[To Mrs. B. T. Cox, Winterville, N.C.,
From V. Cox. Opened by censor]

Kuling, China.
August 30, 1917.

My dearest Mother:

You will be surprised to know that I bought this tablet this A. M. for 85 cents! at home it might cost 10 cents, - it is thicker than a 5 cent one. And envelopes were not to be found. However, I am told I can get them in Hankow.

Well, let me tell you the news. I am to go to the language school in Peking this winter. Isn't that wonderful? I will get the language so much quicker and learn so much about the country at the same time. I am so pleased. And too, the curios and points of interest there are the best in China, - so it will be a splendid opportunity for me.

Bishop Roots has gone to Shanghai this week for a physical examination, and if necessary an operation. Poor Mrs. Roots is having such a hard time. So I went over to the president of the Counsel of Advice yesterday and talked with him about it. The Mission gives me my tuition and room rent, - the rest I pay myself, which is going to be expensive. But perhaps I will exist on it.

The Hankow household ~~is~~ are disappointed I am not to be with them, and I'll miss it too, - the music, etc.

My work is going to be with the Cathedral choir at Hankow and the women of Dss. Hart's school first. Miss Hart had hoped I would begin this work in January, - but I

shall have to wait until next fall.

I am growing very impatient to start doing something. I have rest as long as I want to.

I am enjoying Kuling very much still. I went with a party of girls Tuesday P. M. to Dragon Pond for a picnic dinner. We had such fun climbing over the hills and streams to the pond, - which was down in a very deep ravine. We climbed over huge boulders, jumping from one to another over rushing water until I slipped and got soaking wet on one side. There was only one knight in the party, and he skilfully helped me up and set me on a hot rock in the Sun to dry. Very soon another girl slipped in, up to her waist and Olive (worse than all) stepped on some very sharp rocks while we were wading and cut her 3 middle toes very badly. She can't walk yet, and I don't think she can before a week. Fortunately, there was a nurse nearby in another party, who came and took care of her. She fainted when it happened, and we had an exciting time for awhile.

A sad and gloomy party wended its way home about 7 o'clock, - and had ice cream and cake (the dinner was eaten on the rocks). Afterwards there was music and dancing.

Nearly everybody leaves this week, but Olive and I stay on until next Friday (Sept. 7) and go down with a nurse & two Boone teachers. I dread the trip, - it is so tedious going by chair, - and then to automobile, and sampan, - then walking awhile and finally the boat. Not at all easy American way of travelling.

I just wish you could see the clouds floating down over us just now. They get so dense you can hardly see in the house even,- they come in the doors and open windows. Then, as quickly, they go out,- and very soon the Sun shines. Very typical of the soft footed, stealthy ~~se~~ming Chinese,- as they walk too and fro. They seem like smoke gathering in the distance,- and grow large very rapidly until you are enveloped in them.

The anti German spirit on the hill is very strong. There are numbers of German families on the hill & the people resent it very much. They want to go down but officials won't let them. We heard this a.m. that 200 made their escape last night. How, we can't imagine.

Just as soon as I get down the hill I will send back some money home,- I am paying board here you know and will for the rest of my life in China and I have such a little with me I can't send it just now.

I am making out a list of toilet articles etc, I would like to have if you all ever intend sending me a gift of some kind. They are so expensive out here, it would be a saving to have them from home.

I do hope there will be foreign mail waiting for me in Hankow, and that all of you have been writing at least once a week. I have tried to do my duty.

With love to all,

Venetia.

Palm Olive soap & Ivory soap.
Face powder - "Roger de Calle", - comes in packages (white)
Picture and plans to make a dark silk dress to
wear in the P. M. for dinners (from Olivera)
Kodak films ( $3\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ No. 2 "Bull's Eye")
A pair of winter shoes. No. 4 (I'll send the money
for them)