

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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**From Alice and Ben Baker, to the Hildreths and copies of letters to others
(1930-1938)**

[Bakers were American Baptist missionaries in South China]

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copy

Kakwhieh, Swatow, China,
Nov. 16, 1930.

Dear Bessie and Howard and Home People,

This will come in copy to each of you. If I should take time to tell of it, I should begin again to tell you how busy I have been; but I shall not waste that good time. I have just an hour to write now, or not that long.

Alice and I are still here at the Pert. Our Secretaries are with us and we have meeting still scheduled for the week ahead. In fact we have one for this evening and I am due to begin again at nine a. m. to-morrow. The regular meetings of Sunday are going on to-day, but I am taking this hour off. Will have to go at 3 o'clock. There is much to talk about. Can only tell of a bit and leave much for a general letter which I hope to get written later.

First, Howard, I must tell you of the news we had thru the "SUN" of your feat in winning that race. It was in the midst of a busy day I took a few minutes off to glance thru the home paper. There I came across that short notice of the event. I threw up my arms and shouted when I read it. You can best imagine how my face looked. We are so proud. As soon as I could I took the paper to Mother (And I stood by watching the smile creep up over her face as she read. It was good to see). We are proud of you, boy, and so happy that you have accomplished something else that you have set out to do. We only regret we could not be there to show you what it means to us, to let you see how proud we are. Mother sent the news off to Bessie as soon as she could. We know she will be as happy as are we. We know, too, that what you have succeeded in doing you are regarding, not as something to be proud over, but as a step on to better things. That is what makes it so worth while to us. You have our congratulations and our best wishes and our prayers for success in the things that lie ahead. We know you will keep your head. We only want you to make sure not to do yourself physical injury for the sake of making records and winning races. When this news got to us we were in the midst of the sessions of the China Baptist Council which were being held here on our compound, with delegates from West and East China present. I took the paper along to the meeting after Mother had read it and showed it to all our good friends, who we knew would be interested in our good fortune. You will remember Mr. Decker who was at Makanshan. He was here rooming with me and was glad to hear of your exploits. Now, we ask, What is the next thing that you expect to rejoice us over?

Bessie, we have also gotten joy out of your improved reports. You are coming along all right. You will have to keep up the hard strokes, but they will bring you good news and make us all happy. So watch your step. When you bring down those higher grades you light lights in the old home.

I shall soon have to go. I must be sure to explain to you, Bessie, about the oranges. Mother and I have both been so very busy. I was on the go all the time, just time to eat and sleep, not over much. Mother also had to take guests up to visit at the City, and was away the day those left for Shanghai who brought the oranges. She had to get someone else to look after getting them. Of course, our Swatow oranges have a reputation. Several of the guests wanted some to take back with them, and no doubt had visions of the lovely oranges they would have to show their friends. However, the season is not fully on yet and nice oranges are not easy to get. The family servants had to pick in the markets, no doubt, to get what they had for meals. One of our men

45M-2

kindly agreed to purchase the oranges and get them aboard ship both for the guests and for the three families who wished to send them to S.A.S. Other errands were also given him in Swatow, and it was late when he got to the market. The fruit had been all picked over before he arrived, and no good oranges were to be had. He had been commissioned to get \$15 worth. Finding them so poor he did not know what to do. So he finally bought about half the value, and had to take them as he got them. He did not realize folks would not want those poor little half green things. He got four large baskets full for \$11. Dr. White had ordered \$4 and Dr. Decker \$5 worth. Burelets and Giffins and we had ordered \$2 worth a family. It ended by us deciding on the boat to send you children the two baskets and allowing you to divide them into three equal parts. I was so rushed I could not get a full explanation written to you, but told you how to make division on the tag on your basket. Dr. Decker wrote the same advice on one of the other tags. I hope you understood and got it straight.

We knew you were disappointed on learning we had sent oranges to see what actually were sent. I dared to say, however, that you would enjoy them even if they were the cullings. Sometime in the future we hope to send some better ones if there is a chance. Perhaps we may do so when Mrs. Burket comes up. But do not count too much on it.

Mother and I are here at Prescott House, with Miss Culley. We shall have to be here thru the coming week, or most of it. Dr. Franklin will stay on in South China for two weeks yet. Miss Sandberg, tho, will be leaving us the end of this week. We begin meetings with the Ling Tong Chinese to-morrow, rather this evening. How long them will continue we are not yet sure. There is the bell. I must go. More later.

Now it is after our evening meeting. I am back in my room again. The wind is blowing a gale. I feel sorry for the poor folks on the sea.

Well, I have a bit of good news for all of you, it is my good news and all of you will join me in being happy over it. A cable came a day or so ago advising us that the Board had secured a stenographer-secretary for South China Mission, and she is supposed to arrive in February. We shouted when the word came. It means I shall be set free from doing so much of this office work and ought also to be able to find a bit more of leisure myself. I think I told you also that we have gotten a mimeograph. I finally got that to working a week ago and we are now using it. I write a program and run off as many copies as I wish. With that and the stenographer we should be able to keep up with correspondence and all the other matters of the work. It will mean I can send home and to all friends of South China a great deal more news than they now get. And I shall be freer from sitting as I am now. There is so much to be done and so few to do it, I shall be happy to get away from this office routine. I should tell you also that folks are trying to get me to go on to the staff of our Seminary, and if I should do that it will mean coming here to live, the Mother and I do not see how we can do that. We think we should try to keep our place at Chaochowfu and live there part time anyway. Maybe we should have to be a divided family for several days a week. But the question is not decided yet, and will not be until we get thru with these conferences with Dr. Franklin and Miss Sandberg. Conditions are quiet, and either there is less banditry right about here now or we hear less of it. Mother and I are keeping as well as we could expect, standing up to the strenuous times fairly decently. This brings much love.

Devotedly, DAD.

kindly agreed to purchase the oranges and get them shipped with both for the guests and for the three families who wished to send them to the U.S. Offer oranges were also given him in Sweden, and it was said when he got to the market. The fruit had been all divided over before he arrived, and to good oranges were to be had. He had been commissioned to get his worth finding them so poor he did not know what to do. So he finally brought about half the weight and had to take them as he got them. He did not realize this would not want those poor little half green things. He got four large baskets full for Dr. Dr. White had ordered 24 and Dr. Decker 22 worth. Burstein and Gillman and we had ordered 22 worth a family. It ended by us deciding on the best to send you children the two baskets and allowing you to divide them into three equal parts. I was so rushed could not get a full explanation written to you, but told you how to make division on the tag on your basket. Dr. Decker wrote the same advice on one of the other tags. I hope you understood and got it straight. We know you were dislocated on learning we had sent oranges to see what actually was sent. I dared to say, however, that you would enjoy them even if they were the smallest. Sometimes in the future we hope to send some better ones if there is a chance. Perhaps we may do so when Mrs. Burstein comes up. But do not count too much on it. Mother and I are here at Prescott House, with Miss Colley. We shall have to be here thru the coming week, or most of it. Dr. Franklin will stay on in South China for two weeks yet. Miss Sandberg, too, will be leaving at the end of this week. We begin working with the King Tong Chinese tomorrow. Rather this evening. How long they will continue we are not yet sure. Where is the boy? I want to. Have a letter.

"Well, I have a bit of good news for all of you. It is my good news and all of you will join me in being happy over it. A cable came a day or so ago advising us that the Board had accepted a stenographer-secretary for South China Mission, and she is supposed to arrive in February. We should want the word came. It means I shall be out free from doing so much of this office work and ought also to be able to find a bit more of leisure myself. I think I told you also that we have gotten a stenograph. I finally got that so working a week ago and we are now using it. I write a program and run off as many copies as I wish. With that and the stenographer we should be able to keep up with correspondence and all the other matters of the work. It will mean I can send home and to all friends of South China a great deal more than I am now getting. And I shall be free from sitting as I am now. There is so much to be done and so few to do it. I shall be happy to get away from this office routine. I should tell you also that I am trying to get me up on to the staff of our Seminary, and if I should do that it will mean coming here to live, the Mother and I do not see how we can do that. We think we should try to keep our place at Chunchow and send five here five away. Maybe we should have to be a divided yet, family for several days a week. But the question is not decided yet, and will not be until we get that with these conferences with Dr. Franklin and Miss Semahurst. Conditions are quiet, and things here are bending right about now or we hear last of it. Mother and I are keeping as well as we could expect, standing up to the strenuous times lately. This brings much love. Truly affectionately, New it is almost our evening we ring. I am back in my room again. The wind is blowing a gale. I feel sorry for the poor folks on the sea."

NAME: _____ WILSON: _____

Home, Nov. 29th, 30.

Please return
these to
L.

Dear Lottie and Bob;

I seem to have a quiet afternoon, and I am very glad to take the opportunity to write to you about your furniture sales. It is high time you heard something definite about it. I mentioned the matter in the letter I wrote to you in Kakchih a week or so ago, but that gave no details.

I am sitting at your black desk in the middle of Ben's study, which is downstairs, our former guestroom. It makes a splendid light roomy study for him and all his various bookcases and filing cabinets and tables. He had two red lacquer desks, but they were always full of shelves, paper baskets, etc. Now, with his typewriter on this many-drawered desk in the middle of the room he is quite delighted. And indeed, it does make him so much more comfortable when at work. I had coveted the convenient drawers of this desk, but it is quite too high for my own use, so we were offering it for sale. Ben decided it would be easier to sell if we had it over here where it would be seen. Then when he had it in place in the room he found how much he wanted it, himself.

Indeed, I find all the little tables and the various chairs we took of yours add much to our comfort. I have no use at present for the carved Jap. table that I always admired in your livingroom, so I am leaving it in your house among Emily's things. I don't want it to go away to anyone else, however.

I will list the few things unsold. Some of them can be disposed of when we exert ourselves a bit more to get rid of them. Have forgotten to let the Mission know about the filing-cards, and some such things. I find among the books the big Chinese-Eng. Dictionary. Do you want that offered for sale? Also, do you have a Field Dict, Tie Chiu? I do not know whether there is one over there or not, I had to let Liang Chek, who was helping, pack the books away in one of Emily's wardrobes, and one of her smaller bookshelves, when the bookcases left the house. I am sorry that the books are now on her open shelves, that is, the ones that were in your study bookcase. The books from livingroom cases are all packed into her wardrobe. It was Dr. Housefield who was so eager to get a Field Dict. last winter. He will come down from Shai in the winter I presume, and then he will again want one.

I should stop here to tell you about Dr. B. Of course they cannot go back to Sunwu, for that place is a wreck from Red occupation. The whole district is in control of the Reds. The Hope region is also unsettled, tho the Bakka Mission considers it now as safe as Kiating, and are expecting the Adams to go up there at once when they return. Dr. B. has been strongly urged to go there, but he refuses to consider it. So at last it has been decided that he shall go to Kityang to work with Dr. Everhas, but that until her return from furlough Dr. B. shall spend time in getting the language. Dr. went up to Shai last summer to work at St. Johns to get his degree. They promise him that at end of this year.

Mrs. Giffin has just gone up to Kiating for first since they came out last fall. Mr. G. was there most of last winter and spring. Mrs. Campbell and Louise and Anna F. are there, with Mr. Whitman. Now back to business!

Your letter last spring said that you wanted that pretty carved couch to go to myself or some other M.D. I could not use it in our house for it is too long, tho I should have liked to have it in dining room, as you have it in yours. Velva had no room for it, so I sent it down to be kept until Margueritte comes back. She may be very glad to have it. At present it is in Hobart's house. *(where I stayed last)* One brass bed is unsold, and the diningroom suite. We have sent that to the Rest House for storing, and are advertising it among Chinese in Kachieh. It is the one with tin bottom. There is little hope that Chinese would want the mattress, so we bought that ourselves. The Rest House committee bought one mattress for N.H. Kenneth took the best one, with one bed.

Foa Mak Che wants information about the price of the sewing machine. Your letter merely said it was to go to her. She seemed to expect to pay for it. I promised in Aug. to write to you about it and at this late date I am doing so. She now has work in Swatow, is in comfortable circumstances and can pay something for it.

You did not list for sale the two tinolined cases in storeroom. In one I have packed some of your photos from bookcase drawers, the guitar, etc. The other still has lots of your cloth patches. I quite failed to sell Bob's suits, so I have given one to Sam Khian, who is as hard up as ever. Shall give him another one for cold weather, too. His mother can cut it down for him, and then she said she would have it dyed. She does our laundry, and what sewing I get done. I have no time to use machine for me, and I get no time to use it myself. I am surprised to see how much she can do when I can get no time to help.

I send hearty thanks for the small tablecloth which just fits when the table is made for four, and is very good looking. I have too many large cloths now, was in need of a small one. I have given away some of the cotton garments, will give away more next hot season.

I mentioned in last letter that I have given to Cook and Coolie some small things for the help they have given. Of course, their time was paid for, but if they had not so willingly advertised and helped to dispose of the things we could not have done much without them. May I suggest that you express your thanks to them, as I know you will want to do? They each have already paid for what they bought, but if you care to do so, I could return it to them. The coolie is husband of the cook's sister whom we knew when she was a girl. He is the same fine spirit as Mua Phai, untiring in his efforts to serve us. Has a large family and new baby this month, and he especially will appreciate such a consideration on your part. while the cook will appreciate the spirit most.

We regret that we could not anticipate how easily the things or many of them, would sell among the Chinese here, for they were priced too low, we think now. Also, if we had charged Kenneth more, he would have paid more I am sure for many things. We are simply not willing to avail ourselves of your very generous offer to give us the mattress and bed. We do not need the bed, and we insist on paying for the mattress. You are losing out sadly on the things, as it is, perhaps it may not be so bad if exchange improves.

Abbie bought a bednet which E. will pay you directly for, or has done so, instead of paying it to us.

Now, I think that covers everything, tho I presume I have missed ~~nothing~~ nothing in much.

Miss Traver spent last night with me, on her way to Tang Lin. I was so good to hear her tell about seeing you at your home.

Howard is happy at Ky, has made another record in track work. Writes short letters, but seems to be very well. Bessie is so enthusiastic over being a Soph. Love to each one of you. Lots of love to John and Alice.

REPORT
LING TONG SUMMER RETREAT
1950

From July 1 to 8, the Ling Tong Baptists and Presbyterians for the second year conducted their summer Retreat together. The meetings were held in the spacious assembly room of the Kak-Kuang Academy at Kakshieh. Rainy weather caused some inconvenience, but fortunately it came after the delegates had assembled and the meetings had begun.

The attendance was most gratifying. When we first began these summer meetings some years ago, the number of those appreciating them and showing an interest in them, was discouragingly small. And some even of those who did come would not stay thru the whole program. Two or three years back a turn for the better came, and last year with these two Christian bodies cooperating, a fine group of workers gathered together, and we had splendid meetings. This year there has been a decided advance over last. At the peak of attendance we had about 250 present. Something like 85 % of these were preachers and teachers and other workers in the churches, and a large part of them were young people. The spirit was delightful. The excitement, the turbulence, the impulsiveness, characteristic of most meetings a few years ago, were wholly absent. Thru the whole week of meetings there was a quietness, a steadiness, a seriousness, that bespoke men and women sanely and thoroughly committed to discovering new meaning the Christian faith has for themselves and clearer conceptions of their responsibilities in spreading that faith among their fellow men. The level of attendance and interest was maintained right up to the end.

The program for each day consisted of a morning devotional half hour followed by an hour of direct scriptural teaching. After a recess of half an hour another hour was devoted to addresses by specially invited speakers. The afternoons were given to discussions groups, at first denominational groups, later interdenominational groups. Recommendations were prepared by the denominational groups for presentation direct to their respective church bodies. The interdenominational groups also framed certain resolutions which they reported back to the Retreat, and some of these were adopted for presentation to the two churches represented. The evenings were given to addresses.

The spirit of the Retreat found expression in a motto that hung over the rostrum. On a strip of cloth 12 feet long by over a foot wide, was written in large Chinese characters, "Ye shall receive the power of the Spirit and shall be witnesses of the Lord to the ends of the earth". Last year the motto read, "Revive thy church, O Lord, beginning with me". Last year the central thought was REVIVAL; this year it was "Witnessing". This year as last, the addresses were fine, the sermons simple and soul nourishing. War is on again in China, the fate of the much heralded nationalist movement hangs in the balance; the economic situation is terribly trying. But nothing of all this found its way into the addresses. The Retreat was frankly set up to minister to the spiritual life of those who came, the speakers without exception fully met the expectations of the Committee who invited them, in this connection, and the sustained interest on the part of the large audience right up to the end despite some trying weather, showed that the large body of our workers in the two churches are deeply interested in our spiritual

welfare. They key-note, the magic name, if I may so call it, in this Retreat, as in last year's, was Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ our Savior. Last year it was; The Church is Jesus Christ's, she is of him, by him and for him, and her revival must be by and for him; the Retreat was a prayer that he would revive his church and all the Christian delegates and leaders and speakers were praying that that revival would begin with them. This year it was: The world is Jesus Christ's, redeemed by him; and the Retreat was a prayer of a revived church for power to witness for him to his whole world, and each Christian prayed that he might become an effective witness. Revive thy Church, O Lord, that thy Church may witness for thee to thy world. all for Thee, O Lord Christ. These two years these two Retreats have centered their thoughts and desires, not on economics, not on social service, not on nationalism nor patriotism, but on Jesus Christ. Two hundred and fifty Chinese workers in our two churches, meeting for days, earnestly earnestly hanging on the words of their speakers, be they Chinese or missionaries seeking to know more of Jesus Christ, to know his power in their lives to serve him, - this has been a wonderful thing to see.

A most significant and interesting feature of the Retreat, especially to those concerned to know the actual grip the Christian Faith has upon Chinese, was one of the speakers and his appeal to his audiences. Mr. Wang was in the Chinese navy until he was 21. His wife was brought under Christian influence and became a Christian. Forthwith she set about to win him and ere long did so. The experience was so real for him he gave up his place in the navy and dedicated his life to his Lord. With mission help or mission connections and not in keeping with the usual methods, not thru the ordinary channels, he prepared himself for preaching the gospel. He fared forth on a life of adventurous faith, quite to the concern of his mother who did not understand him, and resolved to live or die by his ministry of the Christian message. His sermons were simple and made no particular claim to scholarship, tho they were well framed. He was wholly lacking in anything spectacular, and depended on no sophistries. He preached a plain, old-fashioned message, without any attempt at oratory. He told his own story with out affectation and in preaching never seemed to think of himself. He exemplified poise, with simplicity and sincerity. Prominently he exalted Jesus Christ and his gospel of salvation; and, as was true of Jesus, the people heard him gladly. Here indeed Christianity has become indigenous in China; and so high do our people hold Mr. Wang in esteem and so true is he, that we surely hope to have him with us in future meetings and we confidently expect to see some rich fruitage from his work with us.

Another striking feature of this Retreat was the manifest growth in the inclination towards cooperation between the two participating denominations. Two successful joint Retreats inevitably promote inquiries why cooperation should not apply along other lines. There is an unmistakable growing desire for it and a deepening conviction that it is necessary in order to meet fully the will of our Lord and to enable the Christian forces to measure up to the conditions prevailing in China at the present time. Last year these two bodies joined together in earnest worship, in fervent prayer that our Lord would revive his people. This year they came again before him and together prayed that he would endow them with ~~power on his spirit~~ ^{the Holy Spirit} and make them faithful witnesses. The appropriateness and reasonableness, the blessing and advantage of cooperative witnessing followed fast as a natural conviction. The feeling became pretty general and rather strong that the Retreat should eventuate in something more than edification, as good as that is, and this

[illegible]

resulted in the passage of a number of recommendations for presentation to the two cooperating bodies, urging that cooperation on a wider scale be engaged in, and suggesting forms of work in which joint effort might be both possible and profitable.

The following are the more important of the things it was suggested the two Churches might work together at.

1. Conduct a Christian Newspaper.
2. Operate a Blind Asylum.
3. Combine the two church magazines now being published.
4. Theological Education
5. Founding a College
6. Prosecute Medical Evangelistic Work
7. Evangelistic Campaigns.

The recommendations were worked up rather quickly. The number and significance of the things proposed to be done indicates that the thinking was not up to normal. But it was not supposed that the two Churches could do all of these at once. Most likely nothing more than a survey of the situation will be made the coming year. The really important thing is the manifestation of this strong conviction that the two bodies ought to be cooperating. Perhaps we are on the way; it is to be hoped so.

The final recommendation was that these proposals should be committed to a committee of 14 members, seven from each of the participating churches. The Baptists have already appointed their committee.

This matter of cooperation has been put here rather strongly. Our tendency is to enthuse over the good things we observe in our work. Perhaps it would not be amiss to give a bit of corrective material, so that the actual state of affairs may be more easily determined. Our Chinese are great face savers, and make much of keeping things on the surface nice and smooth. I confess after all I wonder just how far these gestures towards cooperation are genuinely expressing of the mind of our leaders. At least they are going very cautiously when it comes to launching on a cooperative enterprise of any significance. Evidence of this is seen in the fact that our Council right after the Convention voted against cooperating in a common church paper, and the Convention voted to found a college without mentioning cooperation. However, we shall know better the real situation when the committee of 14 gets to work on the recommendations. Our College will not have been established by that time at least.

Whatever the merits of these proposals for cooperative activities, in contrast with what has just been said, both bodies are thoroughly committed to joint Retreats, and we have a right to hope for a still better one next year. This year the Committee on Retreat was not appointed until only a short time before the time for the meetings, and it was not then certain whether it was to be joint affair or not; which militated against a first class program. This has been improved on, and the Retreat itself appointed a committee to make plans for next year. This is a great step in advance.

I should not conclude this report without a word as to the relations between the Chinese and their missionaries. We had the best and freest fellowship we have had since 1925, it seemed to me. Our Chinese brethren managed the Retreat, but they made liberal and appreciative use of their missionary supporters, and all were happy in the work together.

Ben L. Baker,
Secretary.

Cathy

March 13th.

Dear People:

I am so distressed that I have to let you go so long without letters. There seems no help for it, each week the day and evenings are full to the limit. I rarely read anything except what is necessary for work, or for a few minutes relaxation at meal times, and a glance at the headlines of the daily paper, so I cannot save time from that quarter. Your lives are just as busy, so I know you understand.

We had a wonderful treat last week, when Ben came up to Shanghai for three short days to attend meetings of Directors of the Baptist Publication Soc. of China. He arrived on Wed. afternoon, and came out here to me, then we both went in to have supper at S.A.S. with the children, coming back here for the night. He spent all day Friday and Thure, in town, but we had the evenings together, and Fri. he brought both H. and B. out here to spend the night. We made a bed for H. on a long chair in the dining-room of our apartment. Ben's coming was a surprise the week before, told me over the phone by a friend who had come up from Swatow and said that Ben was coming by the next boat. He looks well, though he had one of his periods of dull headache while he was here. Says they have been coming less frequently, but he has them occasionally. His being here made me so homesick that it took me days after he had gone to get back into the spirit of my work here again! He could have staid longer, but passenger service on steamers has been interrupted by another piracy down the coast and some are not carrying passengers, so he had to go when he could. Another three months now until he may come again.

Howard make makes a decided change in plan for college. He is now thinking of going with his friend, Merle Smith, to a small college in Virginia, Hampden-Sidney, in town of same name. It is the coll. of S. Presbyterian Church, and that is why Merle and a sister of his family and his brother all go there. H. has been feeling deeply the coming separation from family and all his friends, more than we realized. When he let us know how he has felt about it, I suggested that perhaps, for the first two years before he starts a technical course, he might like to go with Merle. The two boys have been chums for years. He says, after thinking over it for a week, that the idea appeals to him more than either Oberlin or Denison does. So we are now waiting for more information. The place is about 90 m. from Richmond, college of 250 only, carefully selected students. We may be too late now to get him in. The college to which he goes for the first two years does not make so much difference, provided he gets good work as a foundation for the later years when he plans to go to a larger Univ. for more technical work along lines of Marine Architecture. So, if he has a good course offered these two years, the next thing to consider is to make him happy with it. I remember how miserably he suffered from homesickness his first term in S.A.S. as a boy, so the idea of him and Merle being together is a comfort to me. Don't know how it will work out.

Clara, I do wish you were coming out this coming summer while I am here in Shanghai. There is so much of interest for you here which you would want to see and know, and after I go back to Swatow and Chaochowfu you would miss much of that. I am planning to remain here, probably right in Shanghai with Bessie all summer until time for S.A.S. to open again. Then I shall go down home. Ben will come up early in June, probably, and be here until after H. sails early in July. You will probably not see me next summer, anyway, in U.S., but you come this summer.

Send to the Board
to consider -

Letter from Mrs. Baker M.D. about word
-husband Ben and 2 children
Home, March 25th, 1931.

Howard
Baker
in 1914.

Dear Clara and Lena and All the Family;

I have neglected you for some weeks, then I received letters from both of you within these few days and I must reply now before this morning is over. Ben will return from Kachich this eve, I hope, and bring the new Secretary with him to work together here until the end of the week, and they will have the typewriter in use. My little one is beyond hope of repair, I fear. He is planning to take this big one down to the office in Kachich and bring up here the small Mission machine, which will serve just as well here.

Miss Ericson, our new Sec., is a young woman from N. Dakota. She is well trained for her job and is a great help to Ben. Everyone likes her and she is delighted with the Mission and her work, apparently. She begins to feel that she wants to study the language and fit herself for regular missionary work, and she is fitted for that, also. Is eager to work with the young people and had experience in that at home. So we are all very happy over her.

I have been having a quiet ten days, with a bad knee. In Oct. I fell and struck on that old right knee that has been injured several times before and has had to have such care years ago. The same knee that I injured in Hightstown when I was 18, and again when we came to China in '08. Funny it can't be the other knee sometimes - no, this time it was. I struck on both knees and the left has been sore but it responds quickly to rest and treatment. I have had to give a good deal of care to both since Oct, but now I realize that I shall be helpless up in the hills in Kuliang this summer if I don't get rid of this chronic soreness. The trouble is that everytime I go out of the gate I have to go down hill, then up again when I return. Two weeks ago I went up and down once or more each day while we had those guests here, and that was too much for them. Today they feel normal, but I am having meals upstairs, as I have to go downhill at least three times before Sunday. Fortunately, a touch of the bell begins a boy to wait on me up here. My medicine room is downstairs. I had to go down for medicine yesterday, for the cook failed to read the labels and get what I wanted. He does very well in reading names in Eng. I haven't had any pain for over a week except what I could stand to when I go down once a day.

I have been putting in the time writing letters and studying Chinese. There is always plenty of both to do. What with the S. S. Lesson and a lesson in Paoles every Sunday to get ready for, there isn't too much time left to study other things. Have sewing to do, of course. The laundress is doing some sewing by hand for me today, but she can be trusted only to do the coarsest work. I do miss my well trained seamstress so, she is not well enough to come up the hill and work now. I don't want to take the time to train in another woman, it takes so long before one can really trust them to do things our way.

We have had to give a lot of time recently to the Laymen's Commission of Inquiry of Missions. What isn't just as they write it, I presume, but that is what it means. Have you heard of it? The Laymen have heard so much of adverse criticism of Missions during the last four years, they have formed this big commission to come out here and to India to investigate for themselves. They are trying to do a thorough job, so far as they can in touching only the coastline and up the Yangtze. A group of over ten spent a week in Canton and our inland stations. Of course, they could talk only thro the missionaries, and as they lived in our homes their opinion must be formed on what they see and hear from us. But they did try to make an investigation of churches as far as their questionnaires go.

Questionnaire

at 10:00 AM
2. 11. 7. 8. 4

This is Fri. morning. Ben is here, working on a sermon he is to preach at Kakekiah on Easter morning. We have a most instructive and fascinating new book on the Resurrection, discussing proofs in a convincing way, and he is re-reading that in preparation. Called - "Who Rolled the Stone". It is the easiest book of its sort to read that I have known of, it reads itself. Wish it could be put into Chinese in as interesting a form.

I started a small library in the city last winter, and a good many of the books are being read, the not as widely as I hope they will be when we get it better arranged. Noone purchases such things, after one gets them started. Among the Chinese, every one is afraid to interfere with someone else's responsibility, therefore they let things go undone, rather. This is one of the continual and galling drags we have to work against. When one takes some responsibility, they are apt to just "lay down on their job", too, and the thing one has started doesn't go. Nowadays, we foreigners do not start things as a rule, since we are not administering the work. We just keep trying to push from behind, often without response.

At the same time, the church work is slowly growing. This Yr. the pastor has been organizing the S.S. and trying to get real teaching done in small classes. Attendance is increasing and interest is growing.

I have spent half the morning preparing for our Family Prayers lesson. We are reading David in II Sam. and I want the servants to get the history and its teaching, not merely read it thro. So that takes some time nearly every day, to prepare in Chinese.

daughters are having ten days Easter Vac, and is going with her roommate to visit the Uffords at Manchow, some hours ride by train from Shanghai. She has worked harder at her studies this winter than she has ever done, and is taking life more seriously in every way. Says she weighs over 135, and is still growing. Under the excellent S.S. and Chr. Endeavor influence in the Community Church in which all the S.A.S. would share, she has had spiritual experiences this year that have developed her thinking and led her to make some helpful decisions. Just now she is facing the question of dancing. Wants to make the right decision, and is drawn by the lure of it and the desire to be one with all young people, yet I think she has character enough that she will decide as we would like her to in the end. I am not sure I know just what is the proper stand for them to take, myself. If it were only just the old fashioned square dances!

Steward does not write as often as we wish, has put all his time into study since Christmas and has made fine semester grades again, for which we are very glad. His last letter told of starting the spring training in track again. Seems to have kept very well this year, so far.

Dinner time, we are having our meals served upstairs to save us from steps. It is very cozy, wish you were here to share it. Baked Beans and whole wheat biscuit this time, with big plates of lettuce salad which we have every day. Weather will soon spoil the lettuce, tho, getting too wet.

Roses are very beautiful since sunshine came, and there are such large blossoms, showing the effect of the plentiful fertilizing. Roses need lots of fertilizing to bloom freely, and Ben works on them every day for exercise, when he is at home. I never can stand the stooping, so my gardening work is very little.

Relative in U.S.

Long, we are so glad that Henry is better since his operation, and hope he will be free from all his throat troubles. Clara, sorry you are not stronger, you will gradually gain. - I am sure. - Alice.

March 27th, 1931.

70 yrs ago 1922

Dear Lottie and Bob and John and Alice;

As the spring weather comes I do miss you all so. - I have had to be at home most of the time for the last two weeks mending my knees, and I have had too much time to think, I guess. Glad to say, Ben is at home for a full week, so that helps. He is preparing for the Easter sermon at Kakchiah, Chinese church. He is at Sec. work just now, ~~sermon~~. He is rereading, in preparation for his sermon, a book we got thro the Rel. Book Club, Who Rolled the Stone. One of the most fascinating discussions of proofs of the Resurrection you can imagine. I think many young people at home would enjoy it, it is easy reading.

We spent nearly all of yesterday at the wedding of Hick Tehai's son, and the feast afterward. Had a big church wedding, managed by young men who are relatives of the bride, and very modern. Bride is a charming girl, in appearance, Pres Christian family of Nam ie, who reside in Swatow most of the time. People of means, I gather. She has been in school in Swatow, Sok Tek school, but I know no more about her yet. I am hoping she will be able to help in church with organ, we need another. Mr. Tai's wife can play but has no tune book. Her baby, as ^{her} lack of inclination, keeps her from being active in church.

Lottie, that reminds me of your tune-book, that is one of the things I have not yet disposed of, don't know what to charge for it. Shall I ask \$2.00 for it, I think that is about what I paid Miss Gruff for mine years ago? To me it would be worth much more, if I did not have one. I haven't asked who wants it, must do so at once. Hope Miss Ericson will want it.

Your postal scales, also, don't know what to ask for them. I shall ask Dr. Bousfield if he wants them, they are good med. scales. They have taken last pillows, cushions, and small kitchen things from the storeroom cupboard to fit out Dr. B. who is living alone at Chaoyang and working in hosp. there until fall, when they will go to Kityang to work with Marguerite, according to present plan. He wanted to go at once to K., after getting his degree at St. Johns this winter, but Mission did not agree, thinking that is he was on the ground first it would complicate matters for the Woman's Bd. representative next autumn. So he is helping at Chaoyang at the request of the hosp. there.

Also, the Chinese Dict., big one. There is a call for that but we don't know what to charge. Haven't asked what new ones are now. We have sold Bob's small vice to the pastor in city, and he asked about the other one, big one. Ben priced small at 1.00 and he has pd., but Ben feels that large one should be at least 2.00. Lo. & S also Bo't Adkins bed for 4.00, noone would pay 6.00 for it. E Ji family bought the oil stove, but say that when they lighted it first time it leaked so they have not been able to use it. Asked if they may bring it back and I said yes, but it hasn't turned up yet. Are you keeping your Dict. stand to be sent home, or will you put a price on it? Have not had a call for it but I think it has never been priced. I want a picture frame or two, if I find size I want over there I shall take it and pay for it, putting pictures in your big case where many now are. Your Encyclopedia set is there, I presume you want that sometime with other books. Cannot find your Field Dict anywhere, and have never seen it. Emily's is there, with her name in it, no other. Where can it be? Wish I knew.

Dear People, you must not suggest again that we take anything of yours as valuable as the mattress or desk without paying you for it. We really can not do it. You have always done so much for us, we want to help in disposing of your things just for friendship's sake without being paid for it. I have told the servants that we are not earning

The only young folks I have on the hills are 9 mos. old boy,
of yr. all excepted which they named 7 yrl. Miss Miller's big black cat stays at home as the milk
milk of the whole cat family - Big old dog on bicycle away from coming the house much less
about to present us with another family of three which he says won't get it by the time I see him again

I have to leave about the 1st of Jan. I am sorry to say I cannot stay longer than I can. I will miss you very much. I will miss your love and more than anything else I shall miss you. I shall miss you very much. I shall miss you very much.

anything on this sale, but are paying as we expect them, the Chinese, to do, and we want it to be sincere? There may be more small things there that are not salable that can be used here at home, and I shall bring them over as I come across them, or if they do not sell in the end I went into your locked case near the stove, in storeroom, with all the small notebooks and such little things in, looking for your Fielde Dict. There I found two candle sticks, one a big brass and one a pewter, and as I need them both I brought them over. If they are keepsakes, let me know and I shall put them back. If not I'll just keep them and say Thankyou. Having all these things of yours still in the house, and no other one living in it, makes you all so real to me sometimes, seems as tho you MUST come back sometime. I presume Emily will have to sell her things sometime, too, then your house will be quite empty. or use of our work as well as your credit. Do you want it invested, Sorry about that blunder, I always do such things when I write too long. Your acct has 188.00 in it. Shall we put it in Savings Acct for you, or use it for work or students or med. fund, etc? I knew that you sent most of it last yr. for Tau Kui, so I have used 80.00 this term for helping four girls enter the Woman's School. I have not promised later help, for they can earn most of what they lack or borrow direct from the School if they need it. Some can help themselves better after they get started. These are two daughters of Khau Si Jui, a d. of Ht-Tit Peh of Che Tsau, and d.in law of pastor of Che Tsau, Tse Chiang-Seng. Khau's second D. and Si Tit Peh's D are most promising. Other girls and young women want help, for next term Ben is helping Tsong Xi, a big boy in Che Tsau family, rather, Cou Lak Kie, here in our upper grade. He is very fine student, they say. Toa Lou's g-daugh-er wants very much to go on to higher schools, but their father is in foreign parts and won't let them borrow from school, and cannot send them himself. They are earning at home, of course. Don't know how it will turn out, I am offering to help Ai Tien some, at least, as a loan. We feel that we have all too few in our field with higher educ and that leaves the power of control in few hands. Eng Wt is prin. of a big boy's school in Kie Tsau, and helps support church with money, I am sure, but is only an occasional attendant and not sincere. Kia Meng wants to go on and study further. Ben will probably help him some. He is not a strong leader, perhaps, but is sincere and supports the church well and is bright.

Tau Kui has been unfortunate in his wife's family influence. He feels that he does not want to earn his living from the church, but wants to support the church freely as he can without having it said that he is dependant on the church. His wife hasn't a very deep understanding of religious truth yet, or what it involves in one's inner life. They have both had to lose their positions in the Tseho Tong at West Lake, due to change of principals. So Tau Kui has gone to Annam with h his former principal at the West Lake school, and Tio Kuan accepted position in our own school. She has not been well, tho, and has a substitute. B. Kui planned to return in summer time.

As for your acct, you did not mention in your letter what you think of the B.Pub. Soc. Debenture that I bought with 400.00 of it, at 7%. If you are not satisfied with that, we shall take it over ourselves and put your money in Fixed Deposit in A.O.Bank as you suggest. If it goes in for one yr, rate is 5%, 2 yrs 6%, 3 yrs 6 1/2%, this is in A.O. bank.

As I wrote you, at Christmas time, instead of returning the pure acc price of servants things bought, I gave them each a gift of money from your acct. Now I must send you lots of love and close, for supper.

Send to ~~Samuel~~ to
yale collection of letters

[illegible]

11 South Portland Avenue
Ventnor, New Jersey
August 21, 1933

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Waters
Kakehieh, Swatow, China

Dear good friends:-

We have wanted to write personally before this, but it seems about as difficult to get and keep caught up with writing here as it is in China. I am enclosing copies of communications that will tell you much about us, so I will not go into all that again. Here I want to talk of things concerning South China primarily.

Of course you had the cable from the Board telling of Giffin's sudden death. It surely was a shock to us. He seemed to be so well when we saw him in St. Paul. Dr. Franklin has sent us a copy of Mrs. Giffin's account of Dr. Giffin's passing, and of course you have had that also. It seems so strange, and is surely a shock to the family. And it must be terribly hard on Mrs. Giffin. We understood from Alice that they were all to be together during the summer, and they were for the first few days after the children arrived from China. It seems Harold must have been away when his father died. He has a position this fall at Judson College, school for girls in Marion, Ala. We were told he had to marry to get the position, and that he and his fiancée would marry and go there for the year. We have heard nothing further. We was to teach music.

South China has had another heavy stroke. What will now be the course in our Hakka work? I presume that Burket will now have to locate in Kaying; and surely we shall now have to press the request for a new missionary family for that part of our work. No doubt the Hakka Convention Executive Com. will be making an appeal forthwith. I shall be glad to beef any service I can in this connection, after I have heard from the field.

We have been fortunate in finding it cool, comparatively, almost all the days since we left Swatow. I can hardly realize it. Here it gets hot a times, but we do not feel it much, and soon it is gone and the breezes blow cool if not cold. We are thinking of all of you much these days. Here it just doesn't seem possible that you are having to get out of Swatow to get cool. We do hope you will all be spared severe heat and sickness. You two are now on vacation, and Beatrice also. May you have splendid rest. We are pretty well, both Alice and I weighing more than we have ever before. I went to 146 plus some days ago, and I am sure I haven't lost anything yet. Clothes say I am even heavier. We surely are eating. Things are not cheap as they were some months ago, but still they are not like they were when we were on furlough before.

There has not yet been time to hear from the Convention. I am anxiously waiting for that news. Have not seen anyone at headquarters, but expect to get into personal touch with Franklin before long. Can't do much this month as it is vacation time at the offices.

I haven't had time to go over the communications I wrote back on the trip home, or to go carefully into what Beatrice has sent to us. But I must get down to brass tacks now. This is a start in that direction I hope.

We haven't communicated with Henry yet. We have had too much

on hand to get it in. Besides when we do we shall want to ask him to come down for a day or so, and we haven't gotten to that yet. There are still relatives and friends to whom we are under obligation whom we haven't been able to have yet. Our pastor, H. K. Williams of Phil. said he was coming to see us, but we haven't arranged a day yet. But we shall be writing Henry at least ere long, and we hope we can have him as I said. Emily Miller wants to come, too, and of course we want her as soon as we can arrange it.

It has been stormy weather, and wind has been stiff, but nothing where we have met it out of the unusual. Breakers were pretty big yesterday, about same this morning. But paper this a.m. says they have had a storm off the coast and breakers were very bad, one many reported as bad as he had ever seen. Boats have been capsize and lives lost. H. has just returned from beach saying the guards would not allow them to go into the water. The backwash take unsuspecting bathers out and they have the trouble of getting them out and bringing them around. It didn't seem so bad to us. But we have seen wind and water, it seems.

Some time ago we had word that the Pages would be held up for a while. No further advice since. We hope this does not mean long delay. The burden is going to be too heavy on you men, and I hope Page arrives with you before much longer. I have had one or two letters from him, but not much news.

I still do not see much of the depression, tho it is true we have not been where we could see it since we came east. But to my observation things go on just as they have done. Cars seem as thick as ever, plenty of them look new, the shops are loaded with things, a good crowd is always buying-- and we just don't see the depression-- tho I am not trying to say it isn't. Hospital requires payment in cash right off, no delay. Our car is still on the run, and we are finding it a great convenience here where we go to the hospital twice a day; but it pulls on the pocketbook to meet all its needs at the gas stations and otherwise. But we are getting a lot of pleasure out of it.

Now is the call to dine. I must cl se up and get this off. We rush thru the rest of the day with two visits to Bessie. This brings our love and remembrance for all of you. Do hope the summer has not been specially unkind to any of you. Hope also it has not made it unusually or specially hard for the medical group. We think of every one of you and feel for you as you carry on the burdens we have laid down. Please remember us to all the Chinese leaders as you have opportunity to mention us to them. I think especially of Min-hwn, H.C. Ling, Ek-toi Lo, Alice Chen, T.P. Huang and others. I shall want to write to some of them when I get a chance after I have something in particular to tell. We are just taking vacation now and there is not much I want to write about; if fact I feel as if I still want to learn, get on to things as they are to-day. There is depression all right, despite what I said about my not observing it. and it is tremendously interesting to observe the attempt that is being made by the Government to straighten things out. Roosevelt is surely sincere in what he is doing, and he has done more than very many others could have done; but the tendency is strong towards using force to bring people into line with the policies adopted for recovery. One wonders where we are coming out. Just now they are also making a start against the racketeers, and we do hope something is accomplished here. - Now I must stop for this sitting. This is Tuesday morning the 22nd. Bessie was fine last night.

sent by light plane

To Marion and the Wilbreths : Please excuse this result of misplaced carbon. I can't take time to write you individually, but felt you would rather have this word than none.

Sorry for the change we had to make in our plans, but it seems we did the right thing. Do hope we get to see you later.

11 South Fortified Avenue,
Ventnor, New Jersey.
(1437 North 15th Street Philadelphia
Penn. after this reaches you.
Sept. 26, 1933

Dear Kin and Friends:-

This is to give you the latest news of the Baker family. Some of you have not heard for some time.

Bessie got well from her operation, except for gaining back her strength as she can do things as she is accustomed to do. Right on the day as planned, we left here with her on the evening of the 16th, too dinner with Lena's family in Long Branch and then went on to Roselle for the night and Sunday. Monday, the 18th, early we left Roselle and after steady driving over splendid, and some common roads, over level stretches, up and down hills and mountains, over straight sections as far as eye could see, then again around and back and around until you felt you were meeting yourself, and arrived Kenka Park and the College about 3 p. m. without any bother at all. The whole distance was covered counting all stops for gas, inquiry and the like, 202 miles at about 35 miles to the hour. In some places we climbed to 800 feet. Some of the views were superb. The foliage was showing the first tints of autumn, and the world was beautiful. In one place we drove beside then climbed up above Seneca Lake, to a view superb. It was a wonderful trip, and Bessie stood it splendidly.

We drove up the eastern side of Kenka Lake, then we were too far east to see it, and rounded its northern end to Penn Yan. From here we went down the western side of the lake where much of the time we could see it thru the trees and cottages- four miles to the College. The College faces out on the lake and the campus runs right down to the water. It is a lovely location. The surroundings are quiet and lovely. The College and its management, and its spirit and atmosphere, are all just thoroughly satisfying. It is Christian in spirit and in practice. Every effort is made to take the Freshmen in and make them happy and comfortable. Bessie was greatly pleased. They had already appointed one of the Juniors to be her "Big Sister". This girl was on hand and helped in getting Bessie settled. One of the Seniors is to have special care of her and one of the Sophs is to be her "Buddie", whatever that may mean since there are no boys around. Bessie and two other girls are to have two rooms between them- not very large rooms it is true. Her Big Sister rooms right next to her. Every body was cordial and friendly. The three main buildings are connected by covered and closed in passage-ways, so there is no fighting the cold weather in going and coming from classes. There is a shop nearby that sells practically all the girls will need, and the girls told Alice there was not much disposition to spend money. On the whole we are very happy over the decision to choose Kenka. Dr. Norton seems to be a very fine man. By the way, he was earlier a teacher of Wellington Ross and Alfred Tse.

The breaking up of the Little family and the attendant separations we all felt very much. But Bessie seems to have gotten right into the life of the school and is happy. We are grateful for that. It would have been so hard if we had felt we had made a mistake. We hope we shall be satisfied all the way thru. There are about 350 girls.

We left Bessie on Tuesday about 11:30 A.M. and arrived at

Roselle at ten that night, also without incident. The old car does mighty well. But for the dark that came on us as we got out of Scranton we would have made a better record than on the trip up. And what do you think of this: aside from the running around between the College and Penn Yan, our speedometer recorded just 282 miles from Roselle each way. Most of the way we went over the same road the in even or two instances we didn't, so that mileage is nothing strange, tho it seemed so to me when we noted it. As we went from here to Roselle a storm was beating this eastern coast. We feared we might get laid up with fog, and how the wind did blow, and at times the inward reaches of the ocean were right up to the road bed. But all went well with us. We got back here Wednesday night- and brought with us a big potato basket of grapes bought on the road side as we came down from Elizabeth. They were delicious, or are for they are still with us. Alice and I said we intended getting all the fine grapes to eat we could once, for that is one thing we do not have in China. We have had all we dared to eat several times. We thought of Roselle when we were enjoying them and wishing she could share. She writes they are allowed to pick from the College campus vines and eat all they want. She was having a glorious time eating them right from the vines.

Some of you may wish to know how we went. From Roselle down southward by Somersville and then around up to the Delaware Water Gap and over into Stroudsburg. From there to Scranton, then to Elmira and from there due north between Lake Seneca and and Keuka Lake to Penn Yan. The road was more crooked and hilly than I had expected and was more built up along side than I had thought. Not often were we very far from a gas station. ----Now so much for that.

This is also to tell you of our next move. This is Sunday afternoon. To-morrow morning early we go to Philadelphia to get Howard settled into his new work. The car is packed and about ready to go. We have one trunk inside and one is to go outside. Moving? Well that is it. Of course we have to move or we couldn't feel natural. We spend most of the day up there to-morrow and leave Howard. Alice and I come back here and finish the cleaning up and get the rest of the things and go up for good on Friday. Our new address I have given above. Please all take note. 1437 North 15th Street, Philadelphia. We do not like to move into the City, but it is to be with Howard. Our car we shall put in a garage and stay put a while, perhaps. Alice and I both feel less peppy than when we came east, and we are to go to New York for our medical examinations after we get settled following the move this week. Calls for disputation work, especially in Jersey, are coming in, but we can't begin that until we are thru with the examinations.

Due to fact both Alice and I were below par and had this move and getting settled in Phila. this week ahead of us, we had to cut out the extra trip we had planned to East Aurora to see Marion Boss-Ward. We hated to decide to give it up; but now that we are back we see it was the thing for us. We are having to rush and strain to get the move in, and we couldn't have spared another day or so. We had hoped, too, that things would be easier and we could even go to see the Hildreths. But that is off now for this winter. Howard needs us and we want to give him all we can this year, so we shall stick by him as closely as we can. We hope to have Roselle back for the Christmas holidays, too. Now this is getting too long. It gives you the main facts as they are to-day. Love to all to whom the message comes.

E. L. Palmer

1437 N. 15th Street
Philadelphia, Penna
March 8, 1934

Rev. S. H. Hildreth
Dear Bob and Lottie
John and Alice:-

If I do not begin to write, when am I ever going to get a letter to you good people. I have wanted to write and I think of you so many, many times, we both do, and we talk of you, wishing we could see; but there are so many calls on our time and we find our strength only relatively satisfactory, that many of our good friends have to take the will for the deed and understand, or understandingly. Now, however, there is a real occasion to write you, an obligation to you, so other things have to be shoved into the background while I send you at least a brief communication.

First of all, we wonder how you South China birds ever stand the cold you have up there. Haven't heard from you for some little time. Maybe you have succumbed. But I guess not, you seem to have learned the trick of standing up to the weather. Hope you have so far come thru the winter all well.

It has been the worst on record here, and a nice little diversion it has meant to us fresh from the warmer regions of S. China. Still, Alice and I have gotten along nicely, so far as enduring the cold is concerned. Of course we haven't been out in the cold for any great length of time. But several times when it was down low, I have walked from Alpha home here with H. K. Williams, our pastor and old class-mate of mine- and have rather enjoyed it. Am so more heavily clothed, either than I would be in South China, in fact not so well clothed as I have been there at times. So we must have some extra pep, and for it we are truly glad. It has been good to see the snow and ice, tho now I think we have a sufficient amount of both for one season. Old Weather doesn't agree with me, tho, for it is snowing again now and we have several inches on the ground since late morning. You folks must have been actually snowed under up there in the top of Vermont.

We are all keeping fairly well. Children seem to be getting along all right. We both just don't seem to have any great reserve of strength, give out too easily. But both are having extensive dental work done, and both are hoping that will improve our general condition. I think we would both sport right up nicely if we didn't have the housework to do. Neither of us can stoop and get away with it. That condition at least will be better when we return to China. I am home for a while, that is an out of deputation work, being half-toothless. Am to have a new set of teeth, the need-no-filling kind on Saturday. So I am planning to get on the road again ere long. Alice has all her molars out but keeps her front ones. Her work will not be completed for some time yet, giving her mouth time to settle down. I am having temporary plate first so can go on with work. Get permanent-- not a permanent-- later on, just before we leave these regions.

Howard is getting along nicely with his work here; is just now wondering when he is going to know whether or not he succeeded in getting on the list of acceptables in Temple's Medical School for this autumn. He is looking well, and has changed so much since we have had him here in the family for these months. We are going the limit to help him working toward the ideal he has had, and he is playing the game with us. Bessie is still enjoying Kenka and is getting along nicely. We expect her home near the end of the month, has 10 days vacation.

We have just had word to-day that our sailing date is Sept. 29 from Seattle. So now we know a bit better what is ahead of us. We shall stay on here till ~~end of June~~ at least, then perhaps go on to Kentucky to be with my people until we get ready to go on west. Howard and Bessie would then come on back to their work just a while before we got under way. Gives us time to know they had gotten settled before we got under way. That is what we wished. So the Lord is good to us here. We want to go back to our work, of course, for we know how much we are needed, the staff is getting along towards depletion. But I can tell you we have never faced the sacrifice until this time. It is so hard to think of going away for six or more years and leave our ~~two~~ children to finish up their educational work and get their bearings in the world. We are grateful for the fact that they and we have a little host of good friends who will be interested in them. Still that is not like us being with them. This is the place where we come to the life of adventurous faith. We go out for our God and we will leave them in his care in trust. He loves them better, our Lord says, than do we ourselves. It is hard to realize, isn't it. Wish they were where you and Bob could see them occasionally.

But you are so far away. Do you know, I am afraid that little dream of ours is not coming true. Before we came east, and even after we had, we had visions of driving up your way for a visit. My, how little we then realized how finances would dwindle and time be so full. The days are going by so fast and there are so many things we still want to do, places we wish to go and people we want to visit. I am afraid we see no chance for the trip to Vermont. And we shall all be so disappointed if we have to go back to China and do not see you all. So far as the family is concerned, I am afraid it is a thing we can't dream of. But it might be possible for me to get your way if there were calls for deputation work. Still I suppose there are missionaries nearer to you who would be called on to save expense if calls came in to the N. Y. offices. Living here I am kind of identified with Penn. and N. J. Just yesterday I got a call to go out to the Pittsburgh region. A friend out there is trying to arrange an itinerary for me, covering enough appointments to justify the expense to the state offices. You might see if anything in this line could be done up your way. I am afraid it is the only chance for contacts this time.

Alice is up in Jersey this week end, went this morning and will return to us on Sunday, is visiting with her sisters. Howard has tests on the first of the week and I have teeth out, so we could not go. I am standing by and running the house for him. That is one reason I am getting time to write. We won't have any of the frills in eating while A. is away, but we will get along all right. It keeps me at home, tho.-- and I shall get some letters written.

Bob, you wrote so fully about cars last summer. I am afraid I never expressed the appreciation I felt for your thought. Nor have we written of our car, I think. We got a 1929 Graham-Paige. It was an expensive car, cost around \$2,000, we were told. It is well equipped. We have forced feed lubrication on all main bearings, 8 valve-oiler, hydraulic brakes, electric clock, electric cigar-lighter- very important for us- a good big luggage carrier, in fact it takes our trunks on it nicely, and has been a blessing in our moving. We had also six wood wheels all in usable condition. And, as you intimated, we got all this for less than we would have had to pay for the smaller car. And the riding is not to be compared. We ride hundreds of miles in our car and you do not feel it appreciable. It rides so easily and steadily. It holds the roads and steers very easily. But as my brother said, it doesn't like to pass a gas station. Howard thinks we are getting about 12 mi. to gal.

Handwritten note:
I don't think we have written of our car, I think.

It surely has been a blessing to us. We have gotten twice as much out of our furlough as we would have without it. It cost us \$250 and we are hoping to get some part of that out of it in the end. It looks fine, fact is looks much better than most of the cars on the streets as we go and come, has been well taken care of. It has four speeds, and in high goes a good gate. We have driven 70 miles, but not often or for long, tho on good fairly straight road it does that well-- if we are sure of our tires-- which we are not now, so do not drive anything like that speed. We are getting limited use out of it this weather, for we do not care to take risks.

Wonder if you have heard from S. China. We are to have a wedding in the mission 20th of March. You have heard of Rev. Bruno Luebeck. Well, he and Kay have decided they are happy to try life together. It has been an interesting case, and I wish I had a chance to tell you a bit of it. It has been taken for granted since Luebeck arrived that eventually one of our single women would be called on to make him happy; it has been interesting to watch and prognosticate which one it would be. Everybody is glad it is now settled, especially as the two of them were in evangelistic work- Tent work- together and the Chinese, so we hear, were talking. Some of the older folk are quite relieved that the matter is settled. By the way I have recent communications from Swatow on general matters and will send them up for you to read. Will want them back.

Now this is getting too long. And this lad needs to get to sleep if I am to get all things done that Alice and I together get done.

There is one more item I must mention, what I spoke of as the occasion of this letter being written now.

As you note we are enclosing two slips covering your investments which are in care of the Shanghai Treasurer. Alice had written Mr. Taylor that he should make the investments for you and send you the cards, but as he has been corresponding with her about the matters he has sent them on here to us.

You will note one investment is in the A. O. Bank and the other the A. O. Finance Corporation. You asked to have the money invested in this bank and we divided it to give you greater safety, that was our idea, tho how much is gained we do not know since both firms are inter-related. But the investments in Shanghai seem safe so far. You have gained by waiting to cash in on these funds. I do not know what to expect in the future, tho I hardly see how silver can go down as things are. It may get even dearer, that is what I expect. But do not bank on my advice, for I disclaim any acumen in this connection.

Now all the family would wish to send love if they were here. Now I wish I could curl up in this envelope and come along with the letter. How we would like to see John and Alice. They surely are growing up. This brings our love for all of you.

Fraternally yours,

Dear Lottie, do you remember the brass - wood handled paper. Long ago you were when you returned from Abing! I can never let you know how much I love you - the brass handled paper. I have never seen it. I am writing - and I just used it. I must remember - I am very grateful.

B. L. B.

Love all you will. Thank you. - 2

Enroute Hong Kong to Swatow
Oct. 21, 1954

Dear Folks:-

Well, here we are not far from Swatow. But we have a head wind and instead of being ready to enter the harbor, we are down the coast. I can't tell how far. Boys say it will be after nine when we arrive; it is now 7:10 A.M. I got awake, and we couldn't tell from our side of the boat where we were, so I got up, shaved, dressed and am on the watch while Alice sleeps. Of course, we want to be up and ready when we do get in. I can write here in the dining saloon, which is a little room near our cabin, and have word ready to start back to you tho it may reach you no earlier than if I waited until we got ashore to write. But, you know, we will be busy enough when we get ashore. Then our vacation will surely have come completely to an end.

Instead of arriving Hong Kong Friday morning we got in Saturday at noon. That made us miss the steamer which we had first hoped to catch, but it also made us too late for going to Canton, as the Mission had asked us to do. So we turned baggage over to one of the nice places where missionaries stop in Kowloon, across bay from Hong Kong and very near the pier where we docked, their man came aboard and just took charge of everything for us, and we went right across to Hong Kong to shop and make inquiries re steamers. It was about 3 o'clock when we got across- nice, convenient ferry service. I knew the British custom is to close up on Saturday afternoons, but we were passing right by one of the offices that book to Swatow, so we asked. Reply was, offices closed. Then we inquired for the location of the Douglas Line offices, not expecting to get anything. As it was near we both went to inquire. Office was open and they had a steamer leaving Sunday afternoon. Maybe we did not do some quick work.

We had a good deal of shopping to do. I was taking a gun to one of our men. It had been delivered to the Dollar Company and they were law-bound to deliver it to the Hong Kong police, which had been done as soon as we had docked. I had to hunt the police up to get that gun they wouldn't deliver by one of their men after I had gotten ready to go aboard for Swatow. Baggage had to be transferred again, which I wanted done on Saturday if possible. All these things ran thru our minds. Well, we hustled. A. went shopping, with agreement to meet at certain place at 6 p.m. I hurried and got ticket to Swatow, then went back to Police headquarters in Kowloon- but couldn't get the gun- then to the Jefferson to get some Traveler's checks cashed, they were at quite a discount on shore- and then to the hotel to see about baggage, thinking they would perhaps prefer to put it aboard Saturday, which they didn't, said they preferred to of course, but that they usually put baggage on board steamers just before sailing time. I said O.K. to me, and I hurried back to H. K. to shop a little and meet A. We shopped on then went back to Kowloon for dinner at hotel. They have the American plan, so we did not want to lose our dinners. After dinner we went back to H. K. hoping to finish up shopping- and fortunate we did. Neither had had time to think of the telegram to Swatow, but we thought of it soon as we got across that evening, so we sent that to make sure folks would meet us, tho we found shops closing and we did no shopping. Back again we went and to bed.

Yesterday morning we went to church in Hong Kong, then rested a bit after lunch, and then came across to our steamer, with a visit

the third- to police headquarters-- and a detective to go with me to make sure I got aboard with my gun- they did not want a lone shotgun running about in that colony- tho it would be interesting to know how much in the way of arms and ammunition get thru the port into Chinese territory, and the man-killing variety, too. But there was nothing I could do but be nice, they had the law on their side, and I was bringing in the gun openly, and walk the chalk line. Don't catch me bringing a gun with me again.

We have never seen this little steamer before, takes the place of another of this line that was lost by running aground since we went to America. Weather is fine, we are getting along all right, the accommodations are not like those on the Jefferson. We are both fine sailors, I think A. is this morning, she is still sleeping, and are grateful for all the comforts we have. There is a typhoon off down Manila way somewhere, but it isn't going to do us any damage. We are rolling some, but it has been much worse, so we are grateful. You know I am looking out the porthole every now and then, for we want to be on deck when we come into the harbor.

There have been letters of welcome-- and errands-- not all had errands- at every port by the way for us. Folks sure are giving us a cordial welcome back, and we will be glad to see them, tho our hearts are back there with all of you. Things have gone nicely for us. Officers on this boat have been most cordial, tho we have seen little of them. Two or three of them were pitching deck quoits when we came aboard, and they took me rightin and were most cordial. Of course, have seen little of them since we got under way.

Now the boys want thistable to set for breakfast, and I must get Alice up, so I will give you a farewell good by until we land in Swatow. Perhaps will save this to add a word then. Do not think it can get out of China before the Jefferson comes back from Manila. Hope to have it catch that boat on its return trip. If I do not get to add more and no other word comes in same mail, later word I mean, then by the Swatow postmark you will know we have arrived.

Love to you all,

Prof. Martin
Ben and Alice

Sateow quiet, prepared for J. occupation at any time. We really expected it before this. We Bakers have moved all our movable stuff of value to the Inst. and we spend our days there, going out home for nights. The Inst. will be a refuge for many people during the crisis, so we must both be here to help at such a time, and hope the house will be spared. We tell the servants they are to run here if they wish, tho they insist they will stay by the house for fear of looters. That is the thing to be feared most now, it seems, there was no fighting in Canton and J. soldiers are reported as being exemplary for once! But looters, Chin., are wrecking the town there, and burning, until almost the whole city has been in flames.

Mr. Hanson of YMCA came thro yest. and spent a few hrs. with us, on way from S'hai to HK. Herewith a lot of news he gave us that we cannot get in print. Where he gave source of information I mention it.

Begar Snow, newspaper man. The decision to attack Canton by J. was the direct result of Britain's attitude toward Chekoolov. Hitherto J. have hesitated to attack the South because of its relation to HK, but when Chamberlain sold out to Germany the J. know Britain would not oppose advance in S. China, so down they came.

S'hai newspaper men: The 2 countries giving credit to J. are Amer. and Britain, thus making it possible to continue the war. The 2 giving credit to China are Germany and Italy!!

Prof. Bates, Banking. Has spent summer vacation in Japan. Talked informally and secretly with many missionaries. Out of 500 missionaries in J., only 750 are pro-J., and Mr. Hanson admitted that probably one of these is our own Dr. Axling.

Amoy. Mr. Hanson has just stopped there. Consuls and all foreigners are on Kulangsu, which is a Brit. concession. The senior consul is always chairman of the consular group, but the J. sent a consul-general to Amoy, so because of his rank he automatically became chairman. He immediately assumed a dictatorship of affairs, saying "I want this done, I want that done, etc." He ordered all refugees to leave the island, either to Sateow or the city, where they now have neither homes nor business, or to go inland. But the International Comm. of which Mr. Tolley, R.F., seems to be spokesman, have protested that they cannot agree to expelling the refugees from the is. to face suffering, and so far they have been able to oppose him. They & the J. officials there, have a Black-list of persons who have been engaged in any anti-J. activity within the last 10 yrs! They recently arrested a very well-known pastor who crossed to the city to hold a church service. Intern. Home. tried to secure his release, but they were told that the preacher had been "patriotic". Mr. Tolley replied that all the 400,000,000 of Chinese are patriotic, and as for that, many foreigners are patriotic for China, too! There are still tens of thousands of refugees on the island, supported by gifts from overseas Chin. and help from the Govt. Support so far has been sufficient for that group.

Mr. Van Dusen(?), recently travelled thro J. and Korea to observe conditions of churches. Says persecution of Christians in Korea is tightening. Pastors and leading Christians are disappearing, imprisoned without trial, and families do not know where they are. Freedom of speech is forbidden. Preaching on World Peace, or Brotherly Love is forbidden. The J. S.S. Union asked S.S. pupils to write letters of comfort to their soldiers in China. One 12 yr. old girl wrote that she hoped peace would soon come, and the soldiers soon be back and all could be happy again. Censors got her letter and arrested her father, who is a preacher! Police in J. are requiring preachers to answer the following questions.

For M. Bros

News Sheet, December 30, 1938

Continued

Swatow district, prepared for a occupation at any time. We really expected it before this. We believe have moved all our movable stuff of value to the coast and we expect our days there, going out some for night. The last will be a rough day, because during the cruise, we must be here to wait at such a time, and hope the house will be spared. We tell the servants they are to run here if they wish, the they insist they will stay by the house for fear of looters. That is the thing to be feared most now, it seems, there was no fighting in Canton and I believe are reported as being looted for once. But looters, Chin, are wrecking the town there, and burning, until almost the whole city has been in flames. Mr. Hanson of WMA came this week, and spent a few days with us, on way from Shanghai to HK. Herewith a lot of news he gave us that we cannot put in print. Where he gave source of information I mention it.

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Prof. Bates, Hankow. Has spent summer vacation in Japan. Talked in formally and secretly with many missionaries. Out of 800 missionaries in I, only two are pro-I, and Mr. Hanson admitted that probably one of these is our own Mr. Ailing.

Amoy. Mr. Hanson has just stopped there. On Hainan, which is a British possession. The senior consul is always chairman of the consular group, but the I sent a consul-general to Amoy, because of his rank he automatically became chairman. He immediately assumed a dictatorship of affairs, saying "I want this done, I want that done, etc." He ordered all refugees to leave the island, and to go inland, the city, where they now have neither houses nor business, or to go inland. But the International Comm, of which Mr. Foley, N.Y., seems to be spokesman, have protested that they cannot agree to expelling the refugees from the I. To lose Swatow, and so far they have been able to oppose him. They I the I officials there, have a Black-list of persons who have been engaged in any anti-I activity within the last 10 years. They recently arrested a very well known pastor who attended to the city to hold a church service. Inform. Hanson tried to secure his release, but they were told that the president had been "patriotic". Mr. Foley replied that all the 400,000,000 of Chinese are patriotic, and as for that, many foreigners are patriotic for China, too. There are still tens of thousands of refugees on the island, supported by gifts from overseas Chin, and help from the Govt. Support so far has been sufficient for last group.

Mr. Van Buren(?) recently travelled thru I and Korea to observe conditions of churches. Says persecution of Christians in Korea is tightening. Pastors and leading Christians are disappearing. Imprisoned without trial. Freedom of speech is forbidden. The I, S, Union, Presbyterian on World Peace, or Brotherhood have no rights in China. Asked S.S. agents to write list of names of their soldiers in China. One I.S. agent wrote that she hoped names would soon come, and the soldier there soon be back and all could be happy again. General got her letter and arrested her father, who is a prisoner. Police in I are requesting preschere to answer the following questions.

QUESTIONS WHICH PREACHERS IN JAPAN WERE RECENTLY
REQUIRED TO ANSWER ON SHORT NOTICE IN WRITING.

1. Who is the God of Christianity?
2. What is your opinion of the 800 myriads of gods in the Shinto Pantheon?
3. What is the difference between a foreign emperor and your God?
4. What is the relation between the Bible and the Imperial Edicts?
- What is the difference in authority between the commands of Christ and the imperial commands?
6. What is your idea of the ancestors of the emperor, and your idea of shrine worship?
- What is the goal of things according to your faith?
8. What is your idea of the freedom of faith and worship?
9. Why do you regard worship at Buddhist shrines and Shinto shrines as superstition?
10. What is the difference between the Christian spirit and the spirit of the Japanese empire?

If you care to share this with Marion Don hand
she may be interested. #70 Ridge Ave
E. Aurora, N. Y.

Swedes are at Hughes where they plan to stay
thru the present period.
Fannie is quite well, - taking Doc, dispo. again.
Carl Capens have a lovely daughter (a de. old.
David Campbells (Seniors) have a fine son - 2 yrs. old.
Sister Clara is to help in Feb. if I then trouble
comes for as as people plan to refugee to their home &
Don, have plans to leave the house in Clara's care while
D. guards (1) women's school! You see we are all
organized ready for service.

afro.