

Letter No. 2

3 P'ing Ts'ang Hsiang,
Nanking, China,
Nov. 14, 1937.

Dearest Lilliath:-

At least two weeks have passed without receipt of a letter, and I am concerned. Mails now take five or six days from Shanghai, though there are temporary possibilities of something quicker. I trust that nothing has been lost, though it would be almost miraculous if there have been no destructions -- as seems to be the case with letter mail and Shanghai newspapers to date. But I never received any indication of your plans, even by implication. McCallum has heard from Lyrel that she expected to arrive in Shanghai on the "Pres. Doumer", which was to land passengers the 11th.; but nothing further. That letter said that you were going to Jessie's in Tokyo; and today Elsie told that she heard from the Turners' that you were in Tokyo.

My last two letters contained some information about banking, plans, and so forth, which I hope you received, though it was mostly in view of the possibility of your coming to Shanghai. Disorder in relation with the Chinese is of course finished, though there may be some friction between the Japanese and British or French authorities. A few days from now ought to show the tendency, and I should not expect the difficulty to last long or to endanger ordinary citizens; but these are strange times. There is great local relief in Shanghai, of course, though the last two weeks were the worst, and therefore you may hear some despairing reports from Marion or others.

If at any time there is need, American authorities will probably be glad to transmit personal items of inquiry, safety, or place of residence. Ordinary communications will probably become worse, as the Chinese are being seriously beaten back. You will regularly use the Society funds, but if needed you could have money drawn or paid on order by the National City Bank, perhaps even by cable. It is difficult to imagine how long we may be cut off, either from local or from international services of mail and telegraph; but I really do not expect it to be long from the former, and the latter is an unknown possibility.

Lois Maddock and her family, including husband -- what's his name? -- will probably pass through Yokohama on the "President Jefferson" about Dec. 13, if her original plan is carried out. I hope you will see some one from the family. I think she is going from Shanghai by one of the express steamers to Kobe, but part of the family will start from Hongkong.

I am well, and normally comfortable. The gang here is as cheerful as one could get in hard times, and I may get fat with lots of fun at meals and no worry about the kids' manners. The city is filling up with wounded soldiers, however, for the Chinese losses have been very heavy; and that does n't make for general gaiety. Probably we have a few weeks more, though action may be very quick if the navy opens up the river. The Chinese are naturally despondent, though they still keep at work. My teaching is not very interesting under these conditions, but there is plenty of special missionary work at this time.

My love to Bobby and to Morton, and plenty for you.

Scarle