

Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 149

Finding aid for collection available at:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.149>

Series: I. Correspondence

Subseries: Family correspondence

Box / folder: 3 / 19

Folder label: AGS to family, from Shanghai, Amoy, Swatow

Dates: 1925 Sep - Dec

For copyright information see: <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/permissions.html>

Originals of collection held at:

Yale Divinity School Library, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 0511
(divinity.library@yale.edu)

Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service
Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian
Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China
515063

Shanghai
~~Duttons~~ China
Sept. 3, 1925

Dearest Mother -

We have been in such a
dizzy whirl of gadding, shopping, and
seeing people that I have almost
lost track of when I last wrote to
you. A week ago ^{and co-workers} Pearl Mason, with
her friend, Beta Scheirich arrived
from their vacation in Pei-ta-ho, near
Peking - My, but it was good to see
her!

She and Beta - who seems a very
fine girl - I guess they are as close
as Emily & I (or closer -!) - were here
to tiffin one day; the next day
they took me to a Chinese restaurant
where we had the most delicious
things to eat. Saturday noon I went
out to the Methodist compound and
was with them over Sunday.
I've seen them once again this
week - when they called yesterday.

Pearl and I are going shopping and¹²
lunch all by ourselves somewhere
to-morrow. That will seem really
like old times -

Helen Capen just came up from
Swatow to school - arrived to-night.
She brings the news that the cable
which should have said "All
missionaries must not come out
now" - read "must come out now" -
so Elsie Kitchitz will be here on
Sunday, probably! I shall be on
the dock to meet her! It all
really seems too wonderful to be
true - and too awful - for she
ought not to be coming into this
maelstrom of uncertainty, with the
temperament and health and other
things as they are - (That doesn't say
what I mean - either - Elsie's disposition
is to work herself to the limit - and
her health, while it appears to be
good, still is untried) - I don't
know how things will work out, I'm
sure -

I've had a cable from Helen Clark (3)
who expects to arrive Tuesday from
Tientsin. So although I didn't
get to Kuliang myself I may
yet see the people I planned
to go there to see! I'm having
a splendid change, anyway.

I have to go to the dentist's
to-morrow - aren't you sorry for I?
I've known right along that I
must go but I've been putting it
off. I dread having him tell me
that I must have the tooth
treated - or maybe lose it! I've
lost enough teeth already.

The heat is gone here in Shanghai.
We did mind it a few of the days,
but even then it didn't compare with
what it had been in Swatow. Now
we sleep with blankets and I've
worn my heavy blue linen dress
all day. It's just delicious to
have it so cool. I dread the
heat that will be waiting for us in
Swatow.

It seems like a different world up here - Yr letter of July 20th just arrived yesterday - remailed from Swatow - Emily's, sent from Sutton or soon after - and sent to Kuliang may be - has not arrived yet - So you did wisely to send to Swatow -

Oh - I'd like to see you! There are so many things I could talk over with you if I could see you that I can't very well put on paper - little personalities about the people we see every day here - the bargain we got in a piece of Szechuan linen and another of Szechuan silk from a woman here - I'll send you samples when I think of it etc etc

Time for bath and bed so goodnight - with much - much love,

Yr Abbie

Missionary Home
Shanghai, China
Sept. 13, 1925

Dear Ones,

7.30 A.M. Monday and

I'm down in the living room already, waiting for the last breakfast bell to ring. That is a rather unusual occurrence for me! The regular thing is to wait until the last minute before getting up, and then to rush down in a dreadful hurry when the people have already begun to go into the dining-room. I hoped to get a look at the paper by coming down early today, but there was a bird who was earlier than I! Friday noon I started off with

Helen Clark for Hangchow. She wanted me to go to Shanghai but I was afraid that would make me late getting back here - and we shall probably want to get back to Swatow now on the next boat. We planned to go before ^(last Friday) - but the reports of fighting in Swatow got the people up here so scared that they were unwilling to let us go - So we sent a telegram to Mr. Page asking him if it was all right to come to Swatow now - We haven't yet heard what his answer was - I don't know how long it will take to get the reply - but if nothing more happens we may go on the next boat anyway -

Helen very much wanted me to stay in Hangchow until today - but another rumor

2/ had it that the students were
to put on a big demonstration
against the foreigners here in
Shanghai to-day - so I thought
it wiser to be back here before
anything should ^{happen} ^{Came back yesterday P.M.}
They say now that it was all
talk, and that nothing will
happen. Moreover, the rain is
just pouring down, and such
weather always takes the kick
out of parades and mobs!
I'd like to have stayed with Helen
another night but in a way I'm
glad to be back here for we
have been going at a pretty
stiff rate and a little time
for rest and writing a few letters! -
is just what I need most.

Hangchow is a beautiful place.
It rained all the time I was there,
so I couldn't go to the famous
Lin-yin temple nor on a picnic
on the far-famed West Lake.

It was rather disappointing, too, to go to Hangchow when Ellen Peterson was not there. She has gone home on furlough - a year early on account of the Missions Conference in November. I hope I can see her again sometime!

I did manage to spend some money while I was there (did I hear you say "Trust her!"?). Hangchow is the place for fans - and also for silk - I didn't buy any silk but I did buy a few fans, some paper umbrellas, and ^{some} knives for birthday & Christmas presents. There is where you get the black and white silk pictures, too -

Helen Clark and I have done some grand planning for Christmas presents. By giving together a little better present

3) than we could afford to give separately - we have managed to cut down Christmas expense a little. I guess it was a lucky thing I didn't get to Nulianag to see all her beautiful cross-stitch things. I know I should have wanted a great many of them.

Did I tell you I have had my gray fall coat dyed dark blue? They didn't press it very well. but the color is all right I guess. It was woefully faded - I have a new dark blue silk for lining, but I shall put back the old one and get a little more wear out of it. It is beginning to split, though. Guess I'll get this mailed. and then write more next time. I have been rather remiss about writing since I came here. Much much love, Abbie

"SS. 'Kung-ping'"
Amoy, China
Sept. 21, 1925

Dear Mother -

We are stranded in Amoy for several days - and I shan't get back to Swatow until after school begins - the 22nd - If we had gone right along we should have been there today.

I vow I'll never go anywhere with Majorie again - A fuss last week (I mean a week ago last Friday) when I wanted to come back - Everybody up there advised us not to come there but my conscience kept telling me I ought to go - It was really against my better judgment I think, that I gave in to M. and agreed to stay on - Then

this last week when word came
that this boat was to sail it was
almost the same fight all over
again - and I didn't know
until the day before we sailed
whether Mr. was coming too or
not - Have I written all
this to you - I wonder?

We couldn't get a cabin,
so slept on deck the three
nights before we got here.
We have really been very
comfortable - perhaps more so
than we shall be from now
on down in the cabin -
But it is so annoying to be just
one night away from home -
your work time beginning -
and you held up two or three
days to unload cargo -
we may not get home until

the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth.

If I had any ambition I'd
get to work and write some
letters but I don't seem to
be able to do anything on
shipboard but eat & sleep -

Well! My pen is getting
dry, and we are going
ashore for a little while to
mail letters, look around
etc - So this little scribble
will have to do for this time.

With much much love,

Abbie

Swatow, China

Sept 27, 1925

Dear Ones -

Back at the old stand again! Our boat was three days extra on the way - and we were in Amoy where Mrs. Goodens, of the Standard Oil Co. (who used to live here) gave us a royal good time. We called on her and she wouldn't hear of our going back to the ship - had a lunch party for us - took us to a tea party - and shopping - gave us bathing suits for a swim in the ocean - and wonderful food all the time we were there.

The visit with her did me heaps of good - I was so upset about getting back late - and Maryon had tried my patience almost to the breaking point and had worried me to pieces about other things - so that I

could scarcely be decent to her.
The little stay in Amoy was
so different from anything we
had had - and it took our minds
off from each other - so that
when we got to Swatow we
were both in pretty good
spirits.

I was afraid Mabelle would
be peeved at my getting back
so late - but she understands
I guess, that it is not my
fault - and is lovely about it.

I'm pitching in to see if I
can make up for lost time -
Today I have been to five
meetings - The boys' academy
is to have its own church
service - so our whole
Sunday schedule is rearranged.
Today I had P.S. at 8.30,
church at 9.45, W.W.P.

2) Committee at 11, — then in the afternoon a devotional service from 3 & 4, and then church music committee until 5.

Then I went over to see Edna — and when I came back sat down to answer ~~them~~ enclosed letter, which came this noon.

Wilhemina Kalsbeek was our roommate the last week in Shanghai — and she left for home the night before we did — with her co-workers, the Huizengas. She is in the Christian Reformed mission, which has only one station in China — Jukao — (pronounced Rugow!) and has not the most congenial co-workers. She sat at our table and Mrs. Goddard confirmed our opinion that she is a beautiful character. She is a dear, sweet girl. Mrs. Goddard had treated

us to some almond paste
candies and "Becky" was
asking where to get them, so
I got a wee bag full and put
them in her handbag just before
she started off, when she wasn't
looking. When I wasn't looking,
she had put a box of sweets from
the same shop in my bag! So
you see we liked each other a
little.

The day she left - when
Marjorie was out of the room
^{Becky} she said she was rather
glad she was going away
from me - because she
was afraid she would get
to like me so that it would
hurt - I was astonished -
for she isn't the gushing kind
at all - And I was surprised
and rather pleased, you can
understand - to get this letter

3) this noon — Whatever in the world can she see in me thoughts — I should like to ask? That last week in Shanghai I know I was snappy, and cranky and cross — I had had one tiff with Marjorie and was trying awfully hard not to have another — but I nearly lost my disposition in the process; that's one reason I'm surprised!

Isn't it nice — though — ?

Don't you think?

Full day tomorrow, from 8.30 to 4.30 — so I must quit and wait until next time — 5 letters from you waiting for me when I got here — and 18 others — Perhaps I didn't have a treat!

Heaps of love. Abbie (over)

P.S. It just occurs to me that
you may be interested to know that
the Reds have left Swatow and
the other side is in power just
now - The strike is gradually being
lifted from the British and as for
us - we are apparently unmolested -
Our schools are all opening as usual.
Our Chinese church members have
had some more meetings - council,
committee etc - and everything
seems to be going better than we
even hoped - Cable grams from the
Home Board came today supporting
the mission in the matter of giving
the Chinese a free hand in mission
affairs - and also congratulating the
Chinese for their forward step -

All the same, we shall need all
the tact, wisdom, and understanding
yes - and patience, that we can
muster - Will you pray that I
may have them?

Love Abbie

P.S. I'll
number
this 43
because
I have
not kept
record
of it but
count!
Do it
about
night!
Swatow, China
Oct 5, 1925 — (44)

It will be all right to send to
Priscillas etc. - now - I think —
More than
another week gone by - a busy one,
as usual - I'm going to enjoy my
work immensely this year if it
keeps on as it has begun - I
have three fine promising High
School English classes (45 min.
periods) and my same old course
in Old Testament history - in the
morning. We have chapel now
from 10 to 10.30 - and with
that I'm kept busy from 8.30 to
12 every day - I have another
High School English class from

3 to 3.45 in the afternoon and then my teacher until quarter of five. The rest of the afternoon time is taken up with music lessons and some extra study that I'm trying to get in this term.

Our Sunday schedule is all changed over now, too, and I think I'm going to like it better, even though it means one more meeting than before. We have Sunday School at 8.30 and I'm still in the intermediate department with a group of girls whom I happen not to have in classes this year. I like that, too. Then we go right over to the church service at 9.45, and that lets out about 11. In the afternoon they are beginning

a devotional service - a sort of
Christian Endeavor, ^{3 & 4} - and for that
they are trying hard to form a
mixed choir - We rehearse on
Sunday evening from 7 & 8 and
then again Sunday morning at
11.15 just before the time we
are to sing (~~in the~~ ^{that same} P.M.)

The boys' Academy is having
its own church service at the
same time (9.45) ^{so the services}
are cut down ^{to one instead of two} - I don't know
just why they wanted to be
separate - wanted to choose their
own speakers, maybe -

We have had good sermons
the last two Sundays - The
speakers were both leaders in
the new movement - and the
first one, especially, showed his

fearlessness of the foreigners by
urging everybody that Christianity
was good for them and that the
sooner they took hold of Christian
work with a will themselves,
the sooner they could be freed
from the stigma of being the
"running dogs" of the foreigners.
The one this last Sunday said
"a monthful" - as to speak when
he stated that the Chinese church
might declare itself independent
until it was blue in the face -
but it would not really be
independent until Chinese
Christians were able to take
their full share of work & responsibility
and use their own strength to
lift. He said that what they
need now is better educated Chinese
Christians - but not only that -

It will be all right to send to P.S. I'll
Priscillas etc - now - I think - number -

2 they also need more deeply
spiritual Chinese Christians - Neither
one of these men minced matters
at all - and while this new
attitude is so different from
the old one of extreme politeness
(outwardly, at least) that it often
makes us cringe a bit - still -
at the root it is what we have
been after - and we are hoping
that things are going in the
right direction.

The Reference Committee has
had its September meeting and
vote was formally carried through
& passed over the funds, the
responsibility, etc. of the General
Board work & the Chinese.
That has been ratified by cable from home.
The Chinese have not thought it
necessary to elect a woman's

Committee, and none of us think
the time is ripe to pass over our
Romanian Board work to Chinese
men! A cable from Miss McVeigh
confirms that too - The Chinese
are beginning to feel themselves
that they are not yet ready for
that, and I think they are not
at all resentful about it now; still
their original idea was to get it
all at once -

Have I written telling you that
the Reds have left Swatow?
They were safely out of the way
before the Anti-Reds - who had
given fair warning! - got here -
There is still some Bolshevist
feeling - but some measures
are continually being taken to
subdue it. Some of the students

or other leaders thought the
other day that the British were
getting too much liberty
again (British boats are
now allowed to run) and so
they decided it was time to
have another demonstration -
parade, etc., on Monday. But
on Sunday, the former mayor
(Red) was shot; the parade
didn't come off on Monday!
Perhaps there is no connection
between these incidents, but
such are the facts, anyway.

This is the fourth Swatow
mayor, by the way, to be
shot in the last six months.
I don't think the job of mayor
in this city is really a very
healthy one; do you?

The feeling certainly is different now from what it was when we went away - And the girls and teachers seem different too - Perhaps we haven't as much of a chip on our shoulder as we had - but relations are friendly as can be right now - Let us hope - !

The other tea cloth I sent you has come back - I don't believe it ever got to Sutton, and I can't make out how it got back here - It was readdressed to me from the Mission Rooms in N. Y. ! I'll not try to send it again - I had kerchiefs.

Do you like these I can get them for 10¢ but I should think they could be sold for 20 - I have them in 2 or 3 different patterns - Keep one for Emma for Christmas - or for any one else that you think I'd like to give one to ! I'll send more - with much love. Abbie

~~No 43.~~
" 45

Swatow, China

Oct. 18, 1925

Dear Mother -

I'm certainly ashamed
& think I haven't written to you
for two weeks - when I know
how anxious you are for news.
Your letter telling of the conference
and Clara's father's serious illness,
came in the early part of
last week - and this last
Friday the letter telling of his death.
When your other letter came I
wrote carefully to Clara expressing
sympathy for her in her anxiety
away out here - but she had
already heard of his death.
I must write again -

This last letter of yours was
written while the thunderstorm
was still going on - and told
about the one you had during the

missionary meeting - I hope
Father ~~got~~ home again before
you had another one! But
then I don't think he fully
realized how dreadfully they
frighten you - I have so
often wondered how you ever
kept us from knowing that
you were frightened, when
we were children - I never
dreamed that you were, until
long after I was out of college!

Well, I've been celebrating by
falling down and cutting my
knee when I was out at
basket ball practice with the
girls, with too narrow a
skirt on! I didn't know they
were going to play - ~~but~~ before
so I went in just what I
had on, which was that
old made over white cross-

2) Barred divinity (from my aprons, remember) - I fell on a cement boundary line - split my dress, tore my stocking and scraped the skin off my knee - I saw the blood - but I didn't want to mind a little thing like that, so I went on playing - When I got home I found a round gaping hole half an inch deep, big enough to stick my ^{fourth} finger in ^{and my undershirt was a gory sight} - I was scared, for it looked as though a tendon had been ^(but it wasn't) cut in two. So I went to Marguerite, who fixed it all up - She didn't take stitches because the knee is so easily infected and she thought it would heal all right - That was Thursday - and it is all healing up already, with never a sign of pus -

So that shows my flesh is in pretty good shape - I still hobble pretty badly, but that is on account of the stiffness of the bandage and because I don't want to split it open and make it bleed again by bending my knee too much! Now wasn't that a silly thing

I do?

I hobbled to Sunday School, and church, and a committee meeting this P.M. And I'm going to choir rehearsal tonight - but I didn't feel that I'd better go out this afternoon too - Marguerite said the easier I was on the knee the sooner it would heal -

You asked who Mabel Taylor is - she is the Mrs. Taylor whom I met on the

3.) "President Taft" coming out. She lived in Manila and for the nine dollars she sent me six Manila hats two of which I've been wearing myself and the others sold to other folks here. They are really very nice for the price - Mine are summer. One white made of organdy and straw (I wore it all the time in Shanghai most) and the other Edna brought back from Manila when she came - It's pink and tan - and will go very well with my pongee suit next spring - or even this fall.

That reminds me that you'll ^{return} be getting some more checks to - I've sent a ten dollar order for flower and vegetable seeds to Mitchell. Phila. - and I'm sending for some brushes for school and some marshmallow creme and some stockings etc to Monkey Ward's - I can't do

much more than that for my
account in the bank is getting
low - Maybe next year I
can have a little more sent
to you and have you deposit
it to my checking account - I
know you'd rather put it in the
savings account! —

Well, I've been to choir
rehearsal since I wrote the
above - and we have had
a grand time learning to
sing "Diadem" - I certainly
do enjoy singing together -
in ~~Chinese~~ ^{English}, if I can't in
~~Chinese~~!

We read in the papers about
what is going on in the Judicial
Inquiry - but everything seems
to be going on ^{here} as usual and
the anti-foreign spirit seems
to be dying down - Tonight I
didn't feel very much like a barbarian,

4) in a strange land - with a former teacher in the girls' school sitting close on ~~one~~ side of me - one of our present schoolgirls and one of the teachers over beyond her, two of the hospital nurses (my former pupils, one of them Heng Tinservie's daughter) behind me, and two of the women's school teachers (kindergartens) also my old pupils, on the other side of me, all clinging to me and begging me to come every time for they could sing if they listened to me, but otherwise they couldn't - Mrs. Capen praised them for the singing and two of them said that they were just the "tail-end, or tip-corner, of Miss Sanderson's mouth!" And then said some more about my being the principal under whom they graduated! The two nurses brought me home - made me lean on them all the way - They knew about my knee, because they helped to bandage it at the hospital the

other day when I went for
Marguerite to look at it -
Oh I guess I'm beginning
to feel more like a fixture
here again - in China -
The money has come to have
our house screened, and
we think we shall be
able to have it done for the
money that we have - But
we are not yet sure - The house
has 32 outside doors, most of
them double ones - and 14 windows
not counting the attic - so the
screening of this house means
something I (I hope it means
no more malaria - ^{It's really a}
^{6 tenement}
^{house, you}
^{know!}
Well - It's getting time to

go to bed -

With love to you & dad and
all other Sutton friends -

Yours Abbie

I was much
shocked to hear
about Harris Dodge.
Yes - Arthur was
my pupil - & I saw
him - "What a
dreadful thing!"
This collar is
for Stella Campbell
at Christmas.
I had it made
from the pattern
of hers that I
copied - I
don't get it
in after all.
Will send it
separately.

I can't just remember about
the pictures that I had you send the
first time - I know I brought Emily's
and Pearl Mason's out with me - or rather,
had them sent here - and that leaves
ten, beside the big one you had - My
list that I made out in the first place
has these names on it: Arthur, Uncle Cy -
Uncle Arthur, Uncle Geo, Myrtle Clark,
Mabel Borell, Aunts B. & J. (1), Aunt Susie, Uncle
Homer, Uncle Will. That's ten, but I
was of the impression that I didn't
have you send one to Myrtle - Did you?
I'm glad if you did, for I won't have
to think about ~~it~~ her for her now.

My list for this present day, is as follows:

- 1 Sadie Flagg
- 2 Mission Rooms
- 3 Idella K. Farnum ^{Andover N. H. (?)} ~~Andover~~
- 4 Gladys Paul 942 Prospect Ave.
(Plainfield N. J.)
- 5 Zulena Stacy 389 E. North Broadway
Columbus, O.

(My pen has gone dry)
I don't know what to do about Uncle Cyrus - I wish I could get him another big one - without his knowing that I know it, I mean! But still - I don't know whether that would be wise or not - he might think it was spending a good deal of money! He got out of it so beautifully in this last letter - He said "As I write, I seem to see

you looking straight down at me from a large picture, framed, just over my table — He evidently doesn't know that I know it is lost.

I thought the Missions Room ought to have a more recent picture of me than they have — so if you don't mind saying just that to Miss McVeigh when you send it, that will be all that is necessary.

I want to send one to Gladys Lyman but don't know whether to or not to — what do you think?

I'd like to send one to Cousin Marion, but suppose that means one to Harriet and maybe to others. Use your judgment about them, too.

If you send all of those that will make eight, not counting one for Uncle Cyrus (and as I said before, I don't know what to do about that)

Eight from twelve leaves only four - ! And I could use about eight out here - so I guess you'd better send the ones you have left to me - If there are only four, I can't give to Mabelle, Mrs. Ashmore, Edna S., Elsie etc. I want to give one to Helen Clark, and one to Clara Leach anyway, and the others I shall just have to toss up -

Well - that is attended to - I'm enclosing some stickers that you might put on the inside wrappings of the pictures - ^{or otherwise}

3) ~~Jus', I.K's and Gladys P's go~~ (Oct. 23)
for Christmas presents and the others
if you deem prudent -

Your letter of Sept. 24 came day
before yesterday - pretty quick trip -
the one before it, no #5, isn't here yet.
I do hope you've had no more serious
effects from the corn - and that
you are having no more thunderstorms.

My knee, that I cut when I
fell (playing basketball) a week
ago Thursday, didn't progress
as rapidly as it gave promise
of doing - Friday, Saturday and
Sunday I hobbled around to the
various classes - out twice on
Sunday - I tried to go as easy
as I could without letting up on
the work I had to do - But
apparently it needed more rest
than that - for when ^{on Monday} it seemed

worse and I showed it to Marguerite
she put me to bed and here I've
been ever since - It had become
infected, I don't know how - and
has been very slow healing - Mildred
and Marguerite have both been after it,
and yesterday Velva came back
from Baguio and Marguerite got
her to examine it too - The nurses
have just been over this morning
and fixed it up - The drs. think it
is started in the right direction
at last -

So you see I'm a regular misshapen
these days. Talk about trials 'n' hardships.
Don't you think a pore skinned woman
bolstered up in bed and gazing sad-eyed
over her spectacles at 17 & 25
young Chinese hopefuls, who, each
clutching an English book, sit in a

"stiff squeezed-in circle around the bed ~~is~~ - would make as touching a picture as Missions ever printed? Just 'magine it!

Well, they had the poor old pinion (that may not just fit, but Marjorie calls me the bird with the broken pinion") dosed up with a new medicine that they call di-bromine; then that got too strong for it and they put on some solution of boric acid and oil. This morning they painted it a beautiful cherry red with mercuricum, or some such thing. So the chances are that the Chinese girls won't much longer be able to come and gaze at the pictures, furniture, - and especially into the mirror - in my private apartments - I shall be trotting around by myself on a brand new cane that Mabelle got for me.

yesterday -

Today I'm missing my S.S. class, the church service for Chinese, an American one for sailor boys, and an union one for English & American. We are supposed to sing a special piece at the afternoon meeting - (the new Chinese (mostly) choir) - Edna said it was "sad" without me the other night, but I guess I'll manage - all right! Then the rehearsal comes every Sunday night, so I'll miss that too -

I surely ought to get a lot done with "nothing else to hinder" - but you know how things go - Here it is 11.15 A.M. and I've ^{washed, combed} had breakfast - had my room cleaned up - Isabelle & Margorie were each in for a bit, the nurses came to fix up my leg -

I and ~~Bill~~ I have managed to get written is a one sheet letter to Emily and this one to you - I certainly am slow -

I got ready an order for Montgomery Ward for some things yesterday - Some ribbon (narrow) some "marshmallow creme" - They loved what I brought out with me - Some floor and window brushes for school - a pair of gray (gun metal) stockings (extravagant?), a letter file that I intended to bring out when I came back from America - a bottle of Shampoos (mulsified coconut^{oil}) some Powdered Lemon Juice, some marshmallows, etc - Some of the things are for the house, some for school, and some for me - That check is 22.50. ~~at~~ I suppose you will be getting it soon - (returned)

I had such a nice letter from Alice
Shaw yesterday - She wants a letter
from me because she learns more
about China that way than ^{there} any other
source! My - in that case I'll
certainly have to write again shan't
I? ^{She says Ted and his family live at Montpellier}
and intend to "drive over" & see you sometime

I want to get some little gifts
off to you in this mail - but I'm
not sure I can —

Ask pa why he doesn't
write to me - or if he's too busy
gallivanting off to Sheffield!

With very much love to you both
and to all "inquiring friends" -
(I do hope to write to em soon,
but - you know how it is!)

(no 44)

Yours

Abbie

No 45-

Swanton

Oct 25

Dear Mother

This is the collar I spoke of in my other letter - for Mrs. Campbell at Christmas I don't dare to fill envelopes too full of things - especially these days - I'm not going to put but one page in this envelope, either -

Late - Monday morning - I'm sitting up at my table eating breakfast in my bedroom - and between the cereal and the egg taking opportunity to tell you that my knee I hurt playing basketball feels much better than it has at all before - I guess the mercurium fixed it - I haven't looked at it this A.M.

but it doesn't feel as sore, and I'm more encouraged about it than I have been for a week -

My letters seem to tell more about bruised knees than they do about war-ridden China these days, don't they? Reports keep coming that the Reds are on their way back to Swatow; in fact, Weichow, a place that was surrendered in the summer, has been retaken, and if progress is continued in the same direction, Swatow will, ^{or} the next logical place to fall - How be unto us if the Reds do come back! But, until they do, will keep on hoping!

Much Love
Abbie

2044
No. 48

Swatow, China

Nov. 1, 1920

Father dear,

I feel like saying, as I used to when I was getting over typhoid - do you remember? When you used to come and peck in the door and laugh at me when I always repeated the same refrain "I'm hungry!" Do you remember? Well - just now I'm hungry for mail. Yes sir - I said "mail" - not "male" - too!

And I'm all the "hungrier" because I have been cooped up in my room for two weeks now - If I had been a certain man I know, I should have been whimpering (?) "I want to get my pants on!" for certainly that is just the feeling I have had. Just why this old knee should be so stubborn, I don't know - Didn't inherit a streak of that particular vice from either of my parents, did I? Well, the knee is getting better, but today is the first time that I have been outside of my room even to meals - Today I got out to the dining room for dinner - and there was there to meet a committee of W. W. G. girls - (I am their W. W. G. adviser.) After that

We had a meeting (which was held in our house upstairs, in order that I could be there) where Mr. Lippard (how do you spell it?) talked with us informally. He is making a rush trip (they all make rush trips, I think!) out here to get material for a new text book. - He has spent almost no time here in Ketchikan, his three days here, but has been visiting country churches - That is fine, and no doubt he can get a lot of new material that we being here all the time, don't see. - I do hate to have to write a book, however, on something that I had only seen about two minutes!

To return to my knee, which is ~~my~~ subject of ~~thought~~ not merely for two minutes, but about every two minutes - no, not as bad as that! For about a week it did nothing but get worse; finally they told me to give it a sun bath of an hour or so a day. I did so, and consequently got the good skin on my knee burned almost to a blister! But the treatment has been good for the infection - There has been fully 100% improvement in the last three days. They now consider that too slow - and to-morrow are going to look for a sunken pus pocket - In the meantime, I'm to continue to stay put (I can go out to the dining room, but that's all) and my classes will continue to come to my room for their ^{work} ~~classes~~ -

I've been trying to get a few letters written while I'm in prison (!) - But this is the way I progress; - Friday night I addressed 19 envelopes, and yesterday I wrote one letter - today, two! I have callers the most of the time when I am not studying, or else I am trying to get some things done that the other girls haven't time for - I've been trying to get some cushions made to fit the living room settee and chairs - I have the chairs brought up here one at a time to be measured and fitted.

I am keeping early hours, though - I go to bed by nine o'clock every night - I mean turn myself in and the lamp out by that time, even if I have been in bed reading or writing before that - For a week I didn't get dressed at all but now I have to get up a little earlier in the morning because I'm clumsy with a game knee to manage while I'm dressing.

In the meantime - wars and more wars continue - In Canton last week, in one of the schools where I visited three or four years ago,

there was a sudden alarm of fire - called by some strangers who were passing the building - The students all got outside, and then - presto - about seventy-five of them were kidnapped! Can you beat it? That is more of the 'Reds' work - and it's a pretty fair sample, too.

Some folks are hopeful about the immediate future safety of Swatow; others think the Reds will be back inside of a week. But no one presumes to prophesy what is to come of all this welter and confusion - God alone can tell, I verily believe - If the Reds have rope enough, and time enough, they are likely to hang themselves, though, as far as the opinion of ~~the~~ thinking people in this district is concerned. Well - that sounds like philosophizing and I'll admit I'm not much of a philosopher - So goodnight, for this time -

With lots of love,
Abbie.

Will you send this on for Arthur to read, please -

(But dear - got your letter of Sept 28 yesterday
Please accept this as a letter this time?)
Love to you all
Abbie

No 47.

Swatow. China

Nov 2, 1923

Dear Mother -

I'm sending two packages to you. They contain some of the Christmas presents for Arthur's family as well as little mementos for you and dad. I sent a string of Japanese pearls, and a black Damascene (Jap.) tie-clip directly to Arthur in a package marked sample post - but I didn't dare to send so many of these others sample post - and the babies' sweaters I feared might require duty. Will you pay it and take it off my account, please? (On both pkgs -)

One package contains two sweaters - for Ralph and Robert, I thought - do you believe that is right? The other contains two dozen handkerchiefs - 1 doz of men's h. to be divided between Pa & Arthur - 1 doz ^(Christmas) small ones for gifts to Arthur's kiddies - one to Emma ^{Soborn} - and I use otherwise as you wish (- Tell me whether you can use any more like that). Two white silk neckties for the minister - ^(Christmas) if he can use them. (Please tell me ^{whether} if they are too small and if so, what is the right size for four in hands - length, width, etc.) Two crocheted neckties which I'm afraid are too flimsy

either for Pa or for Arthur - (Perhaps lining them would help some) Two collar sets from which you are to choose cuffs to match the ones you already have (If yours don't match either of these, let me know, and I'll try again. The ones that are left after you choose, are yours to give away or do what you want to. The lavender "veil" is a Christmas present for my mother, - and I wish you would tell her that I expect her to use it more frequently than she has the gray embroidered shawl, even if she has to do housework with it wrapped around her head! (Will you let me know, kindly, whether this message reaches its destination safely? -) Yes - I got it in Shanghai -

I'm also sending you two sample post packages containing yokes which are to be sent to Mrs. Abner E. Gray, Brooklyn, Maine - I'm sending some tatting for her a little later too - The yokes are to be \$2.00 each, and the tatting I'll tell you about when I send - I might have sent direct to her but I don't want to get in the habit of sending little money packages to strangers just so they can avoid duty - And if I send this way to you she'll never know what the duty was - She as much as said she didn't want to have any duty to pay!

She ordered ~~ten~~ four yokes, but the girl who promised

2

to make the other two brought the thread back. Her sister, who was to help her make them went away to school in the summer, and that's that!

Monday night: (I wrote the foregoing early this A.M.)

The Anti-Red soldiers have fled from Suatow. The Reds are working this way: all the shops were closed today and my Shanghai check for \$50 was only worth \$45 so the cook didn't get it cashed - As a result I had barely enough money to pay the teachers and my washwoman - I have one dollar left - ! Oh well - since these soldiers have run away before the others come, perhaps there will be no fighting for the present. Just what they will start when they get there is a matter for conjecture (not conjure, as I wrote in a letter recently. The worst of it is, I can't remember what letter it was in! It may have gone to Mr. Giberson, or to the women at West Burke or Montpelier or Nashua - or it may have been in the letter I wrote yesterday to Dad!). The West Burke women, by the way, sent me a fine box of bags, soap, washcloths, tablets, pictures, patchwork pieces, etc - If you see any of the ladies you might mention the can of Pudding Powder which I'm enjoying (in anticipation). I didn't speak of that in my thank-you letter (written to Mrs. Bugbee). There was a bag crocheted by Myrtle Aldrich - of course I shall tell the girl who receives that about it.

Do you remember whether I ever sent to you a

Letter to be sent on to Mrs Carrie Barton, of Westfield(?)
I remember writing it, but have no record of it. I'm
almost certain I sent it.

Wednesday night - Mabelle has gone to bed and I don't
know whether Mayorie has gone to prayer-meeting or not
but I'm out at my study desk - I'm going to write
a little more to you, then I'm going to correct
examination papers - of which I have a big, big pile.

My knee is much much better - Yesterday Marguerite
injected mercurochrome (I mis-spelled that word in
a former letter) and the two repaining open spots
have shrunken amazingly since then. She thinks
she will not have to do it again - I've been out
to the dining room for all my meals ever since
Sunday, but I still have the girls come here, and
I'm not to go down stairs until the spot is all
healed - I fell three weeks ago to morrow; I'm now
ready to have it get well just as quickly as it
wishes to! The nurses still come from the hospital
every day to dress it.

I sent Mrs. Gray's billings to you this morning -
One piece $12y @ .10 = 1.20$, and the other $12y @ .16 = 1.92$ -
That makes a total of 3.12 for her - I'll try to get the
other two yokes for her later.

Now for that pile of papers!

Love - love -

Abbie

P.S. And I'm apparently no 48
in the good graces of Watson, China
better my housemates ! Nov. 11, 1925
Dearest One,

Happy news at last about the
knee ! For the last three or four
days I have waited from day to day,
hoping that the next day I could
tell you that the thing was all
healed and there was no more pus,
etc - Yesterday I really could
have told you that, only that I
feared something might irritate
it and have it start up again.
But today it is unquestionably
healed - and the only thing to do
now is to wait until the scab
comes off, and practice walking
a little farther each day until
I don't think I'm going headlong
every time I start down a flight
of steps ! (That's just the result
of ^{the} inactivity).

My little nurse has been so nice - She has come everyday and seems to enjoy it rather than feeling it an extra burden - Yesterday she came for the last time -

On Saturday I went down stairs for the first time, to give an organ lesson - On Sunday I went down and walked out on the porch a bit -

We had Chinese guests and callers all day long and I was weary when bed time came - but that is another story -

On Monday I felt big enough, I can tell you - to be going to school again - I had to have one of my morning classes here, (to wait until the nurse had come before I went to school that saved my going twice) - Then in the afternoon I've still had the girls

come here. - Today we have a girls' school missionary meeting and I'm going over to the further school for the first time to that! I shall go there again to-morrow morning - for it is my turn to lead Chapel -

So - I'm getting along first rate - and by another week shall have forgotten I ever had any trouble - It's about time to be getting out, though, four weeks to-morrow!

This last week the girls have had ~~any~~ number of W. W. G. committee meetings - New Committee had to be appointed - Program arranged, constitution and by-laws drawn up - etc -

We have been working up a program with the "Folded Hand"

Society" that came out in the
July Missions as the basis -
and I'm very eager to see it this
P. M. They have had a fetching
poster drawn too - but I'll
write more fully about the meeting
after it has come off -

On Sunday - I went downstairs
after the others had gone to church,
thinking that I would walk out
in the garden to see if there were
any roses - At the door I met
one of our teachers, Miss Lee, with a
former student who had come to call
on me - While they were still here
Heng Sim see^{er} nie came - She has
been away for a long time - so I was
particularly glad to see her -

She was still here when Miss Puc
came, and we talked until noon -
Then Mabelle urged them to stay to

dinner - and since we knew there was to be a chicken (we had half-way prepared for having the Burkets stop here on their way to America) - I joined in too - and insisted on their staying. It was very nice to have them, really. Before Miss One had gone, my old wash woman, Soi Vaine chi', and two friends, came to call on me. They stayed until Church time, then I rested a bit and sunned my knee (you ought to see the wide brown stripe around it !)

At four the W. W. G. committee came. Since I am their adviser - they always ask me to their meetings and ask my advice about lots of things - I do enjoy it immensely, and hope there will be no squabbles - ! The twenty of these

pretty well filled my study -
and I wish you could have
heard the lively discussions
about this or that by-law, etc.

They discussed, and made
motions and elected committees
for almost three solid hours -
Well - some people say that Talking
Chinese is easier than Talking
English - but to me there is a
great strain - and when they
finally departed, I was about
ready to drop -

Two or three of the foreigners
came intending to see me, but
I was in the meeting - Edna
Smith got me outside for a
minute and asked "Is there
ever a time when you are
not "tsu-chip" (meeting)?"

To add to the interest (?) of everything,
we have had a division in our family -

This month was Marjorie's turn to keep house. She didn't get ready for the Burkets as Mabelle thought she ought - so Mabelle told her so - called the boy to fix the rooms - Marjorie didn't relish that - told the boy he needn't fix the room yet - and then didn't come up to supper - The upshot is that she had delivered her ultimatum to Mabelle (a copy of which she gave me) in which she tells her about what she thinks of her bossiness, says she will not fuss nor be fussed at her last weeks in China - so she is withdrawing and will keep house in her room by herself, and Miss C. can run things her own sweet way - or words to that effect! Well - Mabelle was writhing mad, of course - and wanted me to join her in telling Marjorie if she was going to act that way she could get out of the house - and go to the Rest House - I said I didn't feel I could tell her that -

"Well" said she "Let's call a meeting of the Woman's Committee and have them tell her to get out" - Then I told her frankly that I thought the best thing would be to ignore it, and not make any fuss - It would be harder on Marjorie than on us, at all events - with Conference guests coming, and all - I said too, that I did not approve of asking her to get out of the house - I wanted no one ever to have a chance to say that I drove them out of their house in China - (and I a missionary, etc!)

Well - she thought that is what Marjorie deserved - but I didn't change my mind - so apparently that is the last of that, except that it is rather awkward to live in a house with two ^{of the} people not on very good terms! Enough said -

All I'm telling Emily is that Marjorie has pulled out and is eating by herself. Should think it queer if I didn't mention it at all - Much love - (pray for us!)
Alicia

No 49

Swatow, China

Nov. 16, 1925

My beloved Ones -

I am wondering how it is with you - if you are still in Sutton or have turned your faces elsewhere - The signs seemed to point towards a change of scenery - in some of your letters, I mean - and I am dreading what the tearing up of roots will be - especially if it is in the winter time -

Well - I've been thinking - meditating, as you would say, &c. If you people are in a different place from Sutton when I come home on my next furl - it will give me a chance to begin all over -

I'll sing in the choir the first time they ask me to, and I'll be very discreet about riding around when there might be people to criticize and I wouldn't keep Mother tied at home so much but would go out calling with her more - and try much harder to be useful in other ways than just helping get up missionary meetings and Easter programs - I don't know whether you folks were disappointed in me or not but I have been disappointed in myself whenever I've thought about it - disappointed that I didn't do more real missionary work while I was in Sutton - I'll try harder next time, I hope -

My knee is all well - and I am hopping around like a frisky butterfly - I didn't seem to get caught up with my letters at all while I was kept in the house - but on the contrary it seems as though I have more work piled up than usual -

School accounts are my first problem to-day after I get this letter off to you - Whether or not I can get anything else done if I stick to that, is hard to tell - My desk looks as if a blizzard had struck it, in spite of the fact that two days ago it was as clean as a whistle -

The reason that I'm to have a chance to do anything at all today is that there is a big student and labor

demonstration in Swatow today -
and all the schools are closed -
It seems so good to have a holiday -
and yet a week ago I thought
I should never want one again!
Aren't we queer mortals, anyway.

Conference has been postponed
until February because the Board
wants us to get the report of the
Missions Conference direct from
the Board - from the lips of
Dr. Groesbeck, when he comes out.
Reference Committee meets next week,
however - and Clara is coming
down to stay with me, then -
She said she would come if
she could be on my side of
the House with me - Wasn't
that nice? I'm so glad we
know each other better now than
we used to - Love, Abbie

Swatow, China
Dec. 1, 1925

Dear Cass -

It is not right, I know, for me to let two whole weeks go by without sending you word of any kind - But somehow when the work piles up it is hard to get the things done that ought to be done - or even the things that I want to do.

This last week we had Reference Committee meetings - with its attendant Sub-Committee meetings. I'm on the Woman's Committee and we had a lot of work to do - We met the Chinese and they were very cordial and agreed to some things that we really know they had set their hearts against but gave in when they found it seemed the best thing to do - We did some giving in ourselves, too - and the result is that our funds and administration pass over to them - The General Board passed over the handling of funds etc. - so that it went into effect this fall - Ours goes into effect next April - Well, we had a lot of figuring to be done - separating the personal funds from the general work funds - For instance the two items that I have been getting recently were for personal teacher and for house repair - That goes as it is - and is not passed over - But some

of the missionaries have funds for literature and printing, for Bible Women - for various things - and there were other complications this year - Well - it happens that the brunt of this figuring has somehow fallen to me - My last session was with Mrs. Page last night and the thing has finally been finished and passed over to the Chinese. I think this is the last time that we shall have this particular kind of session! Clara and I sat up one night last week until one o'clock and just as we were crawling into bed thought of another item which made all our figures wrong - !

Clara stayed here, and I was so glad she did - I think she has been having a hard struggle to keep all these troubles to herself - and it was a relief to talk to me about it - She broke down miserably twice while here - once at the Thanksgiving meeting when Mr. Capen read "Over the river to Grandmother's House" - and referred to "some New England home to which our thoughts go back today -" No wonder she was "homesick" as she said - ! She's a dear, and I surely am glad I know her better - We were talking this time of the possibility of going home together, by way of Europe - I'd go a year earlier - and she would stay a year longer - Of course it may

It not be possible at all but it's nice to think about,
anyway - We prefer to see about the same places, it
happens - so we would be happy going together,
I'm sure - But that can't be decided yet -

Our schools are surely being persecuted - There
is a decided movement among the Reds - who are
in power here now - to put the Bible out of
all the schools - Delegations have come around to
inspect the the curricula of the schools and we
are being forced to cut down our number of hours
of Bible lessons - Mr. Speicher has taken an
advance step; he has passed over all his
schools into the hands of the government - but
he's not allowing them to be held in the Methodist
Church if they can't teach Bible - We are very
much worried about it, I must admit - Poor
Helen One is having the heaviest burden of
many of the problems which come to our
school - and at times it seems to her as though
she cannot stand all the pressure - I really don't
know whether we shall be able to keep her as principal
another year or not -

In the recent meetings the Chinese elected a
Woman's Committee - and also a Board of Trustees
for our school - How much we shall depend upon
them and how much authority they will care to assume,

and whether they will be able to do things that we
have not been able to do - all remain to be
seen -

Well - here are my girls for a class - so I must
quit - I'm enclosing Bak Lang's letter to Gladys
Wooster - Don't you think it is a pretty good one?

With love,

Abbie

O.S. Will you please get and send to me at your
first opportunity, 2 25¢ packages of Parks Davis
Medicated Throat Discs - and a \$1.00 pkg of
(Cough?)
the laxative tablets called "Rexall Orderlies"?
I need 'em - ?

No 50

Dwallow, China
Dec. 5, 1925

Mother dear -

If you were near enough, wouldn't you spank me, truly? Your letter that has just come, says, "I have requests for your letters to be read at meetings" - and then hints broadly, "one page - the last one of your last letter, was good for that purpose -" Alas - I know it - but I don't ever seem to get up steam enough to write anything but personal - We do so much talking, and so much chewing the rag about our "situations" that there's little time left to write about them, actually - I hope Mrs. Bugbee has my letter by this time -

I wish you could see the chrysanthemums we bought this morning for 3 dimes Mex a pot - huge yellow and white ones - and dark red ones - We got two pots of asparagus fern too, and two crotons - all for the same price - It's such a joy to have them in December - They'll be gone by Christmas, I suppose, but there will have poinsettias some of them two feet across - gorgeous things -

Today is Edna Smith's birthday and I didn't realize it until we were at the breakfast table, and read the birthday book. I went over last night and stayed at Aunt Mary's (Mrs. Waters) with Edna - so we had great fun about her keeping it a secret - I was cudgelling my brain wondering whether I could get up a little party in a hurry - when she got a note asking her to come there to supper - I told Edna I had half a mind to beg her to invite me too - but I didn't have

3 X because when I got home I found her invitation waiting for me! Isn't it nice? Only I don't like to leave Mabelle so much - Marjorie, as I have told you, is not eating with us - and that leaves Mabelle all alone -

Mother, thou art wise! I think myself that Becky has a crush - also that it's nice - and I think you would think you had a wise child if you could have seen the letter I wrote to Emily about her - how hard a position she was in, her best friend gone to America - the members of her mission not very nice to her, etc. I think she will be going to Peking with Clara and Helen Clark and maybe Helva and me

next summer -

Emily writes that she expects to arrive on the Pres. Mader about Sept 4 - In that case I shall meet her in Shanghai - but if she writes or you see her, don't breathe it - She is sort of suggesting it - but I'm not going to raise her hopes for if she comes later I can't afford to be even two days late to school again! Ruth Turnbull and one

This week I sent a letter to Ruth Turnbull and one to Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Chapman, the latter in response to one from her signed as above. I thought they would rather get them in the mail directly part of the time -

You'll probably get to read them anyway -
So now there thirty and I must stop and get my S.S. lesson before going to E's party - I ought to correct some exam papers too, and get my topic started for next Thursday's chapel talk - Much love to you both, Yrs Abbie

no 51

Swatow China

Dec. 13, 1924

Dear Ones,

This life is too complicated for me - Really there's not proper time for anything - I can't remember when I wrote to Emily last. I'm pretty sure she will think it is a long long time, anyway! I ought to scribble a note to her to-day -

This week has been one grand series of committee meetings or some other kind of meetings - Some of them have been rather disappointing - Wednesday afternoon we had our girls' missionary meeting and the speaker who had been invited - Mr. Lo Siah kee, the chairman of the Chinese executive committee, did not come - The girls were up a tree - but finally managed to get through - They read the 12th chapter of Hebrews - and then read the new Constitution of the W. W. F. which

has not really been put into action yet - But it was a disappointment.

Yesterday afternoon Miss Ong and I were out from three until six visiting in the village homes and telling the leaders of the personal workers groups about a special meeting today - A good many of them came, and then didn't the speaker go on and rave about the way heathen people deceive the Christians; for instance - a man wants to get a daughter-in-law cheap and so he goes to church and worships devoutly for several months, then gets a Christian man to consent to marrying off his daughter (where he wouldn't need to pay a big fee as the heathen do) then afterwards never goes near the church - Or, again - the "religious tramp" - who goes from chapel to chapel and says "Peace, peace - greetings!" and then steals the chapel clocks! Well that was

2 another disappointment, I don't know whether this joining with the men is going to be such a great success, after all -

Today we went to the chairman of the men's evangelistic committee and asked whether we should have a decision meeting - He said each school had its own, and there weren't many families - ~~did~~ not need to have one just on their account - Well! Here Christian teaching has been in this village for 60 years and yet it is a hot bed of vice and wickedness. I guess if they would get busy and try to do a little personal work, that they would get somewhere. I ought to try harder myself, I know!

I have invited the personal workers group-leaders to my house next Friday afternoon to explain again and more fully the real meaning of

the personal workers groups - I don't know whether they will understand it any better after this, or whether giving them a cup of tea and a cookie to eat together will help or not, but I'm going to try it.

Friday night Edna and I were invited over to Becky Cowles to a Japanese supper - We had a really hilarious time, forgot our troubles and laughed a lot. Mrs. Smith of the E. P. mission was my partner and was his best self. He is excellent company when he once gets started - We (Edna + I) stayed all night and did a little shopping the next day -

Chie arrives in Hong Kong tomorrow. Isn't it great? Only I'm worried for fear we are going to have a fight over who shall have her for Christmas dinner!

With love - love & then some,
Abbie

P.S. I'll try to write in my
next letter about the Anti-Swallow, China
Christian missions - things really
look very serious - Dec. 30, 1925

Dear Ones, No 54 (is this right at last?)

Every day for a week I have
thought not only that I meant to
write to you but that I must write
that very day! And still the days
have gone by -

We had a very happy Christmas
this year - At school, Miss One
was very anxious that the girls
should have the best Christmas
they ever had, because things are
so uncertain and we don't know
at all whether we will ever be together
another Christmas - Well I guess
they had a good time all right -
They had their play, which was
"Birds' Christmas Carol" this year -

on Christmas eve. It was followed
by some lively games and conundrums,
and the tree. - Then on Christmas
Day - as this Pui says - the girls
were just bubbling all day long - from
7.30 in the morning -

Elsie came last Tuesday - (a week ago
yesterday) and of course we had a
grand time welcoming her - She
stayed at our house until the day
after Christmas - and then went over
to live with Edna -

Later:

Here it is the second of
January, nineteen twenty six -
and your letter not finished
yet - I feel, too, though I
haven't looked it up to see, that

your last letter was written about three weeks ago ! (I mean ~~your~~ mine to you.) -

To proceed : On Christmas eve, after the affairs at school, I went up to Edna's house to stay all night with her - I got there just quarter past twelve, after having done up the last of my Christmas presents - We went to bed immediately, but that doesn't mean that we had a very long time to sleep - At four-thirty the fire-crackers began - Usually it is the boys, and we jaw about it to our hearts' content; but this time we discovered it was the girls' school - ! Well, the girls'

school is right under the eaves
of the bungalow, so you may
imagine there was no more
sleep for us with that continuous
crackity-bang pounding in our
ears - I got up & looked out
the door - Then after I got
back in bed I said to Edna -
I wish I had sung out a
Christmas carol at them -
Edna said - "We might get up
& go around to the houses
singing carols." The girls
have done this some years,
but foreigners had never
done it - So I said "Sure" -
and in less than ten minutes
we were out - just the
two of us - We went to

(2)

all the houses on the compound -
and to Mrs. Lim's house & the
Women's School & the Girls'
School - It was just heaps of
fun, singing "It came upon
the Midnight clear", "Oh little
Town of Bethlehem", "Joy to the
World", and "Hark the Herald Angels"
out there in the early morning
starlight - It was heaps better
than staying in bed and
grouching because we couldn't
go to sleep again!

It was almost light when
we got back - We had chocolates
& marshmallows that Edua's
sister had sent out to her -
We talked a little more, I combed

my hair properly - and then we went over to Eastview & opened our stockings - We had to hurry breakfast (there at Eastview) as we always do at Christmas - in order to get to the morning service at the church -

After church it was hurry, hurry home to finish up getting the table ready for our twelve Christmas dinner guests - We invited the Woman's Board people, the Ashmores & the Speckers Mrs. Ashmore & Eivind were sick, Marguerite was busy entertaining guests at her own house - and Marjorie didn't choose to come - so we had only ten people in all - But we had a

Good time - I had a cotton snowball for a centerpiece, bedecked with holly (cut out from postcards - Around the ball was a little wall-like mounded ring of "snow" from under which led three green silk strings to each one's place. (At the end of the strings were concealed jokes of various kinds that we pulled out - Each person also had a square of Vermont Maple Sugar (brought by Elsie) tied up in white paper and bedecked with sprigs of pine needles. The place cards were nut-cups (the holly ones I got from P. P. Brown) Around the snowball

were about 15 candles - green
ones, set in little pewter wine
cups -

You see we were mostly green
& white - Our salad was a
green jilly - made of olives,
cheese, and pineapples - (try it
sometime) and we had little
green pencils to write our few
little games with afterwards -

After dinner I took Mrs.
Ashmore's nut-basket and jokes
over to her - and by the time
I got back it was nearly the
hour we were due for Christmas
supper over at the Girls' School -
~~We couldn't help feeling heart-heavy~~

~~about~~ Marjorie - ~~She wouldn't~~
 join our festivities at all - but
 aside from that, our Christmas
 was a very happy one -

I felt rich, having three
 letters from you on Christmas week,
 and the package with the books
 just the day before Christmas -
 I'm certainly glad to have them -
 Do you think I giggled to myself
 a little when I found that
 your present to me was to be
 a silk scarf? "Great minds" -
 etc. - ! I can certainly think
 of nothing I'd like better - but
 can't decide about the color -
 So I don't believe I'll make it
 more definite than to say, anything

but green; I don't mean that
it must have no green in it -
but not green predominant -
I think it would be lovely to have
a silk scarf, - in fact, sometimes
things I send to my dear ones
are things I like pretty much
myself !

Ruth Whitman's silk stockings have
arrived, a pair of dark & a pair of
light brown - and thread to match -
Helen Tilden has sent a book of David
Grayson for all of us - and so did Miss
Sollman - Mrs. Miller sent me a
huge fruit-cake - which we are
all enjoying - Emily is sending "something
that I'm used to at home" but it hasn't
come yet - I can't stop to tell you
all the things I had - but I had a very

pretty little embossed notebook from
Alice Shaw - and Elsie brought
me a beautiful picture, which
she is going to have framed
for me. - (Snoqualmie Falls, Washington)

She gave me a fine picture of herself.
(By the way - my pictures have
come - and I've already
given away some of them -

Most people like them - but Mrs.
Ashmore flatteringly says it doesn't
look as good as the original!)

Mabelle and I gave each other
furniture covers etc, for the living
room downstairs, instead of
Christmas presents - Every body
likes the room - and it has given us
a lot of satisfaction too -

Just after I had written "everybody"
your letter of Dec 2 arrived - with the

box of soap & stockings, which are very
nice and just what I need these
cold days - I am very partial to this
kind of stockings - Hope I can get
my letter to Ruth written to-morrow.
There ~~was~~ also in this mail - letters
from Ethel Peterson, Beckie Kalabek -
who is sending me a book - , Ruth Sperry,
who is sending a gift - Mrs. Tracy,
who is sending ten dollars! - Mabelle
Bovell, - and also two beautiful hankies
from Ju - and a notice that Ruth
Whitman is sending me the American
Magazine, and a very ^{fine} photo of
Martha Mixer -

I got a splendid letter from Sadie
and a beautiful Christmas card from
the Chapmans - and a card from
Gladys Latimer arrived on Christmas day -
Emily wants to come back this February -
& I have the happy task of writing to explain
to her why we shall not cable for her to come -
With much love, Abbie