Dear folk,

We’re here at last, and it doesn’t seem that we are on the other side of the world. Jarvis’ home is on the outskirts of the city, right in the country; and the first night Grace had the feeling that she was back in Happy Valley, in Minnesota, for the air was so fresh and cool, and the crickets and tree-trads were chirping, and the odors of the fields floated in.
Grace and I enjoyed every inch of the train ride from Shanghai to Hankow. The countryside was so new to us. We felt like youngsters on our first trip on the M. & St. L. from St. Louis to Minneapolis; we were afraid if we looked out of the window we might miss something.

The first and most noticeable things that attracted our attention were the almost ubiquitous graves. Graves, graves, graves everywhere, in any direction you looked. In some one tenth of the tillable land we passed was taken up by coffins. The Chinese don't seek out a convenient place to make a grave. They get directions from a charwoman to show them the correct time and place to plant the body, and then the correct time and place to plant the coffin. In the mean time, a peck of ground is placed in the yard or in some one else's field. Usually it is covered over with nothing but the earth, or a thin coat of matting or mud or a tile roof. We have a coffin set just outside the wall of...
our yard, in plain sight
of our windows. One member
of the faculty at the Berkshire
Valley, who lives in a new house
just a half block from one, has been having his front
yard leveled off for a lawn,
except for one spot, which
is a grave! and the relation
won't sell out that 3' x 6'6"
plot because it's sacred
ground. How would you
like to have your private
ground to show off to
your friends?

Then we saw our
first cotton growing on
on our journey here. We had quite a discussion as to what it was at first. It had been picked, and besides Chinese cotton plants, some sorghum, being only two to one and a half feet high. I thought it was some kind of a raspberry plant from the blossom.

The rice fields were beautiful, like checkered boards, each section ripening at a different time. The bunches of rice stalks...
coming up in such regular rows and all of the same size that the seeds must have been carefully set out by hand. We saw many examples of their method of threshing the rice. It is cut by hand, left on the spot to dry, then gathered in to a large and at each end of a canvas bag and carried to the barn, then threshed by hand. The grain is swept on the ground and dried by the sun, later to be collected into baskets. That is as much as I could gather by my process as we rode by.

From Chinkiang to Hankou we were in a region of very low, flooded land, where the tills or the soil were shirts and eye strings, and were up to their hips in water, following the ever-lasting slow-old buffalo and wooden plow, in the rice field, gathering in large tubs gathering a nämlich root from a water
Plant which the children
hugs.
We are very comfortably settled at Lorenzo's home. They are exceptional people and leaders in the foreign life of London. Will tell you more of them later when we are better acquainted.

This afternoon at a tea and business meeting of the missionaries of our mission here in London, held at our home, we met Dr. and Mrs. Macklin, and daughter, Mrs. Sisson. Her sister, Miss Whipple, at Mrs. Holroyd's, Mr. Bates (son of Dean Bates of Dublin), Miss Tyre, Mrs. and Mr. Jones, Mr. Callum, and others.

Dr. Macklin invited me to accompany him to accompany him to go down into the city for breakfast and preaching. I anticipate a very interesting experience. I reminded him that you had met him and talked of Ontario subjects. Our freight is not
How is that for complication?
And when you ask the
price of an article, they
always ask three times
the price of it and you
doubt it
and you
have to give them
to what you know it
is worth. Therefore I can't
buy now. If I can't talk,
unless I have an interpreter.
You can get exquisite
Tapestries here in Hankin
which are unavailable
everywhere in China. And
they are ridiculously cheap
We will send you a sample sometime soon and you will fall in love with them, and be sending me money for more. Some masterpieces about 2 ft. x 4 ft. in color and gold can be purchased for $3 each or $1.50 a gold.

We will send you a birth day present as soon as we can get someone to talk for me and mail it to you. It will be some Chinese handwork. She will have to pay the customs if any. M.T. custom is very high. They don't change on the rate you paid for the article, or how in China values or what they think it is worth. If they think it is worth twice as much as you paid for it, you pay the rate for their estimate.

I can get picture developed and painted here for $3.75 what I paid in Yarkina, so I'll save my materials for Enchophyn. I'll have some prints tomorrow if we trap and will try to include some in this letter.
language School starts Monday. We think this baby's feedings will fit in well with the schedule so Grace can take most of the work with me. I haven't seen Mr. Marx of the China Committee yet but it is almost sure we will be in Language School for Dr. Willett remains here.

Saturday we are planning a picnic at Pumphill Park (3,000 ft high) outside of the Wall where hunting is good both for deer and pheasants. We are taking guns along.

Yours,

Douglas.
Sept. 28, 1923

The pictures aren't done yet. Things more slowed in China than America by a whole lot. So I'll send them in a later edition.

We bought a piece of tapestry today and mailed it to you. It is a birthday present for Mae but we wanted you to see it first. We watched them weave the gorgeous things for our own home today. One pair for they work in pairs, we
working on wonderful table covers in gold and silver on a blue satin background. Each thread has been planned for before the design is started. One man is on a round about the loom and raises the intricate system of warp threads so that the other can throw the shuttle through the proper place to work out the design.

This one we have mailed is for a hand bag. The piece has two designs on it. One on the front and one on the back. The ladies have been making them as follows:

1. Fold
2. Draw string across bottom of bag
3. Gather up

We are sending silk lining which will match the tassel later.

Dad and I bought these tapestries for pillow covers, one of which we will send for you, Mother, which we would like you to hang the drifty on and
also send us the purchase price in some letter. When you see it and know that you owe us only $1 gold (U.S. money) for it. If you could get anything like it there, which you can’t, you would pay $25 or more. These are satin tapestry hand-made thread by thread in Nanjing only. It is a major industry which is undeveloped. If a business head would come this & open a market in America, he could make thousands of it and at the same time double the pay of
the workmen here. If you wish any more mail in a bill and we will send it to you. The largest piece a gorgeous table cover, 48 x 48, cost only $6 your money. That was the highest priced piece they make.

There is an old peddler that came around today with a great variety of stuff to sell. We bought some silk embroidered butterfly from him which would be nice to applique on something or other (rug, table scarf, patient, paper, human, etc.) for decorative purpose.
They are for Beijing, and
will be sent in instalments
in the home letting. This old
bird who sells them has bought
up some old satin scarfs,
ruffles, and robes from rich
Chinese at auctions, and has
cut these designs out of them
and pasted them in paper.
We bought them at 15¢ (your
money) a pair of butterflies.

This noon Dr. Harris took
me over to the Hawkins
students show room and
we ate with them, using
bowls and chopsticks. My
first attempt at the sticks
was very encouraging. We
had the usual buns, rice,
and a mixture like chop suey (meat
and fried onion & celery), scrambled eggs,
and a fried leafy vegetable.

I enjoyed every chopstick full.
I visited the hospital yesterday
and found it very well equipped
and full of patients. They have
one of the best laboratories in
China outside of Peking, a fully
equipped Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat
department, and a fine operating
room with a schedule of about
eight operations three times a
week & emergencies.

They would run me into
lots of work if they could.
But I am advised to ride
step all of that possibly and tend strictly to language study and you recall be worth that much more when I do work.

Grace never felt better in her life, and eats like a horse! Chinese food suits me fine and we are getting fat.

Love,

Douglas.
Sept 23

Miss Brown,

I am glad you are doing well. I hope your health is improving. We bought a new radio last week and it has been a great addition to our home. I love listening to the news and music.

The children are doing well in school. Jack is particularly enjoying his science class. He is learning a lot about the solar system.

I am still teaching at the same school and I enjoy it very much. I have made a few new friends this year.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Sept 30, 1923
First impressions of China are a beautiful place. I have learned that there is all sorts of fresh rain and sunshine in China. I am often there at the top of a hill at the end of faculty row and see three big houses all day long. They are always covered so much so that China needs a blanket. Later in the day we cannot walk down in the street.

New York has an immense city well. I like very much that when the week around it is interesting mile hike. But the people live buddled together in the central and southern part of the space inside the wall and there is no country. I believe. We are in the western country which is a missionary section and there are big city country spaces on the sides of us. With beautiful hills all around me. Do you remember the table that we are going from and the south window? It looks like the South America. We went on a picnic with the Harrington family there.

Yesterday to the Ming Tombs. The men dressed on top of the car and drawn by a miniature horse. There was
huge stone houses guarding the entrance to the tomb. They are in corn fields now, for it is not kept in repair, also not so often she could see a pair of stone soldiers facing each other—indeed, guardrails. They stand twice as high as the air and look so grand with their hands folded facing each other. The tomb is hidden under a huge mound of earth covered with grass and trees where we ate. We got there through a long sloping covered archway underneath the tunnel in a tunnel to be. Stories tell that the earth for the mound was brought from the eight provinces and that after the tomb was covered, sealed everyone who knew where it was was killed. The ground out there is covered with relics: pottery, character covered tablets, bricks, stone dogs, rams scattered about in the grass—which has grown up all over the pavement in the court yard.

We have church here at home in the morning, and when we go together and take turns preaching—so that home our Sunday morning free. Dine and go to town for a few two hours here this morning, it's such a comfort to take out and make Phyllis know she will sleep all day.
Nanking, China
October 14, 1923

Dear Florence Ann,

I am going to keep the letters going in your direction without thinking of answers and I know that you will do the same.

This is mostly going to be a picture letter but still I want to tell you a few of my impressions. The more we are invited around and I get to see the beautiful homes folks have here the more grateful I am for the opportunity I am to have in planning my home - making it in China. Folks seem to have almost everything they want and the women who have good taste have beautiful homes. In the first place the houses are immense - fifteen to twenty rooms - high ceilings - porches - lots of closet and built in furniture - a fire place in most every living room - dining room. Missionaries are rich here in fact. They live like the wealthiest class at home. Everybody has four or five servants - you need them to care for such big places - with their huge yards - gardens. Now if the servants live in the house - except the amah they have separate quarters on the back.

Some of the furniture I have seen is lovely - the Chinese carpenters can copy almost any thing
even to the bonheur of pleasant stuff and my heart is just teeming with ideas. Tonight we had dinner at Mr. Welbun's and I loved their living room. It was a long, fine place on each wall with black firings. Mr. Candlesticks + two large copper pots on mantel. We ate on tiny tea tables that folks can hide where they are feeling more than right, and had creamed chicken, lettuce & potatoes, salad-kets. Wonderful Parker hose with right places. Same with coffee + fudge + peans. You'd never know it was served in China. It's wonderful what these women can do with a Chinese cook. The men seem to learn from each other - they learn to cook when they are little boys & then go to some other family as a cook. They all make very good bread - pies & pastures - know our quaint ideas of producing a balanced meal. Most of the time Mrs. Sarris doesn't even know what we are to have, she just goes over her accounts with the cook each morning and that's all the thought she gives that end of her house. But I was telling you about Welbun's living room. Her furniture was furnished oak - squat comfortable chairs with wicker mats, striped same color as the wood. Many of their bed tapestry coverings on the seat as did her Mantle. The tapestry looked like U. S. But most everything else was made in China. Her piano lamp had a beautiful shade made in Peking and...
the rug also came from there. It was a soft
blue & gray with Chinese conventionalized borders and
corn decorations. The table was same finish as chairs
along with shape. Beautiful proportions. Oh yes, they had a
vitrine in the front room. It made me fairlyitch
to get to my house. We are to have a new house built
for us this winter. The money has been appropriated and
we shall be going over our plans soon. Dr. Veithing
the other man who will have charge of the hospital
is knhoodn with Doug and who has had several years
experience with Chinese carpenters & contractors is going
to draw up a tentative set of plans and then with
that to go by. We may change & revise to suit our own
needs. Is that sound? We are especially lucky, for most missionaries
have to settle down in a house some one else has planned
and make the best of it.

I just go into estates now some of the beautiful
handicraft we can buy. Beautiful drawn work and embroidered
Swatow linens and dinner sets, for almost nothing
say six or seven dollars. It would be the times that
we have. Then they have a kind of cross stitch, finer
tinette stitches done in several colors in very effective Chinese
figures, and the mighty exquisite hand embroidery
much more perfect than the Filipinos work costing
from $1.50 to $2.00, and hand in costing two bits all hand
embroidery and drawn work. Oh, I could name all night. I'll just have to send you some for you to know what I mean. I'm talking about. It seems trite to say that now. But...

This is what I want you to do. I want a whole bunch of furniture catalogs — the most up to date ones — that advertise in the book of House & Garden. and catalog furniture — Drexel and Erhard and others. I want a lot of cute nursery ideas. I seem to have very few pictures in my mind. Guess I gave my whole collection to you. Keep track of the postage. Let you spend five dollars for the time you spend writing for me. Then tell me how much it is and let me spend it on something small for you. Then we'll both feel that we've been wanted. We want to get carpenters started on our furniture soon after Christmas. Because they are very slow and if you wait till spring, everyone else is doing it too and you have to wait agin. I have to plan a bed for Phyllis right away and I want to get some kind of a cute idea in it but I find catalogs to know where to start. Cause I have no pictures. I could write for catalogs from here but that would be silly. Postage is so high...

I'll write the rest of my letter on the picture.

I love you — yours