

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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**From Alice and Ben Baker, to the Hildreths and copies of letters to others,
including each other (1929)**

[Bakers were American Baptist missionaries in South China)

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284
unrecorded
Home, Jan. 6, 1929.

Dear Alice,

It is the close of another Sunday. I want to chat you for a few minutes. After day in the work when special things come up, I want to discuss them with you; want you to realize as near as possible, what is going on. At times I am tempted not to tell you about them, and perhaps it would be just as well, for after all what you are interested in is the final things that have bearing on our relation to the work, instead of the processes pursued in arriving at such things; but the while I find myself wanting to tell you about the different days incidents. I t may be to ease my own mind; who knows? Any way I shall talk.

I led prayermeeting. Lo was chairman of the meeting led Sunday School and introduced Gou Mok-su. Pastor Gou preached, and made a good talk on Christian love. A good service and a goodly number out. Following the service Kui Ou I's grandson, Sia Chiang was received into the church. Toa Lau did not know about this, apparently, and it was hard on him, he is "agin" all the younger men. Then came the election of two delegates to discuss with other representatives the boy's school, or the Tai Thong School, which now includes them all. Here in due order, but with certainty, as if ordered before hand, Liu Sin-se-nie and Sia Chiang were elected. Toa Lau had a candidate for this service, so cock says, an old man who some years ago after borrowing all he could of me, went over to the Seventh Days, one who knows nothing of education nor much more about the City church's work. He is or was Toa Lau's candidate also for janitor in place of Iam peh. So you can see where Toa Lau is really in his thinking. Poor man, I really do feel sorry for him. I couldn't help but smile, tho, when he got up and walked out when things went contrary to his desires. I learn tonight that he went straight to Liu Sin-se-nie, who was not at church, and tried to tell her everything was going to the dogs, and that he would urge her not to subscribe to pastor's salary. Things weren't going his way and he wants to throw it all over. Beautiful Christian spirit.

Question of election of deacons came up, but that was postponed until next Sunday. I am glad Toa Lau is out of it, but as he gets out, Si I Tek comes in. I am only hoping that there will be enough of the younger people with spirit to hold him in check. I am in no position to dictate. I can only stand by and hope I can help as imperfect human nature tries to grow.

After service there was a te-us-hue for pastor Gou. At the time U came to me about the matter of the janitor. I can't tell you all about this. I wrote of my facing Khou on the question of dismissal of Iam peh without conference with those of us who had actually hired him this year. At a meeting of the Chip-ui and Trustees, it was voted he would not be employed. Then committee was appointed to talk with the City church folks and arrange for a new janitor. Three of deacons agreed to let him go, that is Chip-ui were nge they would not use him, and church could not of itself, so agreed. Later some of the younger men agreed to raise half of his wage for a month and asked that he be given a month longer instead of dismissing him on short notice. Some kind of understanding was had with U and Lim representing the Chip-ui. Last night U came here with a man whom he said Khou and someone else had sent up as new janitor. He wanted to get the church to agree in the matter. That question came up at the te-us-hue. His position was that now that the new man had come, Iam peh should go.

I Tek, A Si, Sia Chiang, Eng Wt, Sai Tou che, Sok-cheng, Mua Phai A Un, all insisted that he should have his mouth to save his face. Mok-su was listening to it all. I sat by in quiet, letting them have their time with the Kmu machine representative. There was nothing really unworthy in their opposition or their manner of dealing with U. But they could get no understanding, and eventually the meeting broke up. U came to me. I was more or less helpless. The church people were only doing what I had done earlier with Khou. I gave in and I am not sure they will. I advised U to offer to pay their, of the Spec. Evangelistic work share in lam peh for the month, and have him go. Do not know if it will satisfy the church folks or not but that much they will have to do to avoid trouble. He agreed and said he would talk with Sia Chiang. I go in in the morning to get Lo and talk the matter over to a conclusion if possible.

Tonight ook told me he was in to talk with Liu S. S-nie. She said Tea Lau was there and fussing because again Khou had let him in. Says Khou and he worked to get rid of first Lo, then me, then Lam Peh then Sok Cheng I, and Khou failed to keep his part of the bargain. In the case of lam peh, Tea Lau thought he would get lam peh out, and said Khou agreed to putting in the old man Tea Lau wanted. When this man came up from Tang Lim, Tea Lau saw that Khou was not at all going to let old Chiang- chak in. Hence he must have been miserable all around today. It is an interesting study in human nature. He has some very good traits and I am indeed sorry to see him make shipwreck of the good that is in him. But his selfish way of running things and opposing every body who does not su kok him or dares to oppose him, is giving him a terrible experience. He will be standing alone, out with the Kmu and out with the church, if he is not careful. If it is true Khou has played fast and loose with him, I shouldn't be surprised to find him back in work with the church ere long. I am not discouraged tonight, the things are not as I would like them. There is more hope of a working church, even when members go wrong at times, than in one that just sits still and lets anything and everything go. I have had to stand out against the autocratic methods of a small group. Now I rather think I shall find my work lighter, and the City church standing for its own rights in a better way than they have in the past. I do hope it will eventuate in a more truly representative administration of the field work.

(To be continued)

I go into City as said in morning. We have the whole Night family here at noon. Then I go to Kityang next day to return Thursday. Wish you were here to go with me. I shall (expect to) motor (doesn't that sound big and progressive ?) to Phu-king and go by launch from there. Will return by way of Seaton. Want to see William Tai about his wedding, which is to occur on the 17th. Must stop as I want to write Bessie a bit. Good-night, with much love. I miss you every day. How I wish you were here to help in all that we are going thru. Glad you are spared some of it.

Devotedly yours,

Ben

Do not forget the "Lavoris" when you are in town. Small bottle will do now. Another bottle of Aspirin would be in place too.

2/2/29
D.M.
Home , Jan. 13, 1929.

Dear Alice,

Can write you only a bit. Have had a busy day. Must get ready tonight for trip to Kityang. Want to give you word of the day.

Elected deacons, you know. Glad to say things went off very nicely. There was no trouble or disorder of any nature. There is evidently a move to get together. What will be the results I am not prepared to say. We will hope and pray and work for the best. Meantime I shall work as best I can with things as they are.

Deacons are: Map Phai, largest no. votes. A Si Hia, second largest no. Kui Ou is his grand-son, Lin Sia Chiang, Mrs. Tai, and Liu Sin-se-nie. Sai Tou-che was not present, and received no votes. An afraid she has at last yielded to good offer and come over to the Seventh Days. I am sorry. I Tek got only one vote. Toa Lau got 11, five at least from his family, and several others as face savers. So with this group I think we are fairly well in safe waters. Liu Sin-se-nie wished to resign, but they would not let her. I Tek was there and was quiet. I think Mok-su is helping by visiting and urging them to have and show the right spirit. Toa Lau did not attempt to draw out or anything of the kind. He says openly now he has been let in by Khou on several counts and he is against him. By the way Khou was there to-day. I was so glad and so glad too that things went so well. Even I Tek and Toa Lau did not have any words whatever. Cook says they all see now that Khou used Toa Lau and since he sees it now and is against Khou the brethren will all look over his badness and not make it any harder on him. Apparently what has happened is a unifying of the church membership, and I rather think the Khou or at least Khou, will have to reckon with them. They come to me for advice, and it gives me a chance to guide them into better ways. They asked today about the chance for the church to get control of some of the educational work. I urged that they go about it in the right spirit and get to brass tacks as to making of plans and going thru the right order by going to the Khou first then to the Hia Tong- and said I thought they might get something that way. At least things look better. Surely God blessed us this morning in curbing unworthy words and acts. Deacons are to divide responsibility and elect certain officers and report to the Church next Sunday.

Khou has a proposal to rent the east side four shops and the play-ground to a movie-picture company, to get money and repair or build property. I refused to oppose him. Spoke to Page and Lewis about procedure in case rental of property here is desired, and they advised me to tell him to pass the matter thru the Khou then thru the Ling Tong after which the Sai Ghee Hse would pass on it. I rather think that will kill it before it gets to the Ref. Com. I can't endorse the suggestion, but I have determined that I will not oppose it. Let it go to the Ling Tong on its merits, and let them sit on it. If they agree to renting all the playground it will mean confession of failure of the educational work I do not fear they will endorse. Strange thing to me is Khou can't see his willingness to turn over the playground and let the very heart of our location means he has no vision and understanding of the relation of such a project to the spiritual life of the work there. It confesses he has no expectation of running a real school. People locally do not know of his suggestion. He may, but I doubt if he will ever really get the notion going. Certainly local people will oppose it strongly- so long as he father the suggestion. I shall watch that he does not saddle the responsibility for suggestion on to me.

Now a sad word. This afternoon I had word from Dr. Night that they would be leaving us on second train Tuesday. I hate to see them go. It will seem so lonesome to look over that way and realize those houses are all empty. Sorry my trip to Kityang will prevent my seeing them off at the train. I sent good-by word for us both. Children soon go back to Cheefoo.

Now a word about our latest news. To make it brief and to the point I will be- or hope to be- soon sending you a picture of me and my new friend. Now how do you feel. If you could only see her you would rejoice with me. She is a beauty, just perfectly lovely. I go into extacies over her. You will want to know it all now so I will tell you.

You remember that rose bush just to the left of the gate to other side? You recall how we worked on it last spring and it grew great long branches, but did not flower? Well it has continued to grow finely. Some time ago I prepared some supports for it and one branch has gone up well over six feet, and a great big lovely rose, just now opening crowns the tip top. It is a lovely, snow white one. I wish you could see it. You would be happy. There are also other buds which will come along later. We have another bush nearer the big gate, which is also growing well, but not budding. Another on Eldred's side of wall is also growing and has buds getting ready to open. We have had some fine blossoms this week. One bush now has eleven buds and another ten. Others fewer, but all are doing well, and if it would rain again we should have lots of bouquets. We are pretty well kept in roses. I took a fine lot to church this morning. Hope to have a few for William Tai's wedding.

Now I must stop. Will write again when I get back from Kityang. Meantime this brings my love to all of you and to those others to whom copies of this comes.

Dear Bob and Lottie,

I hope sometime to get you a letter. This comes in copy to you. Your Christmas card arrived. Thank you for such a lovely remembrance. We are all wondering about you folks, what the situation is in regard to health and what you are thinking and planning for the future. (I trust you got my letter some time ago giving you my changed opinion of the opportunities on this field) Speichers leave in Feb. and Page is to go about June. Four Hak-lo men are left. It is getting too heavy a burden for so few. Waters being held up hits us hard. We have not yet gotten down to facing the next readjustment of our force. It looks from the small talk going on that I am in for it, and how I hate to think of going back to the port even for a temporary term. I shall stand out to the last for staying here and carrying from here any new duties I may have imposed upon me. Will send you copies of further business matters. Speicher has got his Seminary going and is now leaving it, but says someone else must stand by. Tried to get Lewis until summer, but his field objects. Page going too in June makes it a harder place to fill.

This brings love and best wishes to all of you.

*Baker
Cohen
Glad
Glad*
Ben L. Baker.

Home , Feb. 1 , 1929.

Dear Alice,

It is after supper Sat. night. I have been working to get ready to leave for Tang Leng in the morning, and on the talks for the two churches Sunday. Am not thru yet, but want to get this off to you for I shall not have a chance to write again before Tuesday night, I am afraid.

Am about ready, but it has blown up cold to-day, and we are having the coldest night to-night we have had this season. Cook says he fears we shall have frost, but it is not clear. If it were we surely would have. I am not having fire, for it is not worth while. I sit close to the lamp, and it is fairly comfortable. Have on three pairs of socks. Am afraid we shall have a very cold ride in the morning. I do feel for the boatman. But it seems as it will not rain. Last Sunday on way to Kip-tsu, it was raining, but nothing like so cold.

Emily is with Abbie. They will be in Kityang with Katherine Bohn over Sunday and will then come here, and Abbie will be with us over Chinese New Year.

Our coolie had an infected hand and as it looked so bad I let him go home. Told him to go to the hospital, but do not know if he did so. Emily has the boy, so cook and I are hanging together. I have Liang Chek to come here while we are away.

I must write Emily a brief note about some errands. So I can't talk as I wish I could. It is very lonesome here, especially when I have to get things together for a trip. I miss you terribly. I go to a drawer and there I turn up some of your things, and gasp and turn on somewhere else. You may ask why I do not put your things out of sight. Well, that would be worse still. It is homelike to see them. Even some of Beesie's things are in my drawers and Howards too. It seems more like you folks were home to be running thru your things. But it makes one have a longing, too, sure. But do not worry. I am not unhappy, though it is painful, this wishing for all of you. But you are with the Children, I keep saying-- and that makes up for everything.

Told you I must go to Kakchich for March as well as April, in fact will have to leave here before end of the month. So get prepared to address me at Kakchich after the 24th, say. I shall leave here not later than the 26th. How I hate to go. But I shall find a good opportunity to influence a number of young men who are studying for religious work. So I shall not worry. Maybe my absence will do the field good, since things are as they are.

I read in paper that Leonora's father- Jim Cleveland's wife you know- was killed in an accident. I want to write her as soon as I get back. If you could send her just a word of condolence it would be appreciated. You know so well how she feels.

Now, good-night. I must get things finished up.

Love to you all.

Hope the package came all right. I am so happy to be able to send anything so nice as the candied fruit--even if it is a second-hand sending. I know you will all think of me when you have it, and wish for me, and that is better than eating anything for me.

Bon.

Home , Feb. 4, 1928.

Dear Alice,

Home again after the Tang Leng trip. Would have staid a few days, but was expecting company tomorrow, and I had the cook. Coolie is home with infected hand. So we came back today. Ku Hi- Kheng Siang- is waiting for me to talk with him now. So this will have to be a short sweet message.

Have lots I might tell you. Very interesting trip. I learned quite a bit-- as I expected I would. I am sure there was an effort to steer me clear of those two churches if possible, but the point was over-shot and I got my chance. Think it will all work out to advantage in the end. Will try to tell you the main things when I get an opportunity. May have to wait until summer. But will mention a point or two now.

Cook was with me you see. I did not try to use him, except I told him when I broke the news of the trip to him, that it was good that we both could go, as we should have a chance to use our ears and see if we could find out anything. Believe me, he surprised me. You would not have believed it in him- him who has so long been so indisposed to assume responsibility where it might cost. He went along-- wholly without my suspecting anything-- definitely planning to take matters up with Khou. Just imagine. He showed amazing tact, keenness of thought and an adroitness I did not think at all he possessed. He had his plans all laid, his points jaid out, his method of approach in mind, and he used his material with skill. He had the material on Khou, he went after him without feeling, but with determination and persistence, and I shall be fooled if he has not put in a tremendously good stroke for the work in general.

Khou is linked with Toa Lau. Toa Lau after inviting the pastor now refuses to subscribe towards his salary, is doing all he can to prevent others from so doing, and is accusing the cook and the pastor with having come over to Si's side. Cook was elected treasurer with Mrs. Liu backing him. Toa Lau's action is making it very hard for him. He got from Toa Lau and the Pastor that Khou had of his own accord promised that if the City came short on the Pastor's salary, he Khou, would see that the Khou helped out. Cook takes that promise just "Big Ike" talk. So among other things he faced Khou with this promise, said he had two witnesses, and that as Toa Lau supported by Khou was threatening the church's finances, he, cook, was going to require Khou to make good if they did come short. Repeatedly told him this and that he knew he was right and would take it to the Ling Fong for settlement if forced to. IMAGINE. He talked to him twice and for more than an hour each time. So you can see I am telling but a bit.

He also talked to one of the Tang Lin men who is close associate of Khou's. He went after this man vigorously too, with reason and in kindly spirit, tho, and made him confess to being responsible for the agitation going on against me. One of this man's objections was I would not get rid of I Tek. Cook asked him if I had the evidence to act. Then asked about the move against me and who acted. Was told it was act of body. Cook faced him with charge it was secret and proved his point. The man confessed and then the cook told him such action was in the judgment of many as mean and unworthy as I Tek's thwng toa. IMAGINE. This man asked cook why he refused to contribute and secure Christmas offering (which was to be taken by Toa Lau for the field Charity Committee without regard to the wishes of the church. Said this man at the head of that committee authorized him so to act) The man told the cook Toa Lau was telling it that the cook was opposing the Khou and would not contribute. Cook replied that Toa Lau came all the way over here to tell him not to take the offering. That opened this man's eyes to the way Toa Lau has been and is acting.

According to the cook's report of his conversation he got both of these men in close quarters. He says Khou was just boasting when he promised the help for the pastor and he intends to make him meet his promise to make him more careful. Hope he succeeds in the result. I imagine the other fellow will be more careful. Cook threatened to carry the matter to the Ling Tong if they did not get square on the way of doing things. Another of the things he faced Khou on was that of renting the property here. Asked Khou what he thought of renting to movie. Says Khou replied he thought it not good. I think the fellow has no sense of the moral values involved, and proposed it to see if we would heed the opportunity to get money, being willing if we were. Evidently sensing there was opposition he has about dropped the proposal, and now says he thought not good. Still has to explain why he had men come to look over the place. Cook rather cautioned him about being careful in the matter of renting before it was ascertained whether there would be need for the property. Cook also raised the question of why the Chip-ui (executive committee of field) was made up so as to leave out three of the churches. On being told it was due to lack of able representatives, he asked if Kip-tsui's preacher was not as able as Kim-chieh's. And he mentioned a man of Che-thau who had had seminary training to show a man could be found there. He showed how they could have found another represent ative from another place who had better training than Foa Lau, whom they elected on the Committee. He objected to two of the girl teachers here on that committee being considered as City members- Khou has so represented it- and when reply was made that outside folks could be so used, he immediately asked why they refused to consider Lo on the Com. They said Lo was bad, and when asked for specific case said he fellowshiped with the young folks here. That is all they can say against him. Well that is enough to let you see what happened. It remains to be seen what will come of it. I am heartened. Cook has taken his place now as champion of straight fair play. I hope he gets results. I did not dream he would stand up and play a part like that; it wholly surprised me. If he can link up Mrs. Liu to stand up for what she says in private they will be well on the way to getting a position where the machine will have to weaken. Khou said cook should be careful about taking the matter to the Ling Tong -- that there was some move on to get rid of the Khous and our Khou would lose its identity if they were not careful. That is the nearest to weakening I have heard, and that is considerable of a confession.

Khong Siang is here and wants his second year's help- \$100 the I advanced him \$80 extra the past fall. My religious account is about dry and there is only \$80 in the D. & E. account. I must go to bed now and talk of this further. I do not know just how to work. I have more obligations now than I can meet on our funds.

Good-night. My "Frau" was waiting for me when I got back. She sat on the table as I ate and beamed at me all thru supper and here she sits on the desk as I write this facing me with wonderful loveliness. A wonderful white- pure white- rose of big proportions. You will love them next year.

Lovingly,

Ben
I have been very careful, for for certain months I have a wonderful new invention: have a flat foot of 5 in. sq. iron plate. Just this own lamp and set and set foot on it and by and by feet and then whole body warm up. It is great. Good night or for hours & not suffer the road & things feel like this.
Ben

Home, Feb. 5, 1929.

Dear Alice,*

Have the enclosed for you. No chance to add more until now, bed-time, Tuesday. Spent day in City. Plans are in making for Evangelistic Week, in city, at Pang Khoi and Kip-tsui. Others are planning for meetings in other places.

Cook gave good news to-night that a misunderstanding had been cleared up so Chiam I and Toa Lau would now subscribe towards the pastor's salary. That is quite a relief. If only we could get peace in the church things might happen. Cook says he has over \$300 subscribed already and that if these come back as they should there will be no trouble about getting all the salary and then some. I am so glad, for it means the church has life and is going on despite troubles inside and out. This may lead the way for bigger settlements yet. I hope so.

Got three letters from you today- after being away- and two from Bessie dear. She is good to Daddy to write so. And what an improvement she is making in her letters. I am pleased. Will write her as soon as I can.

I failed to get things to you thru Dr. Everham. But Abbie and Mr. Whitman will be coming up soon now. I go to Kachich for Ref. Com. meeting about 19th. Will see them there, and try to get package to you then, mostly candy now I suppose it will be.

Emily and Abbie have not come yet, but expect them in the morning. I am off to Pang Khoi tomorrow, may get back at noon, doubt it. The Wrights are in Swatow, she may go home in June or about then. He has to stay on till relief comes. I miss them here, tho we saw each other only occasionally.

Have you got your finances arranged? Hope they have paid up on what has been due you. I am kept so busy I can't get att accounts. Am working a little now and then, but don't keep up. Must get at it before heavier work comes.

I read with interest what you had to say about Howard, and very happy and pleased that he has strong ideas about his plans. That I wish to see and encourage. I shall write him again personally soon. I do not want you or him either to feel I am urging my own ideas on him. I want all the possibilities before him, and that he shall seriously consider them. I have written him-if the letter did not go astray, that I was willing for him to make his choice, but that I wanted him to make it on basis of reason. I am glad you feel he is going at the matter with a spirit of strong desire to be allowed to act independently. That is what I covet for him. But every wise man who demands the right to act for himself is eager for all the help possible from the experience of others. I want him to be thorough in his sizing up situations, for things to not fall to those of careless ways- and that does not mean at all he is careless. As the record ran, I ain't swearin' at you, I'm just telling you. I will write him in a day or so- I hope.

I must get to bed now. This brings love to you all. I am sending letter of Elizabeth's. Did you get her Christmas package? If not call up or at the general office for it. I got mine all right as you folks know. I am enjoying the candy when I get a chance to eat it.

Good-night. Glad your last letter said your situation had also eased up. Prayer does work things. I am getting cook to spend time with me.

Love, B.

This you on one
on divided
salary I got
to say with
the usual
10% increase
as an advance
which is
granted to
all residents
in 3rd class.

Copied
College, Thurs. 21st. Feb.

Dear Ben:

My dear little typewriter, which I dropped a short time ago, is now more rickety than ever. I had it repaired at Mustard's, but they did not get the bearing in correctly, it seems, for it does not run smoothly all the time, catches at times. May have to take it back to them. How could I do without it!!

Have only a few min. for a short note to catch tomorrow's boat. Planned all last eve. for you, but college people were in and out of my room on bus. all eve until 9.30. Then I was too tired to keep awake. Rush will be over today. Not all the girls are back, the classes began this morning. They have to pay a fine for each day they are late. So many were absent from Assembly this morning that it looks as the Bus. Office will make a tidy sum from fines!!

Have all your nice letters written from 9th to 14th. Your letter to M. is splendid, should make a deep impression on him. I have been planning to write him a long letter on somewhat different lines, on his naughty habit of letting things slide, trusting things to work out all right without much effort on his part. I called him on phone last Sat. morning to urge the necessity of his getting those college letters written before Sun. night. He promised to do them that morning. It is very difficult to get a chance to talk seriously with him when I see him. Different from having B. right in the room with me, where I can watch for a chance for a talk.

I am so glad you are arranging to help those boys thro their Medical course, as well as the others. I do feel that the best service we can render the church now is to help get more trained young people to carry the responsibility in the future. So glad that the two boys are so promising, as well as Tang Khing Tak. Wonder to what college they are coming. Would like to meet them all while I am in Shanghai. Told you about calling on Low Ngo Eng, and meeting a former Pang Sun Student there didn't I.

Dr. Everham will tell you about the group of our Swatow boys and girls that were here to meet her on Wed. evening, only about half of the Swatow Club were in college during vacation. We'll soon have another meeting of full club. Many of them Presbyt. Christians, only Tan Kui a Baptist.

Sorry to say, he ^{did not fail, but failed to make grade of A - required to get full} failed in Chem. exam at end of term, and so ^{was} cannot get the full work scholarship he expected this term. Will have to do the full work, of 8 hrs. a week in the office, but will get only half the money, 20.00 at end of the term. He is heartbroken about it, and so ashamed. But he was giving 5 hrs a week last term in office work to earn something, and so had less for the studies. He is a slow student, you see. I am about decided to offer him as a gift the full amount he would earn this term, 40.00, and have his time for him for his studies. He has tried so long to finish his course, cannot let him fail now for lack of so little. Fees are being raised all the time, so it costs more each year. Little and Sub are sending him enough to cover all fees and most of the books.

Dr Tracy has sent payment for Linnaea senther in summer, 70.00 U. S. now in Miss Lacey's hands. So glad it comes just as you need it for these boys, but I am constantly having proof that that is the way the Lord does things when we go ahead where we are sure we are right, and trust the ways and means to Him. I have written her to tell the check at once, exchange is 2.20, and to deposit 125.00 of the amt in your acct. I shall keep the rest until I hear if you need it at once. Shall give the 20.00 to T.K. at once, to relieve his mind. Now, must get this into mail.

Handwritten: Kakehich, March 11, 1929.

Dear Alice and Howard and Bessie,

Can't write you long. Just want you to know I have moved down here and am at my work. Cook and I and three carries of baggage came down on first train, got here at noon. I ate with the Capens then unpacked as quickly as I could and then went to Page to begin the take over. They expect to get off this week end, Friday or Saturday, are going by way of Hong Kong. She is not looking well, is thinner than I have seen her lately in the face. I worked there the afternoon.

Emily came down with guests the other day and got her back out of shape again and has been in bed here, so has not gone up, tho I looked for her at both stations. She will be here for a few days.

Capens and Dr. Everham are well as usual. Dr. Everham is happy because she seems to be in the way of getting an assistant, a young woman doctor, graduate of Hackett school. I have not had a chance to write you of our latest news in connection with the medical work. The government has evidently required that coolie steamers at least, must have doctors aboard, if they are to ply the China ports. Several of the boats got after doctors. Search was first made in Hong Kong, but being asked \$500 a month they came to Swatow and have engaged several here, among them some of our medical workers, and are paying them \$300 a month. The man from this hospital here is one of them. So you see the flurry in the mission. He was getting \$85 in the mission. What will be the effect in the future we cannot tell.

I do not want to stay up late.

Now I shall have a hard week this week, so I will stop and get ready for bed.

Mailed you your hat, the razor, some of Howard's handkerchiefs, and some candy today at the City. Send you a note which should have gone by steamer this afternoon telling about it, and in the letter enclosed a razor blade. Hope it gets to you all right. Should it not, get a small package of five, say, and I will take the ones you do not need off your hands. They will get dull before you will use them otherwise. If you get new ones, try those made by Rogers people, Sheffield England. They have been highly recommended to me. Would like to try them.

Howard, I sent on to you the papers from Denison. Talk over the matter with Mother, dear, and let's come to a conclusion if possible. Now I do not mean to drive you, but the sooner the matter is decided we can make better arrangements for you in every other way. I do not want you to just to delay decision, tho I understand if you are holding back for good reasons. Understand me? I am only trying to help for I do not want you to feel in the future that you neglected the matter. You are going to make good in any school, so it is not going to be a life and death matter to decide. Whatever the decision, we shall all throw in our strength and you are going to succeed in whichever you choose. I am not sure I really understand what is in your mind. But if you have a real strong preference and you have based that on good reason then go to it, we will help you make the thing work out. In any case you will feel the separation from the life at S. A. S., that is perfectly natural after having been there so long. I remember what it meant to finish at Georgetown and have to turn my face towards Seminary alone. This is one of the experiences that will come to you repeatedly in life, I meet it still in a way it hurt you for me to have to leave you all again the way it did, and it was hard for me, you can be sure to have me and have to face the return here alone. But I am bringing it all *before you in a* *little* *time* *and we are*

Kakchihoh, Swatow, March 17, 1929.

Dear Alice, Children and Home Folks,

This is the first time for weeks I have even planned to get such a letter as this written. Fortunately for me, in my new capacity as Mission Secretary I fall heir to another typewriter. That I shall keep for business and so am free to use this one for other things. So I have gotten the sheets for this letter in the machine and will not have to take them out for business, hence can hope to get a letter finished in time.

As you in Shanghai know, I came down here the first of the week. Have 12 hours a week in the Secretary- which take another twelve hours in preparation- the Sub-treasurer's work and that of Mission Secretary. This week I have done my class work and have been taking over from Mr. Page. Pages are packed, their house cleaned out, for they have sold everything against the possibility if not probability, that they will not return, and they are eagerly looking for a steamer for Hong Kong, on the way to Shanghai. If they fail to get one out to-day it will change their plans, cutting them out of all but a day or so in Shanghai where they hoped to have several. They will take their son Howard out of the American School on home with them. We are sorry to see them go, for our force is shrinking and it puts extra burdens on those of us left, as well as keep some of us- me for instance now- from more direct work inland, which we find great opportunity for now and are desirous of pressing. It is strange how the Lord works, but we know he is always more concerned about the work than are we and always wise. There are only two men of us here now at this centre- and I one of them belong inland- and only two more inland in all the Swatow field, and just three more further inland, widely separated - in all the South China Mission. There are more women, but all told many fewer than we are accustomed to have. One feels lonesome to see the numbers keep getting fewer.

I have taken over all the work and the things belonging to Secretary's office, and last night Page was here and the Treasurer's books and accounts were turned over. I worked until 12 o'clock to try get a thorough understanding of all the matters involved. One can't afford to make a mistake, and has to be on top for a multitude of things. I am glad since I have to take this responsibility now more permanently that I had the experience two summers ago. I learned not a little then that will help make it easier now. I shall be able to carry on, but it means cutting out largely anything I might hope to do on our own field until we get reinforcements. We are hoping, of course, to see the Waters family back on the field this autumn. But advice now is he must be careful and not be given too heavy work even then. So we are not yet sure of them. I hope Hildreth will come back, he can carry on on the C-c-fu field if I have to be kept here, and reinforce the work if we both can be left there- which sound rather incredible in view of our few numbers. Cheoyang has asked that I go there, so they will doubtless ask for one of us if Hildreth returns. There this does not mean much to you at home, but it takes you into our problems.

There is not much news. Things are quiet about Swatow, with Chinese becoming increasingly friendly, it would seem. Two American gun-boats came into harbor few days ago. I went out to pay Mission respects yesterday afternoon, and was told they had planned to leave earlier, but had staid over because a number of Swatow Chinese wish to visit the boats. They did, and there were very cordial feelings.

However, up inland all is not so quiet. Recent word from Burket at Sun-wu-hsien still speaks of robbers, bandits and even Red activities. Things were so bad that as late as Feb. 2nd he wrote that their City was then being "guarded" by bandits hired from a settlement of them which kidnap men as far distant even as Shanghai. They were guarding the town against the Communists. Strange life, don't you think? On March 1st he writes, that the leader of the bandit guard and his staff came to the compound seeking for him, and says of the matter, "I felt after they left, close kinship with a ripening plum which for the time is left on the tree until the plucking is more convenient". So while we are back in as quiet times as we have ever had, on the whole, it is not yet so everywhere. I have a close feeling for Burket; it is anything but ideal to be living here without one's wife (it is not so bad for the single women who do not realize what they are missing) here at Kakchich or Chaochowfu, but much worse up there several days from port and where one so seldom meets any body from the outside world. All honor to Burket and his kin. To make matters worse, we are in a transition period when our old missionary organization machinery is just falling into dis-use, and this means dispensing with our annual conference with its opportunity for fellowship. It is especially hard on our three men inland, one of whom lost his wife not so long ago and the other two widowers like myself.

I got this started, now I want to finish. Pages leave this afternoon at 4. I want to go to the boat with them and let them take this on the way both to Shanghai and America.

As I write mail is delivered on to my desk. I have several letters of my own that require replies, and soon I shall have that of Page's that comes to this office, so I can't make this longer.

I am glad for the home people to report that our evangelistic opportunities are splendid. Schools are going on nicely. Here at Kakchich the church is filled, with many of our pupils especially from the lower grade schools in attendance as of old. I rather think we are getting back into the old life where religious instruction will be as unfettered as we could wish. The Chinese are not anti-religious. It is only a few of them, and I hardly think they shall be able to keep up their opposition permanently. The Government is out to abolish idolatry, but even it has to compromise, dares not attempt to put across too stiff a program. The Chinese are increasingly cordial wherever I meet them. I recently had pupils in an English class from both the highest Gov. Schools in our region. Teachers are friendly. So I feel our best days are still ahead. My only question now is-- the men and women to carry on-- and that is worrying me some. More of it later. It is time for us to attempt to analyze the situation and find a policy applicable to the years ahead of us who bear the burdens now. I am persuaded the Chinese will want and need help for some time to come. How to meet the need is a question.

We are having a dry season. Here at the 18th of March we are without rain. Miss Miller, our fellow worker at Chaochowfu is ill here at Kakchich. Hopes to be able to return to City this week coming when I also hope to go up for a visit.

Now that is all I can get in for this time. With love for all of you, I am,

Missing you all,

Ben

Kakohich, March 27, 1929.

I have credited your account with the \$25 U. S. and sent Dear Lottie and Bob on to Alice. You Kid needs more help. Alice has had a number of frank talks with him. He has been willing to work and did work, but it Lottie's letter came just a few days ago. I cannot tell you how glad I was to get it. It has seemed very long since we had direct news of you. The Alice did forward a short note. But it did not tell the things I so wanted to know as this one has done. The enclosures will tell you enough about myself, why I can't write at length. I am just adding a personal word of greeting to that. Sometimes I hope to do better, or I will send you copies of letters so far as I can. Look after her. I can't get the Pages left us last Sunday a week ago. I fall heir to his duties as Sec. and Sub. Treasurer. Have also 10 to 18 periods a week in the Seminary, work that takes much time to prepare. And the care of our own field still rests on me, and I feel the need of work there. So to you see I am not free. Not was getting along all right the till this thing came. But I hope to be over it all shortly.

And I have I rejoice with you in your physical improvement and the environment that will surely do so much for the health of the children. And I am so happy for the news of your work. It makes me long to get into such a place myself. How this office work goes against my wishes. I want a chance to minister the word. But somebody must influence these young Chinese who show disposition to care for knowledge of spiritual things. Perhaps that is my service now. I am teaching the O.T. and Mark's gospel-- besides Biology and Ancient History. This requires great work, but it gives me a chance to interpret all this spiritually and that I am making an effort to do. It spains me I am not free to do it better. I was back at the City Sunday and have date for the 1st April 18th, Baptism and Communion. But I would like a pastorate for a while where I could express myself fully without restraint of language limitations. I am glad you are having the chance and I so happy that things seem to be moving. May the Lord bless you, and give you the guidance that will lead you unmistakably right. Page's things. They sold out completely.

I question if they get there surely never was better opportunity to preach the gospel here. People are open minded. Some oppose, of course, but our evangelists report splendid hearing. As I see it, the change is coming, when the question against us will be not that we are foreign, nor that we are not genuine, but as to the reality of spiritual things. The man with a positive, definite religious experience, and the passion for men and the Kingdom, must get a hearing and wield a big influence. Here is where our Chinese Christians need leadership; and in the midst of the need, we are getting more and more limited in force. It surely isn't that God does not want us to render this service; I wonder if it is because we are not leading, not fashioned ourselves for meeting the need, or to the field. They expect you Waters is held up till past summer at least. Mrs. Worley is due Saturday. Miss Northcott arrived recently and is out on the field administering radically with an evangelistic hand. Misses Traver and Foster are on the way home, both mending the furlough. Speichers are also home. Emily is trying to carry on at the City. Everyone here is now working to the limit. Adams is at Hope alone. Bunker at Sun-wu, where there are threatened Red motivation again. Says the City is guarded by a hired bandit chief and his band. Shanghai folks have had recently to get out again. Red menace, the new word from there since the 29th. We do hope good news is the result of no news.

Glad you are Nights have come to Swatow, and they plan for her to return home with children in June. I am sorry to say not expecting to return to the field. He will follow them next year. James family and the young ladies are at Wukungfu. There have been reports of trouble again around Tung-khe, so they stay close to the station. Lewises are well at Ungkung. We hope to see some of these folks soon at Ref. Com. meeting.

Ben returned your letter to me in last writing down your address, then could be sure what it was when he would be sent this!

I have credited your account with the \$86 U. S. and sent your letter and the check on to Alice. Teu Kui needs more help. Alice has had a number of frank talks with him. He has been willing to work and did work, but it cost him failure in some of his studies, which nearly broke him up. It is giving him a decided inferiority complex as Alice thinks, which we both agree is ruinous for him if he is to marry the girl he is engaged to and is to come back for work at the City. So she has been helping him extra.

I shall do the best I can for his sister. I do not want to be too unsympathetic with her, for I know he is away and can't look after her. I can't get the time to know definitely about her work. My objection is she seems to put needle work ahead of her class work; but if she has to earn to make ends meet how can she do otherwise. I will keep her in mind. Pua Sin-se wondered if she could not be helped more than the \$2. a month. I have not had a chance to discuss her with Pua for some time.

And I have not had time to make up your account. I make the day-book entries, but that is as far as I have gotten for a long time. I paid your Thaiyong caretaker's bill \$4 recently. Do not worry I am sure you have a balance in hand.

Can't now take time to tell of the Thaiyong house. Condition is pretty bad. Do not know what arrangements Mr. Speicher left for care for this house. James has been up and lately Giedt went up. He reports extensive repairs on both your house and ours before they can be occupied again. Some furnishings have disappeared. Will have to wait to see what folks do about going there this summer. Were so planning, but now reports of threatened unsettled conditions come again. So do not know. If you have any directions in this connection please get them out to us before the summer.

And in regard to the piano. If you want it sold what price should be put on it. I question whether it can be sold now, but it may be. Chinese bought lot of Page's things. They sold out completely. I question if they get back. Much hangs on the building of the new \$40,000 Kakchick church. I question if the Chinese will eventually be able to raise their share, and recent news from the Board does not indicate that they are in a position to take up this proposal this year.

You talk too much of what we have done for you. Do you know I had forgotten about caring for the children for you. That was just a bit of love that goes into everyday life, passes on and is thought of no more. You have no obligations in that connection, and you must forget it.

I am often asked by our field Chinese about your return to the field. They expect you. You are wanted too by a group out with me, and I wish you were here also. Perhaps you could work with them better. I can't attend Khou's machine work. I fear something will happen this summer at Association unless he modifies his way of dealing with the administration of the City Work appropriations. Just now he is squeezing the fat out of Lo Tong Kweng, the special evangelist. Sometime I may tell you more of it in detail. Khou, U, Lim Sui Mong are a triumvirate who are really dictating all things at the City. A break is sure to come in time. I hope a change can be engineered this summer. Do not know.

Glad you are all so well. How I should love to winter there with you one year. Folks are all well in Shanghai. This brings the love of all of us for all of you. And give our most hearty greetings to Aunt Cele.

Faternally yours,
Ben.

Kakchich, March 27, 1929.

Dear Alice, Howard and Bessie,
And you to whom this comes at Home.

If I wasn't so very glad for the actual state of the case I should be fussing because I am kept from my work. I am on the sick list, and it is those meanly amoeba. But to date I am still only slightly incapacitated, and we hope it will be nothing more than that. You at home can't appreciate what it means, but Alice and Bessie and Howard can, when I speak of my being so well pleased that I am not fussing, pleased because it seems to be light. I tell you I went thru some experience Monday night. And maybe I am not grateful to the Lord that I am so far along with only moderate discomfort, not even being compelled to stay in bed.

I began to feel soreness in the abdominal region Monday morning. It increased, and I thought it was cold on the colon, which I have had when we get the hot weather change. It was so pronounced that evening that I applied a hot-water bottle when I went to rest. But that did not give the relief expected. I felt bad thru the night and did not sleep till about 3 p.m. I knew it was not cold. I feared dysentery and of course faced all it might mean- for I lived over again some of the experiences with dear Bessie. I shrank from giving Dr. Everham one ounce more responsibility and did not call for her till breakfast. And I thought of the problem of nursing. AND I PRAYED. And peace came and I felt easier and rested. Finally I slept.

Dr. Everham found amoeba and has been giving me medicine. I have not had temperature nor appreciable diarrhoea, but have been weak and with soreness in lower regions. I have been up most of the day today, and at work here in the room. It is giving me a chance to do some office work since I can't attend classes right now. You can believe I am going to be careful. And you will thank the Lord with me that I have so far missed the real article. Our force is so depleted and Dr. Everham's responsibilities so heavy I should be miserable to be taking from the former and adding to the latter now. May the Lord spare us a severe case now, is my prayer, and I know others are joining me in it.

There is not much news. Frank Price, whom we met in Wokanshan last summer, is here with some others visiting the missions in Swatow in behalf of Christian educational work. He is to sleep here in this house, tho I can't entertain him. They will have a meeting tonight, perhaps, with the school teachers.

Mrs. Worley has written she is due to arrive Saturday morning. All will be glad to see her. Any increase to the force now is most welcome.

Red activities are going on up inland. The Memonite brethren from Shanghai have had to move out. We are preparing to take them in here unless the situation clears to warrant them going back to their station. No news from Burket for some time, which I hope is good news. They were threatened, but the threat passed for the time at least. We are not sure of the situation in Central China. Reported here that Chiang Kai Shek had captured the leader of the forces in control of our province. We do not know. Things as usual here, and mighty dry. Foggy today and we hope it means rain. I wonder if the state of the water supply is cause of my getting this disease. I hate that well up in the valley surrounded by the Chinese community all around it and higher up.

Dear Alice and All,

This is Thursday morning, March 28th. I had a good night's rest and ate heartily again this morning. There persists soreness and I am weak, but otherwise I am all right. So I seem to be getting on all right.

Alice, Frank Price is here with some others in the interest of Religious Educational work. He is sleeping here with me, the I am not in a situation to take care of him entirely. Emily and I are now separated also, which makes an involved servant problem. Besides to make matters worse, Lum Sim had to get privilege off while cook and I are here, to make his father's grave, and our City boy had to get off to go home because of family sickness. Emily went up Monday and is supposed to be staying in the City and being her woman, and I agreed to use Lum Sim, who came back this morning, and let her have the cook, who has just left to go to her. So you see the mix up. And being off color and unable to look after so many things, I couldn't think of having all the responsibility of the guests. But I wanted to. It puts too much on to Mrs. Capem. I fully plan to do my share of entertaining as much to have her as anything else. She has taken the treasurership of the Kakechik Hospital, and that gives her quite a bit of extra work. She isn't strong, and was so thoughtful of me. Despite all this, I hope to have Frank Price for supper and breakfast, only I haven't put eyes yet on Lum Sim, the cook said he had come.

Mr. Price tells some very interesting facts. Says, for instance, that even up in central China where disturbances have been worst, perhaps, in one school some 80 or 90 % of the parents requested that their children be given religious instruction the only 10 % of them were Christians. His plan here is to work with the teachers, the they are having some meetings with the students. He is up at the school as I write. This afternoon they hope to meet with all of the local Christian educational workers. I hope to attend that meeting. To-morrow is holiday, and I am glad, for I do not want yet to undertake the Sem. work. I hate to miss my share, however. I hope to make up for it tho in personal work with the pupils. I have appreciated the fact that two of the students have been here to call, one of them twice. They are from our own field, one from Tang Leng, whom I baptized not long ago.

Now I have some other letters I must get written. So this I must close up. This brings love to all of you. I know you will all be shocked and concerned about me, but do not worry. I would not be sending this off now only I feel it is all right, that the way is clear ahead. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Devotedly,

Ben. (This without signature will save
me time,)

Howard has finally decided that the Univ. of Ky. is the place for him next yr. Has just learned that Dr. Anderson what he did not know before, that their Engineering Course is very good. He wants that - preparing for an Architectural Course, probably. We are waiting for Allen's approval. Your last letter so good to have - will write later.
Alice

SOUTH CHINA MISSION
OF THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY
SEASIDE, CHINA.

Nov. 26, 1929.

Rev. E. S. Hildreth,
Cabot, Vermont, U. S. A.

Dear Bob,

Time and again I think of you people and want to write, but I am so tied down to this office work that I can't get the letters to friends off. I send you papers of general interest at times and have to let it go at that. Now I am writing you about a little matter of business, and I shall have to make it short. Before retiring last night I made out my memoranda of immediate duties, and this is the first one I have tackled of the 17 items, tho it is now in the afternoon and I have a meeting at 3:30 -4:30. That is the way my days go.

But the item of Business. The Ling Tong Convention has been reorganized, and are now establishing headquarters with offices in the Seminary. Your humble servant has been elected to serve the Conventions sub-organizations, Council and Executive Committee, as missionary Tsang Tsong Kung Sq. They have two Tsong Kung Sq, one Chinese, Shih Ku' just now, and one missionary. These two officers with six other heads of departments form a Cabinet, who are to have offices in the Headquarters. I do not know how long I shall be in that position, but that does not matter in the matter of this business. The business is, the Reference Committee voted to authorize me to make a deal with you for your study desk to be placed in this new office for the use of the missionary Tsong Kung Sq, whoever he may be.

This may look like closing, but, a but that is not the meaning at all. You are there in the pastorate and from your letters I should say fitting is finely. Again at the Council or Executive Committee meeting following the Convention I again raised the question of your return to the field, saying if the Chinese wanted you they should state definitely what you were to do and how much they wanted you, whether enough to warrant you giving up your pastorate to come back. I got no kick out of them. In your place I think I wouldn't consider the change back here. It is a thorny road to travel at best, and you have quite a big question of family health to consider. Alice and I have rather felt that you had about decided this way yourselves. In view of my opinion and our feeling as to how you were thinking, it seemed to me you might welcome an opportunity to dispose of your things. So when the question came up of furnishing the Secretary with some equipment in the new office I suggested securing your desk, and the vote referred to was taken.

If you will kindly advise me if you do want to sell the desk and what price you want to put on it I shall be grateful to you. I am rather assuming I shall not be in the office long, we want to get back to the City to live. Should I be here for long I could bring along one of my own desks. So do not let this force

your hand.

I do not know what news I have gotten to you. Family is well. Alice and I are both better than we have been for some years, it seems. Both children are well also. Howard writes he is working awfully hard. He is much pleased with his college, and is interested in the shop work, you know he is taking an engineering course. He gets down to my sister's most every week end. Do not know how much running around he is doing, but perhaps too much for his good. But he is making good in his studies. He passed on solid geometry that he had worked up himself without aid. Bessie is having a harder time to keep up. She just isn't fitted for the normal school course, and should be in some place where more attention is given to development of the pupil's own bent. They would both want to be remembered to you.

Alice has written you of Tea Hui and your accounts. You have a good balance when all is figured up.

Billy has had to be away from the City a great deal because of illness. She is back now again, living in the City when none of us are up there. Lewis is better, and they hope to be able to get off to the States the last of December. I am so glad, for to tell you the truth, I never expected to see him leave China. It is doubtful if he can ever get back, but no telling.

Chinese have subscribed \$20,000 for the new church here. We have sailed three times for Fung, but still have no advice as to when he is coming. Withing another six weeks the work will probably have started on the construction, and he will be too late. We are looking for advice every day.

Communists have been too active around Kiating. Three German missionaries have been captured, and are still held for ransom. Our people have all moved out. The Communists are still moving, and it will not be safe for our folks to go back until something is done with them. Prospects are not good just now. Chang Fa Keel, an opposer of the Nanking Government, is threatening Canton now with a large force of some 30,000 or 40,000, and Mr. Whitman just back from there says the foreigners expect to see him get possession. He is reported to have taken in various bands of disaffected troops and communists on his way south, and if this is so we may be in for bad times if he gets in the saddle.

Now I must be getting ready for my meeting. This will get to you about Christmas. I have had to depend on Alice entirely to look after any Christmas communications. But this will give you greetings even if it is late. We shall be thinking of you all at Christmas time, especially if we are back at the City, as we now hope to be. Remember us to Miss Wetherbe. Give John and Alice big, big hugs for me. How we wish we could see you.

Fraternally yours,



From Alice Baker
Chocoma

Kakohieh, Swatow, Dec. 5th, 1925.

Dear

I have not written to you for weeks, and then it was merely copies of letters to the children, I fear. I could not write more letters than I just had to during these last three weeks, however, for I have had to push myself day and night to get certain things done. Now, I can breathe more freely again, for these special duties are completed. Haven't heard from you for some time, also, but I know how you are rushed, and I feel that no news is good news.

For two weeks I put every minute I could get into preparing a talk in Chinese on the subject of Shanghai College. I gave it for the Women's Prayer-meeting last week. Worked for an hour nearly every day with a teacher to get the Chinese correct, then memorized it. You will wonder why I had to work so long over the text, but you see, altho I have talked all these years about everyday subjects and about religion in the common speech of the women, when it comes to putting a long speech into grammatical form I just haven't had the training. Now, since I hope to do more and more of this sort of work, I want to begin right, and get myself drilled in proper forms of sentences, and in order to make it come naturally I shall have to drill until I learn to think in Chinese, and correctly. I have never had the time to get that far in the language yet. Even older men like Ben and Mr. Waters, when they are preparing a sermon, need a teacher to work with over it to be sure that forms of speech are correct. When we started life out here, my school work interrupted my study, so that I never did more than one year's regular work with a teacher.

I was shocked to learn how little I could say in proper form when I began to work on this speech. I have good pronunciation, I have always known that for it came easy to me, but it is the forms of grammar and the vocabulary that I am so weak in. Then too, many things that I have learned to say from the women in common speech are not the proper forms to use when talking with educated people, or on the platform. It is an endless job, learning this Chinese, and especially this Swatow dialect.

When we go out to visit in stranger's homes, we cannot get very far unless we have a preacher or Bible-woman with us, for even the older foreign residents continually meet phrases which they do not understand, and I get so little unless someone can explain.

Well, when that task was over for the immediate present, I had to turn about and take up medical work! Three of our nurses were preparing to take exams under the National Nurses Assoc. of China, in an advanced course in Midwifery. Without asking whether I could do it or not, they sent my name into Peking for approval as an examiner, and when I learned of it it was too late to have another physician approved in my place. So, I had to get their book and just bone on that for ten days. I am glad I had to do it, for it was a fine review of the subject for me and I may need it some day, but it was not what I should have chosen to do at this time. Exams came off yesterday, and all three nurses passed with credit. There were three M.D.s examining in the practical work.

I have been giving all morning at the hospital for the week, also, in the absence of ~~xxxxxx~~ the native doctors on vacation.

Ben hasn't felt that he had a wife here at home, merely a co-resident who was as absorbed in one line of work as he has been in another. I hope to help in his work now, for he needs help.

This morning I woke up after having a very vivid dream about something dreadful having happened to Lena. It has disturbed me all day. I hope it was merely the result of over-stimulation from taking coffee for several days! I usually sleep soundly when I do not drink it. But I did realize that it was time I wrote to you both,

to, at least, show that I have you in mind.

We have Pictures of Claire and Henry before us on the dresser, where we see them whenever we dress, together with Howard and Bessie. Wish I could see them at their play. We are so glad to have all the pictures of them. We have had several of the boys in Ky, too. They are growing fast. I do hope all of you are keeping free from the colds and flu's of this season. Ben and I have been unusually well. Neither of us has had a cold yet, and we are both slowly gaining weight. I weigh 131 now, in light clothing. He hasn't been weighed, but is more nearly plump than I have ever seen him for many years. We are usually keeping a rly hours at night, which helps much in keeping ourselves free from nerve strain.

I wonder whether Clara has not been well. You wrote, Clara, that you had to give your organ work, and I know you would not have done that unless you had less strength. I hope you have fully recovered from the intestinal ill ness you had last summer, Clara. We know how long it sometimes takes to get strong again from such conditions. Lena wrote last spring or winter that you were not very well. Nervous Exhaustion. I do hope you have had a chance to get rested and relieved. That reminds me.

Ben and I have been working on the theory that since we have been thin for so long, we needed more food. Of course, we have taken Malted Milk and such things spasmodically all thro the years, at least he has. Now, we are at home thro the day and able to control our habits better, so we are both having a drink of milk or Ovomaltine regularly between each meal, and we are sometimes taking it at night. We often take a glass of milk at breakfast, unless we take a real fruit breakfast. Ben, for some months, has been taking nothing for breakfast but fruits and milk, with nuts and sometimes an egg. That is enough, isn't it!! "What I mean is," he takes no starches at that meal. He takes at least two glasses of milk, when he eats this way. Gets plenty of food value, and also can take the fruits better than he has been able to take them for years. I think that has something to do with his improved condition, he is getting colder, and we do not like this kind of a breakfast, we shall have hot breads and eggs for breakfast, with perhaps Postum or occasionally cocoa. He will keep on with some of the milk, however. We do not use fresh milk, but have settled down to regular use of Klim. We love it, and we have demonstrated that what the Med. Mag says is true about it, it is more easily digested than fresh milk, while it has retained all the vitamins and food value.

We have enjoyed the Sanka Coffee immensely. Have a bit of it yet, saved for special occasions ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~. It is surely good. Plan to send for some more, tho shall not try to use it regularly. Expense of postage and duty would be heavy.

I wonder if you, Lena, and Clara also, would not feel much better if you would regularly take a glass of milk, or Malted Milk, or Ovomaltine between meals. It seems to relieve the nerve strain and peps one up for another hour before the next meal, while it does not spoil the appetite as solid food does. I am not talking about fresh milk, but this Klim. Fresh milk does require more digestion. I believe this would give Lena weight, and she would feel better.

Howard writes good letters. Likes the college work genuinely, but the last letter shows that ~~he is homesick~~, or at least, lonely. He has a roommate whom he likes, but is so very busy that he has little time for anything but study. That is good for him, however. He

works every night in the week until 11.30, and sometimes much later. He cannot keep that up, at his age, of course. Eng. work is such a stiff course, and he hates it, because he is not the sort that can write off themes, and such things. He is getting finest kind of grades so far, however, and he will keep that up, we know, if he can stand the physical strain. He has not tried football, but is going to train for track. Says the coach expects that he can make his B letter by next year, and that is earlier than most can get it in any form of athletics. He ran the 1/2 m. in 2m.7 last spring, and the coach thinks he can do it in 2m. next spring. Glad he is enjoying that, and it keeps him in trim, is already training.

B. is not doing well in her work. It worries us both, but there is nothing more that we can possibly do to help her except to give up the effort to cut out one year from her high school course and let her settle back into a straight freshman this year. She has her heart set on making the upper class by the time she is a Sr, and she seems to be doing her best. I realize that it has been a mistake to try to rush her, but now, to let her drop back will not be good for her "morale". She is not the student that H. is, but I thought she could do better than she is doing. The principal wrote a long sympathetic letter about her recently, and he is also opposed to making her give up the effort to get ahead, for as he says, it is a serious thing to let a girl or boy develop an inferiority complex when they are adolescents. That is just what it will do for her, we fear. She has had to make excuses so long to explain why she is in lower classes when she is so big, and older, that she is sensitive about it. I have just written and asked if they might arrange for some tutoring for her, to try what that will do. In the end, it will not be any more expensive than another year at S.A.S. would be. My heart does go out to her, for I think she is trying. She just hasn't the ability to concentrate as others do. She is busy at something, for she isn't writing as many letters as she should. The Principal suggested that he wished I could remain with her for another year, and don't I wish I could! H. needed me for loneliness more than she does, but she needs me for her development more than he did. She has a queer disposition, that does not take anything seriously in which she is not especially interested. But that is not all, she does like some of her work very much, French and Nat. Science. Grades in Science are fair, but very poor in French. She does no written work well. Has had her glasses changed every year for 5 years, just changed again for headaches. She writes that now she is comfortable. Last year, alt' her grades in Eng. were never good, she wrote several poems that I think were better than the ave. girl of her age would do. Certainly, H. could never have done them. I am enclosing a copy of two, wonder how they seem to you. Her imagination shows itself in something like this.

We have sent you all photos for Christmas. Think I wrote about them, that H's and perhaps B's, and I forget how many were printed and how she did. Use a hand glass, and you can tell which are more natural in the opposite position. I just hope you have not been bothering yourselves about parcels for us for Christmas, we would rather you would take that time for rest.

This brings our love to all of you. The news about Homer is good. I think of Betty as studying in Newark, isn't it, and ofaddy as at work in N.Y. Is that right? I do hope you will all keep well, and will have a very happy Christmas together somewhere.

Lovingly,
Ben and I plan to go up to spend Christmas with our people & Cofu.