

3 P'ing Ts'ang Hsiang,
Nanking, Nov. 8, 1937.

Dearest:-

As you will know long before you read this, the road to Shanghai was cut last night, to the best of our information. Though brief throwbacks are not impossible, it is likely that the Japanese control of communications in and out of Shanghai will be complete in a very short time. There will be a good deal of anxiety here, for the Chinese public does not yet know the seriousness of the successful Japanese landing from the Hangchow Bay. I do not see any reason for alarm as to safety, but naturally the matter of communications is important. We do not know whether the water route will be permitted to go ahead freely for mails and passengers. At present, Canton, Tsingtao, and other roundabout lines can be employed for mails, though not for much heavy traffic. There will be delays and irregularities, in any case. So repeat anything of unusual importance, and use a numbered series -- say up to ten -- to make clear whether everything is received or not. Also, if occasion requires, American Government representatives will be able to put through information and inquiries regarding personal safety and addresses. Remember that if you should need to do so, you can get U. S. or other currencies remitted to yourself or on order to others, chargeable to our account in the National City Bank, Shanghai. Though you probably will find the Society drafts better for most purposes. A declaration of war, or tightening of the blockade by other means, may shut off all ordinary communications, in addition to present difficulties. However, the peculiar international position of Shanghai may well make it a partial exception to any general status of Chinese cities.

The swift change near Shanghai will end all military danger to that place promptly. I do not expect other complications unless the world-wide situation travels far from its present position. Though I still do not want to pull against your own views or wishes, particularly because of Morton's position, I feel now a little freer to tell you that I'd like to have you nearer in all senses of the term, and that I daily wish for your companionship and help. Earlier it seemed that any such expression was trying to draw you and Bobby to a place of difficulty and even of slight danger. If you come to Shanghai we may still be separated for a long time to come, but it will help a lot in sense of partnership during times of great strain, and there are at least possibilities of seeing you before the school year is out, besides a probability of easier touch through letters and telegraph. Moreover, you will almost certainly remain in quick and satisfactory connection with Morton. However, all of this is not intended to prevail against any other view of the situation that you think should be weighed more heavily. You can stay on safely, and perhaps much more pleasantly for the children, in Japan; unless international problems grow much worse. If Morton is getting on well, or as well as he would by moving to Shanghai under your supervision, the problem of the children is not great. For Bobby should find everything all right now in the S. A. S.

If you have any need or wish to use a Shanghai person as a means of forwarding word to me under conditions of uncertainty, R. Rees or Cressy or your summer friends are possibilities. Gilbert Baker's check was accepted by National City. What and where did you send from the Turners' accounts? The Shanghai Com. & Sav. Bk., Shanghai, gave me a statement some \$340 above what I have record of from checkbook and Marx's stubs. Probably we have no war risk insurance, though I am still struggling because of some of the agents' breaks in dealing with us. But all companies refused renewals, many of them from Dec. 31, 1936; and I cannot learn of any hope other than my complaints of failure to notify, no reply in July, and so on.

*With warm love for our boys, and for you, my wife,
Pearle*

a real experience to be a fairly free missionary amid such great need.

Emergency work seems more useful than anything I have previously done, and I could use triple endurance. It is