

Look at you watch first. This
is 17 pages long.

23 June 1924.

Dear Mother and Pop and Margaret and Olive and Harold and Muff and
Nabel and Jack and Aunt Gus and the folks at Indianapolis:

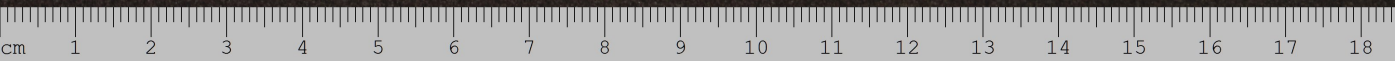
The last letter of which I have any record of having sent home was sent on April 18th, with the possible exception of the note I started home on June 1st, the day the baby was born. And when you consider that this is more than two months later you will understand why the lengthy salutation above and also why I am sending carbons of this letter to Lansdowne and to Indianapolis. Now I hope everybody will consider this a personal letter because it is. By this method I can send everybody the news which would otherwise necessarily be divided up into bits and distributed about the country and nobody would know what the others know. If I had a nickel for every time I had sat down in the last three weeks to write letters home and every time got called off, either by work, or by guests congratulating us on our new arrival, I should have enough to keep both Barbara's in shoes for some little time to come.

As I have before stated, the most important item of news, gossip, information, propaganda, etc., is the arrival of the commander-in-chief of this ranch on the morning of June 1st. While ~~some~~ church services were going on next door, we were singing a different tune in the hospital, and both services concluded about the same time, 11:37 a.m. Exactly four seconds after her advent the young lady announced her supremacy in her own language, and has been holding her own ever since. The other ladies of the community who are anticipating family increases feel that in our 9½ lb. youngster they have something to work toward.

Her disposition since her arrival has demonstrated that she selected an unusual parentage for herself. By this I mean that the parentage is unusual in the fact that it has never been selected before by any baby in the world's history. No amount of academic argument will convince either her or the parentage that a mistake has been made.

She takes after her mother. This means that she has a pronounced tendency toward sleep for about twenty-three out of the twenty-four hours. The other hour is taken at random times through the day for lung and lip exercises. At this date, twenty-two days of age, she has just about not quite regained her birth weight, which is unusually slow, but suits us as being just about right considering her herculean proportions on the first lap. She is gaining steadily but slowly, and remains excellent in health. Mrs. Ramsey is amply able to nurse her, and is the only American woman I've attended since I've been out here this year who could do so, with possibly one other exception. Of course, I don't know how long she'll hold out, but the prospects are good. Most of the others either couldn't nurse at all, or nursed for a short time when they had to make a substitution.

I sheared top off a little



As I advised you, Dr. Moore, formerly of Charleston, West Virginia, and now located across town here, kindly assisted us in the ceremonials. He was in practice for many years at that place and we understand from others was much sought after there. A few years ago he decided either to support a missionary or to come himself to the field, being responsible for his own support. He was finally accepted and is now here in the Southern Presbyterian Elizabeth Blake Hospital. His good wife is the sister or cousin of Dr. Venable, who is in charge of the tuberculosis hospital on Kuling, and is herself a nurse. He works in conjunction with Dr. Young at that hospital.

Barbara says I mustn't forget to tell you how much fun she has when she goes to give the baby a bath. I also have lots of fun. She sits down in the tub -- the baby, I mean -- and splashes with her hands and feet, and fairly exudes enthusiasm. This first week of theirs at home, I have been helping with the baths, until Barbara is fully able to cope with such an active youngster. They were in the hospital two weeks, waitin' to come home after the first week.

Now I think a page and a half should be enough to devote to our young hopeful, but I must pause to say that you will note that aside from referring to her parentage I have not said that there was anything unusual about her. Every infant I have ever had the privilege of officiating with was "unusual" to hear her parents tell it. A few of them were. I once saw one with six fingers on each hand, and once saw one with no fingers on one hand. Ours has five on each as per schedule; only two eyes so far as I know and two ears. There is a sameness about her diet so far. Barbara will doubtless communicate the ideas of the community about her to you, such as being the most beautiful baby they ever saw, and such a lovely disposition, and how she looks like somebody or nobody, and how the Chinese think she was two months old when she was born, etc. All I can say is that she is the most beautiful I have ever fathered, and so far as my limited observation goes on babies in general we can't expect to ever have such a stunner again. So there!

And we don't carry her when she hollers or bounce her dinner out on our knees or rock her to keep her from yawning and she sleeps in a separate room in a beautiful enamelled white wicker crib, lent to us by Mrs. R. T. Henry. Now if there's any more dope you'd like, sling the queries.

I notice a note in the paper today reporting that the Japanese moving picture owners and operators have decided to boycott American films on the first of July as a protest against the exclusion act. Some of the missionaries in Japan have reported that anti-American feeling runs high at times, and it looks sometimes as if they'd have to shut up shop and go home. I know that the Japanese missions generally were opposed to the act as well as the Federal Council of Churches at home and our own State Department. Most of the papers in Japan are rabid on the subject and fail to see that there is even a possibility of there being two sides to the question. They council all sorts of wild stops, and only one or two conservative organs represent anything approximating

reasonable conduct. The Chinese resident in Japan took advantage of the opportunity offered by all the clamor on this question to make a demonstration at the office of the foreign minister in regard to the recently passed Japanese act excluding the Chinese from Japan. The Japanese with characteristic egoism failed to note any parallel between the American attitude toward them and theirs toward the Chinese. I believe one of the strongest reasons for their objecting to the act is the fact that it classifies them by law with the Chinese whom they despise.

For my part, I have not really had opportunity to think the question through for the Christian viewpoint. I don't believe that the Japanese have any more right within our borders as an economic disturbance than the Chinese, and the Californians say they have less. It seems to me reasonable for a nation to be expected to maintain the living conditions of its people in a way compatible with their life health and growth. As to the question of expansion, the Japanese fail to see where they should be expected to colonize the vast stretches they already have in the north of Japan where relatively speaking nobody lives. They don't like the cold countries, I guess. At least that is what Stoddard says in his book, "The Rising Tide of Color." The Japanese also say that densely compact nations should be allowed to expand into any and all relatively less dense territories, and that the United States is selfishly holding on to a large portion of the most desirable part of the earth's crust with no regard for the "rights" of other peoples. Whether it is Christian or not to practice any form of exclusion or not is the question to be determined it seems to me.

We were sorry to note the passage of the Bonus Act over the presidential veto. We feel that this was a gigantic helping out of the pork barrel, such as frequently marks the proceedings of our Congress, and we feel that the ends of justice would have been served and the nation better off if it had not been passed. Do you feel at home as we sometimes hear mentioned out here, that our Congressional system is degenerating into a sort of unyielding mess and that it is proving itself a sort of a failure as a law-making body?

We have been following with much interest the doings of the Student Volunteer convention at Indianapolis and the later convention of the Methodist students of America at Louisville. It strikes me that these are some of the most hopeful ~~times~~ signs of the present time, and it is pleasing and stimulating to note that the Church is going to have to listen to the voice of her young people who are more than ever on her firing line. Just as it seems the governments of the nations ~~is~~ going to have to listen to the voice of ~~the~~ young people of the earth who demand the right to say whether we shall have war or no.

And that brings me to the interesting and up-to-the-minute subject of pacifism. It seems to be getting a hold on the minds of the young people everywhere and the Chinese are asking us what we as Christians are going to do about it. Of course, you know better than I what happened at the conventions I mentioned. I have recently talked

4
with a number of prominent people out here on the subject and there is no escaping the fact that this is the most acute question before the whole world today. And the nations are demanding a show-down from the Christians of the world.

It is a fact that war as a means has broken down. That the last war has not made the world safe for democracy any more than it has accomplished any of the other things it set out to accomplish, including self-determination for small peoples. And as for it being a gigantic struggle marking as it were the birth-pangs of peace, it was recently reported to me by Dr. Hodgkin, a prominent British church worker of China, that the country of Poland alone is spending more on the means of war now than the German nation spent on its whole militaristic system before the war. And the nations of Europe are falling head over heels piling up various kinds of war-strength into a pile which will topple over on them in a cataclysm which will make the last war look like a cock-fight.

These are startling facts. As for the individual reaction to the problem, men and women are taking different viewpoints, some of them pledging themselves that it is their Christian duty to prefer facing a firing squad to participating in another; many more take the middle ground, in which they say that they may never more be found volunteering or be conscripted in any conflict which is not clearly a defense of our homes. This strikes me as rather reasonable, and a position which all Christians might be expected to take. As to the extreme pacifist view, I am willing to be shown, although I am not convinced yet that He would have us take it at this time. If He would, there of course would be only one path for us to follow and that is in the path of His will.

We noted with satisfaction the nomination of Coolidge and Dawes, and predict that McAdoo is the most likely candidate of the other party. Perhaps we will have news of the democratic choice before this letter is completed; anyway we do not think that Smith's chances are very good for the nomination and if he were nominated the democrats would have another Cox fiasco.

We are overjoyed at the action of the Methodist General Conference on the report of the Unification Commission, and have no doubt that the special session of the Southern Methodist General Conference called for July 2d, will take similar action. The sentiment out here is overwhelmingly in favor of unification. We regret the sentiments which we feel actuated the statement signed as a minority report by four of our bishops including Denny, desiring the postponement of any meeting for action until May 1925. After opposition fails try delay.

This week is commencement week in Laura Haygood Normal School and in Soochow University, and nearly every day is taken up with a function of some sort incident to the occasion. What with class days, and baccalaureate sermons, and senior dinners, and graduations, you might feel as if you were on any American campus.

5
Now I have alot of letters to acknowledge and answer and so I'll start in.

Barbara received a letter from mother dated March 24th. Mother says it is a good day for a trip to Philadelphia. But after scanning the rest of the letters in the bunch, we are forced to admit that apparently the major occupation of the parents these days is getting ready to go to or getting over coming from Philadelphia.

The baby's basket you mentioned was received all o. k., with not a thing disturbed by the time it reached here. You said it was for Barbara to open, but the basket arrived ahead of the letter, and so we did as we usually do with all our mail, open^{ed} it together. It is just a beauty and as you can well imagine now it is in daily use. Barbara had said that mother had prepared baby baskets for all her other grandchildren, and I had said that the distance would prevent her preparing one for this one -- such a fragile thing, you know -- but evidently I failed to^x reckon on the grandmother, and we were just delighted. It is a beauty and serves to remind us again that no matter how far we get, our mother always sticks up for us.

I am so glad mother had a chance to meet our Miss Matthews in Philadelphia. I do not know just what the circumstance that prevented her return to the field, but I believe that it is in relation with Miss Strother's health. Anyway her resignation was accepted by the Board, and we understand that there is a possibility or even a probability that when things improve a bit, she may be expected back here.

~~Now~~ As to the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ things that the various members of our families sent by Miss Matthews, they were all received from her by mail arriving here on the tuesday before the baby was born. When Barbara saw all the pretty things she could hardly wait for the baby, she was so excited. As to the comfort of wool shalley, we were uncertain from your letter whether that was forwarded to Miss Matthews or direct here. In any event it has never been received here and Barbara is much concerned. Miss Matthews sent an itemized list of her things along and that was^{not} mentioned. A ship arriving the first few days of May had a fire in the mail hold just before she reached Shanghai, and we concluded that the package was lost in that. We rec ived some of our mail damaged in that fire, and lost our May issue of the Good Housekeeping magazine as well as most of the other subscribers to that out here.

About two weeks later we received special delivery a package from Margaret containing a tin of butter scotch which had gone through the fire and come through with the address just about unrecognizable. It was finally partially deciphered by the postoffice authorities and ~~xxx~~ forwarded to us. The paper wrappings were partially burnt off and some smoky water had gotten through to the inside, but after we opened and aired it it was fine and had no taste of smoke left. We have just recently demolished the last of it. Thanks very much to Margaret for it. Homside candy surely tastes good, and in tins like that it reaches us in fairly good condition.

6
So sorry to hear the latest news about Millard Woods. I trust it isn't as bad as reported.

And we both wished we could have attended your reception at the Raleigh, or rather your session of the Woman's Guild, and see our mother presiding. Of course, pop was right, you did it all right.

We trust that Mrs. Brimer has completely recovered before now and is taking due care of herself. Did my former partner Dr. White work on her?

By the way, while you were speaking about Emergency and Casualty Hospitals, I notice in the papers that my old friend, Joe Rodgers is opening up a hospital at Sixth and Massachusetts Avenue to be known as the Accident and Receiving Hospital. What is the trouble with Joe? Is he disgruntled with the Emergency outfit or has he got some other kind of irons in the fire?

Then we have a card from Father dated from Providence April 14th, on our 13th month-iversary. It's pleasant to be remembered wherever you are. And then we have pop's letter of April 18th and 22d. All of your letters beginning with this one speak of your backward spring, and we have had the same here, and I have heard say that the same is true in Europe. Tonight is the second really warm night. The week after Barbara had arranged to come home from the hospital we were planning to live on our upstairs front porch most of the time, and so I had moved the most of our living room furniture (wicker) up there. Well, we have lived up here, but all of these days it has been so cold that we have had to wear sweaters and bath-robes and whatnot to be comfortable. So don't believe all the yarns they spin about the unbearable heat of this part of the world. On account of the slowness of the spring it has been really very delightful, but until a little over a week ago, far too dry for the farmers, who were having difficulty getting their rice planted. We seem to be heading rapidly toward summer now, and shall wear as little as the law allows from now on.

We have heard such uniformly fine reports about our Miss Elizabeth Ramsey -- we feel we can claim her -- that we know they must be true. We now have, however, an honest-to-goodness rival, none of your Strawberry Point pikers, who sleeps on blissfully today, despite the fact that both of her parents and she slept blissfully all the night long last night, past her two o'clock feeding time on up until almost time for her six a.m. feeding. How's that for goodness?

The enclosed copy of a letter I have just sent Mr. Shumaker will indicate you some correspondence I have just had from him and also from Cassetty of our Board. These men as you know have offices very nearly adjoining and the adjustment they made of my salary in order to prevent the lapsing was a not unusual procedure. I did not anticipate it, however, and could not stand the deduction at this time. You will note that the date of Shumaker's letter to me was May 15th, six days before

7
the grace period was to expire, and it is probable that your payment reached them in time. I now also recall that I shall have a John Hancock payment falling due in July, for which I have not advanced you funds. Please let me have a statement of account to July first so that I can see how much I need to forward to you; which I estimate roughly between \$30 and \$40 exclusive of the John Hancock payment.

Dr. Norman R. Stoll, in answer to your queries, is a public health doctor, graduate of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and for several years a member of the Rockefeller Hookworm Commission. He has worked before chiefly in Baltimore and also in Porto Rico. He makes his home in Baltimore. A little over a year ago, the Commission sent their experts to China, including Dr. Stoll and Dr. Cort. They made out of the hospital their headquarters for intensive hookworm studies and experimentation. Dr. Cort and family spent most of the year in Peking as exchange professor of helminthology, Dr. Faust exchanging with him at Hopkins this year. Dr. Cort also went to Canton, Formosa and several other points while out here. Dr. Cort (W.W.) also makes his home in Baltimore.

Dr. Stoll came out without his family last year and made his quarters in the hospital. When he had stood it about as long as he could he finally got the commission to send his family out also, and they -- the wife and little 2-year old son -- arrived about the middle of March. We gave them rooms with us, and they have been boarding with the Hendry's up to the present. Both Dr. Cort and Dr. Stoll will return to the States before the expiration of the present year, to Baltimore, and they have promised to look you up when they are in Washington. If you ever happen to be in Baltimore you may look them up through the University or the Hookworm Commission. Dr. Cort and family are going home in September and the Stoll's in November.

I'm afraid that I've let you folks get the idea that I was working too hard. Never farther from the fact. At present I'm feeling fit as a fiddle, and my wife and I are trying to see whether we can gain as fast or faster than the baby. I weigh about 156 lb. as usual, and Barbara hasn't been weighed since the baby was born, although she weighed 145 lb. a short time before she was born, a clear gain of 33 lb. since leaving home a year ago last March.

To answer your questions categorically, I am in charge of the surgical end of the hospital, and have one Chinese doctor assisting me. He is fine for the progress that he has made, and relieves me of the great mass of the routine. Also speaking categorically, I don't have charge of anything else, that being quite sufficient. This spring I have been making a few addresses at different schools and colleges in the interests of public health and medical education. Then I find I am down on a kindergarten institute for one period a day on "Care of the Children." I have definitely dropped language study for this year, and am planning to take it up again after Dr. Snell returns. Barbara dropped her work last spring fall when we began to anticipate the little stranger, but is considering the possibility of

8
recommencing this fall. I hope she will find it possible to do so.

I have not seen any cases of sleeping sickness since I have been here, but they are reported from time to time in China, and there was quite a series reported at P. U. M. C. (Peking). A few cases of leprosy come in here. You bear in mind that the Biblical leprosy is not a pathological entity, but includes a number of different diseases including syphilis, ^{and leprosy}. The leprosy I referred to is that kind caused by the *Bacillus leprae*, the bug that affects the modern lepers. The most prevalent maladies among the Chinese hereabouts are the same as those of the foreigners, so far as malaria and dysentery goes. But it strikes the most prevailing maladies among the Chinese are those due to uncleanliness of skin, teeth, eyes, etc., such as scabies, pyorrhoea, and the infections to which these and similar maladies predispose. Then too the foreigners are not commonly affected with hookworm, round worm, schistosoma, and other parasites which we discover among the Chinese in large numbers. Because they don't have heated houses, the Chinese have an almost unbelievable number of chilblains, many of which ulcerate and give rise to stubborn conditions. There are cases of beri beri, which is nutritional in causation, which is not often found among foreigners.

But aside from differences suggested above, by and large the Chinese suffer from the same things the foreigners do, and if one of them gets shot or cut or falls and breaks a leg, there is not anything distinctive about it. Typhoid is very common; pneumonia less so; tetanus common; scarlet fever common; diphtheria common; smallpox very common. The Chinese almost universally suffer from head colds all winter long, complicated with coughs many times. (I've only seen this region, remember.) One of the most common diseases is tuberculosis, and we see it in every stage and every variety, including pulmonary, bone, glandular, and skin forms. You would be surprised at the diversity it takes on. They have appendicitis and gastric ulcer, cancer and benign tumors, pediculosis and scabies, measles and whooping cough, and almost everything else you can think of. But having a disease and being willing to be treated for it are two quite different things, and we have a background to work against quite different from anything we have ever before seen. A mixture of superstition and magic, pagan worship and fetishism, and an absolute failure to appreciate the principles of cause when the body is concerned (like the Christian Scientists) constitute the background we have to work on. They want some medicine to eat, or some medicine to rub on, and other things appeal to them mightily little it seems to me.

Then we have mother's card from New York City dated May 6th. We were so glad you could attend the Missions convention. We would have loved to be there.

Then we have father's letter of May 12th and 15th. Glad to hear of your attending the Solicitor-General's dinner and the Attorney-General's reception.

I was glad to get your news about Miss Uhl's being in the department now. I didn't know what had happened to her since the President died.

9
I think much the same of her as you did and I know Mr. Harding had a high opinion of her.

I shall be glad to hear from Mrs. Turnbull when she has opportunity. If she does not soon give some sort of a response, I shall be in favor of your employing the methods or the assistance of a professional collecting agency; they have ways of getting action out of forgetful people.

Your correspondence with Montgomery, Ward and Co., denotes that like us you are at least satisfied with their work. Missionaries often refer to them affectionately as Monkey Ward, or "daddy" since they are capable of supplying a host of everyday needs at reasonable prices. I might say that their prices are usually low, but not always the lowest. But if you understand catalogues when you read them, you will recognize that whether the good be expensive or cheap it is exactly as represented. I believe that people run into dissatisfaction often because they imagine the advertisement means or connotes things it doesn't say. Their prices are materially affected by parcel post charges by the time goods get here but we can usually estimate about how it will run.

Then we have pop's card written on May 14th, the day you went up to Great Falls to see the flood. The pictures and descriptions we have seen of that make us think it must have been terrible. We have seen the pictures in the home papers, and some of them were published in the Shanghai papers.

And then we have pop's letter of May 25th and 26th. It is needless to say that we are pleased that Dr. Snell got to see you. I told him you would give him the city if he wanted it. Also very glad he spoke to the Epworth folks. I suppose that if things were as they used to be if he dropped in unannounced on Thursday night, he would find about a corporal's guard present compared with the Sunday attendance.

To get a full view of Snell you should see him in action among the Chinese, and then again in his home surrounded by his family of wife and seven children.

And a "closed car"! Wonders will never cease! We are so glad you got it. It will mean so much to you, particularly the feminine portion of the contingent to say nothing of the enjoyment of the mere men. So we join "the whole family" in being "greatly pleased."

The Rockefeller Foundation will pay my personal expenses connected with the Peking fellowship including second-class round trip rr. fare, and maintenance at the College. Other incidentals I may introduce will be at my own expense.

Most of the advertising stuff you send me goes more or less directly into the waste-basket, and only such things as have some use or novelty value are used. For instance, the blotters, note-books, and calendars find their way to the desk. I read some of the reprints. Some is not

About two weeks later - July 8th.

Since the preceding part of this effusion was written, much time has elapsed and several things have happened.

Day before yesterday, Margaret's birthday no doubt passed uneventfully, at least without any visible sign that we recognized the date. This oversight was shameful, and we congratulate her none the less, just a little late. She's the first half of our telephone number and Harold is the second half.

About a little less than two weeks ago we had the privilege of entertaining Dr. and Mrs. Meleny from Peking on the way home on furlough. They are connected with the Peking Union Medical College, of which he is one of the surgeons. They get their furloughs in four years, and this is their-n. Lovely people, both of them, who staid with us about 36 hours.

Then a little later we entertained for three days Dr. and Mrs. J. Preston Maxwell, of the same place, bound on a similar errand. It seems that the Peking people have all gotten the Szechow bug lately and want to see our fair city. So Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell and Miss Maxwell (about 14 yrs.) dropped in on us. The doctor was 20 years in Fuhkian Province as a missionary for the English Presbyterian Church before he was appointed to Peking, and is a staunch Scotch Presbyterian of the ultra-fundamentalist variety. The doctor and his wife, however, give the impression of being more British than Scotch, and their daughter having been educated the last four years in an American School of the Episcopal Church near Peking is a typical Yankee girl, using all the latest slang, and with never a twang to indicate her insular parentage. I have given him a letter to father, since he will probably be in Hopkins during the next four or five months. They are going home via America. The Melenys went home to America via Europe.

Then the community also had as guests last week, Dr. and Mrs. Councilman and daughter. Dr. Councilman is Professor emeritus of Pathology at Harvard, and during the past year has been exchange professor of pathology at Peking. He and his family are now returning home via Europe. He and his wife are charming. We feel, however, that the daughter has strayed a little far from "Bahsten".

Barbara continues to be good and to register slow gains. We have eliminated her night nursings now, so that she feeds five times a day, beginning at 6 a. m. and ending up at 10 p.m. She usually sleeps all night until at least five or later in the morning. We marvel, of course, that before she was three weeks old she could lift up her head, and smile and laugh noiselessly at us. Now we are a little concerned about her activities. You see, sometimes we flop her over on her face for a rest, and sometimes when she is in this position she manages to crawl a little and works herself up to the head of the bed with her head or her hands jammed up against her mosquito bar. Last night we found her in this position with three mosquitoes perched on her head trying to attack her through the bar. Now my wife's conflict was whether to ~~xxx~~ frighten them

away or to swat them on the baby's head. Now I ask you, what would you have done? The mosquitoes settled the proposition by flying away. Anyway, we have to keep the youngster supinely upon her back at night unless it is when we happen to be awake and can put a quietus on her peregrinations.

We have gotten her a new bath-tub, consisting of a grandfather edition of an ordinary white enamelled wash basin. It is just like a wash basin except for size; it measures about two and a half feet across the top, and the youngster surely does love to splash in it. She usually whimpers a little when we take her out, she loves it so much.

We have had a quantity of rain, lately but not as much as usual. The cool weather lasted so long that the moulty season was cut off to some extent in its beginning. Then last week we had three or four sweltering days just like Washington weather. Now for the last two days it has been lovely summer weather, a little hot, but delightful breezes all the time. Right now I am writing on our upstairs porch, and have all the papers weighted down to keep them from blowing all over the place.

On the Fourth of July we had a few folks in, including Dr. and Mrs. Stoll, Dr. Cort, Dr. Tsong, and Mr. and Mrs. Lowrie. We wound up our evening by firing off a lot of firecrackers, little ones and tremendous cannon crackers like they used to shake H Street with 20 years ago. This was about 10 p.m. Our Barbara woke up just once during the cannonade and then turned over and went back to sleep. We topped off with pineapple ice cream, and declared a successful glorious Fourth.

We have now received one further letter from pop dated June 2d, and 6th, which is a thrilling letter for us since it was one of the first after our cable got to you. You were correct, as you now probably are assured, that Barbara's birthday is June 1st.

The wool comfort previously referred to in this letter was also received last week, and what a wonder it is! We were planning to have one made next winter, and now we won't have to. Isn't that fine? Mother, dear, we could see your love in every stitch you took in it, and you know we appreciate it.

Contrary to your "assumption" the Stoll's are still living with us, but they have not been boarding with us. They boarded with the Hendry's until July 1st, and will now be with the Nance's until August 15th.

You are probably aware before now that D. L. Sherertz from whom you heard is the son-in-law of Dr. Park. He is a teacher in the middle school here and also is an evangelical worker.

Votaw did not tell me what his family relation to Hober Votaw, but he seemed to know a good bit about him. He also seemed to be in the position of being "kin but not claiming".

12

Among the enclosures you sent a slip advising that Kohlmeier sends best wishes received with appreciation. I have just received a letter from Nashville advising that the money was received from you for the insurance and has been refunded to my salary account.

I received the two lovely boxes of candy and the beautiful socks. You certainly did a favor in sending the socks, for they're not as easy to get out here as they are at home, although they can be gotten. And as for the candy, my wife and I just made a tornado track through it. It surely did taste good. It was surely sweet and lovely of you folks to remember the birthday of one who makes a specialty of not remembering yours.

Glad to see the account of your commar stone-laying and to know all is going well at the Mission. It does my heart good to know the struggles of the years are being brought to fruition and that His work is being thus forwarded. We often remember and pray for the Mission, and its faithful workers and trust that its future shall be of the largest.

We have Margaret's letter of May 9th, Olive's of May 11th, and Margaret's of June 6th. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Margaret's first letter leaves us a little up in the air as to whether to forward the Mah Jong set direct or to wait further advices. You say your friend wants one for about \$10.00 (gold, I presume). A good serviceable set could be procured and shipped for that sum. I think I shall just have the set forwarded to you direct, and then I'll ask her to give pop a check for the amount of our expense to be credited to my bank account. It so happens that the exportation of Mah Jong sets has fallen off to an enormous degree and it may be possible to get one more cheaply than formerly.

I might incidentally make a mention about the game. I came out here prepared to take it up as a side line but I have desisted from my original intention by reason of the fact that we have learned that Mah Jong is one of China's worst national evils. The Chinese are born gamblers. Mah Jong is a gambling game of the first rank. Its opportunities for gains and for losses are so big that it has an alluring appeal. We can hear the rattle of tiles all over town. It seems to me that I have written this before, but it won't hurt to repeat. The most of the missionaries, for this reason, do not indulge in the game. Strictly speaking it has been outlawed by the Chinese, but ^{as in the case of} ~~like~~ opium and other things they have outlawed it is a law which seems to exist chiefly for its observance in the breach. Now I do not believe in desisting from a game of part skill and part chance for the reason that it may be used for gambling purposes. Most any game may be so used, except those of pure skill. But there are many games to my mind which are not playable without the use of stakes. The Chinese so regard Mah Jong. I view it in the same light as our game of poker. Poker can not be played at all in my opinion without the presence of stakes, because its genius consists in a clever combat of bluff and wagers. Many of our card games at home are not so. They may be played with consider

able degree of interest and skill for a score alone. But the Chinese think Mah Jong cannot be played without stakes, and they do not ^{usually} believe that foreigners play without stakes. ~~xxxx~~ However, I have heard lately that the Americans at home and in Shanghai are coming to regard it in the Chinese point of view, and are playing for heavy stakes or dropping it off. I know that these things are not well understood at home, but the Chinese National Christian Council has appealed to the Federal Council of Churches to make some pronouncement in order to remove what appears to the Chinese to be an obvious inconsistency, e.g., making money at a Mah Jong party to send off to the Orient to convert the poor heathen Chinese from playing Mah Jong. I think if I were at home I should not well understand the proposition, but out here there is little room to be in doubt about the merits of the ~~theological~~ question.

Soochow is one of the centers of the Mah Jong industry, and since the development of the American craze there has been a tremendous development of a good substantial business to an enormous business. As I said, however, I shall forward a set to you for your friend, and you can recommend her to use it for addition to her relics of China.

Now as to Olive's letter. Wouldn't we have liked to sample her cooking while she and her sister were keeping house for each other and for their daddy while their mother was away. Well, you'd better get your hand in, because it isn't everybody that can be blessed with a Chinese cook ~~that~~ who can make ~~bisbuits~~ that melt in your mouth, is it? And at that I'll bet yours were better.

Give our best wishes to Mrs. Gordon Jones. Tell her ~~her~~ it's mighty pleasant to be remembered and it helps us along the way. And also that we always pray for the Spworth folks.

I'm sorry to say that my information about Syracuse is somewhat missing. Your daddy has been through the town, but on other business. By now you have undoubtedly been there, and have discovered whether it furnishes the various things you mentioned.

Now Margaret's letter of June 6th. We're sorry you won't be able to graduate before October, but glad we're not late with our remembrance, as we were in Olive's case. As to your "Wine", why if you sing him a song, it'll be that far-famed notorious combination, W., M., & S.? Better go slow. So glad to get the two photos. We first thought that the picture of the couple was to be a betrothal announcement, but no words to that effect were forthcoming. But the couple looks good, and we're glad to see our little sister looking so well and so doted up. And Mother looks like she'd been on a milk and eggs diet ever since we left. Tell her that things like that happen in Soochow, too, but not to let that deter her from making the trip. The "President" liners are seaworthy so she needn't think she would sink the ship. How much does she weigh now, 170 lb?

Now I have a string of letters from Lansdowne to answer, beginning with Harold's of May 2d, which was commenced on January 20th. So glad to hear that Harold's assistant was finally appointed. Afraid as usual

14
he wouldn't know when he had had enough. We're glad to note the new resolve to write every two weeks, and you may record our effort to reciprocate in some way, but the initial effort does not seem to have come very early in response to such a resolve, does it? But one doesn't have a new infant every day, does he?

Which reminds me to say that we took several photos of our little commander-in-chief the other day (yesterday - 5 weeks and one day) and if they turn out all right shall forward some home to you all.

I sympathize with you in your night calls to put out fires. There's something romantic about being called out about 2 a.m. on a morning so cold that the cart wheels sing in the snow, and there are no trolleys or busses to carry you several miles in to your destination, nit!

And were so glad to see the photos of our little Elizabeth. My she's big, and so much hair, and so on. Our memories of her were confined to the first 2 1/2 months you remember. How long do you give little Barbara to catch up in weight?

Huff wrote us a nice letter on May 5th and 9th. Speaking of gardens we have eaten up all our radishes and lettuce, and nearly all the beats and most of the golden bantam corn, although I have successive plantings of the latter and we shall have more from time to time. Beans are all gone and peas. Tomatoes are coming along but not yet blooming for some reason. Also have squash, cantelope, parsley, and celery coming along. Have been eating our own cabbage some days. The carrots are not yet ready. We didn't plant many of them so far. I'm now getting ready to put in second plantings all over the garden.

Harold's letter of May 2d and 17th. with clippings. Were glad to get the clippings also; thank you for your offer re finances if we should need. It's comforting to have a family to stand back of and beside one. However, at present we seem to be still mashing along, thanking the Lord for good health. Glad to hear the account of Bennett's sojourn with you and talk before the League. Won't I be glad to tell them a few things when I get back?

Huff's letter of May 27th. Every letter we've had from every different member of the Ramsey-Frost combination for the past six weeks says "of course, you've heard all about Bill's new boy", and so gradually we pick a little information up, but as a matter of fact we haven't heard all about it, and in fact, nary a line from Fort^h Ethan Allen since the birth thereof. Send 'em a stick of dynamite, will you? We're still on the map.

Speaking further of gardens, we have been enjoying our dahlias so much as well as our nasturtiums, our calendulas, brown-eyed susans, hollyhocks eight, and eight and a half feet tall, sweet alyssum, peppies, petunias, lady-slipper, candy-tuft, etc. Our roses seem to have gone into winter quarters. Our figs are getting ready to be ripe

15 Later on our cosmos and coxcomb will bloom. I forgot to say that our snap-dragons came into bloom, but rather feebly.

Harold's letter of June 6th: I trust that before now, the children's tonsils have all gone the way of my appendix and cannot further vex them. Of course, Dr. Bolton has my approval.

As to the radio fever out here, radio fever depends on broadcasting. Wireless apparatus in general is contraband in China as being munitions of war. The big wireless stations operate under some special permit from the governments, and in the past have been confined to the message business. Lately there have been efforts to establish broadcasting in Shanghai, with some success. The law in this respect is simply broken like all other laws in China. It is not possible I think to ship radio sets intact through customs into China, but they have ways of making them in Shanghai, and I think I have seen homeside sets on sale, either ~~xxxxx~~ smuggled in or shipped in in pieces and assembled in Shanghai. There is a Westinghouse and a General Electric agency there, and some of the smaller stores carry supplies. Everybody seems to be going in for it the last few months, and they are getting broadcasting from ²Malla as well. There was an effort to hear Chicago on a special broadcasting for this purpose, but it was not heard out here. There is a small set at the University here, and one or two local people have them. I don't get much interested for the same reason that I didn't at home, and that is that I don't have either the time or the money to invest.

The latter part of your letter contained more flowers than in all of Soochow. You must remember in re what Dr. Snell said, that we missionaries have a sort of close fraternalism and it is for the good of all of us to tell good yarns on the rest of us, and this was probably the basis for his subject matter about what we were doing back here.

Now we have letters and enclosures from Mabel and Jack. Mabel's of April 13th. among other enclosures one dictated by Jean and another written by the same. So glad to learn that Jean is approaching the end of her illnesses for this season. Now for a summer's rest for next season.

Also glad to hear that you are back at Mt. Vernon Place. Now we can ~~going~~ on imagining as we often do that we were sitting in the back row listening to you play. I agree with you-uns in your critique on the wedding clipping from New England.

"I have ~~new~~ portiers and window-draperies like the samples enclosed" and we at first thought that you meant the tangerine colored sample until we got farther along in the letter.

Mabel's letter of May 8th. I'd love to have seen Jean tambourining at the school pageant. Is that anything like submarining?

Mabel always writes such newsy letters, and usually such crazy ones that they put us into a good humor for weeks to follow.

Your clipping on unification reminds me to say that my heart ached last week to think that our church should hold such a reactionary mind in high office as that displayed by Bishop Candler in his hopelessly narrow, unchristian opinion expressed in a recent Baltimore Southern Methodist. I regret that our conference must fall under his sway. I regret his recent reactionary statements on evolution, et al., and his most recent vapidities are positively pathetic. His position only further emphasizes the truth of what was often said in days gone by that it was necessary for a certain number of people to die before the Lord's workers could go forward in a united effort. It seems that when the good bishop shall have passed to his reward, his restraining influence over our church will be removed, to the advancement of His cause and kingdom in the earth.

Jack's letter of June 10th. Please advise little Jean that our infant was not born with a pig-tail but it is growing rapidly. Little Barbara says ask Jean if she wants to send her laundry out here. Photographic confirmation will be forwarded at the earliest possible date. All rights reserved

We received both of Aunt Gus's letters. One of April 24, 1923. As to having been in the flowery kingdom, we were there. But no cherry trees in the world come up to the "Japanese" cherry trees blooming in Washington near the monument.

The other one was of January 24th, 1924. You know from the above that your first letter was properly addressed and reached us in due time. Its reply went the way of most of our letters since we came out, just failed to be written. I'll confess to you that I haven't even got the letter written yet to the woman whose special I have heard it was to supply our travel and equipment fund.

As to what we read out here, we get the China Press, a daily from Shanghai, once a week, a copy of the Evening or rather the Sunday Star from Washington, the Literary Digest and we were taking also the American which we have discontinued and the Good Housekeeping. It takes from 2 to 3½ weeks to get our mail from the Pacific Coast, usually nearer the shorter time. Our shortest time from here to Washington by mail is about 21-23 days.

By the way, home folks, what happened to those pictures of Soochow Hospital that I prepared and sent home three or four months ago? I do not recall that they were ever acknowledged. Can it be that they were not received?

We were tickled to hear from you Aunt Gus. Please write again. Excuse us if most of this letter seems to be more or less personal to Washington and Lansdowne. Give our best wishes to the dear ones in Columbus, Indianapolis and Los Angeles.

This is the 17th and last page -- must be!

Our good friends Henry's left last week, and Dr. Manget and family left the week before that. I'm going to send to their United States addresses letters to you. You have heard us speak of the Henry's often. They have been very friendly to us since we have been here.

Dr. Manget has just come through a very hard seige building Huchow Hospital, just as Snell was building Soochow Hospital. Manget is a man of God if there ever was one, a Georgian by the way, and one whom you in common with everyone else will just love on sight. Give both the Henry's and the Manget's the best the U.S. affords - they are worth it. Manget -- mahn-zhay.

Barbara has about decided it will not be the best thing to take the baby to Peking, so that she will stay behind while I'm there. In that case, I'll cut my trip just as short as possible, and we'll take our vacation in Shanghai, which is not far, and whither we can take the baby, and the latter's crib, as well as the ~~ix~~ amah. The chief need that we feel here, is not so much for getting to some resort as it is of getting far enough from our station that we are not receiving calls to patients most any old time of the day or night. We enjoy the city and it furnishes a valuable sort of relief -- comedy relief! -- to us.

Henry's have left us one of ~~the~~^{their} furniture to care for while they are away, including a set of wicker which we have installed on the porch, a piano, and an iron bed, spring and mattress included. So that until we return Snell's furniture to them next month, we have two pianos, neither of them ours.

Did I tell the girls that I gave a letter to the connection to Miss Markday when she left us at the expiration of her contract this past month. You'll find her full of fun. She is going home via Europe, and is probably somewhere west of India by now. Miss Leary, another of our contract nurses leaves next week.

I am enclosing, p.p., some self-explanatory correspondence with Judge Purdy. Please return to me. I have not had opportunity to meet him yet.

The draft for thirty dollars enclosed is not for my account, but is to be applied as follows: Ten dollars to Central Union Mission Building Fund, if that is not all cared for yet. The remainder is to go to Epworth for Centenary, and building Fund subscriptions and current expenses for last year, in the order named. I have never learned whether my centenary and building fund subscriptions were paid up yet. As soon as they are I want to enter on current expenses toward my last year's subscription, and then toward this year. Can you get me a statement?

We are also sending a sample book of Korea Mission Cloth. It is self-explanatory. We use it, find it very cheap, serviceable and good looking. Love to all, from. *both Barbara & Herbert*

From Herbert P. Ramsey, Soochow Hospital, Soochow, China

50



Mrs. A. V. Michener,

2246 North Alabama Street,

Indianapolis, Indiana,

U. S. A.

Mrs. A. V. Michener,
2246 North Alabama St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.,
U. S. A.

