6-26-1918

Letter from May-ling Soong Chiang, 1918-06-26, Shanghai, China, to Emma Mills

May-ling Soong Chiang

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26 June, 1918

Dear Dada:

Such a long time since I've heard from you-I suppose you went to the Reunion at college. You must tell me all about it.

A few days ago, I cut one of my thumbs almost to the bone. As it's my right thumb, I haven't been able to use my hand much until today.

Two of the Wellesley Chinese girls of 1913 & 1914 are to be married this week. Ying Wei Chen & Jung Hiu Liu. I was to have been maid of honor & bridesmaid respectively: but of course as I am in mourning, I shan't be able "to help get them off."

Ying Mei's wedding is this afternoon, & Jung Hiu's is this Saturday. Another Chinese girl, a returned student from America is also to be married Saturday. The three June brides are all rather old, being 30, 31, and 36. Talking about June brides blushing!
The one who is 36 has made the best match I think. Her fiance is very capable & will amount to something. As to the others, of course only time can tell.

Well, the weather has been too hot for us to move. I have told Mother that we must [page break] cutdown the number of servants, as the other house is smaller than this one. Instead of having both Chinese & foreign cooks, we are going to have only the foreign cook, who is excellent. We are going to eat foreign food entirely. I am going to have charge of all the food bills, etc. while Mother superintends the rest of the house. All our servants’ meals will be brought in from [page break] the good shops three times a day. That will simplify the system a good bit, as then the servants will not find excuse for hanging around the kitchens & butler’s pantry. They have their own dining room in the servants’ quarters.

We are building the garage & enlarging the servants’ quarters.

So far, the cook has had full run of all the food supplies. [page break]
Recently I've found that all my foreign friends keep egg, butter, flower etc. all under key & lock. Comparing notes, I've found that the consumption & waste of such good staples at our house has been far out of proportion. I am, therefore having a lot of cupboards made with keys & locks! And I am going to keep the keys! [page break]

You can't imagine, though how I hate housework! Of course I don't do anything except direct the servants: but Heaven's I wish I could live in an apartment all by myself and not have to look after dirt & dust, but just let everything go to the dogs.

June is the stickiest month of the year - dampness everywhere. I [page break] have washed my hair once every week this month, trying to keep it looking decent.

Yours with love
Mayling
30.

26 June, 1918.

Dear Pada,

Just a long time
since I’ve heard from you—
I suppose you went to the
Reunion at College, you
must tell us all about
it.

A few days ago, I met one
of my tunnel’s members at the
of War tunnel, almost
borne. As it’s very night
there, I haven’t been
able to use my
much until today.

Sirs of the Wellesley
Alumnae Girls of 1913
1914 are to be warned
all valve old, being 30, 31, and 36. Talking about Jane Brides blushing.

The one who is 36 has made the best match. Her fiancé is very capable and it's apparent to something. As to the others, of course only time can tell.

Well, the weather has been too hot for us to move. I have tired my mother that we must this week. I am almost too worked up to write, but of course as I am in mourning, I can't help get them off.

This afternoon is the wedding of Hugh Mess. Next Saturday is the Chinese girl, a returned student from America, and also the married Saturday. The three Jane brides are
all value, old, being 30, 31, and 36. Talking about June brides blushing.

The one who is 36 has made the best match. Her fiancé is very capable and amounts to something. As to the others, of course only time can tell.

Well, the weather has been too hot for us to move. I have tried

most all we could

this week. Guy married to Jenny in New York. I was unable to have been present of course as I was on a business trip but of course as I am an honorable, we help get them off.

Guy has a new wedding this afternoon, 7 June.

Ann's is this Saturday.

Another Chinese girl, a returned student from America is also to be married Saturday. The June brides are
outdoor the number of servants is smaller than this one. Instead of having both Chinese and foreign cooks, we are going to have only the foreign cook, who is excellent. We are going to eat foreign food entirely. I am going to have charge of all the food bills, etc. While mother supervises the rest of the house, all our servants' meals will be brought in from...
The good sheets three times a day. That will keep the system a good but, as then, the servants will not find expense for hanging around the kitchen or butter's pantry.

They have their own dining room in the servants' quarters. We are building the garage and enlarging the servants' quarters. The cook has had full run of all the food supplies.
you can't imagine, though how that homework!

Of course, I don't do anything except direct it, servants, but Heaven's wish I could live in an apartment all by myself and not have to look after dirt or dust, but just let it stay tidy to the dogs.

June is the bleakest month of the year - dampness everywhere... I

Recently, I've found that all my foreign friends keep eggs, butter, flour, etc., all under key lock. Company asks, I've found that the consumption & waste of such food staples at our house has been far out of proportion. So, therefore having a lot of cupboards made with keyless locks! And I am going to keep the keys!
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keys & locks! And I
can go up to keep the
keys!
have washed my hair once every week to keep my stocking decent.

Yours with Love,

[Signature]