

40 Hwang Li Hsiang, Nanking, Oct. 29.

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Dear Family:

Nanking is not quite so crooked as the date line would indicate. Don't get a wrong impression of us since. In fact, Hwang Li Hsiang's curves are exactly the reverse of that above.

The thing that is worrying me is whether my family and friends are going to have imagination enough to keep on writing to me or whether the last mail was as the girl said about the last man who asked her, the last one. I mean she said she didn't know that the last man was the last one.

However we have no plans at all for leaving at present. In fact after some uncertainty, I've decided that the thing to do is to plan to stay all winter and stay as long as I can. It is up to the Mission board to keep us informed. There is nothing that we can see which would indicate that we should hastily take our departure, except that the State Dept. says so. Maybe you think that is enough, but it isn't.

Anyhow, I'm hoping that I will not have to come home, but if I have to leave Nanking that I can go to West China. It is possible that it can be arranged. So cheer up, dear sisters, it may not be so bad as you expect, for there is still a chance that I may not come to live with you for a while. At least don't plan on me for Christmas.

This is Conference week, and as such is rather busy. Added to all the complications of not knowing how long we are going to be able to function in our present capacity, are all those of the new organization under the new church. We are trying to decide what we ~~are~~ women are expected and permitted to do. We are also trying to decide what we should do if we have to go.

I'm just sending one copy of this letter, so please circulate it among as many of the family as happen to be on speaking terms at the time of receipt. I just have a few minutes this morning. I should have done it before but the state of mind in which we are living is not conducive to contemplation (except on one's sins).

The funny thing about the situation from this end, is that what worries people is not that they may be in some physical danger, or in danger of being interned and suffering some discomforts. Everyone wants to avoid that if possible of course since everyone admits that there is no use to do it. What worries ~~people~~ the missionaries is the fear that they should go on the advice of the government and then after all there should be no war. Or no war for a long time. If they could guarantee us a war, we would cooperate with them. But they have got to show more radical symptoms than any so far.

Hoping you are the same,

Lovingly, Jessie