

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 15

Finding aid for collection available at:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.015>

Series: I. Correspondence

Box / folder: 6 / 74

Folder label: LLH and ESH to/from Fannie Hildreth (sister of ESH), from Swatow, Chaochaofu, United States

Dates: 1914, 1915, 1938

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

Originals of collection held at:

Yale Divinity School Library, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
(divinity.library@yale.edu)

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

Return
friendly to
Hazel

Sweeton Nov 15, 1914

Dear Fannie:

I was very much interested in your letter which came a few days ago. and as I had been planning for some time to write you I decided to do so at once but I couldn't say well as so till after yesterday because that was the day of our language exams which I am glad to say we passed all right. Fattie worked very hard in preparation and did very well I thought. The admittance haven't produced their grade but they congratulated us on passing. so we celebrated the afternoon by going to sweeton to athletic sports under the auspices of the Anglo-Chinese college. which happened to have that afternoon. and celebrated the evening by thinking the first of the jobs that Kattie has been getting up to of other exams were over. I can't remember them all but they vary from the starting of a different system of bookkeeping to jobs of planning for the boys to do under their supervision.

Well the next day was Sunday so I'm taking the opportunity to write to you. It's a full day of manual. I read half an hour or so after breakfast so had a first pass showing till after Chinese service had. then it was time to start for English service and when I got home it was dinner time (about an hour later than usual on Sundays) After dinner it practices sports for 55 while I have to stay to organ. Perhaps I have given the outline of the day before but I wish to say that at 5.15 they have me play a professional while the boys march in, another while they scatter to different rooms & classes, another to bring them back to closing exercises and a professional at the close while they hand in papers and parcels and go out in disorder. So that with these things behind I am pretty busy outside of lesson time but during that hour I have the time to read and enjoy it too. I wonder if you have ever had any

Matthew Arnold when I was at Union
and the professor recited to us some
certain evening while he read poetry to
us and Matthew Arnold was the subject
one evening. All I remember is ^{of London} ~~London~~
green and the one that speaks of peace
loving the goat as well as the sheep,
and Dover Beach. I thought, and still
think that Dover Beach is the most
beautiful assemblage of words that I have
found in the English language. The senti-
ment is one that I never by any chance
feel, and in reading the poem I ignore
it but I love to read the poem itself for
the beauty of the words. Someone had given
me a pocket edition of the poems of
Matthew Arnold which did not contain
Dover Beach so I got it away and forgot
one that did. And that was all my
acquaintance with his writing except
that I read and was fond of the
"Roderick Random" but with unregretted
will sometimes somewhere.

picked up among hand a very cheap edition
of his "Essay in Criticism" and I suppose
took it to school but neglected to read
it & fortunately it found its way out here
as did also "Culture & Anarchy" and
"Literature and the Ground" which I bought in
England for a shilling each and never
read.

Some time ago however I determined
to investigate "Dover Beach" in Criticism so I
read the Introduction, which ought to be
read last instead of first because it is
full of allusions to matters in the essay.
Then I read the first two essays, and found
the ideas and style unimpeachable but not
especially fascinating. I read the one on
"Pope" in comparison with "Pope's
"Marguerite" and was a little interested. But
I had about to enter to buy the book and
when it occurred to me to look into what
he says of "my revelatory power" and there
I found a treat. I have had the book
around to read at odd moments ever since
and read it to the exclusion even of such
things as the world's work was suitable.

I have read it aloud to Esther at the table until she either knows most of it by heart or else is tired of it - I'm not sure of that. It isn't because it deals with "guilt" for I consider the book not much better than the Italian and am grateful for his translation of each. But as a study of English poetry it has been a delight. And it encouraged me to get out "Culture and Variety" of which I have today borrowed some hundred pages about all the "Sweetness and Light" chapter. It certainly has been a surprise to me because while I liked those poems they were only selections from "Selected Poems of W. A." and I had supposed that all his other poems and all his prose would be as hopelessly highbrow that I couldn't attack it at all.

Someday you will have such a surprise as this, maybe not with Motherwell but perhaps with Auden or Browning or someone I'm sure with people of whom I only know the name and few such as W. A. or Bagley or Henry James.

If you do write and tell me about it. I should be glad to go to you

afternoon myself. It would have been much more convenient for me if that when I was at Annet. But then the difficulty with me was not to arrange to go. It was to get invited.

Falk says she has answered your question about stars. so there would be no need for me to try. She was much interested. I was more interested in your music. I would give a good deal to have your course in history of music. It must be splendid if she is to be a conductor too. I shall love to do some of that probably before I get there, but I imagine its rather elementary work that in my hand. What book do you use in Hist. of M? Is it heavy and expensive?

How does it when does the review of the Ind. Song come now. that Mr. Hammond has I believe before supper. Bob Wicks was in U.S. when I was there and I think a lot of him. Please remember me to him if you visit him.

Please remember me to Myron Falbot. too. I suppose I ought to say

Miss Mignon & Albert but she seems so young and nice that I find it hard to realize that it was as a faculty that I knew her. It seems as natural a thing as Amazon factot as it does to my Uncle Jerome or Eddie's wife. And when I go back to South H. Valley again, there will only be two things in connection with the college that I shall especially want to do. One is to see Miss & Colley whom I have never had the honor of meeting. And the other is to call on Miss Talbot.

After sent your letter describing getting settled and I was much interested in it. When I think of moving in a few months and then maybe again in a year or so. I wish it had only a few things. A bed & a chair table for my papers and a short row of books and a few clothes. I think he is well fitted out. All his possessions, exclusive of furniture could perhaps be carried by one man. and he need not be crowded in a room the size of our bathroom at home. But here we had to have lounge chairs to seat the whole company - and then had to move chairs from one room to another till I'm tired.

We had one big bookcase - and a two and box still stand on the sidewalk awaiting for another bookcase to be finished so that we may have some place to put the books. I have at least 15 pairs of clothes and yet when I want to dress up for any important occasion I don't know the right clothes. I am constantly impressed by the same thought that I had long before when packing up to come here - that many possessions often are of doubtful value if an honest and yet when it comes to disposing with they do them I find that instead of being too many things we really haven't enough. Why don't they we religiously save all those wrapping paper and mail that we pull out of boxes if they are not all used. Because these things are hard to get hold of. Life is complicated out here even if we don't have the telephone and the trolley.

and lectures, concerts and theater and Bas-

ball and politics all the time. And when
finally time comes and we have to find
a place to store all this or else have it
sold and let someone else use the
furniture in return for whatever else
they may see fit to give the other things.
Then indeed the man who has great
possessions may be sorrowful. Among
movable goods, piano, organ, 15 chairs, brass
week stand, washbasin, 2 or more bookcases, 50
clothes, books, papers, lamps, etc. all to be
left. Such things as violin, tennis racket,
typewriter, big Chinese dictionary, etc. to be con-
sidered whether it is best to take them home
or leave them. Such things as Chinese baskets,
tubs, buckets, straw matting, curtains, to be
considered whether better to store, sell, or
leave to be used. Pack all the books so
that neither mold, silver-fish, book worms
shall corrupt or white ants treat the
and so on. It has almost made me hard
to write about it. And planning isn't a
patch on what will have to be done. It
would be delightful to go with just a
couple of trunks and suitcases of clothes,
toilet articles etc. But then what about
violin, typewriter, racket, camera, etc.? And
altho not much studying of Chinese is done
athome, everybody takes at least the Swater
dictionary and a New Testament. And you
take much more.

Mon 8/21.

When I got up for it came to be time
to go to bed. So I let the staff and there
to his time on Mon 8/22 to continue so
good-bye wishing you a Merry Xmas
and hoping you will get the little things
we want in time for the occasion.
Your loving brother
E. Chalmers.

Return mail Swatow China
to Hongkong Jan. 11, 1851

Dear Aunt Jen,

Such a clever letter you sent me and such a dear enclosure. You may be sure nothing could bring pleasanter associations than the talking which has been so long a companion to Mother &

I know what it means, for I have tried to do a little myself and I am very slow and clumsy at it. But I hope to do better some day.

"The Weekly News" is not quite dead, but its originator finds it hard to take the time that he wants to compile it. I expect even now that we shall be quite

rushed for a month or two. At
I have ^{at the City} is sitting, and then a
hunt is planned at the time of
Chinese New Year about Feb. 15.
While the men go hunting, the wives
are entertained at Chaoyang. It
will mean the best part of a week
I think. Soon, by April 7-probably
the Bakers will leave New City,
and then we shall be alone, but
in June again we must pack up
and leave for Tai-yang. So the
months run away.

I wish I had you here to play
for me. In the meantime much
love to dear Aunt Ben.
Lottis.

Suzatou, China

January 12, 1915

Dear Jennie,

Just a little note to thank you for your share in our nice Christmas. It certainly is a treat to have the Mount Holyoke, and I am going to enjoy it all the more as I go to Cheochowfu (the City) to live, because I expect there will be many times when Ellison will have to go away to leave me.

Indeed they are talking of making him one of two general evangelical missionaries and that will mean much hard. I rather dread the thought, altho I want him always to do what is best for the work.

Your good letters have been a joy to us and I cannot tell you how much it is to hear what is going on

at Colley. Your Junior Prom and Sister
Ray letter particularly carried me
back to the old days.

The chorus work must be especially
helpful. I am anxious to hear
what a nice time you had when Miss Dickinson
and Miss Pless and others visited you.

I was interested to read newspaper
reports of Founder's Day, too, as well as
your interesting account.

The book of pictures is certainly
nice. Have you one yourself too?
I met the picture of Carol and Mother
Law one better. Every one is a reminder
of good times. Isn't the one of Aunt Sue
and Aunt Ellen dear? You are very good
to us. Blessings on you.

How much love. I have been jumping
up to supply Ellison with lamp chimney
and glass jars for packing. He is sending card.
Love again,
Lottie

No. 27

Cherbourg, China
February 25, 1915.

Dear Fannie,

Just a word to thank you for your nice letters. I was interested in what you said about an evening wrap. What are the other girls wearing? I have known one of the girls to buy two yards of wide broad cloth and use for one.

fold, double

When I say, ^{light} wrap B, it means sew the two sides together at just one spot. (not a long line).



...rightly here so that triangular space falls into a hood. Then B. C. is fast with pretty braid & a tassel put at C. and that distance forms the neck or front of a pretty wrap.



I can't draw it but try it with any piece of new wool goods and get the idea.

Would you like to have me buy you a Mandarin coat for an evening coat? Many people at home are paying big prices for them I understand. I can get a long embroidered one of silk for anywhere from \$5 to \$10. gold; there there would be duty. Mrs. Baker got a beauty dark blue silk embroidered in gold thread for less than \$5. gold just before Chinese New Year's. If you want one my write immediately on receiving this. I could probably get it to you by end of May or 1st of June.

I have been thinking too, about your next year's work. If I were you I think I should feel most inclined to try for a position as teacher of music. It is difficult I know, but it keeps you in work that you love, and keeps you from the slow grind of the daily teaching of the same subjects. I think you would find it would keep you fresher and better developed mentally and physically. You would be eminently fitted for such work and could be invaluable to ^{the} community in fostering a more musical atmosphere, and perhaps have time for philanthropic work beside.

So glad you are going to give ^{part} of your recital and shall be glad to hear more fully about it later.

We have been quite busy settling but each day sees a little advance and the work is nearly over.

Must to work.

Friday Eve. February 26 - 1905

Lottie.

Cherchoufa.

I have sent a little graduation present for you - in three pieces at three different times. Hope it will reach you safely with our love.

MRS. E. STORY HOLBROTH
SOUTH BURLINGTON
VERMONT

Dear Fannie, The exchanged book, "The storm girl" has arrived for grandpa, and I am pleased. We will bring it with us since the time is so close now:

Mother was greatly pleased with your invitation for her to spend Thanksgiving at 1866. That is what has decided her to stay on - and I am pleased, not only because we all enjoy her cooking, but because she is enjoying it, and has found much

food for thought in the books and
magazines which lie on our tables.
Polly ^{will} be home at Thanksgiving,
and Marion has invited her folks
to her home so that she could not
come to Holyoke. but I appreciate
your thought for her. I had not even
broached the subject to her, for I felt
that it was impossible both at your
end and her end.

Your letter about the rain, and
Chammie, and the squash pie was
very amusing. Alice and John will
appreciate it. (?)

John's last letter has a tired note in it, but
I will send it on. The fact that you are going to

MRS. E. STONY HILBRETH
SOUTH ROYALTON
VERMONT

Call him up next week, will make him
very happy.

Very busy week for me - ~~and~~ ^{duties} every evening
except Saturday. I had a touch

of Lumbago and feels mean, but is
better. Much love to you both, we

are hoping Grandpa is more comfortable
and we are looking forward to next
week when Grandma Lane will come with
us to Holyoke.

Please do not change my dental appointment,
as it might give me a headache, and I do
not want ^{to} ~~one~~ ^{miss} Thursday. If he wants to see

me on Wednesday, I should be glad to
have any work that was not too great
a strain done then - or have him look
and plan what is best to be done.

I hurriedly but with much
love;
Lottie.

Thanks for snapshot. L.

~~Dear Alice, and Ray - Fannie~~

Our days have been pretty full lately. I haven't been able to help Faith for over a week; during that time her father died. When we heard that Alice Baker (who used to live next door to us in China, and cared for the children when I was in the hospital in Peking) was coming to visit us for the week end I phoned to the St. Tylers that I could not go with them to the Flower Show in Boston, and I would be too busy getting ready for Alice's visit. She arrived by bus at about 2.00 Saturday, and, tho she looked a bit paler and seemed a bit stiff in walking, she had not changed a bit.

After lunch, we took her up to Valentine's greenhouse, where we got flowers for the church for Sunday. Mr. Valentine gave us a passion flower, which we put in the church vestibule, and many people were interested in it. The flowers we got were daffodils and snapdragons; we took them down to the church, and I arranged them, daffies in one vase, and snaps in another. But when we got to church Sun. a.m., we found that they had been rearranged, and all mixed together.

On the way back from the greenhouse, Daddy drove us by a roundabout route that I had never been over, down to the church; and home again by the Colonial Episcopal Church, and the hill with the beautiful view, where the Easter sunrise service is held.

Sunday morning we went to church as usual; Alice was not used to a woman a minister, and so not so enthusiastic as we should have liked to have her, over a good sermon. In the p.m., Mr. Coolidge drove over here, and went with Daddy to the Scotland Church, where the minister was being examined for ordination. Alice and I rested, took a short walk to the west, and then after supper we three went to lantern service at South Killingly, where Mr. Coolidge lives. Just before we started, we got a message that Mr. Coolidge had had an accident, and was hurt; so he and Mrs. C. would not be at the church. So Daddy left Alice and me at the church, and went on to the C. home to learn how badly hurt Mr. C. was; found he was not back from the Clinic where his hurts were being cared for, and waited till he did come; which meant that he got to church just before the benediction, and was able to give the latest bulletin on Mr. C.'s health to the folks who inquired at the church, and also at the "refreshments" in the Community House after the service.

It seems that Mr. C. who is 36, was coming out of a side road (short cut) and crossing the state road (Route 6, Hartford to Providence) and failed to see a car approaching on Route 6, because it was the same color as the background; so he drove across, and didn't quite take it, being hit in the rear by the Route 6 car, so violently that his car was turned completely around. His head was cut (several stitches); his right shoulder was hurt, and the arm was in a sling. I told the folks that I suspected a green stick fracture, such as Lottie had in our accident in Greenfield, and X-ray the next day proves that I was right. One knee was badly bruised, and there were other bruises. The car is probably a total loss. When he came in he talked very fast, called himself a fool fool fool, and said that it was all his fault, because he didn't take a complete stop before crossing Route 6. After the "refreshments" we all went up to the house, and stayed a while; he was quieter by that time. The next day he was very still, and will be so for several weeks, I guess. He hopes to be able to get another car, tho that will be a very difficult financial problem. He was afraid that they would take his license away from him. And if they don't he will have to carry insurance, and at his age he says the premium will be do him. But at any rate, he won't be driving a car till that shoulder gets well. He was also afraid that he would have to pay for the damage to the other car, which was heavy, but on Monday he called up to say that the other man had called and said he was not going to hold Mr. C. responsible for the accident; relief.

On Monday we phoned Margaret Winn Bertlett that Alice was here, and she invited us to come over to Uxbridge. We drove up past the shop of the Stevens mill (linen) in Webster, and Alice was delighted to buy 3 lb. of linen towel remnants at 50 cents a lb. Bessie will have a pound, and Alice's sis sister-in-law will have some. We had a lovely visit with Margaret, saw their New Zealand white (albino) rabbits their earthworms, their two dogs, their

I believe has
some words over invitation
for E. and I. Thank you

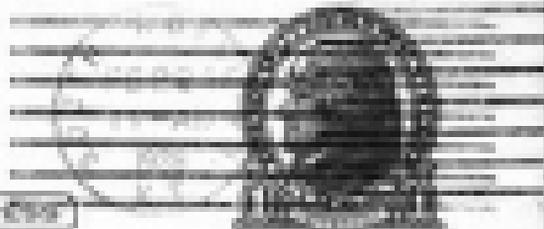
wonderful birds feeding outside; and then we had delicious tea and a
nippy salad with crackers - very nice

Alice B. left in the rain early Tuesday afternoon. Just before she
left, a man came to do our kitchen and bathroom ceilings (arranged for
before we knew Alice was coming, and at the same time Barth-by-the-hour
came to clean our bedroom (part of spring house cleaning) when Alice had
slept; we slept in the attic (John's room) except that Saturday night I
(Lottie) slept on a couch down stairs, because I was expecting John to
come. We were disappointed that he didn't come.

The other day we had a letter from Alice that Mrs. Ballou had been
ill, then worse, then went to hospital at Hanover, and finally died. Her
trouble was too many red corpuscles, with resulting strain on the heart.
I do not understand how that condition strains the heart; and when we
were in China we were always trouble by too few red corpuscles, with
resulting weakness; but we were told that too many red was worse. Mrs.
Ballou was buried on Sunday. It is doubtful whether we could have gone,
even if Alice Baker had not been coming. It will make a big difference
to the Ballou family, not having Mrs. B. drop in to see them at frequent
intervals; she will be missed all right

Dear Fannie

I am not sure whether I put a copy of this
letter in the envelope I sent Jay or not and
so I will send this under separate cover to
you. E. and I have had twinges of rheumatism
and my left ankle was painful and swollen
last evening - account of dampness mostly
rather serious
Love to you. L.

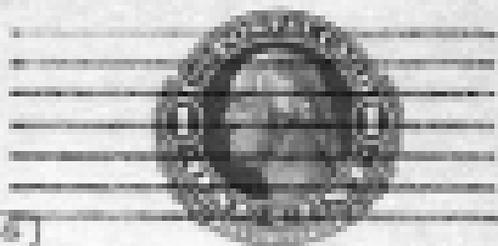


THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Fannie Hilditch
for Mr. & Mrs. Hilditch
1866 Northampton St
40
Hilpeke
Mass

We wouldn't laugh to see
you not much hope you
are comfortable now.
There are 4 trains from H
to W.R.G. West. The 9-45
comes to R.R. The other
2 that I mentioned get to
W.R.G. about 4:00 & 5:00 pm
There is another I think
about halfway between.

say 6:45. If you come on
Fri. that would enable
me to meet you & take
to R. on the CE school
don't expect you to do a
that. You are just
coming from H. but have
planned to attend. Stay
so long as you want to
be satisfied or rest &
will get on OK.
I have not worked in dining
room. Wait fast food was of
check supper. No better
pane. Love G.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Fannie Hildreth
for Mrs Lotie Hildreth
1866 Northampton St
Holyoke
Mass

Plans not made dining room - Only purchased it to eat
there. My food is still a thin brown looking like the food
many of the boys eat. And not very a supply from the
store.

When I got home, I looked at the
time table again, and found that
the train that gets to WMJ 6.45
is Sunday only. So that the one
that gets there at 4.05, and the
one that gets there at 8.05 are
the only ones after the one that
leaves Holyoke at 9.45 and gets
here at 2.20 or so. When you
decide what train to take, call
on RM depot and verify it. And
call on Holyoke Street Railways
Co. to verify your bus, allowing
plenty of time for both trip
and changes.

I am glad that Mr. Orso
was able to give you the help
you needed.

Alice is doing fine as
house keeper. At noon I get the
dinner nearly ready, and she
puts the finishing touches on
when she gets home, doing it
better than I know how. And she
has been, oh, so nice. She
made oyster stew for supper, and
it was good. We had scalloped
potato this noon, which she pre-
pared this morning and told me to
put on stove, with boiling water
in lower part of double b. at a
certain hour. Sausages, too.

I have watered plants. No
flow at either side of the
if afraid to go out why not
go out.

Spent some time here



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

for Mrs Fannie Hildreth
Mrs Lotte Hildreth
1866 Northampton St
Albany Mass

Nice crowd at the
supper tonight (Th)
Only trouble was
that we got up the
front & there wasn't
room for the help but
they went around & I
used legs to take
seconds & plenty in
the kitchen. Only
the wrong party
CE social to know
night (Friday) don't
yet know when you
are coming but
shall be glad to
see you when you
get here. Please for
them keep it off
in time for you. E

1866 Northampton St.
Holyoke, Mass.
Dec. 12, 1937

Dear *Vermontine*

Well, it's almost time to send Christmas greetings to everybody! It doesn't look like it outside though for the sun is shining on a world that show no sign of snow. I believe that isn't so in many other parts of this country at the present. There has been a lot of snow in other places. We have had a little but it is all gone. I'm quite satisfied to live where there isn't very much!

I haven't had much time to get ready for Christmas with that outlining of my new history book to do every day. I may have to change my plan of work and let myself get behind in the typing. I could make a more careful that I could use in class work all right and then do only a little typing of it each day instead of trying to keep up with myself every day. I tried making a fairly careful outline and giving it to my student secretary to type. But the girl who does my work is not a very bright student and she made so many mistakes that it was too much work to correct them! And of course it looked badly when she got through. She spelled "Roman" with two O's just because my "a" did not go all the way down to the line. She seemed to be copying without paying any attention to the sense of the thing. Well, anyway I have been busy and I didn't even get at the making of my Christmas list until day before yesterday!! That sounds bad but I have quite a few ideas and plans already under way. There now remains the necessity of finding time to get the things either ordered or bought. I made a start yesterday.

The streets look pretty now with their bright colored lights on Christmas trees or strung across the street. Chuxxie would love to go shopping with me when I come home from school but this week she hasn't been able to trot around so much. She made a little cut on the bottom of one her paw this week sliding after the ball. We throw it for her to chase and she always slides at the last of the short run to catch up with it. I have tacked down the edge of the rug to keep it in place and keep us from falling over it. Whether she struck one of those tacks or whether she cracked it on the edge of the linoleum or rug I couldn't say. But she did it and came back limping. That was the end of the ball game for the night. I expected that it would soon heal up as it has done before, but this time it has kept breaking open again. So we have had to keep her in th house more and not let her play ball or jump around. That was too bad when sh wanted to do it, and it was especially too bad on Thursday which was her birthday! She was nine years old that day! I wish she were several years younger! But you would not know her age to see her pop! She couldn't go out for her walk with Father before his breakfast. I took her downstreet with me when I went but I carried her some of the time to keep her off her foot. I was so late in getting home that I couldn't get the liver for her that I intended to give her to celebrate the day!! So she had a can of Richardson and Robbins chicken for supper instead! And to make sure that she did not get a better supper than we had I opened another for ourselves!

There are so many Christmas cards to write that I shall have to cut this letter short. I went to a meeting of my group Friday night and took with me a ten cent present. I went late so that I could do a little studying first. I had planned to go to choir first and then go late to the group, but as I had been having a little cold I decided it would be better for me not to sing anyway and so I stayed home instead until about 8.30. They were still playing games when I got there. After a while we had refreshments. I "poured"! One of the hostesses was betty there so I took her place. There were nice sandwiches and Sanka coffee and raised doughnuts, and chocolates.

Later we went back into the living room and opened our gifts. I carried around the big basket with the gifts and each one picked out the one that they liked the looks of. The girl who sat next to me was the one who chose the gift that I had brought. When she opened it she said, "oh, GH GH, I'm so glad I chose this one!" I had gotten a ten cent frame in the store and had put a snapshot in it. She felt through the paper and said to the one next to her, "I know what I've got". She just thought it was some picture that you would buy in a store. But was she pleased when she found it was a picture of Father and Chummie!

I was invited to go to another group meeting on Wednesday afternoon and sing some Carols with my auto harp. I hated to take all the time that it did for they put me last on the program but I did enjoy hearing The Story of the Other Wise Man read again. They had some very nice sandwiches which Chummie enjoyed! I did too!

Well, the days will fly by this week and next. I wanted to go to a Christmas party of the teachers of the town of N. Spf. but I decided to cut that out as I was getting too tired and I wanted to keep well.

It's getting late now, so I'll say goodnight and hope that you are enjoying the happy season.

Lovingly,
Fanni

I'm enclosing check for "the rent" I gave it pretty late for lists but I could see another "little suitcase" from Montgomery Ward. And I need some writing paper for social use. Also I like pretty handkerchiefs - I used films 116 or S116 either kind. Lots of love from,

I enjoyed M. Louis letter

Fanni

For John H.



Open the Christmas box when it comes & let Alice have the small box wrapped in ordinary paper. She asked me to buy it for her. Keep ten others that are wrapped in fancy paper until Christmas. I sent two 1806 Northampton St. Holyoke, Mass.

Dear Folks, *perhaps by John & you took in* Dec. 19, 1937
two ordinary No. 1 (Train - with wife for Mrs. Lane)

A merry Christmas to all! This is Christmas Sunday and a big day in our church. Somehow there seems so much to do that things are rather hectic! I went over the river to get my people that I bring to church. Then when I got to the church I had to put Gussie's sweater on her and put her in the car. I took her down today because I wanted her to be in the picture that they were going to take after church. I put one sweater on the right way and the other on her hind legs and pinned the two together. She looked funny but it would keep her warmer that way. I don't usually take her now to church for it is getting too cold and she is rather used to staying at home now everyday.

We had a large number of bass singers in choir. Some of them were boys home from college or school. And my nephew, John sang too. I met him at the Springfield station yesterday and brought him here to stay until Monday when he will continue home to Vermont for the holidays. I dashed down for him to meet the 11.30 train. I was five minutes late for it but it was an hour and 30 minutes late at the beginning and later it proved to be over two hours late! I bought a cup of coffee and telephoned home to tell the folks not to wait dinner. Gussie and I waited. I looked up trains to Florida and did some history outlining. But it made it rather a rush to get home about 2.15 or so and eat dinner, change my dress and

get to the church for the children's party. I wanted to get there by 3.15 but I didn't quite make that. We had a nice time at the party with the children singing pieces and singing songs. And then Santa paid a visit and the children got their gifts. Then I did a little shopping while John had a haircut. There wasn't much left to that day after the dishes were done!

Well, to go on with today. We had a fine sermon. And then the children all came in to bring their gifts. A college girl read the story of Why the Chinese Hang. The poor little kindergartners couldn't keep quiet that long. There were "Mama's" and "Daddy's" called out and once "Go away". The reader had to keep on over that coming diversion which caused many smiles! After church a movie was taken of the congregation as they left the church and another one as the people at S.S. left. I carried Chummie with me as we went down the steps together. When we came out of ~~shop~~ we came out in regular order but they told us that they hadn't taken it and we had to do it over! By that time I was way out of line and had to go down with the men. It was only by luck that I even knew that it was being taken again.

Tonight there is a pageant and I have to sing in the unseen choir in the back gallery. I hope it goes all right. I couldn't stay for the rehearsal, the one they had today, I mean. I stayed until after 10 on Friday night when there were only a few of us here.

It's time now to get supper and dash off to the pageant. Hope again that you have a happy Christmas!

Lovingly,

Francis

Little - I can get only 1/2 of
the articles you asked me to buy
(letters) Do you want them then? Maybe I can find some elsewhere!

1866 Northampton St.
Holyoke, Mass.
Dec. 26, 1937

Dear *Vermonters,*

Christmas Day has come and gone and now it is almost the end of Christmas Sunday. The rush of the season is over and I can draw a long breath! Tomorrow I don't need to get up early and go to school, and Chummie can have me at home for a week. I just about had time to get everything done taking things in their ~~time~~ and stealing some time out of the night to finish things up. Now I can make up the sleep by staying in bed late in the mornings. That makes the additional benefit of cutting out one meal and so cutting down on the calories! The engagements that I know about now for the week are Tuesday noon, when I expect to go to the Rotary dinner with Father for Family Day. (He hasn't asked me yet, but I went last year and so I'll be there again this year I'm sure). Then I'll drive to Springfield to sing for the Board of Hearing Club (!) Thursday night is Prayer Meeting and Friday afternoon is my club. But that gives quite a lot of time for reading or catching up on my history outline. I have a nice book by Bees Streeter Aldrich from my cousin Helen who is staying with us over the weekend. We opened our gifts together at her home in Northampton St. Her room has been recently done over and enlarged and it looks fine.

Before we went up there I opened one present from Father. It was a stocking filled with Spratt's dog foods for Chummie! She was much interested and went to look at it after I hung it on the tree. Later in the day she got another one from my cousin in Boston! This one was filled with Trusty foods, so there is variety you see. She enjoyed seeing the packages opened and looked and smelled of everything that I would let her see. She got a new ball from the Kemps, a beautiful red ribbon from the Boston cousin. I gave her a leash and a cloth dog. When we undid the things from Vermont there was a present for her from Fozie, my brother's dog. It was a rubber cat with a squeak! She was crazy about it and began to tear it to pieces! I took off the bell and took out the whistle so that she would not swallow it. We got a box of grapefruit and oranges, or rather a large basket, from the Sunninghams in Florida. We have sampled them and they are great! Well in the basket was a present from Buster, their dog, to Chummie. In it was a row of rubber animals with squeaks. Once more Chummie was tickled and excited. She will jump way up high to try to get them. She certainly showed her appreciation of all her gifts! And of course I was pleased to have my "child" remembered!

I had a lovely crocheted chair set from my sister in law, Lottie, a can opener that goes on the wall, from my brother a film for my camera, from my nephew, John, some nice writing paper just right for writing thank-you notes, from my niece Alice. From my cousin Marion in Boston I got a candy Santa and the cutest little lollipop in the shape of a green trumpet, and a lovely clip with a blue stone and diamonds (?) (!) It is beautiful. My cousin Helen from Northampton gave me a book "Mother Mason" by Bees Streeter Aldrich, and a bath mat. Mrs. Kemp and Alice gave me the material for a slip which she will make up for me after Christmas. Father gave me a five year diary and some money. The latter was in envelopes

numbered and the amounts started with one penny and went on in increasingly larger amounts until there was quite a sum.

I had other gifts too but now I must tell you about the present that Chummie gave me! It's a movie camera! I want to have some pictures of Father for future use. I thought once of giving it to Father but I knew that I would be the one using it and I was afraid that my father would think that it was extravagant. So I let Chummie give it to me! I took some pictures yesterday of Father playing ball with Chummie and some of my cousin Helen who came back with us after we had dinner at her boarding house. She was in the picture too. After supper I put on my bright lights and took some in the living room. I have no idea how they will come out as the space in which to find the subject is very small and I may have cut off the heads of the people I took!

After I went down with some gifts for the Browns. It was nice to see Mother Brown again. I took some pictures of them all, that is all except Rachel who was in W.Y. Marcia heard the racket and came downstairs and was allowed to dress up in her new dress that Friscilla had made for her and take part in the picture. Again I would say that I have no idea how it will come out for while I was there I had to reverse the film and rethread the camera. It was the first time I had done it and I had quite a time figuring it out and getting it to run again. But finally it was accomplished and I went on with the film. If it is a good day tomorrow I'll try to finish the film and send it off to be processed and developed by the company. That is paid for in the original cost of the film. It will be nice to take a trip to Florida and take pictures of the places we go to and some of the nice friends we have. And then some evening at home we can run them off and see ourselves and our friends.

Mrs. Kemp and Alice came to dinner today to help get it ready. She roasted a chicken and made a steamed Troy pudding on Friday, besides cooking squash and doing a lot of other things. If I took my people back to So. Hadley after Sunday School and then came home and put the chicken in to cook for three quarters of an hour it would be a very late dinner for the Hildreths. We are not stylish with late hours for our meals. So Mrs. Kemp came right after Sunday School and had things all going when I got home with Father, my cousin and Chummie about 1.00 o'clock. We had a very nice dinner and then I showed them our things before they went off to their relatives. I took some pictures of them with Chummie and they took some of me with her. I do hope that I didn't expose the film and spoil it when I was rethreading it. The film got rather loose on the spool while I was going it! I'll have to learn by experience. Mr. Morrill took some pictures of the kindergarten two weeks ago but they were a failure because the film broke and so it didn't feed after that!

We've just called up South Royalton, Vt. and had a little talk with Ellison and Lottie. They said that there was a gang of about 80 young folks around the piano, singing. We got in some general thankyou's but we'll have to go in more detail in letters.

It's 10:15 P.M. now so I think I will go to bed.
With best wishes for the New Year.

Lovingly,

Fannie

Please return

Holyoke, Mass., Sept. 25, 1936, 2.30 P.M.

Dear Folks,

What a week this has been! This morning at church we sang, "Safely through another week, Thou hast brought us on our way" and it had an unusual meaning to it as we sang. The week will go down in local history as the week of the hurricane.

Last week it started to rain on Saturday afternoon about five o'clock just before we went to the Brownses for supper. The next day was rainy. That was the opening day for the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Monday was another rainy day. There was no school as it was Children's Day at the exposition. I went to the library at the church and got some books for two young folks to read who are the City Home, one of them with a tiny baby and the other with a broken leg. I took Father downtown first to the movies. It was a dreary day and so he went to see "Alexander's Ragtime Band". In the evening I went across the street to show all my new movies to the invalid girl there, daughter of the man who plays with my Father every Friday night. She had been having severe pain over the weekend and was much cheered up by seeing the pictures. She enjoyed seeing the seashore pictures and thought that they looked like the places she used to see ten years ago before she became sick. She is 80 years old now.

Well, the next day it rained. And it was the first day of banking at school, which made a lot of confusion. It was also the first payday of the year for the teachers! And it was Primary day at the polls. And Curley got nominated! And it looked as there was going to be a war! Alas, and alack! But we hadn't seen anything yet!

We began to get rather nervous in school about the prospect of another flood. The rain was still coming down. During the day the sun came out for a while however and the pupils went out at recess to walk up and down. But about 2.30, just before school was dismissed at 2.50 it began to come down again, and good and hard. At first I thought I would stay around a little and wait for it to let up but I soon decided to get under-way so that Father would not worry about me. I hadn't been sure when I started out whether I would have trouble at some of the underpasses going down to school and so I knew he would be a little worried. There was quite a little water on the road in one place going down, but that had gone when I went home. But in the meantime the river had come up a lot! It wasn't even in sight in the morning at the place where it backs up near the Country Club, but now it was way over to the edge of the road in some places although quite a little below the level of the road. It was not so high as the time I went through the afternoon before the big flood of 1936 but it looked suspiciously like it.

I got home and put my car in the barn. I opened the other door of the barn so that Lenore might drive right in when she came. After a while the rain got worse and we began to watch it. It drove in great sheets across the field. It began to fill up the gutter across the street at the corner. Leaves began to fly and soon small branches too. I pushed the sewing table away from the big window in the living room so that the three of us might have front seats at the spectacle (I never thought of the danger of falling glass!) Pretty soon the grass was covered with twigs and branches. We saw what looked like a flash of lightning before the rain got too heavy. But there was no thunder. I said, "what was that?" The others thought it was lightning but we waited in vain for thunder. Then I noticed sparks flying from the top of a telegraph pole at the corner. I telephoned the police in great excitement but he calmly said it was probably a transformer burning out. We waited for someone to come but no one did. There were too many other things happening to bother. The box just burned out and that was all. There was to that.

It was a little hard by this time to see through the window as there was

three bits of leaves on the glass but we soon saw that there was a big tree partly down on the other side of the field. Pretty soon cars began to turn back, showing that they could not get through. And then a policeman came and directed traffic in the midst of that terrible rain. I was much excited when I saw a tree leaning on a house across the street where the sick girl lives. I was relieved later to see that it was against the garage instead.

Eventually the wind wore it self out. I went out in the darkness to get some air and see how much damage. Gummie was wild with delight at getting out but I was afraid to have her go off the lawn for fear of her getting into some of the wires. They were down in places and looked dangerous to others. The lights had gone off during the storm and we ate supper by candle light. Mrs. Kemp was too jittery to watch the storm so she went out in the kitchen to busy herself with supper. I warned her to look out for our big oak tree. With such a wind I was afraid that the old tree would go. But I guess the barn protected it some and I guess too that it has deeper roots than some of the other trees. It's still standing. But the small pear tree out front was broken and has been cut down by Mr. Smith. There was little left of the tall white lilac, so that is down too. But the yard looks better without them and we got little use from either of them anyway. The boys used to steal the pears and the lilacs were mostly too high to reach! On the north side two new trees put in by a neighbor were on a decided slant but they are still there with boards under them to support them, and they may get straightened out later. So we got off very lightly.

I found a kerosene lamp down stairs which I nearly got rid of a while ago! Lenore has kerosene in her oil range so she and Mrs. Kemp got out a little. Lenore had supper at our house and spent the evening with us. She had to leave her car some distance from the house on account of fallen trees and wires. Later she got it home with considerable difficulty. There were trees across the road everywhere all over the city. 98 of them are down in our lovely cemetery! The one near our graves is leaning on another and will undoubtedly come down when they get around to it. Sometime ago they wanted to take it down but Father thought not. Well, it makes the space that was needed for me now without using the place where Baby Charles was buried in 1891. They had thought perhaps I could be buried there. But now I shall have a place of my own!

Betty Moore, Lenore, Mrs. Kemp and Father played games by the light of the kerosene lamp (without a shade on it) and with two candles. I read and looked casually at my lessons for the next day. I had no idea that I would be going anyway. No radio to cheer us, no cuckoo clock, even, to sing out, for he fell down on me Sunday night when I pulled the weights to wind him up. The book that held him up turned and down he came. I caught him but he gave me a little dig in the thumb as I did it. No heater, but it wasn't cold. No lights but the lamp, candles and flashlights. So we went to bed early. About three o'clock, just after the lights came on I went downstairs and called the police to inquire about the road to W. Springfield. They said "You can't get through". When I told Father in the morning he was dubious. He said, "That was 3 o'clock. It may be all clear now." He was thinking about rain conditions and I was thinking about flood conditions and knew that that would get worse all the time instead of better. So it did. The radio finally announced at about 7.40 that there would be no school in W. Spf. I telephoned two teachers who did not yet have electricity and therefore could not hear the radio. Fortunately they did have telephones. The ironical thing about school was that our principal told the pupils the day before not to call up and ask if there would be school on bad days. He said "The building will be open and the teachers are expected to be here". Well, I didn't intend to go even if there had been school. I would have asked for a substitute rather than run the risk of getting caught down there and having Father worry about me at home.

Mrs. Kemp and I went to Laurel Park yesterday. It's terrible there, but our cottage is all right. I took quite a few movies of the ravages.

*They look to remedy us you might return to 137 and J. E. Moore
Mrs. F. Moore*

Holyoke, Mass., Sun., Oct. 2, 1938 2 P.M

Dear Folks,

I'll go on with my story of the hurricane now. It was a bright day that followed the storm and many people were out clearing up the trees that had fallen on the roads. I took some movies and went downtown to get some fish for dinner. I thought I would rather have fish than meat because I knew that they kept fish on ice and that wouldn't give out as the electrical refrigeration had. I found out afterward that the store that I trade at usually for some meat had put ice in the bottom of their counter to keep the food cold.

That evening we went to prayermeeting. It was interesting to hear the reports people gave of their encounter with the storm. A lot of our ladies were at the church for a meeting and had to go home at the time the trees were falling. They had thrilling experiences of having trees fall in front of the car and then when they went into other streets trees fell behind them. But all got home safely. Our pastor told of going to Northampton in the afternoon to get a book at the library. When he was ready to come home the storm was beating down. He had changed his suit to a lightweight one before leaving home and had forgotten to change his pocketbook so that all he had was 25 cents. He waited for the storm to let up and then went to the police to find about the condition of the roads to Holyoke. They assured him that he could not get through. He used ten cents to call up Holyoke and then began thinking about where he might get a free lodging for the night. He went to the Baptist minister and had a nice supper and was kept for the night, so that turned out all right.

I lent our lamp that we had used to such advantage the night before to another family, Fran Buckley and her grandmother. The electricity came on the next day so then we turned it over to the Gablers. Their lights came on the next day after, so then the lamp stayed around without being used for awhile. I took it to school on Wednesday for one of the teachers. She had been correcting papers by the light of several candles. But she didn't have to use it after all for her lights came on too!

Friday there was no school again for us although the Holyoke schools were in session. I slept late and took it easy. In the afternoon I went to my club for the first meeting of the year. Our hostess had no electricity and had to make her coffee on the gas range in the basement! We had a most interesting talk by the 1st Cong. minister about his trip into Germany, England and Wales. It was very fine to hear it at a time when we were all so afraid of what Hitler might do in Czechoslovakia.

That evening I went down to church just in case someone came for choir rehearsal but no one did. Our organist was out in Utica and could not get home. Saturday I went to Laurel Park taking Chuanie and Mrs. Keep (notice the order!) We put down some rat poison in the cottage and brought back two lamps to use if needed. Luscense trees were down everywhere. The electricity was off so there was no danger from the many wires that were down. I asked that the first thing. We left the car at the entrance and picked our way around the trees. There were quite a few down around our house but they had not hurt the house. One fell across the back steps, that is the branches did. I was told later that a cupola had fallen from the roof so when I went up again yesterday I looked to see what they meant. It was our dummy chimney. There may be some nail holes in the roof covering that may let some water through but that is all I can see that may be wrong about it. The wooden chimney is on the ground back of the house and I think the house looks better without it on the roof!

I have sent away three films that I took during this time and I hope to get two of them back by the middle of the week. I took some of the dam but most of them are of trees, around here and in the cemetery and at Laurel Park. Some of them may not come out very well for the light

Should to get your letter Helen B. was a letter from an old friend
Did you see the paper - Don't after my departure?

wasn't good at times, especially the ones I took of our property just after the rain stopped and it cleared up.

Father played golf for the first time in quite a while last Wednesday. It was a warm day. I hustled home from school to take the folks to Laurel Park if they would go and found all away except Chummie. Lenore Parker took Father over as his friend with whom he often plays on Wed. had already gone. So he just took one club and went around the course with them for the first nine holes. He stopped playing after that and had a shower. Then he waited for a bus for about a half hour he said and started to walk home but was picked up by someone. I had my hair shampooed instead of taking the trip. Saturday I took Mrs. Kemp and Cousin John and Levinia and Chummie and went to the park for the second time. There didn't seem to be much difference in the looks of the place so I took some more movies and finished up the film. They tell me that everyone must leave the park on Monday. Ordinarily they allow cottagers to live there later than this but they are afraid of the fire hazard I suppose.

When we got back to school Monday we went on with the hymn that we had been singing before the hurricane. It was "God will take care of you". Since then we have sung, "His eye is on the sparrow". They were fitting hymns!

Our church calendar speaks today of the loss of some people during the hurricane. They were cousins of May C Ollingwood who lives two houses from here. They were in their cottage at the shore when it was blown out to sea. The bodies later on were returned to the place from which they went out! Rather remarkable, isn't it!

We had our pastor's remarks early in the program last Thursday night so that the latter part of the program might be kept for prayer for peace. I wonder what the future will hold. Will it be like the days of 1864, 1866 and 1870 when Germany was fighting and getting new land for herself. She was then powerful enough in 1914 to do considerable damage before the world war was over. At least today the people of Bohemia are not facing hostile guns, even though they are having to give up land that has been theirs for a long time.

We heard from our friends the Cummings of Florida that they did not suffer from the storm of the 21st. We had hoped that they might come to Holyoke. Had they done so they might have been driving right into the hurricane, and they certainly would have been delayed in getting away from here if they had planned to stay only a day or two. So it was well that they decided not to come.

I have a new teacher in my Primary Dept. of the Sunday School. She is a dear! She used to teach for me before she got married but has not done so since. She had a hard time today as there are two very difficult boys in the class, and one who has plenty of pep if aroused, and a girl who used to be a "case" and who has had to be put back into that class as she does not belong in the grade ahead in regular school. It is hard to do the work of the third grade if you are only in the second grade in school. I'm sure she will love this teacher and so will the little fellows when they get acquainted but today was pretty hard on her. Everyone was rather lively on account of the long church service and communion service.

Back on regular time today and so now our radio programs come at the proper time instead of an hour later than usual. I shall be sorry to have the days shorter though. Today is such a lovely day that I would like it to last longer.

Our savings are down now for the winter. I like the looks of the house better when they are off, although they are harmonious when they are up. We have stored them in the attic. Mr. Smith took them off soon after the hurricane. Too bad they didn't get off before. I wanted them off the week before but he had a funeral and put it off and then came the rain and the big wind.

Love,