Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 15

Finding aid for collection available at:
http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.015

Series: 1. Correspondence

Box / folder: 3 / 34

Folder label: ESH to John and Kate Hildreth (parents), primarily from Chaochowfu

Dates: 1916

For copyright information see: http://www.library.yale.edu/div/permissions.html

Originals of collection held at:

Yale Divinity School Library, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
(divinity.library@yale.edu)

Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China 515063
Dear Mother,

Many thanks if I haven’t said so already for the Christmas present. It seems as though I must have written already, but the thing came late and I don’t believe I have written since Conference began, so anyway I’d thank you all and was mighty pleased with the things the folks where we stayed at Kakechek took the "Geographic" and have looked over and over again at the sand dune numbers and wished glad a copy and letter says it is one of the month’s that will come in a few days. I’m so pleased. The saying machine proposition is one that I have been about ever since before we came to China. Just before your letter came to me and had been considering selling our foot machine and buying a hand machine and had very nearly decided to do so (as we could sell the foot machine), our idea was dampened a little by the statement that Mr. Sing’s machine won’t sew thick material but I talked to Mrs. Cooper who has a hand machine, and she says it must be made up for Mrs. Cooper’s machine is constantly borrowed by the Chinese and their cloth is certainly thick and heavy. And we know that much more than half of the machines the Chinese use are hand machines. They surely would not use the hand machines if it balked at thick cloth so we are still thinking about the hand machine. We are also considering a fireless cooker and some other things. The tithing is divided as to who feed on scarce much fuel by having a fireless. One ought to put some who have them, don’t think there is any saving. But even as the food tastes enough better and is enough better cooked (less digestion etc) to make it worth while.

Please thank J. F. and Mary too. I have been thinking about what to get them for the
moneysthey sent, and can't think of anything that would give me more pleasure than to see books. Last summer I found out about some excellent lessons in Elementary Wenzü (the Chinese literary language) and would have ordered it once except for two reasons: time and money. I shall not be able to get much time for the book. I have right now several weeks of work waiting for a chance to get at it. But even so I have thought over and over that I wanted that book off and had the impulse to buy it a few weeks ago. It would be well worth while for me to try aside some other work and give attention to those lessons. In fact, they really should have been put in my study course a year ago. But the language committee hadn't awakened at that time. For that reason they are working now. Anyhow as I look over the books that I own I feel specially want, so I'm going to take the money and buy it. And another book that I had wanted for nearly a year is the "Pigeon Atomic Flying Book." It contains some large number of these most Chinese times, so I'm going to take Mary's money and buy it whenever occasion to remember Mary and Aunt Ann.

(After all exchanging letters, I wanted to say that I felt a great reluctance to going to Thaliny in this summer - after our hopes last year - and all the reasons he could do it if necessary, I felt that now, if ever, was the time for us to investigate missions in the north, and the other we could try to promote better feeling between England and South China. And so I'm in a rented gun room at Thaliny and am written to Geo. Neasmith (E's former room-mate) to secure us a room at No. (Hansen) and the people from E. China spend the summer. The cost is very little more than a trip to Kuang Hwa many of our people go - and all the K - is more expensive than Thaliny. The trip will now be cheaper than now and probably much more worth while.
Jan. 31, 1916

Dear Mother:

This is almost Chinese New Year. Today is the 30th, and thus, is "Lottage", and I have been thinking about it and counting the date in the foreign month as it gradually approached 31. And me both got it into our heads that tonight was the last day of the old year, but we were going to set up to celebrate the old year. I was speaking of it as just a mistake of year, and surely replied it was Jan. 31. I must be getting to think Chinese of their new year! Makes so much impression on me.

New year's really is a most important time in China for everyone must pay his debt at that time, and there is a lot of scrambling together of cash. The stores are willing to sell at reduced prices to change their goods into cash. The debtors who hand no money have to borrow at high interest. They are branded as bad debtors etc. etc. and have to pay interest besides. Of course this reproach causes them to look face most deplorable, and a Christian's face is about the most important part of his system.

A Christian who, has a shop in the city sent word by his attorney (a preacher) that he owed $100, and would make to borrow it from me on interest. But I declined. I wouldn't have set such a bad precedent. If I had had the money to spare, which I didn't, but another Christian presents a much more pitiful case. He needs to be Baker's customer. His wife has been very sick and he has had to pay doctors fees and medicine bills; he has also had to take care of her and his earning capacity was decreased. His work is peddling medicine, and this further away from the best customers. He needs $4 50, and wanted to borrow it from me for summer. But I said, and it to him, everyone else will expect me
to send to them too, and there is no end of trouble. It will cause less real heart bother if I turn down the first few applications, and then think it over be so many afterward; the alternative is that by only the three would be applicant cons that I would have to turn down, and then three people would feel they were unfairly discriminated against and try to get even with me for refusing. At the same time the man really is in a bad condition. I first thought of making him a gift of a couple of dollars. When it occurred to me that the back yard at the shop is in a disgracefully dirty condition and might give this man the contract to put it into good shape and pay him in advance. I commissioned the preacher to see him about the matter, and I hope it will meet the requirements of the situation.

We have had a little company since we came up. Mr and Mrs Bondfield were here for supper on their way back to the Phabbe Hills and Mrs Newman stayed over one night. Mrs Thompson of Washington whom we met so well came to visit Mrs Pint (a new lady over across the river) and we persuaded them to come and stay one night. Mrs Fust and Miss Cashen called at the door, and invited us to tea—any invitation that we were glad to accept. Yesterday Mr. James and Mr. Gibson of Stratford called, and we persuaded them to stay for supper. Tomorrow Miss Harper is coming up for a week or so, and next week Mr. Bacon and Miss Northcott will be up for two or three days. Mr. Slaggan may be here for a bit too. It unfortunately our house is filled, and even if someone else should come down we can't take care of them without falling back on Baker's house. Only if the weather were cold we should have to borrow or steal some of the Baker's clothes.

Hoping you will the same,

Your loving son, Ellison
Belchertown, MA
Feb 18, 1916

Dear Mother,

It's Sunday evening and I'm not going into the city, so I decided to get out all your letters and look them over to see what comments you want to make. The first thing that came up is a pamphlet describing Castorwood pens. I was very much interested in it and thank you for sending it. That reminds me that one of your recent letters speaks of your sending a lot of pens. I presume that was suggested by my question. I surely didn't mean for you to do anything like that. The next I thought was that you might inquire at the stationery and of last pen package about was good, just get me sample. I might have known that you would do more than I asked. If you haven't come, so I'll just thank you in advance.

I am interested to see how much of an institution Fannie's author is getting to be. I should like to hear it. I imagine, however, that the voice which the author has accompanied the great attraction. I like those that Fannie must have some smart students if they can clay-model a mouse well enough to justify trying to make his ears point the right way. I imagine I'd be puzzled even to put his head on straight.

Sorry Fannie from her too. Has she done it again since. I hope not. You certainly had a great giving time. It may that the way to do it. Sorry you didn't have the blow especially for your story. How Hie kept strikes a reasonable chat. For I have working for several days on mission statistics. Yesterday morning I attacked a song. For each mission station I have to report the Chinese contributions in your column for church work, 2 for education, 3 for imbalance of total. Then when I add the column. Total 4. But it didn't. I worked and worked and worked and finally all of a sudden it came out right and after that I couldn't make it come.
out any other way—and no clue as to why it had failed to come out right at first. When I have an experience like that, as I very frequently do, it confirms me in the conviction that I never was cut out for a treasurer. Every other situation seems just exactly suited to me. I'm thankful they relieved me of the auditor's job you certainly had quite a storm one your birthday. We have our lizards in the summer and call them geckos. They use water traffic about as effectively as lizards. I'm glad to get your letter and to read of what a good gooseberry sauce you had. The letter gave me an idea so I'm going to ask especially to be remembered to Florence, Pearl, and Aunt Em. While I think of it too, the American consul in Guangzhou is named Hanson. (If it is what his signature looks like, I don't believe they spell it that way; his initials are something else.) He used to be at Cornell and was one of Kate's regular Sunday dinner guests. He would very much like to be remembered to her.

If you ever happen to write and say you are thinking of it, I'll be very much like to be remembered to her.

I was very sorry to hear of the death of "Mrs. Bishop." I believe Melvin's. Please tell Mrs. Whitmore that I send my sympathy. I should like to see "just what" much like she would really be worth seeing.

I'm glad you have some amber glasses for the plain window glass or prescription. That sort of frames I certainly enjoy my "true amber glasses in tortoise shell frames."

Have I thanked you for the "Bluestream work" of which I want to do as much as I can.
Dear Uncle,

I see that Ellinon’s letter has not gone yet, and so I am going to add a line. We came to Swatow yesterday to attend the end of the Exeterbury meetings on S.B. Method. (They are splendid!) and to get ready for my trip to Canton. I am so sorry to have to go. little letters are many nice features – such as seeing the city – and Harriet Allyn. These are in themselves of importance!

Your letter of Jan 10 – etc. came to-day and I must tell you what a great comfort they have been to us. We have waited so hungrily for them; then too, you have expressed your thoughts and feelings to well – not restrictions your expression too much – and yet not expressing too much sorrow. I am so glad you spoke of the expectant hope of being grandparents – for we both had hoped and known that you would do – and we felt doubly sorry in thinking of your disappointment. It was strange but there is a note reached us first on Sunday – and one from Mother B.

Then yesterday came one from Beth Little and one from Alice Bartlett – New Orleons – and today came seventeen more – So dear are you friends! We are so sorry that you have had this grief, and we have prided daily too, that your sorrow may be lightened and that you may yet have grandchildren to enjoy.

There stay home from the meetings this evening because I do not want to overtax my strength in any particular but want to grow strong and be in perfect health – as soon as possible. I am so relieved that both you and my family are glad that u did not come for I had worried a little about it – in spite of feeling strongly that u had

Swatow – China
Feb. 23, 1916
Dr. Newman may go to Canton the same day I do, as he fears that his boy was lost on the Japanese steamer that was jammed two weeks or more ago. The boy was going to Canton to pack up Dr. Newman’s things to bring them up here.

I must get into bed now for I am all ready myself for my kinchum and quarters which are keeping me name while I write.

Dear Mother Hildreth - I dreamed of you January 13 and of my own mother January 14. They were all here in your thoughts then for I know that you must know.

Love to you and Father and Aunt Dan and Janice and Mary. Lottie.

Love to all Northampton folks too. They have been as dear in remembering us.

The two long lost parcels from Brooklyn and from my cousin Jane arrived safely this week. It is too bad they man had so much trouble with them.

Thank you for the letters, which came last night. Lottie has said just what I would like to say about them, so I feel endorced it.

It was rather careless of Lottie to mention that the steamer to Hong Kong was sunk, just as she is writing about her own trip to Hong Kong. Don’t worry, these Japanese steamers are remarkably reliable and we never travel on them. The service is perfect and the rates cheap. We go on the English steamers which are run by the Union Steamship Company.
Chaochowfu, via Swatow, China,
April Fools' Day.

Dear Mother:

We got some mail yesterday, and that proves that the trains are
commencing to run, so it is worth while to write again. The revolution
struck us Monday morning, and no trains came to the city after that
Dr. Wman was spending the week-end with us, and intended to go down
Monday afternoon, but came back and spend the night with us. Tuesday
A.M. before we got up, we had a note from Mr. James, that one of their
Christians had come up from Swatow by chair, and if Newman wanted to
take the chair back to Swatow he could. I had just time to dash off a
hasty note to you and send it along by Dr. Newman. It cost him six
doollars to get that chair to Swatow, the r.r. fare is 50/.

I am enclosing a little note that I have written to send to several
people; it gives an outline of the matter. Soon I hope to write you
more in detail. I would have done so this morning but I had callers
half the morning or more.

Swatow has gracefully gone to the rebels. The chief magistrate
fled on board a Chinese warship and left the harbor. We hear that
Chaoyang Kityang, Ungkung, Shanghai, and Kaying have all sided with
the rebels. That means that the power and the soldiers are all in the
hands of the revolutionary party, and we can expect as good protection
as we have had or better.

The note that I am enclosing was written when I was busily
writing letters. Since then I have given my attention to clearing up
an accumulation of papers, improving my filing system, binding a lot
of papers, helping Lottie prepare for tea, and entertain the E.P.'s
attend a Chinese funeral, etc. I has been a pretty busy week.

I do hope you didn't read a whole lot of sensational reports in the
American papers, and get worried about them. Our chief anxieties have
been that, and the fear that the consul would get excited and order us
to Swatow for safety. Both would be equally groundless. We have been
perfectly all right, only that we couldn't communicate with you.

I must stop now as the cook chas come for the letters. Please
don't worry about us; the revolutionary party is well disposed to the
foreigners, and the common people are well disposed to the rev. party.
In fact it is they, and they are it. All hands know that the qui cekts
way to get into trouble is to hurt a foreigner, and they are not going
to hurt us or let anyone else hurt us if they can help it; and I think
they can. We have been sleeping very soundly these nights.

Lovingly,

[Signature]
Dear Mother,

This has been a good long day. It began at about 5:30 with an alarm clock. I got up hastily, dressed, kissed Lottie goodbye and they left me to sleep again, which I very much liked. She didn't do. got my bicycle, and took a boat across the river and then went to Mr. James' house where I had breakfast with him at 6:15 or a little later. I judge that he fed Mrs. James to his sleep again. I did not see her, but I wish I had. I think he got a sleep of even more than Lottie. Presently at 7:00 we set off for 87 mg (ETNG) the dug having pronounced something like 'Ganges'.

What was our errand? Mr. James was going to make a pastoral visit with baptism, communion and hence I hoped to hook a visit to the Sunday Evangelistic Campaign I should have gone too Sunday after the revolution, but it meant a very long trip.

I decided that to day would be a good day, and then found that Mr. James had already arranged to go. Fortunately at his suggestion we decided to go together. Originally he would go on my bicycle. Instead we walked together this AM. It took me longer, but was more enjoyable.

I rode the bicycle, and made a regular pace mile of it. My handbag and sweater, my umbrella, my overcoat and a basket with some things in it were all tied on somewhere. It made matters a little awkward, but is for safety than carry my

When we got to 87 mg the first thing was to partake of the attention that Mr. James' boy had prepared. At 9, AM the 6:15 break fast seemed many miles away and the tea went right to the spot. The speech at the morning service and the people subscribed $29.76. That is 1/4 more than
a different church subscription a week ago at Mr. James' exaltation, so I didn't feel entirely 
delightful and feel a little embarrassed at 
speaking in Chinese before a large group of 
people in the mission, with the exception of two or three others. But 
speaking before one of the other missions is a 
little different. Then James conducted 
his examination of candidates, then dinner, and 
then the ride home, which was considerably 
greater than the morning's walk. Then a bath 
and a long sleep. Then to sit in 
an arm chair and read "The Little Minister", 
which I have read about half a dozen times 
already, and like better every time I read it.

Last Friday Lottie and I went to the 
South Gate to play tennis and the game 
was and my friend. I had about decided it was a 
balance, but when he came up and introduced himself. 
He is a British American and comes from near Swedenham. I 
and several fellow visitors. We invited him for tea 
the Saturday afternoon, and had a very 
very enjoyable time. He came twenty 
and thirty minutes ahead of time, and had 
not started to dress, and may be wouldn't 
have started then, but for the urgent 
representations. I was doing some work, 
didn't want to stop, and I guess she got 
me away from it just at the time.

Yesterday the Thonmin missionary from 
cone. I think the Hanka county called for 
dinner, and in the afternoon he went to 
visit an lady. I was with him. The 
don't live where he does, several days in 
the mission and all alone. A day or so from the 
nearest white person. There wasn't a missionary 
doctor in the same city, but he was not left 
without knowledge. What happened?
Dear Mother,

Your letter about Easter just received. Glad you had such a good Easter. I must have looked awfully sorry. I’d like to see something here. My daily fare consisted of eating hot cakes that tasted of soda; by giving over to the chapel. Expecting to preach, but the preacher had decided not to go as he planned, and he didn’t mention that he wouldn’t need my help; by having an English-speaking dinner and by going down to Phillips to hunt up a teacher and all school teachers. Great Easter celebration.

We have had a nice time with white ants. This morning discovered them in the floor of the great bathroom. Before was aware. If you breakfast went up between the ceiling and roof of that bathroom, it really is only the exoskeleton of plaster wall. They didn’t make any way to get in between ceiling and roof. Last year I had a great big ant nest in the roof; so this morning I looked and found only a few traces that the ants might have come from the bathroom. When I went up into the main roof and found practically no ants. By this time it was 7:00. So I started to climb and inspected that bathroom floor from below. Remember its an extra fan and still; casual inspection had several time revealed nothing. But this time I went up on a ladder with a hammer and found some of the beams in a shocking condition both from rot and from white ants. The bathroom floor guess is safe, but we have...
an outside staircase leading up to the
bathroom door, and the platform at the
top of that staircase is absolutely riddled
with holes. I shall have to pull it down and
get along without it till a suitable time
for having repairs made, on other parts
of the house, and then I can have that
done too.

Our verandah floor has been giving
us some disturbance of mind and we had
seen. So after tea I pulled up a
section of the verandah. It was somewhat
rotten in one beam, and there
were white ants in several of the beams.
But it seems to be quite safe so far.

Sometimes we pull up the
other verandah part, and if it is not good
we shan't need to replace till next
winter, or on a pinch even a year later.

Sunday. Down to the church in the morning. They have been
going to open a night school for so
day that I live and it became formal
whether they ever would. I asked them
and they said yes and there were ten
more. At that instant in

furniture, and the teacher said "There
are of the furniture." The bed sat down,
left went out, and came back with a
lily which he presented to the teacher
and the preacher presented to me. I didn't
look like a gold lily—not nearly as
pretty, and quite a bit larger, but
its perfume. What there was of it was
sweetening that need that we see in
the pot when the lilies go to seed,
is lifted center of the lilies blossom
when it is in its prime, and to my eye,
looks out from its beauty. I'd like to
look at the blossoms, see the stem
and the root of the lilies, so that
nothing is lost, what is the more to
join aesthetics to wild surreality.
Wednesday A.M. a note came from Mrs. James who was planning to start for Hawaii that day. But she was not well and the doctor said she had better stay in bed. So we had to find someone to take care of the baby. We went right over and I went for lunch. After a bit a rain came on and I had to walk back home thru wet and muddy lane. In the afternoon I had to stay home all alone and do much cooking. But the rain was still pouring hard. I went into the city to an educational conference. But the man who had charge of it failed to appear so I came home for lunch.

Book is just going in to mail as a two-maile case. With lots of love.

Thurs, June
Auntie Mother;

The doll above represents one of my
favors to Kitty (the only one that was
ready for the day). It is her a doll with
her name, you are probably familiar
with my doll, but I'll put it here
for comparison. You notice the top
character is the name that the sound
Li' (like it is always pronounced like eigh).
The other two characters are 55 亖.
which represent "Chinese Lily" the
flower name for Bartholomew gave.
Lettie, each member of the family has
a flower name. Kitty, Rhoda, etc.,
naturally Kitty's was just given to her after she
was definitely connected with thing.
The name Li was found to be put
into Chinese except by saying 亖-亖-亖 (pronounced law-til) which means flower, and
of course is masculine. At first we thought of
using 亖-亖-亖, which is the original form of "Ruth", but later it seemed wise to
translate this Lily, so we did. 亖-亖 means early
and 亖-亖 means dainty so it really is a nice
name, whereas 亖-亖 has no meaning at all
as a name. and doesn't sound good either.

I might say that Kitty and I agreed on
the idea of translation being "Lily", but the
selection of the character was left entirely
in my hands. In our dialect there is one
character pronounced 亖. 55 亖 亖 亖, one
of over 47 Li's and 5 Li's, so you see that
merely to write 亖-亖 doesn't tell what the
name is; it merely gives the sound.

If I can find an abstract I'll look
how many possible permutations and com-
brinations you can make with 55 Li's
and 47 Li's — theoretically. But prac-
tically you are restricted by the necessity
of having a nice meaning and the character
above given for Li is the only one of that
sound that has a nice meaning, so that a
Chinese would know at once that it is
the Li character used.
must be the one meaning devinity, and a little reflection would tell me that the E is meant early; there is no other character pronounced E with a meaning anywhere near as here. Just it too bold the characters are so hard to write? There’s remedy, the.

Lottie is at the piano playing Mendelssohn, Gotta Raychub, Graham’s ballad, etc. I asked here you need to play to me when she was little with her and she was very much interested. She wrote her love to you, she gave me an empty paper cutter, and a carved sandalwood fish, both from South America. I have been using an old steel paper cutter, with a wood handle that is so slick for the handle, and difficult to enjoy the paper cutter much better.

I celebrated the day by staying away all day. Wasn’t that a little? I had about last year. I had to leave the house at 8:40 for SS formal class, and AM service wasn’t over till about 11:40. Now that the bridge is down and we have to go by boat it takes 40 minutes or more instead of 20. So I got home at 12:20, or more 12:30, and would have to leave at about 1:10 to get to another church where was held communion. It seemed to be too hard and too hurried. So went the church keeper out to buy 3 of wafers, stuffed potatoes — a big bowlful — drank a pint of cocoa, and ate a few peanuts. And had remarkably economical meal, and one that tasted nice and was served easily. Even by eating at the church as good. After I had had my lunch and washed out the thermos and written a postcard it was time to start for the church where the communion was to be.

I got home for tea about 4:20, and after that mended the outside.
gate bolt so it can be locked — it had come apart during the day — helped Lottie to take a little music but of someudies talked a little had a bath and it was summer time. This evening is being spent writing with piano and knitting and it is very pleasant indeed.

Lottie has just read to me "Toquardette" consist of 4 three persons and a town.

Washmore's son, Frank Washmore NW is going to come to So Chiao this year as a medical missionary. Mr. Foster's son Frank Foster BA is to come out this summer on a two-year contract to teach English in the Academy at Kweichow, a successor to Mr. Cohan. I who is just going home after filling a similar contract great excitement about "my Frank" and "your Frank." Mr. Foster wants to be remembered to you all.

Mr. Campbell of Kayseri had a sufficient last summer and had to go home. One of his daughters was Bunt developed her husband and to come out to Kayseri and take up the work the Campbells laid down. There was a Miss Edwards who went to West China but had to leave on account of her health; she tried it in South China and finally gave up and went home — thus we missed her contribution to the many misfortunes which finally occurred in that school. School being closed for the last 3 years — we were able to get her back but it is coming out again. I don't know whether there she has a beautiful personality and it is not be fine to have her. But needless to say how more interested in whether the others have any reason to expect that they want.
then it will begin to feel

of the big evangelistic meetings that were to be held with Mr. Sherwood Rede as chief speaker have been more or less "up in the air" for some time. The uncertainties connected with the revolution, and about when Daddy would come back to China - if he comes at all within a reasonable time - have bothered us a lot.

Last week the Committee had a meeting on Thurs. in A.K. which I attended. The question of when the campaign should be held was discussed and we decided to go down and meet with them, and tell them that we have seen we couldn't be ready too fast; that next spring wasn't a very favorable time, on account of rain, and of many heathen closing up; that the fall of 1897 would be the best time in itself, at which we recognised it would be for finishing the campaign longer than desirable. The Committee debated the question most of the time from 2:30 (or after the devotional service which began then) to 5:30, and then voted to write and find out whether Daddy can come early next year, if not, to have the campaign in late Jan. or early Feb. for the time that has got the farthest in a rather unpleasant state of mind. Our people here were unanimous that we couldn't get the

together preparatory work done by that fall; it took the Swatow people over an hour of hard debate to come to any decision - and then it was decided on the basis of arguments which concerned Swatow; they argued that games and we have to share with the natives and the campaign is to be held in both as well as in our. And we are as much interested in the question as we is; the whole matter had been run from five or eight right from the start, and we haven't been completely absent anything, or even not interested in what was going on, and we didn't like it.
The second part of our errand then came up for consideration, and we were commissioned by our Befu committee to ask that Befu be represented on the committee which runs the campaign. James stated the case briefly and then Tom Gibson got up and spoke. He is a Presbyterian and is the Foreigner who gives most of his time to managing the campaign; the Church who does so is the YPA to select any a Baptist. These two men are called heads so.

Tom Gibson got up and said that Befu didn't need to be represented on the committee because the Barmen could act for them as well as for us (the Barmen are both Swazi men). James said somewhat, which is true, that Japa man hasn't been at all from came recently the meeting at the Sunday School Institute to keep up. He attended a few meetings, but got absolutely nothing to keep, and specifically he refused to make a speech on the subject of the Sunday school work to the evangelistic campaign. The meet of course was at a time when everybody was concentrating on Sunday School problems and had little time to think of anything else. We'll get of in answer. James remark that the Barmen seldom came to Befu. He had been up here, and no one mentioned the campaign. About that time I poured over said, that the Barmen had no particular to the question of whether Befu should be represented on the committee. Now in that instance, the committee was to meet to discuss the time for the campaign, a question in which we are mutually interested, and if we hadn't happened to see the item in the church newspaper we shouldn't have known anything about it. Our committee had fore gotten and come just time before the delegates, but all that we delinates seemed to want a request the committee to listen to
What we had to say; we had no authority in the matter; the question was decided by the two-foot people, and we had no say in it; now we were asked in them to make a new arrangement so that we could have some say in matters that concerned us. Well the committee felt that we were right and some of them felt so quite strongly, and they thought that we should be represented, but the consideration of the defects of the scheme was postponed till the next meeting. There was good reason for that; the arrangement would need to be made with care and more. Perhaps some discussion; and they still had another faranging problem, which unfortunately kept the committee in session till 11.30 p.m. James had missed his tea; and the house where he was staying was shut at 6.15 while he cannot have got over Swatow before 7.30 on the next day.

Later in the week, I have been trying to get time to write more, but my preparations for exam has been kept me pretty busy. I told you that my first chapter exam is to be on Sat. of the week. You were afraid you had to prepare for the section on writing and that the committee went off when I was being examined on the last office. And if not to the tender mercies of two women who decided that I hadn't passed so I have not the fun of doing a fall over. Just as it happened a day before the exam. I can't give up a convenient time, so I have to take the exam several days before. I said I would be ready which makes it crowded. I think I can be ready however. Mr. James was over for supper last night, and we talked about Tom Gibson. It seems that Tom's idea is that the committee is too unyielding now.
and that is why he opposed adding to its numbers. I think he is mistaken. However, he wants to have the matter run by an oligarchy, but that isn’t the way to get the whole-hearted support of the Chinese. And especially it would be hard to get the Chaochoum or Chinese to put their heart into a movement that was forced entirely by Swatow.

I don’t know how bad an impression of Gibson this letter gives. He really is a very nice fellow and I like him very much.

I must close now and take a little after dinner nap so that I can put in a good afternoon work on Chinese.

Lovingly,
Ilene
13 Palm 100
4 Tomatoes 60
2 c Einkorn Flour 1.5c
2 Tbsp. Salt 2
Rice Filler 2
Shoes Childs
Dear Mother:

It has been a busy week or so since I wrote to you. Perhaps I had better go back to the 15th when I reached and I suddenly decided to go down to Kim Beech, by train, nearly half way to Swaffam. We got there at about 2 and had a start back at 3:15 to catch our train so that wasn't much time. The preacher there was supposed to be engaged definitely for next year, but the previous Saturday I got a letter of resignation from him. As I hadn't engaged him, he didn't need to design to me at all. So I just returned the letter of one to the church asking what it meant and when they please send one up to discuss. By Wed noon no line had come so we went down and found the trouble was that the church had not yet given the preacher the note that finds the bargain. So he was a man without a contract, and more or less like to accept the invitation of some other church. He wrote this letter to me to start things moving. We went away and talked about it. The first thing was for teacher to write the note on terms according to the church's idea. The note took the note around to the preacher who declined to accept it. On the ground that he also wanted the church to furnish his charcoal, and to collect the tuition instead of making him collect it. Both are reasonable, especially the second. So teacher and I went around and got him to agree to accept $76 which is about half of what cost of the charcoal. Then we got the teacher to agree to collect the tuition. But they didn't have promise the $76 without consulting the church. So we came away and on Sunday teacher went down and helped them subscribe and the matter is definitely settled. This is a church that has only 3 members, one of whom is abroad, but a member Baptist, who hasn't yet found his letter lives near by and is a pillar of the church. But it can't keep going at all for these Presbyterian families who would rather go to Kim Beech chapel than to their own chapel. One of the Presbyterians is a lawyer and there are Baptist churches at a distance of 2½ miles and 3½ miles respectively, and Presbyterian churches at 2½ and 3 miles is hammed in and has little chance to expand. And it would be the greatest calamity in this world if this church disbanded...
and it seems we went to the neighboring school to work, but they resolved to return after school. I had increased their salary from $6.00 to $10.00. In contrast, I still work, which I'd like to mention next day and was hoping to have time to write about but the time proves to be short. I think I'll write this at once. I may catch a dream, but I will get to you by Xmas. I hope better not today. We wish you many many happy Christmases and hope that you can be with the next one. I am writing on a small boat crossing the river. Please excuse the terrible handwriting. We invited the Fishers for Thanksgiving, but they had already invited someone else. They invited the MacIvor's and the Shanskis, but some of which I don't want to go. It's a beautiful time, so it turns out that the MacIvor's can't come. Our rage and grief are mitigated by the fact that the hands and cooks will have one to be away at that time and should be. So that we should have been considerably embarrassed if they had accepted.

Please give our love and good wishes to all the family and the Taylors. Also, hope you have a lovely time.

Your loving son,

Edison
Dear Mother:

A gay life since I wrote the preceding page, has kept me from writing more. When I got to Swatow I found a rickshaw waiting so I went straight to the station, and had a wait long enough so that on the way to the station I wasn't worried. It was raining in Swatow, but when I got to the city it had stopped.

I went to the chapel and the folks there got dinner for me. Then I went to the house, and found the cost was better and his mother had come to care for him. So I went around the house and got together the things I wanted to take down with me. When it got toward dark I went over to James's planning to stay over only for supper but they persuaded me to stay over night. In the AM I went to the chapel and talked with the preacher, and arranged for lunch at noon. Then went back to the house and packed up my things, sending the carrier on ahead to the station. After lunch at the chapel I followed, and took the 1:10 train that got me to Swatow just in time for the 3.10 boat so I had my things carried to the Swatow Chapel and then did some errands and took the 4.30 boat. I was delighted to find Katherine Troesch back there. Her mother had written that I was coming on that boat which was more than I knew myself and she knew I would be glad to bring Katherine along. She is a dear girl and my good company. When we got to Chaoyang landing there were no chairs available so we had to walk. I put her baggage on top of mine and had the carrier take it along. I'll try to tell about him next time. I got home on Saturday night.

Sunday was a very busy morning ending with accounts, which came out almost exactly right to my great surprise. Mission money or personal is of little importance.

After dinner I had to hurry to send my carrier off at 1:30 and I started at 1:50 on the hike. When I was a good deal less than halfway I was disgusted to catch up with the carrier so I rode behind him and he travelled pretty well then. When I first saw him he was travelling very poorly. He had no business to go that road anyway. I expected the haul for the hilly but much longer. Anyway we caught the launch but it was as full and had great difficulty in getting the things on board. I had bought a first-class ticket, but it was so full down there that I went up on the bridge which is just of clubs and cost about 16 or not extravagant. But generally so and I can get a good seat because it is so cold up on the bridge. Also I can watch my luggage better down there...
but in the 9 trips I have made since I came here I haven't had a boy along, and I have almost forgotten how it feels. At 
bahrain there was no one to carry but a teacher whom I knew was 
waiting on the jetty so he watched the shuck while I went for a 
carrier. 
I got to Swans at about 4:30 but by the time I had 
got across at Kabeche, got my baggage carried, talked about 
where I was to spend the night, and when my exam would be, 
why by that time it was 5:45 and I went to Pag's, where I was 
assigned to see what time supper was scheduled for. I was 
at 6 so my shave had to be postponed till after supper 
and my bath till bed time. I hadn't had time for lunch at lunching 
that evening I ran around doing errands, and went to bed 
about 9. Pag's house was last year, has two bed rooms 
m's Pag's and the two girls sleep in one. M's Pag is in the after 
which used to be the parlor room. I, so they can only take in two 
guests, ordinarily. Pag has a 7 bed. off in the corner furthest 
from my room and the spread to country bed, for me in the 
best ventilated corner. and gave me my choice which direction 
should be the head. I chose so that my head was close to 
the door and had plenty of air. The Pages have a bad 
reputation in the mission for hostility, light and air, but 
I guess perhaps they are getting over it, for there wasn't 
pretty good ventilation—not enough to satisfy the sheet end 
for me. But the bed was a different matter. A small 
folding cot, such as I use myself—but 
I put a Chinese mattresses down underneath me. and Pag had 
a quiet folded double. I have the 7 or full width blanket 
so that they came down on the sides and keep the wind 
from blowing in between the bed and the covers. Pag had 
the quiet folded double so they were just as 
white as the cot. and if I lay just so, they would just about 
come down to the bed. and something was wrong so that even 
with the pillow tucked up the thickest I could get it, my 
head was almost as low as my lower shoulders. I was 
busted up, the so that both my hips slept pretty well, but I 
was glad to get back here again and have a good bed. 
But here is the funny part of it. When I got into the cot, it 
started to rip. So Pag and I got up and rearranged it. And then 
he said: “If this won't work you'll have to take my bed or 
the dust sheets” well. Sunday evening sheet ought not to be 
very dirty yet and some people would have thought that the 
5 ft 6 sheet could sleep in the cot better than the 6 ft 
guest, but there was no account for the Pages, those who 
have come. Anyway I was all right there. And of course I 
made them a lot of bother. I had to get up at 5 AM Monday, and 
go over to Pag's to see that M's work was up, also that Pag's
Ole' got up at 90 and woke the boatmen. Then went back and
soon Mrs. Page came over to Page's for breakfast. At 11, when
we left the house it was just about 11:45 a.m. to see and we
found our boat ready. We got to the station just before 1, and
the train goes at 1:30. But we hadn't met the slightest obstacle
on the way, and I don't think any less leisure would have been safe.
At the city the preacher and my teacher met me. We went
to see the government high school. etc. etc. Had dinner with
the James's. went over to my house, and finally went back
in time to catch the train at 4:45. I don't suppose an account
of what we did would be very interesting. We got to Kasaheek
about 7, and the boys were invited out to Mr. Wolley's. She
invited me to come in, but she hadn't previously seen Mr. Page
not to have late supper for me. So I went on and had a semi-
cool supper at Page's, and thought about the good time the others
were having. I was alone too. for the kiddies had gone to bed.
Mr. Page had a class to teach. And Mr. Wolley set a fine banquet.
But then I should have had to stay there most of the evening and
so it was my errands kept me up till nearly 10.

Next morning had my exam, and I guess I passed it.
the had spent so much officially. I got there just in time to
eat breakfast and after breakfast I made haste to get away to
swim in time to get my errands done and catch the last boat
launched so as to get home about 5. I didn't get away till
the last boat at 4:30 I wouldn't be home till after dark.

When I got near to Kasaheek the little boy passed
a sailboat containing Mr. Leslie and some freight. He waved
and said, "Hello" to the boy. He had gone out to get them.
I had a suit case and a hand bag, three big
hikes. But at his suggestion I put them on his boat and so
had an easy trip home. I found so the feeling quite well. She had
been settling up some. Early in the day,
That was Tuesday. Yesterday I spent most of the day
resting. I needed it. But I managed to get my accounts made
up and read a little and helped get the room fixed.

But I didn't try to make a work day of it.

Today Thursday the nurse left. Doc. Bacon sent word at
first that she should leave last Satur
day, and we were much
distressed but latter on receipt of a letter that she had
already written she said the nurse would stay till now. Mr.
Leslie's amah took her to Toronto today, and there she met
Miss Northeast and went up on the launch with her. Staying
so long gave me a chance to get back before she left, and
also bring nearer the time when to the can set up and
won't need so much care.
As looking over the letter I see that it is chiefly about myself and very little about Lottie. That is for two reasons: one is that I know much more about what I have been doing than Lottie did of what Lottie has done; the other is that I have been doing something exciting most of the time, while Lottie has done very little but lie in bed. Eat, sleep, and get well. She has done that last exceedingly well, but there aren't many details of it to report. Her muscles are strung somewhat sore and don't work as well as might be wished, but that is only temporary inconvenience for breasts were bound tight as soon as the milk began to come and now are pretty soft, indicating that the flow has pretty well stopped. Her spirits are good and her appetite is good, and the care her physicians take of her is good. The more one asks, the better.

I have thence got over my five questions, and expect to stay here with her till Conference time, and then I hope we can both go to Kachee to Conference. We don't know yet which house we shall be in. But hope to hear soon.

I must close now. With lots of love and wishes for a Happy New Year.

Your loving son,
Ellis