4-7-1918

Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1918-04-07, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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Recommended Citation
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Transcription
491 Avenue Joffre
7 April, 1918

Dear Dada:

Having been laid up for a week does make writing rather difficult. I am just over the influenza now, and have come downstairs sitting before a fire which out of perversity won't hum.

I took to bed with the world looking like winter, and came down to see that it has blossomed into bewitching spring, - a soft, delicate mass of apple blossoms, cherry blossoms, tender willow shoots, silky magnolia buds and nodding daffodils. And best of all, fragrant waffs steal into the air.

I have received the two books by Lord Dunsany, and have found infinite enjoyment in them. The pieces are so simple that it does seem as though even I could write them: yet that is exactly where I am mistaken. The plots are simple and unpretentious but formed so neatly and knitted with such harmony that I think his imitators will have difficulty in copying them. The whole family has enjoyed the books greatly. Thank you so very much.

Miss Hart was in Shanghai for the day about two weeks ago. I sat opposite her at the luncheon Miss McCansy gave in honor of her. She spoke of Fran Baltes, & said that she saw her in N.Y. where she seemed to be finding great enjoyment in her work. She seemed surprised to learn that Fran was down with the appendicitis. Sophie also spoke of you, and said that she hopes you will continue with your writing as she believed that you really have talent for it.
After luncheon I took Sophie sight-seeing. Went to see Bubbling Well, - which was only a dirty trough with a few bubbles. Yet for it is named one of the most famous sheets of Shanghai! Also took her to a Chinese temple, where Sophie was much enchanted with the lanterns, the idols, and the various lacquered boards. She seemed hurt that I suggested a bath for these articles above mentioned. Then I took her to a sweet shop where we got some sweets. Finally we ended up at a silk shop where Sophie went wild over the silks, and [page break] amused the clerks by her raptures.

Sophie had with her as Companion a Doctor from some one Lone Western College. It seemed that they became acquainted on Board Ship, and since then Sophie has tooted that woman all over Christiandom and from appearances all other heathendom as well. Personally I was not fond of the doctor: she dressed and looked funny. Sophie must have been pretty bally homesick to have picked up that specimen.

Your letters telling of your trip to Wellesley with Helen S. and your trip to see DeLong sounded wildly exciting. You must pardon the listlessness of this letter, for I am not quite up to the mark. I feel even too weak to lose my temper, - a fact which did not by any means escape my sharp-eyed maid.

With love
Daughter

Luik of [MacDouval Chow] Corporation is sailing for U.S. next week. Will send you something through him. M.
Dear Dada,

Having been laid up for a week does make writing rather difficult. I am just over the influenza now, and have come downstairs calling before a fire which out of perversity won't burn.

I look to bed with the world looking like winter, and came down to see that it has blossomed into bewitching spring, — a soft, delicate mass of apple blossoms, cherry blossoms, tender willow shoots, silky magnolia buds and nodding chrysanthemums. And best of all, fragrant wafts steal into the air.

I have received the two books by Ford Madox Ford and have found infinite enjoyment in them. The pieces are so simple that it does seem as though even I could write them: yet that is exactly where I am mistaken. The plots are simple and unpretentious but formed so neatly and knitted into such harmony that I think his imitators will have difficulty in copying them. The whole family has enjoyed the books greatly. Thank you so very
much.

Miss Hoad was in Shanghai for the day about two weeks ago. I sat opposite her at the luncheon. Miss McCausley gave me news of her. She spoke of Mr. Bates, I said that she had been in Egypt, where she seemed to be finding great enjoyment in her work. She seemed surprised to learn that you were down with the appendicitis. Sophie also spoke of you, and said that she hopes you will continue with your writing as she believed that you really have talent for it.

After luncheon I took Sophie sightseeing. We went to see Bubbling Well, which was only a dirty trough with a few bubbles. Yet for it is named one of the most famous sights of Shanghai! Also took her to a Chinese temple, where Sophie was much enchanted with the lanterns, the idols, and the various lacquered boards. She seemed thrilled that I suggested a halt for their article, above mentioned. Then I took her to a sweet shop where we got some sweets. Finally we ended up at a silk shop where Sophie seemed wild over the silks, and
announced the deaths by her messages.

Sophie read with her as Companion a Doctor
from some one near western college. It seemed that
they became acquainted on board ship, and
since then Sophie has rooted that woman all over
Christian dom., and from appearances all other
heathen dome as well. Personally, I was not fond of
the doctor; she dressed and looked fancy. Sophie
must have been pretty badly hemisphere to have
picked up that specimen.

Your letter telling of your trip to Coassel-
ley with Helen S. and your trip to see De Long
rounded wildy, etcetera. You must pardon
the restlessness of this letter, for I am not
quite up to the mark. I feel every day
weak, to too very temper, — a fact
which did not not by any means escape
my sharp-eyed mind. —

With Love,
Davy ble.

Lack of MacDonald Coal Corporation is looking
for U.S. next week. Will need you something through
him. m.