Dear Florence Ann,

Here we are down the river over again to attend our Annual Convention, buy shoes, visit the dentist and so on. It seems fine to be back & indulging once again. Your picture arrived just a few days before I left and I surely did enjoy it. I think it is one of the best ones I have ever seen of you. You surely ought to find a job with it to help you. & take another job, I mean. Why shouldn't you, anyway, one of the ladies at the Spring Conference and everything! I am so proud of you. Muriel said in one of her letters that Miss M. said you were doing splendid work. It didn't surprise me any. I could tell that from your letters. It is your furniture rejuvenation class entirely original with you. It sounds mighty clever to me. Not everyone would be smart enough to teach it, let alone invent it. I wonder what kind of a course you plan for 10th & 11th. That certainly is a much needed piece of work. How I should love to have you here helping me get something started in our girls' school or to help in the Woman's Community Center here. I'll bet you'd enjoy teaching up north and would get a lot more money too. Muriel certainly seems to like Duluth.

Thanks for your page of nursery pictures. I got several inspirations. Next year I hope to have several things made...
Yes, I read *Babbit* just before I came to China. It disgusted me, as you say, but still I remember it plainly and have to admit that it is very typical. Min is full of *Babbit*. We read a novel a while back, "The Able McLaughlin," by Margaret Wilson. It has an 1860 setting and was awfully clever in spots especially where the down old Scotch minister married a new bride from Scotland and she proved too much for him. You want to hunts it up. I am trying to elevate my literary tastes a bit. I find that I really can appreciate almost everything in the Atlantic if I just keep at it a bit, but that it is time well spent. Doug will sit still for hours & hours if I will read to him. So we read together lots. Someone sent me the Atlantic last year. I never could find out who it was, but we have enjoyed it a lot and I mean to use some of my Christmas money next year and get it again. Sums to me this: American and English are getting a little more pop corn each year. Maybe it's because I am old & married and my reading time is so precious that I have to budget it, and I try not to waste it. I like the way we do in euchre. When we get together for a dinner party we are quite apt to spend the evening reading together & this discusses it. It is the only way we can keep up with what is going on in the world.

I am worried about Phyllie today. She woke up this morning, vomited her breakfast and then we discovered she had a cold. So I have kept her in bed all day. She alights + doges + drinks water. She has had two other spells like this, intestinal disturbances. Doug calls them - all she needs is a dose of colonid + castor oil and an enema or so and she is all right in a day or two. It always worries me this to see her so dirty. She lets me do what ever I please with her and that's my own baby at all. I hope
the change in food bothered her, as she has had her
prunes and spinach every day, but a little kids intestinal tract
is so easily disturbed.

I have not made the dress you sent me yet - I am waiting
to see if the pattern won't still be mailing along. I
don't have a new pattern for three years! Isn't that scandalous?
I wrote to Bely for some a while back - so maybe she'll have
sent one that will arrive soon. I am enjoying hosting and
readings that I set at church + community center etc.
New clothes and hats! I see at church + community center etc.
My new venture is forming ideas as I am this spring.
I had a new experience on my trip down river.
We are only a little over a hundred miles away, but now
there is no water in the river except a scant three or
four feet. So it took us five days to get here, a trip that should
come in as many hours if we had a road.
First we started out on a small sail boat with a crew of
three men to get us over the lake to Chris Shinn's where
we could get on the launch. The sail boat was tiny -
we could only get on the launch. The sail boat was tiny -
only a small cabin - it was floored with wooden
boards that exploded as beyond endurance and one
of our jiggers wore a pair of boiling water + burned my
knee badly - it had no partitions - so we had to hang
a sheet between us and the boatmen in their tiny kitchen + bunk. Then we hung another sheet between us + the ankle
when we slept - and when we needed a toilet we
dropped a sheet across one corner + got in behind and
used Nelly's Annie's little privy. Oh, it was some life
and there were stayed for three days in those four
square feet of space, sleep + eat + read - we got
outside onto the deck sometimes but it was also very small and the men had to be walking up and down it to get us along. We sampied out all potato salad, fruits, and Graham bread and canned Spanish etc. It took a lot of careful planning and packing to get enough for each day trip. Polly's got awful tired of sitting in the tiny room as Doug would tell her about her and let her walk on the deck. If the water was deep enough the boat men would slide us sometimes they got off and walked on the floor path and pulled us. Then Thursday we had a good wind some moved the sides and got across the lake by the middle of the afternoon. Ah Chow Shing and some transferred to the launch that was even more tight. It was jammed full of people. They put us in a tiny cabin with two narrow benches. Doug and I had to climb head and tails and much did the same with the ladies. The chicken were packed in like sanding shown in laying at all over the deck. They smother all night and kept pounding the sides out of their paper. As sounded just like some one knocking on a door. But the noise was little compared to the noise of the forest thunder and the yells of the boat men arguing with a fat rich man for the door - Our friends Mr. and Mrs. Clappin take us in that night. It was so grand to have a bath and stretch out in a big bed once more. Then the next day wee came down the Yangtze on a big steamer and felt like the poor missionaries we are with our wrinkled clothes and washed shoes.

Now I am enjoying Nanking - going to foreign church, buying some new things. I even got me a new hat at the woman's club saloon - a brown mourning - off they got out a new bunch every spring. They look good too but may be a year old for all I know.

Well, I'll stick in a picture or so. Hope you can
May 14, 1925.

Dear Florence Ann,

Here I have had two letters from you since I came back from Hankow. It makes them seem grand and near together because one had to wait a week for me to come back.

There is so much to say. Where shall I start? No, I don’t like the bangs I had in that picture either. It was the first time the barber cut the bangs when we back was turned to short & too straight. They are some what improved at present. I had ched my part on the side for six months and so I parted fora
change, so I tried large and a semi-
ship's behind, just for variety's sake,
I guess. This way saves a lot of fog
and fuss, but as Doug says, "if I want
to be without any fog at all I can eat
it like this." Skull's permanent looks
so pretty. Now I'd love to have one.
But then I suppose I'd prefer for
something else.

Your miss to the last letter spoke
not having a letter from me for
over two months. China's mail system
is most unsatisfactory. Lately since our
river has dried up and the launchers
can't run our mail has all been
carried overland by coolies - one
bag stretched on a pole between two men
or often women. Our letters have
been two weeks coming up from
Shanghai and packages even

distressingly slow - I sent a movie film to Nanking - a Baby Welfare one that I had rented out. They were left in line for and allowed five days for its travel and it took it almost three weeks. In fact, it was due the 12th and it arrived the 25th - just a day before I got there for connection. That is just typical of Chinese courtesies - the heavy things wait until they get ready to carry them. Then there is another thing that sometimes happens. Helen Payne in Nanking just told me how unusual for a cook of theirs who mailed their letters, soaked off the stamps and their folks didn't hear for three months or more. I don't think
my cook would have to pull that stunt, but I am just telling you so that you can make allowances.

It is really hard to find time for letter writing. I don't know why it should be, but the life out here is strenuous. Someone is always wanting you to do something for them, or there is a party or the Bible woman arrives and I realize it is my turn to go calling with her.

I am really getting acquainted in our church now and am trying to reorganize ours. Children's department and get the graded classes started. They have been translated into Chinese and the system works well out here. I saw some fine S.S. in Hanking while I was down at Convention and was inspired to come home.
and try it here. But it will mean lots of work with my teacher as well as weekly meetings for the teachers at least.

This June afternoon we have much fun with our Mother's Club meetings. We have quite a good sized group of Chinese women who can run our sewing machines now and they just love it! They make their own clothes in half the time. The last few meetings we have been cooking too - and it is so much fun to learn to make the Chinese dishes. I hope I shall be able to come home to America and cook a Chinese meal. We have great hopes of
extending the scope of usefulness of this
mother club so that next year they
can pass on what they have learned
to the poorer uneducated women
in our church. Child feeding I hold
as my especial aim. There is nothing
the woman of China needs so much as
and some information about birth control.

Speaking of regulation of families my
next door neighbor who was the
subject of my dissertation last fall is
going to have another baby. She just
told me last week. One or a year that
their record – and they haven't wanted
any of the last three. And he is a doctor.
I can't see why he can't get some
information that works. Six youngsters
this makes and Mabel is a nervous
wreck now. I can't come to any one
here about it as I am talking to you on paper. Mildred says that nothing she does is effective. But that just means they do not have a good method. I tell Song he should educate his husband but he says it's none of his business. And as far as I know, I suppose. Her husband is German, crusty in disposition and no one can get there has seemed time for him, chiefly because he is not nice to his wife.

Oh, it's a funny old world isn't it? I have been waiting for three months to get a brother or sister on the way for Phyllis but haven't succeeded. Two months ago I got as far as to have my grandmother a week late but then
I got too ambitious and carried Phyllis up stairs when I should have let her walk herself on her old fat legs and the old lady promptly arrived last month I did not want one because his birthday would come just at Xmas and I really don’t think it’s fair to ask them so near together. Today gma arrived again much to my disgust I hoped I had kissed her goodbye for the next year & a half. So you see Phyllis is like I tried to stir things up. I have heard lots of the married ladies say that its hard to find habits out here. The old stock loses the way I guess.
I have been running a tailor shop this last week and it's lots of fun. Three of us share one tailor and just now he is dedicated to the three women who are going home on furlough. They are rushed to death packing. I have made my guest room into a tailor shop and I help plan, cut, fit and watch the tailor and the girls come for fittings. It has taken a load off their shoulders and it allows to be the most practical way for me to help them. I can do it.
sort of and consciously after teaching
my Dayton church, and if I do say
it, as shouldn't some of the things
I turn out don't look a bit as
this they were made in China.
We used the Vogue pattern you sent
for one of Mrs. Zing's traveling hoplite
dresses and she is just crazy about it.
It fits so nicely and the godets
are such clever little additions
to give distinction to the dress. I
have not made my dress yet I
am waiting until the rush is over.
I will try to remember to send a sample.
The dark brown they sent seemed a good
color - I'll use it to trim some
thing for Meddy with. This tailor is
the nicest man. He is big & tall and dark - isn't the type you'd think would take to sewing but he does it very carefully. Grade A work almost always. It's not hard to teach him new articles either. Oh! I know you'd just glory in him and he only cost 45¢ per day. We think we'll raise him to 50¢ next year. He can make the best looking men's shirts - you send me a pattern that fits you and I'll have him make a small dress for you next winter. What do you say?
a soft grey figured silk or a dull blughy thelce silks are a dream.
I'll send you some samples some day.

Guess I haven't told you about our trip back from Connecticut. We got along swell until the last day, then when we got within 35 miles about thirteen miles from home the river just disappeared and our sail boat could go no further and there we were—so far from home, thin, hungry, dirty as pigs and with thirty-five big boxes of groceries and tanks of alcohol etc. to get to Luxembourg and no means of conveyance except to hire cobs to carry.
them with their campaign poles.
of course all the farmers in the
country flocked in when they
heard about it and it took along
all afternoon to haggle price
and get them started off. I got
ugly before night - such rafts of
people crowding about us & pulling
at our clothes & trying to prise off
Phyllis & the prospect of the long
mile walk didn't please me either.

Finally Mr. Chi, one of our nice
teachers came along and said he would
hire a chair and send it back for me.
so after we had walked a couple
smile we met the chair coming back. So thinly Phyllis and I rode. First time I had been in a Sedan Chair. It really is quite a springy and comfy but they scare me to death the way they turn corners and lean me extended out over a nice field. In several places we saw big fields of opium - huge big plots such as Edinburg poppies. a gorgeous sight - but the curse of China. Its growth is successfully prohibited in several provinces now. But to go back to my chair. We stopped at a lovely side lunch counter and ate three nice and hearty and drank scalding tea. I gave Yao s a chance to ride while the time to home ward
We plodded on a narrow little road
in between fields of wheat & rice puddles
waiting for rain. The moon came up
full and so it was cool & pretty and
quite good smelling in spots. But we
walked & walked & walked. About
nine we got to the East Gate and
found a big bunch of our enemies
waiting. The gate was shut! and a
cranky bunch of soldiers wouldn’t let
us in. However, after much arguing
we finally got in and found our
rooms were pretty good. It is so
new and clean and pretty, the garden
had grown beautifully and my
servants had everything ready for us. Good hot tomato soup and lovely bread, lettuce and a big tank of hot water for baths.

Oh! it was grand to be back!

I am having just the most fun planning my garden flowers. Almost every thing Mother didn't want grew. The seedling dahlias are just coming fine and even the tiny gladiolus seeds came. I have some gladiolus bulbs that came from a Cal seed house. They are almost ready to blossom. These kind of bulbs can stay in all winter here.

My! what wouldn't I give to have you keep landscape this yard. It needs it most dreadfully. I am studying my new H. & G. They make a grand story of nephews. Well, I must write to Sally.

I love you, gran.
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GRACE S. CORPRON
LUCHOWFU, ANHWEI, CHINA

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Speaking of regulation of family—my next door neighbor who was the subject of my dissertation last fall is going to have another baby. She just told me last week. On a year that their record. And they haven’t wanted any of the last three. And he is a doctor. I can’t see why he can’t get some information that works. Six year six this makes and Mabel is a nervous wreck now. I can’t come to any one.
The actual idea I am thinking to try to do...

For him, it is a funny idea to me. For three minutes, he
left the room without me. The man with his friend,
and me and my wife, because he is not mine.

I am sorry for what I say. But I feel that means they do
not have a great method. After all,...
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I love you.
Luchowfu, Anhwei, May 27, 1926.

Dear Dad and Mother,

I will send this to you, papa, and after you have read it please forward it to Mama in Shanghai.

I'm so busy as a hen with chicks for Vierling has left for his six weeks at the sea shore, and I have many things to see to. I have my eye clinic every morning, rounds, chapel, the surgery three afternoons a week, and doing Vierling's work as station treasurer. In a few weeks Miss Parker on hospital business-secretary is leaving for furlough so I will have her work on top of all this, which includes keeping books, receiving fees, keeping track of the hospital kitchen, buying supplies, servants' wages, etc. But I will be over about the time
you get this letter and I'll be on my way to the sea shore for a six weeks recess.

We are engaging a cottage, together with the Goebbes', at Hairchow (translated is Ocean mountain) where there is both ocean swimming and mountain climbing. It is in northern part of Kiangsu Province (This is Hankou in capital) near the Chang Tong border. It is near the city of Hairchow which should be on a large map of China if you look it up. (in the literary digest atlas you won't see the city of Hairchow is called just Hair.) It is a little mouth of where the old mouth of the Yellow is.

Our mail will be forwarded from Hankow for. Don't try to send elsewhere.

Mr. Goebbes has to go to a conference in Hankow the first week in July. It will take his family to France.
Plights come up to this season at this time, I will be here about three weeks longer before leaving. We can go all the way by boat now. From Tientsin we can now go to Chowkein by sailboat, Chowkein to Wuhan by launch; Wuhan to Shanghai by river boat; Shanghai to Hai-hou by coast steamer. It takes a week or a little more to get there. We will have a month or the season to two weeks in the way.

We are well & happy in our work.

Love,

Douglas.

P.S. Will you do me a big favor? We have been unable to play our Edison record all winter because the sapphire point needle was broken. Will you get me a two for us from Bradbury's, please? It's a sapphire point for me or others than Edison Phonographs.