[To Mrs. B.T. Cox, Winterville, N.C. From V. Cox, Peking]

Chêng tê School
April 1, 1918.

Dearest Mother:

Well, I have been in the throes of moving my room all P.M. Miss Dexter is returning from Hankow tomorrow with a guest, so I decided to give up my room as guest room. We expect to have a stream of guests from now on to the close of School, so one of us has to take one of our huge bath rooms as a dressing room & sleep on the porch. As I take the piano in the sitting room & use it a great deal of the time I thought I should be the one,- especially as I like to sleep out. It has been one tedious round of duties and in the midst of it all several guests came.

This a.m. I spent in helping Miss Mary Scott cut out and fit two gingham dresses by bought patterns, and we had a rather long task,- but were rewarded by having them go easily together. I was so tired when it was over. Came home, and found a guest,- and so it has been all day. Maddeningly busy.

We begin school tomorrow a.m., and I am glad to see it. Feel like I might grasp a few Chinese sentences after this rest.

We came down from the hills Tuesday a.m., and Miss Johnson and I spent two lovely quiet days in Holy Week alone. Then Dr. Travis came out to spend the week end with us. She is a perfect dear. She has travelled almost around the world & had many interesting experiences in Serbia since the war began,- is very reserved and gentle, and has such a dignified, calm manner who would feel perfectly confident in her powers as a physician.

Our Holy Week and Easter were ideal. The weather was a wonderful spring day and the services lovely. We had many fruit blossoms out, but no lilies or anything white suggestive of Easter except some lilacs in a florist's shop in the foreign city. But the churches were very pretty with blossoms and potted plants we took from our homes. I went to the Cathedral for the early celebration and to the English legation for Morning Prayer and Sermon. Bishop Scott preached in his usual wonderful way.

Tomorrow, all the clergy go to Shanghai for the Council of the Chinese Church. Only Mr. Arnold Scott will be left. The others are planning

jubilant times away from home.

I suppose you know at this meeting there will be discussed the possibility of electing a Chinese bishop. We all hope and believe a suffragan will be elected this time. It is inspiring to feel that the work has progressed to this stage in China. It will mean a great deal for the church to see this day dawn.

Bishop Scott and all these good English people are very much excited about the present battle in France. Wouldn't it be a great blessing if this really terminated the end of the war, even if there continued a little fighting afterwards.

I had a long letter from Dss. Stewart today, saying that rooms were ready, or rather engaged for us at Chikungsan for the summer, so I am expecting to study there with her eldest Chinese daughter as teacher. Miss Buchanan is going to be with us also.

Dss. Stewart also said she is planning to ~~give~~ live in a home alone next year, leaving Dss. Hart & I alone in the Ladies' House. With her, She takes the sitting room rug and furniture, & I am asked to furnish them. I see where I shall be very poor next year with my bed room & study to furnish as well! It sounds like house-keeping, doesn't it?

I had the doctor of the Anglican Mission revaccinate me Wednesday A. M., & particular as she is, - she vaccinated in four places. Friday A. M., I awoke with four big red sores on my arm, and they have been pretty sore until this P. M. They seem to have passed the crisis and are healing nicely. It is fortunate they took, or I might have had a terrible case of small pox soon by riding in some rickshas.

I hope all of you have had a lovely Easter.

With much love,

Venetia.