Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Folder label: ESH to John and Kate Hildreth (parents), from Kakchieh, Thaiyong

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Dear Mr. Smith,

I am going to write to you before I get any deeper in the morning’s work, as I do not wish to hurry at the end. I have been having a perfectly lovely time lately, cleaning up things.

In the first place, Mr. Johnson advised us not to stuff the morning exam (which was held in the afternoon) to cut off the study with some warning. And I compelled by taking the teacher into my study and working on my own. The names are given in English letters according to the pronunciation of the letters which constitute the name. But these same letters (which are given immediately after the two English words) must be pronounced differently in our dialect, just for instance means ranking. That is ranking is the way that most people note down in English. After the pronunciation of these two characters.

But in our dialect, they are pronounced in a different way and would be understood by any Chinese here unless he was acquainted with the Mandarin dialect. So in order to speak effectively by the names of the places, we have to know how they are pronounced in this dialect. For that purpose, our morning teacher is specially adapted to know no English. But he knows Chinese and among other things Chinese geography so that whenever he saw a name he knew what he read it was for. So he would pronounce the name. Then I would look up the words if necessary and write down my pronunciation in my head—our language was great fun, and we worked out nearly the whole book.

Our afternoon teacher is not as well educated in Chinese. The she is a
well trained woman, but she speaks English and what is more understands what mistakes we foreigners can be expected to make in speaking and also in hearing. So she was just what I wanted for another piece of work. This week office took the attentions off for housework and study and I had the house to myself.

Ever since I could hear Chinese at all, I have been noting down phrases that took my attention. Sometimes I could look them up for myself, sometimes some missionary told me what the thing meant in general. But there were lots of phrases that weren't cleared up by asked me that. Lots of similar phrases that needed to be differentiated, and questions suggested by the phrases that needed to be answered. And she was fine at it. Some phrases she explained in Chinese, so clearly that there wasn't any doubt of their meaning. Some it was simple to explain in English e.g. it means to lie down. She means to go. But you have the two phrases, she said, and I said, She simply bed me one meant go to bed, the other go to sleep. And there were a few that I want to investigate further. Very few.

The two sides of a 3x5 cardboard were caked on something like a dozen pages of this size. That has been mighty interesting, and it makes a very large improvement in setting up my study and carpenter shop. When I first unpacked, I was Well with the things and for a long time I didn't get any time to work on arranging them. When I did get started I spoiled the point, and then came another busy time and the study was
a fright to behold. But a week or so ago I began to work at it in small moments, and soon the same black cloud, when I got fairly under way, I went into that letter file that contained clippings etc. and threw away a lot. I went over the letter file and the carded affair 4 inches thick of cards that were dead. And I have done a good deal toward rearranging the two systems. Also I have gone over the rest of the unfilled papers, thrown away some, and reduced most of the rest to their place in the file, making card index references when desirable.

The last Wednesday the prayer meeting was here, and I had to clean up so lots of stuff had to go into the carpenter shop temporarily, and some into drawers and broken holes, where they didn’t belong. But when the meeting assembled my desk had such things as pens, clips, rubber bands, a paperweight and nothing else. On the top of it was the calendar, clock, stationery holders, Bible, book, New Testament pictures. On the table were the following: two neat boxes of books, four small card board letter file, letter A box about 10 inches, the card index, the dictionary, and one neat file of books. It was refreshing to look at.

Since then I have been bringing out from the carpenter shop 24 document mouthfuls of papers and it is a revelation (of what I knew before) how much easier they are to handle than they were before the room was cleared up. And instead of having to do my work elsewhere and come here for things it is a pleasure now to work in the study.

The prayer meeting on Wednesday was the
monthly union prayer meeting. With the
mission and the work quite extensive, that we would be short of
librarians because we have exactly enough to seat all our men in the
mission. But we have 6 librarians from the empty
chapel while the principal of the
boys' school which ought to live up. She had
gone home last summer, and of one
missionary, Mr. Scott and his wife (the
child is daughter of the former) had
started for A.D. Mr. Wetzler was seeing
them off at H.K. Miss Stillman was in the
county and Miss Smith is dead, and
doesn't attend. So we had 2 extra
places and we had a comfortable 
meeting. All
At home with all the meeting,

W. P. 17th
Ellen

E
Dear Mother:

There doesn't seem to be much to write about except the rain. Can't remember whether my last letter was on Sat or Mon, but the big rain was on Sun. I wrote on Mon. I must have mentioned it but here goes anyway. On Monday it rained. Yes it did. Honestly. I had to put on all the protection possible and went, and got shot somewhat morning. Six people ran across the road came, besides the teacher which seems commendable faithfulness. Going home we got very wet and were glad to change our clothes. I don't usually go to 5:50 for good and sufficient reasons. But that day I thought I would go and see what sort of a turnout they had. So I got dampened again. And in the evening we did get soaked.

If we had gone the natural way to the Academy it wouldn't have been so bad. But the water that the retaining wall near the room had partly fallen down so we were advised to go the other way down across the valley instead of the natural way which is around it. Except many of the paths were miniature rivers and we had some careful dodging to do. And Lottie didn't know the way and I guess hadn't ever been out at night in anything just like it. And she thought it highly possible.

The reason we went out was so that Lottie could play the organ at a new variety of evening service that they are having. She plans for the hymns and also accompaniment for solos. Only for the solo I would have insisted on her staying at home for I realized that the hymns...
who spoke so long that they omitted the solo. He was supposed to talk 20 min and he talked an hour & 15 min. During most of his speech there was no rain at all. But about 6 min before he quit it began to rain the hardest it had all day and we had that to go home in and got beautifully soaked. I don't know whether to stay that it rains any harder than our hardest thunderstorms at home. The wind wasn't as violent (at least in the storms so far) there hasn't been any typhoons) and the drops are not so big. But it certainly does come down in sheets. And the hills are so steep that when it does rain the natural water sources are quickly transformed into raging torrents! Our house only leaked a bit at few unimportant places. In this respect we fared better than some of the community people with their grand houses.

The unfortunate thing was that the rain continued some days and so we couldn't have our washing done. The trousers and shirt (white) which I wore that day mildewed quite badly & for some reason the coat did not. It is very hard to prevent mildew on these occasions when it rains so long and we haven't yet found how far (if at all it is possible) to get it out.

Those services at the academy are new departures. The attendance is optional. The effort is to make them attractive so that the boys will be glad to come; and the purpose is distinctly Evangelistic. Baker was the speaker last night and his thesis was: "You say when I know theyre I will believe; the fact is that in order to know you have to believe." He showed this in the relation of marriage and friendship and business in which you
Baking people when you don't know
them in arithmetic you have to believe
2 + 2 = 4  3 x 3 = 9 before you can go any
further; the blacksmith doesn't know what
certain piece of iron when red will be
easy to hammer. He believes it; the phy-
siologist knows that some bodies
which he has dissected had certain
organs, he believes all bodies do; Baker
himself didn't know that that was
such a place as Blina till he came
there. He believed it;” etc. It's a grand
finale he had them all point hands
and take a few electric shocks from a
battery. The Americans joined in the
circle too and it was all lots of fun to
see how the Chinese laughed. Then
Baker summed up. In relation to other
men. You can't know them, you only
believe. In relation to things you can't
know that they will act in a certain
way but you believe they will. It's
natural in regard to God to pay that
two belief God come to knowledge.
A lovely interesting and effective talk

Lots of Love
Ellison
Dear Mother:

I am going to start for Shanghai in a few minutes. But I thought to get off a letter to you before I start. I am getting ready to go to Texas one this summer. We have to have all our business at Shanghai and I entered into negotiations with Baker who was the one who borrowed from that city and who know condition there better than any other news in our mission. This morning a few minutes before our alarm clock ordinarily goes off, came a note from Baker which when I opened my eyes, it was to call on him after breakfast to talk about a trip to the city. We are to take train up leaving Shanghai at 11 o'clock. We are to meet Mr. Adams at 7:45 at central. This morning was exceedingly wet and cloudy but it looks now as if it would clear up as all night we have been having storms the beautiful sight of thunder and lightning and rain. We have seen it everywhere. The day which was cut off by a stormy the present moment. You can't tell what it will be.

We have been leaving Mr. Adams from here for the last 3 days. An Educational Commission has been at work to formulate an educational policy and they have had meetings yesterday and the day before. He came down to represent the Hakkas work. The first we knew was a disturbance on the veranda and I went out and saw Adams's cook with some paper. It had a note from Adams asking if we could take him in on such short notice and we were very glad.
The Commission has been having open meetings which I have found it very profitable to attend and hear the various forms of educational work discussed.

It is Allegheny Day and I am going out in a few minutes to put up our fine flag. I meant it earlier but the crew balks and Adams leaving I haven't been able to get.

Adams told us about one of Whitman's Harker servants who is with Whitman at Hanover who has a wife and several children at paying. He spends all his money on himself and his wife has hard work to get along. Apparently she had a little boy and told him it was a girl; and then leased the child for $150. People are glad to buy one that way and he was glad to sell a daughter (of the know about it at all). But someone left it out so he went looking up to try to buy the boy back. He failed in this and then brought suit claiming that his wife didn't know the child was a boy and did it under the delusion that it was a girl thus relying on the part of the buyer. But the magistrate said, you can't make me believe any such yarn as that, and he had squandered this money on a useless lawsuit. And you ever hear the like?

Lovingly,

Elizabeth.

Please thank Fannie for the Easter card and for the bass music. It was very nice of her to send them and I was mighty glad to hear the music again.

Love to all. I expected to have time to write, but mail time arrives before I finish my letter, and I know that it reaches you in due time. Only fear that I do not answer all questions always as he seldom has your letters to refer to when he answers. Don't worry questions. Will try to help you.
Dear Mother:

Here we are, and it took me nearly a week to get here. I wrote my last letter on Sunday evening and then in the rush at didn't get mailed on Monday and the boat that usually goes down on Monday didn't go. So I didn't get a chance to mail it till yesterday. Also didn't get a chance to write any more such as busy week. When we began to consider preparations it seemed as if I didn't have the same amount of time to get ready in.

Hanging is a valley in the hills. It is high and it feels like home. Not like the everwet heat down where our music is done. So astro it costs a little money and a lot of work and trouble to get there! A great many of the missionaries believe it is worth all it costs and put in July and August here and I guess we agree with them. It's not all very here the. It rains a great deal and we are mighty lucky that we got across the mountain over to here without being wet. Sometimes it rains all the way from W. to W. King Pk.

Well, I can't tell you all in this letter. The packing will probably need a letter of its own. But I'll put on an idea of the trip. After the first at night after the fasts the only chance to earn the stuff is the boat. I was packed in baskets mostly, and the then using one basket from each end of the bamboo pole and carry them down. They charged me $1 for 1500 yards which means 360 head (a head is the burden on one end) but they charged us because when one was on the boat there were only 35 head. We were too busy to count that.
carried when they started so they cheated
so much. But it only 50.4 not a carry
so what we got was 7 1/2 feet on 3 2/4 ft.
so it won't break us.

That stuff was all put on a boat
and our several took it across and put
it on the kit-ting launch. While one of the
boatmen. Then they came over later in
another boat, counted the load, and finally
decided that our stuff was there and we
couldn't make 3 6. 5 feet of it. At noon the
launch started and at about 3:30 on 4
we got kit-ting where we transferred
all the stuff to the other boats on which to
travel to Waking. Total cost as far
1st Boat 6 x 5 = 90

Launched 1
1 70
1 15
1 35
2 30

Trained on

the way up.

and after we

there was

in transferring the good lady and
and got good and wet, but by the time
and were ready to get on supper we were
dry. The moment we went right
and to the Bacon's house and had
eat and all had dinner there at 6:30.
Then we presently started off again
Boat 1. Mr. Banfield and Mr. Ed Fink
and Mr. are about 74. and great of Mr.
other stuff. Boat 2. 8 ft and
most of our stuff. Boat 3. milked
Scot and a thrills from the Basset
man who had to get in at
inning that day and who was anxious of
It's Waking for. So we took her
along also that needle's companion
as the woman. and her baggage. The
child's baggage and Mr. T sq. Art's
food and clothes. The Rogers are to live
with the Amores. The Amores can't
come up till next harvest time when
the Amores can't

the cows. The cows will
be coming there. So in case will
be hard to get. So they sent their
stuff along now. That is one reason why
we were glad to come now. So at 4
Tuck the person who is going down the
Vouge with your tomorrow. Mail service
may not be as good as at Swarthmore, so
please don't be worried if letters are
irregular.
Joy,
Geliason
Dear Mother:

The most interesting thing to me, that has happened recently, is in connection with our cook, so I guess I will tell you about it first. He is Mr. Page's cook, and came to us with the house, and Page expects to have him back when he returns, and we are glad that we had an experienced cook to keep house for us while we were gone. He is an old man, and has been cook on the compound for years, and is a very good cook indeed; as for his honesty, that is the subject of an essay.

The Chinese look at the matter of graft differently from what we do. Their political system is built on graft, pure and simple. The magistrates receive only a nominal salary, and have to make up the rest of their high cost of living out of perquisites; these include fees and bribes, and in general the man with the most money can be sure of the verdict. That perhaps is enough for me to say about that; I merely mention it to show that graft isn't a word of reproach with them as it is with us. Again, their whole system of commerce is built on the plan that money doesn't pass thru a man's hands without a little sticking to the palm. Most foreigners call that "squeeze". I prefer to call it commission; everyone recognizes the custom, expects to receive, and expects to pay, the commission.

Now our cooks do all our buying for us. They go across the bay, go around to the shops, buy to best advantage, and free the housewife from an infinite amount of such work, which she could hardly do at all. They charge, so we suppose, a commission on every purchase, and after charging the commission, we get the stuff a great deal cheaper than we could buy it ourselves in the market. I don't object to paying a commission; I look on it in the same light as buying your tickets from Cook instead from the company; we get the stuff as cheap, or cheaper, and if the other fellow makes a little for his trouble, I don't object.

Now our cook, A Un, has a reputation for being the heaviest grafter
on the compound. Page had a great deal of trouble with him. Page is a man who believes in economy, and not allowing any little leaks at all, and when his cook got too much commission, it distressed Page. So finally it worked out that Page kept so strict account of what the cook used that sometimes it interfered with the excellence of the housekeeping. We didn't want to have that effect so we let the cook have a much freer rein. It isn't easy to learn exactly how things ought to go, but as Lottie would learn where things were too expensive she would call the cook's attention to them and after that things would be cheaper, or else wouldn't go so fast. As soon as he found she knew that certain things were illegitimate, he would quit doing them. But he must have made money fast on us the first few months. At a rough guess, he may have made five dollars a month; I don't suppose it was more than that; but his salary is nine dollars a month, and is considered a good amount, in fact very good wages indeed. And as the equivalent of $2.50 U.S. a month wouldn't break us, we didn't think it worth while to waste too much time going into controlling the cook.

But when we got up here things were different. For one thing the house is so small that I was brought into intimate contact with the housekeeping. Again at Hakchisch we were more or less carrying on the regime to which the cook was accustomed under Page. It was new to us, and it took us some time to get used to the way things ought to be. But here we immediately set up new arrangements, and had something to say about them.

Well, it didn't take long to find out that our cook was working against us. It is his duty to make all arrangements about household matters, and to make them to our best advantage, getting his commission out of the matter either by agreement with the tradesmen, etc., or by a slight increase in the charge he makes to us; there is no objection to that. But for him to conspire with these Hakkas to cheat us is a different proposition; and that is exactly what he has been doing.

One of the first thing to do is to hire someone to carry water for us.
Now the cook has been here several times, and he knows perfectly well that he ought to have made a bargain for about five cash a carry for driver to be used in cooking and washing, and somewhat more for spring water to drink. But he simply called the wife of Page's caretaker, which gentleman is one of the biggest rascals around here, and didn't make any bargain at all, and wouldn't until we simply insisted, after about ten days; and then he said that the woman wanted two and a half dollars a month. At the proper rate, one and a half would be high pay. But the game was to let the matter slide until there was a good big sum due her, and then refuse to accept the right sum due in payment. Then one of the missionaries says that if we fired her and got someone else for the work, her family would persecute the "scab", on the ground that this was their job and we had no right to give it to anyone else. Now that sounds like labor union methods, but there is a real difference. The price that others pay is liberal wages, vastly higher than they can get in any other way, and they are very happy to get the job for that price, unless they think that they can cheat or bully the foreign devil into paying much more; and that is all that we object. It wouldn't break me into paying a dollar extra a month; but I do object to have my cook enter into a conspiracy with some Hakkas to cheat me out of a dollar or more a month. That matter isn't adjusted yet, but I will carry the water myself before I'll let their scheme work.

A man came around to Mrs. Jasher's house selling pineapples, and wanted 12 cents a piece. She refused, and later he came around and was glad to sell them for 8. The man came around to my cook, and sold for 15 cents. The cook probably made three or four cents off that arrangement; I would be glad to give him a nickel if he needed it, but I don't like to be cheated out of money so obviously as that. If the cook had agreed to give 12 cents only, that would have showed that he was no good bargainer at all; the extra cent proves that it was dishonest, and all the talk about commissions can't overshadow that; because the cooks isn't so green
as not to know what those pineapples are worth.

Then he and the chicken seller, who is another rascal, hatched out another scheme. The cook came to me and said that the man wanted the pay for his work. Now that is the cook's business, to settle with the man, and account for it to Lottie; but he evidently thought he could fool me into paying much more than he would dare to pay. This man had brought up fifteen chickens weighing 44 pounds, and 45 eggs, weighing 5 pounds. Well we pay 50¢ a carry and a carry is about 100 lbs, so that figures out at about half a cent a pound, and we ought to pay the man about twenty-five cents # # for bringing the chickens up from the market. But he contended that it was rice harvest in Wukingfu, which is true, and that therefore labor cost more, which is true, and that therefore he ought to be paid at the rate of 70¢ a carry, which is not true, and that Dr. Stewart, and this one and that one, paid him at that rate, which was a whooping big lie; and my cook backed up every one of his statements, and they both assured me that I could ask anyone, and I would find out that it was so. Also he wanted to be paid for his trouble in hunting around the country for eggs, because you could only buy one here, and two or three there, and it was distressing, which is true, but then that is counted into the price of the eggs, and I knew it, and there was the first statement that I knew was a lie, tho I suspected the others were. Then there was some more question about the rate of exchange, and the cook got some money and gave me a lesson in high finance, to the obvious approval of the chicken man, and to my complete mystification. So I decided to tell the man to come around in an hour, and I went off to another house to get some facts. So far, I have talked as tho I did it all; actually Lottie was associated with me in part of the work, and what she did was important, but it is simpler to tell it as if I did it myself, so I make this acknowledgment.

Well, I got a goodly number of facts, and when I came back I told the man I would give him twenty-five cents; when he strated in about the rice harvest, I told him that he had no relation to the rice harvest, because
he was not a farmer. What he is, is Dr. Stewart's messenger half the week, and he was in this venture in his spare time; if he were not doing this, he would not be in the fields, and he knew it, and when I told him again a little louder, he knew that I knew it, and withdrew his contention; but he wanted pay for his bother in hunting eggs, until I told him that was his lockout, and then he realized that I knew the custom about that, too, and he said he would be glad to accept twenty-five cents; so I paid him for the carrying. Then we decided to pay him for the chickens and eggs, believing that we could make a better bargain than the cook would. We knew he would want to be paid in big dollard (cart wheels) reckoning ten dimes to the dollar, but the custom here is to reckon big dollars as worth eleven dimes. For instance if his bill was $2.20, we would pay him either 22 dimes or two big dollars. What he would ask for would be two big dollars and two dimes, and if he could get away with it he would be twenty-cents in. He had succeeded in doing it before.

We didn't have enough dimes to pay him all in dimes, so we counted out five dollard, that is fifty dimes, and I kept the big dollars concealed. When all was ready we went in, and Lottie counted out ten dimes and said one dollar, another and said two dollars. I figured that he would probably accept that, and he did, with a protest, which I overruled. Then it was a simple matter for me to hand out the big dollars, saying, "One dollar, and one dime; two dollars and two dimes, etc." Then when he had all the money in his hand and wanted to protest again I told him if he liked it all right; if not he could sell someone else his chickens; we hadn't gone into the question of the price, because we felt we could have a better chance of maintaining our contention if we simply refused to be cheated in these obvious ways; and as the man was undoubtedly getting a very fat price for his chickens, he didn't want to call off the bargain.

Well, Lottie and I went off to our room, and had a quiet little celebration; that was the first time we had really succeeded in beating the cook, and I haven't got over feeling good about it yet. Then presently
I went after him about the charcoal. That is one of the hardest things to control. They can carry a little home here and there, or hide and sell it over again, or use it for their own cooking, so most of use simply try to keep the bills from becoming excessive, and that is all Lottie and I try to do. But they have a special scheme that they work on the newcomers here at Thaiyong, and our cook was going to work it on us. Mrs. Stewart told my boy how they tried to do her, so I'll repeat it. Her simply told her that there was no definite price agreed on for the charcoal, and let the matter run till another family moved to Thaiyong. Then her told her that Mrs. was happy to pay such and such a price, and would she be willing to. No, she said, she wouldn't pay any such price, and she wrote down to Wukingfu to her own cook to find out what the proper price ought to be, and paid that. And her boy was so mad that she wouldn't take his word when he lied to her, that her persecuted her all the rest of the summer. Lovely situation. So I simply told the cook that he must get a definite price, and if he bought any more charcoal before doing so he would have to pay for it himself. Also that other people could get 87 catties for a dollar, and he mustn't let himself be cheated. While doing this I found out where he got his charcoal and a few minutes later a woman who had been getting her charcoal from the same man said that her cook told her this man was cheating her three catties; that if you went elsewhere you could get 90 catties for a dollar. So I told the cook and exhorted him not to let the man cheat him. The next day he told me that he had reckoned with the man at 87 catties, but that the man wanted to be paid in big dollars. We figured it out and the cook's arithmeti is correct, but we doubt his contention for the big dollars, so that will constitute a further subject of inquiry.

I was pretty much distressed about all this for a while. I thought for quite a while that I would have to have a big talk with the cook and tell him that unless he would work for my interests instead of against them I would have to get a new cook. But of course I might have to, and it would
be very inconvenient. Still I had made up my mind to talk to him on Monday, and all the morning I was waiting for a time later in the day when there wouldn't be any Chinese around to hear. This came up right after dinner, and at first I was sorry, because it would postpone my talk, and I wanted to get it out of my system. But the results of the incident were so good that just now I am inclined to think that the cook will take the hint without the big talk that seemed for a while to be necessary.

Well, is that too much about one poor old Chinaman? I was going to write to you last Saturday, but we had company most of the day; I don't like to work the machine on Sunday, and Monday was largely taken up with this incident; Tuesday the table was being used for ironing; but today, when I had made up my mind that I would take some time for a letter, whether or no, the teacher didn't come. So when I saw he was late, I started this letter and as he hasn't yet appeared, I have been able to continue.

I hope you had a pleasant Fourth. We had company in the morning, and had quite a nice talk; in the afternoon we had more company and they stayed longer, and we had the Giffin's graphophone going most of the time. That is lots of company. They say that last year there wasn't a scrap of music, so this year people resolved to do better; because Mrs. Worley also brought her graphophone, and at one of the E.F. houses they have an Estey folding, an concertina, and a graphophone. The concertina played the air for us at church on Sunday and was a big help.

They have service in Hakka at the chapel on Sunday morning, and I go for the example, and also to see how much I can understand. Then at 5. they have English service at which the missionaries take turns in preaching. The singing at Hakka service, led by a Hakka, is the worst I ever heard; at the other, led by a man with a good voice, and the concertina, it is pretty good. I have to preach next Sunday, and if they don't put up someone else to lead the singing it is likely to be almost as bad as the Hakka singing.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. I was awakened by fire crackles.
I wrote this some days ago, but there has been no chance to send it until now. Let me tell you that I lost that nice little knife that the gentleman gave me for my last birthday. It went while on the boat that I was going to my house in the mountains with 2 blades and screwdrivers, I have replaced it, but it's lost on a trip to the mountains and have been using a 25 cent pearl knife to sharpen my pencils. But the lady has come up and she brought me a new knife with the above supplies and blades and bade me promise to give her a string of beads for a thank you to keep the knife tied to myself, and besides, I didn't have to. It was once about 6 inches long, I am not sure how many inches long, but they usually are not in such knives. If I ever do not happen to have a good blade, I can take it off and put it back on.

I preached this afternoon to the various missionaries and it seems about once each week today on a subject and then on our finding it necessary to choose a new subject. Because the old ones wouldn't last, there were 3 English speaking people (counting 6 children of various ages) and 6 Chinese.

I hope at least you will be able to recover and make a good fortune. I am notified that there will be no summer address by my parents, apparently neglected to mention it. I am sorry that you are having as muc a summer as we are. With lots of love to my dear mother.

Ellison
Dear Mother:

The summer goes on apace, and in just about a week more Lottie will be free from her housekeeping responsibilities, also from class work, and I imagine that she will be very glad. We have certainly had quite a time with the house affairs, but I think they are about settled now. I told you about how the cook had been conspiring with all the rascals that he could find to cheat us; but after we had successfully resisted one or two attempts he decided that that course wasn't worth while. He found that we knew how to get at the matter; and every time that we refused to accept his testimony and instead want and asked someone else he lost some face, and when we settled the matter on some basis other than the one he advocated he lost some more face; and to a Chinese the loss of face is as important as the loss of the money that he expected to make off us. So some time ago everything seemed to be all right except the question of water carrying. That woman who carried for us for a while agreed to carry for our price, $1.50 and did so for about two days, and then demanded $2.00 a month, which we firmly refused, and we don't ever intend to hire her again. The boys whom I offered the chance to earn that extra also didn't want to. Mrs. Lesher's cook had been sure that he could get us someone, and he is an old enemy of our cook, so he would be very glad to do so; but when he tried he reported that our cook had fixed everybody in the village so that none of them would; I am not sure whether that is so or, whether the family or the woman who had carried for us had intimidated them but I think probably one or the other is the case. In the meantime all the servants had been carrying water without being asked to, for several days, even the old cook doing his share, which look strange to me. The situation was that I offered a certain price which I am sure is fair, and told the cook to get someone for that price; he said that no one was willing to carry for that price, but made no effort to find out what they would carry for, as he would have done if he had been trying to fix things up for our benefit. Also we wanted to pay so much a
and he said that no one was willing to carry on that basis, but all insisted on being paid so much a month, which I am sure is a lie. So the matter dragged on for several days till finally it came to a head yesterday, and I went up to Dr. Ashmore's and asked him to interpret and be arbitrator. The cook stated his side, and all that he said had full consideration. It is a story that sounds pretty good, and would be convincing if he hadn't lied to me so convincingly in the other matters. I didn't state to him my idea of the different ways he had tried to cheat me, because I was afraid that in the absence of definite proof, and in face of the protestations of innocence that he would be sure to make he wouldn't make anything by doing so. I am sure that if I had a good loyal cook he could arrange with someone at a reasonable rate per carry, but under the circumstances Dr. Ashmore and I decided that the best we could do was to tell the cook to arrange for our servants to carry at the rate of $2. per mo. If our boy hadn't had such a favorable situation for bargaining when we were arranging for coming up here I could had stipulated that he was to carry our share of the water, and saved all this bother. Another year the prospect of having to hunt up a new servant won't seem quite such a difficult matter, so I guess we shall have to say that all this is part of our experience, learning how to do or not to do things. And we have had to put up with this because we didn't want to get a new cook or a new boy just at vacation time. When the next week is up our cook goes back to Swatow to take care of our house and Mrs. Giffin has to wrestle with the question of housekeeping. I wish her better going than we have had, and I guess she will have it, for her servants seem to care for her interests. And I hope that ours will now that they have tried working against us for a while. The cook seems in a mood to be good now, and if it lasts we shall have a good cook, until page comes back and wants his cook again. Then we shall have to start in again, but we shall have some experience back of us, and we have two cooks in mind now one of whom we may be able to get when that time comes.
Thaiyong, via Swatow, July 25, 1914.

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Dear Mother,

I have been looking over some of your letters and have been quite interested in them. I've been trying to imagine "Elmhurst" that you want it to be. My ideal now. I think the picture of our house in all its beauty shows. Except the words LMHURST BEAUTIFUL and "Easy" lot has the appearance of a well kept lawn. The corners are planted just right to produce the spilting of words. And I have wondered off times how a Chinese who knew a little English would go to work in Summer. Here it is more apt to be reversed as Kuan (pronounced as "kwan") way to do in the house books mighty nice and I am glad to have the privilege of living in it. You must have had a big time fixing up the house. I should like to come around and see how it looks now. I wish I could have seen some of the nice clean places that you fixed. It seems to me that as soon as I have time I would like to get the rubber coat to clean most of them. Have you any tenant on the north side yet? I hope you get rich men who don't have children.

Of course I was interested in the account of T's house party. When we read it I knew I had each other of the house parties you had to me with "jule" and S. and T. and with Hal and Fred and other. I suppose we are still away being with folk and her loving husband in the S. and S. isn't. I am glad to had such a good time. I tell her Humber would have been there. I haven't heard anything about Silver Bay yet. But I am looking forward to it.

Am I to understand that you have a pested about now? How strange it must look. Does Mr. K. you were a young one. So pretty soon you will be equivalent to a New York church. Well guess. Better than a whole lot of them. Does Mr. Collingwood take the display?
system with any better grace? I was inter-
jected in his complaint that people gave
so much for miscellaneous expenses, etc., that there wasn't
enough to pay running expenses. It was
just the opposite in Denver. The year that
the church budget for home and foreign
state, besides something for education
and generous gifts for the anti-saloon
dogma, was the year that we came to
assist in paying only a few dollars in debt on
salary and with our debt on the church had
largely reduced from the previous year. I
should be glad to hear that goes com-
pletely out. It turned out to be a matter of
what is Mr. Davis's present status.
was very sorry to hear of what was
done. As far as I could tell, everything was
in hand. How has he been able to get along since?
I don't believe you told me how much they
reduced his salary or these good chairs
I was interested in the all-destroying
repair. But here we wish charcoal once
and they work very well indeed in the hands
of the Chinese. Perhaps we should they
wished the much time? I don't know. The Chinese
have tried several charcoal ovens in town
much success. Perhaps the charcoal isn't
good. People here use charcoal all the time. They
know how to use it and I
enjoyed it, but for poor quality it
cooks something like the best foods found
and is light. So we consider it cheap, but
expensive to the Chinese, and with some
cooks as an important source of revenue
either by carrying it home, using it as weights
for weighing food for sale. They use the masters money or other
wish that we haven't discovered yet

you must be tired of trying to get
that Xmas magazine settled. Is all the
letter that 1 have not have gone as you? I say
again that my choice was the best.
work & Evangelist published at the
House, N.Y. And as I wasn't sure of the
since I thought it would be easier for you to order it...

Kotakaya, and any similar brush of brush is not worth sending, but if a report of clean bake ashes. I believe some Jabez B. Clark sent it that back a few years ago the best in the mail so far as we know and likely to stay so.

the ants that we have this year are white not black. Black ants climb over things and get into the food. White ants eat your house and anything that's in it. If you let them I need to read letters front far and get a mental picture of white ants coming along like a swarm of locusts and eating your house almost before you had time to move some of your things first. Our white ants are quite like that. They are modest and quiet and a herd of penguins. If they have weeds they cross the whole field or anything similar. They build a mound in which to travel. They get into a house and eat out all the soft pieces leaving hard board. They will eat along the floor then come to an end and eat the holes in your books. They bored are not an inch or a half the size of the black ants that are such good company on picnics at home, but he also hike rhinoceros and a succession of little bites will ultimately make the hole, and books were not badly damaged. But when bookworms came out as a book, they hadn't干涉 bookcases so the books stood out for them, and the white ants nipped them. Bookworms did a lot of damage to them too, but when the white ants get this you can hardly notice to bookworm holes.

...as guard against white ants. You can use constant vigilance, and when you find them pour kerosene. They won't
come back till the odor is gone. But
the constant rate of change is hard to follow.
we have found them three times.三次
they had just got in and hadn't done any
damage. I once thought they ate several
from an old packing case he was using
to stave. We have had no trouble with
bookworms. With them the only way is
to keep them out. When you get a new
book, put it in quarantine. Since you
are sure it won't develop any worms,
and when you find a book infested
immediately take it out. We enjoy
simple, holes in the middle of the
covers close to the binding.

we were interested in the Foster
visit. He has a reputation for making
longhorns. The connections and taking a
long-time he made owing to much
consequence. I don't understand of
the situation about Mr. Foster till you
write but I guess everyone else did. If
she can't come back to the board
probably won't send him. When he
knew about a few years ago it was not
with the expectation of staying a full
term but he was to study a small part of
number of years and he has done
more than that. We went home last
winter for this reason. The faculty
of the T. S. is supposed to possess
of Ashmore Foster at Waters. But a
year or so ago Foster had to be
borrowed to fill in the important
station at Kipta. Foster was put
in another farm for 15 yrs. Ashmore's
a year later. And Foster would
naturally coincide with one of them
that would make it real when A. P. would
be home, and there wouldn't
be threat at all. So they sent Mr.
Foster home with the idea that he would
be back before that time. But apparently
if he can't come back that blame
won't be a success.

Mr. Kemp came out without his
wife some years ago against the
judgment of the board who have the
fixed policy of not sending back a married man without his wife. But I very successfully in putting enough pressure on them to get an exception made. But he has steadily grown worse in health. He's either had to leave his wife for company and somehow finally it was arranged that she should go home for a rather long summer vacation at her own expense, hoping to bring his wife back. She stayed a while and that his wife would just be able to come and he was requested to wait for letters. But he couldn't very well cancel his passage, and anyway his health remained that he got some other permanent or temporary so he went. We haven't very accurate news of what happened on the other side, but I think that a day or so after he got home he went to a hospital for an operation and died. He was in pretty bad shape when he left the shore. Living alone, eating alone constantly, and having a cook who didn't bother to provide suitable food, was bad for him. I don't know whether he had any real disease before. Anyway he went coming back. He met with a prejudice to get an exception made in his favor, against the policy of the Board. The experience isn't likely to encourage the Board to send West coast food alone— even though he has been all right for one term.

I spend a lot of time trying to figure out how our men will be used in this, sweet, life and age. But it is pretty hard to figure out. Here is a little summary of the situation in our studio (not counting Hokka dialect at all) and omitting physicians...
Katechel.

95, normal staff.

Ashmore through spring 1916.

Poster on furlough but assigned to Kitjang.

Water, furlough Spring of 1915.

Academy, normal staff.

Page just back from furlough.

Page on furlough, will probably return as Wally.

Nursery poor health, but still strong.

Therefore, fucheck just back from furlough.

Kitjang. Formally held by teacher who is now at Chantay. Teacher Baff put for. Poster transferred from 95.

Poster home on furlough. Will be needed for 95 if he returns. Does he have charge of his field and have charge of Blaoyang field during furlough. Does he have furlough. But teach field up for one way to handle and about the greatest can do is the book keeping.

Blaooyang, normal staff.

Ramps dead.

Baff to proceed for Academy at Katechel.

During furlough of Page a workout.

Will go home to furlough.

By the way, Lewis and family. Lewis about to lie in coffin. (This is confidential.) That he must either be isolated or transferred to a field where aggressive work is possible.

Reserve. Wildsmith, studying the language.

Denayon was to the transfer ofobby Huyang, but was taken sick the day before he was to sail for Ebotow, and presently ordered home. Believe to have tuberculosis. Not certain whether Ebotow climate would be good for it or not.
McBasham due to sail this fall.

Now here is the gist of the situation. Due to the fact that mission work has to be done on such a
considerable field where at present the people are glad to receive the gospel and it is the help that has the greatest chance of being worked aggressively of all the field is in our interest. Here is where the doctors come in. Of course there is a hospital at Nakanne, there is a splendid one at Kengtung. At Kengtung they are the leaders both physically and mentally. Their work is well started and they have just finished two languages. It was thought we have at the time of the hospital at Nakanne. But the physicians there are on furlough naturally. So there are no doctors to make up the English competency for medical work at Bhamo. Even with so many old missionaries on furlough it has not been easy to arrange even this, which we are hoping will lead to more complete union of back out there would be a calamity. And yet the presence of these is great, about 30 sold each month from a hospital whereas Kengtung is the only a day by a very unsatisfactory launch which goes by one day and blown the next. Miss Kate who is a nurse is running an informal dispensary and treating more patients than the Basham doctors and getting more personal results from the dispensary than any other missionary in the district. It is getting but the women's doing won't let her go sick there when she returns from her own work. I have little doubt that the Basham work is considered a success in this work is considered an.
So there you are. The existing hospitals are desperately in need of help. They put on a better basis and we are helped at Shangyang. We need a hospital for their work. And if they were transferred to Kung Kung there is no telling but what by the time they got as well established at Shangyang as they are now at Shangyang, the opportunity at Shangyang may be far greater. It takes a doctor a long time to get started and overcome inertia and superstitions. We need confidence. Shangyang is a very important city while Lungking is not much of a place in itself. Schoenauer is the country seat and has a population of probably over half a million, and the negotiations for much work are well under way. It is hard to see how we could leave there.

Yet here are three places. Lungking, where a nurse is doing a very successful dispensary work. Shangyang where a man without medical training is handling as many surgical and medical cases as his limited knowledge will permit and him the rest away. And Kung Kung, where the Christians and non-Christians alike are so anxious to have a hospital that they are willing to—indeed have raised most of the money. Lungking is the one station in the district where the people are glad to hear the gospel. Shangyang is the place where everybody loves the officials are in favor of Christianity to an amazing extent. And Kung Kung is the best of opportunities. I know for starting a new place of self-support. And the Board won't take any of these opportunities because they can't until the existing work is put on a better basis and they can't do that with the money at present available. And as for sending another man to Lungking, it looks to me as if we shall have to shave our faces close to keep one man at each station for the next few years.

I must get ready and get the ready to mail now as goodbye with all haste.
Dear Mother,

A lot of things have happened lately and several more are likely to happen before it reaches you. Our current news is:

1. Austria sent an ultimatum to Serbia.
2. Russia began mobilizing.
3. Serbia sent word that they must quit within a certain time or Germany would consider a state of war. Russia engaged in several military moves of varying importance and success.
4. Germany attacked France without declaration of war.
5. Germany entered Luxembourg or Belgium or something contrary to treaty.
6. England won't stand that and is to send out an expeditionary force under Sir John French, but apparently England has not declared war. By Sunday I hope the situation will be improved and that there will be some news from the front.

Now for some things that perhaps you don't know from the home papers:

1. Mail is likely to be uncertain so don't worry if you don't hear for long times. The mail order and goes to Hong Kong by the Douglas Steamer. They have stopped running by mine. The German boat may take them in. Our mail service route depends on Japanese boats and probably via Shanghai. The English
P. O. sends mail by a fast boat occasionally and believe the Chinese P. O. does it more often. Chinese mails ought not to be interfered with, all the means of transportation that carry them over various products may be interrupted. I suppose that England is probably in the war by this time. If so the English and German lines the Irish may have to quit running for fear of each other's boats (unless, of course). As for Siberian mails, I suspect that the war money not make the Russian government unwilling to carry mail for the Chinese government, but that the service on the Siberian railway is likely to be curtailed. And as Russia seems to be at war with Germany, the mails would have hard work getting from St. Pet to Boston. My father knows that the trip of one Empress has been cancelled. I am going to send my letters via Chinese boats route and designated, and trust them to as the best they can getting it there. It looks as the S E was the best route. That would mean a trip up the coast in a local jaunt to Shanghai, connecting with the Pacific Mail or S S Kiska for S F; they might ship me there by S F to Seattle at Paloma line too.

2. Hong Kong is under martial law, and no ships are allowed to go more than 3 miles at night. No provisions are allowed to go out, and so we get our foreign stores mostly from HK. That is inconvenient for us. If having the Douglas boats stop is also inconvenient as our natural route out of S F is via Douglas to HK. But suppose the go-back boats are running to HK (as far as I know that usually anyhow), haven't forbidden steamers from making
trip. But the Douglas freight is chiefly from H.K. up; and if the rate is not allowed to take shape out of H.K. there is little profit in aiming at that is a consideration. In addition to the possible risk of capture that speaks of Calcutta. I suppose H.K. is preparing for being cut off from the world, and want to keep everything that is there. If the helter skelter happens.

3. Baker says that several German coast steamers have been lingering in Swatow Bay afraid to go on. Prices have begun to go up there. A good first class one has sold at 1350 on a 283,500 sack, and has probably gone up more since. The only chance the need to getting all their stuff from N.T. But when things get actually I don't see why it shouldn't be possible to get stuff down from Shanghai. Probably it will cost more to live for a while. and I'm afraid things won't go down as fast as they go up. Usually they don't.

4. The question of finance may become a serious one. My account is in a Japanese Bank in Sw., and is something over 1125. It doesn't anticipate any trouble about that. The Bank is a pretty reliable one we think and isn't mixed up with Europe enough to be embarrassed. But our missing funds are in the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank of H.K. and there is a possibility that they may be hard to get at. In that case, probably arrangements would be made over Shanghai. that isn't bothering us yet.

Together our situation isn't bad. The mails are likely to be irregular. Good to be more reference. and we may have to make different arrangements about some matters. But altogether I guess we are all right. Maybe as well off as people at
I have written pages of news from here. And Lottie has written 5 pages of answers to home letters and we have been having a debate as to which was more important. It isn't the first time or I have decided to ask you for ideas of the matter. I try to write about interesting things that I have happened, and then every time that I have them, to answer the things you have written about. I don't seem to stop as I wish because I keep on writing about things here. Until time for the mail to arrive. On the other hand, reads our home letters every time she writes and comments on them all. I think before she begins to write about them out here. I figure that the contents being 2 or more months old are rather odd and if they have to wait weeks would be about as good. Whereas some of the things I want to tell about get crowded. But, I have found by experimenting that they are better out of letter. Lottie feels that if we don't comment on each letter, as it comes we don't keep in touch with the home folks. I wonder you rather have me keep on her my own way or change to Lottie's plan?

I was foolish enough to let Lottie read this and she has mutilated it so spoiled the neat appearance of the page. She says she usually likes things put out by first 2 that gave her power. I know both she manages to enable that she has time to read and comment on home letters. Her saying 3 weeks is an unexpected interpolation. But admit that sometimes commenting gets crowded that same time. I think out more than once week. We say to the home that she has been scolding me for not writing you more often. I think we should fix it.

I don't think it's right.
Dear Mother:

I was very much interested in your letter about the Salem Fire. The Rockport folks sent newspapers about it, but I didn't read them very carefully. Your sympathy gave me a little idea where all the rest.

I was also glad to hear about the Baptist, and people here were much interested in your story of Prichie Adams. It is a fact that he is brother to our Hospice of Hope and son of the founder of the Central China Mission at Hangyang. By the way, I have modified my idea about Central China quite extensively, since I wrote that long letter to you. That letter pretty well expressed the idea of most of the Mission here. Many of them would make it for strangers. But because I wasn't able for so many months to get any of the Board's reasons, it seems the Board suspended action to wait for the return of the Jackson part, and further that was ok. But all I had for evidence to confirm the Board's view was a few words from my East China missionary and a short conversation with another, many of whose facts were flatly contradicted by a member of our Mission who has been to Hangyang. But recently the Board has been stating its side and that has called for a restatement of the case which I will make and send you as soon as the last news from Boston is in and digested.

I am glad you met the Page's but I wish you had met what your thoughts of them. Page is a fine man all right but feels on the field native. In his pecuniary and I wonder whether they are not able at home. Ashmore will be mighty glad of the Mission's leadership, which releases Page does very efficiently. And Page will be glad to have Page stand at his place in the Sem. That place is being
occupied at present by Baker, who is doing well. But Page has had years of experience at it. And Baker is due to go home on furlough next week.

Thank you for your congratulations about exams. I don’t know who the “man following later” is unless it refers to Newman. We tried to send him to teach in new medical school in Boston. Understanding from him that the Board had given its approval to such a course, they have already endorsed the school. So Dr. X went right down and began to study Boston. I wanted to make sure it would be favorable. But it looks at present as if the Board would go with him. He has had quite a history. The mission unanimously voted for him to go to Boston. But the Board doesn’t want to see it. Then we voted him to Boston. Releasing we were merely carrying out the already expressed wishes of the Board. It looks as if they would override us there and that it would have to stand in this fall. About 10 months behind the game. Who says delay isn’t expedience? Miss Bulley is one we shall all be interested to see. Her parents are dead. We are all speculate in as to whether Reddy will be married when he gets here. But everything points the other way. It makes a mighty important difference about the housing question. Glad to see the Rowells. He was able to see the mother. Taught English under the auspices of the woman’s Bible training school. About 3 hours a week. Doesn’t sound much. But it is a lot.
Thaiyong, via Swatow,
August, 17, 1914.

Dear Father;

We are so well pleased with this room at Thaiyong that we have decided to buy it. It has been on the market for some time. We are sending Mr. Page, who owns it, an offer, accompanied by two other papers, to be used in case he accepts the offer. One is an order on E. S. Butler for $200. U.S. money. The other which is to accompany it, is a note for Mr. Butler to send to you, and reads as follows:

"On receipt of this will you please draw from my account with the People's Savings Bank Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) U.S. money, and send to Mr. E.S. Butler, Boston, to reimburse him for $200. which he has paid out on my account as explained in my letter to you of even date herewith", which letter is this one which I am writing to you now.

Page wants the money, and he would probably accept $100. down, and the balance in instalments with interest. But we think he will be more likely to accept our offer if we show him the most of the purchase price (we are offering him $240.) Compared with renting rooms, to own a room at Thaiyong is a fairly good investment, not girt edge; but it is becoming increasingly difficult to rent rooms, and as these rooms suit us better than any others in Thaiyong, and as one summer in Thaiyong is enough to convince us that we don't want to be forced to take chances of Double Island, we have decided to buy while the buying is good. Of course Page may not accept our offer. In that case the above-mentioned document will not reach you. That won't necessarily mean that we didn't buy the room. It may simply mean that we waited to negotiate further with Page when he comes out this fall.

Lovingly, Ellison.