9-13-1917

Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1917-09-13, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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Dearest Dada:

Well, your letters just received are most welcome. They take me out of myself; out of my illness. I have been ill, - diarrhea and vomiting blood! Last night, I thought I was going to die! You see, in the middle of the night, I awoke with a sort of smothered feeling. Some-way or another, I managed to straggle into my bath-room, where I began to vomit without ceasing. [page break]

Mother and the rest of the family came running in and saw a figure doubled up over the bath-tub almost exhausted from panting. Both the chauffeur and the groom were away on a spree: so neither the motor nor the carriage was available to obtain a doctor. I suffered as I never did before for about three hours: after which I fell into a restless sort of sleep. Today I feel better: but still weak and wobbly. [page break]

I have told you of Mother’s dislike in living so far away from town. Well,
after days of house-hunting, 
nights of discussion, we 
have finally found a 
house on Yu Yuen Road 
about a mile nearer to 
the shopping center. It 
has the advantage of being 
in an excellent residential 
section, and the house is 
new and large with 
a large lawn for tennis 
and croquet. It is 
made of brick, has all the [page break] 
modern conveniences, a 
carriage house, a garage 
and servants’ quarters. 
Father is thinking of buying 
the property as it is a 
good investment, for in 
a couple of years, it will 
increase about 30% in value. 
It is parallel to Avenue 
Joffre, and the promoters 
are building it up 
to rival Avenue Joffre. 
You see, with our house 
in Hankou, & one on Ave. 
Joffre, & one on 
Yu Yuen Road, we have 
pretty good land securities 
not to mention our land [page break] 
on the [Brend] which is val- 
uable. Right next to our 
house on Yu Yuen Road 
is a slightly smaller house 
which my sister Mrs. Kung 
is going to take. The northern 
climate does not agree 
with her health, but as 
her husband has to be 
away up North on 
business most the time, 
it is wise for her to 
be near us. Thus we 
can enjoy each other’s 
company, & yet Mother 
& Dad need not be
disturbed by the children's nocturnal concerts.

In our Yu Yuen Road house, I shall have my own room, dressing room and private bath. You cannot imagine how well I enjoy a bath of my very own after the wild scramblings for the not overly clean tub at Wood. I am busy planning the furnishing of my own suite of rooms. Oh, bliss of bliss! All the rooms have fireplaces! My bedroom has five windows, three facing west, one facing north & one south. I think I shall have it either in old-rose or pale yellow like my present room.

My letters, I know, Dada, compared to yours are trite. But you'd rather get a frivolous note than none at all, wouldn't you?

I haven't heard from the kids, except [Rend] - But then, I haven't written any of them. What does Ted expect to do next year, [Rend] said that she expects to teach in a school on Lake Champlain.

Give all the kids my love, & remember me to all the family. Tell Marquette to send Mr. Hyde along. I'll be
glad to see him.

With love Dada to
Grandpa & yourself

Mayling
Dear Nana,

How well your letters just received are most welcome. They take me out of myself. I have been ill - diarrhoea and vomiting blood last night. Thought I was going to die! Late in the middle of the night I awoke with a sort of premonition of feeling extremely weak or another, I managed to struggle into my bathroom where I began to vomit without ceasing.

491 Ave. Jafft, Shanghai, China
13 Sept, 1917.
I have told you of mother's dislike in living so far away from town. Well, after days of horse-hunting, nights of discussion, we have finally found a house on Quine Road about a mile nearer to the shopping center. It has the advantage of being in an excellent residential section, and the house is new and large with a large lawn for tennis and croquet. It is made of brick, has all the

mother and the rest of the family came running in and saw a figure doubled up over the bath. They almost fainted from painting. The chauffeur and the groom were away on a spree; so mother the motor was available to obtain a doctor. I suffered as Jenev did before for about three hours; after which I feel into a restless sort of sleep. Today I feel better; best still weak and wobbly.
I have told you of mother's dislike in living so far away from town. Well, after days of horse-hunting, right of discussion, we have finally found a house on Mr. Green Road about a mile nearer to the shopping center. It has the advantage of being in an excellent residential section, and the house is new and large with a large lawn for tennis and croquet. It is made of brick, has all the

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modern conveniences, a carriage house, a garage and servants' quarters. Father is thinking of buying the property as it is a good investment: for in a couple of years, it will increase about 30% in value. It is parallel to Avenue Joffre, and the promoters are building it up to rival Avenue Joffre. You see, with our house in Yorkez, or one on Ave. Joffre, and one on 14 in Queen Road, we have fully good land securities, not to mention our land.

Dear Dada,

I trust your letter just received are most welcome. They take me out of myself. I have been ill - diarhoea and vomiting blood! Last night, thought I was going to die! Rump in the middle of the night, I awoke with a sort of pained feeling. Some way or another, I managed to struggle into my bathroom where I began to vomit without ceasing.
Just to teach in a school on Lake Champlain. You are all the kids you love, and remember me to all the folks. Tell Mary to send me Hyde along. I'll be glad to see you.

With love, Dada.

Grandpa & Yourself.

Respectfully,
on south. I think shall have it either in old rose or pale yellow like my present room. By letters, I know, Dada, compared to your we two. But you’d rather get a few dollars not than none at all, wouldn’t you?

Have not heard from the kids except Reni. But then, haven’t written any of them. What do Ted expect to do of it year, Reni want that she et-

ren's nocturnal concert In our life every Good house, I shall have my own room, dressing room, and private bath, you cannot imagine how much I enjoy a bath of any very soon after the mild scrunblings for the not over clean tub at wood. I am busy planning the furnishing of my own suite of rooms. Oh, bliss of bliss! All the rooms have fire places, key, bed rooms, bare floor, windows, three facing west, one facing north.
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In the letter, I know, Doda, compared to yours are true. But you'd rather get a few dollars not than none at all, wouldn't you?

I haven't heard from the kids except Renee. But then, I haven't written any of them. What do Ted and Jeet do the rest of the year.

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on the Bend which in valuable. Right on to her house on the Green Road
is a slightly smaller house.
which my sister Mrs. King
is going to take. The winter
climate doesn't agree
with her health, but as
her husband has to be
away up north on
business most of the time,
it is nice for her to
be near us. Thus we
can enjoy each other's
company, yet neither
will need rest be
disturbed by the child.