

WHEATON COLLEGE
WHEATON, ILLINOIS

May 25, 1948

Hi Sugar-Plum!

Sweetheart, it certainly is good to throw aside one's books and talk with you again. I wonder what the Lord has planned for us. By the way, did you receive the pictures yet? If so, I hope that they were not too bad. President Wilson had a saying that I have adopted. It went something like this:

For beauty I'm no star;
There're others more handsome by far.
But my face, I don't mind it,
For I am behind it;
It's those in front I jar!

Seriously, I am thankful to the Lord for His goodness toward me. I have many short-comings; but He has compensated for them greatly. It's like the story of the fellow who complained that he had no shoes until he saw a man with no feet. The Lord has a purpose for each of us. He has been preparing and is preparing us for that purpose. If some things are not exactly as we would have them, we have no right to complain. Such a complaint would be the same thing as telling the Lord that He did not know what He was doing. You know, Sweetheart, often the Lord has used me mightily. But I have found that He has only used me when I have been the most humble. If we serve the Lord with all our power, I suppose it's good. But if we finally find that we are not so very much and depend upon the Lord for some power, it is far better. And if we eventually discover that we ourselves are nothing and depend upon the Lord wholly, it is still infinitely better. So, the less there is of us in Christian service, the more is accomplished. Therefore, our little efforts only detract from the effectiveness of the power of God. Then, we plus God equals God minus us; and God plus nothing equals God, which is everything. Sounds kind of confusing, doesn't it? Study it over a while and you will see what I mean. Consequently, Darling, we can be thankful for what we are because the Lord has made us that way. This doesn't mean that it is the Lord's will for us to be disobedient

to Him. But, if we have submitted our selves to Him, He, knowing our weaknesses, will still bring about His infinite will in our lives.

Darling, as it appears now, our lives will eventually be fused together, the Lord willing. Therefore, I feel that I must ask your advice when it comes to great decisions that I must make. When I ask for advice on the many things that come up, I want you to consider them thoughtfully and prayerfully. And remember that our feelings are relatively unimportant. The important thing is to seek the Lord's guidance. First of all, you know that I have given myself wholly to the service of the Lord where ever He wants me and whenever He needs me. You also know that I do not know exactly how the Lord will use me. I do realize that He does give us definite interests. As far as I know my interests are centered in China. I hope this is the Lord's leading.

Doris, as I look around me I find that the average minister and missionary doesn't have too much influence, does he? For myself, I want to be where I can influence the greatest people and the most people. When a missionary wins a cooley to the Lord, it is wonderful. A cooley has accepted the Lord. But when a person has won shall we say a mayor or politician to the Lord, he has not only won the mayor or politician, but he probably has won many hundreds ^{besides} to Him. Do you see what I mean? If I can be ~~on~~ a place of respect, everyone will hear what I have to say. And when I then win a great person, countless thousands will be influenced. The missionaries and ministers are doing a great work and I am sure they are where the Lord wants them to be. But, somehow, as I see it now, I am not sure I want to be a missionary in the true sense of the word. More than being a missionary, I want to be where the Lord wants me to be. And I know you want the same thing.

Here is what I was thinking, Supposing I prepare for the Lord's service. But instead of entering the mission service directly, I enter the United States Foreign Service. I can still be sent to China, and that is where I would want to be sent. I would be in a place to deal with some of the leaders of the nation for the Lord. In a sense I still would be a foreign missionary. What do you think of the idea? I have been considering it for some months. Of course I have not made up my mind. I am only thinking about it and trusting the Lord to show the way. Your opinion will mean much as I make a decision. Or perhaps I could go to China as a professor in some subject - perhaps philosophy. In that way I can have a means of an effective witness. I am

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afraid that in future years it will be hard to enter China as a missionary. There is hard feelings in many parts of China for foreigners. As a government representative or a professor, we could gain entrance. I am afraid for Shantung. I am afraid that the door is closed there for good. If the conditions remain as they are now, I never would want you to return to that part of China. But there are other fields of service in that great country. Please give me your answer on this whole problem.

Doris, I have had another brain storm. Are there many American students in Swedish Universities? If so, do they teach those classes in English? In Switzerland there are many hundred American students enrolled. The classes are supposed to be in English. What about Sweden? I guess you know what I am thinking.

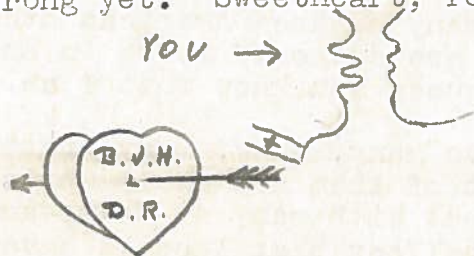
Sweetheart, we have many, many, many pretty girls in Wheaton. Most of them are swell Christians as well. I have gone out with many of them; and I mean not to brag when I say that I could have many of them. Many of them I thought were rather nice. But, you know, since we have started to correspond again, I have dared to compare the girls with you. And you know, Darling, none of them appeal to me anymore. Theyaall fall short of my little "Dodo" Rinell. Why do you suppose this is? Could I be in love? What do you think?

Your pictures have come in handy. Twice last week I used them to good advantage. You know that fellows like to chase girls (I don't know why, but they do). Well, this is leap year and some of the girls are stupid enough to chase the fellows. Anyway this has even happened to me a few times. Sometimes a fellow don't mind being chased, depending on the girl. Well, it so happens that a couple of gals have been on my trail for a long time. And these particular girls I didn't want to chase me. They were fairly good looking and nice girls, but I didn't want to hurt their feelings. Well, last week I started looking at your picture when they were coming down the walk. Of course, they wanted to see what I was looking at. When they saw the pictures, they wanted to know who the pretty little girl was. So, I had to tell them. And, you know, I think that you scared them off. So, you see Darling, you

had better send me some more pictures. I make good use of them.

Yes, Dodo, I have had no difficulty in reading your writing. At first I had to take your letters rather slowly. But now, I read them very rapidly. And I do get the whole meaning. I digest every word. In fact, there has not been a letter that I have not read and reread over and over. I wonder why? Hey, I don't like the sound of those young, handsome patients. I think I will send you a pair of ugly, dark glasses so that they can't see how pretty you are. And hereafter, I want you to tie your hair in a knot behing your head. Understand!?! Your being a nurse doesn't help the matter at all either. You know what I mean!

I hope this letter makes sense tonight. I am so tired that I can hardly organize my thoughts. I have been very tired all day; probably not too strong yet. Sweetheart, remember, I love you.



To you my love,
your hubby

Bernie

By the way, do you have
a middle name?

P. S. My cousin just walked in. I have never told you about him.. His name is Bill Holmquist. He and I are in the same year at Wheaton. During the war Bill was in the navy. He is a swell Christian fellow and rather good looking (typical of us Holmquist's, you know!). Anyway, Bill decided that he would like to correspond with someone in Sweden. So, by any chance, do you have a nice Christian (and good looking) girl friend that can write in English who will write to Bill? If so, have her address her mail to Mr. William Holmquist at the college here. And another thing, one of the professors is a close friend of mine. His name is Dr. Marquart and is in charge of the psychology department. He has known right along that I correspond with you. So

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he wanted me to ask you what the Russian question is like in Sweden. What do the Swedes think of the Russians and have the Russians done much to influence the Swedish people? The Americans, as you know, are not afraid of the Russians. We hope that we will not have another war. But if we do, we are ready to blow Russia off the map. The Americans are greatly expanding the air force and the ground forces. We shall have a air force and a navy second to none. Then, of course, America is somewhat Christian (at least vastly more so than Russia). We have the All-mighty as our defender. The feeling in this country is that the Russians are not nearly ready for war, considering our possession of the atomic bomb. If America should fall, the churches around the world would have to close their doors. God will not let such happen. America has far superior power than the Russians, and even more important, America is on the side of Rightousness. But we are wondering if Russia is making a bid for Sweden. Sweden is small and cannot defend itself.