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Letter from Ceylon Kingston to his mother, dated October 27, 1918

Ceylon S. Kingston

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Columbia University
Sunday, Oct. 27, [1918]

My dear Mother:

I enclos a couple of refund orders of Montgomery Ward and Co. Mayber you may wish to send for something and you can use these as far as they will go.

The Y.M.C.A. gives each man when he sails free of cost \$35.00 of additional life insurance. I have named you as my beneficiary. But you will not get it.

We are putting in our week at Columbia. We are rooming in one of the dormitories. There are five of us in two rooms. One from Illinois, one from Massachusetts, one from Minnesota, one from Pennsylvania and myself.

There are 175 men taking the work this week and this is the 23rd week. They are increasing the number going overseas.

There are several thousand (Between six and seven thousand) students in uniform and receiving drill here. It makes quite an army. At Livingston Hall where we are staying naval boys (college boys who have selected naval work)are lodged. There is no monkey business in American colleges now. It is business

We have three lectures (instructions) a day, two classes in French a day and an hour and a half of physical training. That is what makes some of the old boys lame and sore. Besides there are some extras thrown in for good measure.

Today is Sunday and we had conference so I went to Bronx Park. There is a fine zoological garden and the day was like a summer day — very warm and pleasant. The weather has been warm and dry all the ime I have been here.

Since writing the above I have received and read your letter. I am sorry that Jennie is so sick. So far as Betty is concerned she will have better health at home but I fear it increase your work. I had hoped to lighten that.

I haven't had time to attend to that matter for Betty yet.

My allowance will start Oct. 1st. I am owing you for September but will not forget it.

I am glad that Canton and the other towns got their food quôta for I was curious to know about that matter.

I will write again in a few days.

Affectionately, Ceylon