

March 10, 1928

Dear Mother; -

I have two great ambitions at the present time and both of them should be accomplished at the same time. The first is to get caught up with all of my mail before next Tuesday and the second to get all my class papers marked before the same date. Next Tuesday is the last day of school before a twelve day holiday, and I am anxious that nothing be hanging over my head in the way of school work or back correspondence, but I am afraid that I am a bit too ambitious judging from the heap of papers that is standing on my desk in the office, and judging from the pack of unanswered letters tucked neatly away in my desk.

This holiday is the Persian New Years, although a bit longer than usual by virtue of the fact that the fictitious birthday of the Shah and another holy day fall just at the outset of the vacation and thus lengthen it out two days while a Friday and a Sunday come at a convenient time to add two days to the week's vacation, and an intervening Saturday is in such isolation that we thought it not worth while to open school after a four day vacation only to close it again for another seven days. Hence we are blessed with 12 days.

The first four of that are to be spent at the first Student Christian Conference in Persia. The YMCA is having a Spring Conference thanks largely to the efforts of Hutch. We have talked about it for some time, but over work has kept us from realizing it until this Spring when Hutch finally managed to put the thing across. Of course it is not "across" yet but the way things look now it will go across all right. We will leave the city for a garden which is about an hour and a half's walk up country from our house in the city. The plan is to get there at four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. All day Thursday and Friday will be spent in conference, discussion and teaching. I am down for an hour's Bible study each day, and as a consequence I see where to-morrow (Sunday) is shot for I have not had a chance to prepare a thing, and I would like to really help make the conference worth something for these students, especially since it is the first one and a the future attitude toward such gatherings will depend on how much this one is worth.

We return to the city on Saturday morning. I had planned at one time to take a trip to Resht for several days during the holidays. We thought of going on bicycles, but the conference cut in to the holidays so far that there is not time to make it that way. It would take three days each way at least by bicycle as it is over 200 miles, possibly nearer three hundred and part of the road is over a good stiff pass which we would probably have to walk over as it would be too steep for bicycles. But since we have given that up I may go with one or two students who are going in autos, providing we can make the trip cheaply enough as funds are low during this last month of the fiscal year.



I have the last two letters from home before me, one of which I intended to answer last week, but I became so involved in straightening out financial matters that I never got to it.

To refer to items mentioned in those letters as they occur the question concerning the article on Education in Persia from the Christian Science Monitor comes first. The letter in which that clipping arrived came the same evening that we had the American Minister in to dinner and I spoke to him about it. He also had received the clipping and he remarked to me that it was a very "rosy" account. The article is rather strange in its make-up. "Rosy" is the word to describe it. To us out here a lot of it was true stuff, but it is very far from a true picture of the educational situation of Persia. Whenever you see figures for Persian education just remember the following, that Persian school books outside and even in Teheran are a scarce article, that there are few (I know of none) buildings in Persia, outside of the few Mission School s which were originally erected for school purposes. There are some old fashioned schools and buildings which are the butt of many a Persian joke, but one could hardly classify the article as a school or a school building. I know of only one normal school in Persia and it is such in name when taken comparison to our normal schools in America. There is one College in Persia that corresponds to our own college, which means that it is a Junior college, and that college is in Teheran. The article mentioned the College of the Church Missionary Society of England, situated in Isfahan, as a "college". It should be remembered that their highest class corresponds to the 3rd year of an American High School and even in that class there are only two students. In other words College education actually does not exist outside of Teheran and then it could only be considered to exist if one would be willing to call our own struggling attempt a "college". I might add quite a lot on this line until the article referred to would seem to be a fairy story, though actually the article, discounting the fact that it had made many omissions and was a theoretical account of what Persian education pretends to be, (The official program of the Persian Schools is largely on paper and is not carried out in any school) had a lot of true statements but they were massed in such a way as to give a false impression.

To me, coming at just this time, the article seemed suspicious. In the first place, while praising Persian education it gave a large part in its praises to the Missionary schools. That praise was evidently sop to the American reading public, though possibly it may have been sincere also. I was puzzled to know why one making such an obvious attempt to boost Persian education should have also said as much as he did about what was being done by foreigners. In the second place, the article coming at just this time when there is such a disagreement between ourselves and the Ministry of Education would appear to be an attempt to set up a barage in America to offset the criticism that will surely be heaped on Persia in America should the Ministry get away with some of its present demands. It looks like an attempt to counteract a bitter taste that is to come. I may be reading all of this into the article because of our position out here. I would naturally be suspicious of any article on Persian education appearing at just this time.

The baby is back to normal color, and seems to be fully recovered from the effects of carrots. I am not surprised that you could not find anything from anyone about it, because even the doctor had only come upon it in his medical journals and that in a new publication, but it is evidently a true bill for Phil McDowell's brother-in-law, also an m.d. was with them at the time and he vouched for having read about it also. At any rate Teddy stopped the carrots and everything is o.k.



From the list of letters of my mail of January 7th which you have mentioned I do not believe that any letters were lost from the package. I am surprised that the thing bursted and will be more careful hereafter to glue the things as well as seal them. The glue on these envelopes is often not much good and I have depended upon the seals but it seems that they are not sufficient.

You mention not hearing about the calling cards that I requested some time ago. Hutch and I have been comparing notes and we figure that several mails or at least one sent out in the Fall never reached America. He is out of luck in one of his courses as a result. He ordered some text-books and they have never arrived with the result that he is having to give a lecture course which he did not count upon and is scratching quite some to get the dope together each day.

None of your letters as yet have mentioned whether Daddy Crawford sent to present from Norristown Church to my account or not. If they did not I will have a pretty croud around my ears what with the checks that I have been sending to these various Building and Loan Associations. Though you have not mention d whether or not my account has been credited with that check for 102.~~77~~ dollars you seem to have sent out the checks I sent with perfect confidence that they will be paid somehow or other. As the Persians "Khoda bozorg ast" (God is great) but I don't know whether the Glenside Trust Company has the same faith or not, I doubt it.

Since writing you last I have deducted the 1.00 for the American Face Brick Asso. and I guess our accounts are together again. I will credit myself with th .60 interest.

Alan Snyder shall have his cap or "kollah" if I can pack it well enough to ship it. He should have told me the style, however, because each tribe has its own style of hat. The Bakhtiari have onestyle, the Ghashghais another, the +eheranis, the city people another, et., etc. I suppose the Teherani hat will do as that is the most common and really the snappiest looking although the others are more picturesque.

I did not get time this week to get down to the photographers but will certainly get to it next week or else Teddy will go down. She was down town once last week but forgot about the pictures, and will more than likely get a chance to go down again at the beginning of this week.

Tell Aunt Lizzie not to worry about my correspondence. I have just gone through my letter fail and find that I have gradually caught up with all my mail except that due to the family. At the present time I owe letters to Uncle Walter, Aunt Ada, Cyril, and Aunt Lizzie and Aunt Flo and I must not forget Marjorie.

I will knock off now feeling rather pious that I have answered all of your questions, though I may not have told much about ourselves for this past two weeks.

Love

