Dear Ida Jane,

The time does fly! Here you and I are almost a year older. I did not write up to the fact that our birthdays are so near till last week. I got your package started off a few days ago but I know it will be a month late. It takes at least five weeks this time of year since travel is so slow and uncertain. Please forgive me - maybe I'll learn to figure by months after a while. I sent you a little brown hand bag made from the Vanini tapestry. You are supposed to carry it when you go to the opera and wear your fur wrap. The little silver thing I thought you'd be interested in as an example of Chinese hand craft. They were made on the stick - the little flat pendant is much as one of the neck ornaments of a precious baby. The butterfly is part of a hair pin. I had them take the pin off for I knew you could never use it that way. And I thought you might be able to use it as a dress ornament or something. It's pretty soft to be much good. The things they make out of a silver dollar are much more durable.
Your box of seeds and dyes came last month, and I am so tickled with it all. Please tell your mother how much I appreciated the seeds. Flower seeds are so precious here. I divided some of them up with my neighbors. I know I am going to have just lots of fun making them grow. I have a big yard and a big strong man to do all my running and digging for me. I know there will be especially nice flowers too for you folks always have such lovely ones. I can hardly wait for the spring rains so I can get started.

Now everything is so dry, we haven't had any rains for months. The country people are suffering from the lack of water, wells are empty, mining villages and water has to be carried for miles.

Mr. Goulette went out on a preaching trip last week and absolutely couldn't buy any green vegetables. The country people just wouldn't sell it to him, for they hadn't enough for themselves. We are so near the river here that we get all the spinach and carrots etc. every day that we need. My own oases is entirely empty and I do so need to wash my head.

You and Aunt Ella have both survived of the horrible cold January you had. I can hardly
Imagine what your weather would feel like then. We had an inch of snow last fall and it hadn't melted half of it yet, but we only lost about half our house and it's not as hot as a furnace would be. We spill on the snowflakes and snowflakes under eaves and rain feud. That's what the chimney does.

My little and the room you come today. Phyllis had a bad crumpy cough last week. We were quite worried a couple nights. It's an awful feeling to wake up in the night and not hear her breathing and dash out to see if she's all right. I believe all young parents do that. I know I used to when she was small. We laughed ourselves the next morning, but it isn't funny in the night. She is almost well now and her voice is a bit croaky. She won't sit still on my lap met the second she was sick. She would stay and be rocked an hour at a time. She used to sleep one night in my arms, first time since she was a tiny baby. It was mid for a treat, but I knew I'd get sick if a steady diet. And it.

I am getting well initiated into our work here. We have started a mother's club and are teaching them how to use sewing machines.
They just come in throngs and are so thrilled over it. Three of the ones that came today were ladies from the settlements, doctors, preachers, etc. Not one of them has a machine. They make their youngest clothes with long adams all by hand. We are going to declare open house and let them come. I have access to our machines certain days of the week, their kids are so devoid of anything new that this is a big treat to them. I seem to carry a lot of the burden of the teaching. It comes as second nature of course and none of the other missionaries seem to know much about machines. I can make most anything go after working in so many sewing laboratories. We are going to start a clothing division soon too. Don't know how to go about financing it. Guess it will all have to be demonstrations at first. Child feeding is what they need to know more than anything else, especially at weaning time.

I am getting to like this. This is a lot. She is more like me than anyone here. We play tennis together and have our parties for Chinese guests together etc. We manage to get quite a kick out of life. Come to visit us some year. How I'd love to have your. I'll write the rest on pictures.