3-19-1918

Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1918-03-19, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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Transcription

491 Avenue Joffre
Shanghai, China
19 March, 1918

My dearest Dada:

My last letter to you was not numbered;
I put it aside thinking that I would number it
after I look in my little book to see what number
it ought to bear. However, I forgot.

I am just in receipt of your 26th letter.
"Mirable dictu," almost a month ago I was just
in that same horrid bad mood. I started to
write you exactly how I felt: but something
or another interrupted me, and by the
time I did write, the mood had flown.
But I am glad you wrote me how you felt,
for I am beginning to think that I alone
got disgusted with the world in general &
myself in particular.

Well, life here in China is not so
nice as I would wish. For one thing, Father
has become very thin, and the doctors
tell us to expect the worst at any time.
You cannot imagine how wearing such a [page break]
condition is. And then too, you know
I have such a hot temper that it
needs great effort to control myself. And
then of course with Father ill, I have to be
cheerful, although at times it does seem that
I want to burst forth & flare out. Father
is very very patient for an invalid, but
at the same time like all invalids, he is
irritated by the least thing. For instance,
he insists on wanting to eat what the
doctors forbade him to.

You see, it is almost more than I
can bear sometimes to see him so thin;
but of course we all try to pretend that he is better. Life of course is not very enjoyable when every day the same shadows hang over us.

I give him a massage with olive oil every night, as his skin has become so dry that it is like parchment. It is so hard for him to be losing his strength [page break] when up to the past few years, he has been in the very best condition physically.

Have I told you that as I have a beautiful Remington for a present, I am taking lessons in typewriting. I hope to be able to write you on it in another couple of months.

So you want to now about "the man on the boat." Well, I had an awful row with the family, because they refuse to let him come to China to see me. They are afraid that I am going to marry him if he comes, - and who knows but they are right. I have told you that since the last three times, I have refused to see H.K., haven't I? What is the use of "keeping up" when I know now positively that I do not care to marry him. I have seen Mr. Yang once at a party: but we both studiously avoided looking at each [page break] other. I believe that the dinner I am going to on Saturday will be just as funny, for he is invited also, I think. I have avoided going to parties where I think H.K. would be likely to attend.

At present, I am not very enthusiastic about going out, for with Father in such a critical condition it is no fun to play around. I feel like buying my head in the pillows on your couch, and cry.

With love
Disgustedly
Daughter
P.S. Keep the money Ling Ling sent you, for later on very likely I shall want something else.
My dear Dale:  

My last letter to you was not received;

I feel it a little think that I wrote much of

after I look in my little book to see what number

it ought to bear. However, I forgot.

I am just in receipt of your 26th Letter.

Just a week ago I was just

'Mrs. Dickey' about a month ago, I was just

and I was very much surprised

and by the

woman interrupted me, and by the

time I finished, the -had flour

But I am glad you must see how you felt.

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you cannot imagine how wearing such a
condition is. And then too, you know, have such a hot temper that it needs great effort to control myself. And then of course with father ill, have to be cheerful, although at times it does seem that I want to burst forth or flare out. Father is very very patient for an invalid, but at the same time like all invalids, he is irritated by the least thing. For instance, he insists on wanting to eat what the doctors forbid him to.

You see, it is almost more than I can bear sometimes, to see him so thin; he is of course for all try to pretend that he is better, but of course it is not very enjoyable when every day the same shadows hang over us.

I give him a massage with olive oil every night, as his skin has become so dry that it is like parched wood. It is so bad for him, to be losing his strength.
She up to the past few years, he has been in the very best condition physically.

Have you that as I have a beautiful Remington for a present. I am taking lessons in typewriting. Hope to be able to write you or it in another couple of months.

So you want to know about the man on the beach? Well, there was a awful row until the family, because they refused to let him come to China. Now see, they are afraid that I am going to marry him if he comes, and who knows but they are right. Have told you that since the last three times, have refuse to see Mr. Henderson? What is the use of keeping off when there was no positive by that I do not care to marry him. And have seen him. You once at a party; but we both studiously avoided looking at each
other. I believe that the dinner given to us on Saturday will be just as funny, for he is invited also. Think, then, avoided going to parties when, I think he would be likely to attend.

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with love,

D. S.

P.S. Keep the money Liz received, for late, or very likely I shall want something else.