

my room is
decorated in
mistletoe with
red berries. -
ever seen
any. It is the
only bit of
red we can
find out here.
So I am using
it. My room
is quite fea-
ture with a
giant, etc
in it.

[Peking]

Language School

Dec. 23, 1917.

Dearest Mother:

Just a short note tonight, because I am very tired as the result of preparing for Christmas and attending as many services as possible. I have walked at least 7 miles today, - back and forth from the Chapel, - which is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the hostel.

The fountain pen came last week, and don't worry that I have two, - because this one will not last always. It's such a treat to have a self-filler. The three dollars came today also, and I am going to try to have it changed tomorrow a. m., - but I expect it will be very difficult to do. The banks have no need for it you know, so they don't want it. A money order is the only safe way of sending money, - so next time, please send it that way, - won't you? I'm glad you are able to sell the uniforms and other things. Next time, suppose you put the money in the Bank, and I'll see if I can't add something to it later ~~one~~ and have water works put in our house. I want to see them installed there & in use when I next go home. So if you ever have any surplus left from checks I send home, won't you just add that to the fund?

As I said before, I am very tired. Tomorrow noon I go out to the Anglican mission for two days visit, - in the P. M. there is to be a Christmas tree and entertainment, - in which I have consented to take part. But I cut my

thumb last week with a fruit knife and can hardly bear for it to touch the piano, - so my playing will be rather awkwardly done I'm afraid.

Miss Dexter & Miss Johnson move their things here tomorrow, to board for the rest of the year, - I'm so glad. The day after Christmas they have consented to go to Tientsin to help in the flood relief work, - so I will not really have them with me until school opens, Jan. 3. A Boone University man is going to be sent here to study after Christmas. I am so disgusted, because I was hoping the newcomer might be Olive. The Bishop gave no names at first.

The Anglican mission has also invited me to go to the hills with them a few days during the holidays for a camping trip, but I have refused because I have to practise for the performance Jan. 3rd, and can't easily take a piano with me.

Please be careful what you read out of my letters, ^{because} I write you the inside of many things that might shock those who have idealized the missionary and his work too highly. And please, don't let them know things I need if you can help it. Money is always the best thing for them to send.

You asked about the rate for postage in China. It varies, - a local letter 1 cent, - others three cents and over.

I don't know about the cost of taffeta, - but I'll inquire. I think you might like some of the Chinese silk better, - unless taffeta is the latest thing. The Chinese silk grows more beautiful with age, and is about \$1⁷⁵ or \$2⁰⁰ Mex. half of that in gold. You want black, of course. (?)

With heaps of love,
Venetia.