

Tehran, Persia
January 30, 1928

Dear Mother:-

I must try out my new typewriter on you and for the present it seems to be a decided improvement on the old machine. This is the first letter that I have written on it since it arrived on Wednesday, and maybe I will reform my idea about it. It is a Remington Portable the same as my old machine was, but has the improvements that have been added in the last four years. I am now going to sell my old machine and if I get a decent enough price for it I will send to America for a large Underwood. Even though this portable is a very handy machine were ordering again I would order the large Underwood because with the large discounts that we get there is a very small ~~amount~~ difference between the price of the portable machines and the large standard size machines.

You will probably notice the difference in the size and finer cut of the type.

Since writing you last there has been no mail from either Norristown or Glenside. The mail has come through but it was probably only the left over of the last mail which was never delivered. Hence I have no comments to add on recent letters. We have taken no new pictures of the baby and he has not fallen down any stairs with the result that there is no information on that line except that he has gained his usual 1 lb. and now weighs 20½ lbs. He has developed the idea that he is afraid of anyone outside of the immediate family, of course Nanny being included in the immediate family. He howls when anyone strange appears on the horizon, especially if they be children. When Jimmy and Syewart-ysham were here the other day you would have thought that a new sorrow had entered Craig's life to have heard him cry in most mournful and frightened tones. Teddy had him out the Hutchisons this afternoon and she reports that there was no improvement in the conduct of our son even among friends so close. Mary simply petrified him and he was not happy until he was out of her presence. You can see that he has raised quite a problem. What there is to be done about it is a question which bids to keep Teddy and myself awake at nights. One time we counsel absolute confinement for the sake of the child's nerves and the next we decided that he needs to see more people in order to overcome this bad habit. Probably before we hear from you on the subject he will have recovered of his own accord. If he does not do so I do not know what we can do about it.

I did not get the opportunity to make the arrangements to have our picture taken as I expected to last week. I have been just a little more rushed than ever. These past two weeks I have been taking a language lesson on Friday a thing which I have not done for a long time. I have had to do it because I no longer get time to have a real lesson during the week. Now that the pressure of the Department of Education has let up we are busy trying to pick up the loose ends that were left lying around while those conferences were being carried on. This football proposition is proving to be a pretty large proposition and takes a good bit of my time. We have several teams playing every Friday afternoon and on holidays also which means that I must be on hand for them. I perhaps mentioned the matter of supervising football because our so-called "foot-ball coach" has flunked out on the job. I boil over when I think of it. The Mission has voted him back, but why and what for I cannot imagine. You know they vote on the missionaries at the end of each term to decide whether they should return to the field. Once in a great age a person is not voted back, but you have to be pretty rotten not to be returned. I

sometimes wish that we had an episcopal hierarchy out here so that there might be a better chance of cleaning out the "dead wood". We have two or three people in Teheran who are positively that and nothing more, but no one knows it except those working with them in Teheran, while when it comes to the vote the entire Mission does it, the result being that the person is voted upon by a majority of people from other stations who know nothing about the work of the person for whom they are voting. Even in the station personal friendships make it difficult to cast an honest ballot. Hence it comes about that we frequently find ourselves not only doing the work of the job assigned to us but also doing the job of the weak brother. That is my position at the present writing.

Concerning the education situation the storm is blowing over gradually. A new minister is in office and he is of somewhat more liberal views than the former incumbent. We understand that he has a Swiss wife and that he obtained her on one of his trips to Europe. When Dr. Jordan first called he seemed very anxious to straighten out all difficulties immediately and we were in extra high spirits for the time. The only real difficulty of course has been the closing of the school at Hamadan. He was going to telegraph to Hamadan immediately but when Dr. Jordan called next day to get the copy of the telegram he had changed his mind and had decided that Hamadan must make certain promises before opening the school, and one was that they would not teach the Bible as such in their schools. Inasmuch as this was the question upon which they closed they are not likely to open on such an arrangement. Meantime we continue as merrily as ever with the courses which we have always used and we seem to be doing everything quite to their satisfaction. A school open is quite a different thing from a school closed however, as we are finding out to our enlightenment. Some of us suspected such a difference in our previous councils with one another. It is now being demonstrated for the benefit of any who might have had doubts on the subject.

However, the reason which the minister gave for changing his mind shows that they are retracting on their former position. He said that he did not want to seem to reverse the opinion of his predecessor too suddenly and too sharply for fear of the political consequences from those who were greatly pleased by the policy of the former minister. That sounds quite reasonable and even friendly, but unfortunately for the folks at Hamadan their schools are closed and while the policy of cautious change is being inaugurated or carried on they must remain closed until a more favourable day for reopening.

I want to try to get a letter off to the Church this week if possible to thank them for the many Christmas cards which we received from them. If anyone remarks that they did not receive a card from us this year you can explain to them that we did not send any to anyone. Just as luck would have it we received more cards than ever before and I sort of feel bound to acknowledge them since we did not send any out, and the time involved will be much more in acknowledging those received than would have been involved in sending out cards originally, and the reason we did not send them out was because of lack of time.

News seems to be scarce. I cannot think of anything more of interest just now, and so will close again for the week.

Love