

No 6 Jen Tsien His Li,
Ho-pei
Tientsin, China
Nov. 1, 1924

Dear Dr. Church:

I have just written to Mr. J. F. M. Bowie of the H.L. Rust Co. to send you a check on my account to the amount of \$125.00. I shall ask you to divide this as follows:

\$75.00 credit to my account on your own books, to be employed as may be most needed on taxes, interest, life insurance or Federal Farm Loan.

\$50.00 deposit to my account in the Falls Church Bank. I shall draw against this and the Swift payments to meet interest on some notes, reducing some smaller accounts, etc. to the end of the year.

I hope to be able to have the H. L. Rust Company send you at least \$50.00 on alternating months.

My prospects here are good for getting considerable work in teaching to help me defray a good proportion of local expenses, but it takes a little time to get started. One wealthy business man wants his grandsons to take English lessons with me, so he is now working up a class that will—if it materializes, - bring in \$100.00 Chinese money per month: The new principal of a school in which I formally taught has suggested that he may like my services a little later, and so on. As fast as I can get free from dependence or money from America for our necessary living expenses, I shall apply that saving toward clearing up my obligations over there.

We reached our destination here after numerous delays and a series of unusual, tho not harmful, experiences, - a bit unpleasant at times, however. Rough seas at the start made us all seasick for several days, but we had some compensation, even in our misery, in the enjoyment of one of the ships two beautiful suites de luxe which the company had given us at the minimum first class fares as they had no other place to put us after they cancelled the earlier ship on which we were to sail.

The jumping overboard of a demented Chinese girl sometime one night, gave a sad turn to affairs; going out of our course a bit to take a man of a freighter for operation to save his life was a matter of interest, (the man came out splendidly). Forty miles, or about three hours, out from Yokohama and we suddenly met with a typhoon and the captain turned the ship about and ran a hundred miles out into the high seas where we remained twenty four hours until the blow was over. Between Japan and China we say huge water spouts pass not far to one side of us. On account of war, the rail route from Shanghai up was closed so we had to remain there five days and finally came up on a small steamer of one of the mining companies that had just three small passenger cabins-and we were the only passengers, but they had an excellent cook and the captain told us to ask for anything we wanted, - the sea was as placid as a pond, so we quite enjoyed our three day coast voyage. Eleven days after our arrival another little daughter was born to us- 9 pounds, everybody doing well. Next a coup d'etat at Peking, the withdrawal of Gen. Wu's northern armies to this city and vicinity, all kinds of rumors and much panic so that most of our neighbors moved to another part of the city further away from the camps and the railroads, the entrances to the lanes in (illeg) block an most all walled up under police orders to afford easier means of protection in cars any soldiers should get out of control, and we have to go quite a ways about to get in and out. We feel no fear ourselves and today's reports are much more assuring of an early clearing up of the chaotic state of affairs.

A splendid, hearty reception was tended us – a few days after our arrival, and a continuous stream of visitors has been impressing us with our welcome back. Several dinner parties already and more waiting for Mrs. Tripp to be able to attend:

We are mighty happy to be back in China, even with all her present turmoil, and more happy to be well out of America, to which, I am sorry to say, we carry no tender memories, no regrets at leaving. If ever we visit the united States again, we shall hope to find the standards of public and private life for in advance of the present deplorable conditions of morality, justice, honesty, unselfishness, and every other virtue.

Sincerely Yours
Percy B. Tripp

Source: Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
"Papers of Merton Elbridge Church, 1866-1959"