

**Abbie G. Sanderson Papers**

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No 106

Chaochowfu

Jan 2, 1927

Dear Mother -

At last I have come up to see Emily - I leave for Kachich in about a half hour and I want to scribble just a word to you & mail as I go through Swatow city this afternoon.

Edith Traver, Dorothy Campbell, & I came up Friday on the last train. Mr. Hildreth was on the train and he taught me a lot about how easy it is to read a Chinese newspaper, once you get started - 'I wish I could get started.' Emily met us at the station and we walked over to the east gate, where we got a boat and came over here -

Edith and Dorothy went to Pang Khor today, but I was afraid I would get too tired if I tried to do too much, so I stayed here -

I don't know how we shall find things when we get back. On

Thursday and Friday there were big demonstrations in the Boys' Academy and they struck, making ten demands, one of which was that they should be allowed to choose all their teachers - ! There has been a fuss in the Boys' Grammar School and things are in an awful state - the principal in hiding to save his life - because he won't give in to their demands -

They say these troubles are caused by agitators who have gotten into school somehow - and the girls' school will be the next to be demolished. They have already besmirched the name of our assistant principal, Ruth Chen - and have threatened to seize her and put her in prison !

So - while I think things will

be all right<sup>L</sup> - this shows what  
things we are thinking about!

Well - we must start early  
enough to get two of the girls who  
used to be my pupils, who are now  
teaching in the school here - They  
are going over to the station with  
us -

Much love to you both

Abbie



This stationery is a gift from  
Edna Smith's mother - <sup>Thanking me</sup> Swatow, China  
for my care of her daughter!

Jan. 8, 1927

Dear Ques,

No 107.

Scarcely possible it is for me to believe  
that one short week ago I was having a most  
peaceful little vacation in Chaoshoufu - The  
world has turned upside down in these few  
days.

I'm wrong - a week ago this minute I was  
almost home from Chaoshoufu - When I got here  
I found out that there had been a scare on  
Friday, from threats the boys had made to come  
and get Ruth Chen, our assistant principal,  
and get her out and parade her around with all  
sorts of demonstrations. The boys' school had  
been in a state of revolution for a week.  
Eighteen awful demands had been made and  
some of them granted (such as ousting certain  
teachers, returning certain deposited fees, etc.)  
And they were not only making threats, but  
carrying them out. So Mabelle, who had been  
over to Spiecher's for New Year's but had come  
home New Year's morning, got Ruth safely hidden  
for the night and nothing happened except a  
big parade, and shooting and firecrackers all night.

She didn't have her clothes off, though, for she was afraid something might happen at school, with the boys on such a rampage.

Monday noon the girls had a Student Government meeting which lasted over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. - right through dinner hour - Almost immediately the teachers came rushing over to our house to tell Madelle that the names of five teachers were written on the board "Down with - - - So + so - etc!" "Down with Imperialism!" "Down with Ruth Chen - who is the running dog of the Imperialists!" etc - Simultaneously letters arrived in which the teachers - or those in charge - received five demands from the students. They demanded

1. A right to have a share in all the work of the school, including choosing the teachers -
2. That five (named) teachers should leave school immediately - They were low grade and not fit for teachers.
3. That Ruth Chen, who is all right as a teacher, should be ousted as principal -
4. That they should be allowed to <sup>examine</sup> the ~~have~~ the kitchen accounts and have any money that had been paid by them <sup>as board</sup> but not spent for food should be given back to them.
5. That they be allowed to change their Student Government to a Student Association, thus making them one with the National Organizations.

~~Madelle called the trustees together quickly,~~

We decided it was absurd, of course, <sup>principally</sup> for them  
be allowed to choose their teachers. We thought it  
unwise for them to change the Student Organization just  
now, but asked them to wait. He told them there were  
a great many affairs where their help would be  
welcome, and granted demand no 5.

The next morning we found they would not listen to  
such a settlement. Then M. called the trustees together,  
for the addition had been made that unless the demands  
were granted in twenty-four hours from the time they  
were presented, outside help would be called in -  
That meant not only the Revolutionary Academy Boys - but  
also a bunch of Bolsheviks from Swatow who we  
know want to get into our buildings -

You would think that a bunch of girls ought to  
be spanked and sent home - but nothing like  
that. The Trustees gave in to the demands and  
also to the demand that if school opens next  
term they will all be allowed to come back  
and their conduct not be marked off - And  
while it seems ridiculous, yet Mabelle and  
I agree that it was better than to have our  
girls, out of control as they were, have that wild  
rabble of boys come in and take possession of the  
school, and the girls, + goodness knows what all -  
The girls actually believe this to be a patriotic  
measure and think it's right, so you can't  
budge them.

The boys had helped to stir up this trouble, but we had leaders right in our school who were pretty fierce. On Monday, after the demands had been made, the girls had had another meeting. Mabelle tried to stop them - but they wouldn't listen to her and simply added her to the list of Impiety and shouted their "Down with's" in her ears (and mine too - for I was with her and tried to stop her from getting them more angry). We didn't leave our clothes off that night, but all was quiet.

~~Then~~ Then on Tuesday after the demands were put, four of the five denounced teachers rushed over and up into Mabelle's study where they began to berate her for their lost reputations and such treatment as this from the school, etc - Mabelle was just about all in from the strain of the whole situation and the shock of it all; this was the last straw, although she didn't blame them for being angry - she not only lost control of herself but went into violent hysterics - and has been sick ever since - That is - she is up now, but hasn't yet been out and is just beginning to get her strength back.

Some of the girls had followed the young teachers over here and were ~~sitting~~ <sup>standing</sup> around outside to hear what they could and see what

see. They heard the teachers raving and heard Mabelle crying, so they went and got the whole school & come over —

Before this I had sent first for Low since & ask him what to do with the teachers who were scolding M. so unmercifully — and then for Mrs. Linn & help quiet them — and then for Elsie and Velma to come and help take care of Mabelle —

The first thing we knew (it was dark by then) the whole school was there ready to force into the house and drag those teachers out and beat them up. The boys were behind them, but not in sight from the door. The servants wouldn't let them in, and the cooks told them plainly that by coming in such a mob they would hurt Miss Culley more than they could help her. They sent up a letter to say they were only there to help and protect and comfort her, and they didn't wish those teachers to abuse her so — They resented it with all their hearts.

They scolded Sui kim and told him he was impolite not to let them - He was a running boy, and belonged to the tribe of dogs any way, and was a rizened dried up nothing - etc.

Well - when the teachers saw how Mabelle collapsed they were soon very much subdued - Then when they found the mob was after them, they got scared.

I wonder if you can possibly imagine me running from Mabelle's room, where Elsie was trying to comfort her and Delora to ~~comfort~~ quiet her with medicine, over to my study where the four young teachers were assembled. Then see me as I went around with the boys and got all the doors barricaded to keep out the mob - then as we got the teachers up attic through the trap door where the mob would less easily find them if they got in.

Well. To make a long story short, the girls some of

them were willing to listen to Lon Linscott's advice and pleading with them to go home, and the rest got tired of waiting.

I went out to "face the mob" and tell them that the best way they could help was to go home, and lo and behold I didn't need my courage for they were all gone - So we got the teachers down from the attic and they were Velva and Elsie and I had ~~had~~ supper - about 8. P.M.

The house was watched all that night. I had two of the teachers in my bed and two in the next rooms. Elsie was in with Mabelle and Velva and I were downstairs - The next day three of the teachers went to stay with friends & relatives in Swatow. They were not molested - The fourth teacher, the one who had charge of the <sup>most</sup> ~~most~~ kitchen accounts, stayed with me. They were afraid she was going to run away - and since she had nothing to run from - of course she had no such intention. They were very nasty to

her at school - and it would have been difficult  
for her to stay at school.

The first teachers who were denounced were the  
older Miss Tang, who has always taught in <sup>the</sup> school here.  
Her scholarship was too low (they said) & (at the time)  
Another was Kwei Jek, one of the first high school  
graduates - who has had two years in Canton Christian  
College. She was too strict - yet didn't know  
all the questions the students asked her - (at the time)  
Another was Kwei Jeng, one of last year's graduates -  
a girl very dear to me - and my star music  
pupil - She was too severe - and didn't explain  
enough - (I don't believe it)

Another was Miss Hong, another music pupil and  
the devoted adviser who has tried to give me  
so many things - I do love her so dearly -  
and it cuts more than I can say to have  
her have this disgrace - She was a grammar graduate.  
The fifth was Lok Dong - also a pupil of mine and  
a grammar graduate with extra Bible School training.



The complaint ~~of~~ about Miss King was that she was too strict for such a young teacher - <sup>partly true</sup> and also that she didn't have enough education. The last one they thought cheated about kitchen accounts. She didn't, we find, but her accounts are not

well. These teachers were <sup>very complete</sup> sent out and of course there were none to take their places. There was no one to buy food for the girls - so they had to do it themselves - They had quite a hard time! By Thursday noon they came and asked for vacation and we were glad enough to let them go - So they have got away without further disturbance - that is all but a few whose parents have not yet come for them -

There is no chance of our opening school this spring as far as I can see and not for some time probably - The leaders all think it is far wiser to close school now and think we are lucky to have been able to

close without having any more success than we had. The urgent thing was at all costs to avoid the danger of personal violence to these girls who have been entrusted to our care. That thing was avoided. Another great danger was that these boys would get possession of our school building and keep it as they have to the present time kept the Academy buildings. (The boys are now in possession of their keys) Well that danger was avoided too -

Lots of people are criticizing us, but we did the best we could - and we shall just have to await results and pray that God can somehow use what we have done and show us what we are going to do next.

Friday morning we went out to the boat to meet Dr. Franklin, Dr. Macqueen, Dr. Watson, Miss McVeigh and Miss Fensom. - They got here, you see, just a few days too late. My, I wish they could have been here Saturday, Monday, and

Tuesday nights! They are very sympathetic, and it is a great comfort to have them here just now. Miss McVeigh is staying here with us. Mabelle (Culley) was up and lying on the couch when I got back from the boat with Miss McVeigh. Emily came soon after -

My time that afternoon was spent mostly in making plans for Miss McVeigh (since I'm on the executive com.) Saturday A. M. she was with our Chinese Woman's Com. and in the P. M. Emily took her to Chowchow - for which you may imagine I was thankful - I felt as though I was dirty enough for a pig pen - and sleepy enough to sleep a week - I was pretty tired. We had had a meeting with the guests Friday night and I had to tell all this story from beginning to end - which got me all excited again -

So! Yesterday afternoon - first I heaved a long deep sigh - the first for a week. Then

I reached my hair - When night came I had a grand good hot bath and went to bed. This morning I did go to church and heard a splendid message from D. Franklin "Let not your hearts be troubled" - But the rest of the day I have loafed, and read Buchanan's "Tuft of Comets' Hair" - all day. This evening I have sat in M's study with her by the fire and have written this scribble to you -

I haven't written half of it - I can't possibly, for there are so many details - But we have been through the fire. My heart aches first of all for Mabelle - and then for those teachers, and then for the girls - who didn't realize that they were breaking up their school - the best girls' school in Swanton district. As for me, it's hard - but the brunt doesn't come on me - During all these days - I had classes, just as usual, and on The Day, Tuesday, I led chapel, taking for my scripture 1 Cor 13. and for my theme "The Greatest Thing In the World" - I had planned it a week before -

It doesn't look as though I shall be teaching school here ~~now~~ next term or very soon again. Perhaps I'll be out in country work. Perhaps Mabelle will go on furlough this spring - Perhaps we shall all go away from China before long - It's really rather uncertain and dark - just now -

But — it's His work — and He is able — So — whatever comes — I hope ~~He~~ will help me to remember His promise about "All Things" and keep me quiet —

Miss McVeigh comes back tomorrow — we have a meeting on Tuesday; she goes to Nityang on Wednesday, and then to Choyang on Friday and back on Saturday; to Swatow City on Sunday, back here in another woman's cum. on Monday — then other meetings

Tuesday: then our Reference Com. on  
Thursday and Conference beginning Friday -  
They leave the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Oh - it is a great life if you don't  
weaken!

Please give my love to Sutton friends -  
and ask them to forgive me for not writing.

It was dear of Ruth and Ralph to send  
me the music - I do appreciate it!  
And I was so glad to hear from other  
Chapmans and Mrs. Campbell (Xmas cards)

There has not been the slightest personal  
danger to me - I do not feel that I  
can understand the reasons for this  
"debacle" yet - But I'm going to try to, if  
I can - so that mistakes can be avoided  
in the future -

Too sleepy to write more  
tonight -

With my love,  
Abbie

Monday 4.11.

I have been wondering whether the parents must not be backing up the students in this revolution, for there seemed to be such little opposition from them. This morning I have found out that many of them approve. I have found out that they were dissatisfied with these teachers. Whether they approve of this denunciation merely, or whether their aim is to revolutionize the method of governing the school, is a question. Perhaps they want to get rid of foreigners altogether - I don't know -

With more love

Abbie

No 108

Swatow, China

Jan. 14, 1927

Dear Ones -

I can now laugh a little at my writing so boldly last Sunday that we were in no personal danger - And even now, I cannot feel that we really are in danger. But on Tuesday two Academy Boys decoyed Mr. Page over to the Academy grounds (quite a little distance from our houses) on the pretence of counting the number of chairs etc. that had been said to be stolen from the school. He hesitated about going, but they were quite insistent. Some money had been collected (some time ago) for military training, and one of the demands the boys had made was the refund of that money - about \$1200, which was in the hands of Mr. Page.

When the boys got Mr. Page over to the Academy grounds, about 10 more boys came up behind him and began to ask him why he didn't pay them that -



money. He answered civilly that he was simply waiting to hand it over to the proper authorities. Upon that they began to hit him - with an iron pipe - He tried to fend them off - stumbled, was hit again <sup>several times</sup>, then kicked. He managed to get up and then the boys ran off, scared, I suppose, of being caught.

Mr. Page got home alone - but in a bad condition - a lump as big as a goose-egg over one temple - one arm & hand badly bruised - and a sore back. The doctors put him to bed and he is just getting back to normal physically, now. But the thing was a great shock nervously - to him in particular - and to all of us in general.

The boys reported to the police that Mr. P. had hit and seriously wounded four of them - and put a great story in the paper about the cruel imperialist Page from America spilling precious Chinese blood. These alleged boys had to be taken to a Hospital in Swatow, they said, although they paraded them - with their bruises! - the next day

and evening in Sivas city - This news is  
 sent to Anti-foreigners and Anti-Christians, of  
 course - and we don't know what it may  
 come to. The Shanghai affair and the Canton  
 affair both were helped along marvellously by  
 just such lies as these. And this report  
 has been telegraphed to newspapers all over  
 China -

It may calm down - and it may not. We  
 are hoping it will -

Dr. Franklin has been spending a good bit  
 of his time trying to find out what the  
 prospect is for our schools and our continuing  
 in mission work out here anyway - We  
 hope it won't be necessary to close down -  
 for it would probably mean loss of all our  
 property here - But, there is quite a possibility.  
 Mr. Waters is back from Peking and he looks  
 like a shadow. They may have to go home  
 soon. Mr. Page has been through the strains of  
 this awful affair with the Academy, and

now to have some of his own boys knock him <sup>down</sup> ~~out~~  
and beat him up like any dog - I don't believe  
he'll ever get over it - oh I suppose that is  
putting it rather strong - Mr. Capew is half  
sick - He is due to go home this spring anyway -  
Dr. Greenbeck is not in condition to do much, either -  
Mabelle has been flat and everybody thinks she  
ought to go home - And I must say that sometimes  
things do not look very cheerful -

But - ! I was very happy Tuesday of this  
week to receive all three of my packages from you - The  
shoes are so pretty ! They need to have buttons set  
over, but otherwise they are O. K. and they do look  
so nice with my gray stockings - They fit perfectly -  
The shoehorn is nice - The box that held the coffee  
pot was smashed - and the pot bent a little, but  
the cook straightened it and it is almost as good as  
new - The glass wasn't broken, and the coffee tastes  
so good !

When I saw "sugar" on the list, I thought ☺ oh!  
Vermont sugar, do you spose? And sure enough, it is ! Yum yum!  
You needn't apologize for that delicious candy, either - it  
is just as good as any I had Christmas time ! And I

am glad to have the Eggol Soap too - Only let me warn you - This time it did no harm - because the candy was wrapped in oiled paper, I suppose: but it is not safe to put soap in a box with edibles - It goes right through paste-board sometimes - Of course this time the coffee was tinned and couldn't get soapy - but I had some powdered pudding or something once which got all soapy! This wasn't a bit though - I can't tell you how glad I am to have the things - the pretty coffee pot looks so pretty! (redundant?)

Our girls have all gone and we are surely relieved to have them off our hands. We don't know what is ahead of us - and I should not be surprised if things turned out that we'd all have to leave before long. But that is surmise -

One thing I have decided, however - and that is to ask you to send me a draft for \$200<sup>(from mine)</sup> as soon as you are able to get it - I can put it at interest in Shanghai until I want to use it - and in case we should go in a hurry I can then have it out here at hand.

Please don't think that it is only the recent turn of affairs that has made me decide this, for I've been considering it for some time. But it is largely, I'll admit - while I don't really suppose anything will happen this spring - yet there is a party going home by way of Europe - and, as I said before, I want to be prepared!

I've intended to write before this time about my nice Christmas things - but I haven't seemed to get around to it - ! I'll hope to do that next time -

Love

Abbie

Kakchik, Svatov  
Jan. <sup>20</sup>~~28~~, 1927

Dear Oles,

I wonder how much of my last letter you have told to other people. Since writing to you I asked Miss McVeigh how much of our tale of woe we ought to write home - and she answered "None at all - that is, not any more than you can help" - And she said she thought we'd better not write many details even to our families - I didn't tell her how much I had written to you - !

Well - the point of all this is that I hope you won't tell much of what I said, or if you have, at least go around where you have told it and circulate this more hopeful news that I'm going

To tell you now —

The two High Schools here, Boys' and Girls', have been temporarily suspended. But a Committee is already at work to reorganize both — making them into one school, and that coeducational. It may be the very best thing that ever happened for the educational work —

Jan. 25 —

I've been rushed to death for the last two weeks, with a house full of eight people to look after and feed (of course the cook has been a wonder, as usual) — as well as having to be at every conference meeting and every reference Com. meeting.

We had election of new Reference Com. this A.M.  
 and I am not elected - Of course it is an  
 honor and all that, but neither was Edith  
 Traver, who has been here 17 or 20 yrs, re-elected.  
 Several people tried to help ~~put~~ me on, but the  
~~winner~~ ~~planned by~~ ~~far~~ ones who are on of single  
 workers are both far better fitted and I'm truly  
 glad - It has been a burden, as well as an honor.  
 The ones elected were Clara Leach and Melvinia  
 Sollman - Clara, cried <sup>gives big tears - real ones</sup> because she  
 was put on and I wasn't <sup>I think she felt badly - but I laughed</sup>  
 this morning Dr. Franklin read us a cable he  
 received yesterday from New York, to the effect  
 that the papers say the U. S. govt. is likely  
 to ask for removal from China of all  
 its citizens - What this may mean we  
 cannot know - He went over to the Consul  
 immediately to know whether this was true - or  
 I mean, whether the Consul had rec'd word. He  
 had. So while we are rather excited, we are  
 not scared - and there is no likelihood that  
 anything will happen before we have definite



word as to what we shall do - So - don't worry  
about us -

I might write about so many things.  
I've been invited tentatively to go to Chaoyang to  
live with the Groesbecks this coming term. I've  
been invited jokingly to go to Hityang and  
"run the girls' school" there (which they have  
had fierce trouble this last month -)

I have also been invited bona fide, in  
writing to teach here in the Women's School  
next term. The Reference Com. has approved  
the request of the Women's School to that effect,  
so I suppose that is what I'll do - this  
coming term - After that - question mark?

If Emily cables any news home to her  
mother about her, her mother will probably send it  
on to you ~~and~~ but there isn't any probability that  
she will <sup>do that</sup> just yet -

Many people think Shanghai will be taken by  
the Southern govt in short time - but of course  
they have thought so before -

Well, my loves, my heart's love to you - and whatever  
happens - remember it's all right - your Abbie

I'm so relieved that you are not going to  
No 112 begin writing bi-weekly! Sutton, Va.  
Swatow, China

Feb. 8, 1927

Dearest Bess;

You can see from what  
I've scribbled up above just why  
you are getting treated to a sheet  
of my prize paper - The slip will  
be explained when I tell you that  
I have just finished writing to  
Mr. & Mrs. Chapman, Ruth & Ralph,  
Stella Campbell and Mrs. Clark!  
I ought to write to some others - Lydia  
for instance - but I haven't got time  
now - Is she in Sutton now? I  
guess I'll send my letter for her  
to you - (when I write it!)

I'm wondering whether you'll see or hear anything about any of these letters - I think they really don't tell anything that you don't know - I've tried to make them different - in case one person might see some one's else letter. But they are not works of art for I have had to scribble them just as fast as my pen would go - I'm not even sure they make real good sense!

I've thanked the Washburn women at last. Amber jardine was the name of the one I wrote to, but I don't know whether it is Miss or Mrs. So I tried to make it look as much like one as the other, dotting

the 2 and writing only one 2 but  
putting a flotty dash after it which  
might be a period or a baby's!  
If you know which she is, Miss or  
Mrs., please tell me.

I really wasn't intending to  
write to you tonight, but when  
this sheet of paper needed to  
be used up - I reconsidered.  
And then it occurred to me that  
if three or four Sutton folks were  
getting letters from Swatow, the  
Baudersons wouldn't like to be  
left out! But maybe you'll have  
another one from me on this same  
mail any way - I had yours today  
of Jan 3 and Jan. 12 - pretty  
quick! Also one from Arthur, one

from Gladys, one from Helen Fieldens  
and one from Margaret Lee in  
Peking - This last such a dear  
comforting letter in which she  
deplores all the worries and  
troubles that are coming to  
us here -

I made up my mind last  
night that I would write some  
letters today. Aside from the  
ones I've mentioned - I've written  
to Mrs. Gilbert of N. Abington (thank  
you for box) and Arthur - Clara Leach -  
Helen Clark and Mrs. Miller - I  
feel quite "clear-conscience" as I  
go to bed. Hope I can write as  
many again to-morrow!

Love - Abbie

No 113

Shantow, China

Feb. 13, 1927

Dearest Ben;

Wonder how many letters I can write today? I'm afraid this may be the only one - for I really ought to go to church twice today. This morning Mr. Capen and Mabelle sing a duet and this afternoon Mrs. Watson leads the Christian endeavor meeting - They all go on Tuesday so this is the last Sunday they'll be here - There goes the first bell this minute, so the rest will have to wait till I get back! - - - - -

Just as I thought - I wouldn't be able to go on with this for several hours; it is now 5 P. M.! This morning after the service we had a <sup>music</sup> committee meeting which lasted until nearly 12 thirty - The "sermon" we had this morning was a violently anti-foreign political speech, and it kept me on the verge of tears all the time - I can scarcely explain why, either; for the things he said were in the main, true. He discussed the evils of extraterritoriality and "consular jurisdiction" and unequal treaties - dinging and dinging about how distressful was the condition of the Chinese people to be thus treated like barbarians instead of like a civilized nation - I agreed with most of what he said, but kept deploring the fact that church time should be used to stir up people's wrath against the foreigners when it has already been stirred up almost to the blazing point -

I caught myself thinking how futile it was to have little orators all over the country furnished with these stinging little Brads (their speeches) to prod the people into action - Then I thought, well, perhaps that is the only way that the country will be enabled to shake off the bonds which shackle her so irksomely - and while it seems futile, yet it is the only way - My feelings swayed up and down, back and forth, all through the meeting - I put myself in his place, and realized that if I were Chinese I should be more than boiling hot to have my country looked down upon by other countries whose citizens considered me and my ilk pygmies and themselves super-men. Then he began to advise the foreigners not to be afraid, and keep running off to the Philippines or some other place in order not to be killed! He explained quite elaborately that the Chinese now were not like the Chinese of the Boxer year - Then, the government helped rascals to kill foreigners. Now, look at all the posters that are put up and statements issued to protect foreigners - (That is true, too) As to the few unfortunate incidents that occur, those men are rascals, and stirred by an extreme patriotic fervor to deeds that are altogether wrong. They do not represent the real China. (I believe that, too). But his manner of speaking made me feel that the whole speech was for the benefit of the foreigners - and that made me boil.

He went on: "Your missionaries use a great deal of strength preaching the gospel; if for the time being you would use that same strength to help convince your governments that all unequal treaties etc should be done away with,

you would win our undying thanks." He doesn't realize that missionaries everywhere are despised and called all sorts of names because of the "missionary attitude" toward these very things. I wanted to get up and shout "Go to it, and the sooner you get it the happier will be, for then we won't have to listen to this everlasting talk about how you are being called running dogs of foreigners etc!" - I was so tired of it that I thought I should scream -

Then again I would haul myself up by the naps of the neck, so to speak, and think - "He has a right to feel that way - and will have a right as long as things are as they are." Then I'd calm down a bit.

He said "You foreigners think this spirit sweeping the country is Bolshevism - from Russia. It isn't at all; it is merely that the Chinese have awaked to the disgraceful situation they are in." He went on to declare that no one but a devil would try to keep down a civilized country like China, and if anyone was not willing to help to sway with the unequal treaties he needn't call himself a child of God - for that wasn't the spirit of Jesus.

He said that the English are insisting on keeping equality, etc - and none but a colony should have to endure such treatment as China is standing for them. Then he said - "We must fight against the continuation of such a program as that. Look at the Jews; they have



a people, but no place to live, and no power - therefore they cannot be a country. The three are all necessary, people, land, and power - in order for a country to stand established. Look at Korea - she has a people, but Japan has taken her power and is gradually taking her land, - she is not a country. India - she is ruled by England and cannot be called a country but is a colony. And poor old China, - how hard is her condition! She has the people, she has the land, but half her power has been grabbed by the foreign powers and how ~~can~~ can she call herself a country? - And so on -

He said that the foreigners insisted on keeping the unequal treaties because the law in the land of China is not pleasing to them and they will not be under it. But he said that the instances of injustice that have been done or might be done were mostly made up from imagination - Well - then he himself went straight on to imagine how hard it would be for a Chinese who had a crime committed against him, - and the foreigner not subject to Chinese law - etc - The most of what he said was imagination of things such as we have never seen and heard of -

Well - I guess that is all I need to write about now - I'm quite worked up again as it is - and wonder with all my heart where we are ever coming out in this mess anyway!

It is most unlikely that we shall be obliged to leave Swatara because of violence done to foreigners. But as long as the country is in such uncertain condition Emily and I are not likely to be allowed to go to Chauchowf & live by ourselves - as I'll be here in that case - without a job, I spon - But I can do quite a bit of church work that I have never before had time for - As for my mail - you just take it for granted that conditions are going to improve - and send to Chauchowf - If I'm still there, the mail will stop here <sup>anyway</sup> and if I go on up there, mail addressed to Ch. Ch. for will reach me more quickly than a thing it were addressed Swatara.

Mabelle, and Mr. Copea, and the Waters leave on Tuesday for America and we are in quite a rush with all the loose ends to be caught up - I'm quite up & at about servants for we haven't settled anything yet except that I've told the boy I want him to go along with me - The cook has said he couldn't go and leave his family - so we think of asking him to live here in this house while I'm gone, & he can take - But the mission allows \$3 a month for that job - and he has been getting \$17 as our cook! I've been trying to get a time when M. and I can talk with him, but haven't succeeded yet. We hope to do it tonight -

My washwoman is a jewel and if I can take her along, Emily will share her with me and that will be cheaper for us both - But I'm not sure it can be arranged - Enough for now - it is almost supper time -

Much much love to you, Alice

P.S. I thought that you might be interested  
to know that the man who preached is  
a teacher in our academy - one of our  
own boys' school boys -

Dearest One;

No 114

Chaoyang, Feb. 20, 1927

Again I'm over at this house of rest with the Grosbeaks, getting some of the kinks in my nerves and disposition straightened out. I have done little but taken long breaths since I got here on Friday - haven't felt so carefree for many a long day. I brought a lot of letters to write - but I got switched off yesterday to patchwork and I cut patches all day. So I haven't written any letters - but I feel a lot rested already - and I imagine I can write letters better - when I get to it, if ever! - for having had this little breathing space. I don't believe I shall write a single letter but this one while I am here, in spite of the fact that I have a number of Christmas thank-yous still to be written - If I feel like it, I shall write, but if I don't, I shan't - for I'm only going to be here until Tuesday morning, and I'm having the best kind of a rest by doing only the things that I really want to do -

Tuesday eve.... - - - - - Didn't even get this one written enough to send to you! And I got very much rested, I think - Wanda said today when she saw me - "Are you as rested as you look?" So I guess I'm ready for what comes now - after a complete four-days rest - I really feel better - now I'm going to try hard

To take a little rest everyday - and not to get all tied up in knots about a single thing that comes along - nobody knew that I was, before, I guess - except that I looked a little tired -

This morning when I got back I found Gertrude Teels and Mildred Forward of Burma who have been here since Saturday about to sail for Hongkong. They went this P.M. I heard also that a big boat strike was ~~all~~ on, and our trip to Shanghai next week was all off. (I saw a delegate to China Baptist Publication Society meeting). We also heard that the Reds had taken Hangchow - and that sounds as though trouble is getting nearer Shanghai! The paper that came this P.M. though, says that is only a rumor - And we hear the boat strike is off - so the present plan is to go to Shanghai next Monday just the same! But - I dunno! I'm not going to worry tho. In these next four days I shall shorten a dress or two, pack my suitcase - and get some more of my "general belongings" into trunks & boxes that could be sent in emergency - and try to stand in readiness for whatever comes -

You can see by the address that I'm sending this to the new place - If for any reason you have not both gone there yet - Father must send this off to Mother by the next mail - How I wish I could be there to help! Except that I might keel over after

sweeping half a room and then be 10 times as much bother as good - I'm thinking of you now as relieved after a fashion, because the deed is done, and everybody knows and you don't have to keep things quiet - Yet I know just how terrifically hard it is to start up again - May God give you strength! Love, Abbie!

No 115

Aboard Ship, Bound for Shanghai

Mar. 2, 1927

Dear Ones,

I hope you won't be alarmed to see that I'm heading toward the place which, according to the American newspapers, is a good place to stay away from! There really is no personal danger - for even though the forces may be fighting near Shanghai and even in it - yet the Foreign Powers are so much on guard that it is very unlikely anything could happen inside the International Settlement - and that is where we will be -

I think I've told you in a previous letter that I am one of six <sup>directors</sup> ~~delegates~~ appointed from our mission to attend the annual meeting of the China Baptist Publication Society. I'm very green; don't even know what I am supposed to do - but this is my chance to learn.

That is, if we get there in time - Our boat was a day late in starting as it is - and we have been in a heavy monsoon

last night and all day today - I haven't lost any of my meals yet, but I have been too near the breaking point to make any bags whatever - Two of the party have missed some meals, but we are all up just now - About tea-time we got near shore and it has been calmer ever since -

We are rather dreading the night, however; we either have to anchor or else get out from shore where it may be rougher! Well - I can sleep some more, anyway. That's all I have done thus far, and all I have felt like doing, too! I brought a lot of letters to write, but this kind of sea doesn't make me feel like writing!

Now my pen is going dry, too, I'm afraid, & I'm too lazy to go & fill it.

Now it is March 4 - and we are still on the high seas - I've just this minute filled my pen, so you see I haven't done any

Tall letterwriting since the above. The truth is, I've been sleeping too much. We have rocked and shunted about so much at night that I've been making it up in the daytime - We are still rolling around a good deal too much for my taste - but I still come to meals every time - Had we been properly loaded we could have reached Shanghai tonight, but we have no cargo - and with the wind as high as it has been, we have simply tossed like a thing of cardboard -

Our meetings begin today - but Mr. Speicher has sent a wireless saying why we are delayed - in the hope that they may delay the meetings for a session or two - We bid fair to get there early tomorrow, anyhow -

If there is any chance of being allowed to listen in at any of the meetings of the China Baptist Council (Intermission) which comes



next week, I shall stay around for  
a few days for that; otherwise I shall  
do my bit of shopping and strike for  
home -

I have a great many errands to  
do for other people, as usual - I  
must get myself a hat - have my  
spring coat re-dyed and my winter  
one cleaned or dyed - I don't yet know  
which - Then I'm planning to get  
a few more stores for Chauchow, <sup>for</sup>  
hoping that we can go up there as  
soon as I get back.

I do hope we have a calm trip  
back down the coast - I planned to  
write so many letters - and this is the  
only one this far -

As I said in my last letter, if this  
doesn't reach both of you at Charlotte.  
Father is to send it on to Mother immediately.  
How I think of you and think of you  
all day long - and night, too - as you  
are "starting in" all over again in the  
new place - And how I should love to  
be with you - Much, much love, Abbie

(115)

Shanghai -  
Mission Treasurers Office  
Mar 12, 1927

Dear Ques -

Here I am still in Shanghai when I am supposed to be on a boat that is bound for Swatow. Up until yesterday noon I fully expected to go last night - Mr. Page didn't come up to the meetings and so Kenneth Robert was appointed to take his place. That left me the only one here who was not attending meetings and I planned to go back. But the other South China-ites and Miss McVeigh & Dr. Franklin had a little conversation about it & decided not to let me go back alone - There may be meetings following these which will be open to me - and Miss McVeigh wants me to stay longer anyway meet more people - and perhaps look into

some of the literature that is being translated, with a view to doing some translating myself in the immediate future. So they cancelled my reservation on today's boat - and here I am - well - where shall I begin - ?

We arrived in Shanghai Saturday A.M., a week ago today - went to the Navy Y.M. for breakfast and from there on over to the Missions Building in time to begin the meetings of the China Baptist Publication Society - There were six Northern Baptist Representatives and about ~~ten~~ <sup>twelve</sup> Southern Baptists - but I had no feeling of "different denominations" there, but we had splendid meetings and I really felt that I had a new glimpse of the really valuable things that might be done through literature here in China - But I realized as never before my own very dense ignorance along that line!

Those meetings lasted until Monday noon - On ~~Wednesday~~ <sup>Sunday</sup> I heard some very fine orchestra music, and went

to the Community Church in the  
morning, where I saw Miss Peterson  
& her mother. — She's just the same  
as ever. <sup>Thursday noon we went to Chinese</sup>  
dinner with her and had a grand good  
talk. <sup>Wednesday</sup> all the Baptists were invited  
to a reception at Dr. Proctor's. — It was  
very very thrilling to meet all the  
East China people and West China  
people about whom I've known for  
years — and some whom I've <sup>met</sup> ~~known~~  
before — Frances Therolf — the Skeringtons,  
all four — Dr. Tompkins — the Hffords,  
Hylberts, Mary J. Jones — and many  
others — and the Deputation from  
America again — — — Ruth Harris  
had not yet come down, but she is  
in now and I want to see her —  
Wednesday night we had a talk  
with Miss McVeigh & Mrs. Beaven  
about South China problems — They  
don't want me to teach in the  
"temporary" school that is trying to

take the place of our girls' school  
this term

Thursday morning Kenneth & I went  
out to the Shanghai Baptist College and  
saw our Dr. Ling, and Hong Lau -  
who was nearly overcome again -  
I forgot to say that on Tuesday evening  
I went to call on Mr. & Mrs. Tatum -  
Joy is still up in Yangchow - with  
a number of others who have stayed  
in spite of consuls orders. Mrs. T. is  
very much in love with her husband, I take  
it - I greatly enjoyed meeting her - They  
came to tea here at the Home with  
me on Thursday - and they are  
well-known and loved, I should say -

The rest of the time I have spent  
shopping - mostly for other people -  
and I must go again now - this time  
to look at rugs - Went to tea with  
Helen Clark yesterday!

Much, much love, Abbie

No 117

Aboard S.S. "Suigay"  
Anchored just outside Swatow  
9.30 P.M. Mar. 18, 1927

Dear Ones -

Here I am back in Swatow again - or almost there - Mr. Speicher and I are the only ones that are returning in this boat. The others will come later. We have had a most peaceful trip down -

I can't remember just where I left off in my last letter to you - I know I forgot to number it - but it was no 116 - and either written or sent on Dad's birthday - Well - I enjoyed the publication society ~~letter~~ meetings very much - and enjoyed meeting the many many people - I was already to go on the first boat back to Swatow which was last Saturday - But Friday noon when I got to lunch the other South China - it met me with the amazing statement that they had cancelled my reservation and I was to stay. Mr. Hobart had been co-opted on the China Baptist Council in place of Mr. Page and so I was the only one that wasn't in the meetings - But they all thought I ought not to go down alone and said they would ask the Roman's Reserve Fund to pay my additional expenses - Miss McVeigh & Dr. Franklin thought I ought to stay and they couldn't find me (I was out frantically trying to do up the rest of my shopping) so they simply cancelled my passage! I didn't mind very much, except that I was all prepared in my mind to go - and it was quite a let down not to have to keep on hustling - I told you about seeing the Tatum's, didn't I? And one noon I had Chinese show as the guest of Miss

Peterson - We had a great time talking -  
Another noon I lunched with Helen Clark, Miss Dowling,  
and Ruth Harris. I saw the Skevingtons, all four of them -  
the girls remembered me - I met Miss Jennie Crawford, and  
the Phelps' of West China -

One night I met a Mrs. Hudson from Maine - who proved to be Mrs. Birney S. - and when she found I knew who she was she turned around and introduced me to her husband and daughter - Kenneth Hobart was there - and it turned out that he had known the daughter pretty well in Newton Centre. She recognized him. *Excerpt:* I had a very pleasant

The last night in Shanghai I had a very pleasant surprise - my friend Becky Kalsbeck, who has been staying in Hankow, arrived and I had a good little visit with her. She helped me down to the boat next morning and sent me off with a box of chocolates!

I had one pretty good talk with Mrs McVeigh about my work - she will not disapprove of my going up to Chardloph with Emily right away if the mission will give approval, even though the Consul may not consent - He will have to play safe anyway, and he may keep us in port needlessly long - but it is a little better and a little more

needlessly long -  
I did a lot of shopping for folks and a little for myself - I got a small winter hat and a small spring one - the first a <sup>very</sup> heavy <sup>hats</sup> tan sailor with a brown ribbon and the second made entirely of dull lenna and corn colored fancy striped ribbon - The two cost me \$25 Mex or about \$12 1/2 Gold - I had my grey coat dyed and it took a beautiful real brown and is as good as new, I think - I'm very happy about it - That cost me \$4.00 Mex - I had one good

dress made up at a fashionable shop. Cost me \$10 max. which seems extravagant out here but then I have heard of people who paid \$10 gold to have a dress made up. Have you? It was a white Szechuan crepe that I bought in Shanghai summer before last. Profs I'll draw a picture of it sometime when I feel like it. I had my spring coat redyed dark blue and my Indian silk dress dyed to match. I intend to make over the coat and make it less sloppy if I can -

I bought a good many tracts and I want to buy more Chinese books - as if you know of anyone who wants to send me anything - please tell them to send money for distributing Christian literature - I may have a good deal of that to do in the future - I have also bought two new books on new terms in Chinese - hoping to put in a good deal of time studying -

We are all sorry the Porter bill did not go through. I believe America could take the lead, if she would, in abolishing China's unequal treaties - and I think that until steps towards that end are taken we shall have a rankling sore here that cannot get better but must get worse and worse and will not only be a mighty advocate of anti-foreignism but will be a mighty foe of Christianity too -

With much love -

Abbie



Swatow China

Mar 25, 1927

Dear Cues,

Your letters of Feb 12 and one from Arthur written Feb 20 arrived two days ago - and I have just finished writing to Arthur - I must write to Gladys too - Poor things - my heart just aches for them and I feel <sup>it is</sup> so futile to try to say anything of comfort. I'm sure Arthur now feels repaid, though for having taken that long trip the extra time - His letter to me was a very beautiful one - and I can't help feeling that this experience will be but the fire that makes the gold but more pure -

We got in from Shanghai Saturday morning. Emily, Edda Mason, and Dr. Bensfield, who are all staying at my house, came out to meet me. But they didn't get the telegram (sent Wed. A.M.) saying I was coming until Sat. at 8 A.M. The boat got in about 7.30 so by the time they got out there I had decided my telegram went astray and I'd better get my own boats - So after I got home and got my cup of coffee I went out to meet them again! I found them just coming up the path from the jetty - It is pretty good to get back - although I must say I enjoyed the trip to Shanghai - rather - the being there. <sup>the other three got back from Shanghai Tuesday, 2 P.M. Duffing came Monday</sup> Everything was going beautifully - Ray & John had gone back to Nityang and the other folks were going back too. and the Hakka men and single women were going back.

Emily and I had plans all made to go to Chaochowfn today. - Then news came that the Southerners had entered Shanghai (the native city) and some looting had been done in the foreign settlement - The Consul came over post haste (we had told him we were going to Ch. ch. n.) and urged everybody to stay here - He has had orders from Peking to evacuate Swatow at his discretion - He sees no need for that just now but he insisted that Anna and Edda promise they would not go back yet - So, since there is no immediate need for us to go to Chaochowfn, we shall stay a few days longer and then see how the situation is - In the meantime I shall try to get a little studying done -

The Reference Committee (advised by Roman's Committee) paid me the extra \$13 for my 4 extra days in Shanghai - from the Roman's Reserve Fund - So my actual board cost me nothing while I was gone - But! <sup>now</sup> water <sup>made</sup> and coats dyed cost money - even though you don't spend much in dresses - I bought another piece of "fiji" for myself and these remnants in a dress for Gladys - Don't tell her I was sending them to you - Her silk dress (one of the pieces also a remnant) went directly to her - I'm sending you a scarf which I'd like to have you consider a birthday present if it goes with any of your things and if you don't feel it too gay - I bought the stuff in Shanghai and had the woman make two from one length. It cost \$4.50 a yard and the silk in fringe \$1.35 -  $1\frac{1}{2}$  y. made the two - Divide the total cost by four and you get the price gold for one scarf - If, however, it doesn't appeal to you perhaps Gladys would like it - and in

that case she needn't know that I really sent it for  
you first - Don't you think it goes pretty well with  
browns & blues and kennas?

I'm sending some pictures - please look at them in  
order 1, 2, 3, etc. - Alas Miss McKeigh's letter after she  
left here - I rather think she enjoyed being here with us

The Reference Committee this week has appointed me  
to direct my attention to the production and distribution  
of Christian literature here in South China. That means  
not that I shall do all the "producing" or "distributing"  
myself but use my efforts to stir other people up to  
do something. Hope I can do it a little better than  
I used to be able to get people to buy thread!

So if you people see anything in the form of interesting  
incidents that are helpful in a religious way, short  
stories for women & children (new ones) or striking illustrations  
in sermons etc - just send them along and perhaps there  
will be something that can be translated - I feel very  
green indeed about the business and don't know whether  
I can accomplish anything or not.

I don't seem to get settled down to do any work -  
in I wish I could know where I am to be -  
However - I'm going to begin this afternoon with an hour  
own Mandarin lesson - Ruth Chen began to teach me  
last term but we did not get much time for it -

Guess I'd better quit for this time and begin work.  
I shall be relieved when I have word that your  
things are all out of Sutton and you have survived  
the awful task of moving and getting settled again.

I am sorry you felt you must go while it was still  
so cold.

My own plans included moving a part of my things to  
Chaochowfu but I am not likely to take much  
more than a suitcase with me under present  
conditions! However, the chances are that quiet will  
come soon, I think - and then we can settle down  
somewhere -

Pray for me that I may be able to do something  
of value - It seems so hard just now to know  
what efforts are worth while -

With much love  
Abbie

# Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society

276 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS: "TAVOYAM, NEW YORK"

PRESIDENT  
MRS. H. E. GOODMAN  
5763 WOODLAWN AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

FOREIGN VICE-PRESIDENT  
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FOREIGN SECRETARY  
MISS MABELLE RAE McVEIGH

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
MISS JANET S. MCKAY

SECRETARY OF  
LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY  
MRS. L. J. P. BISHOP

TREASURER  
MISS ALICE M. HUDSON

*Written from Harbin.*

Wednesday Feb. 16 -

Dear Lady Abbie -

I am daring to scribble a line or so during the conference. Dr. Huntington is in the chair and is stating about finances. We did not leave all our problems and troubles in Sweet China for this far I have had to stay close to every meeting and keep both ears and eyes open - to say nothing of my mouth. This morning for the first time I feel as if I dared to turn my mind for a minute or two to my dear friends I have left behind at Katchick and vicinity.

I am almost homesick to see "you all."

and I feel as if I were coming back soon.  
I can see the homes and the dear folks in  
them and I am eager for the very latest news.  
Do send me a note to Shanghai, care of Mrs. Lacey  
letting me hear the latest developments.

We had an interesting stay in Hong Kong.  
Pauline Bauer spent Monday with me & put me on  
the boat - but my greatest excitement came the  
next morning at 9 o'clock when we discovered that  
a clever thief had had a glorious time while we  
slept. I was not the only victim but he hit me  
hard enough to know it by taking my black  
leather suit case, prying the locks, breaking the  
top & making way with money amounting to  
\$25 gold - I believe the Dollar Line will make it  
good but it was a big blow. But such is life  
in the Orient!

You will probably want to know how

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## TREASURER

MISS ALICE M. HUDSON

good a sailor I was after leaving you - A half  
hour after leaving Swatow I was in my bunk  
having serious troubles of my own - I did not  
eat for supper but came to life by breakfast.  
From Hong Kong to Manila the ladies all took to  
their beds but were not desperately ill - Of course,  
I took the Galun as an honor(?) performer but  
a very, very calm sea brought us all on deck the  
second day and we actually had a family  
dinner that day - My record trip was from  
Manila to Iloilo when I actually had 3 meals  
with the party. I do wonder if the record  
will be better hence forth. Here's hoping!

She had some sewing done & needed to pay me my sewing money  
salary for a whole month but I compromised on a half month - What?

I can't quite remember how it felt to  
be paid. It has been very nice here - not  
unbearable at all but warm & even hot in  
the middle of the day. I have the siesta habit  
and must admit that I enjoy it -

And now, dear lady, may I tell you  
how very grateful I am for all your kindness.  
I do not know how you fill up your day  
since your protégée is gone but she has  
now become a burden to another kind lady.  
I hope I didn't wear you out completely  
but I shall never be able to say a loud  
enough thank you for everything - I restored that  
amount to your account as Mr. Page will show  
you - If I cannot make a proper gift, I do  
want you to know of the appreciation in my heart.  
Just know that there is a very big reserved  
corner in my heart for you! Please give my greetings  
to all and to each - especially to dear lady Emily! I shall  
eagerly await letters from you both - Lovingly - Alfred R. McLaughlin.





light brown hat  
trimmed with  
two darker shades  
of ribbon



spring hat - recreable all yr. round.

Hat made of two toned  
ribbon, fenna and tan.  
The hat pictures do not  
do them justice but people  
make favorable comments -  
They both go with many of  
my things, esp. winter coat  
which has been dyed a really  
beautiful deep brown - and  
my old spring coat, re-dyed  
dark blue and remade like this



I still find  
recreation in  
"cloies"!

White Szechuan crepe -  
had made in Shanghai.

with a piping of tan-  
like brown under the  
bands on collar &  
cuff.

Sleeves and collar made smaller -  
coat shortened & side seams taken in.  
side tabs omitted -

Snatow, China

No 120

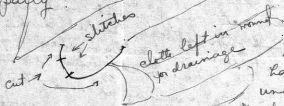
Apr. 2, 1927

Dearest Ones,

A number of things have happened this week - I am thankful to be able to write to you about them - The reason I say that is that Thursday I slipped ~~on the back stairs~~ and slid - bumped - though rather easily all the way down the back stairs (outside, leading from the kitchen - I got bruised a very little - and it would have been nothing to speak of, if I had not had a pair of new pruning shears open in my right hand when I did it - When I picked my self up shamefacedly at the bottom of the stairs, I discovered that the blade of the shears had cut a clean - rather deep, three cornered gash in my <sup>left</sup> hand. (palm) Margaret came right over and dressed it and took two stitches in it and then I got ready and went to a tea party - then came home and entertained the Groesbecks and Anna Foster for supper and in the evening around the fire popping corn - We are sewing patchwork these days, and everybody is exchanging patches - You'll enjoy the little note Mrs. Groesbeck sent me the next morning - and understand how gratified I am to have folks tell me I was brave not to wince when the stitches were being taken, etc, etc -

Poor Emily has never before seen such a cut and she couldn't sleep that night and was sick at her stomach the next morning when Mrs. Bonsfield talked incessantly about surgical dressings (at table)! But

she certainly was great while I was having the thing cleaned and dressed - and bolstered up my courage muchly by telling me I was a good sport - She herself is just getting over a sprained ankle, a strained back, and several bruises and scrapes - She has had two falls herself in the last two weeks - But she trotted over to the hospital and got needle and cat gut - and out to the kitchen numberless times for dishes, spoons & hot water - She was so worried about me and what might have happened that I was afraid she was going to faint at the tea party!



But she didn't and she has helped me so much ever since - Combed my hair, hooked my underwear, and I had to do some exceedingly trivial things for me - Its funny the things you can do with one hand, and the things you cant. I can button my shoes - but cant fasten my garters, nor wash my right arm - although I can clean the nails of my right hand easily - just by bracing the nail file against my tummy - I rather amused my self by opening my fountain pen with one hand and my teeth, until I got little spatters of ink all over my face! Well - the worst is over - If it keeps on doing

as well as it appeared to do yesterday it will  
heal very shortly - Having had our experience  
with my knee, I shall be very careful not to  
use this hand any more than I can help -  
so it need not get infected - I told Marguerite  
I would rather have it myself than to have to  
sew it up on anyone else!

Well! I seem to be so absorbed in my  
own little trouble that I have forgotten to tell you  
what happened before that - On Monday we had  
a meeting with Dr. Hodgkin, the British Secretary  
of the National Christian Council of China - in which we  
answered and asked a good many questions and  
got a good bit of the "situation" talked over, and  
Dr. Hodgkin has such a sympathetic way of appearing to  
understand widely varying points of view that we  
just had a good talk - first and got things off our  
 chests but nobody had any hard feelings -

On Tuesday the meetings of the Ling Tong Council  
began. The general bust-up that occurred while Dr.  
Franklin was here has been repaired to a certain  
extent. Mr. Lins has resigned as Evangelistic Secretary  
and his resignation has been accepted. He is  
anxious to turn his hand to Educational work and  
he has been appointed chairman of the Board  
of Trustees for the planned Coeducational School  
here - (Mr. Page, Mr. Speicher, Miss Sollman and I are also on,  
the rest of the 11 members being Chinese -)

Mr. Tai, the Executive Secretary, has been again asked

to keep his position and he has accepted - The same  
is true of the chairman, Mr. Fu, and the secretary,  
Mr. Heng, (a Wang) of the Executive Committee. I believe  
Mr. Tai really intends to forget the past and forgive  
the injustices real or imagined - Whether the same  
can be said of the other two I don't know, but of  
course I wouldn't whisper that in public -

Dr. Franklin is coming back again sometime this  
month and we are glad that the Ling Tong  
machinery will be at least in running order  
when he gets here, because he left it rather in  
disorder and would certainly be expected to take  
a rather doleful report home to America - We hope  
he'll get a better impression of us this time -

At present we have all been told by the  
consul to stay here indefinitely. Clara Leach  
and Kay Bohn are still at Kityang, steadily  
working at the hospital, in spite of the Consul's  
orders - But the rest of us are all here and  
we don't know when the situation will change -  
If I had a real job <sup>that needed me sorely</sup> in Chaochow  
I had been living there right along. I think I should  
do as Clara is doing - But neither Emily nor I  
are very well acquainted with folk up there and  
everyone thinks it wiser for us to stay here for  
the present -

Much love to you. Abbie

no 121

Sevastopol, China

Mother dear,

April 3, 1927

If I write to you on your birthday I hope Dad won't feel slighted - since I <sup>can't remember</sup> of having mentioned that Lovable occasion <sup>(his birthday)</sup> this year - It was a kind of milestone for him I suppose - but I don't seem to feel that he could have passed anything that could be called a dead line! Beginning a new pastorate at 65 - and I surely hope it will be a good one - the best you have ever had - both of you -

I have sent neither of you birthday presents this year - but I tell you what: I'll give you both something some other time - and you may still have the anticipatory thrill that accompanies a secret that still remains undivulged! I couldn't possibly tell you what these little tokens will be - for the very good reason that I don't yet know myself -

Well, this starts out to be a birthday letter to you Mother dear - I wish I could see you this minute, is I do - I have been not a little discouraged, and a bit homesick at times since January. when our grand bust up took place. And I have been to Shanghai and had a good change, got back here and found things unchanged - and got into a rather critical attitude of mind toward some people - Then I tried to trace up and repent - and I made up my mind that I would not let what other people did and thought depress me or affect my disposition or get me downhearted

Then I fell down stairs and cut my left hand with the rose scissors - as I told you in my last letter (written yesterday). Then everybody rose as nice to me that I got terrifically ashamed of the inward critical attitude I had had. And made another resolve to be kinder (in my mind) <sup>as well as in words</sup> than I have been recently.

And today has been a truly wonderful day for me. We sang in Church this morning (our church choir) "Awakening Chorus" which has such a swing that it always gives me a rather exalted feeling - We had a pretty Communitarian sort of sermon, but it didn't bother me as much as it might have if I had been able to understand more of it! He used a great deal of classical Chinese - and a good bit of it was Greek to me - Then I was having some rather good thoughts of my own which wandered off by themselves in spite of my efforts to control them -

This afternoon - I spent some time getting ready for a Christian Endeavor meeting which I'm expected to lead next week - Then I went to C.E. meeting - and then to choir rehearsal, then out to walk with Elsie for a little - I had such a good talk with her - and felt very much heartened in spite of many problems which still loom - I got home to find Elsie in happy tears over some good old hymns of faith she had been playing over to herself and having a real service of her own - She had been reading Fosdick's "Adventurous Religion" - We both agree with a good many things he says - but as I said to Elsie - when I get just so far in reading his books I can't argue with him.

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with him but I just don't see it the way he does -  
and I find myself going back to "Holding fast the  
form of sound words" & hold over until some real new  
experience comes to me - as it always comes before long -  
She has found it the same way - and the hymn that  
I found her singing "In the Cross of Christ I glory"  
when I came in this afternoon - !

Anna<sup>Foster</sup> has come over here & live now too - as that  
with the Bonsfields, Elda Mason & Emily, we have a  
family of six. Mrs. Bonsfield plays - and tonight we  
had a great time singing "No Te Deum; Lord of all Being;  
Onward Christian Soldiers; Lead on, O King Eternal; Master,  
the Tempest is Raging; For All the Saints etc. Through the  
night of Doubt & Sorrow; Jesus the Very Thought of Thee; and  
some others of the songs we love as well.

We came upstairs and toasted a marshmallow or  
two apiece - and now the four of us girls are sitting  
around the fire writing letters - Elda and I by pen and  
the other two by typewriter - I hope the day has been  
as happy a one for you as it has for me -

This morning at 8 I went to the hospital again &  
have my hand dressed - It had almost no pus yesterday  
and today still less - but they are still keeping  
the drain in for safety's sake - It was too deep  
a wound & dare risk letting it heal on the surface  
without giving poison a chance to get out - But the  
doctor say it couldn't be expected to get along any  
better thus far - It really gives me very little pain  
and I shouldn't mind it were it not for the



inconvenience to myself and other people - I  
hope it will not be long before I can do such things  
as comb my hair myself. I'm glad I can write  
letters with one hand, - aren't you?

They have asked me to take a Sunday School  
class - some of the girls who were in our school!  
I said I wanted to know first whether they were  
willing to have me be the teacher or not. They  
appeared to be willing - so I start in next  
Sunday unless something happens -

Yesterday afternoon we went to a tea party  
at Becky Cowles to meet the officers of the  
U. S. S. Edsall - Sub. no 219 - We met four -  
I talked with two of them who seemed fine -  
One was a Massachusetts man - born in Leominster -  
who used to visit up in Vermont - I asked him  
where; and he said St. Johnsbury! But I didn't  
find out whom he visited - His name was Sabine,  
at least that is how it sounded -

Well - now I'm cold - and I must go to bed -  
but at least I'll send this scribble to you with  
much love for you two - & let you know that  
all is well with

your loving daughter

Abbie

Swatow China

Apr. 14, 1927

Dearest One,

It's now to Thursday and I haven't got my Sunday letter to you written yet. What's the reason?? Well, to begin with, my pesky hand didn't begin to heal quite as soon as I wanted it to, and the things that I usually do with two hands took so much longer than usual that I didn't get as many things done - Then ~~one Saturday we went over to Pecky Cawles~~ on Friday we suddenly had an avalanche of 15 Mennonite missionaries (from way up inland) arrive. They came about 7 o'clock at night and we put up four of them for supper and three for the night at our house, and scattered the rest over the compound.

They had a dreadful trip down; the river was in flood and it rained continually, and they were attacked by robbers who took nearly all their money, and their watches and glasses and various valuables - as well as hacking their suitcases and trunks to pieces and scattering the contents - and scaring them about out of their wits. When they got here it was still raining, and most of their bedding was still over in Swatow. Some people thought that we should send them all to the W.W. & dormitory that night, but that seemed very inhospitable to me - and I was one who insisted that what could at least take them in over night - The next day they got their things over from Swatow and had time to set up house.

without being in such a rush - There are two families and four single women - They are German, but speak very good English - They haven't the same ideas of cleanliness that we have, but they are as good as gold, I'm sure - This week Emily and I have been making dresses and slips for one of the families that seems destitute of clothes. They are apparently grateful, and we are having lots of fun doing it - One of them is a sixteen year old girl whose wardrobe consists in a few Chinese dresses, three black sateen ones, and one, <sup>blue</sup> cotton one - We can't find that she has any petticoats except an outing flannel one - And the smaller girl hadn't any, but wore an old gingham dress instead - On Saturday we were invited to a tea at Bucky Cowles' to meet the officers of the Edsall, the U. S. gunboat which is in harbor now - The officers were very nice (as I write this I realize that I told you before about the one from Massachusetts who said he visited in Vermont - didn't I?) Well - yesterday we all went out to the gunboat to a tea that they gave for us - I say all, but that is not correct. Some of the missionaries do not believe in having anything to do with the gunboat people because the Chinese hate the gunboats of foreigners so. But we think

that if we would be <sup>2</sup>willing to allow the gunboat men  
to rescue us from danger, we ought.

Apr. 19 —

It is terrible for me to have neglected you as —  
But I have been slightly upset. Had I written  
to you yesterday I should have told you to mail  
my next letter to Bassein, Burma! For a  
cable came from the Board sending me  
there — and the Reference Committee voted for me  
to go —

But last night we had a rather wonderful  
meeting, in which our mission approved Mr.  
Ling's plan of opening the new school in the  
fall — and the Ref. Committee is now  
considering the matter of my temporary transfer  
to Burma — and if the Home Board is  
willing, I'll not get to Burma! I shall  
probably not even get to Chaochow — but  
keep right on here — and possibly Emily  
will be here too!

But — I'll write of that later —  
For the present — send my mail to Swatow.

yesterday I received your first letter from  
East Charlotte - mailed Mar. 25 - arrived  
Apr. 18 - Isn't that pretty good!

Well - I can't say I was very much  
thrilled about going off alone to Burma -  
but I am terribly thrilled about staying  
here - and I hope they will let me!

You can see by the handwriting  
that I'm rather excited - That is  
partly because I'm hurrying to get to  
a Chinese Exec. Com. where more may  
be said about the school -

I'll write in detail later -  
My hand is getting well fast -

Love

Abbie

S. Watson, China, Apr. 25/27

Dearest One,

You have probably received my letter to Miss McVeigh by this time - my copy of it, I mean - and I have no doubt you've had a good many doubts as to the meaning of it all. Let me see whether I can begin back at the beginning.

I don't know how much you may have seen in the papers - but a terrible thing happened at Nanking when certain extremists (of the Southern soldiers) made a raid upon the city and the houses of foreigners were looted and burned - and one doctor J. J. Williams, killed. Horrible stories told of the raping of foreign women and other violence - but we don't know how much is true -

Close upon the heels of this came cables from New York - in fact one of them had come before that, asking that Elsie Pittsley be sent to the Philippines to fill a most urgently needed position. <sup>(that isn't good grammar but you know what I mean)</sup> Word was sent back that she was needed here - but ~~three~~ <sup>four</sup> more cables came asking the same thing. The ~~last~~ <sup>fourth</sup> one suggested sending Dorothy Campbell to the Philippines also - Anna Foster to Rangoon to teach science and me to Bassin to teach English in the school with Miss Tringley -

However, I'm getting ahead of my story - when the third cable came, the folks here thought something ought to be done. They didn't want to send Elsie, but they asked Emily and me whether we would be willing to go if needed (we meant to the Philippines). We said yes - if the Board and the Mission so decided. The next day the fourth cable came - and within a short time it was decided that I was the only one of the four who could be spared. so they voted to send me to Bassein temporarily - I was to be there by June 1st - and that meant leave here about the second week in May. I didn't know how long I was expected to stay or anything - nor what I needed to take. But -

Dr. Franklin came - and the Mission urged the Chinese to present their own plans. They presented the plan of opening a school here this fall - and the mission promised to help them. When the Chinese Woman's Committee found I was to be sent to Burma they wrote a long and very flowery, high sounding letter asking the Conference to retain me - The Chinese Executive Committee has also written a letter ~~long~~ to ~~them~~ to the Reference Committee, asking the same thing - Before all this happened, I had been appointed (by Chinese) one of the trustees of the new school,

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and also as an adviser on the Chinese (Sing Tong)  
Executive Committee, to take Miss Culley's place -

So the Reference Committee voted to reconsider the  
vote to send me to Burma, and are asking the Board  
not to send me at all - but let me stay here to  
teach in the new school. I don't know that they  
will vote to do that, as I may have to go to  
Burma anyway, but -

I won't have to get there by the first of June,  
because the medical committee has put my name  
on a list of those who need to be sent away  
from China to get a special vacation this summer.

They are suggesting Baguio, Philippine Islands -  
but I am also thinking of Formosa - I haven't  
decided, at all. I'm not sick - I'm only one of  
those who has been under pretty great strain  
for a considerable length of time - and the Board  
will pay traveling expenses for those who need this  
extra rest -

I don't know whether Emily will go with me  
or not. <sup>(this summer)</sup> She doesn't yet know what she is  
going to do - You see if the Board allows



me to stay here in China I shall not go to  
Chaochowfu at all. That leaves only E. for that  
place - and the mission would not allow her to go  
up alone to live in normal times, let alone these  
crazy times - So just what will be done about her  
we don't know. The Chinese say that they asked  
me to be retained simply because I had been  
sent away - She hadn't been sent anywhere, so  
why ask for her? And Mr. Baker doesn't  
know whether he is wanted in the school or  
not, either -

For the last week there has been fighting in and  
around Swatow and numbers have been killed.  
The Extremists or Communists are trying to wrest the  
power from the more Conservative wing of the  
nationalists - If the Conservatives can hold their  
own, we may have hope - If not, we may  
have to get out of China altogether -

No trains have been running to Chaochowfu  
and no launches to Kityang for the last four  
days. Anna and Clara have been trying to  
get up there to Kay Bohn - who has been  
there alone - Some of the men in the  
mission have been worrying about the  
terrible things that may have happened -

but what is the use of worrying? Anna and C. have gone up today and are likely to get through all right, we think. All inland travel is done at one's own risk, however - and the consul strongly urges against it - He is very much wrought up over the "naughty, disobedient girls" in our mission! Well - I haven't defied him yet -!

There is not a great deal of extra love for foreigners floating around here tho - That I know - This morning a baby's body was found on our doorstep. The boys think a dog brought it up from the seashore and dropped it there - But later we found traces where it had been laid on our front door mat - So we think that some one put it there and then maybe the dog dragged it over to the back door step. The boys buried it immediately - but we have told Mr. Page about it and shall send word to the consul - so that if anything should come of it they would know the facts -

On Saturday we attended the burial services of a German woman - It seems like a dream to think of it now. They sent for Mr. Wiens of the Mennonite mission and he gave the service all in German - When the Mennonite girls found that we knew some German they

asked Emily and me to help them sing the German  
Lynn - The service was at our little foreign  
cemetery - There was delay about getting the coffin -  
so the service, instead of being held at 5 P.M. - was  
about 7. We borrowed a lantern so we went  
through the Chinese village - and then stood around  
the grave for the little ceremony. I can't make  
it seem real at all; the small group of people of  
various nationalities, the weird light of the  
one lantern showing the Chinese coolies bearing  
their burden and lowering it - with other coolies following  
with flowers; everything in the German tongue - It  
was a different experience, if you know what I  
mean - And I was amazed at the amount  
of German I could understand. The lady died  
from T.B. a very bad case. She tried three times to  
get passage home, but she was so sick the ship's  
would not take her -

In the meantime I'm doing a little translating -  
I have a Sunday School class - I'm expecting to  
help Alice and Raymond Giffin with their music -  
and I'm going to do a little dress making -  
My hand is completely healed - There will be a good  
sized scar - but since it is in the palm of my  
hand I can't see that it matters a bit - I  
think I'm rather lucky, in fact - !  
Much love to you - Alice