

October 18.16

My dearest children,

Bob only discovered a few minutes ago that an American mail goes out this afternoon. We had not expected one to go so soon as our last left on Saturday, the 16th. I am writing just to have the feeling for myself that I have sent you a letter by every opportunity so far.

We went to the Chinese city of Shanghai yesterday afternoon. I told B. just now that it seemed to me like

a 3 rings circus + a bad dream combined + he said he felt the same. Streets just little dark eaves with such swarms + swarms + crowds of people, teeming is the only word that describes it. Thousands of little [singers?] [thereabouts?] singing their wares. Usually 2 to take turns. One sings for about 30 seconds, very loud indeed + then stops abruptly + the partner instantly takes it up + does the same. I watched 2 singing about handkerchiefs + things with enormous enthusiasm + [illegible] + did long to know just what they were saying. We are going to ask Dr. [Trian?] to go with us

some time. He is at St. Luke's was at U. of P. medical recent. Also practiced in Africa. Looks 20 + Dr. McCracker tells me is 40. Dr. McC. says they all look like that, faces round + violent lives to tell their age.

We went to St. John's, about 5 miles or less, out from the city to [illegible] Bp. Graner read the Pastoral letter from the House of Bishops, very good we thought. He said that Bp. had written it, when I asked him about it. We dined after church with the Graner's. There are 3 grown up daughters too, all very nice, educated

at Kemper Hall by the St. Mary's sisters. They are all teaching now in the Chinese mission [school?], under their father I suppose.

Everyone is very cordial + we are invited to everybody's to dinner. To the Potts next Sunday (Mrs. is Chinese + everyone says perfectly lovely), to the Graners again Sat. in Xuan Day I am not sure which + the McCrackers + Tuckers are always looking out for us. I am going now to see them, to pay my dinner calls. B. will have to make his alone as he has gone out now to the Brooklyn (the [illegible] ship) to see the doctor, when he went on St. Luke's on Saturday. We are so much more comfortable here where we are warm enough. It will be nicer where we have our lovely sitting room looking right out on the river. That will be the end of this [illegible] when Admiral + Mrs. [Winter-illegible] sail to Manila.

[written around the edge of the first page]

Goodbye dear children + [Birdy?] too. My love to you all

Your devoted Mother

I am very well + we are both having a good time.