

Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

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Swatow, China

May 5, 1925

Dear Ques,

On Sunday up at Kityang Clara suggested that we each write to the others' mother as well as writing our own home letters - I thought that was a very nice idea so I wrote to Mrs. Leach, but I didn't get your letter done.

Since I came down I have peeked at Clara's letter - thought of course I shouldn't have - I didn't say half as nice things about her as she said about me - I didn't dream she had ever thought such nice things! It makes me 'shamed! You must tell me what you think of it - and I shall want to know what you say in answer, of course!

I was so glad I could go up to Kityang this week-end. It is getting hot and if I hadn't gone now it would have been too late

To go at all.

It's good that they don't mind having a crowd land on them all at once! Dr. and Mrs. Leshar have a bedroom and a study, and Katherine Bohn and Ruth Hall have a bedroom a piece and a study between them. Clara shares Kuy's bathroom and the Leshar's study, and sleeps on the porch.

So when Velva and Edna and I increased their numbers one of us just slept with one of them - and Clara and I slept together, at Clara's suggestion - We certainly had a good time -

I was delighted with something else that happened - Clara asked me if I would plan to go to Kuling with her next summer - It will cost money - but it's my chance to get away with her - Emily wanted me to wait and go to Kuling with her sometime, but I can go again with her maybe -

Of course this all may blow into bubbles - but it is very nice to have Clara want me - it is nice to know her better - ^{And Clara said she wished she was going to Kuliang this summer!}

We had a teacher's meeting today and I think everybody was just about as sorry as I am that on account of the fifth month festival school has to close a week earlier! At least nobody objected in the slightest degree - so graduation will come the 19th of June - we are planning to get to Kuliang the first week in July if possible. That means only six weeks more of school! How the time does fly! My letters are piled sky-high - and I don't seem to get any of them answered - wonder if I shall in the summer? I have found out that our cottage on Kuliang is right down in the center of things, instead of way up on top of a hill - So maybe I can gain some pounds and keep them this year!

I must stop and go to bed. It is
my turn to lead chapel tomorrow
morning and I ought to be up
early to go over my talk once
more just before I give it -

So - much love to you both and
to all Sutton friends -

Always your own

Abbie
P.S. The magazines have come, with
the hair nets - I'm surely glad to
have them -

P.P.S. I think that any time between
the first of June and the first of
August you may safely send letters
direct to me at the Billing Cottage,
No 404, Kuliang, via Foochow, China.
Magazines, too - Because they are
often not redirected out here -

P.P.P.S. If you ever get a chance to
get some canvas like what your
magazine rack was worked on (the
one that hung in the kitchen at the
end of the hall, worked with yarn, I'd
be glad of enough for one or two
pillows - the girls do pretty needle point
work - I've just been teaching them -

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION HOSPITAL

Kityang no,
CLARA CHASE LEACH M.D.
SWATOW, CHINAMay 3^d

Dear Mrs. Sanderson,

This has been a happy day. Abbie, Velva & Edna came up yesterday for the weekend. It has been so good to have them all here. Abbie hasn't been in Kityang for years. After she returned this winter we were together only a little while when I moved up here. We have been lamenting the fact that my stay in Swatow came while she was on furlough. It would have been so good to have lived

together. Since furlough we have become
better acquainted than before for which
I'm very glad.

Abbie is much appreciated
out here and she is filling a big place
in the school and in the community
in Swanton. It takes people with
sense, & common sense who can
see all the way around a subject
& fill the place she is in the
home & school life as she is doing.
That sentence is clumsy but guess
you get the meaning. It is

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION HOSPITAL

CLARA CHASE LEACH M.D.

SWATOW, CHINA

bed time now. We slept together last night and the other girls accused us of keeping them awake; now they are getting ready for bed so we had better go too and not get blamed again tonight! She is writing Mother while I write this.

We have been to church and Sunday School and awake today. I sing some hymns, that is the others do but I listened, as my voice doesn't work that way!

all good wishes for your
club work in autumn. Greetings
from Sanderson.

Much love
Kara Leach

Swatow, China, May 10, 1925

Dear Ones:

If you could behold the writer of this letter you would see a very lazy apology for a person, a veritable putter-off till to-morrow of just about everything! Ach, but it is the limit surely!

Wish you could have been here yesterday; we had such a lovely(?) trip to Double Island. Just the right time of the moon for tides, etc. We started out bravely about 3 o'clock and it was hot enough so that we were pretty keen to get in our swim. It happened that there wasn't a boy around the place just when I started down to the jetty, so I hiked along down with a heavy basket on each arm and my umbrella hanging on somewhere and sticking out behind! I was afraid I should be late so I hustled right along and I wasn't particularly cool when I got down there. Well, I waited nearly a half hour for those folks, and the sun was just as hot after I had sat in the boat for that length of time as it was when I began to sit there, I can tell you.

But we hadn't gone very far when the wind freshened amazingly, as it sometimes does on that little stretch of sea. We tacked and tacked and didn't seem to get anywhere, and then the waves began to come in and some of us got thoroughly slopped. The party consisted of Fannie, Velva, Edna, the Hobarts, including Eleanor Ruth, and me; we were all pretty gay when we started out but one by one some of us began to lose our pep, and after we had discussed the possibility of stopping off at some of the near-by rocks to get our supper, finally a huge wave, saucily insulting Waneta and Eleanor in one breath-taking swish, helped us to decide that everything considered, we had better head for home. I fear if we had gone on the waves might have been too rough for us to do more than dabble our toes, anyway. Poor little Eleanor was pretty sick before we got back, and we were all cold enough so that we were perfectly willing to forego our swim. We went to Hobarts and had just sat down to rest a bit when word came that Kay and Ruth were down from Kityang. Velva and Edna went over to get them and when they all got back we had a grand picnic supper right there, so we had no reason to feel that we had been cheated out of our good time!

This is our first attempt at Double Island this year. The spring has been a very late one and we have all been pretty busy too. Last week end I was up at Kityang but that is the only time I have been anywhere since I came back. I hadn't been there four five years. With regular classes and study that last from Monday at 8.30 A.M. to Friday at 4.30 P.M. aside from the Sunday work and the extras it doesn't always prove an easy thing to make a get-away! My correspondence, as you have very good reason to know, is in a pretty poor state. I really don't have much hope that it will improve much in the next six weeks, either. I hope that when I get up to Kuliang I shall have pep enough to write some real letters!

So I made this in duplicate, so that I could send to
Eunice, Elsie, Mary Egg, Helen Clark as well as to you - it isn't
much but will pass for a letter to them maybe - !
Mother dear -
I mailed to you a package
today, which is labelled "lavender artificial silk and

Oh Pa, Pa! (By this time you had Elsie's letter)
about Morcup - wasn't it great?

Take my advice will you - and keep mean
on such subjects as dancing in the future - Of
course - when I told you not to preach on
dancing, I am judging you just as much as
you are judging somebody else when you preach
against their dancing - but - haven't you learned
in all these years that such a procedure doesn't
get you anywhere?

People, (sometimes you think) will never listen
to denunciation, but sometimes they will listen
to constructive criticism, and unless it's got the
"constructo" with a capital CON in it it doesn't
accomplish much.

Be assured my heart
strings with you over some of the things that
have come to you in the church there at Sutton.
Remember, won't you - that the day of rejoicing is
the time about all times to walk humbly and
to go softly - so you won't upset your eggbasket!
I've upset mine several times in just such fashion -

Now do you think your
darter has given her honorable
sufficient unfilial advice - ? She craves his
pardon for the offence and hopes he'll write to her
again soon -

With truest affection -

The D.D.

cotton dress, Val. \$3 gold" - I paid just about that for
 the 8 or so yards of material which I found on a bargain
 counter in Swatow, and I thought that perhaps
 you would sooner tackle the task of changing
 it a little to make it wearable, and finishing it,
 than you would that of beginning to make an entire
 dress - deciding how to make it, etc. Of course, I
 realize the thing may be ruined and you may not be
 able to fix it - but it won't be such a great loss if
 it is spoiled - except that you may have to pay
 duty on it - Now please - tell whether it is too
 long, or too short, ^{and how much} how much the sides hang down,
 whether the shoulders are too long and whether you
 have to take in the underarm seams - and whether
 the collar fits at all - and how much too short
 the sleeves are - or too long - The lace for them
 I left long - so that you could cut the
 sleeves $\frac{3}{4}$ length if you wanted to - or so
 that you could leave it out altogether - It
 will doubtless be a mass of wrinkles when it
 reaches you - but it ought to iron out - I didn't
 sew the flopped dingle on the front because I was it
 sure it was the right height, no did I ditch the
 horizontal darts at hips nor finish belt - Do you like
 the flop over tie - or don't you - and do you like
 the rest of it - And, this is important; listen!
 Would you much rather have had the new piece and
 done it all from the beginning - I want an honest
 answer and you don't need to be tactful about it if it's
 an unfavorable one - Wish I could make pa some
 shirts but I know I'd bungle them so I shan't try.
 This dress is just a love gift - sent now because -
 well because "now is the accepted time, I expect!"
 Much love, Abbie

This dress is a "Mother's Day Gift" given - a thought of
 you were more often than actual yesterday (if that's possible)

No 22

Swatow, China,

May 16, 1925

Mother dear,

I feel like exploding - may I explode to you? Nothing especial has happened except that here in this house there is just such a tension all the time that if any body touched a match we'd immediately burst into flame. I know my metaphors are somewhat mixed but you can guess what I'm driving at.

In the first place, its hot, hot, hot!

And in the second place, Marjorie and Mabelle never do hit it off very well - and sparks fly there -

And in the third place, for no reason at all, apparently, from being rather fond of me and quite chatty and happy with me always, Marjorie has become aloof and distant with me too - She is

never at breakfast with us - misses
some of her other meals - goes without,
I guess - and when she does come she
doesn't say two words all the meal.
the picture of silence and forbidding-
ness - and excuses herself as soon as
she has swallowed her last mouthful.

And other times we never see her -
Now of course I realize she may
have had bad news from home and
is just trying to hold herself in
control - but I don't believe it is
that - I guess you think I think
I have a pretty hard time getting
along with my housemates - well -
I spect it's pretty hard on them too -

I used to think Emily was
a little "difficult" at times - but give
me Emily every time - This uncertainty
just about knocks me out - I have
been thinking I was lonely for E.

and I guess ^{the} that is partly so - but
if she were here we'd still have
uncertainty - What I am homesick
for really is that little kitchen in
Dutton - with Pa sitting across from
me, and me + Ma chuckling when
he narrowly escapes asking the
blessing on the Christmas tree instead
of on the food - and then Mother
sitting there and gossiping away
with me about various subjects of
interest, while her toast burns black
and falls into the stove; whereupon
Father's attention is called to the
"great red coals dropping down
through"!

There - having recalled that
cosy, intimate atmosphere - I really
feel a heap better - guess I ^{can} go
forth and stand some more
scrubbing now! We went to a
feast given us by some of our

Chinese teachers last night - I ate
so much that I was sure I should
be sick today - but I'm not!
Tonight we have invited the Chinese
teachers (women) here, and - here I
go worrying again - I don't know
whether Margie will even come up to
supper or not. She acts just as
though it was a distasteful boarding
house and it hurt her to speak
either to Mabelle or to me -

I offended her again this noon.
Hadn't seen her at all this morning
so I said "good morning, merry
Stanhope" - as I have said to her
a dozen times - and she flushed -
and didn't speak the rest of the meal.
Oh - do you think I'm a cat to say
all this? I might keep it to myself,
I know - but it would never do to
tell it outside - I'd give anything
to know the why of the sudden
frigidity of atmosphere - but it

3

doesn't look as though I'd ever find
out! It gets on my nerves, though!

We are planning a nice little picnic
supper for Marguerite next Wednesday
evening - her birthday - I'm glad to
be getting in my share of helping
to get it up - because so many years
the party has been for me, or for
Emily and me - and Marguerite has
just come in on the side - Now she's
to have a big party and I'm very glad -
If we keep on having "tension" here
I certainly hope nobody plans anything
for me - for it could be little more
than a farce as it is -

I've had a nice box of dolls, patches,
tablets etc - from Mrs. W. A. Henry,
Nashua - What's Montville Mrs. Henry's
name? Frank?

Well - so long for this time!

Better luck next!

Love, always,

Abbie

Swatow, China -

May 19, 1925

Dearests,

I'm feeling pretty good tonight -

One reason is that Marjorie seems to have partly recovered, at least, from her grouch, or whatever it was - and we were all pretty sociable tonight at supper - Another is that part of our conversation at supper was something like this:

Marjorie: Well - I s'pose we might all wish to die under a gourd like Job -

Abbie: Was he under a gourd too? I never read that - Jonah had a mushroom!

Marjorie: Yes - and a worm came and dried it up and he grumbled -

Abbie: I'll bet that was Jonah, not Job!

Mabelle: No, Jonah was under a juniper tree.

Abbie: Oh, I don't believe so, that was Elijah.

Marjorie - Elijah never lay down under anything.

Abbie - Sure he did - discouraged, thought

He was the only pebble left on the beach etc.

Mabelle: Oh - I guess it was Jobah, all

right - God saw him under a juniper tree before he knew he saw him,

Abbie: Oh no - that was Nathanael,
that Jesus saw!

Marjorie: Sure - that's right - say, we
know a lot, don't we?

Mabelle - Get ym's Bible, Abbie!

Whereupon we proceed to delve for
Knowledge - Of course N - was under
a fig, not a juniper - but as for the
rest - well - they only found ashes
for poor old Job - and not even a
juniper tree - to say nothing of a gourd -
And so - little Miss who doesn't know
enough to teach the heathen (according
to Lena Cushing!) had it over the two
Bible School and Theologically Trained
Folks - just for once - and on two or
three unimportant little details - But
my! can't you just imagine how
cocky it makes her feel? ! Now pa -
you needn't make any remark about
Canticles - I can see it in your eye -
but I beat you to it and mentioned it
first, didn't I?

I wasn't going to stay in bed a minute of day time this term - but yesterday I was in bed all day - I was as surprised! Saturday I came down with a hard cold - and it wasn't much improved on Sunday when I had from 8.30 to 12.30 services S.S., training class, and committee, steadily. It was fearfully hot in the morning, but the wind came up, then shifted - I got wet on my way to church - and stayed wet - so in the P.M. my cold was no better -

Velva and Edna came over to see me, and Velva said I must stay in bed the next day and she would send Marguerite, (my old doctor!) around to doctor me up - So, thought I, I'll be good and follow instructions - I'm certainly glad I did - The day was a raw, rainy one, and I wasn't feeling particularly scrumptious, in more ways than one - But the medicine and the rest did a heap for me, and I taught as usual today - Tonight the cold and the burn feeling are practically gone - whereas

if I had stirred around yesterday -
as I surely should have if Velva
hadn't put me to bed - The old
cold might have hung on a week
or two - you know how mine do
hang -

So - I'm better. I don't think I
have any malaria now - I haven't
been to find out for some time -
maybe that last quinine I took drove
it all away -

Much love to you & to Sutton friends,
(individually!)

Abbie

No 23

ABIGAIL HART SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOOL
KANCHIEN SWATOW CHINA.

May, 26, 1925

Dear Ones,

Last night I ticked off eight copies of the enclosed. I wasn't in the mood for writing and it is miserably done - but it will have to do for the foundation of certain missionary letters that I have owed for a long time - It will tell you, too, that I was busy last Saturday and Sunday - Mrs. Ashmore had asked me to drop in "unexpectedly" to supper Sunday night and so I went there right from the meeting and had a nice restful time - She does gabble

and gossip - most acridly sometimes, but not always, and then I know she doesn't mean to be as sharp as she sounds. And I always feel as though she wants me, which is no small item! She had me stretch out in her hammock ^{and} read to me snatches of letters from her daughters Edith & daughter-in-law Ethel - about the grandchildren, mostly - After a while Dr. Ashmore came out and I sat up & had a nice talk with him - I had a really restful good time. I have skipped chapel this morning to get this

scribble off to you. But its time to go now -

Have you thought any more about going to Northfield? Emily's mother writes that she is going with Emily & that conference (W. F. M., I suppose) is July 14, to 22 - Mrs. Peabody is to be leader - & Mrs. Montgomery is to help teach - Betters!

Love - Abbie

May 25, 1925

Almost every day for several weeks I have thought when I get up in the morning,

"I must, I surely ~~will~~ will get some letters written to-day!" And then each day has come to its close with the letters all still unwritten. It really ought not to be so, for just now I haven't nearly the responsibility that I have had at some other times out here. Miss Culley is the principal of the school and the little odds and ends of detail that do somehow find their way to the principal go to her now, and I ought to have more leisure. The days are pretty full, however, with some unexpected things ^{happening} popping up in addition to the regular routine work.

Last Saturday I was more determined than ever to get this letter written, but see what happened! First was a high school girl who is trying very hard to make up some work that she has missed so that she may keep up with her class; I am helping her when I can with her English work. Then came one of our teachers to discuss with me the matter of financial help for repairs on the chapel in her little home village in the country. And so it was all the morning long. Just before noon word came to me that we could have a special speaker to address our group of personal workers' leaders the next afternoon, if we could arrange for it. That meant telling all the other members of the evangelistic committee and getting the whole corps of workers out for a visiting tour in the afternoon to let the leaders know of the meeting and to encourage the folks to come. We had to work quickly, but by the end of the afternoon it was done. The splendid meeting yesterday when Mr. Herrigo gave us just the message that we need as much made us feel amply repaid for the little extra effort. The "One-by-One" way is the way we accomplish the greatest things for the kingdom out here, I feel very sure.

Sunday wasn't exactly what you would call a rest day, either! At 8.30 came the Chinese service, at 10. my class of intermediate girls in the Sunday School, and at 11.30 the English service down at the little church near the sea-shore. Mr. and Mrs. Herrigo (in the F.M.C.A. work across the bay in Swatow city) came home to dinner with me, and almost before we knew it it was time for the afternoon service.

It is half-past eight Monday night now, and although the thermometer registers almost eighty, I have my doors and windows all shut tight to keep out the flying white ants that are beating against the glass in swarms. I shall be so happy when the money comes for our screens. You can't imagine how eagerly we are looking forward to having screens on some of our rooms. I'm sure of one missionary whose efficiency will be increased by those screens!

Our girls are busy and happy just now with getting ready for their graduation and all that goes with it. I wish you might see them; they are as sweet girl graduates as you will find any where. Some of them are planning to go on with their study and some of them will teach.

No 24

Sutton, China
May 28, 1925

Dear Ques,

It is 10.30 P.M. and I ought to be in bed. But I feel more like scribbling a letter to you so I'm going to rob myself of a few winks of beauty sleep - I can't usually take any comfort in sitting at my desk in the evening on account of the mosquitos, June bugs, millers, white ants and flying cockroaches. But tonight we have a beautifully cool breeze and and practically no bugs, so I'm grasping the opportunity to set a few of my things in order. Tonight I have been reckoning accounts, trying to see whether both ends would meet or not. What with getting up to Kuliang, expenses certainly will be a touch and a go this year. Alas, I fear I am an extravagant fiend, as has been once or twice in the past suggested by my fond parents! But although this reckoning and stretching took like a discouraging process, yet I'll admit it's not quite as dismaying to ponder over future potentialities as it is to groan over past actualities! Nuff o' that! (I suppose it can be managed, if I'm abnormally careful.)

What I started to write about, however - was how I passed my 32nd birthday - with colors flying, of course!

Marguerite was the one who had the big party so I knew well enough there would be no particular fuss for me, especially since Emily won't here to be fussed over - Well. the presents kept coming all day long though - from Mr. & Mrs. Capen's roses early in the morning - right on through the day -

Marguerite sent a cunning Skino outfit with a can of tomato soup - to provide for emergency on the way up to Kuliang! Maggie gave me a beautiful string of ivory beads (oval ones like the ones I had, but she doesn't know I have two strings!) - they're lovely. Mabelle gave me an exquisite linen centrepiece, embroidered in the pattern that was on my Chinese linen dress - a favorite of mine - The folks at the Bungalow - Edna & Fannie, joined with Velva and gave me the promise of a pencil sharpener that screws on my desk - and I'm to go with them to pick it out! Edna knew I wanted one and heard me raving about it - but I decided to wait until I had more money! That's what I get for being good, isn't it? They sent a huge hat box, all tied up with pink ribbon - and

stuffed inside with paper on top of which was a clever card with the promise of the gift in rhyme -

Mrs. Page sent two booklets - one on prayer and the other on soul winning, which I think will be helpful - Mrs. Ashmore sent a circular bag with cord and tassel made of tapestry like your pillow, only in gold and brown instead of dark blue - Mrs. Worley and Miss Traver sent some attractive little Chinese pictures done on rice paper, like the enclosed. Wasn't that a nice birthday?

In the afternoon I had a caller - Mrs. Eastwood - an English lady who is a bride just come out - They have the place that the Barracloughs had - After that I went around and thanked some of the people for their gifts - then went to a practice for Children's Day music. This particular number is to be a double quartette, and I'm the only foreigner singing - Edna plays for us - We didn't get through until after seven - and when I got home I found the table set in festive array and Fannie and Velva here to greet me. Edna arrived a minute or two later, having changed her dress in double

quick time. It was a delicious party dinner and we had good company - We had to eat in a little hurry, though, on account of prayer meeting - We got there a little bit late, but not much - It's nice to have a birthday - every body wishing me happy returns, etc, after meeting - and suddenly - a pile of plates and a tray of lemonade and another of cake appear out of a clear sky - and I'm aware that every body's singing "Happy Birthday" ! Perhaps I wasn't flabbergasted - I told them it was more than my share, to have two parties - but they kept on saying nice things and of course flattery is sweet, as I said the first week I was back here !

Well ! In spite of all this - I'm really a very humble missionary realizing more keenly every minute. I think - that I'm doing none but the smallest fraction - if as much as that - of what I should like - and ought - to be doing out here - I often wonder how to go about finding the way to accomplish more - I'm busy enough - but a lot of it is treadmill, I'm afraid ! Emma's pin came, did I tell you ? And a welcome letter from

Ruth Turnbull today - Your two letters came day before yesterday -

Pa - I'm utterly stonished and spriced at you - Hurry up and take it right back that theres anybody in Sutton or in Swatow that you won't call "Brother" - Who are you to be such an undemocratic plutocrat even "in ecclesia" - Hey? Praps you sounded worse than you meant - Guess you must have - or else you don't mean what I've often heard you preach, to wit - that All men are your brothers! Come on - Jess up - and you'll be given a nice long white mark on the nearest wall - same kind I've seen you give Mother when she once (?) admitted she had been in the wrong about something -

Now its your turn to preach to me, I should say - I'm ahead!

The mosquitos have arrived in a body - and there will be nothing left of me but malaria bugs if I don't retire instantly -

Goodbye - with my filiallest love to you both
Abbie

Swatow, China
June 2, 1925

No 25

Dear Ones,

Another Sunday gone by and I haven't your letter written yet. It's about time for me to be getting another letter from you - or at least, if it isn't it certainly seems so - !

Since I wrote we have been pretty busy in one way or another. On Friday we had the new teachers (the three Chinese professors) and Mr. + Mrs. Waters here to dinner. Mrs. Lecher was down here too, from Kityang, for the week end. So we had rather a jolly party. One of the men, the young Mandarin teacher, does not speak the Swatow dialect, and very little English, though he understands a good bit of both - so our talking to him was mostly through one of the other teachers -

After dinner we played Keng San Kiok - a game you play with Chinese chessmen. I shall certainly bring a game home with me and teach you how to play it. It is not Mah Jongg!

~~Saturday~~
Sunday afternoon we invited the 24 lower school graduates for tea - We played games and had icecream and other treats - During one of the romps I caught my (dotted swiss with ^{iron} wish lace) on a shutter fastener and chewed it wickedly - You should

see it now though. The lace mended perfectly and the torn place taken out and replaced with new - It shows scarcely at all.

On Sunday came an unexpected call to go to a Church of England Service and help in the singing - So that meant a rush with Sunday School etc - It was pretty hot and in the afternoon I was too lazy to do a thing but rest -

Yesterday I began housekeeping again. I wish I had recipes for some new salads and other hot weather dishes. I'm afraid I am not a very good planner of meals! Well - it's just for a month, and then off for the summer - I'll be glad to get away, too -

This afternoon from 2 to six I spent at Woman's Committee Meeting - I feel so important, being on both that and the Education Com. ! But I don't know as it is much honor. As to the hard work, - well, this is the first time I have been called up for either, so the duties thus far haven't been arduous - We put in an afternoon of it today, however - and struck some snags that were pretty tough - Question of where Emma Simonsen can go - We have no place for her apparently - and so she must stay at home - It is a

shame. I try to put myself in her place and just wonder what would happen to me - and how I should feel, etc - Pretty hard lines any how - I think - not to be wanted - I've had the experience, of course - but to have it out here and have mission co-workers express a desire for my removal - that would be the cap of bitterness, I think!

I better not try to rave on any more - Its 10.10 P.M. and I've crawled under my net to write this scrawl -

Result - I'm overpoweringly sleepy and must quit immediately or I shall begin to dream of tomorrow morning and start writing out Chinese arithmetic problems for you to answer!

Very lovingly yours -
Abbie -

P.S. Did you read about the earthquake in Japan?

P.P.S. A telegram came yesterday morning calling Miss Northcott home to her mother, who has a rapidly developing cancer and cannot live long. The poor girl is nearly wild, trying to get packed and get accounts fixed up - and everything. She will probably sail within a week - Upon what a slender thread does every affair of every one of his hang! Love Abbie

26
Swatow, China, June 10, 1925

Copy sent to Arthur
Dear Ones,

Things seem to be moving thick and fast out here, but the trouble is with the direction that they're moving in! Where shall I begin?

First of all comes the news from Shanghai of what amounted to a riot up there. Some of the students acted so wildly and so strangely tried to prevent the British police from functioning that the result was several fatal shots. The other students all over Shanghai struck and a general anti-foreign movement that has been brooding evidently for a long time was launched. Now the servants of all or nearly all (they say most of the Americans are not affected) foreigners in Shanghai have left them and they are doing their own housework. They give as an excuse for all this that Chinese workers in a Japanese cotton mill in Shanghai were being overworked or otherwise wrongly treated, but many people have the idea that the whole thing is a cooked-up affair and has been brewing for a long while.

About eight students in the Shanghai mob were killed and many were wounded. The Hongkong paper gives a thrilling report of the bravery of the foreign police, but we have not yet seen the Shanghai version of the matter. Telegrams have gone from the students all over the country calling all students to strike, and all servants or others working with or for foreigners to strike. The reports vary and we find it hard to tell just what really is happening. Marjorie has just had a statement from one of the Shanghai College boys of their point of view and it doesn't tally with the other reports very well. But the situation has been bad in Shanghai and it has been feared that the movement would spread all over China. A number of gunboats have just come into Sha'i harbor and since that has happened the people have begun to go to work again. We are not at all sure, however, that the thing is really quieting down. This morning right here in our own boys' Academy they had a meeting the spirit of which was far from cordial to foreigners.

in enclosing copy

about 8 students killed above was written

Which brings me back to the thing I was intending to write about first. Last week the meetings of our reference committee took place. On account of upset political conditions we were unable to hold the March meetings, so these were the sessions of the Spring and Summer Reference committees combined. At Conference, last December, provisions were made for a meeting of the committee with some of the Chinese leaders, for the purpose of seeing whether the Chinese and foreigners could find ways for co-operating more effectively. Well, we had the meeting!

I am, of course, not on the ref. com., but anyone could attend, and after I had been at the first session I wanted to hear what went on at the others. We certainly found out that a number of the Chinese here would like to see the foreigners ousted right off. Pou Siang long, one of the teachers in the Academy, made some very good speeches. Some of the others did too, speeches the equal of which, as speeches, any of us might well be proud to be able to make; clear, to the point, and forceful. But they were clearly a doubt of our good intention in being out here in China, that is, doubt that our intentions are entirely good. The meetings lasted the whole of one afternoon and evening and from 7.30

THE ATROCITY

When the police officers arrested three students who were making speeches, some of the listeners followed them to the Louza Police Station. Hearing about the unhappy fate of their friends, other groups of students in various streets at once hastened to the Police Station and presented themselves to be arrested. The police seized one group after another until, owing to lack of standing space, an order was given to release a portion of the "volunteers". It seemed that the police authorities realized their mistake in arresting the students by wholesale. The police, however, was reluctant to rectify their first blunder. The students refused to leave and the situation grew tense. More students continued but could not be admitted to the cells. By this time a crowd of more than a thousand waited before the station. The policemen tried to disperse the crowd by using clubs freely. One student was hit on the head and fell fainting. Upon this the crowd began to shout "Hit them". Then Inspector Everson gave order to open fire. Four died immediately and five succumbed in hospitals and others were wounded seriously. As soon as the first shot was fired the crowd began to retreat. But the shooting was continued until at least 40 shots were fired. Many received the bullet at their back

APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

As soon as the atrocity was known, the entire Chinese community rose in one to protest against it. Since then the situation has grown to a point where force only aggravate ill feeling. Conciliation is the only way out. Foreign communities may well now fix in mind that the Chinese public who stood up in one in protest entertains no anti-foreign sentiments. It is a protest against the unwarranted barbarity on the part of the police force toward our innocent fellow-countrymen. It seems that the British authorities believe in the almightiness of their guns, which in the past earned for them many colonies. Unfortunate is the nation that is represented by this horde of hot-headed officers. Unhappy are the British residents in Shanghai whose voices in defence of justice is drowned by the incessant cracking of machine guns along Nanking Road.

It is high time for a third party, say, Americans, to step in and mediate, instead of shrinking in front of the so-called "anti-foreignism", and avert a calamity, the coming of which the gunboats will only hasten.

June 2, 1925

Yangtsepoo, Shanghai, China.

Following the above came two more pages of an "Appeal for Justice". I haven't time to copy it all but the final paragraph shows pretty well which way the wind blows.

"For years we have suffered enough of the contemptuous and oppressive attitude of some of the foreign residents in China. And during recent months we have tolerated enough of the nonsensical accusations and misrepresentations concerning the students as a whole by the local foreign press. Now we, as students, dare to present our case with bare facts to the unprejudiced international opinion. Is it not your duty to stand on the side of justice and humanity?"

OUR POINT OF VIEW

BY STUDENTS OF SHANGHAI COLLEGE

We here below present to the attention of our foreign friends in Shanghai the course of events that led to the Nanking Road atrocity. Let it be emphasized above all that a close study of the case reveals at once the fallacy of any accusation of "anti-foreignism". Ours is a movement to safeguard rights and justice.

THE MILL STRIKE

The germ of the tragedy originates from an attempt on the part of the workers in the Japanese-owned Cotton Mill No. 8 (Naigai Mill) to organize a union which would have for its purpose the betterment of working conditions and the promotion of primary education for the male and female workers. The project was flatly rejected by the Japanese owners, and, upon the insistence of the workers' representatives, the owner discharged them in spite of the plea by the laborers. Conciliation failing, a strike in the said mill was declared.

A WORKER KILLED

The situation was intensified when the Japanese mill owners closed down two other mills, No. 3 and No. 7, not because the workers in the mills joined the strike but because the mill was idle for lack of raw material usually supplied from Mill No. 8. Not willing to be thus thrown out of work for no fault of theirs, the workers of the two mills asked for pay whether work was available or not. After the failure of their delegates to persuade the mill owners, the workers gathered together before the gate of the mill and demanded entrance. One Japanese employer of the mill fired upon the crowd and killed a worker named Kao Tseng-hung.

MEMORIAL SERVICE SUPPRESSED

Two days afterwards a memorial service was held, to which a number of students from Wen Tse University were invited. It is here to be noted that the students had a perfect right to sympathize with the laborers in view of the aim of the proposed union to provide education for the illiterate laborers and in view of the fact that no legal steps have been taken to punish the Japanese offenders, to indemnify the victim, and to settle the unrest. Unfortunately the meeting was broken up by the police of the International settlement. Six of the students present were arrested for making speeches.

APPEALING TO THE PUBLIC

On May 30 the friends of the guiltless "prisoners" and students from other universities decided to give speeches in the streets not for the purpose of interfering with the public order but with a view to attain publicity of the atrocity, the facts about which were cautiously covered up by the criminal alliance of silence among the local press. They went out in groups to different places, and on Nanking Road there were not more than ten groups comprised of a total of less than fifty students. The report of the foreign press was that "more than two thousand marched down Nanking Road" was an entirely erroneous statement.

the next morning until 11.30. Finally after much talk, a great deal of which was not getting anybody anywhere, a committee was appointed of three foreigners and four Chinese, to work up a new plan of working methods, thereby hoping for greater progress in the future. This plan is then to be presented to the Chinese convention and to the Board at home. The three items that, according to the sentiment pretty generally expressed by the Chinese in this meeting, are most particularly desired, are as follows:

1. That Chinese shall have equal authority with the foreigners in the distribution and use of all mission funds.
2. That Chinese shall have equal authority with the foreigners in all decisions in regard to, and in control of any and all phases of the work.
3. That Chinese shall have some authority, at least in advisory capacity, to say where the foreigners shall be placed and how long they shall stay there.

This will mean a great deal if it goes through, and I think it will mean our finish if it doesn't go through! It seems to me there are manifold dangers in it, and yet if it is done in the right way, it surely ought to mean a step in advance. But the spirit of some at the meeting seemed far from right. It always has been a question in my mind as to whether it would do to hand over the money and the power when the Chinese are putting forth so small a proportion of it themselves. The future will tell, I presume.

With much love,

Reports have just come that a strike on all steamboats and railroads down in the vicinity of Swatow may be expected today or to-morrow. Its such a pity - Conditions in Shanghai are worse than ever. Students attempted to kill two Americans yesterday and struck a British woman - In the International Settlement in Shanghai martial law has been declared. Well! we may not get away for the summer after all -!

The Anti Christian movement is flourishing in some places and its hard sometimes to tell which is Anti-Christian & which anti-foreign -

Dear Oes, Just a little further word - I'm sending this
to J. K., Gladys Paul, Helen Fielder, Emily, Uncle Joe -
and Uncle Cyrus - I ~~didn't~~ ^{and Arthur} enclose the newspaper excerpts
to Uncle Cy - Swatow, China, June 11, 1925

Troublesome times in China! We are certainly finding out that you can never tell what is going to happen, not even from one day to the next. First we have rumors of fighting, then we have troops of soldiers arriving in our very midst, then we have the opposing forces arriving and before we know it, almost, a battle has been fought and the city has been taken.

Last week occurred the riot in Shanghai, about which American papers have doubtless told. We see many reports, of course, but it seems to us as though the Police (foreigners) had to shoot in order to keep the peace. The Chinese newspapers tell only one side of it, and anti-foreign sentiment seems to be growing widely. (I meant to write 'rapidly' there, but I rather think 'widely' fits too!) Now comes the news of civil war in Canton. The universal strike in Shanghai of all those working, or in any way connected with foreigners, and the strikes of students everywhere seemed bad enough, but war nearer yet is a more fearful thing.

We have our petty troubles right here, too. Yesterday morning at the boys' Academy, as he was getting up to take his regular turn at leading the chapel exercises, Mr. Waters was hissed and clapped at and shuffled at in a most insolent manner. When he found that he could not make himself heard, he sat down and the Chinese principal, Mr. Fu got up and rebuked them, told them to come to order and "listen to the doctrine". Whereupon some of them declared they didn't want to hear the doctrine and they wouldn't and they wouldn't even hear him. Mr. Fu tried to reason with them, but they kept getting worse and worse and turned into a regular mob. They had various meetings among themselves and finally called a meeting of all the schools here on the compound to call a cessation of classes (they didn't call it a strike this time!) Our teachers in the girls' school said they couldn't sanction anything like the affair with Mr. Waters, and if they were to be called upon to take the girls out on the streets to preach and to get money for the strikers in Swatow they wouldn't do it. That was what might easily happen if a general strike of all the schools were called. In any case, with affairs so uncertain everywhere, they felt it would be far wiser to close school immediately and send the girls home to their parents than to keep open for ten days longer and have such responsibility resting on us. The upshot was that a little before three we had a teachers' meeting and decided to close, and before five nearly half the girls had started for home! I'm still gasping and wondering if it has all really happened.

The boys' schools have declared a strike, and are to be out from now until next Tuesday getting funds for the strikers in Shanghai and arousing sympathy for them, I suppose. I am glad the girls have gone!

I mustn't stop to write more now, for it is 9.30 P.M. and I must be dressed and have my breakfast and be down to the boat to-morrow morning by 4.30, off for the day to examine the little country school up at Nam-leng. Four-thirty sounds early, but it will be cooler to go then than later in the day.

Love, Abbie

Excerpts from South China Post, Hongkong.

Outline of the Situation

"The exasperation of the Cantonese at the arrogance of the hired Yunnanese and Hunanese troops brought to Canton by the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen to enable him to oust General Chang King-ming, has led to an outbreak of fighting. While still protesting loyalty to the principles of Sun Yat-sen and the Kuomintang party, the Yunnanese General Yang Hsi-min and the Kwangsi General Lau Tsun-wan have demanded that the authorities order the cessation of troop movements in the East River and North River districts; otherwise, they will take measures to resist same. The authorities have replied denouncing the General's insubordination, dismissing them and appointing General Chu Pei-teh as acting commander of the Yunnanese forces. This is a virtual declaration of war.

"General Yan Hsi-min has seized the Governor's Yamen, the telephone and telegraph offices and the electric light plant. The Yunnanese and Cantonese are entrenched on opposite sides of the river. The Yunnanese control the whole of the Canton side, while gunboats under the Canton authorities command the river. The Canton authorities depend chiefly on the Whampoa College cadets, who have been trained by Soviet officers."

The above is a Reuter message, and is probably what has been in the U.S. papers, but The Hongkong paper says it gives a wrong impression. The truth is, the editor goes on to say, that "there is no Cantonese indignation at the Hunanese, these troops being in the Kuomintang (Communist) camp. The feeling is directed mainly against the Yunnanese and Kwangsi troops, who, admittedly, have comported themselves arrogantly. The Communists are going to clear Kwangtung of the mercenaries, for Kwangtung's sake; the mercenaries are going to clear Kwangtung of the Communists, also for Kwangtung's sake. That, briefly, is the position. The elimination of the Communists would seem to promise better benefits than the elimination of the mercenaries, despite their arrogance and their grasping policy, and we suspect that responsible elements hope the Yunnanese will win, leaving readjustment to be made later. Meanwhile, however, the Cantonese troops appear to be ignorantly pro-Communist, blindly obeying the slogan "Kwangtung for the Cantonese." They do not see the Red menace; they see only their own province and the Yunnanese aliens within it. Could they see also the Russian aliens and know their purpose, the Communists would have short shrift."

Blind as many Chinese are to the danger of the country's being overrun with Bolsheviks and of their getting control finally of the country itself, it is comforting to find that there is a faction of the Chinese who are strongly opposed to Communism. This faction, voicing indignation at the recent shootings in Shanghai, assert that the Communists are responsible. This is the translation of their circular:

"The Communists, taking advantage of the disturbed affairs, are harming the patriotic movement. The Communists, taking advantage of the present patriotic movement, are driving students to the fighting zone, causing deaths, receiving for each death \$50,000; therefore, the more death they can provoke, the more profit. ... It is not the foreigners who kill, but the communists who are killing, using as their heads Communist foreigners. The Communists cry "Overthrow Imperialism", but they themselves are the running dogs of the "Red" Russian Imperialists...."

No 24

Swatow, China

June 14, 1925

Dear Ques -

I'm in disgrace - just in my own eyes! I don't know what the other folks are thinking about me - yet!

I was to sing in a double quartet this P.M. at Children's Day exercises. We have rehearsed several times and it has gone pretty well - I was the only foreigner in the bunch - But just about 2.30 - when the service was supposed to begin, I felt so headachey and hot that I ^{thought} I would rest a few minutes and get there late - Ques was to be number 9 on the program - almost at the end - So at ten minutes of three I roused myself and went over - only to hear them singing our piece! So I turned and came back and here I am - very much chagrined for doing the thing that I hate in other people - failing to turn up!

There had been a little talk by
some of the foreigners as to
whether it would be wise for me
to try to sing - or for any of
us to do anything in public,
just now when there is so much
feeling. - well - ! I said I
wasn't afraid - but I didn't
get there after all - don't it
seem scandalous - ? I'm really
very much ashamed of myself
and hope this confession will
do me good.

<sup>They rang the bell $\frac{1}{2}$ hr early - I
found, and so everybody went
and they began early!</sup>
A general strike for the servants
of the British and Japanese people
has been declared for tomorrow - (Dinner
ours too)
has it that all the servants are
going, but we don't yet know -
All the foreign coast steamers have
stopped - because the seamen &
others have been forced to strike.
Our consul and the British

2) consent are arranging to have gunboats come in to port and take us away if the necessity arises - but no such crisis is anticipated - Swatow, right here - and the whole of China, are more upset than ever before since I first came out.

We were invited to Mrs. Lersiger's tea yesterday afternoon - and on the streets as we went and in the shops beforehand we could not help feeling a difference in the stares - and in the remarks that were made about us - There is a tension in the air - unmistakably.

It is a pity that they cannot know the truth about things; but the Chinese newspapers don't dare to print a thing of all the trouble that puts it in the light of Chinese being to blame.

What they get is a garbled, one-sided report - and they believe it all. You can't blame them very much if they get wildly stirred up against us after hearing so much awful trash.

We went out to Nam Leng on Friday as ~~with~~ planned. Hong Tan and Sok Tan (Heng Sin senie's daughter) went along to help with the examining, and Marjorie went with us for company - We left the house at 4.30 A.M., with the moon still shining - and took a little boat - When we reached Chi Keng - up the river from here - at a little after eight - we walked between 1 and 2 miles - and arrived at Nam Leng about 9. The school has only 15 pupils, and three of them were out to

3/ work in the fields!

So it didn't take very long
for the exam. - We had our
lunch and started back about
12. - It was a hot hot walk -
and we were glad to get to the
boat - and gladder still when
we reached home - at 7 P.M...
The tide was against us all
the way and we had to tack
back and forth, making very
slow headway indeed - I'm
glad that one is over! Three
more to do —

With love,

Abbie

Later:

I was over at Edna's to supper
to-night and sat talking with
Edna and Velva afterwards when
their boy came in saying "The notice

has come - we have to stop work
tomorrow - one day - twenty four hours.
All the boats, shops, workmen of
all sorts are to stop for a full
day for a demonstration in
remembrance of the killing of the
Chinese in Shanghai by the British
police.

So Edna went out to talk with
the cook about to-morrow's food &
I came home thinking that our
boys would have the same story
to tell - It's now nine o'clock,
however, and no one has come in
to say anything yet - I shall not
get undressed yet for I imagine
they will come still. We saw
the paper that issues the edict,
over there at the other houses -
Of course, there may be having a
meeting to protest - but I very
much doubt it! I think too
many of them are sort of drom on

4) the foreigners - and willing to get out of a day's work - That's foolish, too, for me to say that, for they really are threatened into it - Many times their lives are threatened.

Well! I wonder what next? We had a letter from the American Consul this P.M. urging the advisability of each member of the mission's refraining from appearing on the streets to-morrow or otherwise coming in contact with the demonstrators - So

to-morrow we stay indoors! My, but I'm glad school has closed! I don't know what the women's school will do, - they are supposed to have exams to-morrow.

I'm housekeeper here so it's me for 5.30 in the morning to see that the coffee gets made! Love again

P.S. Love you both a whole lot! Alice

P.S. Next A.M. - We have our boys
with us still as may be we are
not going to have them cut and
run on us after all! And we
have had our breakfast - a good one,
too!

Suatsow, China

June 21, 1925

Dear Cues, ^{no 21}

I hasten to reassure you -
physically, I'm fit as a fiddle -
I haven't been to the hospital for
several months and therefore don't
know whether I have malaria bugs
or not. They kept on discovering
them while I was going there -
so in sheer desperation I quit
and haven't been there since -
Shortly after I quit going I
had "bad feelings" again and
took a big dosage of quinine.
That happened once more - and
since then I have been feeling
"better and better" in every way -
according to Cues - ! That's
not a scientific way to take
medical treatment - I know,
but it worked with me apparently.
If I feel bad again I'll go to
the hospital - truly - but I don't

think I have any malaria in
me -

As to other affairs out here - !
Everything I can think of is
to pay turry - We had the
strike we expected last Monday -
and washed our own dishes twice
which we didn't mind in the
least of course, except that we
didn't know what that stop
might lead to in the future - If
the stores refuse to sell us food,
and we have nobody to buy it
for us - things might begin
to happen. That strike lasted
just a day - but a "permanent"
strike is now removed - for servants
of British & Japanese people -
and for ships of those nationalities.
I was pretty glad to get
your letter yesterday - for
the shipping strike was supposed

I begin today and goodness
knows whether we shall get
our mail now or whether you'll
get mine!

Anti-foreign feeling is growing
like a weed. Reports keep coming
of outrages against foreigners -
Murders have occurred in Shanghai,
Hankow, Chinkiang, and Chungking -
But down here in the South
where the Chinese themselves
are having awful fighting -
among various provinces, they
don't seem to be bothering
much about the foreigners -
They appear to be friendly to
Americans but I am
beginning to believe that real
understanding between Westerners
and Orientals is an impossible
thing -

I am very glad that our girls

have gone home - The boys are still here and they plan to stay on and on indefinitely - The teachers have practically lost power over them - If there is opposition to housing and feeding them (all summer, maybe!) they plan - or threaten, at least, to oust Mr. Capen - How or when, no one knows. They are pretty nearly a mob the most of the time -

Still, I keep on with my little trips to the country schools - and it seems very safe - everything cordial and peaceful where I have been -

I go on the last of these exam. trips to-morrow - If you don't hear from me for some time, don't worry, but just realize that the boats may all be held up and that if there is

3) any important news you will have had it by cable even before this reaches you - I mean, if for any reason we had been ordered away from Swatow - I don't think that will happen, but there is an English gunboat in harbor - and an American near by, they say - so we are perfectly safe -

In Canton the bloodshed has been fearful. They say that when the Yunnanese first entered Canton, they murdered & crucified and tortured the Cantonese right and left, & maltreated their women; now that the Cantonese have the upper hand, they are paying the soldiers back in coin of like cruelty. The accounts are shudderingly awful.

It's not much wonder that our servants don't dare not do what they are ordered to do - Monday servants of Mr. Ramsey in Stratton (he has some office in customs, I think) stayed on the job. In the P.M. some labor union men came and beat them up & dragged them off to prison.

All the Chinese here are death on the British. Helen Rue was reading to me from a Chinese newspaper last night. Some of the demands the students are making:

1. That no British or Japanese goods be purchased.
2. That none of the things necessary to living be sold to them.
3. That none of them be allowed to own or rent houses or rooms anywhere in China -
4. That all Foreign Concessions, Extraterritoriality, etc be abolished.

4) 5. That no British nor Jap.
money nor checks be accepted
by any bank or any person.
(All ones in the British banks
at Hongkong & Shanghai)
(Helen agreed heartily to
all of the above.)

6. That the death of every
student killed May 30 in the
Nanking Road riot at Shanghai
be avenged by the life of a foreigner.

7. That all those on the
police force who did shooting
that day be condemned &
die.

And there were more such
all rather sickening for us to
think about.

All this feeling - or most of
it, appears to be directed
against the British & Japs -
but you needn't tell me it will
be long before they have some
fault to find with us Americans.

A Mr. McKenzie in Shanghai
took a Miss Duncan & ride in
a car outside the Concession
limits after 9 o'clock at night.
Coolies stopped the car and
when he got out & find out
what they wanted, they wounded
her and killed him outright,
then ran - going out at
that time of night in such
times were far from wise -
but the foreigners' indiscretion
did not warrant such outrage.
But, do you think the Chinese
Newspapers print that? Not
at all - They say the
man died from some natural
sickness, and that the
foreign magistrate had his
body mutilated so that he
might accuse the Chinese
of murder - Such a cooked up story seems
unthinkable - but that would be

3) their actual way of doing things - and so they can easily print it and what's more, have every word believed.

The Chinese think Russia is one of their best friends - but I fear they will be finding out some of these days how wickedly they have been duped. I have no doubt every newspaper in the country is directly or indirectly under the control of Soviet Russia. And that's far from the extent of the control - But they are blind to it all.

Oh, if China ever needed praying for, she needs it now! The time may be speedily coming when all foreigners must get out of China.

It seems to us as though
much of the work would be
lost if that happened - But
we know the seed that has
been sown wouldn't be lost.
and we know that there are
a great many true and loyal
Christians who perhaps do
not see straight on the question
of international relationships.
Or perhaps they see straighter
than we do - and realize that
if they are going to grow,
have foreigners must go.

Perhaps it is that our
work is finished here in China
and the Chinese can do and
must do the rest themselves -
Time alone can tell.

Can you see why it is
hard for me to write missionary
letters? It seems to me that

6) & tell the truth would be
so alarming that it would
mean another slump in the
giving for our work - just now
when the Board needs all
encouraging and no discouraging
reports from the fields. Not

& tell the truth would be
dissembling - and besides -
there's seems so little else
& write! You'll have to
use your own discretion about
telling folks what is in
this letter - I'm sure I
don't know how much is wise
& tell!

I was so discouraged last
night, especially after
talking with Miss Puer - that
it almost seemed the only
thing to do was & pack up
for home - I was getting

ready for bed when Mabelle
came in and got me to put
on my shoes and Kimona
and go out in the garden
to look at the stars. They
were wonderful; I didn't get
at first what she was trying
to do - but pretty soon I saw
she just wanted to help me
get hold of something. If
the Lord has a care to keep each
of these stars in its place and
let the beauty of them all brighten
the dark hours of all His children
here on earth, surely He will
keep me where He wants me - keep
me safe, keep me quiet - and
give me work to do that will
beautify and brighten ~~there~~ my
life for some others - It did help
me really - and I was
grateful for the message -

2) Yesterday morning we had a meeting of the trustees of the Girls' School. I didn't know I was expected or even wanted, but and I was planning to go shopping with Helva - But at the last minute Mabelle said she expected me to stay, and so I changed my plans - though I wasn't keen about it. I was glad I did, though, for they decided to ask Miss Rue to be Chinese principal of the school - The question is whether she will take it. Last night Mabelle thanked me for staying at the meeting and said I helped by being there - She is pretty good to me - and tries to be fair, I guess!

Well - enough of this -
from your own & only

Thank you so much for the Baptist - It's going to mean a lot to me - I have 3 dress shields now - the 4th is on its way doubtless - Many thanks -
A.

P.S. The Address shield has arrived safely - Who is

Mrs. Devenzer? "Sang in the choir" you said.
I sent this letter to Arthur, Aunt Bertha, J. Paul, Emily, Ruth
Whitman & M. Bovell No 31.

Swatow, China, June 29, 1925

Dear Ones:

Yesterday morning I went over to the city with Miss Traversa to the orphanage. She had asked that I speak to the children about Adoniram Judson. I didn't feel that I could do it very well, because there is so much in his history that is far better adapted to tell to older children. But I was very glad that I went. I had a beautiful time; some of the older ones remembered my being there before I went home on furlough, and they crowded around and were so friendly and dear. After the service was over, we went to Mrs. Speicher's, where we were invited to dinner. We had a good visit with them and when I came home I felt more reassured about the condition of things than I have for a week! I felt almost ready to begin packing my things to go to Kuliang instead of wondering, as we all have, whether it wouldn't be wise to have an emergency bag already packed in case we had to run in a hurry.

For the last three days we had had no papers, but a report came from somewhere of a dreadful happening in Canton. The foreign reports said that several foreigners had been killed and that in return machine guns had been opened and numbers of Chinese killed. The Chinese reports said that the foreign guns had opened fire on a procession of defenceless students, and had killed a great many of them without provocation. But the Speichers had found out (I don't know where!) that all this was a false report, and nobody had been killed at all. So we naturally felt a good bit easier.

Well! So far so good. But late yesterday P.M. the Hongkong papers for the last three days arrived. They are having a strike of all servants, seamen, etc. in Hongkong themselves so the paper has dwindled to one sheet; but believe me, those three single sheets for the three days said a lot! The gist of it is that in a demonstration parade last Tuesday thousands of workers, students, civilians, and soldiers took part. They were headed by masked Russians on ponies. When the head of the procession reached the road opposite the French Concession, the Russians waved their guns and two shots were fired, evidently as a signal. Then the cadets, (from a Bolshevik military school) faced about and opened fire on the foreign concessions, killing outright one Frenchman, and wounding two Britishers and one Jap. This trouble was not wholly unexpected, and the foreign women and children had had orders to go to the Asiatic Petroleum Co.'s building; most of them did so, but a few had not taken the orders seriously and so ran for their lives when the firing began. There were about three thousand of the cadets. When they opened fire, the French machine guns returned the attack, and were soon aided by the other Volunteers. A French gunboat also took part also. Of course when the foreign machine guns began to fire, the troops of the Chinese were mown down like grass. One paper said that the estimate of the casualties among the Chinese were anywhere from 500 to 3000. The last paper of the three said that about 150 Chinese were killed, but nobody knows how many were wounded.

So you see things are rather uncertain. But although living here in China won't be quite the simple thing that it was when I was out here before, still it wouldn't be very surprising if the horror of what foreign guns can do puts a stop to such demonstrations in the near future. So don't believe all you may hear about "terrible situations in Swatow". There is unpleasantness, but not danger. And if there is more news to write by to-morrow, why, I'll write again to-morrow!

I don't want the letters to be held up on account of overweight or anything - I told you I would have made them as light as possible. I don't want the letters to be held up on account of overweight or anything - I told you I would have made them as light as possible.

No 32 Swatow, China

July 7, 1925

Dear Cues -

The Fourth has passed -
very uneventfully - Even the
little celebration at the consulate
was omitted this year - In the
afternoon eleven of us went
down to Double Island for a
swim - When we got down there
we found that the boys from
the "Sacramento" - the American
gunboat - were down there -
about 65 of them - We thought
that would be rather nice - but
when we found they had 9
cases of beer along we decided
not to go in until after they
had gone ! Its a heart breaking
thing to see them - and I
cant help realizing that some
of the Asheville boys, nice as

They seemed - would do the same in the same circumstances. Some of them were pretty bad off -

So we ate our supper - waited an hour - and had a wonderful swim in the moonlight - my new bathing suit is a joy - scarlet collar and cuff - and scarlet cape lining - The moonlight sail home was pretty fine, too - we sang everything from "Barney Google" to "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot".

The servants of all the English folks are on a strike. Guards are stationed around their houses to prevent their getting any food - and a guard was placed around the Terrig's house when it was found that they had tried to take some food over to Mrs. Hances.

2/ Something has happened this
morning down at the British
consulate - the report is that
two of their servants continued
work - and that two men
came from Swatow - went into
the Consulate and were going to
capture these non-Shikers - The
consul fired two shots, which
brought marines ashore from
the British Gunboat. These
trouble makers were then taken
prisoners - and put aboard
the gunboat -

Measures have been taken
to get food from Hongkong -
so this cannot mean
starvation for any one here -
with Gunboats at hand -
I don't know that I should
care to be inland, though, if

anything really happened -

I'm so glad that you are sending me the Baptist -

I'm enjoying it more than anything - I've just read the

report of the Investigating Commission - and think it

very fair indeed - Don't you think so?

glad to hear the tatling has begun

to arrive - I laughed when I saw the prices marked "f" - My original

code was E-b-i-s-h-a-b-c-d-f - and

afterwards I decided to substitute "o" for "f" - since $0 = o$ and that's much

easier to remember. I thought I remarked them all, but I must have forgotten to change some of them -

Therefore, $L/hf = 2.50$, and $E/cf = 1.80$

Since they're both only cents, I hope it hasn't delayed the selling if you had opportunity to sell.

3/ Your question about malaria keeps recurring - I'm O. K. and feeling fine - Everybody says, "the only trouble with you is that you don't get fat"! I can't seem to manage that, no matter how hard I try -

Well, here I am writing this to you while one of our graduates of this year is taking her exams for entrance to Shantung University. She wants to be a doctor - She's finishing her Physics exam now, and says it is hard - I do hope she gets along all right.

Much love,
Abbie

No 33.

Swatow China

July 9, 1925

Dearest Dad -

Havent had a letter from you for a long time - Why dont you get a wiggle on and write to me far away darter? I spent you have just written me a nice long letter - and am wondering "what in thunderation" I'm growling about anyway?

Well! Times are funny out here in China these days - Up in Amoy they say they are having no strike at all; in Foochow some people say all is calm and peaceful, while others say that it is a regular hotbed. I had a letter today from Kuliang saying that everything up there is O.K. and we were advised to hurry up and come along. But here the American consul has warned us not to go moving about the country. We couldn't go if we wanted to. With British boats all tied up it would hardly be safe for us to take Chinese passage. I mean, embark on a Chinese boat. They all hate the British so that they treat them like dogs - as much as they dare. Here in Swatow where we are known, we are distinguished from

the British. But we have no assurance that such would be the case elsewhere than right here.

I want dreadfully to go to Kuliang - I have found out that Pearl Mason is to be there the first two weeks in September - and if I go up I shall stay a few in Sept. I must admit I see small prospect of going as yet.

Did I say "thank you pretty" for the Baptist? I'm enjoying it immensely - and am very grateful - Mother spoke of sending the Ladies Home Journal - we don't get it, and I should be very happy to receive it, but don't think you ought to do so much.

Three weeks of vacation have thus far been somewhat of a trial in the matter of suspense. You can't rest as you ought when there is a tenseness in the atmosphere and you are always wondering what will happen the next moment. I am trying, however, to "compose my mind" and rest as hard as I can to see if I

can store up a little reserve energy for the time when I shall need it most.

Last night when we began to hear about more earthquakes in America, and I began to wonder, wonder, wonder whether it's near you, and how you are - it came over me in a flash, not only that you were probably wondering about me, but that whatever may happen to us doesn't really matter. I truly have never felt such a sense of secureness before when thinking of the Life that awaits us in the Unknown. I believe I have never before been able to think of any great changes that might come to my life without rebellion, and terror, and hopelessness. ^{I know that sounds hardly Christian (not true)} And even now, I've no doubt this uplifted feeling is partly an ^{exalted} ~~exalted~~ mood which might be pretty much dissipated if actual sore trial should come to me. But it has brought some real rest to me just in this one day since the thought had really got inside of me - I always believed that trust was the only right thing - but guess I didn't really

have much of it myself - I hope you two belovedest ones aren't worrying about me - either.

Last night ~~we~~ got our doors and windows all barred up for a typhoon - Signals were up, telling that the typhoon was south of Formosa and was coming due west - that meant towards Swatow - But "she" occurred during the night, and the oppressive heat was relieved only by slight, infrequent gusts of wind.

We shall keep pretty well shut up tonight too - for the barometer has fallen a little again to-day - If all typhoons turned out this way, we should not need to fear them.

Bed time -

Dearest love,

Abbie

Dearest Cues,

Swatow, China, July 13, 1925

Troublous times are apparently just beginning for China! And somehow troubles in China seem to get worse when they get to K Kuang Tung. Of course we have been hoping each week that things would clear and that we could all finally get settled down for the summer. But now I rather think "there ain't no such animal" as getting settled down for a while yet.

We closed the girls' school here on June 10th, when the rumors of imminent strikes of all kinds came to us. We have been very glad that we were able to do so, for some of the girls were bound to be influenced by the boys (some of them relatives) and want to imitate their example by going out to get money for the strikers, going out on the streets for parades and preaching parties, and getting very much excited about it all in the bargain. It is far better for the parents to have the responsibility of girls if there is a possibility of their getting off on a tangent!

It was about that time when the American Consul began to warn us not to move about the country any more than was absolutely necessary. It has been a timely warning, and we think has helped to avert serious trouble in Swatow thus far. But it has not made much difference to those of us who planned to get away up or down the coast; the strike on all British boats on the China coast makes it rather unsafe for us to attempt going anywhere. A few people - the Gledts and the Hildreths, have gone to Thai Hong, feeling, I suppose, that the needed rest came within the bounds of the Consul's "absolutely necessary". The Capens started up last Wednesday. Thursday night they were anchored about six miles from Wukinfu, peacefully sleeping, when they were accosted by people who turned out to be the four English missionaries from Wukinfu. It seems that all day soldiers had been coming to their compound, and Mr. Paton had taken pains to show them all around and be very polite to them. In the afternoon he began to get afraid of the looks of them and went over to the ladies' house to warn Miss Freda Starkey and Miss Gilchrist. As he started to come away from their house a group of soldiers set upon him, beat him, flourished knives in his face and made as if to gouge out his eyes, and otherwise mistreated him. When the ladies saw it they rushed out to help rescue him, and the soldiers set upon them and began to beat them up. They pushed them back into the house tore their rings and neckchains off and began to tear their clothes off. When asked what they wanted they demanded money. The girls had six dollars which only seemed to incense them. Then they looted the house, taking all such valuable things as Miss Starkey's heirlooms, silver, and so on. The people were able to get to the hospital and hide until about ten o'clock and then they escaped over the roofs of houses to a little boat. They lay flat in the bottom of the boat and went very leisurely for the first part of the way, to avoid suspicion. The fourth missionary was Mr. McKenzie, who was not attacked, being sick in bed with fever. He was able to escape too.

Of course the Capens ~~turned~~ turned back, and they all got safely to Kityang. Just as they were sitting down to supper, The Capens were interrupted by soldiers who were after two Britishers, this time to kill, they said. Whom these were after no one knows, but the Adams' had just left Kityang the day before! (They are down

here now, staying at the Waters'.) Mr. Capen ran over to the Leathers as soon as he could and warned them. Dr. Leshar got them off in a little boat over to the other side of the river where they stayed in a little old shanty until they dared to start down river for Swatow. Their servants took the Kityang launch at Kityang; when they got down to Khok Khoi they saw the little boat with the missionaries in it, had the launch stop for them and got them aboard. We were pretty glad when the Capens got here, on the later launch, Saturday afternoon. And of course we can't help wondering now about the folks up at Thai Iong.

We are glad to help in any way we can, but we don't want to do anything that will make the mess any worse. The Wukinfu girls got away with nothing but their tramping suits, and we wonder whether the B.P.'s over in Swatow have enough extra clothes to fit them out. It would be dreadful to have no changes this hot weather, and it is that much the harder when they have no servants to work for them. Each of the doctors is allowed one servant, so that the work of the hospital will not have to stop. Dr. Beath has not been well for a long time and is quite seriously ill now. Miss Wells is down here helping to take care of her, I believe. I forgot to say that Miss Balmer and Dr. Stewart just got away in time. They left on furlough only a few weeks ago. The Adams were warned to get away from Hope, and the eldest of their church people think there is no work that the British can do there for some time now. They say this is a big affair, and they wanted them to get away so that their lives would be spared to come back and help later on if there is opportunity. But it may be a matter of years rather than of months. The Adams are pretty much at sea, of course. Mr. Adams' mother has sent for them to come to Kuling and say it is safe for them if they can get there. Of course they feel their duty is with her for she is not well and is getting old. But I dread to think of their going anywhere. It is all a chance, I guess. They all seem to be careful about not including us Americans in their expressions - that is, our church people right here do, but we can't help feeling if to-day it is the British, to-morrow it will be the Americans. Only we don't know how far off to-morrow may be.

The cook at Shennan Bungalow - been with them 18 years - loved by everybody -

A great shock to the whole community came last night with the death of ATI HIA. His trouble was typhoid, of which there has been almost an epidemic this year, with malarial complications. As Miss Pae said yesterday, it didn't seem as though he could die. Dr. Everham and Dr. Brown and Edna did every known thing possible to save him, - all three of them were down at the hospital all day yesterday, and the doctor brother was there from Kityang, but he was desperately sick from the first. The poor old steersman has been so low, and no one could have been surprised if he had gone, but instead the one taken is this leader of the church, supporter of old father and mother and nine kiddies, with the tenth one due to arrive in a month or two. Edna is crushed; the poor girl said 'if she had known when Miss Sellman went the things she was to meet in the next few months, Miss Northcott's going home, and these other hard things, she is sure she'd have packed her trunk and gone then too!'

With very much love to you,

*Copies sent to Miss Sellman, Emily, Ruth Sperry Black, Abby.
Mary Egg & Mrs. Grosbeck, Elsie, Helen Fielden
Margaret Winn and Paul Cressy (last with modifications)*

No 35

Swatow, China, July 20, 1925

Dear Ones,

Home mail yesterday, and I was pretty glad to see it coming too. But the letters from you, Emily, have come to Kuliang, I guess. I have ordered them sent back down here, but the service now between here and Foochow is just about a minus quantity. I was glad to have the letter from you, Mother, but sorry you are worrying. I knew you would be, but still didn't know what I could do about it.

We have had some other things than assaults on the English to think about this last week. We have had the big Chinese conference for this whole Tie chiu district here, up in the third story of the new Academy building. We went to almost every session and there was something doing about all the time. We had rather dreaded it and felt that none of us knew at all what was coming; and I guess we didn't! About the first thing on the program was to form a patriotic society within the convention. The second thing they asked for was an expression or statement from the foreigners on this subject. Since the statement they had drawn up included a resolution to do away with all unequal treaties, a great many of us felt that we were not yet ready to make a statement about that which would be satisfactory to the Chinese. And most of us feel, too, that it is the place of our government to make all the political statements that are needed and also that our consul would very strongly oppose our meddling in these affairs. He is very careful to keep from us now any important news, for the reason that he thinks that "between the Chinese schoolboys and these missionary diplomats" (!) we shall have a pretty fine sort of mess. The fact is that he knows we are in close contact with the Chinese and that we might easily be indiscreet if we had any information with which we could be indiscreet! There are a good many of us and it is easy for things to leak out of course. I am not blaming him and I think we are lucky to have a man who apparently is on the job the way he is.

Well! We appointed our committee and they have done nothing further about it. Perhaps they realized that it was not wise to ask us for a political statement just now and are going to let it drop.

I can't go through all the things they did, - of course there were a great many items that concerned various parts of the field. But they talked a lot about co-operation and then read eight points upon which the foreigners and Chinese, who were on the original committee of seven for co-operation, agreed upon, with the exception of a point about the abolition of unequal treaties. We are ready to admit that they ought to have rights as a Chinese nation, but as to giving up all protection for ourselves our Chinese Christians and our mission property while we are still living out here, is a quite different thing. I am not sure I can remember all these points and here before me this morning I have only the list in Chinese character. I'll begin, though, and see how far I can get.

1. The Nia-tang (this district) Baptist Church must preach Christ and his salvation.

2. The Nia-tang Baptist Church must urge its constituents to seek a deeper spiritual life, so that the living gospel may be preached in China.

3. A large share of the duties and responsibilities must be yielded to the Chinese Christians, so that the Chinese church may become self-governing, self-propagating, and independent.

4. The preaching of Christianity came into China through the making of the treaties, and is here therefore called "American Baptist". It is impossible that this doubt should not arise, therefore the Nia-tang Baptists advocate that the Chinese church establish their independence, so that it may not be reviled as being controlled by foreigners. *This isn't just right and it isn't all of it, it's too much stronger than this and - truth.*

5. The thing of the foremost importance in the church today is that the lives of the Christians be pure and true and above reproach.

6. The Chinese church is a thing of the Spirit, God formed it himself and we should not trust in temporal strength to carry on the work. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Therefore let us not think too much about temporal strength but depend upon God.

7. The Nia-tang is glad to receive the money help from the American Missionary societies, but let the money given be in the form of friendly aid to China in her time of need, and not be subject to the authority of the foreigners to dispense.

8. The American Missionary Society obeyed the Lord's command and sent missionaries to China to preach the Gospel of salvation, and although those who preach the gospel should be able to live by the gospel, that is be supported by the churches whom they serve, still they have never asked any support (personal) from us. For this we owe them a debt of gratitude. They helped when we were in dire need of help, and we thank them. But from this time on, the Chinese should bend every energy to preach the gospel themselves, that the development of the church may be the development of a true Chinese church.

After these articles were read Dr. Ashmore and Mr. Baker each spoke words of agreement and expressed the feeling that the foreigners had always looked forward to this day, and that we all hoped the Chinese church could now progress as it had never done before. They spoke of the unavailability or wisdom of our interposing in any way whatever with the arrangements of the treaties or anything else that would be interfering with our government, but as regards the fact that the Chinese are now putting themselves on record as wanting to be independent and fend for themselves, no one could be gladder or give heartier consent than we.

Well, some wild things went on at the convention; once they decided that the hospital should dispense all medicines free, and they appointed a committee of thirteen to see that funds were raised to make this possible. Later on, when discussion about co-operation waxed rather warm, one of the Chinese men (Tang Kang chhin) pointed out that no foreigners had been appointed on it and that possibly the matter had not been gone about in the right way. The whole thing came like a bolt from the blue to us, - none of the foreigners had ever been consulted about it, even though the hospital is entirely under the direction of the woman's board! So they blotted out that committee, and I believe have done nothing more about the matter since.

The big thing they aid was to ~~start these~~ accept these eight points and then go ahead and form their new organization to run things. A committee of a hundred was chosen of representatives from the whole field. Only about five of these are women. From this committee were chosen the following committees; Executive, Evangelistic, Finance, Philanthropic (this includes medical), Educational, Social Service.

I forgot to say that on this committee fifteen foreigners were appointed; Dr. Ashmore, Mr. Waters, Mr. Page, Mr. Capen, Mr. Speicher, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gledt, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Worley, Miss Culley, Dr. Everham, Dr. Leach, Mr. Hildreth, Dr. Groesbeck.

The Executive Committee mentioned above is made up of the heads of the other committees and four others appointed from the hundred. I am not exactly right in calling this a committee of a hundred after all. The original idea was to have twenty of the eighty Hakkas, including their foreigners, but after the conference was over the eighty from this district decided that they didn't want the Hakkas mixed up in this business yet, so the thing is really a com. of 80.

The Educational com. has been working before now and they could go right on with their work, but the other committees most of them don't know where to begin. The Finance com. met longer than any of the others and after a whole morning of talking had no report whatever to give. The westerners have no voting power in the com. but are simply there as advisers. Dr. Groesbeck wrote a thesis planning how we could go about a larger co-operation, beginning by having committees etc. with an equal number of foreigners and Chinese and gradually working up to the ideal of all Chinese. But as Mr. Page says in his letter home, Dr. Groesbeck's plan is left far in the distance behind.

Whether this will mean that we have no more conference, is yet to be seen. The Chinese want to know what we do and say, they want the power, and they want the money. We are glad to let them have it all, but are not sure this headlong plunge is the best way to go about it, and we can't help wishing that they would seem a little more willing to put their shoulders to the wheel as far as helping with the finance is concerned. But it may all be for the best and this may be just the beginning of a great movement for Christianity in China. They seem, however, to be Chinese before they are Christians, almost to the last man. I'm not so sure that in spite of what some of us Americans try to profess, we don't sometimes put our patriotism ahead of our religion, too!

Can't write much more now, but I just want to add that the Hai Ning is reported to be coming in soon on her way to Foochow. That may mean the beginning of the coast travel again and I may get up to Kuliang after all. Helen Clark is already there, and I can't see why I can't go from Swatow if she could go from Shanghai! Things seem to be pretty quiet just now but of course you never can tell. The Ashmores, Velva, and Edna are going to Baguio, P.I. Velva is really needed to go along with the Ashmores, she needs a rest desperately and is afraid that if she just waits for a chance to get to Foochow she will be waiting around here all summer. Of course they call her night and day to go see people as long as she is here.

With love,

Abbie

Swatow, China

July 28, 1925

Dear Ones,

I thought you would like a copy of Mr. Page's letter to Dr. Franklin - It tells this much more clearly and concisely than I did - and more correctly, I guess. I said a committee of 100 - Well that's what they said first then they took off 20 for Hakkas - and later dropped them altogether - That left 80 - 15 missionaries = 65 - See?

I mentioned the Executive Committee as one of six - Really there are 3 com.'s. and the Chairmen of those make the Exec. Com.

We had our hopes all set for Kuliang - but when we went over to the Consul Saturday he told us he feared that the present British boycott and strike might be extended to the Americans and it would be far better for us to sit tight as long as the situation is so tense - Edith Dulin came down from Kityang yesterday - to go with me to Kuliang! Well - I haven't given up hope yet, and maybe we'll get there yet.

(Drove my wife down with black face -
grey socks, etc - felt quite dressed up)

We were all invited over to a big dinner at Carman's last night - Three of the officers were there and they told us that they thought we should do well to hear the Consul's advice.

Dr & Mrs. Ashmore, Edna Smith, Velva Brown, the Hobarts, and Edith Traver left yesterday for Manila. They hope to go up to Baguio - the mountain resort near there - The officers seemed rather discouraging about it - said it would be hot there and they thought it would be so rainy in ~~Manila~~ ^{Baguio} that they would enjoy it up there - Well, we shall see what we shall see -

Much - much love

Abbie

no 87

Swatow, China

Sun. Aug. 9, 1923

Dear Ones,

It has been an age since I wrote to you, I think. I'm not just sure of the date and my book is packed in my trunk. I shall get it out later to record this letter, but just now I can't recall the date when I last wrote.

As you see, I'm still here. Last Tuesday we began to hope that there might be a boat the following day for Foochow. But our hope was vain, and so we have ever since been sitting on our all-packed baggage and living in two dresses and one pair of shoes that we left out for emergency. They told us then that in four or five days more there would be a boat. Two days later they sent over and said that in three or four more days they would have a boat. This third day is up to-morrow, so we are hoping to get a boat on Tuesday! If we don't go very soon we shall not be up there three weeks. The boys' Academy is scheduled to begin Sept 4, and Marjorie will need to be back for that if it opens. Our school is supposed to begin the 22nd.

but I just found out last night that some great
classes may begin at the same time with the boys,
and very likely I shall be expected to come back
for that - Ah me! For the first time I am
beginning to weaken and give up the trip for good.
If I had only been bold enough to brave the Consul's
displeasure - or ignore him, at the first - I
might now have been up there a month! But
somehow I didn't feel justified in doing that - and
even if I don't get away I can't really blame
myself for being careful - Only - it is tough
to see the others all getting away - when I can't!
That is a wail, and I know it - and it is
very silly and foolish of me to write it. If
we can't go this week I shall stop planning, &
settle down to be sensible.

Yesterday I went to the Hospital and exam-
of my blood showed it normal for the first
time since February. I have felt all right -
but some few "bugs" have been there all the
time - I guess I shall have to come to what
I've boasted I didn't have to do - take

2
genuine every day - . At least until I can
get a room screened.

Well! This week since the boats decided
not to take us (!) I have been racking my brains
& try to get a circular letter composed. It is
the hardest thing I have tackled for some
time. Things are so upset - and people have
so many different opinions about things - I
make up my mind that one thing is so -
and the next day I hesitate to write it for
fear I'm narrow-minded and close-visioned -
and what I say may hurt rather than
help - It's hard to write an inspiring missive
letter when the outlook is so depressing
and you yourself feel so sorely tempted
to pack up every thing and go home. We
can't help feeling that they are trying
to get rid of us as fast as they can,
and while that has been in the plan
all the years, yet I s'pose it hurts
our feelings to be pushed out instead
of being allowed to ~~at~~ withdraw voluntarily

and help plan the arrangements - That I suppose, sounds worse than it really is - But truly, we can't help wondering - in each department of the work now - if they are not just resenting our presence and our part in the work - It is great to see them eager to do things themselves - and they are capable in many many ways - but they are Chinese before they are Christians now - and "patriotism" is making them demand everything for themselves in a way that sometimes doesn't seem very Christian - Something like what I've just written has been trying so hard to push itself into my general letter - and I know it must - It would do only harm - So I'm blowing off steam to you, knowing that you will "with the breath of kindness blow the chaff away" -

The Chinese committees have been meeting for the last three or four days, and now they have called another meeting of the council of eighty - They

are doing things right up town - have their new letter heads already printed, and everything appears to be efficiency itself. But they are planning to spend a lot of money, and we can't see where it is all to come from. Mabelle is on the Educational Com. (just in Advisory capacity) and they have made out a budget of \$650 for the year just for the expense of that one committee. They are planning to do some tall slicing, I know - and I have a notion that the girls' school here, which gets the largest appropriation, will suffer the first cuts - Well - what is the use to worry? If they take the funds out of our hands, we certainly can't remain responsible for the financial running of the school - Maybe they can do it far better than we can - I don't know!

I do know that there is a great danger of my getting the wrong attitude toward the Chinese - And if I do that I might

certainly just as well come right home now - So don't forget to pray that my vision may keep clear - and not become warped - or, if it is twisted now, ^{that} it may get straightened out right away soon -

You may think by the time you have read this through - that I am surely a lunatic - but really, I feel much better for having it out of my system. I have written this all before breakfast. I awoke early and couldn't sleep - so got up & dressed and sat down to talk with you - Do you think I am an awful wicked sinner?

They're gone out to breakfast now, so I must go too, and not delay the boys' getting to church on time.

With much, much love.

Yours
Abbie

On the High Seas -
Between Swatow & Shanghai -

Aug. 16, 1923

Dear Ones,

Here we are off at last!

But we don't know whether we shall be able to get to Foochow or not.

We got cheaper rates than usual to Shanghai - so we are going there first -

Then if we can get to Foochow, well and good - If not,

I shall stay there long enough to see Pearl Mason as she goes through - and perhaps Helen Clark -

It seems a crazy idea to be fiking off as late as this in the summer - but when we found that there was no prospect of getting

to follow the regular way - we
got our dander up, and said
we'd go anyway. This summer
has really been a frightful
strain - and we need the
rest. Marjorie, Edith Dulin and
I are the brave adventurers - We
got out to the boat yesterday P.M.
at 2 - but there was so much
loading to do that we didn't get
away until 6.15 this morning. It
has been fearfully hot in Swatow
the last week and last night
lying in harbor wasn't much
better. But it has been enough
cooler today to bring relief. I was
even able to sleep a little this P.M.
down in my cabin -

Before I left I typewrote a lot

of copies of my circular letter - I
had an awful time getting it into
shape, and made typographical
errors in all the copies so that
the work is not neat - I'm going
to correct them as best I can,
however - and impose on you
by sending them to you to send
to the Abenestock Churches - I'll
let you choose which ones shall
go to which, unless I get time
to mark a few of ^(I have marked some) them -

I haven't a complete list of the
pastors - and I thought I wouldn't
send 'em all to the pastors,
anyway - as follows:

X Blaine ?

X Boundary

X Bridgewater

X Caribou

X Easton

} Sarah Kimball

E. A. Trites

?

Fort Fairfield J. J. Gilbert
~~James~~
~~Lincoln~~ } ?
 Mapleton David Jones?
 Marsh Hill } Goldie Snow
 Robinson }
 New Sweden O. C. Wieden
 Berham B. H. Thomas
 Woodland ~~B. H. Thomas~~ ?
 Colby E. G. Triles
 Presque Isle } J. B. Ranger
 Pine Tree } L. A. Farner
 Stockholm Adolph Granlund?
 Washburn Mrs. Wilder
 Westfield } Mrs. Carver & Gorton
 " Village } E. R. McKelham

Hodgdon } F. W. (?) Sabean?
 Amite }
 Cary }
 Crystal }
 Belvidere } ?
~~Brookton~~
 Danforth A. E. Kelley?
 Dyer Brook ?
 Haynesville H. E. Dow?
 Houlton First W. B. Chase
 " United F. C. Hartley
 Island Falls Mrs. M. D. Estes

Linneus ?
 Monticello } ~~as Thomas~~
 Littleton } R. R. Williams
 New Limerick
 Cecil Cough ?
 Oakfield ? Eldon
 Orient ?
 Patten ?
~~Saugus~~ ?
~~Saugus~~ Ludlow ?
~~Weston~~ ?
 Weymouth ?

The brackets mean
 one copy will
 do for that
 number - I
 think it would be
 all right to ask
 Dr. Whittemore
 to send on
 those that are
 doubtful, don't
 you ?
 (to Mrs. Shaw ?)

The copy I'm sending herewith is
for you and you won't mind how
it is scribbled over - I'm sending
one of the best copies to Dr. Mower
direct, and to Miss Gilpatrick. I'm
not writing any extra billet-doux this
time? I'm also sending a copy to
Uncle George, Uncle Arthur, Mrs. Bishop
and Mrs. Phelps (N. E. Dist. Secy) The
others I haven't decided yet -

The night before we left Swanton
Mabelle received a document which
may decide whether or not we all
stay out here or go home - It was
a letter from the Canton Educational
Asso. (Christian) telling of a new
ruling of the Canton govt that
the Bible shall not be taught in
any school in our district - province

either public or private. The Ytn
Ed. Asso. first voted to oppose
this rule, and then in view of upset
conditions here in the country, voted
that the suggestion be made to all
Ytn schools not to offer opposition
just now.

Mabelle says if they don't have
Bible in the curriculum she will
pack up and go straight home.

I feel the same way, but have
not said so yet for I'm willing to
be convinced that I could be of
use out here in spite of such
adverse circumstances. It
has had to be done in some
other countries - and maybe
it will be so here -

I have tried hard to think
what the Houlton pastor's name
is - isn't that ridiculous?
Do write and tell me so I'll
not be thus embarrassed - not
to know my pastor's name!

Just before we left I had
your letter written while E. was
there - I'm glad if you folks
liked her - I thought you would -
and I hope you didn't get all
worn out (I was afraid you would!)
Can't make out just what
awful things you learned
about me - wish you would tell

me quick and end this suspense -

The boat is beginning to roll, and I must quit - The Groosbook letters I'm sending under separate covers - along with a few extras -

Can you use these stamps for the letters? I brought 'em out thinking that I'd use 'em, but they got all stuck -

Much much love

Abbie

Shanghai

Aug. 23, 1925

Dear Mother -

Here we are and I guess we'll get no farther towards Tuhang this summer. The boats are very irregular and while we could probably get there O. K., yet there is no telling when we could get back. But I hope to see both Helen Clark and Pearl Mason before I go back to Swatow - of course even that I suppose is uncertain, but it looks pretty certain now.

I'm so glad we came - We arrived on Wednesday - went directly to the Mission Treasurer's where we saw Mr. Hylbert - then came over here to the Missionary Home, where we have been ever since. Mr. & Mrs. Beaman help with the running of this place, & Mrs. Beaman thought she had seen me here but couldn't place me. Was

it in Montville where she visited us? Viola Hill of Ningpo is sitting at our table - Marie Dowling just arrived yesterday - Mrs. Goddard the elder is here - and speaks so lovingly of Cousin Alice - though she says little of Joy - and hasn't much opinion of Mr. Tatum, I take it. Charlotte Lerner of Shaosing is here and it has rather thrilled me to meet Mrs. Jamewell, the author of "Ming Kwong" - I shall tell her about being Robert Gladden if I have a good chance -

Mr. McKenzie (of Wuking - one of those who had that dreadful experience) and Mr. Rentoul (of Chaochow, who was engaged to Ruth Hall) are staying here now too -

This morning I met Mary T. Jones of Huchow - and her Chinese daughter. I hope to see more of her later.

It is quite thrilling to be here where so many missionaries are coming & going - You stand a chance of seeing some one you know any time.

We are enjoying the shops and everything, you may be sure. Swatow is in a very different state now. Things have returned almost to normal now here and you don't feel at all the tension that there is in Swatow - It is a relief to get out of it for a little while - but I wish Mabelle had been able to get the change - She needed it of course, more than I did - but she would not take it -

Edith) I am so glad to meet Miss Spurling who is in charge here - She is a wonderful woman - and things proceed in a wonderfully smooth way from the minute you arrive in port until you leave - if the missionary home people are helping you -

We have prayers every morning and evening - no one has to go, but we have been every time, and

I've enjoyed it so much - Some of
the talks ^{at morning-evening prayers} have been exceedingly helpful.

This morning we are going out
to the American Church near
the Shanghai American School.
I'm wondering whom we shall see
there -

I'm scribbling just a few notes -
and must hurry, for it will soon
be time to go -

With much love,

Abbie