

Hong Kong  
18 Jul 1889

Sweetie Rosie,

I have just rushed up to the Police Court to get a couple of cases remanded in order that I might find a few minutes to wend you a line in reply to your recent dear letters. You address me under the supposition that Ma was away but she is still here. The date for her departure is not yet decided. She has been too unwell to leave and certainly was unfit to face the discomfort and heat of a voyage through the tropics at this trying season. In order that you may know when Ma leaves I will wire Auntie May ("Cantatora") a figure; for instance if I wire in September "18" you will know that Ma leaves Hong Kong on the 18th September.

I sent Gus 5 pounds the other day telling him to let you have half. I was very pleased to hear form you that the dear boy had spent the previous money so well in a \_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

I have inquired of auntie Etta what the embroidery you want is, and quite understand the sort of thing. It is to be attained in Canton. I shall most probably go up their tomorrow about some missing Caucasians and will try to get some of that work for you. By then, the rushes for the holidays will have begun and I am making arrangements that Gus should spend his at Miss Dane's so as to be near you.

I am so tired of this work and worry and responsibility. It gives me neither time nor strength to attend to many things which otherwise I should do. I have to use the pen so much that I positively hate writing and I think the shortest note a bore. You cannot imagine what the feeling is. Suppose you had to eat fish at every meal every day and nothing else and that ill or well you must eat plenty of it. Wouldn't you soon learn to hate it? It is just so with writing so far as I am concerned.

Ma is quite well again and goes about just the same as usual. Millie had a little fever hanging about her but it is nothing much. She and I are great chums. She is improving and sometimes is quite nice looking. I shall write again soon. Now off to the Supreme Court

Your loving Father.