

**Abbie G. Sanderson Papers**

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Doane Hall

Hoilo, P. I.

Sept. 4, 1927

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Dearest Ones,

Your child who was sick  
and is better now writes to you -  
I wrote last week that I was  
still on my back with dengue - Well,  
Emily was taking care of me but  
she got sick - and although we  
had called the doctor once, he  
didn't come a second time - or  
anything - and we thought it  
rather queer -

Then Emily's room, which is  
next the kitchen, got smelly and

noisy and she was just about  
frantic - Betty Traker, who was  
sick in bed herself with dengue  
by that time, wrote over and  
suggested that Emily have her bed  
moved over into my room - and  
sent her boy to help do it. And  
Emily came. Her fever was up over  
a hundred then - but mine was down  
to 99+. I didn't know how the  
scheme would work - for we were  
both sick, and then to crowd our  
two beds into one room, and that  
a room just a half-partition away  
from 28 girls! Well - Emily didn't  
get better very fast and when Arcola  
said she thought we both should  
have gone to the hospital, we opened

our ears -

We found out that the doctor and nurses were both rather peeved at us for not going there - It is the approved thing here to go to the hospital for any slight ailment - Miss Traber doesn't come here any more, apparently, since Dr. Thomas left - neither did she suggest our coming here -

Well - Arcola called up the doctor and said we'd be only too glad to come (the charge is only for bare board) and he came hustling. So we were brought down in the school bus on Thursday - I had no temperature but I was very thin and nervous and was just on



The ragged edge too much to  
try to get better right in that  
dorm. full of girls -

This is Sunday and I'm as right  
as rain, - sitting up at a table  
and writing to you - I don't  
know when I have had such a  
good rest. I've had a bath all over  
every morning (lying flat on my back),  
and a half one in the afternoon,  
with an alcohol rub then and another  
at sleep time. I've had good meals,  
and orange or grape juice in between  
meals both morning and p.m.  
And now that I've had a nice shampoo  
this afternoon, I'm hunky dory -  
I'm going back to the dormitory

tomorrow - Emily hasn't got  
well quite as rapidly - well -  
she started in a couple of  
days later - And she has had  
~~two~~ sleepless nights and is  
very nervous - Can't stand  
visitors - and all that -

But this hospital is a great  
institution, I'll tell the world!  
Nobody up there, <sup>at the dorm -</sup> to take care of us -  
In China, we had Mai che', but  
here there is no one - and when the  
girls are at school there'd be  
no one to send if you were dying!  
Come down here to the hospital  
and these little nurses just  
wait on your hand and foot -

You do not need to worry, I think about my not having excellent care if I'm sick here in the Philippines.

Since we've been here in the Hospital we have had a letter which makes us think our time here may be short. Mr. Baker has had word from the Rooms that both Women's & General Board have agreed to support the new school. Mr. Ling, who is to be the principal, has asked for me to be one of the women workers (unlimited time) and for Emily to be for a year (I suppose that means until Mrs Culley comes back).

Emily has been rather upset about it. I rather think she

would prefer to stay here a little longer - But they can't send me back a minute too soon. I know we've got some rocky roads and thorny ways ahead of us in the school business in China - but that's where I want to be - in spite of how lovely everyone has been to us since we have been here. And there is no danger in Swatow - The others are calmly going on <sup>with</sup> their work as usual, you know -

Emily thinks we may have a cable any day sending us back to China - But I'm not so sure. Mr. Baker's letter

about the opening of school  
didn't sound very reassuring.  
And I think Miss McBeigh will  
want ~~more~~ definite plans before  
she cables us both back there.  
But - when she does send me,  
I'm ready to hop!

I must stop now and write  
to Arthur - This is a pretty  
time to be writing him a birthday  
letter - and I'm not even sure  
that I know where to send it!

Much much love,

Abbie

On the Boat "San Jacinto"  
Returning to Iloilo from  
Cádiz.

Sept. 12, 1927

Dear Ones,

It is now quarter of one in the afternoon - and we expect to get into Iloilo shortly after two. We are both so sleepy that we don't want to do with ourselves - as if you can't read this, you'll know why. Alas I have nothing but a Saturday evening post and my lap to scribble on - and that is not likely to add to the legibility of this epistle.

Mr. Charles came over to Iloilo to a trustees ~~later~~ meeting and brought a letter <sup>in</sup> which Mrs. Charles urged Enid and me to come back with him on Saturday. She had heard already that we might be called back to China soon, and wanted us to be sure to make them a visit. Well, this seemed as good a time as any, with Mr. Charles to go with us, and since we have not been to a single one of the other stations, we decided to go. We were due out at Central Philippine College (where Jestruck is) to the Banquet on College Day (Saturday noon). We left at one-thirty, took an auto which stopped at Doane Hall long enough for us to change our dresses and shoes and get our suitcases and our lunch, then took us on down to the boat in Bacolod. We left at 2.30, and arrived (without stop) at Bacolod at about 5.30. Then we got a car and drove about 50 miles in a north and then east direction, through Talisay, Silay, Victorias, and some other places, to Cádiz. Mr. Charles had not sent a telegram, and since we did not arrive until about 8.45, she had given up expecting

us and had just got ready to go to bed - We were very tired after our long ride in that very jiggly, rattley Ford - and were glad to stretch out on the bed even while she was making tea for us -

But the next morning we were off soon after 8 to visit Sunday Schools - We went first to the little one right there at Cadiz - but stayed just long enough to hear them sing in Visayan - then went on to Fabrica, about 20 miles away - We visited two Sunday Schools there. We sang a Chinese song in each of them - and in the second one Emily gave them a little talk - They asked one or both of us to, but E. was willing, and one was enough - and I was very glad to get out of it for once - We rested in the afternoon, then took a little walk (they are only a short distance from the beach - There we went to Christian Endeavor right there at Cadiz - Emily gave a longer talk and we sang - I was going to say a few words but Mr. & Mrs. Charles both spoke and they had enough Americans talk without mine - I was glad not to, again, though! I don't usually escape so easily - We went to bed early - had breakfast at 6.30, and got away about 7.30 - came by auto (this time a more comfortable one) to Silay and took the boat (same one we had Saturday to Bacolod) about 10.30 - Both coming and going we had to make the transfer from ship to land (& vice versa) by a smaller boat -

It is a longer trip than from Iloilo to Nityang, but

that one is about as living as this, because we have more deck space and real chairs - We don't have steamer chairs on this boat - but we are lucky on the Kityang boats if we get any!

Sept. 13 -

This is the day set for the opening of school in Swatow - and sometimes I feel as though I simply cannot stand it not to be there. Then I realize that when I do go back it may be into hotter water than we had before - as I don't dare do anything or think anything except wait. But this period of suspense is almost as bad as the one I had in China - [It's harder yet - though this in the bracket is a secret and mustn't be told to anybody - because while Emily wants to stay with me, she doesn't want to go back to China - They have not treated her very considerably, and now they ask for her back for just a year - with no promise of anything beyond that. Still, she is making no move to keep me here, nor am I saying anything - to try to get her to go back if the Board wants to send her back - For I know that she might be very unhappy if she went back and then that would be on my conscience -]

Well - Goodbye for now - And love - Abbi



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Doane Hall  
St. Louis, P. I.

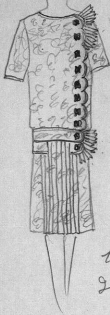
Sept. 20, 1927

Dear Quers -

It's hot - hot - and the next morning, even, after I have been for a swim out at Otome, I can't seem to remember that I have ever been cool. Yesterday was Helen Hinkley's birthday - and we had Miss Mann and Miss Ernst from the Hospital, and Mr. & Mrs. Hamme, the school supt., and his wife, and a school teacher who lives with them, with us on our picnic. It was wonderful swimming, but I didn't stay in long because I had had a "dazzly" headache in the morning. I still have some headache this morning, but it is already going away - and I expect to be O.K. by noon. Just a touch of malaria, I guess -

Oh - the dienes have come! And if you had such a thought, Mother me dear, so that I might send the black and white one back again - well - all I'll say is that you'll have lots of opportunity for having another thought that is different! I love it - and I like the other two - They will make very pretty dresses of the more or less ordinary kind, but I intend to have a swell one from the check - if possible - I'll draw pictures as soon

as I know how they are going to be made - The yellow one I have already cut, and it is planned as follows - The frills and <sup>and button bands</sup> ~~bindings~~ are white organdie - Now don't you think that will be pretty? I'm quite crazy about it - If you like it, this can be the one you give me - and thank you very much - If not, you can wait until you see what the other one is like -



I don't know how to guess what you paid for them, of course - You say you paid much less than \$2.25 for the check - so I'll guess \$1.50 for that and about 80¢ for the other two - Is that right -?

We are in hot water - not really - but I mean - we don't know a word yet of what is to be done with us - I expect a cable sending me back to Swatow - but it doesn't come - and I hear nothing from any source, except that "the school" opened Sept 13th - or was to have done so -

I have been thinking of you as having Mabelle with you - I'll be eager to know all about the visit. With much love, Abbie

Doane Hall,  
Hoilo, P. I.

No 145

Sept. 25, 1927

Mother dear.

In my last letter I failed to tell you that I had to go through customs inspection with my package from you, but I didn't have to pay any duty. We have to pay duty on everything from China, though. I haven't done any more dressmaking this week, and since I have to do the sewing mostly myself in between times, I don't get along as fast as I did with Mai Che' to sew up all the seams in a hurry!

We have been especially busy this week - in our minds, at least. For one thing, we had an evangelistic meeting on Wednesday. Miss Traben spoke, and it was a splendid meeting - Eleven girls and nine boys signified their decision to become Christians. And I have been trying to get hold of every girl in my dormitory and find out why each one has not yet decided - But they won't always give reasons - I think another one is about ready to be baptized. I wish you would pray especially for Josefina, a little girl who was in my dormitory, but has left. She is attractive, but has a trouble-making disposition and is

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apparently as hard as nails when it comes to accepting Christ. Natividad, another little girl, a very nice little musician, has decided - or has gone forward, but she gives as her reason for not being baptized, that her father is not willing. But we have seen her father, and he has said he is willing - ~~but~~ she just tries to give that as an excuse -

Last Sunday a young lad from a neighboring town was baptized. When he was examined for baptism, they asked him why he wanted to be baptized, he said so bravely and confidently "I want to be marked as a Christian!"

(Tues.) Another reason why we have felt hurried and uneasy, and impatient, and restless, is because it is about time for us to hear something in regard to staying here or going back to China. Moreover, the Board has been in session and we have thought of the possibility of a cable - But still nothing comes, and we are just as much in the dark as ever.

I wonder if you noticed the postmark on that letter of mine that you got back (the second one) -? It came here June 20, after we had arrived, and was sent back to China (I suppose you didn't read the Chinese mark but that said June 24) - Then back here July 26 - then returned to you - and why I didn't get it is more than I know - It tells me one thing I have wanted to know but thought no one had told me -

that was regarding Arthur's position this year!

Lates: Tuesday A.M.

I'm certainly rich with two letters 135 and 136 last Friday, and two more from you, 121 and 137 yesterday. Aug. 27 & Sept 25 is not bad - especially since it always takes longer from Vermont to mails that from V. to Swanton.

Aren't you having a raft of visitors? I just hope you won't get all tired out - Hope you give my love to them all -

Of course I want you to give something from me for every sale you have - I want to help all I can in the church where you are -

In regard to writing letters - if you are ever in doubt as to whether I'll get the letters, please write just the same, to the latest address you know - and I'm bound to get it if nothing goes wrong - Otherwise there will be a long time of silence! and I'll be wishing for a letter from you sometime when I might perhaps have had it!

I am using "Mange Cure" on my head now - It smells to heaven, and I have to put it on after I have said goodnight to everyone and wash it off before I say goodmorning to any one. I couldn't do that with long hair! I shall await your opinion - and Dad's - about these pictures - Murder will out!

Love - & then some Abbie.

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Doane Hall,  
Hills, C. I.

Oct. 2, 1927

Dear Quess.

Here it is Sunday and Thursday was only three days ago. It seems more like three years!

Thursday afternoon I received a cable from New York as follows: "Sanderson Please return to your field at once New School Cable Page when you sail. McVeigh".

Well - it was not a great surprise because we had had letters from Mrs. Baker saying they wanted me - and wanted Emily for a year only - and had cabled home to that effect. So we decided ourselves that the logical thing to do would be to send me back and keep Emily here. Sure enough, that is what they decided to do - So I talked with Miss Traber, and arranged to stay here long enough to finish up the term exams. They were to have come next week - but I would have them this week - They I would leave a week from Tuesday for Swatow.

Well! I was so excited I did not know which end my head was on - you may be sure - But that was not all. Early the next morning I had another cable "Sanderson Redo Control Swatow Await letter before coming Notify Pages Spieker (to) delay coming for the present: writing today. Baker". It was sent from Hongkong as we don't know whether they all had to get out or whether he had to mail the message to ~~Swatow~~ Hongkong and have it cabled from there.

The Spiekers and Pages were to sail from Manila yesterday - so Friday morning right after breakfast I went down and sent a telegram to Evelyn Spieker who is now in

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charge of the Baptist Dormitory in Manila - asking her to get the word to the Pags and Speichers - I found a paper which said that the Reds had taken Swatow - "uncontrolled Communists" it said - Some looting had been done by undisciplined soldiers - And that is all it said.

That is just where my story stops, and you can see why it has seemed years since we got the word - We don't know who may have been hurt - or whether the foreigners have had to get out - or whether the buildings have been taken over - or what houses have been looted. And I don't know whether I shall go a week from Tuesday or whether I shall stay here a year or a half year longer! I have arranged to have my exams early just the same, and I am packing a little each day. The girls don't know about it - they saw the second cable - I mean they saw it come - and we explained to them that it was about Swatow and Emily in her chapel with the girls Friday night turned it into a prayermeeting for the Chinese - But they don't know about the possibility of my going - and of course I'm glad to avoid some of the talk.

I suppose there is small chance that will hear anything to-morrow at all - but will have to wait until Friday before we find out anything more - This letter will not go until Tuesday, as if we get anything from the Manila papers I'll add that. It will probably be in the American papers, though -

The latest is that Evelyn Crenoka is making a tour of the missions with a Miss Holly - They are to be here in November - Whether I'll be here then - or where I'll be, and

whether or not I'll see<sup>3</sup> her at all. I don't know, of course - I'm crazy to know the details - Some one says she is a member of the Board - Did you know that?

Another of the girls in my dormitory was baptized today - Still there are many who are indifferent, but there must be some way to get hold of all of them - When the second cable came, one thing I thought immediately was that the Lord didn't want to let me go back to China until I had accomplished more for him here - What is the ~~three~~ reason that all these girls cannot be brought to Christ? I suppose that one reason is because I haven't expected that all of them would come! This is where you can surely help with your prayers -

Tuesday morning:

No more news at all. I expected to see something more in the papers, but although I have had three since the other one, there has been no slightest mention of Swatow - That raises my hopes a little for getting back - But of course I don't know what may have happened to the school -

I hate to send this off and leave you just as much in the air as I am myself - If I go, you will know before now, probably - The Swatow mission won't let me ~~safe~~<sup>go</sup> back unless it is safe, I know - But I want you to get the letter this week - as I'm sending it, and as soon as I know more I'll write again. Love, Abbie



Charlotte, Vermont

Nov. 12, 1927

Dear Elisha:-

Kenneth tells me that you wrote to his father yesterday and that you are coming along all right. When people asked me I had to tell them I didn't know - I didn't hear from you yesterday.

We had our C.E. Social last night. The debate was called off as the two Principals were not able to come. Those present were 3 Thorpes Mrs Besette - Louise - Grace + Mildred Mrs. Estes - Frances and a friend Beatha Dean a married daughter of Estes and baby - Earl Stone and Raymond Carter - Kenneth Taggart and Mr. Miner + yours truly - (16 + a baby) A business meeting with scripture + prayer and singing was followed by a game with pencil + paper - The Thorpes had prepared a big brown sheet of paper with the names of good things

for Thanksgiving Dinner with  
jumbled letters like the following:  
"a a d e e h m o o p s s t t"  
What is it? and would you  
like some?

After this - cake, coffee and  
sandwiches - then more  
singing with Mrs. Thorpe playing.  
Louise + Grace played together  
some popular songs.

I did a big washing, the first  
this week, yesterday - my  
line is full and the clothes  
nearly dry - and I'm continuing  
the wash today - Have a  
boiler full on the stove now.  
I have been working on your  
night-shirt with "Zonite"  
I have gotten the spots out -  
pretty well but the shirt is  
a pale pink -

Mrs. Clough has just come  
in - Ever the same - Clara

Doane Hall

Hilo, P. I.

Oct. 11, 1927

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Dear Ones,

Well, I'm still here and don't have any idea whether I shall or shall not be sent to China right away.

I got a letter from Mr. Baker on Friday explaining his cable to me.

The Reds have come into Swatow and there has been much looting & various disturbances - But the Chinese are the ones who are suffering and the foreigners seem to be in perfect safety. The looting was all on the Swatow side, as far as we can make out and Hakchick is as yet undisturbed. The schools in the city had all been sealed and <sup>(Mr. Baker)</sup> they were afraid that the new school (which is in good running order already, without us) might be closed, too.

The Chinese executive committee,

fearing that Mr. Speiser might not be able to live in Swatow even, voted to ask him to delay coming back for the present. The Institutional Church is closed, and no one knows whether the extreme Reds have ~~been~~ <sup>are</sup> there to stay or whether the conservatives will make a dash to drive them out.

The Chinese also thought that in view of the fact that there might be trouble with the school - and in view of what Mr. Page underwent last winter, he'd better delay also. And if it was wise for them to delay no single woman certainly ought not to rush back.

He had had no word from America about ~~us~~ <sup>us</sup> but supposed we had had a cable to return to Swatow. I wrote telling him I was all

ready to come, and would wait only for news that the folks in Swatow thought my return advisable. On Saturday I sent a cable to him

"Sanderson - return authorized Received your message - am waiting for a telegram from you before leaving - " The above message took only four code words and with the name and address "Page, Swatow", cost only \$3.64 or \$1.82 gold. That isn't bad, is it? So I'm still just where I was Sept. 30 when I got that second cable - sitting on a tack!

We have had some excitement here this week. While we were at prayer meeting at Doane Hall on Wednesday P. M. (a very stormy, blizzardy rain was raging and it was the third day of the storm -) they told us that the flood was coming and since our dormitories are not very safe that we'd all better stay right there. So sure enough

it came with a rush - Arcola's dormitory is more solid and she got her girls all over there before the water got too deep - The flood kept coming higher and higher and still ~~very~~ few of the girls were frightened - They told us it was coming and that it was usually about up to the knees so we weren't a bit scared -

The boys brought the girls' supper over to them, and then brought ours, and they had to wade in water up to their waists - Of course we all felt better after we had eaten - Then the boys went to the dormitories and got spreads and things from the girls' beds and they camped out on rows of benches which they arranged two by two, seat to seat ~~back~~ - The boys brought cots over for Hinkley, Emily & me - and about 8 o'clock Alice and Betty waded home - Ice cold water, to their waists - and muddy - muddy! But they wanted to get to their house,

and so they went. Poor Emily  
was having her hard time - and  
we had no aspirin nor any medicine.  
So she had a pretty bad night.  
The water didn't begin to go down  
until about 2 A. M. As soon as it  
was light we went home to the  
dorms. We had to wade in ankle deep  
mud in some places, even there -  
I didn't know whether my shoes would  
ever get clean but they seem to  
be all right -

Our basements had four or five  
inches of mud in them! Ours is  
not cleaned thoroughly even yet.  
Some one said that the flood was  
five feet but it really was about  
a yard only, all over the compound.  
The grass has all been killed and  
the pretty hedges and fences are  
all down. It is rather a desolate  
looking place. But doesn't compare with  
our typhoon <sup>"remains"</sup> in Swatow, of course -

The next night the report came that the flood was coming again. but since it couldn't be so bad a second time, we decided to stay night ~~over~~ in our own houses unless we had to get out. The warning came at supper time and I rushed over to grab my supper in a hurry and then back to the dorm. with the girls. We all spent the evening sewing, studying and reading, and went to bed early & had unbroken sleep all night.

On Saturday the girls volunteered to scrub the house. So we divided the rooms up among them and they went to work with a will. By afternoon they had the place spic & span and some of the girls brought out centerpieces and chair "tidies" that they had crossstitched with mottoes "Honor thy parents" - "Love thy God" - "Labor is Honorable" -



"Home Sweet Home" "Sweet Dreams", etc.

Some one donated a small Christmas tree, which they placed on the center of the table, and peeking under that I saw on the centerpiece the name Manny embroidered! I promised them some pictures - and tore two or three of them out of magazines for them - I'm going to get heavy black paper and let the girls make frames for them -

As luck would have it, Miss Appel, who had my place last year, came down from Capiz just that day, and could see the dorm shining and gleaming. It is still pretty clean but I don't know how long it will last. The Compound is still muddy and it is very easy to track dirt over a house

when it's muddy outside.

Ever since six this morning we have been waiting for the Manila boat to arrive, on which we are expecting Miss Meme Brockway - The latest is that the boat will not arrive until 10. It is about 9 now.

Lates:

We went down to meet her, & heard her speak - She's fine -

Love to you -

Abbie

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On board S. S. "Viscaya"

Oct. 19, 1927

Dearest One,

I can't yet believe it, but it's true - I'm on my way back to Swatow. I can never tell you how I have vacillated in the last two weeks between hopefulness and dismal discouragement. It seemed as though I could not stand it not to go back. More than that, I had to conceal that feeling somewhat, not to hurt Emily's feelings. I don't believe she considers her attachment to her work separately from her attachment to me - but so for me, my love for her and my love for the work in China are two distinct things - and I'm not sure she can understand that, absolutely. She has been so good, though, helping me to get ready and everything - and has not tried to hold me back in any way.

Monday noon a letter arrived from Mr. Baker saying that they had had a

week of terror, but that the Reds  
had been routed and it would be  
all right for us to come back again  
immediately. Aid had no word  
from this McVeigh as to whether we  
were to be allowed to return; didn't  
think the woman's board was keeping  
up their end of the bargain unless  
they did send us back - and if we  
had received authorization to return,  
he hoped we wouldn't be delayed by  
his wife! Well! What we wondered  
was, if he didn't expect us to delay  
why did he write? I shall ask him  
that later - !

Well - the way seemed clear enough;  
no reason why ~~we~~ I should not return to  
Swatow and the boat leaving the  
next day. I had my things almost  
all packed, and so I was ready - Don't  
you believe I am thankful that I was?  
I got the carpenter to box up my  
victrola, typewriters, and camphor chest -  
and before I went to bed I had my

traveling bag and one suitcase  
nearly packed, as well as the  
trunk trays which I hadn't yet  
been able to finish packing as long  
as my return was uncertain.

I had telephoned to Mrs. Feldman  
in the afternoon for the travel money,  
and had also phoned the steamship  
company for my reservation. So I  
had the next morning to go downtown,  
cash out my check and my money  
in the bank, buy my ticket, have  
my address changed at the P. O.  
and get one or two things for the  
journey.

The Filipina girls were lovely  
about helping - shoes to be cleaned,  
a slip to be ironed - stockings to  
be washed <sup>+ mended</sup> - (I had got the regular  
wash woman the day before for most  
of my things).

By noon I was pretty tuckered  
but I knew I could be ready in  
time, so I wasn't worried. Then,

I just happened to discover that the boys and girls were planning a long farewell program in the afternoon beginning at 2, and I was supposed to "prepare" a talk for them! I had already had my chapel talk in the morning (using "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus") and that was hard enough - and I had no other farewell message for them - I thought if I had to sit for two hours and listen to high sounding eulogies, etc - that I should collapse - Aside from that, it would have been a physical impossibility. I had to see about having my trunks and things roped, pay my board, finish packing suitcases - dispose of a few things left in my room - bath, dress - and other odds & ends - I had exactly 15 minutes to rest, without the meeting! (as it happened)

Betty saw the leaders of this affair  
 (they hadn't consulted any one) and  
 soothed their disappointed feelings and  
 asked them just to have some notes  
 & speeches - and told them they  
 might go to the boat <sup>with them</sup>. I told her  
 I appreciated their intentions but I  
 didn't think I could stand any  
 speeches. (I didn't think Emily could  
 either, poor girl!) She understood how  
 I felt - so they came to the boat and  
 gave me a grand, though weepy  
 send-off. Two little girls, both  
 of whom I have been especially  
 anxious to get close to - one of them  
 a rather naughty little one -  
 were exceedingly sobby and sorrowful.  
 and they really were a pathetic  
 bunch as they tried to sing the  
 good bye songs. They raised an  
 awful racket on the boat; no body  
 was left in doubt about my being a

teachers leaving a bunch of girls!

The Institute young men and women came down too. The girls in my dormitory and Emily gave me a pair of red velvet Filipino toe slippers, embroidered with butterflies, and individuals among them and in the training school brought pictures and a number of cross stitched chair "tidies" embroidered "Remembrance", "Sweet Dream", "Home Sweet Home" - and one with "Honey" on it. I told them that was a sweet one!

Then at the boat the Institute people brought a parcel for which I thanked them. After the boat started - But I want to tell you first that it is  dreadful to sail away from a bunch of folks whom you like and never expect to see again! In Suva I always felt (when there was a crowd) that I'd be coming back to them - but I don't here - They had only known



me four months - so their feeling  
isn't very deep. <sup>After</sup> Emily said it  
rather cheered her up to see them  
so weepy - Because they didn't  
realize how little of me they were  
losing in comparison to the much  
of me that she was losing - She is  
right in a way - But I don't  
believe she has the same feeling for  
the girls that I have. She has  
12 in her dormitory and doesn't  
know them all by name yet. I  
had twenty-eight and while I was  
rather slow learning them, I've known  
them all a long time, and have  
had more or less intimate talks  
with almost all of them - And  
although I know they are excitable  
yet their little gifts and their weeps  
gave me a real wrench -

About leaving Emily, I won't say  
anything - When I see you, I  
can talk about it, but I can't

write about it. She knows I'm glad  
to get back to Swatow with part  
of me, but she doesn't know that  
every bit of me wants to go back,  
and I haven't a shred of desire to  
stay in P. I. even with her. I don't  
think I'm disloyal to her - No one  
knows this - and she must never  
hear of it - but she broods so  
over the treatment she had  
in China that she is growing  
hard and bitter about it. And it  
has been a great strain on me -  
On the other hand her chapel  
talks to the girls are wonderful -  
She is not hampered by differences  
in language - and she gives them  
a real message every time - She'll  
be happier here than in China, I  
know - Ruth Harris had invited  
both of us to come out to her house  
for picnic supper last night. When  
she found I was leaving she asked  
Emily to take my place - I didn't think  
she would - but she did, and went

3/ there with Ruth directly from the boat. Mr. Feldmann & Mrs. Feldmann were there too. Gertrude Rose has classes on Tuesday so I didn't see her - Mrs. Stuart sent a nice little letter.

After the boat sailed I opened the package from the Institute People, and found that they had made a little book of letters - one written by each of them - They are rather pathetic, too - and altogether out of proportion to any good I may have done them, I'm afraid. They are most flattering. I'll not dare to show them to any one except you - and you'll have to take them with a grain of salt.

Betty and Alice gave me a lovely Pina cloth centerpiece, and "Hinkle" a little tray made of abalone shell. I don't know ~~how~~ <sup>what</sup> I am going to

have my work after I am gone -  
This is the place where Dr. Thomas  
was, and he has resigned - This  
coming spring Alice and Betty are  
going home, Hinkle and Mr. Pemberton  
are due to go home. and that  
leaves only Emily and Arcola -  
They don't get along any too well,  
and if this should turn into  
an independent mission and  
the Thomases should return, Arcola  
wouldn't want to stay and I don't  
~~whether~~ Emily would <sup>either</sup> on child  
she gets into a "state" whenever  
she thinks of the uncertainty of  
it all -

I haven't said a thing about  
Miss Brockway's visit and  
her splendid talks and story-  
telling - But the girls and boys  
went wild over her - as well  
they might, for she is fine -

On Saturday, the day she left, they had a wonderful party for her, with the same kind of program that they later planned for me - For her, it was fine - but it would have been one too many for me -

If I can get reservations, I shall sail to Hongkong on Friday on the same boat which takes her to America. Won't she be surprised!

We are having a pretty good trip - But it is getting a bit rough now -

Much, much love -

Abbie

this P.M. and we are waiting to see what they intend to do - Love + then come. @ Oct. 28, 1927  
Swatow, China  
Abbe.

Dearest Ones,

Back at the old stand again! I received word that it would be all right to come back a week ago Monday. I left on Tuesday, amid wails and weeps of the children - But I told you about that, didn't I? Arrived in Manila Thursday, left Friday on the Taft with Miss Brockway. Arrived in H.K. Sunday, and left on Monday on the little old Hydrangea on which foreigners seldom travel. I could send neither telegram nor radio message, for the wires were down and the office closed. But reports had it that Swatow was quiet. They had sent a cable from here (which I never received - I received only the letter) so

they were expecting me but they didn't look for me on the Hydrangea. I came up right away, leaving my baggage on board ship - (I sent Sui Kim out to get it -) Went to Mr. Baker's and found him working on another cable to send to me -

Had breakfast there, then went around to see the other folks - Had dinner at Eastview, with Edith Traver, Marguerite Everham and Dorothy Campbell - and supper and breakfast with Elsie K. and Miss Sollman at the bungalow - Since then I have eaten my meals in state by myself - Pretty good ones too, I'll say - Fresh ripe figs and bananas right from my back yard. and tonight I had the most delicious Chinese noodles - soy bean sauce, bean sprouts, 'n' everything. My! but they were good -

People seemed strangely glad to see me - and it has warmed

the cockles of my heart! The  
afternoon I arrived Mr. Lin  
came over to see me. Said he  
didn't want to push me, but I  
told him I was ready to begin  
right away. It happens that  
they are having their first  
monthly exams and this is at  
a sort of "commencement" in the work;  
an easy place to pick up where  
some one else has been doing it.  
So I went right over the next  
morning, was introduced, made  
a little speech (a brief digest of  
F. C. Herrick's baccalaureate sermon  
"What is that in thy hand?" (!))  
and taught my first class, 45-  
pupils, 8 of whom are girls -  
my former pupils - I rather dread  
teaching boys - but shall try my  
best, anyway. I began this time  
by asking them whether they would  
read first or wanted me to  
read it to them first - They  
gasped and said "Oh you read



it!" So I said - "Well then you must all listen carefully" - and they did - ! And I considered that period a most satisfactory beginning - But how we shall get on later is another question.

Pue ki (whom I always used to call Phek tau or Thin Eng - first my pupil & later a teacher, but not here at the rumfuo last winter) has charge of the dormitory now and there are just " girls studying there - She is steadier than she used to be, I think; is the only other woman teacher - and I am very thankful to have her here - She makes things much easier for me than as though I were the only woman. And I know she will help me, too -

A long piece appeared in the paper yesterday, threatening to break up our school - and today Mr. Lin put it in the hands of the students and asked what they proposed to do about it. They have formed a Student's Association

this P.M. and we are waiting to see what they intend to do - Love + then come. @ Oct. 28, 1927  
Swatow, China  
Abbe.

Dearest Ques,

Back at the old stand again! I received word that it would be all right to come back a week ago Monday. I left on Tuesday, amid wails and weeps of the children - But I told you about that, didn't I? Arrived in Manila Thursday, left Friday on the Taft with Miss Brockway. Arrived in H. K. Sunday, and left on Monday on the little old Hydrangea on which foreigners seldom travel. I could send neither telegram nor radio message, for the wires were down and the office closed. But reports had it that Swatow was quiet. They had sent a cable from here (which I never received - I received only the letter) so

Sivatou, China

Nov. 6, 1927

Dearest Mother -

The work here has started in in earnest - and it will not be easy, in any sense of the word - Students today are so averse to having anything crammed down their throats that you have to avoid all appearance of forcing them in any religious activities - I keep hoping every day for some new opportunity to do the work for which I'm sent out. Just at present, doing that work appears to consist in just doing my teaching and living my life in the very best way that I know

How -

The day after I began to teach, a long article appeared in one of the Swatow newspapers, vilifying our school, and threatening to "draw aside the dark curtain" and expose the dark secrets that were to be found beyond, and keep at it until this foreign school was utterly destroyed -

If you have any idea of the power of a newspaper article in China you will know that this created <sup>(almost)</sup> panic among the teachers and a furore among the students. But it was finally put up to the students to decide what they would do. They could deny these reports, and put the school on a firm basis, or they could agree with them,

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and work ruin to the school in a very short time - For two anxious days we could not tell just which way the wind was going to blow - for there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ a ~~number of~~ <sup>students</sup> ~~factories~~ in the school, careful though Mr. Ling was in trying to keep them out, who apparently are looking for trouble, and would be glad to see it come -

These things settled down, and we have had school ever since. I teach five hours on Monday and Friday, four on Wednesday, two on Tuesday, and one on Thursday. I have to leave here shortly after eight - get back at 11.20 or 11.30 - then go back at 1.00, and get back 4.15 or 4.30 on the busiest days, if there is not a meeting or conference about something. I am to have a class in music with the girls

until 5 on Monday - I go to the  
the Woman's Prayer meeting at 3.  
on Thursday and play the organ.  
This coming Thursday I am to give  
the talk at their missionary meeting  
on my experiences in the Philippines.  
I'm scared, yet glad of the chance  
to tell it -

I have a Sunday School class of  
nine girls - younger than the ones I  
have in school, and I have no  
doubt I shall enjoy that very much.  
They are all church members but one -  
and I hope we can get some new  
members -

My time is getting itself pretty  
well filled up - I thought I should  
have to give up the first day that  
I stood ~~up~~ all the time for the first  
hour - (Can't very well sit down  
to a class of 44, only 8 of ~~them~~ girls!)  
And I am still panting when I get

to the top of that high hill that  
 has to be climbed every day - twice;  
 but I know the exercise is good for  
 me, and I'm eating like a horse  
 afire - I don't mind living alone  
 in the least, and believe I could  
 even be happy doing as Anna  
 Foster is doing, living alone in an  
 inland station with no other foreigners.  
 But I'm not sure about that - and  
 I don't have to do it at the present -  
 so I'd better spend my time being  
 happy here, which I am -

I shall not be alone after  
 this Wednesday, for Mrs. Giffin of  
 Razing and 8 or 10 year old Raymond  
 are to be here with me for a while.  
 Some people think she is a  
 very gloomy and difficult person

To get along with; she is nervous, but I like her, and only hope we shall get along as well together as I am anticipating - I am glad to have her come, for it will lighten my expense considerably. It is not cheap to live alone -

The foreigners have expressed themselves as liking my hair, and many Chinese have too. The Chinese didn't expect to like it,

and have changed their minds - since they have seen me - The latest is that Mrs. Ashmore has bobbed hers! It doesn't look as well as she had hoped, but it is so comfortable!

It's 8.30 P. M. already, and I am yawning - I must still try to write to Mabelle C. and



Miss McVeigh before I go to bed - and  
 begin to get my talk ready for  
 Thursday - My schedule at school  
 is lighter to-morrow - Tuesday (for  
 it is Monday now) but I must  
 get to work on a dress that will be  
 suitable for this time of year - I  
 have just two that are right for  
 school right now - A lavender linen  
 with white sleeves, now with the little  
 white sweater Eva Owen gave me, and  
 a striped Fiji (half silk & half cotton -)  
 I've had them both two years, but  
 they are all I'm wearing now -  
 The thing in preparation now is  
 Eva Owen's white linen (now dyed  
 green) combined with a voile  
 shirtwaist purchased in Boston  
 December 1917 - to make a coat  
 ensemble (rather tailored). The  
 dresses you sent will be fine  
 next summer - but they are put

away for now, - even the one that  
is partly made - I'm not  
sorry I have them - don't worry!

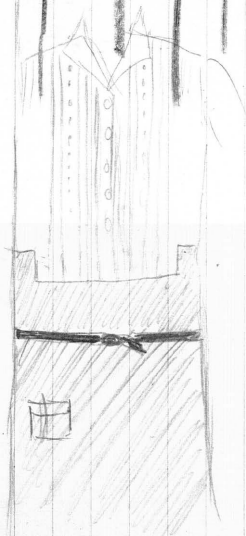
I've already had eleven letters  
from girls in Iloilo - Some of  
them tell me that some of my  
dormitory girls are sorry now  
that they did not take steps  
to be baptized before I left -  
but they are doing so now -

I don't yet wish I were  
back there, though!

Much, much love,

Abbie

Eva Owen's white linen dress  
dyed green and remodelled  
with a 10 year old white  
shirt waist - I consider it a  
grand success -



Swatow, China

Nov. 8, 1927

Mother dear,

What was my joy about an hour ago to receive a letter from you addressed Swatow. This noon I received No 143, which Emily had re-directed from Iloilo, and now tonight comes 146, written Oct. 10. ! So I know there are two in between.

Clara Prindle's case sounds like a very serious one. How could there be any hope with 4 hemorrhages in such a short time! I don't feel yet as though I'm acquainted with any of the Charlotte folks - but the name Prindle sounds familiar because you have mentioned it so often.

I really ought not to be writing to you because I should already be starting for a teacher's meeting. It is now 7.20, and we are to meet at 7.30 - Last time I waited a full half hour before the principal himself came, so I shouldn't be surprised if we began late again tonight. But just having that letter from you made me very ~~happy~~ ~~happy~~, somehow, and I felt like sitting down to tell you so.

I'm so glad you are getting bathroom and other improvements in your house - Goodness knows, if anybody ever deserved to have a few conveniences, it's you folks, who have lived without them for so long!

I'm ~~not~~ wondering what impression Mabelle made on you - and whether you have said so in some previous letter that I haven't yet received. I'd almost be willing to bet that she didn't have anything favorable to say about my hair cut - I suppose she wouldn't approve - What will she say when she hears that Mrs. Ashmore has had hers cut!

Thursday, Nov. 14 - Just home from the Bakers, where I was a guest for dinner this evening. This afternoon I spoke at the Chinese missionary society meeting on my work there in the Philippines. I was conscious of having made some mistakes in the emphasis of words, but they told me afterwards it was interesting. I simply told about my work, and the girls, and the ones who became Christians. Told them about

the baptisms every Sunday and said I hoped we could see the same here - I drew a picture of the compound which showed the different houses where we lived - drew my room in red - and translated into Chinese even the names of some of the girls whom I told about, to make it a bit more vivid.

Mr. & Mrs. Baker and a Mr. Wenzel of Philadelphia who is visiting them are going to Chaohouf to-morrow. I am planning to go with them to get some of Emily's things in case she wants them. She says I'm to have her piano for the present - and for keeps if she doesn't come back - I shall buy her dining room table and bookcase, however -

It happens that tomorrow Sun Yat Sen's birthday is celebrated, so we have a holiday - And thus I can go away one day and back the next without missing any school.

Will you please send \$1.25 to Lorenz Publishing Co. for the "Choir Herald" for the coming year? I've had it this past year, and I wish to continue it. I'm sending them a card telling them that I wish to continue and that they will receive the money shortly -

Thank you very much - I hope to send you some handkerchief and tatting very soon - Emily sent some things to you for me, and from the Philippines you ought not to have to pay duty. If the tapestry things are mildewed just brush them or clean them with kerosene, and air them for two or three days.

The little pieces make handsome  
bags - The runner might fit on  
your sitting room table - If you  
want to use any of the things as  
gifts - do so, of course

Must close for this time -

With much, much love,

Abbie



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Sivatow, Nov. 20, '27

Mother dear -

On Thursday I had three letters from you - one direct and two from Iloilo. I had about ten other letters, including one from Mr. Giberson with \$55. He hadn't sent any for some time because he was afraid it wasn't safe. This was a money order on Iloilo - I shall send it back and have Emily get it for me. Then Ethel Lacey in Shanghai can make adjustments in our accounts.

We have come to a breathing space in a big "affair" we have had. I'm ashamed that I haven't written to you for two weeks, but it has been hectic -

Articles appeared in the newspapers denouncing Mr. Ling, the principal, saying he was a running dog of the foreigners, an opposer of them

got Sen - and that he was in various ways tyrannizing over the students - Moreover, the man who wrote this said one of the students had told him -

Mr. Ling asked the student body if any one of them had given such information, and all signed a statement saying they had not. But by watching they got hold of a letter sent <sup>out of the mail</sup> by the writer of the article, with the name of the school on the envelope - Mr. Ling asked the sender of the letter to come forward and get it (last Wednesday morning at assembly). The boy, whose they privately ~~knew~~ <sup>had</sup> mailed it came forward and took it. Mr. Ling asked him what was in it, and he said to Mr. Ling - "You open it and see."

"No," said Mr. L. "The letter is yours. You open it."

He did so.

"Now read us what it says."

"No, it is my own private business. It has nothing to do with the school."

But he gave the letter to Mr. Ling and said he could read it if he wanted to - but not tell what it said -

Mr. Ling said he thought the students would want to know what he had written, so he gave the letter to the students association. The students met in their regular way, after electing a chairman - and tried to get him to read it - saying that all they wanted was proof that he was innocent. He would not, so they got their secretary to read it. The letter revealed

a deep-laid plan to break up the school - He was finding it hard to "accomplish the work" - he said, and if he was to "continue" he would need help - The students were more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of them the running dogs of the principal (roars and hisses from the students) and they watched him all the time - Communications sent to him in the future should be addressed to (another name, fictitious). And much more -

He looked pretty small when they got through reading. They let him know how they felt, all right - They were wild - and once Mr. Ling had to tell them not to use force - because he was afraid they would rise up and beat the culprit - They let him off with the payment of \$4. to pay for an article in the paper -

denying the statements that had been made, or rather, taking them back - and expulsion from the students' organization and payment of \$4 for firecrackers to celebrate his departure (good riddance!) Two other bad ones left with him, but we know they will continue to get in their dirty work if they can.

Miss Soltman says "There is no Christianity in that school" - but she is wrong! They are not teaching Bible classes there just now but there is a wonderful opportunity to get hold of those boys and girls if we only can do it - And I believe many of them are truly wanting to do the right thing but they don't think that that means going to four services on Sunday!

Pray hard that we may find

just the right way to get the  
50 Christian boys and girls  
started - and the way to work  
ourselves -

You've heard ~~me~~ say that winning  
people to Christ in China has to  
be done mostly by Chinese Christians.  
I still think that is true, but I  
think we foreigners have got to  
do a powerful lot of trying on  
our own hook, to inspire the  
others to try - I feel very very  
helpless -

I'm sending you Emily's ~~two~~  
<sup>two</sup> latest letters, which tell of the  
"debacle" at Hots - Read first  
the one written in pencil - no 1, and  
then the other, and then my  
explanation on the back page of  
the second one - Aren't they  
having a time?

Mrs. Jiffin and Raymond  
are still here. They planned to

go up to Kaying with Mr. Chia  
 (whom we met in Milwaukee)  
 who came down to escort them  
 up - But rumors come now  
 of fighting in Canton - All  
 the soldiers are being sent for  
 to go down there and help  
 drive out the Reds; and that  
 leaves the inland roads  
 unprotected from bandits -  
 Swatow went under martial law  
 last night - What this may  
 mean we don't yet know -

But I'm glad I'm here -  
 and glad that I have been given  
 what looks to me like a very  
 hard task - "Do not pray for tasks  
 equal to your powers; pray for  
 powers equal to your tasks" -  
 And that is what I am doing -

Clara Leach was down last week  
to a hospital trustees meeting, and  
she stayed with me - She is overworked  
and not very well, and we have all  
been worried about her - But she  
seems better now, and I hope  
things will improve - We hope that  
she may have a foreign doctor - and  
they have already found a  
Chinese one to go to her relief -

She talked to me about her  
mother's marriage - first time she  
has mentioned it. She thought it  
was terrible at first but says she  
has rather got used to it now  
and thinks it is working out  
pretty well - And she has  
decided to be philosophical about  
it - It's their business, they have  
a right to do as they please, etc.!

Much, much love,  
Abbie  
The Christmas cards are lovely -



Swatow, China

Nov. 27, 1927

Dearest Ones -

This has been a rather happy day for me - I went to Sunday School this morning and had a very good class. This afternoon five of the girls came over to sing - and I gave them a new song which just came in the Christmas number of the Choir Herald - It is really a very lovely thing and they were crazy about it -

Then we talked a little bit about W. W. J. - and I showed them a letter which has just come from Miss Noble asking us to join in the World-Wide W. W. J.

vesper service next Sunday evening,  
and then to write and tell her  
about the program, and send  
her a picture of the W. W. J.-

It made us rather sad to think  
of the big society we have had  
for so many years - but they  
suggest having this meeting just  
the same, and after prayer  
discussing ways and means of  
going on with it - They seemed  
so enthusiastic that my spirits  
went up and up -

And they also want to have  
a Christmas program of some  
sort - If they do I may have  
to stay here instead of going  
to Nityang as I planned -  
but if they want a Christmas  
celebration I'll be glad to give

up most anything - It is their  
 not being willing to have it  
 that is too hard to bear - So  
 I'm going to work on the music  
 with a will - That is the first  
 thing that I can do to help and  
 I'm so happy to see the Christian  
 girls want to "start something" -  
 Lim Bak Lang, who wrote to  
 Emma, my bright favorite Pheng  
 Hui, and another of the old girls  
 came over to see me while the  
 other girls were here - and they  
 sat and talked for an hour  
 afterwards - It was good to see  
 them - They three and two of  
 the girls who came to sing were  
 from our prize Senior High 2nd  
 class - They were 12; but now  
 they are all scattered -

Mrs. Giffin and Raymond are still here; travel inland as far as ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> is <sup>not</sup> safe just now when no one knows just how far the Reds will go. Reports have it that the Reds have conquered Canton and are ruling it in a very orderly manner for the time being -

Emily writes of Evelyn Cranska's visit to Iloilo - She stayed out at the college, - not on the Doane Compound - but they had a picnic all together at Oton, it seems - Oh - I wish I could have seen her - I wish she could come here! Can't say I wish I were there, though!

Mother dear - I wonder whether you have received the things that

Emily sent for me from Iloilo?  
 I meant to write to tell you about  
 them in time for Christmas - The  
 black runner with gold pagodas  
 is your Christmas present if it  
 fits your table - The tea is  
 Father's Christmas present if he  
 doesn't get anything else - and it  
 doesn't look now as though he would.  
 If I don't get over to Swatow soon,  
 I shan't get anything more for  
 any one -

You are going to get another  
 Christmas present later on, yourself.  
 Mrs. Bonfield made herself a  
 sweater which proved to be too  
 small - When I tried it on it  
 seemed to fit pretty well, ~~but~~  
 she wanted to know if I would  
 take the knitting of that one as a

gift and get her yarn for another - I did it, but afterwards decided that there was too much lavender in it - and that it was too short and ruffly around the waist and that I wanted a fawn or tan and brown to match my color scheme, any way -

So I'm at present making it longer and making a new collar (not lavender) and I'm going to send it to you - it may not be all sewed up when you get it, and I will mark the value low - but I hope you will be able to use it. I like the way it hugs, for warmth but not so much for looks - If you can't use it as it is perhaps you can "fix" it -

I found the yarn I want  
for mine in Swatow - and  
it is costing me \$7.00 - a \$3.50  
gold, which ~~is~~ not too much -  
if I ever get it done!

I meant to tell you to use  
the other things in the package  
as you saw fit, for Christmas  
presents and so on - But I fear  
this will reach you too late -  
Hope E. did not value it too high  
and that you didn't have to pay  
much duty!

With much, much love.  
Abbie

Dec. 4, 1927

Dear Mother,

I've just made an appalling discovery. This is examination week and I've planned to typewrite all the examination questions. It doesn't look as though I can do it, because I suddenly find I'm all out of typewriter paper - the thin kind such as the enclosed sheet (with dress sketches). Could you get me a little soon, as thin as this or thinner? It doesn't need to be as good, if it is equally thin. And I wonder if you can find a box of (Black) Multikopy Carbon Paper Supreme, manfg. by F. S. Webster Company, Boston, N.Y. Phila. etc. That is the only kind that makes as many copies as I would like on my Noisless Machine. I have plenty of Red Seal Carbon, but would like this kind if possible. If anybody wants to send me anything, tell 'em typewriter paper (thin) -

The sweater I'm fixing is progressing and I hope to get it off to you sometime this week if all goes well. You will find attached to it a little package containing a little present from my protégée, Miss Hōng - the minister's daughter who was a teacher in a school and whom I'm now helping to study nursing. She is all the time wanting to give me presents and I have kept forbidding her to do so, so she has bought this pin for me to send as a Christmas



greeting to my venerable mother - You would like her very much if you could know her, and I know she will be delighted to have some word from you - a message in your letter to me if you don't feel like writing her a note - I think the gift is pretty, and it is very Chinese, and something you can use -

Today has been a happy day - At six thirty this morning I went over to Mr. Capen's rose garden and cut all the roses and brought them back and arranged them - Marguerite has charge of that garden <sup>now</sup>, and she said I might have them all for the meeting this afternoon - We had two sand pots stuck full of ivory roses, and five vases, some with white, some with blush, some salmonly yellow, some pink, and some red - They were gorgeous -

At 8.30 I went to my Sunday School class and had a good lesson; then came back to school to see that the room was in good order and everything fixed right for the P. M. Then back to church - There I saw Bessie Baker and found that her parents had gone to Chaochowfu and she was left alone. So I asked her to come over to dinner. Charles Chia was also there, and I asked him to come - he was over from Swatow for the day and I knew he expected it - Then I came home to tell Siukin about the extra people for dinner. Then went to call on Bok Dong Cho,

a former teacher (the one who was penned up here <sup>14</sup> days last year) to see her new baby - Then I went to call on Mrs. Hong's mother - Then home to dinner - and back to school directly to write out the program for the W. H. J. meeting -

Mrs. Ling was the chairman - That was fitting <sup>of the original infirmary society</sup> for she was one of the organizers, with Miss Weld, eighteen years ago - We followed the general topic of "Light for the World" suggested in the program Mrs. Noble sent me - sang our W. H. J. songs, and "Brighten the corner" and then had a splendid talk by Mrs. Ling - I want to write to Mrs. Noble about it tonight while I am still in the thrill of it - but I don't know whether I can - Twenty-five girls were there - and they enthusiastically voted to continue the society and elected a temporary committee to make plans - Then they sang "Take my Life & let it be" and closed with a prayer by my teacher Phoebe - who was one of the organizers also - (Three or four older ones were also present) - I am very happy about it - and think there is great reason to rejoice -

I gave Mrs. Lim some of the roses, and some to the girls <sup>who</sup> were so enthusiastic about beginning the society again - They were delighted - of course -

Did I tell you Waneta had asked me to go to Kityang and I promised gladly - for Christmas?

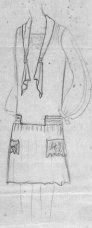
Well I don't know how whether I'll be going or not. The girls want to have some kind of a program and if they have it on a day when I can't be here if I go to Kityang, then I'll not go - do I make my meaning clear? —

Your letter telling of the necessity of an operation has come - Naturally I am waiting with more or less anxiety for the next letter. Belva assures me it is not an uncommon operation and I need not worry - but I'll be glad when I know it is over -

Clara comes down again for nurse's examinations and she is going to stay with me again - We are pretty good friends -

Love - love —

Abbie



300  
125



Pressing with a damp cloth will  
improve that sweaters

Swanton China  
Dec. 18, 1927

Mother dear - (No 155)

I was relieved to get your letter telling that  
Father had gone to the hospital, and the next one telling  
that he was getting along all right - at the same time -  
I'm very anxious now for the next one -

Your daughter was bad this last week and  
never wrote you a sign of a letter - Instead she has  
been hurrying to finish making over the sweaters &  
send you - although she knew you'd rather have the  
sweaters a little later and have a letter in between!  
Well - she enjoyed making on it - and the two  
people who have seen it think it is a marvelous  
improvement and wish Mrs. Bonfield could see it  
now - I sat up until 12 last night to finish it -  
Mrs. Jiffin made the flowers from a pattern of mine  
and says to tell you she very much enjoyed doing  
it - and thought of her own mother while she  
was doing it -

I didn't wrap up Miss Long's gift after all -  
but you will see it as soon as you open the  
sweaters - You may not want to wear it thus - but  
may want to tack the flowers on - I don't know  
whether you will want to press the lapels back and  
wear it buttoned - or wrap them over and put  
buttons on - I sent all the gray yarn there was

left - Don't you think I <sup>2</sup> managed it pretty well? The lavender collar was too long - and too narrow - but do you like the gray collar as well as the lavender - ? Tell me truly - And tell me, too, how much duty you have to pay - I hope, none -

Well - I'm not going to Antyang after all - The Christian boys and girls in school want to have a Christmas celebration - and I should never feel right to go away and leave them if I can help in any way - They are going to have it Saturday night - and we begin school again ~~on~~ Monday at 8.30 A.M. - So goodbye Antyang! And I don't doubt that Christmas will be a very happy one - The Giffins are still here and we shall have a small children's party on Saturday - in the afternoon -

We had a decision day meeting last week with over thirty decisions - Isn't that fine?

The country round about is not very nice these days - You never can tell from one day to the next what will happen - and in country places not far from here the most ghastly things have happened: people chopped in pieces and thrown into cesspools; men having noses and ears chopped off before their heads were taken off - Heads chopped off and carried by the basket full through the streets - This is Communism but the foreigners are not in on this fight, apparently - Love - and then some - Abbe

Soviet China

Dec. 27, 1927

Dear Father,

Your letter telling about your hospital experience has arrived, and I find myself impelled to write and tell you just what I think about a man of your years and position coming to such actions! Unseemly? Undignified? Untoward? Unsightly (well I wasn't there to see so I can't tell about that-)? Unfitting? Un- well there seems to be plenty of uns that I could use but I'll not stoop to bandy words!

Since when, pray, have you learned to trip the light fantastic? Or wasn't it light? (I'll bet it was fantastic all right!) As I read, the only thing lacking seemed to be a pipe for "nursie" to light for you in the middle of the night! And after the rest of it, even that wouldn't have surprised me very much.

Well - since you've been sick and had to go to the hospital I mustn't scold you too hard, but really - REALLY!!!

I'm surely glad to hear how rapidly you progressed and I hope to get letters soon telling that the wound is all healed -

We had a quiet Christmas but rushed all the same. Saturday afternoon I had a little party here for Raymond. We invited the two Cowles boys from across the bay, but they couldn't come because the bay was so rough - But we had



Bessie Baker and Howard Page, and they and Raymond and Mrs. Giffin and I had a good time - We got Miss Traver to come too, and tell Christmas stories in front of the open fire while we ate some good Oregon apples that appeared in the Swatow shops just in time for Christmas. We pulled crackers and guessed conundrums, and then had a present hunt which took folks all over the house -

That evening we had a Christmas celebration at the Girls' School - an affair in which about 40 boys and girls joined. Sunday morning <sup>and had breakfast</sup> all went over to Eastview and opened our stockings - Then came church services, with eight of our girls singing one of the numbers -

Just before church we found that some of the boys had got together and decided to have a celebration for everybody - and invite everybody here in the village - and they wanted the girls to sing - So we came home and practiced after the morning service, and then again in the <sup>afternoon</sup> ~~evening~~ - At two P.M. we had the usual White Gift service, with more gifts of money and fewer unusual gifts than "usual" (no cotton batting donkeys or lambs this year!) -

In the evening came the general school affair - It was disappointing in one way, for it was almost all secular. But in view of Anti-Christian spirit that has been rife in days not long gone by, this was a decided advance step - We are to have chapel twice a week next term, so the plan is -

Time to stop and go correct papers. English papers pile up pretty thick and fast these days - Only one more week of school after this one - And I shall be glad, glad to stop, you may be sure - I've been teaching ever since last June! Steadily - Love - Abbie -