

3 P'ing Ts'ang Hsiang
Nanking, Nov. 5, 1937.

Dearest Lilliath:-

Bannon has had a card from Lyrel, posted by some friend on this side, to the effect that she will reach Shanghai in a week or so (dates vague, at least in my mind). I am wondering if any letter from you has been lost, for I'm a little surprised at not hearing anything yet that would indicate your mind about places. I still should slightly favor Shanghai, though this is the most difficult time for the far western district. You know that the M. Home is carrying on in Beaman's property under its own name. When I was there, Mr. Savage, a good sort of fellow whom I remember as a favorite with the boys in Kuling, was in charge. It is said that Hongkew will be reopened very soon; and if so, it may be safer for a brief time than western Frenchtown, though both are likely to be calmer soon.

The fixed deposit has been paid over through a University account, and I am now putting it in the National City in American currency. There is enough Mex. to carry on until we get salary again, now in our checking accounts. We should cautiously put part of the U. S. balance, considerable even before recent additions, into good securities; for it is earning practically nothing where it is. You had better make up an account on Morton's school expenses, so that we can get that problem up for attention. I received ninety-three dollars refund from your advance payment for milk powder. A declaration of war might stop our regular mails between Japan and China.

Practically no mail. Dr. Reeves required my best efforts, which I hope you have seconded with knowledge of what she actually did on account in Kobe. An apologetic note from Esther. Probably American friends are not only dubious about addresses, but add natural uncertainties to their usual faults -- and ours -- that stand in the way of writing. Two or three interested acknowledgements of my spring (June) report on travel. A book, large, from Harper's, addressed to you.

I will spend practically nothing here save house account and a little more giving than usual. Street costs are up so much that monthly bills will be about ninety, including washing and heat (barring possible shortage in one or two coldest months). At least that is the way things now lie.

Ginling Founders' Day dinner was attended by several staff members, a few alumnae, Board Members, husbands, and the like, numbering thirty. No students. Blanche Wu had elaborate guessing games for English names of birds, flowers, and trees. Impossible for Chinese, and difficult for any foreigner not a biologist! Dr. ^{W.}Ordinary, and Minnie very solemn in recounting providential passing through previous crises, Magee religiously meditative. Mary Chen, Blanche Wu and I were instructed to be funny.

Remind Morton about his cod liver capsules. I am occasionally remembering mine.

These are quiet, wet days.

*With love to all of you, and daily thought,
Searle.*

P.S. Have read "Great Expectations" and "Nickleby". They are purely good stuff for rainy afternoons and long evenings. I must struggle to keep awake and alert in my outlook on modern literature. Is there another book, not by Dickens, similarly cheerful, written in Victorian sentiment? I want a satisfactory continuation right away.