

Wheaton College

Wheaton, Illinois

June 3, 1948

My dear Mrs. Holmquist,

When I arrived back at school yesterday, guess what I found. Yep, I discovered two letters from you in my mail box. You can't imagine how pleased I was to have not only one love letter, but two at once.

So, they made you blush at the customs office. Ha, ha! Now, why do you suppose you blushed? I am sure that you would not have gotten a red face if they had teased you about anyone else, would you? You know, my little Sweetheart, that we only blush when some one has discovered one of our secrets - has discovered the truth. But, don't worry, I am deeply in love with you too. And if I were with you, I certainly would show it - XXXXXXXXX, and so on!-?

Dearest, did you have to pay any customs on the gift? If so, will you tell me how much it was. I'd just like to know. Why did my letter bring the tears, Darling? I couldn't quite figure that out. Yes, you're right, I'm more and more sure each day that it eventually will be God and you and me (and a family!). You don't know how happy I am that you do want a family of our own. So many modern girls don't seem to feel the same way about it as you. I believe that we have been made for each other, to serve the Lord together. We can not serve well alone; we need each other. But marriage is far more than just the fellowship, as important as that is. It is our duty and privilege to raise youngsters in the ways of our God. The world is sorely in need of what the Christian has

to offer. A close friend of mine at school is to be married this summer. It so happens that he and his girl do not want children. Personally, I think that they are very selfish, don't you? Really, I don't consider a home complete without little ones. And the Lord willing, we'll do our best, won't we?!!! As far as my falling for anyone else, I'm sure there is little danger. Just this morning I was looking around the college library, noticing many of the girls I know and have been out with. Strangely, none of them held any appeal to me anymore. I treat them well; but my heart is far, far away. Not so long ago I told my friend Paul Smith that I loved them all. And it was true; each one I took out seemed to be a swell girl, and they were or I wouldn't have taken them out. But I've changed. Now I love none, except one (who could that be?). Sweetheart, I love you!!!!!!!! In the States a number of the colleges have married students. So, Dodo, why not? Yes, our engagement time will be wonderful, but we never can be contented until we are one, can we? There is no "if" about you entering an American hospital; there is a shortage of nurses in the States and there will be no difficulty for you to enter. But, we'll let all those things work out as time passes. As for now, darling, remember, head up and knees down.

Today, it seems so very long until we can come together; but before we know it, we'll both be walking hand in hand for life, be on a ship and headed for the people we so love in China. Then we'll praise our blessed Lord for His remarkable leadership. I'm so happy that you want to return to China, for so do I, with my whole heart. Then there will not only be a third generation Rinell (and Holmquist) family in China, but the Lord willing, a fourth generation. Have you ever thought of a name for that forth generation? I am sure you have. What is it, Sweetheart?

Doris, honestly, I didn't start the rallies in China. I was only instrumental in doing the Lord's will. If I hadn't done it, I am sure the Lord would have chosen someone else for the task. But I am happy that the Lord saw fit to use me. It is so wonderful to be in His service and His will. I also can remember my asking you to give a testimony. You were so nervous. And so was I. It took all the steam I could gather in order to talk to you that night (I've certainly changed, haven't I?).

Sweetheart, I think we mustn't judge chaplain Sherley too severely. I believe that he meant well. Considering the fact that I do not think he was a Christian, I think he did rather well. He thought our faith was only superstition and tried to cause both of us to lose our faith. If our faith had been only of a mental character, we probably would have given it up. But it was impossible for Chaplain Sherley to understand the fact of the inner testimony of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I am sure he never experienced anything like that. I suppose dancing in itself would be alright if it were not associated with questionable places of amusement and with the wrong crowd of people. Then too we must conform to the standards set by the average fundamental American Christian. Some of these standards are strange. But to be heard by the Lord used for the Lord, we must accept what standards are set. Dancing is definitely out of the question in the mind of most fundamental American Christians. So, if for no other reason, we must not dance. I am, however, looking forward to being taught some Swedish dances when I get to Sweden. I am sure they will be fun, and I like to have a good time.

About Earl, Sweetheart, I never have thought of him as gone. And he isn't. Earl lives as much today as ever. And we shall see him again some day. Often when I think of Earl and am praying, I feel like asking the Lord to say hello to Earl for me. This sounds

kind of foolish. But I'm sure you see what I mean.

Now I am on letter number two, trying to answer it. Thanks ever so much for your interest. I am feeling much better now. As long as I can remember I don't ever remember having the flew before. I have been rather tough I guess. Up until just before entering the marines, I never had a chest cold. My colds always settled in the weakest part of my body - my head! Then one day the fellows from church called and wanted me to play some foot ball with them. I couldn't resist. I had been working in a war plant for about a year then and hadn't been doing very much running. The air was rather cool and I ran till I was exhausted. Still I kept going. When we finally quit, I was pretty tired. That evening I started to run a temperature, having terrible pains in the chest. Mom made me see or family physician - Dr. Dahlberg (owner of South Shore Hospital). Upon examination he said that I had strained my lungs considerably, but only needed to rest. In a few days the pain and temperature left, but ever since I have caught colds easily. As a rule the whole family has strong lungs, so I am sure there is little to worry about.

No, Honey, if I could visit you, I would find little time to drink tea. There would be more important things to do. Do you know what I mean?

I was glad to hear of the arrival of the folks from China. Are they your aunt, uncle, and cousins? It was a little difficult to make out their names. Some of the names are very Swedish and not to familiar to me. So will you print their names on the next letter? Then I will know who you are talking about when you mention them. Some one was interested in Wheaton. So, I've gotten a complete set of entry planks and am forwarding them on to you. Be sure the applications are sent in immediately. Each year there are thousands

turned away from Wheaton. When I entered there were about 400 entering, but 7000 had been refused admission. Don't let this frighten you though. If you know how to do it, it is not so hard getting in as you may think. Wheaton also is much more expensive than Bethel. So I suggest that she send for catalogues from Bethel as well. Of course, Wheaton is a much better school.

This week and next I am taking my exams. So, if I miss a few letters or make them rather brief, you know the reason. Last night I received about two hours sleep. This evening I am kind of groggy to say the least. As I said, Wheaton is a tough school, but not too hard. It certainly will be fine to have her here with us, won't it? It'll make you feel more like home. Sweetheart, you bet I'll get to the hospital and will ask them more questions than they'll be able to answer. We'll work something out yet, won't we? Yes, I realize that I must visit you in Sweden. I say I love you and I believe I do. But before I ask a certain question, we must see each other. And I know that I cannot expect you to come to the States unless you are sure.

About those rings, your slightest wish is my command. Darling, let me know honestly what you will prefer. I am not concerned if you wear a diamond or a band for an engagement ring. You tell me what you want. If it is a diamond you want, I'll buy it here; if a band, I'll wait till I get to Sweden. Do you want a double ring (one for your boy-friend)? Suits me fine. How about expenses? Can you afford such a ring? If not, I'll be more than glad to advance you the money for it. As for wearing the ring in the States, I don't care if they do think I am married. In fact, if some people thought I was, it would save me some trouble. They will ask me who my wife is and I will have the opportunity to take out a picture and show them my darling little Dodo. Will I ever be proud! Yes, quite often

the band is engraved with each other names (wedding ring at least). I would love to have a ring with your name in it, Darling. But do as you wish. There is a long time before we can decide definitely on this matter.

What do you mean you are serious "some times?" Miss Rinell, you had better be serious ALL the time. Do you hear?! But I am glad that you like to be full of fun. So am I. I guess the folks and Elaine sometimes wonder if I ^{am} not a little goofy. Especially at home we laugh and sing all the time. The folks are a lot of fun too. All right "Sunshine," you had better behave yourself and remember that you're not "our angel," but MY angel.

Well, Sugar-plum, unless I quit, I'll miss my supper. And you know that would just about kill me. Keep your eyes off these dumb Swedes and remember that you are mine.

With all my love

(and kisses), your

Bernie

P. S. As close as I can figure this is letter number 16 (doesn't seem that many, does it?).

Sweetheart, will you answer me a question? You know that I am looking for a way in which we may be brought together. The sooner we can be brought together, the sooner we can decide whether or not we should become man and wife. Here is the question: are you allowed to remain in training in the Red Cross Hospital if you should get wed? It may mean nothing, but there is always a possibility of my getting to Sweden for study. I enjoy Wheaton and am thankful for the privilege of studying here; but if I love you, I am willing to leave Wheaton, home, and the U. S. for you.