

Ch'ung Tê School
June 23, '18.

Dearest Mother:

I am really getting ready to leave Peking on Friday. I have been sewing and planning for the summer all the past week. With a little seamstress I have almost made a long pongee coat for the summer. The 1st I have ever attempted and I hope my last one, - but it looks very neat. I am sure of the service it will give.

On top of all the malaria I have been having, I had a serious attack of diarrhoea all the week. The doctor was afraid of the much dreaded dysentery of the East. I have been dieting and drinking castor oil, and I am practically over it now.

But I was frightened a few days ago. Poor Miss Miller! I have been ill ever since she arrived it seems. I am afraid it has been gloomy for her.

Your letter did not come this week. I expect it went to Hankow instead. I hope so, because it is time all my foreign mail went there.

But I had a nice letter from Olivera written in Chapel Hill yesterday, telling of the great success she had with her operetta, and the numerous dances, parties et cetera she expected to attend in Chapel Hill. Sounds like quite a sociable bird.

What has she decided to do next winter? I have written many times asking her, - but she doesn't tell me.

Thank her for the Kodak pictures she sent. They are much like her, but entirely too "prissy, pruny". She looks as though she deigns to think she is rapidly approaching a degree of sanctity in the snap shot of the head, - the other looks rather snobish. So much for criticism.

Mary Yui returned to Peking last week and she is so homesick for her little children she doesn't know what to do. She sent them all home but one little boy, who had no relatives. Him she brought ~~and~~ to Peking and gave to a married friend of hers who had no sons. The water has gone down enough for most of the people to have a little mud husband a wheat harvest, so they thought it safe to send them home.

But, as you probably know, floods are beginning in South China. Huban & Canton are in terrible conditions at present.

Dear little Miss Yui has come back dressed in trousers and a foreign hat with red ribbon tied on it. Yesterday she came to see us with short red silk socks on that immediately attracted attention. They ~~looked~~ came to her short Chinese trousers. O, she was so comical looking! I teased her and she said, "Next time I come to see you I'll put on my skirt. But they are so hot and hard to walk in."

~~My dear Miss P. Hillmore:~~

~~We hear that~~

~~you did not leave Peking Saturday~~

~~as planned.~~

~~May our household have~~

~~the pleasure of your company this even-~~

~~ing for dinner, - after evening~~

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I had my three piano pupils to give a short room recital last Monday P. M. at the Mission and they played very nicely. I was so pleased. Many of the school children came in and some of the faculty, to hear.

Suddenly, during the middle of the performance, - the girls became more interested in a long scroll that was being tacked on the wall than in what they were doing. It annoyed me somewhat and I asked about it, - but every body evaded any answer.

Finally, the program ended and they asked me to take a

seat in the audience on the front row, - which I did.

Immediately, Miss Ma got up and began a long speech in Chinese about my learning and abilities, - and then pointing to the scroll of silk mounted with gilt characters and said as a token of their appreciation for my help during the year they were giving it to me! The meaning of the characters is something like this, "Because of great learning and wisdom, you had great hopes and aims for us as pupils."

It is very pretty as it is, but so cumbersome, I am going to take off the letters and use the silk for a scarf and a belt.

I bought a lovely lacquer vase last Monday out of the money you sent me to spend.

It is a beauty, - for five dollars. The lacquer wood of China is some of its most rare possessions. This is red, beautifully carved on a dark green background, - also carved.

Will you, Jeannette, or Olivera order a rain coat and send out to me please? I don't seem to be able to get my goods from the National, and I simply ^{must} have a rain coat. I do not want a rubberized one but one of the chemically treated ones, - rubber lasts such a short time in China. The coat I brought out with me is gone. Please get a good one, - one that will stand hard usage for four years. I'll send you a check as soon as I can. See if you can get a cap to go with it also. It would be such a help when using the bicycle.

Perhaps U. S. will let a ^{small} package come out from you.

It is lunch hour, so I must get ready to dine.
With much love,

Venetia.