

78 Mo-tsou Road, Nanking, 7.
May 21, 1947

Dear Clara:

I'm glad to know that you have taken over the job of handling my publicity. Makes me feel as if I were Lana Turner or someone else equally important. You don't need to know anything about my work. What they are really interested in is what I have to eat, so I am sure you are carrying on just right.

Sara made me two dresses and sent me via the Col. one a green striped chambray, and the other a blue print, both very pretty. I wrote her a letter last winter giving measurements which I took from a dress which fitted me last year as a t that time I had on so many layers it was not easy to get measurements direct. Fortunately the letter was lost so she had to guess at the size and the result is that the dresses fit perfectly. The dresses that I measured last winter are much too small now, so you see there is a providence that looks after me. They say there is a special providence which looks after children, fools and drunks. Since I am neither the first nor the last, you see where I get placed.

I am feeling very lonely these days. I did have for a companion a very friendly little mouse with very chummy ways. He liked to follow me around even though I screamed and jumped up and down whenever he tried to cuddle up. One day I took off my shoes and put them by my bed and laid on the bed prepared to read a while. I happened to glance at my shoe and I had an illusion that there was something hiding under the arch. I looked more closely and my illusion turned out to be a real mouse. So I grabbed the shoe and tried to hit him and missed. Then I turned on the center light and looked around the room for my mouse and then I found him, under the shoe again of course. Well, to make a short story long, as mother used to say, I looked into my room yesterday and what did I see but the little mouse sitting in the middle of the floor looking pensively off into space (poor thing, he had the soul of a poet!) He had a funny way of hunching up his back so that he looked like a little elephant. From the rear, all one could see was this little round ball with two ears and a tail. I grabbed a board and went after him. As usual he ran toward me, I suppose trying to get under my shoes again for safety. So now I know how a tender hearted murderer feels.

I am thinking of going to Hangchow for a little vacation, the first week in June. One of my students, now a doctor in Shanghai, has invited me to go with her and I may do it if I can make arrangements for my work, which I think I can. Things don't look very hopeful for a summer vacation this year. We are trying to get the Board to give us a special grant for vacation expense but I doubt if we get it. Otherwise we can't afford to go anywhere. I shall probably go to Shanghai for two or three weeks in the middle of the summer.

From May 7 to 12, we had a retreat, a week of meetings for all the workers from the conference. I went over every morning and stayed all day, eating my noon meal with the other delegates. I was very tired when it was through.

You will be interested to know that my monthly salary is now 1,356,500. That is US\$75 at about the rate of \$18,000 to one. We are much better supported than last year. There is none to spare but I manage now to live on what I get or nearly.

I have not been feeling very well recently, have felt so tired. My joints have been aching a good deal too. I am hoping that taking more Theelin will relieve that. I seem to have to have a spell of these aches about every so often.

There is a committee meeting here this afternoon, and the first guest has arrived so I guess I had better quit

next day. The committee came and went. I had supper, worked in my garden transplanting zinnas until dark and then went to bed. I have had a few pretty flowers from my garden but it has not been a good year.

The old lady for whom I asked the ear trumpet was over to listen to my radio. The instructions which came with the ear trumpet suggested listening to the radio on the theory that one's hearing got bad from lack of use. So I have invited her to come over any time to listen to mine. I think there must be something to the theory because her attitudes are quite different from a year ago. Now she seems anxious to hear again. Then she thought only about how she looked using an ear trumpet.

I worked hard this week getting my winter things cleaned and put away and now it has turned cold again so I need to wear something warm. I got all my bedding put away and was not warm enough last night. I have the green suit on today.

I am going in a minute to the regular Thursday afternoon Woman's meeting. It is preceded by study classes. At five o'clock I have an English Bible class which lasts until six. In the evening we have the Methodist Mission prayer meeting. I am usually so tired that it doesn't do me much good. It seems to me that so much of my time was taken up with meetings and committees. Yesterday we had one on the problem of developing self-support. It has been meeting once a week for several weeks to discuss ways and means. Next week in addition to that one there will be one on seminary students. On Friday morning we have a meeting of the workers of Wesley Church to discuss the work. Last Monday, there was a special one on the Child welfare work and milk station conducted there. I am teaching two evenings a week now in the night school.

The paper (Shanghai Evening Post) said the America is on the verge of a "recession." So you may all be unemployed the next thing.

I have decided that I am going to collect fancy Chinese tea cups as a hobby. I allow myself only one pair a month. Last month I bought a pair. I have two others which were given to me. I will buy two of a kind but hope to keep at least once, i. e. allow one for breakage. There are quite a variety of them to be had, very pretty ones too. If I should go to Kuling, I would be near the place they are made and I suppose they would be cheaper. These are rather expensive.

Lovingly, Jessie