

1-27-1923

Letters from Hazel Todd (1923) (Part 1)

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/hazel_todd

Preferred Citation

Letters from Hazel Todd (1923) (Part 1). 1923. Hazel Todd Papers, Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Whitworth University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hazel Todd Collection by an authorized administrator of Whitworth University.

Spring 1923

Changteh, via Yochow, Hunan, China.

Dear Mother-

This is Monday morning but before doing anything else this morning some letters have to get written. In fact quite a number of odds and ends must be attended to this week. So study will for the most part need to be crowded out.

My new Bible came Saturday. I put on my rain coat and rubbers and went after it myself. The gate-keeper and the cook are always extra busy on Saturday. But the Bible is just what I wanted the right size and all. It is like my old one only it has a few more maps and is better bound. So that makes all the more reason for liking it. My old one came to pieces so many years ago I appreciate a whole one all the more. But I must write Aunt Alice and thank her myself. But in case I have to wait a few days please tell her I thank her for it.

A good long letter came from Isabelle yesterday. It has been ever so long since a letter like that has come from her. She told the baby's full name and several other things. But she did not tell the color of her eyes or hair. It will probably be a long time before I get to see her for myself.

We are having a lot of rain these last two weeks and we certainly need it. For even yet we have not had enough. But that and other reasons kept us from going to the out-station last week. We did a little extra calling here though. Also we having special meetings here the first of the week. The Episcopalians have work here but it is done for the most part by the Chinese. As a foreigner only comes once in while to supervise the work. But last week three foreigners came at once and some outside Chinese. And they not only invited us to come to their meetings but came around to our missions to speak. The night one of the foreigners was to speak. Miss Chaffie invited all three to have supper with us. After the

invitation was written we were talking it over and I told her they were invited elsewhere for supper. But we thought that if they did have a previous invitation it would be easy to decline ours. But on the day they were to come nearly noon word came they were coming for supper. So we two got busy and fixed something for supper although I knew they had accepted at the other place. Of course they came here although the other people had fixed the better supper. It just shows how absent-minded some people can be. Fortunately the other people do not blame us but the other folks ^{the men} all agree that when a person comes to speak for us it is the proper thing to invite them for a meal.

Something funny happened in Children's meeting yesterday. We were talking about Moses and how the Lord looked after the Israelites while they went through the wilderness. And I asked the children what the people did about shoes. And they spoke right up three or four at once and said they wore straw sandals. When they go on a long trip they are very apt to put on straw sandals and save their shoes which are mostly made of cloth until they get to their destination.

You would be apt to see as soon as you come into our house that this is an old maid's establishment. For in the hall there are straight Chinese chairs on each side and generally one cat is in each one one side and one on the other. Tell Gordon one is so black as any cat can be. The other is a pretty grey and brown with nice long fur. Either one would let him pet them and the long haired cat likes to play. They both are good at catching mice and rats. But they only eat rice and fish. They are half foreign and Chinese. The pretty cat was born here but either wandered away or was stolen and lived at the place where the blind woman who died a few months ago did. Since

then the little boy who liked the cat best has lost both his father and little brother. But perhaps he will soon go to live with his mother and little brother and then he will not want the kitty to sleep with him any more. He was about ~~eight~~ ^{four} years old. But called it a "mas-ri". The kitty did not like to be brought here and stuck in here claws on the way and then staid in the dark for two weeks before she remembered about living here nearly three years ago. This part of the letter about the cat is for Gordon.

By the way I was glad you sent the Sunday School cards. I was almost ready to run out of them. And often with thirty children and sometimes more it takes a lot of cards. The children like the cards so much and often we see them pasted on the walls.

Mr. Bannan came and took the service again yesterday. The people came out very well in spite of the rain. The people seem to be coming out better than a few months ago. has gone home.

The woman from Nanchow who has been in the hospital, she had two operations for cancer. Both breasts were cut off. The doctor did not realize both were affected or it might have been done all at once.

The woman I was with last summer has resigned from her mission and has gone off to start some work on her own. It looks to me as though the odds would be to great against her. Not everybody has the gifts or is called to such things. We wonder what will be the end of the matter.

You perhaps notice my pen has not worked properly. It had a fall and the points bent backward. It would have been easier to use another pen. But I am in hopes it will get back into shape again if it is used. It probably does not owe me anything though for it has seen such hard service.

If Isabelle had to pay duty on the baby's bracelets please

tell me about it. They are solid silver even though they do look
so cheap so for that reason they might cost more to get through.
By the way has I sabelle a glass bottomed tray. The Chinese do
such wonderful shaded embroidery in this province that many
people frame it. It is possible to show them new patterns but
when it comes to doing the work we can not beat them. They
like to look at our fancy work and copy it also.

This letter has ran on long enough so I must close and
write some more letters.

With love to all of you and thanking Aunt Alice for the
new Bible.
Hazel Todd,

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,

Spring 1923 U.S.A.

Changteh, Hunan, China June, 28, 1923

Dear Mother-

It has been ever so long since my last letter was written. We did not have any more company but I spent most of a week at the out-station. Also we have packed up and gotten started. We repacked about everything we had of the things we did not bring with us. When we go back in the fall we will have nearly all new things. We will have to have a kitchen stove between us. And I must buy a bed. We have each bought a rocking chair. Mine will have cost about three dollars Mexican by the time it is done. It has arms and will be stained a little lighter than Mission. I may get another rocking chair in the fall. Speaking of beds I did buy a rope Chinese bed frame on saw horses. But it was not comfortable and we needed a bed at the out-station. So now it is gone. I am hoping to have a real spring bed when we come back in the fall. Until now I have slept on other people's beds.

Our trip to the out-station was not altogether satisfactory. Miss Chaffe went with me and came back the second day. She had to be back to get ready and take the women's sheeting. The day after she left Wednesday nearly eighty women came and listened well. Among them were ten flower girls we had invited the day before. You may not know what a flower girl is. But a flower girl or a singing girl is a bad woman. Some of these were not more than twelve and were sold into that kind of life. The next day the Bible woman was sick so we could not go out on the street. So because the women were not urged to come they did not come. The only ones I got to talk to the next day were eight little school girls who came toward evening. I hung up a hymn sheet with the song we usually teach them first "There is only one True Spirit" written on it. They seemed to enjoy singing so we went

over it many times. I also explained the song to them. When they were gone the Bible woman made the remark "school children's hymns are good they will remember that song." The next day it rained so hard we could not get out or people get to us. We might have come back but the Bible woman only had both shoes with her and she came back Saturday morning. I do not look any bright there. I expect there is one woman I have mentioned before who seems to be getting on fine.

My children's meeting has seemed to increase in interest if not in numbers. I hope to send a picture home sometime of the school. Most of them are in the children's meeting. We had closing services Saturday. They sang three songs "Jesus Loves Me This I Know", "Precious Jewels" and a motion song. Three of them also recited the "Twenty-Third Psalm."

I tried to can up some fruit before leaving but there are only three kinds, plums, peaches and crab apples. They were none of them cheap in price or very good. But we must have something for people who go through.

We are in Hankow now. It only took us two days to get here. The foreign concession looks good with its real streets and a few more marks of real civilization. They even have automobiles here. And tomorrow we are going on a train. It will be the first time since my first work in China. We are going to Nanking for July and August. There is no one sending mail there though for before you can answer the letter we may be back in Changteh.

I want to thank Alice and Evan for the pictures. I am very proud of the pictures especially the one of Evan. The one of Alice does not look like her or if it does I am sorry. I suppose this is where I have said it again though. Things look so much worse in black and white than they really sound.

I mean to answer some letters this summer as well as read, study, walk and go to meetings. You probably need a vacation much worse than I do. We were weighed today. My weight is about 134 pounds. But I have gained since last fall. Miss Chaffe weighs about fifteen pounds less but she is much shorter.

Today we have been shopping. I bought some white canvas shoes, stuff to fix up a hat and a few other small things. We can buy lots of things here but prices are very high. They have to pay such high prices for people who can speak English. But business people can afford to pay and do not attempt to speak Chinese.

There were quite a party of us came up from Changteh together. There were thirteen grown people and three children of the foreigners. There were also nine Chinese with them. Some were servants and there were four school girls. We are not all making the rest of the trip together. It will take six hours they say by train and a couple of hours by chair. It will be nice to get there where it is cooler.

The last I heard from the Draffins is that they expect to sail for Australia about the first of August. That will leave them nearly a year in Australia. The plan is to come back in about a year from then. Mrs. Draffin says she is not really rested yet.

I hope you all keep well during the hot weather.

With lots of love,
Hazel Todd.

外

國

Early Summer 1923

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

early
summer
1923

July 9, 1923

Kikungshan, Honan, July 9, 1923

Dear Mother:-

It had slipped my mind altogether about sending you a birthday present. It is easier to get things here than at Changteh but this place does not have very many opportunities. Besides some things are either too heavy or else we would have to pay duty. And it is too long to wait for my own or other people's furloughs. Anyway I truly mean to send something for your birthday. I wish could do something more for some other people on their birthdays. I too would not be quite so sad if I even were not too lazy to write letters. The hardest part of that often is just to find something worth while to say.

We have been here since a week ago Friday. We came to the station before ten to get a good seat even though we did not start until eleven. We travelled second class. The difference between first and second class is that first class has upholstered seats and second does not. Miss De Jong with the Bannan baby Miss Chaffee and myself had a little compartment supposed to be big enough for eight people to ourselves. The baby slept for a couple of hours when we first got on and then she seemed enjoy the rest of the way so much. The last night we were in Hankow was too hot to sleep. But on the train as we went up grade the weather was changing also. So when we got to the station we put on rain coats for warmth as well as because of the rain. It took us more than an hour to come up the hill by chair and arrived about seven.

That night I doubled a blanket twice and had my steamer rug and was not really warm enough. And the next two or three days we were wearing winter clothes. I forgot to say we had our dinner on the train brought from the dining car. They brought us ham, eggs and French fried potatoes. It was all

fixed very nicely. And it cost no about thirty cents apiece. They gave each of us three eggs so we had enough. Lots of people you see travel on that road when they come to China to stay a week or month and they can tell you all about travel in China. But most of us who know China better know that in the highways and byways the food they serve is scarcely fit for a Chinese to eat let alone us. It is no wonder to us the Chinese have a proverb "a thousand days at home are good, but when you travel you have trouble all the time."

I am having a dress and a blouse made and have another dress yet to make. It is only when we go away for the summer we can have things made. The blouse is pongee and is to be embroidered in blue around the bottom of the sleeves and down the pleats on each side. There also will be some work done on the front in the same blue. The dress is made of what we call Korean cloth. It is light blue. The Korean cloth comes from a mission school in Korea. The cloth is woven by hand by the students who work half a day to pay expenses and the other half they study. They use the best of dyes and they have some very pretty cloths. And we can buy it here as cheap as we can get gingham. The dress I am having made has a white stripe so it will have collar, cuffs and front made of white voile and trimmed with lace. I also still have a piece of goods brought from home to make up.

There are not many people here so far in the C. I. M. houses. There is room for about forty and only thirteen are here. More are expected though. Two are those I knew in Los Angeles. One is to room with me and the other be in the next room. They may be changed though a great deal from what I knew them because they came to China nearly two years before I did and we have not met before in China. China is such a big country and the C. I. M. has work nearly all over in China.

We had a letter from our Chinese evangelist at Changchow saying one of our finest Christian women there is very ill. She had gone so far as to buy the coffin. My heart is often back there even though here on the hill. It was a woman who because of her love for the Lord and her unusual ability was a great strength to the work there. And I do hope the Lord has spared her to further testify there. Already several have believed through her preaching. Anyway she is ready to go and the Lord knows best.

We had expected to hear Professor "Dick" Wilson, supposed to be the best scholar in the study of ancient manuscripts and inscriptions this summer. But he became ill at Kuling and will not be able to get here. Mr. Hunter from Los Angeles may be here three days in July though. I wish he could stay longer. It looks like a rather risky thing for some of the people from home to come out during the hot part of the year and travel around. Last year Mr. Dixon came out and brought his wife but left her buried in China.

So far here on the hill I have not done much but eat and sleep. In addition of course there is always study. And I am beginning to study some real Chinese now. Nearly everything until now has been something translated from the English into the Mandarin. Now I am beginning to study something written in the Chinese to begin with.

Today some of our Changteh people have been to see us. It would be hard to find a finer group of missionaries anywhere than there and we like to see each other.

This letter better stop and go to the post office. I will try to write some other folks soon. The Baptists have just sent another five dollars. So I must write them something. I do wish at times somebody would ask a few questions about what they do want to know.

I am sending a little handkerchief in the letter. I wish
it was something more. Perhaps later I can send something
more. I am afraid you do not have many new things.

With love to all of you,

Hazel Todd
Changteh,
Kiangsi,
China.



Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,

July 9, 1973 U.S.A.

Aug. 4, 1922

Teh S. Han, Changteh, Hunan, Aug. 4, 1922.

Dear Aunt Edna:-

Your letter came months ago but either because I am most terribly lazy or because other things come in the way letter-writing gets so neglected. There is one thing about it this climate is so damp sometimes it seems heavy and almost pressing us down. We have to be careful of our shoes and clothes that they do not mould by taking them out to sun often. And even the covers on books on the shelves will mould. We have it so dry in California that being so damp here seems strange to me. Of course this time of year the heat makes things worse.

If it were possible I would like to describe to you the place we are staying this summer. It is on a hill just at the edge of a river perhaps three quarters of a mile across. Across the river about five miles up stream is Changteh, a city of perhaps one hundred and fifty thousand in population, with mountains in the background. Just across the river from us is a massive bridge built only of great stone slabs. There are also many trees and some small pagodas. There are so many row boats and sailing boats on the river. The sailing boats need not be described you see a picture of one on nearly every Chinese postage stamp. The sails seldom vary even though the boats do. This side of the river is even more interesting. Until three hundred years ago the city was built on these hills. The largest pagoda which is seven stories high is over here that is the largest in this community. There are some very large temples and there are so many graves and tombs of famous men. This however does not begin to tell you the beauty of this place.

This afternoon I am all by myself unless you count the Chinese. The woman I stay with had some business to attend to in Changteh. She took the cook with her and left the girl to bake the bread. But I tended to that job myself. She never saw any bread until a few weeks ago and probably could not tell by the clock when an hour is past. Many of them can not tell time. We have a gate-keeper at Nanchowting who has been with us months and has never been able to tell time and always has to ask. He has to ring the bell for meetings too. It is not at all strange the Chinese do not eat bread. Rice is so much more easily prepared than bread. Besides an oven is something most Chinese have never seen. By the way you asked in your letter if we have pop corn here in China. As a rule we do not. Perhaps it could be raised. And once in while some one gets some from home. The Chinese themselves have so many kinds of rice. One kind pops out a little bit like pop corn and they eat it like pop corn. It really is very good though not so good as pop corn. They also have a kind of peas or beans they roast which tastes

better than it sounds. They also eat quantities of melon seeds and peanuts. They always consider melon seeds the correct thing to serve with tea. But it took me months to learn to split them open without breaking into the center. It is my job to do most of the calling at Nanchow since I can not yet talk well enough to take meetings much. And they almost always give us tea at every place and usually melon seeds. But when it comes to things to eat none of things are nearly as good as pop corn.

You^{was} talking about doing spring house cleaning in your letter. And now in about a month fall house cleaning will be falling to my lot. The woman I live with has three such small children and she herself is not well. But my job will mostly be to boss. We keep two servants. But what I dread more than the house-cleaning is getting at the woman's work after leaving it two months. There will need to be so many calls to make and meetings to take. Those things are hard enough at times when you can talk English but it is much harder when you must talk in another language. Also there is the difficulty in listening to them when they do not even understand each other and trying to understand them.

We saw a most beautiful double rainbow last night. It looked like the end of the larger one was just at the opposite bank of the river. So the reflection in the water of it looked like a part of the rainbow itself.

These days are vacations. We study mornings and in the afternoon write letters or just as we please. I studied so hard all spring that during July study was hardly to be thought of. Perhaps my love of study is too great. The people and their dirty houses and streets were getting on my nerves a bit. But I am counting the days now before I can get back to the work. I hope to go back the hundred miles by myself and open up the house. When water is high in the summer time we can go the full trip by launch in a day. You would go quicker at home but this is China.

My letters must make the dullest reading at times. You all have news to write about people you know other people but if you are a missionary you have nothing like that to write. So please write when you can.

Your niece,

Hazel Todd,
Nanchowting,
via Yochow,
Hunan,
China.

Aug. 4, 1922

Aug 5, 1923

Kikungsham, Honan Aug 5, 1923

Dear Mother:

This will probably be the last letter written from Honan because time to write again we hope to be on our way back to Hunan. We have enjoyed being here this summer but the time has come for us to go back to our stations. There are a number of things in the way of writing letters and such things I had hoped to do and have not done. But I suppose it is just laziness. You know I always did dislike to write letters. Even mending stockings is more interesting. But out here we can get a woman to mend stockings all day less than it costs to mail two letters home. Of course she is slow but at least she does the work well. But when it comes to writing letters we must manage that of course ourselves.

One thing we do up here is spend money. Any work on our teeth, sewing and most of the buying we do is done when we go away for the summer. Two fillings came out of my teeth in the spring and that made them so sensitive. I thought I had better have them fixed without waiting for a toothache. It cost me about fourteen dollars Mexican or seven gold for that. I expect one should be thankful not to have to pay more as it has been two years again since they were looked after. Besides there are peddlars around all day long selling all kinds of embroidery work and hand made lace. One day an Hindoo was around selling the richest looking silks I ever saw. Some of it was very expensive also but it was so soft and rich. I bought a quarter of a yard of burnt orange colored to trim my new brown serge. It looks like crepe-de chine on one side and like satin on the other. It really is too nice for me and I have a notion to send it home to you or Alice. I surely would if it were not. I am afraid of duty. The stuff is \$3.75 a yard Mexican.

You must have been all tired out and discouraged the last time you wrote. It looks to me from what I hear of those at home that I have better health than they. Except for malaria which I get once in a while I usually am fairly well. The altitude of Changteh is only about 1200 feet above sea level. By coming away I have been free from that this summer. But do not worry about looking after me the Mission while

not rich generally manages to look after their own invalids. And they would not have given me my Junior certificate last winter if they had not thought I was in a fair state of health. Miss Chaffee has been out a year longer than I and does not have her certificate because of her health. And I do not work too hard either no matter what you think.

This week I have been studying with a Chinese teacher again. I am studying a text book used in their fifth grade. It is going to take me some time to get through the book as it has a lot of what is called Wenli in it. Until now nearly everything has been Mandarin. Mandarin is what the people talk. And Wenli is only the old literary style and some think it is different from Mandarin as Latin is from English but I do not think there is that much difference. Fortunately there is only the one book of the stuff I have to study.

But I hope to do more than just what has to be done in order to be able to teach more of the Bible than the first foundation principles.

You speak of people talking about bandits and such things. So far as we know there is only one foreigner in their hands just now. That is an old Italian Roman Catholic priest. He has been in their hands some months. I suppose you do hear a lot. But do not worry about it. Nothing has happened near where I have been so far. And after all the safest place for us is where the Lord wants us. Things could happen at home in these days. We have a clearer view of what is going on of course than people at home could have. But I have not mentioned matters because we were not in danger and I thought people might worry about it if it was mentioned too often in my letters. I hope they do not do away with the foreign concessions or put more in the hands of the Chinese. I heard one man say that if they do away with foreign concessions and foreign protection he would send his wife home. A lot of other missionaries are of the same opinion. Chinese may go to other countries and convince people there that everything is lovely. But we out here as long as we see so much of dishonesty and corruption have quite another story to tell. Those who know say politics in China is much like their proverb. "The little fish eat bugs and the big fish eat the little fish."

We have been on one more picknick since my last letter and we hope to have another one before we leave. Every Wednesday night they have a musical evening. Friday evening the women talked over methods of work. Besides this there are lots of prayer meetings etc. Yesterday we had a day of prayer for all on the hill. Tomorrow our own mission has a day of prayer. What we do really need is more prayer.

This letter looks the worse for the fog. I left it on the table last night near my open window. We do have such heavy fogs up here. And they last a few days and then the sun comes out and every thing needs airing out in the sun to get them dry. This not only includes clothes and bedding but books, shoes and the inside of suit cases and such things. Verandas as the English call them are sometimes beautifully decorated with so much in display. But there is no way out of it. But one thing about the fog is that it is refreshingly cool. Today I am wearing a woollen dress for comfort. I wish you could see how nice it really is. And these hills being so green would do your eyes good. It has been a fine place to spend the summer. One would not want to stay here always, though because there is work down on the plains.

It sounded good to hear about the fruit. What little fruit I did do up the tops were doubtful and Mr. Bannan's cook did some of it over. I am afraid it will not be much of a success. And in the fall there will be only wild grapes to make juice or jelly from. My next letter will probably be sent from Hankow on the way back as it is time to go back.

With love to you and all the rest,
Hazel Todd.



Mrs. C. A.
Strat

Aug 8, 1923

Aug. 30,
Hankow, Hupoh, Aug. 30, 1923.

Dear Mother:-

How would it do for me to use some decent paper when writing to you this is only used for very special occasions. But I am in a hurry this time and can not write much. Since my last letter we have been having a good time at Hikingshan and then packed up and came here by train. I walked down from the house to the station about an hours walk coming down hill. But it is good to be able to do it. The train was on ~~time~~ and we got here 9:30 in the evening. We came up here to the mission house by ricksha. After we got here they gave us ice cream and ice water. The ice cream tasted very good. You see it was a sweltering hot evening and it had been two years since the last time I had any.

Other folks are writting letters tonight and this makes my second. I hope when we get back to write more letters. There will not be so many to see there. But we will be putting in more regular hours there also. That is we will be working and not merely playing at it. When we go away the summer while we do more or less study and such things we also do rest and leave things go.

The children's letters were fine. I wish there was time to answer them now. I expect three years has made a big change in them if not in other things. How is it Mrs. Purdy has time now to superintend the Junior Christian Endeavor? Have they moved?

I hope when fall comes you can have more people out at prayermeeting. In these days when the power of the enemy is so strong we can not afford that. Out here it would be very hard to keep any church together on such little prayermeetings. In Changteh we only have an average of twenty at prayermeeting but we think that small. Many places have a daily early morning meeting for prayer. The Presbyterian mission in Changteh is one place I know of. And many C. I. M. places have this. Perhaps in time if the Lord tarry the Chinese will have to send a few missionaries to America. The time would be far distant but it

might come.

There are some parts of Hunan unsafe to go back to just now. But we can go back to where we are. One thing we can get away from Changteh better than some places. The anti-foreign feeling among the Chinese seems to be growing but no one thinks it will amount to very much this time. When we consider how bitter many of the people do get against us. But the Lord watches over us. And we feel as safe as we ever could anywhere. There are many place at home that for us would be far more dangerous.

It was so good to see the two from B. S. this summer. They are both of them fine missionaries. One is in school work, the other does only evangelistic work. But of course, all of get a little of both things.

This is such a short letter but we go on to Changteh today so this must close. You see I am trying to get a letter off before waiting such a long time as it will be some days before I can send another. Also we are going back to where the letters take two or three days longer.

With love to all of you,
Hazel Todd,
Changteh,
Hunan,
China

91

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.



Aug. 30, 1923



Sept. 14
1923

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Sept. 14, 1923

Changteh, Hunan, China. Sept. 14, 1923.

Dear Mother:— We have now been back here nearly two weeks. We were on the way back three days after we left Hankow. In my last letter perhaps I mentioned we were starting at noon or sometime during the morning. But as matter of fact they started at six. It was dark by the time we really were out of sight of Hankow. The boat holds 150 people and about two hundred were on. We reached Yochow where they go past customs after dark. There about sixty men got off in small boats and went several miles further to be picked up later. That was the second delay in the heat because it was eleven o'clock the next day when we got started. Little things like that do not count here in China. Miss Chaffee, Miss De Jong and I also the Bannan baby slept on deck. The next night there was quite a row because the captain was about to anchor for the night. But after a very lengthy and loud discussion in which they threatened to quit the captain they decided to start when the moon rose. We did not think much of sleep until then for we were discussed also although having no part in it. It seems they thought we were taking up more than our share of room which was not the case. We arrived here Sunday evening just after dark. Mr. Bannan and the Presbyterian doctor were there to meet us. The latter came because he hoped to either meet his wife or get the latest news from her. He only got the latter for though there were five of us she was not among them. Mr. Bannan saw to Miss De Jong and Phyllis ^{Mary} and their luggage and the doctor looked after us. It was late by the time we got things by small boat to the shore and we could only get sickshas to carry our things up here in. The doctor spent some time getting us started. But even then we left some things to bring up until next day. You see each of us bought a new springs for a bed and besides we had groceries for six months including milk and potatoes. Some luggage!

Now for some plain unvarnished facts. I am going to tell the whole tale so you need not imagine things any worse than they are. Tuesday morning we were awakened long before day-light by the sound of shot. These continued until about eight o'clock. But we started the day the same ^{old} usual having breakfast at 7:30. Then we two

were just starting morning prayers when the only foreigner inside the city came to see us (I mean the only man) and to see if we were scared. He explained what was going on as best he could and then went to see the two young women over at the other mission. We still went on the same as usual and after our own prayers went to Chinese prayers. People were a bit scared and when the evangelist called on me to pray he asked me to pray that the Lord would pity China. Even then we did not change our morning's program except because the gates were closed we did not go on cleaning house for we get all our water from the river outside the city. About nine-thirty just as we were praying before my going out with the Bible woman all these of the ^{men} missionaries came again. They had decided that all we foreigners in the city were to be together that night so that anything should happen we would all be together. We asked them to come here as the wall is up even with the ^{eyes} on this compound and the roof being tiled like other Chinese houses it is not a target for shots in case they should want to get after us. Also we have gates leading out onto two different streets, one on each end of the compound. But they decided we were to go to the Holiness Mission. So we staid there nearly all of three ~~days~~ four nights in all. Except the last night we heard lots of fighting in the night. But it was like Chinese fighting generally is. Not many got hurt. About twenty were killed in battle, twenty more of the enemies side found in the city were beheaded and a number were were wounded. Then the soldiers in the city made up their minds they could not keep off those outside. So they went out and the others came in. Those who came in look pretty tough and they are regular thieves. But no one thinks they will be here long for our troubles are not all over. But whatever happens you would know about it before you get this letter. But I do hope and pray things will be quiet soon. There is a lot of work I ought to do in the country this fall. The city seems more open ~~open~~ thought than usual to the preaching of the gospel so there is plenty for us to do

here. This fall I am to teach some scripture in the school when at the main station.

We have not gone very far yet with fall cleaning. I cleaned the store room the very first day. It is a most untidy looking place at best. Because there have been lots of changes here in the twenty years or more since this house was built. And it looks like each person who has been here had made a generous contribution to each place. ^(both the room & quantity) But we have only thoroughly cleaned half of the house. We have made about a dozen glasses of grape jelly though. Not having water has held us back some also.

We have found everything about the same as usual here on the compound. So far we have the same cook as last year. We do not know whether he will go back to the woman who trained him or not. Something like the a thundercloud comes over his face when told to clean the kitchen. But he makes bread we never need apologize for and cooks meat and vegetables well, and makes fair desserts. And we really pay him less than a dollar gold a week and he eats outside. We do not even tell him most of the time what we want for meals. It is only when we have company we plan what to have and go and help him. I wish you could drop in on us some meal. Even though there are only two of us we have napkins, bread and butter plates and every thing served in courses properly. You can see how spoiled I am getting when some one else does the work. But of course our cook does not wash iron or do any extra cleaning in the house.

Does it seem possible I have been away three years to you. Probably my next three years will be quite different than my first three. The studying I have to do for examinations is drawing toward the close. During this first three years the Lord has enabled me to also do a few other things though that may count more even than the study. But that in itself I am sure is going to well repay all effort made.

I must stop for tonight. This forenoon was spent calling and the afternoon in study. And tomorrow will go about the

Sept. 28, 1923

Changteh, Hunan, China, Sept. 25, 1923.

Dear Mother: This is Friday morning and while perhaps there are several things that ought to be done I will write you a few lines. Nothing at all exciting has happened since my last letter. They are doing their fighting off somewhere else. But it is between here and Yochow and Changcha so it is keeping most of the mail back and perhaps keeping some from going. But nearly everyone coming back here have gotten here. One man who is coming through has been delayed on the way some where. He may not have left Hankow yet. Nearly half of the Changteh people were on a boat coming back and were within sixty miles of here when they were fired on. So they had to turn around and go all the way back to Hankow. Then they came on a Japanese boat protected by steel plates. One man was killed on the boat before they turned around. It was a young Chinese engineer on his first trip.

Things here in the city are almost normal again. But I am sorry we have not been able to do more calling recently. So I have studied until my head aches this morning. The Bible woman has been sick for more than a week but is much better so will be able to go out tomorrow and perhaps the first of next week can get out into the country. While the Bible woman has been sick I have led the women's meetings the last two weeks. The first week I spoke "Blind Bartimeus" and this week on "The Good Samaritan." Both things were prepared beforehand to use in the country. That is one advantage we have we can use the same message more than once. Several are in the process of preparation just now. I am thinking of writing the outlines in English and the most important parts having written in Romanized. Mrs. Draffin used to have some one write the main divisions in character for her. But the main thing is to tell the story just as simply as it is possible to tell it and as plain. It is not only that we have to try to speak plainly but some way put the matter so they can take it in. But I begin to think that there is this much difference between speaking to a dozen women here and at home. At home the dozen women hear at the time and that is about the end of it. But here we can multiply the group because most of those who come pass on what they get. Just now people are more interested because of several reasons. Of course in case of fighting many women come to the

church and stay for protection. In addition some Chinese have been prophesying several days of darkness to come this week. They have not come. But the thought of its being likely to come has scared them.

We have had some more bad news from Nanchowting. One of the evangelists has lost his little girl. She had been sick with dysentery about a month. His little boy also was very sick and he wrote down here asking us to pray for them.

Last night we had four extra here for supper. One couple and two young women. They are all going out into smaller towns to work soon. The married couple are going to one place and the young women to another. We had fish, mashed potatoes, gravy, string beans, bamboo sprouts, chestnuts, roasted lemon pie, cocoa and salted peanuts. Of course the fish, bamboo sprouts, chestnuts and peanuts were bought here. As we live right on the river good fish can be bought here. Of course the cook has to buy it alive and bring it right home and fix it. But in all we probably live cheaper and have better things to eat than we would in most places.

We have been outside the east gate this week to welcome a young woman who has just come. She is a nurse and will look after that work in the hospital. She was born in China and her parents are still working here. And her brother is in Y. M. C. A. work in Shanghai.

Quite a number of Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries are planning on going on up through here to Kweichow province soon. Up until now with the exception of one station all the mission work done there had been by the C. S. M. But so many of our old workers have had to drop out and not enough new ones have even come to fill in the ranks to say nothing of going forward. Sometimes I wish that had been possible for me to go further inland. But my work seems to be right here in Hunan for the present. We are expecting some workers from Kweichow soon who will be going home on furlough. This will be the fourth family coming down from there and it is not certain any are going up of our mission. If it is safe to go up two families intend to go. The trouble is you can not tell until you get there.

This is evening and we have been to prayer meeting this afternoon. The man who led had fixed the organ this morning and blew through all the reeds. Its a good thing he did because he had plenty of wind left as it was. Another new worker was there of the Canadian Holiness Mission. That is she is new to China. She looks like she would not see forty again. China may be alright for me young people but it is a good place for people her age to stay away from. Some of the people I know have brought their mothers with them to China. But if I ever need to look after you I do not think you will come. Because it may be nice for the daughter. But most people out here have not time to entertain people's mothers. And there is not much of anything one can do that can not speak the language of the people here. I know of one family of three girls all working here in China who have brought their mother out. By the way all three are graduates of B.S. But two I never met before coming to China. Their mother will be taking turns living with them. And they have a little house at the hills where they will live together in the summer. But the plan is not altogether satisfactory.

We are keeping the same cook we had last year. He is doing fine and we do not have to go near the kitchen some days. It means something to us to us to have three meals put before us at the proper time each day. The woman who trained him gave as one reason for not taking back that he quarrels with the other servants. That does not bother us much for we do not have anyone else except for washing, ironing and cleaning or extra work.

There are only boys in my week day Bible class that I am to have with the school children three times a week. So far we have had it twice a week but we can not properly cover the ground in less than three hours a week. The boys seem to like the lessons and make such an effort to learn that it is a joy to teach them. One little boy sits there so sober and looks like he was day dreaming. But when one gets through he can almost tell word for word what was said. And one can hardly trust a question so he could not answer it.

One does not mean to do that but my knowledge of the language is not enough to make me an ideal teacher.

Miss Chaffee was remarking today that she wondered if any of the mail that is being held up on the way was for us. Probably some of it is. But my letter from you written in August has come through alright and anything else does not matter much. I think it was a shame that with three grown up daughters you had to make your own birthday cake and that you had so little for your birthday. I have a handkerchief given me already for my birthday. It seems like I have accomplished so little for one thirty. To think of one so old only just beginning their life's work. And yet there are not many kinds of work that seem to take much longer to get ready to do than this. I was interested to hear about Mrs. Elliott's twins. She must have her hands full now with a family of six. But of course Jane and June would be helping a lot. They were very good even four years ago.

This is Saturday morning and this letter seems to be long enough so will just let this be the end.

With love to all of you,
Hazel Todd.

107
Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,

Sept. 28, 1923 U. S. A.