

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), primarily from
Chaochowfu**

Dates: 1917 Oct-Dec

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Bridley's contact
at
Medford -
Rockport.
Wahaguan
Hobbs
Northampton

On a small ferry boat
going to Tully, Aug. on
Friday, October 5, 1911.

Dunk Newell,
You would surely be interested to see this
boat-load. We had just left a big launch that
is about at this angle  on the water, when
it is perfectly calm. What can it be when it is rough
and all the people rush to the lower side to
see the passengers get off and on, as they usually
do. Do you wonder that foreigners are a
little silly about riding on these Chinese
launches!

Well, to go back to the boat-load
we have about twenty seven people on the boat,
four or five being Christians who are returning
from the convention which we have just
attended at Ng-King. I sit in camp chairs in
the middle of the boat with our baggage around us.
An old preacher is sitting behind us preaching away.
He has talked of the nature of God, and the
old stories of Uligah, Abichemegger, Pichogger,
Daniel etc. in quick succession.
The cook is at star right.

An old absolutely toothless man is standing
at the head of the boat. Now he has set down
to help the men row. Up to this time they have
been drifting with the tide. Finally the old man
asked them to row and made them laugh saying that we
would not reach our destination before night. So they
have gone to work with good nature. They might have
drifted for another half hour if he had not spoken. It is
very warm here now, but we have had cool nights or
rather comfortable days on the boat coming Monday &
Tuesday.

People are dressed in many ways. The man
beside me has on a pair of trousers or hick
of his boys. They are grayish and coarse. This
is his only pair of trousers. A coat is worn, but it is not
buttoned up, and at his waist is a much
patched cloth bag for his money. It is a flat
bag worn around the waist by all men.
I think in this way, their pockets are never
picked.

I have ^{bailed} made a goldier cap this week in
a few minutes. I guess I could have made
another if I had had the wool.

He arrived at Ho-King Tuesday P.M. and
attended meetings three times a day, Sat. or
Thurs. At least the men did this. I stayed
home evening in spite of the beautiful
moonlight.

Dr. Norman, & his wife were married last
November and they went to Ho-King to
live last February. It is much more
lonely than B. Hochoung, but they have
had a house to themselves, and have
Dr. N. has built up quite a hospital in the
little Chinese ground around the Chapel.
He has interesting cases coming in every
day and operates there or three times a week I
guess. He had very little or no money to
start this with and has really done remarkable
work.

Mrs. Norman is going down to Hong Kong for
confinement. She will go with me next
Saturday I expect.

Wednesday October 10, 1917.

This letter should have been finished several days ago.

Well from that ferry boat on which I started this letter, I
got on to a small boat to come up the river to Cheochoung.
It took us only about five hours to get down there
it took us from 4:00 P.M. until 3:00 A.M. (Sat) to get home
by the same route. We could rest some on the boat,
but it was small and crowded, and we kept meeting other
boats all of which wanted to exchange greetings and
ask our destination and business.

We were certainly a sleepy household on Saturday
but it did not take long to get rested, altho we are
very busy every day.

Ellison had gone to Swatow to-day, to see about
a teacher whom he hopes to get for a new school
which they want to start here next spring, also to
see the council about my pass-p. it, and get some
word for new work, as well as see about bank boxes
from home, money etc.

He will not be home until tomorrow & is late.

We have invited the people from the other side to come over and take supper with us to-morrow evening. They are so treated by exchange that they have given up their afternoon tea - a thing which you do not get in Britain to give up last fall - and are having a combination tea and supper at 6:00 P.M. He did not invite them out of pity ☹️, but those two remarks happened to come together.

A nice very nice letter from George came this week and I was very glad to hear. I am anxiously waiting news of Carol now. It certainly got to Otoni in the next mail.

Since you came back the cook? I have cleaned out the stove - closets and surround floor, cereals, beans etc. as well as dried fruits. The cook does all the hard work and I browse. The boy and Coolie have done a huge wash & ironing. E & I have straightened out our personal belongings and our accounts for the year, and gathered up a little stray correspondence in odd minutes. He has also had business in the city, and is attending an examination of students this AM before going to the Swatow.

While I was away, my boy pleased my heart by cleaning all the silver, washing all windows (a big job) and scrubbing white paint, scrubbing all floors, putting down the big rug, and ironing some of E's suits. I heard his heart! I never had a boy so willing before. It was an immense amount of work for four days. Of course the coolie helped some but he doesn't amount to much.

I want this letter to go in to the city with the coolie who is taking E's luggage and so I'll say good by with very much love each one. Weather very comfortable now and enjoyable. I go to Hong Kong on Saturday.

Love - Lottie

Bridgwater
Weymouth
Roadport.

Kapchie.

Sunday, Oct. 2, '17.

Dear Ones,
I suppose you hardly expect to get a letter headed "Katchooops" these days. It doesn't seem possible to stay at home at all. I know you will not believe, and I know that I can hardly believe that that wonderful birthday became last week Thursday - no - four weeks ago Thursday, October 11 - and I have not had time to sit down and write a quiet word since!!! It was a wonderful wonderful, box - not at all common - go Aunt Cate - dared to say it was, and I had the time of my life with it - but let me go back a bit in the history to explain why I have been so long in writing.

I wrote that on Oct. 10. I believe E - was in Swatow, I had invited the Jameses for supper on Thurs. Oct. 11 - Well: I worked hard all the time E was away, putting the house into livable order again, sewing on old dresses for Hong Kong, packing boxes, and also preparing for the guests a little. At 5:15 in bed E - fresh & washed with three parcels from home, two Montgomery Ward boxes and all the rows my girl friend's trip to port. At about 6:10 - when I had had just time to look part my this the home parcel, he came the guests, and we had a nice jolly supper and music afterward. I should have gone of the things, too - in fact everything I had feared, and she thought they were lovely and immediately took the Montgomery apron to cut one out for herself!!! Clothes are a help to everybody out here. I don't know how many people copied that silk waist which Mother B. sent me the first year, and I am still wearing it!!!

Well, the next morning the boys school came over to visit our home and grounds - and then it was rush, a round to pack or oversee the packing of E's food - packet for a long week's trip, and to pack myself for the trip to Hong Kong!

We left the city early the next morning, and at Mrs. James's urgent request I stopped to call on Mrs. White - she has been

so very sick. She had uterine pregnancy
you remember, and nearly died. I had had
her Oct 12. ran home from Hong Kong
hospital only two days.

Well she seemed doubtful whether
any specialist was in Hong Kong. She
seemed doubtful that I promised to
return again in the P.M. and consult
Dr. Husband. Dr. Whyte about the specialist
for she said that Dr. Whyte would know
absolutely.

We hurried to Swatow for lunch with
Mrs. Caper (by invitation) and then immediately
hurried back to Swatow with baggage for the
boat. Immediately when we arrived at
Dr. Whyte's house we found that the
specialist to whom Dr. Newman had
recommended me, had left Hong Kong
probably for good!

You can imagine how glad I was to find
out before the expense trip, and how
very glad that I stopped to see the Whytes.
(I see now that if Dr. Newman had not had
foresight to write ahead, I should have
missed it. In fact he had told me that he
would do so.)

Well, I was relieved! Everybody was
surprised to see me of course.
I had had a very full Sunday. Ellison preaching
at English service, and then a very full
Monday when he tried to get the Perkins
falgut off. I visited Sunday schools
I worked at schools and girls' schools etc.
& Mrs. Caper insisted on showing us all
the new property acquisitions of the
mission. We left our books to be audited and
hurried home on Tuesday.

Then we opened our 75 boxes and sorted
& packed away perishable things. Did not buy
so much as usual because prices so high.

Now I begrudge that time. I did not at all begrudge his \$10. for beer, or 3.00 for 1st class railroad expenses etc. from S. to town but I did begrudge paying \$9. for his hotel bill for the day. Wouldn't you?

I rested a few minutes after he went for I was tired - and then I began again on Xmas presents, for I was very anxious to send them before we got off into the country for this two weeks!

I told the coolie I did not know whether I could catch the Sat. AM. early train or not and did not care, let him call bearers and that until 6:30 AM. when most of my things were packed and the larger boxes presents were ready to send.

So - these are some of the reasons I have not written altho I have wanted to every day.

Yesterday I found a big mail when I arrived in P.M. - and read until 4:15 steadily without entirely finishing - 3 letters from Aunt Cele - covering six or so I suppose. & two from Mother. I had been looking for them all so anxiously but only chances references to Carol are made and I was most anxious of all to hear about her.

I was so glad to hear of other things - of course! The pictures were great - most of them! Especially Aunt Cele Mother & Uncle Geo - & the other group where Marion & Della are.

Lothy letters from Mrs. Hilbert - Rena - etc

I'm so sorry not to write or
prepare Ruth for Bob's engagement
but I did not hear definitely and
could not find a quiet time to sit
down and think how to say it.

I will write her some day.

Charlie's letter has not arrived!
Wonder if Bob will be the instructor
of Series?

Glad Ruth Benson is at college.
Present plans not to go to H. Kong since
specialist has gone but to write
specialists at home and in England
as once.

I am to spend tomorrow in Suptow
city and leave on Tuesday about
5:30 AM to join Mr. & Mrs. Waters and
Ellison for two weeks in the
country. I feel tired to-day but I
think when there is no excitement in
the country I will find time to write
more adequately.

Mother dear please please don't worry
about that interest money, for I told
Father to keep it to pay Carol's extra
expenses in going to Gloucester and
I wanted to give it to you at any rate
if I didn't give it to Carol!

Hope I'll get Xmas package
off a-morrow while I am in
Swatow. It does not please me
so much as some years but it
can't be helped. Some things I ordered
have not come.

Mother B. sent me a beautiful voile
mask with hemstitching & embroidery
Lovely! for my birthday -

7 barrels of baby knitting grass basket
came safely. I put it to immediate
use.

I shall send Xmas presents to
Aunt Cle & ask her to pay duty
& charge to my account carefully.
Also charge stamps & paper, ribbon or
string etc. please every bit!

Hope they will arrive in time.

Very very much love to each one.

I'll write more about that lovely box -
Lottie.

By the way, dear people, if you declare a
value of over \$10.00 U.S. on a parcel we have to
pay duty at this end. It doesn't amount
to much - only about \$2.50 I guess, but I'll
let you know so that you won't send too
valuable parcels! (2)

L

after the family has seen this perhaps Mother B. would not be despatched to read it. If it shocks the family however, don't send it.

Bridgwater
Kilnfield
Roxford

Della's birthday

On a house boat Oct. 29, 1912.

Dear One,

Wouldn't you like to look in upon us? Well look! Four of us are in this little boat and have been travelling since 6:30 AM.



On Tuesday morning Oct 23, I took the early launch and joined Mrs. Jackson and C. L. W. We had a service that afternoon and the men went out visiting and preaching.

The next day Wednesday we called Mrs. W. The first house we went to consisted of about one room, fairly good sized at first, perhaps but so filled with things that little space was left. A table, a bed, a big place for cooking, a sewing machine etc. here some of the furniture.

Into that small space and up on every available space of furniture climbed nearly forty children and twelve or fifteen grown women, and people filled the room - how to see the "foreign child"? Huzzah!

It was a sad sight to look at the children.

There was not a small one whose head was not sore with boils, and many of the children had very sore eyes, one little girl already blind in one eye, and with the other affected. We tell them of the hospital, but it is hard for a woman who has never left her village to go that long distance (6 miles) - to a place they don't know about. Not only the children but the women were suffering from diseases, and I do not wonder that Christ wanted to be healing. The worst of it is that many of these things could be avoided with the exercise of common intelligence and care. The child was probably going blind from worms.

From there we started for another place, but outside the door the crowd gathered again - at least a quarter of the children were naked. This misdeed is the commonest of sins and evils. It is no wonder some of the brains are weak.

You will not believe that it is still pretty warm in the day time. We prosper with the exertion of walking and are tired by the glass,

althe I wear dark glasses, a felt hat and an umbrella with two covers, one black and one white.

From that house we went to the house of a man who has become a beggar, and his mother has become a beggar to support him. The case was my sad with the most serious way of appreciation and thoughtful. Then again the kiddies here crowded with socks, and I imagined every other one a potential beggar.

We visited only two other places that evening, but in the afternoon we went to villages far away. One house we visited was that of a girl who had studied in our schools and it was surprising to see how intelligent and well-to-do she looked, how clean the house was, and how clean the children - in spite of chickens and pigs all around in the court. She stood up tea and later hot sweetened condensed milk.

Another woman whom we also visited - more well-to-do - was held by her husband because she had become a Christian. She had herbs drying all around the court, as she was going to learn to be a native doctor.

We visited an old woman almost blind from presentable causes - and every other woman came out asking her for medicine to put on their eyes, as they were getting blind. It makes one wish to be a doctor if you may be cure.

One day I visited the Bible school at Kitzang and it was funny to see old folks of sixty trying to stretch their arms and bodies as embryotically as the little kiddies. In the primary school the children had just received word that her mother was dying. She spoke a few words to them telling them to be good while she was away, and gradually everyone of them began to weep until the whole room was sobbing and weeping with her. Young and old just scruffling and wiping their eyes on their sleeves. It was funny in spite of the father.

During the visit we went to a tailor shop and I saw the tailors at work. A woman and a daughter, perhaps (20 or 30 yrs. old) came to the big table in front of the shop. She laid down a small amount of cloth. I measured it, she gave a full fit, made a few lines with colored chalk, and using a pair of Chinese scissors began to cut the long coat - without a measurement! In fact it is then a natural custom

Rockport
Hiloboa

Alsocheuda
(Thurs.) Nov. 9, 1917.

Dear Coes All, I am really at home and have been here since Monday. It seems almost like a dream to good to be here! I do not like to be away all the time!!!

via
house
boat

I don't know when I last wrote but I imagine it was on the trip with Mrs. Waters. I joined her at Khek-choi on Tuesday, October 23. On Thursday I went to Kityang, and stayed over night with Mrs. Foster and Dr. Milford, returning to the house boat on Friday. Then on Monday we went to Lau Kong, and on Tuesday we went to Khei Ho where there was an association. By Friday we started home - getting up about 5:00 a.m. - and arriving at Kachich about 4:30. We could not get back to the city here until Saturday of course, and then we went to Kim - which for Sunday. Since then Allison has been out calling almost every day, but I have been glad and thankful to stay at home, altho I feel as if I ought to be with him.

The house boat is a clumsy affair, and while it is more comfortable than a native boat, still there is not very much room in it, and we found it very crowded when five people had to take their meals in it.

When we went from Lau Kong to Khei Ho, the men walked across country (which is much shorter) rather than crowd the boat.

The country trip was interesting in many ways. One night Mrs. Foster gave a ~~string of things~~ ~~lecture~~ in our RECREATION HALL, a thing which I think not possibly has been done ten years ago. The place was crowded - hundreds and hundreds of people were watching, but not much could be heard on account of the crowds.

Another interesting thing which happened was a funeral. Twenty years ago - or perhaps ten, a man who had been a spirit medium and regularly possessed by some power, which made him rigid and able to tell things about the future or to cashy on conversations with the dead or both, became converted. Then found that if this spirit medium

2

could go by the Chinese New Year without falling a victim to the evil one, they would believe.

On Chinese New Year, this spirit medium came to the chapel and I was prayed with him all day. He stood the test and has been a great power and witness since then. Well, he died recently. The family was poor but wanted a big funeral as all Chinese do. In fact it is about the greatest ambition in life to have a big funeral. So this poor family saved the coffin and put it by the byrial until the men gathered for association at Khai Tai.

We walked a good distance to the house where a big crowd had gathered. There was a song, scripture reading, and prayer and then a procession was formed. I can't tell you all who were in it, but I guess it was an eighth of a mile long (except file of course on a row of narrow rice paths).

There were little boys with bamboos, people with banners, men with drums and trumpets, bearers of coffin, mourners in queer sack-cloth costumes, old female relatives with bound feet, dressed in white linen vests and skirts, foreigners, delegates to the convention, church members! My!

It was a grand procession and a great conglomeration to the bereaved family. The whole village came out to see.

The procession instead of going straight to the ferry on the way to the burial, without the consent of the corpse, took a long detour around the village - just to show off!

They say that this great funeral and procession will make a great impression and will help the influence of the church greatly.

Another interesting thing was the feast given the delegates. We were very much surprised that they invited just it necessary to prepare a little different food for the foreigners and leave us after the others.

When we went in we found to our surprise that Mrs. Waters and I were invited to eat with six men! That is very unusual as women never ate with men in old China! The eight people had a table about a yard square. They had attempted to follow foreign custom (though a mistake) by putting a white cloth on the table. By the time we arrived brown sauce was slopped all over it. We should have been unwilling for such a cloth to stay in a kitchen not to mention a dining room.

Then followed six about sixteen courses of meat, fish, vegetable, fruit etc. almost all delicious.

The custom is for the leader to say "Chia" after eating all four things, to cups with tea. All drink then they take chopsticks in hand and again the leader says "Chia" and all repeat and they all try to get something out of that main dish. It happened to be delicious tid-bits of fish fried in deep fat to perfection. Then the custom is to put one's chopsticks on the table and to drink tea which the leading man has again poured. Before the delicious fish was taken away, another dish was brought on also something well fried in deep fat - perhaps chicken or goose. Well, the dishes followed one another in quick succession, one never being entirely empty and also there always being on the table at all times. One dish was very salty, and another was very tough, but otherwise they were very palatable. I don't think of eating without a simple plate or knife or fork.

The hallies too were a sight - men stuffed to the waist and all in a hurry to get the dish on the table before it should cool.

I wish everybody would not entirely ignore Carol on this letter. When you have told me as much as you have, you might as well keep me posted even if it is tedious. I want to know.

2000. Some good postal from Mother yesterday and another letter from Aunt Cele. I was very glad to hear also a fine letter from George. Hope my Tomas parcel will arrive safely.

and in time to be distributed. Hope the
duty will not be too exorbitant. Aunt Lett
please charge it to my account.

I have so enjoyed the middle winter weather
my birthday here. It was just the thing for
my visit to Dr. Milford and at Khabchik.
It is a little hard to arrange one's clothes
linen etc. for the country when one can
not have fashion and wearing some very
well. Ruth's pretty tie just matches it.

Thanks also for the Buttericks which keep
me a little in touch with the changes. I am
pretty well lost as to style by now, however.

Wishes I may have seen that same sur-
face you saw, for I was up early that day.
Of course it would be twelve hours later here.

Am enclosing lace edge crocheted for Lucille
for you - and more of the snags which you asked
me to return.

The typhoon you spoke of, Aunt Lett, was
very sudden and limited only to territory around
Amoy. Some of our Chinese going back to Shanghai
were washed, but all were saved.

Sounded like I could visit Bridgman.

.. Ruth B. - Arizona collie.

Pity - about Annie Parshley also.

E & I are making some caps, but
hope to get some American wool soon.

Must send this along although there
are many messages I should send to
each one of you.

With very much love and
also best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Lottie.

Being a student of New H. Nation
643 Broad St., Newbury Ct.
Rochester
Delroy - of
with wife
Mrs. Davis & Mrs. G. Schochauer.
Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Friday, Nov. 2, 1862

Dear Ones,
I am all mixed up about time and when I last wrote, but I know that I have been trying to write all the week and have not succeeded. The last ten days have been especially busy. On Wednesday, we had given up hope of anyone coming to see us, when, about 5:30 P.M., Mr. and Mrs. Whitney, and Anne Foster on their way to Kaying - Mrs. Whitney has just returned after staying eleven years in America - and Anne Foster is the eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Foster who has just come from America to do single prayers and at Kaying. She is a fine girl. Her brother is out here for ten years in the Academy at present.

On Thursday they left with boy and Jockey, but in a few hours came back saying that the places on the steamer were all taken and they could not go. On Friday they obtained their passage in Alabama on a good boat and went to it about 6:00 P.M. What was our surprise on Saturday M., to receive a note from them saying that they had been unable to go because soldiers from the north had commandeered all steamboats. They had been able to sleep on the boat on night but their accommodations were uncomfortable and they had not slept much. So they came back to us to get made up, and had tea, and then starting off in a New Hukka boat to go up the river. Being off by my O. this boat, they will be on the way just about a week instead of two days as they planned.

Evidently the northern soldiers want to get south as soon as possible in order to prevent the Southerners from coming north. There is not likely to be actual fighting, but even if there should be, it would be far from us, and even if you should see the flames of our city, as having fallen into the hands of the south, you would know that it was a peaceful capture, for all the cities are unguarded and give up peacefully at once in order to avoid destruction of property. Besides that, we are way out among the hills and

in a very nice situation.

However on account of the commandeering of the Steamboats we shall probably be unable to have our annual conference when we planned. That will refer to us of the long hard journey.

Last night I dreamed about mother; it was all mixed up but she had father and Aunt Len. I hope there is nothing true in it. Be careful, mother.

I think of you all each day even if I am busy, and that means that I think of each of you individually and hope that you will have a good day and one full of profit. Chicago is the worst place in the world its badness is. I am a much weaker, less fine person (I feel) than when I came here. ^{Maybe} it is only the depressing influence of the climate, but it makes one wonder if all the badness which are brought out by the climate? Sure not in me all the time but just restrained and held back by the happy life and pleasant surroundings at home.

Since I don't know when I last wrote perhaps I had better go back in the history a little.

On Sunday Nov. 11 - Ellicott and I rowed at Philadelphia which is translated "Rising Plain". where there was a baptism and communion. We met a lot of Christians and had a nice time with them and a good talk with the preacher. Then in the evening after we had reached home, he went again into the city for evangelistic services. I was so tired that I never thought to bid I wonder how he can stand such a full day!

Then Monday - oh the joy of being all home again with the prospect of being here more - oh so it was only two days this time. - well it was a joy to be able to pick up the washing at home and to be able to sit at my own desk with all my things around me and write and plan a little - do the necessary things.

I got some of the hand-work (sewing) started at the girls' school. Mrs. Willett and Aunt Ben. have sent me quite a bundle of pieces, and later I expect to receive a few from one of my Elm Ridge girls and also from the Oakland Church that supports us. This will quite fit us out. If the Ladies Church at Rockport should feel like having a remnant shower of cotton goods for our work here, I should be much pleased and they would be doing a good work. By remnant I mean anything from a little scrap suitable for patch work up to a yard or more - as large a piece as one would wish to send!

Then the next day I tried to get in a few stitches for myself and managed to cut out a serge waist by the pattern which came in my birthday box. I was as glad to have it.

On Wednesday we started for Kakhich and the festival. He is a new man just out from home - sent out as a missionary to reside at Fochow, but making annual trips to Canton and Amoy. I think the Methodist Board sent him, but we all have a share and are very grateful for the privilege. I did not need any work, altho he said that I very much needed to have replaced those teeth which Dr. Lane took out and my gold tooth to be refitted. Not yet, thank you! I have too vivid memories of how I felt when that was done.

Well, we had to work on Dr. Ashin's things and see the tailor etc. The day when we can get things clothes cheap in China has passed. It is going to cost \$45.00 for Ellison to have a wadded shirt which includes two pairs of trousers. Isn't that quite a price!!! Then probably it will not be presentable to wear in America!!! A phil of Kakhich we stayed at Miss Callery's. He was a rich contralto voice and a nice soft toned organ from home and we enjoyed some good music.

While there, we also called on the consul and his wife a Smith girl 1911, a very pleasant.

(continued to Cap. on Saturday)

On that Sunday, a week ago we had Union service of which E. preached, at the South Gate, and then had dinner with Mrs. James afterwards.

Then I returned for Sunday School at our little school, and Ellen went to E. J. for communion, and to the city in the evening. Another full day!

Then it was this Monday (the 19th) when I could look forward to about ten days at home, or at least with home as a base, and I was glad.

Then it had to begin to clear up my desk, and plan with the teachers about Christmas program and write a few necessary notes.

My mail came Tuesday and I was glad to hear, but sorry that Carl's case hangs on so long. We are anxious to hear now, and think it would be far better for you to tell us details than to let us imagine them. I try not to think of it, but of course we are anxious.

Tuesday

Then on Wednesday the work continued, some time at dish straightening out business of Mrs. Bakers, sometimes thinking and writing to prepare for at home some programs, and some times planning meals and preparing house for possible guests who turned up about 6:00 P.M. - when I had given up all hope - the Whistlers and Anne F. whom I mentioned early in the letter. I also visited both the schools starting the teachers and pupils on the drill for Xmas songs.

All the rest of the week as you see, was pretty well taken up with guests and singing and gymnastics and preparing Xmas presents some of which I must go off with the Whistlers.

We are giving almost everybody at a set of four knitting needles this Christmas as a card - very appropriate?

By last night I was a tired lady and wanted to go directly to bed, instead of writing or reading or playing to Ellen.

Don't let my mentioning feeling tired make you think I am near, because it only shows how strong I am, to do so much (and I have really walked a lot going into city and going to N.Y. station & visiting people etc.) and not feel anything more than tired.

I do hope that you are all well and happy and unworried. I am anxious to hear when Della expects to be sick. And I hope that Carol's trouble is all over by now. Well it would be useless to go thru my hopes for each one of you and they are often the personal, to go into a general letter.

The government says that we send parcels at our own risk for the present; that means that parcels are not very safe, and so I hardly dare send the wedding presents which I have been planning and thinking about tentatively.

Our letters are often opened in Canton now by a censor.

I should like to see that letter of Service's which speaks of Bob, if it is going the rounds.

Mother's postals are so good and I am always glad to get them. So nice you have vegetables! I am glad to hear that Dad is writing, for I always love to hear from him too.

Last letters rec'd dated Oct. 17.

Ruth Benson's letters especially interesting to me. Perhaps the room mat will develop more of the Holyoke spirit as time goes on.

So sorry Ruth L. was sick with cold.

What was life crating? It was it the old fashioned furniture he sold this summer?

I have here Aunt Alice's letters of Sept 21 and October 15. Hope I haven't missed the one in between.

I don't think I have received any news of Aunt Alice's visit to Ruth and to know that Ruth was better.

I shall be anxious to hear of Ruth's interview with Bob and Beth. Poor child, she must not

writes too much. I hope the winter will not be too hard for her.

Such fun for Aunt Cele and Della to go to the fair.

I think a great deal of my sweeties, Aunt Cele and near them (one or the other) almost all the time now, altho we have not yet needed a fire.

I think two weeks is a very short time to make those big delicious sweeties at.

What kind of treatment is Marion having?

Have appreciated the snap-shots. So good to see you all!

It seems queer to say Ruth B. - ad of Mrs Fairbanks go a "dear old white haired lady". I remember her when her hair was quite black I think - And doesn't sweeties seem very old compared to sisters!!!

We are anxiously awaiting news of Russia and Italy!!!

I have just re-read some of Della's notes of the summer. It was good to see it.

8:10 P.M. Ellison came home had bath and supper and was off to the city again in an hour. It is beautiful moonlight and so I'll send messages of love to each one of you.

Good night -
Lottie.

It is very beautiful out side. I can plainly see the blue of the river and the yellow of the sand, the dark trees and the few barren fields. The glet has just been cut this week. The pond down us is all dry because there has been no rain.

That same was a big fish you caught, Carl. What kind was it?

What did Seymour's trucker look like?

Please send to
Mrs. Chas. Cottier
70 Riverside Drive

Mrs. Thos. Koffine
Room 115
Cinequages
Cuba

New York City Chaochowfu.

December 2, 1917.

Dear Ones,

Still at home as you see by the
reading. Isn't that nice! So I have I haven't
accomplished very much but knit, but even that is quite
satisfactory for you can so easily see results.
Wish our members, there seems to be no end
to labor.

This is Sunday night, and I am not alone, for
I have Mr. Willy, Minkie, Mrs. James's baby boy, with me.
She has been spending the days since Judge's here, so
my daughter has been in Sultow. But to-day he came back, and
as they both plan to go to Sultow to-morrow the
baby is to stay with me over night. Then I shall take him
over to-morrow morning.

Mrs. James (Mary) - and I have had a very nice
quiet visit together, and I have so enjoyed having
Baby right in the house, where I could watch him
and take care of him with him. She is almost
perfect with children and teaches him very
nicely, manners. He never messes himself
but when he eats but keeps as clean and tidy
as a grown-up person. He speaks two Chinese
dialects (Suptan and nothing talk on, and the nurse
another) as well as English.

Remember he is not yet two years. He was born
about Jan. 4, 1916. Yesterday I was looking over some
boxes of pictures and dusting them. He was
especially pleased to find a picture of Ellison
or me, and if he recognized it, he would
turn to his mother and say:

"Uncle Bob!" (Ellison goes by his colloquial name
of Bob a good deal out here).

Then he would turn to his Chinese nurse
and say to the best Chinese,

"Hi' Mok-tay" which translated is
"The Reverend Mr. Hilpeth."

He would do the same thing with my pictures
and it was perfectly arragnony to me!!

I think I must send to you this snap
shot of him as it shows his characteristic
humor. He is so merry and full of fun, and
so very loving and affectionate.

Oh, how I wish it was Thanksgiving. During the
summer we had invited guests but they did not

come. Ellison had to be in Sacton to attend the meetings in preparation for the big Eddy campaign next spring. I originally intended to go, but finally decided to stay at home. He says that the meetings are wonderful, and he seems quite inspired by them. He came up last night but went again this morning to finish up the couch. He will be back again tomorrow afternoon I expect.

We were to have conference at Keyingsbut the province seems somewhat upset and so it is hard to get boats and chairs and we have decided at least to postpone it.

The political situation is most interesting too complicated to try to explain, and it seems very romantic to be in the midst of the changes and possibilities. I don't be alarmed if you see the name of our city in the papers as you did in the baby revolution of 1916. Wish the Chinese would get sufficiently awake to resist Japanese influence.

I hope my Christmas parcel will reach Aunt Cele safely. I feel rather apprehensive about my Christmas preparations this year. It has not been possible to get just what I wanted and I have not had much time to think.

I am thinking of you all daily. May many blessings come to each one.

With love,
Lottie.

Dear
Brother

Copied by Grandma Kate Story Childreth
Dec. 23 1917

This is Sunday night and I am not alone for I have "Uncle Willie Winkie". Mrs. James Little ^{the} boy visit me. She has been spending the days while Mr. James has been in Doratow. He came back today and as they both plan to go to Swatow tomorrow, the baby is to stay with me overnight. Then I shall take him home tomorrow morning.

Mrs. James and I have had a very nice quiet visit together and I have so enjoyed having Baby right in the house, where I could watch him, and also see her with him. He is almost perfect with children and teaches him such pretty manners. He never messes himself up when he eats, but keeps as clean and tidy as a grown-up person. He speaks two Chinese dialects, as well as English. His parents talk one dialect and the nurse another.

Remember he is not yet 2 years old, for he was born Jan. 6. 1916. yesterday I was looking over some boxes of pictures and dusting them. He was especially pleased to find a picture of Ellison or me, and if he recognized it he would turn to his mother and say "Uncle Bob". (Ellison goes by his college nick. name of Bob a good deal but here) then he would turn to his Chinese nurse and say in the best Chinese "Hi Moh-tan" which translated is "The Reverend Mr. Childreth". He would do the same thing with my pictures, and it was perfectly amazing to me. He is a dear little fellow. so merry and full of fun, and so very loving and affectionate.

I hardly know it was Thanksgiving Day. During the summer we had invited guests, but they could not come. Elison had to be in Swanton to attend the meetings, in preparation for the big Eddy campaign next Spring. I originally intended to go, but finally decided to stay at home. He says that the meetings are wonderfully good and he seems quite inspired by them. He came up last night, but went again this morning, to finish up the course.

We were to have conference at Kazing, leaving here Monday, but the province seems somewhat upset, and as it is hard to get boats and chairs, so the Conference is postponed.

The political situation is most interesting, too complicated to try to explain, and it seems very romantic to be in the midst of the changes and possibilities. Don't be alarmed if you see the name of our city in the papers, as you did in the baby revolution of 1916. I wish the Chinese would get sufficiently awake to resist Japanese influence.

Copy for Bill & Beth.

Suataw

Dec. 10. 1917

Dear Ones, Well, at least there is news enough to sound exciting, even if it can't ~~let~~ me make the most of it and write as if it really were something and then you subtract about fifty percent to get at the truth.

I am a refugee! Think of that!

I left my home last Thursday at the suggestion of the council. I did feel like a runaway and ashamed is no word for it!! As I went thro the village, the people laughed and said "Oh, you are going to run away, are you?" and I had to say "Yes". But I added that I ~~was~~ would stand by the ship!!

Now you will want to know what it is all about, and I have forgotten what I last wrote.

Mrs. James and Mrs. Millie had been visiting me while Mrs. James was in Suataw at the Buchanan's matine. On Sunday he returned and said that they thought best for the women folks of their mission to go to Suataw. So Mrs. J. and he went home to pack up and they left the baby with me for the night - a very pleasant visit.

During the evening the cook came upstairs looking rather white and said, "They have already begun to fight. I heard the guns just now. All the people too, are fleeing from the city?"

Well, I had not heard any guns, but when I went out on to the porch, sure enough, I could hear the splash of hundreds of shots, and the shouts of people and see lanterns moving to and fro in the city - a great commotion!

I at once began to plan with the cook where they ~~we~~ should put people if they came to us for refuge. But the noise soon quieted.

It turned out that the soldiers had fired a few shots because they thought that an enemy boat was approaching and so the noise had all immediately hurried to a safer place down the river.

Pretty soon, however, Mr. James appeared and insisted on having us go this time.

across the river, so we bundled "Doc Willis"
up, got the ambulance out of bed, and
started on our march with across the
soldier guarded bridge - awfully interesting!

The next day the women on that side went to
Swatow, but I knew that Ellison was coming
home and I did not think there would be any
trouble and so I stayed, and was exceedingly
glad I did, for he got in about 6:30 P.M. all
tired and foot-sore and would surely
have been disappointed to find me away.

We stayed on happily and quietly, but
the soldiers began to fortify the hills a little
and so the Consul sent up a letter, saying
that he trusted it was in Kachich, and
altho there did not seem to be much trouble,
there was danger that brigands would
follow any trouble - and as being a
woman, it was compelled to give in.

They say that a man can not in case
of danger, but that a woman is a great
kindness. Ellison also would have felt
uneasy to keep me there after the Consul
had warned us, and so on Thursday we
came down.

~~He~~ He went over to the station to return
only to find that there was no train. The next
morning early he had to start out to walk
those twenty-four miles!! He certainly
must have been much more footsore this
time, and I was glad enough to receive
the parcel containing his new ground
griffers yesterday. The price is appalling.
But one must wear shoes!

He started back Friday AM before
daylight and by night I heard that the
trucks between here and Ann phou had
been destroyed and the telegraph wire had
been cut.

I have no doubt he arrived safely, and is
having a fine bachelor party with Mr.
James & Dr. Ross.

A courier took mail up yesterday.

Enclose 2 letters. Please send them to Mrs. Hilditch.

Swatow

Sunday eve. Dec. 16, 1871.

Dear Ones,
There has been almost too much going on for me to tell a straight story. - Conditions change so much in a few hours, that one almost loses faith in any news that comes.

You know that I had come to Swatow on ~~the~~ last Sunday evening we were awakened by what seemed like very loud fire - crackers going off incessantly. (Maybe I have told you this) Mrs. Wiley and I slipped our beltings on and went to Mrs. Waters porch where we found that shooting had begun outside Swatow. We could see the light from the boats, and there was steady firing of guns and some cannon. We thought the trouble was near the Joss, and went to bed again about 4 A.M., but the next day we learned that the fighting had been just outside the eastern end of Swatow and that two English families who live in one house close to the Anglo-Chinese College, had been right in the midst of the firing - An English (the one who had been so very kind to us) went out there the firing had made arrangements for the women to be brought away a little later. During the night they had been lying on the floor in the safest place they could find ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~house~~ ^{house} to help a two men. Two bullets entered the house and were whizzing outside all the time, so that it was not safe for them to stand up or move about. The two women and baby about a 12 months old came over here and lived with Mrs. Wiley. During Monday fighting went on intermittently. No, of course were in too safe a place to have any personal fears, but we were anxious for people on the other side.

Monday evening while we were having evening prayers, Frank Ellison went, and reached out in the midst of things to see him, thinking that he had heard that there was fighting at Swatow and had come down to see that all was well - but to our surprise, we found that he had heard nothing of the firing.

At Chao-chou-fu, they began firing the night I came away (I had seen) and had been keeping it up every night, but Mrs. Jones and Dr. Ross & I - had had asked to mediate, and having had a long conference all day Sunday and up until midnight, ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~decided~~ ^{decided} that Ellison should come to Swatow to see the consuls.

He found fighting going on but walked straight thro' the firing line (not many soldiers, but nobody trust their shooting where they mean to). He talked in Cantonese who told him that he could not go thro' - but he did saving

Ph Ho
Liang
Ning
Wang
Wang
Wang
Wang

Chao-choufu
Dec 27, 1917

Dear One, It seems that before I finish one letter, it is time to begin the next! but when I look at my news, I see that it is more than ten days since I wrote ~~to~~ the last time! Things have not been so exciting since then. I had just made up my mind that I should have to stay in Swatow on Christmas, and that I might as well do it gracefully, when word came from Ellison that the train was lumbering and that I could start the next day - ~~very~~ but I was glad! I began to pack immediately and to return borrowed articles, and you I had messages.

Such a crowd and such a heap of miscellaneous baggage you never saw in your life, I can well believe.

When people (Chinese) run in China, they have to carry all their living utensils as well as their treasures, for there are no hotels for them to run to when they could afford them. One woman who came to Kankich brought her three little pigs. That was the greatest treasure. And it was mostly wealthy or comparatively wealthy people who fled to Kankich, for all who had a room to rent put up their pieces of the sky! It is awful to think how they would take advantage of one another.

When I come home you can imagine me again, putting the horses in living beds, unloading boxes and getting out the silver etc. and also getting ready for Christmas, getting up forty or more local (and of course small) gifts for friends almost every missionary, a set of four bamboo smoking needles. By the way would any of you people at home like some? Just speak up, if you do, for they go easy to get. They are suitable to make pockets, book covers, helmets, caps etc. I also tried to make one very blue silk wedding dress and alas! it is not finished yet and I don't think that I shall ever attempt to do it again. I was in despair over and over again but kept on until there actually was no more time. I ought to be able to dress make - but not only do I hate to take pains on the little things but it is impossible for me to fit myself with out a need to help. I know some people could, but I surely must admit that I am not clever enough.

I also went in to the city to try to help on the

Christmas hymns which had been sadly interrupted by the rebellion, Civil war, or revolution, as you may call it.

My odding dress you remember.



This sketch I had felt most rare.



This is what I tried to make.

I had a new skirt foundation

I put new sleeves on a night.

I took I cut off bottom of skirt and sewed on to a cotton foundation, while I used the upper part to make the skirt of the former.

I used the old cuffs on the front or the hat part at the top of front instead of all the bottom.

Some of my pockets are to be put on and then it will be quite a patch work affair. I can not get any style at all in anything I have made now.

On Tuesday we went in to city in Am. I was terribly disappointed because he was invited to a big Chinese feast (at noon) which he could not refuse. It had to do with this mediation business, and so had to be done!!!

Well I must tell you all about it. First

On Monday he went to Swanton to take my gifts and do a face mission business. (He had been gone for lunch one day when we came back from Swanton. Poor fellow!) He was making a good deal in relations.

Well, we talked things over and I decided I simply could not stand either a tree or more behind stockings this year, and as Wednesday was to be very busy, we decided to open

our parcels Monday eve.

So he got everything together and opened them before
the nice grate fire and had a happy time - I hear
we opened the three Californian boxes and that was
great fun
we had heaps of things. W he'll -

Maria took from Aunt Jane.

13.00 from the Willoughby. (Little boxes + some got explanation)
from when - what

That great surprise box of chocolate from Dad - Oh, so good!

The beautiful picture of Mother

Pretty violet dress goods from Aunt Cele + with to match.

That beauty Princess slip from Ruth - Joranda, Ruthless

The calendar + pocket pad + embroidered work from Maria
+ the knit work cloth from Aunt Jane + that box!

The tickets for Elbin from Jennie and the sponge from
Mary, also picture + help. for me and a help can
from Mrs. Lightbody - It certainly does make

I was happy to have such lovely surprises!

Shall I go on with the long list?

A beautiful knit work cloth from Mrs. Grackish and
a box of candy for Elbin as well as a little diary from Kattie
+ box of candy from Mrs. Lewis who has 7 children, under 20
I think. How does she ever get time to make such delicious
things + so many different kinds. Of course these boxes are
small. An Irish crocheted yoke from Miss Tramm, a short
Korean scarf from Dr. Leach several little books or booklets
and covers and pictures and a little paperware book from
Dr. Willard + a lacquered dish - and a beautiful
knitting bag from Mrs. James as well as calendars
and cards, and flowers.

Most of these last especially were for us both of course.
Some Elbin a pair of whistles I had made, a brass
shoulder stick and a cushion which I covered with a linen
Cover his mother had made for him years ago. It had the
names of all his old friends written in colors and
he was pleased to see it, you may be sure.

He gave me a box of Balthuzi chocolates (Yell's) and
some mail cloth (his first + last) - something else, I can't
remember now, but you will see why when I tell you what
happened the next evening.

For I wonder I got up first, and opened the door to
get the hot water. What do you think I saw there! A lovely
set of Chrysanthemums, and a nice stool for our
dressing table, as well as a big locked tin. When I opened

Dear Aunt Elsie I ordered that thing you ordered me to from Cambridge, but have not heard a word from W. J.

that it was full of all sorts of parcels & things, candies, nuts, oranges, (I mean from Long Island), papayas, and most of all a little white ~~tea~~ pot on which he had had written in Chinese characters before the pot was fired, a lovely quotation about a wife - I had was a lovely lovely surprise wasn't it? And he was so good and thoughtful all day - not that he isn't practically always so, but was more than usual and that is saying a good deal.

There was a big celebration in city chapel in A.M. and at the school near here in P.M. and then almost as soon as that was over we had to dress for the evening dinner at the games. I hadn't any suitable gown to match G's dress suit, but I threw a pretty scarf over my dress and hope its deficiencies were partially covered over.

He furnished the goose, ~~stuffed~~ & applesauce, and Mrs. Jones furnished the rest. Mr. Ross & Miss Wells were also guests - and Miss Wells had us over for a Christmas tea (11:00 P.M.) the next day.

He stayed all night with the Jamies & enjoyed it.

I have not attempted to answer the letters I have received yet, but I shall probably have to send this on, for it is past my bed time, and I shall be quite busy preparing for six guests over the week-end. Soon too I get notified from that one shall probably have to leave home again for a reference committee or something.

I am constantly thinking of Della and hope she is in good health and spirits, also. I have pictured very vividly Betty Pearson's home coming from college. How nice it must have been!

Hope Aunt Elsie will send her love. I tried to imagine you after ~~some~~ ^{some} times day. Hope my small parcel arrived safely and intact. Rather poor collection this year I am sorry to say.

Now I must say Good Night with love
Lottie
S. M. Mearns