40 Hwang Li Hsiang,
Nanking
October 3, 1940

Dear Clara:

We had a lot of excitement here this morning a little before six when they caught a thief in the yard. They tied him up to a tree in the backyard and started to give him a good beating, (the two servants ) when I interfered. He was an opium user and a very pathetic looking spectacle. He had torn the water pipe off the side of the house. He or someone else did that once before. They can sell it for a few cents as scrap iron. They left him tied to the tree at a very painful angle until finally a policeman came and took him away. They made him carry the things he had stolen as evidence and he protested that they had added on some things. One thing was the family washboard.

It has rained almost constantly since the first of September. It is clear and warm today but it is the first nice day for a long time. I rode my bicycle down to the church intending only to be gone a few minutes but got to talking to Mrs. Yeh and was gone over an hour. She is very deaf and it is quite a job to get anything across to her. I'm never sure of what she is going to do insspite of what I tell her not to do.

This week has been a little lighter than last. Next week I'm starting some activities which I haven't managed to get in thus far. My busy time is late in the afternoon which is a little difficult because I'm not in the habit of playing in the morning and the result is that I don't play at all. I'm rarely through until six in the afternoon. I like my work very much and am very much worried that I will have to leave just when I've got a chance at a real job. I hope that the U. S. doesn't get into war with a certain country so that we have to leave here.

My new housemate has heart trouble and is supposed to limit her stair-climbing activities as much as possible. She has her breakfast upstairs in the morning so that when she comes down, she can go direct to school. It is nearly as easy to serve it upstairs as down. Anyhow all right so far. I didn't realize what an invalid she is or I might have hesitated about inviting her, as I am running on a skeleton staff of servant. I don't like being waited on. I prefer breakfast in the dining room. I dislike having a servant always underfoot, and would just as soon take care of my own room. You can imagine with what results. I suppose that is why the cook's wife has taken over the job because she thought the house looked so bad.

Hoping you are the same,

Lovingly, Jessie.

MY present job has some interesting overtones. There is one teacher in my school who has been a trouble-maker. Not only for the present regeme but for all the previous ones. The pastor did not like her and I felt that since it was possible that I might have to go and leave the burden of it on him, that I ought to get rid of the people that opposed him. But everyone predicted trouble when the dirty deed was done. I got my teacher to write a nice letter in Chinese, saying how sorry we were that conditions at present made it necessary to reduce our staff, etc. The funny thing about it all has been that she is friendlier to me than she ever was before. I said all the time, that all we needed to do to establish our authority was to fire someone, and I was aching to try out my theory. It worked even better than I had expected. Everyone seems to agree that she just got what was coming to her. My only regret is that I didn't do it last summer. I wanted to, but the pastor wouldn't let me. Perhaps he is right. But I'm letting it get breathed about that a school is no better than its teachers and that I am looking for good teachers.

I have some hard things to do, however. One is to live in the midst of such need and to have constantly to try to do something about it. A woman whom I have helped several times came to me last week and told me about her oldest son. He was a student in first year junior high. I don't know the lad, but I have seen her three other children and they are bright looking children. Her husband gets a little over twenty a month and there are six mouths to feed. Her landlord got interested in this boy and offered to pay his way in school if they would let him study instead of being put out as an apprentice. Well, they had just gotten to the place where they couldn't get along any more and had decided that unless they got some help, they had to let this boy be apprenticed. She had the second boy along with her, and what touched my heart was

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But I wonder if little people, I mean little physically, are often not timid.

For instance, I was at a meeting last week of representatives of all the Christian Schools, and they were discussing whether or not to use text-bookts put out by the new government. A little pressure was being put on them, not actual demands, but just hints. Finally a big tall Presbyterian got up and said that it seemed to him that after that had stood up against the powers that be for three years, it was too bad to give in now. They decided however to give in, and use some of the new books, and some of the old. Not to scorn them altogether but on the other hand not to be too subservient.

Well, I guess this is all for now. Hoping you like your old man better and better. But get used enough to loving and being loved so that you can really write to me again!

Lovingly, Jessie

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set themselves up in business. They peddle cakes and different things to eat and make a little profit. Sooner or later, they use up their capital, but it makes the money last longer. Mrs. Yeh also has some women making shoes, which we later sell, at a loss, but not a very great loss considering the amount of capital.

Anothr thing that interested me was a thing that happened on Friday at the woerker's meeting. They were planning for special meetings at New Years. A foreigner is always terrified at the proppect of preaching to a non-Christian group. One doesn't know how to approach them. But the pastor and the two Bible women seemed to look forward to these six days of meetings with real zest. If attendance was still good at the end of six days, they would keep on longer. They use almost salvation army methods, someone stands at the door andinvites the passers-by to come in. They hold it near the door so that the sound of the music will lure peoplein. They serve tea and stand around and talk with anyone that comes. I wonder that there isn't more really "missionary" work done by the Chinese. Perhaps there is more than I recognize.

When I started in on this job, I did it with great fear and trembling, but it has been a lot easier than I expected. I have worked very hard, it is true. The pastor was new, too, having only come last year. I think that the spirit of the group of workers has improved in the past six months. He and Marie were somewhat antagonistic. He is a little man, and not too brave. But he is a hard worker, and I believe an earnest Christian. I've been anxious for him to know that it was up to him to run his part of the work, and I'd do mine, and that I had no desire to interfere nor dominate in his field. He understands that now, and we get along fine.

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was his evident concern for his big brother. He answered all my questions about the boy. But it was a matter of living for the boy, not only for this year, but for the next two years, or more. After all a junior high educ. doesn't guarantee one a job, and if he has to work in a shop, it is better for him to go now when he can make the adjustment rather than to have hopes up and then have to come down. I told her I didn't see how I could help and advised her to apprentice him. I don't know what she finally did as I have not seen her since. But the expression of that little borthers' face as he pled for his older brother will always stay with me, I suppose.

Then today there were four women came in from a country village, a sort of suburb of the city where there was formerly a church. They asked for help. This is just before China New Year you know, and it is like not having turkey for Christmas, not to have something special just then. But these four , I guess, were no worse off than about sixty others in our church. Mrs. Yeh told them they could make shoes and earn some money, but they were unenthusiastic.

I suppose I have a rather unfortunate background. I have been just poor enough myself to know what it means to be disappointed, and yet not poor enough to realize that somehow they always get along. I told them on Thursday that we could not help them. We are acting on the general principle that we will help in case of emergency, such as illness, when unexpected expenses arise, but we will not help them with their ordinary living. The problem is too universal. However it is impossible sometimes not to. There were two very decrepid old women last Thursday, that I repented of later and sent them some money. We are working on the principle that we ought to help them to become self-supporting, and while we will not give anyone five dollars, we will lend them twenty or thirty, as capital to