

Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

Subseries: Family correspondence

Box / folder: 4 / 31

Folder label: AGS to family, from Swatow

Dates: 1929 Sep - Dec

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Swatow, China

Sept 10, 1929

Dear Gus -

Your letters "egging me on" to come home by way of the Holy Land have just arrived. And here I had already decided (all in my mind) that, much as I wanted to have that trip, I hadn't the means and I'd really better be getting home to see you - instead of waiting! Now I'm all upset again - Your very generous offer, father, is more appreciated than I can tell, and if I should have the trip, it will be this extra of yours that makes it possible -

I am still pretty much of a mind not to wait until Feb. 1931, even if I should take the longer trip. In a way, it would be very fine to be there on the anniversary of those days that mean so much. But on the other hand, I am told that during Holy Week there are mobs of people from all over the world, all trying to see the same things, or striving in bitter rivalry for the possession of sacred places or sacred relics, and vying with one another to see which sect can put out the biggest display, parade, or whatever -

If one is to take time to see and have sink into his mind and heart those spots that have dear associations, and to meditate and wait for lessons which come more vivid and real in quiet than in the clamor of a mob, some other time than Holy Week would be preferable -

I have written Gladys Paul to ask her whether she still plans to come out to meet me or not - I'm not at all sure that she would want the trip all the way around - If she will come to Shanghai, ^(a fortnight) to meet me, that settles it, and I shall postpone the Palestine trip.

Of course I want it! More than I have wanted anything for a long long while - But I want to get home to you too. I have not yet said anything to the committee about when I wanted to go, for there is still time, and my mind, as you see, is all in a whirl -

As to my being physically able, prospects are good. I told you that I have gained eight pounds this summer - and I'm feeling very well - The new bridge across the valley, connecting the boys' recitation building with the girls' rec. build - (new since I returned from furlough and

not used since the break-up) is nearing completion - We are using it now and it makes the walk to school every day very much shorter - More than that, I need go up to the farther building only once a day - All my afternoon classes are in the nearer building, only a stone's throw from our house! This arrangement should make the work about twice as easy, I think - so maybe I can keep my 8 pounds! Here's hoping -

Your letter, which was sent direct to Baguio, reached Swatow Sept 9. It was written July 29, if I remember - It takes longer for mail to go to Baguio than to Swatow, from Vermont!

This year I shall have lighter work in another direction - Margaret Lee has gone to be principal of a big girls' school in Singapore - So for the present I shall not be able to do much with translation work - I am disappointed, of course, but really it is not strange that she wanted to get out and do some real live work - Translation is a joy when it is your work for part of the time, but not many young people could stick it day in day out, from morning till night - She used to say that it was too dry for all the time -

Here going may be providential for me, for I really was trying to put in too much last year -

Chie Kittitz is not well at all - She has a weak heart - and during the summer, at Kuliang where she was with Miss Sallman, she had a heart attack from which she is just beginning to recover - She was brought down the mountain in a stretcher, and here, came up from the jetty in a chair, went directly to bed and has been there ever since - (She came last Saturday) She seems to be improving now - but isn't that a discouraging way to begin the year's work? Why is it that the good people have such tribulations, while a sinner like me is often lucky? Can you tell?

Did I tell you that this spring we had news that Clara Leach couldn't come out now for health reasons, but that she hoped to come later? I didn't understand that she had made any decision whatever about coming out, but this sounds like it, doesn't it? When you see her again tell her how happy we are at the thought that we may yet be able to get her back here, will you? I have not heard from her for ages -

With much love
 Abbie

Sent May & June, 1929

✓	70	17.24 y.	.10	2.40	
✓		14	10 y.	.18	1.80
✓		16.	11½ y.	.10	1.15
		15a.	20 y.	.12	2.40
✓		16.	12 y.	¾.10	1.26
✓		15.	33 y.	.12	3.30
		r 16.	3 of 12 y.	.10	3.60 (lacking)
✓		1.	2 of 12 y.	.20	4.80
✓		1.	3 y.		.60
✓		1.	2 of 12 y.	.20	4.80

Also. 34 Ldkp with lace (cotton) 20¢ & 25¢ each.
and 18 " plain (linen) { each pr. \$3.00 max +
5¢ each gold for
hemstitching
above not including
postage -

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Swatow, China

Sept. 22, 1929

Dearest Mother and Dad,

You'll wonder if you're ever going to hear from me again, it is so long since I have written! Just duties piling up, and last Sunday a very hard day - so that I didn't get time to write any letters at all. My Sunday schedule will be a little different from now on - My S. S. girls have all graduated into high school, and into the S. S. classes that our Y. W. + M. C. A. has Sunday morning - And there are Chinese girls who are willing to teach and who ought to have the chance to do so. I'm very glad, then, to step out temporarily. We have found a girl who needs confidence in playing the organ. She has never played in public and wouldn't think of doing it for the church service, but she is willing to begin at Sunday School - so I'm free now at 8.30 Sunday morning, the first time for two years. But our Young Peoples Society is to have its meeting at 1.30 - so I shall have to take my Sunday afternoon rest after 3 instead of before!

Last Sunday I had the whole schedule right through from 8.30 to 4, and then a committee meeting until five - I suppose that is no more than a great many church workers everywhere have, but it is a good deal for anyone in a hot climate - or rather, I should say, in a climate where the atmosphere is as depressing as it is here.

You have perhaps received the packages from Baguio - The one and oxcart I hope arrived in good condition; they are for Ralph - and I hope to send something later for Ruth and Robert.

As to the pillows and runners, I have made out a tentative list of the way I'd like them sent at Christmas, but if in any case you wish to substitute something else it will be all right - except for Mrs. Ashmore - I am writing to tell her that I hope to send her a reminder of Baguio (she was there one summer). But if you wish to keep some other than the dark runner set yourself - or would rather have two pillows and no runners, or two pillows and a runner - or two runners - or more - or any combination of them, just put in handkerchiefs or some linen piece and keep what you would like yourself - The table as I have just arranged it is as follows.

This week I have also got and mapped to send to you 24 sample post packages - This time I have not put on what I thought you ought to get for them, ^{particularly,} but have written on each the price, plus postage, that it cost me in Mex. - In some cases you can charge the same amount in Gold - maybe more. And in some cases the price should probably be less than marked -

Anything I make on this will either go to help some girl or it will go to the ^{new} Vakechik church - unless I'm able to ^{find a teacher to} study again.

When one handkerchief or towel only is marked, the others in that package are all ~~marked~~ the same price as that one. The two handkerchiefs marked B are those which Mabel Borelli's mother sent back to me - Mabel never saw them, although they reached her before she died - I'm sorry she didn't keep them - for I do not want them - They can be sold or given away, or what you will -

Tell me what of the things I send people don't like - and what they like best. Do they prefer linen or grass cloth? Could you use any larger pieces, such as square cloths, runners, etc.? I'm not sure what the center I sent for Ethel was - \$3.90 mex, I think. I know it was a little more than I really should have

tried to send by parcel post. I have marked approximate cost (gold) on the outside of each package, but not in full sight; under the flaps, etc., since they don't want you to put any value on here at this P.O. We are not supposed to send more than the value of \$1.00 gold in any package. Since gold exchange is for about \$2.20 or \$2.30 Mex here now, I am pretty well within the limits.

I'll ~~try~~ to send cards to put in the Christmas things in ~~plenty of time~~ ^(herewith). Be sure to charge me for all the postage, etc. Of course I know I ought to say charge me for the time and bother - but I'm afraid I'm not wealthy enough to pay that! I suppose it is dreadful of me to ask you to do this when you are so busy yourself - If you'd rather I didn't - do say so - please - but it saves people's paying duty.

I'll send a list of what is in the packages, written on another page -

With much - much love,

Notice the card that is for Mrs.
Adams - the others may be
used indiscriminately -

Abbie

Sowatow, China

Sept. 29, 1929

Dearest One,

Did I tell you in my last letter, that the draft has not reached me yet? I have meant to keep saying in every letter - but now it seems unlikely that it will arrive, so I'll not say any more about it unless it does come. If it was lost, or cashed - or anything - I wish you would tell me about it -

I'm feeling a bit less low in my mind than I was two or three days ago - I came back to work with a lot of pep - and some extra pounds, as you know - In less than two weeks I began to show signs of malaria - So I had my blood tested, and the bugs were found - and I have had two "spasms" of taking quinine in the last nine days - 15 grains a day for three days running, three days without, and then the same dose for three days again - Just enough to make you wobbly and deaf and dizzy! But I have been to classes right along, of course -

This last Tuesday night the meetings of the Ling Tong Council were held. I was surprised to receive an invitation, for I did not know that I had been elected to it - The meetings lasted all day Wednesday - Mabelle is on the Executive Committee, which met the following day - They had some

Hard problems to discuss - Things are not going well in some of the fields; and in one case a Chinese leader and a missionary had to be warned - I almost said reprimanded. These two men have not been able to get along, and the things are in a mess - So both men have been requested to keep hands off, and a third man from another place has been appointed to go up and straighten things out. A hard thing to go through - but many feel that there has been wrong on the Chinese man's side, and lack of wisdom, tact and understanding on the side of the missionary - I shall be interested to know how it comes out, - and that sounds true, because we are all vitally interested in this piece of work -

We had reference committee business on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday - we have reorganized, with two separate Reference Committees, Hakka and Chaochow. (Chaochow is Hakka - or Tschin - which means Swatow district) All the missionaries ~~in the~~ ⁱⁿ our district form a reference committee so we don't have to elect any more - only elect secretary and chairman. Everything is simplified. There are hardly more than enough people to make a good sized reference committee, anyway - and of course this is only temporary, and must wait the Board's decision, I suppose - or at least the Board's recognition

Whether or not there will be a Roman's Committee, and a property committee - and a number of other questions - are still undecided.

Friday evening Mabelle and I had a teachers' meeting - Wednesday morning the Bonfields arrived, and settled in the room under Mabelle. Saturday morning Emily and I went out to meet the Giffins, and they are settled in the room under me.

Saturday P.M. we had a tea for these Hakka visitors - We needn't have been in such a hurry - political conditions are such that it will be impossible for them to go up right away. There is another Red uprising - and I don't know just how serious it is going to be - So these people may be on the compound all winter!

Saturday night at 7.30 I had a Sunday School Committee - and at 8 this (Sun.) morning I had to go and help get books for the Junior department. Yesterday afternoon late a girl came to tell me that the one who had to play the organ at S.S. and lead the young Peoples at 1.30 P.M. was sick and couldn't come - So I had to take her place in both instances - Now I'm tired enough to go to bed so good night -

With lots of love Athe

If the check you sent was lost, or cashed or raised -
won't you please let me know? Swatow China
I'm so curious to know whether you sent it registered or not !
Have any news of it - and whether you sent it registered or not !
Dearest Ones, Oct 6, 1929 (234)

Somehow I feel there is not a great deal to write about this week. Last week the days had been so full that I could scarcely get my breath and this week things have been a little easier.

Emily went to Chaohowfu on Wednesday. Where she will live in a city where there is no other foreigner except possibly a French priest - and he would be so far away that no communication would be possible even if she wanted it. She has promised me she would live in the chapel, inside the city, instead of out on the hill. Conditions are not all that could be wished for here in South China these days. Dr. and Mrs. Bonfield and Mr. + Mrs. Giffin are staying here on the compound (here at our house) temporarily - and the Burketts are over at Eastview. Mr. Burket wants to start up to Kaying tomorrow, but no one else thinks he ought to go -

Three of the German missionaries on the other side of the city of Kaying from our mission were kidnapped this summer when up at the summer resort (Clear Cool Mountain)

Dorothy and Louise Campbell and Mrs. Campbell and Katherine Bohn were up there at the same time and were taken also, but upon a sudden alarm, about 20 minutes after they were taken, they were released again. Mr. Burkett, who was hiding, was not seen, so he escaped, and they all came down the mountain back to Kaying City that same day - The German missionaries (one of whom has nine children under fourteen!) are still in captivity and negotiations for their ransom are being carried on in Hongkong, where they will meet the representatives of the kidnappers - Several nuns and priests from Shanghai were captured - The nuns and one priest were released, and the priest came down to Swatow, got \$1000, and has presumably gone back with it to secure the release of the others - We wonder whether he himself will ever be seen again -

The Mennonite missionaries from Shanghai, who were here on the compound several months in 1927, then later went back, were driven out again this spring - or rather, they escaped, and have been here all summer, waiting for things to grow better - But things haven't grown better, and three weeks ago they found that Christians

were being killed, and that all their mission buildings had been burned - The priest who was down here admitted to them that he had been rather scornful when they left last spring but now he realizes that the Catholics stayed too long -

Last week in Chaochowfu - or rather, outside the city, an English business man who lives in Swatow was out walking with some of his Chinese helpers - They were accosted by a group of armed men, relieved of their watches, etc - and had to sign I. O. U. s or some agreement to pay \$80 apiece before they were allowed to go - And the \$80 apiece was later collected!

Last Wednesday night right here on our compound a band of marauders scaled the walls and climbed in at the windows of Tsu Jik - the wealthy man whose house is marked x in picture no 4 - It is really just over the hill from here - But this man has been sought after by kidnappers for a number of years - He was in Swatow hiding - and the bandits did not want his wife or mother or the two little girls - His two boys were sleeping down at the grammar school - By way of precaution - for this man has been evading these people a long time -

The German missionaries first said they did not want any ransom paid for them - and their wives agreed to it - They said that if they died, even, the sacrifice of the few would be better than the danger to many other missionaries if bandits found they could get away with the kidnapping and get the ransom money just by demanding it. But the wives have weakened and now say they will put up \$1,000, though much more than that was asked for -

This is a question being asked every where now - "If you should be taken, do you want ransom money paid for you?" - For myself - I think I should say no; but it is not as simple as all that - For instance, if I should say that, and you people didn't see it that way - it wouldn't be exactly fair to you, would it? What is your opinion on the subject, anyway? Not that it is needed - for there is not the slightest danger of kidnapping of foreigners here on this compound -

Now, after all the above wild tales, one encouraging note with which to end my letter - Five were baptized - today; two of them were two more of our senior High school boys - we are so happy -

I said at the beginning there wasn't much to write, didn't I? But some of this is not really ^{new} - Love, Abbe

(235)

Swatow, China

October 13, 1929

Dear Ones,

Sunday morning, at church time, I'm not in church! You see last Thursday I fell down and skinned both knees and twisted the one that was hurt before. So I'm going easy on the walking. The left knee has healed already and the right one is coming along all right. I have already begun the sun treatment, which was as effective before, once I began to use it - and the thing looks as though it intended to heal very quickly -

Thursday was Chinese Independence Day, and therefore a Holiday - I had a missionary meeting to attend and play for in the P.M. and I had to go to Swatow in the evening to sing at a Y. M. C. A. entertainment. So I had not planned to attend the patriotic meeting of all the schools in the church at 9.30 A.M. But about 9 a note came from Dr. Ling asking me to sing at that service! I didn't want to go, one little bit, but knew it wouldn't look right to refuse to help out at their patriotic doings; so I rushed around and got

Mrs. Bonfield & practice with me - pantically searched through my books for a song with a stirring air - got dressed - and tore over to Church, getting there just in time. I was scarcely cooled off by the end of the long speech - One thing made me very happy, though - the prayer at the end of the service - They haven't had much Christianity in their patriotic demonstrations of late years and I have deplored it. This time the sight of all the students, whether Christians or non Christians, bowed silently while the pastor prayed for our God for the welfare of the nation, seemed so right that I got a thrill which went 'way to my heels!

I hurried right home after the service to give a music lesson to Dr. Ling's daughters - Just at the entrance to our own yard I stubbed my toe and fell flat, accomplishing the above-mentioned damage to my knees - I was rather shaken up - but after dressing the knees, with Mabelle's help, I gave Hua Hui her piano lesson. Mabelle took my place at the missionary meeting, however - and I wrote my excuses to the Y. M. C. A. - then had a glorious rest in bed all that afternoon!

Friday the one class scheduled in the

Academy building was changed and held in the Girls' building, which is right next door - I could have gone to the other building O.K. but I remember what a time I had before - kept to my bedroom three ~~of~~ four weeks - because I was on the foot too much the first two days - So I didn't go anywhere yesterday and I'm being good today too. I shall go out to the Young Peoples meeting at 1.30 - then come right home - for I want to take up regular schedule work to-morrow -

Mr. and Mrs. Waters arrived on Wednesday - and they were here at supper last night - It seems so good ^{to have them back.} I asked whether the Herbert Waters of Chicago who was given in the clipping you sent me as an usher at Eleanor Davison's wedding was their Herbert, whom I knew out here several years ago - and they said it was - Clara Leach was at the wedding - and Herbert ushered her to a seat -

Mr. Burket went up to Kaying last week - although few of us thought it safe for him to go - And now Mr. Griffin thinks he ought to go - but others think he'd be wiser to wait and Mrs. G. wants him to wait a little longer and then take her too - Women and

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children are advised not to travel, but really it is the men who are in greater danger - Twelve foreigners have been taken here in South China in the last few months - and eight - or is it seven? - are still in captivity -

Dr. Bonsfield predicts that the Nationalist government will be overthrown by the end of October - but that is an extreme view and I don't know any one who agrees with him -

I want to get a few of my behind hand letters written up this morning; I didn't finish up with a clean slate at Bagin as I had hoped!

I'm still eager for the news of the money you sent -; as you know by this time I can't be satisfied until I know whether you fear it's lost, or know it's lost - or what not - So please tell me - If it is lost - there is no need to cry over spilt milk - But when you get more, say from tatting - as much as \$25 - will you send it along? I have bought quite a bit of drawnwork recently - so am rather close to the margin and shall have to ask you to send it as it comes in - if it comes in, of course - I'd always advise sending

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registered. We always do, out here -

You asked some time ago about the expense of printing "The Real Jesus" - The China Baptist Publication Society takes the entire burden of that expense - and of course any profit from sale of book goes to them - It does not mean any money for me -

The music lessons I give mean \$5 a term for the school - but nothing for me - as I think I've told you before -

The Reference Committee has tacitly agreed to my going on furlough in June - and the secretary is to write to America and remind the Board that my furlough is due, and inform Miss Lacey in Shanghai that passage may be secured for me - But I am waiting until I hear from Gladys Paul before doing anything about the passage. Of course there is a bare possibility that I shall decide to stay on until next year and come at the time Father approves - But that was so uncertain that I knew it would be better to start the ball rolling now so that I could go in the spring if I wanted to. As soon as I know anything further, I shall let you know, of course - Love - Abbie

(Priests story not to be printed; it might make bad
feeling) Sratow, China
Oct. 20, 1929
(236)

Dear Ones,

Again I'm writing to you instead of going to church - Yesterday I was flat on my back with malaria - I didn't know but I was going to have typhoid, my back ached so. Fever wasn't high, but enough to keep me awake all night. And quinine was just enough to make me dizzy and want to stay in bed and do nothing - My plans for yesterday were all upset for I had intended to make out all my monthly exams and get them typewritten for next weeks use - Then I wouldn't have had to hurry at the last minute - But I didn't get any of that done, so now we'll have the usual grand scramble to get finished in time!

My fever is all down this morning and I don't even feel wobbly - If I keep on feeling fine I shall go to Young Peoples at 1.30. If the fever comes up again, I shall stay at home and take it easy - for exams and review this week are an extra strain and I shall need all the strength I've got.

Mrs. Giffin has a much worse case of malaria than I have - She is still in bed and taking

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a lot more grinning than I need - Yesterday she had an intravenous injection of it, but it made her sick - so she is taking it by mouth now - I always take mine in capsules; just now I'm taking 15 grains a day. Tomorrow the day after I shall take 10 - and then 5 a day for a week or so - I have a very mild case of it this time - I'm thankful to say - It is rather lucky that these upsets come ~~at~~ the end of the week or when we have holidays, isn't it?

My knee is getting along all right I think - only the tendons were bruised and twisted and of course it will take some time to feel exactly right again - But the flesh bruise is healing all right this time - with the help of a little direct sunlight every day!

There - this letter is all about my ailments; I don't believe you'll enjoy it very much - But then the ailments ~~be~~ all on the mend so you won't need to worry, will you?

Political conditions are very uncertain - The Catholic priest who took £10,000 up inland to get the release of his captive co-workers got through all right, and got his fellows back here to Swatow - It is a thrilling tale - Nobody thought he would get through alive -

He took a carry of medicines along as a blind - A number of times on the road he was met by bandits - Reds - or whom you will - held up - examined, and each time let pass because no money was found - He had part of the money hidden in his bamboo carry-pole; part hidden in his leather belt, which was split & sewed together again; and part in between the pasted together leaves of a book -

After the money was passed over into the hands of the head of the kidnappers there was a breathless interval when it looked as though none of them would be released; and the way he was able to get hold of the prisoners is a story too long to tell - But finally a pass-port was made out in which something like the following was written:

"These men are imperialists, and the running dogs of imperialistic countries. Their purpose in coming to China was to bleed the people of their money and to teach them disloyalty to our country; now their buildings have been taken away from them and returned to the people; money has been presented by them, and it is

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fitting that we let them go. We therefore
command them to leave ^{this city} for good, and
that within a space of twelve hours -

The rest was easy - and now they are
safe in Swatow. But there remains the
question that if the bandits could get
\$10,000 for these missionaries, what about
other missionaries? The German missionaries
have not been heard from, and we do not know
whether they are alive or not. Mr. Burket
got up to Kaying safely - and may or may not
think the others who are staying down here
cowards. But if the Reds catch Mr. Burket,
it will be these Hakka missionaries who are
down here who will have to get him out of
the predicament - No one knows what will
be the next thing. They write from Kaying
that all seems peaceful and quiet - but
there is a feeling that anything may happen
overnight.

I guess this is enough for now -

Much much love,

Abbie

Swatow, China

Oct. 23, 1929

Mother dear.

I'm hurrying this letter off to you on the very next mail after the \$100 check arrived. It came yesterday afternoon, along with the package of Albums, etc.

From your letter some time ago I thought you had stopped payment on that check, but in this letter you say after six months the ^{bank} will stop payment on it. Wouldn't they do it before six months? It is beyond question lost to us now and why do they have to wait? Thank you & Father ever so much for sending me this. Of course after you have put out the whole extra \$100 (and I don't know how much of the first \$100 came out of your pockets either!) what comes in from tallow and drawnwork for some time to come will go to pay you back - and not come to me as I said in my latest or next to the latest letter. This \$100 pays for the tallow and drawnwork I have sent you, and fills up a gap made by paying Margaret Lee -

1st When the bank stops payment on the check, will it come back to you - the \$100, I mean? If you stop payment on it, I should

think it would - but I'm wondering whether, if the bank stops payment on it - the bank will keep the money! I'm so sorry you had all this fuss and bother on my account - Money - the lack of it - the easy disappearance of it - the everlasting 'figgerin' of it - each of these is surely a thorn to me - Sometimes I think one of the nicest things about heaven will be not having to worry about how to make your money go - or about where in the world it has all gone to, anyway!

I'm a sick-a-bed lady just now - Only I'm all better today - You see after I was sick with malaria on Saturday I felt so much better on Sunday that I got up and since I had no fever, thought I'd better not shirk my particular part job of mothering the Young People's Society - Didn't think it would do a bit of harm - and when I got back nobody even protested, not even the doctor - until next morning when the fever and headache and backache were going strong again. Then they blamed it on my going to meeting! How did I know that would start anything? The doctor never told me to keep quiet or not go to church, or anything! Well! So I had a mizzable day Monday but got better ^{over} ~~but~~ night, slept well, and had

no fever and not much aching yesterday -
 Now today is the alternate day, and if I were
 not really getting better I should be down again -
 which I'm not! It is before 7 A.M. and I'm
 sitting up in bed to write this scribble to you so
 Lin Kim can take it to mail when he goes
 to Swatow about 8 -

Oh I've had very definite instructions about
 taking it easy and not going to school today,
 etc. - I shall have my breakfast here in my room,
 and then get bathed and dressed as I feel like it.
 Today monthly exams are supposed to begin at
 school but I'm to forget all about that (I shall
 get my questions ready, though!) ~~for~~ ^{for} the students
 and every body else at school, - teachers too - are
 over their ears in work. The students are
 glad to have one exam come later, for they have
 more lee-way to study - A few of the teachers
 are sick - and the burden on those left is
 too heavy for them to want to give any exams
 for other teachers. Whether I shall get to
 school to-morrow or not depends on how good I am
 today. But I'm being well looked after - and
 am getting better fast. On Monday I thought I
 was surely going to have typhoid - should probably
 die of it - and thought I'd better hurry and get
 all my accounts straightened out and write

more detailed instruction for disposal of my goods and chattels after my demise ! Well well well ! Things have a different look somehow - this morning - The sun is shining very brightly and I can think of at least three boys and one girl who need perhaps only a little persuasion to help them decide to come out openly for Christ. How happy I should be if I could be the one to give them this help ! And there are others - too.

Poor Emily came down from Chardon for with Mrs. Baker yesterday - with another ugly carbuncle on the back of her neck again - she is staying over with Mrs. Baker - The doctor opened it yesterday and while she was pretty much collapsed and cold when they got through, still after an hour's rest she felt so much better - The pressure, which had sent pains up into her head and down into her shoulders and arms, was relieved - and she wrote over last night to say she thought she could sleep the clock around -

This is a bad time for sickness - I can scarcely remember a time when so many people ^{were} have been sick -

Will write again but must stop now -

Love Abbie

Swatow, China

Oct. 27, 1929

Dear Ones.

(234)

All right - and all peppy again! Malaria has departed, apparently - and on Friday I was back at school again and in the evening went to a party at Dr. Ling's house. Saturday I made out examination papers and today I'm going to church but I'm not going to put in too full a day. For exams begin in earnest for me to-morrow and I must get them over with if possible - My knees are all right - they got well faster because of the enforced rest in bed last week. - I'm still taking quinine - and the doctor is watching me closely to see that I don't go too strenuously at first. But I'm really O. K. again now -

Perhaps you already have my letter which I wrote the day the second \$100 arrived - The first one has never come. Thank you very much for sending it - I shall be relieved when I hear that that payment on that first check has been stopped and that the money has come back to you - \$100 doesn't grow on every bush and I can't bear the

thought of its being lost!

I'm enclosing the invitation to Lings to supper. The eight small characters on the left hand page are new style (I think) and ask us to come at the time appointed without waiting to be invited - You know the old-fashioned way was to wait until a servant was sent to ask you to come - The two sets of 3 characters, lower left on right hand page, are Mr. & Mrs. Lings' names. A woman always writes her maiden name when she is writing it herself. The black written in letters tell the date and hour. 廿五 is twenty-fifth, 六 is 6 and 半 is half. (25th of the month, at 6.30 P.M.) Rather elegant invitations, almost like a wedding!

Well. this isn't much of a letter, but I want to write to Arthur, so I'll stop now and have more to say next time, maybe!

Much love,

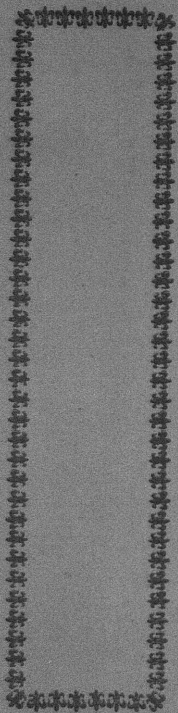
Abbie



是月廿五日晚六時半
在本宅敬治菲素
恭候
光臨

林天鐸
陳德貞
仝謹訂

準時就席
恕不介催



Suataow, China

Nov. 3, 1929

Dear But.

How goes the world with you? We certainly have wars and rumors of wars out here in China nowadays. I told you the Bonfields were staying here with us because of its not being safe for them to go up to their station. I'm not sure whether I mentioned the fact that the Griffins of Naying are also here with us - Most of us thought they were right in staying here for the present, with so much fighting and kidnapping going on - Perhaps there were one or two who thought the men ought to brave all dangers, no matter what. But the most of us feel, and we know some of the Board at home feel that we ought not to go into situations which are likely to get the Mission, the Board, or our country into trouble. And the matter of going up to Naying at this time is one which might easily get the Board and the Mission into trouble - (if a missionary should be kidnapped, for instance) -

We have had word that the Red army, which had been dreaded for sometime, on Oct 25th overpowered the ^{Kaypo} city guards, entered the city, and began their work of destruction. Their program was to release all prisoners in the city prisons, confiscate the money and what goods they could carry of the merchants, demand \$70,000 of the magistrates, burn the City Hall and

Government School Buildings, loot and then raze all mission schools and other property. They also stated that they were after three more Westerners.

After the Reds were actually within the city gates our missionaries, Miss Campbell and her mother, went to a Chinese home to hide, and the two men escaped to a little broken down school building outside the city where they hid until midnight, then made their way for 15 miles(?) to a river port where they got a boat and traveled until they were at a place about 90 li (30 miles) from Kaying.

The next day the Nationalist soldiers came and so the Reds got away with only \$20,000; they had burned the city Hall, let the prisoners loose, opened some opium dens, soaked a government schools buildings with oil, and looted one house in the city - the only one, so far as can be discovered (by us down here, yet) - and that one, - the Giffins! - where Mr. Whitman would have been caught (they were after him, too) had he not run in the nick of time, and where the Giffins would be if they had not wisely decided to stay down here with us for the present.

The Nationalists came from an unexpected direction and caught the Reds unawares; that is why they were able to drive them out so easily - It did not take very long; the Nationalists came in about 2.30, and by 5 o'clock everybody's doors were open and the flags were flying and bells ringing and every body rejoicing that the city was saved -

The next day the ~~two~~ men started back to Kaying. Mr. Whitman lost everything except what he had on and one suitcase of clothes that he had hidden. He has no winter clothing left at all. That is as far as we have had news by letter - But we ~~have~~ had telegraphic news that two days later than the men returned the Reds also returned but were repulsed outside the city after hard fighting for several hours - Whether they will make another attempt is still a question - !

So - this is China - ! And, I ask you - what will there be to make missionary speeches about if this continues? For this isn't the kind of stuff that you want to broadcast about a country whose people you are trying to win to love Christ!

Well, I mustn't write more now. I haven't time to write more now so I'm going to ask you to send this on to Mother, please - right away. We are working as usual - I seem to have recovered entirely from my malaria and shall try to be very good and keep up with the quinine so that the malaria will stay away -

Much Love to you all -

Albi.

Suataow, China

Nov. 4, 1929

Dear Ques,

Yesterday I didn't begin to write letters until 9.30 at night, after I was ready for bed - I thought I would write to Arthur first this time, for I so often neglect him, and the result was that I didn't get yours done at all at all - You see I was over at Bakers last night for supper - I went early to have a little time with Emily, and then I stayed afterwards to talk too -

Emily's carbuncle seems to be getting better very fast now. The only thing they fear is that she is not all over the series of 'em'. She has had one after another. I do hope she will stop soon, for it seems dreadful to have those horrible things on one's neck half the time. She has had to have a drain an inch and a half in this thing for days - and it has been very painful - It is a strain on her - and she has to be away from her work - because she can't herself dress a thing on the back of her neck, and there is no doctor (nor any foreigner) in Chaochowfu - She plans to go back on Wednesday if progress keeps up -

Our people at Kaying have had some bad scares - I wrote something about it to Arthur and asked him to send it on to you.

It is now almost 9.30 tonight - and the other people in the house went to bed early - and I'm getting too sleepy to write - Mrs. Bonfield and Mabelle have been down at the piano tonight choosing Christmas music for the girls - I have been up here writing letters ordering Sunday School literature and music books, etc. I still have some exams. to be corrected but I suppose I shan't do much at that now until Wednesday, for to-morrow is rather a full day.

Did I tell you the definition I was given by one of the boys for "inferior"? I thought it was rich - "high degree of rotten" - says he! Mrs. Giffin says it sounds American - !

I'm sending some varieties of "because" that the first year pupils handed to me - and also two verses that Mrs. Giffin wrote when we were both sick two weeks ago - I think she is clever -

Have you received a crazy little book of pictures of Emily and me? I made it for E's birthday & sent it to her when she was in the hospital. She thought it was cute and sent it to her mother, telling her to send it on so that you could see it. But if Mrs. M. sent it to you, she may have failed to say that E wanted it back - So if or when

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you get it, please send it to E. at Chaochowfu,
Via Swatow, China -

Another thing - Was it Burlington where my
Noiseless Typewriter was purchased? If so,
or if it is at some other place near enough,
will you please ask if they still repair the
Noiseless machines, or if not, where that work
can best be done. And will you ask too,
whether they ^{would} give an allowance ~~at~~ on a used
Noiseless towards the purchase of a new
machine such as the Remington Portable.
(The Remington Co. bought out the Noiseless Co,
so that would be the kind of machine that would
be possible in ~~such~~ case of turning in an old
machine, I suppose). Uncle George doesn't
need to know this perhaps, but the machine
is a little out of gear - and while I still
use it, it bothers, and scarcely any one else
can manage it. Moreover, situated as I
am now a portable machine would really
be of much more practical value to me -
I haven't at all decided what to do - They
can't repair the Noiseless decently out here; I took
it to the best place in Hongkong - If it will
pay me, I shall bring it home either to have
it repaired or to turn it in towards a new
one. So - if you can let me know, I'll
be grateful - Much love, Abbie

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Swatow, China, Nov. 11, 1929

Dear Ones:

Last week I wrote you a little about the danger that our missionaries in Kaying have been facing. Since we found that the fourth German missionary had been taken by the Reds from the Germans mission in Kaying we have been much concerned about our own workers there. I have forgotten what day it was that Mr. Burket and Mrs. Campbell arrived. After the second attack by the Reds at Kaying things were so upset and the students had all run away to their homes and did not dare to come back, and the likelihood was that school could not open again for a long time,-- so Mr. Burket and Mrs. Campbell came down. Louise would not come, for she felt she had a responsibility toward some of the girls who could not get back to their homes. And Mr. Whitman was sick with dysentery and couldn't come. We have all been praying for the safety of these two, especially after the report came the other day that the Reds had attacked Kaying a third time. They had threatened to keep on coming if they had to lose every man in so doing. They are determined to capture Kaying or die in the attempt. Whether this latest report is true we do not yet know. But there were many anxious hearts on Friday, when this report came.

Friday night while Mabelle and I were practising with the girls' glee club Emily came in and said "I have some good news,-- the best news in the world!" Of course I thought of Mr. Whitman but didn't dare to say so for fear I'd be wrong. Then she said; "Both Louise and Mr. Whitman are here on the compound!" Well, it surely was good news and we have been singing praises ever since. Mr. Whitman was here to supper last night and it seemed as though it did him good to be with people and to express his opinion on various subjects. He lost nearly everything but he is cheerful about it. He is leaving for Hong Kong to-morrow to replenish an almost entirely depleted wardrobe. He is now wearing a white wool suit (fused to be white) and one cap which he rescued from the Reds. It is turning colder so he will need some heavier things. He is a big man so no one's else things fit him. These missionaries from Kaying have had a number of really marvelous escapes through this whole experience. They say that they feel closer to the common Chinese people than for a long time, and that this attack of the Reds will work out for glory to God, they are sure.

Today the students are having a holiday to work out their plans. for Student government association. To-morrow is Sun Yat Sen's birthday so we get two days in succession. I just know, however, that I shall not accomplish a tenth of the things I plan to do; if that always true of a holiday!

It is going to be Christmas before we know it; and then only about six months until I start toward you. Isn't that too good to be true? Gladys Paul has written that she can't come out to go home with me this time, and I am in rather a hurry to get home. So I am not going to attempt the Palestine trip this time.

Much love to all,

Abbi

From Louise Campbell

Kaying via Swatow, China

Oct. 27- 1929.

We have been hearing for a month of a dangerous Red army, organized and led by a Jaring young fellow, a graduate of a military school in Germany. He has taken cities, burned mission buildings, kidnapped missionaries and influential Chinese, and generally spread terror in Fukien province just north of us. Then we began to get warnings that he might come down here and we tried to decide what we had better do. We packed up all pictures, curtains and other household things leaving out only what we absolutely needed. A neighbor, a young widow, offered to care for everything hiding things in under fuel or in a garret and she with other faithful friends moved these things after dark to her own home. After that we just camped.

The whole country is well sentried by the Reds and frequently in the morning there would be handbills scattered along the roads, inscriptions along the walls of buildings such as, "Down with the Nationalist Government"; "Down with Christian Schools! Long Live Communism! Down with Foreign Dogs, etc.

From October 12 to 18 the retreat was held which preceded our Haka Convention each year. In spite of the unsettled condition of things about thirty delegates came beside the local delegates. The Convention itself only lasted from Sunday to Tuesday, 20-22. As we sat in session Monday afternoon people began to whisper with frightened faces that the Red army had entered this province and were headed for Kaying. Stella Yong and I went back to the School and found that jinrickshas and sedan chairs were at a premium and the road was full of people hurrying from the city. We met our own students being conducted home by their relatives. That night we slept with our clothes on ready for flight if necessary, planning to get over the wall and into the rice fields to hide.

The next day we accepted the kind offer of one of our young women teachers to go to her home, four miles back from here into the hills and sent for a sedan chair for mother. I planned to walk but the friends were not willing saying that it would be too risky, while one could be completely screened in a sedan chair, so we arranged for the chair to take mother first and come back for me. Before the chair had returned news had come that the rumor was false and that the Reds were still in Fukien province. So I sent word to mother that I would not come just yet.

Wednesday, the 23rd, the Executive Committee met here at our house to do a lot of important business. In the midst of the session word was brought that the Red army had actually reached Pinemouth, a point 30 miles down the river from here, cutting off communication with Swatow, and that they would reach here the next day!!! They had announced a very definite program for their procedure upon their arrival at Kaying. First to open the prison and release all held there, then to deal with the merchants taking all the money and goods that they needed, 3rd. to destroy the Government offices, 4th. to burn the Provincial High School, 5th. to destroy the church buildings and Christian schools of the Bible mission and our mission. They also said they wanted three more Westerners for ransom money. This was rather alarming but before night word came that the Nationalist troops were on their way up the river and the Reds had fled back to Fukien again, so we slept peacefully.

Thursday the 24th was quiet and in the afternoon people said that the advance guard of the Nationalists had arrived in the city, so we held a service of thanksgiving. We had the best nights sleep that we had had for days. The next morning we sent a sedan chair to bring mother back and I got some pictures and curtains out and tried to make the place look less bare and forsaken, but just as mother came in the gate a messenger came from the city saying the Reds had come by another route and were within a few miles of the city. Pastor Liao came running to tell us that they had actually seen hundreds of reds with red banners and red bands on their arms pouring along one of the roads only a mile from here. Constance Chong also came running, telling us to come at once with her that she would hide us. Uncle Ernest Whitman then came saying that the 350 local guards, maintained by the local Chamber of Commerce, were having a battle with the incoming army but would surely be defeated. The men folks could not go with us very well and we had to go without them. Constance led us around in through the hills, avoiding the public roads and in by a back way to her home where we were willing prisoners from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning, treated with every kindness and consideration, but not daring to step over the threshold of the room where we and Stella Fong were, nor to speak aloud, so that not even the neighbors would know we were there. Later our cook smuggled some bread and clothing to us.

We reached Constance Chong's house not a moment too soon, for the Reds defeated the guards, entered the city and got in touch with the local secret Red organization, and they began operations at once demanding \$70,000 of the merchants, burning the court house, but first releasing the prisoners according to schedule. They sent a company of soldiers out to Mr. Whitman's house but of course he was gone, so they took possession and helped themselves to bedding and supplies. They also sent spies out to our place.

Saturday afternoon all changed so suddenly that we could hardly believe ourselves. The Nationalist troops came, not by the river as expected, but overland and took the Reds unawares and pursued them firing rifles and machine guns. They had to leave over fifty thousand dollars that was being collected in answer to their demand and many had to discard their arms and they left in a panic. They had already soaked the Provincial High School with coal oil and another hour would have seen them at work preparing to fire our buildings. Four o'clock was actually set as the time for the advance on our Girl's School Compound. The shouting was so near us that afternoon that we crouched against the thick walls of the house where we were for they would surely be bullet proof.

The Nationalists were in possession and the people breathed freely once more. Sunday morning we sent a telegram to the folks at Swatow telling them of our safety. It seemed marvelous that everything was intact and very quickly the place was alive with friends who had come to assure themselves of our safety and to rejoice with us that the city had been saved. We again held a thanksgiving service and in the evening went early to our beds our hearts praising God for this deliverance.

Folks assure us that the Reds were so thoroughly beaten that there is no danger of their return and that we are safer than ever now, but until that Red army is actually disbanded and that young leader taken captive we realize that there is still more or less danger.

Evidently Miss Campbell's fears were all too true for an article in one of the Boston papers lately told of a Mrs. Campbell and her two daughters who were trying to escape to Shanghai, and the passengers on their boat turned out to be partly pirates who attacked the crew and passengers. These women, hidden away, heard the noise of the struggle and finally saw the firing of their vessel. Their distress signals finally brought an English vessel to their rescue.

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Swatow, China

Nov. 11, 1929

Dear Ones,

Armistice Day! But I don't know that anybody celebrates it any more out here - To-morrow is Sun Yat Sen's birthday, and we have a holiday. Today we have heard rumors that the Student Government Association is to have most of the day to fix up their affairs - But it seems to have been rumors and Miss Cully has gone up to her class as usual at 8.00. I'm hoping, however, that classes will be dismissed later in the day so that I won't have to go. See how lazy I am!

But on Saturday I had my first cc. of typhoid vaccine, and my arm is still pretty sore. Last night about suppertime I had fever, and thought I was going to be sick sure - I'm fit as a fiddle this morning, but I've enough work to keep me plenty busy if I don't go to school today, and as I said before, I'm lazy - ! Terrible.

Some other things I want to send a copy to Arthur, as I'm going to finish this separately and make two copies on the typewrites -

Love

Abbie

To a Maid "Worn and Weary".

Tune of

"Good Morning Merry Sunshine".

Good morning, dear Miss Sanderson
Why did you rise ~~so~~ soon
And go to church, and "stand around"
And go gazing at the moon?

If you had heard "the Doctor's" words
He heaped upon your head
You'd surely promise to be good
And stay forthwith in bed.

When I get well and "feeling fine",
As you were yesterday,
I'll dress in silk, with "houris" too
And come and visit you.

And just to pass the time away
Our health charts we'll compare
And then extol our doctor
The rarest of the rare.

Kakahieh, Oct. 21st., 1929

(Her new Japanese coat)

Here is an extra copy if you care to send it to your mother.

A. M. G.

Miss Culley,

Urgent.

Once there was a big house
With 6 at every meal
And all the food that there
was served
To our senses did appeal.

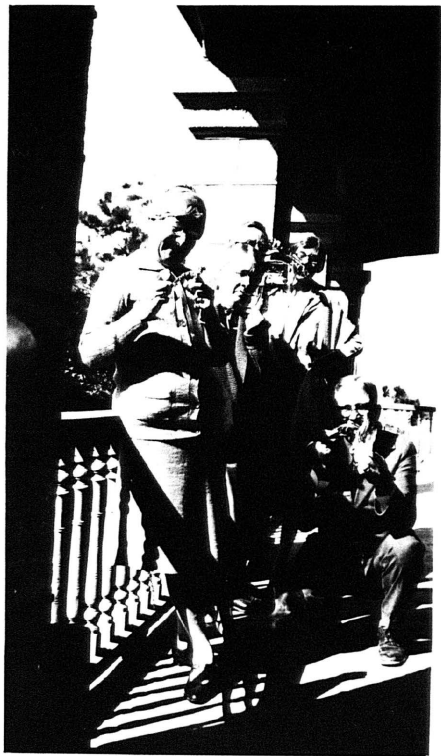
Refrain (slowly) -
But one got malaria
Then there were 5-

These 5- did chat & chuckle
Their laughs rang out with glee
And set the 6th one wondering
What the great joke might be.
Refrain (Sadly) -
Then Abbie sympathetically
went to bed once more

Alas, alas! a lack-a-day
Now there are 4.

And now the 4 are quiet
Subdued is all their glee
I suspect they're wondering
Who the next will be;

A. M. G.



Thanksgiving

" Bones "

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Saratow, China

Nov. 25, 1929

Dearest Ones -

Just a month until Christmas! We are having a good many celebrations these days. Dr. Bonsfield's birthday last month and Mrs. B.'s this month - and each of them said that his(her) birthday had never had such a celebration before. Mrs. B. had never had a birthday cake before in all her life - Hasn't she missed something, though?

And now Thanksgiving comes this week and we are to entertain Miss Sollman, Miss Northcott and Elsie Kittitz - Mrs. Bonsfield is doing the housekeeping these two months - and maybe longer - so that makes it easier for us - Of course she had a rest from it on her birthday.

Your letter with the pictures has come and I don't suppose you dream how glad I am to have them. The children look pretty well for having been sick so much. Father doesn't look any younger, I note - and if the top of his head keeps on coming up through his hair he'll be as tall as I am pretty soon. I should reckon ^{mother}! You seem to be holding your own fairly well, "The length of your skirt seems to signify that you are up to the minute as far as style is concerned - Your gold beads look as pretty as ever too -"

Further, if I should decide to bring you a calico (?) or some kind of dress next year - have you any choice as to color? I'm not likely to be able to get a good dark blue, as you know from experience. But whether you would like gray, or something on the wine or plum, or black, I don't know - and wish you would pass on to me any suggestions you might have - and I'll use what I can of them. Please do one other thing for me - I shan't bring Pa a calico dress - or even a gingham one - but you never can tell what one might find - so will you please send measurements as follows:

1. around his head about an inch above the ears (and is that about the place where he regularly measures for his hat head size?)
2. around his neck (collar band)
3. from middle of back of neck to end of little finger (arm stretched straight out from shoulder).
3. around chest, under arms -
4. around biggest part of tumoury -
5. back of neck to floor -
6. size of foot (drawn with pencil around his stockinged foot -
7. length of trousers -

Another thing - if you can think of anything

in the way of pieces of drapery work, or other things suitable for gifts, that you'd like to have me bring - or anything from Japan, please make your suggestions early. I haven't a lot of junk to bring such as I had when I came home before - and it is not likely that I shall have a great lot of presents such as I had before - That sort of thing is more or less going out of style -

In addition to things on list already sent to you I am sending the following - Price is exactly what I paid Mex, and does not include 4 x 6 x a price postage -

1 grass tray cloth	1.50 ✓
1 linen center	2.80 ✓
1 grass center	1.80 ✓
1 doz cotton ⁽¹²⁾ hdk	2.40 ✓
3 pc no 1 @ 20994.	7.20 ✓ (1 pc) (2 pc)
1 pc no 2 @ 289	3.36 ✓
1 pc no 15 124	1.44 ✓
1 pc no 43a 280	3.36 ✓

These won't be in time for Christmas but perhaps they can be sold later -

Did you ever hear from the Hospital here thanking you for the beautiful scrap books you sent? Please pass on the thanks to those who helped make them. If you haven't heard, I know it is because they are so busy - Dr. Everhine thought them just splendid.
Love - Abbie

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Swatow, China

Dec. 11, 1929

Dearest Ones

I am positively ashamed of myself. It has been more than two weeks since I have written to you - I haven't much time now for prayermeeting meets here at our house in about 15 minutes - in fact if my watch is slow it may meet in less than ten minutes!

You'll be interested to know that I have had a nice Christmas box from Greenville; a handkerchief shower, with thread for tatting, towels, soap, powder - and two boxes of candy. (One of them at least, delicious chocolates, is from Lena Greene, who also sent a new American dollar bill.) Fortunately the candy and soap were well wrapped and the candy doesn't taste of soap as I feared it would. There was also an historical sketch of the Baptist church, written by Helene Greene - Put me on the back, please, - I've written my thank-you letter to them already -

We are getting ready for all sorts of things for Christmas - Our young people's society seems to be beginning to come to life and we plan a party here at this

house the Monday before Christmas - but I'll tell about that after it happens -

Last Saturday Mrs. Campbell and Louise went with Dorothy to Hongkong to see her off for America. Last year Dorothy had her breast amputated. Now the trouble has suddenly returned and she is sent back to America post haste, for operations & treatment there.

On Monday Mr. Baker received a cable "Rescued by gunboat. All safe. Campbells". We thought it must mean pirates - but didn't know. A report that came to Swatara shortly after was that only four people had been saved. How fortunate that we got the cable first, instead of that report.

The right story ^(letter came later) - briefly as I can tell it - is that about 1.30 Sun. A.M. Pirates attacked the bridge, where some officers were - The officers fired back - and a fierce fight, in which some 200 rounds of ammunition were used, ensued. One officer, an Indian guard, and two others were killed outright, and a number of others wounded - But the pirates did not get the upper hand, as in the case

of the "Sunning" two (?) years ago - When they found that they were making no headway, they found oil, and poured it below the bridge & set fire, thinking to drive the officers back - But it got beyond their control and they themselves were forced to run and they hid among the passengers ("lights had long been out"). All this time the Campbells had been in their cabin with the door locked, praying - They thought there could be no hope - Finally the bright light, which they hoped might be a rescue searchlight, flashed through the cracks - They opened the curtain and then only realized that the ship was on fire - Then they went out and helped those who were injured, - bound up wounds, etc. Finally the British gunboat Stirling came alongside and took them aboard - Their next day they got their baggage - and found that nothing at all was lost. The Stirling helped put out the fire so that the old Hai Ching sailed into Hong Kong under her own steam - Thousands of dollars damage, however.

Toccl! It makes no wonder when we dare travel any more! This Douglas

Company has not had a piracy for 39 years - and such a thing was unthought of. The boat is fitted with heavy iron gratings, and always carries a guard of stalwart black Indian "sheiks" -

But we are very very thankful that the Campbells are all safe - and can only hope that the pirates will be discouraged by this signal failure - The two Campbells have not returned yet but we think they will decide not to go to Canton as they had planned -

Much much love,

Abbi

Swatow, China

Dec. 22, 1929

Dear Ques -

of Nov 21,

Your letter telling of the arrival of the new little girl, and Arthur's ²⁴ telling me that her name is to be Abbie J., arrived together yesterday afternoon - Wasn't it dear of them to name her after me? Only I hope she won't dislike the name while she is growing up, as I did - I was greatly surprised at their doing such a thing, for I thought they didn't like the name either -

I'm sorry too that there is another month to feed "when feed" + "upkeep" is so hard to be sure about - but I'm glad it is a girl - Aren't you? The thing I find it hard to wait for now is your letter when you've heard what the baby's name is - I'm crazy to know your reaction to it - and I do ^{hope} you have written it to me long before you get this - I wonder how Gladys really likes to have her daughter named

after me; whether she is glad - or whether just willing, or not very happy about it! I suppose I'll never know! Well, it is dear of her to allow it so, anyway - and especially so if she didn't really want it to be that! (Maybe they'll call her Grace, which would of course be sensible if they really don't like the name, but just want to be nice to me!)

This is the end of a busy happy day - We had ~~two~~ cantatas in church this morning - and bigger gifts than last year, it seemed, at the White Gift service this P.M. - Next thing is the Young People's party here to-morrow morning - I'll try to write more about all these things later, but must get to bed now - It suddenly turned cold yesterday and we are all just about frozen - red hands, noses, etc.!

Much, much love, Abbie

Dear My Own Ones,

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Only the first two pages
of my Christmas letter are finished - and I'm
not much more than fairly begun - ! I'm
afraid you wouldn't get the letter very
soon if I waited to finish it so I'm
going to send these pages now and
the rest when I get them done - I
think I shall make extracts of this to
send to Miss Sandberg - There seems
to be a lot that is worth telling about
this year - and I got started at it
while it was fresh in my mind that
makes a heap of difference -

It is now nearly 10, 30 Sunday night
and I must get to bed -

Much love to you

Sending to Arthur, too
Albie