Dearest Mother and All:—Last night two more nice fat letters were received from you, besides two from the Tolstrup, so we had a glorious time reading them. We had planned to reckon up our personal accounts and balance two other Mission accounts for which I am acting treasurer, but we read letters first. We were all so eager to hear that we had been blessed in the distribution of mail this time; for, when we went over to the W.F.M.S. home for our Saturday night prayer-circle in preparation for the Sunday work, we found that both they and the McCurlys had received quite a large home mail during the previous week,—while we had not gotten one even. But upon our return to the Mission, we brought out all these letters for us, and we had the time of our lives. I now have three of yours to answer; July 1 and 24, and August 1st. Upon referring to my file, I discover that the last one I wrote was on September 21st before we came down from the hills, and when it was sent there was a little interval between our July letters, I am afraid that would have "lost face" as the Chinese say.

Well, we have had a good deal to occupy our attention since we returned to the city. We moved the time and direction down our "tour" over the Main Trail the Friday preceding with instructions to have the chimneys swept, and the ledges of the room where we sleep washed; the windows cleaned, and things put in order for our arrival on the following Monday. But we went a step further than his instructions and had hired an old lady to help him (by our permission) do the work of all the other houses. Within the hour, she had swept off all the window ledges, scrubbed all the floors, and washed nearly all the windows before our return on Monday. The ladies next door said that they were busy, and this was a work of necessity in this instance. This Sunday observance is now new to the Chinese, believe me! There's no let up on any kind of labor here on that day excepting in Christian shops and homes.

On the Monday of our return, the McCurlys invited us to come to dinner over there inasmuch as we hadn't had time to put our stove up, etc., and after dinner our good old lady was on the floor, and there we had a real Chinese dinner. We passed; and now we are preparing the Acts, Galatians, Ephesians, and the first thirty Psalms. Conference coming in November this year, we work three days each month, study to complete our course, and we work slower than you do.

We were so pleased to receive the Kodak pictures of the "family." You all looked good enough to kiss. Only we missed Harry's smiling face, and will glad to get a supplementary picture sometime later. You all look very happy and natural and well, which is as it should be. We can see that the babies are not the arm-full that you used to be, but we would not guess that it is only 1 1/2 pounds that you have lost. However, Grandpa, there is one advantage which I think of one of these pictures before you have yourself discovered, namely, you can get your arm around "baby" waist without having to use chalk to mark the place. Give her two hugs for me!

You tell us, Mother, that while we are up in the bungalow you look at our pictures in the little round window or see us on the veranda eating our rice, and get such satisfaction from these that I am sending a few more this time. Perhaps should have waited until Mr. Feat returns with some new paper for us from Shanghai for our Felix has gone adrift our hands and these photos are not of the best. But I'll never see you visiting, that long. I'll write explanations on the back as usual and save this space for other words.

In one letter you tell us of the cold and how Indiana's crops are reported to have been frozen; in the next let your test, that it's 70° in the shade, and you wonder if we are suffering with the heat. No, it was a cool summer for us, too; and now the rainy season is on in full blast. Only two days of sun in two weeks since our return to the city. Our grass is knee high, and the palms next sprouting the mahogany leaves are falling off rapidly. But the Chinese eighth month feast (Harvest Home feast) has only just passed, and so we have not been able to get any one to properly attend to this yard and the Hospital Compound. But we have had the kitchen and servant's quarters repaired, white-washed and painted, and my desk will receive its last coat of varnish.
tomorrow. The white ants had so eaten up the wooden floor and runners in the store-room (where we keep our food supplies) that rats were able to gnaw the rest of the way thru in a night and were causing us lots of bother, not to speak of causing us to use up all our Standard Oil tins in patching up the holes thus made. So we had that floor taken out last week and this week we will have the old runners all taken out and put away. The room has been cleaned up and about made ready for the occupancy of one of the families whom we are to entertain during Conference. And so the battle goes on!

Speaking about stores, Mother, you surmise correctly: we are not buying quite so much of Uncle Monty as we had anticipated. There is such a variety of cats to be secured here that not a great deal of foreign foodstuffs is really needed if we just make up our minds to do without them. We didn't use any butter all summer, either, as we could not buy fresh milk while we were on our trip. So when we first got back, we started out without making our own butter again. Baking powder and essences such as vanilla are our greatest problem, or rather may be. We still have some left of the supply which we brought with us from America. But unless Chinese political affairs improve wonderfully pretty soon, the situation in Chungking will have sold out, and very few junkes are coming thru from Ichang at present. Only the Standard Oil steamers get through with mail and occasional small cargo of foreign goods. We are expecting to invest a hundred dollars in the Canadian Sugar reen where we pay and thereby be entitled to buy our stores at cost. This will save us the risk of getting them en route, the bother and uncertainty of ordering from home personally, etc.

Exceedingly sorry to learn of the added troubles over the furniture and lease at Kansas City, Mussey. No doubt by this time everything has settled for better or for worse, and yet it is impossible for me to offer either congratulations or commiserations. Whichever may be in order, however, please accept the statement calls to mind the astonishment manifested by the situation of the present, when I remarked some time when I didn't have my hand, exceeding fully at Nevada I got out a funeral sermon: "A funeral sermon they exclaimed; before you know for what it is delivered! I don't see how that is possible!" It is a great disappointment to be based upon eternal truths were no less helpful because of having no particular person in mind. So I make my statement general because you know, Mussey, that your troubles are nine as well as your satisfaction over their settlement is shared by us all.

Although it rained today as usual, we have been doing quite a little walking. I was asked to sing over at the Union Church this morning, so I walked to the Yangtze River, where I found Dr. Crutcher— the preacher for the lay-waiting. But Dr. McCartney who has said that he would take us over in his boat was not there. I was so annoyed on going over with him, neither one of us had brought any money with us so I had to bustle Chinese gates when I knew by sight and borrow enough money to hire a boat to take us across the river to the church. After dinner, Clara and I had our usual trials and tribulations in our rainy-day outfits and set out there, visited health prospects in time for supper. By this combination I thus walked the breadth of Chungking twice, and the length of the city once and a half besides two miles' walk one way. By night, however, Grandpa, has four times crossed the population of Kansas City, and while a little tired probably enough to satisfy us all. I do not know how to fasten this on the fact that if we are wholly to the satisfaction of the family.

And now Harry; is anywhere in France? We received the telegrams today telling of the American victory and capture of 3000 prisoners. We note that this is the first one to say "The Americans, assisted by the French": most of the time this order has been reversed. We are all thankful for the term one of which we spent in the War which counts. With Dan in the navy and Harry in France interest will be growing more intense from now on, won't it? I noted in Millard's Review of the Far East" to which we have just subscribed, that out of every 4000 manned vessels crossing to France 3950 have arrived safely. As you understand it, the convoy of 4000 vessels will start out this week. I am not sure of this, but to some 14,000 of the marines -- the only ones which we had at that time in France -- is accorded the praise of holding their allotted point against every attack of the enemy in their recent big drive. That's a good sort of a repulsion and record to live up to. And here is to the end of my page. I just had one other item. I wanted to bring up, a did not want to mention it. Please give me your address, name and address. I know of none who would appreciate it better than myself. In this Indian way thoughts which I have, I would love to write to you. Name, Sex, Address.

Lots of love from Louis and Clara.
Dearest Mother and All:—We have you folks to thank for two packages of magazines and a letter this time, but while our thanks for these as always little to write about.

Inasmuch as I had not written to you for two weeks, however, and there seems little likelihood that another opportunity will be had for another week I am going ahead on faith:

This last week—so far as my activity was concerned—was taken up in preparing my sermon for you to hear. As I was on the lookout for a suitable text, I used the same text as in my first Chinese sermon; I had revised it considerably, and even left my "crutch" at home. That is to say, I took only a half-page outline in English with me, and simply tried to talk my message and so make it direct. This was an advance over last time, as was also my personal reading of my Scripture lesson, a short extemporaneous prayer in Chinese, and the reading of the ritual for the administration of the Lord's Supper.

The experience went off better than I had any right to expect, and shall enable me to "set my gall" as the Chinese say, for the next experience. (I have translated their idiom literally.) For our expression "Don't worry!" they say, "Get your heart!" and for our phrase "Be bold! Don't fear!" they say, "Set your heart at rest," and "You have your gall!" respectively.

This week Wednesday Clara and I go out to Deen Jia Ngai to keep Mrs. Rape and the children company while Mr. Rape goes up country to hold some Quarterly Conferences for Mr. Peak—who, as you remember, was sent by the Mission to take the Commission from America to work out into West China and see what kind of work we have out here. We will stay over until Monday the fourteenth.

He expects to take with him a memorial tablet to be placed in the Church at Din Jia Ngai, the English lettering of which I was asked to design. Miss Wells of the W.F.M.E. here, was left an orphan at a very early age, and went into the Deaconess Training School from whence she came to West China as a missionary. It was here that, as she says, she earned her first money that she could call her own. Her salary is about $600 per year, but out of that together with rentals from a bungalow which she purchased originally as a help to the local W.F.M.E., she has managed to save enough funds to build, first, a model primary school, and now a Memorial Church in honor of her father and mother. This Church is in process of construction at the present time. That is the way she is putting aside money for her old age. She is one of the most self-sacrificing people I ever met, and certainly an inspiration and help to us. She has also asked that I design a pulpit for the Church, but I haven't been able to start on that as yet.

Tomorrow I have to make another trip to the Hills. The caretaker of Dr. Freseman's bungalow (Dr. Freeman is doing surgical work in France, you know, and while he is away it is up to us to look after his property) came down Saturday to remit the balance of another starting small. On Dr. Freeman's property, I promised to come up today and see what I could do with a view to taking the matter up thru the British Consul later if the case seemed to warrant, but a note came this morning calling a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Union High School this afternoon, so I had to leave up the first plan. Tomorrow afternoon, the Executive Committee of our Chingsing Branch of the Red Cross meets here and Clara pours tea, so I want to get up to the bungalow and back before dinner.

I wish you could see my new desk which has just been completed. It is of solid oak painted with the Chinese stain which at home is known by the trade name of "Chimwal," just now it looks like mahogany, but in the course of a few weeks it will fade out into an antique oak. The desk is made so that it can be knocked down into three sections for transportation (four, rather). It has a sliding drawer, typewriter supply drawer, stationary compartment, small drawer for miscellaneous articles, and two letter-files. These drawers are each 18 inches in length, and the other part half is made into a shelf which can be used as a study table when my tutor comes:

Tomorrow our new tea-tables will be completed, I expect. They are of hong-do-oo and beautiful, if I do say it myself. They are arranged as a nest of four, fitting together as compactly as ever could be desired when not in use. The design is original, and intended to conform to the same motif in the design of our dining room furniture.
I have been reading your letter over again. And Clara and I both wish that we were able to teach our cook the economy in sugar that you folks are practicing at present. Clara has all of these stores looked up, of course, and the cook has to come to her for practically all supplies used in cooking, but he generally manages to use one cupful a day, not to speak of what we have left in the sugar-bowl after a day's use. I wonder what he would do if he could have only one cupful a week.

Lucille and Harry must have had a most interesting time at Starved Rock; Clara and I hope to go there some time while we are in that section of the State, but we didn't manage to see it. And of course the visit to College Springs was most enjoyable; I wish we might run over and see our folks that easily. The next best thing — if not the best — is to have our folks run over and see us. Come on over; it will be good for your health and peace of mind to see us in our Chinese environment, and realise just how more pleasant it is than you think;

I shall be very glad indeed to get the music, and I must thank you, Lucille, for the trouble and expense, and I know not what all, that you have been put to. I am very glad indeed that you have included some of the songs that are so popular at home just now. I had not remembered that I had excluded patriotic songs from those eligible for public performance. Only those of German origin are taboo, although the Friends take exception to patriotic songs of an imperialistic nature. I was saying to Clara that I wished that I had mentioned some of the popular songs specifically, such as Sherwood's "On the Road to Xanadu," which we had just lately finished reading, and in your letter, Lucille, will be most satisfactory and welcome. From your desideration, Mother, I know that they are wrapped up well, too, if only the censor re-wraps them as carefully after examination. Unfortunately some of them are not as careful as one might wish, although they do remarkably well considering the amount of mail which must be passing thru their hands daily.

It certainly is great to read the good news of the successive defeats of the Germans and their Allies. We are rejoicing over Saturday's news of the Bulgarian's suit for a separate peace, and are anxiously awaiting more details. We are receiving our Willard's Review from Shanghai now, and even tho' the news is generally three weeks old by the time it reaches us, it supplies the details which are not forthcoming in Reuter's telegrams.

One of our W.P.M.E. nurses is planning to go to Siberia if she is accepted, and others down river have already gone. I don't know what opportunities that will offer for service if the present small Allied expeditionary force fails to check the advance of the Germans and the Bolsheviki, but it sounds as if the world-war were living up to its name.

Lucille's dress material looks pretty and practical; Clara enjoyed reading the description of the way in which it was made. As for me, a more san, I just place my trust in the family's good taste and say, "How no mentions is having some sewing done these days too. Most of it has been mending and making over. But she has a Chinese seamstress whom she has hired for a month at $1.30 gold, and the work is just rolling off. She finished a winter's shirt for me today, a sample of which I enclose. The material was bought on the street in Chungking. The material for two shirts cost $1.40 cents gold. I just had a pair of low shoes made to order for next summer, as leather is rising in price; they cost only $3.25 gold per pair, and are not so bad looking either. Clara is going to have some made soon to as those she had this Spring have proved very comfortable and satisfactory. You remember that on her last birthday I gave her the material for a bathrobe. She has not had that made up until this week, but two tailors are working on it now. It is of silk, padded with silk batting.

We're sitting here in the study with windows and doors open and yet it is uncomfortably warm. But we do appreciate this week of fine weather in the midst of the rainy season. Last year at this season we had only two days out of two months that the sun showed his face; but this year, although the actual rainfall is said to be greater than ever, we have had several series of two or three days of sunshine at a time.

Well, I want to hunt up a few kodak pictures to send you, and write the customary inscription, and it is getting late. Our bestest love to you all.

Very affectionately and lovingly,

Levin to Clara.
Dearest Mother and Rose Folks:
Since I wrote you last (October 20th), all that we prophesied in the way of rush and bustle has come true, and the worst is not yet over. We have been appointed to Tsecho; Clara to Educational Work there and on the District Board, and I to the work of a Missionary in Charge. Consequently, we have the work of packing up and living. Our intention now is to leave here by boat on Monday, November 28th, and arrive in Tsecho about sixteen or twenty days later.

But perhaps I had better back up a little bit and give you the history of Conference week. The week began in a rather sad way; on the evening of Oct. 26th, we were called upon to bury the McCurdy's little son of six months' development; A miscarriage as you no doubt have guessed. Mrs. McCurdy is up and around now, but before the delivery of the child there was much anxiety over her condition, as she was very badly poisoned. They are both bearing up under the sorrow as Christians should.

On the next morning Mr. and Mrs. Peat arrived, bringing with them the Bishop's party. This consisted of Bishop and Mrs. Welch, and daughter Eleanor, who has just graduated from Ohio Wesleyan; Mr. Rich who is photographer for the World Outlook, and Miss Strou, the general secretary entertained by us was Mr. Rich.

We had as our guests the following: Dr. Canright, Mrs. Canright and son Tsecho; Dr. and Mrs. Crawford, one of the children from Tsecho; Dr. and Mrs. Giljestrand; and three children from Tsecho; Mr. Crawford of Chengtu and Mrs. Rich. We had two stores away on the sleeping porch, two in the living room with their son on the upper veranda just outside; the Giljestrands and their children in our suite of two rooms constituting our own bedroom usually. The Lawrence were in the office which we had furnished complete with the help of hospital furniture; and Clara and I put up our cots in the room.

Of course, before Conference was over each Chungking family had opportunity to entertain all the guests at dinner. Clara fixed up the schedule for the rotation of guests, and this was planned up in the hall so that the cooking was always ready wherever there was to go without the sending around of gilt-edged invitations. In the end, the people thought Clara a splendid hostess and selector of menus, and all mentioned the skill of our cook repeatedly.

While Clara was busy in this line of work, I served in the usual capacity of host at Annual Conference, which means that I was everybody's servant. If there were chairs there to be called; ask Reevesale! If there was laundry to be sent out; let Reevesale do it! If the lantern had to be got ready for the bishop's lecture, or Mrs. Rich has to have dark room for his developing, or wall to be sent to the P.O., they all knew where to come. It was a bit wearing at times, but I suppose that it did not begin to come up to Clara's difficulties, as I find it easier to throw off the responsibility than she does.

I was elected Conference Statistical Secretary also, and Clara like a good old sport (excuse the term) helped me out there. One night when my "internals" were not in good order and I almost fainted away at the desk, Clara took hold of the work (while I went to bed) and worked at accounts until nearly midnight. The work was especially trying because the Chinese secretary was not good at mathematics and consequently I had to go over every item with him separately so as to help him get his reports in shape. Next year the Conference secretary is to be at Tsecho, so we will be in for the repetition of our experience as hostess. We may well be on the cabinet. I'll no doubt be relieved of the statistician's job.

The Conference was very pleasant and profitable in every way; although the fact that human nature is essentially the same in a Mission Conference as well as in a home Conference was made evident. The W.F.M.S. have a worker at home on furlough just now, who is soon to return to the Field, and her name is Collier, and she has done a work out here which certainly must cast chattles in the General Board upon her as a splendid Christian woman and valuable worker. But a number of the W.F.M.S. decided that she would be difficult to live with if she returned, so they petitioned the home executive to retire her. Miss Collier has no home but West China, and it would about break her heart to have to remain here in the States. The significant thing about it was that the three women who had actually been working her recently were the only ones who voted for her return. Bishop Welch was determined that she should return, as he told us that there were no valid reasons for her retirement as yet. Some of the "authorites" threatened to resign, and that only made his more sure of his position as they were
thereby defying the church authorities. Finally the General Board members who were insufficient in number returned to ask Bishop Welch to initiate the W.F.M. Executive in the United States for her release so that she might be appointed by our Board to work at Chongtzu. This is the way things stand now. Of course one must sympathize somewhat with these ladies on the field. They live such an abnormal existence, cooped up with only maiden ladies to a home, that even the littlest things weigh heavily on their nerves after awhile, and a person has to be just about perfect in order to get along.

By the way, we sent our first W.F.M. representative to the front today, Miss Batley left for Red Cross nursing in Siberia. We saw her off this afternoon. She bequeathed a black cat and a young fox terrier to us before she went, so we will have quite a family to begin housekeeping with at Tschewow.

Another Conference matter that was quite stirring was the consideration of the continuance of the work in the Chugueh High School. For nearly two years we have been considering the layout of the school, which should eventually constitute the Union High School plant. The Committee of Management on which I have been serving was unable to get its ideas embodied in the plans of the Committee of architects at Chongtzu. These men were to act with us in the matter, but unfortunately they were not familiar with the designs of the buildings, and when we first laid them before the committee there were lots of hills and so they drafted their plans as the the buildings were to be laid upon the Chongtzu plain. This led to the most impossible sites. Finally, the Canadians appointed three additional men to act with a like number from our mission who were to be given power to act in all questions pertaining to Union.

We met almost every day for twelve days, and arranged the division of land, and several questions relating to policy, but as the discussion went on, we received conflicting advice, and the mission policies were so radically different that real Union at Chongtzu with only two missions represented would be quite impracticable. The Canadians, however, insisted upon keeping as their member of the staff a man who would be able to take the initiative in any matter, but referred even his own students' troubles to Mr. Welch. Then he would defend himself to the mission by saying that Mr. Welch was rushing things to suit his own ends, and that he was now going to the trouble of being sufficiently instructed in school life. Albertson said, "But the C.W.M. has no other place for Mr. Welch, and so they insisted upon his remaining. This necessitated a full review of the situation, which revealed that they insisted upon a federated union while we insisted upon an organic union. It would take two or three letters to go over the history and development of the matter; suffice it to say that at last we were unanimously convinced that we could each do more to forward the Union by going our own sweet ways than by attempting to form a united body. A great disappointment at the result of this experiment at Union, but knowing the peculiar conditions and difficulties in the way of a two-organization union with radically different policies, I think it is surely more than any other plan.

Good news has reached us today: "Peace signed: Austria declared
The Kaiser William abdicates, and the Crown Prince refuses succession. We are all shouting for the joy of it, and Old Glory is waving in front of all our houses. And now for the reconstruction period and the making of history. I understand Austria has declared in favor of Austria and of course another nation is in similar throes just now. I wonder if in the reaction a state of anarchy will get the upper hand? At any rate we thank God for his guidance and help, thus far in the great conflict, and have faith to believe that He is equally capable of leading us through the second great crisis.

Well, I am so sleepy that I fear my letter hasn't been very coherent. I had intended to tell you about our vacant-mail and study night, which culminated in a grand climax when a rat came into the room and the ladies all climbed up on chairs and organs etc. And Mrs. Welch was so afraid to get down that the Bishop had to carry her out on his back. It was grand fun.

Your answer to this should be addressed to Tschewow. Conditions are quiet now, so we anticipate a good trip and no mishaps. As the house there has no been in use for some weeks, there is no need of repairs made before we can become really settled. Two weeks before Christmas I plan to accompany the Chinese District Superintendent of the lower half of the Tschewow District while he makes his first quarterly conference visit. After we set off Clara will continue with me and look after the school. It will require about five days longer for letters to reach us. I suppose that this will reach you about Christmas time and our box isn't ready to send yet. But a very Merry Christmas to all of you, and a Happy New Year of Peace.
On the Yangtze River
Nearing Luchow.

December 3rd, 1919.

Dear Mother and Rose Folks:

Less than a day more will see us completing the Big River half of our journey to Tsechow, and as that will be the last point en route having direct connection with the town-river mail boats for Shangtzi and home, I want to at least a short letter to you to let you know that thus far all is well.

We had expected to leave Chungking on the day before Thanksgiving but owing to the special nature of that day this year, we were denied to persuasions and "stayed over." It supposes that one would have to be in a foreign country at such a time to really appreciate the full force of the President's request that this be not only a national Thanksgiving Day but that those of other nationalities be invited to make it an International Day of Thanksgiving because of the cessation of hostilities.

At our service, Mr. Cratcher of the Canadians gave the principal address; the American and the British Consule each spoke most effectively; yours truly gave the prayer; and a small quartette composed of three Americans and a Canadian rendered special music. The annual Council also attended.

We lost out on the dinner for the Americans at the Consulate, as we were expected to leave the day before, so we were not sorry, as we had such to occupy our attention that day anyway. Dr. McCarter invited the Liljestrand's and the non-American ladies of our party, M. B., and ourselves to their house for dinner. The recent interment of their little grandson, together with the fact that Dr. McCarter's son-in-law is a Canadian and hence would not accompany them, had caused the Consul to decline the Consulate's invitation.

We had a splendid Thanksgiving dinner in good company, and while the ladies visited, Dr. Liljestrand and I got our various cargoes thru Consul's affairs. About five o'clock we went down to our boat and tried out things in livable condition for the ensuing 20 days.

Our boat is called a "chien"; it has a capacity of 33 tons; its length is about fifty feet, and its width about eight feet. Our things are mostly packed away in the hold, and other bulkier articles of furniture have been utilized as I shall try to describe in due season. The roof is arched and in order of split bamboo matting, quite rainproof. We have divided the boat into three sections; or rooms; the first ten feet of deck space at the stern, is, of course, the holman's and the captain's, and is entirely open throughout the day. The next ten feet is given over to the cook's wife and baby and a Chinese girl student (daughter of our private teacher) whom we are escorting as far as Tsechow on her way to the Girls' High School at Chengtu, our chiffor- bier placed side by side, an oiled sheet, and a sitting screen for the screen below. At the other end of this 9X10 division is a somewhat similar arrangement, except that there placed our china-closet from which the glass doors have been removed, thus affording us some slight valuable shelf-room. Running lengthwise on the starboard side of our room is our bed, composed of our thin box springs and mattresses resting upon two of my book boxes. Across the three foot aisle we have a small Chinese table of our cooked, which serves us for dining table or desk.

Adjoining this is a bath-tub filled with six sage of steel-nilled flour (a quality unobtainable at Tsechow) upon which is placed our wicker clothes-hanger with a rubber tarpaulin over the top, affording us a dress and washstand. Our storer-trunk chinese conveniently under our bed, while at the foot of the same a basket bed for our little fox-terrier completes our furnishings, and what more could the most exacting ask?

The division ahead is kitchen for the rowers and ourselves by day and a sleeping place for the cook and coolie by night. The cook is living up to his reputation as a culinary artist of the first degree, accomplishing near-airloaves with the aid of a charcoal fire, and wrought iron grates, and Standard 33 tin oven.

The last ten or more feet is occupied by our crew of ten men when rowing; but inasmuch as we are going upstream, the larger part of the day they are off on shore "trawling" by means of pulling our basee rope some hundred feet in length in that antiquated fashion (to quote your words) which you thought had given place to steam. We go very slowly; so slowly in fact, that when Clara and I want exercise we walk along the river by thee and find it quite easy to keep up with our boat.
Dear Lucille, Mother, and All:

This will be the last letter I will write to you this year. More than a year since we left home, and nearly a year since we came to Chungking; just think of it! Yet judging from the things that have taken place in that time it ought to be about five years—don't you think so?

Your letter of October, Lucille, written when Muzzy and Mother were on their way to Chicago to visit Hazel and Dan, came several days ago, but Christmas festivities have delayed my answer somewhat. There were several mighty good kodakes of some youngsters included therein, also, which we were more than glad to see and wish to you both. Lucille, when we say that most folks will look upon that group as sisters and cousins. We wonder you felt it necessary to write out their names beginning from the left and naming toward the right! By the same mail Clara received some good home letters, also and they enclosed photos of the same size, pictures of our little sister, nieces and nephew, so the evening was one of jubilance.

We were nicely entertained by cards from many of our West China friends, English, Canadian, American, and Chinese: Mr. Foust gave Clara a unique Chinese tattoo print; our cook presented us with two pairs of brass chop-sticks hand-engraved; the W.F.M.S. ladies gave Clara fancy tilies of various pink satin sandals, and a couple of Japanese calendars; and a couple of the ladies gave Clara and me together a large sepia print of Hofsam's "Christ and the Doctor" which we are planning to have framed at once.

Clara got me to promise that instead of buying gifts for each other we would together select something for the house. When we went out shopping she saw nothing in the way of curios that she wanted, because secretely she had arranged for some special thing to arrive. A flurry up to date I haven't found anything suitable for her; I tried to buy fruit knives but thus far have failed to find any in Chungking, so I guess Clara will get her Christmas present about nine months from now, unless subscription to some magazine will do.

Things went off very nicely at the church. Exercises were held three nights in succession, before crowded houses. The decorations were gorgeous; multicolored paper chains, star decorations, and brilliant costumes and designs made of cuffed rice dyed in various colors were used plentifully. Instead of a Christmas tree with its candles, Chinese paper lanterns were suspended from the beams on every side. These lanterns were made to represent parrots, geese, storks, fish, vegetables and fruits, immense flowers, airships, balls on which Chinese maidens with the Chinese or American flags were precariously balanced, and even merry-go-rounds. The merry-go-round was quite cleverly gotten up so that the heat from the candles worked a kind of pin-wheel concealed within, which furnished power whereby the villians pursued fair maidens, and dogs running, after cats, etc., etc. Were made to revolve about a circular track, or cylinder; animals and garlands was also draped overhead and forced into fantastic knots, so that the ceiling did not appear to be as high as usual.

There were songs, recitations of Scripture, sermons long and short, and music on Miss Lindley's Victrola, of which I had charge. Chinese candy, nuts, and oranges were distributed to the pupils.

We of course had foreign worship on Christmas morning at the Hospital Chapel. Mr. Foust did the preaching, and Miss Wells and I had charge of the music. Then we went to the W.F.M.S. home (that is, those of our mission) where they had a Christmas tree, and we received the gifts mentioned above. When dinner time came, the children, six in number, came over to our study where a special table that was reserved for them and they were given their Christmas dinner. At one P.M. the bell rang for the rest of us and twenty in all sat down to one long table extending thru our dining and reception rooms. Of course we weren't able to catch up your American Christmas dinners as to details, but as to quantity, variety, and satisfaction we were nothing lacking.

Without stopping to divide into courses I may mention: beef bouillon, oyster patties, roast goose with chestnut dressing, rolls, stringed beans, scalloped tomatoes, fruit salad on lettuce leaf, since pears, plum pudding, and coffee followed by home made ice cream. The rest of the afternoon was spent at the ladies' home where tea was served.

Our houses were both decorated in real Christmas fashion; and our table decorations received many compliments. We had those red and green runners which we sent at East Moline and Christmas made into a sort of "cat and cradle" design. This was supplemented with miniature evergreen wreaths with small red balls (made by Clara) and three brass vases containing red roses from the bougainvillea on the Hills. Other large wreaths with Christmas balls, evergreen ropes, and "rosenah" garlands were used to effect on and over the scroll-work of the large double doors. The ladies did us the compliment of
saying that "It was just like the Haversales".

Tomorrow morning Mr. Peat leaves for the road again, as word is received that troops are converging toward Tszechow. Since Mr. Torrey is soon to leave for America, Dr. Liljestrand would be left alone to manage things there, and he has been out there only a few months longer than we have. McCurdy's will also move into this house, although we remain in charge here until Mr. Peat's return as I am to look after the sub-treasurer business for the present, and Clara will have to initiate Mrs. McCurdy into the mysteries of managing Chinese servants.

Hochow was located the day before Mr. Lawrence arrived there on his way to Suining, but our property was not solicited. He reports the house in good condition. It is not likely that the house city will be located by the soldiers twice in the same season, so we are feeling comparatively safe in our anticipation of taking up our residence there. We will not move until the middle of February, however, as we are getting quite anxious to get settled, as our present situation and circumstances are not very conducive to study. Besides, since talking with Mr. Peat and others, it seems as if our residence and work there were quite likely to last throughout our first term in China. They are looking to us not only to build us a strong church but eventually to build up a whole new District, and we have managed to knit us quite a little enthusiasm over the prospects. Of course, they still say to us Don't try to do anything more this first second year than to learn all the Chinese you can and become acquainted with the people and the situation— which is quite in line with our own plan.

I am glad you became acquainted with Mrs. Conner of Molino. Mr. Conner especially was a very good friend of mine while we were in East Molino. I sent him a card from here some months ago, but I have never heard from him since. I guess they must not have received it, or they would have said something to you about it. The way I happened to tell her and others about your funny misunderstanding of the term "staccato," was an illustration of child-study, the necessity of building upon the known in introducing things or prospects outside of the child's experience. I'm glad the illustration stuck.

I think I have already answered your question about the likelihood of our being put to great inconvenience, because of the loss in exchange in China. It is very low just now, as one hundred dollars will buy only about 145 silver dollars. If we were to be left off for many years, we would thereby be cut down to almost $700.00 gold a year. As it is, however, the Board has arranged for this past year to keep up the exchange at par, or in other words to make up the loss to us. It will not affect us, therefore, excepting as it affects the work. Many missionaries are planning to turn to such as two hundred dollars of their salary back into the work so that the deficit may be made up and the work go on as before so far as their contribution shall reach. We are not altogether decided to do this, as I explained in my last letter; for we still have our debts at home to meet, and one reason we failed to straighten them out while in America was because we consented to take some sacrifices of the Church and colleges that were in the hole. We have already arranged with the Board to take from our 1913 salaries to pay off the $320.00 of the debt to the Board of Education and clear that up. We are expecting to get off one hundred of what we owe others on our coming out expenses, and to get a little start on the Upper Iowa entente subscription. Hochow ought to be a good place to save, from what Lawrence and others have told us, so maybe we are going to get our chance to meet our obligations at last.

Your reference to Mrs. Kincaid of Stronghurst was also interesting. But you have been disillusioned or else we do not know the recent developments about Clara's idea if Mrs. Kincaid is reported to have it. For we wrote to Mr. Kincaid's successor a Mr. Hunt, at Chebanse and have heard of no change. I don't suppose the dining set has been sold as yet.

Well, I am owing a number of letters which I hope to answer yet this evening, so as I would have to work hard and consume a lot of time to try to think up more things to fill up this space below, I'm just going to send lots of love to you and all, and close.

Most affectionately,

Lewis & Clara
Dearest Mother and All:

One good letter from you reached us at Luchow on our way to Taeochow, and another bearing the sad tidings of Hassel's illness and their great sorrow came to us shortly after our arrival here. A little over two weeks ago, Hassel began to cough or expectorate sputum, and her coughing grew worse. We felt so sympathetic, though we having seen the McCleary's undergoing a similar experience before, we did not feel able to do otherwise. In these four intervening months that sputum has been expectorated, and Hassel has been so much relieved, that most of the physicians regain.

We were so glad to learn that Hassel's convalescence is so hopeful now! Nevertheless, we shall not feel real easy until we hear from you that the Spanish influenza has spent itself and that you are all spared its ravages.

We had nothing similar in Taeochow while we were on the hills last winter. That is to say, the minor ailments which our agents correspond to the descriptions of the Spanish influenza of which we have been reading raged in Chungking and had the Chinese almost wild with apprehension. Our own servants were ill for several days, and Mrs. Feat had it while illating, but otherwise our family escaped. Quite a number of the missionaries on the second range also had their experiences. We hope the morse severe form of it will stop on your side of the Pacific.

Well, to go back to the point where I left off in my last letter...

Our trip continued pleasant, although we had only one sunny afternoon out of the twenty-one scoured on the way here. But Taeochow received us with a lovely day. Mr. and Mrs. Feat, the Quakers, and Mrs. Feat's mother was on hand to receive us, and we found it rather hard to tear ourselves away to go on to the W. N. M. B. house for dinner. After dinner we just managed to undeck our boats and get our things up to the house by dark.

Christmas time came around about three days later and we had a very pleasant time with our Taeochow family. The church festivities lasted for three days, with songs in Chinese, and a program of Chinese and English difficulty to get in everything. It was Mrs. Candestan's turn to entertain, so on Christmas morning we all had breakfast together, and the Christmas tree was decorated. They asked me to be Santa Claus, which was almost my first experience in this role.

We were given quite a number of useful articles presented us, and several things are still to come. While at Chungking we had purchased a beauty of a Chinese porcelain vase with bronze dragon pattern embossed and with enamel chrysanthemum. Twenty-four dollars was what they asked for it, but as it is getting Chinese New Year's time when all good Chinese try to get as much money as possible together in order to pay up debts, my price was finally accepted. This was supposed to be our mutual Christmas present for the house; but Clara always wants to work in a surprise stunt as I am beginning to learn, and so we each put a card on the Christmas tree telling what we are expecting to give: a missionary diary and a Radio Maggiedoll wrist watch is what I am to receive; and Clara is to have a file for needlework, pictures, silken cloth for new room, just as soon as she shall be able to decide how she wants it made.

Other things were a vase, two pairs of ivory chop sticks, a tea-set of Chinese ware, a fern-leaf, Chinese silk bromeliad, and a crocheted insertion for pillow-cases, a silk stool with a Chinese silk lace, a silver table-spoon, a lady's handkerchief, two church membership records books, two pairs silk stock-supporters, and several Christmas greeting cards.

We sent out fifty Christmas greeting cards to missionaries whom we know, and to Chinese friends.

The real Christmas dinner was on Thursday, and later on in the week there were more festivities in honor of Miss Beaty's birthday, and Miss Marie Brethren's start for America for winter. The morning following the Christmas festivities, the Brethren sisters received a telegram stating that their elder brother, a captain, has been killed in France. Coming after the Isolation of the unnatural the shock was a great one.

In the twenty-seventh of December I started out on my first trip as missionary in charge, in company with District Superintendent Tyndall. It was not a long trip, but it was filled with experiences. I conducted communion service, held quarterly conference, helped launch a project for an S. W. T. E. L. U. S. A. on the shore of Taisheki, the Chinese, the mayor, the notables, etc., etc.

It's going to be a great thing to make me use my Chinese. At Yen San, Dea, one of the Chinese women had had a slight stroke of paralysis, and came with cries to us to save him. I made arrangements for him to be brought to Taeochow for treatment. At Yen San, and other places, we had been unfaithful in not following that of a member of the church whose wife had been unfaithful some four
years before: He had put her aside and had given her enough money to enable her to set up a tea-shop and so support herself on condition that she did not resort to prostitution. He had then gone to Shanghai where he was sailing as a ship's boy. But his mother refused to believe that he was eventually forced to divorce her. Recently he decided to marry again, and the question put up to me was whether he might do so and still retain his membership. I declined after close inquiry into the circumstances mentioned above as it seemed to me, in view of his own good reputation, that he might.

Here at Tsingtao the other day I had a different kind of a problem. Two of our seamen at Lo Chau-nan came to see me and begged me to save them. I learned upon inquiry that several sources, that the owner of the two canals had been an assistant magistrate at Tien's place mentioned. That a year ago last August during the troubles here, the then acting magistrate of Tsingtao (a sort of a district judge) had warned the Lo Chau-nan magistrates to execute a certain man for robbery. This had been done. But now a new magistrate is appointed over this territory and he claims that the executed man was not a robber but a good man, and that the execution was a work of spite. So he in turn suspended the official and his assistant from their home town to come here for trail. As it happened both the assistant and the perpetrator had been seamen of our church. However, I undertook the matter, finding mutual acquaintances who could voice for the good character of the man who was appealing to me, and then I went to call upon our official; I explained that it was not our custom or desire to interfere with the course of justice in China on this territory in particular, but that in view of the defendant's good character and reputation, and the fact that he had acted under orders, I had called to ask if there might not be some way in which as missionaries in charge of the church of which he was a member, I might not do something to help him. The official was more than willing to further the cause of justice in China, as it was to my advantage as well as the defendant's. He therefore indicated that in view of the facts the man should receive some punishment even if a light one: His final decision was that the older of the two should be imprisoned for a year, and the younger three days for two months, with the possibility of the latter's being released at the usual terms of good behavior. The said official, not our lawyer, received ten years. The fellows who appealed to me did not seem to be greatly disappointed that I had been able to secure so little for them; I saw them at church Sunday, and understand that thus for their "disappointment" has not been in the least but in the city, and they can go outside of the city gates only under guard. However, the experience was a peculiar one to me.

We will probably not be able to settle in our new home for at least two weeks yet. The house was in a very good condition, not having been lived in for two years. One entire outside wall has to be taken down and rebuilt, fire-places have had to be changed, one section of the roof renewed, the compound wall rebuilt, all wood work will have to be repainted, and the walls re-tiled or whitewashed. But after awhile we hope to have the house a very satisfactory little home, at an expense of approximately two hundred dollars.

The site is a beautiful one overlooking the city. We sent you the picture some time ago showing the view with the large goods in the foreground, and three small pagodas on hilltops in the distance. It is somewhat of a cliff to get home, but we are away from the congestion and bale of the city, although as though we were outside of it altogether. We can walk to the church in six minutes. We have our tailor-boy and cook from Chungking, but I hope we shall have to add two or more servants in a month or so. Our water has to be carried from the river, and it is cheaper to hire a boy to do that regularly than to buy it from street-carriers; it has to be steeped in the inconveniences thus caused against, and whether this is that the bee is not in demand. Our only milk and butter would be the canned stuff which is very expensive. So we have decided to adopt the more satisfactory way of buying cream and hire a cow-seller. This is far cheaper than the other way. We are, however, in the midst of the pluviophile season from these Chinese cows. We have one cow down at Lilliestrat's testing her now for ten days, but we are afraid she is too old to be a safe investment.

Let's see, I ought to tell you, but I'm forgetting, and we'll have to hurry to get out of the city. We are still seeing and boarding with the Lilliestrats: We'll probably come up here tomorrow, however, and make launch: We can watch the workmen better and get close lines ourselves.

Please convey our deepest sympathy to Hazel and Dan, and remember how much we love you all.

With best love from

Lewis and Clara.
Dear Mother and All:

Is January 6th really the last letter written to you? I positively am ashamed of myself. For a week or two I didn't do very much writing because my typewriter had the "slug" or something, and I didn't have much time to doctor it up. Even now it stutters occasionally. And then we haven't exactly settled into our house yet. Most of the work was done by three hands and in part by myself, and the rest of the work had to be done and cleaned up as it was done. Owing to the fact that we want our fireplaces made of stone and only a soft yellow stone is suitable for that purpose, we have to wait a little until that should be completed. As it happened, the only owner of a quarry where that might be procured had made the mistake of going to sea and we had to wait his return. Now Chinese New Year has intervened and everything is temporarily at a standstill.

I think that we have explained the Chinese New Year sister's in former letters, but this year's experience has been really the first to affect us in any way. This year their New Year falls on February 1st, but they don't wait until then to begin to celebrate. On January 27th all of our workmen quit excepting two men who had a lease of work which took until February 1st to finish. It was the same with the workmen at the peddle outside of our front gate. Over two hundred men were engaged in repairing that. But on last Monday everyone but the supervisor left their jobs, and neither they nor we can expect to return until about February 1st. When that will happen I don't know, but I don't think that this long spell of waiting, however, will put us in the end; for then we will have a house that is all ready, excepting for the usual annual repairs, which we will have to do in the new house for the mission, in which the room is 100,000, is where the Renter is already nearing completion. At that time this house will no doubt bring in a good rent and help on income, but of course the house here has never been considered a permanent dwelling place as the site is temple property and could only be leased. There are still sixty years before the expiration of the lease.

The location is beautiful! The longer we are here the better we appreciate it. I suppose that is because we have had time to get out of the compound now and then. From our upstairs windows we can look upon the whole city of Tashkew and the country around. A three minute climb from our front door brings us to the summit of the hill, from whence we can look down on the other side toward the W.P.M.S. and Missionals. The Lu River can be seen working its way thru the hills toward the east, and acres of orange groves lie in the middle foreground. The South, west and north lies the city, the river and the range of hills almost as large as mountains. The north wall of the city, however, is just behind our house; we see a green belt, and in the distance we see a brick plant. There is a valley of truck gardens between us and the main business streets, and yet we are only six minutes' walk from the church.

Tashkew is on about the same relation to sea-level as the Changchow Hills, and since we are situated above the city itself, where there is a good breeze the year around, we have decided not to go to any of the summer resorts for foreigners this summer, but stay right at home. There have always been some foreigners of our mission who stay here all summer, and it will be no new venture for us to stay here this summer also, if the health of all our team continues well. This will save us over a hundred dollars, moreover, at a time when it will do us the most good. We sent upper Iowa the check which will cancel my subscription there and at the two for our rate which means $400.00 Mexican off of our salary for this year. And to top that off comes a letter from our Mission Treasurer at Chengtu that no money has been forthcoming to the West China Field from America for some time, and that as a Mission we have overdrawn our bank account some $12,000 Mex. Consequently we will have to go on half salary until such a time as the home Board gets things in hand again and makes it up to us. When I was in America as pastor I got into the habit of keeping upon the Benevolence collections from a mighty impersonal viewpoint, if I were to be asked now, every time a church member cut down on his annual subscription or failed to give, it would give me visions of people stranded in a foreign land without means of support, or upon insufficient support, and I would not be inclined to let things slide quite so easily as I used to. I guess that the war is the scapegoat for everything disagreeable these days, and if heavy expenses and high cost of living are responsible for this shortage, we will have to congratulate ourselves and again bear the sacrifices with the rest of you. We are not very badly off, any way.

When things at home get settled down to normal again, you folks will have to take a vacation and do some travelling. Come out here and spend a year with us. It's serious about that Mother! When we mentioned the matter before I wasn't very enthusiastic; for I was afraid...
to take the responsibility of your coming out here with that bad knee. But now that we no longer need to cause you anxiety, a year out here would just about pay your expenses across the Pacific and to Tientsin. You could save it in both accounts. The Chinese folks, it seems to me, are always having West Chinese folks returning from furlough and would be glad to escort you out here if you had to come alone. The best thing of all would be to bring some of the rest of the folks along. Do some travelling while you're young. The way back would be just as easy as coming, for every year some one is starting back to the States.

We are surely thankful that the "fly" hasn't pleased any of you and that you are all well. Your last letter (November 23) is reassuring as to Hazel's recovery, and Mussey's returning health since her three months in K.C. We were glad to get Dan's snapshots, too, to supplement Harry's.

We were sorry to hear of Mr. Morton's illness and his expectation that he is at least for this winter. I hope that his views are not groundless. Remember to pass on every thing of interest, as we are our efforts for you. Home folks particularly.

The Christmas box sounds interesting but of course it has not yet arrived. I can sympathize with you in the matter of the permit. After we got to Tientsin we found that the packages which we thought we had mailed to you folks from Changchun on Thanksgiving Day had been held for declaration of goods, so they were a month later in getting started than we had expected. We, however, received magazines from home for Christmas. Our Novembers: "Lord's Work" all same. November: "Poets" came about a week ago but nothing since. I also received some books for which I had sent while on the way, "September" and "Strong's "A Tour of the Missions," and a number of small study booklets. Several others are on the way. No, we haven't got Geradis' "My Four Years in Germany." We have read it but not hurriedly and will be glad to have a copy of our own. We trade books back and forth out here, you know. It is sometimes possible how close in touch with what the home folks are doing and reading and thinking. The missionary bunch is so afraid of being left behind that they utilize every available means for keeping up.

I haven't read anything in the postal regulations stating that it is unlawful to send wooden boxes thru the mail. Of course the weight usually would be prohibitive, but in this transpacific service "safety first" is our guiding principles. We are trying baking powder, lime in the packing of our present offering. Lucille's and Mussey's birthday crept up on us almost unawares. We are sending Mussey a box of candied fruits, a specialty of Tientsin. We are in the midst of the sugar district here, and you know, the large fruit is called "Buddha's Hand" because of its remote resemblance to a hand held with the fingers all bunched together at the tip. It is valued most for its fragrance when green, which is like that of a lemon. At that season most Chinese carry one around with them, and oftentimes in Church one person will lend his to his companion to smell for awhile. The red fruit is called "Ginger Root" because of its remote resemblance to the ginger root will be readily distinguished: that which tastes like citron somewhat, is pumee or grapefruit; the cherries are recognized easily and the small bright green fruit is grapes. They are about fifteen other kinds preserved but we didn't have room to send much more than the best. Perhaps we will include an apple each. You see how large they grew out here. The dearies are for you, Lucille. The "sacred spirits" are for you Mother. They are hand painted and are of the better kind placed new every year on either side of the door of a Chinese house to guard the inmates thereof during the ensuing year. They are then left until next year from date. Since you like to have these to illustrate your talks I just thought we would include a pair in this package.

Don't be afraid that we will put much money into gifts for you. They usually charge you more for customs in America than we have to pay for them originally here. It makes us tired! I don't know just what instant inuit try that duty is assigned to protect your plan for a fifty cent limit to Christmas gifts in the family is satisfactory if you will let it work out as you. I'm afraid our socks and stockings exceeded that though.

Glad to hear that we are to receive a letter from East Weinee soon maybe, and to be able to write again soon. Also to Dr. Bennett, I see by the "Advocate" that he has resigned the presidency of Highland Park College at Des Moines in order to become Dean of Education at Boston University. And in a letter from Lansing (the Yours) just received, I learn that Mrs. Fellows is still living, as I must write to her. Just got a letter saying that something machine castings had been in the block until January 17 to Shanghai. By the time it gets here the freight will exceed the original
Dearest Mother and All:—

I just got back yesterday from our Bible Conference at Shiac Yin Si, and on Friday the 28th I start out or the lower part of the District in company with Mr. Tang, the District Supt. In between times I have a lot of work to get out of the way, but my letter to the home folk must take precedence.

It is beginning to seem very much like work now. Beginning on February 24th, we had a Bible Conference and Evangelistic campaign here in the Tsechow Circuit. We made great effort to reach others than the people of the city but the ad was a dearth of people from out of town attending. At ten A.M. was a devotional service; from ten-thirty until twelve-thirty or longer there were Bible classes for practicioners and enquirers; at six-thirty P.M. was the Evangelical service. I gave my talks at ten o'clock, having prepared before and based them on the Christian Burleigh. The topics were based upon Paul's epistles to the Corinthians as found in 1 Cor. Chaps. 3, and elsewhere, representing the Christian as (1) as God's child in His ground; (2) as God's building; (3) as God's temple; (4) as a good soldier of Jesus Christ; (5) as he who receiveth; (6) as God's fellow-labourers.

As it happened, I was able to substitute for two mornings since we had a Chinese pastor visiting us on Sunday, and had Centenary plans to perfect for Saturday and Sunday. On Thursday I had to give the individual plans for our day: "Witness meeting," and talk on Prayer and the Centenary. Mr. Poot was with us for the last occasion on Saturday and Sunday. He gave some roughing good talks, and as a result the Deaconess circuit came across, with a pledge of about $2000.00 as their stake. I had charge of the finances for the conference is asked to give $25,000. Up to date over $45,000 of that amount has been pledged, which is going fairly well for a bunch of folks without very much margin over living expenses.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. and Mrs. Poot started back to Chungking, and I said farewell to my "weeping" wife and started for the Bible conference at Shiac Yin Si. Mr. Manly (and Dist. Supt. Den.) Miss Beaty of the W.P.W.S. and myself were the foreigners present. Besides these were several Chinese pastors and women, and the daily meetings began at eight A.M. and lasted until 9 P.M. with occasional intervals, I was appointed to give the daily lectures at noon. Once again I had intensive preparations to make. On Saturday and Sunday night, two of the Chinese preachers who went to the Long Fung had fifteen Chinese miles away, and gave lantern lecture and played the graphophone. I had charge of the music, the pastors doing the lecturing. I begin to appreciate the value of these two means of reaching the common people among the Chinese. It not only brings in a big crowd, but breaks the monotony of their lives. They have listeners galore of their own. To go four blocks on a Chinese street at night without seeing two or more professional story-tellers or priests talking to a big crowd is exceptional. But the lantern slides and the graphophone are novel and didactically effective, and when you have left the vicinity it will stick in their heads. Still I am not sure why I am going to give special attention to chalk-talks from new or old topics. But, this week, I am going to write to the W.P.W.S. at Cheban to see if they cannot send one of the stewards portable graphophones (price $11.00 each) and some records, so as to have it here for next year's campaign. I don't get much time to work with the instrument as yet, but I am not giving up hope that someday I'll be able to use that; for it also continues to be a requisite in teaching singing. That was another of the jobs I had a share in at Shiac Yin Si.

But here I go, rattling on in my own way, omitting some most important items. Just before I left Tsechow, the five packs of films were received in splendid conditions; I was especially glad to get them. Because of having received a special request from the office at New York for photos representing our work, I had to exhibit at Columbus. I took a pack along with me to Shiac Yin Si, and took a couple pictures of the congregation which I got when I was giving my first chalk-talk. Later in the week when we were holding an outdoor meeting in the temple court on market day, I made two more attempts. Of course this advertised me somewhat more than was pleasant, and I had numerous requests for individual pictures. Mr. Manly advised putting the price up to a prohibitive level, so I told them I was not willing to sell the shots to anyone for less than $5.00. Within half an hour, three families had appeared on the scene with their dollars. I took two because of the fact that it was a response to the Chinese cardinal virtue of filial respect,—their parents being well-advanced in years and too dear to be sure of a picture for their ancestral hall. As it was not to be used for our purpose of worship, the people being Christians, I took the pictures. At Tian Su Chiang, is one of our country churches, especially interesting as being the scene of the death of six martyrs during the Boxer uprising. I took a picture of this for Centenary use also. Tonight I am expected to level these pictures; I hope to still my big writing-labour appointment. It is quite providential that they did not reach me until the time when the films were most needed.

Tsechow, S.C.
February 24, 1919.
There was no post office at Shing Win Si and so I was unable to hear from Clara during the week, although I got off one letter to her by sending it with a travelling-merchant who was returning to Tshingow. Consequently, I didn’t know until I got back that she (or we) had received six Christmas packages in one day. Five of them were from her folks and the one from you will. They certainly looked through the economy of which we have heard as having taken America by storm had failed to reach Iowa and Illinois, or else that "love had found a way".

You may be interested in knowing just what all was included,—I’ll not stop to specify from which came:

One game "Rook.",
2 rolls film,
2 boxes, printing paper,
1 shirt,
1 pr. cotton gloves,
1 crocheted needle,
1 crocheted barret,
3 Crochet pattern books.

We also have the invoice from Chicago for 3 lady's handkerchiefs, 2 men's handkerchiefs, 4 balls of crochet cotton, 2 boxes Art crayons, 2 initial huck towels, 2 pr. men's knit woollen socks, and knit wash-cloths.

MORAL 1

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!!!

Honestly, though, we simply gave a list in order that a choice might be made; for we hardly thought it possible that all the things mentioned might be obtained in any one place. We certainly cannot be said to have sacrificed with regard to material things because of our having come out here. Money comes slowly, because of the high rates of exchange and the various big pulls for cash in America, but it will come eventually. Meanwhile I suppose that what we can’t spend we will be able to save, which is a pretty good idea in the long run anyway.

We wish that there might be no need for anxiety because of Hazel’s health. The fact that she has so marvelously made headway however gives reason for hope that the California residence will complete the cure. We shall anxiously await word from week to week. I hope, too, that Dan will not have to give up his college work on any account. To have graduated in an asset well worth having. On the other hand, his experience clerking will be an experience which will occur well in hand after while—however different his life-work may prove to be. Do you remember, Dan, when we were talking over some of our experiences at Boston just before I left Kansas City last, you lamented that you had not had opportunity for much adventure of that sort? That even when you wanted to undertake so "simple a thing as a walking-trip to Kansas City", the folks had objected? Well, I guess you’re sure getting your share of them now, though I suppose they are not occurring in the way in which you expected: thieves, war, and sorrow and sickness, etc., etc. We wish you everything that’s good as you go West. You’re that much nearer us; just cross the Pond some of these fine days and look us up.

I’m glad, Mother, that you have been able to invest your money in this new way. It certainly will be much less worry to you and at least as profitable. The flakes on Avenue A. I believe were 80% of our most profitable town property investment, and ought to be of far greater value now that the post-office is located so near. If you are intending to sell that, I should hold for a pretty good price.

Well, today is Wednesday, and the time is afternoon. On Friday morning I have to leave again as I have said already. Last night we developed pictures and I found that I had a good one of every subject taken,—only one film having been underexposed. In view of the conditions under which the pictures were taken, I call that pretty good. This afternoon I want to get some pictures of the school-boys and the school house and new site for the Middle School, so I guess I’ll have to call this letter done. But please give Santa Claus a thousand thanks for me when you look into your respective mirrors.

With heaps of love, from

Lewis & Clara
Dear Home Folks:

A few hours after Lewis had started on his itinerancy this morning your good letter of January 3rd arrived. We had hoped that the foreign mail would have come before he left. Inasmuch as I did not get a letter written and enclosed with Lewis’ last one as I had expected, I will make an attempt to answer this one at once. And first I want to thank you all for the box of beautiful Christmas gifts. There is certainly no “Hooverising” in the filling of that box. But I fear neither were there in our suggestions. I really feel a bit “too how sh i’l” as the Chinese say “ashamed” about it, but truly our thought in giving such a long list was that you might have a choice. Everything came thru in fine condition, it was so well wrapped, and everything that should fit did fit. Again, Thank you, everybody.

The day you wrote your letter you said it was fourteen below zero and the day we received it we ate our breakfast out on the verandah. We did not move out however because it was too hot inside but because we did not have any room in condition for use downstairs. But fortunately the weather is such as to make it very pleasant out doors. We have one cherry tree within the compound. It is now all white with blossoms giving the bees and butterflies a great feast. Our four primroses are seemingly trying to outdo one another as to the number of blossoms each can put forth. There is a large, lovely rose bush at the end of the verandah that is keeping us supplied with roses for our little brass vase on the dining table. And a small peach tree is in bud just ready to burst open. As soon as the building is completed, and I hope that may be soon, we expect to fix up our small compound with shrubs, trees, flowers, and grass. We think we are going to have a very cozy little home here.

Mother, Lewis and I oftentimes speak about how nice it would be if you could make us a visit. We are sure you would enjoy it. You have always been such a busy person I think you would enjoy a delightful rest as well as a wonderful experience. While here you would not have a thing to do but visit, and read and write letters and hand-work that you might do for pleasure, and any thing else that you may enjoy. Now that the war is over and quiet has been restored here in China, you will let her come and visit you, Mummy and Lucille? If it only had not been quite so far we would most certainly have expected Hazel and Dan to have come on and spent the winter with us. I know they will
not find a more delightful day in California that we are having to day, and
our scenery will also compare favorably, but that is about all. No, I
should not have said that. We have fruit and flowers and vegetables, and
and good friends and lots of good things. I sincerely hope that Hazel
will get well and strong again out there and that they both will find it
a profitable as well as a pleasant visit.

I am writing up in our bed-room. It is the only room that has
been finished. It is a very sunny pleasant room as the whole end to the
West is windows. It makes me think of a bungalow. Again we have made it a
pink and white room. Perhaps you remember, Lucile, the piece of cretonne,
a pink rose pattern, that I got at Canton just before leaving. It was
just enough for the curtains. But we will try to get some pictures of
our new home soon and that will give you a better view than a Description.

Again Lewis is making a circuit of small villages that do
not have postal service. It makes the time seem twice as long when I
can not bear from him or write to him. He has been some very fine
compliments on his efforts with the Chinese language. And he certainly
has earned them as he has been doing some very hard work since coming
here. It seems a long time before I can get started on my work. I am
staying quite close to the house these days to oversee the workmen. It
is quite a lesson in patience, so many things rising. The last
few days I have tried to take a lesson with the teacher each day. I
am reading Corinthians. It is noisy and hard to hear and some of the work
will stop now and then to listen as we have to work on the verandah.
But I try to not let it bother me hoping that in doing so they may be
getting a bit of Gospel.

We are very sorry to hear of Mr. Morton's death. I am sure it
must be very lonely for Mrs. Morton. One or both of us will write to her
when Lewis returns. We will also write to the Freitags.

The slippings are interesting. Mussey. I am sure Lewis will
be glad to have the one for his "Vanity Book". It no doubt had not yet
been started at the time the article was edited.

I must now go up the hill and check up on the work that
has been done on the new barn today. We do not have a new yet but hope
to buy one soon, so are getting the barn ready. There have been so
many interruptions I fear this letter will be quite disconnected.

Oceans of love to all:

Clara.

Here are a few violet's I gathered in the fields.
Dearest Mother and All:

Since coming home from my trip around the LoChuen Jin and Tsechow Circuits I have been busy as I could be trying to get photographs and statistics ready for the Centenary exhibition at Columbus in June. Am not all through yet by any manner of means, but each night I am so ready to go to bed early that I do not get a letter off to you, and the only time seems to be in the morning, so here goes!

I think I wrote you with regard to our services at Shiao Yuin Si. Yes, I have! I was referred to myself and find that I wrote you on February 29. Good heavens! One letter a month! If such a thing were imaginable you might almost think that my love for the home folks was growing cold. But Clara has written once between times. — perhaps you will forgive me. When I am out on these trips, I rarely come to a town where there is a postoffice, and when I do, I find only once a week or something like that, and the postmaster wouldn't know what to do with a letter written or addressed in English. So I have to wait until I get home.

This trip was certainly a pleasant and a novel one, — "interior of China" is right. I could not keep to the Big Road, of course, but had to take foot-paths off through districts that were mountainous and primitive. I did not get into what we would call "wild country" for practically everywhere the land was under cultivation. But the houses were of the simplest kind that you can imagine human beings living in, just mud huts. The country itself is of that kind of beauty that hurts you stupidly because you can't find words to express it. With the Rockies in mind one can say "grand, magnificent", and give the idea of massiveness and grandeur. Of our Illinois prairies you say "rolling and cultivated", a veritable garden-spot. But this country is betwixt and between the two. It is of the kind whose beauty can be compensated by the eye and yet cannot be included in a photograph. One has to see it to know what I mean.

I was entertained at feasts of course; in churches, restaurants, the preachers' houses and farmers' houses. There were problems here and there, and Quarterly Conferences, Communion Services, love feasts, and Centenary campaigns. A Manchuria cannot get by me, it is needless to say, but was now and then to ask questions on Chinese and I could usually get the gist of what was going on. I gave the shakk talks occasionally, and found that they took well and were understood.

They subscribed liberally under the inspiration of the Centenary movement and the promises we could make them that for every cent they gave, the people would give one or more in America. I have the figures for only three circuits in this District, and they are not yet complete. But thus far they total $12,960. Mex., which does not seem large when compared as a lump sum with what is given in America, but figured at the average wage of 200 pesos per day, this sum represents 73,805 days' wages, or over eighty days' wages for every member and probationer in the territory represented. Think of what it would mean to the Centenary movement at home if that standard were kept up! These are some of the statistics which I am sending to Columbus with other material for the exhibition.

One very interesting section of country through which I passed was the section where they have the salt wells and pictures which I took there. Explanations are written upon the backs of them as I imagine that will be more convincing to you. The other photo is a scene along the road where my charioteers stopped to rest.

And now let me slightly change the tone of this letter. Come on over and see some of these things for yourself, Mother dear! Let's get right down to business and plan for you to come out this Fall to stay a year with us. And here are the incriminating arguments which Clara and I have fully that out and conspired to mislead you.
1. Write to Miss Grace Ellison, Superior, Nebraska. To learn if it is still possible for you to get one of the three berths with her and Miss Nelson. Also to learn their sailing date, port, price of ticket, etc. They will arrange for these things through the W.F.W.S. Executive. Just ask Miss Ellison to manage the matter for you through one of her nearest and best known friends out here, and we have been her home ever since at Dan Gia Ngai at Chungking many times. She will be only too glad to do this for you and us. If it were not for the fact that your consent is first necessary, we would do more than simply write her to get in touch with you. But don't wait for her to write first: WRITE AT ONCE.

2. Send to the State Department, Washington, D.C., for an application for passport with directions for filling out, photographs, etc., and send that in at least two months before sailing late. Later may be safe, but this is safer. Harry will help you with this, or Grandpa knows the ropes.

3. I should think you could get out here for Six Hundred dollars gold at the outside. It cost us two one thousand including all our freight. You will have your through ticket to Shanghai. (Making provision for stop-overs at Los Angeles or wherever you choose according to the time at your disposal,) and your steamer ticket to Shanghai. Whatever balance you feel that you want to be safe for sidetrips, purchases, etc., might best be taken in gold pieces as these exchange for fullest value but if you would rather suffer a small loss in exchange than risk carrying other gold, make it in dollars in gold or bus. New drafts in denominations of $100.00 each. You will give the same for tips as the rest of the party do; the method usually is for you all to pool the tips on the last day before landing.

Count on about $150.00 gold for the trip to Chungking from Shanghai. I am quite sure this will cover all. This you will want to carry in Yuan Shi Kai silver dollars; and can be purchased with one of your drafts at New York. Mr. Yardi or Miss Ellison will attend to that for you and be glad to, as the larger the amount to be exchanged at a time, the better rates you will get usually, and they will profit by it as well as you.

Hotel bills at Shanghai are about a dollar and a half per day.

4. By sending your baggage in bond from Canton to the steamer, you may save some irritation with customs examination. If you come the Southern way this probably will be a needless precaution. The ticket agent at Canton can tell you. When buying steamer tickets write for baggage labels to paste on your trunks, labeling the ones you will not need, and then your steamer trunk can be delivered direct to your state room. Don't carry anything but what is necessary for your toilet articles and necessary changes on the trains. If it is a suit-case or a folding umbrella, that saves looking after one less package. Without a gentleman escort this is quite important. Also there are porters everywhere this saves worry and tips.
First: you are coming out to see us again, and you will never be younger.

Second: you yourself say that your health has never been better than it is now to postpone your coming on that account would not be wise.

Third: This next year is the middle year of our first period cut here, and the logical year to come, both for your sake and ours.

Fourth: Mussy's and Grandpa's health would now permit of it, and they together with Harry and Luolie, can look after the house while you are gone.

Fifth: Your money is invested in a way that will not require personal oversight to safeguard it; repairs have but recently been made on the rest of the town property, I understand, and so that need not worry you in your absence.

Sixth: The situation in China is peaceful at the present and more likely to continue so for some years, because of the influence being brought to bear upon this country at the Versailles Peace Conference.

Seventh: Steamer on the Pacific will have resumed traffic in earnest by that time, and the large number released from naval or transport service will have a tendency to lower passenger rates.

Eighth: River steamer on the Yangtze will no doubt be running until the last of November, so that by starting in September or October as we did, you would not have to take any part of the trip by houseboat.

Ninth: Our home will be in order, our appointment practically assured, the situation on the hill is ideal for China, so that you would be assured of a good year of rest and work along just whatever lines you desire, whether seeing or resting or sight-seeing, or visiting.

Tenth: There will be a number of our very good friends who will be returning from furlough this Fall, and will be delightful travelling companions, selecting you around at the various places enroute. These include the Ward family, Miss Nelson and Miss Ellison. The latter two will come directly to Taichow,—perhaps all of them since we are to entertain Annual Conference this year. We are writing to Miss Ellison to get into touch with you at once so that she can give you necessary pointers about steamer tickets, date of sailing and like matters. I am also appending her address so that you can write to her at once. You won't have any more time than you need if you begin at once upon receiving this letter. Of course I will meet you at Chungking.

Eleventh: There is a physician at Taichow, so that the folks at home need not worry about your welfare. Our health is better than at any time in America, and I am sure that our food will agree with you. There's variety enough.

Twelfth: It may be that in case Dan and Hazel haven't returned from California by that time, you can visit them on the way, and see some of California,—thus making an agreeable break in the travel. Gone by the Southern Route if possible, it is warmer and you can see more.

Clara, no doubt, will want to add items about clothes, etc., so I'll just leave her space. You see how strong and unanswerable our arguments are. I know of no rebuttal that will avail excepting the one that you don't want to come "! Of course if there is a change in health between now and then, we wouldn't want you to take unnecessary risks, although our experience has shown that much change is good for the health also. We consider that the principles consistently followed out hitherto will safeguard health: eat only ripe fruit whose skin is unbroken, be sure that the food is well cooked, and water or milk sufficiently boiled. The Pacific steamers take care of this, and the lower Yangtze steamers also; and we'll look after you from Chungking on.

We have just enough time for a round-trip letter in case there are some items which we have not made clear. Bring some more of the folks along if you can. The more the merrier. We can keep three at least here.

With love to you and all, Affectionately,
Lewis and Clara.

P.S. There's too much letter this time; I'll send the photographs in my next.

L.A. 18
Dear Mother:

This is lots of fun planning your visit here. It just makes me all excites. I can not imagine how I will act when we know you are really on your way here. Oh! We think it will be grand for us and a wonderful trip for you. And if you come with Miss Ellison you need not have any worries, she will manage every thing for you and be glad to do it.

Now as to clothes: They need not be any extra expense. Without a doubt what you have will be sufficient. Here is a list:

- **Summer clothes—** sue as at home.
- **Winter clothes—** A very. At least two warm woolen dresses.
- **The coat and suit you now have will look like latest style here.**
- **Tats—one for summer and one for winter, above suggestion holds.**
- **Shoes—high and low — important that they are comfortable.** Low white ones are cool for summer.
- **rubbers for the mud.**
- **A rain-coat.**
- **Buy a pith hat in Shanghai.**
- **A steamer rug.**

It is wise to have both summer and winter clothes in your steamer trunk as you may be warm on some stages of your journey and cool at other places.

You will also want a party or evening dress in the steamer trunk as people generally dress for dinner on the steamer.

- **Other necessities:**
  - Pins and hairpins:
  - Talcum and face powder:
  - Slippers for the hair:
  - Tooth paste:
  - Stationery pens, and pencils:
  - Wet water bottle:

- Any thing else that would add to your comfort and is not too hard to pack.

Bedding to use on the cot when traveling inland:

- **A pair of blankets:**
- **A comforter:**
- **A pillow.**

If you have an old dress that you do not care much for but is warm it would be just the thing for the inland chair travel.

Adding up your cost of living in the States including board, new hats, suits, dresses, gloves, ice cream, movies, church suppers and casual, electricity, entertaining at dinners and etc. and etc., amounts to about $500. We add to that one or two extra and you are here. Stay another year here and you have saved the same amount for the home trip. Because of your age you are here there will be no expense until the home trip. Our cost is continually going up for three and your being here will be no extra expense to us.

This may seem like a big undertaking when you stop to think about all the details. But when you have good traveling companions, especially that has made the journey before you need have no fears. There may be things we have forgotten to tell you about that you would like to know, and that there will not be time for us to write after getting your letter. If so, just ask Miss Ellison. She will be glad to write you and tell you anything she can.

I must now stop and get ready for prayer meeting.

Best wishes for a happy and safe journey.

Oceans of love,

[Claire]
Clara has forwarded your letters to me and I have had several interesting periods reading them; between times of work in the campaign. We are now at the point marked on the letter head (Jung Chang) and nearing Chunchung, perhaps twenty miles from there. I am longing for more experience and one which is perhaps rather more in China. Mrs. Web seam seems to enjoy it, which is unusual, I think. In the plough I have been able to gain some knowledge of Chinese farming, something which is very square for me. This is used as a means of reaching the central core of a community, the place where the masters through the influence of the higher classes, will visit about 1500 people, and every night that we have been occupied. Some nights, this road was seen at 3000.

The place is similar to others which I have mentioned a few times since the first note. I am here. At 7:30 a.m., breakfast and coffee. At 8:30 a.m., a circuit is made after dinner in charge of Dr. Hönig. Mrs. Lewis, at 9:30 a.m., a circuit is made after dinner in charge of Dr. Hönig. Mrs. Lewis, has her students at 10:00 a.m., and continues until 12:00 p.m. The following session is from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Chinese are very hungry, and the students are very poor. At 5:00 p.m., Mrs. Lewis and three Chinese women teach the women at the church. Mrs. East, Miss Beatty, and two other women. At 7:00 p.m., a kindergarten for the children of the school-bus. Mrs. Lawrence also at work in the garden, and at 10:00 p.m., we all gather at the church at 10:00 p.m., and suggestions for improvement of the work are given.

At 2:00 p.m., we start back to the village school after the mission was completed. The end of the letter.
at 9 P.M. Long exercise and lecture to various persons. In our local Magazines (the last month politically of the nation) addressed as to Christianity as a help to the Chinese. At 8 the 30 P.M. to 9 p.m. the big evangelistic service held in the temple with Mr. Fock as evangelist for 2½ days. It is estimated that over 6,000 people attended the days and at least 6000 to have been distributed the literature. The financing and the literature is also being met by special gifts known as the Steward fund of a million. It is also a gift for each denomination. Therefore, in this

Of course, my part is especially important enough as yet to pay for my board. It is my job in one of the Chapels to direct the crowd. This is done by "small talk" in which I describe the various strange and wonderful things of America, a subject which delights every normal Chinese. One day I stood up the national song of America, national anthem. The audience was cordial and enthusiastic. And I told the group that because of our good treatment by the people, it was our duty to help them know that God makes their Father, and to help them make like good things. The next day my subject was Chinese and American Customs, "opposites." I was always being interested in speaking of America's vote against alcohol, against polygamy, etc., and closed with a reference to God's command, that while each nation had a right to its own customs and usages, we were all obliged to change immoral customs to conform to God's law. Another day was given to America's desire to make the country a place beloved and prepare her people for attaining the schools, all good vocational schools; schools for blind, deaf-mutes, orphans, etc. Hospital for ill and insane; compulsory and medical examination all based on the Christian teachings.

Another day, the theme and titles, homes, etc. were employed with a word as an admonition to good. After all these talks, the Chinese people were working with Mr. Hwang on and then graduated to reach the point that Chinese doctrine, the word changes a current only about fifty years staying.
After the war, I found myself without much opportunity to travel. I missed the excitement of the city, and the social life that accompanied it. But the peace and quiet of the countryside appealed to me.

I decided to take a trip to the countryside, to see the fields and the lakes. I was met by a farmer who showed me around his property. He told me about the different crops they grew and how they were harvested. It was a different way of life, but I enjoyed it.

The farmer invited me to stay for the night, and I accepted. We sat around a campfire and talked about our lives. He told me about his family and their struggles, and I shared my own experiences. It was a touching moment, and I realized that we were all connected, no matter where we came from.

That night, I slept under the stars, listening to the crickets and the wind. It was a peaceful end to a long day, and I felt grateful for the opportunity to experience life differently.

The next day, I continued my journey, exploring the countryside and meeting new people. It was a rewarding experience, and I look forward to doing it again.
the rest of the world and could not make more commercial use of it. You will have to look again at that map, Mother, and you will find that Japan, although situated in Asia, is related to North and South America by its formation towards the west, and extends to the Tibetan frontier.

Now there is another matter I should refer to in your letter, but if I finish this letter before second time I must cut it short. And I must say something about that Upper Iowa matter. I purely told you in my letter asking for further particulars about interest, that I was sending Dr. Dickman a draft for the remaining $200. So that last sentence applies to how much for. I did not mean to refer to you for the interest, but the compound interest might be saved in the time which it takes to run a notification to the company and ensure to be returned. I am sure I have assumed that it was stored in a much less expensive way than the only one it was in, but I cannot say how arranged with it. I could not have been arranged with it.

As soon as possible I shall send you an order for the interest in the life insurance premium. If you don't mind sending for this you may go ahead. I am also instructing you to give my answer to the company and to the Board to look after that matter for a year by year and say that you of that. They did not lose the service for almost all of the missionaries, you know.

As to the justice or injustice of the Upper Iowa notice of insurance or the subscription money, I am afraid that you have people don't see the matter as I do. Of course I do not mean to have you mention the way in which it was saved in this matter - you, Mother, and Clara, I would not want you to do it. But if there is any fault at all, it must be that there is not enough to save it. I don't regret the gift in the least, if I am not sure of myself as to whether I paid the right things for the things possibly would have been cleared of it.
Dearest Mother and All,—

Clara has forwarded your letters to me and I have had several interesting periods reading them between times of work in this evangelistic campaign. I am now at the point marked on the letter head (Jung chang) and nearer Chungking perhaps than to Tzechow. We are having a great experience here, and one which is perhaps rather unique in China. Mr. Peat secured special gifts at home which he used in Shanghai to have made a great canvas awning covering 4000 square feet. This is used as a cover over the central court of a Confucian temple secured for the meeting through the influence of the city elders. It will seat about 1800 people, and every night but one thus far, the benches have all been occupied. Some nights, the crowd was estimated at 3000, all men.

The plan is similar to others which I have mentioned and described since the first year I was here. At 7:30 AM. Breakfast. At 8:30 AM a council and prayer meeting in charge of Dr. Spencer Lewis for the help of all the workers of whom there are approximately thirty. Beginning at 9:30 A.M. and continuing until 12:30 P.M. the following services are held simultaneously: three street-chaplins where from four to eight men preach (in each one). The dispensary, where Dr. Liljestrand treats women patients in the morning, and men patients until 5 P.M. in the afternoon. Two workers, a man and a woman give Gospel talks to those waiting for treatment. Mrs. Lewis and three Bible women teach the women at the church: Mrs. Peat, Miss Beatty, and two Bible women have a kindergarten for the children at the school-house; Mr. Hooker and three Chinese colporteurs have various places for the selling of Bibles, religious helps and tracts. Mr. Lawrence and I work in the chapels, although I have also tried to help Mrs. Peat by giving a chalk to the children after I have finished my work at the Chapel.

At 1 P.M. we all re-assemble at the church for reports and suggestions for the improvement of the work or the methods of reaching the people. At 1:30 Chinese dinner “en masse”[.] At 2:30 P.M to 3:00 P.M., class in the new phonetic system of Chinese character writing.

2.
At 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. Song service and lecture by various persons. On one afternoon the local Magistrate (the big man politically of the section) addressed us on Christianity as a help to the Chinese official.”

At 7:30 P.M to 9 o’clock the big evangelistic service is held in the tent with Mr. Peat as evangelist. In all it is estimated that on market days (twice a week) we reach nearly 5000 people; and on the other days about 3000 by means of preaching and teaching, while altogether 60,000 tracts have been judiciously distributed. The financing end of the enterprise
is also being met by a special gift known as the Steward fund of a million or so dollars given for interdenominational use in China for evangelistic purposes.

Of course my part is scarcely important enough as yet to pay for my board. It is my job in one of the Chapels to draw the crowd. This is done by “small talk” in which I describe the various strange and wonderful things of America, a subject which delights every normal Chinaman. One day I took up the material side of American life -- food, dress, houses and wages, and led it round to the point that because of our gratitude to God the giver of all we had come over here to help them know that God is alas their Father, anxious to help them into like good things. The next day my subject was Chinese and American customs, “opposites” of course always being interesting, but speaking of America’s vote against alcoholic liquor, her laws against polygamy, etc. and closed with a reference to God’s commands; that while each nation had a right to its own customs and usages, we were all obliged to change immoral customs to conform to God’s laws. Another day was given to America’s endeavor to make her country a place beloved, and prepare her people for citizenship; re. schools of all grades, vocational schools, schools for the blind, deaf-mutes, orphans, etc. Hospitals for ill and insane, reformatory and modern penitentiary practices; mothers’ pension, and workingmen’s compensation – all based on the Christian teachings.

Another day, the inns and hotels, homes, etc were compared with a word as to sanitation and hygiene. After all these talks the Chinese preachers working with me “hitch on” and gradually preach the essential Christian doctrines. The crowd changes of course only about fifty men staying

3.

clear through, but we usually count on reaching at least 200 for one or more of the talks.

Well, enough of this. We are enjoying ourselves immensely, and I only wish that Clara could have come down here also. But the house had just been somewhat settled and she felt that she could do more good in the boys’ school helping than come down here.

On my return, I shall cut across country by the route indicated in ink on the letter head, so as to hold Quarterly Conferences as Dansandzen, Trenguchiao, and Yang shren. This will cause me to be away from home on Easter Sunday and bring me back to Tzechow about April 28th. So you see I’ll also spend your birthday either on the road or at Trenguchiao. I think Clara has sent you the “souvenir spoon”, Chinese hand-made out of dollar silver, which we bought for you at Chungking. We have kept it in order to send it down to Chungking with Miss Penny for mailing – postoffice officials at Tzechow being untrustworthy about some things. Hope you will enjoy it, and that it will be of as much help to you as other things sent you are reputed to have been.

By the way, Lucile, I wonder if I have ever told you that the pipe which I sent grandpa is not an opium pipe but a water-pipe for smoking fine-cut tobacco. I will try to procure an opium pipe for you but I imagine it will be rather difficult to do. Unfortunately, however, the Japanese importation of morphia into China in such quantities in open defiance of all laws and treaty stipulations, and the bringing of opium into Szechwan by Southern soldiers, is encouraging the resumption of the traffic. In one of the back rooms of an inn where I stopped for dinner on the way down, I saw six or eight men lying on cots smoking opium. Only the Southern soldiers handle it to sell, I am told.
I must not forget this time, Muzzy, to mention the clippings which you have enclosed from time to time, and to which I believe Clara has referenced in her letter to Canton. I surely find them interesting, especially that one referring to matrimonial sweets.

The one which you sent, Grandpa, referring to the purchase of wireless outfits for Central China was also gratifying. I hope they soon get some out here in West China where I imagine they are worse needed, since we are both more shut off from the rest of the world and could make more commercial use of them. You will have to look again at that map, Mother, and you will find that Szechwan, although situated in Central China as related to North and South, is one of the three provinces farthest west, and extends to the Tibetan frontier.

Now there are a number more things I should refer to in your letters, but if I finish this letter before service time I must cut it short. And I must say something about that Upper Iowa matter. I surely told you in my letter asking for further particulars about interest that I was sending Dr. Dickman a draft for the remaining $200.00 so that last outside obligation is now cared for. I did refer him to you for the interest in order that “compound interest might be saved in the time which it takes the notification to come and answer to be returned[“]. I never even dreamed that it would cause you so much embarrassment as it is wholly unnecessary. It could have been arranged with the Board of Foreign Missions just as well. As soon as I return, I will also send you an order for the interest and for the life insurance premium. If you don’t mind sending me the number of my policy, I can also send instructions to the Company and to the Board to look after that matter for me year by year and so relieve you of that. They do this service for almost all of the missionaries, you know.

As to the justice or injustice of the Upper Iowa notice of insurance or the subscription made, I am afraid that you dear people don’t see the matter as I do. Of course if I could have foreseen the way in which others would be involved in this matter – you, Mother – and Clara, I would have been slow about doing it. But if there is any fault anywhere, I must take that responsibility. I don’t regret the gift in the least. If I hadn’t been so selfish in seeing debts or not, the things probably would have been cleared up before now.

Besides, Mother dear, remember your tendency to make us out heroes. That is one reason we want you to come out here for a year. You will live years longer because of the anxiety that would be saved you after knowing real conditions. We have never been quite so “affluent” as now, and we would rather have you that year than any bequest which might theoretically be saved by staying in America. It wouldn’t be a cent expense to you while here and not a cent more to us and we will be able to pay back that $200 borrowed from you to use on your return trip. Don’t say No. Love to all, From Lewis
Near West Mother and All:— Even though you may still be in California when this letter reaches Canton, Mother dear, I don't dare to address it to you at any other place but home. And likewise I don't know whether to write two letters or not,—one to you and one to the stay-at-homes, that is—for all probability this will be read first at Canton and then forwarded. So the old way I guess is best—"Dear West Mother and All".

I hardly know where to begin. It has been so long since I write you, and last I heard from you, Yungchow, I can't believe. And of course I couldn't keep a carbon copy, and I don't know what I told you last. I'll repeat a lot of things I said then, but you'll understand and excuse I know.

The meeting there was a big success. Mr. Post's tent covered a space of about 4000 square feet, and sheltered nearly 1800 people at times. It was used for afternoon lectures and evening evangelistic services. The church was used for workers' inspirational service councils, and women's services every morning and afternoon. The school-house accommodated about 120 Chinese children who were under the direction of Mr. Post, Miss Beatty, and two Bible women, who taught them mostly in various ways imparted helpful instruction for four hours per day. The dispensary was opened in the church guest house, Dr. Ellstrand and a Chinese doctor seeing women patients in the morning and male patients in the afternoon. They averaged over forty per day. Mr. Lawrence, eighteen Chinese preachers and myself worked in the three street-chapels where services were held beginning between 9:30 AM and 10 AM (as soon as we could get a good crowd) and lasting until 12:30. I preached every day, my job being to collect the crowd, which I could easily do by talking about the Bible and our customs, and by chalk-talking. Others were in charge of Bible selling and tract distribution.

It was carefully estimated that during eight days we reached 22,000 people with the Gospel message direct, besides distributing systematically and selling over 60,000 tract and Scripture portions.

From Yungchow I went in company with Dist. Supt. Den San-si across country to the upper part of the Taoshow District. Everywhere there was the greatest fervor among our Christian converts. We held three quarterly conferences at each of these places, about thirty or more probationers presenting themselves for examination. We didn't know them all by any means, but where they were unable to qualify, Bible conferences were arranged for a later day when they would get together under competent class-leaders and receive instruction for a four day period and under the catechism and other requirements.

At one of these places, Wua Nien Si, we were present the day following Easter Sunday. As it happened, we had no school opened at the place where we were on Easter, so I waited until the next day to distribute some of the cards which Mrs. Post and the Canton children made. As they were practically all Easter cards I felt that that would be quite appropriate. I also took a picture of the children holding up the cards for inspection, and have sent this and a letter of thanks to the children at Canton, so you can see "fang shan" and the Chinese children make the children were all told this personally by the cards, and many more outsiders wanted some, but I gave our own first chance. This was a WPMI school, so I took the rest of the cards (75) on up to Tien Gu Chiao, the martyr church, and gave them to the boys of our own General Board school there.

The trip was very pleasant and profitable to me. I spent much time while riding in making a road-map of the district through which we passed, as I had brought my compass with me and on the small road the men travel about ten Chinese miles an hour which isn't very fast. Mr. Post is making a map of our Methodist territory, and has never been over the country itself, and so he asked me to help him out in this way. I now have a pretty accurate map of my District, and sometimes when I have time to make a good copy of it I'll send you one so that if you wish you may follow us around the District.

At one place, Chin Lin Ngan by name, I was the first foreigner who had been there in eighteen years or since the town was founded, and was a great object of curiosity to the children. They sure lined up thick to see the specimen from America. I had lots of fun joking with them and getting off
some of my sleight-of-hand stunts. After the supper prepared for us, we
had service which lasted until 11 P.M. People from all around came
and I should say that there were nearly three hundred at the least gathered
around that open front of the house where we were. It was real modern
reality enjoyed there. As Mrs. Hsia, he did not expect to see anything
like this in China during his lifetime.

When I arrived at the Yang Ban Hall, I had quite a surprise. Where
I used there but Clara who had missed the trip of the day and asked Miss
Beatty to bring the children there. She could not have chosen a better place.
We had a splendid up-stairs room to put up our coats,
all clean and sunny, the choir was the best in West China (You have
one or two pictures taken there) and Clara and I are looking at the
children lined up for their photograph, taken on our first trip to Chengtu).

The pastor, Tsen Koh Fang, has arranged things very nicely for the
quarterly conference, having taken school seats and arranged them in a
half-circle facing the large central table where the District, the secretary,
your humble servant sat. Within the circle were flowering plants
and shrubs. During a little recess in the proceedings tea and Chinese
sweetmeats were served.

Clara and Miss Beatty had brought foreign food along, and Miss Beatty's
cook prepared the seals, so everything went off nicely. Of course, as you
know, I don't take anything but a couple of cases of Chinese tea with me when
I travel. I don't like in Chinatown to find a real light seal. However, the rest of
the time I drink Chinese tea altogether. It is not only more convenient and less expensive, but also brings me into
closer touch with the people. Just think of me running off from my friends
while there was a crowd of them or else doing things which I
think might be good enough for me, I thoroughly enjoy
post Chinese articles of diet, and also manage to thrive on it. Each time
I get back Clara has something to say about how much fatter I look.

I preached several times while on the trip, using the Chinese character
for "Come" as the basis of a talk, for the back
ground of light blue about twenty inches in diameter. Giving the customary
apology for my temerity in presuming to instruct the members of my audience
thought this was customary for they Chinese speaker to tell how very
unworthy he is of the position, if my case it has an even greater application
among my limited Chinese, I can preach much more fluently than I can
convert, however, since the vocabulary is quite different.) Then I draw
the character for "sin" in red, this being the character for "one". Every one
is sinning that I have the word "one" in red, this being the character for "one". And so an immediate response to my question. This gives me the basis for a talk on
the ONE true God; why it is not worship idols of many spirits; the unity of
Nature; etc. I could form this character with another red hand,
the camera for ten is made large; 'it stands for "man.
which shows what God hates and what he loves in men and women and children.
Of course, they cannot help but express approval of all these qualities.
And so it is that the laws for the world are unchangeable (Gal 6:18).

The next character is made large; it stands for "man.
I tell how
God first revealed himself to man as Creator of Father of all men, but that since
He is Spirit and cannot be seen many people find it hard to see anything
in other words, He is then revealed Himself in the form of Man.
I tell of how
Jesus proved his love for man in the sacrifice of his son, and so we are servants,
healing, teaching. Even in persecutia and trials he did not cease
to love and forgive. Then place the man character upon the cross character
The two former characters are on either side of the Christ character, and the other who represent the story to the two classes of hearers
in the world: ALL sinners, and some believe and repent while others will
not. The verse of course conceals the truth
that the finished character is the word for "Jesus", a real revelation
and hinting that results in recognition and it comes as a real revelation
to them all. I quote Matt, 28:19-20 as the invitation of Jesus to them.
and help with the salvation will say oaths which are very tuneful
and have a lot of life in them when the music comes and then sung.
I know that it takes well both with the congregation and with the preachers
for the latter have come to us for our outline.

On the last day when Clara and I were returning to Taeohra from Yang
Ban Hall, I was to stop at Wu Li Dien to choose between four building sites
one of which the people there expect to buy for a church and school, and I
I hadn't expected to preach there at all, as we were very anxious to leave Tsechow by night and it was a long day's trip. But when we got there the class-leaders and stewards wanted me to, and it was first of all a missionary. So inside of fifteen minutes, Clara had got my paper, chalk, Bible and hymn-book out of my load, and we turned a table up sidewise and used the top of it for a board on which to pin my drawing paper and we got busy. Before the preparations were completed, rapid as they were, the room was filled with nearly a hundred folk. I had one of the best meetings I have ever had, either here or in America. We got with in three hours of Tsechow, but had to stay all night in an inn and make the rest of the trip on Tuesday morning. But it was worth the inconvenience.

Clara brought along a fine bunch of letters up to Vang Heiian with her. Two from you, Mother, one of which included about a dozen from Hazel, beginning with the invitation to come to California and getting hotter and hotter until the decision was arrived at. We surely rejoice with you in the opportunity and experience, and hope that our recent letters will have a similar effect on you and persuade you to come still further West.

There was lots of news which we are very much interested in, but upon which I scarcely have room enough to tell you. We have received the house on the instalment plan; Justin's marriage; the subscriptions to the Ladies' Home Journal and the Literary Digest (you're a peach, Mother dear, and we can never thank you enough). Clara reenforces us with her promise of letting us have a lot of mail. We all have to pay for our pleasures and I am now and then enjoying the sense of the pleasant, the giver (we the receivers, or the giver!) then there's the news of the will concerning which lots of things must be said at an appropriate time, though personally I just now want to say, Don't hesitate to send your money on yourself; you have earned it, and you needn't fear for us.

Then there is the item of the check sent to Dr. Dickman ($50.00) for interest. I have his receipt for that amount, and also for the $300.00 principal which we sent upon our arrival at Tsechow, so that we aren't the only people to whom you have been the life-saving, partial means of life insurance, while your letters and subscriptions have now been paid, and we are practically square with the world—excepting you, You have had to wait until the last, but when you get ready to return to America in the Spring of 1912 we'll have your two hundred ready to help on the home trip.

I don't know what all we would like to press in order to get you here. But we expect soon to hear that you are planning to leave California for the Orient in company with Miss Ellison in September or October 1912. Take our word for it, you'll save the cost of the trip in board and dress and if you care to rent part of your small room while you're away, you'll be just that much ahead. There'll be physicians on the steamer en route, in Hong Kong, and at Tsechow when you arrive, so don't worry. And you'll have a 'tonic trip,' and a rest, that I'm sure the folks at home will not begrudge you a minute. And if they do, just tell them to salt down a thousand dollars and come along (maybe I should have said "pro" for this is the chance of a lifetime to see the world and the progress of the Manchus, and nations in the making, and last, but we hope not least, some folks over here who love you more than the teething cam tell in two languages.

To borrow an expression from Clara's sister Alva, we send this with oceans of love and a kiss on every wave,

Lovingly,

Louis and Clara.
Dear Mother and All:

Well, I have the family letter and am slightly glad to hear from you all, though why I am apparently speaking as though you were the only member of the Chias notwithstanding the family is more than I know. We are both glad!!

But that we don't get letters regularly from home is more than I know. We are both glad!! than we used to, I am afraid. But that is only because I happen to be in places where there would be no chance to mail letters and I have to wait until I get a chance to write.

But this letter that was waiting for a while started at Canton on, at Los Angeles and arrived here just six weeks from Cal. And just before we left, Dan and I were on a trip in the country, and I was able to see both of you, all of which is a great relief.

No -- taking them up chronologically -- we are delighted that you all like the little trinkets we sent you, for Christmas, or St. Patrick's Day, wherever it was that the idea came from. Hope you find a way to use the silk coffins. One is a combination suit just the way you describe. But then I'm sure you can't see the value, so I can hardly be expected to appreciate your description to the full. As for Dan's chopsticks, I have yet to discover that not all chopsticks are used as eating utensils. The Chinese carry in the winter when the tree comes out to ward off the cold or heat. Chopsticks used at the table are usually of wood, either painted brightly or made of ivory. I have seen them given as a gift, not all over in sets of twelve, so we can't shatter Dan's scheme of using a bunch of sticks in the trouble to be seen in public using a knife and fork.

Harry's age is divided something between 155 B.C. and the first century B.C. My coin book says that it is impossible to distinguish between the two, for the coins of these two periods are the same. However, I have an opportunity to pick up some of these coins at the stalls. I go to the stalls just as I go to the stalls when I stay in San Francisco. The发现 was in the upper section of the District, and had been dug up at some time in the past. There was one complete set of coins (1000) of Wu Den coins such as Harry has, besides a number of other kinds as ancient. The reasons for the sale of these were sufficient to pay for the labor of building the museum. We have decided to sell a number of these coins as a gift. I have four others of the same kind. Jating from A.D. 20 to 25 A.D. is in the shape of a knife, and can be considered actual coins which we sent Dan. If we get up to Chiang-ti again I think I shall be able to

We are glad you liked the bag Mussy; it was Clara's selection and arrangement. We wish we could get another of the little ones, too. Grandpa's eyes were open for one day, though we are not sure of the region where they were. One has to be in the larger centers to get chances at some of these things. You bet I know Clara! I helped fix up one for our Fakir! Carnival at Chetan! that you couldn't tell from the original. 1908 lines seem like a long time. We refer to it as a good time. But honestly, you haven't these three years gone by quite fast! We expect to get back to you all and to see you all quite a few times yet.

One of the things that ticks me most is that your reference to coming to visit us. We are only 3, 000 miles away and are a little better off than we were a few years ago. We are anticipating at least part of that pleasure soon. Norway and Denmark are our return trip. We hope to get there and to see their native countries. We hope they can get up their courage to do so. I think the idea is all right, especially because that is the harvest part of all. It's all meekness about riding thru the Great Desert in a Bullock being more of
luxury than riding in a sedan-chair in West China. Sand in your eyes, tire-blisters, scenery flying by so fast you can't get the time to appreciate it, etc., etc. But after the first few miles which some timid fellow requires to become accustom to riding in, you have a chance to see things comfortably in the interior of China. scenery and folk-life galore; opportunities for rest if you want them every seven miles or so; a place to put and walk when the day's stage is short; a source dinner awaiting you at the inn whenever you fancy a change. It's all very fine! Of course there are smelly, and unpleasant sights, and dinner at the end, but now won't you?

You certainly have been having some fine opportunities of meeting old friends out in California. I would love to see Aunt Sally especially. The principal reason for not having written her has been my fear that the address was changed. Unfortunately I had not written to 322 W. Cummings St. Then she changed it to 322 W. Chicago Ave. and it was my impression that I had written her there but had not received an answer. I also wrote to Otto Feussel two years ago and have received no reply. I wrote again last week to remind him. It was interesting to have tidings of Everett again. I could not understand Hazel's statement about her father. A relationship with his seems to imply that diplomatic relations had been cut off, but that was scarcely conceivable.

Thanks for the allusions; they are always interesting, and as far as they appertain to China they seem to coincide with what we have learned here on the ground. The only things with which I would disagree in many of the references which I have read are the assertions of Japan's friendliness towards the Chinese. China cannot find the Americans in Japan, or the American newspapers publish in China which the Japanese are forcing toward American and Chinese, their persecution of them whenever possible, their underhanded methods in business and their secret treaties with the militarists of China which practically all the natural resources of the country are put to the use of opium which is growing to be more of a menace than opium was - all of these things are not helping to engender warm feelings or trust. In recent articles from the American papers, as far as I can see, the Japanese have been pictured as the aggressors and our people as those associated with the Japanese empires. Such things from their own papers aren't looked to us.

Dear Mother! there you were again about "sufficit in our living expenses". When and where have we ever given you the grounds for thinking that we were so much up against it? I wrote in your card to Dr. Dickinson that you quote have to say anything in a personal letter. We have plenty of money to help us out. There was not more than a personal note necessary. In the exchange, mail caused a lot of which had to be returned to us. The way that was by individual subscription and the cutting down on the prices of rice in the schools, we have been able to save a few dollars in the past two years and have just sent in higher prices for the beans during this fall. I have some money which I have invested in the future. So you see the saving plan for the future will take the place of the insurance plan. You can lay out about $25.00 per month, which will give us five percent interest in four years. You can lay out in the regulars and we comfortably we can care two-thirds and if we manage carefully. This $2500.00 will pay the annual expenses of $2000.00 that amount us to collect $200.00 in the next two years but it would at least take longer. If we manage carefully, I know that doesn't sound like much, but it would not double how much more one could be attained on a mission or salary. Of course this does not include the superannuated expense.

I'm pretty busy these days. Have been asked to give the address to the graduates, and am to come here on June 16th. As I leave here on the June 15th I am to take dinner at the invitation of General Wu at the army headquarters. In fact, I am to go to Wu for the day, and it seems I have no doubt it will be like all the rest of these functions. Glad to hear of your plans, and to write again and tell you more about them. With lots of love, affectionately,