

February 23, 1943

Mr. Charles B. Atwater
44 Vernon Street
Springfield, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Atwater:

I know you will be interested in the little visit I had with Mr. McKernan at my home on Saturday night. He stopped in to see about the books which he wishes to present to the library, and there are now about 150 of them here. He was perfectly delighted with them, and thanked me over and over again for selecting them. Then, too, I had a copy of a book, "Little Sister Su" a Chinese folk tale, written by Hsueh Chiang Kai-shek. It is printed and bound in the Chinese fashion with double accordion pages. He was very pleased with it, and asked me to add that to his list. It would have done your heart good to have heard him tell of the effect such a library should have on the townspeople, both young and old. As soon as the last book arrives I am to let him know and he will immediately make out a check for the 201 books.

I was in the library again, Mr. Atwater, and the plaque has been fixed to the wall, telling about the building and donor of the library. It is very impressive in a rich and dignified way. The choice of material and lettering I think is excellent, and the light falls upon it in such a way that it is very plain to read. It sort of makes one stop and take stock of himself, as he reads of the loyalty Mr. Atwater had to the place of his birth, and the planning and untiring effort you have had to carry through his wish, although that is not stated.

I think I have never seen a bare interior that was more restful than that of the library. When the furniture is arranged, and the books placed upon the shelves it will be ideal I am sure. The work in the basement was not completed, but I am sure that too will be excellent when all is done.

As I stood on the corner on Sunday afternoon and saw the colonial library there with its small paned windows, and then gazed up North Street where the several colonial homes stood behind the row of grand old trees, I thought that nothing could be more appropriate as a memorial to this fine man. I am glad the library was placed where it is, for that is the most historic spot in town I believe, and from it one can gaze upon the spots where Rev. Atwater and his family trod the most. You can't know how very proud I am to be the first librarian there.

Of course, I am anxious to have the library open, but perhaps with so many people busy with rationing this week, it is just as well the opening has been delayed.

Yours sincerely,