

1902

- November 21st- Willard travels to Shaowu and returns to Foochow sometime after January 12, 1903
- Volcano on Martinique explodes causing 30,000 deaths in St. Pierre
- Aswan Dam in Egypt completed
- Willard is 37 years old, Ellen- 34, Phebe- 7, Gould- 6, Geraldine- 4, and Dorothy turns 1.

[This letter dated Jan. 19, 1902 was written by Willard and Ellen to the folks at home. He talks about a trip to Ing Hok and of his busy schedule for his upcoming week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Jan. 19th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

According to my Correspondence Register I wrote you Dec. 15th, 1901, No. 25. Your letters have come in nicely. One came Dec. 18, and two came Jan. 1- 1902. The same mail brought a good letter from Oliver and one from Dwight. I have not mailed a letter this year thus far.

Dec. 28th, 1901 Mr. Smith and I started for Ing Hok to make a tour of the field. We returned Jan. 8th. It rained a little the day we started, but the sun very soon dispelled all the clouds and we had perfect weather for all the trip. We held communion at Gak Liang, Puai Sioh, Diong Keng and Sung Kau. In all thirteen were admitted [to] the churches on this trip. The Ing Hok people were overjoyed at seeing Mr. Smith. They greeted him everywhere with firecrackers, and feasts, both of which he endured with good grace. In every chapel the people were packed in almost solid and listened perfectly to the preaching.

We returned Jan. 8th to be present at some of the meetings during the Week of Prayer and to get Miss Newton, Mrs. Smith and Dr. Emily D. Smith to take them up to Ing Hok for the Quarterly Meeting of that station held Jan. 14th – 16th. So we were off again last Monday morning Jan. 13th, and returned yesterday, Saturday Jan. 18th. The weather again was perfect, - warm and clear with delightful moon light evenings. The meetings were full in their attendance and a beautiful spirit of brotherly love prevailed throught [throughout]. The new missionaries for that station are very much pleased with their new home and the people and the work. In my opinion they are peculiarly fitted for this work.

A letter from Mr. Goddard yesterday states that he has accepted a position with Wyman and Gordon who make machine forgings in Worcester, Mass. They will keep their home in Lancaster, and Mrs. Goddard will remain there. Dwight will be on the road some of the time.

We received the shoes you sent by mail all right. The children seem to be shod well now. They are all-three- in my little study as I write this. They have just gotten tired of looking at pictures and have found a box of 2 X 4 plates for a camera that Ellen had some five years and which is now useless. They have been quite well, and are growing finely. Ellen and Dorothy are upstairs asleep. Ellen is quite well. Dorothy thinks teething is pretty tough business. I rather think if she alone were consulted she would prefer not to have any teeth and get her living all her life as she did during the first six months. She is learning to navigate, and they say she can stand alone. I am almost a stranger to her. I have been away so much during the past month.

This morning I preached * the Baccalaureate before the Theological students who graduate next Thursday. The service was held at Gen Ci Dong, and the students of the hospital (men's) and of the Girl's College and of the Seminary attended beside the usual membership of the church. I spoke on Jan 15 = fruit bearing. The coming week will be full. Tomorrow I have an engagement with the dentist in a.m. a committee meeting to arrange a song service for Easter in p.m. On Tues. a meeting of the trustees of the Anglo Chinese College of Meth. Mission, Wed. graduation exercises of Foochow College Am. Board. Thursday Graduation exercises Theol. Semy. Fri. go to mountain to look after cottage and several other items of business, Sat. examination of candidates for Theol. Semy.

I am enclosing \$5.00 Canadian paper money in this letter. If I am owing you take it to pay yourself. The remainder put in bank.

The weather is surprisingly warm. I have not yet put on winter flannels nor my heaviest clothes. We have no fires in the house and doors and windows are open. Friday on the boat coming down the river we could not wear overcoats. It was too hot.

Have I written about our surprise at learning of the engagement of Miss Newton? Where did the news come from? Apparently she is as far from that point as ever, and as firmly convinced that young women coming to the field should keep from entangling alliances as ever.

[The following written in parenthesis was written by Ellen.]

(A Miss Gluck of the Methodist Mission was engaged to a Dr. Charles who came to Foochow on the same steamer on which Miss Newton came last summer. But that engagement is now broken. Does not this explain the mistake? Ellen.)

To us as a family, scattered all over the United States, and travelling much, and in China, God's blessings have come in big showers during the past years. We must all strive to be very useful to Him, and to be ready to be used by Him in any capacity.

With lots of Love from us all Will

[The following was written by Ellen.]

*I want to add a note about that sermon which Will would be too modest to write. One of our most candid judges among the missionaries of our Board here heard that sermon and told another missionary that it would have been a fine sermon in English but it was especially forceful in Chinese. A man who can preach such sermons as that ought to be released from the drudgery and given the opportunity to preach. Ellen.

[This letter dated Feb. 2, 1902 was written by Willard from Foochow, China. He talks about graduation exercises at the Seminary and denying a student his diploma. He continues to travel to Ing Hok where the missionaries are having success. He is purchasing property for a new church in An Iong Die. The previous church burned. Willard mentions his Uncle Theodore's death. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Feb. 2nd, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My register tells me that I mailed just one letter to a foreign country during the month of January. That one was to you on Jan. 19th. We have received none from you since that time.

Since I wrote last the various institutions of learning in Foochow have held their graduation exercises. The Seminary closed with exercises January 23rd. Six young men received diplomas. Another has completed the course, but rumor has it that he was married a year ago last August to a girl who graduated from the Ponasang Girl's College a year ago now and rumor says they were married without the Christian ceremony, and that they now have a child over a month old. They both flatly deny the whole thing. Until the truth comes out he will have to go without his diploma.

Last Tuesday I returned to my old occupation of going to Ing Hok. During the past five weeks I have spent twenty three days in that field. Last Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Dr. Smith and Miss Chittenden moved up. We had four boat loads of freight and passengers. The first day found us at Gak Liang at 10 p.m. It was rather a long journey. But the weather was warm and the next day we had a delightful trip over land from Gak Liang to Ing Hok, arriving at 4:30 p.m. The goods on the boats did not arrive till Thursday about 3 p.m. I was kept very busy Wed. evening and all day Thurs- and until noon Friday helping them make arrangements for staying there, and settling various questions relating to the work of the field next year. The Chinese year closes next Friday. (Chinese New Years is next Saturday.) The friends had perfect weather to begin their new life in the new home. Everything is propitious for a great blessing to be poured out on the Ing Hok people through these new servants of God. There is a great movement toward the church in most of the field; the brotherly feeling that exists between all the workers forms an avenue by which the Holy Spirit can enter and which He can use; the preachers seem to be fully alive to the possibilities and the dangers of the situation; there are not a few church members who can be relied on and who are men of prayer; lastly Mr. Smith seems to me to be a man of God. He has a good level head, and a large stock of common sense which seems to be consecrated to God's service. In Mrs. Smith he has a splendid helpmate. Dr. Emily Smith is a true hearted, natural woman whom everyone likes. These three will win the hearts of the Ing Hok people for Christ.

I started for home Friday at 1 p.m. A strong head wind and very shallow water made our progress very slow, and it was 5:45 yesterday when I reached home Friday night. The weather changed and it began to rain. The wind blew thro the boat terrifically all day yesterday and the Chinese passengers sat and shivered. I rowed and poled the boat to keep warm. We have had very warm weather until this cold snap. When I took the boat Fri. noon I had to take off my coat and unbutton my vest to be comfortable. At night I wanted coat and overcoat on, all buttoned tight. I put on winter woolens last night for the first time.

Florence Kinnear has what Doctor calls Diphtheria. Eunice Kinnear is at the Anchorage, Paul and Morris are at Miss Newton's, and the youngest Gerald is now in the old house in which we used to live. Mr. and Mrs. Hodous are staying there with him. The old house is nearly all torn down. Only two rooms with bath rooms left. The new Girl's College is rising rapidly on the site of the rest of the house and the adjoining land. Part of the roof boards are on already, and rafters are going up on other parts.

Ellen and the children are all quite well. Dorothy is developing fast. She claps her hands when asked to, shakes her hand for good bye, folds both hands and gives the Chinese greeting, says papa and mama. She pulls herself up by a chair or our knees and walks along holding on to things, - creeps all right, - not yet weaned! and she is not anxious to be!!

I am going to purchase a piece of land for a church at An Iong Die. The church there was burned last August. The members have had a pretty hard time for two years. It is one of the important points in this field. It is a

large center in itself and we must have a church for the existence of our work there. Rents are very high. We were paying about \$40 gold a year on the old church for \$325 gold. I can purchase a piece of land on which the church members will erect a church building and parsonage. This will make one very tight fisted all the year unless gifts come from home to help out. If you, any of you, hear of anyone who desires to help in this enterprise, I am praying that you will give him these few facts and introduce him to me. Nearly each year since 1898 we have shouldered all the financial responsibility we took upon ourselves. But God had taken care of us and money has come for all needs. So we will trust Him for this.

With lots of Love to all
Will

The last paper "Sentinel" gave an account of Uncle Theodore's death. [*Theodore Edward Beard, b. Dec. 21, 1833, d. Dec. 9, 1901*]



Four brothers - L to R: Oliver Gould Beard, James Henry Beard, Theodore Edward Beard, William Thomas Beard
Taken before December 1901. William Thomas Beard and Theodore Edward Beard were listed in the 1870 census as being in the business of Paper Manufacturing. W.T. and T.E. Beard was the name of their company. James Henry Beard ran a store, was a State Representative in 1883 and then went into the insurance business which Bennett N. Beard eventually took over.

[*Photo from the family of Myron Gould Beard.*]

From the Evening Sentinel December 10, 1901:

BEARD- Long Hill, Huntington, Dec. 9, Theodore E. Beard, aged 68 years, 11 months, 15 days. Funeral services will be held at the house, Long Hill, on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock.

[This letter dated Feb. 9, 1902 was written from Foochow, China by Willard and Ellen to the folks back home. It is now the Chinese New Year. Willard went with a group of other missionaries to witness the worshipping of the Emperor's tablets. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Feb 9th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Last week – Feb. 2nd the letter was written to you but none have been received. I believe no mail has come from America during the week.

Friday night we passed from the old Chinese year to the new Chinese year. The past week has therefore been a very busy one. I have been away from the station so much during the past month that all the business and plans of the month were crowded into this one 1st week. To add to the rush the bargain for the purchase of a piece of land for the theological seminary was consummated last Tues. evening and the owners came Wed. evening at 8 p.m. to sign the bargain agreement. But they had not fixed it up among themselves completely and it was 11:50 p.m. when they left the house after having signed the paper and received the first payment of \$200 out of the \$3500 which they were or are to receive for the land and houses on it.

Thursday afternoon we ran away for a few hours and went over to Mr. Marsh's (M.E. Mission). *[The following is written in Ellen's handwriting.]* The German Consul had sent out a general invitation to the public to visit his gardens and see the orchids which are now in bloom. He has quite a collection mostly imported I think. After taking afternoon tea with Mr. and Mrs. Marsh and Dr. Carleton we all visited the Consul's gardens. The children enjoyed greatly the privilege of running about the grounds and watching the swans, geese, ducks and gold-fishes; and searching for the electric light bulbs set around among the branches of the trees, which they called "blue and yellow and red glass birds." It does the children good to get out for a ride or walk occasionally. They are shut up in the compound in their own little world so much of the time.

Our Consul's wife, Mrs. Gracey sails very soon for a few months visit in America, returning in the fall. I wish you might meet her but think there is little probability that you will have the opportunity as she will spend most of her time in Vermont.

Last week I examined my three station classes and closed them for the New Year's vacation. As the native Bible woman who usually assists me was ill I examined them alone this time. Miss Newton, on her return took charge of all three Bible classes; so I have only these three classes now. *[The letter now changes back into Willard's handwriting.]* Don't you wish I could write like this?

Friday was the last day of the Chinese year. On the first day of the year, usually about 3 a.m. the officials of Foochow – all the higher ones- meet at the Emperor's Temple to worship his tablet. I have never witnessed the ceremony, so I went this year. Mr. Gardner, Mr. Peet, Hodous and I of our mission, Wilcox and Semester of Meth. Mission and a Mr. Shipway of the Eng. Baptist mission of Shantung were the members of the party. We watched at the Temple from a hill after 3 a.m. till 5:30 before the highest official – the Viceroy arrived. Just as he came, Mr. Wilcox fainted dead away. We carried him out into the open air and he soon came to himself, but he did not want to be left alone so I remained with him and did not see the whole performance. I saw one man go thro the ceremony however. It is simply kneeling three times and bumping the head on the hands which are put down to the ground. It requires about three minutes.

Yesterday we had to dinner with us Mr. and Mrs. Lacy, Mr. and Mrs. Semester, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Messers. Caldwell and Bucknall. On China New Years the streets are almost vacant and these people enjoy walking over.

Ellen attended a musical given at Dr. Ellen Lyon's home last evening. Mr. Shipway of Shantung is a very good organist. I heard him in the city Friday evening. So I returned home and put the children to bed while Ellen and Mrs. Hodous went to hear Mr. Shipway.

This is the season of Beard birthdays. Mothers Jan 20 – Mine Feb. 5, fathers 18th. Flora's 25.- Best wishes to all.

With Love to all of you

Will

[This letter dated Feb. 16, 1902 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Because of the Chinese New Year, they have been attending many feasts. The water wells are low and rain is needed. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Feb. 16th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter arrived Feb. 10th and my last started Feb. 10th, No. 3. The week has sped away and one hardly knows where it has gone or what he has accomplished. Still there has been something each day to demand time and attention. We have attended feasts on two days; Went over to Mrs. Plumb's to dinner one evening; held the mission prayer meeting at our home on Wed. afternoon; Ellen went to Mrs. Gracey's with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous one afternoon, - Mrs. Gracey is going to America for a visit of a few months, - and we went over for a walk on S. Side with the children yesterday afternoon. Last evening the deed for a piece of property adjoining our new house on the west was signed. The property is 140 X 75 feet- purchased for the Theological Semy.

The weather continues very pleasant. Every day the sun rises bright and clear, and so warm that we need little or no fire. Chinese feasts are thick nowadays, one tomorrow, another next Thursday, and now last week.

I think I wrote that the \$11.00 for Upper Bridge work from the ladies in Huntington [now known as the city of Shelton] came by your last letter. I will write Miss Wooster sometime. It seems as if duties only increased as the months go by. But the last weeks of the old Chinese year and the first few of the New Year are always very busy. With both educational and evangelistic work I have no vacation except as I run away from everything and then problems only wait till I return. Dr. Kinnear and family have moved over S. Side again and this leaves me the only man here who can talk.

Monday morning.

Another bright warm day. We must pray now that the rainy season will soon come. Wells are very low. Ellen and the children are quite well. Dorothy creeps all over the house and walks by chairs. All send love. Gould walked with me last Saturday a stretch of 2 miles where we rested half an hour. Then we walked back, took afternoon tea with Dr. Lyon half an hour. Then walked 2 ½ miles thro the Chinese streets home. He would not admit that he was tired. How is that for 5 years?

I must close now and go to a feast.

Lots of Love
Will.

[This letter dated Mar. 2, 1902 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to folks at home. His children have the chicken pox. He talks of a big funeral of a Chinese Christian man. Willard expresses concern of the drought. He expects that he and the family will be leaving China for America in one year. The Y.M.C.A. has offered Willard a job as Secretary. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Mar. 2nd, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last two weeks ago. Your letter came last Thursday – one from mother and one from Phebe in the same mail. My letter of Feb. 17th was No. 4.

The most important news during the past two weeks, to you would be the fact that the children have all had the chicken pox. Some three weeks or more ago Phebe had an eruption, and Ellen asked Dr. Kinnear to look at her. He said little about it and gave her a few doses of salts. Soon Gould had a few pimples. A week ago last Thursday night Geraldine was very restless. I was away over last Sunday, when I returned last Monday Dorothy was quite sick. Ellen became exercised about her Sunday morning and sent for the Doctor. He came again Monday morning and again Tuesday. But Dorothy is all right now as happy as ever- creeping all over the house and as big as a queen when someone will hold her hands and help her to walk. Geraldine has diarrhea today. But she is around all the time much as usual and seems better tonight. Otherwise we are all well.

A week ago last Friday Mr. Hodous and I went to Chong Ha. That day we attended the funeral of a man 83 years, a life long resident of Chong Ha. For about 30 years he has been an earnest and consistent Christian, - the pillar of the Chong Ha church. He was the oldest man in Chong Ha and the most respected. He was a well to do man. One of his two surviving sons is a preacher at Sang Po in the suburbs station. He was my first Chinese

teacher. The other son is an agnostic- if there is such a thing in China. His only concern is to get and keep money. You may know that one of the most harped on charges against Chinese Christians is that they do not care for their deceased ancestors. So this preacher decided to make as big a funeral for his father as Chong Ha ever saw and I think he succeeded. I counted 100 persons in the procession dressed in white- mourning – and there were as many more in citizens dress. At the feast while I was eating there were 18 tables with 8 persons= men at a table. This was only about half the company. The expense of such a funeral would cost about \$300.

For Sunday we went across the river to Deng Chio. Saturday evening we did not retire until about 11 o'clock. There were 8 or 9 men to be examined for admission to the church, beside an evangelistic service. Sunday the chapel, which could hold about 75- was packed at three services. Five united with the church.

The Theological Seminary opened Thursday Feb. 27th. Tomorrow I expect all the young men in their places and in the harness. Today I conducted communion at Sang Tung Gio, two men united with the church.

I think I have already written that the shoes you sent by mail arrived safely. The cards came all right. Yesterday we received notice that a box of cards was on the way from home.

The drought is becoming serious. Wells everywhere are very low. The wheat is much injured. There is scarcely water enough in the rivers for boats to ply up and down. Not only is there no rain but the weather is very warm. The first of Feb. I put on woolen under drawers, but I had to take them off a week ago, and one day this last week I had to take off my woolen undervest. But March has not gone by yet, and sometimes we have a lot of cold wet weather in this month.

If all goes well we shall be on our way home or about to start by a year from now. How quickly the time will fly! And how much there is to be done before then! I wonder where our home will be while in the states. Ellen has a leaning toward New Britain. It will be central for both our homes and the educational facilities for the children are of the first rank. I think I have not written you that while I was in Nanking last November Mr. Mott asked me to sever my connection with the Am. Board and accept a Secretaryship under the Y.M.C.A. in China. The only reply I made was to give him permission to talk with Dr. Smith and to tell him that I should surely remain here until 1903, and then take a furlough. Now I have not spoken to anyone about this except Dwight. Beside Mr. Mott and some of the Y.M.C.A. secretaries here in China, Dwight and Ellen, no one knows of the proposition, and would prefer you not to mention it. I suppose I ought not to have put it in this letter but you can keep this one to yourselves and merely give the contents to other friends. The Y.M.C.A. work in China has very many attractive features for me, but I am not convinced yet that I can be more useful to God's kingdom in China if I make the change, than I can to keep right on in this work where I am now.

With Lots of Love to all

Will.

*[This letter dated **March 16, 1902** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Daughter, Dorothy, still has the chickenpox. Dr. Torrey arrived and spoke at various venues. Rain is still needed for the wells. He requested some items for the family to send to him. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, March 16th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter arrived Feb. 28th. One came from Putnam by the last mail March 11th. I wrote last Feb. 17th no, it was March 2nd, No. 5. Dorothy was just recovering from the chicken pox. She is all right now, and developing fast. She tries to imitate sounds both in talking and singing. And of course tries to express her own thoughts by a language which seems to be in a state of transition. She understands much that is said to her. Each morning she comes in to eat oat meal with her papa. This morning she was finished before the amah came for her and so she got down on the floor. She had a napkin ring playing with it and got tired of it and left it lying on the floor near her. I asked her for it, pointing to it and she immediately picked it up and put it into my hand. The others and Ellen are all well. Ellen is pretty tired, for we have had no cook since Feb. 25th and she has had to oversee operations in the kitchen. A new cook came yesterday.

Dr. Torrey from Chicago arrived last Tues. at noon. He spoke at 2:30 p.m. that day to a union Chinese audience. That night he went into the city and spoke to the boys of our college. The Wed. morning at 10:30 and again at 2:30 p.m. he spoke to union audiences of Chinese. At 4:30 he addressed the foreigners on the filling of the Holy Spirit and went straight from this meeting to the steamer.

I began on the auditing of the mission accounts last Monday and must finish tomorrow. On Tuesday morning I plan to start for Ing Hok. The Ing Hok people all came down to see Mr. Torrey. Mr. and Mrs. Smith

returned last Friday morning, taking with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous. I plan to take both Smith and Hodous on the tour of the Ing Hok field this time. We plan to be home two weeks from yesterday.

The weather continues to excite the wonderment of all. The ther. now at 8:30 p.m. registers 73 degrees. I have worn my heavy overcoat once only this winter. We purchased less than the usual amount of fuel this season and have not used a tenth of it. A little rain has fallen during the past week, but it has not effected wells. It has increased the water in the rivers so as to help boat traffic some. But the past four days have been clear and warm.

I think we shall need a few more articles from home in the June shipment from Boston

1 pair shoes for myself No. 9 – do not purchase overshoes.

1 peck shelled corn.

4 qts. Rye.

Some dried pumpkin.

1 pair knitted wool gloves for myself – black- about 50 -75 cents.

Lovingly
Will

*[This letter dated **March 30, 1902** from Foochow, China by Willard to folks at home. He had just returned from Ing Hok where he toured the area with other missionaries. His children are doing well. An Easter Praise Service is planned for the next day. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, March 30th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote two weeks ago= March 16th, No. 6. Since then three letters have arrived from you. Two of them came yesterday. When I wrote last I was in the midst of auditing the Mission accounts. These I finished Monday March 17th.

Tuesday morning March 18th I was off for Ing Hok. Miss Chittenden and Dr. Emily Smith who had been in Foochow went up with me. Mr. and Mrs. Hodous had gone up with Mr. and Mrs. Smith four days previous. We reached Ing Hok about four o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Thursday I spent at Ing Hok looking after various matters, and Friday morning Hodous, Smith and I started for a tour of the remote part of the field. Two days of stiff walking found us at Diong Keng the farthest chapel from Foochow. We had the best of opportunities for selling books and speaking to the people all along the way. At Diong Keng we admitted two women. Sunday morning in the afternoon we went over to Sing Kan and held Communion. That night Smith was taken ill. We had fortunately engaged a boat to take us down the river. He ate nothing Monday or Tues. But was all right when we reached Ing Hok Tues. p.m. Thurs. morning Hodous and I started for two other chapels U Nyiong and Puai Siok. Dr. Smith and Mrs. Hodous came down the river in a boat Friday p.m. and took us on a little above Gak Liang. We four reached home a little before noon yesterday.

All the dear ones here were all right. Geraldine had put the sewing machine needle thru her finger but she had already forgotten which finger. Vaccination had run its course and taken its departure. Gould had become enthusiastic over a gun with which he was going to "shoot right straight up" to which proposition Phebe replied that the sky was up there, and would shoot it, upon which Geraldine solemnly asserted that "Doo (= Gould), don't you know God and Jesus are up there."

The insurance receipt came all right. I am afraid a letter was lost a year ago but this receipt makes it all right. I am glad that you have a wind mill and Phebe you will enjoy it fully as much as you anticipate. I can see father's look of satisfaction as he sits by the faucet and watches the trough fill with water. But where is the new well? Where does all the water come from. How I should like to hear from James! What are his plans on graduation?



The Century Farm windmill about 1913
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

Tomorrow we are to have a day of song = an Easter Praise Service = all day. The exercises are in Chinese and to be mostly of singing by the students in the schools of the three missions. It is an experiment and if it proves successful is to be a permanent institution for Easter Monday. I reside at the opening session and give an address in the afternoon. Ellen has been teaching the Seminary boys and teaches on Easter another for the evening session.

With lots of love from us all

Will

P.S. I am sending under another cover six photos – on the back of each is indicated it's destination. The plate got cracked but the essentials are all right.

W

*[This letter dated **April 13, 1902** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He talks about the money exchange rate and troubles with their cook cheating them. He tells of a foundry accident and the resulting death of a Christian Chinese man. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, April 13th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote March 30th, No. 7. = two weeks ago. March 29th two letters came from you, - just at this point in my writing the American mail was announced. But there was nothing from any of our relatives in the home-land.

All has moved in usual channels during the past two weeks. We have a new cook. I think Ellen can in some measure sympathize with the housekeepers at home who have so many trials in connection with cooks and other servants. The Chinese money shops cash my checks on the bank, and give me as much as the bank does, so

the easiest way for one to get money is to give a check to the cook and tell him to bring the money. But the question of exchange is a deep one here and an ever varying one. Just now I receive from the Chinese money shops for each dollar on the check 10 dimes and 20 cash. The other day the cook cashed a check and brought me only 13 ½ cash premium on each dollar. This was the day after I reached home from Ing Hok, and I had not enquired after the rate of exchange, so I said nothing. But on enquiry I found the rate to be 20 instead 13 ½- I simply told the cook to bring me 6 ½ cash more for each dollar on the face of the check. He looked at me said in a low voice something about the money shop cheating him. But the next day he brought the balance of the money. Ellen purchased some strawberries very early for about 20 cents per quart. The cook knew it and the next time we took accounts with him the price he had paid each day for strawberries was the same as on that first day. On enquiry Ellen found the price to be 9 cents per qt. We simply allowed him the 9 cents per qt. Well this is very disgusting. But there are few cooks in Foochow or in China who do not plan regularly to get about as much from their squeezes as from their wages.

Mr. Ding Ming Uong was presented by his wife with a nice boy a week ago last Wed. It lived only 5 days. This is the second boy they have lost. One little girl more than two years old seems strong.

A week ago a very sad incident occurred in an iron foundry run by a member of the Ha Puo Ga church. He had purchased a quantity of old iron which had been taken from the wreck of a vessel lying off the coast of Fukien in the north of Foochow. He had just started the furnace, when an explosion occurred that killed two men on the spot and so injured another that he died two nights afterward. The reason for the explosion or what exploded is all a mystery. The furnace is uninjured, and so is the house, in fact there is nothing now to indicate that anything out of the ordinary has occurred in the shop. The man was a church member and so the pastor- Mr. Ding's father- and other Christians helped him all that was possible. He had to give the families of each of the men killed \$400. This made a total of \$1200. All the negotiations were done thro the pastor and Christians. The man also used to be a liberal given to the idolatrous fees. All of this made the head of the temple near by angry, and they filed with the Sub Prefect an accusation against the man to the effect that he had bought official ammunition secretly and while melting it, the explosion occurred. This put a very serious aspect on the matter for if the official could be made to believe the accusation, the man would lose his head. With the Consul's approval I called on the Sub Prefect and he assured me the church member would not be injured.

Rain has been trying very hard to fall for the past two weeks. The top of the ground is fairly wet now but wells and springs are little affected. Our 50 foot well gives us fine water. There must have been heavy rains up river toward Shaowu for the river is quite full. Spring is here and over, if we compare it with New England, for all fruit trees are freed from blossoms and full of green fruit. Our earliest fruit the Bi Ba has been in market for over a week. Strawberries are old. Cucumbers and peas are here. Flowers are in profusion. The farmers are beginning to reap the wheat. The rice fields are being made ready for the crop which is now in beds waiting the time for transplanting.

Ellen and the children are all very well. Dorothy still wants someone to hold one hand while she walks. What would the grandmothers and aunts do with her if she were home? We are nearly ruining her.

All send lots of love

Your

Will.

[This letter dated April 20, 1902 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to folks at home. He talks about the property he bought to rebuild a burned church at An Iong Die. He tells funny stories about his children and imagines what must be going on at that time of year on the family farm. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, April 20th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

A week ago a short letter started for Shelton, No. 9. Day before yesterday a letter came from mother. The same mail brought two letters from Turkey, in one of which was a draft for \$8.80 gold, and in the other the announcement that \$26.40 was to come for the support of a preacher in the Ing Hok field.

Last Tuesday I gave up other business largely and became a real estate agent. In the morning I received the deeds for a piece of property adjoining the old Gen Cio Dong church for which I gave \$900 mexicans. In the afternoon I received the deeds for a piece of property at An Iong Die. You remember that the church there was destroyed by fire last August. To rent has cost me about \$100 mexicans every year. It is also unsatisfactory and we could not find a house that was large enough. A piece of land on which the house was burned last year- not far from the old site, and having a large open space on two sides was offered for sale at \$500 mex. The mission has no

money. The church members promised to build the church if I would buy the land. I bought it. And now I must trust God to send money from some one to meet the expense. The churches here are all doing better this year than last in their contributions, and the number of students in the seminary is less than last year. Mr. Smith promised to meet the deficiency in the Ing Hok field. So I shall be able to pull thro. In the evening of the same day a mortgage deed on the property purchased for the seminary was brought in. The face of this deed called for \$435 mex.

As I look from my study window I see Dorothy in a little wagon which we bought for Gould. Geraldine is drawing her with mama very near.



Geraldine pulling Dorothy in a buggy-1902.
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

Phebe and Gould are playing about, while Ponto is everywhere trying to steal a bite of the bread that the children are eating. The weather for two weeks has been very fitful and hence very trying. One day we take off our flannels and put on summer clothes and use fans. The next day we put on all our flannels and our overcoats and have a fire at meal times. The consequence is we all have some colds. Dorothy is made to feel cross by hers. But she is not willing to give up at all, and is up with the rest, takes only one nap a day and goes to sleep about 6:30 or 7 o'clock in the evening. Ellen was teaching the Catechism to Geraldine today. "Who was the first man?" "I don't know." "Adam." "Oh, yes Adam." "Who was the first woman?" "Madam." This rather broke the teacher up. Mr. Hodous and I were rolling the tennis court last evening just at dark. The children wanted to help and Geraldine is never behind in any thing of that sort. So she put her hands on the roller- a stone one 16 or 18 inches in diam. - and was going to push from behind. Of course she almost immediately found herself going over the roller. Well she landed all right in front of the thing and stopped it. No harm done but one girl scared.

We are glad to hear of grandmother's good health. Phebe often speaks of her and talks about writing her.

The box of cards and magazines arrived all right. You know the Powers demanded an indemnity from China. To pay the indemnity the powers also helped China increase the duty; on imports. At present the customs put a duty of 5% on every item in the invoice. We paid 5% on the value of the contents of that box as it was entered on the invoice, i.e. 5% of 2.00 in Mexicans. Now from whom did it come? There was a book in it that I imagined came from Mr. Kinneston. As soon as I find out the source I will write the sender thanking him.

Spring is opening on the farm. How I should like to help put in the oats and potatoes and fix the ground for corn. This is what you are doing now. The farmers here are just setting out their rice and reaping the wheat. Friday

morning we had a little cloud burst for about 15 minutes water simply fell in streams. This has affected well some, and it made the rice planters happy- the river is very full so there must have been nice rains up country.

We all send love to all-

Will.

P.S. I am sending the photos of Geraldine to Putnam, one is for you.

W



This looks like knitted swimsuits on L to R: Dorothy, Geraldine, Gould, Phebe in about 1902
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

*[This letter dated **May 11, 1902** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He talks about the seriousness of the drought and how some Chinese pray to the idols for rain. The Christians prayed for rain and eventually it did rain. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, May 11th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter arrived April 22nd. My last was written April 20th, No. 9. The next week on Monday April 28 I was off for Ing Hok to hold the Quarterly Meeting with the preacher, teachers, and all pastors of that station. In Foochow I had not realized the full extent of seriousness of the drought. But when we reached Gak Liang the road was full of men and boys in white carrying idols and flags and beating gongs. These had been to Ing Hok City that day to pray to the idols to send rain. The fields had not been touched this spring. They remained just as they were left after the harvest last fall. Rice was frightfully high and going up all the time. The people were getting desperate. At Ing Hok City the condition was if possible worse. The different villages were sending large deputations to the country seat daily to pray for rain. The magistrate had to come out for each deputation and burn incense to the spirits. Two days previous to my arrival he got tired of the ordeal and first took his morning nap and lunch. When he did at last emerge from his yamen the people who had come a long distance at much expense were so angry that they stoned him. On the day that I arrived April 29th the upper part of the Ing Hok field was visited by a very heavy shower. This somewhat appeased the people, so the magistrate was not again molested.

The meeting with the helpers was a success. The influence of the drought was very manifest in a certain soberness, which gave to the sessions a grave tone. In my life I never realized such a serious condition of affairs. One could imagine some of the horror of the famines in India. The question was many times asked me "If it does not rain what shall we do?" It was usually answered by the asker "Nothing to do but to die."

On Thursday evening- the closing session of the meeting – Ling Lik Huck, preacher at Gak Liang said he had been for some days on the point of sending letters to every church in the field asking them to unite on a particular day in praying for rain. It was then decided to set apart May 4th as a day when every church in the Ing Hok field should be much in very earnest prayer to God for rain. I was at Gak Liang that day and about 30 Christians joined their voices in importunate prayer that God would pity the people and send the rain. The next day about 11 a.m. heavy showers fell in all parts of the field. On the next day May 6th it rained hard. There has been rain every day this week until today, so the prayers of God's people were answered.

Today I conducted communion at Dung Song and received two men. In the audience was a Buddhist priest. I spoke with him after the service and asked him if he considered the Doctrine I was preaching as one at enmity with the religion he stood for. He said "yours is much better." He then asked for Christian books and purchased 25 cents worth – a testament, a hymn book and a book on prayer. This is the first priest that I have ever seen who showed any desire to become a Christian. I shall watch the case with interest.

Ellen has a lot of photos of the children which Mr. Hodous took for her. They are in many attitudes and degrees of gesture. The plates are in the photographer's hands and we will mail them as soon as we can get them. How I should like to see the Grandparents when they first look at them. Some of them are real works of art- good enough for the baby magazine.

We are all well. Dorothy is proud of her accomplishments in the line of walking. She gets up and starts off in the middle of the floor. But long trips are still taken on hands and knees.

With love to all
Will

*[This letter dated **May 18, 1902** was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. In it he talks about the previous purchase of land for a church and the patience of the Chinese character. He ponders as to the reasons of the natural destruction of the town of St. Pierre on Martinique. Wells are filling back up but the plague is returning. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, May 18th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I sent a letter one week ago No. 10. Your last arrived April 22. Last Monday I sat in my study from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m. with a lot of men finishing up the purchasing of a piece of property that I bought in Feb. of this year. On the property were six mortgage deeds. These had been bought off= redeemed and what money was left divided among the original owners. In the U.S. all this would be the business of the original owners, and the purchaser would have had nothing to do with the business. But here I have had much to do with the redeeming of these deeds. Monday the climax was reached. I simply lent my study for the last battle ground and sat and listened and looked on. These times afford me the very best opportunities for learning the Chinese character. Patience is the attribute that always impresses me. And yet the word "patience" does not really express the quality. I do not know that we have one word that fully gives the meaning of the characteristic which I refer to. It is the power to hold on till you gain your point, not agitated in the mean time by anything that may transpire.

One day this week I cleaned out some of my old letter tills. The next day Ellen found Geraldine cutting up some of the old letters, and noticed a peculiar sheet among them. She examined it and found the receipt of my Life Insurance Policy for 1901. So it was due to my negligence that I did not find it in its proper place this year.

It was terrible news that must have startled you a week ago, about the destruction of St. Pierre and other towns in the West Indies. I think this is a little more terrible than anything I have ever known in my own memory. Is man becoming so wicked that God allows these forces to destroy him in this way? When one thinks of the loss of life thro flood, fire, famine, war and now fire from the earth, in the past few years, he can but think of the picture in Matt. 24. And then when he thinks of the wickedness in his own heart, he wonders how God has been so long patient with man. *[On May 8 1902, Mount Pelee on the island of Martinique erupted killing 30,000 people.]*

Foochow and the surrounding country has been blessed by good rains again this week. Not till last Thursday were the fields and irrigation canals all filled with water. I think now the wells are feeling the increase in

the supply a little. Our well dug in March is giving us very nice water- coming from 50 feet down in the earth the water ought to be well filtered. We do not however drink and of it until it has been boiled.

The plague is here again – not yet alarming, but just beginning. Rice and all food is very dear- more so than last year or year before, when the people complained of hard times. Owners of houses and rice fields must pay taxes to help meet the indemnity, and all together the people think they are having a hard time.

Tuesday 7 a.m.

I meant to have finished this letter yesterday. But there was not a moment to do anything except talk with people. It was one of those days when two and three parties come at once on all sorts of business and other things. Another mail came Sunday afternoon. We hoped for letters by it, but none came.

Last fall when I was in Shanghai, the old fever to do business got the best of me for a time and I ordered of a son of a former Foochow missionary- Mr. Osgood- now agent for the N.Y. Import and Export Co., 10 boxes of soap and 12 watches. My thought regarding the soap was to help the poor Christians by allowing them to take it at cost price and sell it for an advance. I have had a chance to let one or two shops take a lot of it but I refused them, the poor ones are selling it all right. The watches – four are gone already.

Exchange is causing much concern here. Every day there is a drop in silver. The last I hear \$1 in gold brought \$2.17 in silver i.e. as we say exchange is 41 1/2, a silver dollar is worth 41.5 cents. Merchants who import from countries whose basis is gold must charge tremendous prices when they sell in silver. If the present rate of exchange continues prices will go up in all lines. We shall have to raise in wages of servants and chair coolies and in all eatables. But in purchasing land and property the low exchange will benefit us.

The weather is getting quite hot, tho as yet the extreme heated periods are very short, only a day or two at a time, so is quite endurable.

Ellen and the children are quite well. Dorothy can walk across the room but she needs a little encouragement. The other day I mailed to Mr. Kinney a lot – 20 – photos- 2 of each kind, of the children. I have not yet written them to divide with you. But will try to do so. If they do not come to you soon after this reaches you just drop them a line.

With lots of love to all
Will.

*[This letter dated **June 22, 1902** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Mr. Brockman of the Y.M.C.A. is requesting that the missionary board release Willard from his duties so that he may work for the Y.M.C.A. The plague is now causing deaths. Missionary families are beginning to go to Kuliang for the summer. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, June 22nd, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Time has flown rapidly since I wrote last, on May 18th, No. 11 if my register is correct. Letters were received from you on May 27th and June 27th.

It seems hardly credible that over a month has passed in which I have not written you. But if this is so I shall have to go back a month to begin. The most important event during this time, to us, was another visit of Mr. Brockman [*Fletcher Sims Brockman*] especially to present to the mission the matter of our transfer to the Y.M.C.A. work. He had seen two members of the mission in Shanghai and they told him to come down and talk with the mission, so on Wed., May 28th he told the mission that the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. wished them to release me. At the Annual Business Meeting of the Mission June 12-14, the mission considered the question and voted to release us if the Board would send another man to take our place. Hence we will wait till the Board gives its decision before we know what is in store for us. I have no anxiety over the matter. There is an abundance of work in the field of the Y.M.C.A. in Foochow and we shall find more than we know how to accomplish if we come back to our place here in this mission. Ellen and I both feel that it is a question for the International Comm. and the Board to decide rather than for us to say the final word. And we feel that God will direct these men alright.

The weather has become hot. Ellen and the children went up to the mountain on Thursday. It was rather a hot trip. I came down Friday afternoon. Ellen wrote last night that they were all right. Dorothy had been troubled seriously with prickly heat and she was not happy- quite fretful. But I trust she will be all right soon in the mountain air. During the past month there has been very much rain with muggy weather. We have had no floods yet. Today the water in the river is very high and some of the lowest streets are flooded. The rice crop is very fine,

just in bloom, and I trust God will not allow a flood to come to injure it. The people have had a hard time for the past few years in many ways. This year the drought raised the price of food tremendously, and the plague has caused confusion in many parts of Foochow and in some of the villages on the plain.

In the vicinity of our house and of Ponasang and of Geu Cio Dong the plague has been very bad. I allowed the seminary to disband for the term without examinations on account of the ravages of the plague and because the boys were becoming somewhat alarmed. This was May 16th on Monday. The next Friday the seminary cook died. He began to feel badly the day he went home. The teachers and students are thus far all right. The pastor of Gen Cio Dong lost two children last week but not from plague. They went to see the Dragon Boat races two weeks ago and it is thought they ate something that did not agree with them. Today I conducted communion at Au Ciu. The preacher was taken during the night last night with what they pronounce the plague. Thus far our mission workers have been wondrously spared and the deaths among the Christians have been comparatively few.

On Friday morning while I was at the mountain we saw Dr. and Miss Bement come to the house they have rented. We went over to see them and learned they had arrived at our house at Gek Siong Sang Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous and came to Guliang [*Kuliang*] in the early morning. Yesterday a little after noon Mr. Walker walked in on us here and his daughter followed immediately. So we are fine here over Sunday; Mr. and Mrs. Hodous, Mr. and Miss Walker and myself. The Hinmans came down from Shaowu with the Bements and are on the mountain. Dr. Bliss will come next week.

It was a quarter of a century ago day after tomorrow when I had the inexpressible joy of finding the first colt. The picture of old Kate and little Daisy as they ran away from one in the pasture east of the house is as fresh to day as ever.

At the business meeting of the mission last week a vote was passed to ask the Prudential Committee to grant us a furlough to begin early in 1903.

This means that we will probably start for the dear home land in February next. And then will come all the questions of where we will live and what we will do. Both these will be much dependent on the decision of the Board regarding our transfer to the Y.M.C.A. secretarial force of China.

We had a good long letter from Mary by the last mail. Only a few days previously Miss Worthley had told me that her sister and Mary had found each other at Mount Holyoke. But what is James going to do? I have not heard direct from him more than once since he entered college.

I sent you some time ago several photographs of the children. In this letter I enclose another. I hope it will retain some of its outlines. It has not yet been toned. I love it. Dorothy is too cute for anything = girls language.

With lots of love to all
Will.

*[This typewritten letter dated **July 7, 1902** was written by J.R. Mott to Willard discussing the release of Willard from the American Board and upcoming employment with the Y.M.C.A. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

July 7th, 1902.

My dear Mr. Beard,-

Your letter of May 17th reached me last week. I had also a few days before that received a letter from Brockman telling me about your favorable decision and also the willingness of your mission to release you for the Association work. I have already written Brockman that the International Committee will most gladly extend a definite call to you to become one of the foreign staff in China. I have not doubt in my own mind that God is leading you and all of us in this matter and that this plan will open up for you the work for which you are peculiarly qualified and a work of the greatest possible importance with reference to the evangelization of China. To avoid any misunderstanding and friction, it is most desirable that the leaders of the American Board in this country be led to release you for this work with good spirit. I regret that it will not be possible for me to get to Boston to see them before I start for Europe three days hence. I shall be back in the early autumn and can take the matter up with them early in October. I think this will be far better than to attempt to adjust the matter by correspondence. I send you this word at once that you may know what my plan is and also that you may see that nothing is done in Foo Chow to reverse the action already taken or to prejudice the case with the Board prior to my getting the full case before them. I feel confident that this course will comment itself to your best judgment. I feel all the more reconciled to this daily in view of that Brockman reports about your not being able to enter into the new relationship until probably

eighteen months later or thereabouts. Let us in the meantime continue in prayer that God may continue to manifest Himself by unlocking the doors for you to get out into this field of great opportunity.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Beard and yourself,

I am,

Very cordially yours,

JR Mott

Rev. W. L. Beard,
American Board Mission,
Foo Chow, China

*[This letter dated **July 13, 1902** was written from Kuliang near Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Kuliang is full of missionaries now. Cholera and plague are present in the Foochow area. Willard talks of his children and what they are doing. He talks about what the family must be doing on the farm back home and how he wishes he could be there. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Guliang [or Kuliang], Foochow, China, July 13th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started from China June 22nd. July 8th brought one from you. When I wrote the last letter Ellen and the children were here on the mountain. I was at Gek Siong Sang. I came to the mountain the next Tuesday and went down the next Monday and came back the following Thursday. I have been here since.

The mountain is about full i.e. the cottages are. Some want to come but can find no room. The Chinese are glad to come up to get out of the plague, which is still bad, altho report says that there is a little decrease during the past few days. A school teacher at Ing Hok died last week. He was a graduate of the seminary and was appointed to teach a school and oversee a place which we opened this year on the main street in Ing Hok. The work was most encouraging until it was suddenly cut short by the teacher's death. Today word has come from Sharp Peak that the cholera is bad there. It has claimed a valuable woman worker from the Diong Loh field. The preacher who was taken with the plague at Au Ciu June 22nd is improving. Yes, it seems as if nature never was subject to as many disturbances as it has been this year. The presence of the plague all about us intensifies the feeling of the insecurity of this life.

We have all been quite well since coming to the mountain. The children are growing fat. Yesterday Ellen let them put on their old clothes and wade in the rice fields for two hours. Such fun! Phebe and Gould and Geraldine all went. Dorothy would have been just as eager to go if she had known enough. She is crazy to get off the veranda and walk about out of doors on the lawn. She is now learning to talk- just single words. She eats like an American pig. It takes two cups of milk and five heaping tea spoon fulls of oat meal to satisfy her at breakfast. Ellen said yesterday that it seemed as if she did nothing else but prepare food for Dorothy. Our whole family is troubled in the same way. We are eating a prodigious amount of fruit. But as long as we keep well it is all right- cheaper and infinitely more satisfactory than drugs. We have at last found a man to take the place of cook. He is not a cook only a coolie but he seems bright, willing and capable of learning. Ellen can leave him to prepare some meals alone. But we do not- from a selfish standpoint- object to Ellen's cooking. Her bread is fine.

I think I have written you that we received the little shoes for Geraldine and that she was very much pleased with them. One more box from home is all that we shall receive. The other day while at Mrs. Bland's she mentioned that they were going to England next March. We would like to go home that way if it is just as well all around, and it would increase the pleasure of our trip to go with them.

On the fourth we were loyal and had cake and ice cream, a speech and fire works. The children marched and sang "Soldier Boy". Geraldine quite took the prize both in marching and singing. They all wore hats made of stars and stripes. Geraldine's would keep falling off and Gould won the admirations of the company by his gallantry in seeing that it was picked up and put on.

You are all at home now and cherries are nearly gone. The mowing machine is rattling daily and the barns are being filled with hay. How I wish I was in this work with you for the season. Will next year bring me the pleasure?

All send love,
Will.

*[This letter dated **July 27, 1902** was written in Kuliang, near Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He tells of a mild typhoon in the area. The plague is bad in Foochow near their compound. Rice is expensive. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.
Guliang [or Kuliang], Foochow, China, July 27th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

No. 13 started homeward July 14th. The last letter received arrived July 8th. Since coming to Guliang our mail has been very scarce. We are already beginning to feel the effect of vacation days at home.

This year here in Foochow has been all upset weatherwise. From last August until this year in May we had not one rain storm that affected the wells. With July this year the wind began to blow. First we had a week of heavy showers- one each afternoon with heavy winds. Then a week of nice weather. Then a week of strong south wind closely related to a typhoon. Last Thursday the wind changed into the east and Friday typhoon gusts presented themselves. All day yesterday the wind was very high and gusty. Last night it increased in violence and gave us a fair typhoon but with no rain. Today is a repetition of last night, with almost no rain. A typhoon usually expends itself in 48 hours. The wind becomes rain and the storm is over. But there is no evidence of the end of this one yet. So far there is no damage reported.

Tuesday morning – July 29th.

I went to Foochow yesterday with about 15 errands and returned at night. It was rather hot, but before I reached the top of the mountain I had to put on my overcoat. The plague near our house has ceased. But near our city compound and in many other parts of the city it is as bad as ever. One meets coffins everywhere, and corpses are frequently lying on the bridge. Rice is dearer than ever and the officials are importing it and selling it at a discount. They sell to each person only 30 or 40 cents worth so that dealers cannot take advantage of them and purchase in large quantities and then sell at a large profit. Last week one day two church members came up to Guliang to ask me to write the Sub Prefect asking him to give them the privilege of buying 30 bags or so at a time to be sold to the Christians. They said he had already sold them 30 bags, but must have my approval before letting them have more. I doubted their motive somewhat and told them I would think it over. I found out yesterday that they had made a new profit of about \$10.00 on the 30 bags which the official had sold them. It is needless to add that I did not write the Sub Prefect. This is one of the failures of the church members. I sometimes wonder if we do not give a false view of the Christians by telling only of the good deeds, or of those only who are true. In this connection I ought also to say that Pastor Bong Ho is was who told me about the profit these men had made on the rice adding "They of course will blame me very severely for telling you of this, but it is my duty."

Well, we are all well. Dorothy is having a hard time cutting her eyeteeth, but is otherwise well. Ellen is still doing the baking and cooking. But we have help promised.

The Guliang Convention began Sunday p.m. with the sermon by Archdeacon Barrister of Hong Kong who is spending the summer at Guliang.

Love to all
Will.

*[This letter dated **Aug. 17, 1902** was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The plague as not as prevalent but cholera is bad and he ponders if it is cleanliness or Christianity that keeps the cholera from infecting many foreigners (missionaries) and Chinese Christians. Willard stays busy even while on the mountain (Kuliang) with missionary work. He tells a funny story about the children in the rice field and Mr. Bliss and Miss Bortz just became engaged. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Aug. 17, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter from you arrived July 8th. I wrote last on July 27th No. 14. just at the beginning of our Convention. The weather favored both the foreign and the Chinese Conventions this year. For several years something- either a typhoon or political disturbance has occurred to partly break up one or both.

The plague has abated quite a good deal in the City and Suburbs. Near our house in the Suburbs where it was so very bad in May and June and part of July it has ceased. But Cholera has come in to take its place in claiming victims so the death rate is nearly the same. Cholera has not been as bad at any time since our first year here. Ming Uong's mother was attacked, but is now well. The report is that it does its work very quickly this year. Many die after 3 or 4 hours of illness. When will people learn that cleanliness is necessary to life? A week ago last night a Chinese teacher died here on the mountain from plague contracted in Foochow only a day or two before. It made something of a stir. But thus far no one else has taken the disease. It is to me wonderful that thousands of Chinese are carried away with these diseases while they do not attack the foreigners. It must be either a direct intervention of God or it must be due entirely to cleanliness and adherence to the laws of health as we have learned them. It is also wonderful to me that so few of the Chinese Christian workers fall victim of these scourges. I can explain this also only by one or both of the above methods.

I was in Foochow again last Wednesday for the day. The Sang Tung Gio people (church) have moved to a cleaner locality where they have a nice large house capable of seating 300 people. The An Iong Die church is going up nicely. At Gen Cio Dong walls are coming down and going up and old buildings are being removed, so that the land will be ready for the new church when we go down in about six weeks from now. The buildings on the lot adjoining our residence are being refitted for the Theological Seminary. A week ago today six united with the church at Ha Puo Ga. The Ing Hok travelling Evangelist started with \$280- to go thro the Ing Hok field, visiting each chapel, a few days ago. So you see, even altho I am not at Foochow there is work to think and pray about, and have in mind all the time. Then here on the mountain every day is full, and I can scarcely find time for the correspondence that ought to be done.

I received a letter from Mr. Mott the other day, which I forward to you. I have not yet heard what the decision of the Board at Boston is about releasing us for the Y.M.C.A. work.

Last week a tiger was caught in a pit about 4 miles from here. Many of the Kuliangites have been over to visit him. We are preparing to go tomorrow morning [to Kuliang]. We are trying to start at 5 o'clock with the whole household, even Dorothy. She will enjoy the ride.

We are all well. The children are growing like pigs. They especially enjoy wading in the rice fields. A few days ago Phebe and Gould went over across the rice fields in front of our cottage. Geraldine was about to follow them. The path is about 6 in. wide. On the left is the rice field with its water and mud. On the right is the next rice field 6 feet below. The bank between is perpendicular. Geraldine had her "umbuller." The path was a little wet and slippery. I heard a terrific scream "Mama I pall in de wice peald," repeated several times. On going out, I saw a little mud image standing against the bank of the lower rice field. How it was yelling! "Pebe an' Dou'l didn't wait po' me. I knowed I would pall in." Well it took four waters to get the mud off her. Evidently she rolled down off the path on the upper field and stuck in the lower field on her back so as to nearly cover her face with the water. This stuck her head well into the mud. She is all right now.

We helped celebrate the King's Coronation a week ago yesterday. We are all very happy over the engagement of Dr. Bliss and Miss Borts [Bortz]. Miss Borts will now go to Shaowu.

With lots of love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 31, 1902 was written in Kuliang near Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He is leaving for Ing Hok with Mr. Smith for a week. Cholera and plague have delayed the opening of schools. He talks of how his family is doing. He tells of taking them on a walking trip to see a tiger that was captured. The end of the letter is missing. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Kuliang, Foochow, China, Aug. 31st, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Aug. 17th was the date on which the 1st letter started for Shelton, No. 15. Two days later, Aug. 19th a letter arrived from Shelton. Aug. 20th one came from Etta from Meridian, N.Y. Aug. 24th one came from Emma. Your letter contained a good many accidents. We are hourly expecting another, from the steamer due yesterday, and hope for better news.

We receive from you a letter which related the home coming for vacation of the different members of the family, and as we sit down to answer it the fact dawns upon us that as we write you are preparing to scatter again for another year of work in different places. I suppose some of you are even now back at work. I am reminded also that my own vacation- if this is not a misnomer- is at an end. Mr. Smith and I plan to start next Thursday for Ing

Hok to be gone one week. I have set Sept. 18th as the date for opening the seminary. Other schools do not open till Oct. 2nd on account of the plague and cholera. But we closed a month earlier in the spring than usual on account of the plague, and then there is now no sickness near our house, and we shall have only about ten men in all so I am not going to postpone the opening. Nearly all other schools have lost students during the summer from plague or cholera. We have our full number to begin school this fall. The cook of the seminary died, otherwise our ranks are unbroken. This fall the seminary will be in the house adjoining our own house, which will be much more convenient, and a great saving in time and strength.

I am writing at my desk in the room in which Ellen and our three girls sleep. Ellen and Phebe and Geraldine and Gould are on the beds asleep (?) Ellen and Geraldine are. The other two are hard at work resting judging from the grunts and flopping. Dorothy is with Se So out of doors. We are all well. Dorothy is getting fat. She delights to get out in the grass and in the wind and run. For two days the wind has been very strong. The little girl can scarcely stand against it. But she runs about in high glee with hair flying in the breeze, tumbling down and staggering about, and even sliding down the terrace boy fashion, which would wear out her pants if she wore them. Gould is happy with his kites. He is getting very proficient in flying them. Geraldine was four years old last Mon. Ellen planned a party of little folks for Tues. It rained. Postponed till Friday. Children's meeting previously arranged conflicted. Postponed till yesterday and 21 little folks about the table eating sandwiches made a pretty sight. We remarked that there was hope for America in the group, - and for England too. Phebe is learning to read fast and is making progress in playing hymns and chords on the organ.

The last time I wrote we were about to start to see the tiger. We mailed that letter on our way that Monday morning. We were off at 6:10 a.m. The whole family 8, and one of the amahs. Gould walked all the way over, a distance of about 7 miles. We were there at 8:30. The trip over was delightful. Most of the path was along the top of the mountain, winding in and out, crossing divides at the heads of valleys with the gorges stretching down away from us on either hand. A thunder storm had passed around us two hours before, and the fog and sun were then struggling for preeminence. As the fog lifted now and then we caught glimpses of the Foochow plain lying calmly and hot below. When nearly there we turned sharply to the left and took an old military road 3 ft. wide and went down stone steps for about 1500 feet. We were rewarded by the sight of a huge tigress lying and sitting in the bottom of a pit about 13 feet deep and as large as an ordinary well. The pit was well covered with poles which were weighted with large stones. She seemed quite resigned and did not care to show off at that time of day. I let down a bone of beef to her and she ate it gratefully. A wooden basin of water she shivered with one snap of her jaws, but lapped the water most gratefully when she found what it was. The children - except Dorothy enjoyed seeing the tiger very much. Dorothy preferred a glass of Postum Cereal Coffee. The method of trapping is very simple. A hole is dug, and covered with slight bamboos so as to look like the rest of the ground's surface. The approach is from one direction only. On the side opposite the approach a goat is fastened. The tiger has to pass over the hole to get at the goat and falls in.

We found a nice shady nook for our lunch and reached home at 1:00 p.m.

Some of the foreigners have been over to see if there were more tigers about the place. Caldwell of the M.E. *[page ends here and no other page was with it]*

[Willard begins to refer to Harry Caldwell who became known not only as a Methodist Missionary but as a famous tiger hunter in Fukien Province. Willard's family attended the Caldwell's wedding. Harry Caldwell's son, John C. Caldwell wrote about his father and his tiger hunting in China Coast Family.]

*[This letter dated **Sept. 21, 1902** was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He has been to Ing Hok and is preparing for the opening of the Seminary. Three missionary couples will soon be married - Bliss, Caldwell and Wilkinson. He is still awaiting a final decision of his release from the American Board to go to work for the Y.M.C.A. He updates at the end of his letter telling of his attendance at the Bliss/Bortz wedding. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Sept. 21st, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

August 31st the last letter started from Kuliang for Shelton No. 16. A letter came from you on Sept. 10th. Since writing, Mr. Smith and I have been to Ing Hok. We started from Kuliang Sept. 4th and arrived at Ing Hok Sept. 6th the next day. Sunday I conducted communion at Ing Hok City Church. On Monday we walked up into the mountains about five miles to see two churches. Tues, we started for home and reached Foochow Wed. for dinner. Mr. Smith went to the mountain that afternoon. I went up Friday morning. Last Tues. afternoon Sept. 16th I came

down again to prepare for the opening of the Seminary. On Thursday the boys began to come. Friday all but two came. One of these is ill. Regular work will begin tomorrow. I remained here today to conduct communion at Dung Song. Two were received. It was a pleasure and an inspiration to speak, because the people were so appreciative in their attention and interest. Dr. Kinnear and his family came up from the Peak last Tuesday. They will live over on S. Side in a house belonging to the Ch. Miss'y Society. I suppose all the missionaries at Sharp Peak will be in Foochow or at Kuliang tomorrow. I hope to get up to the mountain tomorrow morning. As you have already heard Dr. Bliss and Miss Borts [*Bortz*] are to be married tomorrow evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner on Kuliang. The next day Mr. Caldwell is to marry Miss Cope. They are of the Meth. Mission. Miss Cope arrived from America a week ago today. Oct. 1st Dr. Wilkinson and Miss Osley are to be married. They are Ch. Miss'y Society people. So each of the three missions has a wedding. Gould is to be ribbon bearer at Mr. Caldwell's wedding which is to be in the church at Kuliang.

The box from Shelton that you sent to Boston arrived last week I have not opened it for Ellen enjoys nothing so much as opening and taking out the contents of the home boxes. We have received from you no letter giving us the contents. From the rattle I know there is corn in it and the invoice says there are shoes in it.

During the last two weeks two letters have come from Dr. Judson Smith, Boston strongly opposing our leaving the mission to take up the Y.M.C.A. work. Mr. Mott however has not yet seen him so we will still wait for the final decision.

Tues. morning-

I came up the mountain yesterday a.m. We all attended the wedding of Dr. Bliss and Miss Borts [*Bortz*] last evening,- all except Dorothy. It was a very pleasant wedding. Only our own mission and the Am. Consul were present. Dr. and Miss Bement started for Shaowu two weeks ago, so they were not present. Mrs. Hodous was unable to attend on account of illness. With the exception of these three all the members of the mission were present- all the children except Dorothy.

The weather has been very hot and sultry for a week. There was a change yesterday. This morning a strong north wind is blowing and it is cold.

We are all well- going to another wedding this p.m.

With lots of love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 5, 1902 was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He relates some details about the Bliss/Bortz and the Caldwell/Cope weddings. He talks about how his family is doing and that the children are looking forward to going back to America. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Oct. 5th, 1902.

Dear Friends at Home:-

I wrote last Sept. 21st, No. 17. Your last arrived Oct. 2nd. A letter came from Putnam Sept. 29th.

I wrote on the eve of our three weddings. All passed off very pleasantly. Sept. 22nd Dr. Bliss and Miss Borts [*Bortz*] were married at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner on Kuliang. Mr. Gardner performed the ceremony. I cannot describe the brides costume and such details. I know however that the wedding was a very pleasant affair. The cottage was exquisitely decorated with ferns and flowers and palms. Ray Gardner was ring-bearer and Ruth Peet was flower-girl. The cottage in which Mr. and Mrs. Gardner live this summer has a long veranda. This was enclosed with a cotton cloth attached to the veranda posts, and beautiful Chinese lanterns of different design furnished light to us as we sat at the long table. With the exception of Mrs. Hodous who was ill all the mission were present- except Dorothy,- children and all, 47- no I forgot that Dr. and Miss Bement had started for Shaowu before the wedding. The wedding trip was from the Gardner cottage to the Borts [*Bortz*]cottage- a ride of 15 minutes in a sedan.

Tues. Sept 23rd Mr. Caldwell was married to Miss Cope. This ceremony was in the Kuliang chapel at 3 p.m. the chapel was beautifully decorated with bamboos and parts of the decorations from the night before. [*The Caldwells would have a son, John C. Caldwell, who in 1953 would write a book of his family's adventures, China Coast Family.*] At Dr. Bliss' wedding only our mission were invited. At the chapel wedding all were invited, including French and Germans. Gould with Arten Main and two little girls bore the ribbons that fenced in the aisles for the bridal party. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Lacy gave a reception at their cottage. After this the bride and groom went to Foochow. An old shoe hung on the bride's chair. The weather for both these weddings was cloudy but it did not rain.

Our mission held a business meeting on Tues. a.m. and all day Wed. Thurs. I came to Foochow and returned Fri. to the mountain. Sat. and Mon. I spent in buying land. One piece for Dr. Emily Smith's cottage, - one for a new road (public) around a nasty village. Sunday I read a sermon at the chapel. Thirty were in attendance. The weddings and the delay in opening schools on account of the cholera accounts for the numbers at the mountain so late.

On Tues. Sept. 30th we moved to Foochow. We had a pleasant cool day and every thing moved smoothly. Mr. and Mrs. Hodous still remain on the mountain. Mrs. Hodous is not able to take any nourishment and has sat up but little for over a month. A doctor said to me the other day, "I wonder if she wishes she had never got married." She is having an unusually hard time. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are very happy anticipating a Christmas gift.

Monday morning:-

I opened the box from home Saturday. Everything was intact. The shoes with soles and all came O.K. We shall enjoy the new corn and rye.

The children are all well, and are talking much of going home. Dorothy is learning to run, and it takes off some of her fat. She is just learning to talk, and is actually beating Geraldine in clearness of enunciation. We have added to the pets for the children a little black goat. So now they have a dog, a cat and a goat. Ellen is well and we are all showered with blessings from the Great Giver of all.

Lovingly
Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 11, 1902 was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He tells them that his furlough for the upcoming year has been granted but before that he will make a trip through the Shaowu field. Again, there is a lack of rain and cholera and plague are still a problem. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Oct. 11th, 1902.

Dear Folks at Home:-

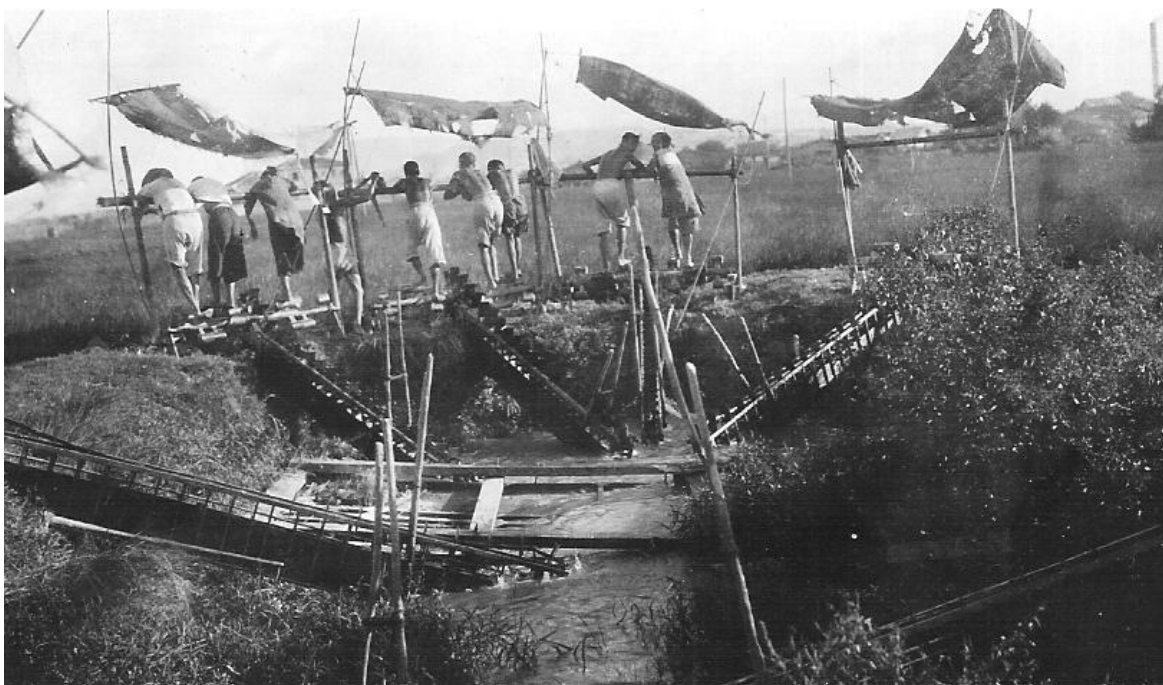
My last was written just a week ago, No. 18. Your last came Oct. 2nd. Another home mail came this morning. Secretary Judson Smith writes that our furlough has been granted by the Prudential Comm. to begin next year at any time the mission here may agree upon. I have offered to take a trip thro the Shaowu field this fall and winter if the mission so desire. As the subject is discussed I do not find that any other member of the mission can go. For this event I shall either go alone or try to get some one from outside our mission to go with me. In either case I expect to be accompanied by Pastor Diong of the Shaowu station who understands the Foochow dialect. I must use the Foochow and he will translate into Mandarin or Shaowu or some other jargon.

Dr. and Miss Walker were with us last week from Monday till Wed. I went with them to the Upper Bridge- where the Huntington ladies are helping in the work- where their boats were waiting. Dr. and Mrs. Bliss had gone up in their boat in the afternoon and were in bed when we arrived at 9 p.m. They have had a fine breeze up river since starting and must be well along on the journey. They need rain to give more water for the boats to get over the rapids. Dr. and Miss Bement [*Lucy P. Bement*] have been in Shaowu for three weeks already. They are building.

I'm sending by this mail some photos which you may distribute as you like. Send some of them to Putnam.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodous expect to come down from the mountain tomorrow. Mr. and Mrs. Smith plan to come down and start for Ing Hok next Thursday. They have had a nice quiet time for study during the past two weeks.

We have had no rain for nearly or quite a month. Everything is very dry. The farmers must work continually to pump water into their rice fields.



Chinese method of pumping water into fields. People turn a wheel by walking on its paddles and thus bringing the water up on a conveyor type mechanism.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

Cholera and plague are still about. This past week our oldest and most valued Bible Woman known as Lau Chio Cia died of cholera. She has been very feeble for four or five years. But she has worked for the salvation of her sisters in Foochow to the very last. Her example will never be lost, faithfulness and patience will shine brighter because of her life. We met at Gen Cio Dong Thursday morning for a memorial service.

The same day there died of plague one of the pillars of the An Iong Die church – a young man in the prime of life, earning money and giving it to the church liberally. His father is a church member and his youngest brother is a graduate of the Seminary and now preaching at An Iong Die. The new church at An Iong Die of red brick is roofed in and fast approaching completion. We are now working on the plans for Gen Cio Dong and I hope operation may be begun before long.

Many are now having what Dr. Woodhill calls grippe. Both foreigners and Chinese are affected.

Mr. Hubbard writes that he will not come back this year.

We are all well. Dorothy is fast learning to talk.

With Love to all

Will.

[This letter dated **Oct. 26, 1902** was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Drought is getting worse and there have been no typhoons. He tells of a nighttime houseboat trip on the river with Ellen and the four children to visit three churches under his care. Cholera, German measles and now Dengue fever is a problem. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Oct. 26th, 1902

Dear Folks at Home:-

Letter no. 19 was started on its journey east Oct. 11th. The last from you arrived Oct. 2nd. One came from Phebe Oct. 23rd.

All moves much as usual here. The sky continues to be clear and the drought is becoming severe. Altho at this time of year it is much less alarming than in the spring time.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodous came down from the mountain Oct. 13th. Mrs. Hodous is quite like herself again, is eating to make up for her long fast and is studying again. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Dr. Smith moved from Kuliang

to Ing Hok Oct. 15th. The weather on the mountain has been unusually nice all summer. We have no typhoon and no hard storms yet reasonable rains have kept the crops good and the people good natured. The weather continues so warm that those who remained up there late were much favored. Miss Worthley and Miss Osborne are still there. Miss Osborne has not been well for more than a week and we are expecting her home= down to Ponasang soon.

A week ago yesterday Ellen and the four children and myself started on a house boat for the other side of the island. There are three churches over there in my care. We took the boat at 5 p.m. at Foochow The moon rose at 6 p.m. and found us at Pagoda Anchorage just turning to go up river on the other side of the island. The moon was glorious, the water smooth as glass. The breeze just held us against the last of the outgoing tide. We were alone. All the servants, except the cook who was asleep, we had left at home. The children enjoyed it fully as much as the older ones. We sailed till 2:30 Sunday morning and anchored in the river (Ing Hok) between Ding Chin and Chong Ha. Sunday morning the children were up with the first ray of light. Breakfast was over and we were off for Ding Chin at 9 o'clock. The distance is 2 ½ miles. I carried Dorothy and the others walked. We arrived at 9:45. Twelve persons were asking to be admitted to the church. I had to examine these while Ellen kept the four children – a genuine menagerie for the Chinese – quiet. Eight were deemed worthy to be admitted. And at 11:30 we began the service, which closed at 1 o'clock. Of course the children had lunch which we carried. At 2 p.m. we were again on the boat and eating dinner. I was so tired that I took a little rest, while the boat pushed across thru river. Then we all went in to the Chong Ha church. We were late for the Y.P.C.E. [*Young People's Society for Christian Endeavor*] but saw the pastor and his family, the school and some of the members. In honor of our coming the pastor's wife cooked a bowl of vermicelli for each of us with an egg on each bowl. It was served with chop sticks. Gould fairly devoured his, and asked for Geraldines. Dorothy also ate all she could get. It was the first time we had seen the children eat with chop sticks. But they must have used them before somewhere for there was not the least difficulty experienced by them in getting the food to their mouths. And they had no remarks to make about the food- especially Gould. This too less than two hours after a hearty dinner.

We reached the house boat again at dark. The third church at Nang Seu we could not visit on this trip. The work there is not flourishing and at present there is no resident preacher. At Deng Chio and at Chong Ha the work seems to be quite flourishing. Both churches are crowded on Sundays and are talking of enlargement.

As we reached the boat the ride was running down stream and we dropped down with it until we met the tide coming in about ten o'clock. The moon was beautiful. We allowed the children to sit up on deck until 9 o'clock which privilege they enjoyed to it's full. The air was warm and the breeze stiff until 8 o'clock when it died down and was quite gentle. Ellen and I enjoyed it until the anchor dropped at 10 p.m. With the next down tide we went down to the Anchorage. After breakfast we all went up to see the friends there, i.e. Mr. , Mrs. and Miss Hartwell, Dr. and Mrs. Whitney and Mr. and Mrs. Hinman who arrived the Saturday before and who had not yet got settled. Dorothy went to sleep and had a nice nap on Mrs. Hartwell's bed which gave us a good opportunity to visit. In fact we had to wait half an hour after we were ready to start for her to wake. We started at 12:45 from the Anchorage with a very strong south wind. In 1 ¾ hrs. we were at the landing in Foochow. This was the swiftest trip that I have ever made between the two places.

Today I have conducted communion at the San Tung Gio church, which has lately moved to Ciu Muoi. Six men were received. I think I can see in the churches a real growth in desire for spiritual knowledge. In examining these men their answers actually surprised me, in the amount of thought that they showed. Last night we had a good C.E. meeting in the same church. Two weeks ago at the election of officers in the C.E. of Gen Cio Dong I was somewhat surprised to hear the leading deacon refuse to act as president. When asked to give his reason he said that it was better for the new members to have their turn and learn how to do it. If the old ones continually filled these offices, the new members would not know how to do the work when the old ones have gone. The society elected new men for the offices.

We are well. Ellen has a little cold and Geraldine a little. The Chinese still have much illness. Cholera is still claiming victims and the German measles are at work. The Dengue fever- if you know what that is, is prevalent.

With lots of love

Will.



Min River house boat in foreground Foochow
 [Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]

[This letter dated Nov. 9, 1902 was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He talks about some of his daily tasks. Rains have finally come to relieve the drought. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Nov. 9th, 1902

Dear Folks at Home:-

My last letter was written two weeks ago= Oct. 26th. The last word from Shelton arrived Oct. 2nd. Phebe wrote so that we received her letter Oct. 23rd.

During the past two weeks all has gone smoothly, and there has not been a great variety in our daily tasks. One week ago today I conducted communion at Dung Song and admitted one man and one woman. Today I went to San Gaing- a chapel under the care of Ha Puo Ga. In the afternoon Mr. Hodous and I walked out to Garang Seng Ga a chapel rented and cared for by the Y.M.C.A. of the Seminary. It was opened at the beginning of this year. Already there are several men who have expressed a desire to become Christians. Today the little chapel was crowded. Beside the day school scholars there were men from all ranks of life. Soldiers, shopkeepers, farmers, coolies, and literary men. They all gave good attention.

Mr. Hinman has been asked by Pres. F.E. Clark, to take the Secretaryship of the Y.P.S.C.E. movement for China. This is the result, first; - of the inability of Mr. and Mrs. Hinman to live at Shaowu on account of Mrs. Hinman's health;- and secondly to the suggestion which came from Mr. Hubbard to Dr. Clark that Mr. Hinman be asked to take this new work. He has not yet made known his decision.

The mission will meet day after tomorrow to decide (?) on the plans for the new church at Gen Cio Dong, which will hereafter be called the Dudley Memorial. I trust that we may be able at the same time to award the

contract and so get the building started. At the same mission meeting it will be decided whether I go to Shaowu or not, and something as to how I go.

Our Annual Meeting with the Chinese workers begins next Tuesday evening with an address by Dr. Willard Lyon. He is expected to speak each evening during the week.

One week ago yesterday I went to Kuliang. Miss Worthley and Miss Osborne are still there. They plan to come down tomorrow or next day. I found some white ants in our house, and so pulled up a lot of floor boards. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are building a cottage there and I am overseeing it a little for them.

Yesterday we all attended the flower show held on a recreation ground. We took dinner with Dr. Lyon and Miss Wells of the Meth. Mission and then went to the show. Chrysanthemums formed the larger part of the flowers. These were in profusion. Possible 400 pots. There were a few other kinds. A few vegetables were also displayed. But there were very poor. The children thoroughly enjoyed every minute. At Miss Wells they found a nest of little kittens and it is quite superfluous to add anything about their enjoyment of them. Then the recreation ground is a plot of perfectly smooth ground beautifully sodded and kept well mowed with a lawn mower, and quite smooth with a heavy stone roller. It is perhaps as large as a six acre lot. Around the outside is a good wide race course and inside this a mote to drain it. So there are about three acres of beautiful lawn all in one piece. On this the children ran and sat and played from 3-5 p.m. Dorothy was as much pleased with the outing as any of them. To add to the pleasure the Viceroy's band came about 4 p.m. and played. Children in China are as crazy over a band as the American boy.

Dorothy is fast learning the use of her tongue in expressing thought. It is very cute to see her go up to Gould and saying "Du Du" take his hand and lead him off wherever she wished to go. She seems to realize that he is not like Phebe or Geraldine – that in him she has a brother. She is a very active and energetic little miss, and has yet to finish learning that the world and the people in it were not made for her especial benefit.

Since I wrote last we have had rains to wet the earth nicely, and it has cleared off beautifully. The farmers are all engaged in reaping the second crop of rice. It is very poor- only about half a crop, owing to the drought. The plain presents a very busy scene with the reapers at work. The grain is threshed right on the field and after winnowed right there also.

With lots of Love
Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 20, 1902 was written in Foochow, China by Willard to his father. He is making an insurance payment and is ready to go on an eight week trip to Shaowu. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Nov. 20th 1902

Dear Father:-

I am enclosing an order on the treasurer of the A.B.C.F.M. Boston, Mass. for \$30.00 gold. Will you please pay my Life Insurance premium \$27.86 and keep the remainder to help meet whatever debts I may have. You need not send to me the receipt as I shall probably be at home before it would reach me.

The address is:

Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.
752 Broad St.
Newark, New Jersey.

The amount of premium = \$27 86/100-

I am now preparing to start tomorrow on eight weeks tour thro the Shaowu field. We are all well.

With much Love to all

Your Affectionate Son
Will.

[This travel journal dated 1902 and titled Trip to Shaowu was written by Willard on his eight week trip beginning Nov. 21, 1902. It is a carbon copy that Willard made when writing the original. It details the travels of Willard to Shaowu and surrounding villages in the fall. Carbon copied pages that Willard sent to Ellen were while on this trip]

donated to Yale by family in 2006, however the entries from December 8, 1902 through December 18th were missing. The original journal is in the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

W.L. Beard

Trip to Shaowu

1902

I started from Foochow at 7 p.m. Nov. 21st 1902 and spent the night at the Upper Bridge Chapel. On the morning of Nov. 22nd I took the launch for Ciu Kau, expecting that my Shaowu boat, which started from Foochow, Thursday, Nov. 20th would be waiting at Ciu Kau for me that – Saturday- evening. But at 11:30 a.m. the launch overtook the boat 20 miles above the Upper Bridge.

We have seven boatmen – to be increased to nine for the rapids – not addicted to opium. Five are young men and attractive. They are polite, but in common with boatmen they use vile language both with and without provocation. A magpie cried and they considered it an ill-omen. It was not difficult to get them to admit that their vile language had more power to hurt them than the cry of a bird.

With me on the boat are Pastor Diong of Shaowu who is to accompany me on the tour thro the Shaowu field and who will act as my interpreter, and a theology student from Shaowu, Uong Do Cing. Pastor Diong told the boatmen of his experience two years ago as he came from Foochow with Pastor Ieu and a man who professed to be a learner of the Gospel. The learner was much given to bad language. So the three agreed upon a fine of \$10 cash for every bad word used. The first day the learner had to pay over 100 cash, the next day only 20 cash. [55 cash = 5 cents]

Monday, Nov. 24th

Reached Ciu Kau yesterday at 1 p.m. the C.M.S. [*Church Mission Society of the United Kingdom*] has a chapel here and we went up for a service. Like most important river towns, this is a tough place and altho this chapel has been here for five years there are no church members. More than ten men and boys came in and one man was much interested. We talked with him for nearly an hour and gave him a Testament and Catechism. In the evening pastor Diong and I had a good talk with the boatmen. They are a nice set of men. We have organized a “no-swearing” club, with a fine of 5 cash for every bad sentence uttered. At 10 a.m. one man has 15 cash against his name. When we arrive at Shaowu the money is to be used to have a spread. I have put in 204 and the pastor and Do Cing 104 each. I shall be interested to watch development.

We are going up river very fast. The water is good and the men in good spirits. At this rate we will make Ci Yong for next Sunday. The river becoming narrower and the hills more interesting. But these are not the Ing Hok Mountains. It is cooler this morning, with a stiff breeze from the west, which meets us dead ahead. The sun tries to shine.

At 6:15 p.m. we are at Sang Du Kau, having made 70 li today. The “no-swearing” club has furnished no little amusement. There have been eight fines today. If we had counted yesterday there would have been at least eighty. A new man came aboard late last evening. He is the head man now, - a fine fellow, cool, calm and knows his business.

We passed a wreck at Cheng Gau Tang, - one of the largest boats on the river called Duai Keu Muoi.

Weds. Nov. 26th.

Yesterday we found the rapids steeper and the progress much slower. We made only 5 puo as against 7 the day before, i.e. 15 miles instead of 21. The river is always very swift and the rapids are almost continuous. Rugged crags of rock stick up everywhere and the river must find or make a path down thro them. To pull the boat the men must climb along and over these like Rocky Mountain goats. They do it well. The leaves on the hard wood trees present various hues and make one think of New England in October.

At 1 p.m. we stopped at Hu Lu Gang. The C.M.S. has a chapel and a school here. We are 55 li from Iong Bing. Thus far the weather has been perfect.

Thursday, Nov. 27th.

A beautiful Thanksgiving morning, and cool enough to make it seem natural.

Yesterday we put a hole thru the side of the boat- or, more accurately, a rock did it. This let a little water into to lay the dust in the bottom of the boat, and the incident gained for the treasury of the “no-swearing” club 15 or 20 cash.

At 4:30 yesterday I met Mr. Main walking, on his way to Foochow to see his youngest boy who is very ill. At 10 a.m. we are within 2 ½ puo of Yong Ping.

Friday, Nov. 28th.

Yesterday I left the boat at 11 a.m. and walked into Iong Bing, arriving at Miss Linam's at 1 p.m. - took dinner there, and went across the city to see the property of the M.E. mission. It was purchased last year thro Mr. Main, and is in size about 10 X 20 rods- a large field, on the highest ground within the city wall and lying next to the wall and quite apart from any Chinese houses or shops. Mr. Main's house is of white brick and one and a half stories are already up. The Woman's Board of the M.E. mission owns a large native house across the city from the parent Board property, and a small piece of vacant land adjoining this house. At present Miss Linam and Miss Hartford are living in the native house and Mr. Main has been sleeping in the church- rented land nearby- and boarding with the ladies. The girl's school is in the house with the ladies, - about 20 girls- the woman's sch. In a rented house nearby- 13 women- a boy's sch. - 21 boys- is in the chapel. There is also an English church and Hospital, under a Chinese, a student of Dr. Rigg, in Iong Bing city.

I took supper with Miss Linam and led the prayer meeting in the evening. One of the ch. members has a son who could open the city gate and let me out after the meeting, so I slept on my boat as usual. Including the scholars and teachers from the schools, about 50 attended the prayer meeting. The M.E. ch. has a good work started here, in wh. the ladies are at least keeping pace with the men, and this is the only kind of a church that can have a healthy growth. A male church is like a wall, only one side of wh. is built. It is sure to fall.

The "no-swearing" club is doing good work. There is a very noticeable decrease in the number of curses.

Yesterday was a cold day. Miss Linam had a brass stove. Today is much warmer. The rapids have been few and not at all bad this morning. The men have rowed much of the morning.

Our plans are: - arrive at Sa Ka Kau this afternoon- start tomorrow morning for Ka Bang 50 li in from the main river to spend Sunday with the Christians there- send the boat on to Uong Dai 25 li above Sa Ka Kau to wait for us. We walk from Ka Bang across the country to Uong Dai on Monday.

Sunday, Nov. 30th at Ka Bang

We arrived at Sa Ka Kau Friday at 5 p.m.- slept on the boat and started for Ka Bang Sat. a.m.- could find no load carrier, and boats going up Sa Gaing branch wanted \$1.00 for taking us 5 miles. Diong Muk Su then asked the boatmen to take the load to Ching Chu 5 miles up the Sa Gaing branch, where there were Christians who would carry it the rest of the way. The boatmen demurred. Pastor Diong simply told them that if they did not do it we would carry the load ourselves. One of the boatmen carried the load to Ching Chu. There a Christian got a man to bring it to Ka Bang. We reached here at 3 p.m. yesterday. The road is not steep or bad.

At Ka Bang there are 40 can or about 500 or 600 people. Including the adjacent village there are 200 can or 1000 people. There are now 17 ch. members and 30 learners. The people are very ignorant of books and very few have been away from home. They live one side of a hollow in the mountains, in wh. hollow and the sides of wh. the rice field are the only fields. Farther up are bamboo and other trees. The only industry is paper making. The bamboo is cut at the right time i.e. before it becomes too hard, and split up and put into large vats with lime and water. Here it remains for a year. It is then taken up and worked into pulp, which is mixed with water. A man then takes a sieve and dips into the mixture and brings out what will be a sheet of paper. These sheets he lays in a pile which is taken by another man, who sticks each sheet separately on the sides of a large furnace made of mortar. Here it dries. The paper is then put into bundles ready for market. It must all be carried by men 10 miles to the river and then by boat 150 miles to Foochow. In many places the stunted rice plants stand in the fields uncut. The drought has been severe this year and much of the rice did not head at all. This means very poor living for people this winter.

This is the fifth year the chapel has been in this place. The preacher is a single man- surname Uong. He has every appearance of a very sincere, straight-forward, earnest man. I like him. There is no chapel here. The people meet in the Tiang Dong which is used in common by all the people in this part of the village. Those who worship idols use it in common with those who worship God. As I was speaking this morning a lot of incense fell on me from a stick that was burning above me. A chapel where the people could worship with Christian surrounding would be an inestimable help to them.

At the service this morning over 70 were present. Most of them were from the immediate village. This is good. I spoke in Foochow. Mr. Uong translated. When he couldn't understand the Foochow Pastor Diong translated for him into mandarin and he again put it into the lingo of the people. I cannot talk with this people at all. They have their own peculiar dialect. A few of them understand about half of what is said to them in mandarin. One or two who have been to Foochow understand a little of the Foochow. The audience this morning was very appreciative and responsive and patient.

This afternoon we received 3 men and 3 women. In all 26 partook of the communion. 21 members.

A very touching incident occurred just after service. We walked out a short distance from the church to look at a piece of ground that has been talked of for a church lot. While standing there, one of the men who joined the church today passed and we spoke a few words to him, and as he started on he asked us to pray for him. As he turned the corner near I noticed that he was wiping his eyes. Soon he called the preacher to him and when the preacher came back he bro't two ten cent pieces, saying: - "He says he is poor and had nothing to invite you to eat, so he wants to give you two tens for you to go and buy something." That man would have been a husband fit for the woman who washed the Master's feet. The preacher here seems to be a man without guile and the Christians are like him in this. There seems to be no secondary motive here. The people worship God because they believe it is the right thing. They need a church building, a commandment scroll and a few Bible pictures hung on the wall. They have already subscribed \$30- max. toward a building. The need \$90.00. There are many men at home who would give this if they knew of the 20 cent incident related above. The 20 cents is to start the fund for a church building.

Monday, 4 p.m., on the boat again at Veng Dai

These people fed our whole party of 4 from Sat. supper to Mon. breakfast and I think they took not a cent for it. They prepared a whole fowl for me. I subscribed 50 cents toward a church building.

In the evening two more women were admitted to the church. One had been away and had just returned that evening. Her husband was killed by the falling of a wall last spring or summer soon after uniting with the church. She was an elderly woman, very earnest and very clear about the Gospel- especially about going to Heaven after death. The other woman has been one of the leaders among the women in talking of the Truth. Her courage needed a little strengthening. In the evening the student spoke in mandarin and the preacher translated. Before closing all the members both men and women led in prayer.

These 2 days spent at Ka Bang will always be a blessed memory to me. We were urged many times to stay longer. And as we started away this morning, after sweet season of prayer with the Christians who lived near, they all wanted us to pray for them. It was good to see the love and respect they all had for pastor Diong.

We started at 7:45 this morning. At 11 we were at Ching Chin. A little lunch by the way gave us strength to reach the boat at Uong Dai at 4 p.m. One of the Ka Bang Christians brought our load down 6 puo + 20 miles. I gave him 70 cents and we had to fairly push him off the boat to keep him from giving the money back.

Tuesday, Dec. 2nd.

We swung into the stream at daylight this morning. The church members at Uong Dai could not be found yesterday afternoon, so we came up the rapids some 7 or 8 li before stopping for the night. At 3 p.m. we are just to stop at A Iong.

The owner of the boat came from Foochow and was on the boat when we arrived yesterday. There is a marked change in the working of the crew. He leads the men as well as commands them. He is a church member but needed to join the "no-swearing" club. I have never before witnessed such a change in the language of a company of men as has come to this body of boatmen in the last 10 days.

Saturday, Dec. 6th – a little above Iong Kau

At A Iong we conducted communion Tues. evening. Some 15 members were present. There is a preacher here- a Foochow speaking man who had an opium shop in the village- became converted and seems now to be an earnest, enthusiastic, practical worker. He is a good friend of hard-work. I was not at all badly impressed to see him carry the dang load a li or so for the learner who went with us up into the country.

The mission owns a large property at A Iong- an old tea hong. There are two large buildings each about 30 X 40 ft. and each with two stories. Beside these there are 4 or 5 smaller buildings and a vacant lot about 60 X 70 ft. the larger building have been recently repaired by the people. The church members furnished most of the money for purchasing and repairing.

Beside the preacher- Mr. Iek, there is a Mr. Lok who lives in the chapel with his family and helps the preacher. The church is not in a flourishing condition i.e. not growing spiritually. The starting of the work and the purchasing of the large property was due in some measure to the help received by some of the people from the former preacher in some trouble. They had to disabuse the people of the idea that this was its business. It seemed to me that under Mr. Iek the church was putting itself in the true light before the people. I could learn of nothing wrong here, and do not see why the church should not take on new life and grow in the future.

Connected with the A Iong church are 7 different places where the Christians or learners meet with more or less regularity for worship. In most of these places there is a room specially for this purpose. In other places a spop

or a house is used. We visited three of these centers. Starting Wed. morning we walked 4 puo to Dai Lik Kau. Here a learner gave us all a good dinner. After dinner we preached for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour to 70+ people who gathered in the shop and in front of it. Then we walked on 5 li to Sieu Ngu Dong where there is a room set apart for a place of prayer. Here is one time ch. members and 10+ learners. There are 49 families in the village. Of these 24 have renounced idol worship. After a hymn and a prayer with the people here, we went on 2 li to Li Dung. After supper here we held communion. One man joined the church. Seven members were present, and 10+ learners. The service was held in an Ancestral Temple. Nearly half of the people who have an interest in this temple have given up idolatry and allied them selves with the church. There should be a preacher here and a school should be opened. Mr. Iek comes up from A Iong 5 or 6 times a year to visit these places.

Thursday morning we started for Iong Kau, - the boat had gone up from A Iong (3 puo) on Wed. to wait for us at Iong Kau. We arrived at 2:30 p.m. In the evening the theol student preached and I spoke a few minutes. I spoke in Foochow without an interpreter. Up at Li Dung I did not find one man who could understand the Foochow dialect at all. I could not even ask them how old they were. The preacher Mr. Iek interpreted.



Written on back of photo: "Iong Kau"
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

The communion was held at Iong Kau Friday morning. About 55 members were present. About 100 attended the service. The church members here are strong business men. Old men and young men are there in good proportions. There is an esprit d'corps that was most gratifying to see. The Foochow churches could learn much from this church. Friday evening pastor Diong preached and I spoke a short time. The three services which we held here I shall long remember. They were well attended by the members and learners= 30+ in the village itself. There are some 65 members in the Iong Kau church. This is a large, and very busy place. The church needs an enterprising pastor. The man who is acting as preacher is an elderly man- a good man- but one who feels his position so much that he does not command the respect of the members. He does not know the rules of the church well, and has not the fine sense of perception that would enable him to lead this church on to large things. The Meth. 's have a small church here also.

The church owns a large piece of land perhaps 150 X 300 feet or even larger, nicely located just up from the main busy st. On this they have erected a nice church that will accommodate 200 people easily, 300 with crowding. They are just erecting a nice two- story building to be used as pastor's residence and school. On the property is a good spring fr. wh. water can be conducted into house. There is sufficient land remaining on wh. to erect a missionary's residence, and it would be of immense advantage to this lower part of the Shaowu field if a missionary were located here. The place is 2 easy days journey from Long Bing and 4 easy day's journey from

Shaowu. One man would find more than he could well do to look after the churches that would lie naturally in this district. There ought also to be here both a boy's and a girl's school.

Beside this property on wh. the ch. and sch. stand, the mission owns a house 12 ft. wide and some 50 ft. deep on a side st. some distance i.e. near the other end of the village. This was used as the chapel and preacher's residence before the new ch. was built. The preacher Mr. Knok lives there now. There is also a piece of vacant land about half way between the old and the new churches wh. the mission owns. This is about 40 X 50 ft.

This morning with preacher Knok we started upriver for Sioh Ka Kau 15 li above Iong Kau. Here we found a ch. member's house fitted up to be used as a church. The members and learners have just purchased an opium shop wh. they plan to fit up for a church. We had a nice service here, and were detained to take dinner. We are now on the boat bound for Song Chiong where we plan to spend Sunday. I want exceedingly to go from here inland to Ing Seu and meet the boat 80 li above Song Ch. at Cui Kau Cai. But pastor Diong is afraid the distance is too great for one day's journey in and another out. It rained yesterday and is cloudy and cold today. Our plans for Monday must be determined by God when He sees best to indicate to us His will.

Monday morning, Dec. 8th 1902.

Sat. evening just at dark we arrived at Song Chiong, and went up to the chapel and held a service. We slept and ate on the boat. Yesterday we held three services. The morning and evening services were attended by crowds. The afternoon service was well attended by the learners. There are no members here. About five or six years ago we had a rented chapel here for a little less than two years, when the house was sold and our learners urged to go to the Meth. chapel a few rods distant. For nearly 20 years we have had learners at Song Chiong who connected themselves with the Iong Kau church. We visited the Meth chapel yesterday p.m. The preacher had not returned from the Annual Conference at Foochow. His wife and children were at home- we did not see them- and an old ch. member who seemed to be chapel keeper. A carpenter was at work fixing the altar rail.

This Spring the Song Chiong Magistrate got into bad odor with the business men of the place because he let out the collection of the indemnity tax to men who extorted such sums that the business men could not stand it. They all closed their shops and refused to do business. The magistrate was forced to give in. But in the mean time he had sent to Foochow for soldiers. When these arrived they began to make arrests among others whose names were on the list to be arrested as having had part in closing their shops. Mr. Kuok chanced to be down from Iong Kau for service and to help these 2 men when the runners came with the warrant to arrest these 2 men. When the runners came Mr. Kuok told them that if these 2 men were truly involved they would meet the trial. If the runners found on examination, that they were involved, he Mr. Kuok would be responsible for the appearance in court of these men.

This was sufficient to make some 10+ men who had been learners at our church very enthusiastic for a church. They have with several of their friends, arranged for the purchase of part of a house, which they have furnished as a church. I cannot find that Mr. Kuok or the learners have done any wrong. The official is a hard wine-drinker and does not get along with the people at all,- except with the few whom he allows to extort money from the people.

The Meth. pastor from Yong Bing was here during the trouble but refused to have anything to do with the matter. The preacher Mr. Co also refused to touch the case. This of course put the Meth preacher Co in a pretty bad light before the Christians, and they have refused to come to church unless the preacher is changed. The Meth. have 4 or 5 chapels in this region. The C.M.S. one across the river from A Iong at Gong Gi. Not one of these, as far as I have seen them or can learn about them is in a flourishing condition. The causes in my mind are two. 1. All of their workers are Foochow speaking people and from Foochow or the vicinity. They cannot talk or enter into the life of the people among whom they are sent to labor. One Meth. member at Song Chiong was asked why it was that his church there did not grow. His reply was "Truly preacher lazy." 2. In one place a church was opened by one party to a quarrel in our ch. at A Iong. These drew off and thro Ho Hok Sing opened a chapel. In another place, Chiong Lok some men whom all the other members accused of being bad were practically turned out of our church and themselves threatened to invite the Meth. Our pastor told them all right and the Meth. now have a chapel at Chiong Lok.

I have written this at length about the above matters because the Consul, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Main had said much to against the practices of our churches in this region. My conclusion at this stage is that the other missions will do well to look to their own affairs a little while longer before trying to right the rest of the world. Our missionaries have themselves visited the churches in this region on their way up and down the river and at other times with more or less regularity for years. They can talk with the people. They were the first in the field. All of our workers are native to this region or have been here so long that they understand the language and customs of the people. I do not think that our church here is above reproach. If it were, I should not be here. But what I have of the

workers and members gives me confidence in them and of a sincere purpose in them to do Christ's work here, and to become His true disciples. The churches need preachers and this need is greater than we know anything about in the Foochow part of the field. May the Lord of the plentiful harvest send the harvesters.

Tues. a.m. Dec. 9th

We arrived at Dai Gang last evening at 3:45, and walked about 4 miles to Cui Kau Cai. The boat arrived a little after dark. Here we found preacher Huang with a new son 19 hours old, which makes him the father of 5 sons and two daughters. He is a fine man, and his fine spirit shows in his face, in his actions, in his address, in his control of his children, and in his prayer.

There are about 20 members in the church here- most from villages outside Cui Kau Cai. They estimate about 60 learners. Our coming was not announced. At the communion service last evening 6 or 7 members were present.

The mission owns a lot some 40 X 100 ft. on which stands a ch. building about 25 X 50 ft. Between the building and the street is a tier of shops. One of these must be bought before there is a good entrance to the church in a rented house. There is on the church lot sufficient vacant land on wh. to erect a preacher's house. The work of the preacher would be much more successful, if the ch. had a good entrance and if the preacher's house was near the church. There is a nice day school in the church with 18 pupils.

The Ing Seu trip is given up (1) on the advice of pastor Diong. (2) We have already delayed the boat until the owner and the men are a little impatient. (3) The weather is threatening and the country roads are very wet. (4) I think pastor Diong and the Theological student are nearing home and would like to get there.

Wednesday. Dec. 10th p.m.

We did not make Na Kau last evening,- stopped about 10 li below. This morning we stopped on the way up and held a nice service at Na Kau. The preacher is a younger brother of preacher Huang at Cui Kau Cai. Both of these men are reliable, honest men. A little more enthusiasm in both would be beneficial to the growth of the ch.

But infinitely better such men than those who are untrustworthy. At Na Kau there are 4 ch. members and "several tens" of learners. The captain and owner of the boat on wh. we are is a learner at this ch. his home is at Na Kau.

The members of this church purchased the property- a large house about 30 ft. wide X 80 or 90 deep on the one main street of the village. The cost was about \$300- all raised by the people.

Sunday Dec. 14th.

We left the boat 45 li below Shaowu and walked up Thursday, Dec. 11th leaving the boat at 9 a.m. and reaching Shaowu at 1:30 p.m. It rained all the time after 11 a.m.- found the friends all well. On Friday I saw the buildings and the land and the plans and foundations for new buildings both at the East Gate outside the city and near the original Shaowu premises, and inside the city walk where Dr. and Miss Bement are.

At the East Gate the new church of brick opens on the main street of the East Suburbs. It will accommodate 600 persons. Back of this separated by a compound wall and a space of about 50 ft. is the residence now occupied by Dr. and Miss Walker and Dr. and Mrs. Bliss still South of this and separated by about 5 minutes walk is the site for a new residence. The servants quarters are built. The foundation of the house is up and the timbers for the first floor are some of them in place. The property here is large enough for the residence and a tennis court with ample space between the house and compound walk on all sides. S. West from this 3 minutes walk is the property for Boy's School, Theological Sem'y and College. There is ample space for three large buildings. The foundation is laid for the Boy's School At present this school is in a building adjoining the church.

On the opposite side of the street from the ch. is the Men's Hospital. This property extends from the street to the river. Only a part is occupied by buildings. At the rear, bordering on the river is a fine large piece of empty land in ready for extension as the work grows.

The Woman's work is all in the city- about 20 minutes walk from the E. Gate property. It nearly takes the breath away from a Foochow man to stand on the city wall and look out over this property. It lies on each side of a street and one piece lies along the city wall. The other side of which is the river. This piece is now occupied by the Girl's School, which is temporarily in an old Chinese house wh. stood on the premises. The girls sleep in a small new building erected for dining room etc. for the new school building the foundation of wh. is up ready for the brick to lay the walk. Across the street the new Dispensary for the Woman's Hospital is approaching completion. Dr. and Miss Bement are now living in this until a new house is built. Each of these pieces of property is larger than the whole Ponasang compound. In round figures each piece is not far from 240 ft. square. They are situated on the highest land in the city and in a section somewhat sparsely settled, so contiguous Chinese do not trouble them.

The Girl's sch. has about 30 pupils, the Boys' sch. at the East rate 26 pupils. 12 Theological students are to go out into the work at the beginning of next year. 3 students help Dr. Bliss in the Mens Hospital and Dr. Bement is teaching one young woman in the Woman's Dispensary.

Saturday morning dawned clear and cold. Pastor Ieu and I started for Guong Dak 80 li farther up the river beyond Shaowu. We walked all day in the teeth of a strong still N. West wind. We arrived here at 4:45 starting at 8:30 with 30 min. for dinner. I was prevailed upon to take a sedan- partly on the pastors account. But he started in advance of me, and it was too cold to ride so I at the end of 35 li I sent the sedan back.

The service this morning was attended by 9 ch. members and nearly 100 learners. Perfect attention was given to a long address thro pastor Ieu as interpreter, after which the communion was administered.

The people here have purchased a building about 40 ft. wide and 140 ft. deep. It makes a good church building.

Last night was cold. I saw the first heavy frost of the season this morning.

Tuesday Dec. 16th evening.

Sunday afternoon pastor Ieu preached to about 50 learners, and members. In the evening all the standing room was occupied at the endeavor meeting. All the members and several of the learners prayed.

There has been no regular preacher here this year. A theology lives 20 li distant and seems to be looking after the church some. An old man- a member lives in the building and acts as church father. In the evening I met several Foochow men. The Salt Commissioner is a member of the church and impressed me as a humble earnest Christian. It was he who gave most of the money for the church building at Guong Dak.

Thursday a.m. Dec. 18th.

Monday morning we started for Tiang Ga Bieng, 55 li farther up the river, and within about 50 li of the Kuang Si (or in Foochow Gong Sa) province. A man who has taken partial course of study with the theological class was sent up here a few months ago as a bookseller. There are more than 100 persons now who express a desire to become Christians.

We held a service Monday evening which was attended by 60 men and 10 women. They gave the strictest attention for an hour to the simple statement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the close one man offered prayer. I cannot help urging with much emphasis in every place the imperative necessity of daily Bible study and prayer if the people would be real Christians. It gives me the deepest joy to find in every place- even where the people have had only small opportunity to learn the Truth- those who can pray. May the Holy Spirit find means to teach the multitude the blessedness of prayer.

Tuesday morning we breakfasted with a learner at 9:30 a.m. and started at 10 a.m. for Guong Dak. At Tiang Ga Bieng. The learners have procured and fitted up a large house to be used as a chapel and they sent by us a very urgent request that the bookseller be allowed to remain with them next year as preacher.

Wednesday morning we started from Guong Dak at 8 o'clock and reached Shaowu at 5:15 p.m. The road from Shaowu to G.D. is good. But from G.D. up to T. Ga Bieng it is paved nearly all the way with small round stones gathered from the river, and is the worst piece of road that I have ever walked on. My feet had many complaints to make after two days on this road, so I resorted to my old time custom in Ing Hok and wore straw sandals from G.D. down yesterday.

A solid stone bridge crosses the river at G.D. The arches are of cut stone, and are some 20 ft. high. The whole structure does credit to the workmanship of the builders. I took a picture of this, but I am afraid it was a failure.

The weather was cold for the whole trip. Rain fell steadily nearly all day last Friday. Sat. dawned with a dark windy sky and a stiff north wind. That night was still and a thick white frost covered all Sunday morning. One side of my room at G.D. was quite open for a space 12 ft. long and 3 ft. high. The people there evidently believe in fresh air= for the foreigner. Shaving with cold water Sunday a.m. was good for the will and I presume also toughened the body.

This morning- Thursday is rains. God's blessings fall in copious showers on one wherever he is. He prepares the way before one and gives strength for the journey and provides friends every where and is willing to use one's feeble efforts to teach the multitudes the Gospel. I was thinking yesterday as I walked on the blistered feet- if after all it paid. And then the picture of scores if not hundreds of men in the U.S. who sit in their studys or recreate six days and on the seventh preach to the same 40 or 50 persons came before my mind. And I know how strange it would seem to these men who rejoice over their "snap" to be able to speak to a room packed with men and women who listen with wrapt attention to every word and show by the expression on their faces their interest and pleasure and by every means possible express their gratitude. I concluded that it did pay. And a little hot water and a

good nights rest- which is the reward God gives for a 30 mile walk- do wonders for blistered feet. Blessings untold beyond belief await the men who come to take up this waiting work in Shaowu. Among the blessings, not the least will be the privilege of associating with many of the Chinese workers of this field- especially pastors Ieu and Diong.

The workers are now gathering for the Annual Meeting, wh. begins this evening. I shall remain in Shaowu for this i.e. until next Monday. I may then make one more trip of 5 or 6 days from here and return. Then I start for the Ciong Lok trip and at Ciong Lok my work will end. From there I go direct down the river to Foochow.

As there will be little to report for the next week I send this partly finished sheet, with kindly greetings to all the friends in Foochow. I am praying for you all daily, and I know you do not forget to ask God to make me usable each day.

Thursday, Dec. 25th at Iong Cing Kang

The Annual Meeting at Shaowu began a week ago this evening. The time was much spent on prayer. Then many of the helpers spoke of specific answers to prayer.

Fri. a.m. reports were given of all the out stations in the lower part of the field. In the afternoon the general subject was Bible Study. I spoke thro pastor Ieu as interpreter on Bible Study for Spiritual Growth. In the morning I took b-fast with Dr. and Mrs. Bement and spoke to the Girls in the Girls sch. thru pastor Diong's daughter as interpreter. Friday evening the time was given to various addresses. The head assistant in the Woman's hospital gave a very interesting talk on caring for the body. He is a bright young man and seems thoroughly consecrated. It does one good to witness his earnestness at all times in witnessing for Christ. The other two students also are fine fellows and all three are earnest workers in the church. They make the work of the church and the work of the hospital one. I stated previously that there was one student in the Woman's Hospital. There are three. The daughter of pastor Diong who was in Foochow Girl's College, a girl in the Shaowu Girl's Boarding School and the wife of Dr. Bement's cook.

Sat. a.m. Reports were given of the upper part of the field. I spoke a few minutes of the impressions received at the point which I had visited. Sat. p.m. no session. Sat. evening was given to woman's work with addresses by pastor Diong for Dr. Bement, Mrs. Bement and Mrs. Walker. Mrs. Walker spoke very earnestly for the new building for Boy's School. \$1800 has been subscribed by the Chinese, \$850 already paid in. The building is going up as fast as the workmen can make it.

Sunday I spoke thro pastor Ieu as interpreter and helped in administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. About 400 were present. In the afternoon I spoke at both the South Gate Chapel and at the North Gate Chapel - Girl's School. In the evening the C.E. meeting was a model. The subject: - How to show our gratitude to God was a good one to talk on and the time was up before all had an opportunity. A short talk here made four addresses for me that day, - too many.

Monday and Tuesday were spent with the helpers in consultation about next year's work. These pastors and preachers about 28 are a fine body of men. They have been so free from foreign supervision, that they know how to plan and execute. They need and they earnestly desire and pray for foreign help. I can but pray that God in selecting men for this field will find those will come not to oversee but to help this noble body of men.

Monday afternoon Dec. 22nd Pastor Hackman, of the German Church, Shanghai for the past 9 years arrived at the Shaowu compound. He expects to leave tomorrow- Friday. He is on his way to Tibet, Burmah and India, then to Germany. His business is to learn all he can about Buddhism and Taoism.

Wednesday, yesterday morning I started for Ne Sek Du 60 li from Shaowu and the highest part of the Shaowu field. Dr. Bliss has begun the erection of a summer cottage here. We found several villages in each of which there are a few Christians. There is no church building. The services are held in the houses of the members in the different villages as is convenient. Evening services are necessarily limited to the people of one or two villages. Last evening 10 men, 6 women and 4 children were present at the service. One of the young men who has just graduated from the theological course is my interpreter on this trip. All the people of Zo Du are engaged in paper making. Three years ago a dang load of the papers was worth \$3.00. Now the same amount brings \$10.00. The houses of the village, the clothes of the people and the people themselves witness to the good times.

This morning we walked 3 li down the mountain to this village of Iong Cing Kang. On the walk yesterday and today the scenery is worthy of Ing Hok. The roads are after the Ing Hok pattern. Only the distances in Ing Hok are greater. The man who measured the li on the Shaowu roads must have broken off a piece from his measuring rod. 80 li here are about the equivalent of 65 li in Ing Hok.

This afternoon I spoke at the Iong Cing Kang church. About 75 were present. This evening the pastor led the prayer meeting, after which I spoke. This is the only church in the field - beside the church in Shaowu City, that supports the pastor. Pastor Gang here has a large field to look after. His parish has a radius of some 5 miles and there are several centers, in one of which the people are just erecting a church building. Next year Pastor Gang will

be moved to Na Kan a village on the river 80 li below Shaowu- an important center in itself and more conveniently situated for the working of his present field than is Iong Cing Kang. So altho his residence will be changed, his field of labor will remain partially the same. A recent graduate of the Seminary will reside here next year.

The mission owns a large piece of land here, with a good church building, having pastors house attached and a good school building apart from the church. There is no school in it. The lack of day school in this field is the one deplorable feature of the work that faces me almost everywhere. The work will suffer for it in coming years. There was a school at Zo Du. I tried to visit it this a.m. but at 8:30 the pupils had not come to school and I did not wait. My purpose in taking this trip is not so much to help Dr. Walker in the touring, as to see the work and encourage the people and the workers. It chanced to be market day here today- the first of these days that I have seen. The street here was certainly full of men and of produce.

Friday, Dec. 26th at Tie Lo Haeng

The church and property at Iong Cing Kang cost about \$600. The people gave one half. In the rear of the church are two rooms made comfortable for foreigners. A real iron foreign cook stove stands in one of them. The church has a belfry and a bell.

This morning after breakfast with the deacon we walked 35 li up to Tie Lo Haeng. After dinner with the preacher a service was held in the church. Here also the mission owns a nice property. The church stands just outside the village. Contrary to the usual custom, it stands alone. No one lives in it or adjoining it. It is locked when not used and unlocked when service is to be held as if it were in New England. There 40 men 7 women and 7 children at the service. The mission has a day school here, in an idol temple. The idol is covered up in its recess in the "parlor" with a nice piece of red cloth on which is the character "ha", and the idol does not appear to be disturbed by the presence of two Christian families in its domicile, or the numerous Christian calendars and scrolls with Christian sentiments written on them or by the sound of Christian voices in worship of the one Living God.

The church and property here cost over \$1000. The people gave all but \$300. The preacher was appointed to go to A Iong next year. But the members are trying to raise his whole salary, hoping thereby to keep him here. He is a fine young man 27 years old. He took the first degree this year. He impresses me with his earnestness as a speaker. I have not heard a more enthusiastic speaker in the field. He also impresses as one who thinks, and hence as one who will grow.

Saturday, Dec. 27th

Last evening we had another service at Tie Lo Haeng. Just before the service I was much pleased to hear several of the members who were present at the afternoon session rehearsing the points in the address of the afternoon.

A clear sky and a still night brought a very heavy white frost to greet us this morning. Of course after that the sun shone gloriously. We were off at 9 a.m. after a prayer with the workers. The distance is 40 li- level road- we found several church members along the way and stopped to drink tea with each. Half way between Tie Lo Haeng and Shaowu at Iong Dong is a small chapel 2 houses wide and some 40 ft. deep owned by the mission. There are 4 men and 4 women members here beside 10+ learners. There is a day school here with 16 pupils. At 1:30 we were at Shaowu. All the friends here are well. Pastor Hackman started this morning for Kiong Si, taking Shaowu carriers for 4 days journey.

All my arrangements are made to start Monday Dec. 29th for Ku San 40 li- Tues; Hua Bang 50 li,- Wed. Ciong Sioh Hu 20 li. Thurs., Cio Kan 50 li.Fri., Tai Ming 45 li, Sat. Sing Gio 45 li, Mon. Jan. 5 and Tues. Jan. 6 Giong Ning Gaing 120 li. Wed. here. Thurs. or Fri. down river by boat to Ciong Loh. Spend Sun. Jan. 11th at Ciong Loh. Then home- unless I take 4 days to see Ing Seu.

With kindest regards to all the associates.

W.L.B.

Tuesday, Dec. 30th at Huo Bang 4:45 p.m.

Sunday I spent at Shaowu. In the morning I attended church at the East Gate. Pastor Ieu preached. In the afternoon the foreigners met at the residence of Dr. and Miss Bement for a prayer meeting. This was a very refreshing and helpful hour. In the evening I attended the C.E. meeting at E. Gate.

Monday at 12:15 Pastor Diong and I started for Ku Sang, 40 li. It rained all the way. We arrived at 5 p.m. The rain kept many of the church members at home. There are in all about 15. Only 5 were present. Some 6 or 8 learners came in, and 12 or 15 others. There is a preacher (Ding) with a wife and children here. The chapel is rented. There is a day school also here. Ku Sang is a large village in a large valley. The villages in this valley are many, and the people seem to be prosperous.

This morning the rain has ceased, and the sun tried to shine. We started at 9 a.m. for Huo Bang 45 li. - turned aside 2 li and took dinner with a relative of pastor Diong's, reaching Huo Bang at 4 p.m. The load carriers lost the way and did not arrive till 4:30.

There is a day school here, but no chapel, and no preacher. There are 5 members and 10+ learners. Service is held in the house of one of the members.

Wednesday, Dec. 31st at Ciong Sioh Hu.

Last evening we administered the sacrament to three members at Huo Bang. The room was full of people and they listened well. This morning I saw the day school held in an ancestral hall. This hall can be rented for the chapel next year and is well suited for the purpose.

At 12:30 we were at Ciong Sioh Hu 20 li from H.B. There is only one family of Christians here. Two brothers form the basis of the church here. There are others interested in the Truth.

Friday, Jan 2nd 1903. at Tai Ning.

Wed. evening at Ciong Sioh Hu we held a service in the Tiang Pong of a Christian. About 50 were present. The best attention was given and the people remained long to talk about the Truth. There is good material to work on here. The preacher from Huo Bang should visit C.S. Hu often to hold service with the learners and members.

Breakfast is late in all this region in Winter, and it was after 10 o'clock when all had eaten and we were on the way to Cio Kau, 30 li distant. We arrived about 2 p.m. and found a member and a learner quarrelling about a little piece of ground. Pastor Diong and I spent all the p.m. trying to settle the matter in vain. In the evening we admitted 5 men and conducted the communion. Twenty partook of the Sacrament. The service closed at 9:15. Just then a messenger was announced from Shaowu. At 9:30 I was opening bundles containing Christmas presents from Foochow. These had been sent by the messenger boat [and] was too late this time for me to receive the things before starting from Shaowu last Monday. It was a very unique experience- opening Christmas presents in a little Chinese bed room over 30 miles back in the country from any water way- and over 250 miles away from Foochow at 10 o'clock at night. Well I was asleep before the next day began.

This morning we took breakfast with one of the men here and then succeeded in getting the quarrel settled in time to set out for Tai Ning shortly after 11 o'clock. We arrived at 2:30 p.m. - 30 li. Tai Ning is a district city with a wall around it.

While I have been writing the above there have been at least 7 women 7 men and 10 children watching me. The number has varied and the personages have also.

Sunday, Jan 4th at Sing Gio 12:30

At Tai Ning we conducted communion Fri. evening. 13 members were present. 2 united with the church. About 80 were present. The best of attention was given to the Truth. The people are overjoyed at the news that they are to have a preacher there next year. The church needs and will doubtless have better accommodations. Pastor Diong says the church here is sure to put on new life next year with a resident preacher. Yesterday, Sat. Morning after a good breakfast with a ch. member we started for Sing Gio at 9:35 a.m. and arrived at 4:45- 50 li. At 4 p.m. snow began to fall. It snowed gently for about 20 min. Then the flakes became large and they fell fast. It was a genuine snow storm. The first I had seen for 9 years. I enjoyed it. We were so near our destination that we experienced no inconvenience.

This morning everything was white. The mountains were beautiful. How I wish Mrs. B. and the children could have seen it. I expect however that even Geraldine would have admitted that it was "Told." And I think Dorothy would have been willing to have blankets over her last night. The ice on my wash basin was fully 1/16 in. thick and the water completely frozen over. At 11 o'clock the ice still stuck to the basin after the water was emptied. Where the sun strikes full the snow is melting. But where its rays do not touch the snow will remain all day. I ate an icicle (is it spelled correctly? I have not written the word for 9 years) over 3 in. long this morning. It was so cold at service, that the pastor had to stand on one foot while he toasted the other over his fire basket. 30 were present at the service. Some came from 3 miles distant. Some who wish to unite with the ch. did not arrive, so we are to hold the communion this p.m.

The church here is in a house purchased for the purpose by the mother of the theol. student Uong who came up on the boat fr. Foochow with Pastor Diong and myself. She lives in the house and with a ch. member who lives 10 li distant is the head of the work here. This woman's home - 10 li distant- is the place where Mr. and Mrs. Walker were in such danger 10+ years ago. She seems to be a second Mary now. Her house here is head quarters for the preachers of the Word, and on Sundays she feeds many of the ch. members and learners who come from a distance. Today some 12 have eaten at her table, the food is good too. I know.

4:15 p.m.- We have just closed a delightful communion service. Three men united with the church. One was the husband of the woman who owns the chapel; one was the next door neighbor; one a former coolie or helper of Dr. Bliss in the Hospital. All have been under the influence of a Gospel for years. 50 were present at the service and all gave the closest attention. I wonder if many audiences at home would now sit in church while the snow was on the ground and icicles forming on the eaves, without fires, and listen to the preaching. The work here seems to be the true fruit of the Gospel, and the outlook is most favorable for growth. I hope the Tai Ning or the Cio Kau preacher can visit this place occasionally next year. It will encourage the people.

Giong Ning Gaing, Jan. 6th 1903.

When I wrote the above I forgot that a preacher had been appointed to go to Sing Gio next Chinese year.

Sunday evening another service was held at Sing Gio, fully attended, and led by the member who had acted as head here.

Monday morning the ice was so thick in my basin, I did not attempt to break it. We saw ice $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. I took a photo of the chapel and little village with the snow and frost all on it before we set off Mon. morning. I shall always remember this Sunday at Sing Gio with Thanksgiving to God- for what He has wrought this saintly woman- for the earnestness shown by the members, all but one who was away from home were present at the communion- 12 in all,- and for the beauties of nature clad in spotless white- and for that delightful walk Monday a.m. up and down those snow covered gorges, where the bamboos and evergreens were bending under their weight of white.

At 8:30 a.m. Monday we were off for Giong Ming Gaing. Last night we spent at a Chinese inn Ciu Bang. We reached G.M.G. this p.m. at 2:30= 120 li.

I had my mind all made up certain to spend one day here, Sunday next at Ciong Loh and then home. But I must now spend next Sunday here visiting another place 50 li inland on Thursday.

Thursday, Jan. 8th 1903- a.m. at Li Sing.

Tuesday evening at Giong Ming we had an interesting service attended by about 75 persons. The strictest attention was given to the address on "what does it mean to become a Christian?"

Yesterday- Wed. we walked over here 50 li. Li Sing is a large village in a large fertile valley given entirely to rice and tea oil. There are some 2000 families here. The interest in the Gospel began toward the end of 1901 when a man from Gong Sa province who knew a little about the truth came over and told what he knew to an old man here whose heart was ripe for receiving it. This old man went to Giong Ming Gaing early last year 1902 and there heard more of the Truth. He became an earnest student of the Bible, went to Giong Ming G. in the Summer often to hear the Gospel from the Theol. Student was there in the Summer; made his house here at Li Sing a place of prayer, led meetings himself, and now has gathered about 20 persons who seem to be true learners. He refuses all who want to "use" the ch. and those whom I have seen here have the appearance of being sincere.

Yesterday on the road over here fr. G.M.G. we met no less than 1000 men and boys all carrying rice to G.M.G. for sale. This region eats only 1/5 of the yield. The road nearly all the way lay thro rice fields that looked very rich. If this people worked as Americans work they would be as wealthy. We had breakfast specially early this morning. It was just 10 o'clock when we finished.

At the prayermeeting last evening about 30 were present. Ieu led in prayer. All listened most attentively to the address on "prayer". Pastor Diong has not been perfectly well this week. He has been able to translate. When we reached Giong Ming, the Student Mong did the translating. The pastor cannot use this jabber. This gives him a rest however, and I hope he will be himself again.

I sent a letter to Foochow from G. Ming Tuesday evening. The P.O. has been established there about 2 months.

This place is probably farther from the track of what we call civilization than I have ever before stopped at. The people certainly are not very familiar with foreigners. All say no foreigner ever came here before. We found a man last night who said he had never heard the Gospel at all. This is somewhat rare now in the paths that the missionary ordinarily travels in this province.

This afternoon a terrific crowd gathered. To day is market day here and men are assembled from "Dan to Beersheba", and every one came up to see the "Tiger". Among them was a Hiong Sing, only a fraction of a degree below a Second Degree Graduate. He had looked at me, and was examining some books when I gave him the Mandarin Testament and pointed to Jn. III. He read the whole chap. Then pastor Diong came to the rescue and in all that man stood for three hours either reading or listening to the Truth. Then I spoke for nearly an hour to the crowd, and he sat to the end. No less than 150 persons were gathered in the house to (listen) see. The learners here are mostly old men. It seems to me a true work of the Spirit.

Friday, Jan. 9th at Li Sing. 9:30 a.m. waiting for the party to have their breakfast - no call yet.

Last evening the service was attended by about 100. The attention was perfect for fully one hour. The larger part stood- many of them on benches looking over the heads of those in front of them. Some 20 learners were present, about 10 of those offered prayer after the address.

Tuesday: Jan. 13th. 5:30 p.m. on the river about 50 li below Giong Ming Gaing.

Last Friday we walked from Li Sing back to G.M.G. We held a prayer meeting with about a dozen learners in the evening. Saturday I looked at the lot purchased for a church. It is 34 ft. by about 95, with a wall on all sides. It faces the street which runs along the river. It is only about 3 minutes walk from the city gate- outside the city. On one side the lot is an uninhabited house 14 ft. wide and about 65 ft. deep, a good wall all around it- price \$50. On the other side is a piece of empty ground 14 ft. wide and about 60+ ft deep. Beyond this is a side street. The price of this empty land- \$20. It is proposed to build a church the width of the ch. lot= 34 ft. by extending the side walls up. The size of the ch. 34 X 60 ft. To do this the properties mentioned above must be purchased. I advised them to purchase both pieces but to build only 1/3 of the ch. now.= one 20 ft. section+ the front section. This will make a building 34 X 20 for them- sufficient for their present needs, and it can be added to as they grow and are able to enlarge.

I called on the Magistrate after consulting with the pastor and with the preacher Uong. I told him (1) the church was established here to urge men to worship the true God. (2) Bad men had crept in or were using the name of the church for selfish purposes which was against our rules, practice and desire. I wished him to understand that we had nothing to do with law-cases. (3) According to the treaties Chinese subjects were free to join the Christian ch. and they should be exempt from idolatrous fees.

Sat. evening we had another prayer meeting with a dozen or so learners. Sunday pastor Diong preached in the morning and I spoke in the afternoon and again in the evening.

Yesterday I was about to take the boat which I had trusted the brother in law of Uong to engage to take me to Foochow for \$22, when I learned that there were 8 loads of rice on it. I finally got 3 loads taken off and my cook had 3 put on. So we started at noon with one boatman- the pastor, cook and myself. We struck 3 or four rocks before tying up for the night and made about 30 li. This morning we started at 7 o'clock and soon struck two rocks which drove us up shore for repairs. It began to rain Monday a.m. and about 11 a.m. To day the wind became very high and it rained very hard, so we were forced to tie up at 11:30. I looked for my valise wh. contained \$8.00 and this diary and my dressing outfit, but it was not on board. I remembered it was put off while the boat was being repaired. The boatman went back for it and returned at 5:30 p.m. So here we are with an old leaky boat with 80 lbs of rice on it, a poor opium smoker for a boatman, and the wind howling furiously- about 60 out of 220 li to Ciong Loh traversed. But God knows what is best, and the sun will shine again sometime- both actually and metaphorically. We are all well and have enough to eat and to wear and can keep dry.

Wednesday, Jan. 14 – p.m.

Last night we all worked to plug up the leaks until 8:30 when we took “refreshment” and retired. This a.m. at 9:30 we were ready to start. I started to walk just before the boat swung into the stream. About 10 rods down stream fr. where we lay over night, another bump was heard, and I could hear pastor Diong shout to the boatman to pull for the shore. He got ashore on the opposite bank from me. I could throw a stone and hit the boat- but I was far away. As I stood watching the three men bail, and meditating -such conditions are favorable to meditation- I saw a “squadron” coming down the rapids, and shouted to the pastor to hail them for a ride. The head boat “bit” at the first call, and soon we left the “poor old stranded wreck” and took passage on a fleet of new boats manned by Ming Chiongites. They are loaded with rice so we are distributed on 6 of the 11 boats. The \$10 p'd to the poor man we left will help his family I trust. I pay \$22 to go to Foochow on these boats. The sun shines metaphorically – and it does not rain. The rain has raised the water so it is just right to go down river. Good blessings are too numerous to recount. They are indeed new every morning and fresh every evening.

Friday a.m. 10:30- within 20 li of Ciong Loh- all happy.

Ciong Loh- Friday, Jan. 16th 4 p.m.

We are here at last all well and happy. But it took us 5 days instead of 2 as we planned when at Shaowu. From all I can learn one must expect to be from 3 to 4 days en route between Giong Ming Gaing and here. With a flood and all conditions the most favorable 2 days are sufficient. This week Tues. no boats ran, owing to cold, wind and rain.

Saturday, Jan. 17th 10:30 a.m. 50 li below C.L.

This morning we were off at 5:30 hoping to make Iong Kau to night.

Last evening pastor Diong and I took supper with the C.L. preacher. It was good after living on boat fare for a week. We held a service with about 20 learners,- the preacher has no easy task to instruct these men in Christian Truth. Many of them are Canton men- opium dealers. The chapel is in a bad place and is not a good place in which to live. There is a large, clean house only 40 ft. back from the main street, which can be rented for \$4 per month. It would be good economy to take it and move the chapel.

The scenery from Giong Ming Gaing for the first 200 li of the 300 li to Ciong Loh is grand, magnificent. Part of the way the river dashes furiously down a gorge only a few rods wide at the bottom and with the mountains high on each side. An uninitiated American would declare that no boat could live to go down. But the men allowed us to ride with the exception of about 5 li. It was a sight never to be forgotten to see the boats dash down this stretch. Many boats go to pieces here and many men are never seen afterward. One of our boats was sent up on the ledge and hung for just an instant. Then came back all right. Another broke the front steering oar and struck but came thro with only a bruise and a little water. It is not to be wondered at that these superstitious people have built a temple on the bank here, and that the crews send one of the men to beg the idols to protect them as they descend.

We owe something to Dr. Sites for our ride down on these. The man who led the others in his willingness to take us is very near the Kingdom of God. He knows much of Dr. Sites from his friends in Ming Chiong, and cannot find words to express his esteem of Dr. Sites. I found a copy of Luke's Gospel on his boat which he had been reading. He is pleased to talk about the Truth, and shows us every respect, as representatives of Christ.

To day the sun shines brightly and the heavy white frost of last night has all disappeared. The men have put away their fire baskets and are laying off their clothes. We are going very peacefully down the river.

Sunday, 1 p.m. Jan. 18th at Iong Kau

We reached here at 6 o'clock last evening. Pastor Diong and I lunched at Delmonico's on Broadway. Our "Squadron" anchored for Tiffin yesterday at noon. Shortly after we met 4 large Dang Sa boats just starting up a rapid. Only the 4 head boats of our "Squadron" got down this rapid ahead of the 4 large boats. The other 7 boats had to wait. This hindered them just enough so they did not make the rapid just above Iong Kau. But on the 4 boats that reach I.K. were the pastor, myself and my bedding and what little food I had left. The cook was caught above the rapid and came this morning. It was only what many people term "chance" that it was so fortunate. I prefer to call it the design of Providence. I am staying at the old chapel.

Expenses of Shaowu trip
Nov. 21st 1902- Jan. 22nd 1903.

Boat to Shaowu (part)	\$ 27.
“ fr. Giong Ning Gaing to Foochow	32.
Launch to Cui Kau	1.10
Load Carriers (part)	13.30
Chair	.70
Cook	<u>.17</u>
	\$ 91.10
 Paid by E.L. Bliss M.D.	
Boat to Shaowu (to bal.)	31.70
Load Carriers (to bal.)	<u>4.10</u>
Total.	\$126.90



Women Working on Paper Fibre Beneath the Family Altar and Ancestral Tablets, Shaowu, China

[Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]

[This travel journal dated **Dec. 31, 1902** is a continuation of the travel journal dated 1902 by Willard L. Beard while on his trip to Shaowu. Journal donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

In the Shaowu field 80 li or 27 miles from Shaowu, at a place called Huo Bang.
Dec. 31st 1902, 9:10 a.m.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I have just finished my breakfast. The church member with whom we are staying has just come to call the pastor who is with me, and my cook to breakfast. So while they sat I have the first few minutes of leisure for a long time. I expect you would smile or else simply look disgusted if you were to visit me in any present abode. It makes me think much of our old corn house- the one that used to be over the old wood shed house. Here are the utensils for rice farming and for drying the rice, saw horses, baskets, sieves, a lot of old boards and other lumber, an old book case and a lot of old books. The beams are so low that I have been forcibly reminded of their presence several times. There is fully as much dirt on the floors as was ever on our corn house floor. The windows are of board and slide. This is much the description of my domicile night before last also.

While dressing this morning two boys and two or more men acted as supervisors. The operation of shaving was especially interesting to the supervisors. It is also much fun to watch the foreigner eat. But one gets used to living under eyes here and the people are drawn to one or repelled much by the little things that they see. If you allow *[them]* to ask the name of all your foods, and to look at and feel of all your clothes and if you politely tell them the prices of everything about you they are then ready to hear you tell them of Jesus and his love.

12:50 at Ciong Sioh Hu 6 miles from Huo Bang.

We make a short trip today. There is no chapel in either of these places,- only 5 members at Huo Bang, and only one family here. We stay with this family.

There is a custom all thro this region that we do not have in Foochow i.e. once in five days in each town of any size there is a "market day" when the farmers and any one from all about bring things of all descriptions to sell. It makes it very lively on that day. I judge the time is arranged that sellers can go from one town to another and find a market on each successive day until their wares or produce are disposed of.

Thus far one trip had been a very pleasant one for me, - every day has been full. I have had to see the schools and hospital and churches and building at Shaowu city as I could put it in a little at a time between the tours out from Shaowu itself.

You will have the reading of my diary from day to day which will give you a fair idea of the way in which my time has been spent.

When you receive this you will not send any more letters to Foochow. We have made no arrangement about the home trip yet, - except that I plan to go to Ing Hok the first week in Feb. and pack off for home as soon after returning from Ing Hok as possible.

A nice letter from Flora reached me at Shaowu a few days before I left.

With Love to all

Will.

Cio Kau

Jan 1st '03

My own Dearest Ones,-

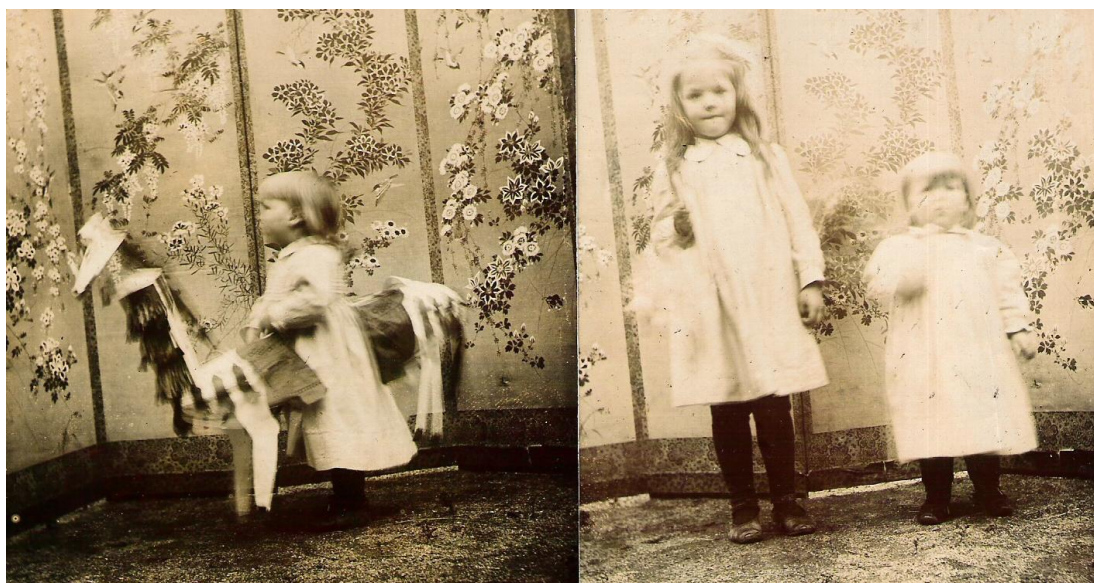
Your presents and letters up to Dec. 12 reached me here this evening at 9:30. I shall hardly have a more unique New Years present. - I am sending this back by the man tomorrow hoping he may reach Shaowu tomorrow evening for the mail leaves there Sat. a.m.

It is 10:30 and I must rise in the morning breakfast with a ch. member and walk 15 miles so- both a huge thank you - with many prayers daily for you all- with much thanksgiving to God for keeping you all well.

I am your

Loving Husband and Papa

This is indeed a Happy New Years. We had just received 5 men to the ch. and the things fr. you came.



This appears to be Dorothy on the left wearing a horse costume and Geraldine and Dorothy on the right. Probably about 1902.

[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



High class Foochow native woman – undated
[Photo in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]



This photo was probably taken around 1902. It appears to be a group of schoolchildren. I believe that Gould is the boy in the front row, seated, third from the left and Phebe may be the girl who is fifth from the left, also in the front row. This photo may have actually been taken in the U.S. in 1903 while the Beards were on furlough for a year.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



This is Ellen her four children in 1902 or 1903 wearing Chinese clothing, some of which are currently in the ownership of Mark and Jana Jackson. They are from left to right: Phebe, Geraldine (looks like a boy, but maybe her hair is pulled back), Dorothy on Ellen's lap and Gould.
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

THE MISSIONARY HERALD

JULY, 1904

THE failure and ineffectiveness of the church in her efforts to evangelize Europe or England are to be sought in her forgetfulness of her main function, which is to evangelize the world. The tone and spirit engendered by the great renunciation of the primary object of the church degenerate into an inability to do what seems to be her humblest work. The first work of the church, the indispensable preliminary to all efficiency, is to resume the march, to advance the banners, to get the host in motion, to recover the watchword. If we would have the church effective for her simplest work, she must be true to her foremost work. She must inscribe on her ensigns, and write in her heart, the old word of God, "Speak unto her that she go forward." What is called the missionary enterprise must be frankly and enthusiastically avowed to be her primary concern. And whether by church we mean the whole body of the faithful throughout the world, or the local society of Christians in any given place, the church must be acknowledged to exist in the first instance simply to pass on the message of the redemption to the peoples that have not known.

—Rev. Robert F. Horton, D.D., Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

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[Purchased from eBay by Jana L. Jackson]