

No. 4 Jen T'ien His Li.
Ho-pei
Tientsin, China.

July 18, 1918

Dr. M. E. Church
Falls Church, Va., U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Church:-

Your letter of June 14th has just arrived, and I thank you for the statements it contains.

We are just at this time busily engaged in preparations for our departure for America. We leave this city about the 3rd or 4th of Aug. and sail from Shanghai per China Mail steamer "Nanking" on August 10th; reach San Francisco about Sept. 1st where we shall spend a few days and then on to Colorado Springs for a rest of a week or more and from there to New York, which place we expect to reach about the middle of September. We are planning, after a couple of weeks in New York, to run down to Falls Church for the month of October, and then probably spend the rest of the winter in New York, but that depends on circumstances.

A few weeks ago I wrote to Rev. R. A. Davison asking him to make inquiries as to a comfortable place where we might obtain board in the village for the month we expect to spend there, and at rates not too exorbitant. The housing problem about Washington seems to be getting so acute that I don't know whether we shall be able to secure a shelter for our heads in my old home town or not. If you hear of anything, I should be greatly obliged if you would let me know.

In regard to my farm and present tenant, it seems to me that the present arrangement is neither very satisfactory nor profitable. At the time Mr. Hirst took the place, there was so little demand that it seemed about the only arrangement possible, but at present I am sure we could do much better. George did not send me a copy of the contract made with Hirst, but I can probably find out some of the essential points when I have time to go over the file of his letters.

Of course we cannot renew the contract under its present form, but whether it can be broken before the end of this year, I do not know. I seem to remember some statement about "subject to sale or return of owner". When I return I shall have to take the matter up, and, if I can get what I consider a good offer, I shall sell, but otherwise I may take over the place myself temporarily and then look around for a new tenant to run the farm, or else arrange to allow the present tenant to keep the house and part of the place and arrange to get the rest under cultivation under some other plan. If you could have a copy of the contract sent to meet me, I could be thinking the matter over before I get there. I think if you could have it sent at once I might be able to receive it if addressed
c/o Thos. Cook & Son,
San Francisco, Cal.

The disputed rent payments of Mr. Hirst I suppose will have to go his way unless we can prove him wrong. I do not know how the receipts were made out; if they do not specifically mention the month for which the rent was paid, we probably have some grounds for claims still, but the matter isn't worth a lawsuit.

The stone quarry you had better just conduct as you have been doing until I have time to make other arrangements. The increase in the price of stone which you have made I think is a wise one.

The jewelry I will look after when I come.

When you next write to Guy give him my best wishes and tell him I surely hope his contribution of service will help greatly to bring this miserable, crazy war to a speedy close. What part of the service is he in?

I have received a suggestion to go into service myself, but I cannot tell at present whether I can well do so. Secretaries are really needed for Y.M.C.A. work among the Chinese in France, of whom there are several hundred thousand doing war work. My wife is not very familiar with the English language and not all with the American customs, so it might be impossible to leave her in America, but I can tell better after we get into the States.

Sincerely Yours
(Percy did not sign this one)

Source: Mary Riley Styles Library
History Room
"Tripp, Percy B."-hanging file