

January 26, 1943

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Dear Mrs. Whitney

I received the book this afternoon and want to thank you so much for it. So far, I have only had time to study the Anglic expression on Saint Therese's face, but I know I am going to enjoy her autobiography very much. Your letter of Jan. 21st arrived only today too. I am so curious as to why they are delaying now-a-days.

Did you get enough rain, Mrs. Whitney? Undoubtedly you are as bored as I am when it comes to the weather. Thank heavens, we don't - rather haven't had too much rain - yet.

Report from Tokyo was finished several days ago. Jimmie also has read it, and at the present time Alma is. I shall mail it back to you in a week or 10 days. Will that be all right? After discussing it pro & con, Jimmie & I decided it is a book for a good many of these people who are not the least bit concerned about the war to read - that is the American public. The rest I suppose are more or less facts - however, we both

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Decided ^{as agreed} as far as we ~~was~~ are concerned,
Japan will always be dominated by
the military clique regardless of the
outcome of the war. I am not over
intelligent especially when it comes to
history, so I may be wrong.

One was very much pleased with
your letter, Mrs. Whitney. She thought
it was such a nice one too. She has
not sent in her application yet, but
I imagine she will by the end of the
week. Dorothy's application was
approved by the W.R.A but she has
to wait for her travel permit now.
She expects to get it in a week or so.
Then, she'll be off for Minnesota.
Her employer is wiring the money
for her fare & meals to Mr. Head.
I rather feel she is fortunate to have
her expenses paid. There are few cases
with fare being paid by the employer.
When one leaves Camp, they have to
have an escort out of the Western
Defense Area - I believe Weckenburg -
in some towns with a name similar
to that becomes free territory for
the Japanese. Father Clement said
he would be most happy to escort
her out to Phoenix if it is a week

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When he goes to Gila. I have been
persuading Dorothy to wait until
Feb. 9th & then go with him, but her
plans are indefinite whether she will or
not. I am all for her waiting as otherwise
all who leave are taken out on the same
day in trucks, & that shouldn't be a very
pleasant experience to Poston for her.
While on the subject of clearances &
etc, I have been thinking very
seriously that it might be wise for
~~Dorothy~~ Louise, Mad & me to file
clearance papers too. I am going to
try to explain to you why - I feel
this way - Before any one is able
to leave camp, they have to file
papers to clear their names - that is
it is more or less like a character
reference which the W. R. A & the
F. B. I in Washington D. C. keep on
file. I rather feel if anything
should turn up in our favor - &
we have our clearance papers, we
will be much better off - & able
to leave without delay. Otherwise,
it takes several months to go
through the process of obtaining them.

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By this, I surely don't mean to say
we have plans to go elsewhere because
we really don't, but I'm getting
prepared, just in case. It doesn't
mean you are expected to leave if
you obtain clearance leave papers,
but rather a way to ^{keep your} name. Perhaps I
have written just so many words
you are not able to understand
what I mean, but how do you feel
about it? I didn't want to take
any steps without consulting you.

By all appearance of the rest people
are in to leave camp, I doubt if
there will be too many Japanese
going back to California. The U.S.A.
certainly is persuading the Japanese
to settle in the middle west as it
seems as if our race isn't going to
be very welcomed there any more,
I know a lot of it is due to the
war, & as you say, people soon
forget, but often I feel we are in
the same boat as the poor old
Negroes.

This may be somewhat of a dream

In the future, just how favorably plans will work out are yet to be seen, but Father Clement told us the following (after I had asked him so many questions about the plans for resettlement of the Japanese). 41^b

Maryknoll - & the various Dioceses are trying to make plans to establish Japanese communities in the middle west for Catholics - & people who are interested in the plan - & that, if successful, will take care of a good many families. I immediately asked if it wouldn't be "bad" to congregate as they did in S.A. - but Father Clement said for economic purposes the Japanese had to stick to gether.

In the eyes of the American people, this makes the Japanese seem to be Danish, but I suppose there is no alternative. Well, it's all in a "dream stage" so I guess I had better not look too far ahead. It is something to think about tho'.

Our yarn came to-day & all of us are just tickled to death about it. It is quite reasonable too - 55¢ for 100 yds virgin wool spot yarn - 2 oz ball. I am going to experiment too. To-day

419 I put in an order for 1 - 3 3/4 oz ball
of queen yarn - (100% virgin wool)
Cable knitted. It is knitted with 4
strands which can be easily separated.
After separated, one strand is about as
thick as my spot yarn. If I am able
to make a long sleeve slip over, it
will only cost me .75¢ - reasonable
enough, isn't it? I hope I'm not
trying to economize too much.

Once I get started writing, it is
hard to quit - but this seems too
long already.

Please give our regards to Mr. Whitney.
Due says thank you for your letter
& "I'll be" Louise sends you her love.
I thank you again for the book.
I know I shall enjoy it.

With love,
Fleming