

Shanghai

May 11th 1931

Dear darling Mother -

It is very unhappy news that you should be again among the maimed and crippled - with your lumps and Tumbles - you must try to be more patient, less in dependent and let others help you. It must be very nice in Woodbury now - the best time of year and I hope that you are able to get out a lot in the garden. It is just as well that you are not in Shanghai - it is not a beautiful city - it is dirty, absolutely flat, very few parks, no gardens, and the architecture absolutely mongroid. The busy spectacle of the water front is always intensely absorbing, but for the most part, the city has little pictorial charm and no place for the contemplative worker. However the life and psychology of the people here is something quite out of the ordinary, and an education - which one could do without - but only too intriguing for one who wants to know the whys and wherefores of human behavior. You begin to feel that by the time you have satisfied your curiosity and completed your education you will be ready for the next life, and then you may forget all that you have spent so much time learning in this.

I have a nice but noisy room in the heart of town with a balcony overlooking the main thoroughfare - what a contrast to quiet lovely Texas! where nothing ever happens. If ~~you~~ could alternate between the two - one would be in less danger of missing some of the sensations of this existence. On my desk is a picture of the rocks and sea of Acapulco, ^{sent by Natalie} and after all is said and done that charm of nature out balances all that Shanghai has to offer, to a rustic soul like myself.

Many Europeans have been very hospitable with pleasant parties and assistance in doing the town. Dr Hirschfeld who arrived ten days ago has had great success and is

occupied with many lectures. We go on about the same time - the end of May to Peiping. My old friend Dr. Lew Wallace too will be here for a few days about the 25th - and I have also seen the John Alden Carpenter family whom I met in Kyoto. Ginny is so crazy about Peking that she wants to go back there for a third time and spend the rest of the Summer, leaving out all the rest of the Orient.

Gertrude has sent me a photo of herself and Uncle Ned taken in Cuernavaca - I am sending her letters on to you.

I personally cannot understand why people want to travel! I would be quite content to spend the rest of my life in one spot - if I could only find the spot!

Nannie has been very sweet to be so conscientious about forward my mail and including notes from herself, the which may some day be answered. But Shanghai provides little material for letter writing - much more for novels!

Much love.

Scho.