

On Board S. S. "Pres. Lincoln"  
Oct. 8, 1923.

Dear Mother N.,



We're almost there!

Tomorrow morning when we wake we'll probably look out on America, as we are told that we will likely arrive shortly after midnight in the outer part of the harbor. I'm sure it will be hard to sleep tonight, and the first ray of light will probably find us straining our eyes out of the port-holes. It's more nerve-racking than the night before Christmas!

Clarence has written you about our trip. I want to ask if you will please finish some aprons which I started for Rebecca in Kamizawa. When we found that we had to come home suddenly I gathered up what materials I could and began making a few necessities to tide us over until we can get down South to home.

I had thought to have a dark woolen dress or rompers with wash aprons for Rebecca for everyday and I knew she would be needing them while I <sup>am</sup> was in the hospital, for it is very cold in Minnesota. I thought to make six aprons - got five cut and one nearly finished when the earthquake came and then we turned all hands <sup>and</sup> the sewing machine over to relief work. So I'm sending them to you from San F. I had no pattern - just made up that one so you may laugh at it. Don't be particular about the making - I had started the french knots so I put the thread in but I'm sure you are always busy, so don't try to do any extras on them. I'll be so grateful and be felt sure you'd be glad to help us out now. It's such a hardship for my mother to sew any more. I don't know what I'll do about the wool dress until I hear from you about the package you were to send. I wonder if it's already on the way to Japan! We had hoped to be letter fixed

for clothes when we started to America  
but since the earthquake we don't  
let little things worry us - not even my  
operation - Just the day before  
the earthquake we had sent a  
huge bundle of laundry down to our  
Japanese girl to be done up and ready  
for our trip - It never came at all  
so evidently it happened to be in the  
Tokyo P. O. when the fire came. Clarence  
said he was right - glad to lose some-  
thing when so many people had lost  
everything, and so it hasn't been hard  
to get along without those things.



We seem to feel safer on the boat  
than we did on land, though quite  
often when the boat gives a sudden  
jerk and rattles we unconsciously  
start to our feet.

The babies have both kept well  
and we are so thankful for that  
even if they do keep us moving.  
Kathryn would gladly lead someone  
around from morning till night,  
up stairs + down, down + up, until

a body is simply jogged. But when night comes she sleeps from 6 to 6 without disturbing us. They are both going to be spoiled - that is quite evident, but unavoidable under the circumstances.

Don't worry about us. He'll let you hear from the hospital as often as possible. Rebecca always says (when we say "almost to America") - "yes and to Grandmother's house" - when anyone asks "Have you a grandmother" she says "Yes, I have three grandmothers and two grandfathers and we're going to see them."

Now I must stop and pack - don't want to leave anything to be done tomorrow so we can feast our eyes on God's country!

Best love to all - And many thanks for the sewing if I shouldn't be able to write again soon.

Lovingly, Lottie