

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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From Alice and Ben Baker (1927)

Copies of letters from Baker regarding student Stephen Chwang (1927, 1928)

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Kakohich, S wator, June 12, 1937.

*Dear Ones
Sator
of my dear ones
by love*

Dear Ones in Both Homes,

I can take a bit of time to write you today for I do not have to write to the children. We are getting quite excited. Howard and Beside are today, no doubt, on the high seas somewhere between Shanghai and here. We had word lately that they were planning to leave Shanghai yesterday. They will be due in Swatow Tuesday morning early. Already Alice and I are planning to go to bed early tomorrow night and be up bright and early Tuesday morning. The ship may get in Monday night sometime if all goes well. Weather here has been very rainy and unusually cold. But this morning the sun has come out and we have had a fine day. Do not yet know, tho, whether it will continue so until after Tuesday morning or not. It has been bad so long we ought to have a breathing spell. We are hoping Tuesday will dawn fair. There are six children in the group if they all come together. Three are those of one of the port pilots, an American.

There is not much news. Alice has about gotten her accustomed strength back. It was a strange attack, we do not know positively what it was. The weather has been so rainy and dreary and unusually cold that sickness is common. I am now suffering from a cold in my head that settled about my old poor ear, and it has made me very uncomfortable. I hope the warmer weather will drive it out and let me have a little peace. It is hard to shoulder the increased responsibilities and have the body so measly.

Folks are gradually leaving Swatow for the summer. One of our families left the past week, the men quite ill. They will be gone until fall, and it may be they may not be able to return. We do not anticipate that, however. Others leave this week. I am having all I can look after to keep this up. There are endless items of affairs to look after, and such a lot of account keeping.

We had a very sad accident here near Swatow last Monday. One of the Kityang steam launches from Kityang sank in the river some ten miles from Swatow with all her big load of human freight. It is thought that there must have been six or seven hundred people aboard. Four hundred bodies have been recovered. No one knows how many are undiscovered, and how many escaped. We have not yet had the real details. The launch was over loaded, it is clear. Something may have caused sudden alarm and the people run to one side and tipped the boat so the water came in. It did not turn over. It is a terrible tragedy. Scores of bodies were exposed on the shore front at Swatow so relatives could recognize them. Then they had to hang up clothing or any bit of evidence so seekers might know something of the drowned ones. One of our preachers was aboard, but managed to escape. Chinese charitable organizations got coffins and prepared the bodies for burial. We all contributed to these. The Christian church is not yet in a position to do this work. It is to be credited to China that they have organizations who come to the rescue in such emergencies.

The political situation is quiet. We have been in trouble in our school at Chaochowfu again. I have written of the trouble there when the break came between the Conservatives and the Communists. Our principal returned and the school went on. The authorities were evidently persuaded that our men were not radicals and dangerous, for the school was not molested after the search for the principal. Then after

a while some of the advanced students became unruly and acted generally insubordinate. They faculty warned the parents and finally expelled five of the boys. These boys had been in the red organization in the school with the teachers before. So they went to the magistrate and charged the principal as a Communist. They were expelled one day. A detachment of soldiers without warning, of course, came the next and called for the principal and in his absence searched his room, and for us fortunately found nothing incriminating. Two teachers got scared and went into hiding. I went up last Tuesday and spent the day with a group on the matter. Later some of the men came down here. The students association took the matter up- you see how the students have the ear of the government- and wrote the trustees for an explanation. This was sent them. A charge against the students was also to be sent to the magistrate. That is as far as I have advice. I am just waiting to see the end of the term come. Education of upper grade students certainly is a job. I am perfectly willing that those who have a calling for it look after it. Unfortunately I can't get free so easily. We have a great deal of mission property for educational work here, and our Chinese do not feel just as we do about it, the matter of discontinuing such work. And if we did, what would become of this property. That is one of the knotty problems I have to work over this summer while I am the only man on our field here to look after all the work. Of course we have long since taken the position that it is for the Chinese Church to determine what it proposes to do in all the work, that we from now on are merely helpers. But the difficulty is they are really not in a position to assume this responsibility the they claim it. There are jealousies that keep us from a strong and consistent educational policy. It remains to be seen just where we shall come out. But I shall not write more of this. I am planning a letter for those of our folks who are not here on the field and will have a copy of that sent to you folks.

It is getting on to afternoon church time. I will have to leave you. We prize the letters you send us. Do not think we ever forget. Fact is our experiences here now make us look back your way with no little longing. But our duty is here, especially right at this time, and we stand ready to pay the price. Remember us all in your prayers. This has been the coolest June we have ever known in South China, if we know anything about it, and that has helped. I am sitting here at the machine now, with the sunshining outside, and I am wearing a light weight wool coat and flannel trousers. Usually it is all white after May.

We will send you another letter telling about the children as soon as they get in and are settled. Just a little over a day now. I tell you we are eager to see Tuesday morning come. I wonder if I shall be able to sleep Monday night!

Love to you all. I will leave that in the machine. Alice may want to add a word. Now it is 9:30 p.m. Even Sunday evening I have had to work over mission problems. Now we must to bed. Love to you all from all of us.

August 29, 1927.

Dear Bob and Lottie,

I am far from at leisure enough to give attention to personal letters. I have written home people only once if that in weeks. So I can't write you now as I should like. But Alice has an envelope going to you and I have a red hot proposition that concerns you so I must take time to give you the essential facts.

Tsu Kui came to me recently. He reports that Bob agreed to meet his essential expenses at the College for the past term and for this fall term. He says Bob gave Miss Lacey to pay on his account \$109, which was to meet his essential expenses. This she paid over to the school, not thru his hands. In addition Bob gave him \$20 here when he left for Shanghai and later on his way home, gave him another \$20 at Shanghai, this \$40 to meet incidental expenses, travel etc.

He says he got work at the school that paid his tuition. But as Hildreth had paid this thru Miss Lacey he tried to draw the \$40 he earned. They would not pay it to him. So he was hard hit. Apparently he could not get an understanding thru Miss Lacey, and get a rebate on what Bob paid. He was quite sore about it, evidently. He has had to borrow quite a bit from friends.

Some weeks ago he came back to Swatow, but I did not see him until just recently. Finally he came to me and talked the matter over. I told him you left no data with me whatever, but I went over the case with him. His position Friday was: You had agreed to help him thru the coming term, paying what was essential expense, and he thought your meaning was you would help towards the expenses as you had done this term, incidental expense, I mean. He has had no word from you further and does not know whether you have given any instructions to the Mission Treasurer at Shanghai or not. So he did not dare return to school, without some assurance, and wanted to know if I had any suggestion as to what might be done.

I may not have gotten all his ideas accurately. He may not have understood you. But I think there is no doubt but that he feels he has your assurance that you will help him this term as you did last. So I am agreeing to advance him the \$ 20 from here, and another \$20 when he gets into school, all for incidental expenses. Then I am agreeing to advance the payment of essential expense to the school which should be \$109 according to your reckoning, unless there has been some increase in expense this term. In other words I am agreeing to advance for him at least \$149 for this fall term.

I think under the circumstances this is what you would want me to do. I shall appreciate your advice as soon as possible in the matter. Of course it will be too late to change it then but I want to know what your mind is in the matter. Naturally I am doing this realizing I will have to meet the expense if you find it is contrary to your plans and you cannot do so.

Recently I got a notice thru the Board that Bob had deposited with them \$20 U. S. for work outside the appropriations. I have not had word from Shanghai yet. But when this available I shall apply it on Tsu Kui's expenses until I have advice from you.

Thank the Lord we have kept well tho we have had to stay here and have had a very strenuous summer. Children are well and are beginning to get ready to leave us again--- this time for a long, long ten months. It is a hard pill, I can tell you.

I have been sending advice on mission affairs to the ~~missionaries~~ Dr. Franklin. Am mailing another communication to him to day. It has been my request, following his offer to do so, to have copies of these sent out to you, folks at home. Twice I have sent a list of the addressees as far as I have them, of the folks at home. If you have not gotten your copy write in and ask for it. There ought to be several communications.

The matter of voting on return of missionaries at home has been before the Convention and then before its committee. Only in the case of Siedt has any action been taken, and that was on recommendation of his Khu Ex. Com. I shall bring this up again formally before the next meeting of the U I Wu Hui in September. They do not seem over-anxious to take the matter up. I made a mistake; Lin Ek Toi did present the request of their Khu for Dr. Groesbeck to come back to them, just an oral request, with the statement that they would send a "kong ham" if that was required. It seemed to me like Form. But the Executive Committee endorsed it. It has not come to me yet. The Kityang Khu Ex. Com. also asked that Hobart be returned to them after coming back from the Philippines. They said nothing about the return from America, tho I made it plain I was asking for him for just that. Dr. Leach has written that they told her they were going to ask for him after furlough, but feared to do it now lest it might prevent them getting Siedt back this fall. This will come up again in Sept.

Plans are under way to open the New School, Ling as principal, Sept. 13. I have dabled their request to Woman's Board for Abbie and Emily. Either Hobart or I will have to be here for the school. Both Khus have asked us to come back to them. So it remains to be seen how it will work out. We are hoping we can go back to Chaochowfa on Page's return, but we do not know.

Situation is quiet. Adams and Whitman are at Hope. Bousefield is at Sun-wu, and Anna Foster at Kaying. Bousefield wants to take his wife up in October. So you see things are getting better. All now depends on the turn affairs take up north. Our worst day is over, I think, unless opportunity comes for the radicals to come back. But the Chinese have had their lesson, and I do not anticipate that. Communism in its radical form I think is a dead number here. I do not question the way will steadily open for aggressive Christian work. I do not yet know how much a share in that we foreigners can have. I am anxious to get back to the City to make an attempt to find this out.

Now I must stop. This brings our love to you all.

Fraternally yours,

Ben A. Baker

[fragment]

Kakohick, Sept. 13, 1937.

Dear Ones in both Hesse,

We haven't written you the last ten days, but it sure is not because we have not thought of you. We have had to go thru pretty deep waters. Time and again I have tried to write but finally had to give up. I couldn't. To-day our hearts are singing and I can write.

This old compound has been invaded by a scourge of dysentery the past month or so. It took our cooks little baby and then Dr. Tai, one of our best and most highly treated Chinese workers. Some fifteen others were ill. Then it came into our home and Beemie, dear, has been fighting for her life since last Sunday the 4th. It has been more than I can tell you. Now she has suffered. At times in the morning she would be so bright that we felt the worst was over, then by night time again she would seem not so well. At times I would write a little and then I couldn't come near the machine. This morning she seems so much better that I feel she is surely on the road to health again, so I am writing. I can't tell you all, of course, it would be useless now. But I want you to know more or less. And oh, how we wished we were where you folks come be with us during those darkest hours.

She began with a temperature on the 2nd. It was so sudden and without any other symptoms, so it was at once diagnosed as malaria, which was most surely correct. But even heavier than averaged doses of quinine did not bring the fever down. Heavier doses still did do so, at least showed results. Sunday frequent calls to the stool gave the signal warning, and we realized she had dysentery. But some have it in light form and some are hard hit. She got thru Sunday fairly well, but suffered Monday. Monday night Alice was having a strenuous time caring for her alone. I assisted until about midnight. I had had some great symptoms for the past two days, but laid it to my nervous-sympathetic temperament, for the face of Dr. Tai was before my eyes all the time. I had three calls that night before four o'clock, so when I was up to help about that hour I had to tell Alice that I had the trouble myself. You can imagine the plight. I had to go to bed and stay. Some of Beemie's medicine was turned over to me and I began my vigorous treatment as she was leaving. I tell you it looked dark for a while. I felt that unless God gave some kind of unusual cure I could not pull thru such an experience as Tai had had and Beemie was getting into. There were frequent movements when she had to be held up, and the medicine used, the active element in opium, caused vomiting. And her pain was severe, those times when I helped before I had to give up.

As I laid down my share in the things that had to be done and realized what it might mean to Beemie and me and what it would seem to the others to have to care for us both, not to mention worse things, I can tell you it was one of my hardest hours. I can't understand how one without God can go thru such experiences. I faced all the possibilities. I was sorry some things were not in better shape, but I found peace in resignation to what could not be helped and trusted in God's love and wisdom, and power. thru prayer and faith and trust I found it possible to banish anxiety. But it took an active and persistent employment of those religious faculties. Victory came, tho, in the end. I could face the worst and not worry.

Infant!
!!!
!!!

Do write
from us
Love
from
Alice
Beemie
Mary
John

Oct. 2, 1927.

Dear Bob and Lottie,

Enclosures will give you news of us. I am sorry one letter is so past history, but thought it might add a bit of information. Now I can add but a short personal word, such as I would like to send a long letter.

We are glad for the encouraging news of yourselves. It is fine Alice is so well, and we hope now John has gotten put on the road to Wellville and may soon be as hale as she is. We hope you too will get stronger than you have yet been. We rejoice that Aunt Cele is doing so well. She is a wonder. Not many women would have the pluck to do what she did. May the good old American air boost her still.

People are returning to the compound, and it is not so lonesome. Hobarts are helping me a while, but will now go on to Kityang as soon as the situation justifies, which we hope it will do in a few days. I have sent letters on general affairs to Mr. Franklin with the understanding you get copies. Hope you do. Have heard from some that were on our list and know they are being sent out.

You will have read in those of what I have tried to do in the matter of missionaries on furlough. Finally get action in recent Council meeting, reported to Franklin. As you will not your names are referred back to the Knu. They will have a meeting this month and I shall write them further that they will want to consider the matter. Meeting is to be at Khan-c because the City would not have it. Am afraid I shall not be able to go. That church was last year included in the Knu Association. This year Tang Jin Sun is to have a place on the program. I rather expect the new organization will be an even stronger Knu machine than ever. I was hoping to get Tai on that field to take a lead in affairs and it looked as if it might be, when he left us. I am distressed to know how to plan now. The missionary cannot be executive in this age. The City and the Knu are as far apart as ever. Do not recall if I wrote you. There was trouble a second time and Lou Kien Hong et others had to get out and finally resigned. There was trouble with the City Students' Asso. and a threat that the Bd. authorities would take over. So a principal had to be found. And Khou proved the man available. I have not been able to go there so do not know how things are progressing. It has not helped the breach to heal. Just what will come at the Asso. I do not know. Think Khou will move to consolidate his position, and perhaps plan to get charge of the Special Ev. funds as well. I am thinking of recommending a suspension of those funds until a worthy plan of work is proposed with reasonable promise of accomplishing something. The present preacher has done little along this line. I know the situation has been against him, and the Committee in charge have done nothing, but he has not shown himself aggressive in attempting to press for the proclamation of the gospel. Just a few days ago I had a letter from Si I Tek signed as a deacon saying the church was subscribing and hoped to be able to become "teu lip" in the matter of calling a preacher. Nothing was said about any other phase of the work. I am not at all sure he was not writing for himself. He and Tso Lou are partners, and I do not trust them. Hope this last experience with the Reds will open their eyes a bit. Waiting for news.

all I can write now

Dear Bob and Lottie,

Must add a word about Teu Kui etc. before this goes off.

Lottie's letter came with the check for \$10 U. S. for helping students. We will look after the matters as best we can. I have written you about what I agreed to do for Teu Kui. I let him have \$30 here and gave him a check for \$30 to be used when he needed it after getting to Shanghai, and promised to meet his school bill up to \$100.

Miss Lacey writes that you have sent \$103 for him. He has an understanding with the school, Miss Lacey pays his necessary expenses, I think she said she had turned over \$100 of what you sent. He earns his tuition and the school agrees to pay that to him so he will have money for necessary expenses. They will also pay him the balance they owed him on his tuition off the spring term. But he will not be flush, for he owed considerable when he came down. He seemed notable to find anything to do this summer. Now since Miss Lacey has this money from you I will not need to worry about it. However, what is your wish in the matter of the \$40 I advanced him, which was similar to what you advanced him when he went up last winter? As I wrote I am paying it out of the specific of \$20 U. S. which you sent out from these two non-baptist churches until I have advice from you in the matter. La Chhin is in charge of your house. Do not yet know if our homes were occupied by the military or not. It is a question yet whether they may not be later on, for the Nationalist troops are not averse to so doing if they wish to, not to speak of the Communists. I hope to get up for a look ~~around~~ when Page gets back.

shall mention my only have called for Giedt, and shall be glad to have him as soon as he can get on the field. Expect Lewis to return after first of the year.

New school has about 140 pupils. I am to teach until Giedt comes, when there is to be a rearrangement between him, Hobart and me. Hobart does not want to go into the school. The Chinese want O. to go to Kityang, H. to come to the school, and then release me to go to O-o-fu. Not a very good plan. No news from Woman's B'd about Abbie and Emily. I have cabled twice. They were promised to the school and they are needed. I shall begin with them as soon as Page can get on his job.

Now I must to bed. With lots of love,

AS EVER,
I take it that Ben will not have to ~~pay~~ the 100. he promised
You will write him, please of the \$40, ~~him~~ - If you have
anything due on your philanthropy why not reimburse
him or loan him free to use it as he pleases!

Do not think we ever forget, fact is our ex-
 periences here now, make us look back your way
 with no little longing, But our duty is to ^{the} ^{is} ^{is}
 specially at this time we stand ready to pay the
 price - ^{Remember} ^{all} ⁱⁿ ^{your} ^{prayer} June 1927.

MR. AND MRS. E. B. HINDS.



They that wait on Jehovah shall renew
 their strength -

Oct 2. Bessie not sitting up - 1 month

School. ^{doors} 1st. fresh milk a day - A & Mrs. Wright.

RECORDED IN BOSTON
 SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF THE
 CITY OF BOSTON

Written Oct 2
Recd " 29.

Bengal Tax King } 20.
 } 20.
I promised 100. 2

Florida. ^{90 days} Bengal out of
 _{out of} specific of 20 sent
 by Bob - shall it be?

Do not yet know whether if
our home were occupied by
the military or not.
Question whether they may not
be later on.

New school of pupils
Missinarius a furlo Times 11
Do from Alice had a strange
" Kitzany launch - 6 or 700
attack!

One of the...
Basic fight for life 8 days.
Can sail on it. Face worst

Oct. 2, 1927.

Dear Ones in both Homes,

I wrote you at length on the 12th of Sept. Since then I have mailed you copies of other communications so you might know how we were faring, tho I have not been able to get in real letters. Now I want to give you a little more news in detail. In addition to troubles in the family by reason of Bessie's sickness we have been having political disturbances again. Brief reports concerning these have been sent you, copies of communications to other people. I am now enclosing further copies of such letters, which will help to piece out your information. At best you will have but an imperfect understanding of all that has gone on, but I can't do better. These will make it unnecessary for us to take more time now with telling of those happenings.

one month

I thought when I wrote you on the 12th Sept. that we were over our trial. But that shows how little I know about this disease. Several days before the 12th we were wondering about Bessie being able to go to Shanghai on the 13th. We hoped it would be over quickly. Here it is Oct. 2nd and she is not sitting up. She did sit up a few times. Got so well that we thought it was all over. The port doctor encouraged us to get her up. They thought they had eliminated the germs. But a very low temperature continued with a pulse above normal, tho she seemed to be feeling so well and had the desire to do things, and had found a fine appetite. Then the condition got bad again. As the medicine had seemed to amuse her so much distress it had been stopped. That evidently gave the bugs their opportunity and they came right up again. Perhaps we were letting her have too much food, or the wrong kind. The Chinese say that when they get as well as she was they let them have anything. But at least for some reason she had a relapse. It was not bad as it had been, nothing like the suffering, and no vomiting, but it was bad enough. The medicine seemed to take effect immediately, and she has come thru that all right. For two days she had normal temperature, and good pulse. Then it was thought wise to give her an enema containing the drug used. Following that the temperature went up again last night (it was given yesterday morning) after a day and evening of frequent movements, one every hour. We were a bit concerned last evening. But that trouble stopped suddenly and she went thru the night free nine to morning without trouble, tho between us Alice and I had to be on guard all night. Temperature was down this morning, and I think this has been her best day. Now we ARE hoping we are on the way to wellville again, but I hardly dare write it, seeing I have missed the mark so many times.

Perhaps I could have prophesied better had I had more experience. It is a queer disease. At times she would seem so well, and "frisky" as she said. It would seem she must just get right up in a short while. Then the change would come and we would be on the anxious bench again. It isn't so much how she feels, but how her inner man reports. She must have had a pretty badly diseased condition of the intestinal tract. Dr. Everham thinks there must have been ulcers high up, which caused the stomach to keep on the guard so strenuously, refusing to allow anything to go thru the stomach. I must say such defense is awfully hard on the one defended.

She has not lost the full look in her face ~~so~~ much as I would have supposed. But since the vomiting stopped she has been taking a fair amount of nourishment. Her body is thin, but not gaunt. We had that good foundation to start on and it has carried her thru. How grateful we are for the fact that we had her have a qt. of fresh milk every day last spring at school. That put her into fine shape and it has saved her life, I do not doubt. She will come back fast I am sure when she actually gets rid of this disease. But for her protection and for the safety of others we shall have to be on guard for a long time to come.

Because of this fact we shall not plan for her to go to Shanghai this term. Alice and I are sending for her books and we shall have to teach her ourselves. She is interested in getting at her work and I imagine she will do well. But it will be awfully lonesome for her here. There are no other children of anything like her age to play with. Fortunately for her, we shall not be able to get back to Chaochowfu before she returns to Shanghai. It has just been voted by the Chinese that they want me to stay here and help in the new school until Mr. Gledt who is on furlough gets back. We have cabled for him to return, and advice came today that they will be sailing about the first of the year. That means they will not get here in time for any of this term's work, so I shall have to stay in the school until the end of Chinese year. But you will hear more of this later.

You remember we have the English Presbyterian Mission also at Chaochowfu. Their homes have been vacant for several years now, beginning with the trouble two years ago last May. Dr. and Mrs. Wright have been on furlough and then working here in Szentow since they came back. They were to call this morning and tell us they are now planning to return to Chaochowfu around the first of the year. That did sound like music to us. We are expecting to go about the same time, as I said, while Chaochowfu is home to us and the place where we want to work, we at least I did feel terribly lonesome at the prospect of going back there to live and serve alone, children gone, Hildreth's gone, and the E. P. Mission across the way all vacant. Then Alice has been ill twice since we left home, you recall, when I had more than I could do to look after her alone. It was not a promising prospect to face it all alone! So you can imagine we are glad the Wrights will probably be going about the same time. The Hildreth's cannot be coming back at best before next fall a full year from now.

Howard has gotten started well in school. We are so glad he went on in time for opening instead of waiting for Basile. He is in the swing and has a better chance in many ways by being on hand when they opened. He writes they will have a football team and he is to be a candidate. The school is not so full owing to the exodus of missionaries on account of troubles. Had we tell you he earned something like \$35 this summer. He tutored the pilots children down at the Island for a while, and was generously rewarded. Then he got right down to business and did a lot of work for me which I paid him for. It made it possible for me to turn off more work than I could possibly have done without him. I have been eager to get him started to earning so it would get into his system in preparation for the college years ahead. He has tried and we are gratified. When he went to school he took two large baskets filled with jams made by a Chinese firm here in Szentow, jams and jellies. It was a question whether he would be able to dispose of them. Now he has written that they are going fast, and he wants another supply. So I am happy. Mother also had a sewing woman make him a number of ties for sale. They were splendidly done. Have no report on them yet. If he gets a chance to sell them they will make more for him.

Remember!
Dr. Hodge
has accepted

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Please return soon!

Swatow, Oct. 14th. 1927.

Dear Lottie and Bob;

I have been trying for weeks to settle down to this letter, there are so many things I want to write about. But first I want to tell you about the thing which has taken all our attention and time for nearly six weeks, and that is Bessie's dreadful illness. I do not know whether Ben has written of it; Ben says he simply doesn't know what he has written, sent you one business letter, he knows. None of us knew what we were doing for about two weeks, aside from the care of her. But now she is up, and walking about a little each day, and we are surely one happy family. Others have lost their dear ones during these last hot weeks of summer, we do not know how to express our gratitude that our precious girl is spared to us. We thought we might lose her, for a few days.

It has been a severe case of dysentery, amoebic and bacillary combined, Dr. Eversham thinks. There were plenty of Amoeba to be found, at least. The compound had a number of very serious cases during August, with two or more deaths. Our cook lost his little two-year old girl after a six day illness, and before anyone knew what it was he was going back and forth from our kitchen to his home helping take care of her. That is when Bessie became infected, I presume. After about two weeks she became ill with malaria, first, the first any of us have had since our return from the States. Then three days later the symptoms of dysentery developed suddenly.

Perhaps you have all heard of Dr. Tai's short illness with the same disease, and its saddest of endings. He was the third case on the compound, the first being a mild attack as an exacerbation of a chronic case, Tang Si Gunging. Very soon the cook's baby became ill, they were living in Hsu Sin Se's house. The day after the baby died, Dr. Tai became sick. Unfortunately, at first he treated himself, and as his wife was away he was up and down caring for himself and not conserving strength. Then he did finally agree to go to the hospital it was too late to save him, and he passed away on the morning of the sixth day. You can realize what a state of bewildered shock we were all in, when Bessie's symptoms developed on the very next day.

She grew worse so rapidly that by the fourth day Marguerite asked Dr. Eversham to come up, and he came everyday for nearly two weeks. Both he and Dr. E. were so very busy all that time with other very sick cases, and it did hurt us to be taking so much of their time and strength for our family, instead of helping with their burdens. Valva was in Peking, and sometimes Marguerite was driven day and night. She says she has never had so hard a time with many very sick patients at once. Fortunately, the period is over, and nearly everybody getting well. Dorothy Campbell, ~~xxxxxx~~, came and took care of Bessie at night for about ten nights, then I had a Chinese woman, a Woman's School student, come after that and helped me in the daytime so that I could get rest and do the night work.

Poor little did suffer so dreadfully, for so long a period. For days she could not eat a thing, vomited even without a thing in the stomach. But she was so fat before she became ill that even now she is not emaciated. How often did we give thanks that she had been in splendid condition when she was taken ill. Poor Dr. Tai was not in good health, so had no resistance.

Dr. Tai's funeral will be held tomorrow, and then the

Dr. Tai's funeral will be held tomorrow, and then the family will go
 go up to Chauchowfu to live. That was his instruction to them
 before he died. He will be buried at Kuf Ou. William was in
 Singapore when his father died, planning to leave in two more days
 for France. He was going as secretary for some men who were going
 to France to make some sort of investigation in Mineralogy for the
 government, as near as I understand it. The war boy seems crushed
 since his return. We are all wishing that we could find some
 work in the Mission that would keep him working with us foreigners
 for a year. Perhaps some plan will be worked out for us.

Well, Well! This is the 22nd of Oct, and I am just
 taking this up again, after another 8 days taking care of Bessie.
 She stepped about too much when she was feeling so well last week,
 and presently had a relapse which kept her quiet in bed for four days
 again. Now, on the eighth day, she is sitting up several hours a
 day, and was carried down to sit in a reclining chair in the dining
 room for dinner, but has not taken a step yet and we shall not let
 her for another day or two. This is her first appearance in
 the dining-room for seven weeks, a great day for all of us. She
 has been eating well for three weeks, however, and the continued rest
 without much illness has let her gain weight faster than she could
 have done had she been using her energy in other ways, so she is
 beginning to look plump and rosy again. She is always happy, you
 know that is her disposition. I thought she would be worried
 and unhappy when she found she could not go to school, for she enjoyed
 school pretty well last spring. But on the contrary she is so
 relieved that she need not leave home yet, that she cannot express
 how happy she is over it. I find that the pupils at Shanghai miss
 their homes, all of them, more than we realize, and we have thought
 it was bad enough. She has begun studying with a will, and
 hopes to keep right up to grade. Cannot let her go back before the
 holidays, I think, because of the danger of being a "carrier" in
 the school.

Now, I must give most of my time this fall to teaching her,
 again, and will have little time for the hospital teaching, nurses'
 class, that I hoped to do, and other work. But it is such a joy to
 have Bessie home again! She is a new girl, has developed so fast
 in the one term at boarding school that I find delightful surprises
 in her.

Now, Lottie, I shall begin and go rapidly down the list of
 topics I have wanted to write about. First, about Toa Mak Che.

The parcel of canvas came for the rugs, wonder if I ever acknowledged
 it. She has enough work on them to keep her busy for another two
 or three months. Has made a new large rug thro the summer,
 adding some touches of flowers that make it most attractive. Miss
 Kittlit has the last one, Miss Miller the large one that was ready to
 make when you left here. Has made perhaps nine small dragon
 rugs, Miss Traver taking five of them. We have made several changes
 in the shape of the dragon, and it can still be improved, the Chinese
 say. Hope the next ones she makes will be best of all.
 I hope soon to mail the last one she brought to you, for you to use as
 sample if there is any sale for them. Now more about her.
 In June, she had a sudden call to go to her home, for her
 husband was very ill. We hurriedly planned some rugs for her to
 take with her, and she was gone about three weeks. Then her husband
 died, and the mother-in-law refused to let her leave home again, insisted
 that we must find some work for her to do at home; K^o
 Fortunately, the rug work was ready, and she went at last in business

like manner, sending to Tat-thau-pou for cheap cloth, buying dyes in
Sheng-hai, etc. She took the responsibility herself better than I
expected her to. She has made only ~~one~~ trip to Kakehieh since
then, bringing the rugs and taking new materials in. Little t
Tek-hio was very ill in Sept, nearly died, and A She was ill. too.
She looked well and was well dressed when she came to see me about t
3 weeks ago. I loaned her money for capital when she started the
work at home, but she has repaid it. Seems now to be very happy
working at home, tho at first she felt it was a terrible hardship.

The rugs sell for \$4.00 small size, and \$6.00 for the large
camel design. The dyes are costing much more than I expected, and
this makes only a moderate profit for her, with very little margin
to buy new canvas with in future. She says the canvas can be bo
bought here, tho it is expensive. Do not know prices, yet.

You have a balance in your acct of \$10.00, after the tuition
was paid for you for "ang Len Eng, in CCFU this term. Tuition
has not yet been paid for Lu Chhin's girl, rather, your old nurse's
girl who lives with him. But after that is paid there should be \$14.50.
I shall make an itemized statement to enclose with this. A Mak Se
said nothing about receiving pay for the small rug she left me to be
sent to you as sample, but if she needs it when she comes again I shall
pay out of your account.

Moore has been up to the city since we took the children.
There in late June. Then everything was in good condition in both
places. Lu Chhin's family were living in your house, and at that
time he had a job as personal servant to Lo Cshe Fl. in Swatow. He
was connected with a military school they had running in Swatow. The
several military and political changes in the district have upset
things, and we have not heard where Lu Chhin is now. Bessie's
long illness following our short vacation at Double Island has put both
of us out of touch with people.

Tsu Kui has come back to Shanghai again. Ben says he
wrote about T.S's sister.

You remember leaving the parcel of correspondence cards
for me to mail to Mrs. Worley, when you were home? I wrote to
her about the same time, too. Both parcel and letter have been
returned to me, saying "Unknown" at her last winter address. When
I get around to it I will send it off again if I can get later address
from Miss Traver.

I think I wrote thanking you for sending the hotwater bottle
back so promptly. A Mak She sent her Thankyou for the little
gift to Tek Kio and herself, and sent her love to you all. I still
have Lu Chhin's gift here. Mrs. Phai seemed pleased with his and
asked me to Thankyou.

Billy Miller sent on to me from the Philippines your request
to have the book, Man Nobody Knows, mailed to your friend in the
States. Have that down on my list as one thing to be gotten when
wegg up to the city again. Bessie is begging persistently to
go "up home" again before she goes back to school.

The new High School is running sso thky, so far, and the
prospects are good for a successful year. Pupils about 140, 1/3
girls. Only about 10 girl boarders. Abbie Sanderson is
expected here from the Philippines every day, now. Billy is not
coming at present, she writes. Ben has begun teaching few hours
a week

Dr. C. is bringing his auto. Dr. Wang, down from Kiating 10 days ago. He is coming very rapidly to get to Kefu to work, and already has his armament by the way. To his own credit say so. They make a promising most satisfactory couple. Last time I saw him he had a nice little engagement. They make a hospital bed representing front of the school. As usual, he is a nice fellow for foreigners & Chinese.

a week, but cannot give more time until Mr. Page comes home. Mr. Hobart and family went back to Kiating after return from Baguila. Geidts and family have been sent for. If they come, it is hoped they will agree to remain here for the school until Mr. Capen's return, for the Chinese say it much more important for Ben to get back to Cofu than for both men to go to Kiating. Chinese, not only our own people but the Co mittes as well, are insistent that we should be released here to get back to Cofu. Mr. Giffin went to Kiating after return from Baguila, Mrs. G. still there, as is Mrs. Page with Howard, and Mrs. Cowles and family.

Anna Foster went down to Kiating in August, and Clara Leach has not left Kiating except for three weeks vacation. Mrs. Adams has remained with her since August, but she has probably no one back with Mr. Adams and the Lai's who started up this week.

Anna Foster writes that their girl's school was unmoles ted when the Reds took everything available in Kiating city for quarters and even the Giffin residence. Mr. Giffin wrote that he was living in the chapel, hoping to have the house given back to him in a few days. Much of their furniture was snatched or sold.

These last Reds took possession of our church and school property in the city, and teachers and preacher all sought safer quarters. The Canton army which promptly followed the Reds also occupied the buildings, but we have heard of no damage done, and they soon left. Elm Hue Che came home here for only a week, then went back to the Kindergarten. *writes since that they broke open it, down*

She seems to be making a success of the school so far as finances go, the this fall there are only about thirty pupils. Had over 40 last spring. Girls' school has about 40 pupils only, been going down since this principal has been in the no trouble of any political nature such as burst out in the boys school last spring.

The Asso. held its meetings at Kham S, but Ben could not go because of Bessie. We had both hoped to go.

Just now we have a guest from Philadelphia, from our own church, visiting us, and Ben plans to take him up to the city next week. He is just making a short trip out here. Ben is enjoying him much, after a summer with almost no men associates and plenty of women!

Woman's school is going as usual, fewer pupils. The new store of the Woman's Business Asso, Miss Soltman's venture, is making a great success.

Howard is a Junior this year, writes happily about school this fall. He had to start away when Bessie had been sick about ten days, but was past her worst illness. He has been such a young man this summer that we miss him dreadfully.

We have read all letters with so much interest. By this time we do hope that Lottie and Miss Wetherbee and John are all in much better health.

Very much love to each one of you. Ben is talks about Alice and John, wonders how changed they may be, and sends love.

Best of love to all,
Alice

Further destroyed or removed or sold all Ben's supplies! He are helping low effect at

Oct. 18, 1887.

Dear Lottie,

Have been writing all day. Enclose some sheets that may be of some interest.

Bessie is much better today. Had a second relapse, had to go back to bed several days ago, and is just beginning to sit up now again. We do hope this is the beginning of the end, but have been disappointed so many times we do not dare set too high hopes on it.

Sun-Isk Kha has voted to invite you folks back. He says he has exhorted the people of Tle Amj and they will also so vote at the con-
-Association. Will write more soon.

Sen.

Kakchich, December, 4, 1927.

Dear Home Folks,

Christmas is most here, and we are thinking of all of you: it was about a year ago that we took our departure from Versailles. It seems like ten to me, when I think of all of you. It will be an ordinary Christmas for us this time. Bessie's illness which has lengthened so, changing our plans over and again, has kept us busy in thought when we had time to think. It is still a problem what to do about her. She must be in school if possible, for she sorely needs just what the school life with other children can do for her, and getting her to Shanghai is a problem for us. So we are not doing much in the way of Christmas. As a result you will not get Christmas presents, certainly not on time, perhaps not at all.

Yesterday morning Alice and I got up early and were on the way to Chaoshowfu for the day with the church before sun had come up over the hills. After getting to the station we found the train would not be going: the tracks had been torn up, the guard said. Rumors of trouble about here again have been flying about for some days. All the troops, however, seem to be under one command, and it looked difficult to see just how the trouble would come. But there has been a break at Canton, the general to whom these soldiers here claim loyalty having been superseded. Tho it is in a sense a break within the White group, it looks as if the Reds felt that one side sympathized with them. Perhaps it is true that at least one side might flirt with the radicals if necessary to get the ascendancy, which side I would not dare to say. At any rate trouble is on elsewhere in the province and the troops about here have moved to stations for defense, thousands of them being at Chaoshowfu, with reports that some of them had gone on up river. Now it looks as if the radicals about Swatow feel there is some chance for them to inconvenience these troops, so they have torn up the railroad tracks— apparently to prevent these soldiers from having port connections. Some folks were quite concerned last night in Swatow, fearing an uprising of the radicals I suppose, for there are many soldiers left here now. There was some firing yesterday and again this morning. So the train did not go, and we had to return, but instead of coming back here to the home, we took advantage of the opportunity and spent the day in Swatow, visiting the Speichers and one of our churches I had not attended before. We got home about 4:30. Bessie had been invited out to dinner, and of course Dr. Brown is here in the home with her: she was not left alone. We were glad to get back; and this morning are grateful we did not get up to the City, for we hear this morning that the train is still out of commission. It would be awkward to be laid up at the City without train connection in disturbed times, for we have not the facilities there now for long house-keeping. Had I gone up Saturday evening as I planned once I would have been caught, which, however, would not have been so bad if Alice were here. But it would have been bad for us both to be caught away from Bessie.

Bessie is getting stronger all the time. She is still taking treatment for dysentery and malaria. Fortunately our weather is good; we have fine sun, dry atmosphere, and cold enough to call for heavier clothes and warm blankets. But she has lost some of her appetite. She looks well, and I hope goes on gaining.

copy to be kept
for present status of
the original.
B. D. Baker

Sept. 2, 1927.

Dr. F. J. White,
Shanghai Baptist College,
Shanghai.

Dear Dr. White,

The bearer of this, Mr. Stephen Chwang, is a student whom Mr. Hildreth has been helping to study. According to Stephen's statement, which I consider wholly reliable, Mr. Hildreth assured him he would assist him again this term. But Mr. Hildreth has returned to the States on furlough and to date I have no word as to his arrangements for Stephen. Stephen is bringing this letter to witness that I am acting as guarantor for his expenses up to \$100.

On presentation of this letter will you kindly allow him to enter school, and after consultation with him as to his necessary expenses for this term send me a bill for the same. I will remit by check forthwith.

The past term Stephen obtained opportunity to earn his tuition, and he is hoping to be able to do so again. He is a very worthy student and I sincerely join him in this hope. If he is successful in this desire to secure work to meet the expense of his tuition I shall appreciate it if you will see that the bill is made accordingly.

Furthermore should Stephen at the time of talking with you desire to draw any part of the difference between the \$100 set as a limit, and the face of your bill for necessary expenses, whether that includes the tuition or not, you are hereby authorized to let him so draw and have such amount added to the bill. He does not know now whether he will need to draw or not at that time, but I wish to make it possible for him in case he does.

I hope this is clear and satisfactory,

Sincerely yours,

B. D. Baker

Oct. 11, 1927.

Mr. Tang You Kuei,
Baptist College,
Shanghai.

Dear Stephen,

Your letter with that to you from Mr. Hildreth enclosed has arrived. I am very glad to know you have had word from Mr. Hildreth, and that you are in your work and have things settled for this term.

Miss Lacey wrote me that she had the money for you from Mr. Hildreth and had paid over \$100 to the College, and that it was now understood that you were to be paid your earnings in cash as you had your tuition paid by Mr. Hildreth. That balance owing you was also to be paid you. So that is all straight now.

I am very glad you found the opportunity to earn your tuition again. It will make more work for you, but it will give you a feeling of greater self-respect, and in the years to come you will be happy that you helped yourself this way. I did it both borrowing and working to get my way thru college, paying interest on my borrowings and paying back the principal in full. And I worked and repaid my High School expenses before I could get to college. It took me years longer to get it all done, but I felt I had done most of it myself when it was all over. I could not marry until I was 33 years old, tho my brothers married much earlier, which was all because I had to pay the price for getting my college training. You will find you will be glad you helped yourself all you could when it is all over.

Mr. Hildreth has not referred to how he calculated your expenses as \$1.36, which he has sent to Miss Lacey. I have already written him about the understanding I had with you, tho of course I have not yet had time to get his reply. I told him about the money I advanced to you here and the other \$30 I paid you for your expenses after you got to Shanghai. (I have not yet heard from my check, whether you cashed it or not.) I will soon be hearing from him about the matter. I am also sending him a copy of this letter to you so he will know what is being done.

Miss Lacey wrote that you would be paid the \$27 due you on what you earned last term, and that your earnings this term also would be paid you for expenses. Have you received the \$27? As I understood you had to borrow money last term. I suppose this \$27 will have to be used in part at least to pay back such borrowings. Is that so? And you will let me know if you have to use all of the \$30 I gave you a check for. I just want to be able to know the matter straight myself and to tell it to Mr. Hildreth.

I will make out a little financial statement and I think it will help to keep the thing perfectly clear if you will fill in your expenses as you paid them. I will make three copies, you can keep one, send one to me and one to Mr. Hildreth when you get to the end of the term.

In regard to your sister. Soon after you had gone a letter came from Mrs. Hildreth in which she sent money for your sister, some for tuition and some to help her with board. I made inquiries about her, and was told that her mother felt it was not good for her to be there at the City where no one controlled her and she was allowed to do too much as she pleased. She had put your sister in the school in the village and wished to keep her there.

I made further inquiry, and tried to see if I could arrange for someone to take responsibility for her at the City, someone who would control her and keep her out of trouble. My plan was not to let her know Mrs. Hildreth was helping her, but to let her think her help came thru the one taking charge of her, so she would be obedient to such person. But I did not succeed in this. Fact is the political situation is too disturbed for other people to be willing to assume this responsibility. And as we have had soldiers in our school buildings there at the City, so that the teachers all had to get out, it is better that she was not there. I think it will be best to leave her where she can be under her mother's care for the present. If we get back to the City after Christmas-- we can't get back before that-- and it seems good we can take the matter up then again. I will ask Mrs. Hildreth if she is willing for the help to go to her in her home this term just as if she were in the City.

The Reds were in control here for a short while. Some sections have suffered pretty badly. Tahu Hick Tshai had his place of business and his home both burned at Phu Le. Many people with means have suffered greatly. Some have been killed, homes have been robbed and we hear girls have been carried away from some of the homes after the parents were killed. I do not know if this is true. No question but that suffering has been great in the Phou Leng region, and perhaps elsewhere.

When the Reds came down the river above Chaochowfu, the soldiers here ran away. The Reds went across from C-o-fu to Kityang and some went up there from Swatow also. They then hurried on up towards Tungekhe, reports say there were 10,000 of them. In a day or so here they came back thru Kityang pell-mell hurrying to cross the river again. Hardly had they crossed when the Cantonese arrived on their heels. They crossed the river also hoping to catch the ~~new~~ Reds between Kityang and C-o-fu. Other Cantonese had come down river to C-o-fu. The Reds were hammed in, and made a rush to get back to Phou-leng by way of Phau-thai. The Cantonese hurried back thru Kityang to head them off. I do not know how it came out. But there was severe fighting up in the Tungekhe region. The Chinese report it was the severest fighting ever known in this region. 3000 are reported killed. At least many were wounded for they were brought to Kityang where our hospital staff have had to care for many-- nearly all Reds. The Cantonese had doctors and were caring for most of their wounded themselves. Some of the wounds were awful. Mr. and Mrs. Adams and Mr. Giffin were there and help care for the wounded, and are able to tell what they saw. But aside from this it is too early to get accurate information about what has happened. The Cantonese are in control now. There are rumors of there being three different forces fighting. Last evening and this morning a Chinese gunboat and several merchant vessels in military control have come into the harbor. One ship had many soldiers on it this morning. What it all means we do not yet know.

We are all getting along pretty well. There seems nothing against foreigners or Christians. I do not hear of any Christians suffering particularly. Soldiers of both sides occupy our schools and any empty houses, such as at Chaoyang and Kaying.

May 21, 1938.

Mr. Stephen Chwang,
Shanghai College,
Shanghai.

Dear Stephen,

Your letter received. For days I have had in mind to write to you, but things have interferred.

I have been wondering how it was going with you. I know you have been very busy just as I have. Now I am glad to have this letter; and its coming makes me write the letter I have so often thought of writing.

Mrs. Hildreth has written me saying they hoped they might help you further in your study, but she did not say how much they could help or in what way. So I felt I was not in a position to give you promises for them. I am very glad indeed she has written you personally and promised something definite. I note that you say you expect to return here June 24th. I think you mean you will be leaving Shanghai about that time. So I am writing at once so you may know our plans.

We are planning to go to Mokasan for the summer, and my wife and I are expecting to be in Shanghai for the close of the American School on June the 15th. We do not yet know about the steamers, but we want to get one that will get us to Shanghai a day or two before the 15th of June. We shall go to Miss Lacey's office on arriving, for we do not yet know where we shall be staying. If your school is out before the 15th and you go somewhere else leave your address for me with Miss Lacey. I should like to see you before you come down here for the summer and that will be the only opportunity.

Conditions are quieter here than they have been for a long time. The enrollment in all our schools here at the City is considerably lower than it was last year, for some reason; in the country churches the enrollment is better than last year. In those schools they are having regular religious work going on. So we are in the girl's schools here at the City, but little has been done for the boys. Yesterday morning we began a Sunday meeting for some of the boy's school pupils and a number attended. There is no anti-Christian propaganda going on; while there is good opportunity to preach. It is the time for Chinese Christians to speak out. Chinese witness to the truth of Christianity is acceptable now and people are impressed. No foreigner can possibly have the influence in presenting the claims of Christ to the Chinese that a Chinese Christian can have. People are willing to hear the gospel, the good news, as it is in Jesus Christ, but they want to hear it from their fellow Chinese. If you return here for the summer I sincerely hope you will make everything else subject to the purpose to use the op-

portunity to let the Chinese here see that you know Jesus Christ personally as a live, a living reality; and that you sustain your relation to him, not thru the foreigners, but directly. That is the message the Chinese need and want to hear. There is a great opportunity for you who can give it.

Your sister is here at school, and is well. We are all well here at the house. We are expecting to take Mun-Phai here along with us this summer.

Now I must close. If you leave the college before we get to Shanghai, do not forget to leave a card with your address for us with Miss Lacey.

Sincerely yours,



May 12, 1928.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Baker.

I would have written to you before, had I not waited for some intelligence which would have rendered my letter acceptable. On the contrary, it is I that must plead guilty for the long silence.

Accept my sincerest thanks for the trouble you have taken in the matters when I came back to school last winter and summer vacations. I can not give expression here to all that I feel, but I must express. With sincere wish for your health and happiness.

The letter of Mrs. Hildreth has come yesterday. I know that Mr. Hildreth is studying in the Hartford Theological Seminary and they are all well. She said that she promises an equal amount of money for me to continue my study next year. I do not know I can continue or not.

China is having terrible times, bombardment and occupation of the Terrible Japanese army in Tsinan and other parts in Shantung. The big mistake is simply because she was sending her armies to China. The Peking Leader and the Miller's Review, gave out the words very ^{sincerely} clearly. We Chinese only can reason with the Japanese people, ask their consciences to put down their military cabinet like Chinese? put down the militarists to day. Will you kindly to write to your friends in the U. S. A. with the true situation of the China and with your opinion?

I will go back to my native city June 24. What

can I do for you when I go back from Shanghai? I
wish glad to do so. How are our schools and church
churches? I did not get news from our schools
and church for a long time. I wish to answer
the persons who kindly to write to me hereafter.

Very sincerely yours

Stephen Chwang