On the Yangtse,
March 17, 1911

My dearest girl-

I didn’t intend to wait so long to answer your last nice, long letter but I’m such a busy girl. I wrote you that we moved into a home of our own last Nov. on Thanksgiving Day and you can imagine how much there was to do at that time settling, then in Jan. we left for our yearly conference held at Yachow eleven ten days trip from Suifu and were there about two weeks. There are but two missionary families at Yachow and they entertained about eighteen people for a week which seemed to us quite an undertaking for them. However we all had a delightful time and it afforded a fine opportunity for all our W. China missionaries to meet and become acquainted with each other. During conference we were with the Salquist family but afterward spent a week at the Shield home at Yachow. They urged us to stay as long as possible as Mrs. Shields often gets very lonesome. He is a doctor and she is a nurse- was graduated from a Phila. Pa. hospital- a jolly girl,. We did a heap of sewing and chatting- can you guess what the sewing was- Shields are expecting a little babe next summer and now for a little surprise I have in store for you- the Cherneys are also expecting a little youngster next May. I can tell you we are quite delighted. Hardly realized one could look forward to the arrival of a little one with so much pleasure. I have crocheted a sweet, little, blue & white sacque and booties to match and recently received a pretty pair of white kid booties from a lady in Chenu so our babe will have a present on hand when it arrives. Wish you were going to be my nurse Walde, dear- we would show you the best of times out here in West China. We have a nice, big home and garden and our servants are pretty well trained. We have a camera now so hope to be able to send you some views of our home,
surroundings, servants etc. sometime. We have some magnolia & camellia trees in blossom also calla lilies, iris & violets. The sun has been shining out warm and bright today and everywhere spring seems evident while I suppose you are still having snow & strong winds in America. The fields of yellow mustard surrounding us look so pretty also the pea blossoms look like sweet pea flowers.

Wish you could have been with us this afternoon we had such a splendid women’s meeting; I must tell you that a party including Mrs. Upright of our Suifu mission, Dr. Dearing a special missionary from Japan visiting W. China, Mr. Cherney, a native preacher & his wife and myself all left Suifu yesterday morning in a nice little four roomed house-boat bound for an a week’s out station trip up the Yangtse. We arrived at a large town about thirty miles from Suifu today and held our meeting in a heathen temple. The men in our party preached to the men and we women talked to and taught the women. I had a number of youngsters about me whom I taught verses of hymns- they got so interested in studying it was hard to work to get them to stop- one sweet mite of a girl with a big, fat baby in her arms got as close as possible so she could hear, learn and look after her little brother at the same time. That wistful little face seems to follow stay with me and how it makes one long to do more for these poor people. The natives here seemed so glad to have us with them and were kind indeed. Oh, I’m so glad I’m here, girl dear. Such great opportunities we have. I of myself can do nothing I know but if the Christ working through me can use me to bring any of these women or children into the fold that our Father may be glorified it will bring sweet joy to my soul. You must continue to pray for us and our work often, Clara dear, as I know you have in the past.

I wish to say that the dear, little xmas gift from you reached me O.K. and I thank you so much. The post cards were also nice and I prize the picture of yourself and two little youngsters. You look quite professional in your white uniform and black band. So glad you got to have a visit in Chicago. We had a missionary meeting there in one of the big churches when coming across the states. We spent two or three days there.

You are so good to tell me all about the H.H. new buildings etc. It surely must be a fine looking place. Yes it must seem very different with so many new faces and this is the month Misses Staley & Shaefer graduate. So Staley is engaged to a doctor- that is fine- if he is as nice as she, I mean. Is Dr. Walker one of the hospital interns? I don’t ever remember of hearing his name before. Miss Staley is a poor correspondent. I never hear from her. I was only joking in that letter about the clipping in regard to last year’s graduates. I knew Misses Staley and Heinreich wouldn’t finish until this March. Is Miss Weller still at the Hosp? If so give her my love. I think of her often- I used to like her so much.

I hope you are feeling quite well these days and will have just as many cases as you care to take. You asked for a picture of my Jack and myself so I shall try to have one taken with our camera later on for you. Yes, I should be delighted with a post card with the H.H. including the new buildings on it. I trust the little Chinese ribbon bat reached
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you safely at xmas time. We both join in sending love to your good people & yourself-
Julia Wilson C.