

[To Mrs. B.T. Cox, Winterville, N.C. From V. Cox, Peking]

Jan. 6, 1918

Dear Mother:

It was impossible to get stamps to send off this letter last week, so I am adding a little more today. The dust is raging outside so thick you can hardly keep your eyes open long enough to see where to step. It sounds like fine hail beating against the thin paper walls of the Chinese house.

Last week was so lovely we were quite spoiled. The Sun was so warm and the winds temperate, we don't appreciate the change. Three more months, and the rains begin! We'll be so glad to see them.

I, at last, succeeded in getting my box out of the P.O. yesterday, - and as I imagined it contained the shoes & other articles Olivera had sent me. The shoes are a splendid fit, and because they are higher than the ones I am now wearing I expect to put them on for comfort's sake even though I don't need them otherwise. I seek warm things these days.

The concert at Mr. Reinsch's was quite a success, I suppose. Everybody seemed pleased, and enjoyed the evening. The Government of America has certainly cared for our minister's physical comforts beautifully. He lives in a small palace, - it might be called, - with beautiful flowers, art, etc all around him. The concert was held in a large conservatory with a nice Grand piano in it. Next Friday the Language School had been invited there for a lecture, which is to be given by an Englishman on the "Western Countries of China". Last week, Friday, Mr. Reinsch gave us one at the English Legation in the British minister's home.

Sir John Jordan. This is to be kept up most of the Fridays of these next two terms, - alternating from one legation to the other, - to help strengthen the spirit of fellowship among the people of these two nations.

There is such a contrast between the two legations, - the American is entirely foreign, - while the English is entirely Chinese, - but made comfortable. I have often heard people speak of the wealth of America, but it never sunk in as it does now. If we are not wealthier, we certainly are deceiving in our outward appearance. Wherever I have seen the American people appear in comparison with another nationality, there was the comfort and display of expense not seen in the other nationalities' "make-up". Most Americans don't realize what it is to do without things. Our missionary salaries are more than other nations give theirs. It makes me blush with shame when I see the sacrifice so many others are making and to look at the extravagant way we are cared for in comparison. Some Americans with private means are most careless in its use. The English workers here in Peking are hardly existing since the war has been going on, while we of the American Church have been raised in salary, - "2 for 1".

The American Church ought to do it because it can, - and furthermore it ought to be contributing more to the work in general. I advocate a little cut on personal salary and more funds for the work, - then we will not have to spend our private means in this way. It is bad for the work to do this in many ways, - it isn't right to teach or allow a Chinese to come to a private individual for help. The person who gives does not always use discretion, and the Chinese are prone to worship other gods than the true one still. So if funds could come through the church many complications could be saved.

With much love,

Venetia