Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

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Folder label: LLH to Kate and John Hildreth (parents-in-law), from Chaochowfu, Chaoyang, Thaiyong

Dates: 1915-1917

Originals of collection held at:

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Return to
mrs. Jos. H. Crouch
466 Champion St.
Hol. yo. Ohio

Jan. 11, 1915

Dear Mother Wildreth,

So few letters I have written that I am sure you cannot realize how much I appreciate your regular letters; and so slow I have been in getting around to Christmas notes that you will be wondering if things have been received (before you get this word.) The comfortable not only arrived safely and made our Christmas happy, but it was put into immediate use and I do not know how we could have got along without it. We are very grateful for it. There is nothing that I can think of that our house needs more. Then too, it is so pretty. I hope that I can have a pretty blue room some day.

This week, too, came my much-travelled bag, and you may be sure I was delighted. It was very, very dainty and yet so well protected that it will not soil quickly. I certainly am very grateful for it. and the love which is so full in your heart. I know it would please you to know how happy Ellison and I are. I often look back on those worried days before we were married, and wish I had not worried so much. He is so good to me. and we do not enjoy one another less, but more, as the days go by.

I wish I could write more but I have to depend on the long weekly letters to do a great deal of work for me, and I hope they carry the news of our daily doings. Very much love and many thanks for the lovely gifts. Lottie.

Excuse this "Dear Mr. Hilbert" - of the old letter paper. It certainly was a slip of the pen.

Return to Holyoke
Please sign
Bridgewater
Boston.

Chao-Chow-fu China
May 15, 1915.

Dear Mother Hildreth,

Can you believe that May is nearly half-gone! I can just smell the sweet breezes of Massachusetts and see the fresh flowers and ferns and budding trees. How glorious it all is and how we shall appreciate it when we come back to you - we hope in the spring of 1920 - in time for college reunion - It will be Fannie's too, will it not?

Ellison and I are enclosing some little medallions to be used in trimming a dress and hope that you will find pleasure in them at some time. Sorry we could not get them to you at an earlier date -

To-day is a beautiful day here - after days and days of heavy rain which have made the river very full again. The sunset last night was wonderful. We are fortunate to have such beautiful scenery.

I am feeling very much better then for the past six weeks and can now work with a little zest and interest and have been able to eat too, since my return from Chaoyang. It is a blessing I can assure you.

It is a little hard to get materials out here. I am sending to England for materials for a little kimonos, to Lanneau (Annie) for shirts and flannel, and to M. W. & Co for Shaker flannel for bath aprons etc. It will delay the sewing on those things (may not arrive until late Sept. or early Oct.) and I am sorry. Perhaps I shall be able to get some things from Shanghai and Hong Kong. I am most disappointed in the little nighties. I was told that I could get the material (either India flannel or Nun's Veiling, for they must be wool) in Swatow, but I find they are out of everything there. Well - I don't know whether this is interesting to you or not, so I'll pass on to your letters.

Perhaps it would be well for us to give Swatow for our address for everything except letters. All letters really go there too; but there is a Chinese P. O. at Chaochowfu and we send a man there every day.

Glad Aunt Fan is a little stronger and hope the good work will continue.

Fannie's new dresses must be very attractive.

I am sure Fannie could teach Latin with ease.

Thank you for sending shoes. We shall hope to receive them and the flannels too, soon.

Now we still owe you for E's shoes. I think they were 5.50. I will send check - or order on Mr. Butler.

What a cold Easter you had! It snows. It will provide water however.

Are you going to Atlantic City this spring? I wonder. You may be there now even.

Glad Mary's illness was not very long.

Much love to all.

I have had a letter addressed to Helen Taylor for a long time but unwritten as yet. Alec Ellison means to write the Rands to thank them for a pretty calendar - and to write a long general letter to show his appreciation of the many Christmas cards. Opportunity comes slowly.

In a month now we shall hope at last to be making our final preparations for Thaiyong. I shall not keep house until toward the end of the summer.

Love again.

Lottie

Best wishes for a happy Commencement for Jennie. My class will be having its year Reunion at the House on College Street about opposite Rockefeller.

Save

March 18, 1915
Chaochowfu.

Dear, dear Mother Kilbreth,

What I have longed for so long, is finally so nearly assured, that I think it is safe to write you, for I could not wait another minute before writing Mother. The great wonder of parenthood may come to us toward the end of November. It makes me so happy - that I smile

and smile, and smile until I wonder if I shall give away the secret. (It is practically sure now.) By next week I think we can be perfectly sure, so unless I write you to the contrary ~~to it~~ in next letter I think you may be absolutely sure.

Perhaps it would be best not to tell the family until the next letter, but do just as you think best about it.

I simply could not help

3

quiet another minute considering the distance between us.

I have (2 pieces?) some thin white cloth and a few other things which I am mighty glad I could bring out with me.

It is too bad that so much time must elapse before we can interchange our happy thoughts-

Sudden thought & connected with better.

If for any reason it should be necessary to cable at any time it would be better by far (as you probably already know)

to telegraph the board at Boston as they have a code.)

We have enjoyed letters from you and Jennie.

Very much love to you,
Lottie.

Please don't tell outside till June
~~Summer-time~~ unless some special reason - L

Chaoyang, China
May 3, 1915.

Dear Mother Hilduth,

So many good letters have come lately that I must write at least a little especially as I have more time since we are visiting and I feel much better than when at home. I am enclosing sheet that I wrote April 19 to enclose in E's letter, but I found that he had already sent it - and none has gone since then I fear. Most of the things I say are of no account now, on account of later information.

Did you know that the Miss Lindsey of Burma whom you mentioned is a friend of Miss Traver's and was at Swatow visiting her for several weeks on her way home? It was soon after we came to China I think. We found her very pleasant indeed.

"The Death of Dom. Work" at college must have been most entertaining - So glad Fannie accompanied.

It seems like news from another world to hear of your varied life with its concerts, miss'y meetings, conferences, visits, clubs, plays etc. Too much of it is tiresome I know, but I imagine we shall be glad to get a little - especially the music - in that wonderful time when we come home. It was awfully hard to stay here and see the Bakers leave for HOME. We just wanted to pick up and come - just for the summer - but it is such an expense - it makes one shiver to think of it.

We thought of you, Fannie, on the day of your recital and wished much that we could hear it too. Do send us the program. And we are so anxious to hear about the school.

I am so sorry that Miss Mignon Talbot had to suffer with gallstones - It is such a painful disease!

What was the story of Mr. Hewitt and the chocolates, Fannie?

Most of the houses have living rooms up-stairs to avoid dampness. The Page bungalow was really built that way altho the lowest floor was only six feet high and could not be used for anything.— not even for storing things.

The worst of this nice new house is that it has no sewing room and also no room for a nurse, — of course not needed yet.

We are so glad you have met Mrs. Smith. Do you suppose it would be too much trouble to tell the Rockport folks about it this summer— I suppose you are planning the Laurel Park and Gloucester summer as usual.

I have enjoyed Rook a good deal since I have been feeling rather miserable — I would often pick it up for a game of Solitaire — for a change, and quite often E — and I would have a game just before bed time.

I have sent you a snap of E and I on the steps of Lewis house at Lingling, have I not? If I have not, please let me know, for I surely intended to.

E did not have on my bracelet watch, but a little Ingersoll which he bought 2nd hand from Dr. Scott when she went home. He was much pleased with it — but lately one day when he was going to the station, it disappeared. The strap must have come unfastened or broken. Well, we suppose that some Chinese person is very happy in having found it. My wrist watch is at home now having a new crystal and being repaired. I tell the home folks not to send it out now as I do not need it.

It is so nice of you to try to get the Griffiths for me. I know it is a great deal of bother, but I shall appreciate it very much if I have something comfortable to wear this summer in that hot weather.

The flannels have not arrived yet, but may be in Swatow when we go back this week.

Now for the Easter gift. I feel that it is altogether too much for you to do, but it is just like you to want to do so much for us. And I shall not only accept with loving thanks, but shall wear them with a warm feeling round my heart in addition to their own warmth. But you really must not do such a thing again or I shall be afraid to ask you to buy things for us, and then it would be hard, for we are so dependent on our home friends for such things. So let me thank you again for the dear thought.

So sorry Aunt Fan had to be sick with such a severe cold.

Quite a clever way to make money for Miss'g Society.

I see by my diary that it is time for us to be thinking of your wedding anniversary. I am sorry that I did not notice it before I came away because I cannot do anything here, but send our heartiest congratulations and hope that the day will be full of happiness and good cheer. We do hope that with all our hearts, and shall think of you when the day comes. We shall probably be preparing for it then.

I send my best wishes for a happy wedding day too and wish I could be with you.

The Mandarin coat I spoke of was only of linen and the linen was faded. It cost less than 1.00 gold.

We stay here until Tuesday then stay with Mrs. Lesher until Friday when we shall go to Scranton for E's exam and the tailor. There we shall stay with Mrs. Morley.

Heaps of love to each and every one.
Lottie.

Hope Northampton folks are all well. We think of them oftener than we speak.

May 26, 1915.

Dear Mother Hildreth,

The underwear finally has arrived safely; sorry you had so much bother with it. I am very grateful for it. Mine fits perfectly, and will work in very nicely as a light weight suit between the heavy ones which I ordered from M.W. and Co., and the light summer ones which I have. So that I think it is just right. I like the half sleeves and knee length too.

The lower part of E's seem to be skin tight and I suppose they have not been shrunk, but we think we may be able to piece them out if they get too small. He is quite a little larger than when he left home. He weighs 202 now. Isn't that good!

We send much love to you all and hope for a pleasant restful summer for you. The (my) shoes have not yet come

Wish we could be at Fannie's Commencement.

Love to each one

Lettie

Thaiyong- Aug 2-1915

Dear Ones,

I just must put a wee note in Ellison's when I hear even of the bare possibility of your coming to China!!! Such joy it would be! We'll try not to count on it so much that we should be bitterly disappointed if you did not come, but each day we think of it and think how glad we should be to see you and have you see our home and family? I hope. It is all right to plan definitely isn't it?-

What time of year would you like best and could you stay a nice long time, and would Fannie and Aunt Fan possibly come, too? Now - I'll not take it granted, but it is such fun to plan! - Do write us more.

We are glad the house is rented provided the neighbors are satisfactory, and hope they will be so.

It was ever so nice to hear of the festivities at college. It brings 1905 back very vividly indeed. The house party, too, must have been such fun! So glad Helen Taylor could go too, and sorry that "Kay" could not get over.

Is there any news of Marjorie?

I believe that we have not sent money for Ellison's grippers unless you will take that out of his dividend money. Perhaps that would be the simplest way.

I am quite well. Have had a little indigestion in the form of heartburn this last week, but Dr. Mildred gave me a remedy yesterday.

E. is very well, stout and strong and happy. Love to all,

Lottie.

Holyoke.

Sunday, Sept 26-1915

Fannie

[Return to Holyoke]

Dear Mother Hildreth and all whoever

so good as to put anything into that lovely package for baby! I have been looking for the package all the week " " " " " " " from Wednesday until yesterday. That needs a little explanation of why we were not in Swatow to get it ourselves. The last ten days that we were in Thaiyong Mrs. James was with us, and as she talked of the ease with which she was going to make the journey home, coming from Kityang to ~~the~~ within six miles of the city on the same boat on which we left ~~Swatow~~ Wukingfu, we became persuaded that we were foolish to take the hard trip by way of Swatow. So allowing the cook to come by way of Swatow to do our errands etc., we came on by boat to a little place called Pu Kng where we had a chair ride of six miles to the Presbyterian mission where we were taken in by kind friends, for a refreshing bath; a good dinner and a little rest before we crossed the river to our own place.

But I am anxious to say that when the cook came yesterday afternoon he brought E's shoes, (of which he was sadly in need) and that lovely package for which I am so grateful - the two beautiful dresses, the lovely warm coat, the nice nighties that your own hands have worked on, the warm little jacket from Fannie - and the piece of embroidery that

will be carefully treasured and most certainly used. Ellison was almost as much interested as I was, and that is saying a good deal! In fact he has not shown so much eagerness to see any other things. It was very good of you to do so much and the things will all be things that will be of use. May I thank Aunt Fan and Fannie too, for their kindness and interest. I know how you are looking forward with eagerness and anxiety for the actual event. I am still hoping that we can send a cable to Boston, for I think it would be so much satisfaction to you all. If we send - the cable will not be dated probably, but it will reach Boston on the same day, that it is sent I think.

I am having such a pleasant quiet birthday altho the package they have sent from home (in plenty of time too) has not yet reached me. Ellison surprised me with a pretty pen rack and a Chinese image at breakfast time, and has just been trying in every possible way to make the day perfectly happy. We hope to get out the violin this evening after its long summer rest.

We found the weather very hot after leaving Thaiyong, until yesterday when the north wind brought us a shower and comfort. We really could feel the need of a sheet over us last night and that is the first time we have wanted one since we returned.

I send very much love - and oh - so much gratitude for the dear love in the package. Lottie.

Wasn't it nice that your package arrived just in time for my birthday!

H. Clyde.

Return to Hoefoke

Chaochowfu

Feb. 18, 1916

Dear Ones,

It is so seldom that I find time to write that I am going to sit right down and answer one or two questions in this letter – because I don't see any hope of finding time to go thro the file of letters since last November – and answering everything as I had intended. I have not yet gone thro the family file – and there is one other beside and I do want to do it so much! But I'll make sure of this at any rate. One thing after another comes to interrupt – the last thing is this malaria which I am so sorry to have because it makes it just so much longer for me to get full strength back. I have been up and around to-day except for a long nap in P.M. – but of course cannot do much yet.

We were so glad to get picture of Father. As I lay sick in bed I was enjoying all the pictures around the room but missed your and Father's for Ellison keeps them in his study. Now we can have one in the bedroom too. It is a very good picture, too, we think.

(Aunt Jane's good letter came to-day too – it always brings a bit of her personality with it – a great gift in writing.)

Of things you mention as received: choco, magazines, checks, the package containing cap, tortes, and, Hdkf in case, needles, collar etc. The box of films has not arrived altho the photo has. Ellwill write of photo – a gift we much appreciate.

The diphtheria patient recovered altho he had tonsilitis badly afterward – but recovered from that, too.

Our boy A Pu left. We hired him again on our return here – but dismissed him after a week or so – not satisfactory.

Yes we ate the Grosbecks' big goose - a nice one.

We think of you daily and hope that you are well and happy. We enjoy the letters.

It is hard for us to decide about summer, ~~for~~ altho we have already written to Mohansic in north for a room. I may have to go to Canton to have teeth repaired as they are aching and I have five or six places needing attention. I hate to think of it.

Pleasant to hear of Fannie's vacation.

Very much love

Lottie.

Many thanks for all the things you sent, and especially for the shoes. I was just wishing I had ordered some. I hope you won't think it impolite if I send back the high shoes and ask if they can be exchanged for low ones. I guess I have never mentioned that the foot ailment that so many of our missionaries have seems to be caused (in me at least) almost exclusively by wearing high shoes. And the pair that I have already, I expect to last indefinitely as I only wear them very very occasionally. So if you will exchange the new high shoes you sent me, for low ones, I shall be very thankful. Please send 11 E. I think these are 11 D's.

I'm sorry I can't write more, but Lottie has decided to go to Canton to the dentist, and we are very busy getting ready. I have enough of my own affairs too (aside from helping Lottie) to take up about twice as much time as I have.

Hoping you're the same

Your loving son

Elwin

send only to J. H.

Chao chou fu
April 9-1916.

Dear Mother Aldrich,

Your good letter of last week was much appreciated. Ellison and I are so interested in your plans. Do write more questions, for it grows increasingly difficult for us to distinguish what is important and new to you, when everything has become matter of course and ordinary to us. I'll write about clothes on another page.

Thank you for what you said about the machines. I have used my foot-power machine so much lately that I am inclined to feel that I should hardly want to sell it. Then too, it is working much more satisfactorily then it used to, thanks to the loosening of a screw. I ~~think~~ haven't decided definitely what to do yet, altho I have several plans in mind any one of which would be nice.

Miss Culley took the Thai yong photo and I think that the Japanese photographer developed and printed them.

About seasons.

Excessive heat usually breaks about Sept. 15 - (this year it was later tho - Oct. 15); from Sept 15 until Nov. 15 it is warm but nights are cooler and days gradually much more comfortable. From Nov. 15 on to Apr 15 - one expects fairly cold weather so that a fire is desirable in the house - but there are warm days now & then. One is cold in the houses usually because the rooms are so big and heating inadequate. - The floors especially are cold

From January 15 on one expects damp weather and by March spells of from ten to twenty days of rain and fog. As the heat grows more intense there is less rain but the dampness is intense and in those hot June days is hard to bear. Some years are much more sunny than others. By the summer time there is little rain except in typhoons.

There is no spring such as we have at home. The trees usually put forth new leaves but the old leaves do not turn color as a rule and do not fall until new leaves are fully developed I think.

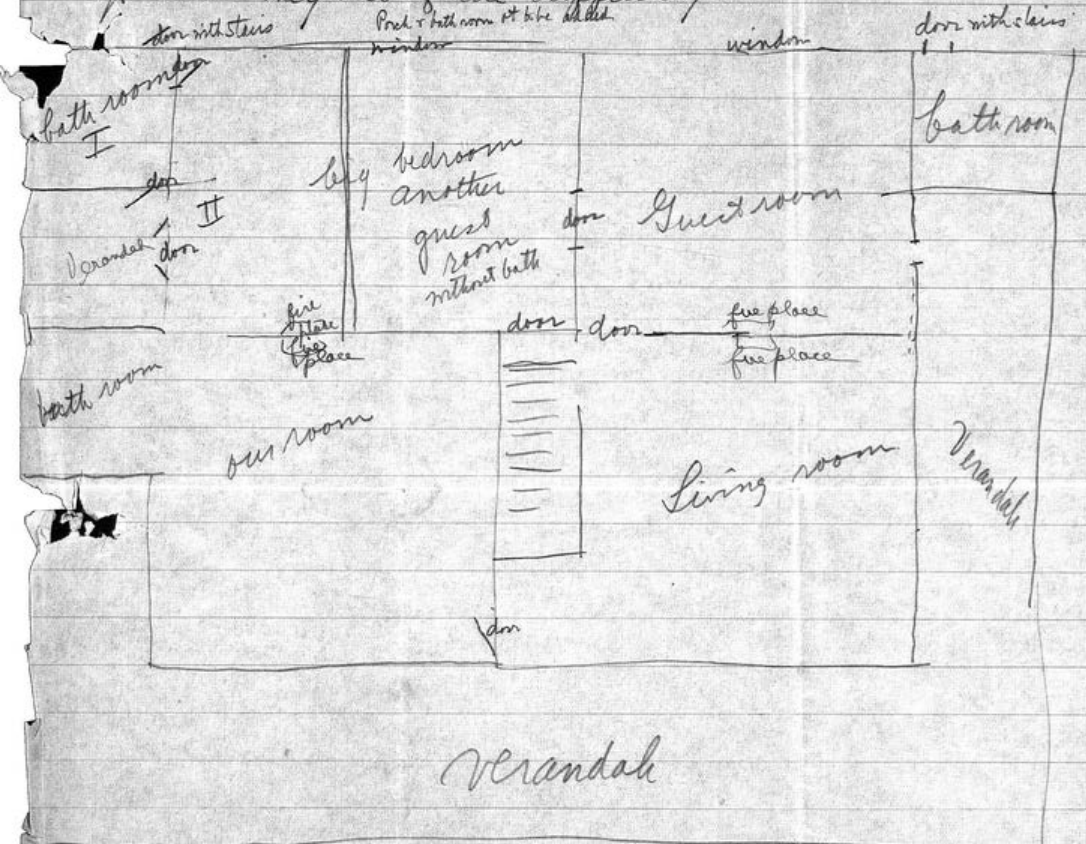
People do not seem to fear the Pacific and come at any time during the year.

Mosquitoes are bad all the year but worst in hot weather. We are hoping and hoping to be able to get a big lot of fine copper screening and have at least our bedroom screened to make one haven of refuge - and perhaps we can get more some day. The Leshers and Lewises have their whole houses screened and it is the biggest blessing imaginable.

Our house at present has two extra bedrooms so that we could take in four people if they would sleep together - oh - I forgot we could put up a cot too. If we are ever blessed in having a child, we hope to use one bath-room for a nurse's room and partition off the big bedroom so that it would leave a nursery and sewing room combined. That would mean we would lack a bathroom for one

I Proposed nurse's room
II Proposed nursery

of the guest bedrooms - but we probably could think up some way out of the difficulty.



We certainly could make arrangements for four. Bedding might be a little scant in coldest weather, but we shall buy more as soon as we get opportunity.

I want to answer a few of your questions about clothing. It is a little difficult to think and speak clearly, for individual feelings and tastes differ so. Then when one is here for the first winter one does not mind the cold so much as ~~at first~~ afterwards. Of course you know what you would want for the boat – at least one dressy gown, and beside that a warm dress suitable for Japan and cool clothes suitable for Manila and Honolulu, provided you come that way. All of those clothes would be useful here – for when one is entertained, or at conference time one needs at least one dressy dress – I mean by that a silk or voile – or soft wool or henrietta. Then if one were to stay here a month or two of winter, they would want their warmest underclothing; the dress suitable for Japan would do for afternoon wear, and for an every day wool dress yellow flannel waists with suit skirt or something similar would do for mornings. Also the clothes for Honolulu would do for any possible warm weather. You can get very durable white silk out here and beautiful Chinese silks or pongees if you run short or feel the need of something here. The pongees can not be bought at once usually, but must be sent for.

If Fannie came she would want tennis shoes and outfit except racket – I could provide her with that if I had

For thin dresses you would find white most satisfactory, altho for things fade quickly - but you would not need more than two dresses unless you are here for some hot weather. One can still wear thin clothes in November. I have had several colored cotton dresses and most of them have lasted well.

About white shoes - if you wear them at home, I would certainly do so here. In the hot weather they are very much more comfortable than black I think. Our feet get to burn in dark or heavy shoes. Mine are burning to-night with just this one hot day.

You certainly can not plan very definitely about clothes until you know when you would start, where you should go and how long you should stay.

E. and I both agree that you are wise in not planning for 1916 - altho seemingly has some advantages so far as he is concerned.

We shall be glad to hear even of indefinite plans this - and may be able to give some suggestions from this end that would help your decision.

April 17 - 1916.

Dear Mother H,

We were much interested in your report of the conversation about self consciousness in girlhood - I think I remember most the joy that I felt when I had a new and pretty dress. I can remember the way some of them looked even now - altho I must have been fairly young. But I do remember how very self-conscious I always felt in a dress with a large collar something like a sailor collar which made me look not quite straight in my back. I really hated that dress altho it was a beautiful dainty dinity that Aunt Cele gave me, and was trimmed with beautiful lace and was made perfectly by Aunt Cele herself. I knew I ought to like it, but I never could think of anything except that profile view. I do remember too, that I was always ashamed of my feet when my shoes grew at all old. And as to my face - what a trial my big ugly nose was. It was the one thing that any of my girls or boy friends did not dare mention, even in fun, unless they wanted me to feel very badly. Also I used to think that one side of my face was very ugly to look at, but that the other profile view was a little less unpleasant and I tried not to let people see that worst side. Oh and I remember I never used to laugh with my mouth wide open because I hated my teeth so!!!

Quite a list of confessions!

send to F. only

Return to Holyoke finally Bridgeport for Roadfood?

Chaochowfu
April 23, 1916.

Dear Mother Wildwell,

Ellison wants me to write a little as he has had a very busy day and still must write several letters on the typewriter. In fact he has had a very busy 24 hours — if not week. The chief cause of being so busy just these last twenty-four hours is an affair at the chapel just at the foot of the hill. It seems that the seventeen year old daughter of the Bible woman who lives at this chapel has been very intimate with a family near-by and has visited them almost daily. The facts seem to indicate that she herself has discussed marrying (becoming the second wife (while the first wife is still in the house) the men of this family that she visits. Her visiting the family so frequently looks bad in Chinese eyes; her discussing her own marriage is quite scandalous in Chinese heathen eyes, and her idea of becoming a second wife is scandalous in Christian and foreign eyes. So taken all in all, there is trouble.

The school teacher who teaches at this chapel is so worked up about the affair and so afraid that scandal will be connected with the school, that she simply got up and left on Thursday going home to her husband. We did not learn this until late yesterday (Sat.) afternoon when the Bible woman came up to tell us. So there was no school Friday.

Ellison knew that he must get her back to teach by Monday morning if he was to keep the affair fairly quiet, but he had to preach at the Chapel in the morning and we had a man (guest) for dinner so that he had to be here.

That's where the good old bicycle came in, for with that he could leave after dinner and see the girl (teacher) in time to have her come back on the last train. When he arrived, he found she had been weeping a good deal over the trouble and after a good deal of persuasion he got her to start back immediately.

I shall try to get down to the school to-morrow to see that all is right.

But Ellison was tired when he got home for it has been a very hot day in the sun, and this weather is listless enough out of the sun. Besides he has a tiny touch of sore throat and

The Chinese told me that Miss Sollman was notified
Monday last Monday, the school is in her charge and I
have been wanting to hear from her. I don't find out till
Sat PM that they hadn't told
her at all. Hot water Jack's Son (Monday. It was quite
think that is not the
headache which I hope will not amount to anything; for he must start off again by the first train to-morrow to interview Miss Sollman about the affair, and arrange for the girl to be taken away from this city for awhile. Her mother is a Bible woman, as I said, and has been away a good deal this winter.

This girl is the one who comes and sews for me sometimes. I am glad that I have been so careful with her, and have never left her alone when she has been in the house.

Ellison may have to go into the country to get the Bible woman (the mother of the indiscreet girl) but I hope they can send another messenger for her. All this may not sound very serious at home, but out here it is a serious breach of manners I suppose to allow a girl of her age to go outside the house unattended, and she certainly has gone far beyond that. The proof is in a long letter the man wrote her, all full of flowery language in which he calls her "wise little sister" and her letter is spoken of as "jewelled chapter". or jewelled essay

Perhaps you know that on the same mail that we heard of the death of Raymond's baby, we had word that Irene Jerome Perley had died, from baby from septic poisoning. Isn't it strange that my two roommates in all 1905 are the ones to leave us since graduation. Not that I would wish anyone else dead!!!. But it seems strange and unbelievable, just as it is hard to believe that a little baby could be still born in Mrs. Lisher's house just a year and a week after her own baby was still born — and the little graves so close together. Steady Raymond Howard and the same

On Wednesday Ellison attended the grand funeral of the mother of the chief station man of Tientsin. A week or two ago he attended the ceremony of putting her in the coffin, and that was a small affair compared to the final

burial when two ~~or three~~ hundred people were invited. I was invited but did not want to walk so far or stand around so long, and both E and I were glad enough I didn't go, when we found how tired he was on his return.

He had started about 9:00 on bike - They had had a grand feast at 10:30 - followed by the slow, solemn, tiresome procession to the burying ground — and no more food until he returned home between two and three in the afternoon.

Letters of Mar. 5 and 13 at hand. Thank you

Ellison and I have been talking about our needs and have just decided that copper screening is what we need more than anything else and what would give us more comfort than anything else. The mosquitoes are awful by noon and just as the weather is becoming hot we cannot keep the doors and windows open evenings because millions of bugs of all sizes and colors and shapes come in to annoy us. - So we will put aside the $10.00 Xmas present for our roll of copper wire! Hooray! It certainly will mean a great boon if we can get even our bath room and bed room screened and if we could have living room and study as well - we should feel very much blessed. There is only one objection to screens and that is that we have to have such a fine mesh that the wire keeps the air out and so the houses are hotter. Also the doors are big - at least 8 feet high! But we are both very happy that we have thought of this idea.

What a snowy season you have had!

We both think that the picture of Father on the golf links is splendid. We have it framed.

E — is ready to go up - stairs - So a loving Good night to all - Lottie & Ellison. ⊛

ê ji is pronounced like AG e.g. in AG
Spelding

Mon P.M. I did have a nice warm ride down to Phu Ly in but I got the teacher today I left the house as early as I could get away met my teacher at the station and had him translate for me again the incriminating letter. He was just finishing when the train came in so I had to send him off to buy my ticket while I put my baggage on the train just in time. Then I read the letter over again on the train looking up a lot of words in the dictionary, and so was able to translate it to Miss Soleman. Pretty straight of course Miss S. feels pretty badly over it as we all do. She will send a messenger to make sure the girls mother is told to come at once and to-morrow she will go up with me and bring the girl back with her.

Lovingly
Elsie

P.S. I had this all ready to mail at Sunfow but I have become infected with the idea of sealing every letter that I don't want opened. Of course I couldn't seal down there, so I brought it back here. I certainly didn't want anyone to read this letter.

You see the Chinese can open a letter that is glued in the ordinary way read it, and close it up again so that no one could tell whether it had been read or not. I don't know that the ordinary ones have much license for such things. But one never can tell when his mail will fall into the hands of someone who knows English and wants to read it. So I have established the practice of sealing all my letters with sealing wax. and I am now about to urge you to do the same whenever you write anything you don't want outsiders to see, or enclose anything you don't want

removed. So aid in this jam sending you a seal with my Chinese surname. It's like this  and does very well for a seal. If your wax isn't big enough to receive the impression of the whole seal it doesn't matter. You will probably notice that the seals on my letters usually are incomplete. The main thing is to place it in such a way that the letter can't be opened without breaking the seal. I'll try to do it that way on this envelope. I was intending to send one of these to father for a birthday present (I may yet. He moved like it) but I guess I'll send this one to you now anyway. I have a stick of sealing wax with a candle wick in the middle. Light the wick, hold in place and the melted wax drops down. Three or four drops is usually enough. Then blow out the candle. There is another drop about ready to fall. If you don't want it to fall turn the wax other side up (like a spoonful of treacle) This wax is sold by an English Stationery firm Stephens. and is very convenient. Of course the ordinary sealing wax will do and is cheaper but more bother. Must stop now

Heaps of love
Eleanor

Tuesday

Holyoke
Finally

Kakchiek June 30, 1916.

Dear Mother and Father Waldrette,

I want to write a few words to go with Ellison's letter to tell you how much we appreciate your lovely gift to us. It came just the anniversary week, first the letter from Aunt Fan enclosing check and then the nice letter from Mother. It was very good of you to send us so much, and we will surely use it as you suggest for something we want but feel we cannot quite afford. We thank you very much indeed.

You will see by the heading that we have come to Swatow, I to start on my trip to the north (Mokhansan), and Ellison to preach Sunday, and see me off. (He is to preach in English.)

To-day as we came here we heard a story that made us rather glad we were not on our way to Siu King-fu (on way to Theiyong) just now.

July 3- Have not had a minute to finish and so will leave this with Ellison to finish.

Much love to all
Lottie

Will write Aunt Fan later - L.

It is pretty warm to-day. L.

Dear Mother:

Yesterday was the Fourth of July. but I hardly realized it. I was going to raise the flag, but Lottie has packed it away carefully, and I couldn't find it without too much tearing to pieces. So I celebrated by going over to have supper with Mr James

Lots of things have happened lately. Not to mention the goats which got into our garden yesterday, and the men who came today in open daylight and cut down a big bamboo right under the kitchen, but fled at my approach (I don't think either of them will come again soon) my wife went away and left me, we fired the boy, and I preached in Swatow. That's more excitement than we've had for a long time.

Lothie's boat was to sail on Mon July 3 so she planned to go down Sat noon. About 4 pm came a note saying the boat would sail on Sat. instead so we hastily prepared, and left Friday noon. A note came up Friday morning saying that the boat wouldn't sail till Monday after all, but we didn't get it, and I'm glad. It took Lothie till after dark to pay the drawn work women, and work me about the same time to fix my accounts. and after supper we went to bed. On Sat I prepared my sermon, doing a more thorough piece of preparation than I ever did before. I spent most of the day rearranging drawn work and other things. Monday I went to Sw to buy a big tin trunk because the large space that Lothie reserved for drawn work wasn't anywhere near enough; also to buy a gift, my watch repaired. The trunk cost $3.00 less. I suppose you know I is taking drawn work to sell. The dealers get the extra market the Pokkanghan people are delighted to get a chance to buy and I gets a percentage, so its mutual advantage. It will be some work for her. but it may give her something to occupy her attention during the month before I come. I say I am glad we did go on Friday because we were quite busy till Monday noon. but then

were able to make a dignified leisurely and comfortable departure. I didn't stay to see Lottie Paul for I didn't know whether the boat would go at 3. or 6 or 7 A.M. and I felt I ought to come up here

Yourself

Ellison

Northampton.
Rockford
Bridgewater.
Ulich

Send back to Holyoke Chaochowfu October 4. 1916.

Dear Mother H-

You were right about Christmas and birthday presents. The thing which you received for Father at Rockport was for Xmas, altho I should not have minded if it had been given for birthday since the silk handkerchief I ordered did not get sent in time. You see the drawn work woman was late in making it and when I had given up all hope of getting it before our return from Mokanshan, it was delivered to me just the day I was going. But my list from which I had copied the names of all those to whom I was going to send things from Mokanshan, for that reason lacked Father's name. I suppose I thought we should return early enough to get the handkerchief from the drawn work women and send them, but we were quite late as you know.

So I enclose the handkerchief for Father with our great love, and hope it

will be just as useful as if it were on time. It is made from silk which I ordered from Hechow last year and the sewing of course is all by hand. When one has a cold, they are especially nice to use.

I am also sending in this enclosure or the next one if this is too full, a little dried lace daily to complement your birthday gift of the amber pendent. Did I tell you that the amber pendent is a conventionalized form of the Chinese characters for Wilhelm? I hope that we explained that long ago.

Aunt Helen's gift is coming by mail as it is small and there was no need of paying duty on it. Mary's also is coming by mail. I kept out things that were light and thin.

We are gradually getting our house in order. I had a new boy come for trial Monday night and

he has proved a jewel so far altho he is entirely without experience. But I am not hoping too much all at once."

Mr. and Mrs Mateer stop with us over night to-morrow on their way to a country trip.

E. and I are going over to see Mrs. James to-day after 4.30. He had a hard, but very satisfactory [illegible] with the church committees yesterday He will write you all about it I think. Our appropriations are cut, and it is going to make it very hard - especially since exchange is so poor that we lose about $15.00 on every hundred. That is, normally $100.00 U.S. should make $200. Mex. but now it makes only about 185.00 Mex.

Thank you for the birthday package that is coming. It is nice to have it to look forward too. May this letter bring you most loving birthday wishes. Let us know any tentative plans for next year as soon as convenient, please, for it takes so long to correspond - especially since our mails have been held up by the British.

We hope Conference which meets Dec. 7 this year will do nothing radical to us in the way of moving us to another field. One can never tell.

Love to Aunt Jan too. I am sorry I did not write for her birthday, but having sent the gifts, I let the birthdays slip my mind somewhat

Love to you and all the others,

Lottie

The letter is pretty full and so is my time so I'll not delay the mail now. But I'm just on the point of starting a note to you. And it may reach you in the same mail as this. Love

Send home

Chaochowfu
November 25, 1917.

Dear Mother Hildreth,

I finally succeeded in getting hold of those birthday presents on our last trip to Swatow, and glad I was to see them. Let me see, you wanted to know the date when I received them. They left Gloucester August 27, and I received them Friday, Nov. the 16th. They had been in Swatow probably a week before I could get them; that would make the probable date Nov. 9;- a long time in coming, weren't they, nearly two months and a half!

The paper I put into immediate use, for it is next to impossible to get anything decent here, and I surely do

appreciate having the nicer kinds for special occasions. The dress goods is very very pretty and will solve the problem of what I shall have for a "dress-up" dress for next summer. My light dainty dresses are just getting to the place where I could not depend on most of them getting thru the next wash. So thank you very very much for my very nice birthday present.

I suppose you see my all too full home letters, and so know that there has been very busy days with us. Ellison is working very hard, but seems to stand it pretty well, which shows that he is a great deal stronger than he was ten years ago - I think.

We have had warm days for this last half-week, but we want a sweater near-by to jump into at the least provocation. By the way does the family want to know? (at any rate I'll whisper it in your ear) but Elliom wants a handmade sweater very much? I have tried hard to get the wool out here, but there is such a demand for wool for the soldiers that I can get nothing suitable either in Hongkong or Shanghai. Please don't feel bound to do anything just because I have mentioned it, but I know you will be glad to know the fact even tho it may not be convenient or best to do anything about it.

There, I hear him coming now. I am glad, for it is less lonely to have two in the house especially now that the country is upset a little. We hear very little authentic news, but quite

a little is going on in a military way. There is nothing for us to be afraid of, but the Chinese get a little excited. One man came to-day and asked if his family could live at Mr. Beh's house and the Presbyterian preacher in the city just quit his job and took his family home.

Monday night.

I have been in to the city chapel (a long walk) to teach Christmas singing. Ellen has spent the day at Kiß-Tsui. It has been warm.

Now I send much love to each of you and hope for you all a very pleasant Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours with love,

Lottie.