Jan 31, 1930

Dear Mac & Mother -

Dozy got off a letter last week in which I meant to join him. Now this must go also.

First I must say thank you for your Christmas package. I needed the stockings badly and so did Dozy and I always love nip tubes. Sonnie dog was a great curiosity - I tied a string on it for him and he had great fun dragging it about. It lasted about his work and then fell apart from constant exposure. Our Christmas would have been pretty slim without your for right.

We have waited a month now and still no package. I heard of about that on the way. Hope the Bandits don't grab them.
We have had warm weather for the last three days and it begins to look as if the river and lake would open up soon. Right now we're waiting for the mail carrier to come. We are all busy celebrating Chinese New Year.

Yesterday was the first day we've been kept entertained by firecrackers. Off we all went at dawn to celebrate the New Year. My cousin had gone home to celebrate. I went to the temple and saw the firecrackers. I gave或 a bowl of rice dumplings, which is the proper thing to eat on New Year's morning. But before we could sit down here came groups of students and guests and we were busy passing tea and pastries. It was a busy day with guests coming and going all day. We must have had seventy five or more. Today we have had quite a few to. Doug has gone out calling this afternoon with Mr. Grottin. Sue and I will take our turns next week.

We have a nice little dog as a new member of our family. A little brown Chow puppy. It was afraid when we first got it but after a few days it good food she begins to act like a real dog. Sonnie is thrilled over her.

Sonnie is all over his eiderdown and puts up a funny this week. He was all over this big yard with my amah's little girl Mary to play with him. Doug's Jean are here quite often too. Sonnie especially likes Doug. It is saying so many words now. I will try to write almost anything we say.
It sleeps twelve hours at night now and a nap in the middle of the day. He eats three meals a day - quite a spread, most of his time out doors - he is eighteen months now. He has shed diapers except at night and is quite a man.

When asked about things we left behind, I believe I wrote you that I'd like to have that big blue handled egg beater. Such things cannot be purchased here.

Don't let Don't call him atomic worry you too much. We are safe as long as we stay at home.

Now with warm weather coming on the bandits will calmdown too.

We are having a good time eating together every Sunday night and a family prayer meeting on Thursday. Last Tuesday we had a dance at party at Goodness - but, I fear especially for the children -

Write us often - love is secure here -
Feb 11, 1930

Dear Mother:

Your letter just came telling about your Christmas box. The silk one sent is Japanese. We got it on our way through. They made it up in dress patterns and we got the largest they make which included enough for all four. I am so sorry if you can not get a dress out of it. Styles are really changing. No hope of being able to get any more.
Dear - she has been nervous and easily tried this winter. I think with good weather when she can turn these out doors all day she'll be much better. Jean is as big as Sue almost and talks a streak - with a cute little Lisp - we are all helping teach Sonata. She is doing especially well at her music. Miss Williamson is such a good teacher.

Zoony is almost seventeen months old and is growing up so fast. He has an amazing amount of pep and runs about all day except for a nap from nine to two. He plays with my two little girls and is learning many Chinese sounds. We must say over twenty words now. Every day it is so odd another. We sit in his high chair...
and eats apples and pomegranate just like big folks. He eats any vegetables I give him and a quart of plasma. He has been feeding himself for a couple months. He loves Don's the most of the Gouette family and begins to talk about him as soon as we start.

If in their direction I got a delph blue zipped coat from Sears Roebuck in which he looks lovely. It only came last week but is a three year old size so that he can still wear it next year.

We are having vacation now on account of Chinese New Year. I wont have classes again till March. I enjoy the girl nurses they appreciate anything we do for them.

Our boat with the electric light plant is not here yet. We expect it any day now and all the next 1 or 2 Xmas presents. They'll be about in time for my birthday.
Dear Mother,

I have two of your letters before me to answer. And I note how much you are enjoying your radio. I'm so glad you have it. Mine is at present serving time at the churches here. This week it is at West Gate Church. Next week it will be at the Central church. The churches are very active in their community center work. They are in fact the only places for clean play and recreation in the city. They both now have play grounds for the children, and game and reading rooms for the adults and young men. And they have free day schools for children and free night schools for adults. West Gate now has a night school with over fifty carpenters enrolled. There are also Bible classes, cooking classes, sewing classes, child welfare classes, etc. Grace spends several mornings a week supervising a playground in the Women's Center, and is going to hold cooking classes for a few dozen of the better class women, and is helping with the child welfare work. This besides her regular charge of the children's department of over a hundred children each Sunday; and three English classes and dietetics classes a week for the student nurses in the hospital, and the full charge of all special diet cases in the hospital. Sonny is so regular in his habits and so healthy, and we have such a good man in Geo Sao Dze to help take care of him that she can do all these other things and still not over tax her strength too much. She is in fine health, and normal blood count; such good health, in fact, that we are attempting another addition to our family. She's now two months on the way. This means, of course, that Grace will gradually be letting up on some of her many duties.

I am very well too. I haven't been sick this winter. Not even a cold, though both Grace and Sonny had them. I am thanking the good condition of my nose to the work of Dr. Bine. I find my duties very exacting too. I have to keep up all hospital supplies, and every day I call upon class, transportation, at impossible as has been for the last three months. Now it is difficult because of the bandit raids upon all chimneys. I take my third of the large morning clinics; this month I am on Surgery; for we rotate each month. I spend an hour each morning, between chapel and ward rounds and the clinic time, with hospital business correspondence. As hospital treasurer I have to do that banking by mail. And up to next month I have been the Station Treasurer, paying all station bills, salaries, etc., and keeping that banking up, and making monthly reports to the Nanking Office for both accounts. Next month Mr. Goulter takes the Station Treasurer work over. I have installed and gotten working, our new electric plant. I have started the Dental Department, and have patients every morning clinic, and patients three or four afternoons by appointment for dental work. I help in the operating room one or two afternoons a week. I am slowly getting out last year's annual report of statistics; very difficult because of the poor records kept by the Chinese doctors. I am supervising the many and much needed repairs on all the buildings. I am reading as much medical literature as comes here to keep all of us posted medically. I am having the male students at our home for a Bible class every Tuesday night. I am on the Station Council and attend the business meetings. I teach the Students Sunday School Class every Sunday morning. I am developing our laboratory. And soon the X-ray will arrive and I will install and do that work. Aside from that and a few games of tennis each week...
punch of young folks as students in our hospital. She teaches them most of their English classes and the dietetics, and is taking charge of their Bible classes. She is getting real delight out of the contacts she is making. The pleasure is not all theirs.

The weather is warming up now. It may be that we will have our electric light plant up here in a few weeks. You know I had to leave it with two of our hospital coolies, at Chow Hsein, and come on home, because the weather turned cold and froze the boats in. I have about $2,000 gold worth of hospital goods on that sail boat. Here’s hoping bandits don’t try to carry it off. They wouldn’t get far with the light plant. It weighs over 1,000 pounds, but they might spoil it by carrying off parts. The other things are hardware, paint, sugar groceries, and dental equipment that I bought with the Flint money.

I wrote to the Flints before returning to Luchowfu, but not soon enough for him to know about it, telling them of the fact that I had used their $200 for dental equipment and that I was going to call the new department the Flint Dental Department.

The new arrangement, with the Chinese in charge, is not so ideal in other departments of the work here as it is with Dr. Chen and I in the hospital. The arrangement is fine in the hospital. But that is because Chen is so capable and ambitious and has a plan of work, which is not true of the Chinese evangelists. They seem not to have the faculty of planning a program. So they get very little done. They preach on Sunday and do their other routine duties; but they have no plan and are doing nothing toward reaching all the unchristian people in the district. It looks as if the "imperialistic" foreigner will have to step in and take back at least some of the running of the work. The laymen themselves are asking for it. But in the hospital it is different. Chen can do many of the things that I can’t do so well; and I on the other hand can do things that he can’t. As the superintendent, he can fulfill the contacts with official Luchowfu, and boss coolies better than I can. So we are both well satisfied with the present arrangement.

You sound quite happy with your little family to care for.

I have just been helping Dr. Chen with his job of Station Treasurer. He hates it, mostly because he can’t do it very well. I have just been straigtening out his accounts for the last year and getting his annual report in to the Nanking office. I am now teaching Fuyu to our staff, in preparation for the time when our equipment gets here and we get using it. I am repeating the course I had in New York. It is an excellent review for me. We are doing it evenings. Also I am now working on our hospital Annual Statistical report. It means going over and over the old charts and picking out the facts. It is the same stuff as I had on the little booklet I gave you. This is the light season for medical work so I am taking advantage of it.

We had a real kick, radiologically speaking, the night of Jan. 21st. We got the Naval Disarmament Conference in England over the air. Two days before I saw in a week old Shanghai newspaper that the Japanese stations were going to try to get the conference. But I didn’t get it through Japan. They didn’t seem to be able to get it. One tried
but got only a lot of buzzes. But when I tuned in to Radio Manila, England was on the air. The hook-up I got was London to Holland, Holland to Java, Java to Manila, and Manila to Luchowfu on the short waves. A few of the speeches were very distinct. Others were rotten. The best two were by the representative from India and the one from Japan. The King spoke while I was still fooling with Japan, so missed him. All of our missionaries were over for the show. Wenona gets the biggest radio kick of all of us.

We wish to say thank you for your Xmas box. It was the only one except one from Laura Lynn Major, that has come through yet. Yours got through just before the storm hit this district. Since then the first class mail has been carried overland rather irregularly, but not a bit of parcel post mail. Our hospital is out of many needed drugs because it is in the mail; probably at Chow Ksein with the light plant. We have had letters telling of the sending of other packages, not none have arrived. Thank you also for being thoughtful enough to get it in the mail early. Otherwise Grace would not have had a Xmas. As it was I was at Haskells so couldn't help her. I'll take it back about no other packages getting through. Bernice and John's came several weeks after Xmas. I don't know how it got through, though.

The radio is still a source of friend making. Last night we invited in seven Buddhist priests, perfect gentlemen, with many of the Christian virtues, although they wouldn't thank me for saying so. They were the highest priests of this district. We had as pleasant an evening as we could have had with any of our Christian Chinese friends. All were free to discuss any subject, religion included. Isn't this missionary work also. The walls of heathenism are breaking down.

Love,

Douglas
Dear Mother,

You certainly do tempt me with your invitations to motor over to Seattle with you. You are really spry to do it yourself. I suppose of course you will do it in two laps, with a stopover at Lake Meaditchus Inn.

We are all well. None of us have really been sick all winter. Sonny had a cold once for a few days. Grace is exceptionally well and doing heaps of missionary work. I have written you the long list of things she is carrying on. She is the only married woman in all of our China stations at this time that is doing anything except making a home and caring for kids. Viz. Mrs. Flopper is keeping house, helping her husband with some of the translation in the preparation of his lectures at the seminary, and teaching a Sunday School Class. Mrs. Goulter is sick most of the time since her near-nerveous break down and can only help care for her kids. Mrs. Bates is no longer teaching at Nanking College but is taking care of her little family. Mrs. Sorrel is only caring for her household. Mrs. Slater is a house keeper and baby tender and helps in the church music with her violin. Mrs. Frank Garret is at present not helping Mr. Marx in the office as she did a few months ago. Mrs. Marx is a semi-invalid and is only housekeeper. And thus it goes. But Grace is a housekeeper, hospital dietician, English teacher and dietetics teacher in the Nurses training school, in charge of the Junior Sunday School of from 100 to 200; teaches women's sewing classes once a week at the Women's Center; teaches cooking classes at the Women's Center two or three times a week. An average of five times a week some Chinese mother asks her about child feeding, and remarks about how husky Sonny is. Sonny certainly is a good add for her dietetics.

Famine conditions are being relieved a bit by a small wheat crop, which is just coming off. Banditry in this district is not so bad just now. Yesterday the launch came through to Luchowfu for the first time since a week after our arrival. This is due to the rising of the Yangtze due to melting snows in the west. So we will have no difficulty, we think, in getting out this year. I broke a part on my outboard motor and have to send to Honolulu for another. So may not get to use it until we get back from vacation. My new boat, which I am building is made, but I am putting galvanized tin on it for the lumber was poor and could not be made leak-proof. Next fall we will be using it for supplies, etc. between here and Wuhu.

We China missionaries have had what amounts to a raise in salary. We now get our money in Gold dollars instead of Mexican two-for-one as before. Now that gold is so high this helps us out greatly in local buying, but none in buying foreign goods of course. During the World war gold was cheaper than Mexican silver. When we came to China I think exchange was about gold $1 = $1.70 Mex. But at this time the U.C.M.S. gave us two for one. When we came to China this time exchange was about $1 = $2.15 Mex. Still we were getting only two for one. The last three months exchange has
gone bug house and gold $1 = $3.10 Mex. We asked for help very emphatically and got our salaries in gold and a bonus of gold $30 every three months. The folks in Nanking and Wuhu were desperate. They had to have help or quit within six months, because they were all borrowing money to live on. Viz. milk which we used to buy for $4.50 a case is now with the high gold exchange $20.00 a case. Also formerly we had to pay only 5% import duty on packages from America and at that occasionally got by without any duty on some parcels. Now we pay from 12½% to 22½% duty to the government beside local graft to a local tax ring of whatever the traffic will bear up to 2%. For instance, I got gold $75 worth of dental equipment from America. The Nanking government put an exchange valuation of Mex. $185.20 on it. Then took 12½% import duty or $11.17; $17.17 surtax, $5.73 transit dues; and $1.20 local graft. Counting what I had to pay for the original gold draft of $75 the package cost the Hospital Mex. $245.00.

We today know that we will probably go to Huling the first or second week of July. We have six weeks vacation.

Love to you all,

D. J. Cooper
Dearest Mother,

It must have been your blue Monday when you wrote the letter I just received. I had just been trying to give you some advice, as a doctor, in a most kindly way. I lived with you in New England and knew that occasionally, as we all do, you find something you especially like and you eat a little too much; that is it is too much for your stomach at this particular time in your life. But I see I made the mistake of using the perfectly harmless word, "intemperance" in referring to the slight dietary indiscretion, for it is so often associated with intemperance in liquor, when it really means slightly over doing anything as eating, drinking, sleeping, exercising, etc. So I take it all back in as kindly a way as the advice was meant to have been given. I can see I must be most careful hereafter in offering advice or suggestions, so as to avoid the appearances of criticism. I am so glad you are feeling so much better now.

We too are all well, and are trying to keep healthy by following the American Consuls orders, which came two days ago, to the effect that since the Nanking Government forces now fighting with rebels on the railroad are quite likely to suffer reverses, our district might in such an event be over run with disorganized soldiers, and that all Americans are therefore asked to get out of this district at once for "an early vacation". Mr. Gouler is taking both of our families down to Wuhan day after tomorrow. They will wait there until they get reservations on the British boats down to Shanghai and then up the coast to Tsingtao. I can't go for about three weeks yet for two reasons. Just now Wenona is quite sick and I have to stay on and care for her until she can be moved. Also, Dr. Chen has to go to Nanking to an Administrative Committee meeting in about another week and I have to stay with the hospital until he gets back.

Mr. Gouler will take the women and children up to Tsingtao and get them settled and then he too will have to return for the same meeting. After the meeting he will return to Louchowfu for July and then take his vacation at Tsingtao. I will have a month at Tsingtao. I am allowed six weeks altogether, and it takes a week or more each way.

This is the second evacuation I have had the inconvenience to find myself in in the last five months.

You make me "mouth-water" for another ride in your car every time you write and tell of the many trips you are taking and proposing to take. We did have some very good times in the Studio, and I hope it holds up until we come home again. But then you may have sold your land for several hundred thousand and be running a Packard.

We are almost having a money panic here in China because
silver is getting so cheap. Gold $1 now brings Mex. $4.02. That doesn't bother us personally because we now get our salaries in gold. But it is ruining the hospital which still gets its Mex. $9000 a year but has to buy drugs and other supplies in Shanghai at gold prices. It just means this,—that the usually adequate Mission Grant is so insufficient now that with the same care and same management we have gone Mex. $1000 in debt in three months.

No one is going to Kuling now, because of bandits and rebel soldiers in that region. All are heading for the sea shore where protection can be expected in time of trouble. We wanted to go to the seashore all the time, but know we couldn't afford it. Now we have to afford it if we go in debt for it. It may be we can take in a few boarders and help out some.

Love,

Douglas
Dearest Mother,

This is the last letter I'll be sending you for ten cents, for July first all postal charges to foreign countries will be raised 50%. The reason given for this is the high gold exchange.

I have had a wire from Wuhu saying the folks arrived there O.K. Then I have had two letters from Grace from the Missionary Home in Shenchow, saying all was well and that Sonny's eyes were fairly popping out of his head most of the time at all the new things he was seeing and doing. And that he has added "Oh, Boy" and "banana" to his vocabulary. She also said the Missionary Home was full of refugees and their children, and that Sonny was the healthiest and best developed youngster for his age in the place, with many to compare with.

They couldn't get passage on the coastwise boats for a week but Mr. Coulter went on ahead third class on a Jap boat $20 to look for a house. Last night I received a letter from him saying he had rented a downstairs apartment quite near the water for $300 for the season. He said everyone was going to Tientsin this year because it is one of the few comparatively safe places in China. And as a result houses are sky high. The only other two places he could find were $900 and $1050.

I'm not sure when I'll leave for my vacation. The famine conditions, with the resulting high cost and scarcity of food, and the inability of the people to stay long in the hospital; plus the high cost of hospital drugs and supplies due to the high gold exchange, have put the hospital $2000 in debt so far. When Dr. Chen gets back from the Nanjing meeting we have to decide whether we can keep open or not, and if we do how much. It may be that we will have to close up all but the clinic and discharge all of our staff except just enough to run that. This seems a terrible shame. For it has taken years to build up this organization, and train our own staff, and now that all is working like a top to have to break it up and later start all over is "just too bad". So my vacation, if I take any, may be somewhat delayed this year. I am in very good health though so it won't make much difference anyway. The important thing is to have Grace and Sonny out of this heat and germ infested, to say nothing of war infested and bandit infested district. I "One piecey person" can take care of myself here alright.

Mother, I'll admit it is difficult to do Christian work under such conditions as exist in this forsaken country today. With all the continual intrusions of bandit raids, war uprisings, anti foreign agitation continually confronting one, it is hard to keep a Christian Spirit through it all, and "show by our lives" that we are Christians, as we used to say in Christian Endeavor. "It's a great life if you don't weaken"; but that word "great" should be spelled "g-r-e-a-t" and it should be remarked that it grates on one's nerves "week'n and week out". The missionaries of China certainly need the prayers of the home folks now if ever that they may "keep the stiff upper" and not quit on the job, when that would be so easy to do, and go back to the ease and comforts of "law and order"; to a land where there is not so much "personal liberty" that government is anarchy. For that is what
you get, anarchy, when you have what the wet's ask for, "personal liberty" when you take personal liberty to help yourself to what you can get of whatever you can lay hands on that belongs to every other fellow and no strong government to tell you that personal liberty must confine itself to the good of the majority.

The Government troops are being defeated just north of us, as the American Consul feared when he ordered women and children to leave those parts a few weeks; and rumors have it that we may expect defeated soldiers thru here any time with victorious Northern soldiers after them.

Today soldiers came into the city from the west and tried to occupy Goulter's vacant house. I got them out of the yard today but I don't know how long I will be able to keep them out. They grab anything not being lived in for barracks. And how they do misuse a place! The mission has just put in about $600 in repairs on that house, following its occupancy by soldiers during the Revolution, so that the Goulter's could live in it again. Goulter will be here again in two or three days, so if I can keep them out until then he may be able to make it look enough "lived in" to hold it.

You may be interested in the bit of news, that Florence Ann Clough, Grace's old chum is about to get married. She is having a real romance, and as she says herself "there is none like an old -----

Today I held my last Sunday School class before the summer vacation. I have had a fine, interested group of young men coming very regularly. They were students of the several schools of the city. They have been handing in questions, and I have been answering them using, so far as possible, the Parables of Jesus to find the answers. For instance, one question was, "How do I know when I am a Christian, and what are the characteristics of a Christian?" I answered the latter part of the question by lessons from parables, as Luke 14:7-11 and Luke 15:9-14 for Humility; Luke 7:40-49 and Matt. 18:21-35 for a Forgiving Spirit; Luke 10:25-37 for true Neighbourliness; Luke 16:19-31 for a Sympathetic Heart, etc. down the line of characteristics of a Christian and his relations to those about him. I have also had the questions asked, "What is God like?" and "What is the relationship, if any, of Christianity to The Three Principles of the People as given by Dr. Sun Yat Sen. Such questions as the later are given with the idea of involving Christianity in opposition to China's most recent idol and his political doctrines.

I hope you are missing hay fever this year. I wonder if you took your proposed auto trip to Seattle.

Love,

Douglas.
Dear Friends:

We arrived back in Luchowfu last October and found a true welcome and a real demand for all the help we could give our Chinese friends. It was a difficult winter for the hospital financially. On account of near famine conditions which prevailed throughout our dis-

tric area, the people were too poor to come in to the hospital. That does not mean that we had no sick folks. Our sixty beds were full most of the time and our clinic averaged a couple hundred people most of the time. But we were faced with the knowledge that many of the cases were having to borrow money or sell their possessions to pay their bills and that many hundreds more would be in the clinic if they could even afford the ten coppers registration fee. There was an epidemic of spinal meningitis around Christmas time. We had a good many of the cases, soldiers very largey—and cured a good many. But as you all know, Chinese soldiers are poor pay. We finally succeeded through their commander in collecting about half they owed us.

In spite of the many difficulties our new electric light plant was installed and the X-Ray purchased. It was in Shanghai ready to be shipped and Doug was hoping to get it set up before he left for the summer. I'll let him write next month's letter and tell you more about his problems. The chief one is the fact that with the gradual withdrawal of Rockefeller funds we are trying to make ours a self supporting institution and in a land as poor as China it's not easy.

My personal work this winter was largely concerned with teaching our twenty hospital nurses—twelve boys and eight girls. They all asked me to teach their English classes, which filled my afternoons full. Also I had a Dietetics class for the Seniors. It was a difficult problem. They have no background and I had not enough language. So it went slowly. I worked through my personal teacher, who is a graduate of Nanking University and speaks pretty fair English. So he translated my lectures and got out the mimeograph material. I succeeded in getting a very nice diet kitchen equipped and found the students to be very good cooks.

Then twice a week in the evenings we had open house for our students, the boys on Tuesday and the girls on Saturday. We have not quite arrived at the place where we try having them together for parties, although it will come. It works all right to put them together for classes but China is conservative and things move slowly. Mr. Coulter came on Tuesdays and led the boys in a discussion group and then the second hour Doug led them in games and I provided a generous supply of tea and peanuts and cookies and cakes. They love our foreign desserts. Our girls' class on Saturday was much the same. Miss Teagarden taught them the life of Paul and we all joined in games and stunts afterwards. One of our chief means of helping the young folks is to take them into our home. Doug has shared his radio all winter with the boys. The girls have loved to come over after supper and see Sonny splash in his bath tub and then be tucked away in his white bed.

Besides the hospital work I have tried to help all I can at the women's center. Miss Major is not back yet so we have all tried to do a share of her work. Early in the fall Lyrel Teagarden and I
worked out an organization and succeeded in getting the Playground
work started again. Most of the original equipment which was given
as a memorial for Laura Lynn's mother was still good. All we needed
to do was buy new rope and swing boards, fill up the sand boxes, get
the timer to make some cheap buckets and shovels and the carpenter
to repair the lawn swing and small rocking horses. We were swamped
with children immediately and later in the year the Chinese pastors
got interested and established playgrounds for boys, both at Central
Church and West Gate. That relieved our congestion so that now at
the women's center we only admit girls and very small children.

We have a good Sunday School for them with a group of young
mothers as teachers. They have been very faithful as helpers all
winter. I have been so proud of them. Hope next year to get a good
training class going. They are well educated women, mostly doctors'
or teachers' wives, but have had no especial training in children's
work.

One other thing I taught this spring was a class in foreign
cooking at the woman's center. Our women were all crazy to learn how
to bake. So I, in cooperation with our clever timer, worked out
some cheap ovens which baked nicely over the peppy Primus kerosene
stove. I wish I had kept count of the number of sponge cakes I
helped bake. That was most popular of all. Also we made many kinds
of cookies, and later when rice got so expensive we made many kinds
of muffins and baking powder breads. Our women are coming to realize
that they eat rice too much and are interested to learn new ways to
use wheat and corn. It was one of the most popular classes at the
women's center and attracted several outside women as well as our
church folks, so I felt repaid for the many hours of hard work I put
in it. A cooking class is never easy to teach for it requires such
close supervision.

Now I must tell you about Menhilosheth, the little orphan boy we
have been caring for this spring. Lyrel Teagarden named him that
because he was lame in both his feet. We call him Fibby for short.
About three months ago he was abandoned at our hospital gate one night.
A Chinese woman discovered him early in the morning lying on the flag
stones with a big friendly dog licking his face. He was quite well
dressed with padded clothes so that he was not fatally chilled as
cast-away babies usually are. She found he was hungry and could nurse
so she took him home. She had four sons of her own and was too poor
to keep him so she brought him to us to see and also over to the girls'
home. Misses Wilkinson, Teagarden and Collins live together at the
school. We were all rather afraid to tackle the proposition at first.
We thought his parents might be found or some Chinese family who wanted
a son. But no one wanted him because his little feet had been burned
and one was drawn up by the scar so that it looked like a club foot.
He seemed about a year old, had two teeth, an intelligent little face
with big black eyes, but he was almost starved to death—thin little
skeloton hands and a big pot belly, so typical of rickets—very bad
case. In spite of being sick he would smile and act so friendly and
quite won the girls' hearts. So the three of them decided to adopt
him as a joint son, share in the expense of raising him. At first he
had to be placed in the hospital for expert feeding and care. That's
where I had my chance at mothering him. Miss Hahn, our capable head
nurse, was away in Peking, taking a Post Graduate course and our young
girl nurses had to be taught all the details of caring for him. It
was wonderful experience for them. The usual baby case only stays a few days and then a couple servants attend it. But with Fibby we had full sway. He only weighed 11 1/2 pounds when he entered the hospital—just skin and bones—a big head and a huge abdomen. We started him in on sun baths, cod liver oil, spinach, egg yolk and tinned milk and he began to gain amazingly. When I left three weeks ago he weighed fifteen pounds. The nurses took turns so that they all learned to bathe and feed him and all learned to love him and be proud of him. We made him a regular project in my diet class and the Seniors will surely all recognize rickets and know how to treat it hereafter. After he began to get well and his flesh was firmer, the doctors did an operation on his feet and straightened them out, putting skin grafts over the scars. They healed nicely and as far as we can tell now he will be able to walk quite as well as any one. He is getting peppy and persisted in pulling the bandage off his leg the last week I was there. He is a happy, loved, baby boy now and will be brought up to be a useful member of our Christian community. I shall be so interested to see what progress he has made by the time I return in September. I think we'll have to adopt another for our hospital students to care for. Fibby won't be sick much longer and Miss Teagarden is going to leave him with her Bible woman this summer.

I have not heard from Luchowfu for over three weeks. We left sooner than we expected because the American consul advised us. There is civil war, both north and south of us and danger of disorderly soldiers over-running the country. Everything seemed so peaceful and our yards were full of flowers and the gardens furnished us with almost everything we needed to eat. I shed several tears over having to leave. That's one of the hard things we have to face in China. The constant menace of civil war and the danger of losing our homes just after we had them nicely established again. Since Kuling was also declared unsafe we decided to come here, even though we knew it would be crowded with refugees. We came trusting the Lord would help us find a place, which He did. We are out at Iltus Hak which is a missionary community now. Many new houses being built. We have a ground floor apartment in a lovely new home—three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, toilet and shower room—everything modern. By putting all the children in the big bedroom it has room enough for both the Corpron and Goulter families. We brought two servants and are very comfortable. The children play out all day. We are on the beach and greatly enjoy sun baths and swimming. We'd be perfectly happy if we were not worried about the conditions at home and the separations from our husbands. Mr. Goulter brought us all up and then went back. Miss Wilkinson was quite ill with typhoid fever when we left. We do so want to know how she is. Dous had no address to write to till we got here and found a place, so we have had no mail for weeks. Ought to hear in a few days now.

Douglas Ogden—usually called Sonny—is a big boy—22 months now—quite grown up. He is learning to talk so fast, especially now that he is with Doris and Jean all the time. He shows signs of being his father's son. The other day he climbed way to the top of a twenty foot ladder while we had our backs turned—not a bit afraid. His mother was the one who was scared. I thought the cook would never get him down. I suppose that's just a fair sample of being the mother of a real boy.

I must close now. To be continued next month. This will give you a little idea of the life of a busy missionary's wife.

Best wishes to you all,
(Signed) Grace S. Corpron. (Mrs. Douglas Corpron)
Dearest Mother,

I’m so glad for you that you and Mrs. Van Tress have made your decision to get an apartment together. It will be nice for both of you. Now again I will have a home to return to. I haven’t had a home in America since 17 No. Third St, became a bootlegger’s home. Mae and the children will miss you, but time always smooths out such things some what.

I continue to be monotonously well in spite of the heat. I sit here now with a towel on my lap mopping my face between sentences. Dr. Chen is back from the Hankow meeting so I am free to go at any time. But I still have some things to settle before leaving, and I will move all the furniture up into the attic too, so that if the war or communists come here in my absence (which is quite possible) that will be done and I might not lose so many things. Living in China these days has its certainties, We never know how long we will be able to stay in any one place; and when we leave we may be saying goodbye to anything left behind. So I am taking all I can out in trunks and storing them at Wuhan on the river, where they can be gotten at in case it is necessary, put on a foreign river boat and sent to Shanghai and safety.

Grace and Sonny are enjoying ocean swimming at Tsingtau. Their address is No. 8, 1st Taiping Road, Itus Huk, Tsingtau, Shantung. If you write the day you get this you can just get one letter to me there before we leave for our return to Luchowfu. Sonny is certainly keeping Grace on the jump tagging his husky legs. He never sits still, but climbs all over the rocks on the beach. Grace says he takes after me in that he likes to climb into the most dangerous places. One day before he left here, he climbed halfway up a 25-foot ladder before Grace found him. He wasn’t a bit afraid of the ocean; in fact he isn’t afraid of anything that I know. As soon as they first went down to the beach below the house they have rented he walked right out into the surf and sat down with his clothes on. I will take some pictures when I get there. I haven’t had films here before, but will get some as I pass through S Shanghai.

Communists are getting strong in this district. A communist army has charge of several cities about forty miles from here. Forty miles doesn’t sound very far to you in America with your good roads and cars. But forty miles here is actually about as far away as Seattle is from Yakima here in China. So it could be possible that they would invade this city and that we might not be able to return for some time this fall. Isn’t that a sweet life to live. But I’m no quitter.

In your paper on “What Missions has done for China” you might develop the idea somewhat in part of the paper, that missions has been a big factor in bringing about the present revolution in religion, economics, and customs. Also in industry. If the missionary had not come to China with the teachings of Christ that all men count in God’s sight, and that all men have a right to his share of this world’s good things; and has made the Chinese dissatisfied with his heathen religions and want something better, these things probably would not be now in revolution. If missionaries had not introduced Western
education the present Nanking leaders in politics probably would not have had a desire for a foreign education and therefore returned to China to do their part to try to modernize China. Of course, when a civilization as long standing as this one starts to change there is a great mess of things for some time. We are now in that mess and it is a mess. But we missionaries are to a great extent responsible for it, whether we would want to admit it or not. There is a good article in the March 1830 Harpers Magazine on "The Death of Chinese Civilization" by Nathaniel Peffer, which is very good and gives a very true idea of the present state of things and a guess at the future. Get this from the library and study it. Part 7 is especially good statement of what China now is. China is much different from the China we left during the revolution. It is even much different to the China we came back to six months ago. Of course we are most impressed by the immediate dangers and disturbances right around us so that it is often difficult for us to get a broad perspective of the whole country and its condition and future.

If I find anything from time to time that might help you with your paper I will tell you where to find it.

Love,

Douglas
July 17, 1930

Dear Mother,

I arrived at Shanghai at midnight last night, having made the fastest trip I have ever made for the journey. Three days only left to work on the launch. Monday 8 A.M., arrived at Wuhan. Tuesday 3 P.M., left Wuhan and a small steam launch (because it's much cheaper than the large river boat) at 8 A.M. Wednesday (yesterday), arrived at Hankow at 2 P.M. From there found myself baggage for the river to the depot and
left Shanghai third class (a box car with bunks) at 4:30 P.M.; arrived in Shanghai in 19 hours and 46 minutes. I had a great time and a wonderful chance to see the sights. I'm glad to be back at such a grand time! I believe I can tell you Saturday day after tomorrow. I'm looking forward to taking the S.S. Teaneck third class ($12 instead of $45 first class) and arriving at Tientsin, Sunday evening.
This A.M. I did some hospital shopping and got a battery shop working on my radio battery which I broke inadvertent dropped and damaged. Sales found out that the X-ray is all ready Tuesday when I give them word. Sales put Papa's watch in the repair shop. The watch dropped out of my pants pocket once last week when she moved the pants. I gave away a battle at the start lost a half hour.
is usually the case, although she did not lose weight which she did.

This afternoon I went to the Number 9 Theater for a movie. It is a new theater and is refrigerated. Really too cool. I had a chill when I first went in - 85° outside and 76° inside.

After the show, Wenona treated her doctor for a nurse to ice cream and Coca-Cola. Tonight
we are going out to one of the parks to hear the Municipal Symphony in a free concert.

Mr. Doull stayed in London to talk business with Mr. Shaw. He will be here tomorrow, probably not much longer.

We are all well.

Love,

Douglas
Taingtau, Shantung, China,  
July 30, 1930.

Dearest Mother,

I have one glorious week by the sea. The first few days weren't so glorious, I'll have to admit; for I got one terrible sun burn that even put me in bed with a fever for one day. But now that little necessity is over and I am in the water or on the water with the little folding boat almost all day long. We have rented the downstairs of the house with the very best view of the sea in this part of the shore line. And it takes only about thirty steps from our door to the waters edge. A great improvement over the arrangement of last year on Puget Sound. We are a bit crowded with both families here all at once; but the weather is fine now and we are in the house all at one time very little of the time. Grace and I have spoken for the same place for next year. They will be asking more for it next year, for we got it too cheap this year as rents go here. This year we are paying Mex. $300. Next year it no doubt will be $400. Our part of the rent this year is only $100 so we really are getting off easy. Because we are doubling up this and are travelling steerage whenever possible we are not going behind financially this year as we have every year before. The plan for next year is that Grace comes here with the two children about June 15th and open up the house. We will try to get two sets of single ladies to board and room with us and that way can get our own rent paid for over and above the cost of the food, and still give it to them cheaper than they can get it any place else here. We will try to get Margaret Lawrence Miss Wilkinson, Miss Collins, Miss Tremaine and others we like to come with us. I will get my vacation the last half of the time. This will give Grace about two and a half months of the sea. Of course this depends on her health somewhat, and whether she will be able to boss the cook and amah in doing the work.

My it has been good to get away from bandits and rumors of bandits. I haven't thought of such dangers for two weeks now. That part of a vacation here is worth more than even the swimming. Therein lies the real rest. Physically I was in good condition before I came on vacation this year, but mentally I needed the rest.

There is a circus in town today. We are taking all of the kids to see it this afternoon. The other day Sonny and went down and saw the elephants when they came to town. He got a lot of kick out of having the baby elephant take peanuts out of his hands with its long trunk.

I am enclosing the first pictures I have taken in months. /This was because I had no films at Tuchowfu, also because films are so expensive now. I have to pay Mex. $2 a roll of six exposures. Prints here cost 20 cents each to make so that the first set of six prints cost $3.20.  

I am making my letters to you shorter but more frequent.

Love,