

Seoul, Korea - Jan. 30, 1894

My dear Jennie,

Your letter of Dec. 20 came today. Wasn't that nice and I can send an answer back in the morning! On the last mail a letter from Della and Coze came, and the mail before that one from Ella and Essie. Answers to them will go off on this mail.

We are all in the best of health. Will is getting too big for some of his clothes and he says that my cheeks are getting rosy. I say it is because I eat cornbread and mush and milk. Don't you think we are rich to have mush and milk?

Last Friday Will went hunting and caught 6 ducks and 2 pheasants. I wish you could be here for some of the roasts. Tomorrow I will have the largest pheasant cooked. Oh how I wish I could divide with you! We did have the best sour-kraut. I divided it with Mrs. Miller; they are so fond of it.

Just think, I have made 3 gal. of soap; 2 were real white and nice. I send to Smith and get potash for the lye. I like to do those things; it seems so homelike.

Well - indeed I was pretty homesick Christmas and New Years, and longed to bring my baby and feast with you. I wonder'd if you would have a dinner. I think that was capital for you all to take your dinner. I only wish I could bring you some Korean food. I don't think you would ever want any more.

Hurrah for Will! I hope he will keep in the notion and you will get in the notion, - think how nice it would be for you two to take a trip around the world. Come and stay with us a long time. I want you to wait until we are settled in our new house, however. One year from this Spring and summer we think the Board will build it. Mr. Gale will be likely to build this summer and we the next. We are delighted to go to Wonsan (Gensan). Mr. Gale has bought the lot for our house up on the hill over-looking the Korean city and villages and the sea as far as the eye can see, Will says; he is very anxious to be settled and have a chapel where he can meet the Koreans every day and teach and preach to them, I think it is just splendid that he hasn't anything else to do but to study the language. He is in his study from 8 to 12 without any interruptions, and in the afternoon he is usually busy at it. I study with my teacher from 10 to 12 and then in the afternoon I study by myself or sew or knit or do whatever I want to.

I have just finished Olivette's wool hood which one of the ladies taught me how to make.

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I have just finished Olivette's wool hood which one of the ladies taught me how to make.

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I am knitting her a pair of drawers to wear when I put her in short dresses; they are simple and easy and quick to make. Next, Mrs. Dr. Avison is going to teach me to crochet little sacques; then I want to learn just how to knit stockings and mittens. My Amah is making plain scrim curtains; has hemstitched them and now I am having her put 4 rows of drawn work. I think they will be quite pretty. I want her to hemstitch Olivette some dresses before we go. I feel very sorry that I cant take her along, but it is impossible.

How sad to hear of so many deaths, and so many that I know. I do not think that anyone is having the "La Grippe" here. Dr. Allen is very sick with a fever, and a great many Koreans are sick.

I am surely thankful that Pa and Ma are well. If they do not have too much to do I know they are happy without any hired help.

Will has gone to bed and Olivette is sleeping, alone in her little basket-bed. I wish our bed was wider so she could sleep with us but I presume she is better off and I know I sleep better. We had that Chinaman make her a high chair and a low chair on wheels combined. It is a lovely little thing; we can push her all about the house in it. He saw one from America and copied it. Also he made a real nice little buggy,-or I think it is nice. It has a very homemade appearance. It would not pay us to send home for such things. For the two he charged us about \$11. (in silver) I am so happy for her; she is indeed a little jewel.

I am very happy in my home and also in what little work I can do for the Master. Will is as kind as he can be.

As I want to write a letter to Will (Ashbrook) I must close.

Lovingly your sister, Sallie.

Dear Bro. Will,

Your letter with Jennie's came this P.M. I must say that I am somewhat surprised at Wagner. I supposed that he had paid the note by this time. July 1st the other \$850. with interest is due and it will be quite an amount for him to raise. I am very glad that you wrote me. The mortgage is only on the property which I sold him, so if fire should break out I fear it would be my loss. I wish you would either have him pay up or have it insured in my favor at once so that I will be perfectly safe

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I haven't heard from him for a long time. I haven't any scruples about his honesty, but it is always best to be on the safe side. I know you will see to it at once.

Your paper comes alright and we do not pay any extra postage, nor have we had to on any of the letters. We are very thankful for the Independent, and as soon as possible will send some more articles. Will thinks almost every day that he will begin some on his country trips.

Dont get out of the notion of coming to see us. Have you many Japanese coins? If you would like I will send you some. The Koreans tell me that in 8 months perhaps, the Korean government will have out silver money; then I will send you some of that.

Will joins me in wishing you success.

Your sister

Sallie F. Swallen

Jan. 31, 1894

Dear Bro Will,

I wrote last night after Will went to bed, and foolishly seaked the letter. When I told him that I had said for you to take action at once, either to have him pay or insure in my favor, he thinks perhaps that it would be a little hasty about insuring, and it might seem that we thought him dishonest. But Will says that he thinks if he does not pay up by July, have it insured in my favor or close the mortgage. If he refuses to pay up 8% on the balance unpaid of the note due last July, close the mortgage. Let 8% and the insuring in my favor be the only condition of continuing to let him have the money.

Yours,

Sallie Swallen.

Seoul, Korea - March 28, 1894

My dear Jennie,

The mail leaves in the morning or I should never be writing at this time. With the help of the cook I have just finished a big washing and have the flannels to wash in the morning. Our house is torn up-side-down. We have about 20 boxes and barrels packed; about that many more to pack yet. You cant have any idea what a hard task it is. One week from today we will begin boarding at Mr. Miller's and send our boxes all to Chemulpo so they will go on the steamer with us. Mr. Gale has a house rented and has had it papered so we will have a clean house.

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On this mail I send you a picture; also one to Ma. I would mail one to each if I had time. Hope I can send them on the next. We only had 6 where Olivette and I are taken together. I am so stary. I will send one of each to Ma and one of Olivette's alone to the rest and Etta. I know she will be disappointed if she dont get her sister's picture. You can all send in all the comments on her that you wish. Her dress is hemstitched and is much prettier than it show in the picture.

Will has gone to bring a box so I must close and help pack it. If I had time I would write more.

We are all well and as happy as could be expected in this muss. I take things just as they cone and let the rest take care of themselves, and I find it the best way.

Lovingly your sister Sallie.

Has Will heard anything from Wagner? I haven't.  
With yours I send one to Etta.

Seoul, Korea - April 13, 1894

Dear Sister Jennie,

This is the most gloomy morning. It has rained since night before last and I do ~~not~~ wish the sun would come out, for I want to wash the baby's clothes this morning. We finished packing one week ago and came up here to board at Mr. Miller's until Monday when we will go to Chemulpo and take the steamer on the 19th. In the midst of our packing my Amah's daughter took very sick and she was compelled to go home and stay until she got better. I expected the woman back but her house and all they had burned up and they are left in a pitiful plight. I really dont see how they live, but they do. We gave \$5. and the Methodists threw in enough to build them a little house.

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I surely will send for her to keep the baby while we make some calls. I have been doing my washing and really nearly all my work and tending the baby beside. Will is a splendid hand to pack, so he did most of that. We sold all the big articles which we had bought here, such as the ward-robe, the side-board (or dining room cupboard) and kitchen table. I expect our things are at Chemulpo by this time ready to be put on the steamer. We find out more and more that these Koreans cant be trusted, and as far as they can be seen.

I just want to tell you how one teacher and cook has acted. Will took the teacher about 4 months ago to try him. The teacher said "Yes, yes", he would go to Gensan with us, would move his wife up there. The arrangements were made and we found out what it would cost to take him and his wife, and we of course pay all expenses and pay him \$10. per month after we get there. By the way, he is the best teacher Will has ever had and we were delighted. About 3 weeks before going he came and wanted Will to give him all the money to take them up there. Of course Will would not do it but paid him a little in advance, half-month's wages. He went to the country to see his father. When he came back, he first said his wife could not go there; then he said if Will would loan him \$100. he would go alone. We find he is like the rest,- a manufacturer of lies. He is not young. Our cook came to us with the most absurd excuses, and said he could not go, so we simply told him to stay.

We intended to pay him his wages and take him on the boat with us, which would have been rather expensive. Of course I am sorry to lose him, but it cant be helped.

Wednesday - April 18th. Chemulpo, Korea

We are on our way for Gensan. We came here Monday and will leave tomorrow. One week from tonight we expect to arrive in Gensan. We left Seoul Monday about 9 o'clock, we reached the river about 11. I went in the chair with 4 coolies, and Will walked. We put the chair on the boat, and are taking it. At 12 the boat started. For 2 hours she went nicely. We took a folding cot along. The baby and Will are resting on the cot, when all at once the boat began going over. I was sure she would go over. We were in a little bit of a cabin with one little door on the side, which was tipped down. Will took the baby and in some way we got out on the deck, on the opposite side which was up. For 2 hrs. we sat with the boat leaning so much that the lower side almost touched the water.

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- 2 - April 18, 1894

patiently we waited for the tide. Slowly but surely it came about 4 o'clock; the boat began to raise and in a little while we started. We felt all the way down that we would be glad when we were off. At 11 p.m. we reached here. Poor baby was so tired and sleepy, and yet she did not cry. We came to the Chinese hotel, and that is where we are now. We have 2 nice rooms, a very good bed, and everything to make us comfortable. The board is good; it is mostly cooked English style, but that is no difference.

Yesterday for dinner we had fish, for the first course; beef and potatoes for the second; and chicken and potatoes for the third; pears and cake for the 4th. The drinking water at first I was afraid of, but they get it from an island out in the sea; it is good, only a little warm. We have to get used to so many things out here. I wish you could be here in Chemulpo for a day or two. Will says that it reminds him of a new town at home where everybody is up and doing.

The Japanese and Chinese have some nice buildings and are carrying on all the business. The poor Koreans stand back and look on. They are fit to carry the load on their backs, and the officials to squeeze all they can out of the working class. At present there is trouble in South Korea about the rice and the gov't. The gov't sold the rice to the Japanese, and of course it went out of the country, and that left the poor people to buy and do the best they could. The Chinese have shipped into Korea an abundance of rice. Along the road to the wharf here in Chemulpo the rice is stacked up in bags until there are dozens and dozens of stacks. The Koreans are, little by little, coming in contact with the outside world, and are seeing more and more how down-trodden they are. All the foreigners look for an uprising, and a change in the gov't before many years.

If it would only hasten and come. Yesterday we saw some Japanese on the street from a Japanese man-of-war one we could hardly tell from a foreigner. The sailors did look so nice in the sailor-suits. Many, many Jap. men dress like the English and the Americans. You know that all Japanese wear their hair cut short like the Americans. I admire the Japanese women for their independence; they go out without any covering on their heads. They work and seem to do as they please. I will be glad when the poor Korean women can do the same.

The Japanese take to Western civilization so fast. They have adopted our calendar; yet only the Christians observe Sunday.

It has been so long since I wrote, and so long since I have rec'd any letters from home. I hope some will be waiting me when we reach Gensan.

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I certainly never was so tired and done out, but we had a good rest and now we are having another. Next week the trials with new servants and setting up housekeeping will commence. Our furniture is all knocked down just like it was when we came out here. We saved a great deal of freight by taking it all down

It is very warm here now, but it will be nice out on the sea. How I do long to get under our own "vine and fig-tree". You dont know what it is to live in a house that you cant call your own. Thank fortune, we will soon have our own house, yard, and garden. Hope you will write often.

Lovingly your sister,  
Sallie Swallen.

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Gensan, Korea - May 17, 1894

Dear Bro. Will,

Your letter, also Wagner's, rec'd on the last mail. The bill which he sent was alright. He sent me some books, and paid Parlett & McCoppin for the "Herald". Am glad that you can put the money in the loan. Hope it wont be too much trouble. I think it will be well to let Wagner keep the other note until he wants to pay it.

Am very sorry to hear of your illness. Presume you are alright by this time. I fear you have too much work on hand.

In this mail Will sends another letter; also I send two written by Mrs. Dr. Hall, M.D. You can do as you like about publishing them. I thought perhaps the readers of the Independent would be interested in the medical work of Korea, so I asked Mrs. Hall to let me send them to you, which she gladly handed to me. She and Dr. Hall and their little boy 6 months old (Sherwood) with Esther and 2 other Koreans have gone to PyengYang. Already Dr. Hall has endured persecution, but they were anxious to go and do what they could.

As you will know from Jennie's letter, we are at Gensan. I enjoy the Independent, and am very thankful for it. Hope you are entirely well by this time. Wish you success.

Sincerely yours,  
Sallie Swallen.

Gensan, Korea - May 17, 1894

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Your letter, also Wagner's, rec'd on the last mail. The bill which he sent was alright. He sent me some books, and paid Parlett & McCoppin for the "Herald". Am glad that you can put the money in the loan. Hope it wont be too much trouble. I think it will be well to let Wagner keep the other note until he wants to pay it.

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In this mail Will sends another letter; also I send two written by Mrs. Dr. Hall, M.D. You can do as you like about publishing them. I thought perhaps the readers of the Independent would be interested in the medical work of Korea, so I asked Mrs. Hall to let me send them to you, which she gladly handed to me. She and Dr. Hall and their little boy 6 months old (Sherwood) with Esther and 2 other Koreans have gone to PyengYang. Already Dr. Hall has endured persecution, but they were anxious to go and do what they could.

As you will know from Jennie's letter, we are at Gensan. I enjoy the Independent, and am very thankful for it. Hope you are entirely well by this time. Wish you success.

Sincerely yours,  
Sallie Swallen.

Gensan, Korea - June 16, 1894

My dear Jennie,

Your letter of May 3rd came one week ago.

I was glad that you got the baby's picture. I sent one to each of our folks, and two to Ma. Olivette developed so fast, she can almost stand alone. She tries to imitate the noises that we make. She has a temper and begins to show it. The other morning she began crying, so to humor her we took her downstairs while we had Korean prayers. All day she wanted her own way, and was cross, and when bedtime came she was just as cross and naughty. Well, I put her to bed and she cried and fussed until 10 o'clock. We went to another room and let her cry it out.

In the morning she was just as sweet and happy, and I had no more trouble for a week or two. Then she had another, but it did not last so long. When she finds out that she wont be humored and petted, she will quit. If I do say it, she is the best child I ever saw. She seems to love the Koreans, but I do not allow them to touch her. Even the servants stay away from her. I do not let the Amah take any care of her. The Amah does the work and I look after the baby.

We were invited out to dinner the other evening but we couldnt trust the Amah to keep the baby while we went. Perhaps after she has been with us 6 months or a year we can trust her. I feel my first duty is to Will and the baby; after that I will do as much work as I can. I have a teacher and study each day a little. Day before yesterday I learned 18 new words, and yesterday 7 or 8, so I can use them. I had a lesson today but did not get the words so well, for I had letter-writing on hand. This will make 4 letters today, and I must hurry and send them to the office, for I fear the ship will soon go. She has "Blue Peter" up (a blue flag with a white centre) which means that the ship will go out sometime in the afternoon or evening. I wrote a long letter to Ma which you can read when you go up home. Will has gone to work in the garden, and I want to take the baby out for a ride.

I haven't said anything, but you will be glad to know we are all well and happy. Hope you can write often. Trust that you are both well.

Your sister      Sallie S.

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Gensan, Korea - July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1894

Dear Sister Jennie,

I was very much disappointed when the last steamer came in and brought no letter from you, nor any of our folks. Now by the time I get a letter from you, it will be about 2 months, as the steamer before the "Tokio maru" came in didn't bring any. There are 2 large Japanese steamers which came here,- the "Tokio maru" and the "Satsuma maru". They make one trip per month. There are many little steamers, also sail-boats, which come for cargo. It is an interesting place to live, and thus far the weather has not been so bad. There is nearly always a breeze, and so many salt-breezes.

Our new house is just about finished, and we want to get moved by August 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a nice little place and one of the nicest sites in Gensan. After we are moved I will tell you more about it, and send the plans. We are all very well. Olivette is well, but I believe is falling off in flesh during the warm weather; or at least not gaining. I do not know for how long she has weighed 19 lbs. She has 3 teeth and is cutting another. Will made her a bed (a pen, rather) It looks like one Pa had for the lambs. I had muslin nailed for a bottom, so it would be cool, and she just about lives in it. She can jerk and roll about as much as she likes, and not fall out. When she is sleepy and wants to sit up, I simply strap her down, and in a few min. she is asleep. Many mornings we are awakened by her talking and cooing; when we look around she is sitting up in bed. Her sweet little voice makes beautiful music in our home. I cant mention one time that she woke up crying, but always laughing. When we are moved I want to have her out of doors all the time I can, so she will get tough, as Jerd used to say. Through the hot weather I am not doing much. My teacher got anxious about his family, which live not far from Seoul and went home. I haven't commenced to study with Will's teacher; in fact, can't, as Will is with him from 8 until about 4.

I have made raspberry jelly, cherry jelly, butter, and canned some. Yesterday and this morning I have been making soft soap; will have several gallons. I am making a mattress for the spare bed, out of cotton and excelsior, but am waiting for a Korean woman and beat the cotton.

- 2 - July 14, 1894

They in some way pick and beat the cotton until it is light as a feather. I intend to have one of my own comforts ripped up, the outside washed, and the cotton beat over. It is surprising to see what they can do with cotton batting. I like my Amah ever so much; she is so kind and nice to the baby, and she does the washing and ironing splendid. I am glad that Will wrote about the trouble in Korea.

Yesterday we got word again from Seoul. The Japanese still hold the fort. The Koreans are moving to the country as fast as they can, leaving perhaps one or two persons to watch the houses. The young women, especially, are going to the country. If anyone stays it is the old women. Years ago when China and Korea had a "frakas" the Chinese used the women very badly, especially the young women. That is the reason they are so afraid. The Chinese have all left Seoul except a few. The English and the Americans are still at their posts. As yet no guns have been fired, but no telling when there will be. It is thought that the Chinese will act very slowly, consequently there will be, no doubt, a long war. We heard yesterday that there were 3 Chinese men-of-war behind a mountain in this harbor. I do not see why they should conceal themselves, unless it is to get ready for war. We hardly expect any trouble up here and feel quite safe.

I hope that you folks at home wont worry about us. We are all right. The Lord acres for His own. I do hope that you are all well at home. I am a little anxious because I have not heard for a long time. Della tells me how hard Ma is working, and that she has fallen off so in flesh. I do think it is too bad. Couldn't you or some of our folks find her a good girl. Now I think she could afford to pay a girl \$2. per week, and let her do all the work, and Ma do nothing. I hope that you wont work so hard during this trying weather, and that you and Will may stay well. Give my love to all.

Your sister,  
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