

No, 6 Jen T'ien His Li,
Ho-pei,
Tientsin, China
Dec. 11, 1924

Dear Dr. Church:

Thank you for taking care of the insurance policy. I enclose the declaration slip for reviving the policy, but I have not put in the policy number nor the date of premium due, as I am not quite certain of them. I think you know my writing so you could sign as witness. Please take care of the various premiums on my own and my wife's policies as they come due and I will arrange for any overbalance as quickly as possible.

I am writing to the H. L. Rust Company to send you another check for \$50.00. This you may credit and apply where it is most needed. I am sure that I can have them send you at least \$50.00 every other month, and probably a considerable more very shortly. I am now teaching one private class in English, for which I receive about enough to cover a third of our living expenses; I am now trying to work up another class to start probably right after the new year. There are already several students registered and quite a number of inquiries. This class should bring me in another third of our expense money. Then, shortly after our return, the principal in one of the schools in which I formerly taught asked if I wished to teach again and said he might wish my services. A few days ago he told a friend of mine that he had a definite proposition to make me for the coming year. From present work and immediate prospects it looks as tho I shall soon be earning enough for our support locally and all revenue in America may be applied to accounts there.

Hester is a problem. His rental and a little extra should take care of all payments arising on insurance, interest and taxes. Perhaps it may be possible to work out a change. He once expressed a willingness to sell out his business to any new tenant I might find to take over the place. I looked into it a little and put an ad in the paper. There were several inquiries, particularly from men who carried restaurant business and wished a place to produce supplies for their own business. Some of them seemed willing to pay as much as a hundred dollars per month. But, owing I think the particularly bad condition of the roads at the time, nothing came of the matter. I expect you in your real estate business might be able to procure me a better tenant and arrange for Hester to get off by transferring his stock and equipment or otherwise. Please take it upon with him and tell him I cannot let him stay unless he can pay.

I have sent reply in regard to quarry matters under separate cover, registered.

We are getting along splendidly. It takes a long time to get fully settled, Mrs. Tripp's folks have at last found a suitable residence and moved out a little over a week ago. The church that has also been using our sitting room for services will begin in new quarters next Sunday, so we are beginning to feel that we have a house of our own.

Government matters are far from settled, altho we are enjoying of period of calm. Many of us fully expect a renewal of civil war with the spring. We hope that will be final.

Terribly cold the past few days and anthracite coal way up to about \$13.00 per ton in American money. It is normally about \$7.00 to \$8.00.

Your truly
Percy B. Tripp

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