

Abbie G. Sanderson Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 149

Finding aid for collection available at:

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

Series: I. Correspondence

Subseries: General correspondence

Box / folder: 7 / 52

Folder label: AGS to Mary Clough

Dates: 1946

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

Originals of collection held at:

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

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

[1946]

December, May 25

Dear Mary -

Things do work out pretty well for us, don't they? Yesterday received receipts etc. from Forest Smith as I know every thing has clicked as far! Many thanks. And yesterday the four boxes of lovely cards & 1 pkg of pictures came. Again thanks - Paper napkins, lovely paper, lovely flower cards, ribbons, all much appreciated - You are a jewel - I am anxious to know all about your trip today we have a holiday to celebrate the people's electing of a president in China. You shall have heard the students go wild when the announcement was made this morning that the government had said schools would not have vacation, but since this was a very important thing in the life of China, it had been thought best to mark the day. Today Kuei-chin's husband is bringing his husband's body down from Kitzang where it had to be interned temporarily because of war conditions, when he died 7 years ago. It is a hard experience for her.

Hot weather has come with a bang and not any rain in between, I speak of. We shall be out of water before too long at this rate! Much love. Alice

如郵票內裝有附件或貼有郵票以上郵票即由永隆路寄發

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, OR IF STAMPED WITH MARK THERE
YOUR STAMPS AND LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

每枚售價國幣五十元
Price: 50,000 National currency, each.



561

THE WESTERN GATEWAY
OF THE HOUSATONIC AND
BERKSHIRE TRAILS



IN THE HEART OF THE
BERKSHIRE HILLS

HOTEL WENDELL

PITTSFIELD, MASS.

On the way to Reno (!)
May 21
Dearest Mary darlin' !

You don't mind my using
up on you this paper that I've had ever
since a deputation trip in 1938, do you?
I brought along some odds and ends of
writing paper in an "overflow" bag (the
string shopping bag which you would
recognize) thinking that maybe I would
have some chance to write on this train.
I've been thinking of you all along
the way, Mary dear - you know I have.

On the train at Greenfield and
Springfield and especially at New
Haven where we had to wait the
longest and change trains twice -
with too much baggage and no porter

available! But kind men helped. - I was wishing Mary was along. And waiting in New York 5 hours not knowing how soon the train would start or if it would start that night! And when the word finally came that the train would leave in a half hour and every porter in Grand Central was busy - and then it got to be 15 minutes and then 10 minutes and still no porters; I finally started with my arms full, typewriter, "overflow" bag, purse, umbrella - and literally kicked my two heavy suitcases the length of Grand Central (with my new blue shoes, too!) I sure wished for some one to be with me then! But finally there was a porter who put my load on his truck & thus got me aboard - We started about 4⁴⁵.

Was I glad I didn't have to change in Chicago - and now there is just one more night on this train and I shall be glad to get "down to earth".

We have had some army nurses & navy lieutenants in this car and they have been lively enough - hiding

THE WESTERN GATEWAY
OF THE MORMON AND
BERKSHIRE TRAILS



IN THE HEART OF THE
BERKSHIRE HILLS

HOTEL WENDELL

PITTSFIELD, MASS.

each other's things and dressing up a pillow in a nurse's coat hat or tie - putting pop-corn in the beds, etc - all helps to break the monotony -

One meal I eat at table with people who were interested in my going to China - It turned out that one of them used to be a missionary of the Mormon church, in England! "We didn't invade China" said he - And they gave me cordial good wishes for my trip, etc.

Things still seem to be working out pretty well for me so far - In five days time the R. R. strike may be dissolved, but if not - my things + I should have time to get to San Francisco and I won't still have the worry of how I'm going to get to my ship on time! At

least that is the way it looks to me
now -

Did I tell you the reason that I
started ~~out~~ the 18th instead of the 19th?
No train out of Berlin Sunday. It is
just as well - My mother would
never have approved my starting
out on a long journey on Sunday!

I shant be sending too many
more air mail letters to you, I'm
afraid - At least not after I
leave this country -

But my love will be going to
you just the same, you know -

Love to Anna too -

You -

Abbie

Hotel Stewart

May 25

Dearest Mary:

This will just let you know that the S.S. "Gen. Gordon" has been cancelled and I am now booked to leave, on the same line, on S.S. "Gen. Meigs" June 7. Those previously booked on that boat will go later.

My old friends the Hylberts of Shanghai are here, and going on

same steamer - very fine!

Have had two good visits
with Dr. Brown - am
going out to see Mrs.
Greenback today. Have
met Mr. & Mrs. Butterlin,
new folk fr S. China - also
very fine!

Velva B. had a party with
Butterlins, Sylvia Hobart &
me celebrating Sylvia's &
Abbie's birthday! Corsages &
everything!

Much love - to Ann too,

I'll write a real letter as soon
as I have time to breathe!
Have bought bed, etc - here - your Affec

Hotel Stewart
San Francisco
May 29 -

Dearest Mary:

Well here I still am,
the day I expected to be sailing
away from this country! I still have
a week and two days to wait - and
that means if they don't change and
put me on another steamer that is
still later!

The Jeffin girls are now scheduled
to sail on the ^{June 11} Gordon, ~~three~~ ^{four} days
later than the ^{June 7} Margo! So they may
catch up with me in Shanghai and
maybe I'll get on the same boat
with them from there down to
Hongkong and then up to Shanghai -
If Louise Jeffin is going to live with
me I certainly don't care about
getting there before she does. Things
would work out more satisfactorily,

I believe, if we landed them together
and worked things out together.

In spite of having extra time here
I imagine I shall be fairly busy.
At least my seven trunks are all
here in San Francisco - and I
have seen them all. I went down
to the Union Transfer Co, where they
are stored, yesterday and got into
the steamer wardrobe (that I packed
at your house) to get out my dark blue
wool slacks - I did wear them every
day on the steamer coming home and
maybe I can wear them this trip -
Only I am not sure that any
sweater I have looks right for the
top part of the outfit. May have
to get a jacket or smock or something.
If I can!

I have got my bed springs and
mattress - with six legs that

2
screw into the (top) springs so I
won't have to hurry about getting
a bed frame made - I got magnets
netting - I bought some canned
food and expect to get some
evaporated milk and powdered milk
and some canned meat - I'm told
I ought to take sugar - well I
have got maple sugar - a little!

Where do you suppose I am right
now? At the hardware store, here
in the hotel - having a shampoo -
I put the gloves on myself and
the girl gave me a good scrub,
I think.

It is grand to have the Hyberts here.
they are wonderful people, and
wonderful friends - Jane and
sensible and helpful - They went
through awful times in Shanghai &

Dr. H. was just about No 1. on the
J. Blacklist - the only Baptist there
who was really arrested and
tortured. (his legs, Mrs. H. told me,
still bear the marks of the electric
pinchers they used!) He never
expected to get out alive -

They have taken me to see
Claudette Colbert in "Tomorrow is
Forever" - very good - and also a
show called "Griffith Folies, 1946"
which was very lovely and amusing
and graceful and colorful - Ethel
goes shopping with me - and
they take me in the car quite
often -

I've been over to Berkeley to
see Velva Brown three times -
went to the Oakland First Church
to prayermeeting Wed night -

Then again Sunday - and
 everyone was so cordial. The
 assistant pastor spoke very kindly
 of Bob Sanderson and his father
 as he greeted us by name in the
 Sunday a.m. service. Hobarts
 are at D. B. C. but younger daughter
 Sylvia is here and Velva had a
 birthday party for her and we -
 guess I wrote for (Thursday night)
 Well Sunday after church several
 China people and friends (11 in all)
 including Velva, ^{myself} Hyberts, Sattertons
 (new for So. China), Jane Lawrence (p.
 nearly Kingpa) and Dr. Beatrice Lee
 and I went for Chinese dinner in
 Chinatown. San Francisco -

Then afterwards Bea Lee and I
 went home with Velva and in the evening
 Bea's husband came out and I was
 glad to meet him. I stayed all

right and Velva had a tiny
routing paper and a nice card
made to bring to me while I was
still in bed. May 27 as soon as I
waked up!

Then that night the Hyberts took
me to the shore and celebrated, though
they didn't know it until the next
day! So it was a much nicer
birthday than I expected to have.

Saturday I went out to Alameda
and had lunch with Mrs. Grossberg.
She gave me a lovely quilt (tulip
designs, applique) which will go
in the box of freight I expect to
send from here - she also gave
me a "postage stamp" quilt top which
she has pieced herself - which I
can have quilted and finished out
in China. I was lucky enough
to find a sheet the right size
for lining it, and I hope I can get

I'm going to send you book
and Anna's questionnaires

San Francisco

soon - Expect to spend June 7, 1946
the day with Emma Simonson Tomorrow -
Mary my dear,



I am appalled at

the way time goes by and at what a
very little is accomplished each day of
this time when everything is supposedly
all done and I am sitting waiting
(in theory!) for the ship to sail. Actually
there is a lot still to be done - and there is
some that can't be done, because everything is
so tied up. We go to the freight broker's every
day or so, and he tells us new regulations
each time - different from the time before - And
we go to the steamship office and he
assures us that "as far as they know" the
General Meigs is still really going to sail
June 13.

Louise Capen and her two little girls are
here; The Giffins, who were to have sailed
on the Meigs, are now put on the Marino
Lynx, sailing June 11th - Two days before we
are to go! Also Mr. & Mrs. Sutterlein -
Moreover, that ship takes them straight

through to Hong Kong (just one night away
from Swatow - maybe!) whereas ours doesn't
not go to Hong Kong, but lands us in Shanghai
where we can twiddle our thumbs till
another ship comes along! I don't mind that
much, really, but Mrs. Capen does - she has
been trying since January to go, and now
to have the others who were scheduled later,
including the Sutterlins who are new, get
there first, is rather hard!

Actually, since Louise Griffin and I are
to live together, it will be easier for me in
a way if I don't get there ahead of her and
have to make decisions about house, car,
etc., before she gets there! Hope I'll get
there before school begins, though!

The longer I stay here, the longer the list
grows of things I'm sure I'll need! My
bed springs, mattress, etc. are all ready to
go by freight, but there is no assurance that
a ship will be free to take them yet! A crate
of canned stuff and a box of other things are
about ready to go - my small suitcase is
inside the box and I have bought another
bigger, cheap, light weight suitcase to
take in my cabin last Sunday & they brought me home.

Emma Broadbeck arrived from New York Monday!

Mary dearest dear -

Friday night

It is long past bed time
but I can't get the other letter into
the envelope without writing a little
tiny word just for Mary - Did she
know I have several spots that
are exceedingly vacant, too?
Most dreadfully so right now!
Louise C. wants awfully to
change with Giffins, Sutterlins,
etc and get there earlier - I
don't feel I can ask anyone to
change for me - but I realize
it is different with her - with
part of her family out there -
Me? I'm leaving part of
me here, seems as though!

I fished my slacks out and
had to let them out around
the waist! Got the hotel
dressmaker to stitch the
belt on again - If Mary
had been here with her
machine I bet she would
have sewed it for

ME! ^{me!}

Do you think?

Oh Mary me lov! How
can I not say all those
things I want to say?!!

One great comfort is that you
know them, even when I
don't say —

I know this is a messy
letter, but I love you, love you.
Your Ethel

June 13, 1946

Outside the Golden Gate
S.S. General Meigs

Dearest Mary,

Well here we go, on the ^{passage} first commercial steamer to take passengers since December, 1941. I didn't realize that until this afternoon - Others who have gone have gone on U.S. Navy transports. That is what this is, too actually; the difference being that this has just been turned over to the American President Line. It has not yet been converted to use for passengers, therefore we are in officers quarters and 18 women in a big cabin - Bunks are three tiers deep and I am in ^{one of the} ~~an~~ upper bunks, the only two of which have good overhead space - I'm glad I have one of the good ones for I fear it might be difficult to dress, undress, etc., if

I didn't have room to nod my
head and swing my arms -
The Capens and Mrs. Hylobert are
also in this cabin, also Mrs.
Christina of Fordham, whom Anna
probably knows, a Miss Daniels,
a Mrs. McConnally, a Mrs. ^(Rev.) Abel,
a Mrs. ^(Rev.) Clifford, and others
whose names I have not learned.
Pretty good bunch, I think. The place
is piled high with suitcases. We
each have a locker - and a place to
hang a coat and a dress. The
bunks are not very wide, but I am
weary enough after 3 ~~days~~ weeks
of waiting and 2 days of going
to the dock and waiting hours
and hours for long lines of people to
move - so that I'm about ready
to crawl in right now -
More in the morning!

Two of my old students are on board and I have had very interesting conversations with them already. Both are nephews of Banker Tang Sheng Li, whom Anna knows - One is Raymond Chao (Chao he spells it) and he has been "responsible" for the China-America Lend-Lease thing ^(Don't forget just don't forget the one person!) last year, as he says - Got his Ph.D. at Harvard - The other is a Ph.D. also. They recognized me instantly - Think I have not grown older, etc. !!!

We are divided into two groups, first and second sittings, for meals. The Cafens eat at first table - We chose second table (Hykes and I). Emma Brodbeck reported that on her trips home meals were served cafeteria style and you had to eat and get out quick for the next group - We had great big steaks last night for dinner but they were somewhat tough. On the whole I am quite pleased

because most things are a little better than I thought they were going to be. One thing I don't like is climbing off my high perch in the middle of the night as I had to last night - ! I should have known better than to drink two cups of coffee for supper!

Of the eighteen in our cabin three of them smoke and two smoked in the middle of the night. We don't think that is quite fair but haven't found a way to do anything about it yet.

Another thing is this business of deck chairs. None are provided - and we had to bring our own - (little canvas folding chairs (with back) quite comfortable, but the trouble is that some people did not bring any. All this morning some one has been sitting in my chair and in one of Mrs. Caprin's! Pauline Stern and Doris Marsh who were at Yale studying are on board

Since this is the northern route it is fairly cool - I am comfortable in my wool slacks, sweater and coat - and if it gets cooler I shall go after my steamer rug -

I did go after it - ! And I sat out on deck quite a while, read until I got sleepy. Then just as I decided to climb up in my trunk and have a nap - ~~when~~ a loud voiced speaker announced boat drill and we all had to get our life jackets on and stand out on deck for a while - then I did climb up and go to sleep - just got up in time for dinner -

Now we have come back into the social hall - which is just a mob of people - some writing letters, many playing cards

I'm glad I have my own chair but
I realize I won't be able to sit in
it unless I am the early bird -
I think I am going to bed
pretty soon - too many people ^{here}
to hear myself think, let alone
write anything coherent.

There really are not enough of
many things for the crowd on this
ship - not enough desks, not enough
table silver, not enough chairs, etc.
But if we can possibly manage
to get away from this place
without losing half the crew,
I guess will puddle along to
the China coast -

No more of this nonsense -
I love you both, but in this
milling crowd have scarcely
time enough to say so -
Love - Abbie

On board the S. S. Jan. Maigo
One day out from Vancouver.
June 17, 1946

Dear Mary -

How disgusted I am to find your letter all addressed and in the envelope and not sent, as I intended, from Vancouver! Now I don't know when you will get it.

I did not go ashore at Vancouver. It was so cold and damp that I hated to take off my wool slacks. We didn't dock until 10.30 p.m. and that was too late, I thought, to see much. The next morning I was still too lazy to dress up and leave ship - It was Sunday, so no shopping, yet not time enough for church. so going ashore did not appeal to me. We left about 12 noon

Yesterday really did not seem like Sunday at all. A service had been arranged for at 11 am. but that was just the time when there was great confusion and no chance to have service. Some of the brethren aboard were quite upset about it.

Thought we ought to have a service by hook or by crook, even if we had to hang over the rail to do it. Well - we didn't have it. But did have a brief hymn sing last night out on deck -

A devotional service is to be held every morning at 7 a.m. I didn't get up for it this a.m. & don't know whether I shall usually, or not. I sat at second table, quarter before nine,

and then far have just managed to get myself up and dressed in time for that. The last days in S. Y. were quite strenuous and the last two nights I was up rather late. I'm not all slept out yet -

June 19 -

This is the craziest trip I was ever on in my life! All kinds of people - all brands and gradations of missions. Some Chinese who are fine, some who are as arrogant and have a chip on their shoulders all the time. Some missionaries who are bound to make some non-missionaries mad, because they can't help forcing their religious activities on people who don't want anything to do with them. ! Some of us think it is worse to live and

let live, here in such crowded
quarters. Others insist on
having meetings and sings on
the part of the deck that some
of the non-missionary crowd is
already occupying with their deck
chairs. The sings could be lovely,
if only they were managed just
a little differently - Some of
the Chinese young people sidled
up the other night and called
for "Are Ye Able" and "I would be true".
But the man playing the autoharp
didn't know either of those "new"
songs. I tried to say let's sing them
without the instruments - But no go -
That was one big opportunity lost.
If I'd been leading the singing
I think I'd have broken my neck
to sing what the Chinese y. p.

asked for, and wanted! But
if they sing only the old old
hymns, the y. p. will not come.

Already there have been one or
two little "international" incidents -

There is no room for so many
to live all together - At this
very minute some people are
writing, some reading - or trying
to! One couple is playing chess.

A few tables of dominoes - one
at least of poker, robbing and
losing big money; a crowd of
shouting, excited passengers over
at the other side of the room are
playing the mechanical horse races -
rich betting, of course. Half the
people in the room are smoking
and the air is thick. A couple
sitting right behind me - Russian
woman and British man have two
big bottles and two glasses and
have systematically settled down

to the entralling occupation
of getting drunk, nothing else.
The air in this social hall is
foul tonight - it is too cold to
go out on deck; it is too dark in
the cabin to read, and the clocks
will be set back another hour
tonight so it will be a long night.

But - I can't stand it any
longer - so - good night -

With lots of love -

And WISHES

Yours

Abbie

July 1st leaving
just leaving the
river to Shanghai
9.30^{am} leaving Yokohama
June 27, 1926
of Ernest Mary

I've just been reading over
the two letters already in your
envelope and I've decided I'd better
put in one more sheet anyway, & let
you know that I haven't always been
so low as I was at the end of that
second letter!

We had a splendid church service in
the social hall Sunday morning. Fully
3/4 of the passengers - perhaps more -
participated, and the message of the morning
was given by Mr. Leung, National Secretary
of Y. M. C. A. in China - very fitting and
fine for the audience and particular
situation - I felt heaps better after that
meeting. I have been to the evening
hymn sing several times and to the
morning prayer meeting twice - I wish
there were less "piosity" and more
spontaneity about both of them - I
have met some very fine people on
board and had some very interesting

and helpful conversation with some
of them. We all feel that going back
to China at this time presents many
pitfalls, but a great challenge and
that we are very privileged persons
to have this chance. I hope I shall
be bolder to give my Christian witness
to teachers and students than I have
ever been before. I know that sometimes
I have bent over backwards and
kept ~~my~~ silent, for fear of hurting
somebody's feelings or for fear of
saying something before the time was
ripe - I hope I shall always be wise
in the business of winning others
for Christ, but hope that I shall be
bold. too -

I think I could be lonely tonight,
but I must not get on to that train
of thought - I know your love and
prayers are following me - I am in
this care - and I must not be greedy!
Much love, Sam Abbe

University of Shanghai
July 2, 1946
(Address: Swatow, China)

Dearest Mary,

Just want to dash off a few lines to let you know that I arrived in Shanghai yesterday after an uneventful trip, crowded, noisy, public, with good food, but no room to turn around. Mr. Taylor the mission treasurer met us at the boat and sent us out here. It is heavenly to have a little privacy. Getting off the boat was pretty awful. They wanted to charge us \$5.00 U.S. a piece for carrying suitcases down the gangway off the ship! Prices are terrific. Paid \$4800.00 Chinese (= about 2.40 ^{US} gold) for a simple lunch yesterday and \$3600.00 today, in Town. Here at the U. it is about \$2000. per meal or about \$1.00. Have located all but one piece of my baggage and have it bonded through customs. In Hongkong we shall have to have it bonded to Swatow - if and when we can get a ship from here. Everything is full, Full, FULL! We are very

Lucky to have a place to sleep here. I am
lucky that my trunks at least have
not burst open. The one piece still lacking
is a crate of food (tins, etc) bought in
San Francisco. I hope it will appear!
There were still 5 truckloads to come off
the ship this morning!

It is raining like everything, and my
rain coat is in a trunk which is bonded
and cannot be opened! But my good
friend Elizabeth Knapp lent me one of her
two raincoats so I haven't got wet yet!

Just to glad to know that both shoulders are
OK. The left one is a little stiff but no pain -
and I am very very thankful.

In fact I am full of thankfulness for many
things. I have seen several of my old Boston
friends, including Mr. H. C. Loring, my former
principal -

July 3. Just now ran into Ellen Peterson
in the Mission Treasurer's office! She is down
from Hangchow for Reference Committee and
other meetings and will stay at the same
house with me -

Can't write what is in my heart - but you
may be sure it is the same old story! Bless
you - Much much love to you both - &
I know you'll pass on my news, to sisters
I am writing to Arthur & Emily - and don't know
how many more air mail letters I will be sending you

100 to 150
and 100

University of Shanghai

July 7, 1946

(Address Swatow)

Dearest Mary:

Just got word that
Loring Capen is to leave with the children
by plane at 4.15 am. tomorrow and I go
with all the baggage by ship the day
after, to Hongkong - We have had to
go in the 10 miles to the city by truck
every day since we arrived July 1.
and have thought we had passage only
I have it taken away and now this
seems pretty sure, but I'll believe
it when it happens - I shall not
be alone, probably - A Miss Fote, a
Mennonite missionary who refuged
with us several years ago wants
to go to Swatow and will go with
me if she can get on the steamer -

The people here have been very nice
to us - I have been staying with
Elizabeth Knate of Philadelphia,
an old acquaintance - and two
C. Bapt. women who have been in

mission work some years -
I have had some meals with
my good friends the Beaths, formerly
of So. China. Their boy has been here
on leave from Air Corps - just left
today -

Was at dinner with my old boys"
H.C. Ling and his wife and two youngest
children, at his home last Sunday -
Then we went to a "Swatow" tea at
the Park Hotel - T.G. Ling, now president
of the Board of Trustees of the University,
his mother, ~~two~~ of his brothers - and
several other old students and friends
were there - All very gracious to Louis
Caplan & me - Some of my "old girls"
are having a tiffin for ~~the~~ tomorrow
noon - I'm looking forward to it - sorry
Louis can't be at that -

Conditions here in Shanghai are simply
beyond description. Living is about
twice what it is in New York City -
and many things much more expensive
than that! The rich people have plenty -
others not nearly enough - I can scarcely
wait to get to Swatow to see how things
are there - A famine is in progress
down there we are told - but some
provisions are available from UNRRA.
My letter is full of odds and ends - and
there is a lot of love in between all the
lines - Did you know? Your Alice

On board the SS "Green Tanager"
En route from Shanghai to Hong Kong
Tuesday July 16.

Dearest Mary darling,

If this ship had not been delayed in Shanghai Harbor nearly two days (about 44 hours) After we boarded, I might at this moment be getting things aboard a ship in Hong Kong Harbor bound for Swatow. Today is the day we have heard that a steamer leaves Hong Kong - ! But alas, unless the steamer is delayed, this one will never catch it - We shall not get to Hong Kong until 6 p.m. anyway - Well! maybe there would not have been room for me anyway!

I shall be glad enough when this leg of the journey is over - The crew has been madly dumping overboard some 200 or more drums of valuable sulphuric acid which had corroded tiny holes in the metal drums - and had also got so hot in this

tropical sun that gas formed in
the drums and expansion started
in. Someone says that the acid
should have been put in glass, but I
don't see how that would have helped
in case of expansion, do you! It is
very dangerous to handle, and some
of the crew have been pretty badly
burned - in the face, on arms &
legs - The man to whom the stuff
was being shipped is the loser. He
had to take the risk, as no insurance
company would cover it. He could have
made a fortune if this one shipment
had got there. As it is, it is said he
will lose some \$50,000 not counting what
he might have made on the deal. The reason
it didn't give trouble until now, they say,
is that the ship came across the Pacific
the northern route and the ^(drums) cans did
not get heated up until they had
had a few days of hot sun. They
were in Shanghai harbor a month
but it rained the most of that
time, so was cooler. Haven't it

seem a pity that such valuable stuff, as needed in the refining of sugar and the making of many medicines should have to be thrown overboard a few hours before reaching its destination, after it had been on the way for weeks? There seems no other way - For after all, the passengers, though only 12, and the ship, and the crew, and the other cargo, must be safeguarded.

I got a spot of the acid on my cotton housecoat this morning coming from my shower - ^(don't know how) luckily I didn't get burned at all! I must have run against it somewhere ~~over~~ where their rubber life-saving suits had brushed a door knob or something -

We have twelve passengers only - this being a freight ship, & still controlled by the U. S. govt. It is a very congenial group; Dr. & Mrs. Fuon, Presbyterians from Canton, in whose home Emily & I stayed a few nights

back in 1921; Miss Paulina Foote, a
Mennonite missionary from up beyond
where Louis Campbell is (oh yes, she asked
about Anna, too), who has been working
in Kanan and Honan the last twelve
years. She is on her way to Swatow
now - is going up inland to visit her
old station (sent by her board) before she
goes home on furlough to Oklahoma -
she refused with us once back in 1927
or so; Dr. M. J. Rankin, National Foreign
Secretary, Southern Baptist Convention, whom
I have known for years; Dr. Caution, who
takes Dr. Rankin's old place as secretary
for the Orient; Mrs. Rogers, cabin-mate
with Miss Foote & me; - wife of a Chase
Bank man in Hongkong; Mr. Watson,
Standard Oil, who remembers with
pleasure his one year in Swatow (1939).
He liked it; many business people
think it is too dull - nothing going
on there; Dr. Ding and Mr. Yen, who
are on their way to a Y. M. C. A.
conference in Geneva - Dr. Ding has
recently been pastor of the Community

Church in Shanghai, Mr. Yee is a widely travelled (in China) Y. M. secretary; Mr. Zi who is a word puzzle fan? and another Chinese, James Gil, Hong Kong -

We had a fine little worship service Sunday night up in the Ineson cabin, which is very large. Dr. Rankin read II Corinthians 4, v. 7 to the end, and told a little of what it meant to him when he was interned in Stanley prison, Hong Kong - All the passengers attended, which seemed quite wonderful in view of the fact that the Captain had said to count him out and his crew, and that he didn't want us to use the dining saloon - But I think now that he has been worried nearly to death by this dangerous cargo and also by trouble among his crew -

Do you miss some things that you
have not seen in this letter? They
are all right there, my sweet,
right between the lines - so always.

Much, much love - to you both -

Ever yours,

Abbie

It is hot here!

Suwatow China

Aug. 4, 1946

Mary, my dear.

How very much I should like to sit down and talk and talk tonight - telling you all about these first few days' happenings! Anna could visualize a good deal of it, and maybe you could too, if I kept talking about it enough! There seems not to be any time to sit down, though, and write as much as a paragraph at a time - because of all kinds of interruptions, many of them welcome ones -

White ants have been busy at work while we have been gone. The bathroom next to "my" room here at Eastview was not safe to step into, although I

did use it for several days.
They found the floor-boards
riddled and all the beams
~~but one~~ so bad that they
fell to pieces being taken out.
Now some old but good beams
have been found to replace them.
and boards for the floor have been
cut, planed, grooved, and are
being sun-dried before they can
be put in.

The gutters or eavestroughs
on almost all the houses are
in bad condition; this one is
nearly repaired now; Hillcrest,
where Sutterstons are living, will
be next. Windows and shutters
are being repaired in both
these houses. Mr. Sutterstun has
repaired the screening in their
house himself and will help
the carpenter do some others, this
house included - Hinges, Fastenings,

locks, door knobs, bolts, shutters
are many of them gone - Materials
are impossibly high, and workmen
wages are high because rice
is \$7.00 a catty (3.54^{13} for a little
over a pound).

~~Many of~~ the windows are gone at
Hobart's house; both cisterns at
Prescott house, where I used to live,
were cut and "remodeled" and
used as bomb shelters. The
(the upper one has gallery in interior)
Japanese built a road ~~down~~ down
the hill to the reservoir in front
of Prescott house, and they used
to slide ammunition and other
things down the hill in vehicles.
Another road went from the
front of East Hall (school bldg)
straight down to the sea -

Railroad ties and rails were
used, and a light weight car