

HOTEL

Date? *1957 C17*
~~1957~~
~~1957~~
BALDWIN

321 GRANT AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO 8

Dear Alex,

I don't remember just when I last wrote, there have been so many things happening and so many letters written, so if I repeat myself don't be surprised.

I hope all goes well with the family and that there is good word concerning Katherine. I hope she gets in with good companions in the island. If she is in Charlottetown the Prescotts would be interested in her and Carol who is young enough to be interested in the same things might be able to influence her wisely. Perhaps you have already written to Frieda and if not, it might be worth doing still.

Owing to the ship being delayed four days, I had that much extra time in Toronto and went with Anna to their cottage on Sturgeon Lake for the time. Then it was found that no space was available on the line beyond Chicago that my ticket called for, so at the last moment I had to change my ticket for another line.

I had most of a day in Chicago and went for a look at Lake Michigan, the main streets, and the Art Institute which had more beautiful things and less nightmarish modern abstractions than some art exhibitions I have seen.

The route lay through Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, ^{new Mexico} Arizona, and California, further south than I had been before, and it was not only hot but most of the way it was desolate looking. The first three named states were green and luxuriant, we passed through Kansas at night, but all the rest of the way there was not a green blade of grass to be seen. In some places were deserts with sand and sage brush, scarcely anywhere were there any trees, for hundreds of miles I never saw even one flower, and even in California nothing grows unless there is irrigation. After the greenness of Canada the brown burnt up look here is dreary. In this state there seems to be plenty of water available and lawns and gardens are watered and green, though no rain falls from May till September.

The sun seldom shines either and though there does not seem to be visible fog, nevertheless there is often a mist heavy enough to dampen one's clothing and wet the street. It is so chilly all summer in San Francisco that no one thinks of going out without a coat and quite a few people wear fur capes, while in the hotel they have heat on morning and evening.

The "La Salle" is not coming to this port after all and I have to wait another four days for the "Iberville" and now hope to get away on the 18th. The things I was asked to take to Korea are all ordered and in the hands of the Church Purchasing Agency who are seeing to the customs and export papers as well as the packing and crating for me. So I have time on my hands as I have not been able to get in touch with more than one or two of the friends I know here. Probably some of them are away on vacation. But I am not finding the time long. I study a while every day. write a while, and have got my accounts posted in the ledger which is a load off my mind and a job I never find interesting. It took a lot of walking to find the places I wanted to go so I have had at least a half day's exercise each day. The hotel does not serve meals so one has to go out three times to look for food.

One friend whom I did get in contact with has asked me to her home for Sunday. She lives at Berkeley a few miles from here across the Bay. She is a musician who was a missionary in Seoul for a number of years and now plays the organ in a church there.

That seems to exhaust the news at present. I think you have my Korea address but lest it may have been mislaid here it is again.

Canadian Mission,
190-10, 2 Ka, Choong Chung Ro,
Su Tae Moon Ku,
Seoul,
Korea.

Best wishes to all of you. I keep you in my prayers.

Lovingly,

Florence.

ST. ANDREW'S HOSPITAL

MANCHURIA, CHINA
朝鮮北間道龍井
S. HAVILAND MARTIN, M. B.

(Canadian Presbyterian Mission)

P. O. ADDRESS
KANTO, VIA KAINEI
CHOSEN (JAPAN)

Date April 3, 1922.

Dear Alexander, -

It is some time since I heard from any of you Pine Hillers. In fact I have had three letters from the Cape Bretoners since one came from you chaps, but probably two or three of them will come along some day soon.

I want to wish you many happy returns of the day and hope that this year will see you have a particularly happy birthday. There is a Korean friend has just come into the room to see how my machine works. They are very interested in machinery and all new things that they do not have themselves. This woman is a new amah or nursemaid of Mrs. Martin's and she was in one other day when she heard the machine clicking away.

You will all be very busy now as the spring comes on. I expect you are almost into exams already and the others will be not far off either. Probably you will know some time before this where you are to be for the summer and I may hear when the next letter arrives. I hope you will be at some place you will enjoy as much as you did Lockport. Though enjoyment is not the ultimate end to be sought, yet it always comes if one does one's work in the right spirit. I hope you will all do well in your exams and not get too tired. I have been thinking several times of Fester and hoping he is taking care of himself and not working too hard. The fourth year is very heavy but I think the most interesting of all. Surely Ed will get on better now than he did at Christmas. It was very disappointing that he failed so badly then. The time has run away so fast I can scarcely realize that it is April and spring is almost here. In spite of that it looks wintry enough today as it has snowed all last night and today. The ground is as white as it has been any time all winter. Snow never lasts long here and only serves to make things muddy and dirty when it does come.

Did you ever hear these conundrums? What is the difference between a laundress and an undertaker? One stiffens collars and the other collars stiffen. What is the difference between the death of a hair dresser and that of an undertaker? One curls up and dies and the other makes faces and busts. And here are some anatomical definitions for Fester. Your backbone is a string of bones. Your head sits on one end and you sit on the other. An Irishman in a museum once saw a spinal column, and on being told what it was, remarked, "Many a good potato went down that hole."

We had rather a busy week at the hospital last week. We have done ninety operations so far this year, an average of one a day. Last week we had two or three some days and one night we had one on the floor in the men's waiting room all night and another in one of the bath rooms for lack of any other place to put them. In the winter we cannot use the largest ward, intended for the men's ward, as part of the heating plant was stolen in transit and never came, and consequently it cannot be heated. However, it is getting much warmer now and there are no many patients that we will have to open it up and put patients in there even though it is not heated. Dr. Martin thinks there will not be so many patients come to the hospital after he goes, as so many of the heathen still think a woman cannot know anything worth while and they are all hearing that he is going away, and a good many of them, even some of the church people do not yet know that another doctor has come to take his place. He is certainly loved by the Koreans though he does not speak Korean very well at all. He does a great deal for them and is most kind hearted and unselfish. He is looking forward to seeing you people, at least some of you when he gets to Halifax. They are to leave here in about three weeks and are going by way of Mrs. Martin's home in Maine so you will likely all be away from Halifax but Foster when he gets there. I hope you will be

able to see him, for you will like to know him personally and will find him very interesting and full of interesting incidents about the work and the people here. He loves to talk about the Koreans and the Chinese and he has certainly seen some strenuous times in Yongjung and the surrounding country. He often talks about you fellows and hopes to meet you in Canada and to see some of you in Korea too before long.

We see some funny cases here. One day last week a woman came into Dr. Martin's consulting room without an admitting slip. So he sent her back to get one. The slip contains the patient's name, age, address, with space for diagnosis, result of examination, treatment, etc. She came back in a few minutes with the required paper, when it appeared that she wanted treatment not for herself but for a colt that had been bitten by a dog. Some doctors would have been indignant to think of being asked to do a thing like that, but Dr. Martin only laughed and gave her some antiseptic that pleased her and probably helped the colt. But you can see that it is necessary not to have your dignity too easily offended if one is to be happy in a land like this.

I am going to have tea over at the house next door with Miss Thomas who has come in from Songjin to help out at the women's class now in session here, so I must close just now and run off to get ready. I will write you an account of my first medical itinerations trip in the country after tea.

Love to each of you and all best wishes for the hard times ahead.

Florence.

Owen Sound, Ont.,
Oct. 25, 1946.

Dear Alex,

Your letter of recent date received and read with interest. Glad you got out on the hunting trip and that things in your work seem to be getting off to a good start.

I have been in Toronto for three weekends in succession and put in four days a week speaking at W.M.S. rallies, last week in Simcoe, this week in Grey Presbyterians. We have had good meetings and I have spoken to the children in the schools in several places. Here I spoke to seven hundred in the collegiate which I think was well worth while and some thing we should do more often.

Next week to go to Belleville and the week following to Niagara but expect to be back with Anna in between and for a few days afterward.

Word has come from Korea that the military governor there has approved the return to that country of several American women and three Canadians - Miss Sandell, Miss Daniels, and myself. Our passports are in Washington to receive the military permits and, when they are received, we shall be packing up for Korea. It may take some time but probably not very long now that the main obstacle has been removed. My engagements run to Nov. 19 after which I shall hasten to Nova Scotia to get ready.

No doubt you have been having the same delightful weather that seems to prevail over Canada. The leaves here are falling fast but there has not been frost to paint them as brightly as usual this time of year. Many fall flowers are still blooming in gardens too.

Did you get the new car you were hoping for? Or what are the prospects? Do they keep the high ways open for cars there in the winter? If not, I suppose there is no special hurry till the spring any more this season.

Dr. Fraser is appealing for warm clothing for Christian Korean refugees from the Russian zone in Korea now in Seoul without winter clothing. Postal communications have been opened up again between Canada and Korea so that parcels can now be sent by mail, though the postage is rather high. Parcels must not be over eleven pounds in weight nor valued at more than \$25⁰⁰. They need warm used clothing for men, women, and children. New things might be liable for duty which they could not pay. A few needles, safety pins, and spools of thread in each parcel would be greatly appreciated. Parcels must be clearly marked GIFT FOR RELIEF PURPOSES, Via Vancouver and must go in the name of an individual, not from an organization. They may be sent to

Rev. Dr. E. J. O. Fraser, 136-6 Yun Chi Chung, Chongno, H. Chung-mok, Seoul, Korea. We will see that they get to the right people. If some of your folks would like to send some things, it would be fine. Underwear, scarves, mittens, childrens shoes, stockings, sweaters, coats, anything warm will be fine. Perhaps some of the young folks would like to ~~soon~~ do something about this.

I doubt if I'll get to see you again before we leave but you'll be hearing from me any way.

Best of wishes. Love to all

Florence

Seoul, Korea, Jan. 18, 1948.

Dear Alex and Esther,

Thank you very much for all the nice things you sent in that generous Christmas box. They came in very good condition and we enjoyed some and are still to enjoy others. We are still able to buy provisions at the army people's commissary at reasonable enough prices and, though we were told not to expect to continue indefinitely on commissary privileges, the latest word seems to be that we are likely to be allowed to use the commissary for a long time yet and probably until other ways of getting provisions open up. We are not allowed to spend Korean money for Korean food as a means of preserving Korean food for the Koreans. However, we are sometimes given gifts of eggs or fruit. So you see our needs are provided for and while it is nice to get things from home, we are not in need, and since so many in the world are, please send your provisions to those who are actually hungry. Of course we are sharing the things with needy ones here.

The weather has been very good, only two real cold spells yet, which is a good thing as fuel is short everywhere. Schools and colleges closed from the middle of December to the middle of February on account of lack of heat. They will have to make up by studying through the heat of summer. In the hospital we wear our coats all the time and such things as giving baths are out of the question for the present. We were all but out of fuel ourselves last night when rather unexpectedly two loads of wood arrived.

Another result of the lack of fuel is a shortage of power. All fall and winter the power has been off more than it was on, but since New Years night we have had none at all until yesterday, since when it has remained on. With relief parcels coming and thank you letters to be written, it was not easy getting them done by the light of a candle. Either our forebears must have had better eyesight than we, or they answered their letters by daylight, or else did not have much correspondence.

Since our students are so deficient in English and the teachers so anxious to perfect themselves in it, I am teaching a class of girls in the mornings and of teachers in the afternoons three days a week. They are really making quite a bit of progress.

There is still no definite decision as to the fate of our so called medical school. I wish they would decide it one way or another so I would know what I should do. Some wish to unite with Severance Medical School and others do not wish to do so. The Board in New York for Ewha University is stalling for time when it seems to me the situation calls for definite action before we get deeper into things one way or another.

Last week was a very interesting one. We have had visitors whom we enjoy, the Richardsons, a Salvation Army couple, both doctors, who came out with us on the S. S. Hope. He helped me put up an aerial for my radio since when it works better than it did. Fortunately the power came on so we could try it out.

Another event of interest was the welcome to the United Nations Commission. Not a single military policeman was in sight, and the only American soldiers in evidence were some officers who were among the guests. The Koreans ran the show themselves and did it exceedingly well. There were two hundred thousand people in the stadium and though it was known that the communists were out to make a disturbance they did not succeed. Everything went like clockwork. We Canadians were all invited and sat on the platform beside the commission. We were also asked to the reception in the throne room of the ancient royal palace after the outdoor welcome in the stadium. Here, too, everything went off without a hitch. The building is impressive and the tables looked very pretty, while the colored dresses of the Korean ladies looked very gay indeed. We are getting to know quite a few people in Seoul now and find friends wherever we go.

We are looking forward to meeting with the delegation or deputation from our own church soon. They are in China now and should be here in March. Some of our mission are being invited to work with the Australian Presbyterians in the south, since our own former territory is closed to us. The Methodists have asked for Mr. Burbidge to work with them in the meantime. Our northern folk here among the refugees would like us to undertake some more definite work among themselves. We are busy doing relief work and working in the Union Institutions, the various colleges, the Christian Literature Society, etc. There are still very few missionaries here compared to the former number but most cannot come on account of increasing age or having families they can neither leave nor are they allowed to bring them. The army families are allowed to come freely no matter how many children they have, but missionary children are banned, also any missionaries who were not here before the war. There is great need for new and younger missionaries but these restrictions prevent their coming.

I am very well in spite of a few discomforts and inconveniences. The others in the house have had influenza but I fortunately escaped without even a cold. Lack of light and water has prevented my doing much in the way of photography and now my films are getting old. I think I can get more here as I see them for sale in the army post exchange where also we have privileges.

I hope things are going well with you, that all are well, and that you see some progress in your work.

Here although the U. N. Commission is at work, most people are not very hopeful of their being able to accomplish much. We shall continue to hope and pray for better things soon.

Much love and all good wishes,

Flour

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Seoul, Korea, Feb. 15, 1948.

Dear Alexander,

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This is in reply to your letter of Jan. 7th. I hope I thanked you before for the fine Christmas box you sent me which reached me in good condition and in good time and was much enjoyed. If I did not, please accept the thanks now and also apologies for being so late in saying it. I have got far behind with my correspondence for two reasons, or perhaps I should say three. The first is that more than sixty relief parcels have come in my name and I have been trying to acknowledge each one. Sixty extra letters in addition to the usual is quite a lot to manage. Then for many weeks we have had many hours without electric light and for seventeen days so flicker of light at all day or night, and it turned out to be more of a chore to write letters by the light of a single candle than one might think. And the third reason is that things are still so unsettled and uncertain here in many ways that one scarcely knows what to write.

It is fine to hear you are all well and having a good winter with the furnace doing a good job of keeping you comfortable. The congregation have certainly done well in helping the unfortunate and no doubt that is mostly due to your own enthusiasm and leadership. I hope they will be equally generous with you. It is good to hear of the progress being made and I expect to hear of more. Please pass on my remembrances to the folks I met if they happen to inquire about me.

We have also had lots of snow but the past few days have been mild and it is rapidly disappearing but the streets are incredibly sloppy and the mud in our yard pulls our rubbers off every few steps.

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The long winter holidays on account of not being able to heat the school rooms are now over and everyone goes back to school and college tomorrow. All will make up the time lost now by studying throughout most of the summer and in the humid heat of summer that will not be so pleasant. We have been fortunate in being considered a billet which entitles us to some fuel. Otherwise we probably should not have been able to get enough to keep us from freezing at any price. As it is we paid five thous and four hundred won for delivery only of one truck load of coal exclusive of the cost of the coal. That is how prices run here now and that is one reason for the hardships many are suffering. Goods are scarce too of course. There is a regular trade on the black market. Many soldiers are taking things and handing them over to Koreans to sell and lots of folk are making a living that way, dealing in stolen goods. The morals of the Koreans have deteriorated through contact with the Americans so that I heard an American missionary say not long ago, "It is going to take fifty years to overcome the results of this occupation,"

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In the hospital there is also scarcity of fuel although the hospitals were allotted some. However, we have to wear our coats all the time in the hospital and the reagents in the laboratory are generally frozen. When the floors are washed there is a thin skim of ice on them for hours afterwards. Ada and I share an office so neither has much privacy. The city water comes to the basement only for a few hours most nights. It never goes above the basement and does not come in the daytime. Water carries will not carry water up the hill now since we have democracy in Korea. They want easier jobs and shorter hours. So the laundry cannot function and without a laundry we cannot change the beds nor use enough sterile towels. Without heat we cannot give baths nor carry out various other nursing procedures. And with new workers about twice a week, we cannot train cleaners to do their work properly. There is also lack of

various things we need for diagnosis and treatment. The staff of both hospital and college can be divided into two groups, one that has the Japanese outlook and wants no change, can be taught nothing more since it already possesses all necessary knowledge, and one that realizes its deficiencies and is anxious to remedy them. This latter group is eager to have help in studying English so as to be able to read English medical books and journals. I have been giving a good deal of time to trying to help this group although I do not feel that teaching English is my real job out here. The former group is one of the problems, the latter is the hope of the country. A few of the young doctors are very keen but their teaching has not been of a high standard and during the war while they were cut off from the world much progress was made in medical things of which they remained in ignorance. Then with all the handicaps of lack of heat, water, light, power, equipment, etc. with the best will in the world, no one can keep standards as they should be. You will realize that we are not having much satisfaction in our work as yet. What the future may bring it is still too early to tell.

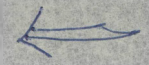
The unsettled state and the uncertainty economically, nationally, and internationally are also making all sorts of ventures difficult. No one wants to put money into anything till he sees more clearly how things are going to be, and that goes for local people as well as for the Mission Boards.

In the medical school conditions are as bad as in the hospital. In fact, as far as equipment goes they are worse. When I got here and realized that there was literally nothing with which to start a medical school I begged Dr. Helen Kim the president to delay opening the school for a Year at least until we could have time to solicit some support, find out the attitude of the supporting Boards towards it, and make some preparation. She replied that the school was already started by the acceptance last spring of fifty-eight students and that we were committed to going ahead at once. So classes were started but there was no equipment for the labs and such subjects as physics, chemistry, biology, and the medical subjects anatomy and biochemistry are being taught by lectures only owing to lack of lab space and equipment. There is no medical building, no medical library, no equipment, no budget, and one might almost say no hospital since the hospital is only one tenth the size it should be. The home Boards have advised against the medical school as an undertaking beyond our strength and have promised no support and have also decided not to buy back the hospital which was sold during the war years. It may or may not revert to the Boards, which is another uncertainty. Dr. Kim says the medical school is to go on whether or not the Boards support it but she has not so far succeeded in raising support for it locally and I doubt if she can at present. Both Ada and I see no hope for the fate of the medical school and feel it is a mistake on Dr. Kim's part to push it but she would lose face to stop now of course. I fear it is a question of getting in deeper and finding it more difficult to get out later.

When our mission deputation gets here next month we plan to discuss the whole situation with them and if there seems no hope of being able to have any proper sort of medical school at Ewha we may ask for another appointment. Keep that under your hat in the meantime for nothing may come of it. In the meantime we are going on from day to day doing the best we can.

Love to you all.

Florence.

194 Insa Dong, Seoul, Korea, 
April 25, 1948.

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Dear Alex,

You'll be having a birthday along about now and I want my greetings and good wishes to get there in time. There has been no direct word from you for some time but I presume you are all well and hope you have not been suffering from the floods they seem to have had in a good many places.

Father's recent letters have been slightly less cheerful than usual but that may not mean anything more than a mood. However, he said they were both feeling the infirmities of age. I hope that by another winter, if they are both there, they will realize they should not stay alone. They will find Charlie's folk company but perhaps rather too stirring for the quiet life they are used to. I hope they will not have to double up for long. I was rather surprised to hear of the arrangement for it cannot be satisfactory for either party.

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Here we are all welcoming the spring after a cold fuelless winter. The early flowers are already past and the lilies, lilacs, and other slightly later flowers are in all their glory. Seoul has several parks that were former palace grounds and under the Japanese were kept locked up but now are open to the public. There is nothing much like a lawn but there are ponds, trees, picturesque little gateways and pavilions, flowers, and pathways. On Sundays and holidays they are thronged with people enjoying the beauty and fresh air. Many churches have an outdoor service this time of year. This afternoon Ada and I were out with a group of nurses from our hospital in one park that covers many acres. It is a lovely place. Yesterday after or rather at noon we took our lunches and our mission folk ate together in another smaller park not far away. The sun was so warm we all had to take off our coats.

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The question of ownership of the hospital has come to a head since the lease has run out and the owners refuse to renew or to sell although our contract calls for that. We were planning to open and use other buildings on the grounds as soon as the spring came and we did not need heat but they have padlocked some of the doors and made a big fuss and are preventing us from using them. All attempts at personal negotiations have failed and the ownership or the validity of the contract will have to go before the courts. It is unfortunate to have this trouble but I am very glad not to be involved in it directly or personally. I fear it may drag on for quite a while.

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Miss Sandell is to go to Severance Hospital soon. It is a much larger institution where she will have a training school which is her chief interest. That college and hospital has been connected with our mission for a long time and we have had a doctor and nurse there for many years and so feel responsible for it. We still have Miss Daniels, Miss McBain, and myself in Ewha. When Miss Bourns comes she will be at Severance with Miss Sandell. They are both looking forward to working together. I may join them at Severance later as they have asked our mission for me too. If my present work is not to be able to continue for lack of funds I might as well go but I do not like to leave in the middle of a term and hope by the end of it that the situation may have clarified enough that it will be easier to know what is best to do.

Some progress is being made in the medical school but there is little prospect of adequate funds, the hospital is far too small, and badly situated being so far away, the Boards do not approve the beginning of a medical school when there is already Severance, etc.

I am listening to music from Australia as I write. The news we get from there is more of world interest than what we hear from the army radio station where it is mostly about the election prospects in the United States or sport or the latest marriage of some Hollywood couple. I wonder if I could not get the Sackville, N. B. station sometime but so far I never have. I read somewhere that it could be heard all over the world but the Philippines, China, and the South Pacific. We are on the fringe of China of course and just about north of the Philippines, so perhaps we cannot get it here. If you can tell me the wave length I would have a few tries for it with better prospects of getting it than by wandering aimlessly all over the wave lengths.

We have a bit of garden in though who will eat the fruits and roots thereof is another question. Our place is quite open without even a gate and there are so many hungry and so much thieving that we are likely working for any one but ourselves.

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Last week was a week of great activity among the churches and other organizations. Both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches had their annual gatherings, as also did the W. C. T. U. which was reorganizing after the war. The Methodist Church last year divided in two over the question of shrine worship, collaboration with the Japanese, etc. It is most unfortunate and regrettable. The Presbyterian Church seemed to be getting on much better. Thousands of Christians from the north where the people are more vigorous and active had brought fresh enthusiasm to the church in the south. IN this one city of Seoul alone there are forty new congregations started by the refugees. Many of the best and most active leaders are from the north and are now down here doing good work. There is a large and pretty well run Seminary here in Seoul in which both Dr. Scott and Miss Daniels teach part time. There was another started some time ago in the south by the Fundamentalist group and some of the extreme Fundamentalist missionaries are back again and working hard to separate their flock. Well, it seems one of the professors at the seminary was considered by some as too liberal and a plan was put forth to give him a years leave of absence. Others considered this a way of getting rid of him which no doubt it was and they had quite a set to over it. Just what will come of it I do not know but we are all very sorry it happened. We fear there may also be a split in the Presbyterian church just when all Christians are needed to join together to accomplish their task in this land.

There is much uncertainty and a good deal of excitement over the elections now imminent. In the south where the farmers do not see or hear the refugees from the north and where many people fall for the promise of something for nothing there is considerable disturbance and some terrorism. Here there is not much if any and we have not seen any. People are not predicting how things will go and the military authorities here are preparing to be able to evacuate their dependents if it seems advisable.

All good wishes and love to you all.

Florence

Seoul, Korea, July 24, 1948.

Dear Alex,

It was good to get your letter of a month ago. Thanks for trying to get the information about the CBC shortwave stations for me. I get Australia, Ceylon, Chungking, Nanking, and various other Chinese and Japanese stations here as well as Los Angeles which gives the news every night and is linked up with the local army station here for the purpose. There is a Korean station here too of course. We generally get the news over the local station but sometimes I like to get it from Australia too for that is really world news. What comes from Los Angeles is mostly a hash of stuff about the presidential election in the U.S. and I suppose we shall keep on hearing the same stuff for months yet.

I hope you will have a good holiday, find the home folks well, and get to Berwick too. I think you would enjoy going and should see it at least though I am not sure I should want to spend every summer there. I went for a day when I was at the sanatorium in Kentville. It is a lovely spot but rather crowded and rather too many meetings to suit me as a steady diet for two or more weeks at a time.

It is gratifying the the girls are doing so well in school. Give my regards to Philip.

I think Mr. Munro who takes the editorship of the United Churchman will make a good editor. I got to know both him and his wife pretty well at Kentville and thought a lot of them both. He and the Baptist minister there, Mr. Fenerty, made a good workingteam.

It is good to hear that Canada has at last opened the doors to some of the homeless, even though belated and perhaps not choosing as wisely as might be. To continue denying them entrance could not be defended morally, and we should do much more than we have so far.

You seem to have some interesting experiences and meet interesting folk. I hope your work continues as encouraging as it has been.

We have been having some changes here. Miss Sandell has been transferred from East Gate Hospital to Severance Hospital which is much larger and has a nurses' training school which is her chief interest. She is living in a nice little apartment close to the Korean nurses' home. When Miss Bourns gets here some time this summer or fall she will share the apartment and work with her.

We all regret that the serious illness of Miss McBain's mother and the invalidism of her sister is making it necessary for Dorothy to return to care for her mother. We are sorry to have to part with her and also for the sad news that calls her home. It is likely that she will be back before too long as her mother is said to be dying from cancer.

As for my own work, I think there has been some progress in the medical school course. Some equipment ordered last August arrived the last week of June and some of it has not come yet. However other things did come and other medical schools here have been very generous in lending things. In some subjects I think we have given a fairly good course. In others we were not able to do so. It does not make it better to realize that all the other medical schools are in similar situations. Our examinations finished last week and this is the first week of holidays. However there is not to be any rest for any one concerned with the medical department for we have new courses to plan, laboratories to fit up, and so on. Some of our students have failed badly and should never have been admitted to the medical course as they were totally unprepared for it.

Under the Japanese system, which is the only one the present generation of Korean teachers and professors know, a class was accepted, graded as a class, and graduated as a class. Any one might register a month late or take six weeks off from classes in the middle of the term and no one thought anything of it. We few western teachers are protesting against that sort of thing. They call their institution a university and it now is evident it was a mistake to grant that name until the standards warranted it. At the end of the first term I tried to drop the students who failed too badly. The medical faculty backed me up in that but the academic committee of the institution overruled us and ordered that every one be kept on no matter how bad their marks or attendance happened to be. However, this summer we have finally got them to agree to our rules for the medical school though they will not adopt them for the rest of the institution. So that is a real step forward. We shall get rid of the dead wood and not have to waste our time over them nor let them hold back the bright ones. Also it should be a good warning to other lazy or dull students.

Quite a number of the faculty of all the three Christian colleges are coming to see there would be advantages in combining to form a large Christian university. As soon as Dr. Paik, the president of the Hoesan Christian College gets back from his trip abroad, the matter will be taken up and I hope steps begun to amalgamate the three colleges. There are not teachers enough to go around and this country cannot afford economically to duplicate anything unnecessarily.

The question of ownership of the East Gate Hospital is still before the courts and when it will be decided no one can guess. Recently, however, the military government, as a last gesture perhaps, has issued a directive that many thought was much overdue, announcing the transfer back to the missions of property that was originally theirs but still in other hands. Whether that applies to property like the hospital is not yet apparent. It was sold and not confiscated. It was legally turned over by the mission to the Korean Methodist Church who sold it and other property to a Korean who later turned it over to the Japanese, the sale being forced thus not being apparent, and therefore the present status is uncertain.

At the repeated request of a government committee, I am going to give half time for a few months to the position of advisor to the superintendent of the Seoul National University Hospital, a 550 bed institution with a large out-patient department, that has got into such a mess that the government was considering closing it except for the fact that would give our neighbors to the north something to talk about. They have refused to grant any money until things have been cleaned up and reorganized and I am asked to help do that. The Koreans have not been allowed to go abroad to see medical work in other parts of the world. At the same time they were told so often that Japan had the best medical system in the world that some of them believe it. Then, of course they were thrown into positions of responsibility for which they had no preparation whatever. This together with lack of cooperation and scarcities of various kinds helps to account for the condition. I do not anticipate much satisfaction in the job for I know there is still lack of cooperation among the staff and lack of appreciation of the need for change. However, the government is up against it and there is really no one else in sight who has medical training and speaks Korean but myself. This is a temporary half time job since I do not feel like abandoning my first task.

All best wishes to you both and say a little prayer for me now and again for I will surely need it.

Lorence.

Tai Chun Beach, Korea, July 27, 1949.

Dear Alexander and Esther,

Your letter of April 13th came a long time ago. Twenty-five cents is too much to pay for postage. If you get some of the blue folding letter-envelopes you can send them for fifteen cents and they come air mail. The only disadvantage is that what you can write is somewhat limited but still a good deal can be put into them. Air mail letters are now coming very quickly though ordinary mail takes several weeks or months.

Letters from home tell of your expected arrival on vacation. I hope you had a good one and feel the better for it. Also that things are going well in the work. It will be interesting to have the 110th anniversary celebrated and I hope will quicken interest in the church and help to make people appreciate it.

It was nice you were able to get a piano which will be a pleasure and a help to you all in various ways. We have a baby organ in our bungalow that was given to Elda by one of the army chaplains before he left and we enjoy having it though it is not very easy to play requiring so much work to pump it. It is much more difficult than a big organ.

Beulah Bourns, the Frasers, and I came to this lovely beach a week ago. It is about a hundred miles south of Seoul and on the west coast where the tides are high but the bathing is good whether they are high or low. Here we get the sea breezes and can dip in the sea when it gets hot. We hear the heat in Seoul is terrific and people can't sleep on account of it. There has been a very dry season and some of the rice is dying. In other places it has not been transplanted as there was no water on the paddy fields. We had a fine week here too but the rains have at last come, almost a month later than the average and more than a month later than often. It is too late to save some things that have already dried up and died but is time to prevent a famine. Our garden did very well until the dry spell came. Here we have a beach lodge where about fifty of us are enjoying the coolness of the sea breezes and bathing and swimming. There is a fine view, especially from the top of the hill, and the sunsets have been lovely. We watch them while at our vesper service. I did not feel particularly tired when I came but I feel so much more vigorous now that I know I needed this holiday. It is two years today since we arrived in Korea after the war. There are lovely shells here and beautiful rocks and stones of many varieties and colors. The past three days we have had very rough seas caused by the tail end of a typhoon somewhere not too far off. Some of the fishermen's boats were damaged in the cove near by in spite of their efforts to keep them off the rocks. There are a good many wild flowers about and various pleasant walks we can take. The company is congenial which adds much to a holiday.

Affairs in the church are going on with enthusiasm. We have some people here who fled from China. Some are wives with children whose husbands are going to stay and work as long as that may be possible in communist China. Men who have come too say that pastors here should get ready to earn their living by manual labor while serving their churches as that is the only way they can continue to work in their churches under communist domination which may come here and perhaps before long. No one knows what the future will bring of course. Some think there will be civil war in Korea before long. Many in the south feel confident of winning in such a case if they could be sure the Russians would not come in, but who can be sure of that? There is much anxiety, particularly among the people who have part of their families on one side of the 38th parallel and part on the other. We hope for the best and pray for a peaceful settlement while facing the fact that anything may happen. In the meantime we carry on as though all is to go on peacefully.

There is a much smaller registration of students in all colleges this year than for the past three or four years. Probably this is due to more than one factor, Part is probably due to the fact that the post war slack has now been taken up, part to the increasing expense which cannot be met by many families, and part to the new six year high school course which being

two years more than formerly no doubt seems to many parents to be as much education as their children need. At Ewha there are only ten students in the new premedical class and these were secured by advertizing for a second group of applicants and giving a second set of examinations. The new science building is going up apace and should be ready for occupancy by next spring.

The East Gate Hospital is again open for patients after the fire of last January but there are still great deficiencies. The fourth story is gone. The third has a roof but neither plaster on the walls nor floors to the rooms. The second has accommodation for twenty patients. The sterilizer has some missing parts and cannot be used. The plumbing either leaks or is clogged up. The laundry apparatus is out of order. The water supply is uncertain and insufficient. There is no money to remedy these things. Also the question of ownership of the place is still hanging fire and may not be decided for another two years until which time no one will spend much on repairs even if it were available to spend.

In Severance Hospital there is more to encourage. Several departments have been renovated and others are in the process. The former infectious diseases building has been refitted and refurnished and is now in use as a private patients pavilion under the charge of myself and Miss Bourns and we are doing our best to see that it is run on a little higher standard than was formerly the case. The new superintendent, Dr. Moon, is a very energetic man and doing his best but his ideas of what a hospital should be differ considerably from those of the westerners who have seen what they consider properly run hospitals. Besides, most of the present staff are Japanese trained with quite different standards, so that the process of raising standards will not be a short or easy one. However, some progress is being made. My work there consists of being assistant superintendent, head of the pediatrics department, medical examiner for the nurses' training school, in charge of the private patients' pavilion, and instructor in nutrition in the medical school. Besides which I teach the same at Ewha and supervise the work in East Gate Hospital. It is not an assignment that can be carried out with a great deal of satisfaction and I hope to be able to shed the other appointments soon and devote myself to the job at Severance, since I see no hope of having a good medical school at Ewha, but I do not like to walk off the job in the absence of the president of Ewha and put still more of a burden on the acting president who has troubles enough as it is.

The situation is quiet enough, or as quiet as it has been all along, but there is a good deal of unrest and much uncertainty. Prices are not going down and some are going up. The long continued dry spell with its bad effects on the crops have not improved the situation. Rains have come at last but too late for some crops to rally. I am afraid I am repeating myself. There have been so many interruptions during the writing of this letter that I hardly know what I have written. And the haste is that there are some folk going to Seoul today and I must get my letters off with them in order to get them mailed.

So we carry on, doing what seems to lie nearest to hand in the best way we can, and hoping and praying ~~and praying~~ for the best, seeing some progress, and in many individual cases feeling that we are of use. There is much to be thankful for also. Now I must close to get this off.

Best love to you all.-

Lorena

190-1 Choong Chung Ro, 2nd,
Bu Tai Moon Ku, Seoul, Korea,
Sept. 26, 1949.

Dear Alex,

Your letter of Aug. 3 has been here a good while. I do not get as much time for correspondence as I could wish. My work being in more than one place keeps me busy going about from one to the other. Then there are so many meetings that have to be attended, meetings of the Ewha Medical College, of Severance Hospital, of East Gate Hospital, mission meetings, joint meetings, etc. Besides that we have so many callers that much time is taken up that way. I am so weary of meetings that I have been threatening to go on strike from them so that I can get my regular work done.

Your news about the family and your plans for the future are all of interest. It is fine the girls are doing so well in school and with their music. Robert will be going to school too pretty soon. How time does go by. My patients call me grandmother now so it is evident that it is taking me along with it. It is thirty years since I graduated and I can scarcely believe it in spite of the calendar and my grey hair.

Things go on about as usual with us. We all had a three weeks holiday this year for which we felt the better. There is a new resort farther south where there is a fine beach and a lodge was put up for us to stay. The sea bathing was most refreshing on those hot sticky days. There was a high hill right by the beach from which the views in all directions were very fine and some of the sunsets were wonderful. Here I often see the sunrise but we do not see the sunsets at all on account of a high hill to the west of us right close by and a building on the top of that.

We have been having an epidemic of encephalitis for the past month and half of our children's department staff have been helping out at the Infectious Diseases Hospital where they were almost overwhelmed with the cases that came in twenty or thirty a day for a while. There were more than a thousand cases in the city and about thirty per cent died. Our staff are still not back but the students have started their clinics and things are rather crowded until we get our staff back again.

I am teaching two classes in Ewha, Psychobiology for a few lectures to be followed by medical English, and Infant Nutrition. At Severance I am giving clinics in pediatrics and it is rather nice to be working with students. At East Gate I still have some responsibility as they have not been able to find any one else to take over. But most of my time goes to Severance and they want me to give it all to them. I think there is a definite improvement there but it will take time and the elimination of some of the more conservative ones to get better standards going. One of the surgeons puts on his rubber gloves before an operation without washing his hands.

We have bought a mission truck to be used for taking groups of theological students for the week ends. Transportation being the problem it is in this country not much can be done without some way of getting around and we feel that the truck will greatly increase

the amount of work that can be done. If it were not for our car and jeeps none of us could do more than a fraction of what we are now at least trying to accomplish. The number of meetings we attend is very tiresome and sometimes they seem to be more of an interference with our work than any good they are. I have to attend the ones for Yeha Univeristy, East Gate Hospital, Severance Hospital, Union Christian Hospital, all the mission meetings, and various other joint committees with Presbytery, other missions, etc. That is one of the disadvantages of living in Seoul. Also it comes as an undue burden on a small mission that is supposed to take its share in all the branches of the work but has only a small number of people available to serve on committees. We are looking forward to Miss Rose's coming and are sorry that it has been so long delayed. We still have not heard that she has got a passage.

We have so little power and so little water that I have not done much photography for a long time. I have a lot of films to print but my paper is all old and I have used up all my developer. The lights come on and off once or twice ^{ready} an evening usually but stay on an hour or so only. By the time I get up to work, away goes the light usually, and some evenings it does not come on at all. We had daylight saving time all summer and that was fine but now we are back on standard time. I had some kodachrome films and some anscoolor films. All winter things were so dull and drab and no snow came all winter that there did not seem to be much to take. By the time spring came the films were getting outdated but I took them. The first one that was finished I took it out of my camera to send it away to be developed and just as I removed it the door bell rang and I had to go to the door. This delayed me till it was time to go to the hospital. When I returned and went to pack up the film it was gone and has never been discovered since. They next ones I did send and they were returned to me for inspection. Most of them were pretty good and were then sent back again to have prints made. They have not yet returned. Those were the kodachromes. The anscoolor films are made into transparencies but I have no projector the size to show them. I have one that takes 2 x 2 inch slides but my camera is larger than that. So partly because of the high cost of the color photography and partly because it is so much trouble sending them back and forth and getting the money sent to pay for them I do not plan to do any more color work just now. I took some of my best prints to the beach and colored them with oil photo colors with results that at least were satisfying to me. It was fun doing them and was much cheaper not to say less trouble than bothering with the color films and prints or transparencies. Little tiny transparencies that would be shown in a projector would cost less but those for my camera do not seem very practical.

Uncertainties continue in the political, economic, and national life. Trouble was anticipated on the 26th when elections were being held in the north but we have not heard of anything happening in the south on that occasion. There are riots and was a jail break not long ago and something is breaking out here or there all the time but that has come to seem to be the normal state of affairs. We all hope and pray that no civil war may come though many folk think there will be no settlement or real peace until the issues are settled by war. That is too serious and risky a state of affairs to rush into if it can be avoided. We still have our two guards with rifles at our house day and night and we often wish we could get rid of them but at least they have kept away thieves and we cannot tell what other dangers besides, probably none, though no one knows.

Much love to you all.

Flora

190-1 Choong Chung Ro, 2nd,
Su Tai Moon Ku, Seoul, Korea,
Dec. 13, 1949.

Dear Alex,

You will surely have had my letter of Christmas greetings before you receive this. I will merely reiterate them here. May you have the best Christmas ever and may the new year bring confidence and peace to our weary world.

You mentioned father's attacks in your letter but no one else has told me of them at all though of course I am not surprised as I knew while I was home that his heart was failing. I remember seeing Uncle Charlie in an attack of profound unconsciousness at Ed's once, while Uncle Charlie was there on a brief visit. None of thought he would ever come to again but he did and has been active for some years since. I suppose father's attacks were somewhat familiar. Did he have many of them? Ed never writes me. I suppose he considers I get all the news from father and mother and of course he is busy. I would like to know and I am not going to be alarmed. At his age, he cannot in the nature of things, continue to go on indefinitely, though he is a wonderful old man. Mother says both their memories are failing but one would hardly suspect it from their letters.

I am thinking I should take more of the colored transparencies for use at home with projectors. Dr. Scott is going home in April on furlough and wants something like that to show. The Rollei-cord takes pictures too large for the ordinary small 2 x 2 inch slides but I believe larger projectors to show its size can be had at a fairly reasonable price. The ones I took in the summer came out beautifully and are much cheaper than the Kodacolor prints as well as being much more true to the original colors.

What you said about Ansco or Ilford interested me and I am writing now to ask you to order for me some English film which would surely be cheaper than the American since the devaluation of the pound. I want color film for the Rollei-cord, several rolls please. If it is easily processed at home you might also send me some of the developer. I might order it for myself and shall do so later if you give me the name and address of a dealer in Canada which I do not have at present. You said last year they had only 35 mm sizes but I am presuming they now have other sizes. If you cannot get this, please order me some panchromatic film for the Rollei-cord, about half a dozen rolls and the same of verichrome.

Also I want some cut film for the Avis if it is to be had. I have not had any since before the war and the film packs are so expensive, and still more so now that our dollar is devalued. If you can get English film so much the better. The Avis as you likely remember takes size 9 x 12 cm or 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches. In San Francisco after several days search I finally got film holders and sheaths to replace those I lost in North Korea so I could now use the cut film if I had it.

I don't know how much all this will cost so am sending you a cheque for fifteen dollars. It is better to send in small amounts than too much at once on account of duty at this end. The parcels should be insured as they are frequently lost in the mails, at least occasionally, and films are hard to get here, therefore easy to dispose off in the black market. Sorry to be so much trouble. Best wishes to all.

You see I am hoping for colored film to make transparencies and slides for the Rollei-cord, and cut film-panchromatic- for the Avis. Please send me

the English color film processed, or else the

the name and address of a place where I can
order it, how to do it
materials and instructions

R. R. # 2, Bedford, N. S.,
Aug. 20, 1955.

Dear Alex,

There is not much news this time and Father has probably written any that there is. I just wanted to say that I found the postcard picture of the Air Force officers including the late King George VI and am sending it to you together with a good sized bunch of other picture postcards you sent Father at various times. He seems to have lost interest in them and never looks at them. They will mean more to you who saw the places than to anyone else, and he said he didn't want them any more, and to send them on to you.

There are a lot of other pictures that you sent him from time and which are still in the envelopes they came in, stuck here and there. Since he is no longer interested and there are some that neither of us have any idea who they are or where the pictures were taken, we would like to go over them with you some time if the opportunity offers. Some I would like to have as I have lost so many of my own, and you probably already have your own copies of them.

Nothing of any value was discarded as I went over everything carefully. I did not discard anything, even though it appeared to be of no interest whatever, without Father's consent. I had him go through the things that seemed to me we could well dispense with and discarded only the ones that he approved of. He realizes now that quite a lot of the old papers and magazines of forty and fifty years ago are not likely to be read by people who find themselves unable to keep up to date on the ones that are coming out now. I am not persuading him against his will by any means.

The booklet with the pictures of the 5th Seige Battery (it is the 5th, not the 8th) is too large to go in the same packet with the post card pictures but I will mail it to you separately sometime. Just now I am rather busy getting ready for a meeting with colored slides tonight, expecting company tomorrow, and getting ready to go to N. B. this week.

So maybe you'll be here before I get it off. I'll leave it in my room so it can be easily found if you happen to come during my absence. There are also some old speeches and sermons of yours that I'll leave with it. If you want them, take them all.

In the process of moving the bookcases out of Father's little room to give him more space, the books were removed from the shelves and have got somewhat mixed up. I did not know that the contents of any particular bookcase or desk were to go to any particular person until you mentioned it in your letter, and do not know now if I can put the things back as they were. However, we can ask Father just what he wanted though I doubt if he had anything very definite in his mind at the time he made the will except to give each one a fair share.

About the very old books, it would seem to me the best thing to do with them would be to give them to Dalhousie or Pine Hill or some museum where they would be seen and appreciated more than if they were just in some private book case, but if he has already made other disposition of them, there is no use suggesting anything else.

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I expect to be in N. B. and P. E. I. for about five or six weeks, exact address as yet unknown. But you could reach me by addressing a letter in care of Mrs. E. R. Woodside, Box 13, Bathurst, N. B. I asked for a definite schedule so I could have addresses to leave with people but still have no further information than that at certain dates I am to be in such and such a Presbyterian. Mrs. W. is the president and made that much of the schedule and she should know the details by now surely though I have not been informed.

Yesterday I went to Kentville to attend the staff meeting at the sanatorium, calling on the way at Mary Forbes's and Angus Elderkins. Mary and household are well. Joan Smith's husband was there for a short visit. He and Joan have been living apart for five years and she wants a divorce to marry another man. They have no family. She didn't want any, though he did. She has a good job in Ottawa. Charlotte, her sister, is married again. Her first husband was killed in the war. She is happy and has three children. Keith is also getting on well and has three children.

He lives in New Jersey. Charlotte lives at the Air Force Base near Edmonton. Peggy's husband is in Iran and they do not seem to know any address more definite than that.

Angus was out but Bea was there and made me welcome. She looks very thin. Her mother seems to live with them, a wiry vigorous looking old lady.

Aunt Kate flew to Charlottetown with Frieda to stay till Edith gets back from Mexico which should not be long now.

We have stopped Father's medicine and the salivation is worse on account of it but other symptoms have cleared up and he seems fine again.

I am praying that your family problem may soon be cleared up. It must be a great anxiety for you both but surely a girl with her home and church background will come back to her senses and her duty.

Love to all,

Florence

R. R. # 2, Bedford, N. S.,
Aug. 21, 1955.

Dear Alex,

Your letter of Aug. 17 came yesterday and though there is not much else in the way of news to tell I am writing to say that Father seems to be getting weaker and has had several dizzy spells. He can hardly get up from a chair or the bed without much effort. His heart appears to be failing and today we persuaded him to stay in bed, and that without much persuasion either. He had a good breakfast and listened to the broadcast church service with pleasure. He is not short of breath while lying down and says he has neither an ache nor a pain, which is something for which to be thankful. He also has some kind of a tumor on the lower abdomen which he says he has had all his life. Maybe it was a mole originally but it has grown and is ulcerated and discharging causing odor and soiling of his clothing. He didn't tell me until I asked him what was soiling his clothes so much. It seems to be only skin deep so should not be hard to remove, which would give him some comfort, and be pleasanter for all concerned. If his heart is better in a day or two we can attend to it.

Who dropped in to see us yesterday but Geordie MacIntosh, Josie, and two sons with their wives and families. Geordie is quite lame since a fall he had a while ago. Josie is as alert as ever, and the young folk seem pleasant. They were on their way for a trip through the valley, and gave us an urgent invitation to visit them in Truro.

The raspberries are about over but we have plenty blackberries. The apples are now big enough to cook though not ripe enough to eat raw. There are plums on two trees but quite a few are dropping off, and no wonder since the trees have neither been pruned nor fertilized for years, if ever.

Ollie's sister and family are visiting and we were there for supper on Friday. I thought it was too much for Father since he had had some dizzy spells that day but he insisted on going. However, he was glad to come right home as soon as we finished eating and went straight to bed. Ed's and the Smiths were here yesterday evening to see my slides of Korea, but Father was in bed and saw none of them but Ed. Dr. Reid is coming out today. Of course no one can predict anything but Ed and I feel in view of the gradual failure this summer and a worse heart condition than Ed has observed before, that anything can happen anytime. We are thankful that he is not suffering and that I am here with him.

If he should have a fatal attack, would you be able to come? Do you want us to wire you immediately? When you reply send a letter that can be read to Father and also a separate note to me please. He sees the mail and wants to read or have read to him all family letters.

There are several things of yours here in the way of books and pictures, especially a book of pictures of the 8th Seige Battery. If you are likely to come, I shall set them aside for you. If you are not likely to be able to come, shall I send them to you? I am trying to sort out some of the old papers and things in the big old desk in Father's room. Much of it is decades old and we have discarded quite a bit. Some of the pictures are old ones of Earltown and O'Leary. There is also a box of glass slides, the big ones for which no one now is likely to have a projector. What shall I do with them? Do you want them?

About your visits home, probably by another year there will be no home to come to and it won't matter, but if not, couldn't you leave the family with the Gaudines or the Duggans for a few days if that is where they prefer to be, which is quite natural of course, and come on yourself for a few days with your own folks who would like to see a little bit more of you? Of course we would like to see them all, but that might be one sort of compromise that could be made sometimes at least, I should think.

It is too bad about Katherine's having thrown over the traces so far. No doubt she will get over it all right, but it must be giving great concern to both of you just now. What is it that she finds so hard to take at home? Is she jealous of the younger ones in the family? Have they done better in school? Of course I know they have recently, and probably she feels unappreciated and even blamed while they get attention and approbation she would like but hasn't got. I wish I could help but do not see just how from this distance and under the present circumstances. Probably she would resent any suggestions from anyone so closely related to the family. I do think you should try to have a talk with

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her, appealing for family loyalty, and to give it another try for perhaps a fixed period of time, say three months to begin with. That should be reasonable. Then you might be able to win her over by giving full measure of praise where it can be given and showing her that she is as much loved and appreciated as the others. Of course I don't know much about the circumstances, but think likely jealousy of the others and a feeling that she is not appreciated lies at the bottom of the trouble.

Another suggestion I might perhaps venture to make would be to have a family council and discuss things such as the share each shall take in the running of the home. Perhaps she needs more responsibility and would take it if decided in that way among the crowd rather than as an order or even a request given from the source of authority. I do hope you will be able to find a way out of the difficulty.

Father says to give you his best regards and to tell you that he doesn't think he is very sick.

Lovingly,

Florence.

R. R. # 2, Bedford, N. S.,
Aug. 24, 1955.

Dear Alex,

I thought I should relieve your anxiety caused by my last letter when we were afraid Father was seriously ill. He remained in bed one day and was much better. He has continued to improve and today was out at the woodpile again.

Dr. Reid came out to see him but not till last night after he was in bed and asleep. He didn't do much or say much except that he would have a talk with El, who had been here earlier in the evening.

We were glad for a good rain last night as many wells about here, including ours, were going dry. We had a few quite hot days for Halifax and they felt hot as there was about one hundred per cent humidity at the same time. The rain has cleared the air and today is almost chilly. I am wearing a sweater and have the fire laid in the fire place ready for a match after supper.

There is no news since last I wrote. I am sorry if I worried you for nothing. One hardly knows what to do in such a case.

Love to all,

Florence

-----Jan. 18, 1968.

It was good to get more than the usual number of family letters lately, Alex, Anna, Olive, Heather, and Helen. It was good to hear from all. I was interested to learn about Heather's school and her other doings. Katherine's letter was informing. I hadn't known she was working and it is fine that she likes it and is so pleased with her circumstances. I am glad that Helen liked her gift and hope that that the rest of you have received your before now. Too bad they were late. Everything is late here as all the ships seem to go first to Viet-Nam and here only on the return trip. Even letters take longer than formerly for no reason we can fathom as the planes come as before. I hope Olive is beginning to feel much improved on the new treatment. It was fine that so many of the clan were able to get together in both Toronto and Montreal.

Alex, why don't you take the trip to Trinidad? You'll never be younger to enjoy it, and the family are off your hands now. With pension and old age pension and hospitalization you don't need to worry about spending a little money surely. You could afford a trip to the Orient if you wanted I'm sure.

We can use the moving picture films if you can get them for us. As for the unused Christmas cards Esther asked about, we can use some and children in orphanages and such places like to get them to look at. If you send them be sure to wrap them well as they sometimes come in worn covering with the cards almost falling out of the package. Be sure to write on the outside of the parcel USED CHRISTMAS CARDS. That should give you the lowest postage rate and save the parcel being opened in customs here. Address to me at the mission address, 190-10, 2-Ka, Choong Chung Ro, Seoul Korea. CANADIAN MISSION in the top line.

We have had very changeable weather with two extremely cold weeks and yesterday we were floundering in mud. Today is colder again. We are missing the wild storms we hear of in the U.S., Britain, and such disasters as earthquakes that have been so destructive in ~~Italy~~ Italy.

Not much of interest is happening here. Today we had the westerners on the Severance Hospital staff here for lunch, each bringing his own sandwiches and we supplying coffee and cookies for desert. We work in the same institution but seldom see each other except in the way of our work. There were fourteen here. We had Dr. Rose and Miss Sasse in to meet the others. The only difficulty is that lunch time is rather hurried but people don't find it easy to get together in the evening as they have other things to do and are far away in this four million population city.

There is a man here from the Canadian embassy in Tokyo for a couple of weeks. He is interviewing a lot of Koreans who want to go to Canada. He is coming to have dinner with us on Saturday evening and we hope some of the other Canadians will come in in the evening to meet him.

The members of the national assembly are still bickering, much like we hear they are in Canada.

We are getting out some year end statistics. I wonder if any of you medical folk would be interested in a few.

Total number of patients discharged in 1967 (including deaths) 10,523

Newborn infants 1,085

Days of care to patients discharged 123,949

Average length of stay 12 days.

That means quite a bit of work.

Dr. McCoy from the China Medical Board is here on his annual visit. He is always interested and helpful. We are hoping he will be able to give some dictating equipment for the surgeons and our medical secretary to use. Since the China Medical Board has been unable to work in China they have turned their help to South East Asia to the benefit of institutions in other countries. They help educational projects and medical schools rather than hospitals but if the hospital project is educational they may be interested.

It's late and I seem to have exhausted the news.

Much love,