

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

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Folder label: LLH to Carrie and Everett Lane (parents), from Chaochowfu, Swatow

Dates: 1917 Mar-May

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Beth O
Rockport
Hillsboro
Kalamazoo
Cottontail

Essochoulu vs. Watow.
Hanky, March 4, 1918.

Dear Ones All,

It is about 9.00 AM. Ellison is packing up his things to go into the city where he will stay for dinner and afternoon Sunday school. Then he expects to go in again for the evening service and the night unless he is lucky enough to come thro' the wall with Mr. James's friend.

I am all ready for the chapel service on this side of the river. Have on my pretty new gown and dash the serge skirt. The skirt is made like the picture of the nice green & white & yellow flannel with white flannel collar and cuffs.

The other sample with the blue stripe is some native (?) cloth which I bought in the city for pajamas for Ellison. I am quite pleased with it.

The yellow flannel I bought at Shanghai.

This has been a rainy week at least for three or four days. The river is a little fuller. The ponds have a few drops in the bottoms. Best best of all, everything has been thoroughly wet the cisterns have a little water, and the trees and dead grass are refreshed again. The Chinese can plough their sun-baked fields, and we are all very thankful indeed. We expected a night or two of rain, but yesterday it cleared beautifully. The sun was bright, the sky was blue, the mountains were encircled with white fleecy clouds. The views were certainly lovely to look upon.

31-day is overcast again, but no rain as yet.

We entertained the Presbyterians from across the river at tea yesterday, with their two guests Mr. and Mrs. Dale. We had a nice tea -

Cinnamon rolls. Butter,
Melon & Sugar jam. Strawberry jam.
Baked weather sandwiches.
Cookies with icing & jelly.
Sponge cake with white filling.

Later.

Have been to church, and am now waiting for the S. S. train to arrive.

I have made Judge and Bernice this week and both he and I have enjoyed it. Daddy B. writes that he is sending me a pound of chocolate. Then if some comes from Peckham, too, won't we be rich!! It was good of Mother and the boys to send some.

I have read some, and studied and planned some, have played, read, book-shopped it rather - The Sign of the Cross by Origen - made out accounts for Saturday and played Book-on evening. It is not a very exciting life, nor so interesting as I would like to have it, but what can I do when the doctor tells me not to go into the city, unless there is some urgent need - and that means my activities confined pretty much to this house and the little school at the foot of the hill. Hope to start a class in gymnastics this week for the scholars. They are 24 now - a few numbers, ~~and~~ making accommodations hardly sufficient.

E-goes to Swatara again on committee work on Thursday of this week. I am expecting St. Mildred and Miss Aston to spend the next week-end here.

The people whose fares are due this year started this week - rather a rainy start, too.

Miss little from Father and Mother yesterday. I am afraid my letter (with that also mailed) did not reach you in time for the anniversary. Sorry! I have asked Ruth to buy some things for you and hope they will be good. I was not particularly pleased with the birthday gift I sent you, Mother, but I was not counting them quite right this year and had to select hurriedly and, something that would go in a letter.

Thank you, Dad, for the new stove. It is very pretty! Don't Miss begins (his Mother and), and I have one. He will be sure to have some money when we come home on fare, \$.

Glad Mother could go to Bridgewater. I am sure that she needed the change.

I was surprised at Mary Tupper's marriage. Marion will be interested!!!

It must be lonely for Stella at first. Love her. Love

P. A. D.
Rockport
Wash. D. C.
Kaliyoka

via Swanton
Chaochowfu, China
March 31, 1919.

Dear Cousin All, Well I had another surprise this week! I was calmly expecting Miss Dick and Miss Wells (from the other side) over for supper one night when in walked Dr. Mildred to stay all night. I was especially glad as Ellen had to beat Swanton that night!

We had a real jolly time. First we sang all the open meals we could get hold of - from the "Bohemian Girl", "Jambouchee", "Milkmaid" etc. etc.

Then we had a jolly supper!
Chicken soup with cream.
Creamed chicken on toast. Mashed potato.
Oyes -
Tomato salad with Pecora Oil Dressing. (Dressed)
Raspberry whip with soft custard.
Cake -
Coffee

Then we sat before the grate fire, and ate some of the finest chocolates you could imagine! My! they have been appreciated! We then went to the place where we have to limit ourselves to one a piece after meals since the bottom of the tin is very painfully sticky. ☹️ I know we have eaten all that is good for us, however, and it is better that our systems should have a little rest from the sweets. ☺️

I had guests for tea on Monday of last week, the Mrs. James and her guest, Mrs. Hyle of Swanton with her black girl Jan. Mrs. Hyle is very bright and attractive and sympathetic. She is the wife of a Presbyterian doctor who has been very successful. By the way, I did not mention that Dr. Trilbeck came up to talk over a change in plans for June. Dr. Luch, the second doctor, could not come to Kiliang so early as Dr. Trilbeck wanted her to, and so both doctors urged me - to change plans and go to Swanton instead of Kiliang. Think Dr. Mildred would come down to Swanton. We should probably live for that time at the Baboons house which is one of the coolest and airiest in the mission. We should be within call of expert Presbyterian physicians, as

call as our own mission physicians. If Ellison happened to be at Chaochowfu, we could reach him easily by telegram, and he could use train tickets if slow boat to come. However he would expect to come to Swatow to stay by June! I think it best as to go down with me about May 6.

So there are many advantages to be thought of, and most of the disadvantages are for Dr. Mildred. But she says that she can arrange things all right. It seemed absurd to go down a whole month early, but it is the thing to do in this country without a doubt. We can go from Swatow to Haiding, altho at Kityang, we should have been a little nearer.

Next week Ellison expects several of the evangelistic group to come up here to the city to talk over their problems in the work.

We are having a few roses these days. A few sweet English bachelors open daily, and we have hundreds of nasturtiums from one single plant which saved itself!!!

From the garden we are getting only lettuce, altho the bean plants are blossoming, and some tomatoes are almost ripe. The corn is a few inches high.

I sent in last week's letter a list of the dozen yams, sent to Ruth in Parcel III. I hope that the parcel will reach her safely, and that someone will be kind enough to forward the list to her.

I suppose I really ought to send two separate lists for safety.

We are troubled at the probability of America's war with Germany.

I am sorry to hear that Mother has had neuralgia, and I do hope it has all gone by now.

The program of Hanna's concert looked very attractive!

Box 10

Melissa Hillside
Hudson
Rocky Mt
N.Y.

Clear send to Pa
for Aunt Carrie
we save them all.

Chaochow, ^{via Suatou}
Friday, April 13, 1917.

Dear Uncle

I have got ready for bed, and found
refuge from mosquitoes under the net, while
Elision depending on the efficacy of some
burning josh sticks is sitting up outside,
writing. It seems real sociable and pleasant.

We are having a big flooded chocolate-colored
river some season, do at least once in the
spring days, and the week would have
been dreary enough if we had not had guests.
It has rained every day beginning last
Saturday, altho yesterday it was the most
persistent in rain. You know we had had
a long drought of months and months, and
we were all glad when it rained on Sat. P.M.,
Sun. P.M., and again Mon. P.M. On Tuesday it began
to settle down to the job, and your voice and
your tea yesterday (Thurs). The ponds had
began to show a tendency to fill up by Tues.
and by Wed. night, they were about brim-full to
ear level places. Then on Thurs. A.M. word
came that everybody was preparing for a flood,
and that the school teacher wanted assistance
in moving things up to the low upper floor.
Elison, the cook, and later the cook all
helped, and soon most everything was placed
in the loft. There the school teacher, her
two children, and the old lady caretaker
must have cramped up for days I suppose
until the water receded leaving a speedy
film over everything it has touched, even
the stalks of rice in the rice fields.

This is the week when Elision and the 2
evangelistic workers were to talk over their prob-
lems and form a working plan for a
three or four year campaign. Mrs. Mc Gordon
came Mon. eve, also Mrs. Foster & Elison &
wrote that Dr. Foster was detained in Kichich
until Tues. noon. Mrs. Foster is great motherly
age, and I was glad to have her company.
Mrs. Naby did not arrive until Wednesday. By then
then we had had all in the family, and it has

seemed nice.

Mrs. Foster was married when she was thirty and had six children, the youngest of whom is about Carol's age.

We had a social time Mon. eve, but every other day, the men went over to the Baker house and had their company, morning and afternoon. They met over here and let us listen every evening except Thursday.

They intended to go home by the early train this morning. (Infant Mrs. Foster planned to go yesterday) but the flood was big and the village demanded 2.00 for a boat to cross the river, the boat limited to three passengers; usually the fare is .10 and no limit to number of passengers. Finally, after a long time of bargaining, they hired a boat to take the whole party, servants and baggage to Swetow for 2.00. It is a long tedious trip of seven or eight hours even when the river is in flood, but it insured that the party would not have to wade through muddy water, or meet flooded tracks which might prevent them from reaching home to-night.

My eyes are tired. Good Night
Good night for now - with love Lottie.

Sunday - 10:50 AM. April 15, 1917.

At my desk.

Still overcast and dull, and we had rain again last night, but the water is receding gradually. Evidently the school teacher can't descend from the loft, for she sent up for a program this morning. Such a mess as the school must be in!

Elison has gone to the city by boat, to hold the communion service. But I shall be at home all day, for we cannot hold any services in the school yet.

We had invited the people from the other side to come over for the yesterday, but they could not get here on account of the flooded river. It is quite a sight from our house, I assure you, and it is a mighty volume of water that passes swiftly by. If the mountains were wooded, there might be a different story.

I have been sewing a little this week. Have made a baby bonnet for Mrs. Biffin, and a short dress for Mrs. Lewis, also a ^{small} shirt, some little thin Japanese flannel shirts (not quite finished) etc. etc.

Elison got Mrs. Foster to teach him how to knit! - (2)

Apr 2. '72.
I have played the Bad Sonata of Beethoven there in a halting way since dinner, and now I'll turn to some other letters.

Send me the other half of this piece of tilling for Marion. Hope it arrives safely!

much love to all -
Lottie

Let me know if Conference photo reaches home (Rockport) safely please, and the other pamphlets - conference reports etc.

I am going to send a panoramic view of the City soon by way of California. There or want it exhibited in the church that supports us -
L.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Chao chow fu
Friday April 20, 1917.

Dear Miss All,

It is 8:00 P.M., and as I am alone for a while, I'll write a few lines. In my last letter I spoke of the rain. Well today is the thirtieth day that we have had rain or heavy mist, but to-day we have had some sun, and everybody all over the city has been washing clothes. The cook says that all his things are mildewed. I have been tempted to have a fire to dry things out, but I am afraid it would be uncomfortable, for the average temperature now is 60° or 70° and we are still wearing flannel on account of the chill of the mornings.

Our rose bushes are blossoming beautifully. These are not the beautiful roses that we had at Kaki-chih, for most of those died last summer; but they are bushes we found here when we came. Ellison pruned them closely in the fall and now the roses have more petals and longer stems, and they are in such abundance that he cannot keep them cut. He must have cut more than a hundred on Wednesday, but by then, alas! early the bushes were full of widely opened roses. I gathered a huge handful for the coolie to give away to-day. He has pink roses, and dark red ones. The dark red ones are beautiful, but the stems are weak - not strong enough to hold the heavy rose up.

Have you seen or do you see 'The World's Work' this year (number) March? It is extremely interesting. I saw a fearful war yet, I am anxious to hear how it affects the country.

The mosquitoes are pretty bad now, but by keeping citronella on our ankles we managed to keep fairly comfortable.

I had just a little triangle
My article exposed the other night and

found thirteen bites on it when I went to bed. These are not the kind of bites that swell up, but there is a central prick surrounded by red. They are not so annoying as the bites which swell up.

Mrs James has had two girls from Woking - she visiting her for two weeks, and they spent the day here yesterday. One of them is Marie Thompson, who reminds me often of Betty Little, and I was delighted to have her here, as I had a most jolly day sewing and playing. And you may be sure I tried to give them good things to eat.

Pea soup on toast.
Roast beef.
Baked potatoes & gravy.
String beans from our garden.
Eggs from the city.
Peanut salad w/ peanut dressing.
Sweet pudding & nice sauce.
Coffee.

Then for tea we had cinnamon rolls, walnut bar, doughnuts, and mocha layer cake.

Now Ellison is away for a day and a half, and I have all the remains of the feast, when I don't care to eat over much. ☹️

Never mind! Most of it will keep until he can help me out. But he usually stays in the city for Sunday dinner too, and eats rice and sandwiches and cookies and hot cocoa, and thus his heart burns.

I think I'll urge him to take the long walk home when the weather is decent rather than develop indigestion. He has been staying only a few months in all, now, I think.

Some nice mail came yesterday - a lovely long letter from Mother, and one from Ruth.

I feel a bit worried at Ruth's assuming such a heavy task.

for the summer - I'll write her soon.
She still has a few small pieces of drawing
work for her I believe.

Guess I'll go to bed. It's stupid to
sit up all alone. I tried to find some
good reading and picked up a collection of
Dickens, only to find ghost stories and
such, which I was not at all pining
for. It is safest to turn to some things
I know about. I remember being so
disappointed in Stevenson's stories two
years ago. They seemed so blood-thirsty!

The cook has been sewing for me this
P.M. and I have served coffee, too.

My gymnastic class came but I do my
best with them now. Just the simplest
things. I let them play a game at the
end. They had quit from passing clothes
pins to-day!

Good Night now. God bless you, every
one.

Was so pleased to receive Etta's picture this
morn. Must write her. I do have some gold
dent now. Well, I get bored sitting at my desk
and sometimes it seems an awful effort
to start a new letter with the mosquitoes
buzzing around!

Saturday Morn. I was in bed by 9:30 last evening
and slept till morning. The day brought narrow
water at 6:55, and I went to sleep again before
getting up at 9:15. Good work! And I dressed
leisurely and went down to breakfast. First I
stopped into the kitchen and said to the cook,
"Good-morning! Please warm up this potato cake
and poach an egg for me. Also make a cup
of cocoa."

Then I went back to the table, had my fruit
and cereal, and then the things I had ordered.

It seems so luxurious! But when one considers the ever-changing climate and the busy days one must have when one is able to be active, and the lack of kitchen conveniences, and the big house necessary on account of heat, all these considerations seem to justify it. But I hate to get into such a hurry that a day's ^{other} work will tire me when I get home!

I thought it had cleared yesterday, you know, but in the night there was rain again, and to-day it is cloudy.

For the last two weeks I have put a piece of telly in each letter. Hope they arrive safely. Both are for Marion. Hope she is well. I take it that they have not moved.

Oh Aunt Lela, the box containing balls of cotton string for wash clothes arrived safely. That is to keep one's leisure minutes busy!

What a beautiful dress Ruth made for Carol. I thought you learned to make dresses in school, Carol?

If Carol does not want to teach at all, why could not go to So. Framingham, could she? Will someone answer, please!

Too bad about Georgie's tooth. Sorry! Sorry Mrs. & Framingham and Mrs. Jaggitt have been so sick.

What was the matter with Mrs. Kelle's neck?

You must be careful about getting on trains, Mother!!!

Like Georgie's knee, did not bother her for very long.

Love to Uncle Charlie and Uncle George, and also to the pioneers in trains. Hope it is more comfortable by now.

Very much love, & aff.
Lottie.

Bridgewater
Dunstable
Rockport.
Hingham
Walden

Chao-chou fu via Seattle
(Sun) April 21 - 1919.

Dear Ones,

Sunday evening has come around, again and still we have had rain every day! So to sure the rain came so early and late one day that the sun could shine during the day-time, and you may be sure, we made the most of it and sun-dried everything as possible could during that time! Today is the 23rd day. Questions, go, how long can it continue! It surely has been a blessing to me to have it cool and comfortably during these days of packing and preparing the house for my absence, even if the dampness is annoying and harmful to property.

The weather or something has made our roses bloom profusely! Ellison picked over three hundred buds of the bushes - the other day he got away heaps, and throw away heaps of short stemmed ones, keeping only little half opened and longest stemmed ones. You remember because that these are bush roses, not our lowliest ones. Still they are lovely!

That house-boy said that he had to go home for his summer clothes and mosquito net and so I let him go on Wednesday P. M. He had a substitute, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and was to have returned this AM. I do hope that he will return to-morrow AM with a good excuse, for to-morrow is wash day and he knows that I need him badly! While he is away, the coolie waits on us at table. He is as slow as a snail, and when we told him to light the lamp to-night, he called the coolie to light it, claiming that he did not know how. We wear a pair of straw slippers all worn down at the heel as all Chinese slippers are. They always tread them down. I don't know why unless they are easier to get into. These slippers go "flop, flop!" every time he takes a step! Can you imagine the scene and the sound!

Ellicson told me a most astonishing thing to-day. He said that he wanted me to visit "Poh Si" with him some time! When I pressed him for the particular reason, he finally said that he wanted me to see the preacher's room. On the main wall is a row of pictures mostly framed and most prominent in this row was a picture of one of my friends!

I was all curiosity, and finally learned that on that Chinese wall was the picture of some Paul Meyer!!!!!!

It seems that in looking over my pictures a long time ago, I had thrown out all that were not particularly good, or that had been attacked by silver fish, and this one of his was among them. The preacher had evidently visited the house when the waste-basket had been emptied and had begged it from the servants.

I told Ellicson that he knew it must be some great personage, and so he put it on his wall!!

How little I know of its destiny when I threw it away! I suppose there is many a scrap thrown away that they are glad to get hold of.

To-day I held an examination at Sunday school. Just when I announced that I would give ten cards to each pupil who would learn all the Golden Texts. There happened to be only six. I had separately thought one person would learn them, but I prepared four sets of cards - postal and Christmas, and magazine pictures.

What was my surprise to find that eleven pupils knew them perfectly and three more made a very little mistake! Not only that, they learned the words, but most of them had also learned the book of the Bible with the chapters and verse!!! I'll bet only half of them knew or could explain the meaning. To learn by rote, is the Chinese method of study. They

usually are not required to think and are
non-plussed by a thought question.

To-day Ellison was prepared to preach at the
third. When he arrived, he found the old men
wrangling over a piece of property which one
of them had given to the Church. (He had given
the land for the cemetery, but allowed his nephew
to use part of the land to plant) Hence the quarrel.
Well, Ellison instead of preaching the sermon
he had prepared, quelled the disturbance,
and then preached an entirely new sermon
about "Ye are the light of the world" - etc.,
making very apt and pointed application to
the past light in any church, when there was
wandering and contradicting the ideal condition.
I felt as if it is quite a feat to preach extem-
poraneously in Chinese!!!

He came home about 5:30, but is off again this
evening for an evangelistic service in the
city! He and Mr. Jones make a bargain with
a gate-keeper to hold the gate open and go they
can come home at night instead of sleeping in
the city. Last week the gate-keeper went
back on his word and the women had to climb
over the slippery wall with the help of friendly
Chinese and a ladder! So this week I
had had his bed carried in to the city,
but he expects to be back as usual.
However, the bed is there in case of emergency.

During the day I have written some, played
portions of Beethoven's Symphonies etc.
and the whole Aunt Fan has sent me, and
read a little of Stevenson - one thing being a
most clever letter he wrote to George Meredith
from the Island of Samoa.

During the week I have prepared things or
packed some nearly every day! It seems foolish
for one way to begin so early, but it is much
easier to be with slowly, while it is cool,
and be prepared!

We do not hear news of how "Declaration of War"

has affected the U. S. I should be glad to hear.
I hope it will not bring distress to any of you.
The prices of food are awful! How can you
live at that rate? I am sorry!

You will all have to have clever cooks so that
you can make tough cuts of meat tender, and
also learn to use meat substitutes, or
produce your own garden stuffs!
Do you buy cereals in bulk? It is much cheaper. My son's is of good quality.
This increase in prices will have an influence
on Ruth's tea-rooms too, I fear.

It is 8:30. Mosquitoes have not been so
bad as usual to night, but they begin to
bever too near for comfort and it annoys
my ankles are bitten altho I have kept them
moving most of the time. I did not use
ciborella to night. I hate the odor of it.

Well very much love. and Good night for
now. I have lovely letters from Aunt Ella
and Rockport to come in on later.

May 1. Tuesday.

yesterday P.M. the weather cleared for a little but
this morning at 6:10 there was a heavy white mist
over every thing. The sun has burned it off now, and
the washing is going on. The boy returned this AM about
8:00 much to my relief!

The sunny side of the porch is covered with winter
clothing and dress work for them, and some bedding.

Ellen has gone to a country station for the day.

I am going to wash a few delicate things I don't
dare let the servant handle, write a little, and
finish the work of preparing supplies for Thai-yong.
I prepared nearly everything yesterday, but there is
still rice, sugar, coffee tea, mustard, vinegar,
and a few more staples!

Glad to see Ruth's letter of Feb. 11 and our dear
Sister.

Love to all the dear ones.

Edna.

May 1 - 1917

Chao chow fa
in Swatow.

Dear Mother and Dad,

I was so glad to get your good long letters of March 11 and 12. I have enclosed a postal for Papa with some kind of stamp that I don't know. I shall get some Hong Kong stamps very likely when I go to Swatow, but they cannot be used here. They may not be used now in Swatow, so I believe that the Chinese are taking over all the Post Offices and improving their system.

I was so sorry about George's dog, and hope that the new one will prove good.

Prices of food seem awful!!!

The new dime and the dollar arrived safely quite a while ago. I wrote at once, and trust you have heard by now. Also you must have the letter which spoke of the diary and shirt studs.

I have written a postal to Elizabeth Ross. It is wonderful that she keeps up so long. I'd like to hear her talk for a while.

What does it mean when you say a stamp with value over printed?

I'll keep my eyes open.

Now, the cook has brought me warm water, I must run make for things, then I'll finish later.

Dear Mother,

We made a very good marmalade out of our
(journals) grape fruit, one orange, one lemon - being
only a very little - skin, we manage to get a result
that is not bitter at all. I wonder if this is Ruthie
& Carol's recipe.

Glad John is to have a raise in salary.
Did Father's handkerchief arrive safely. It is to be
well remembered.

It seems so good to see the sun
to-day.

How are you for summer clothes? Are
prices of clothing as high, I wonder, as
prices of food?

We have bought 124 cups of milk this
month for \$2.25 per and from the mill we
get all our butter and cream enough for
at least one meal and sometimes two.

Did I mention that my boy came back all
right at 11:00 this eve? I haven't seen him yet, for
he has been washing clothes.

The cook said he delayed his return on account of
rain.

Very much love,

Lottie

Continue to address all mail Sonoma thru the
summer - or all times if you prefer - L

Mrs. James, in her dear thoughtful way, insisted upon our coming over to her house to have our last meal in the city, and a little rest, before the railroad trip. In that way, and in several other ways - (Ellison taking a camp chair for me in the train, - and travelling in the cool of the day) - we found the trip very comfortable and arrived in safety at the end.

Ellison went back to the city yesterday afternoon. It was unusually hot, but by evening a cool breeze and rain came, so that I hope he has had a comfortable day in one of the country chapels to-day. (The rain had stopped by morning.)

I am wearing that pretty white silk (and violet figure) maternity dress, the material for which you sent me ten years ago. I have been so glad to have it, especially since I was coming here to the post for the last month.

You can imagine my pleasure yesterday afternoon when I received the two parcels which you sent from home in March. I was

only sorry that Ellison could not stay
to see the contents.

The parcels are usually longer in coming
than this. Such a pretty blue kimono,
so dainty and cool, and I had no thin one
at all. And I certainly was pleased to have
that bonnet of Ellison's. It looked so
fresh and white that I could hardly believe
that he had worn it. Do not bother to send
bonnet strings, as Aunt Ale sent me
several and so far I have used only one
pair.

The things Aunt Jan sent were
beautiful. It is so dear of her. I will
write her and Mrs. Collingwood later.
Wasn't Mrs. Collingwood lovely - to be interested
in the first place, and then to send the
pretty pins.

The pieces ^{of cloth} look very good to me. Some
of the cretons are so pretty that I am
tempted to save out a few of the pieces for
trimmings. (2) for ourselves.

I am afraid the pieces of silk will not
keep in this climate - for ^{trays} silk and ribbons go

into shreds in no time - unless they are unusually good quality. But everything will be of some use you may be sure.

The pencils came safely. Are they for Ellison or the school? And the beds likewise?

Thank you for getting the notions for me. I think they all arrived safely. The hair-pins I am using to-day. I had a marvellous collection. Mine seemed to break all at once suddenly, and I filled in with different samples (now very good) which I bought for me in Swatow. Those you bought, I like very much, and I will let you know later if they have any particular faults.

The elastic, besting cotton, silver polish have all come in the nick of time. Thank you so much for doing all these errands in your busy days.

On the same mail came a nice Gesteau petticoat from Mrs. Bartholomew and a pretty chemise for me. The National Geographic and several other pieces of reading matter came in the mail, so you see it was much like birthday or Christmas.

We are sorry to hear of Mary's grippa and hard fall, and hope that she is all recovered by

Handwritten
Rockport.

Sueatow, China -
Sunday, May 6, 1917 -

Dear Ones All,

You will wonder that I am in
Sueatow. Well, Dr. Clegg was to be away for four
or five days from Shaochowfu, and even tho' I
do not expect to be sick for six weeks perhaps, I
did not feel like taking the responsibility of
staying in the city without a doctor for so many
days in succession. So the servants helped, and
Eliason gave me all his time and attention and
patience for two days, and without much difficulty
we made the few final preparations to come away.
It was mostly a matter of packing, as I had been
gradually getting things done a little at a time, and
I already had five or six of the big baskets all
packed. Really I have to plan to be away from
home (in this packing) for about five months,
and yet leave things so that Eliason can live
comfortably at home at least two of those
months, and use the house as a base for counting
trips longer than that. To set up two separate es-
tablishments of servants and food is no joke at
all, I assure you. And I am so afraid that
the white ants will get a foot hold in the house while
we are away. I think that we have found more
this year than ever before.

Mary Jones, with her usual good heart, insisted
on my allowing her to have lunch and tea and
a rest on the day that we came away (Friday). I
had not been over for weeks, and so aside from the
net, I wanted to see her and chat, and see how
much Baby William had grown. He is a bonny child,
as bright as a dollar, and walking around. She
had just received an order from the National Cloth
and Suit Company (the one) - and to my great shame
and disappointment, there is something the matter
with every piece of foot wear she ordered - moccasins
for both, ^{and} slippers for herself, and slippers for the
husband! I am so sorry! Perhaps is the thing one
can least afford to be wrong out here!!

What is the price about slippers being 6 and 12 dollar
a pair now at home? !! !! !!

I had a comfortable reclining wicker chair (put over for me)

from the Presbyterian Compound. Ellison had the happy idea of bringing a comfortable camp chair for me to sit on in the train. We travelled in the hood of the day, and so made a most easy trip, not of one which can be very hard and tedious.

Dr. Leach took us in at the Bungalow to live with her until my goods come by boat next week I hope.

I am in Miss Sollman's big comfortable room. She is home on furlah -

Ellison went back yesterday afternoon and is at a country church to day. Yesterday afternoon narrow wagon, but toward night a high wind sprang up bringing rain. To day is cool and comfortable.

Yesterday came a surprise - three parcels from home, and you may be sure I was pleased.

There was a dear Burt's pathetic beautifully made by Mother D., who also sent aainty chemicals for me in the same parcel.

Then there was a parcel from Holyoke, containing several surprises - a very pretty independent long dress from Aunt Jan, also a little pink ribbon arrangement to adapt the size of a bonnet - very quaint! Mother (H) sent me of Ellison's very first bonnets and a pretty blue ~~bonnet~~ wrapper which will be very nice to use, as I had only a padded one, or flannel ones in the Tronacian, and they may be too warm. There were two gold pieces from Mrs. Collingwood of Holyoke also wasn't she kind?

The other parcel contained some nice piece of Goffs and embroidery silks for a future sewing class that I hope to institute some day, as well as some little things I had asked for - soap, silver polish, elastic, beating cotton etc. They are all in separate parcels. My! it is fun to open parcels! I am writing from memory, and as I may have forgotten some thing!

We have seen the latest papers and magazines too, and that is good too! It makes my heart beat

to read that we shall have conscription! I
suppose it is better on the whole, but - - - - -
I can not bear to think of George or John being
drawn into this horrible war!

The mosquitoes are very few here, too, and
so that is a comfort!

The Boston Post from Father arrived yesterday, and we
have perused it, and sent it around for other
N.E. people - to see. The National Geographic comes
too, with most interesting pictures of immigrants!

Hope you are all well and happy. I am expecting
letters from you as the latest when from Bost. & and
home by March 7 and 13, but have received letters
from Holyoke up to the end of March 4! Those nothing
is lost.

I am very comfortable and well and strictly
under the doctor's wing, so do not worry - This
noon has carried some love messages to you all.

Lottie.

Tuesday, May 8.

Agnes' letter from Grand Lake arrived yesterday and I was
so glad - to hear

How Charles received the cold handkerchief for his birth-
day? Don't ask him so that it will remind him, but just let me
know, so you surely would know.

Wish I had my Nat'l catalogue here so that I could look at your
dress, but my last one is at Chocomaque. However, navy blue
wraps de chine sounds very nice.

Wish Marion would send me a pattern for a dress for
Polly - one that would fit her six months later. I feel
very badly that she has not already sent it, after my
repeated requests. I know how she feels, but I advised
it, and I still want it. Little kimono style I should
like best.

yesterday May 7, arrived a letter from Daddy, B. and from
New York on April 7. It came by the English fast
steamer "Empress of Russia" - by way of Vancouver.

It brings the war home to us - very vividly! He enclosed the

President's message, and said that Bob was taking
leave.

Bob B. writes very bravely - after some introductory remarks: - "When it really comes to making their personal sacrifice, it will be harder than we dreamed. Bob has been some time thinking when he would like to serve and has decided to join the Aviation Corps of the Signal Service. He had his examination Wednesday (Physical and mental exams), which he passed, and will go to the Training school at Newport News, Va. as soon as he gets the order, which he expects in a few days. The training will be for six months. Before leaving, we hope to have them home a few days - perhaps he will come to morning and be here for lunch."

Dan's trap (Douglas Schrock cousin in B. Robert's party age) - He not yet been called out, but doubtless will be in a day or two for service, he does not know where."

I confess my heart trembled when I thought of war, and I longed for John and Bob, and I involuntarily wanted to hold them. May God protect them and hold them near and true. It is harder to be a woman than a man when it comes to war for I believe I would not shudder quite so much to go myself as to send my loved ones with a brave heart!

Let's I will try to remember to send Mother B's letters. She has been sick again I worry for her. She writes that Alice's husband's father (Mr. D. Garland) is very ill and cannot live more than a few days!!

At Ketchikan here, the American nurse is Miss Northcott who came out this year we did I am very fond of her. There is also a very nice Chinese nurse, and I am to have Mr. Lecker's good animal for a permanent one.

I mean to my books here, but it seems to me the balance you mention to my credit is too large!

Must close now with very much love,
Lottie.

Rockport.

Swatara, China
(Monday M.) May 25, 1917.

Dear Cousin All,

It is not long since I wrote you last, but I'll begin another note. Hope you are all well and happy.

I had a very quiet Sunday writing in the morning and reading from "Ann's Book". Have you ever read it? It is most interesting. Written by Ethel Daniels Hubbard. When it came afterwards I just reversed the order, resting and reading a book and then writing. I ain't that lazy enough in any one! In the evening Frank South came in and we had some Victrola music. Especially enjoyed Aunt Cele's dear hymn. "Lead Kindly Light"

Tuesday A. M. ~~May~~ May 29.

I can write only a little, but what shall I say! I just can't allow myself to have feelings just yet. They are too deep.

Don't pity us. I know God knows best even tho, he does not grant our dearest hope.

I wonder if I have some wrong in me, that must be righted this way - or whether I am needed for work I couldn't do if I were bound up in my family as I surely should be! But just think of poor Ellison and his family!!! They have no grandchild at all!!

There is no explanation this time more than before, but this