

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Chao-chow-fu
(Thars.) Nov. 16, 1916.

Dear George,

Am I at last going to write this long-delayed letter to you? I hope so, for I have long wanted to, but it is almost too good to be true.

Your last letter contained a letter from John - a good one - and a picture of dogs, both of which I was very glad to receive.

Nov 18. Sun. Well, I did not get very far that day, did I? Now Sunday has come. Ellison has gone off to Pang Khot² to baptize a boy or young man; and soon I must be starting across the river for church. I have just been trying to picture what the ocean and sky at home look like to-day, and whether all the leaves are off the trees yet. There is one tree near here whose leaves have turned reddish and I look at it very often with joy. It is the first tree ^{that I see} in China, whose leaves have turned color (reddish) in the fall. And I have been thinking how nice mother's cranberry sauce is!!! Try! it used to be good!

Our coolie is still sick. When Dr. Lusher looked at him last week he found that he was suffering with malaria, and so now we have hope of his recovery. His son pretends to do his work, but he doesn't succeed very well. His son had the nerve to call a Chinese doctor to see the old man this week. Think of that! Chinese doctors!!! You would be interested to know about them - but I have only time

at night, year after year until House burned and they had not been
in the 4 or 5 houses but a large country and several families. But they
got up a paper and said their next door ne they had a half a day. it was only.

to say that their medical knowledge is rich!!

You have succeeded in using the seal as good
you better than anyone else we have given them to.

I wonder if it is because you remember to use it ^{often} ~~often~~
each time of using.

Your letter of Oct. 3 in which you spoke of our
starting for China arrived on the day when we had been
here just three years I think. You planned well.

I am so glad that you boys can get down to see
Ruth so easily. Hope you will see her often.

Sorry ^{you} have had trouble with your teeth again. I shall
look forward to a letter about the hunt of October 15.

Your trip up the ~~white~~ Mt. Washington must have
been wonderful. I never have been there ^{and I wish I could go} ~~to the top of the mountain~~

I don't know that I ever acknowledged the stamps
that you sent me in the letter written Aug. 8. Thank
you very much. I am sorry that it was so much
bother that you don't want to try it again, for I would
gladly buy for you. If you boys wanted to make out
a list of people to whom you wanted to make presents
for Xmas 1917 for instance with a general price opposite
each name showing about how much you wanted to
spend, then I should be very glad to pick out things
for you. I can get cheap or expensive things.

I can't realize that you are 27 either.

Thank you so much for those two pretty letters

and you did not promise what did you say?

yellow birds. Every body admires them, and we enjoy them very much. And I thank you boys very much for the present which Ruth bought and let you send - the rice dress. You know I opened it because we have so much hot weather here that I thought I had better get some use out of it this fall. I certainly was very much pleased and am very grateful. There is nothing like having a dress "from America" in this land. It does look so nice, and feel so nice, and smell so nice - nothing oriental about it.

I am sorry to write any more about Carol's tuition, but I must confess I want to know a little more.

You write,

"About Carol's tuition - don't worry any more as it is all paid now."

Do you think that is very full information. I am led to think that you paid it, but a letter from Mother about that time says; - "We have got to pay C's tuition now sure - I am glad Pa has the money, even tho he changed mortgage on Poplar Court House to get it - must be paid before June 1st?"

Private now, dear, will you write me promptly and answer those questions directly: -

1. Did you promise me to pay C's tuition for any definite period of time?

In case you did not promise what did you say?

2. Have you paid one year's tuition?

3. Did I ever pay any tuition for you, when I was under a debt of \$730. + And not allowing myself to buy even 50 cents worth of candy a year, because I thought I must save every penny toward the debt and yours and Ruth's educations?

4. Have you saved any money in any bank except the Co-operative since you have been working, and if so, how much?

Please do answer these definitely and tell me of your affairs and hopes, so that I may sympathize with you and advise you, too, if you are willing to take any advice.

You see I have not mentioned the \$175.00 which I had hoped you would raise toward the \$350. mortgage on our house—the mortgage which makes my dad's of \$1000. for mother's support almost worthless! It is enough to make me worry a little.

I paid a big price for saving that money, Long. My baby might have lived if I had been younger married. My grief and loneliness you have realized I know.

And, dear, are you doing all you at for father and mother?—I keep thinking and thinking, "What

Don't show any one
more than you.

can I do to make Mother and Father more comfortable and happy?" I haven't succeeded in doing anything yet, but I have rallied my brains to think of something I could do at this distance and with the limited amount of money I can use. I know I shall wake up some day and think, "Oh, I might have done this or done that," and perhaps I shall have no chance. They have done so much for us! We cannot be too grateful. Mother has only old clothes to wear, hasn't she? When did she have her last new silk dress or suit? I have wondered if she needs that back cement porch that we spoke of so often before I left. Does she need the blinds painted and put on the house? Is there some comfort in the way of electricity - or kitchen improvements or anything in your power to do?

If you want real true happiness now and in the future, I know that you will agree with me, that it comes from denying self - to give to others. I can't tell you how much joy it has given me to think of the bath room and furnace in which I had a share.

So write me fully about these things and finally and talk the matter over with Ruth. She has a big burden and has shouldered it and is shouldering it so nobly!

Now very much love to you.
Father.

Money / Mass. Tax

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and
 wondering how you are getting on. I hope you
 are well and happy. I have been very busy
 lately, but I have managed to find some time
 to write to you. I have been thinking of you
 very much lately, and wondering how you are
 getting on. I hope you are well and happy.



Don't send to Ellison please
I'm following along - E.M.
On Active Service
WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

May 26 1918

My dear Carol: -

Your good letter written on
the 29th arrived the other day
along with one from George and
a letter from Marion. I cer-
tainly have the very best family
that ever was.

So you didn't receive my
letter - telling of getting a warrant
gap. I am a corporal here for
for over two months now. In that
letter I copied off the warrant I
received. I'll show it to you
when I get home. Of course being
a Corp in this outfit is nothing won-
derful it's not because I am any
good as a soldier but only that

and thistles in her letter to me, she
is always staying in helping her
mother the she is a kind, she is
I've written her once in the last
two months but numbered my letter
from 2 to 5 or six so she can
think some went down.

In her last she said Louis the
kid sister asked me to send her
a silk handkerchief, some new
Last night I was down town and
bought a couple and enclosing
one for you and one for mother
and one for Egan if she wants one
They are much good. just a little
sweeter. And also making one
of those two frame rings for you
Carol haven't finished it yet so
may not be able to put it in this
envelope but will send it soon some
time before July 11th yes I wish I were
rich I see so much that I wish I were
I could buy for you and my
whole month pay is only 100 francs

I was a little better motorcycle re-
pairman then the printer. That
what it supposed to mean tho.
most of the fellows say it isn't
what you know but who you know
That gets one the warrant. It is a guess
that some of the birds that have
sergeanteries sure got on by being
good friends I've bought more then
one sergeant a thing or two since
I've been working. regular Bill that
hard ain't it?

Carol your letter kind of pricked
me when you told of her. Has he
played you dirt? if he has to god
some one is going to get him when
we get back. Don't worry about
him Carol wait till you go to
college next fall you'll meet some
one that really comes some where
near your level. Lin wasn't hardly
part good enough for you. I think
glad you enclosed that letter
from Gert that sure shows her up
going out every night to dances

And after paying my bills for last month to Rich and Guy only about 15 francs, but it went into the little roll. They ask us for everything for those darn little rags cost 3 francs apiece. Last night I wanted something to eat and saw some apples and as we throw away all those little tiny things half-butter asked how much, picked out four little ones and wanted a franc, think 5¢ apiece. I bought a couple of small oranges for a franc, a lime a piece. Its the same way with every thing. They think we are all millionaires! you see their soldiers get 5 cents a day and we get a dollar ten or more. I get 40.00 a month now.

We had our pictures taken a couple weeks ago by a Frenchman who was funny the way he tried to pose us Rich and Guy and I we finally got our taken. I am going down this afternoon to see if they are fine




On Active Service
WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

2 ————— 51

-ished. That's a long for you Card, slow
good night, I think. He wants 15 days
to develop a dozen pictures I guess.
Our guys are giving him more
work than he ever had before.
The other night I borrowed a bike
and rode way out in the country.
I told you in an old letter of walking
to a town north of here & then, I rode
that and rode to the next village.
It's great to be able to get out on
the road and see the real French
country, with the little farm houses
with the milk or cows and chickens
looking out of one door of the house
and the pretty French girls or the
old women or men looking out of
the next. Barn and house all one,
chickens, ducks, pigs etc walk thru

leaving a funny looking foot
standing where once was a nice
tree, but it's good in a way kind
of "Not killing the goose that lays
the golden egg; you know for
it's sent long before the tree sprouts
out and grows once more along
the road one passes hundreds of
Willows trimmed down to their stumps
and others all branched out like
this



And the gates you'll have to laugh
at too, so old fashioned 
you see the rocks balance was
that turns easier.
Told you in the last letter we
were to have Sunday off didn't
I? Well today is the first I slept
tho' breakfast every morning
as we got up we used to talk of
how long we were going to sleep
when we got home, today we had

to the back yard or to this part
of the house, and then there is
always that pool of drinkwater
out in front, it wouldn't be there
if it wasn't dirty, slow, a hundred
years behind the times, a big city
as big as Gloucester with no drainage
except the gutters of the streets for
the ditch water and swell and on
old iron barrels under the water
some place this France but
believe me it's going to be a
different place after that U.S.
soldiers and engineers are here
long. They put the snap in a town
in no time.

One thing you would notice if you
came to France ~~and~~ you'd wonder
what kind of trees it was that
grew so funny along the road.
You see they used all the fire
wood they can get as they trim
down the trees to the dead trunk

a chance to try it out there was
one fellow slept till about 8.30
I got up a bit after breakfast
about 6.30 I guess.

Rick and Carl, are down playing
Tennis does that sound like being
soldiers? you are the 1st I've visited
a court and gave those two per-
mission to use it this morning
Carl is a peach of a fellow from
California. Hopkins his last
name is Rick and I are planning
to cross the country on motors
after this was to see him.

You say you are reading Thorlat.

Evening Post, goes, watch for me
I'm going Cobbs stories, he is a fellow in
the firm and went through our shops
the other day he may write a story on
it. That's great the way you illustrate
your letters, I saw Bill Hart's old
one at the 1st the other night the Patient
I saw it back a couple of years but
was great to see again
Best regards of love to you Kay John
But the fact is in different words

Dear Marion,

Please excuse the abruptness of my note the other day, but there was no more time. And I guess there is not much more to-day, but I want to send lots of love, and mention my appreciation of my time with you. It was a rare opportunity and I am glad for every minute of it. Wish I could have finished Philip's dress and done more. It was so nice to be with the children. Dick was so especially nice to me that I want him to know that I appreciate it. Wish he and Bessie could have seen Baby, but their day will come later. So glad they are learning.

Baby has been good. Thank you so much for taking me to the station.

Love Marie comes to you all.

We are to use the money in one of those two ways, isn't it?

Much love - to each of the children
and big hugs to yourself.

Love -

London Dec. 22-1916



S. S. VENEZUELA

Dear John, I am nearly standing
on my head because it is so rough, but
I am going to write you a little note.
It is Friday or Saturday I don't know which,
but I know that we ought to be close to Yokohama,
and instead we are 1100 miles away on account
of rough weather. Such big waves and seas as
we have had! I have not been at all sick since
the first few hours, but Ellice has felt
fairly miserable all the time and has
been quite sick at the roughest times. One
woman fell down this Morn. on her head and
was unconscious from the fall. Another woman
fell out of her chair in the dining room
a number of days ago. You can imagine
that we are rather careful of the children
under the circumstances.

The boat is very comfortable. At the front part of upper deck there is a protecting forest with lots of unmovable glass windows - and canvas is put up on each side so that we can walk around without fear of being heavily splattered. At the back end of the upper deck, is a smoking parlor, partly enclosed but wide open in back so that one can sit much as in an observation car, and enjoy the view without the wind.

John dear, you shouldn't have sent us such a wonderful present. It was altogether too much for you to do. We surely appreciate your thought for us, and your willingness to do this when you need so much for yourself. I shall be interested to hear your plans.

I suppose that you must have put away the motor-cycle by now. I hope that the winter will not be too hard for Daddy. It is hard for us to realize here how cold and stormy it may be at home. I haven't ~~seen~~ had my suit coat on until to-day. maybe

three or four days after leaving San Francisco. We left Dec. 11th and arrived at Honolulu Dec. 11 (Sun). The trip through the is long that on my hands at ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~long~~ had cut out the rough hot trip to Hawaii and the long wait there.

Jan. 1, 1921. I know the date to-day, you see.

We are having it a little less rough, and a trifle cooler to-day. John is asleep and so is Alice. Ellison is figuring, but says he can't think, - can just work mechanically on this boat.

Well they had a gay time last evening with melting the old year out. I was so sleepy that I went to bed and did not hear the whistling and tooting at midnight. There was a lot of champagne drinking too, - liquor seems to be allowed on the high seas. Well, thank you again John for your nice present for us all.

Love to Grandma and to yourself
Lottie.

Oct. 8, 1922

Dear, dear Nannie,

It was so good
of you to write me from Hingham.
And I have not yet thanked
you for the very pretty hanky
you sent me. It goes awfully
well with my suit and I like it
immensely. It was nice, too, to
have it on my birthday in Peking.
I have been wondering whether
the weather was unbearably hot as
you stayed on in Hingham. I do so
hope not, for it does make one feel so
useless and good for nothing.

I am so very glad that you
got help from Mrs. French and
I do hope that you will be permanent.

3 to it at first except as I looked more lovingly at Ellison and the children, and thought more longingly of you folks at home I mentioned to Ellison, but I did not speak of it more than once altho it kept recurring and I kept wondering about it, and then when I found I had to come to Peking, I was quite certain that that ~~might~~^{might} be the fulfilment - You can imagine how doubly hard it was to leave the children with that fear in my heart. Well - I found myself getting into such a nervous state and so fearful of everything and always looking for possible

helped. I can't tell you how concerned I have been that you have been there so much. How gladly any one of us would have saved you from it if we could have! But it is like your own brave self to keep on fighting and struggling until you gained the victory - or at least the upper hand which will insure victory in the end.

I have had a little mental battle myself which ended in an unexpected victory - and which I will mention merely because it may be of little use to you. Ever since spring I have had more or less persistently a premonition that I should soon die. I did not pay much attention

accident, that I began to realize that the nervous fear was not preparing me for the dreaded separation, but merely unfitting me for any courageous meeting of events. So finally one night I faced it and I questioned with myself what were these nervous fears and I faced them finally and with tears streaming down my face (for it was very real). I finally admitted that I could lean the children and loved ones if it was God's will.

Well, the actual fight was about as difficult as the real thing might have been, but having once faced it and fought with the

unreasoning fear, I felt as if a great burden had been lifted from my soul. I knew I could meet what would come, but the very ability destroyed the fear. It was a most interesting psychological phenomenon.

Altho I had been as nervous during the operation on my nose that my hands shook all the time and I was cold all over, I went to the second operation without a quiver, and ever since I have felt a new courage. I began to realize that I had had no strange experience, but an experience that comes to almost everyone who is to

for your wonderful life of generous giving
and sacrifice. Don't look down humbly upon
yourself as you are prone to do, but get some joy
and comfort from the homage which the family
as a unit gives to you. There is no one like you,
and never can be such another dear Mahala.
So rejoicing in that, and knowing that God does
not desert his loved ones when they are in trouble,
try to get back to that calm restfulness which
will free your heart from fear and give you rest
and sleep. Don't attempt the impossible or work.

meet a serious operation in
hospital, or who is about to enter
the battle line, or who has to
meet the dread spectre of old
age and feeble health or dire
accident.

And so I have told you this
hoping that Mrs. French and
your new attitude of peace
and calm have taken hold
of your soul. and if by any
chance you fall back ^{and by the way I hope they}
a time remember that I am
daily praying God that He
will enfold you in His
peace and calm and
give only a measure of
the blessings you deserve

and trust us for using the
same judgment in trying to
care for you which we expect
you to use for yourself. Some
must overdo - some must worry.
Do keep us in touch with your
feelings - It is a safety valve
to let them out and express them.
And please do keep me in touch
with Marion's affairs. I do worry
a little about her - for fear her
burden is sometimes too heavy
to bear. How I wish I could
help now! How is Dick getting
on? Is he planning for further
education?

How very very much love to you
Lottie

Chao chawfu
Nov. 16, 1921
Dear Rahmi,
I have been wanting to write you
afraidly, but have found it hard to get time
with so much confusion around the house.
The workmen are inside now working on
ceilings and walls and we have to take all the
furniture from one ^{room} and pack it in
the other two.
How are you sleeping now? And just how are
you feeling? Do tell me in detail.
The letter you sent Oct. 6. instead of arriving
at Thanksgiving time arrived Nov. 6. Wasn't
that good? What you all will be with Ruth at Thanksgiving?
John insists on sending prices by
the moon for so long some night, that I
have to stop him. He loves to
Why you don't hurry on a nice sweater.
She can still wear her white corduroy coat
this winter, but next winter she ^{will} be in
more a necessity - Oh, it will be so
nice and surely is a gift for Christmas.
What do you want to say to Dear Rahmi, John? Does
just now, and he quickly replied, "Thank you
for making our sweaters!"

pressed by words. However, I wish I had better use of those which exist.

I was glad to have a word or two of descriptions of George's children. So Betsy do her share as George?

That's lovely, walk it must have been this the Southern words to Long Beach! Who led the way? I am so glad that Esther could hear it too. She certainly had a trying time with President Chalmers. I have known people of his character, however, to be just as abstracted wondering!

Was Effieing Dr. H. any significance in our family?

Said that Elsie got on. Why does not Ralph get married? Does he help Elsie so much that he is not yet ready to wonder.

I should love to hear Elsie sing.

Did Mother have a hard summer?

I am so delighted that Della is home. As usual you have

I was so grateful for Della's good letter and yours ^{and Charles} with it. It surely was a pleasure to receive it. And the nice toy came yesterday P.M. I am saving it for John's birthday next week. He will be awfully pleased.

Thank you for the copy of Della's letter to you. I was also glad to get that and twice the letters from Mary, Ruth, and Esther.

It was too bad that you should lose any of Jennie's visit. I am glad you got back in time to get a glimpse of the Kilduffs. It was too bad that the talk with Mrs. French was not satisfactory, but it is not strange. I have had lots of new ideas within the last few months, but when I try to express them in words - or ellipsis for instance, they sound very ordinary. However, it is the new meaning to the old words - that counts. Words - I have always insisted - are very poor mediums of expression, - altho I recognise that they are very very clear, and I have no better suggestion. Still the content of our minds cannot be fully ex-

Probably 20-30 or more killed in Typhoid, they thought now. Always numbers are added!
There is some fighting around numbers, and nothing else at a

Come at the crucial time to help another one face this crisis. Your whole life, it seems to me has been a succession of putting yourself in to help some one else along, or out of a difficulty.

Please always tell me when there is duty on a parcel and how much it is. I need to know. I have not ordered your Duchow silk yet. I am very very slow at carrying out orders. I have it on a list to be done however.

I shall be sending on a birthday present to you before very long - with much love. I hope ~~very~~ Christmas gift will not seem less full of love because it comes from U.S.A.

We thought a long time before deciding and I do hope that it will give you pleasure. We enjoy it so very much.

I hope the cold you mentioned in the letter of Sept. 20 did not last long. They do make you feel so miserable.

I hope you will not be ashamed of the few things I sent Della. I did not know whether they were too poor to send or not, and would like you to tell me frankly - if you see them. I know the some of them have value, but I mean to spare about the dresses. I hope to start some kindergarten work with John after Pines.

5.7.41 wif only

Please return
to me immediately
I won't accept all
pounds



U.S. NAVY

Dear Marion:

x Your check book was one of the presents that pleased me most of all. The necktie was nice too, and with all the other things you gave us I feel entirely unworthy.

But that check book has permanent value, and long after the other things are worn out I expect to treasure that — and perhaps imitate it in gifts to some of my friends.

x If my memory serves me you were present at the send-off that the Rockport church gave us (at the cost of considerable time and trouble to both you and Tom). The send-off given us by the churches at Holyoke and Oakland was in no way inferior to it in any respect. But I really think that I shall remember longer the little reception you arranged for

of the prospect of seeing you again. tho I feared that
I should be so busy that you would hardly see any of
us to pay you for the tale. But I didn't know for the half cent
you had admitted to some. — the I am not surprised at all.
I guess the dear quite a bit of your mother, but I saw
the very little under favorable conditions I don't know
how often to see. I met her, but as it is I wasn't even at
home when she arrived. I saw her at supper, but then I had
to go down town after supper, and the rest of the night I was down
at the office and elsewhere at work. I wasn't around much of the
morning either. And as you know, then train for Boston got to
8 1/2 before our train which was postponed & I have nearly half
an hour earlier. Perhaps it was earlier for them to say good bye
and leave us. then it would have been to say good bye and
have to leave them. People as give him left with just exactly the
same that was that.
The fact that as is on the way to 3 p.m.; simply the reason where
around he rather before it was with the carmen for stopped
with rest. As the machine doesn't feed. For most I was not much
worried for with ample time, and we knew the service
can easily be as to 3 p.m. etc. if the man couldn't make our
car go. But we were afraid the car would answer about it.

no. and that it will mean more to us
It seems so tho I have written this
before. but if so maybe it will stand
the repetition for it to still time that
of course is one of the advantages of
telling the truth. — that you don't have
to keep a card index of the various
facts told to various people in order
to make future ones agree with them.

I have just been looking at a list
that Father wrote in a Barlowe - Ayer
notebook. and I find in it a note from
you thanking making me to thank
mother for her invitation to come to
Hamp. good bye to me etc. etc.

I suspected that your mother must
have brought this notebook along
and given it to Father; that Father tho
you had just sent her another small
present, had tucked it into the baggage
somewhere; that later when she
wanted to make a list she found the
book and put the list on the first
blank page; and that if I hadn't
consulted the list it might have been
yet some time before Father noticed
your note.

Father told me on her arrival
at Holyoke that your mother was
coming to see us off; and also that you and
Tom were planning to do so. I was glad

And you escaped that worry by not
coming to H & see me

I will send you your thanks.
But while I am speaking of that I want
to mention that I have never adequately
thanked you for all you did for me this
summer, including (among other things)
the privilege of using your house in
August, the privilege of stopping
over on my several brief visits
at half 8) and the privilege of
running in to spend the night here
after the family had gone to bed.
I haven't any way, now, of thanking you
adequately but I do want to tell you
again that I appreciated it.

Please tell Tom that I wish I could
talk with that man in the office again,
for I wouldn't admit that the example
of Japan proved so much. I have learned
more about Japan since that conversation.

Please give my love to Tom, and also
to D. D. S. and P. If you ever get
over a jagged, let me let you see
"The Real Mother Goose" and look up
"Tommy's books" in about the middle
of the book. Only one John also has
picture to say "Tommy's Gene."

Lovingly yours
Allison

Suatoe &
May 10 - 1923

Dear Marion,

I am ashamed
not to have written you often.
I don't know how long this
letter has been addressed with
Alice and John's thank you
for the lovely things you
sent. And I hope I have
written Polly about that
beautiful handkerchief. It
certainly is pretty and I ap-
preciate it.

By overlooking this letter,
I have been able to add two
snapshots which I think are
very decent. ^{Oye} It is too awfully
of me, but I was thinking of

can't be here. I wanted to have it for
Miss Sanderson and Miss Miller, who
gave me a pretty ~~little party~~ to match my
new dress, and the first of whom is going
home to N. Y. this spring.

We have had three beautiful days of
warm weather, but our season is quite
cool, and I have not yet minded the heat

much. I have been so glad that you have

been with Daddy and Mother, all the time.

the children.

Ellison is in Shanghai.
I have been relieved of correcting
English essays and so have had
a holiday this week at school,
and so I have had a little
more time than usual.

We fell up again to-morrow.
Mrs. Lecher comes and Miss
Boso, and I gave at a
tea party to-morrow PM,
and gives luncheon party
the next day. I am pleased,
because the people ^{for} whom
I was having it especially

Monday Good night Son. With love of love.

It must have been
very hard for you.

Children are well and
both send love

Had some very interesting
calls among the people on Tuesday
AM. I also visited a temple
where the folk were so crowded
I could scarcely push my way in.
The smoke from burning yach sticks
was like clouds outside. Whole tables
were covered with food brought to the
gods, and fire crackers were
going off incessantly.

I am so glad that our mother
comes back on Sunday.

What an interesting call you had
on Madge Washell. Perhaps she
sent me the booklet from Basin Montana.
It was most helpful and interesting.

Received by
Marion
Dec. 2, 1923.

American Board Correspondence
Peking, Dec. 2, 1923. ✓

Dear Marion,

This is a beautiful Sunday morning. The sun is streaming into my little room and at 10:40 I am beginning to write, then I should have begun an hour ago, if I had not stopped for some Victrola music, then to read in the paper an account of the Tokyo earthquake by E. M. Call of Columbia University, and quite a few pages in Glover's book, "Jesus, in the Experience of Men". It is a helpful book.

I do enjoy the laziness of these convalescing days very much, for they give me this time to browse around and get some of the reading I always long to get when I am where books are. I ^{almost} always go down early for meals and read some in J. Arthur Thomson's "Outlines of Science".

it just about wound on a card about 4 1/2 yards - when it
reached that it wasn't clover leaf at all, and I don't
believe I have any clover leaf. I don't think I have had
any for years. We don't see it very often now - but maybe I
can get some if I inquire sufficiently. At any rate see if
you can wear this. I told Mrs. Eldredy to sell it at 28.20 a yard
but if you find it hard to sell - lower it a little. Don't pay
me for it. I am glad to let you have it.
We have not found the film (plate) of that pict. taken
on return from Peking in 1922. Maybe if we ever get
settled again with our things in one place, I can
find

I am enjoying meeting nice people here in Peking. This afternoon
I am to talk to Grand Mrs. Maxwell-Gill-C. and 3 women
from the American Club and her American
doctor husband. They have a lovely six month old baby. The
men are all cheerful and pleasant and sympathetic; the

or in Current magazines, of which there
are a good many here.

I just wish you could have as much
leisure for a few days, for I know there
are heaps of things you want to do.

How is Dick getting on - and how are
Lorrett, Gene, and Pelly taking their schools?
I think of them often. Are you keeping
warm enough this winter?

I am sending another nephew in this package.
This is the third one! Hope they arrive safely.
I am each day feeling stronger and able
to do more, and I get a lot of sleep which
is in itself the best restorative.

I have two letters from you - just as fine
better than I deserve. ^{me} Think I taking paper and
pencil to Dick to write!

I have been wondering about the sale
of water colors. I fear not many people
come to see. No ticket as yet. It probably
should be in a more central place, or
else very widely advertised.

I just see on opening the 2nd
letter that you wanted 3 yds. clover leaf
tattooing. I have - and got it - and had

girl is rather cool and very
professional. She is a specialist in
eye, ear, and throat.

I have had word this week that
the children are getting on fine - getting
fatter and gaining color. I know they
would with Mrs. Baker and I am
delighted.

Ellice is out in the country a good
deal. I have not yet heard of John's
birthday.

You perhaps have not yet heard that Mr.
Maxwell advises my going home for the
winter, and as I am hoping that about
two weeks more will see me on the way.

Hope all

Very much love to you all - and thank
you for good letters. Don't kill yourself
with work. Love,
Lester.