

Nanking, February 10, 1938.

Dear

The letters which I wrote last week did not get off as I had hoped, so I will add further news this week and send both off tomorrow afternoon. Yesterday was a grand day for we get a shipment of mail from Shanghai in which were letters from Clarissa and also some from you all. Mother's airmail letter to Grisso of Jan. 11; Father's letters #52, #55, #61, together with copies of Father's letters #51, #60, and #61. The latter having been written in the early part of January got through fairly quickly, you see. We were happy to have all the news about your various activities and to know that you had a blessed Christmas and celebrated in the usual way. We were also happy to have Betty's letter of December 29th. Grisso wrote that she had received more letters and would send them to me by the next boat which ought to arrive fairly soon. So if I have not acknowledged the receipt of other letters you will know that they have not yet reached me.

You ask, Father, what psalms I read during the air raid. I cannot remember them all exactly, but the 46, the 27, and the 11 were among those I used, so you guessed some correctly. I am sending you a copy of two addresses made by Professor Bates of the Nanking University which I think you will find interesting. He has a very keen mind and has done no end of good for the civilians in the city during their troubles. He is fearless, as you could gather from the spirit he shows in the two addresses.

It was interesting to hear that you had seen the newsreel containing my picture. I should really not have been in the picture as I am not a member of the Executive Committee of the International Committee for the Refugee Zone, but only on one of its subcommittees. But Mr. Menken insisted that all the foreigners who were present that morning should be in the picture. John Magee did not happen to be there so he was not in the picture. We are also interested to receive reports about how public feeling in America is changing. I hope the U.S.A. will not become involved in a war. Nothing has happened here as yet that should make such a step necessary; but our feeling has been all along that if England and America had adopted other measures - economic or political pressure, for instance, Japan would never have dared to go as far as she has. The time for such action, however, should have been in 1931 when Japan was permitted to begin her career of madness that is causing such havoc now. The saying that 'whom the gods would destroy they first make mad' certainly seems to be fulfilling itself in this instance. Had the Foreign Powers taken a firm stand, and the League of Nations Investigating Commission in Manchuria declared unequivocally that Japan was in the wrong, the history of the past seven years out here might have been very different. But neither nations nor individuals can hang on to their selfishness and expect the principles of the Kingdom of God to be effective in their relations with others.

Bishop Roberts sent me a nice letter in this mail too. He has asked me to serve on his Council of Advice for 1938, though I do not think I shall be able to attend many meetings unless we can get permission to move back and forth between Nanking and Shanghai freely. That does not seem likely ~~maxima~~ with the present attitude of the military authorities. They have lost a great deal of face over the publicity their misdeeds here have received at our hands, and they are not exactly pleased. The Japanese, even less than the Chinese, are able to stand criticism. The other day, for instance, the new commanding general here invited the various foreign diplomatic representatives to a tea at the

Japanese Embassy. He read them a long speech in Japanese which was ^{then} read in translation by one of the Embassy secretaries. In it he spoke of the fine reputation Japanese soldiers have throughout the world for discipline, etc. and that there had been no untoward incidents or outrages in North China. The only reason such things had happened in Nanking (he had to admit that they did happen!) was that the people here had resisted at the instigation of the nationals of a certain foreign power. (meaning us) His speech was meant to be a rebuke and unwittingly gave his whole case away. Afterwards the diplomatic representatives asked for a copy of his speech and were refused on the ground that it had been extempore (when both the original and the translation were read!) Last Monday there was a memorial service for the Japanese dead here. It is said to be one of the most solemn services in the J. army so that any speech made on the occasion is considered of great significance. General Matsui, head of the Japanese forces in this area, made the speech in which he stressed the absolute necessity of Japanese troops maintaining the strictest discipline and order in the areas under their control. We thus had another confirmation from the very highest quarters that such discipline and order has not been observed by the troops hitherto.

Such brazen lying on the part of Japanese of high standing, especially when the truth comes back at them in an irrefutable and embarrassing manner, as in the case of the shooting of the British Ambassador, the killing of Catholic missionaries in North China, the Panyu Incident, the Chapel and Nanking outrages and atrocities, etc., makes one entertain doubts as to the intelligence of the Japanese, and wonder at their utter lack of understanding of foreign psychology, due no doubt to their extreme insularity and their arrogant pride.

In pursuance of orders from the military authorities many of the refugees have moved out of the zone to other city districts designated as safe by the military. Those who have gone back have had experiences of various sorts, and they have not been able to develop much confidence in the promises of protection that have been made. Our Christian groups have not yet dispersed, but it is possible that we may do so soon. We now have servants living on the various compounds of the Mission to keep what is being left from being burned by soldiers or looted by civilians who are trying to re-establish themselves. Our servants have not been molested so far, I am glad to say. I think J. realizes that she has gone as far as she dare go in antagonising other nations as she is finding herself increasingly playing a lone role. But she has done enough mischief already and it is time that a halt were called.

I hope this will find all of you well. John Magee and I are both fine, and are breathing deeper now that the days are growing longer and the sun is shining brighter and warmer. Ep. Roberts is asking John and me to stay on here as long as we possibly can, since the small foreign group in Nanking is the only means by which many missions can hang on to the Christian enterprise outside Shanghai at present. Our furlough plans are in abeyance therefore for the time being until we see how the situation develops further. Some of our people are going home to help raise the Emergency Fund for relief work in China among our people.

With love and best wishes to you all,

Affectionately,

Ernest