On Board S.S. Japan, of the British India Steam Navigation Co.

En route from Hoogly, Calcutta to Hong Kong - May 10, 1914

My dearest sweetheart,

It is 1.40 P.M. Sunday afternoon and as near as I can figure it is about ten o'clock Saturday evening with you.

I am sitting on the shady deck with the thermometer beside me at 86° although we are nearly 900 miles on our way to Hong Kong, this is as hot a day as we had in Singapore which is a beastly hot place. This morning I attended divine worship conducted by Bishop Robinson, a Missionary bishop of the Mission Church. He lives somewhere in India and is on his way to the Philippines in 6 weeks, he goes to Java. This morning Father Insulted the captain at the breakfast table in the hearing of the entire table. He seemed to be entirely unconscious of it, but the Captain certainly...
was not. It will be a great calamity to
father if my prophecy to know the first week of
San Francisco is not realized viz.: that he
would land in a jail or a hospital before
he got back - he calls it wit. Those who
know him call it idiocy, & those who
don't call it insults.

We left Singapore on this deck-bulk 3 4-
A.M. May 7. We happened to stare Singapore
the day after a procession of boats had
gone to Hong Kong & we took the first one
that came along, because we wanted to
leave. We probably would have done better
to wait until Saturday for a German boat,
but waiting in a very winy hard
work. This boat runs in the tropics
but she has no electric fans. No
way of getting air into the cabins save
by the shore window. She has no life
saving belts, at least none visible, although
the captain is pressed with mild surprise
when told that we were none in the
cabin. Not Indians cook & serve the
food. The other morning we stopped
and tinkered with the engines a while—
Of course we have no wireless.
Webster has just shown me a map from
which it appears that we are now due East
of Manila in the China Sea.
We have on board in addition to those
already mentioned, an American Missionary
who are holiness people—I have forgotten
the name of their sect. They are much
interested in a girls school in India—
they have been over there a year helping
its work. They are carrying back with them
7 Indian girl widows—on about 10
the others about 8. The latter was married
at 6 to a man 25 years old when he
was 14. She became a temple girl—
in Russia, where we have adopted
into our party a Chinaman—a woman
of some kind—3 Englishmen—three
of them are officers. Two of them are
married, one of the women is the unmistakable
beauties of the race.
We have 700 Chinamen on deck.
passengers, who are a sight to behold to smell, although in our deck we rarely smell them; fortunately - they lay down mats on the deck & the mat is their cabin - the mats all overlap, so you can imagine how close they are - at night when they had laid down they touched each other - for this 1460 miles of ride they pay 85 cents - & that is the price of our cents - this includes their food, for 5-0-0 days. If anything happens something will certainly be done. Bishop Robinson tells me that in the Methodist schools in Java & Malaya there are 7500 pupils, but the church does not have to put a penny into them as the fees pay the expenses. This is due to the Chinese who are very poor. The students. They are anxious to learn English & they pay well for it - a big fellow Chinese to - Java recently wrote him offering to pay the land, build the school & turn it over to him & furnish enough pupils to support it. When one sees the
Which Chinese men in the police they some
of them have the ability that many of
them have, the industry they all have,
It seems ludicrous to send money to
them for any purpose - we had better
send it to N.Y. City -
I asked Robinson about the schools at
Peking - he said they had a boys school
+ a girls school there both self
supporting - I then asked him why they
were in Minnesota soliciting. He
finally thought that they wished to
extend their grounds, + that a Miss
Martin connected with the school
came from Minnesota -
They have 2 girls schools in Singapore
one for the high class Chinese children
low class Chinese. One for the lower class
but.
- The Chinese were self-supporting, the others were not, but it is clear
from what he said that the self-supporting
schools can't afford to take care of those that are not
May 11 P.M.

On deck - the thermometer beside me is 85° - the cabin is 70° - the highest I have seen it this entire trip, in the shade. The air is thick with moisture. My coat is off as well as my collar. My shirt is unbuttoned & turned back - what folks can stand much more.

I am dressed in my new Manila linen suit - it had been of great service to me.

We expect to reach Hong Kong about 2 o'clock tomorrow Tuesday noon. Then if Canton is safe we shall put in a day there & a day at Macao - and for Usanabele 7 Friday the 15th.

in the Minnesota - I want to buy a few things in china. I probably won't have time to write post from Hong Kong. It was just occurred to me that I would better reduce
by apostolatory labor, else you may not have room in the hounds to store them—
If we leave on the Minnesota, we shall reach Nagasaki the 14th, and then commence our Japanese tour—
If we leave Yokohama on the Minnesota, May 28, we shall reach Seattle June 11th.
If we sail May 30th, on the Siberia, or on the Ohio, May 28, we shall reach San Francisco June 18th.
If we sail June 3, on the Siberia, May 28, we shall reach Seattle June 18th.
If we sail June 6, on the Siberia, we shall reach San Francisco June 22nd.

Meanwhile, I love you, o love you love you—

Your Chester