

**Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers**

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**Series: I. Correspondence**

**Box / folder: 5 / 65**

**Folder label: LLH to Carrie and Everett Lane (parents), from Chaochowfu, Peking, Peitaiho**

**Dates: 1922-1924**

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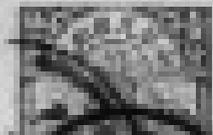
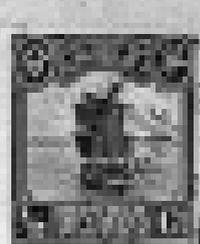
Chao Chow fu via Swatow  
January 1, 1922.

Dear Father,

I sent a letter to-day with seven  
or eight snapshots in envelope, and I have  
been worrying ever since for fear the envelope  
was not strong enough to hold them. Do  
send me a postal soon after you receive  
this, telling me whether Mother has received  
the envelope enclosing pictures taken in December  
at Kachich. Ask Mother to send my letters  
to George if does not get home to see them. Hope



CARTE POSTALE—  
片信明政郵國民



Vertical Chinese characters: 國民郵政明信片

you are all well  
and that the winter  
is not too  
severe. You signed  
your letter from George  
and Martha's day, and  
that Sunday. When you  
came to all of us as  
I was in the  
house.

Mr. Everett Lane  
76 High St.  
Rockport  
Mass.

2-54

Stoneham

Hungary  
Nolyoka

Choochowfa, via Szentau  
Jan. 20, 1922.

Dear Ones All,

Monday morning I began getting the house ready for company. I cleared out a bureau and had it put into the guest room where I had neither bureau nor wardrobe. I also changed around the furniture in our big big bedroom making it so that a bed was visible when the door was open, instead of a whole lot of trunks! Then there were some papers and boxes and things from yesterday's parcels to be put away. I had been to a funeral in the morning and came home for a late dinner damp with the first rain of the season. The children had to be in the house most of the day, and got along nicely <sup>contrary to my expectations!</sup> with Agnes Howard & music lesson and we all (the four of us, including Alice) reprinted the ~~dress~~ men fixing a piece of brass on the gas place. I finished my day by painting infected books with bookworm medicine. The servants were supposed to have done it last spring, but they either did not do a good job, or <sup>the worms</sup> they got in again!

On Tuesday I again worked on the books, practically finishing the job in the evening with Bob's help. The worst books are thrown outside, others are painted. In two the advertisements and cover off a good magazine (such as the Nat'l Geographic) and then paint them. My dresses also received a little attention.

1/21 The next day I made a little more, did the final picking up - and left everybody busy including Allison who offered himself for any small job that may have been waiting for him. In the afternoon Mrs. Bollock of Szentau with her two children was with Mrs. Baker for tea, and we all went over. Salas took account with the cook and wrote some.

Please excuse this hazy form of letter. It gets most monotonous.

but it comes from my having started on those calendar sheets, and  
not being able to go on, because the sheets were missing.

yesterday (Thursday) Kanda's leavers came again. Oh, I forgot to say that  
on Wednesday it turned cold and the north wind blew and nearly everyone  
glad because people were tired of the warm winter. We have had a fire in the  
fire place these last few days and hot water bottles in the bed at night. I have  
made sleeping bags for Alice at night, and we all manage to keep comfortable  
with the temperature around 50° I suppose. I have not put on any heavy underwear  
yet and hope not to.

Mrs. Stewart of Mukongpa, who used with her husband to live in  
Labrador (in Dr. Giffels' work, ~~Labrador~~) came here on Thursday. Her husband,  
Dr. Stewart, is taking the place of the port doctor at Swatow. Dr. Stewart took  
had charge of a hospital in Cycholochia during part of the war, and  
all in all, they have both had very interesting experiences. Mrs.

Stewart has three ~~children~~ children in England, two girls and a boy, the oldest  
about thirteen and the youngest about six or seven I guess.

Oh, I just happened to think about the money Uncle  
Charlie gave Ellison, when he went away for the work here.  
This is being used to help & educate a boy to become a preacher.

The boy seems bright and quite promising, so I hope it will  
do a lot of good. We sent him to Kachich Academy and Seminary.

The money which Fannie Hildreth's class sent, we are using to  
start an industry of tatting and lace making for the students  
who need to earn money, in order to attend school and hear about  
Christianity. I will write Fannie myself sometime.

I'll try

Now read sleep <sup>of paper</sup> for Jan 20, + 2 to get the chronological

- 104.

Hingham  
Strickland  
Holyoke  
W. & MRS. BEN L. BAKER

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION  
CHAOCHOWU VIA SWATOW  
CHINA  
MISS MARTIN H. BORG

Per  
W. & MRS. E. S. HUBBETH

20, 1922

Dear folks at home, This has been a rather uneventful week so you will see from the calendar page. Social events are the thing for this week around Chinese New Year. The men begin visiting <sup>on</sup> the very day, but women have to wait nearly a week before it is fitting to go out. Some expecting Mrs. Page and her six year old son Howard to come up on Wednesday, and she will do some of the visiting with us.

I am enclosing a clipping from the North China Star, the information for the article given by the Anti-opium Society, I think. Another article followed it, and I have seen articles or references to this condition from other sources. The clipping might be sent to the <sup>the</sup> Missionary Society. The Japanese are responsible for this importation of drugs.

Today (Jan. 30) is a dull wet day colder than it has been for several days altho no winter. I thought of Aunt Lela's birthday, and Mother and Daddy's anniversary, and Uncle Charlie's birthday when they came and wondered what kind of dogs you all had, and hoped they were very happy.

I had a lovely photograph of Bob and Betty and their two children Alice and Ralph come yesterday. It is a group where little Alice is the most prominent. At the right, <sup>to the left</sup> Bob holds her on his left knee or she sits on a chair close to him, the <sup>come</sup> Betty with Baby Ralph. My eye often had to her left. Beth is leaning over rather too much for a girl to get a good look at her face, but that is my only criticism of the picture.

The Christmas box from George and Inge was a great joy to the children. John was entranced by the nightie which he experimented with in connection with the cat (2) and the new top etc. etc. I wish you all could have seen the cute little doll for Alice with its little tiny crocheted bonnet and shirt and its cute clothes. There was some delicious candy, too, and a pretty nightie for E.S.H. and a warm woolie nightie for me which I feel I sit out at all to keep, even tho it was the one thing I needed to make my underclothing complete. I must ask you all not to be so good to us.

Just see what I have had just in the way of clothing if only I can remember all. 1 white waist 1 white ~~waist~~ <sup>trousers</sup> shirt, 1 white waist (blue) 1 apron, 1 bungalow dress, 1 common dress, 1 nightgown, 2 chemises, 2 pairs of beds, 1 miter belt, 1 white bag, 1 pair white stockings. Not to mention one other elegant waist which is said to be coming but which has not yet arrived.

Now if I should add the list of children's clothing, you would see what a lot. I shall really have to make my check for Alice this spring, but I cannot tell about John until I see how much he grows.

Ellison is reading for a sermon to be given in about two weeks. He is studying up about "mysticism" because he has never been a mystic, I suppose partly, and partly because one or two of the girls who have recently come out, seem to be mystics. 'Tis a queer world!

I wish more and more that Aunt Cele could come out for a year or two, or longer if she found it agreed. I find that living conditions are much more normal now that we have the neighbors and the children, too. We have not suffered with cold at all this winter.

Rocky Mountain  
Dear Mr. Bell,  
Chao-chengfu, Feb 25, 1922  
Dear Mr. Bell  
Please send me  
I dreamed last night that there

was big snow storm at home, and wonder if  
there was. It came on like a squall and was nondescript  
sight to see. I remember trying to telephone and  
I suppose the house was Mrs. Aldred's and I  
suppose it was telephoning Daddy to come home  
at once. but it is all indistinct except that  
view of the snow laden sky and the the first  
snow which was more like the surf of the  
sea than an ordinary storm. I hope this  
has not been too much hard cold weather for  
you all. It certainly has been warm here.  
I have not even thought of putting on heavy  
underwear.

Congratulations, Daddy, on your increase  
in salary! They ought to raise it \$400. the next  
time, but perhaps they would prefer to do it gradually.  
I am certainly glad! If you get what you deserve  
it would be nearer \$500. - but that does not  
mean true cents either, for there cannot  
be valued in dollars.

What to think of Aunt Lela as going  
on an actual case. It doesn't seem  
right for her to have any hard work to do.

2. Ellison brought home some letters to-day and I was awfully glad - a letter from John is a rare thing and I have greatly enjoyed it. I thought there was one from him in the previous mail, but it turned out to be from Miss Tingley (I don't like her & write) and while I was glad to hear from her, I was disappointed that I didn't hear from John. Now I have it, and also a nice note from Gladys. It is so nice to have written her especially, but I am not sure whether I shall or not. Her note was very dear and I think she must be all that John says she is - so glad! There was also a lovely letter from Mother telling just the things I wanted to know. Annie's love affairs are like a serial story and I can hardly wait for the next development in the next issue.

Fannie has in the "American Magazine" last year and for months there has been a most engrossing mystery story in it, entitled "The Purple Circle". After our last number came a day or two ago, the story is not finished, and I believe I shall continue our subscription until it ends.

Charlie and the family is sending us the "Youths' Companion" and we find it very entertaining. John will love it as he gets older.

My nurse is to go to Kitzeng (starting Monday) for a small needed operation on her nose and throat. I expect she will be away about three weeks. I shall be quite tired and shall enjoy doing for the children myself lots of the things that I let the nurse do now. John, of course, does not require so much care as he used to. He sits with us, and I dare let him out of my sight sometimes for a half hour at a time. Altho I like to be where I can run look at him or hear his voice. Once or twice he has gone outside the big gate, saying that he was going to find Daddy. And Abie is very good. & he will sit and play by herself very contentedly. But if Abie and John are together, they must be constantly watched or

separated.

Monday eve, Feb. 27

Now a good letter has come from Aunt Cate, telling me lots of details that I wanted to hear about her work in Birmingham. I shall write her especially there, if I can get to it to - night.

My nurse has started for Kitzony and I have spent a busy pleasant day with the children. Before she went, I gave Howard a half hour music lesson, and wrote four notes for her to take.

Miss Wells and Miss Chisholm came over for tea and then Miss Chisholm played Beethoven's Symphony (No. 1) with me. She reads very well and it is a pleasure to play with her. Am I not lucky to have her in the City for awhile? She is the only satisfactory player I have found so far, but there are two other girls who, I think, can do it fairly well.

I started <sup>playing</sup> the little organ at the <sup>vicarage</sup> (vicarage) <sup>morning</sup> service. (vicarage, hope) so that regularly now, and Mrs. Baber will take charge of its afternoon Sunday School.

I was very glad to get that picture and letter from the Philippines, it was grand and I hope I will soon be able to visit on my first trip to home.

Tuesday m. Feb 24.

It's 9:30 <sup>PM</sup> already - and I am disappointed. I became  
being away, when I got John and this into bed before we have  
supper, and it means a hot & cold hot meal and no  
leaving to write in. Alas!

Have Daddy's good letter of Jan. 1 before me. It was so  
good to hear from him directly.

What was the matter with Nellie's girl? Had she been  
sick? Did she die suddenly of heart failure? Or was  
she mad.

Ellison loves the poems of Edgar & Frost. He has  
read me some from a <sup>collection</sup> book called "The Path to  
Home." & They are full of love and reality and  
the home spirit.

The Afghan must be very nice and warm for  
Daddy. I am so glad he has it. And the electric  
lamp must be nice too.

Found an American dime in Mother's last  
letter. We shall have to save that for father. Oh!

I am so glad the circus I made for  
Mother finally went. I was worried as for how  
you would have to pay a high duty on it!

Wasn't it lovely that Morrison & Tom  
could go home and over to Birmingham too!  
That is because of automobiles! It is wonderful

What is Annie's Beach case? I do hope  
she will make <sup>of</sup> this man and I do want  
to know about it and send her a pretty  
dressing gown. By the way I could send  
things home for all the members of the family  
to buy any good if they want to. You get  
much more for money buying clothes on  
retire than other ways where you have to pay  
full retail price.

I mentioned that I left the dozen  
filber tea spoons which were originally Hattie's for  
John & Paul, didn't I? Father has them in the  
Bank I think.

Now it is about 10:10 P.M. and I was  
going to bed early as I have a cold threatening.  
Man had just a nose this winter.

Much much love to you all.

Lottie

Annie's Aunt Lulu last night, but shall  
have to wait to see as I did a lot of  
thinking on paper. I don't want her to  
work unless she has an easy, pleasant  
job which does not require much of her. L

Joseph Aunt Lela would advertise for position as  
Companion or Mother's helper across continent and Pacific.  
Aunt Annie Rose would get married and come and here visit  
and bring Aunt Lela along. Love,  
L.



Rockford

Swanton

June 3, 1882

Dear Mother,

We have had more comfortable weather for three days now, and it is such a relief! The other night Ellison took 500 mosquitos off our mosquito net before we went to bed. They have been continually getting inside when we get in, and no wonder, with such a wind inside the house.

John has been having much fun with silk worms. He has fed them mulberry leaves until they are fat and full, and then watched them spin a cocoon. Some of them he has kept out to spin a covering for a lantern, and now they have got to the stage where they come out as white moths and are laying eggs. He is also very much interested in listening to an insect book about grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, butterflies, ants, bees, etc. He wants me to read a chapter in it every day.

I am further <sup>in the woods</sup> a sample of the heavy paper with which I have bought for a suit for Ellison. I got it for 20 gold a yard, I think.

We have had more busy days. Yesterday I took the children to Kadchick to make blood tests for malaria. Alice has had a good deal of fever lately, and we find she has malaria. John also still has a little. I had the least of the whole bunch.

John and Alice were glad for the chance to have a little while to play with Kenneth Garman. He and Alice are very much devoted to one another.

We came home for lunch, because Miss Pava was here. She came down Friday night for the week-end. On Friday evening we

had three sailors in for dinner. One was from St. Augustines, <sup>Florida</sup> one from <sup>Wilmington</sup> New Jersey, and one from <sup>Spain</sup> New York. Marion Cook sang for them, and they sang some, and we surely did enjoy it.

I had been out for tea at Mrs. Szymanski in the afternoon. She is a German woman, who has been very lonely, and whose baby boy died shortly after the typhoid last summer (we had delicious ice cream then.) That is always a big celebration in this climate.

Saturday afternoon I made several calls with Miss Boss  
and intended going to movies on the "Lebanon" in the morning  
but it was greatly relieved when I lost the boat, and so had  
a little time to clean up my deck, and do a few things.

I have received Mrs. Eldredge's two nice letters (on the same mail) and  
have already sent her an envelope of sample handkerchiefs, chiefly  
because there is no duty on samples. It will take me a little  
longer to get the other off as I have to measure off the  
tattling, and it takes time. Her P.O. order came all right; I have not  
cash'd it yet, but will soon.

The U. S. S. Lebanon has had several baseball games, but  
the most interesting ones for the championship took place  
yesterday P. M. I wished I could go, but I couldn't. I  
haven't seen a game since I can remember.

We have lost our coolie. He was accused by the nurse

of doing something very wrong and he did not dare stand the investigation. Our boy was sick with fear, too, and so we were rather short handed.

We had three Chinese here for dinner on Wednesday evening. They could all speak good English and it was so interesting. All of them had been persecuted for becoming Christians. All of them (being well to do) had been urged by their fathers to take a second wife or concubine, but not one of them had done so.

Chinese fathers can bring a good deal of pressure to bear on their children. (By way next many descendants to worship them.)

I had called in the homes of two of these Chinese the day before. Mr. Sing is wealthy and has a very beautiful home with a pond of water in the spacious grounds. Mr. Tang rents an apartment in Mr. Sing's home.

Had a rather strange experience last Tuesday. A port. callender, but otherwise decent, except that he smelled badly and ~~spoke~~ (spoke poor English) came to the house.

and asked for divorce. He said that he was on his way to Canton to get work. He said that he had been in China three years, and that he had not heard from his mother and his father (who was a clergyman?). during that time. One does not often meet a world tramp out here, but that is what he seemed to be.

The same day I had a call from Mr. Coulter (San Mateo Prison). Ellison went along and called on his wife and took them both to the beach with the children, while I went off for a swim and picnic supper on Double Island with Kakehik folks and the sailors. I really have enjoyed those swims.

Ellison has gained four pounds.  
Hoosay! He weighs 165.

Military operations are going on as usual, but we do not know much about them. Ang Tse-Lin will

about 400 men (He was formerly governor  
of this district) drove out Khou Shou  
Ti who had about 4000. There was no  
fighting except a few stray shots of  
against those who was slow in getting  
away. General Hsu is said to be an  
opium fiend. Gambling has started  
again openly on the streets.

As I sit here at my desk, I get a  
very good view of the <sup>main</sup> streets along the water  
front. Rickshaws with their tinkling  
bells (something like sleigh bells) are  
constantly passing. Coolies carrying  
water or other things are constantly  
passing too.

A few minutes later - the advance  
guard of a new army has passed since  
I last wrote, and they are glad to find  
a place to settle in for the night.  
I have seen them carrying <sup>boards</sup> ~~boards~~  
to use as beds. Goodness knows  
where they stole them.

The children are on the roof of the veranda with the nurse.  
I had just taken them a bowl of fruit juice and crackers.

I have Mother's letters of April 16 and 24 which are much appreciated. I was glad to hear of the baptisms.

Congratulate Daddy on his reelection at the Bank. This is the 37<sup>th</sup> year, is it? A long and good service faithfully done.

Tom has a new enclosed car, has he? Isn't that good! I am so glad!

I don't understand at all about Ralph Nordstrom's death. Was he a deserter from the army? Was he imprisoned? Was he shot while trying to escape? If so, why was anyone to blame?

Mr. Harvey has certainly done a lot for the church, and we ought to be very grateful. Will you give the dollar Mrs. Eldredge gave you <sup>for letters</sup> for something, Mother, at the church or something else needy? Perhaps Marion needs it more than anybody - use it just as you see fit.

Did I send film of pictures taken in Holyoke during party to Aunt Lett?

Aunt Fan wants copies of herself driving John, and the groups taken on Mt. Holyoke. He hasn't any films here, and I can't remember whether I have them at Chas. change or not.

Do Mrs. Richardson at home for any length of time? How are Elsie, Henry, and Marie?

How interesting to see the history of the Pickering house. So Dad has sold it again, and the Bear Skin Neck property, too. Good for him!

You will miss Iacobi in the church, won't you? She certainly is energetic!

I feel pretty well. I am thin, but very much better than I was.

I am anxious to hear what you think of the pictures Mr. Adams took!

Now it is 5:15 P.M. It threatened to rain & sprinkle, and so we did not take the children to the beach as we had planned. I am delighted to get a few minutes to write.

Love to Uncle Charlie, Ella and Frank, etc.

Lett's

Hope sleep is better.  
No desire to visit.

Received -  
Haven't  
a copy  
of  
pictures  
sent  
to  
me

Sept. 8, 1922.

Dear Folks,  
Is Aunt Lela in Birmingham, and is Ruth teaching again? The last I heard, Ruth was starting on that Maine trip, and I know that she must have had a lovely time. How did all the birthdays go? Has Mrs. Page got went on the things for Marion and Ruth I wonder? Hear that the duty on drawn work is to be 90%. Isn't that awful!

I have been pleased to get the home letters. It was a tragic story across the street, wasn't it? I certainly rather hear, than to have it just come out in allusions in letters. Then Aunt Lela always knows how to tell a thing in such a way that it shocks one as little as possible.

Well, folks, I am on a steamer going north to Shanghai. And how did it all come about.

Well, there was to be a noted gynecologist (woman's doctor) from U.S.A, in Peking this month of September, and, altho I did not need to go at once, some dealer

thought that I ought not to lose this opportunity to get the best advice, and treatment (possibly an operation) while this man <sup>(Dr. Dudley)</sup> was in the country.

Word came to me in August about him, but I decided that I just couldn't go so far and leave the children and Ellison. However, we let Dr. Everham write up to find, if I could be received and attended to, even if I did come. They telegraphed back "Bring patient to Missionary rates." Now this answer which we had thought would be negative, and which we had feared would be very late on account of the typhoon, came very promptly, so that it would give me time to go back to Cheochowfu, pack up, go to Swatow etc. - and get on the boat with our American children who were going to Shanghai to school for the winter, and to arrive in Peking while the specialist was there, and also while two of our doctors (Dr. Marguerite Everham, and Dr. C. B. Lester) were



Read me that Holgate was this  
letter. It isn't a very good one.  
Old Mother and Daddy,

Peking Union Medical College,  
Peking, China  
Sept. 16, 1922.  
Return please sometime  
to 63 Lane.

You, doubtless, saw my letter from Shanghai telling you  
of my unexpected trip here. Well, I came straight along on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>,  
because Mr. and Mrs. Hardy were coming then, and I could come along. As it  
was a trip of two days and a night in strange country under strange conditions,  
I was very glad to come with folks whom Mrs. Hardy knew, and whom I knew  
the friends. The train from Shanghai to Peking is a very good one for  
China, but one has to stop at Nanking, go across a ferry, and  
get on another train, and some trains have to stop at Tientsin,  
thus necessitating another change and I felt rather queer. The  
trains are English built with compartments for four people going across  
the car. I went 2<sup>nd</sup> class which is not luxurious, but comfortable  
except as to toilet and washing arrangements, and those are very bad.  
I came straight to the hospital as you will find thru Ellison's letter,  
and yesterday the doctors relieved us by saying that they could  
give me radium treatment instead of an operation. This is the  
plan. I am to stay around, in bed a good part of the time for a week, but  
allowed to go out for exercise every day and then on my birthday Sept.  
26, I celebrate by having the use of 50 milligrams of radium  
(worth \$3000) under ether. Well, I am mighty thankful to  
escape worse. I have merely a small fibroid tumor and they are  
getting it while it is young!

In the meantime I am away from my family and miss  
them very much. I try not to worry about the children, but I  
know it must be hard on Mrs. Baker. I have not yet been able  
to receive any mail since I left, but I expect some soon.

Streets are very wide<sup>2</sup>, and there are many trees -  
I suppose perhaps that streets are not wide in the Chinese City, but  
in its royal parts they are.

Peking is a most interesting city. I wish I could see it thoroughly, but  
I probably shall get only a few glimpses. Altho I am right in the center  
of political happenings, I hear less than I did in the South.

How the cool was! The first night I arrived my room was 80° and  
it was only 78° in am, and I was disappointed to have come 1200 miles more  
or less and find only six or eight degrees difference. But each day  
since, it has been about ten degrees cooler so that this morning it  
was about 64°; and I was joyous. Now they have gone and put on the  
steam heat and it is warm, even tho I have turned it off, and put up  
the window!!! I am enjoying all the comforts of the best  
hospital at home. I am sitting in a Morris chair writing by the  
light of a shaded electric light. Then I have enjoyed  
the change in food very much. We have had fresh fruits - real  
pears, apples, peaches, plums etc. They are delicious.

Dr. Everham took me to church this morning at the British  
Legation. It was an Episcopal service, but the preacher was  
extremely interesting in a fifteen or twenty minute talk.

While we were out, we got glimpses of the Forbidden  
City with its yellow (imperial color) roofs. It is surrounded  
by massive yellow topped walls and formerly when the  
Manchus ruled, no one was allowed to enter. Even now  
the Prince lives there, they say, and men bow to him every  
day! But the wall of the Forbidden City is nothing in size  
to the great walls which surround the City - 60 feet broad at  
base and 40 feet at the top and fifty feet high. They are  
the greatest walls I have ever seen!

Climate is very dry!

3.

I'm coming to Peking from Shanghai, we crossed the Yangtze and the Hoang ho or yellow river. The Yangtze was muddy, but the yellow river was the dirtiest, muddiest, chocolate colored river (and not very wide at that) I've never seen. (When in flood it is miles and miles wide.)

People in the North (Chinese) are taller and of bigger physique than those in the South. A coolie with a pigtail pulled my rickshaw home, <sup>the morning</sup> he was in rags too! Poor man! That is why I took his rickshaw. One pays ten <sup>Chinese</sup> pennies for riding a mile or so. The rickshaws are very comfortable because they have springs and <sup>the wheels</sup> are rubber tired. Great improvement over Swatow rickshaws.

I wish you people could see all that I am seeing. I went to a flower and fruit bazaar on Thursday, and that was very beautiful and fragrant and picturesque.

This Rockefeller Hospital is a wonderful institution and will save many lives to China. Beautiful rugs are made here of camel's hair, but I have not yet seen a camel.

As I listened to the music yesterday, it was interrupted by the squeakiness - squeak of big wheelbarrows (which take the place of our express wagons at home). by street cries, by automobiles and the muffled pat, pat, pat of rickshaw coolies running along.

I saw a ~~few~~ <sup>two</sup> wheeled wagons, some uncovered, and some covered with a cover like our ancient prairie wagons.



I ~~saw~~ men riding on little broncos or donkeys - burros. I don't know what to call the cunning things. There are horses - and horse-drawn carriages, but the horses at the larger than the southern horses, are not very large, and ~~not~~ <sup>now</sup> that I have seen are big.

Good night to every dear one of you. I love you lots. I hope that you are all well. Take good care of yourselves.

Lottie

American Board Cpl  
Peking December 16, 1922

Dear Dad.

It was good of you to send Marion's nice long letter to me, and I am sending it back promptly to show how much I appreciate it. It is 6:20 on Sunday evening, and I suppose that the day is just beginning with you in U.S.A. Here it is windy just now. You never saw anything like Peking dust. If the wind blows, and it frequently does, the sky is clouded by it, and in a real dust storm, even when the windows are shut tight, the dust blows in, in gusts that you can see. When I came in from a short trip yesterday there was black dust on my eyelids, and in the corners of my eyes, and a great black streak down one side of my nose, where my eye had watered and caught all the dust!!! So much for dust! Oh - one doctor says that one should use an antiseptic eye wash every day, if one wants to keep one's eye in good condition - free from dust germs!

I hope you and Mother will have a lovely anniversary. I am going to send you a book which I think you will enjoy. My very warm regards.

Yesterday I saw Chinese making  
Cloisonne. Do you know what it  
is like? A design in fine brass wire  
is made on a thin brass vase or bowl  
or napkin ring, or salt cellar. Then  
crushed rock I think is beaten in and color  
is added. Maybe there is a green dragon  
on a dark background. Then the whole thing  
is filed smooth and polished so that the  
wire glistens in the design.



The wire is just on  
almost as fine as I  
show it in this drawing.

It is delicate and skilled work.

I went to another shop where they  
make beautiful electric light and  
lamp shades and lanterns to hold  
candles. The design is painted on  
silk which is stretched over a black  
wood frame. One design was a line  
of camels going along a road in sight  
of the great wall of China, or the great  
wall of Peking. The camels and  
wall were painted in black on an  
orange silk background. They were

very beautiful.

This morning, I went to church at the auditorium of the Hospital - and beside me sat a Russian girl who knew so little English that she found difficulty in finding the hymn in the hymn-book. I think she was a Russian refugee. I got her name and address but do not know whether I shall see her again or not.

Your letter was mailed to me on the day of my operation. You would have been interested to know when you mailed it, wouldn't you?

I have a comfortable room here with electric lights and steam heat - but my? wouldn't I love to be home when I have to be away from the kiddies and Ellen at any rate. I wish it did not cost so much! I hoped at one time that I could go back to Sweden for the winter months, but the doctor

think that it would be too crowded and that  
it would make myself too busy or too worried  
or something.

Well, I have made up my mind to make  
the best of it. I shall learn all I can of  
mission work of the and visit the Y. W. C.  
and the Salvation Army - and have some  
important dental work done, and read  
and write, and play piano, and help busy  
people, and this time will be gone  
before I know it - and half the things  
I planned will be undone, I fear.

Walked home from church this A. M.  
and walked to Yonkers College to visit  
<sup>Chinese</sup> girls from Swatow and back  
again this P. M.

The day when your letter came, I had  
ten letters. Wasn't that nice? We  
get our letters in lamps here. One  
day we have a great many and  
then may be there are only two or three  
for ten days or two weeks again.

Hope you'll have happy Xmas and New Year  
and send lots of love.

Sottie.

RECEIVED

JAN 15 1904

MISS IS AN UNCOMMON NAME

Dear Dad, I'll send this letter to  
you, so it has the card for Miss  
Day in it.

Thank you lots for newspapers, and  
little enclosures in letters. I am always  
so glad to hear.

Wish you could visit Pitkin for  
a month or two, and ride in a  
rickshaw!

Very much love to you, dear Daddy,  
Wish I could see you often.

Jan 3, 1928

Lottie.

1. Peking, 2. Peking, 3. C.P.S.

The Chinese treatment of him is quite different from the Russian treatment of the former Gen. Some of them are copied off.

The most interesting trip this week has been a visit to the Forbidden City, Peking. It is a series of yellow tiled roofed buildings covering a large space, separated by paved court yards, and surrounded by a high thick wall. It was formerly the winter palace. Even now in <sup>the</sup> corner of it where guards prevent anyone from entering, lives the Manchu prince and his household. He still has a good deal of social position, and there is much pomp and ceremony.

The Chinese treatment of him is quite different from the Russian treatment of the former Gen.

The whole spacious area is arranged with a view to avoid any crowding such as one sees in a Chinese city for instance. Curved marble bridges cover a narrow stream of water - There are three together instead of one broad one. Three pairs of carved marble stairs (I guess only the central one is marble - but the side pieces are all a soft sparkling white or creamy marble such as I have never seen in U. S. A.) lead to a terrace paved with stone. Two more sets of carved stairs with carved pillars between them lead to two other terraces and then above that is a huge building - about 80-90 feet high inside - called the throne room. Thick big pillars support a roof magnificently painted in soft colors green, blue, gold - etc. The pillars themselves are mostly dull red, except for the few around the raised throne which seem to be covered with gold lacquer.

A wonderful carved screen in dark wood is placed

behind the throne.

I must not go into much detail, or I'll never get this. This room must be more than a hundred feet long and scattered around it are very precious bits of furniture

~~carved~~ <sup>carved</sup> ~~wooden~~ <sup>wooden</sup> ~~benches~~ <sup>benches</sup> ~~on or twelve feet high~~ - even the brass hinges on it about ten inches high are carved - beautiful dark wood.

Carved jade - (jade is very hard) screens and chairs.

Rich gold <sup>Blackwood</sup> ~~lacquer~~ <sup>bed</sup>.

Bearhorn chairs.

Chairs and sets of bells and ornaments.

Long panels with paintings of emperors and empresses.

Printed glass and silk screens.

The furniture is worth about \$30,000,000.00 at least.

Then we passed over <sup>part</sup> court yards now by feet for

thousands of years. - to several buildings which

now form a museum of things <sup>mostly</sup> collected by Yuan

Shih Kai. Right amidst these wonderful examples

of Chinese art are four large pieces of Gobelin

tapestry presented to the Chinese emperor by Louis

XIII of France. They are wonderful things. One workshop

is kept busy a year making a yard and a half. The colors

are beautiful and from a distance the thing looks like a

fainting. Even near by the faces of the figures are not

grotesque. It is perfectly wonderful that they can

mean the human face in cloth. They even put in shadows.

The paintings were much better than I have  
ever seen before, and I came away with a higher  
respect for Chinese art, and industry, and  
skill than I have ever had before.

On the terrace approaching the throne room  
were large bronze turtles, storks, horses, two  
of each. There was a marble sundial on  
a <sup>carved</sup> carved marble stand. Brass urns from  
four to six feet high were all around  
in almost every corner, and on each side  
of this big hall were huge brass urns so  
big that I could barely look over the top when  
I pulled myself up.

I wish you could all see it.

217 East Cliff, Pictou, Chikli Town.

June 14, 1924.

Dear One,

I rather feel as if I had neglected you recently. I always become confused when I move, and time passes far more swiftly than I realize.

Now this week we have arrived at Pictou, and are fairly well settled - altho it took longer than usual because my baggage did not arrive for two days.

We are charmed with the place and I cannot tell you how grateful I am for such a wonderful summer in the north, in a well-kept cottage with <sup>out</sup> sight of the sea and mountains. As I write I hear the waves lapping the beach. I am so glad for the children to know what a nice beach, and shells and <sup>and</sup> sea bathing are!!

Oh, it is wonderful!

I believe I have sent you pictures showing our room with a cross. The head of the house is the big veranda. One end is 12 x 17 feet and altho it is common to the whole house we get the most use of it.

The long twilight of the north are a joy too. I am so hoping that Aunt Lida will come soon enough to see and enjoy this lovely spot.

There is a beautiful safe beach for the children to play with quantities of shells, and when the tide goes down, one can find many kinds of shell fish moving around. One has to walk a long distance in order to get a place deep enough to swim. John is very anxious to learn to swim. Alice is a little more timid. John buried a shell the other day and said, "You know will be a big tree covered with shells."

There are rocks for them to climb over too, and there is another beach near by where there is real deep water for swimming. There are many cottages near by but I think they are not too crowded for comfort. Soon there will be hundreds of Americans and British here, as well as some of other nationalities. I find that Mrs Parvathuker is of Swiss parentage - and her husband must be of German origin, but one would never know it. They are both very nice indeed. We are having very good food with plenty of strawberries. I know that you will be glad for that.

We left Tientsin Tuesday about 5:15 and at Peking were  
helped by Mr. Burgess a former school mate (Union) & Ellison. He made  
it very easy for us and other friends met us at this end. He went on  
the night train, and so did not mind the long train journey at all - in fact it  
was quite luxurious travelling in a little room with two berths and a seat  
and table (folding against wall) and a little toilet or wash room in corner. I never  
had such a nice place in China before, and never in U.S.A. except once  
when we had a state room.

Everybody was very nice to us at Tientsin, and we were really  
sorry to leave the nice friends we have made there. My class of  
Chinese boys came (or a large number of them) to see us off at the  
station.

I wish I could make this scene more vivid to you so that  
you could picture us. Imagine we had a bungalow at South end  
near the beach and about three hundred yards from shore but still  
with a broad expanse of water visible - and mountains, lots in the  
distance on our side.

We had lovely birds at Tanshaion, but there are few trees here. The wild flowers, however, are lovely - yellow lilies wild in the grass, and red Cerastiums(?) and a pretty white flower!

There will be a kindergarten for the children later. You will see by the snapshots I sent how the children are growing. John seems only about six inches from my shoulder. He weighs 49 and Alice 38 lbs. She, too, is getting to be almost as tall as John. They are great companions, altho, she enjoys children of her own age, as John does, too.

We are having goats' milk to drink and that is very good for them. I could not tell it from cow's milk.

On this end of the verandah we have 4 benches, a straw rug, a long steamer chair, a canoe chair, two rattan chairs, a deck chair, and two tables, a waste basket - and my suit cases with writing material in them.

The big arches have a sill about two feet from the ground, and that is a convenient place for the children to put their hats, or shells, or pebbles, or play things.

My mouse is very happy here, because she can get fresh fish & shell fish! She & John & Alice catch fresh crabs every day, and eat them - little live ones. We all like them, but there is very little meat to them.

The nurse etc. see. used, too. It is good!

I am so sorry to hear that Marion has had the rheumatism or sciatica - one is so painful as the other. I learned this in the mail I found waiting for me when it arrived. I was so glad to get it! The parcel from Ruth (correct) was here too.

I am troubled that Aunt Celia should have so much trouble with teeth and small pox vaccination. I hate to think of her suffering with them. I wish I knew what she needed but it seems foolish to send things when duty will have to be paid on them and I can have them waiting here.

How is Della? I got to write her and expect I shall get to it now.

I was much interested in Arthur's desire to come to China. I wish she could come with Aunt Celia on a three year contract. Wouldn't that be wonderful!

Wouldn't it be lovely, too, if Ruth or could go to France? I hope someone will stay at home and help Della too, for she ought to have a complete rest and change for a little while.

I wish I could see Ruth's kitchen, and shall be interested in the score.

Who is Margaret Lamson Selano, Ruth?

Thank you, Mother dear for your letter of Mayd.  
I think I shall have some more clothes to send  
Inga before the summer is over, but I can't  
be sure yet. Weather changes so fast. After  
John has worn his things out pretty well.  
Alice has much more than John.

Hope Dad's cough has gone? Does he  
enjoy the "Vic" as much as ever? It  
was nice to have Marion home. Hope her  
rheumatism will not hang on.

Sorry about Mrs. Currie. She was always  
so kind and dear! I liked her.

Did I tell Mrs. Elledge that the  
P.O. refused to let me send those  
~~handkerchiefs~~ except by  
letter post. I hope she received them  
all right and that the duty was O.K.

I don't need to spend nearly as much  
time looking out for children as formerly.  
They amuse themselves a good deal and  
are learning not to quarrel. They  
love the beach!

Very much love to the dearest  
Mother and Daddy in the world. Wish  
I could see you too. Lottie.

Ruby  
Dear Cousin,  
Tunghian, June 7, 1927.

I am all excited to hear Aunt Celia's plans more definitely.

June 9.

We are nearly packed up, boys, but there has been little time to write, these last days.

The Commencement Exercises at the D. C. G. S. were very interesting, some lovely plays, a good concert, an interesting speech, a tea etc.

Final exams in my class and averages and marks have taken a little time.

Then both Alice and John have had fever - nothing serious - We think Alice had the three day fever which may come from the bite of the sand flea and it was followed by a very severe cold - the first one since they came. Then John came down with sore throat and fever, and now has a severe cold, but not so

bad as Alice's. I rather hate to have them start on a journey with colds. The weather which has been very hot - up to 97° in the shade became cooler on Sunday when rain came for the second time this spring. This country is a dry country.

We shall take the night train <sup>to-morrow</sup> and land at Peitai ho the following morning - a far easier trip than the one to Tsaiyang. Mr. Burgess is going to meet me in Peking and help me with our baggage. The was in Union Sem. at the same time E. was. & Mrs. Burgess has been awfully nice to me.

We have met lots of nice folks and part from them with regret. Mr. & Mrs. Martin who have the big school for Chinese boys have given me a picture of the beautiful

pagoda here at Tanghai, and the Chinese boys  
have had a picture of the class taken with Alice, John  
and me in the centre of it! I was surprised enough.

I am so hoping that Aunt Cole will arrive in time  
to come north, and so see just as much more of this  
wonderful land.

I had a delightful letter from George to day and  
I was glad to hear. I was rather anxious to hear from  
Dad, but since George did not mention him, I trust he  
is long over that attack of grip.

Tell George not to hurry the new York firm, or  
Helen Broad or Unga. <sup>absolutely</sup> It sometimes takes years  
to turn goods - and I should feel very much  
annoyed if he should hurry them. I don't  
care whether he pays me <sup>nothing</sup> <sup>at once</sup> five years from now,

Altho I expect it will be sooner - but surely give them a year to turn the things. Please don't worry about them.

Now please excuse this short scrawl.

I am thinking of you all every day and wishing for you a very happy summer. It will surely not be so happy with Aunt Cella away, but you will all rejoice in our happiness, and I'll try not to keep her too long. Won't it be wonderful when she comes back!

Now much much love again to Mother dear and Daddie dear and each sister and brother. I believe I have sent a gift for Carol's birthday, and I'll think of the others after I get to Peitaike.

Lothi.

217 East Cliff  
Peitcho  
July 1 - 1924.

Dear One All,  
I did not begin this the  
other night, and now it is <sup>so</sup> the night before  
the Fourth - and Mother's good letter  
of June 9 arrived. I was delighted to hear that  
Mother had the nice ~~week~~ <sup>ride</sup> to Stoneham with  
Mrs. Eldredge, and that Aunt Ale could  
go the rounds, visiting Bridgewater,  
Framingham, Stoneham, <sup>Northam?</sup> and Wingham. That  
is very nice. And poor old Miss Curtis is  
gone! They will miss her, but it will soon  
be good that her loneliness and blindness is  
no more. It is nice to hear that Aunt  
Ale looks so much better. I am so happy!  
I had hoped she could get here to spend a  
month <sup>at</sup> Peitcho with us, and come  
on the boat with those three American  
Board girls, but if plans do not work  
out that way, it will surely be  
for a good reason. Maybe there will  
be people on her boat who are coming

to Suatow.

I am delighted that you got to see Carol and Ruth, Mother, on the day you went to see Marion. That was nice!

Th

Sunday, July 6.

I have not meant to be so long writing this letter, but there are lot of interruptions. Men come upon the veranda to sell beads, silks, embroideries, jewelry, cloth, fruit, etc. etc. Boys come around with frog legs, crabs, shrimp etc. Other folks come to call, and so we stop and chat a little while picking up a bit of knitting or some other sewing if it happens to come by.

I had a nice fourth. The folks who are studying (four of them) took a holiday, and the kindergarten had a recess, too, altho I did not find it suit until after John and Alice were dressed and had gone! Alas!

Overpacked my steamer trunk which was full of woolen things, looking for buffalo bags which I found at Tanghaien just as I was packing it to come here.

Luckily I found no more, and so just packed the things  
back with moth balls and hope that the things will keep as dry and  
as well here as they would in damp South China. There has been too  
heavy a chance here and every one has been glad because the willows  
getting low.

We joined with another family over by in a picnic supper which  
I enjoyed on a veranda overlooking the broad Pacific. (Things were  
still wet from the storm). Later I took the children to the fireworks  
which were quite remarkable. Two or three set pieces were more won-  
derful than anything I have seen, and I think that the children will  
remember the good time. We seem to be situated very  
near to tennis, <sup>and</sup> bathing, teacher, church services, kindergarten,  
grocery stores etc. It is fortunate for us.

The children love the kindergarten, and I am so glad that they  
have the opportunity of attending.  
Then the water where we bathe is almost always completely  
warm, and we surely appreciate that, for I expected it  
would be cold at this latitude.

July 2. John waking up from nap  
"If she (Mrs. Nelson) doesn't come, we'll go to  
another place."

Cont July 6.

The children went on a little  
donkey ride yesterday morning. I paid what  
is equivalent for <sup>part</sup> as (Kamer money) and  
they each had a donkey and a man for about  
fifteen minutes. The donkeys walked and  
they looked as proud as could be. Mrs. P.  
took some pictures and if they come out, I'll  
send ~~some~~ <sup>you</sup>.

Letter from E. said that he would start  
about July 14. It will take him nearly a  
week to get here, if not quite - 3 days or 4 on  
boat and ten days and nights on train with  
at least a day in Shanghai where he must  
have his teeth X. rayed. He won't be able  
to arrive for his birthday. I am sorry  
to say, but we shall celebrate after he  
arrives.

Children are having lovely naps in the P.M.  
now, and do not go to bed until about 7:00  
in the evening - but they get more sleep than  
they would otherwise. Love Lottie

4 crops on each

RWB 217 East Cliff  
P.O. Taha  
(Sat) July 13, 1947

Dear Cousin All,

Here it is Wednesday <sup>July 12</sup> and I haven't really started your letter yet. I stopped to write one to Ruth and then did other things. To-day came Aunt Lelei's letter saying that she might come with Mrs. Waters, and I do think that that probably is the simplest and easiest way to get here. Mrs. Waters has been over the road many times. She is thoughtful and interesting, and goes almost to the journey's end. It surely will be fine! She talks a great deal but is usually very interesting. She is inclined to look on the dark side of things at times altho she is not inclined at all to be melancholy, just a little pessimistic, I think. She has two big fellows at school at home. Boys who have already made their mark in scholarship and athletics.

Well, the girls want to go to bed, and I'll say good night to you.

July 12. A very wet day with heavy showers. The country (not here but around Kalgan, Peling, Pastungpa and Tientien) is already flooded, and I do not know what this additional water will do.

We are so happy that Aunt Cels is really coming, and it will be much easier to plan now that we have the definite time to plan for. It is far better to take the Southern route in October and November, I think, as the Northern passage is often very rough at that time. Of course it requires a longer time on the sea, and one gets tired of the rich food - but there are always plenty of oranges and apples. Vegetables will probably be plentiful on an American boat too. The President Lincoln is a wonderful boat and there is every comfort in the state-rooms. It will be a little rough outside of San Francisco, but if Aunt Cels will stay in bed, and have her meals brought to her, she will probably be fairly comfortable. You had to ring for the boy in the morning to bring your fruit, and then he will do it every morning if you ask him to. Mrs. Waters will know all about those little

thing. You will be interested to see Honolulu. It is a lovely spot.

Now I shall have plenty of time to get home and get things settled and get the new servants before Aunt Lele arrives. That <sup>part</sup> will be more comfortable for her than it would have been to go straight down from here with me. I wonder how the teeth are getting on - It is too bad - to have so much to suffer in the way of getting here, teeth, inoculations, vaccinations, bleedings - etc. etc.

I have heard the Mildred Scott Curran's father and mother, are coming out to spend the winter with Mildred, and they might possibly be on the same boat. They come from Chicago. I met Mildred's mother in 1913 - and she was very dear and sweet. It would make a nice party for you.

I am glad you were at Esther's graduation,  
and as glad that Belle could go, too.

It will be fine if Carol and Leila can have a  
house.

Old John rode a donkey to Rocky Point  
yesterday, and Alice rode one in last Saturday  
when we met three girls who had come up  
from Suator. You would love to see the children  
on donkeys. I almost want to take one back  
to Suator with me. It is such fun to ride.  
I rode in on Tuesday morning when  
there was a sale from <sup>Pull</sup> other industrial  
missions. There were linens, embroidered,  
cross stitch, bags, dolls, children's dresses,  
stationery, bath towels, flowers for hats, cards,  
etc. etc. - a great variety and abundance.  
The next day there was a sale of Korean  
cloth and I bought a few remnants to  
have on hand for children's clothes.

It is Ellison's birthday. It is too bad  
he can't be here but we'll try to  
celebrate after he comes. There have  
been typhoons evidently around

Shanghai, and probably farther south as well. They have delayed mails I fear, for I haven't heard anything since a postal written July 3.

Our star class began last Tuesday evening, but it was very cloudy, and only a few stars were out. About a dozen people came to see those stars.

One day this week I went to see an exhibition of the photos illustrating "Things Chinese" as shown in the Newark library in January of this year. I found it very interesting.

On Wednesday mornings there is a most inspiring Bible class.

On the same morning there is a swimming class for children at 11:30 A.M. and on Sat. A.M. there is a story telling hour. Isn't it wonderful to have so many things!

How I wish someone could be here  
to enjoy this with us.

Hope your summer at home will  
neither be too hard nor too hot.

Glad to hear that Carol is coming  
so well.

Much much love,

Letti.

217 East Cliff, Pittsburg, Chesh.

RWB, July 25, 1924.

Dear folks all,

I look at my diary, <sup>just now</sup> and I see that both in 1922, and in 1923, I was feeling mean and ill, but to-day I feel fine and strong, and I am so thankful for it. The children and Elison are also well - and that is another reason for being very thankful.

Then when I think that Aunt Cole is really coming, I can hardly contain my joy. I don't feel as if I ever could, <sup>have</sup> ~~un~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~gether~~ <sup>strongly</sup> to come, for fear that she would be lonely, or that the climate might not agree, but now - that she is really daring to do it, I admire her courage and pluck and I feel a great happiness and joy. I really didn't know how much it would mean, I until I knew the actual plans were assured! I feel as if God has been very very good to us, and as if he has some purpose in it all.

Ellison surprised me last Sunday afternoon,  
I had been looking and looking for his letter, and  
had not received any since <sup>June 29</sup> July 29. except a  
postal on July 3. When Saturday night July 4 came  
and no letter, I was almost in despair for I  
thought that the typhoon had delayed mail and  
him. After church on Sunday about 6:30, I was  
talking with several Baptist girls on the veranda,  
planning a picnic, when the 2 nurses who  
was approaching the house, called out in  
Chinese, "Dio-se" Cai-lian." - Nobody but me,  
understood her, and I jumped headlong over  
the guests, who thought I had suddenly gone  
insane. The children came out and  
Alice jumped up into his arms, and with  
her arms around his neck, kept saying "Daddy,  
Daddy?" It was a pretty sight! John was  
equally glad to see him, but Alice had  
got there first. <sup>she was some up in the other arm.</sup> At present Daddy is by  
far the most popular member of the family  
with Alice at any rate. John who used  
to prefer his Daddy in everything, seems  
to turn to me a little more. It is all very  
interesting.

The weather became good as soon as Ellison came. The boat had a very decent trip considering that typhoons were behind and in front of him.

Monday we went in bathing and he was able to swim on his back which greatly pleased him. The beach is so small that one has no fear of going out of depth, and the water is always comfortable. The next day when we went in at the other beach, he found the <sup>water</sup> (in depth) even more to his liking, and as there were no waves, he found he could not only swim on his back, but with the breast stroke also. He is delighted and is now getting so that he puts his head under without drawing in the whole sea. In a few days I expect he will be taking a side stroke - and we shall all be happy. John loves to go out to his net but altho he has a very good stroke, he does not yet go alone. We have had jelly fish in the water for two days, and they sting. Never never sting in my life in U.S.A.

but here there has been good deal of discomfort for 2 days and everyone complains of it. It will disappear in a little I think.

On Monday afternoon we walked to town, the children riding in a rickshaw (3 miles) and got E's trunk and bag, riding home on dandy, E & Alice on one, & John and me on another.

On Tuesday Mr. Low (formerly of Swatow) called and went in bathing and stayed to lunch with us. Other folks called in P.M. and at 6:00 we started for a Mt. Holyoke picnic, ten girls and five husbands. We had Club sandwiches, and ice cream and cake out under the beautiful <sup>sky</sup> and went off to the Star class from 8:00 to 9:00<sup>P.M.</sup> but came back for the final sing, and it was nice with a dying fire making it just light enough to see around us but not to dim the stars.



Send home  
By next week

Suffield School  
Suffield, Conn.

Jan. 14, 1922.

Received by  
mother  
Jan 19 1922

Dear Aunt Lottie,

I'm ashamed of myself — just as much as I can be. I ought to be hung out on the clothesline in a snowstorm — as penalty for not writing sooner. I've been waiting & waiting, hoping that my graduation picture would be done in time to send you, — as a sort of late Xmas present. But it isn't finished yet! Studio claims they've had too much back work piling up on them, and no time to touch mine. But when it is done you will get one. No tellin when, tho.

never came

It was just ~~too~~ good of you to send me that beautiful ring for Christmas!! You timed the package perfectly, and it arrived on a Saturday — Christmas being the following Monday. Mother told me when she gave it to me. I didn't know anything

about it until we opened our presents Monday morning. Just exactly what I've always wanted - a ring that would fit my finger, and not come off. Yours was perfect! Didn't even have to adjust it, - slipped right over my knuckle - and stayed on. Last year the class ring I bought was too large. And every ring I ever had was either too small to go on, or too loose once it was on - or something about it wrong. But this one is a wonder. It fits comfortably - & stays on. I don't know whether I have it on frontwards or backward - but nobody else will know, either, unless they can read Chinese. It's a dandy, Aunt Lottie. You couldn't have given me anything that would have pleased me more. Everyone admires it; but nobody could like it any more than I do.

Father & mother are both well. Father is busy with his dahlias, and hasn't been troubled with bronchitis this winter. Don't know whether you have ever seen a picture of our house or not - so I'm enclosing a snapshot that I took of it. The big tree in the picture is on our lot. Couldn't get everything in. There are two other big trees about 60 feet to the rear of the house, and the flower gardens are there.

Don't suppose that you have any snow in China. There is about 3 ft. of it on the ground here. Not very cold, though.

I hope this reaches you O.K., as I enclose one of Uncle John's letters - that I ought to have sent you a month or more ago.

Lots of love,

Charlton, Jr.