

Dec. 20

Dear Mother -

I hope that the Xmas package arrived OK, and that there was no duty to pay - If so, I am likely to send on some more old rags one of these days.

~~haven't~~ Did you have a good Xmas? with too much good food etc and an Xmas tree. I'm sure you didn't have a Tiger Pond - as people in Woodbury are very ignorant about such things.

I do not know what Xmas will be like here as it is still five days off, and I am a convalescent in the German Hospital. I have been here two weeks with a very light case of typhoid fever. I have been recovering rapidly and expect to be out in a few days. For a week before I was sick at home with fevers and chills, thinking all the while that I had the grip, and was treated for such by the local German Druggist who fathers and doctors all his neighbors. Since coming to the hospital I have had a very good German doctor who is taking every precaution: although I feel quite well now he will not allow me to put a toe out of bed. The nurses, German Lutheran Sisters are very fine women. The hospital is small and one gets much better care here than in the P.U.M.C. (Peking Union Medical College) an enormous and terrifying institution of the Rockefeller Foundation, and the only other good hospital in the city. The German Hospital is in the Legation Quarter, which, I think I have never explained is a city in itself with fortified walls, gates, moat and beyond wide open field (part of which is used for Polo grounds, separating it from the Tartar City inside of which it is located. All the streets are paved and lined with trees, quite different from the dusty roads of the rest of Peking

The Quarter was almost completely destroyed during the Boxer trouble and has been rebuilt since then with many fine Embassy buildings, residences and shops.

This is a good reason for being sick as it has been frightfully cold, much wind and some snow mixed to a chocolate color with sand from the Gobi desert. I was not allowed to see any one for a week, but I have been feeling like a prima donna, as my room has been filled with so many baskets and pots of flowers.

There is one very amusing pot: a deer made of cedar branches - it is a splendid piece of grotesque sculpture with its whiskers its red eyes (crowed) its bulging chest, narrow waist and flaunting hips.

All good households are engaged in making egg noogis for the holidays, and I have been racking my brain trying to remember how to concoct that famous Mexican drink: Ponape, but as I cannot recall exactly there will have to be some experimenting.

Capt John Thomson came to see my work a short while ago and was much impressed. In fact has threatened to buy one of my pencil studies; which is a compliment from another artist. I have sent nothing back yet to Mrs Whitmore, although she is becoming impatient. I prefer to wait and make a "grand impression" when I do send. Besides I think there are not many sales here these days at home.

I had a very nice letter from Aunt Florie in which she regrets that she has not been able to have

you for a visit this Winter. Perhaps you will be going after all by now. I also have a letter from you written by your secretary - ain't it swell to have a secretary? You ask me if I heard about Otilie Perkins but you don't say what. I have heard nothing. A rather drunken scoundrel came from Poots Brady, which seems to indicate that she is getting less than ever of what she thinks she wants (if she knows at all) from this existence.

Don't worry about not understanding the Manchurian situation. Nobody understands what the Chinese are about, least of all themselves, and the Japs have bit off more than they can chew and realize their mistake but don't yet know what to do about it. The schools and universities here are closing for lack of funds: no salaries for professors, no money for coal - these sums have been coolly misappropriated by the Nanking politicians. There have been student riots every where and much destruction of public buildings in Nanking, but even the students have the most impossibly crazy ideas of how to solve the national difficulties.

I am very much surprised that the Cousins have gone to New York. It will be a great change of life for them. However they seemed to like New York very much.

What will Madge do now that her father has gone to Durango? I have written her but do not expect much news in return. I have just been reading Stuart Chase's "Mexico" It must be good for the brain it is so jammed with facts and statistics. Anita Bremers "Idols behind alters" makes much more interesting reading.

I am now about to have some refreshments so this must stop. They are fattening me up like a pig and giving me so many tonics I ~~expect~~ expect to be a world champion strong man

* Enclosed is a newspaper ad I did for Helen Burton. It is supposed to be a Han Dynasty Camel but as I never saw one I had to resort to my imagination.

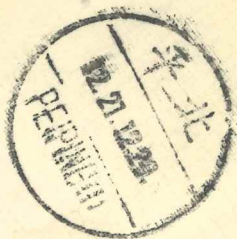
* [Placed in Memorabilia]

Much love

Jeho.

of universities here are clearing for lack of
The school
and realize their mistakes but don't
have lost off more than they can
least of all themselves, and
I understand what the
from the
which seems to me that the
I never saw one I had to resort to my
but as I never saw one I had to resort to my
Imagination.

Lawson Handforth
c/o American Express
Peking, China



Dec 20-31

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