June 2, 1932

Dear Mother Corpron—

This is to thank you for all our fine X’mas presents. Your books surely were generous and everything is so suitable. I think I was more pleased over the kiddies shoes than anything I received myself. They fit well and are just what they needed. I found a pair like someone in Shanghai and they cost over twenty dollars in our money. His little white looks just like him to and will be fine for spring and our Haragtao trip.
It was the happiest Christmas we have had in four years. With two babies to enjoy their gifts. It takes children to make a real Christmas. Douglas Ogden talked about it for a month ahead of time and enjoyed helping wrap gifts for others—especially Doctor Jones.

He now knows that it is all over and will have to wait so long for another. I wrote all about the various festivities in a letter I sent to the Society in April as it eventually. My days are so busy, it is hard to find time for letters. (minor)

I gave some lessons today; take them examinations next week and that will lighten my teaching schedule. We are only going to take girls after this.
Wish you could see our Ruth. She is getting so fat and cute. She is eating and sleeping better now than she ever did before and is so happy. She has two big copper dumphs and such pretty big brown eyes. She is about all the entertainment we need—she is always doing something funny to make us all laugh. So say she play hide and seek and play together nicely in the same pile. Of course, some limit he places on her. He would not let his father son other wise—We are having a big New Year's Meeting at the church and I must be off. Thank you so much.
Dearest Mother,

How do you like this letter head paper. It was given to me for a Christmas present by one of my Chinese doctors.

I want to thank you many times for the many presents you sent us. The shirt you sent to me is very nearly the same shade of color as the one Bernice sent. The tie and wool socks were welcome additions to my small stock of clothing. We all were most fortunate this year in getting a nice supply of very useful and pretty articles of clothing.

I hope your jade pin arrived alright. I'd like to see you wearing it. I like it very much. Perhaps because I picked the stone out and then had the pin made to order.

We are all very well. and enjoying each other so much. Ruthy is the little 'Daisy' in our home now. So cute most of the time. But when she gets mad, occasionally, Oh! My!! She does such cute things with her rose bud mouth.

Sonny is learning so fast. And no wonder, for he is a regular pest with his endless questions. Many of them are very appropriate and very intelligent questions too. Viz. A bit of conversation the other day:-

Sonny--Mother where do eggs come from?
Grace--They are made in the chicken's abdomen.
Sonny--Just like babies? (he had been informed some previous question that that was where baby's came from)
Grace--Yes.
Sonny--Was I in your abdomen once?
Grace--Yes.
Sonny--How did I get out, Mother. Where did I come out?
Grace--You ask Daddy, he first saw your white head.
(That put him off for the time being.)

That's what we're up against. Do you remember the time?

China is certainly in a mess. There is no government worthy of the name. All is banditry, all is famine, all is suffering, all is disease, all is ignorance, all is graft with those temporarily in power. I do not know of one public official in all these years who did not use his office for personal graft. POOR CHINA. Poor Heathen China. How she needs the teachings of Jesus. China is the Cry Baby in the Family of Nations. She is the prize International Cry-Baby. Always "belly-aching" about what someone else is doing to her. Never seeing that the trouble is mostly within and of her own making. She needs a good spanking.

Japan is about to administer it it seems. Japan may be in the wrong in her rough-shod way of going into Manchuria. From the other side of the ocean it looks as if all of the blame is on Japan and none on China. But not so to those foreigners who have learned from sad experience just what Japan has had to contend with.
No matter how much we wish well for China, still we know what Japan has to contend with in a country where she has heavy investments, with worthless promises of protection for her nationals carrying on these projects by a "government" that can't even control a few hundred or a few thousand high school students when they tear out the furnishings of the Official government newspaper in Nanking, or can't keep them from even mobbing the government headquarters building and taking guns away from the "guards" kidnap some of the party leaders attending the "plagued" meeting where it is being decided just how to ward off the protest to the League of Nations that Japan is unnecessarily invading Manchuria, where Chinese officials have things well in hand.

It is quite certain that Manchuria is no better than any other part of China, even right up to the gates of the seat of "government" at Nanking. And in such a case it needs to be cleaned "out" of its bandits, and soldiers and officials for that matter. For up its bandits, and soldiers and officials for that matter. For up its bandits she will be doing a great service to the Manchurian people. Of course Japan will probably not stop at that. She will have to virtually keep control so long as law and order are to be kept. And that in the light of the present day Peace and Anti-war acts is illegal. Also it is true that China, like most any "down-and-out" people, would rather be killed by their own bandits (Chinese bandits) than protected by an imperialistic foreign nation.

It seems safe enough within the strong walls of Luchowfu. But all the country-side is thieves and bandity. A sack of rice is not safe outside of these walls. An extra suit of clothes is a menace. This is forcefully brought home to us frequently by the things that happen in the homes of our own servants. Our cook's home is regularly raided. It is known. of course, that both he and his father are cooks for foreigners; which means a steady income, and more than starvation conditions. He has only $200.00 worth of rice stored in one of our out-buildings. Just enough for a few days use is taken out at a time. His home has been robbed twice in the last week; so that they have even brought in extra clothing that was not stolen. This is the story a million times each month in this one county.

You can imagine how hard-hearted it seems to me to have to be continually dragging fees out of these poor, starving, sick people, to come to my hospital for help. How I would like to be able to give them my services and operations and medicines free; but with only what they can pay. The money, I have to or at least charge only what they can pay. The money, I have to pay all the doctors, nurses, cooks, and workmen to pay salaries to (about $700.00 in salaries and wages each month), with expensive supplies. One must buy, with the price of medicines ever increasing, one must buy, with the money, one must pay, and serve. One must serve his heart to these needy and those unable to pay, and serve. One must serve, and serve the doctors here and buy the drugs and supplies. Grace and I bringing the doctors here and buy the drugs and supplies. Grace and I personally keep two or three free beds paid for, for the most
worthy poor. This does not nearly take care of this problem. But it at least solves our consciences. As I've said before, 'You can't be a Christian and a Missionary in China'. That is, you can't if you are going to keep enough for your own use for health and strength. In other words the need and misery about you is so great and so unalleviatable by your own small efforts and small bit of charity that it is a constant "crying shame" to have enough when so many about you have nothing at all. The Christian is to "share his cup of water". To what extent? These questions are unknown in America, yes even in these so called hard times. That is one reason why it is easier to complacently live a placid Christian life in America, where you are praised by your preacher for being so "faithful in church attendance", as if that were such a great Christ-like act, and one that would revolutionize the world by its exemplification of self-sacrifice.

Mother, you have always been blessed with a very good strong body. Now that it won't do just all that it used to do you should not be too much discouraged. It has served you very well, and still is not doing so badly, if you compare with the average. I think you have done very well considering all you have been through. Mrs. Goulter is very nervous. She has much more trouble than you with nervous fatigue. And she is a young woman. She is down and out with her work on the Xmas programs. Not that she was not physically able to do it at all. She is physically fit, but not nervously fit. She will be below par for a month or two now. You have a mild case of the same thing. Just don't let things worry you. It does no good. And that is the best way to avoid these spells. No other way. The children bother you, perhaps, not so much because you don't have the patience (as you say) with them, so that you don't have the everlasting pep and energy you used to have, and that is required to live with kids.

So far we are having a very mild winter. Haven't been able to put up any ice yet. Did have a little snow for a few days once a month ago. Have had just a half-inch of ice for a few days once. We still are getting lettuce and spinach and a Chinese green vegetable (wu tai) out of our own garden. I sat in the house today with the doors open, the sun was so warm. Goulter and I are getting a bit of tennis in, again this last week. We hope we will get to put up some ice this year. It was such a blessing last spring and summer.

We have had a very Merry Christmas with Sonny and Ruthy to react so well to it. Children make Christmas! Wish you could get a big hug from sweet Ruth now. She is at her cutest.

Love,

[Signature]
7. May 9 Evine,

I have a couple of their annual reports of Dale & Dale
Brown passed this or recently.
I don't know if you have one so
thought I would pass it on. And
Keith would be tickled to see it in
slave — pretty amazing that
a 60-70 bed hosp = 3 does a
Waring school could run on
$30,000 + /year! — Even to know
Hy did 785 urinalyses in
1935 —

Drs
Jan 10, 1932

Dear Florence Ann,

Just got a nice long letter from you telling about finishing up the bathroom and how you enjoyed the kitchen sink. Must be a great satisfaction if I ever have to wash my own dishes again. I surely hope to own one.

Guess I have not written your name Christmas. I surely enjoyed your presents. The stockings go very well with my brown shoes and the pants are certainly richness. I approve of buying in Paris so that they can substitute for
I feel like a little girl again with my Angora goat. I remember how the baby hands felt. It is the only one in Kansas, as I am considered very stylish.

We had a very fine Christmas this year in Paris. Now our kiddies are big enough to really get a big thrill and that is what makes Christmas special. Each was sent down to his stocking before we had our eyes open. He shook the drum which he had ordered from Santa Claus and marched back up the stairs.

Doug played Santa Claus over at the school and hospital chapel, but he did not fool his son. He said, "If Santa would take his hat off it would be Daddy." Our gifts were mostly clothes for which we are grateful.

Our gifts were mostly clothes for which we are grateful. American animals have good to us. Doug has three shirts, two ties, a new belt, four pairs of socks, and a woolen shirt. The kiddies each have two small stuffed animals, stocking, and lots of things. I have four pairs of shoes.
I like stockings - silk bloomer silks pajamas etc. the last mentioned are the flowering kind which I never owned. Evidently me thought they were suitable for a missionary - I'll enjoy them lounging around after this new body comes. I was given me a crummy set of chaussones et peppe shoes. The four girls in our station clubbed together and gave us a shinny gift with three ties and all enamelled painted with cherry blossoms and yellow birds. It's a handsome thing. In America we would use it for purses. Done gave me a dozen mini glass shehbet
grasses which I have needed for so long. He really kept it a secret and surprised me which is doing remarkably well for him. Sadly sent me a pretty new hat and another a black purse. One of the Yankees S.S. Charles sent bunches of yellow roses and some lovely ribbons so I feel very well don't you think?

You ask about my home and suggest making a braided rug for me. I'd love to have one for my guest room. It has strong furniture - black floors - blue spreads on the twin beds and
The curtains are... cheerful prints in which blue, yellow, and rose are found. With a well made ring to suspend, I might teach our sewing women how.

I certainly enjoy my seating rooms; they all have a deep, thick ground with brocaded patterns with touches of linen and silk blues. I keep the high one up stairs in the nursery. That is our most private room and the children roll around in the floor and enjoy it as much. When they get big and want to impress chummy guests, I may bring it down stairs. My new overstuffed furniture is such a comfort.

We never enjoyed our home so much before. Tell... good American...
more than a cold hug. I have
helped calm and paint and read stories
until I feel about nine years old
myself. He is well today. Thanks
goodness and free enough I hope
so that Donny and the other kids come
to go out, so I may get a little little writing
down. This one has been written
in progress at least four of them
so appreciate it even if it is absent.
I can't write when other kids
are in the room, too much distraction.
Ruth is the jazziest cutest thing
you ever saw. She is crazy about
her Daddy, he just loves her
to pieces. Well, thank you again
Dearest Mother,

We are all well and safe as safe goes in China today. But aren't we in the midst of a mess! 11111111
What will be the outcome? You may know more of this by the time you receive this letter.

At the time of this letter we have learned, over the West Asia Church radio (when it is not silenced) that actual fighting is going on in the streets of Shanghai between Japanese and Chinese soldiers. The worst fighting has been around the Wasserman film district. That is the region where most Japanese live and have their businesses.

The country is a mass idea, with the Japanese aggression in Manchuria and Shanghai, with no semblance of a government in Nanking (this so-called capital). Life is pretty much back and forth from Nanking to the safety of Shanghai, foreign settlements.
I refuse whenever they force personal change from the openariat; with bandits all over China; and with Communist "bandits" gaining more and more territory daily. I can see no way out for China for a long, long time.

Our hospital has had a very good year. The year ends today, and we shall be getting busy winding up accounts and making reports this next week. As the mission financial aid diminishes, it has been necessary for me to increase fees even in a flood year. I have to do it; for I feel this is a much of our claim to Christian service when you have to drag money out of a poor man who, come for help. But what is to be done? The money must come from somewhere to buy medicine, food, and bandages for the patients, and to pay the salaries of good doctors and nurses. So I have increased charges, and have brought more and better aid.
DOUGLAS S. CORPRON, M.D.
LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL,
LUCHOWFU (HOPEI), ANHWEI, CHINA.

thereby higher paid) doctors and nurses to this hospital. Also we have been able to provide for the X-ray facilities for this district. The X-ray I have been able to complete payment on this year. I had to drag the money out of the pockets of friends I have folk and many of whom had been plaintiff and short by hardship. But if I didn’t charge them, who would pay this bill, whose American friends who pledged money for the X-ray failed to pay their pledges after the equipment had all been bought.

In the same way this hospital can not decrease its size & facilities for medical & surgical service to this district now that we have established a market for our products. Christian Service. Anything less would be criminal. So with finding Mission Board I am trying to carry on at least I can win the only way I know left—that the patients pay the cost. How
long we can keep above board I don’t know. So far everything has been alright, a famine next not so good.

This last year the hospital received $101,600.00 American from the mission.

We raised locally over $26,000.00 Indian.

Next year we were scheduled to run a regular cut of $10,000.00 less. Last week we received a cable from Indianapolis saying that missionary salaries and all mission budgets would be cut 1/2 for 1950. That means our monthly mission grant to the hospital ($77.50)
in addition to the $10,000.00 will be cut this year, so shedding will be still harder this year.

The cut in our personal salary will probably mean less charity work this year. Grace and I have been keeping 3 free beds paid for last year. We may have to cut to one or maybe all.

Because of the cut all furloughs this year have been called off. Missie’s garden was due to go. But now we
will have her with us longer. The
Hagman of Hantung show will go anyway
because Dr. Hagman's health is very
poor. Dr. Barnett and Miss Barnett of
Hantung show are resigning and going home
on their own money. (She has money
saves she is to help her son. He is in
a shepherd fellow. Margaret Lawrence
is to leave missionary work soon to
be married in Illinois. Her mother
encourage her in it. Can't find
her with mission funds for pecuniary.
But she has cost the mission a lot
of money for her preparation for three
two years service.

Miss Harney Fry (married) will be the
only old missionary at Hantung show.
Dr. and Miss Brady will go from Hantung
to relieve Dr. Hagman. But Dr. Brady
has almost no language yet.

We an enjoying our little family.
I cain't spell off a whole book of Nursery Rhymes now. Here's just a tabby grade, singing sorts, etc. Butty is cuter every day. But talks mostly Chinese. Back every day and every way is getting bigger + bigger. They show our family does grow! Wouldn't we have a fine family if we also had Phyllis + Billie?

Your letter announcing John Rockwell's death arrived today. Your sisters are certainly husky stock. They are all with their husbands. You winter is such a contrast to ours. We haven't had any real cold weather yet. Some time ago we had cold for three or four days when we had 40° in the house. We made a little fire even to cook. But of course it was not the stay with us in summer to get away from our summer. Last letter I didn't do justice to...
our garden. I planted to maintain many things we were using from the garden. At that time (about Jan 10th) we were getting:

- lettuce
- spinach
- carrots
- kamlorabi
- Chinese cabbage
- Foreign cabbage
- Winter (Chinese) lettuce

We still are getting:

- lettuce
- spinach
- carrots
- kamlorabi
- Chinese cabbage
- Winter lettuce

Also, we are now eating the following canned vegetables from our own garden:

- String beans
- Peas
- Corn on the cob

and it tastes as if fresh from the garden!

We are learning how to use our pressure cooker and thus live on a decreasing missionary salary.

The doctors were saying could not show in the X-ray as you were bandaged. Glad you are better.

Love,
Douglas, Sr
Dearest Mother,

I wonder just when this letter will reach you. As you know better than even we do the Japanese are raising some kind of war at Shanghai, and we are shut off from the outside world. No mail has come from Shanghai or through Shanghai for ten days. The last we heard was in the Jan. 30th Shanghai newspaper, which stated that the Japanese admiral had declared an ultimatum to the mayor of Shanghai. And it intimated that Shanghai might be attacked if not complied with. That is all the reliable news we have had to date. Here you are getting today's news in your morning paper, and we here in Luchowfu, 200 miles away know nothing of what is going on. We do know that something serious is happening. Yesterday a telegram arrived from Mr. Marx, our first authentic news, saying that because of the serious situation in Shanghai (he did not say what serious condition) all women and children had evacuated Hankin. (He didn't say where they had gone to.) He also asked us to evacuate our women and children if possible now. At any rate to be ready to move out at short notice if such had to be given.

In reply we described to him our situation:-
All is peaceful as could be expected at this time of year in Luchowfu. We feel safer here than we would anywhere else in China, just now. We are comfortable, well provided with coal, food, and lodging.
Mrs. Guiler is not well; Sonny has a cold; Miss Major is having a "swell" time with the mumps; Grace is heavy with child.
No launches are running now because it is China New Year.
Sailboats fear to cross Chao Taik because small bandits (no doubt mostly flood sufferers in need of food and clothing) are holding up and robbing most boats. So if we attempted to evacuate by sailboat we would run an 80% chance of being robbed of bedding, clothes, and food.
So an evacuation under these conditions we feel to be more dangerous to health than lurking dangers in Shanghai. Of course I still have my outboard motor and small boat. But than is a last resort. Too cold to use unless there is nothing better.

We also wrote these things to the American Consul, so that he would have our situation in mind when deciding to order our evacuation. If he does so order we must obey, for we do not know what international complications are arising at Shanghai.

At any rate you do not need to worry about us so long as we can remain just where we are. It is as usual the getting out that is difficult and associated with more or less danger. We usually do not think of war during the winter. When the Chinese themselves are making war it is a Spring Drive. Now that the Japanese are doing it new things are happening.
Now that the port of Shanghai is blockaded by the Japanese, as it evidently is, we wonder how our money is to reach us from America. Even the halved allowance that we are due to receive the next two months. I'm not worrying too much for the hospital, for we are sure to take in some money and last fall I was able to buy up enough rice while it was cheap to run us for seven months. So now the hospital is fixed from starvation until summer even if we didn't take in a cent, which won't happen.

Our official mission year ended last month. The hospital was able to pay all bills; had paid all but $136.00 on the Xray, and bought up rice for seven months to come. Pretty good I claim for a flood year. Our work is seeing favor in the sight of the Lord, no doubt. I am working on my annual report and will send you a copy later.

Feb. 11, 1932.

Things are a bit better. We have the radio at the West Gate Church working again, and are getting daily news bulletins from Manila. Yesterday I learned of the active fighting going on at Woosung Forts, Shanghai, and of the fighting in Chinkai, the Chinese part of Shanghai. Also received the report of Admiral Taylor, of the American Asiatic Fleet, sent to Washington, D.C., and from there to Manila, and I in turn received it in English from Manila. That's great. My radio is out of order. A coil is burned out, and I can't buy one in Shanghai. I have ordered wire from Shanghai and will try to wind it myself. It will come thru when the mail opens up again. In the meantime either Mr. Coulter or I will walk a mile over to the West Gate Church every day and listen-in on Manila.

Also, the weather is warming up today. The snow is almost all gone already. The launch should start in a few days, so things are looking better.

Hope you won't worry too much about us. We are O.K. as long as we are permitted to remain right where we are, which we intend doing unless very urgently ordered out by the American Consul for international trouble reasons.

Love,

D. L. Corpron

P.S. Will you please send this card to me & have me sign it.