you
are our Mama?" Of course I
agreed. - & they went on. - "We want
you to be our Mama, - & we want
to give you a big hug and a kiss
for our Mamma!" Then they both
gave me such a hearty hug and kiss.
Then I said - "Now I have one for
you from your Mama" and I gave
it to them. They had made that
plan up between themselves before
they came to me.

Last week when Bob came, John

shouted out, - "Daddy, have you come to take us to Grandma?" And he said several times when we spoke of Papa coming in a day or two, that he was coming to take them to you. Isn't it a blessing that they cannot come here as we can?

They are getting fat, and color is beginning to improve. They are out of doors or on the veranda so much of the time. John's hands and arms are really fat. They sleep well, - and if we are careful not to let Alina have much water at night she sleeps thus without having to get up. John murmurs in his sleep occasionally. Their tongues keep clean & red, - better than my children's did at their age. They are apparently very happy - but they speak of you often, - especially John.

Mrs. James & the children came over for tea to meet the Roberts on Fri. & wife. But came later. Mr. J. is away. - Miss Wells, too. Poor Dr. Brown was in bed, she spent 6 days in bed with malaria. We found the malignant malarial germ - with her microscope! And she was in

Kakchik only 2 days. Temp. went to 100° Wed. night. Today she has been up a good deal, but looks pretty weak. She thought she nearly had a cold at first.

Edna Smith came up to spend Sat. & part of Sun. with Roberts. I saw little of her.

We have a half case of Oregon apples which the Roberts sent for. - came today. They are as perfectly beautiful as apples could be, - & 50 of them, Sweet, red & yellow ones, - wonderful color & uniform in shape, regular show apples. We haven't held the bill yet, - but I couldn't refuse to take them when they were right here & they didn't want the whole case. It is a regular Christmas treat.

Letters from H. Tell that he is very busy. Receives Q in some of his work, - some A's. - He stood 1st in class again in the second Greek test! I can hardly believe it. - I hadn't even hoped for such a situation. Hope it keeps up.

Miss Dublin writes that she has had malaria & is in very poor condition. She seems discouraged - poor girl.

Mr. Burkes reached Kazing 8 days after leaving here, - after a very comfortable trip.

I have been speaking hours over the annual balancing of our Religious

account & Drawnwork Acct, & I have
just finished! I keep the 2 accts in
one column in our Daybook - beside
the separate Drawnwork book. They
always get tangled!

Mum has John's bathrobe finished. We
put bands of the red cotton goods on
collar, cuffs & down fronts & it is all
gay. We haven't made bloomers yet, she
is very faithful with the mending.

We shall be so glad when we hear from
you again. Bob comes again for
John's birthday on Friday.

Mrs. Jones & the children are going
to Swatara to spend a week, - but I
hope it won't be until after Fri, so
that Bess & Tom, can come over.
On second thought, - I think I shall
not ask them, & for Bob will be here
only 3 days - & the children
will spend most of Friday with him.

We hope you are growing stronger,
we feel confident you are. You will
be stepping on your feet by the
time you receive this. - I hope.
We think of you so often - and
remember you frequently in prayer.

Much love to you,
Alice.

Please send all letters about children to Rochester and
have them forwarded either at Halyoke or Rochester, if convenient.
Myra ~~Pollock~~ ^{Paula} Paul B.
Dorcas Lathrop.

I have had to neglect you while
the girls boys & girls were here. - but they left
on Sat. We all went down the hill at day break
to see them off. They took native boat to
Tang Sing - then chains from there to Kuching.
Hoped to reach home by dark. I did
thoroughly enjoy their visit. They look rosy
& well, & secretly are happy. David begs not
to be sent back to school - says he will study
hard as he can if he may stay with the family.
And she says he is doing good work. He takes
the responsibility for the 3 youngsters like a
man. He made it very easy for me, - by
planning what each should wear, - & making
all pick up things - seeing beds were made,
seeing that Maucha went to bed on time!
Dad. is some dry old joker, with the same
drawl in his speech. They were all lots
of fun. John & Alice quite forgot their
own individuality in joining in with the older
ones games & romps. John took one very long
walk with us up over ridge & down thru valley
to north of house. We didn't think we were
going so far. But Maucha & I were more tired
than he was before we reached home.
Alice had a slight cold but very quickly got
over it. John has had none at all, - only one
of eight of us without a cold while Sammes was
here!

Alice's howls are quite regular now. For
about 2 wks. they required frequent help & I could
not find out what horrible fat. I am being

very rigid, - most of the time! - about not eating
the grain starches when they have oranges. Often
we have breakfast of fruit only & chili will be
for 2 oranges sometimes. Have bananas, - papayas
& hot fruites or applesauce. They enjoy such a
breakfast. Whether this breakfast affects the
function of bowels, - or whether she was taking
her milk, - I haven't decided.

We are having a cold spell & both are wearing
wool shirts & heavy suits outside. Agnes wears the
little brown, 2 pec. suit everyday. Shirt hasn't
been let down yet, - but will be done this week.
The waist of shirt can be pinned down.
I suppose that wrote that J's new suit, - tho a
little large, - can be worn very well. Coat is long
& sleeves long. However, - I shouldn't want to
change for smaller size, so long as he has the 2
other blue suits for ordinary wear.

Agnes' little red dress is very pretty since it
is finished. I may let her wear it Tuesday, - but I
am so afraid of having it soiled before they come up
to you.

Love's dear, - we are all greatly disappointed
that you are not permitted to come home. In
my heart I feel pretty sure it is best for you
to remain where you are, - tho I do realize that
you could be here without much physical strain.
I had no share in Comm. discussion - I did
write to Peabody before meeting that I had doubts
of the wisdom of your returning. If the question
had been one for me to decide alone I don't know
now what I should say. For your sake
I am surely very sorry, - it is harder to hope

& then have to give it up, - then if you had not thought of coming, - we all wonder! It was such a relief to have your letter, & know you were not confident of coming at any time. But, since it is so decided - I hope you will gain steadily & be comfortable & happy there. We shall all have you in mind, - with Howard, - constantly on Tues Day.

Frank & W. are coming to be our guests, - Miss Clark & Margaret from St Roberts, will probably come on Sat. Tues Day will be full of school & Church exercises - as usual, will have dinner for all on Mon. eve. here. Hope to decorate with banyan branches & red. paper, - if nothing interferes.

Merion's mother has just sent her a 5 lbs. batch of soft maple sugar, - perfectly delicious! We shall have some on quibble cakes in the morning. I wish you were here to enjoy it. Bob has brought to the children the boxes of corn flakes which come in your Smith's Cash Store boxes. They do enjoy them.

Now it is bedtime. We have had to arrange heavy protection around Alice's bed against winds - & give her an extra piece folded under her mattress, - it grew too cold from winds below. She is snug now. It is getting cold enough for her bed-socks, - too. We have had fire only 24, - very unusual as late as this. Still not up yet. Sun now today.

I am sure you are enjoying the tonic of the cold in Peking. Speaking of rheumatism, - I began eating oranges when they were not very ripe & I became so

schematic that one morning I could scarcely stand straight. Had a regular lumbago back! Have just stopped eating them entirely. No more trouble.

Emily Miller says that she is almost free from her painful neuralgia, - rarely has it. Only change she has made is to give up the oranges entirely.

A note from Elsie Hicklitz says she was very much better on board steamer. Hoped to be permitted to return.

We all send our hearts full of love to you for Christmas greetings. I was like Bob, didn't plan to get my gift off to you earlier because I thought you would be down. - & then my housefull of guests made it impossible to get it off in time. It will come, late, - but with just as much love.

Goodnight.

Alma }
B. & I are making bibs for J. & A. for gifts. I shall prepare bibs & B. make cross-stitch trimming. She is putting a stop on Alida. I haven't any very cross-stitch patterns.

Return finally to Holyoke
Dec 31. - evening.

Dear Lottie; -

This is not a luxurious letter that must come along soon now, but I do not wait for that. - I'll mail this here that I have wanted to get off to you for days. It comes late for Christmas, but with none the less love and good wishes.

The children had a very happy Christmas time. Bob stayed home with them all day, & gave them their gifts at intervals thro the day. One small parcel, which came from some one in the Mission, I have not yet opened for them.

This evening when John was saying his prayer he said, - "Dear Lord. - won't you nice to send us all these nice things? Auntie Alice, - how does he send them?" So I explained in detail how God puts nice thoughts for others into our hearts, & how he depends on us to be his helpers to do the kind things he wants done. It gave me an opportunity to impress upon him that when God wants some kind thing done for Alice or for A. Lin, - & John does not want to do it - God cannot get it done for John even's help him. He listened intently.

punctuating my remarks with solemn
"Oh's"! Then we went on with the
prayer. He really is such a
good laddie, - only sometimes, naturally,
he asserts his authority over Alice &
attempts to compel her to do as he
wants. And he rarely has any spells
of rebellion against a Linn. Being
with Bessie so much makes him less
dependant on her. But he was funny
this morning, - I must tell you about it.
He & Alice were playing, but Alice
began a loud wailing, - I think
perhaps J. had given her a spot
because she wouldn't give up some-
thing. So I put her in a chair by
herself, - I am telling her that she must
be sit alone whenever she lets herself
over little things like that. It is
helping her to stop. Then I put J.
in a chair, - until he could decide to
try to keep sister happy. A. soon
brightened up & said she wouldn't be
a baby any more. But J. said nothing
after a while, - thinking to help him to
a better frame of mind. - I said, - "John
will you come & help me spread this
sheet over the bed?" And the laddie
looked up & replied, - deliberately, "I

with a determined expression on his face.
"Not if you do that way to me!" B
was so surprised, — & amused! I said
again, — "Auntie, Alice wants you to
come to the bed & help me to cover
the counterpane." And he replied
again, — "I mean, — I won't help you
if you do that way to me!" He said
it so slowly, — & plainly that I wanted
to pick him up & carry him, — to show
him how important his little will was to
resist authority. But I said, "Well
if you don't want to be happy with
either Alice or I — and won't help
me, — you must go out away from
us, by yourself." So I led him to
the bathroom to a chair & shut
the door. He was greatly annoyed, —
showed it, — but he said nothing.
For a long time he sat there, — then
gave in sweetly & was his cheerful
self the rest of the day. He is
reasonable, — and surely do I need to
go beyond that method to control him.
I do love him — he is a dear!

Ben is waiting to take Ben's time
so will send this off.

Love to you,

Alice.

Dear Aunt Alice;

I wish you could have been here a little while ago when the big idol festivals were going on. I am sure you would have been interested. I cannot tell you just what is the theory which lies behind these particular celebrations, but I had a chance to see how some of them worked.

For instance there was one big day when they have idol processions in the city and we went in to see. The processions consist of a big idol in a magnificently arrayed chair, preceded by men carrying banners, by a band and by men marching, and maybe followed in the same way, then another "ancient and honorable" which is the local name for a god, with his retinue and then another. The bands consists of half a dozen men or so beating lustily on brass gongs, with sticks of wood, the sound being rather hard on a foreign ear, and equally hard on the gong, to judge from the number of gongs which had big holes punched in them, perhaps 40 % of Chinese drums which are entirely different in appearance from foreign drums, but make the same sort of sound, and which occasionally make me feel as tho they were hitting me in the tummy, just as I remember the big bass drum gongs to make me feel when I was a boy; of clarinets which are shriller in tone than any fife or tin whistle that I ever heard, and of a few fiddles. I rather like Chinese music, just as I rather like Chinese food, but not all of it, and not in too unlimited quantities. As the procession comes along the shopkeepers light bunches of fire-crackers. That doesn't mean a bunch such as we get at home for Fourth of July, but it means a great mass tied together, almost solid, sometimes a foot and a half in diameter, and three feet high, or more, they say, but I myself haven't seen any bigger than this. But I have seen scores of them as big as that. Those who have seen the procession in previous years say that these bunches are hung up every few yards and that the men in the procession run under them yelling like fiends, and tramping on every child that happens to get in the way, which is by no means infrequent; the Chinese themselves display this feature of the celebration. We didn't have the pleasure of seeing that for several years because for several reasons the firecrackers were not strung up so

frequently. One reason was that it had rained the day before, and hindered
ered preparation. I asked the preacher if that meant that they would
save their money. No, he said, they would shoot off that many more
in the evening than they otherwise would. I wish I could have gone in
in the evening, but I was too tired. Baker went in with some guests, and
had a great time. One thing that especially took his attention was to
see a man swing the bunch of firecrackers about in the air which they
were exploding; the air around him was thick with shooting crackers, but
he didn't seem to mind it at all.

After we had seen the procession go by we went over to the ruins of
what was the governor's executive mansion under the old regime, and in
a part of the grounds we saw some gymnastic work that certainly excited
our admiration, some of the most remarkable cases of a man turning him-
self inside out, that I ever expect to see. But practically all that
was worth watching was done by a twelve year old boy who apparently is
a slave boy and is forced to do these things. For instance to stand on
a bench two feet or more high, and go over backward to the ground, while
standing on the bench, slowly, too, and without any help from hands,
pick up a ball in one each hand and one in his teeth, and slowly rise to
a standing position, all the while being supported solely by his feet
on that bench; there was a whole lot more to that trick, but I don't
dare tell any more for fear you won't believe any of it. But the most
interesting feature to me was the expression of dislike and weariness
that was evident on the boys face. Evidently he hated the whole
business, and only did the things because he had to. There were a lot
of older men in the show, and they tried to do some tricks, to show
that they were gymnasts too. They did their tricks with a whoop and
a bang as too they enjoyed them, but the tricks were the commonest

We have one young woman doctor here in charge of the hospital, and she is fine, not merely a good doctor but one with very strong Christian faith. She was in charge of Bessie and took care of me too. And our one young foreign nurse happened to be here on the compound even though it was August our usual summer vacation month. She came in and took charge of Bessie at night so Alice could rest. Now God does provide even when he allows trials to come. Dr. Everham is over-worked, but she has made two trips a day since beginning and one or two times three times. Miss Campbell has had full care of Bessie every night since last Tuesday night, staying up all night with her. I marvel as I know all that she had to do.

Thanks to God for the almost miracle in my case, I came thru easily. For some unaccountable reason, humorously speaking, I did not have serious trouble. By Friday I was up again, the quite weak. And since I have been helping Alice all I could thru the day. Howard has of course done a great deal. He is growing so like a man. And he has suffered too, the folks do not know much about it. I am all right today, tho I would not like to undertake strenuous work.

Bessie, poor girlie, has suffered terribly, a movement some days nearly every half hour, and vomiting again and again. And the amount of food she has taken in the last nine days would not feed a sparrow. Now grateful we are she was looking so well to begin on. She is not yet well by a long shot. Medicine and treatment was changed yesterday, so she has more relief today. Still to now she can't keep any food down. And there were hypodermic injections that make her sore all over in spots. It has been a tremendously hard thing to care for her and see her suffering and not be able to relieve her. She has shown wonderful control too. This morning has been her best time since it began, but there is considerable suffering today. It seems to be less in the mornings and then increase during the day. One night, Friday, it was our worst, she had opiates to induce sleep. Since then she has managed to get fair rest other nights. Last night was her best yet. It is now 3 p. m. and she has been sleeping. I watched and I tell you I was glad.

Alice has done wonders. Day after day she has stood by. I was greatly concerned at first lest she might give out. And I realized how little good I was. At night as I slept and thought the temptation would come to get frantic. But the assurance came, "They that wait on Jehovah shall renew their strength", Is. 40:31. And we have strength till today and are not weary. We have been thru deep waters, and it has meant the testing of our faith and the trustworthiness of God's word, and we have come thru in triumph the Word is true, God cures. Now truly a Mother Alice has been, hour by hour suffering with her girl but holding up and helping her always. And when she needed it she was firm and won Bessie's control over herself and learned to overcome the pain and the desire to vomit. She has had a terribly hard task, and she has done it splendidly.

Miss Campbell was a God-send. She has come in where it is sure danger lurks unseen and night after night has taken all the responsibility and let Alice rest. Bessie has been satisfied too, instead of fretting. You can understand what I mean when I tell you about the same time four friends brought another friend to the hospital from the ship, all the same way, and went at once away and just left him for the hospital to care for. They were afraid. One local man said he would not help one night caring for a nother stranded student in our hospital for several times a day's wage. He too was afraid. Dorothy serves night after night fearlessly. Such is the love of Christ. She has just saved our lives. We shall not soon forget her.

Dear Kentucky and Jersey Folks,

For a long, long time I have had the intention of writing you in the matter of Howard's coming home and his plans for college. Many things have interfered, among them the fact that we could not seem to get a decision in the latter matter. It is a difficult thing to get such problems settled when we are thrice separated. I did not have chance to more than mention this with Alice and Howard when I was in Shanghai. Too bad I could not have staid longer, but my wisdom in returning when I did has been vindicated here, and I am trusting our Father to bring out what is best since I could not stay for our own wishes at that time.

I am not yet sure what the decision is. Alice wrote in her last letter that H. had decided for Denison at Granville, Ohio. He was divided between that college and Oberlin at Oberlin, Ohio. The former is our Baptist College in that state, and most of the missionary children go there. Then he has a very close friend, his twin, in S. A. S. who is going to Sidney-Hampden in Virginia. Howard finds it very hard to face the separations at S.A.S. and turn to college so far away alone, as all of the young people do. It is a big thing for him. We are so far away that it takes three months to get news back and forth. So there came the question of his going with this friend to S. H. There are good and bad points in the case. I rather expected he would so decide. But this last letter said he had given that thought up in favor of Denison. But he was still to have a talk with Alice and she was going to try to get him to make the choice into which he could throw his soul best. His parents decide this question for his friend, they have older children who have gone before. H. has shown commendable spirit of thinking for himself and we wished to help all we could but let him have the choice himself. That is why we are debating the question still. We want him to go to this new life with all the help and as little compulsion as possible. We assured him he should have his choice if it was a reasonable one and we have been trying to get the basis for a good decision.

This has all caused delay. But the decision will be on to me in the next letter I hope, and I hope to incorporate it here.

At present Howard has accommodation for leaving Shanghai on July 5th. That may change tho. This would put him into Kentucky about end of July. We will now keep you advised in this connection. We are sure you people will be happy to let him stay with you until he has to leave for school. We are sorry it isn't possible for him to have the visit on east this summer, but it is beyond us. It is going to tax our resources to the limit to get him well started on his college training. He knows the necessity of finding a way to help himself as soon as possible. We do not want him, we are not willing for him, to become a financial liability for any of you. But we should be very grateful for any help you might give him in finding a way or ways to earn as much of his expenses as possible. I tell him no work is too humble for him if it is worthwhile in itself and can bring him any remuneration. He has had to live a life where there are no such opportunities. It will be hard for him to see opportunities. He lacks the experience most boys have at home of knowing something of some kind of work as they grow up. He will be green about farm work even. But he has the strength, has plenty of common sense, and I am sure will be willing and prove an apt pupil. So if you see anything he might do, put him on to it. We want him to learn now something of the working man's experience. I have some thoughts I will give a bit later.

If you got the news letters you will know the school here finally got into operation. Lin Hock Taho is on the job, and I hope we go on to better things. Miss Sanderson is returning from Iloilo to help there, and I am helping some now, and will go in on full time as soon as Page gets back. It is too soon to know what the school will be like. We do not have religious exercises, but for my part I am free to lead as I choose and I have no difficulty in giving religious instruction, tho it may not be under that title. Some kind of religious study will be offered later. Just now Ling is hard put to it because of lack of the three foreign teachers promised him. He claims he was counting on their help in this connection, which I think is true. The students are not compelled to attend services on Sunday. I think only a few do at the present. The smaller schools under Taho Sang do have regular morning services and are made to come to church. We hear the schools, some of these, in Canton are having religious training as before. I rather think the opposition has shot its bolt and that times will get much better for us. And if the trial makes us hunt for improved religious instruction such as will draw the pupils, then we shall have won out nicely. That is what we are up against now. We must draw these pupils and show them religion in such a way as to prove its reality and worth. I am sorry to say, as you know, the Chinese are not so enthusiastic about this as we are. On the other hand, I think it is wrong to assume that they are indifferent in the matter. As time goes on and I get into more intimate touch with things will write of this matter more fully.

Boys and girls are studying together in all the schools. There are about 140 in the two Primary Schools, now operating under one management, and the same number in the Academy.

Lu Shin-so is still here, but is to be the Kiu Kung Su next year. Do not know whom will be invited for the local church. Sou Mok-on is to be the Kiu Mok for another year. Waters and Hildreth have both been invited back by this Kiu Association. I have been hoping to go back to O-o-fu next year. However, as you will see from a communication that should come to you, I feel it will be a great mistake to send our missionaries back to their old fields just to operate there as they may find opportunity all unrelated. I am appealing that the be grouped as an Evangelistic Committee to do actual work in fellowship with a group of Chinese. If something of the kind is not done, if we do not get the situation thoroughly in hand so we shall know it and apply our forces to the greatest advantage, I look for a decline in our church life. More of this later.

The political situation is quiet now, but with mutterings underneath. I am discouraged. I tied my hopes to the Nationalists and they seem to me to be failing. They cry a great deal about Hunko and Hanko being united, and about Feng and Yen coming together and into action. But the significant thing is that down here behind the lines the thing is splitting up. It is a worse situation right now than we have had, so far as a good centralized government is concerned. Selfishness is in the saddle. Jealousies prevail. And we do not see light. We are grateful, however, that they are so busy with themselves that we foreigners and the Christians are having a rest. During a recent Red occupation and evacuation of this region we were wholly unprotected, except for occupation of our schools and churches in several places. Immunity in this matter I fear is gone from us. They dare to occupy and we will not resort to force. Unless we get hold of spiritual powers, I look for increased worry of this kind. But I do not apprehend personal troubles anything violent or active opposition against us as foreigners or Christians. It will rather be that we just share in the experiences of the -Chinese.

Now I must refer to a few personal things.

I have paid Gou Mok-su as help to his children as you directed Mr. Page to do, \$ 25 for the boys and \$35 for Mui Iann this fall in lieu of aid for the spring term. Iang Lai has also gotten \$ 20 on the same basis. This concludes the help to Gou Mok Su. Iang Lai is to have another \$20 or \$30. I have not looked up what Page paid. He has entered nothing on your sheet of directions as paid, tho he has so done in other cases. Ma Ngak Khi \$10, and your subscription to the E-is church, ~~Cambridge~~ field.

I wish you would write me the facts in regard to the extent of the land belonging to this house site, your old home which we are inhabiting, and enjoying the wonderful views. Do the boundary lines follow the road down to Mission entrance, then on around the road towards the east, opposite the old sugar house property, then up the road to the house where Iang Lai is living? I have been too busy to look this up, but am very anxious to know. Fact is I feel we are going to have a job re-establishing our boundaries in some instances. Not about this house, but over on the back side of the compound; but I want to know about this land lying north-west, north and north-east of this house, all around the "point". I have had to run trespassers off down there and I want to be sure of my rights. Our trees are very inviting to folks out hunting fuel.

Also I should like to have the facts as to the residence lying down below the Boys' Grammar School. On what conditions is that available for use by the Grammar School. I suppose Page will know this but I should like to have your statement as to what you know about it.

Now I must stop for this time. This is so little of all I would like to tell you.

We have all been interested in your reports as to Mrs. Ashmore's health. We hope she is greatly relieved by now. She is certainly having a hard time, so hard for her since she is denied the full blessing of her hearing. Hope you are well too. Now we do miss you both. It has been very hard to have the whole thing this summer, especially when I have lacked so much information on some matters.

Most of us are fairly well, able to keep going, but we are not a vigorous lot by any means. Bessie has been especially tried, being still in bed after nearly seven weeks with dysentery. It has pulled on all of us, Dr. Everham, Dorothy Campbell as well as my wife and myself. It is a terrible disease. Of course you have had the news of our loss of Dr. Tai Kien It. That has been very hard indeed to bear. He was the choicest of our workers, it seemed to me. It leaves a great gap that we can't fill. A memorial service was held here in the chapel Saturday morning, after which the body was taken up to Kiu Ou for burial.

This brings our best regards.

Fraternally yours,