

Hwei en School, Nanking,
October 14, 1946

Dear Family:

It seems like a long time since I have heard from you. I thought I would get a letter today as both airmail and ordinary mail have come in. Perhaps something will show up later.

I am enclosing two snapshots taken by two of my students when I was out on a picnic with the Epworth League from Wesley Church two weeks ago. The other foreign devil is Martha Jones. I am really not so much hairrier than the others, it is just that my white hair stands out more in contrast.

I have not felt very well the past week, seem to have a sort of collitis. Even had a sore tongue with it for a while, possibly from eating too many tomatoes. I have cramps in my stomach and a backache in case you are interested in my symptoms. I am taking the gray capsules for the backache and hope it will also soothe the collitis. I notice that doctors have a way of giving one medicine for all diseases, so I have decided that I will take the gray capsules for whatever ails me, since I have a large supply of them on hand. When I get anything like this, my stomach always acts up too. I have now bought a five pound can of Klim and am drinking a glass of that ever once in a while for my stomach's sake. I know that isn't what St. Paul prescribed for one's stomach, but it is the best I can do at the moment. The gray capsules don't work on the stomach pain.

The lights are off tonight so I am writin this by the light of two candel. I've heard that they are repair the lines and that when they turn them off, they will be off for four days in succession.

We have hopes of a solution of our heating problem, of a scheme for converting an ordinary coal stove into an oil stove, some sort of devise which throws the oil drop by drop onto a firebrick from which it is burnt. If it works, it would be a great help to us. Kerosene is fairly cheap, cheaper than wood or coal. Coal is about 150 or 200 a ton. I have heard that it is 800,000 in Shanghai which means nearly three hundred. We are to get a special grant to help on heating.

I have a new Chinese padded gown, which cost me about twenty-five or thirty dollars. I had to have it no matter what it cost. At last I have achieved a life long ambition of getting one that was tight enough so that it is quite stylish, but I fear it is too small to wear as many layers under it as I am accustomed to wear. I am hoping that the stuffing will flatten out with a little wearing so that there will be more room inside it for a suit of wool underwear and a sweater or two.

We have hopes of getting some mattresses from army surplus. Guests are such a problem to us because we have no mattresses for their beds and if we don't get any before cold weather when we use most of our bedding, we will be sort of up against it. I don't know if we will actually get them or not. Also don't know what they will cost. They are made of cotton and we figure that even if they are not in very good condition, the cotton in them will be worth quite a bit. Otherwise guests will have to bring their own bedding with them.

I heard a man talk on India last Sunday. He is a missionary from there and explained the political situation there. It was really very interesting. It is surprising how many opportunities we have of that sort. Henry Sloan Coffin, who was formerly president of Union is to be here sometime soon for a series of lectures. The chaplain gave us a lot of army edition books, all the latest issues, many of them very good. I just finished reading Chesterton's "The man who was Thursday" described as a nightmare. Rather a bad sort of a dream would describe it sufficiently. An utterly fantastic satire on something or other. I am also reading a book on theology, "Event in Eternity." It is rather conservative, so that I am not very sure what I do think of it. However that makes it all the more interesting.