My dearest Clara-

What a good letter that was that came to night from you. Surely it does me lots of good to hear all about yourself, your work and all the Hahnemann news. That was a surprise to learn of Miss Young’s death and still it ought not to have been so as Miss Viverberg wrote me of the seriousness of her condition. It seems wonderful how through the ages our Father has called his children home one by one to fit in a certain prepared part of his kingdom he has prepared I believe. Making ready for the second coming. Tonight at our evening devotion service we were speaking of this subject and when we realize that nearly all the Old Testament and Jesus’ prophecies are full such as Destruction of Jerusalem, coming scattering of the Jews, wars & rumors of wars, earthquakes, floods, famines, have come to pass and also the falling of the stars in 1833, Day when neither moon nor Sun would shine. Such a day happened in 1840 called Black Friday. All seems nearly ready for the time when Jesus shall appear in the clouds. I am consecrating my self afresh to him that I may be used as an instrument in service for him. Don’t forget us darling, in your prayers. I have frequently asked the Father to watch tenderly over all you dear girls and give you just the strength and blessing you need in your daily work.

Glad you have been so fortunate in getting a case so that you will be busy as soon as your finish in March. You deserve the best there is, girlie, dear and I know it will come to you too. Best wishes for the greatest success. I’m going to ask you to send me a post card of the H.H. with the new buildings if it is possible to get one. I would like to see so much how it looks. Have you done any work in the new surgery?
We have just had this year’s conference here at Siufu. Most of our missionaries from the fine different cities in W. China were present and we had a good time together. We had our Chinese teacher come this morning again for the first time in over a week. He’s a really, a-brilliant chap and you ought to see him look this morning when John showed him a picture of Pittsburg “sky-scraper” Hah! You know the Chinese hardly know what those things are- He started to count the storeys. Chinese cities are the limit. Very narrow as a rule so that no more than a sedan-chair and two men can pass at one time. The streets are never cleaned and some or most of the “kiddies” look as though they never were either. However it was made manifest to us the other day that one mother at least had bathed her baby for as we were carried past her door we saw her lift out her year or two old son out of a tub of water right out-of-doors. The air was really quite chilly although the sun shone- The poor little fellow was steam-ing at a great rate. Their homes are built with tile or thatched roofs with ground floors, they are damp, dark because they are afraid evil spirits will enter if they have windows, and dirty. Tuberculosis is doing it’s work among thse people in a savage manner. The binding of the feet has also helped to bring about this disease. The women cannot get around like we can- some of the feet measure not more than four or, five inches. Their limbs some of them look like two stumps. Their gaily colored pantaloons and short loose frocks look so strange to us new people. The coolies and poor classes wear straw shoes and a straight piece of cloth bound about the head for a hat, white if in mourning.

The Chinese have no regular graveyards but bury the dead in the center of a cultivated field, back-door yards etc. However the side of hills and mountains are considered very lucky places. Many of the people buy their coffins and store them in their homes so they will be sure of having one after they are dead. Not a bad idea is it. Hah!

On passing some graves recently we noticed they were covered with several pieces of paper cut to resemble strings of cash. A cash is worth a twentieth of our cent and has a square hole in the center. Often we see men carrying strings of cash over their shoulder. Then there is also a another delicate (?) piece of money, a shoe of silver called “___bao” and weights over three pounds. I haven’t found much use of my pocket book out here- Hah! Oh I’m getting away from my point- they burn this paper cash at the graves so that the departed spirits will be supplied with money to travel in their present regions.

We are living with Rev. & Mrs. Clark just across the river from Siufu and like it our new home very much. He is a graduate of Roch. Sem. John knew him there and his wife is also a New York state girl. They have two small boys, the little one can crow and the other wants to know, how, why, & wherefore all the day long. They are dear youngsters. Oh, dearie, I know you will be interested to know that all my wedding gifts came with out anything but a little china tea pot cover being broken. We have the lovely pictures on our walls from you girls and I wish you could share them with us.
Surely they are such a great source of enjoyment to us. We feel like thanking you all again.

A new house is soon to be built in Suifu we expect so until then we shall probably live where we are and too we think it will be a good plan to know more of the language before going to house-keeping. We get a fine view from our windows and we have a very good tennis court back of the building. Mr. Clark is principal of our mission school “Monroe Acadamy” in Suifu and we live in a part of the building.

The school has been closed for some time on account of the Chinese New Years which usually lasts a couple of weeks. Most of the shops on the streets are closed during that time, and everyone works as little as possible. The people go about making calls and drinking tea etc. together. There are a large number of very poor families living in little shacks near here and as we feared their New Year’s joys would be exceedingly meagre. Mrs. Clark sent out a servant to invite them to call on us but they sent back word that they had no fit clothes to wear so Mrs. Clark requested that not be allowed to interfere with their coming so soon a large number of women and children arrived. Some were raged and dirty. We made them presents of those gaily colored one cent hand-kerchiefs, Chinese candy, tea & pieces of cash. It did our hearts good to see how much our efforts to make them happy were appreciated. We had also heard formerly that these families were much afraid of foreigners and we availed ourselves of the opportunity to brake this barrier down. Some of the people re-turned in a day or two and expressed their gratitude by bring gifts of sweet potatoes from their gardens, ______ field corn etc. There is no Christian work for women being done on this side of the river. This great opportunity makes me still more anxious to get the language so I can tell to them the glad tidings of our living God and Christ.

Flowers are in blossom here such as lilies, carnations etc. and in a couple of months we shall go up in the mountains to live. It is so very hot in this region during the summer. Well good bye dear. Love to all the girls- your people & yourself from both Julia & John Cherney.