P.O. Box 148, Lagos, Nigeria
April 17, 1927

Dear Margaret:

It is Easter Sunday and the British are in the midst of a series of holidays. The native laborers take the Mahommedan holidays, work a few days, and then claim all the Christian ones also. At Easter they get Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I spent Easter Sunday afternoon tramping in the jungle, and I brought back an armful of ferns of your kinds to plant near the new houses. I also brought a spray of a beautiful vine with showy orange-red flowers in clusters. In the jungle I passed groups of men gathering oil nuts. They cut down the clusters of orange yellow nuts and take them to a jungle hut where the oil is extracted from the pulp and the kernels are collected for export. The natives eat a great deal of palm oil.

I am enclosing some jungles in the shape of bits of movie film for the children. We had five guests to dinner last Wednesday and gave them a movie picture show afterwards. While

the pictures were flowing by, Dr. Bauer discovered sweet classical music with his gramophone. The other puzzle is for you. It is a bracelet of elephant hair! Why anyone should want a bracelet of elephant hair I do not know, but the Hausa man insisted that you would be very glad to have one, - and so here it is! He pointed out also that it can be made larger or smaller by shifting the knots.

I have had no new word about the date of Dr. Beemsted's arrival since I wrote last. Neither has anything official come about the reorganization. It seems worth while, in this distance to try the Consolidated 20 stock if the bank advises it. I suppose you have done so long ago! I am glad that the part of the balance in the Custodian account is to be invested. There must be a considerable accumulation of idle money in the checking account also. If you want, you can transfer as much as can be spared to the Cust. acct. and invest the total following the bank's advice. It can wait a couple of months for my return.

The maple sugar will be much appreciated when it comes, whether I am here or not. I hope I shall be here, — or rather that it comes before I leave.

Please congratulate Gertrude on being elected president of her class. When is Ruth going to start gobbling up the rest of the available school honors?

I sent you by the last boat two packages more. One contained a cushion cover and a bassock cover, both of which were left out of the first package because it would have been too heavy for parcel post. The other package contains a great mixture of things of ~~Nige~~ West African manufacture. The contents were about as follows:

8 table mats (large)
2 " " (small)
1 [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] their [illegible]; [illegible] as it may seem!
1 pair small red slippers — [illegible] as [illegible]!
2 small calabashes + 1 calabash dish.
About six Kano (Northern Nigeria) grass mats.
One Kano grass bag.
Embroidered slipper tops — to amuse the children.

I took a week's trip since I wrote last and visited Ibadan, the largest native city in Africa with about a quarter of a million people. I also went to Oshogbo, Ogbomosho, Ilesha, and Oyo. At Oyo I saw the palace of the Alafin, the king over all the local kings of the four million Yorubas. At Oshogbo I saw Mohammedans parading in celebration of the end of Ramadan, and I took movies of the performance. At first I tried to be as inconspicuous as possible, but I soon found that the dancing singing not was fond of being photographed. So I found a good point of vantage on the roots of a big tree and photographed the jimps to my heart's content as they went by. ~~The~~ When the leaders noticed me they would sing and dance all the harder and ~~delay~~ linger in front of the camera. After a while I found myself signalling to the mounted dignitaries that I was through and they should move on and not block the street. The performance would have reminded you of what you saw in Jerusalem.

I have drawn (Feb 4, '27) a check for $100 to Edward Mottey, Treas, (Class of 1902, Harvard College) and am sending it as my contribution to the Twenty-fifth Anniversary fund. Check number is 190. This is the first check drawn since Nov. 24. Please enter it in your check book.

Last Sunday I heard tom-toms & walked over to a nearby village where a juju dance was in progress. The people were in a big ring watching proceedings and there was a tom-tom band at one side. In the middle of the ring three people in costume were working over something alive, but concealed by blankets. The ju-ju man sat at one side in his elaborate head-dress and coverings. His face was entirely hidden. Finally the blankets were pulled off, and there lay a ten-foot ~~at~~ crocodile, opening & shutting its mouth. The cloth outside of the animal encased a ~~very live~~ person who wriggled enough to make the animal quite alive. I took some pictures, but have had no opportunity to have prints made. I have sent some movie films of other ~~scenes~~ to London to be developed.

Much love to you all,

Hilbur