

1907

- Willard takes trip to Japan March 15- May 12, 1907
- Flora teaches missionary children in Foochow. She is 38.
- Oklahoma is admitted to the Union
- Willard is 42 years old, Ellen- 39, Phebe- 12, Gould- 11, Geraldine- 9, Dorothy- 6 and Marjorie turns 1.

[This letter dated Jan. 6, 1907 was written from Foochow, China and is by Flora to the folks at home. She talks about her many social activities during the New Year's week. One was a dinner given in honor of a Chinese man who had been awarded a third degree by the Emperor and Empress themselves. She says she is seeing many firsts in the awakening of China. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Jan. 6, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

This has been a gala week. It began with New Year's day. Ellen invited guests so that we sat down nineteen in number. They were all American Board people except Mr. and Mrs. Maclachlin [*McLachlin*]. While we were at the table three people came to call so that we had a house full. Then Ellen and I went to a reception given to a young man- Dr. Sia- (I'll tell you about him later). In the evening we went out to dine at the house of one of the customs people. There were nine of us at the table and we represented six different nations- Ireland, England, French, Swede, Canadian, and U.S. The next day we went to welcome a new missionary and his family. On Friday we were invited to a dinner given in honor of Dr. Sia. He is a graduate of the Methodist college here and was also educated in U.S. He has just received the third degree from the Emperor and Empress. They conferred it in person. She shielded her face from view by a book, during the ceremony. This degree is equal to L.L.D. in U.S. It is usually the result of about forty years of unusually fortunate studying, but this time a special examination was given in English for the benefit of those who have been educated in the western knowledge. He is to have a seat on the Board of Education and an honor will be given him unprecedented in Chinese history. He will not take the lowest seat of honor but will take the fourth or fifth up. He will be working with men nearly forty years his senior. He takes his high honors very modestly and appears just as you would expect a broadly educated man to appear. He has a wife and little year old child in Shanghai. He came down only for a short visit to his mother and sister before he goes on to Peking to open a school of medicine. I had a very interesting conversation with him but cannot relate it. He belongs to a wealthy family here, and his sister is in one of the schools. I am seeing many "first" things in the awakening of China. People (foreigners, I mean) come from all parts of China to spend the summer here, for it is one of the most beautiful spots- naturally- in the country. Yesterday I was asked to two teas, so you can see my time is not hanging heavily on my hands. This last week I organized a class for "drill"- calisthenics. There will be sixteen in it. Mr. Main's family reached here yesterday, and I expect that will mean two more scholars. Then a little boy comes to me for an hour each afternoon, so my days are pretty full.- My books have not yet arrived but I hope to see them soon. They left Boston Oct. 8. This last week I received a box from the European trip friends. It had some lovely remembrances - one from each of them. I thought it was very lovely of them to think of me.

It is over a week since we have received any home letters and I am beginning to feel a paining in the region of the fifth rib, left side.

I wish you would get a plain pattern of a nine gored skirt and send me. Get one size 28 in. waist measure. I shall want to make some clothes soon and found that I had no skirt pattern.

With love to all- Flora Beard

Jan. 6, 1907

[This letter dated Jan. 16, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his brother Oliver (Oliver Gould Beard, Jr.). He thanks Oliver for sending him some hardware that he needed for the new house. He tells a little bit about his trip to Shaowu. He is pleased to report that over 200 young men met at the new City Y.M.C.A. recently. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Jan 16th 1907.

My dear Oliver:-

I got home from the Shaowu trip a week ago this evening, - found all well and happy. The hardware arrived so I got it up to the house Friday. I want to thank you again for all you have done. I am only afraid you have had a lot of bother. As soon as I get my bearings and things a little straightened out I'll send you something better than thanks.

The family is prospering. The children are doing more in a week at school than they did in a month-I might say ten- last year. Mr. and Mrs. Main of the M.E. Mission have just returned and put 2 boys into the school and Flora is tutoring a little chap at the price of tuition for one so she now has 12 scholars @ \$100 mex. a year. This will

net her over \$600 gold. Her board is about \$175 gold a year. She will probably earn more here than at home. Marjorie beats the others in health, strength, size and good looks and deportment.

I had a great trip in the N.W. part of the province, - walked 400 miles- went by boat 600 miles- visited 24 centers of Christian work. Made 34 addresses and gained 5 lbs.- Lived straight Chinese about ¼ of the time- slept out of doors some of the time,- saw ice 3/8 inch thick and snow on the mountains – no fire,- jumped into the river every morning till Dec. 6. Two good revivals in Shaowu while we were there- 30 for the first time confessed Christ, - the most successful trip I ever took, - kept well all the time. Was gone from Nov. 15th- Jan. 9th.

Sunday 212 young men met at the building we have rented and fitted up for the headquarters of the City Y.M.C.A. This evening the active members met and started a Board of Directors. All thus far goes well. The young men are taking hold with enthusiasm and are acting in a business like way.

Give our love to all

Yours

Will



Undated photo – “Missionary Homes in Shaowu, Fukien, China.”
[Photo donated to Yale by family in 2007.]

[This letter dated Jan. 18, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his sister, Elizabeth. Although he has written letters home on the same date referring to brother, James' death, he makes no mention of it in this letter. He tells her how thankful he is that she and their sister, Phebe, are back to good health. He talks briefly about his Shaowu trip and how his family and new house are doing. He suggests that she and sister, Ruth, go into the poultry business. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.

Jan 18th 1907.

My dear Elizabeth:-

Your good letter came just as I returned from the Shaowu trip. I want to tell you how much I like the tie you sent me. I received it only a short time before I started for Shaowu and did not wear it until last week. I was getting just out of a real nice tie for best and beside being a pretty tie this one came just at the right time to be very useful to me. Thank you very much for it. I am very thankful to the Father for bringing you so far on the way to

complete recovery. And how we did rejoice when we heard that Phebe was well! I was in Amoy when I heard of her illness and I did not know anything more till I got back to Foochow and found Flora here.

I have had a very pleasant and profitable tour up river- thro Song Bing, Shaowu, Tai Ning and Giong Ning Gaing. Now you know all about it!! Well we started Nov. 15th at 9 a.m. I got home Jan. 9th at 8 p.m. Mr. Hodous and I walked during the trip 400 miles and went nearly 600 miles by boat. We visited 24 different centers of work. The three of us made 97 addresses and different fellow travelers made 25 more, so in all the trip was the occasion of 122 address[es]. Mr. Uong preached to please the most staunch followers of Jonathan Edwards. He painted Hell in as bad a light as the language would express and told the people- sometimes street crowds- that they were on the road to Hell. My diary will give you a little idea of the revivals in the Shaowu Annual Meeting and in the Boy's Boarding School at Shaowu.

The hardware for the new house came day before yesterday. Mr. Brand- a business man- has been waiting for his part of it for two months and over. In fact he had bought some native hinges and fixed up his doors and windows and has moved into the house. So I have been quite busy dividing the order. The week of prayer was held this past week and I got away to attend just two of the meetings. This afternoon the first meeting of the Foochow City Y.M.C.A. was held. 225 young men were present. 133 have signed application blanks for membership. A house has been rented and fixed up for the Y.M.C.A. building.

Mr. Mott will visit China next March. He will be present at the national Y.M.C.A. Convention to be held in Shanghai in Mar. or April and possibly he will come to Foochow. I shall be very busy working up the delegates all over the province to attend this Convention. The number 26 must be decided on before Feb. 14th- I may need to visit Amoy and Swatou.

We are all well. Ellen never was so stout since we have been in China. Marjorie is a handsome baby and "developing fast"- Flora says so. Two new scholars are now in Flora's school and she is tutoring one little boy one hour a day- so this makes 12 in all.

The new house is a beauty. The roof tiles are laid on loosely. The building paper is here. I am trying the experiment of putting this building paper on under the tiles. Part of the floors are laid.

The last pages of the diary of the Shaowu trip may be delayed some in reaching you as I want some people here to read them.

I think of Phebe as again in her school and I hope you are now at home for good. Why don't you and Ruth go into the poultry business? It is healthful, pleasant, and lucrative. There is abundance of room all about you and the capital required to start, small. I bought 7 capons and brought down from the Shaowu district with me. My pig is growing fast. I want to get time to go and buy some good food for him and get him fat so as to kill him in another month. Come over and have some home made sausage with us, - and some ham.

I must close now for it is time.

Tell all the folks we sent lots of Love to each of them
Will

[This letter dated Jan. 18, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to Oliver and the rest. He writes about their brother, James', death. He talks a little about his new job working for the Y.M.C.A. and feels he has seen more of man and places that he would not have seen otherwise. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Jan. 18th 1907.

My dear Oliver and the Rest:-

Your letter telling so vividly the facts of James' illness and death came last evening. *[According to his death record, James died of "Cerebro meningitis" and "Paralysis of nerve centre".]* We were all out when the mail came. Flora and Ellen came home first. Mary's letter to Flora only referred to the matter and Ellen opened my letters and the papers and they first learned the whole truth. It came pretty hard on Flora. I was attending a Y.M.C.A. meeting and did not get in till 8 o'clock. Flora met me in the hall and I learned the news then. She ate no supper- slept little last night, ate a very light breakfast in bed this morning but was up for dinner and has been out for a walk this p.m. So she is all right now.

Just as I was reaching Shaowu and just as we were in the midst of very successful meeting there you were in scenes of sadness. I am very thankful for your clear statement of the facts in James' illness and death. It takes all the mist and haze away from events of this kind to know the particulars. It is a great relief to know that he suffered so short a time. It is also a source of comfort to know that his wife and daughter are well provided for.

I was with James much while at home and I was impressed 1st that his ideals were right. He wanted to be of use to his fellow men- we talked this thro in Broad Brook [*Broad Brook, CT- near Hartford*] the May after we reached home. 2nd I felt all the time that he was using up nervous energy faster than he was restoring it, so I know just what you mean when you write that you think of him now as at rest. We are all proud of his success. His short life has brought honor to his parents. Father and Mother ought to be the happiest and most contented people on earth. They have reared and launched ten children in lives of usefulness- every one of them honored by their fellows and holding the confidence of the best people.

I remember you telling me you should watch my letters to see if their tone indicated whether I was satisfied with the change I had made in my work. I wonder what you have discovered. The fact is I hardly know myself. I am sure tho that thus far my opportunities have been broader. I have seen much of man and places that I should not have seen in the other work. I have had things pretty much my own way. Since I came back Brockman has not been in Foochow. This is at least a proof that he is not worrying over Y.M.C.A. matters in this province. The Association is just organized here in Foochow. Our city problems in this sphere are just commencing. I do not however intend to tie myself down to this work- McLachlin will see to this altho I must be mainly responsible to it. I shall work in the larger field of the province.

Love to all Will.



JAS. D. BEARD

James D. Beard - Photo from Amherst College



James' gravestone – Riverside Cemetery, Shelton, CT

James Daniel, born Feb. 20, 1878, in Huntington, CT. He was a graduate of Amherst in 1902. He was a principal of schools in Broad Brook, Litchfield, and the Waterville School in Bridgeport, CT, the last position held at the time of his death. He married Leolyn Seaver Smith, daughter of Aaron Rowland and Fannie (Seaver) Smith, of Shelton, CT, Nov. 24, 1904. He died Dec. 7, 1906, in Bridgeport Ct., Wife born Oct. 27, 1881, in Derby, CT. She was a graduate of Smith College, 1903.

[This letter dated Jan. 19, 1907 was presumably written from Foochow, China and was by Flora to her mother. She tells of hearing of her brother, James' death and talks about her school. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Jan. 19, 1907.]

Dear Mama:-

Mary's letter was the first to suggest the sad news. She did not tell what it was and I was nearly wild until Ellen let me open Will's letters (he was away) for all the letters were addressed to him. It has, indeed, come with a shock and never again will I feel only gladness to get letters from home. It has rounded out a year filled with sadness to the brim. I cannot wish James back as much as he had in life to enrich it, but my heart is full of sadness

when I think of Leolyn alone. Little Leolyn will be a blessing to her every day, for a little baby's innocence and daily growth are a solace that can't help but soften the hardest blow. Little Marjorie has been the greatest company to me here. It has been very hard to be away from you all at this time, and I cannot help but think how much harder for Mary. She tells of every one's kindness and especially Miss Wright's so it makes things easier to think about. The articles in the papers were comforting with their tone of outside appreciation of his sterling worth, and I was glad that Herrick and Elbert could come. I am sure James would have liked it so. There certainly have been many things to help bear this first great sorrow and we ought to be very thankful for them. The memory of Leolyn's and James' married life will always be one full of pleasure to me and a proof that love really does exist in an ideal that can be realized. They have been so happy!

To-day I am alone with the children and the servants for Will and Ellen have gone to the mountain on business. They started at 7:30 A.M. and will not be back until after 6 P.M. I am going to attempt to give Marjorie her bath, but am not sure of what success I may achieve. It will be much like trying to wash a very lively fish for she loves her bath and keeps up a continual squirm during the process. I wish you could see her straight fat little body. If you have ever seen that little bas-relief of a baby (which is sold in plastic for a quarter) you have a good idea of Marjorie. She is just beginning to say "mama" and "papa" and has quite decided notions that they are a little more of a choice morsel than even the Amah- to say nothing of her auntie and the children. I now have eleven pupils in school, a little boy who comes to me an hour four days a week, and a class in "drill" twice a week to keep me busy- and it does. In about three weeks I shall send home a draft for \$100. Eighty five of it is to go to mama, then to Stanley for his graduation present and the rest (five) to papa. I will send later enough to reimburse him- when I know whether my orders reached their destination. I had hoped to pay up the whole amount mama gave me- this year- but it will be impossible. However, if all goes well I shall send another hundred home in June. There are prospects for a larger number of scholars next year, and then I hope to have a summer school on the mountain for eight or ten weeks. I shall want to do something with our children and might as well have more and earn a little- for the following summer I want to go to Japan.

I shall hope to hear from you in the next mail. It has been two weeks since any word had come from you.

With love and sympathy to you all – I am

Lovingly yours-

Flora Beard.

Jan. 19, 1907.

[This letter dated Jan. 19, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his father. It is a brief note sent with his Life Insurance payment. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Jan. 19th 1907

Dear Father:-

I am sending the check for my Life Insurance premium direct to you this year. I believe the Co. was paid by both you and me last year and they had to return my check. If you have already sent a check just keep this and all is straight. If not just enclose this and forward it to O.D. Drewry and Co. Ingalls Building Cincinnati Ohio, or the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. Newark, N.J. and all is done. The No. of my policy is 166224.

Ellen and I have just returned from Kuliang where we have spent a very pleasant day. All are well.

With love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Jan. 21, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Ding Ming Uong to Mr., Mrs. and Miss Beard. It expresses sympathy in the death of James Daniel Beard. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

My dear Mr. Mrs. and Miss Beard:

I have just heard of the bereavement you have sustained in the loss of your beloved brother. I know that, just now, words are of no avail to console you, but a humble trust in Him who orders all things for our good, will, I hope bring peace and contentment to your sorrowing spirit. I think that I will write to you [your] aged and honorable father and mother and your people at home soon on this affliction. May brother James' gentle, manly and

kind manner be left to us and with us and may our last day be like his full of happiness and peace at heart. I assure you that you have my deepest sympathy for I know brother James so well and have thought of him so often and so much.

May God lighten your burden of sorrow.

I am

Your Sincere and sympathizing friend,
Ding Ming Uong.

Foochow College,
Foochow City,
Jan. 21, 1907.

[This letter dated Jan. 30, 1907 was written from Foochow, China and was by Flora to her mother on her mother's birthday. Chinese New Year's vacation is coming up, so school will be closed. She has noticed many "queer" things in China. She describes a Chinese wedding she attended that week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Jan. 30, 1907]

Dear Mama:-

Today is your birthday. I hope it has been one of peace- for I can hardly expect it to have been full of happiness. It is now two weeks since the last letters came from home. It seems a very long time with no news from you. The last letters brought it very forcibly to mind that we cannot know what is taking place with each other at the same time. There is one comfort here- my days are crammed full of work so that they are going by very rapidly. From Feb. 8 to the 11th, I am to have a vacation- during the Chinese New Year's. All the schools are closing this week and I have had to decline all their invitations to commencement exercises. It seems rather queer to graduate classes now but one has to get acquainted with many 'queer' things. For instance- the Chinese have been getting in their year's worshipping since Xmas. Every morning and evening the temple gong rings eighteen times quickly then eighteen times slowly- three times. I suppose this is the time when they do the "three kneelings and nine knockings of the head."

On Monday I went to the first Chinese Christian wedding when the ceremony was given in English. The bride was the head teacher in the girl's school. She was very sweet and so shy and modest. Her husband is a wealthy tea merchant whose business is in Amoy and Formosa. He provided her trousseau and told her to get anything she liked, which she did with the aid of the American lady at the head of the school. Her wedding dress was a very dainty lavender satin trimmed with narrow bands of white satin and real lace. It was most becoming and in perfect good taste. The Chinese dress is worthy of imitation in more ways than one. It is simple and well adapted to work or play. The groom was dressed in foreign clothes and had no cue. Will and Ellen went to the wedding feast afterwards. The bride attended but the groom gave his feast later to his friends. At the Chinese feasts the two sexes have their tables in separate rooms.

I am enclosing a handkerchief for your birthday present. Please wash it before you use it. I send it to you as it is because I want you to notice the fine-ness and perfection of the work. It is done by a young man and his sister, both of whom are paralyzed from their hips down. One of the ladies here provides this needle work for just such helpless people. She thinks they are afflicted with tuberculosis of the bones or joints.

With love to all and many wishes for a year of peace to you.

I am

Yours lovingly-

Flora Beard.

Jan. 30, 1907.

Did I tell you that the European party sent me a box of Xmas presents? Lovely ones, too. F.B.

[This letter dated Jan. 30, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother on her 65th birthday. He has notice that in the last two years the stores have become more foreignized in the goods they carry. Marjorie has the measles. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.
Jan. 30th 1907

My dear Mother:-

Today you are sixty five years old if my reckoning is correct. I have an hour that is not full and so I'll use it chatting with you.

Yesterday at 2:30 p.m. Gould and I started on foot for the City. It rained hard and Marjorie was not well-teething we think- so Ellen did not come in the Seminary- of which I had charge during our first term in Foochow- had a reunion last evening and we were invited in. I brought Gould in to buy some shoes for him. We found a pair in a Chinese shop- foreign style- that fitted him exactly. I was much surprised at the great change that has taken place in the stores in Foochow City. They have gotten much foreignized in the last two years,- not only are they full of articles- shoes, stockings, stores, underclothing, both wool and cotton, pencils, pens, candles, ink, gloves, rubber boots, towels, blankets, etc., etc. Before we went home four years ago there were just two places in Foochow in the foreign settlement where some of these things could be bought. I also found a nice pair of rubber overshoes which I bought for Phebe.

The Seminary boys and teachers had a good feast last night, then a nice reunion. All the classes but two were represented. It was to attend this that I went into the city. It rained hard all the way. I wore my old overalls to keep my pants from getting wet. Ellen saw me start and said she hoped I would meet no missionaries. The overalls saved me from getting wet thro. Gould thought it fine fun. He went to bed at Mrs. Hinman's about 9 p.m. I followed at 10:30. This a.m. I let Gould stay in the city with me to attend the Graduation exercises. Gould and I sat on the opposite side of the church. I had decided to leave at 12 and go home. So at 12:15 as the audience rose to bow to a Chinese official we ran out and found Ellen had been of the same mind so we three walked home together.

Friday Feb. 1

Marjorie has the measles according to the doctors diagnosis- but he says a very light case. All others are well.

Last night we had a good heavy frost,- a rare thing in Foochow.

I must close with this and

All our love to you all

Will.

*[This letter dated **Jan. 30, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by ten year old Gould to his grandma Beard. It is a brief note telling her a few things that they did. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow China

Jan. 30th. 1907

Dear grandma Beard;_

I am in the city in Mr. Hadouses house. We were planning to climb the city wall, we don't live in the city but we live in the suburbs over on the south side it was rainy yesterday and threatens to rain today.

Aunt Flora is getting along nicely. We went to a Chinese fiest lastnight.

Give a kiss to all.

Myron G. Beard.

*[This letter dated **about February 1907** was written from China by Flora to the folks at home. They just had a week's vacation because of Chinese New Year and influenza closed the schools a week longer. She talks about her school and new families arriving. She talks about getting ready to move into the new house and tells about furniture for it and describes her room. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[About February 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

There are letters from mama, Ruth, Phebe and Aunt Louise here to be answered. My correspondence had piled up until one pigeon hole has refused to hold it- for I have written no letters except what the home folks have received, for over a month. My time and thoughts have been more than filled and I was glad to have a week's vacation during the Chinese New Years. An attack of influenza made the time doubled so I shall open school again

tomorrow. I have fourteen scholars now- for the new French Consul wants his little girls to come to my school. I shall have to teach them English from the very first word but it will be interesting because I have never done such a thing. I hope to be able to exchange lessons with his wife for she is very anxious to learn English. They have been in Germany for six years so they all understand and speak German. - Families are arriving every month with children of school age and things look as if I were to have all the work I can do. Nearly every week, tokens present themselves to show that people are getting interested in the "American School."-Will is away for a week at Ing Hok so Ellen, the children and I are here by ourselves. The Hubbard children went back home with their father when the doctor said I had the influenza. They will return to-morrow, I expect. It seems so good to be by ourselves.

Before this reaches you I suppose we shall be in our new house. A family will reach here the middle of April which will need this house so we will have to move out the first of April. Our new house will not be done but will be livable by then. My furniture will hardly get ready for my new room, but I shall not care especially as I can use the spare room with what I have now. I designed and gave to the furniture maker drawings for a bureau, washstand, wardrobe, screen, rocker, writing desk, chair, and five picture frames of either Canton black wood or hard wood. He is to paint the first five pieces white. The desk and chair are of a very beautifully grained light brown hardwood. My room is to be in blue and white. I have just designed my fireplace and mantle. It costs no more to have one's own ideas carried out than to take those of the contractor. I have arranged to have a double shelf over my fireplace and to have the lower one arranged with glass doors to keep the dust away from the books within. I have a round corner with three narrow windows in it each with a low deep window seat, which I shall have cushioned. A large wide door opens onto a large wide upper veranda which looks out over the plain and the mountains in the distance- a beautiful view. I forgot to tell you that I get my furniture altogether for \$45 silver or about \$21 gold. It remains to be seen as to how well it is made. I will write of that later. - Did I tell you that my cards came a few days ago? Now the six geographies, and the right amount of paints and crayons have come, and I am waiting for the arithmetics and histories. Soon I shall order my spellers and then we shall be equipped. I am still waiting for \$150 tuition in order to send home my draft. Lovingly- Flora.

[This letter dated Feb. 10, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks. He is including the letter by Ding Ming Uong dated Jan. 21, 1907. Marjorie is well now after having the measles. The people in China like Flora. Their house is coming along rapidly. He tells about his pig which he will kill and about their lack of house servants. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Feb. 10th 1907.

Dear Folks all:-

I am enclosing a letter which Mr. Ding Ming Uong sent to us when he heard of James' death. This to me was masterful in its use of the English language to convey sympathy. I am also enclosing a copy of an account of the revival in the Boy's School at Shaowu while I was there in December last. Use this as widely as you like.

Marjorie is quite herself again. I think she felt being shut up and not seeing the other children more than she did the measles. Dr. said they were only German measles. The eruption lasted only two days. She has been very interesting today. This evening she and Dorothy had a fine play with an old table napkin. She would throw it about and laugh as if she thought Dorothy and she were about of an age.

Flora's school closed Friday to begin again a week from next Tuesday. Chinese New Years day is next Wed. and even the School for the children of foreigners is effected. Flora is working hard and making a success of the school. She is also "taking" well with the people of Foochow- they like her.

Dr. Kinnear's people arrived last Wed. evening. Mr. Peet's family should reach Hong Kong next Wed. Chinese New Years will likely delay them a little in getting up to Foochow.

Things are very quiet in Foochow just now. All engaged in Educational work have gone off for a change and rest. Miss Newton is at Sharp Peak.

The new residence goes up very rapidly- better rapidly approaches completion. Floors are all down. All first coat of plaster is on where there is lath. The brick walls will so quickly absorb the moisture that these will be plastered last. The second coat of white plaster is on four rooms already. Windows and doors and blinds are all ready to hang. No rain yet. The rains are holding off wonderfully. Last night it rained and this morning it was foggy and damp. But about noon a fresh breeze sprang up from the west and the sun has been shining all the p.m. with a fine drying wind.

My pig is a fine one. I wish father could see it. Since I got back from Shaowu I have been looking at him everyday. I bought seven dollars worth of rice for him the other day, and he is showing good keeping. I'm going to kill him myself if all goes well. The cook and the washerman left us last Monday. The coolie went home for a vacation which we had previously promised him, on Wed. This left us with a boy of 16 yrs. and a rough green man who feeds the pig, etc. Ellen has been chief cook and washman for the week.

Flora is spending the Sunday with Mrs. McLachlin. I wonder if James dress coat and vest are disposed of. I could take them if no one else want them. I mention this just to help you out. Ruth's last letter arrived a few days ago.

This is the month of our birthday. I was 42 last Tues. Marjorie will be a year old next Sun 17, father 65 next Mon 18, Flora, 36 the 25th.- James' came the 20th did it not?

All are well and send love to all

Will.

Are the "sureon" glasses frame of James' gone?

Do not mention either this or the coat and vest unless perfectly natural. W.

[This letter dated Feb. 11, 1907 was written from China by Flora to her mother. It is China's New Year and it is Flora's vacation. She talks about the new house and furniture. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Feb. 11, 1907

Dear Mama:-

It is the last of the old year (a'la China's), and this may be the only letter from us for a month as everyone- I mean the Chinese- stops work and mails are few and far between. The last mail brought Ruth's letter. I hope you are quite over the rheumatism by this time. I shall look longingly for letters to tell how you are. The last mail brought my calling cards- one hundred of them. There was no bill but I shall look for a letter telling me of all the bills as they have come in to you. I think I shall have one more order of books- spellers but will write you when I order them- This is my vacation week. I am spending it in resting, mending, cutting out clothes, planning the furniture for my new room in the new house. Will is having many expenses so I offered to get the bureau, wash stand, and wardrobe. He has asked me also to design the mantle- as I can have just what I wish at no extra expense. It is very interesting to see the workers work. The boards are sanded (right in the house or yard), planed, and made into cornices, or anything needed. The tools are made on the spot and every nail is hand wrought. Some of the floors are nailed down with bamboo nails. My furniture will not cost over \$40 silver and then I shall have nicer than I did at home. I presume I shall have to pay for an addition on Will's summer house as it means that or pay \$200 to rent a cottage by myself- which I do not care to do. This was a surprise to me- as have also been several things about the way the people here do. However I am just going to do as the Roman's do and hope to come out of the big end of the horn. All my patrons have expressed their appreciation of my work so I am hoping it may bring me more work.

Lovingly- Flora

[This typewritten letter dated Feb. 17, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by ten year old Gould to his Aunt Mary. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Feb. 17, 1907]

Fooc ChowChina Dear aunt Mary:-

I am having a great time writing letters to our uncles and aunts.

I am having lots of fun writing on the typriter. Tell grandpa notto sell Gennie because I will be there to ride her. It is lots of fun writing on papa,s typriter.

The stors out here do not have any valintintes so we have to make our own valentines. We can,t make enough to supply all our relations and friends so we have to take turns in giving them to them.

Wehhave a dog and cat, the dogs name is Prince and the cats name isPursiana.

On the 17th there is a hocky game to come off,do you play hocky?

How are you getting along in your teaching?

Marjorie has gotten to the stage where she wants every thing she sees. We folks out here would like to see baby Leolyn very much, I saposue you would like to see Marjorie.

Did you ever hear the riddle of the three cows? If there was a red cow a black cow and a white cow going up a hill which cow could turn around and say there is no cow behind me. Most people wouldsay the red cow, but did you every hear a cow talk?

Geraldine tells meto hurry up so that she can fuswith it. So I will endup.

Yours loveingly

Myron Gould Beard.

Feb. 17, 1907.

*[This letter dated **Mar. 7, 1907** was written from China by Flora to the folks at home. She is sending money with the letter to settle her accounts back home. In addition to teaching her students she is going to teach beginning English at the Y.M.C.A. Baby Marjorie had a small operation to remove a small growth from her face. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Mar. 7, 1907.]

Dear folks at home:-

Enclosed you will find the check for \$100. \$85 for mama, \$10 for Stanley, and \$5 toward my account with papa. In June I shall send a check large enough to clear myself with him. I fear this will be all I can send to mama this year as it is decided that I will build onto Will's mountain house which will mean nearly \$200 silver, before it is done. That with over \$50 (silver) for furnishing my room here will use up my revenue pretty closely.

If I did not build, it meant giving \$50 (S) for rent somewhere else. That amount for three years would amount to what I am spending and then no special good would have resulted. Now, Will will be in an extra room, when I am done with it- and as the children get bigger they will find it not as pleasant in their present quarters. Every one out here owns his own bed, and I have already sent to Chicago for mine.

Well, I have one more scholar, and two more enquiring for April and May. I also have booked myself for 5 hours a week teaching English to the young men in the Y.M.C.A. classes. I am to have one class in Beginning Eng. and one in advanced. I could have gotten a dollar an hour for it but said I would give the 5 hours for \$4. I am doing this on purely selfish motives so it cannot be called missionary work. I wished to try my ability to teach English to the Chinese by means of phonics, I wanted the extra cash, and I wanted to know the Chinese first hand. I have already read nearly a dozen books about them and their country but there is nothing that can equal a personal knowledge, even if it be limited only to a few.

The last mail brought letters from Annie Gilbert, Abby, Leolyn, and home. Tell Helen her letter was a most welcome one and someday it will get answered. My pigeon hole is full of letters waiting for a spare moment. I shall get some in the summer time, if not before.

Yesterday baby Marjorie had a small operation and has come out of it as though nothing had been done. About two months after she was born a spot in the very front edge of her hair began to grow until it had become as large as the top of a red raspberry, which it very closely resembled. The doctor said there would be serious danger of injury by a bump and it had better be removed especially as it was increasing in size. They gave the little girl chloroform and she appeared exactly as well and happy as ever. We all feel glad that it is so well over.

With love to you all-

Flora.

Mar. 7, 1907.

*[This letter dated **April 7, 1907** was written on lightweight Japanese columned paper from Tokio, Japan by Willard to his mother. He is at a Conference where there are men from 25 different nations. The languages have to be interpreted. Willard feels that God is transforming the leading men of Japan to work with the Western nations to know God and give Him allegiance. He has gone to many garden parties and receptions after each day of the conference. His next stop is the Centenary Conference in Shanghai. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Tokio, Japan. Apr. 7, 1907

My dear Mother:-

The Conference is nearly over- the session this evening closes it. It has been to me unique in that it brought together the ends of the earth. It is the first International gathering of any kind held in Japan. It is worthy of mention that this should have been a gathering of Christian students, in the interest of world wide Christianity. Men are here from 25 different nations. One realizes that while little is said directly about peace among the nations yet the forces that go to make for universal peace are met here as in no other place. The diplomat - representatives of government may meet at the Hague,- and must meet, but without the formation of Christian Brotherhood of the Nations, compacts and laws could not avail. Here there is just one barrier to the closest union of heart and purpose. Whatever one may say, so much depends on the medium for converging thought that much of the spiritual good that comes from these Conference must come thru the expression of thought.

Everything has to be translated. If an English speaking man addresses the audience his thought is put also into the Japanese. If a Japanese addresses the audience he is translated into English. Twice a German spoke and was interpreted into Japanese only. So much translation is wearisome after days. Once a German was interpreted with Eng. then that into Japanese - three men stood side by side. Nevertheless one realizes by this that God is not confined in His works to any one sphere, and when one sees as we have seen during the past five days, the Japanese crowding the hall as student delegates, the Japanese acting as ushers,- with no foreign assistance, the Japanese as business Comm.- all the business of the Conference has been reported by a Japanese who gave the motives in the two languages each time, and the Vice Pres. of the Conf. is a Japanese and many of the addresses have been given by Japanese- when one sees these things day after day, and then goes out among the people where modes of travel are the same as with us- where street car conductors and motormen are even more courteous than with us, and all the signs of an advanced civilization are apparent at nearly every turn, he realizes that God has transformed many leading men in Japan and is using them side by side with men from Western nations to help Him make the men of the world know Him and give Him Allegiance.

Yesterday afternoon Count and Countess Okuma invited the delegates to their beautiful gardens. Count Okuma addressed the whole body of delegates expressing his sympathy and cooperation in the purpose of the Conference to help young men. He was careful to not commit himself as a believer in Jesus Christ, but he had good words for Christianity. The very fact that he asked the Conference to be his guests was a proof of his sympathy. He is the founder of a large Japanese College- 5000 students in which Mr. Abe- a classmate in Hartford of mine- teaches. He was in the Japanese Parliament but has resigned from office. Thru the influence of a Christian member of Parliament who is a good friend of Mr. Abe. I was allowed to go thru the buildings with Mr. Abe on Friday morning. Each day of the Conference there has been some kind of a reception or garden party to occupy the two hours between the closing of the p.m. session and dinner. One day one of the Imperial gardens was opened to the delegates and the Am. Ambassador received the delegates one afternoon.

Friday noon Mr. Woodward and Mr. Gleeman asked all the International Secretaries to lunch. These men I met in Washington D.C. Mr. Woodward is senior partner in the largest Dry Goods = department store in Washington and Mr. Gleeman is a former Sec'y of the Washington D.C. Assn. and a successful business man in Washington. They are the first of a committee of laymen from the churches in the U.S. to visit mission fields at their own expense and report to the home churches. This Comm. consists of 100 men I understand. Each man looks up the work of his own denomination, but they go in groups as they like- at their own expense. They are unfettered and under orders to no one. This movement is of great moment to the cause of missions.

Then last evening Mr. Severance a business man from Cleveland, Ohio, asked all Presbyterian and Secretary of the International Comm. to a dinner,- some one hundred were there. These were very delightful occasions,- especially as I am staying in a Japanese Hotel and living on Japanese food.

A letter from the Foochow people written Mar. 25 said they were well. I plan now to go back to Shanghai- stay there for the Centenary Conference and get home about the middle of May. I would not attend the Conf. if I were not on a Committee that meets before the Conference for business.

This is already too long so Good bye with lots of love to all- and I am praying that the Father may keep you all in peace and joy. We have so many, many things to make us joyfull.

Will.

[This letter dated April 7, 1907 was written from Tokio, Japan by Willard to his wife, Ellen. He is at a Conference in Japan and tells Ellen of the social activities and his difficulty in getting back to his hotel one evening. He has a Centenary Conference to go to next and wants Ellen to join him there. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

I send these 2 letters thinking you may be interested in them. W.

Young Men's Christian Association

Tokio, Japan Apr. 7th 1907.

Dear Ellen-

The only deficiency in this days happiness is that you could not be here to enjoy it with me. It began yesterday- first in the meetings which have all been good and which have also been increasing in interest. But the association with friends during the intervals between sessions has been delightful. I wrote you of the lunch given by Messrs. Woodward and Gleeman on Friday noon. Last evening Mr. Severance of Cleveland had nearly 100 at dinner- Presbyterians and International Secretaries and wives. I feel like an odd one for Mrs. Brockman, Lyon, Lewis, Rutledge and a lot of other Mrs.'s are here. Mrs. Lewis was good to sit beside me last evening and Mrs. Lyon across the table and a Mrs. Pearson on the other side. It was one of the pleasantest occasions I have had in a long time. I came near not going- for I was tired and lonely, but as is usually the case it was just what I needed. I took the wrong car when I started home and went- somewhere. I could not say a word, and could find no one who talks Eng. I have carefully carried in Chinese characters the names of the Y.M.C.A. and of my Hotel. But when I changed coat and vest I left all these at home. I bethought myself as I stood there- I have no idea where- that I had put on a slip of paper the place where I left the car to go to the Hotel where the dinner was served. This fortunately was still in my pocket, and I took a car back- which proved to be the one I should have taken in the first place.

This morning Prof. Bosworth gave a most helpful talk on Prayer to the Heavenly Father. This afternoon Brockman gave a very optimistic address on the responsibility of the students of the orient to evangelize the world. The Conference closes this evening with a farewell address by Mott.

I shall not go as I intended tomorrow. I take the "Kaga Maru" which starts tomorrow from Yokohama, but I take the train to Kobe and board the steamer there on the 12th- probably the 11th and start the 12th. This gets into Shanghai the 16th I think. As I wrote you yesterday I am afraid I cannot get to Foochow till after the Centenary Conf.- unless there is imperative need.- I wish you could come up for the Centenary Cong. You would enjoy it ten times as much as I. Bring Marjorie and Amah. If you will consider it and will come wire me Committee, Shanghai, "Haeen", Beard. "Coming" is not necessary. I'll understand. If you will come I'll go in my old clothes another year, and do anything you'll consent to or suggest to save the money. I wonder how you are getting on for money. The draft must have come for some L60. But it will do you no good,- unless you are drawing heavily on the Bank and it will allay any apprehension on their part to know that you have the draft.

Supper is ready. So Good Bye,

Your loving,
Will

You have all been very real to near to me today.

W.

[This letter dated Apr. 10, 1907 was written from Kyoto, Japan by Willard to his wife, Ellen. He tells her his travels from Tokio to Kobe and then Kyoto. He tells her about his shopping and purchases. He updates the letter five days later and one month after having left home for the conferences. He writes from a steamer and says the trip has been a smooth one. He wonders if Ellen will meet him in Shanghai as he wishes and also about how things are back home in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Kyoto, Japan Apr. 10th 1907.

My dearest Ellen:-

Yesterday at noon the three Foochow Chinese delegates were at the Chinese Y.M.C.A. of Tokio as guests with all the other delegates from China at a Chinese feast. After living on Japanese food for 12 days-except as I was out to a lunch or dinner given by some of the Am. business men or by Japanese Counts or Barons, - this Chinese feast was good. It was not too rich. The speeches after the feast also were good and will help to interest the people from China- both Chinese and missionaries in this work among the Chinese students in Tokio.

At 3:30 p.m. we four- mentioned above- took an express train for Kobe. It reached Kyoto this a.m. at 5:20. I sat up all night between two of the boys, but I got a little sleep. It was pretty tough tho. In the station all was quiet and I lay down on a settee and had nearly an hour of sound refreshing sleep. Then a grand good breakfast -delicious fish and potatoes, 2 boiled eggs, - three daintily browned hot cakes - a cup of coffee and bread and butter, all for 52 sen. Then I went to a Japanese barber shop- got a shave- I gave him my own razor and brush and soap- then I got a

good wash and felt like a new clean man. A rickshaw brought me here in about 45 minutes, - at the home of Dr. Otis the Girl's School, and Doshisha. There are 750 students in the Doshisha- about 170 girls. The rest Boys in the Academic, Collegiate and Theological Department. About 30 in The Theol. Dept. - There are five large brick buildings- Library, Administration, Chapel, Recreation, and Chapel. The dormitories are wooden buildings like our old house at Ponasang, and the girls sch. and Kind. are of wood also. I am planning to go and see some stores this p.m. and take the 3:58 train for Kobe. I hope there to be able to change my steamer ticket for a R.R. ticket to Moji and go on by rail stopping at Okayama to see the orphanage and the Am. B. work then go on to Yamaguchi where Cass Reed whom Mac and I met at Pacific Grove. He is teaching English there. I shall thus hope to see at close quarters a Govt. School in its working. The stop here at the Doshisha will be valuable to me on the Common Educational Work for the Shanghai Conference.

Tell Flora I =Just leaving Kobe at 10 a.m. Friday Apr. 12-

Mrs. Carey called us to lunch as I had written the three first words of the above paragraph. Tell Flora I bought in Tokio one piece 20 yds of white cotton crape- but I paid 5 yen for it. I am not afraid that I was cheated- only that this may be better in quality than she wanted. It was in the largest one price dry goods store in Japan, and this was the cheapest they had in the store. I could have gotten cheaper- but I did not know where to go for it and time was valuable to me. Every minute was filled while in Tokio. All the purchases I made were while on my way to and from the sessions of the Conference- except as I went out to this dry goods store. Every thing there was of first quality I should judge- and the prices were according to the quality. The cheapest umbrella in the store was 5 yen 50 sen- nice silk.

I left Dr. Carey's in Kyoto at noon Wed. and went to see the cloisonné were made. The cheapest piece in the store was \$18. I did not buy. Then I went to see the Satsuma made, and I could bring away a little something for you there. Then I took the 3:25 p.m. train for Kobe and just caught the last launch for the steamer at 6:15. Found Mr. and Mrs. Lewis on board. Now the Brockmans, Lyons, Dr. Parker, Misses Matea, Wainwright, and Miss Shaw are here,- it is a beautiful morning. How I wish you were here!!! I cannot mail this till I reach Shanghai so I'll not end it yet- but just put in some love right here, and write more later.

Will

Monday morning Apr. 15th

It has been just one month since I left home. Ten days from today the Centenary Conference opens at Shanghai. I wonder if I shall see you there- or what I shall hear from you when I reach Shanghai tomorrow. - It has been three weeks since you wrote the letter that I received in Tokio. And I am wondering if you are all over in the new house- if the land is leveled- if the gate house is built- if the tennis courts are finished etc. How the servants are behaving- how the Y.M.C.A. is coming on.

The trip thus far has been smooth. I have done full justice to the cook's reputation three times a day without a failure, and have not yet been sick. Yesterday we held a service in Chinese in the morning and one in English in the afternoon. This steamer- a Japanese- provides hymn and prayer books. The company is nearly made up of missionaries- from the Tokio Conference and a Mrs. Cousland and daughter from Swatow returning. A lawyer and a traveler complete the European list- outside of Missionary and Y.M.C.A. people- then there are one or two Chinese passengers. The sea is perfectly smooth - we started at 11 a.m. yesterday- should reach Shanghai tomorrow about noon. - It is a long time to be away from home- especially on top of the long Shaowu trip. May God be a Father to each of you and keep your body mortal and spirit. You are all very near me-

Tuesday evening: - At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, in my own room on the 3rd floor:-

What a feast of letters I have had this afternoon and evening!!! I mailed a letter this p.m. that should start tomorrow. This will likely go in the Haeen Thurs. a.m. Many people are already here from many points- I saw Mr. Warusheen, Miss Ledy and Miss Ramsay and I hear Dr. Whitney- Mr. Martin- White, Dr. Smyth etc. etc. are here.

I shall try to send down something by the boys Lik Daik [*he may be referring to Mr. Cio Lik Daik*] etc. tomorrow night.
Lovingly Will

[This letter dated April 14, 1907 was written from China by Flora to the folks at home. She talks about how she has been spending her days. Willard is still away at the conferences and they are still waiting to move in to the new house. She talks about a little child romance between Dorothy and Orren Main. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[April 14, 1907]

Dear Folks at Home:-

It was a good July scorcher here yesterday but today is a "what-is-so-rare-as-a-day-in-June day? A mild thunderstorm last evening did some of the transforming. - I am shocked to see that so long a time has elapsed since I wrote my last letter to you. I have been away over Sunday for the past two weeks and so my letter writing has had to wait. Easter Sunday I spent with Miss Newton. Every once in a while she and Miss Hall send for me to spend Sunday with them. It is such a rest and change and they are such lovely people to be with that I am delighted to go every time I am invited. Last Sunday I spent with Mr. and Mrs. Newell [*Mary R.*] in the city. They had been housekeeping only two weeks and are as happy as the can be. Miss Harwell occupied a part of the same house. She took me out on Sunday afternoon to see some of their mission churches and schools. We visited four and saw most of them in their services. When we departed the whole assembly came to the street to see us depart- an act of Chinese politeness. Mr. and Mrs. Newell had invited a young man and his wife who have very lately come to the city, to attend church with them, so that I had an opportunity to meet another foreign educated Chinese. His wife could not understand his dialect nor he hers nor the Mandarin, so their courtship (for they really did woo and win) was done in English. She is a Pekinese- and a fine looking young woman. Her husband is teaching in the largest boys school in the city and she teaches Mandarin in the native girl's Normal School. Both these schools are under municipal control. The latter was organized a year ago. Both gave me a cordial invitation to visit their institutions of learning and I intend to do so some day.

To-day has been a great one for Marjery [*Marjorie*]. She went to church for the first time and was as good as gold until some one stared at her when she wept. She is quite a little embarrassed when there are many about her. This afternoon she has been walking along- taking six or seven steps. She was as highly delighted as the children and even the dog joined in the general congratulations and allowed little Marjorie to pat him.

Between the Indian Jubilee and the Centenary at Shanghai we are getting quite a deluge of visitors from home. The Methodists have had at least two dozen visitors and the other denominations a few. Drs. Hitchcock and Creegan were here last week for a few days. I was so happy because Dr. Creegan remembered me. I had quite a time trying to call on him for every arrangement seemed to conflict. Finally I go up at 6 P.M. and went down to the boat as he was leaving. I rode down the river a short distance and visited with him, then walked back.

I am enclosing a picture of my little scholars. Four of them have left. I am not entirely sorry for as the hot weather comes on one feels less and less like work. This whole winter has been a most strenuous one in many ways. I shall be glad when we get through with building and when we can get settled in our new house. We expected to have moved before this but several circumstances have prevented and now we shall probably move over just before we go to the mountain and then finish getting settled when we come down in the fall. - Will is still away. He is now in Shanghai and we are wondering whether he will stay for the Conference or not. If it were not for the new house I am sure he would stay but as it nears completion there are several things that demand his care. There are just the fireplace mantles and the floors to be done now- and the glass to be put into the windows.

I am glad that the sick ones are all getting better. It seems as though all our friends had had a particularly anxious time this winter. I am glad for your sakes that warm weather is coming when you can get out again without colds. I am sending when the people go to Shanghai a piece of blue linen to Elizabeth for a dress. There will be twenty yards of it. It is narrow but will much more than make one whole dress. If she does not wish to keep the rest she may give it to someone - anyone she likes.

I meant to have told you of the little romance between Dorothy and Orren Main. (His picture can never tell you of his sweetness and unusualness). The other evening he went to the Worthley-Sites wedding and enjoyed it just as he does every pretty thing. The next day he said to Dorothy "When I get to be a man I am going to marry you, and have a wedding"- to which Dorothy said she would marry him. Then he said he was going to be an artist and Dorothy said "And I will help you." Orren's mama told this to me. They are both very unconscious in their affection but we older ones can't help but smile.

With love to all and to Ruth many wishes for more returns of her birthday anniversary- I am

Yours lovingly-
Flora Beard.

Apr. 14, 1907.



Flora and her students about 1907. Gould may be the boy in the front row, second from right. Geraldine may be the girl on the wall behind the first boy. Phebe may be the fourth person on the wall from the left. Dorothy may be the girl with the blurred face next to Gould and Flora.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Another photo of Flora's class taken 1907. On the back is written:
 "Standing:- Maurice Kinnear, Harold Gardner, Theodore Hubbard, Phebe, Vernon Peet, Gould.
 Sitting (in middle) Geraldine, Artyn Main, Christine Hubbard
 Sitting (if front) Eden Caldwell, Orrin Main, Dorothy, Gerald Kinnear, Harry Caldwell."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel, and also, John and Nancy Butte.]

Obituary for Mary Jane Corbin Kinney from the Putnam, CT newspaper, **May 3, 1907**:

Mrs. Myron Kinney [*Ellen's mother, Mary Jane Corbin Kinney*]

The many friends of Mrs. Myron Kinney were saddened to hear of her death Friday morning, April 26th. The funeral services were held at her home in Putnam at one o'clock on Monday the 29th, and were conducted by her pastor, Rev. F.D. Sargent, who spoke appreciatively of her quiet but deep and true Christian life.

The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. The burial took place at Union on Tuesday, where a service was held in the church at 12:00 conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Roger, and remarks were made by a nephew, Rev. Harvey M. Lawson, who spoke feelingly of the beautiful character and noble life-work of his aunt, and read the following poem:

Our mother dear has passed away, She from our home has gone; Her gentle spirit took its flight, And left us sad and lone.

She was so loving, kind and good, Tho we shall miss her sure; Home will be never quite the same, When she is there no more.

Our sister in the foreign land, Will hear and saddened be; But she will thank the Lord above, For mother ?? as she.

We owe so much to mother dear, More than we could repay; She cared for all our helpless years, She taught us how to pray.

But God is good; He spared her long, Our home was full of joy, Now she is in a better home, Her peace without alloy.

The time had come for her to go, Her life-work had been done; Her busy cares and toils were o'er, The race had well been run.

She's now with those she loved long since, O happy meeting place, And best of all, she now will see, Her Saviour face to face.

O Mother help us each to live, According to her prayer; And then we know the time will come, When we shall meet her there.

Mrs. Mary Jane Kinney was born in the western part of Woodstock, Ct., March 14, 1831, and was the second of the six children of Deacon Penuel and Mary (Chamberlain) Corbin. Of her brothers and sisters, one, Mrs. Sarah Lawson, died in Union, Conn., Dec. 31, 1885. The rest all survive her, being Mr. Anson Corbin, of Union, Mr. Frank Corbin of West Woodstock, Mr. Milo Corbin of Putnam, and Mrs. Viola Alderman of Worcester.

Her early life was one of those which was the glory of New England, where the children were taught industry, frugality, and, above all, the fear of God, which led them all to become sincere Christians. It was more difficult for the children at that time to get an education than now, but the one of whom we speak, diligently improved her opportunities, and besides a common school education, had the advantage of two or three terms in the academies of Woodstock and Dudley. She afterwards taught successfully several terms.

She was married to Myron Kinney, of Union, Conn., Jan. 3, 1864, and went to live in the south part of Union, at what was widely known as "Kinney's Mills." Here her five children were born- the first child dying while an infant of only a few days.

These years in Union were full of busy cares and hard work, and yet, whenever it was possible, she used to prepare all her little children on Sunday and, with her husband, take them regularly the two miles to church. Here is an example for present-day parents, who consider the great exertion necessary a sufficient excuse for remaining at home.

In 1878, partly for business reasons and partly to secure better education for their children, Mr. and Mrs. Kinney moved to Putnam, where they have since resided, and where they won the deep esteem of many friends.

Mrs. Kinney was very quiet and unobtrusive in her manner, and hence people meeting her casually might not at once appreciate her true worth. But those who knew her well testify that they never heard her speak one unkind or harsh word about any person, nor was any trace of jealousy or ill-will discernable. It was in her home she was best known and appreciated. She was one of those kind of mothers about whom it may be pre-eminently said; "Her children shall rise up and call her blessed."

They owe their character and lives of usefulness most of all to the influence of that quiet, gentle, sincerely Christian mother.

*[This letter dated **May 16, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He reached home after being gone about two months and all were well and Marjorie could walk. He talks a little about the conferences and mentions a special service in Marty's Memorial Hall in which the names of 223 killed foreign missionaries were read. 1,716 Chinese have been killed for their faith. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
May 16th 1907.

My dear Mother:-

I reached home last Sat. today is Wed. All at home were well. Marjorie could walk, - that is she could go anywhere if some one would hold her hand and she would go all alone for a few steps. She has now developed the whooping cough, - as yet she has it very lightly and it does not disturb her much. The conditions are very different from those under which the other children had it. As I am writing at my desk at 9 p.m. the ther. is at 85 degrees.

It was just two months yesterday since I left home for Shanghai. - I have attended four Conferences or Conventions. The World's Student Christian Federation at Tokio was of course worldwide in its conception and all its working. The last one at Shanghai was also world wide in reality and people were there from all the countries of the globe, altho it was a China Conference. The work of this Conference was in the hands of the older missionaries to a large degree. There were many of the younger people there to do the voting, but most of the talking was done by older men. Union was the theme from first to last. Of course there had to be one or two on the other side to help union along and once or twice a discordant note was sounded but the missionaries of China are much nearer each other now than they were a year ago. Another note of the Conference was that the Chinese church should have greater power in all matters of policy relating to the church in China. I shall send you papers reporting this Conf. in a few days, altho I do not know that you will care to wade thro all the matter. In the morning of the last Sunday during the service in which the Marty's Memorial Hall was consecrated- the names of the foreign missionaries who have been killed in China from the first were read 223. The number of Chinese killed for their faith is at present 1716- there are other names to be added. This was a very impressive part of the service. On Wed. morning the Conf. came together to hear the minutes of Tues. p.m.'s session. After these had been read and passed on the chairman called for a motion to adjourn- no one would make the motion. This to me was also an impressive moment. The delegates could not bear to separate and they remained and prayed for two hours. - The new house is about ready to be occupied. Some things are already in it. With [love] to all from all Will

*[This letter dated **May 23, 1907** was written from China by Flora. The beginning of the letter is missing. It appears that Flora is sending a request for items to be purchased in the U.S. and sent to her. She mentions that Marjorie has whooping cough and Willard has malaria. They hope to be moved into the new house in June. She will spend her summer on the mountain. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[May 23, 1907]

[Beginning of letter missing]

Cotton cloth – Full piece

(First of the Loom or like quality.)

Long cloth – 2 pieces

(About \$1.25 per piece – quality)

Stockings – 1 doz. No. 10.

Get as thin and fine as possible @ \$.25 per pair.

Thread.

1 box No. 60 white

1 box Mixed No. 70, 80, 90, 100 white.

Pillowslips.

1 pair 20" X 36 in. hemstitched

Unionsuits Size 6.

3 long sleeve + long legged summer weight. Price about \$1.50 per suit.

3 lisle thread – low necked short legged not tight at the knees – if possible. Please get either "Merode" or "Forest Mills. –Price about \$1.50 per suit. Get thinnest summer weight.

Merode – at D.M. Read's
Forest Mills at D.M. Read's and Howard and Barbers.

Gloves. – silk – size 7.

1 pair white from 50 to 75 cents

1 pair tan quality

Corsets – Size 28. – 2 (each \$1 or \$1 ¼.)

R + G. – tapering waist- Style 673

At Howard + Barber's.

Shoe strings – Black

1 doz. long ones

1 doz. tie laces

Bird's eye linen- 1 price \$1.25 quality

Ecrú ruching 4 yds like sample.

It is only deep cream that I want.

Soap – Fels- naphtha 6 bars.

Tooth powder – Dr. Lyon's – 3 tin bottles.

Tooth brushes – 3- perforated back.

Toilet paper – 6 packages in squares.

Talcum powder – violet – 2 tin boxes.

10 cent postal albums – 6.

At 10 cents store in New Haven- like the one I gave Lucy – if possible.

Picture screw eyes 3 doz. or a box if they come so. About this size. [*shows with an illustration*]

Game – 2 boxes- word making + word taking – I think called “Anagrams”

Book. Child Garden of Verse by R.L. Stevenson and illustrated by Elizabeth Shippen Green, I think. Phebe knows the edition. It is about \$2.00. I want this for the children's Xmas. Will you please send my own small edition which I left on the shelves in the parlor?

Clay + Raffia which I asked Phebe to purchase.

Will you please send also-

1. The Pipe Organ book of music of mine which has Beethoven's Funeral March in it.
2. I would like a new book like the piano collection which is nearly worn out. I bought it at Hine's in Derby for \$.50. If you can't get a new one please send the old one.
3. In the box where I stored some note books you will find three on Literature marked- Literature No. I, II, III. Will you please send them. (They have pictures of Burns, etc. pasted in them.
4. If no one has used that fur which I left marked “Grace” please send that. It is one long narrow strip and Ellen says she would be glad of it. Grace said she did not care for it. If it is in use never mind.
5. If no one is using, or going to use, my fur hat send it along. I would like a new flower for it in colores similar to the old one on it.
6. If Ruth feels like knitting me a pair of those long bed socks like some one had a home- without heels, I should be most grateful for them next winter. They can be sent later by mail. I shall be glad to pay for the wool if you will charge it to my account.

In about three weeks I will send a check for \$75, which I hope may nearly, if not quite cover my dues to the home folks.

Will will send to Oliver in a week or so for another order of hardware so that he expects to have that order and this box sent as soon as Oliver can get the things. I have explained to Will what Oliver said about buying in a way to save time. He hopes to have these reach here next October sometime.

I am enclosing Ruth's collar which I forgot when I wrote last time.

We are all pretty well- if we except Marjorie's whooping cough and Will's malaria. We are moving and expect to be sleeping in our new house next week. We shall be all moved by the first of June. We can move slowly and put things in their places at once.

School closes Jun. 11th and then I shall plan for my summer on the mountain.

Will write again soon. With love to all – Flora.

May 23, 1907.

Will you please send me the bill for my calling cards?

F.B.

*[This letter dated **May 26, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by Willard and Ellen to mother and all the others. They are moving into their new home. He mentions a Methodist missionary who died of malignant measles and symptoms of small pox. He has pickled some hams for 10 weeks and then smoked them. He talks about what must be going on back in the U.S. at the farm and wonders what spring in California is like for sister, Mary. Ellen adds an apology for asking about James' glasses frames. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, May 26th, 1907

Dear Mother and all the others:-

This has been a beautiful day in all respects. The past week has been rainy, hot and steamy. The nights have been – not good for sleeping or resting. But it cleared up yesterday and today has been just like a beautiful day the first of June at home. We heard the first bird that woke this morning and its song was one of Thanksgiving I am sure.

We have begun to move into the new home. All the things in the store room are over, - one of my book cases- our potatoes, cool, wood etc. Tomorrow I must go to the mountain to look after several things, and on Tuesday. Well Thurs. I shall hope to get well moved over. Then rent will stop with May 31st.

Today I have spoken for 45 min. in giving the report of the Conference at Tokio to the girls in the Meth. Girls School, and led the Y.M.C.A. Bible Class. I am teaching two hours a day in the evening classes. Ellen has a class of Japanese women an hour five afternoons a week.

Another of the Meth. Missionaries passed away very suddenly this last week. He came back from the Shanghai Conference last Monday,- not very well. He died of malignant measles and symptoms of small pox on Wed. at 5 p.m.

Marjorie has the whooping cough. Ellen thinks she has passed the worst. She is getting teeth- one of the bicuspid has just come thru and the eyetooth next it is almost ready to come. These experiences coupled with just beginning to walk and climb stairs are reducing her fat.

I am making out a small order for hardware and some other things which I plan to send to Oliver in a week or 10 days. Flora will send for something also. I just put in this notice so if you see Oliver you may mention it and if you are any of you wanting to send you will have the chance. I shall wonder if Oliver would rather not be bothered.

Since I came home I have taken my hams out of their 10 weeks pickle and smoked them, and we have eaten and given away most of one. They are good.

Flora went to the mountain a week ago yesterday and was much pleased. It was a beautiful day- when the mountain would appear at its best. I am glad her first impression was favorable, and I hope we shall not have typhoons this summer to greatly disappoint her. The school is doing well- as far as I hear all are perfectly satisfied. The English very seldom send to an American School- lest their children catch the American brogue.

Today has given me the home fever again. There is that about the atmosphere of the Huntington fields in spring- when apple trees are in bloom that always attracts me. How I should like to be at home on the farm these days! I suppose the corn is all in. The grass is luxuriant. The cows come home at night stuffed. The young cattle are loosing the last of the old coat. The trees are casting thick shade. The young chicks are numerous in the back yard. The barns are hungry for hay, which is growing fast in the meadows.

This is Mary's Birthday and I'll send this to her and let her forward it to Shelton. I wonder what spring is like in Cala.

It has been a long time since we have had a good home mail so we may expect one in a few days now.

I must close so I can get up at 4 o'clock tomorrow morning to start early for Kuliang.

All love to all

Will.

[The following was written by Ellen.]

I'll use this space to write just a word about James' glasses frames. I'm sorry I mentioned having them sent, in view of their intended use. I would not have said anything about it had I not supposed all the friends who use glasses were supplied and that these would probably be laid away in disuse. My reason for wishing to buy them was that I brought with me when we came back to China an extra pair of lenses in case of breakage of those I am using and it occurred to me it would be convenient to have these mounted on frames ready for immediate use. I shall

of course pay Leolyn what they are worth. But I do not wish you to send them (if you have not already) if anyone else can use them or wishes to keep them

Yours with love,- Ellen.

*[This letter dated before **June 24, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. Willard is still in Shanghai. She describes the new house as quite palatial and they will move into the house before going to the mountain. The Imperial Inspector of Mints is visiting Foochow for a couple of weeks. She heard that he was going to start a college for women in Peking based after Wellesley College in the U.S. She got to see the new Viceroy, and in a month the Imperial Physician is to come. Flora mentions plans to go to North China and Japan in a year. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Before June 24, 1907]

The pattern arrived safely and all the books have come. F.B.

Dear folks at home:-

A letter from Ruth came in the last mail along with one from little Annie. It seemed so good to get a letter with all good news- for your letters have had so many sad things in them- yet I want to know all that goes on. Will is still in Shanghai. He has been at home less than two months since I came. It has been a very hard, busy winter here for with his being away it has left all the building to Ellen's care- and it has not been little. We have lived in a half settled state, which has been trying. We shall get moved into the new house before we go to the mountain, however. How I wish you could see it! It is really quite palatial, but its no more comfortable than this climate demands. Fortunately for me the weather has been mild- although I never suffered more from cold. Tell Ruth if she feels like knitting a pair of long bed socks that I shall be more than glad to buy the yarn. Zero weather at home is comfortable to this rainy season weather in January. Usually by this time the extreme heat has manifested itself but the delaying of the rains until now has spared me that so far. After this week, I shall have just my school and the Y.M.C.A. classes. This last week, I viewed from behind the scenes, a very interesting time at the Y.M.C.A. The Imperial Inspector of Mints is spending a few weeks in Foochow on business and also visiting friends - for he is a native of this Province. Mr. Mac invited him to speak at the Y.M.C.A.- which he accepted so a large reception was arranged. It was most interesting to see him arrive with all his retinue- and to meet all the other officials who had also come. He gave his speech- which of course I did not hear- for women are tabooed- as in America. However, one thing I heard that he said was that when the Commission was in America last year one member was so impressed with the college of Wellesley that he vowed he would start a college for the women of Peking fashioned on its ideas- which he has literally carried out. Did I tell you that I was invited a few weeks ago to visit one of the largest native schools for boys in the city? There are over a thousand boys in attendance. Also I shall go to see the first Normal School for girls- both are founded and supported by the government. Yesterday our new Viceroy arrived from Peking. I managed to see the last of the procession as it disappeared from sight over the bridge. About a month from now the Imperial Physician is coming for a visit in the haunts of his childhood for he is a native of Ing Hok here in our province. Mr. Mac says he will have them all over at the Y.M.C.A. so I may see some more great men of China. Some time ago the Board of Trade, consisting of six men, came in a body to hear one of the Consuls give a lecture. This all means a boom for the Y.M.C.A. for it establishes it on the social basis that it is intended for and also aids in the revenue which is so especially needed in the beginning of such an association.

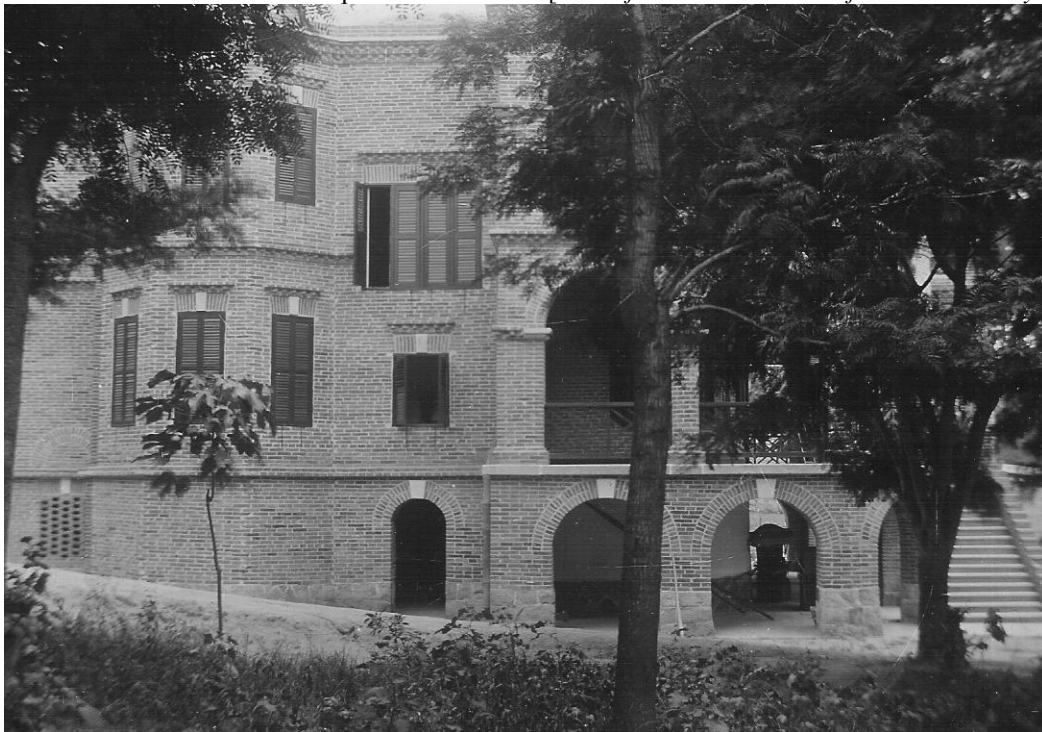
I am sending Ruth's letter on to Will so that he may write to you from Shanghai. In about two weeks-when Will gets home I will finish my list of wants for a box from home. It cannot get started in June but I think there may be a shipment before Sept. as two young ladies are coming in the fall and I think it will be impossible to get their things off in June. One of the young ladies is a Miss Ward, daughter of Mr. Langdon S. Ward. She is to be at Ponasang where Miss Newton is. She is now teaching in Englewood under Mr. Sherman. Mrs. Sherman wrote in high terms of appreciation of her work and character. I have read it to Miss Hall (who is also at Ponasang) and she is very happy in anticipation of so lovely a co-worker. By the way have I told you that Miss Hall is planning to travel with me a year from now- going through North China and Japan. Two hundred fifty dollars gold will cover our entire expenses (each) and we expect to be gone from the middle of June to the middle of September. *[Miss Hall may be the Alice Hall, who dies in 1909. Phebe Kinney Beard will be buried near her.]*

I am enclosing a little remembrance for Ruth's birthday anniversary. Will you please let Aunt Louise see it and tell her that I can get embroidery like that on a very white silk which is said to be washable. The waist all ready to wear will be \$6 silver or about \$3 gold. I think it would be better to not have it made up. I intend to write to her just as soon as I have time. She has been in my mind for weeks but the days are so full that letters have to go. Just

now I am interviewing pater et mates [*Latin for father and mothers*]- families about school next year. I hope to have all that settled by Jun. 1st. I have not yet sent E's dress. Lovingly, Flora



Willard and Ellen's "palatial" house. The house may have then gone to the YMCA after Willard quit working for them. The date "1904" written on the photo is incorrect. [Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



More views of the same house. Note the sedan chair below the house.
[Photos from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



*[This letter dated **June 24, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. They have moved into the new house. It is hot but they have a nice breeze. Mosquitoes bother her when she sleeps out on the piazza. Willard told her that she has escaped most ills brought on by the climate. She plans to have a kindergarten on the mountain but has not firmed up plans for the next year. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[June 24, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

Since I wrote last there has been so much doing that I have written to no one. Did I tell you of my little exhibition of the children in calisthenics? I had about thirty people in to see it and they seemed to enjoy the exercises very much. The following week we moved over to our new house where we are camping until we go to the mountain some time this week. Things are not finished but the house is infinitely more comfortable than the old one. We have a fine breeze here from the south which tempers the extreme heat. A little over a week ago we had our closing exercises of the school. We counted over seventy five guests for the occasion and the children did themselves credit so that every one had a good time. Our new house is large enough so that every one had plenty of room. Since school closed I have been settling, darning and packing for the mountain. For several days the heat was so great that I just sat and darned. The wind tanned and burned me as the sun would on the river at home. Since then we have been having a fine cool spell so that I am getting caught up in sleep. My long chair on the piazza was a great relief those hot nights, and would have been ideal if the mosquitoes would only stay away. I have to tuck my net in very carefully all around my bed- and then I nearly always find two mosquitoes inside.

I am getting ready for my kindergarten on the mountain. It is to open the Monday after the 4th and will run eight weeks. That will give me the month of September for vacation. That with what I am getting now will give me my usual amount of summer's rest. Will says I have escaped far better than most people from ills resulting from the climate. I have had practically no trouble. I realize that my only safety is in keeping well. I have been very busy and that does much towards keeping well. There really is nothing else here to do but work. Society is so squall that I know if I depended upon it, the time would drag.

My plans for another year are not fully developed but it is assured me that there is enough to do. I have sixteen pupils booked for my school- whose range of studies will extend from Grade 2- through the 1st year high school. If I wish I can have a class at the Y.M.C.A. for two hours a week. I really hope I can do it for I am quite interested in the young men and they have seemed to respond so cordially to my teaching. We have gone only a little more than half way through the grammar and I would like to finish it.

Now has come an opportunity to teach drawing in the Normal School in the city. Only women attend therefore it must be a woman teacher. I am thinking seriously of taking the work provided I can fit in the time question. My work would have to be done through an interpreter. Foochow native schools have gone daft on western education. There are to be several kindergartens opened in the fall and everywhere English is being taught. They are going to the mission schools and colleges for teachers and they give enormous salaries. One man gets \$180 a month for working only half of each day in teaching English. I am thinking of charging \$50 a month just for two half days each week. However, I know nothing yet about how it will come out- and will tell you if there should be anything to tell. - I am enclosing a check of \$75 to papa to pay for my bills. Please keep the remainder on my account for I am ordering several more books and some material from home. I will acquaint you with each item as I order. Have you sent the check for the bill at Wadsworth, Howland and Co.? If you haven't please deduct ten cents. They have played me a dirty trick, by sending an unstamped dun [*bill or invoice*] to me. I told them in my order to send the bill to you but it seems they paid no attention to my directions and now I have received two duns. I think I shall let them alone here after. I have received from Phebe two packages containing the sandals, 3 pairs of stockings, 3 pairs of shields, and 1 pair of gloves. When you purchase the things to come out in my box you need not get the white gloves I ordered- just the tan ones. I am enclosing a tan glove - the mate to which I lost in Japan. If you can match it I can use the glove for my right glove always wears out first. If you can't match it don't return it. - A few days ago I sent home a few pieces of embroidery to mama, in a Shanghai paper. I have not yet gotten Phebe's embroidery done, but think I have found my man to do it. I have the cloth and sometime hope to get it done. Foochow is not an embroidery center. Drawn-work is done here very nicely, but embroidery is done nearer Shanghai. Next summer I can do more than now, for if all goes well, I shall be for sometime in the embroidery belt.

Did Mrs. Burbrook send a bill for \$2.76 to you? She sent (at my request) some underwear which with the postage amounted to that. I am not sure that she did not have some charges to pay so, if you will enquire, I will thank you.

We are all well, but a little weary with the heat.

With love to all-

Flora Beard

Jun. 24, 1907.

I have enclosed the check in another letter.

F.B.

*[This letter dated **June 26, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. They are packed and ready to go to Kuliang. Her brother graduated and she wonders if sister Mary made it home from California for his graduation. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[June 26, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

This has been a perfect June day and we are still in our new house although we are nearly packed for Kuliang. As long as the weather stays like this we are just as comfortable here, where we have more room.

I suppose, before I write this that Stanley has taken his degree and is home for the summer. I wonder if Mary got home in time to see him graduate?

I am sending to Shanghai- to be mailed to Elizabeth- the blue linen of which I wrote some time ago. It cost \$5 silver which equals a little more than \$2.50 gold so there should be no duty on it.

If you people knew how I read the Sentinel- even to the weather record- when it comes, I am sure it would be an oftener visitor.

Did I write that I am sending some embroidery to mama in a Shanghai paper? I am also enclosing some for Phebe in another envelope.

Congratulations to all the August birthday people.

Lovingly-

Flora Beard.

Jun. 26, 1907.

P.S. I am to-day mailing orders to

The MacMillan Co.
Maynard Mevill + Co.
American Book Co.,
Grim + Co. +
Mrs. T.M. Ward, Newark New Jersey (Music)

F.B.

If you have not packed our boxes will you please include in their contents if you can find in the attic-
An Allen and Greenough's Latin Grammar

A Caesar if in good condition.

If Stanley wishes to spare his Caesar "Pony" I should appreciate it.

If you wish to get rid of the raffia and reed in the attic put the entire lot into box. Everything gets used out here. I am writing on a desk made from the boards of the boxes from the American shipments.

Will Phebe see if she can get two packages of needles like the one enclosed. It is broken and I have only one like it for basketry. F.B.

*[This brief letter dated sometime **after June 26, 1907** was written from China by Flora to the folks. She congratulates brother Stanley on his graduation. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[After June 26, 1907]

Dear folks:-

Elizabeth's letter has arrived telling a little of Stanley's graduation. Congratulations to Stanley! Please do write and tell us all about it- even to your honors, Stanley- or else how shall we know. Too much modesty is not the kindest news when it has stretched away out here.

I also received a card saying a parcel is on the way from Liverpool for me. I suppose it must be the kindergarten material Phebe is sending me. It will probably reach here by the first of September- but will make some good Xmas gifts to these little benighted country missionary children.

With love-

Flora Beard.

*[This letter dated **June 30, 1907** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He talks about the cool summer weather, the opium situation, and Chinese patriotism. Original letter is in the archives of Yale Divinity School.]*

Foochow, China
June 30th 1907

Dear folks at Home:-

June 30th and we are still in Foochow. Ellen and the children are beating the record this year. But the weather has been very unusual. Arch-deacon Wolfe of the Church Missionary Society, the oldest missionary in Foochow, says he never knew such a cool June in Foochow. The second and third weeks were rather warm but the past week we have slept under blankets nearly every night and I have worn black clothes most of the time. Flora went up to Kuliang yesterday afternoon. She will stay with Mrs. Smith until we get up. We had planned to go Tuesday morning, but it will likely be Wed. afternoon. Marjorie was well covered with prickly heat ten days ago but the cool week has entirely freed her from it. Our new home is in a cool place and we enjoy it much.

Since I wrote last each day has been much like all the others. The mornings I have spent in writing and in getting settled and "fussing" about the house. The after noons I have taught in the Y.M.C.A. classes from 3-4 and from 6:30-7:30. I have tried to get a little rest too, by cutting off all evening work and going to bed early. I came home from Shanghai feeling pretty "seedy" as the English say.

I have an order for goods of various kinds that I am going to mail to Oliver in the same mail as this- if possible. It is most as hard work to get off an order as to go shopping at home.

During the past three weeks I have attended three large Anti Opium mass meetings. At two there were public addresses and I was asked to speak at both places. The opium joints in Foochow were all closed three weeks ago today and they have not been reopened. Many of them are now tea houses, - these correspond to our soda fountains at home. But the reform has not got beyond Foochow in this part of the province. A week ago today the Anti Opium League held a mass meeting for the students in the Government Schools in Foochow City for the purpose of enlisting the help of these students in the outlying townships when they go to their homes for the summer vacation. It was more like a business meeting, and business was done. Yesterday another big mass meeting to get individuals to break off the habit was held. Men of official position and others of high business or literary standing made brief addresses. About twelve men spoke within the space of two hours. And every man hit the nail on the head. There is no doubt that public sentiment is against the traffic. Opium is still sold in some 500 places in the city and suburbs. But the public opium shop is no more and men must buy it and smoke it in secret.

About one month ago a young man from Foochow who has been studying in Japan sat on the deck of a steamer in Japanese waters. He was talking with a Korean. If any one hates the Japanese, the Koreans do. This Korean told the student from Foochow how illy Korea was faring at the hands of Japan and he said also that China was coming more and more under the influence of Japan and that Fukien Province was Japan's special sphere of influence. The Foochow student's patriotism was greatly aroused and he did the proper thing- jumped into the sea. Today an immense mass meeting was held in his memory- over 1000 they said attended. One man in his enthusiasm cut off his queue [*braid of hair*] and hung it on the door post of the temple where the meeting was held. Well China needs not enthusiasts now so much as level and honest heads.

But as I read the papers I tremble for my own land- but in a different way. Here the people do not know. There they know- But when a crime is unearthed and made public its poison is largely gone. That so much "graft" and other public wrong is uncovered is a good sign and indicates a healthy condition.

I think I must make one more trip into the Amoy field before I get to Kuliang for a stay. All are well and all send lots of love. Marjorie is developing fast - walks alone for exercise.

Your loving son and brother Will

*[This letter dated **July 10, 1907** was written from Chiang Chin, Amoy, China by Willard to his brother, Stanley. When Willard got back from the conferences he had to take over all the work of the City Association in Foochow so Mr. McLachlin could work on learning the Chinese language. He tells of their July 4th celebrations on the mountain. Willard then left for Amoy to see the newly organized YMCA there. He wishes Stanley the best in choosing his next path in life. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Chiang Chin, Amoy
July, 10th 1907.

My dear Stanley:-

I reckon if I send this to you now it will find you at the old home- whatever you may decide to do for next year. I am having comparatively an easy trip this time. As soon as I got back to Foochow from the Shanghai Conference- about the middle of May I had to take over all the work of the City Association in Foochow so that McLachlin could devote himself entirely to the language. This he ought to have done two years ago, but he neglected his opportunities then and is bringing hard work on me now. I ought to have made this trip in May with the ther. in the 80's instead of in July with the ther. in the 90's. But this sounds like complaining- which it is not intended to be. Ellen and the children went to the mountain July 3rd- Flora went the Sat. preceding. I was there for July 4th and we had a great time. After the games from 4 to 5:30 the first 25 went to Mrs. Newell's to eat baked beans, bread and butter etc. At 6 these went on to Mrs. Hodous to take tea and cake while another relay started in at Mrs. Newells. At 6:30 the first batch went on to Mrs. McLachlin's for ice cream and the third and last 25 began again at Mrs. Newells. The first company finished at Mrs. McLachlins they went to Mrs. Mains and remained there till all 3 companies came to listen to the phonograph and afterward to watch the fireworks. All was finished about 10 p.m. The four older children took in all- Phebe won a race. Gould won a race, and I won a race in the games, and Dorothy took the prize with a little boy of her age in singing a piece. It was quite an American 4th of July, 75 of us together. Then Friday morning I came back to Foochow, and worked like a beaver to get off several letters- among them one to Oliver containing an order for a lot of different things. I intended to register it, and send it to the P.O. with that request but on my way to take the launch Sat. I stopped at the P.O. and they had not received it. We sailed Sun. a.m. at 6 a.m. reached Amoy at 7 a.m. Mon. I stayed there till 6:30 a.m. Tues, and took a river launch some 15 miles and a row boat another 15 miles to this place to see the city Y.M.C.A. that I helped organize here last

Oct. They have rented premises and raised over \$300, which they have on hand. I plan to start for Amoy tomorrow about daylight and take the steamer for Foochow Sat. arriving Sun. with 3 Amoy people who will go to Kuliang for the summer. Then in August I am asked to go to Suatau [Swatow] - 50 miles below Amoy on the Coast. This does not agree with my inclination- this bumming over land and sea in the hot weather but if it helps men I am glad to do it. Really we are in the world first of all to be useful to each other and if this is always uppermost in our minds, we are doing the best things for ourselves and get the most out of life. I notice that when people begin to plan their lives with a view their own comfort or their own desires without reference to the good of others they get dissatisfied and are almost universally unhappy.

How I should enjoy being at home these days and helping you get the hay in! When I get over being useful in this work I hope there will be somewhere in old Conn. and in old Huntington [now known as Shelton] a bit of land for me to live on. I shall be interested to know what you decide to do next fall. I wish it were in my power to help you with foresighted wisdom to choose the course in which your influence will count for the most in making the world better but I can only ask God to direct you, and keep you in such close touch with Himself that you will choose rightly. I think of you all at home- Phebe, Elizabeth, Ruth, Stanley and Mary. Give my best love to them all- and - and [unreadable] them Ellen. The children and Flora send it also. Yours Will.

[This letter dated July 21, 1907 was written from China by Flora to the folks at home. She wonders if Mary will go back to California for another year and discusses some items she ordered with sister, Phebe. They may be taking in some visitors for awhile on the mountain and will need extra servants. Miss Newton had an accident and broke some bones. She mentions the folks back home having fun riding around in an automobile. Flora has six students in her kindergarten on the mountain. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[July 21, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

May I answer all your letters in one? My correspondence has heaped up to mountain height for I have written almost no letters, outside those home, for six months.

Mary's description of the Easter mountain climb made me think of Switzerland. I know just how she felt all the way and how good the water tasted- and how the view was appreciated after the long climb. That horse back trip must have been delightful. It sounded like Ramona. I am glad it came in time to celebrate your birthday. A letter from Miss Wright says she is not going back to Santa Barbara. Has she gotten weary of the West or is her friend so much better that she is going to attempt living east again? I am curious to know. I am rather glad you are going back for another year but hope the East will want you later so you may be nearer home.

Well, Phebe, you are a capital shopper. Everything has come and in perfect shape. The sandals are on my feet every day and are every one's admiration. On these stone roads they are just the thing and give my feet just the ventilation they need in this hot weather. The girdles are more to my wishes than any I have been able to find for several years. If you have not already bought those I ordered from Howard and Barber, do not get them. Never mind if they are purchased for they will not be wasted. There is a queer custom here of sending around a "chit" announcing any superfluous articles and a buyer usually appears. There are several women here who are as large and larger than I am so if I do not want them others may. However don't buy them just for this. I hope before this papa has received my check for \$75. I think it is best to keep my account squared with each of you at present. I am keeping my eyes open for all the good things here, but have not yet found the embroiderer that can do Phebe's work as she would like it. Foochow's hand work is rather inferior- or rather that part of it that has been adapted to foreigner's use. I am sorry to hear about Phebe's knee. I have heard of that trouble many times but could never quite see why it should be. I hope it has fulfilled the promise to be well soon. Didn't May Palmer surprise you all in taking her second trip so soon? Has she gone to study or to travel? How the family has been doing up Framingham! I rejoice how good it is to have home come to one.

Well, if there are only four people to be in Mrs. Trombly party Will and Ellen have decided to take them in. Our house is large and with some extra servants it can be done without too much trouble. We shall probably let them pay enough board to make them feel comfortable. We have one large spare room and the children's play room will be turned into a bed room. It is one of the largest and nicest rooms in the house. There is nearly enough furniture already so I know the rest will be found somewhere. This is entirely Will's proposition. The one hotel here costs \$5 a day and then is not very fine. We can give them more comfort for much less money. I think Will has written or is about to write to Dr. Mills. There are some Shanghai people here on the mountain who know them- Dr. Newell is a woman who looks so much like Edith Gilbert that I have lost my heart to her already. She is a little older and possibly a little larger but has Edith's bearing. She has the same beautiful hair only it is prematurely gray.

It is a crown to her fact. She is in one of the Shanghai hospitals. - No, Phebe, there is no street or number. Just Foochow, China's all that is needed on my letters. Every one knows every one here. There are so few foreigners. The number of families is growing in the business line. Tea is being more and more handled by native firms and this year the exodus of business people has amounted to more than thirty in number. - Mama, it was quite a coincidence that your letter wishing to be remembered to Miss Newton should arrive so soon after her accident. Did I tell you about it? She broke her arm- between the elbow and shoulder- broke her collar bone, cracked her shoulder blade and dislocated her shoulder. It was a terrible accident but fortunately escaped the worst evil of not puncturing the skin at any place. The escape was only an eighth of an inch but that probably saved her life. Infection is always sure to follow if the skin is broken. The children of the foreigners have the worst looking legs here in the summer. They go barefooted and get mosquito bites which they scratch raw. Unless turpentine is applied directly and freely the results are unpleasant to the eyes. The little babies get skin diseases and look so unsightly at times. Little Marjorie had a bad face when the last picture was taken- the family group. It got well and there is no sign of it now. Well, we have been having quite as remarkable weather as you. It has been very cool here. We had no hot weather until the middle of June and then it was not unbearable. Yes, Mr. Newell was married a little over a year ago to a very lovely little woman who came out on the steamer with him. She went to Peking and had an interesting experience there, but was glad, I guess, to exchange it for Mr. Newell. - I hope in this that Ruth has received her collar safely. I forgot to put it in the letter and mailed it later. I was glad that Miss Brewster and Helen really did make that long-planned-for call. What a gay time you are having whirling over the hills in an automobile. Is it as fine as driving? - I shall be glad to hear that mama's foot is well. I hope she was wise enough to have a doctor see it. There are at present three sprained ankles here but they are done up in surgeon's plaster so their owner's can walk as usual. The other day we took a walk to Moon Temple. From the plains below Moon Temple looks inaccessible for it is built on the side of a mountain under a projecting rock of enormous size. The mountain side is precipitous but the path to it is very comfortable although extremely steep. We started from the top of our own mountain descended over 500 feet and crossed a mountain brook to climb another peak. We went down again a few hundred feet and then up again- where we saw a most wonderful view of the river, plain, city and mountains. I counted seven tiers of mountains. Then we climbed down to the temple where we had our lunch baskets opened. The priests at the temple were glad to give us hot water so we had tea and coffee to drink. There is one advantage in going off on a trip here. We have to take cold water along with us. It is never safe to drink when away unless the water is boiled. Every bit of our water is boiled and most of it filtered. I had a drink of sparkling spring water at Mr. Gardner's mountain house the other day and it did taste so good.

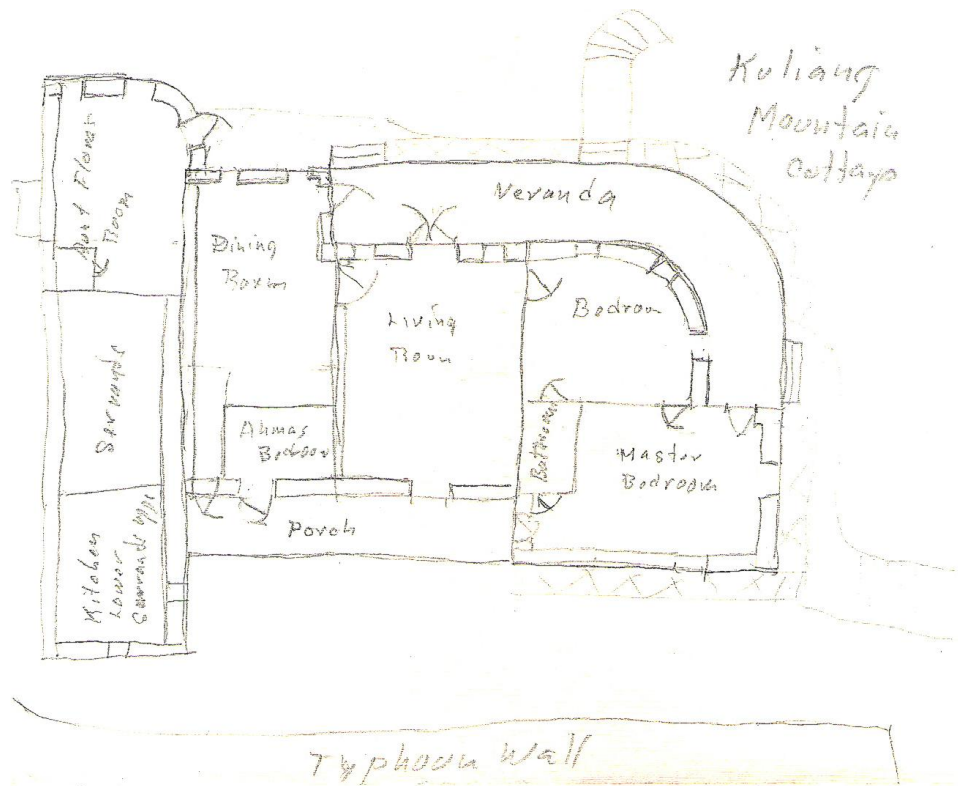
I started the kindergarten last week with six scholars. One of them is less than three years old. His amah comes with him and besides he is a very nice little fellow. They are a lovely little class. I am fortunate to have a mother who was a kindergarten [*teacher?*], to whom I can go for pointers. I know the tunes to the songs so with her help on the words I am getting along fairly. However, I can see more clearly that I ought to have had a two year's training to do it well.

With love to all-

Flora Beard

July 21, 1907

Let me know when E's linen gets there if you have any trouble about it.



Sketch of the Kuliang Mountain Cottage showing Flora's room (top left in sketch).
[From the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **Aug. 6, 1907** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by E.J.T. Stauler to Willard. Mr. Stauler heard one of Willard's sermons and has written him a letter to criticize it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

T.C.D. House
Kuliang
Aug 6th 1907

Dear Mr. Beard,

I have not had the pleasure of making your acquaintance as yet and I was thinking of paying you a call, but owing to the uncertainty of finding anyone at home this Tournament Week, I decided to express in a note a matter on which I would have sought a conversation.

You will be sorry to hear that I was considerably pained by the tenor of your address on last Lord's Day afternoon. I am sure you had no intention to speak otherwise than we are warranted by Holy Scripture and I hope it may be through a mistaken use of terms but it seemed to me that you ignored altogether the fact of "the grace of God" when speaking of God's "calling" and "choosing" man. The assumption which you expressed in the words "God's Faith in man" (which words were repeated over and over and ran through the whole discourse) seems to me to be unwarranted by any passage of Revelation. The sentence, for example in which you said "Jesus Christ came to save the world- yes, Jesus Christ came to show man an example- Yes but Jesus Christ came because He had faith in man" seems to me to need explanation.

Did you mention anything of man's degradation and sin and hopeless estate in separation from God, I might have interpreted the words "God's faith in man" to mean "God's faith in what He could do with man."

Had you once spoken of God's gift of grace whereby alone man can be brought into any state of acceptance or God's gift [unreadable word] without which man is dead to God. I should have accepted the unusual expression "God's Faith in man" as expressive scriptural truth in a new -fashioned dress.

But you neither mentioned grace as far as I know and you never altered the expression above quoted to mean "God's faith in the possibility of His work through man. Apart from some such explanations or modifications which need not have in any way lengthened your address. I consider your use of this phrase very misleading.

Are we led to believe from any passage of the Bible that "God has faith in man- "Man's heart is deceitful above all things," we are told "Put not your trust in the son of man in whom is to help" and scores of other passages might be quoted.

When you came to speak of concrete instances of God's calling of individuals what was God's expressed reason for calling Moses- Have we not the answer in the words "Who made man's mouth?" Because God was going to make Moses His channel- "a chosen vessel"- and instrument [*unreadable word*] a thoroughly capable agent.

When He called Jacob? Was it because Jacob was a fit character, or because He had faith in Jacob. As a leader of thought expressed it the other day "It is perfectly evident from the story of Jacob and Esau that the Divine choice of men is entirely independent of their merits. It is because the record of Genesis holds up the mirror to nature and reveals the glory of grace that the story of Jacob has, and will continue to have a perennial interest for us all". (Dr. Griffith Thomas of Oxford in the "Record" June 14) In the "calling" and "choosing" of the Children of Israel, it was not because there were more in number than other nations not for any pre-eminent suitability in themselves for they were a stiff-necked people but their choice was due to the love of God and because of His covenant.

I do not question the truth that God who made man can use man but I do call in question the use of the words "God's faith in man" without a clear and unambiguous explanation in accordance with scripture truth.

St. Paul says "By the grace of God I am what I am:- "By grace are ye saved" (including the "calling" and "choosing" and that not of yourselves

Chosen not for good in me
Wakened up from wrath to flee
Every Virtue we possess
And every victory won
And every thought of holiness
Are this alone.

Your address from beginning to end seemed to me to be rather an exaltation of poor sinful human nature rather than an exaltation of Divine Majesty. Mercy Grace, Faithfulness and Love.

It needs but a cursory reading of any of the Epistles to see how very prominently there is brought before us, the simpleness, unworthiness and incapacity of man and the Grace and Mercy of God and that our redemption and sanctification are largely for the purpose of magnifying His Majesty and Glory and Power. To take one of many expressions we have in Eph. III.10 Our purpose of the calling and choosing of the church" that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

We cannot in this age of [*unreadable word*] Doctrine be too careful in our maintenance of the scriptural perspective of man's relationship to its Almighty Maker and Redeemer.

We come as missionaries to China not because we have faith in the Chinese but because we have faith in God who raiseth the dead.

It was his belief in the power of the most precious Blood and in the power of Calvary's story brought home by the power of the Holy Spirit that brought John G. Paton to the New Hebrides, not belief in the degraded specimens of God's fallen creatures who inhabited those islands. We all surely believe there is something in us that answers to God's call and choosing there is a responsive chord in our nature- in the nature of the most degraded, else we should not have come to China but we believe, not in the Chinese but in the quickening grace of God- not that "God's faith in man" brings the soul of man to God but God's gift of the grace of His Holy Spirit (whose work you never mentioned) can work this otherwise impossible work "God's faith in man" is in my judgment quite another thing to God's gift of Eternal life.

It is a minor point, but I can receive no consolation comfort not encouragement from the history of King Saul or of Judas Iscariot- They are to be a solemn warning and a proof of the degradation of human nature.

I believe in this writing I am fulfilling the word which says If thy brother sin against thee, tell him his fault between him and thee alone and I have no doubt that you will take this letter though perhaps strongly worded as the letter of a brother Missionary whose last thought is to give offence to any brother.

Though asked by one who knew of my feelings on Sunday what I disliked in your address, I refrained from giving an answer until I had spoken to you.

Believe me

Yours ever faithfully
E. J. T. Stauler

[This letter dated Aug. 11, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He tells her about an interpreter who has to be dismissed. They are on the mountain now, but committee meetings keep him busy. They have ten tennis courts and a bathing pool on the mountain. There is to be a concert on the mountain but he must miss it to go to Swatau (or Swatow). Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Aug 11th 1907.

My dear Mother:-

The last two mails brought no news from home either for Flora or for us. I suppose that the Commencements and the home comings, strawberries and haying are responsible. We always notice less letters about this time from home.

I had been on the mountain eleven days when the man who examines Consulates of the U.S. in China came to Foochow. The missionaries had asked for the removal of the interpreter at the Consulate in Foochow. He is a Chinese and besides recently having taken to himself as second wife a bad woman, he has for some time been accused of using his office for personal ends and of being hostile to the interests of the missions. Eight of us went down to Foochow Wed. p.m. to see the examiner- Mr. Cheshire. We found that the interpreter had also been making money out of passports given to Chinese to go to the Philippines, and the day after we were there, an answer from Washington demanded the immediate dismissal of the interpreter.

Flora's little kindergarten goes on nicely, and the older children (Phebe Gould Geraldine) (Dorothy is in the kindergarten) have short lessons each morning. I have been on the mountain so short a time and so few days at a time that I have had little time for real play. Committee meetings consume an immense amount of time. The tennis club is in full working order with ten fine courts, and the tournaments are half done. I am in two sets. One with a lady- we were beaten the first play so are out of it. But in men's doubles I have been successful twice and must play at least once more. I am treasurer of this and as this is the first year it has meant some work. Then 20 of us own a bathing pool wh. I bought last Nov. It proves a great pleasure to Gould and some of the boys. The girls also go in and get a swim in it occasionally. It has been built several years but was owned by two community men who left it largely to themselves. I bought it last autumn and now a club is formed and 20 different people - many of them heads of families use it with their families.

A Concert is to be given next Sat. This is the best thing that occurs on Kuliang during the season. The music- both part and chorus is of a high order. A week from today begins the Convention with two meetings a day. We are to have two speakers from England- Sloan and Webster. But I expect to miss the Concert and the Convention. There is to be a Student Summer Conference in Swatau- 100 miles South of Amoy- Aug. 20, 1 and 2, and a telegram from there yesterday said "come" so I must start next Thurs. and Fri. and be gone ten days or more. The weather for two days has shown signs of typhoons. This evening it is quite gusty.

Last Sunday at the Mission service I preached on God's faith in man and man's faith in his fellow man. Tues. afternoon I received a long letter from a young man, a graduate of Dublin University, Ireland strongly taking me to task for heresy. My trial is as yet announced and I guess the young man is nearly alone in his opinions. He was troubled because I did not sufficiently emphasize God's Grace and man's total depravity.

All the family are well. Marjorie is in a very interesting stage of her existence. She goes where she likes and does what she likes- except when she is hindered. You of course remember how hard this is for the little ones. And what with her brother and three sisters, parents, aunt and amah the little Miss Independence has her plans thwarted frequently. She does not rapidly develop in talking - but she is coming on. Flora speaks of her "developing rapidly" every few days.

Give our love to all
Your loving son
Will.



I believe this is the Kuliang bathing pool that Willard refers to in the previous letter.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Aug. 18, 1907 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. She talks about her kindergarten class. She mentions a lady at the concert the night before who sang a beautiful song. All of her family except her and her brother were massacred at Kuching. Willard is in Swatow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Aug. 18, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

A month now with not a word from you. I've already had two nightmares over it, but Will says it's the usual summer dearth of letter- so I suppose I am getting my just deserts for not having written in former years. I've been pretty busy between my kindergarten, study, and society. Won't Phebe laugh when she hears about it. I am not only teaching kindergarten but training(?)(!) kindergartners(!!!) I have seven little folks ranging from 2 yrs. 9 mo. to 6 yrs. of age and they are lots of fun. There are two or three mothers who want to know how to use the material and to learn the songs so they come nearly every day to look on. The weather has been perfect so far so that they have been able to come very regularly. I have had their pictures taken and will send you one soon if they come out alright. The children sang at the picnic the other day and quite captivated their audience. They are so tiny that they were just as cunning and dear as they could be. I have had such a time getting the words for the songs. I know the music to most all of them - having taught over or under a kindergarten for the last eight years- but the words I know not. The book songs translated into Chinese was more an adaptation than a literal translation so that it has not been the help I had hoped for. However, one of the mothers was a kindergarten teacher and she has helped me out quite a good deal. I have two more weeks and then the whole of September for vacation. I still have half of my Latin to go over but I am sure that will take care of itself for the grammar has come back to me very well so far. I have done little studying for the diversions have been so many. After the first of September many people will be gone and we will be glad of something to do. This last week has been a tournament in tennis. There are some fine players here for it seems to be the game best fitted to the needs of the people. Last night was the annual concert. I had intended to join the chorus but I was glad last night that I had not. I sat on pins and needles under the drawls and the more than mediocre solos by the women- until one sweet little Scotch missionary who is a member of the royal Stewart of England say "My Ain Countree." All her family except herself and brother (who was home at the time) were massacred at Kuching. She hid under a bed and the Chinese did not find her. Well, she sang that song in such a sweet simple way that you just felt her love for it. The words are beautiful and her brother accompanied her. They

are most devoted to each other. Will is off again- this time to Swatow- for about ten days he has gone to attend a student conference there. I have asked him to bring back with him three embroidered shirt waists- for Swatow is the place for such things. The weather may be too hot or he may not have time to get them so we may have to wait. I bought one the other day here, but they will be cheaper on the spot. I have the loveliest embroidered hat and if you want one send the size of the brim- the inside and outside lines- and the size of the crown and I'll get one embroidered for you. With the violet ribbon Phebe sent me and a bunch of violets under the brim I have a dainty hat. It happens to tone in with the violet divinity I brought out with me- and with my amethysts I am all violet.

I am enclosing a check to mama for seventy five dollars. When it came to paying for the addition here Will refused the money so mama gets it. I shall probably not send any more money home until next February.

Give my love to all and do write soon.

Yours sincerely-

Flora Beard.

Foochow, China,
Aug. 18, 1907.

[This letter dated Sept. 15, 1907 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. She plans to leave the mountain the next day. She talks about a hike she took on the mountain. She has now been in Foochow for a year. She mentions meeting a Mr. Storrs and how he was nice to her, but she tells the folks back home not to get up a romance. She updates the letter two weeks later. School has started for her with fourteen students. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Sept. 15, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

This will be my last letter from the mountain this summer as I am going down to-morrow. It has been a most comfortable summer and not without some fun. Nearly every one is gone now, or will be, by the end of this week. It is so cold that I sleep under my heavy rug at night and a shawl is comfortable as I sit writing.- I had an all day's walk last week with Dr. and Mrs. Whitney. We started at 8:30 A.M. and walked until 1 P.M. before we halted for dinner. We climbed at least five peaks and enjoyed to the fill the wonderful views from their crest. We followed for a mile or two on of the mountain streams by the sides of which we found some huge ferns at least six feet long and over a foot broad. The ferns out here are beautiful and of so many varieties. After our lunch we started home and met Will and the children about half the way. We reached home at 5 P.M. and after a good hot bath I was ready for another jaunt. We had probably walked 18 or 20 miles and I was not a bit lame from it. I hope to keep up my ability to walk when I get back to work.- I just received a letter from Mrs. T.M. Ward, 13 Warren St., Newark, New Jersey, saying she had sent me some music which I had asked her to send. Have you received her bill? Please include it with my other expenses and send me an account showing my standing with you at home. I have never known the cost of my visiting cards which came shortly after I came out. Are you keeping an account of the postage on the separate parcels you have sent? I want to keep track of every cent you spend for me.

Do you realize that it is now a year since I left home? I celebrated the date by attending a small farewell dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Newell's for Mr. Storrs who went back the next day to his work. Mr. Storrs is one of the finest young men of the American Board Mission and has taken it upon himself to be nice to me several times this summer. I shall probably never see him again in China if my plans get fulfilled, so don't on this notice get up a romance.

A week from to-morrow my work begins, and I am wondering how my year will go. It is not quite so easy as falling off a log to teach missionaries' children and by the way some of the mothers have thought best to warn me of others makes me feel that there may be rapids in the way and some skill in steering will be necessary. However I have learned to pay little heed to such speeches and to deal justly with any offenders and I hope it will prove the right thing here.

Ruth, do you suppose you can find my old First Year Latin Book? I think it has a checked cloth cover on it and it was in that bookcase in the hall upstairs. It is rather to pieces but would be an immense help to me if I had it. I have been going over my Latin this summer and find it has come back much better than I had hoped. I am looking forward to some hard work and much pleasure in teaching it this winter.

Oct. 1st-(Two weeks later).

School has opened to-day with fourteen scholars which have accommodated themselves to four classes for which I am thanking my stars as it is going to make an immense difference in the amount of work to be done.

The school room looked quite like an American school with all American children and everything newly painted. I think the children all enjoyed being at work again. They are simply at a loss for something to do here without school. We are starting a manual training department in the room downstairs just to give the boys something to do.

It is quite interesting to see what we can get along without and how we can substitute one thing for another and make things do.

The mail goes out to-morrow and I have one or two business letters which must get written to-night as I shall have to say "Good night."

Lovingly-

Flora Beard.

Foochow, China

[This letter dated Nov. 21, 1907 was written by Willard to his mother. He includes a letter by Geraldine with his. Geraldine and Gould have both had malaria. He has read in the papers about the financial crisis in the U.S. and wonder how it is for them. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Nov. 21st 1907.

My dear Mother:-

Geraldine has had this letter ready for nearly three weeks- it is too bad I did not know it. But the children get streaks on of writing letters, and they do not always tell one nor do they always address the envelopes. The result is that I occasionally find an envelope with a letter in it as I did the other day.

Both Geraldine and Gould have had malaria since coming down from the mountain. Each was in bed for a week. Dr. Rennie is giving them now a course of liquid quinine- each 5 grs. Before meals 3 times a day,- says they must keep it up for one month. The rest are all well. And how these children do eat! Just before we left the mountain our boy who was doing the cooking left and the boy who took his place had not made bread, so we were buying from the bakery for a few weeks- two weeks ago I told this boy he must make bread if he wanted the full amount of monthly pay. He began and surprised us all. His bread is so good that he can hardly keep up with the family. The boys especially- Gould, Teddy and Vernon call for bread till it seems as if they would burst. How were the mouths of five hungry boys, father and often a hired man ever filled at home?

Our papers are full of the financial crisis in the U.S. I wonder if it effects you at all. I see interest rates are rising much in England.

The weather continues very warm, cloudy, rainy and damp. Dr's. say this causes much illness.

All send love Will.

God deals very graciously with us. W.

[This letter dated Dec. 22, 1907 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. She has fourteen scholars and spends her spare time visiting the Hodouses, Maclachlans or Miss Newton who is currently suffering from bowel obstruction. She honestly describes some of the other missionaries. Flora traveled on a houseboat with female doctor, Dr. Ben, going up the Ing Hok river. She tells of how she was blamed for bringing diphtheria to Gould. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Foochow, China Dec. 22, 1907]

Dear folks at home:-

My letter writing to you has been most sadly neglected this fall. I am not going to weary you with excuses for there is too much else to tell. My school has been large enough to keep me stepping lively ever since it began. I have fourteen scholars- the picture enclosed shows them to you very correctly. They are nice children and bright- as you would expect from educated parents. Much of my spare time has been spent visiting at the different homes over Sunday- at Mrs. Hodous', Miss Newton's, or Mrs. Maclachlan's. I have spent three Sundays at the last name house, to keep Mrs. Mac and baby Margaret company while he was away in the country preaching. He is to be away most of the time from now until next May so I may be with her most of the time. I am much of a convenience to people in the way of 'keeping them company' but I enjoy it so both parties get what they want. I spent the Sunday before

Thanksgiving with Miss Newton and Mrs. Hall. Miss Newton had then been ill a little over two weeks but was considered better although not allowed to sit up. She has been very ill ever since and now it is just a question of a few days more – which I hope may be cut even shorter, for life is only agony now. There is some obstruction in the bowels which does not allow food to pass, except by means of a high enema which is very exhausting to her. They have been feeding her through the bowels for some time but yesterday she had two sinking spells so she can't endure much longer. They keep her under opiates now for she had a severe stomach spasm and the suffering is too intense. I hope to hear at any moment that she is through with her suffering for it has been her wish to go while on the mission field. Her accident last summer has been more of a shock to her than she confessed, I think. She slipped on the stone walks (that are every where here) and did all four of the breaks just in that fall. She was hurrying so the force of the fall was somewhat greater. Miss Hall, her co-worker is getting rather worn with the strain of doing four women's work and having such serious illness in the house. Miss Garrettson [*Elsie M.*] and Miss Ward are expected next week some time so Miss Hall will soon have some relief, but Miss Garrettson is quite old and broken. It is not a very cheery atmosphere for Miss Ward to meet. The American Board people seem to be having a pretty hard time of it all around. Mr. Gardner is a nervous invalid- very miserable-; Dr. Kinnear has just been ill, now our taking care of Miss Newton; Mrs. Smith another nervous wreck; Mrs. Whitney just getting out again after an unpleasant encounter with a buffalo cow- and so I might go on with three or four more like instances. Mr. and Mrs. Newell are rejoicing over a dear little baby girl- Josephine Miriam- who arrived Dec. 12th. All are doing finely. I have not yet seen the baby for out here the mother is not allowed to get up for a month. Recovery from anything is always much longer than at home.

Last Sunday, I spent on a houseboat up the Ing Hok river and it was a most delightful and restful trip. A Dr. Ben [*or Burn or Bern?*] is visiting the missions here. She has been a missionary for seventeen years in the vicinity of Tientsin. She is now returning to America for good and is seeing China before she leaves. She is a most interesting character and knows how to get true pleasure out of it. We had a most comfortable boat which had two spring cot beds in it so that we slept fully as well as at home. We took a cook along to get our meals, so all we had to do was to enjoy ourselves- which we did – We started Friday evening and went down the river in the lovely moonlight when we awoke the next morning we were on the opposite side of an island right underneath “Old Lord Beaconfield's Nose”- a queer mountain profile which we can see from here. On closer view we found that it takes three separate mountains to make our picture of it. We ate breakfast in our cabin and then found just the right sized nook on deck where we spent the day except at meal times. As we turned up the Ing Hok river we saw our first orange groves- then we saw them on both sides- beautiful with the deep color of the Mandarin oranges. It was a sight for eyes and mouth! Farther up the river were paddy-fields and sugar cane patches- and then came the beautiful mountains sloping directly to the river edges. Such fantastic shapes! Faces in profile can [*be*] seen with almost no imagination. In one place the rocks on the slope of the mountains make a perfect rabbits head and in another was a rock resting on the top of a ledge which was the shape of a mouse's head, even to the ears. The mountains were beautifully green for we have had an unusually wet autumn- and the unusual fronts had turned a few trees to that oriental shade of red which one never sees in America except in Japanese pictures. We just drank in the sights, the quiet, and peace, and came home happier and better fitted for work for it all.

While I think of it, - none of you have said a word about received a check for \$75 which I sent to mama last July or August. I am feeling a little anxious and hope you will let me know as soon as possible if you have received it. It was Will's private check on the Putnam bank. - I have sent some linen waists home- one to Aunt Louise. If she doesn't want it sell it to any one who wants to buy it at \$2.50. I sent one to Ruth for a Xmas present and another like it which I thought Cousin Carrie might want. If she doesn't want it sell it for the same price as the above. I hope the hdkfs. reached Ruth in time, but I have my doubts. I happened to have some on hand so that they started in the return mail. Wouldn't the people like to have me send a dozen or so for next fall's sale? I am going to send a collar soon to Mrs. Lathrop or you to see if you would like some made for the annual sale.- I have been wondering whom Elizabeth was visiting in E. Haddam. Do tell me, for I can't seem to connect it with any one I know. I was delighted to hear of her visiting Stanley in New York. New York will not be quite so much of an unknown place to the Beards now will it. – Ruth's trip was quite a surprise to us. The first we knew about it was from the postals which she sent from Maine. How did you go- by rail or water?- I was sorry to hear of Mrs. Upton's death, but have often felt she was to be pitied. Some way her life has always seemed so limited, but she was a cheery soul for all of it and I shall always feel thankful to her for coming when we were in such straights that awful summer.- How in the world did Uncle Dan come to join the mason's? I shall be interested to know. - Didn't I write to you the conclusion of Gould's diphtheria? It was told all over the mountain that I had brought the disease. That I had worn a skirt for the first time in which I had care for my sister when she was ill. How the take got started I have no idea for I had said nothing about such a thing and besides had worn everything I owned during the year-long before this occurrence. However, events proved the untruth of this for another case broke out in a family entirely

unknown to me and with whom our children were hardly acquainted. The disease had been raging among the Chinese and in all probability it has come up from the city in the clothes of the coolies. I shall always feel that Gould caught his from the kite which he got at about that time-fortunately it got away from him so it can do us no more harm. People out here have so few things with which to occupy their minds that when a thing does occur they begin to conjecture the course of events up to it. It was a cruel time to me, but I am learning several things and by the time I get home I shall probably be quite callous.

This is quite a fete week. Last week I went to a "small" dinner at the Consulate where Mrs. Gracey and most of her lady guests were in 'decolette' attire. Mrs. Mac and I were the only ladies whose dresses came up to our chins. We had a fine dinner and a good time afterwards. Last evening I dined at the bachelor quarters of two nice missionaries. I was surprised to see how homelike two unmarried men could make a house. Tuesday, all the Methodists and Americans on the Island here dine at the home of one of the Methodists. It is a community affair but a very happy one. The children are to have a Christmas tree. The children in this port have a lark of life for they are continually being feted. One of the community ladies is giving an Xmas tree to all the children in the port so that means two trees besides what presents they will get from home. On Thursday Consul and Mrs. Gracey have invited all the foreigners in the port to dine with them. It will make a company of about fifty people. Then I am to have three days vacation, in which I hope to do about a thousand things. At Chinese New Year's I am planning for a three week's vacation in which Miss Hall and I expect to take a trip up river. I am looking forward to a peaceful, restful and happy trip, for we have invitations- most cordial- to stay with some lovely missionaries at the different stops we plan to make.

We have received during the last week the notices about our boxes and we are matching the incoming boats- for the St. Patrick. I shall be glad to have my long sleeved underflannels for this sharp weather makes one think of thicker clothes. I hope they get here for the awful cold of the rainy season. It is more than zero weather at home for the dampness goes through everything.

Did I tell you that I have lost fifteen pounds in weight since last February? I seem to be still losing and I am calculating how long I can stay here and still have enough to buy a ticket for -to get home. So far it has been an improvement I think and I do not care if I lose fifteen pounds more, but I'd like to stop then. Where is Elizabeth? I've not had a word from her since- I can't tell when. Perhaps she is gadding about so much there is no time to write. I'm glad to know she is seeing so much of the world. There's nothing like 'going' to keep from stagnation.

With love to all-

Flora

P.S. I have sent Xmas remembrances to all but Stanley. His will come later. I hope they get through all right. F.B.

Foochow,
Dec. 22, 1907.

Information from Bennett Nichols Beard's [*Willard and Flora's brother*] 1960 obituary:

Mr. Beard was founder and president of the Beard Construction company which he incorporated in **1907**. His construction career began in 1895 when the available equipment for road building was a team of oxen.

Mr. Beard, who served as selectman before the City of Shelton was incorporated, subsequently became mayor. His public service also included a term as state representative. He was a member of the Shelton Grange; of Shelton Congregational church and president of the Long Hill cemetery association.