

**Abbie G. Sanderson Papers**

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(246)

Swatow China

Jan 5, 1930

My precious Father & Mother;

The letter that left Charlotte Dec. 7 reached me yesterday, and although I was greatly shocked at the news that Father has been so sick, yet I have been singing praises ever since, just to know that he is on the road to recovery. When Pa "wants his pants" we know he's getting better. I'm so thankful that Arthur was near enough to come and help and I know he must be too. It must have been terrific though for you, Mother, to have Father sick and the kiddies there

with you - during the first part.  
Do keep right on getting better.  
Father, and Mother go easy if  
you can - and oh please,  
both of you, don't let anything  
happen to you before next  
August! Or after that too  
of course -

You may be sure that this  
news made me pretty glad  
in coming straight home -  
I have my sailing, by the way,  
on the President Madison,  
which leaves Hongkong July 8  
and arrives in Seattle July 28.  
I haven't written yet to Seattle &  
told them I hope to see them  
on a very short visit - I will do  
that soon - in vacation, maybe -

But as far as the rest of my trip is concerned, my plan now is to make a bee line for Vermont. I wonder whether you can find out about the quickest way to get from Seattle to Charlotte, and maybe send me time tables. I had ~~sent~~ thought of coming by the Canadian Pacific direct from Vancouver to Montreal - but don't know whether landing at Seattle, then taking trunks, etc. into Canada and back into U. S. would be difficult. I don't know either about connections between Montreal & Charlotte - So you may be able to help me about planning the

last part of my trip.

My "Christmas letter" has not been finished yet. I hope to do something on it to-morrow. Jan 1 & 2 were holidays and I spent them with Emily at Chaschowfn. For that reason I didn't get any thank-yous written. This year I had hoped to do that promptly - but alas! it's the same old story -

I haven't even said thank you to you for those <sup>(getting absent minded!)</sup> ~~butter~~ ~~spice~~ fruit knives that I have wanted so much - You said Mrs. Gammon had a share in that too didn't you? I must

write to her -

And Mrs. Hazard and Mrs. Van Vliet for the things that they sent - Those Christmas tree trimmings came in the very nick of time and that sparkle business is something new - We all think it is exquisite - At night it looks for all the world like dew drop sparkles - You can see the shine but not the substance - Hope it will keep for them to use next Christmas too -

The dolls Pearl and Edith, and the other one with lace (that dress looks amazingly like a graduation dress sleeve which I have seen before ! ?) are very

attractive and I want to thank  
the Crusaders - and also those  
who made the scrap books -  
I mustnt stop to do more than  
say a bare thank-you tonight  
for I must get to bed and  
be ready to get up before six  
to-morrow -

That is our every-day program  
now. Prayers at 6.30 mean  
that you must get up by 6  
at the latest if you are to get  
a bath and dress etc by 6.30.  
I'm ashamed to say that I  
have missed prayers a  
number of times recently!  
I hope that when vacation  
comes we can have our day  
begin a little bit later. It is a

Had your letter of Dec 3 told  
me Father was very sick  
with pneumonia I should  
have had a worried visit to  
Chaschowfn — As it was I  
had a most carefree rest  
and even after only two  
days of it came back  
feeling much better than  
when I went — So, for  
this once, I'm glad I didn't  
know until afterwards. But  
I think next time (which I  
hope there won't be any!) you'd  
really better tell me — I shall  
still be very eager for your  
next letter —

A.

(247)

Saratow, China

Jan. 12, 1930

Dearest One,

How I do long for another letter & let me know that all is well with you! I suppose it really is, or I would have had another letter or some word by this time.

I should have had ~~my~~ letter to you all written, but I have been lazy. After I got back from Young People's Society a little before 3 I built up a fire in my fireplace and I have been just sitting, and reading - and it is now 5 o'clock - I was up late last night correcting examination papers - I gave four exams on Friday - and Saturday was able to get two sets corrected - the two graduating classes - To-morrow I have no exams - but in the morning I shall make one grand effort to get those exams done. I have two more on ~~Tuesday~~ Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning my grammar - a class of 60! These ought all to be corrected & the averages for the term reckoned and sent in by Thursday night - though they don't have to be - But I want to get them out of the way - Graduation comes Friday, and the students leave on Saturday - You've been waiting for the remaining sheets of my Christmas letter, no doubt - Well - I can't do anything on it now before the end of this week - but then I hope to finish it - and I shall send copies of it to a number of people -

Already I feel rushed about the things I have to do this vacation - First of all I must send Christmas thank-yous - I haven't written any yet - ! And I had such nice things, which I want to tell you about later - None nicer thoughts, than my fine fruit knives and those beautiful Christmas cards!

Then I have to go through all my things and get them in order - I shall have to leave in June before school closes - and this is my time to begin to get ready to go home - Several boxes of things and several more of trash are waiting upstairs for me to go over them, weed out, arrange, and pack to leave. I shall try to do all this just as soon after school is out - One is so that I can have my mind free about it - and not have the job hanging over me.

There is another reason - however. Tomorrow Emily comes down here from Choochowfu, to take the earliest boat for Hongkong, where she is to go to the Matilda Hospital to have a lump removed from her breast. The doctors say there is small chance of its being anything serious, but it ought to come out. We debated the question of my going too - but if ~~she~~ I went she would insist on paying my fare - and my vacation time that I need for going over things would be gone - whereas if I were in Hongkong I could be with her only a small part of each day - visiting Loars - So I'm not planning to go -

But - I know that there is the possibility

that this thing may be serious and if it is, I shall want to go to be with her; since it is vacation time, I can, and therefore - my haste to get certain of my own affairs out of the way and stand in readiness if she needs me.

She discovered this lump less than two months ago - under observation ever since, it does not show growth, and there is no pain - but they say it must come out - It does seem that the poor child has more than her share of these things! She has written to her sister, and her mother will <sup>not know of it until after the operation.</sup>

This last week I received a notice from the Post Office saying that a package of Glad Fruit had arrived for me from California - I was all excited & didn't know who the sender might be - It was marked \$4.00, and why I didn't have to pay any duty is more than I can understand - But I didn't, - nor did I on your package - Well - This was a beautiful package done up in "ising-glass" yellow paper - It was a paper woven basket, with a lid lifted high on one side to show the goodies packed within - and all was tied around with this transparent paper - finished off with flaring blue and amber and gold bows at the top - and a bouquet of snug little flowers stuck jauntily in the top. The contents I'm not sure I can enumerate; chocolate goodies in different shapes & mappings; candied limes, pears, & pineapple slices; a little glass jar of salted almonds, another of Jordan almonds - sugar covered, in different colors & flavors, and another tiny one of raspberry jam; and an assortment of nuts in their

shells - really quite the most luxurious thing in candies that I have ever seen. And tucked in the top was a card - with a loving message from Evelyn Cranska! She had been speaking in California had met my "friend, Dr. Velva Brown" - and I have no doubt that her being thus reminded of me was the cause of my receiving this lovely package -

I had two books from Gladys Paul, and I now have packages in the post office from Jn. Stacy & Bessie Pierce Donovan, to whom I sent only cards this year! Ruth Hall sent a very lovely folder of writing paper, Anna Foster a little brass paper knife, and Edith Traver her pictures - the Hildreths a little diary - Alice Harrison a pretty handkerchief.

From the people out here there were ever so many pretty things; a black and red gorgeously striped silk for a dress from the two Chinese women teachers, Miss Lee and Miss Eng - a lovely string of rose quartz beads for my throat from Emily - a lunch cloth & napkins from Mabelle - and other things which I shall hope to show you before many months - including a number of gifts from Chinese friends.

From the Paisley Sunday School Union in Scotland, with whom I've had correspondence in regard to Sunday School work here, came Volume I of the Jerusalem Conference Books - If you have that, maybe I won't bring it home.

But if you haven't, I surely will -

I had cards from more than 130 people and I sent over two hundred like the enclosed ones - I have been wondering how it would be to have some like this printed to use next year at home - What do you think, - would people like them? They are much cheaper than anything I could get at home, I think.

For some years we have had the money, which had been sent out in a special fund, for an artesian well for our house. But we have had no opportunity of getting one dug, and no prospect of it. So now we are having a cistern built on the hill near our house, which will drain from the "other" side of our roof which is not being drained now. We have the pipes all laid, and I already have two very nice-looking faucets in my bathroom! But whether I'll get any water or not is another question, for the faucets are higher than the bottom of the cistern and there will have to be a lot of water in it before we get any upstairs - Maybe I'll be bringing back a pump with me when I come -

One thing I shall bring back, and that is some sort of heater - I have never in all my life suffered so with the cold as I have in the

6  
last two weeks - The school - church - & such places -  
are not heated, of course, and we have had the  
coldest spell that has been known in 40 years -  
In some of the cities up north people have died  
from the cold - literally by the hundreds - I  
had a fire one night in my study, but got so  
sleepy that I couldn't correct my papers. The  
next night I bundled into all the clothes I had,  
nearly I and hugged a hot water bottle - and  
was able to work - The following night I dressed  
as warmly as I could, for I had to have evening  
study hall at school - I had on a woolen dress  
& jacket - a woolen long Chinese gown over that,  
and my heavy winter coat over that. And  
3 pair of stockings, two of them woolen. Even  
then I was too cold to sit for long at a time,  
and when I got up & tried to walk about to  
keep warm I was too much weighed down  
by my clothes to walk with any degree of comfort.  
Three pair of stockings also made my shoes  
uncomfortably tight! Somewhere along the way  
I have acquired a mild case of chilblains on  
the toes of my right foot - So this is the  
complete tale of my woes - I guess I  
shall live through it - and please understand  
that of course all of this isn't half as bad as it  
made it out. It's just that after a number of  
years out here my blood is maybe a little  
thinner and I find it harder to keep warm!  
Much love  
Athol

248

Swatow, China

Jan 19, 1930

Dearest Ques,

Yesterday's letter from  
you rejoined my heart with  
the impatiently looked-for news that  
Dad is better - You wait till I  
get hold of you and see if I  
won't scold you good and plenty  
for riding at zero weather on milk  
cans when you are old enough to  
know better! It is a lucky thing I  
am coming home pretty soon to  
set you straight in some of these  
little matters! Now see to it  
that you are careful - No more  
monkey-shines!

Arthur's escape does seem a  
marvelous one and while I'm  
tremendously sorry he damaged  
his car to such an extent - I'm  
so thankful that he is all right -  
Sorry you aren't sleeping well,

Mother dear - but please don't include  
me in your worrying - for I'm as  
safe as a flea in an elephant's  
inner ear -

About captives and ransoms -

One of the four German missionaries  
has been released for \$300<sup>(three hundred)</sup> and  
about \$1000 worth of medicine -  
and negotiations are going on for  
the release of the other three -

Emily went to Hongkong on Thurs-  
day and I haven't heard from her  
yet -

Mr. Page returned from America  
on Wednesday - He is to begin building  
the new church right away - We  
are all glad to see him back and  
now the money for the church will  
begin to come in -

Last night I went to Swatow  
to sing a duet at the Y. M. C. A.  
with Muir-Long (the one who sent you  
the little silver pin) We stayed all  
night in Swatow & got back this  
morning just in time to have dinner

and go to the Young Peoples meeting  
right after dinner —

It is cold these days and it is  
so easy, now that the let-down of  
vacation has come, just to sit  
by my study fire and read, instead  
of getting those Christmas letters off  
and getting my sewing and sorting  
my things done —

Well- maybe I'll have more pep  
after a day or two - but it is so  
grand to be resting!

Love to you

Abbie

no 250

Sرواتر, China  
Jan 29, 1930

Dear Ones,

It is not yet Sunday  
but I'm up earlier than the  
houseboy this morning and while  
he is setting the table I'll begin  
this letter to you -

About two weeks ago a  
mission <sup>meeting</sup> was called and at  
that meeting a committee of  
five, of whom I was one, was  
appointed to draw up a plan  
for the reorganization of our  
mission conference - We met  
for four sessions of about three  
hours each and finally succeeded  
in getting something ready -  
We knew it was fairly good  
but knew also that it would be

more or less picked to pieces -  
Monday afternoon of this week  
the big meeting was called again,  
and the whole thing discussed -  
Most of the Hakka missionaries  
were here and are planning to go  
up inland right after Chinese  
New Year, so it was considered  
important to decide the matter now -

I was appointed secretary for  
this meeting - so I had the  
scribbling to do -

The thing was thrashed in and  
out and up and down for that  
afternoon and evening - but  
was finally accepted almost as  
it was, except for the re-wording.  
At first they were going to re-  
commit to us to do the re-wording -  
mostly finding a different name  
from "conference" and "reference"

2

committee. But we said we had used all the knowledge and intelligence we had, so they appointed another committee - But the substance was accepted - so that they could go ahead and ~~elect~~ officers, even though they haven't yet found the names that they want.

Well, since I am coming on Yalough and can't have any office for the year, I was one put on the nominating committee and we worked that night until after eleven, drawing up the slate of officers - The next morning the meeting had to be at eight so that the Kityang people could get their boat back. There wasn't much discussion, and no <sup>new</sup> nominations, so a ballot was cast for the

whole state just as we had it.

Then my being secretary was ended — for they had Mr. Baker. After that, according to the new plan, the Swatow speaking division wanted to vote on its reference committee (a new name to be given to it.) So Mr. Waters, Mr. Capen and I were appointed nominating com. for that, and had to retire and bring in ~~that~~ list —

Mr. Page, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gridt, Miss Sollman and Miss Miller were named for that. I didn't suggest Emily's name for that, <sup>I mean it was someone else who named her</sup> and I wasn't sure that the people would vote for her because she hasn't been on a big committee like that, until recently when everybody was on it temporarily!

But again they accepted the whole slate, and that is the way it will stand. I'm so glad for Emily (She is still in the hospital now - Had her operation and seems to be doing well - but hasn't yet had final report & reassure her that the trouble is not likely to return), - partly because she felt that she never would be on the Reference Committee and now she cannot say that she never was on! There was a little sentiment towards putting Mrs Culley on - in fact I suggested her name, ~~although~~ <sup>for</sup> I wanted to be entirely fair - although I hoped they would put E. on - Neither of them has ever been on -

Yesterday when I came home I tried to get my notes written

up, but couldn't seem to settle down to anything. I finally got them done last night, and now I can go back to my letter-writing again - But it is slow work, somehow!

They put me on a committee to go and talk with the Chinese leaders about the election of a mission secretary - and I'm not looking forward to that with much anticipation of an easy time; I don't know how it will strike them. But - why worry about that until it comes?

Your letter of Dec 23 arrived yesterday; circular letters weren't in time for you to see much before Christmas were they? I'm so relieved that Father continues to get better right along - Sorry the hdkfs and things haven't arrived! Love Abbie

Swatow, China  
Dec. 29, 1929

Dear Ones;

Of all the happy, busy Christmases I have spent in China this has been one of the very busiest and happiest. For weeks the "tempe" has been getting faster and faster with rehearsals for the various activities coming one upon the heels of another, and the last eight or ten days have been the kind of whirl that makes you feel it must go on forever just because it is going too fast to stop!

Saturday morning, a week ago yesterday, we decorated our dining room and living room. We have never been more festive, yet the decorations are almost entirely big and little pine trees and branches and huge flaming poinsettias. ~~THE~~ Christmas tree is up in the dining room, moored to the newel post, which seems to have been built for this express purpose. Each one in the house contributed something shiny to adorn the tree, and just the day before Christmas some beautiful sparkly things got here from America. We put up candles, too, and in spite of the meager decorations that we had had at the outset, the result achieved was a glittering success.

Downstairs in the guest or reception room there is a more modest little tree, hung only with gayly wrapped boxes of raisins and Bible reading booklets. It is fun to share these with any Christmas visitors we have, - and we have a good many.

Saturday afternoon the real festivities began, with a little party for our Senior High school girls. A handkerchief with two small beauty pins expressed to each girl the loving interest of the "sisters" in America who sent them. On Saturday evening came the final rehearsal of the church choir for the cantata the following day. We made that an occasion for a special jollification; after the singing we went upstairs for refreshments and each singer was presented with a wee toy musical instrument or something of the kind from the tree. Some tiny celluloid cats playing drum, violin, and saxophone, some small drums and mouth organs and a few whistles and horns provided no end of amusement.

The people here like music and there are a good many who have pretty good voices and who like to sing; the difficulty is to get them together and to keep them at regular practice long enough for them really to learn some music that is worth while. To be able to give two complete, though brief cantatas, then, at the Sunday morning service was no small achievement. One was given by our Senior High School girls and the other by the choir mentioned above, which was made up of people from the different schools, - mostly teachers; from the hospital staff, and by others in the community. Everybody enjoyed the solos by Stella Wang (here temporarily from Kaying where there has been so much trouble), Principal Ling, Mr. Capen, and Mabelle Culley. (I sang one too; I enjoyed it but I can't say how many others did!) To Miss Culley is due the success of this affair. She it was who got the people together and had the patience to keep them practicing even when it looked as though we could not possibly get ready in time. Louise Cambell, also here from Kaying, played the accompaniment.

Whenever I have written to you about Christmas, I suppose, I have not failed to mention our White Gift Service. It always seems the crown of the Christmas celebrations out here. This year our central theme was Love. The

service was held again on the tennis, and the attendance was good in spite of the sharp, biting wind which threatened rain. The platform was bright with pots of red red poinsettias with their gold centers and a great red heart bearing the gold character for love. The songs and the brief address focused on Love as the all-important factor in Christian giving and living. "Some Men whose Love was not Quite Strong Enough" was a sketch portrayed by the primary boys. Principal Ling's small son, as Solomon, and others as Saul, Elijah, Jonah, Peter, and the rich young ruler, confessed in turn their failures in certain circumstances of their lives and declared that the reason was that they had not enough love. The "gold" crowns, "jewels", and many colored raiment of the kings, the soldier attendants of Solomon, and the long padded gown and little black satin cap of the rich young man were sufficient to the rough garb of the other three to help make the story stick in the minds of those who saw it. The kindergarten children repeated with strikingly appropriate motion exercises verses about God's love for us, our love to Him, Christ's New Commandment, and the pre-eminence of love. These children are precious, and they sing and speak so well. The little grammar girls' song "God is Love" was the sweetest thing I have heard for a long time.

The last thing on the program was bringing the gifts for the King. Cloth, matches, cotton wadding, rice, towels,--all sorts of gifts--were greeted with applause as they were brought up. I was highly diverted by the enthusiasm of some small boys who sat just in front of me. The comments were priceless! "----Class, \$4.00" (mild clapping). "----Class, \$6.00" ("That's not very much, aren't they going to give any more than that?"). "----Class, \$10.00" ("That's better!" vigorous clapping). "MS.----'s Class, \$43.00" ("Ah Ai-ai Much to death I nobody will get any more than that I"). "The Hospital, \$68.00" (Many ah's and oh's; youngsters gasp and look at each other and forget to clap for a moment, then get at it again with a will). "----Class, \$7.00 - silver dollars sewed on to a silver star" (My, that's pretty,-- but it's not so much money as the others had). "Mr.----, \$25.00" (Wheel and he's only one man all alone!) renewed hand-clapping). "----Class, ten dozen boxes of watches, four bolts of cloth, two dozen facecloths, etc....." ("But not any money!" Clapping grows faint) And so on.....!

On Monday morning our Christmas tree bore another load of gifts when our young people's society met for a "Remembering Jesus' Birthday" meeting. In addition to the Christmas songs they had learned together the young men and the young women had prepared two separate songs for the occasion. Each group was slightly embarrassed to have to sing before the others, but the boys sang their carol, and the girls their Chinese melody well, and enjoyed doing it. After a short devotional program we collected the five-cent gifts that had been brought, all safely wrapped in red paper so that no one could see them, and conveyed them upstairs to be tied to the tree. Then we had a most wonderful time playing such games as ~~xxx~~ Poison Stick and a Chinese version of "Pinneduffer". Then upstairs for tea and cakes, bonbons that snap and have paper caps or little toys inside them, and exchange of the marvelous not-more-than-five-cent gifts. It was more fun than a barrel of monkeys; a hilarious racket while we were playing, then a joyous sing of the club song and a serious moment while the pastor prayed, and the grand climax of two big rounds of firecrackers set off as the merry-makers left the house. It was one wonderful party and the reports of it are still traveling. One girl was heard to say, "I'm going to join the Young People's; they have lots of fun!"

Monday afternoon and evening were spent in having more rehearsals and in getting last things ready for Christmas. On Tuesday morning came the Kindergarten Christmas celebration, held in the church. These kiddies are such darlings; the mothers are fathers always love to see them perform, of course, but the rest of us love it too!

Tuesday afternoon the Junior High School girls were asked to share our tree. The dollies we had for them were mostly left-overs, for very few came from America this year. They varied in size from four to fourteen inches, some were celluloid, some china, and some other kinds. The only way we could manage was to wrap the dolls in red paper, pile them under the tree. Let the girls draw lots as to who should choose a bundle first. They seemed very happy to have the dollies. I really believe that every girl, older as well as younger, would rather have a doll than anything else!

Mother's package arrived during the party, but there was no time to open it then, for there was barely time to get ready for our Y.W.A.M.C.A. party up at school in the evening. The girls had had some difficulty in deciding what their part should be this year. Last year they gave the story of the shepherds and the angels and the wise men, and they wanted to keep near to the Christmas story and still not have it the same as last year's. So someone hit upon the idea of having the angels tell the story. This they did, and they looked very pretty and sang very sweetly. While they were lighting with candles a big silver star which held the central place on the platform, the cloth background caught fire and for one or two breathless seconds we wondered whether everything would be spoiled. But one of the boys put the fire out immediately and the story and song ran smoothly on. The boys' part was a funny little play, and the tossing out to the audience of oranges and small packets of candy. This last bit always adds hilarity to the affair, and everybody goes happy.

After we got home we had the fun of filling each other's stockings! This takes time, and so it was not surprising that Mabelle and I found ourselves saying Merry Christmas to each other on the very dot of twelve o'clock! We never expect to get much sleep on the night before Christmas out here, and my expectations were surely fulfilled this year!

At four o'clock Christmas morning twenty members of the Young People's Society met at the church and from there went all over the village singing carols. A smaller group had preceded us but we went farther and stayed longer. The songs were greeted sometimes by applause, sometimes only by heads appearing in the windows, and sometimes by "Merry Christmas!" in English or Chinese, and in one place by the loud report of a big fire-cracker. Kachich is a hilly place, and although the weather was cold I was more than in a glow when I got back home, and quite ready for my hot and cold sponge to put me in shape for the rest of the day.

The victrola had been set the night before and on the stroke of 6.30 the good old Christmas tunes began to ring out- "Joy to the World," "Hark the Herald Angels", "The First Nowell", and the others. Then came more Merry Christmas and more fun opening Christmas stockings. Breakfast was a pretty good one we suppose, but there really wasn't any time for us to take notice of what we were eating. Before we had finished opening the stockings it was time to leave for church. The service was a rather short one, with a good deal of singing. Twelve of us together at the Bungalow at dinner -- a happy affair as it always is, because at that time we are thinking of dear ones who are celebrating the Birthday too.

About four o'clock Emily Miller arrived. She had entertained quite a company of her Chinese co-workers at Christmas dinner the night before, and she stayed at Chaochowfu for the exercise in the church Wednesday morning. She came down here to be with us for Christmas supper. In the evening we sat around the fire in my study and helped Emily open a gorgeous box which had come home. It was a most happy ending to a happy Christmas season!

Thursday morning, classes! It was hard to begin again quite so soon. Thursday is my busy day, too. But we have really had too many holidays lately, so back to work-- and no complaints! Emily went back to her work too on Thursday.

On Thursday, too, an all day meeting was held in which the Ling Tong leaders had the privilege of hearing Miss Kuang of the National Christian Council, who is being sent out to various places to interest in the five year program. I was able to attend only the evening meeting; I was gratified to note the interested discussion that arose. Two subjects were presented, "Every Member of Every Christian Family a Christian", and "How to Increase the Percentage of Literacy among Christians". The topic "Family Worship" had been taken up earlier in the day. I had been afraid I should have a hard time to keep awake, for sleep lost by going out for carols hadn't been made up yet, but sleepiness was forgotten in the lively discussion.

Friday morning Miss Kuang spoke to our students, and then to a church full of the village people; then later on to the smaller group of leaders again. After dinner we went to say goodby to the Lewises, who are going to America in the hope that Mr. Lewis can regain his health. Mr. Lewis has been a tireless worker always and has seemed so strong; he has a remarkable combination of the qualities of character and personality which go to make an unusually fine missionary. It was a great shock to the mission when he was taken sick last July.

After the last class that afternoon I went with others of our mission across the bay to a tea given by Mrs. Cowles of the Y.M.C.A. Between fifty and sixty people were present and it was very jolly to meet everybody again. We got so tied to our work that we seldom see people of the business community or of the English mission in Swatow city.

In the evening I had callers. Miss Eng and Miss Lee, our two Chinese women high school teachers, came to take my measurements for making the silk Chinese gown which they gave me for Christmas. Miss Eng's sister-in-law-to-be, who will do most of the sewing, came with them, and we had a delightful time comparing ideas about dressing.

Yesterday found me with a pile of papers to correct and a host of other routine things to do, but I didn't get them done. It is most difficult to settle down again after all this excitement!

Sincerely yours,

Albie J. Sanderson

Swatow, China

Feb. 4, 1930

Dear Quess —

I'm over at Becky Cowles' for dinner and to stay all night. I'm dressed a little ahead of time - the other guests haven't yet arrived - so I'm going to scribble a line to you - and I'll mail it on my way home to-morrow.

This noon I was invited over with the Hakka missionaries to a Chinese dinner in Swatow - wish I could cook some things the way they had them today - for you when I get home - but I'm afraid will have to give that up as a bad job! Takes too much work —

Yesterday we had a mission tea in honor of the officers of the gunboat *McLeish* - named in honor of Kenneth McL - who died in the World War - son of

our "missionary-wise" Mrs.  
McLeish —

Tonight the officers are to be here, and Marguerite and I are invited - Marguerite is staying on for a two or three days vacation - but I'm going back - and it may be that Emily's steamer will be in harbor when I cross the bay. If so I shall go aboard to meet her - She may not come, for the final report hadn't come about her case when she last wrote - But I rather think she will come -

Have I told you how cold I've been this winter? "On the edge of the tropics" indeed! I've never suffered so with the cold - and I'm wearing just about all the clothes I own! At night I wear a thin nightie under my flannel - and two big baggy flannel bedsocks - and sometimes I have a bathrobe on over that - and

my cashmere shawl over that -  
in addition to a blanket under  
me - two blankets, a wool quilt  
and a steamer rug over me - and  
a hot water bottle !

Wonder if I'll be any warmer  
in Vermont next year !

Love .

Abhe

Had such a nice letter from Mrs.  
Hazard - and dear letters from the  
W. H. G. girls - Yours and fathers'  
- can must bam! Swatow, China

Dearests: (252) Feb. 11, 1930

I should have written  
Sunday but just didn't get  
around to it and the days  
and hours have been pretty  
full since then.

Emily came back from  
Hongkong Saturday - all reports  
favorable and her scar  
nicely healed - - - - -

Now it is two days later  
and I have forgotten why I  
never got any farther than  
the above. The reason I did  
not write on Sunday, however, was  
that Mrs. Giffin, Emily, & I went  
for a walk. - We went about

a mile and a half up the coast of the bay, to the station where the new motor road ends - This road already has motor buses running on it to Chaoyang, though not very regularly - When another bridge is built, and a road built around or through one rocky mountain, there will be roadway from here all the way to Canton - a six-hour motor ride - <sup>(so they say!)</sup> Always before this we have had to go by steamer, either direct from here to Canton <sup>by steamer</sup> - about 24 hours, or to Hongkong 18 hours, and 3 <sup>or 4</sup> more hours by train to Canton, with allowance to be added for making connections -

Of course no one would dare go all that way right now - on account of bandits - but when things settle down it will be wonderful - ~~After~~ You see this is on our Kakchick side of the bay, too! We're opening up fast.

Monday morning the cook was getting parcels for us from the Post Office - and he was seized by a newly organized internal revenue office man - who said that he was running away from the customs, and got a police man to arrest him and take him to a police station! He was allowed to telephone to Tang Seng Li, our Christian banker, who went bail for him - or at least

was able to arrange for him to get out. But the packages were there <sup>at the police station</sup> and the revenue people threatened to make trouble. I went right over (E. went with me, and the cook went too -) The man <sup>(revenue)</sup> said he couldn't do anything then and said he would go to the Police Sta. and examine the things with us the next day at 12. (Such a convenient hour!)

Well, Tuesday A.M. the day was mild and the cook didn't want us to risk going across. But I thought it was better to turn up at the promised time if possible - We went across in one of the new launches, but our old trusty

boatman Kim Ishuang was  
 aboard looking after things as  
 I was easy. We rocked a  
 good deal, but made a quick  
 trip. At the office they had  
 a man all primed to talk  
 polite words to me - to tell  
 me they were sorry to make  
 bother for me, but this man -  
 the cook - was an old offender  
 and must be ~~finished~~ <sup>punished</sup> -  
 Whether that is true or not  
 I don't know - but if true  
 he has been trying to get  
 out of paying for us revenue  
 which he thought was unjust  
 and which every body's sneaks  
 out of paying if possible!  
 So we asked what the fine  
 was - and didn't argue. I did

ask him for a copy of his rules  
so this shouldn't happen again.  
The regular revenue would  
be 4.7 dimes, he said, and  
the tenfold fine would be 47 dimes  
so we had a total of 51 dimes  
or \$4.30 big money, to pay -

But! we couldn't get the  
packages - and he said we'd  
have to send again the next  
day, at 12 - needn't come  
ourselves, but the cook would  
have to come - So yesterday  
he finally got them - I forgot  
to say that when he was  
arrested he had the packages,  
had already paid \$8.00 <sup>regular</sup> duty  
on them, and was leaving the  
P.O.!

The packages were two for

me from the Honton people - and  
 one for Mabelle - garden seeds,  
 bulbs, etc. She had to pay \$2.00  
 duty for hers, and I \$6.00 for  
 my two - By the time the 4.30  
 for fine is added, the packages  
 are rather expensive. ! But my  
 boxes were splendid ones - one  
 personal and one for the work -  
 The personal one had a pair of  
 sheets, a pair of pillow slips -  
 6 or 8 towels - 2 boxes of bath  
 salts, 1 of sweet pea talcum,  
 3 pkg. soap flakes (which are  
 broken open and all over everything;  
 I nearly sneezed my head off  
 when I opened the things!),  
 writing paper, 8 handkerchiefs -  
 an apron - some clever holders,

and one pair (the only ones I've  
had for ages) of silk stockings  
just the right shade of beaver-  
tan-fawn, or whatever is the  
right name — and size 18 —  
with darning cotton to match!  
Loose leaf notebook covers and  
fillers, typewriters and carbon  
and colored paper, notebooks,  
pencils, clips, linen rings for  
notebook paper, <sup>crochet cotton, needles</sup> paste, crayons —  
such nice things in the  
other box — I hate to pay  
duty but these were worth it!  
I must write immediately to  
thank them for it —

On Wednesday the Speichers  
arrived and we had a tea at  
the Waters — about forty present,  
Chinese and foreigners —

The three Germans who were kidnapped were reported to be released last week - \$6000 has been paid for ransom - Today word comes that one of them, a Swiss, was kept because the bandits <sup>have</sup> heard the Swiss had more money! Mr. Kilper has come out to Kaying, but Mr. Fischler, the younger man is staying on with Mr. Walter until they get Mr. W's release - The families are in Hongkong and as the men will go through here on their way to them. We have invited them to stay at this house if they stay over any meals or any nights - The news of their release was so joyful - and

and now this word is so discouraging!

The Bonsfields have moved over to the Page's house - and Mr. Page won't have to live all alone - and we won't have quite such a big family here!

Mr. Giffin reached Kiating safely, and is glad to be up there -

Emily is still here - stayed over for a little visit with me and for some dentistry - She goes up to-morrow and Mabelle will arrive the next day, Saturday, probably (from Publication Society meeting in Shanghai -) School begins next week.

Must stop now -

Love - love - Abbie

Swatow, Feb. 16, 1932

Dearest Ques,

Your letters written Jan. 14, and Jan. 19 arrived yesterday, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. And now I have so much to say that I don't see how I am going to write it at all! It seems as though I must have a few hours with you when I can talk instead of writing!

As you must know from my letters by now, I have my sailings on the President Madison from Hongkong July 8th, and arriving in Seattle July 28. I have meant to write to Lee a Lulu about stopping over for a day, or two days at most - but I haven't written yet. Then I plan to take the night boat for Montreal and the Canadian Pacific - I mean Canadian National R. R. direct to Montreal. Marguerite is trying to persuade me to stop off for just one day at Banff to see Lake Louise - and I'm thinking about that.

As to connections from Montreal down to Burlington & Charlotte - I'll be glad to have you send me train schedules - Winter schedules

will be different from summer schedules, of course, but they will give me an idea of how long the trip is, and whether I'll have to stay in Montreal over night. You could probably tell me whether any one we know is now in Montreal - and find out where would be the best place to stay - I hope that won't be necessary, however -

Since this term is a short one, my furlough will also be a short one, and I shall be expected back here by the first of September, 1931. That means I have to leave home sometime the latter part of July, probably - It sounds to me as though that will fit in with your plans -

I may not have said much about your plan to go to Florida - I didn't realize I hadn't said anything, for I have thought about it so much! Never having been to Florida, I have kept wondering how you would like it, and whether the summers would be too hot - and so on - But if the South Berwick place could be made livable for possible summers - a longer period, if, as you say, you didn't like Florida - then the plan doesn't sound so irrevocable - as though you were going so far away from all your friends forever - ! Of course I'm a

good one to talk - about Florida's being so "far away", I mean! But then I realize that under some conditions a trip from Florida to New England would not be as easy to manage as one from Ansonia to New England -

There is one fault I have to find with your plan - I had thought I'd wait till I got home before suggesting it, but now seems the proper time to "spring" my idea on the subject. Since you definitely plan to make a change - I want you to make it before I come back. Perhaps I'll be more of a hindrance than a help in the business of moving; though I should try hard to help - but the main thing is that I want to know how you are fixed in the new surroundings, see what the house is like, etc, etc. I shall be tempted to make a trip down there to see what it is like <sup>if you don't go while you're there,</sup> and I would so much like to see you in the new place so that I can visualize you after I get back here -

Do you think of the possibility of moving this year, instead of waiting until 1930 - ?

Or, if you wait until next year, would June-July be too late - it would, of course, in the heat -

Or, is there any other way by which you could make the change while I am there? That is what I should like, if it can at all be arranged. What is the name of the place in Florida where you would go? And is the "Penny" a Baptist - or what? It is all right as far as I know - but then I really don't know anything about it - and Florida does seem such a long way from any of your friends - The rest of it seems pretty good.

Of course if you moved there while I'm at home there wouldn't be room for me maybe in your four room apartment - I shouldn't expect that there would necessarily be extra room - but I could find a place near by surely for a short time -

Your plans make me wonder about some of the things I want to bring home - Camphor wood box, for instance - It seems to me you could use a thing like that even in a furnished house. What do you think? I have a notion I'll bring the things I have planned to anyway - and if you can't use them, Gladys or someone else can! There won't be much, I warn you.

Did I tell you that your clipping about the Burketts was all wrong? They are living <sup>next</sup> door to us now - Mrs. Burket went to Shanghai to the Publication Society meeting - and is expected back any day. Mabelle got back yesterday - but there was no room on the ship for him so he had to wait a few days - Then if conditions still seem favorable, he will go up to Kaying soon. I surely wrote that Mr. Griffin and Mrs. Whitman have already gone -

More news of the German missionaries - We are not likely to have them here as guests soon - Mr. Fiedler will not leave, although he would be allowed, without Mr. Walther; and now the bandits are asking \$50,000 more, although they had promised that the three men would be released on payment of \$6,000, and the \$6,000 was paid - Oh it is all dreadful - and I ~~do~~ hope our Kaying missionaries will be very careful - Now that soldiers are there the city is safe - but outside a radius of three miles the surrounding country is not safe at all -

Mrs. Hazard wrote me such a lovely letter - and she enclosed four darling letters from the W. H. G. girls - Please tell them my very best thank-you - I want to write to her soon - and how I shall look forward to seeing them - Hope you won't build up too heavy a reputation for me, so that they'd all be disappointed when I get there! You know plenty of my short-comings; why don't you broadcast some of them, and then when I get there every body will be surprised to find out how nice I am! (—!)

Glad to know where Arthur is - I shall write to him tonight.

Had a nice letter from Sadie Drake - and a splendid long one from Sadie Flagg - I must answer them too -

School begins this week - and I could use four weeks more of vacation easily! Well - the days will fly all right from now on - so it won't be long until I'm with you - Six months more, it is!

Love - and then some,

Ym - Abbie

254

Swanton, China

Feb. 23, 1930

Dearest Ones —

Hard at it again! School began again on Wednesday, and I feel as though we never stopped teaching at all. My schedule this term is very well arranged so far. I'm afraid I shall have more music lessons after four than I'd like — but I have Friday afternoon free, which is the only thing I asked for — Mabelle has all afternoons free except for one or two periods of music — She teaches mine in the morning —

I teach the same subjects as last term with one exception, which is exceedingly helpful in saving time this last term I'm here — The preparation of lessons is much simpler when I've done the same work before — or when I'm continuing with a familiar subject and students whom I have come to know rather well —

I had the joy yesterday of having one of the Senior High boys tell me that he

has become a Christian and that he hopes to be baptized soon - His family are all non-Christians, except an uncle who got him to come here to Katschick to study - This boy came to see me on Friday to return a book I had loaned him; but finding that I was at dinner he went away yesterday and came back yesterday to talk with me - He has had a hard experience recently. This vacation he intended to stay here and study, but he was called home by the sickness of his father - Pneumonia it was, and his father died. I don't know that I was able to comfort him a great deal, but as I told him of the similar sickness in my own home a bond of sympathy sprang up which led very naturally to the heart-to-heart talk about spiritual things. He is working his own way mostly - and is a pretty good student - I am so glad!

Oh, how I wish I knew what to bring home this time and what not to bring - I have planned for years to bring a set of tea trays, - little tables that set over each other in a nest effect, take up very little room, and are so handy

when you want to serve afternoon tea - They go into a floor space of about 20" x 12" or less and are pretty, and as Chinese as they can be - (the ones I have in mind) and not very expensive - I don't want to bring things that will be a burden - though - instead of a pleasure - I have also two pretty wooden trays that I got in the Philippines - round trays, just the plain uncarved wood showing the markings - One is big and the other small - shall I bring them? I have also intended to bring you my camphor wood chest, and get another for myself when I come back - Shall I bring it, or not? (They are also cheap here) -

I know there'll be a number of things like this that I'll question too late - and if your answer to the above is too belated I may bring the things anyway!

Moreover, if you have opportunity will you get me a white or fleshcolored rubber or rubberized apron - I'd like it in plenty of time to start home with - if it comes earlier I'll be glad, because I really need it now.

If there is a choice, I like a thinner one better than a heavy one - Many thanks - Did I thank you for sending Father's measurements? I may not be able to get what I want after all, but I am going to try -

Father, are you being very very careful? Don't walk out on a glare of ice, and don't ride on any more milk cans in zero weather -

Mother - you may have received a little red cap (or did I send it direct to Gladys?) I intended to send two more very soon, but by the time they are finished summer will be here, so I'm going to let them wait until next year - You can use your discretion (if I sent it to you - I can't remember!) about giving it to the one it fits (Robert, I should think) or waiting for the others next winter -

*(I, the cop  
not your  
discretion)*  
You asked about gold and its effect on me - If any checks or gifts outside my salary come to me, it is a big advantage to have the exchange nearly three to one - In the matter of salary, it is a great disadvantage - for of course prices of commodities fluctuate with the rise and fall of exchange - whereas our salaries don't budge, and it

becomes hard to make ends meet. I haven't said anything about it in any letters to anyone, because it doesn't sound well at home to say that missionaries want to ask for higher salaries. We have been given \$100 g. extra this year, but that does not make up the difference between what we get and what we would get if we had free exchange; i.e. if we were able to get our salaries in gold and cash the gold checks for what the exchange now would bring us -

Figures show it:

Salary, \$900 gold, brings us at 2.1, \$1800 Mex.

Bonus \$100 (this year), makes \$1000 g. brings us \$2000.

Exchange the other day was 2.93, which means that at that rate we should get salary of \$2930 Mex. \$930 Mex. more than we are getting -

or \$307 g. at the 2.93 rate -

Even if we counted exchange at 2.50 - and it has been as much or more than that for some time, our \$1000 Gold would bring us \$2500, or <sup>\$500 Mex</sup> \$200 Gold (at rate of 2.50) more than what we are getting - Of course when

this two to one plan was begun, exchange was below 2 for 1 - In fact it was down below 1 for 1 for a short time - Well, there is a committee in China for work on cost of living and the Board is planning to make more satisfactory adjustment. But as I say - it seems grasping to ask for more money when they have been so kind in every emergency - It is true that I'm always "lacking", however - and I don't have nearly as much as I want to give - Cost of living has soared, too.

It is after 10 o'clock and I must go to bed -

Much love,

Albie

255

Swatow, China  
Sunday Mar. 2, 1930

Dearest Mother -

I have been thinking right along that this trip would be a "no-stop" affair practically - my chief and immediate object being Charlotte, Vermont - And it still is, practically - But I have today made up my mind that while I have such a good opportunity to see not only the Seattle people, but Uncle Arthur and Ada Boardman (Mabel Borell's sister) in Salem - to say nothing of the Farrands - and Ruth Chen and the Fairings in Portland - - well, I'd better do it, even though it takes a few days longer.

So, I think I shall write tonight my letters to those places, letting them know that I plan to do so - It will make me get home several days - perhaps (but I hope not,) a week - later than otherwise -

Ada has given me a very cordial invitation to come there and stay, and if I go to Salem that is where I shall stay for the two days I am there.

I should love to see Ruth Chen - who is at

I note the Furrands' address in Salem,  
also - shall try to see them, of course.

Reed College, Portland - and Portland is, of  
course, on the direct road to Salem - I  
hope you people will not mind too much -  
It really seems foolish not to do it.

This week we have had at a treat.  
Sherwood Eddy was here under his own  
auspices, but making the Y. M. C. A. his  
headquarters. It made me have every  
night in the week almost, but I went to  
hear him Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday  
evening in Swanton city. A meeting out-  
side the planned schedule was arranged  
at our school - Older students from the  
grammar school were invited, and  
the Seminary & Roman's School students.  
Many others came and the house was  
full. He made it a decision meeting  
and 15 or 20 stood out clearly, while  
many more stood to signify their  
desire to search the truth and  
their willingness to enter a Bible  
group for study. Among these was  
a senior boy in whom I have been  
particularly interested. Oh I hope that  
he, and others, will come out and be  
baptized this spring - or now for now. Love, Abbie

Mar. 9, 1930

Dear Ones,

Sundays have never been leisure days out here and sometimes I have sighed for a little time to rest, of a Sunday! Well - recently the day has been getting filled up a little fuller than usual, but I am rather glad than otherwise, for it means that I have an opportunity for having a Bible class with some of our Senior girls - Last Sunday Mabelle and I met a group of them, some of whom wanted I have their Bible class early Sunday morning, but some of whom wanted it later - So we divided - and this morning two girls came to Mabelle at 6.30 and three came to me at 8.30 - But oh my, oh me! Mabelle's girls are beginning with Matthew and are reading straight through - My girls chose Revelation! I see where I do some digging - I read Revelation straight through five times three summers ago, and felt that I didn't know much more about it when I ~~was~~ finished than I had when I began! They are to feel

free to ask questions and discuss problems - though I told them frankly that I should probably not be able to answer them satisfactorily.

This morning the questions did not have much relation to the chapters we read - Here they are:

1. Are there such things as ghosts, devils, spirits, or whatever-you-may-call them, that people sometimes see?
2. If it was all planned beforehand and foretold by the prophets that Jesus would have to suffer and die, then Judas had to be a part of God's plan for saving the world, and therefore he was following God's plan for his life - and so he must have been a good man -- ? What's wrong with that? God is unjust -
3. Why did God have Jesus go through such a shameful way of dying & being crucified - couldn't there have been a better plan instead of such a cruel one?
4. If a girl finds herself, through no fault of her own, in such circumstances and environment that she cannot endure it, if she commits suicide is it a sin?

And these students are for the most part not satisfied with a Bible verse as an answer -

They are probably not satisfied when I tell them that the only answer I can give to some of their questions is "I don't know." These are not questions to try the teacher, for the most part, though some of these students are just at the age when they want to argue and trip a teacher up — But these girls are really honest and some of them are real heart questions. The fourth question was asked by the sister of our former teacher, Helen Bue, who is now teaching in Jenching University — And, their own little sister, <sup>(15 yrs)</sup> for no reason that they know, drowned herself last summer — How am I going to answer the cry of that girl's heart when she says "It seems to me sometimes that God is awfully unjust!"

Well — it makes me feel that I'm not fit to be a missionary — Yet I wonder whether a Dr. Eddy or a Stanley Jones could answer these questions to the satisfaction of those who are asking them?

On Thursday at chapel time the students elected a committee of three boys, three girls, and three teachers to arrange for follow-up classes (after the decisions that were made when Dr. Eddy was here) I was one of the committee, and we had a meeting that same afternoon.

The plan thus far outlined is to make out a questionnaire to be sent to all those who ~~were~~ expressed a desire to study more about Christ and the Jesus' way of living - The questions asked are

1. Do you wish to study
  - a) The Bible -
  - b) Personal Questions regarding Spiritual Things -
  - c) Dr. Eddy's book on the Christ Life
  - d) A Combination of any of the above
  - e) Some other line of thought.

2. What leader would you like for your group?

One of the teachers and one of the students, were to see about getting these questionnaires mimeographed and sent out yesterday, and the reports are to be brought back to-morrow morning - I'm very eager to see what answers will come in -

Members of the committee were appointed to interview those boys and girls who expressed their determination to follow Christ, and see whether they are ready for baptism - We find that some of them have decided to take Jesus for their leader and their Saviour, but being baptized and joining the church is to them an entirely different matter - They find so much to criticize in some of the church members - Does that ever happen in America? — !!

Much love to you —  
Abbie

257

Swatow, China

Mar. 16, 1938

Dearest Ques,

Just received your letter of Feb. 13. My - how the time does go! I have only a week or two more than three months now here before I leave for home - I'm getting excited about it, all right! I didn't get ready as much as I wanted to during vacation time, so I'm going to be in a rush at the end, I suppose, in spite of everything that I can do -

Things seem to pile up thick and fast, too. Yesterday, - Saturday, which is usually free for a few extra things, - gave me no time to think about getting ready to go home on furlough! At 7.30 AM.

I went over to the Hospital and gave the nurses a little chapel talk - I came back and tried on a dress that Mai Ché is fixing over, saw two drawn-work women who came around to sell things, fussed around clearing up my study - then at 11 practiced for a song that I had to sing that night -

At one o'clock I was due up at the Seminary for a meeting of the Ling Tong Literature Committee - When I got back from there it was time to get dressed for a big tea we gave - invited the E. Presbyterians and Cowles and our mission - We had Elsie Kittling here for supper - Then at 7 I was due up at school to sing for a "Happier" party the students and teachers gave -

This morning I had the Bible

class of three girls (Senior High) at 8.30.  
I stayed at home from church & get  
a little breathing spell - Then at  
11-30 went to a young people's  
committee meeting - and at 1.30  
back again to the regular meeting  
of the Y. P. The nurses came  
tonight - they were to sing, but  
had to be on duty so simply sent  
two or three to tell my why - <sup>they couldn't come.</sup> and to  
make another date - Since Dorothy  
went home they have come to me  
to play for them and to train them  
in songs - Dorothy, by the way -  
had her operation and it wasn't  
serious at all - and she hopes to  
be back in another year -

I suppose it was a pretty big  
pull - but Mrs. C. felt she was  
needed here with Louise, who is really

all alone in her work up there at  
Kaying - Did I tell you that  
~~two~~ of the German men ~~has~~ <sup>have</sup> been  
released, but the other two are held  
for more money -

Emily is apparently as well as  
ever - she has a little soreness where  
she had the operation, but the  
doctors say that is quite usual -  
and they anticipate no trouble -

Much much love -

Abbie

Swatow, China

Mar. 18, 1930

Dear Ques -

I'm completely demoralized  
as far as work goes - for the rest of  
this day, any way! Miss Eng  
asked the dean to have me  
excused this morning - for her  
brother was to be married and she  
wanted me to go and help dress  
the bride - I went over at  
8:30 - and it was lots of fun  
to fix her bouquet and her  
veil and so on.

The wedding was in the  
chapel and the only attendants

were two very cunning flower girls dressed in pink silk, who preceded the bride as she went up the aisle to the strains of the Wedding March - The groom was dressed in regulation Chinese style, dark blue silk with short black jacket over it and a round black satin cap with a red button on it.

In spite of the Chinese dress, however, he waited at the ~~front~~ altar for the bride, in foreign style -

We went to the feast afterwards.

It was supposed to begin at 12 but we did not sit down to the table until nearly two \*! And the clock was striking four just as we got back into our own yard - So you can imagine that I don't feel much like

work of any kind - I wore today  
~~I am sending~~ the gown which  
was given to me by Miss Eng and  
Miss Lee, and sewed by the  
bride - I'm not sure I'll get  
much satisfaction out of it at  
home in America, because it  
is light and short - but here it  
is just the style now and here and  
the Chinese all swear it is just right.  
And they were apparently all  
very much pleased to have me  
wear it.

I'm sending by sample  
post 2 doz. linen handkerchiefs which  
you may want to sell as they are a  
new talking one - they cost me  $33\frac{1}{2}$  max  
apiece. I don't have to tell you

for whom the baby dresses are intended. You may not like to see them coming, for it means that you have to make them up - The necks look too big, to me - If they are, I wonder whether you can cut away the edge and just use the embroidery to make a little yoke - or, maybe you will not find them suitable for making the wee dresses after all -

Much love,

Abbie

(257)

Swatow, China

Mar. 23, 1930

Dear Ones -

Your birthdays came so quick this year that I didn't think about them in time - Well, as Helen Fielden said when ~~she~~ forgot to say grace until she was half through the first course, "It's too late now"! So you'll both have to wait until I get home, I surmise - Sorry!

We had a big wedding this week. I already have written you about helping to dress the bride, haven't I? Yesterday we had a Young People's Party - 50 or 60 present - That seems few, when you think of the numbers

we have - but this is a church affair,  
and lots of our young people are  
not keen about church affairs -

However, 4 of our boys and girls  
joined last week and we hope  
to get more in as time goes on -

This morning they sang in  
church - and this afternoon  
we practised Easter songs - This  
evening the church chorus came  
here to practise - For these and  
other reasons I'm not going to  
write a long letter this time,  
but I love you just the same!

Yours,

Abbie

Suataow, China

Mar. 30, 1930

Dearest Ones,

This won't be a long letter for the clock has just struck 10 (Sunday night) and to-morrow I have four exams: ! Thank goodness I have the questions all ready -

Friday morning I arranged review work for my second class - (I have no classes in the afternoon) and went to Chaochowfn, arriving there at noon. ~~The~~ Emily had arranged to have dinner in the chapel and ~~and~~ after that we went out shopping for Chinese clothes. Had pretty good success - then went home, to Emily's house -

We went to bed early and slept  
hard. got up the next morning  
when we pleased, to find it  
raining hard. So we stayed at  
home and rested all day long -  
I don't like to travel on Sunday, but  
I broke the rule this time. It pelted  
all day yesterday - <sup>and we would</sup>  
all have been soaked - <sup>(the houseboy went with me)</sup> The rest was  
good for me too. This morning it  
wasn't raining - and I had to get  
back to Young People's Meeting at  
1.30 - We had a good meeting,  
too. Following that I had my  
Bible class of 3 senior girls -  
and we had a good time there -  
After that we came over to the house  
and a group of senior high girls

practiced Easter music - This evening we were to have a church choir Easter rehearsal. Only one came, however, for the rain began again this afternoon and it simply poured tonight - We have been visiting with that one and so the evening has gone -

But I mustnt stop to write more now - Morning will be here and I'm trying very hard not to get too tired out this last term - I'm pretty well - and want to keep so until July if I can! - Just think - 3 months from now! -  
Love love -  
Abbie