

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

Anglican Mission

April 21, '18.

Dearest Mother:

I have to leave the house in about 10 minutes to have tea with Miss Bowden-Smith, - I'll write the few minutes remaining. It seems that Miss Gardiner, our guest, has displeased Miss B. - very much, so she invited Miss Dexter and I, - and left out Miss G. - So Miss Dexter is staying at home and I am going out alone.

Miss Gardiner is a most argumentative person and almost unbearable at times, and the 1st time she visited Miss Bowden-Smith she disgraced herself by disagreeing with nearly everything Miss B. said. We are wondering how long she is going to stay. She hasn't mentioned leaving yet, but stays on although we are "over our heads" in work and longing for rest.

On account of the meningitis in Wuchiang, Johnnie was wired for on Thursday to come down help nurse, - so she left us the next day.

One of the Chinese girls has it at St. Hilda's. Isn't it terrible? ~~Doc. Scott~~ still runs a very high fever, but other symptoms are much better. Poor Johnnie was taken out of her most interesting term of the yr., she hated going like anything, - but was a perfect "trump" about it.

We are wondering what will be done with St. Hilda's. Of course they can't send the girls home, - they are in close quarantine, and there are not enough doctors in the city to care for them properly. They are just waiting to see how many more cases there will be.

This means thorough isolation for all the foreigners as well, - out in the country as they are. We hope and pray there will be no more cases.

What do you think of the criticism of Pres. Wilson's & Mr. Hoover's plan of food economy made by the March number of "Good Housekeeping"? I think it has many good points, but it tends to put many of our millers out of a job, - doesn't it?

We had a very splendid lecture on the war last Wednesday evening by Mr. Eddy, - the Evangelist. It was very wonderful indeed.

The long looked for Eddy campaign came off last week, and many men were reached. The women were not permitted to attend any of the meetings, so I know nothing but what others have told me of the effects upon the city. All the men said he was very wonderful and touched many of the men.

A nice red room is being built on top of a house just across from us, indicating that a bride is about to enter the home. In this, they will feast as long as they have money. It is a large red wooden frame with glass windows containing red Chinese characters for happiness.

On the other hand, a similar room has been built down the street only it is blue. A person in the house is dead and for over two weeks the Chinese have been feasting and beating "tom-toms" to keep out evil spirits. There is no telling how long this will keep up, probably until all the relatives of the deceased have arrived to pay their respects, - no matter how far away they are.

A small funeral procession is just going underneath my window. The undertakers certainly thrive well in China, - great paying business!

Do you know whether Olivera has started my sweater and my dress on the way e'er this? I am faithfully wearing my black coat all the time until it arrives (the sweater). My rubber coat has also gone into shreds and I have ordered a cravenette to answer for rain & sunshine also, but I haven't heard one thing from it. So I am rather coatless for this kind of weather.

We had a refreshing shower of rain this a. m. which brought everything up smilingly. It is wonderful how things grow and blossom in the dust and dry climate.

They are calling me to go to church, - so I must skip along.

Love to all,

Venetia.

P.S. I am not able to cash the money order here because it was made out for Shanghai. I don't know but that a check would be easier for me to handle in Hankow. Everybody seems to tell me that.