Caldwell and Wilkinson, Solicitors 50 Queen's Road Hong Kong 18 August 1887

Sweetie Rosie, I am at my desk at office and have to go into court in less than half an hour and clients are waiting for me in the outer office, but as I have not written for some time I must make time to send you a line or two of scribble.

First of all we are all well. I am not too strong, but the Japan trip certainly did me good as my back which was hurt in that horrid explosion, seems much easier since my return.

While in Japan, though, it hurt me greatly, but that was probably because I had to rough it so in travelling. I travelled about a thousand miles. Fancy what a glorious trip I had going that distance through the loveliest scenery, sometimes in fine cities, then through hundreds of miles of fertile fields of corn, barley, oats and rice, sweet little farm houses and pretty villages, then by the borders of lakes, through lanes of flowering shrubs such as camellias and azaleas 20 feet in height. Then by the side of a frightful mountain torrent, when you feel that each moment you would be carried away and dashed to pieces. Then in boats down Rapids boiling with foam and again up steep mountain[s], through gorges and over passes. Such a treat I've never had in my life and if I ever live to a thousand years the memory of it will remain fresh!

Then the <u>people</u>. They are pleasing and clean, nicely dressed, polite and obliging. I hope dearie, that some day you will experience the same thing yourself.

Millies's family was added to a day or two ago in the shape of two little guinea pigs. She is delighted with them and is never tired of watching them. Nor is "Saiko" [unmindful of them] either, for he thinks they are rats and of course wants to settle them off hand. Poor "Saiko"! He can't understand why we should set him in to some rats, and won't let him touch [them].

I came back from Japan so full of scenery that I was bursting to faint. I have finished a large picture of a mountain gorge through which I passed. I must try to photograph it in order to give you some idea of the picture of the place.

No I must really cease for there is not another moment

"Sayonara" (Japanese for "goodbye")

Your loving Papa

I'll write again next week, English mail, when I can have more time