Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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To: Dr. Chamberlin
From: Sheffield Cheng, Stephen Chwang,

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In the hills behind Canton, Aug. 9, 1920

Dear Mr. Chamberlain,

When one is away from home a great deal, as I have been with my present job, which about, one sometimes misses some important mail; and that is probably the reason why your very nice Christmas letter never came to my attention till the other day when my wife mentioned that she was answering it.

It is very pleasant to think of your meeting our families and talking things over with them. I am very glad you were able to come out here, and hope you will long continue to be a member of the Board. The Board certainly needs to have members who understand the situation as it was, in order to be able to understand the situation as it suddenly now is.

The present outbreak is certainly sudden, but obviously its causes have been preparing a long time. I do not see how there can be any doubt that Red propaganda is stimulating and guiding the present agitation. And that the Russian aim is to eliminate foreign influence in China in order that Russia may become the dominating influence. But Russian agitation could accomplish very little if the grievances did not exist. No one would expect Karagan to admit that the Russians were doing propaganda work; but when Prof. Ward asked him if they were, he said, "We have no need to do propaganda work in China." The idea that it is all the work of the Bolshevics, is not; but I don't see how any intelligent person can believe that the Russian government would overlook such an opportunity as China affords for hitting a blow at the "capitalist-imperialist powers." A situation where all they need to do is tell the facts, interpreting them in their own way; and the Chinese, seeing the undeniable truth of the facts, assume readily believe that the interpretation is true.

There's the rub. The Russians have assiduously told the Chinese that their troubles are due not to overpopulation, nor backwardness, nor moral defects, nor to government control from top to bottom. But to foreign
interference. The Chinese liked the sound of this, and decided to believe it. Then the rest was easy. Anybody who does anything against the foreigner is a patriot. To foreign nation looks China except Russia. And the whole panorama of events opens out logically. The Shanghai and other incidents in the north may have been planned in detail by the Reds, or not, perhaps not in detail. If the general plan they undoubtedly had a finger. But the police violence to suppress the "rest" thus giving the agitators the "minders" they needed as a talking-point for their campaign against the "brutal British". The Canton incident was undoubtedly planned by the Reds, and with consummate cleverness. They have all the student body of Canton, who didn't see the cadets fire the first shot, to testify that the firing was from the foreign concession, and with absolute Earnestness. On the principle that the testimony of 100 men who say they didn't see the defendant steal the chicken, and who weren't there when it happened, is not equivalent to the testimony of one man who says he did see the theft. The testimony of all these students is worthless. They are absolutely sincere; but they were not in a position to see what happened. We know that the cadets fired the first shot, except those who fired and those who were going to the post, and they added their призна to the honest misinformation of the rest, and made it unanimous. The testimony of the British consul general is dismissed as not worthy of attention (a pathetic commentary on the Chinese attitude toward the virtue of truthfulness). No Chinese considers that the word of a Britisher is worth listening to; "Of course they would talk in favor of their side," and the assumption is that all they say is lies. No Chinese doubts that all the reports in the papers are absolute truth. The papers that have ventured to print anything different from the "official" Chinese version of things have had to apologize and pay heavy fines. And these you are, to the best information I have, the troops defending the foreign concession at Canton made a
mistake of the first degree in answering the fire of the cadets. They have set themselves down to make or less everlasting infamy in the minds of the Chinee as blood thirsty villains, who wantonly massacred an unarmed patriotic procession for no crime except to gratify their lust for murder; and the concession was in no real dange; so far as I can make up the situation if the whole procession had been armed with the ordinary Chinese military rifle. It would not have been able to capture the concession. The same foreign lives would undoubtedly have been lost; but to think that this island, accessible only by one bridge, heavily guarded by sand bags, and by soldiers armed with machine guns, and with naval vessels close by to add their pop guns if necessary, was in any real danger from a bunch of cadets armed with rifles argues a very nervous state of mind on the part of the defenders of the concession.

But one ought to be equally fair, and try to say that for anyone to think that after all the trouble that has accrued to foreigners, mostly British, from firing on mobs at Shanghai, Hankow, and elsewhere, to think that the British would fire on a peaceful unarmed procession, without any provocation at all, is utterly absurd. They must have been provocation; and the probability is that it was what the Consul-General says it was. It is quite impossible to me to think that a man in his position, not a common rough-neck, but a British gentleman, would deliberately lie on the matter. If it were a matter of security, there is no question that the British are a more truthful nation than the Chinee. But it is not necessary to put it so bluntly as that. To deny the British version of the incident it is necessary to say that the Consul-General is a liar and doubtless others who corroborate him. The only necessity to it is that the vast majority of the witnesses were not in a position to know what happened.
to they may think they were, and that those who do know the cadets and others, are under the influence of Russian Bolsheviks whose attitude toward the truth is quite different from ours, and who also know that the success of their plot depends upon the suppression of the truth as this incident.

I suspect that the American public is inadequately informed about these cadets, who are students in Whampoa Military Academy; between Canton and Hongkong, who wear red neckties, and take the lead in all the anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, anti-Christian movements. One of them told Mr. Baker without any secrecy that the Russian government give their school a subsidy of $20,000 per month, on condition that they run the school in a way to please the Russians. These cadets are the main reliance of the communist government at Canton, which is giving all encouragement to the anti-British agitation, and is in rebellion against the Peking government. And then old Karamay, ambassador of Peking blandly denies that Russia is implicated in the present agitation; but there is his hate because a few white Russians, to avoid starvation, have enlisted for some minor Chinese army.

And so it goes. The outlook for settling up the matter is rather dark. If the truth could be known, it would be simpler. But the Chinese, with the exception of a few often-minded men whose views are probably better known to foreigners than to Chinese, have entered into a conspiracy to suppress anything except what they have agreed to believe. Whether the British are any more often-minded, I don't know. I don't see their gin lead Hongkong paper and have only a few British correspondents. But I fear that all the HK papers can say is that Britain is being attacked by irresponsible parties, and must stand firm. I was much interested to read a Hongkong paper dated June 20 in an article of 20 pages this gave 5 columns to Jutarni Chamberlain's speech on China (which is all to the good) and 5 columns to all the news about the troubles in China. (in all about 1 out of 6 of the paper; at the same time my Peking paper was giving 1 to the matter, and the other half all other news about China, and the rest of the
world and advertisements. I don't know how much interest the public takes in the matter now, but I knew that one or two people in our mission who take that position are strongly anti-Chinese.

So far the outlook is gloomy. Until the missionaries cease to believe that fundamental Russian lies, that all their troubles are due to foreign domination, I see no hope. And at present, everything seems to be against any such a vision of belief.

One might hope for the church to take a lead. But the church seems to be as definitely the not a violently patriotic as the student. For this I think we can hardly blame them; they have undoubtedly shaped a long while under "missionary domination" now they have been for months under a violent mass mob attack from the anti-Russians of the government. The natural reaction is to assert their independence of the foreigner, and to maintain that they are as patriotic as anyone else, and the only thing that anyone nowadays will admit to be worthy of the name of patriotism is agitation for freedom from foreign control.

Of course, this is just what the Chinese don't, that there are other ways of showing patriotism. If the Chinese take off accidental control, they will probably find that the little finger of Russian influence is thicker than etc. If they have neither accidental nor Russian control (not Japanese) they will probably have anarchy. Maybe they will have to go to that stage. Yet it seems much more to reform their country, have upright officials and just courts, have their taxes paid instead of remitted, so that they can pay off their foreign debt etc. Then sooner or later all their things they object to will cure themselves, and China's sovereignty will be as unimpaired as Japan's; and their country will be prosperous. They don't choose to do it that way; they say the treaties were extracted from them by force, and they intend to use a different kind of force to get them transferred; the foreign nations have no right to dictate the terms on which which can get back her own sovereignty.

It is not on the same way with the church which has just declared its independence by the mission. 20 years now, it could have been independent any time; it produced leaders with the intellectual and moral qualities that are necessary for leadership, and was ready to formulate the necessary effort and money. It has never been free to do it that way. And I hope it will declare its independence, but expects the money to come as usual, and the missionaries to continue at work but "in advisory capacity"
It is quite clear that many, if not most, of the leaders and practically all of the staff fail to understand what is involved in what they have done. But—whatever we may say about the situation in the political world—it is an precious privilege as well as duty to thank the Lord for this present revolution in the church, and make the most of it. For years we have been trying to get the Chinese to take on this burden of managing the work; all the steps that I know of, for Chinese control of the work, have been taken by missionary initiative and often the Chinese were indifferent or worse. Whatever may be the reasons, we have failed to get the Chinese to consider the work as theirs, and to do it in that spirit. Now the Bolsheviki et al. have done this for us. Praise the Lord! Never mind that they have not understood what is involved; they will find out soon enough, and when they get up against difficulties it is up to us to help them out, or through, and make the independent church a success. In spite of all we can do to help, they will make some failures, which will perhaps show them that the work of managing is harder than they thought it was when they watched the missionaries doing it; in many ways they will be able to do it better than we, which will be a source of gratification. I foresee that one of their great difficulties will be to get the common or garden variety of Ys to come across with the $ necessary for their plans; but as I think of it, I am not aware that we have had any conscious success on that line—none, but nothing to brag of.

The unanimous testimony of all who wrote me of the Chinese convention, which I was unfortunately prevented from attending, is that the attitude of the Chinese toward the missionaries was good, and increasingly good as the convention went on. I can see that the opportunity for “missionary” work is much nowaday with what is practically a war against Great Britain going on. That might possibly take on a wider scope, with a strong anti-Christian campaign, that makes street preaching all the more attractive as tending to controversy. And also tending to show that the church is a foreign affair after all, and with the Chinese Christians gradually adjusting themselves to the new status, which they can perhaps better do by themselves. So don’t feel you lose any great opportunity for work by being away in the hills. But the work of the kingdom is going on. God is working His purpose out the Lord maketh not waste of the Bolsheviki to praise Him.
On board "President Coolidge",
Hongkong-bound,
June 10th, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Hildreth:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 6th, which I was very glad to receive while I was still in New York. I had wanted to write you long before this, but I got busy towards the end of my year there and it was impossible to do so. I am glad to hear how well your children are getting on. It is unbelievable that we have all grown up now. Many a time have I felt like a child still! But in reality I am getting on too.

I am sorry I did not get in touch with you sooner. We might have had a chance to meet again. You will be interested to learn that I was enabled to stay in Great Britain from the end of January to the middle of September last year. The very first home I was privileged to be in was that of Mr. and Mrs. James! In fact I made their home my headquarters while I was there. Towards the end of May, I stayed for over two weeks with them. It was most delightful as you can well imagine. Mr. James is quite white now. Mrs. James is still as active as ever and just as fond of her garden. They have a lovely house with a big garden in Bickley. It was a real pleasure to have such fellowship with them during my stay there. Both Bill and Beth have grown up to be fine persons. You have undoubtedly heard that Bill has gone out to Singapore on Colonial Service and Beth is working in King's College Hospital in London, quite near where her parents are living. It has been delightful to know them too. Altogether I must say that I enjoyed my stay in Great Britain immensely.

As you know, I spent the last eight months in the Union Theological Seminary at New York. I enjoyed my studies very much indeed. I found the intellectual and the spiritual atmosphere both stimulating and helpful. I had what I wanted so much to do - to give an unbroken period of intensive study. I am sure this year will give me the freshness that I so much needed. Of course my experiences at Madras and Amsterdam were invaluable in broadening my horizon.

On my way to the west coast, I was able to stop over at Syracuse to see Dr. and Mrs. G. B. Cressey, at Cleveland to see Dr. E. M. Poteat, Jr., and at Bakersfield to see Miss E. G. Traver. I spent two full days with Miss Traver and as you can imagine she did me a lot of good. She is such a beautiful soul. I enjoyed visiting Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon too. At San Francisco I was able to spend one afternoon and evening at the Fair and quite enjoyed it.

Our steamer sailed on the 8th and we expect to be in Hongkong by the 29th. There are lots of old friends and college mates on board, which will undoubtedly make the trip very pleasant.

My address in China will be: The Church of Christ, Wukingfu, Kityang, Kwangtung, South China.

With very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Sunday
10-12 A.M.
3-4 P.M.
6-8 P.M.

Six hours in a week.

Please send me the address of Mr. Baker's.
## Weekly Schedule

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<tr>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Chinese Composition</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td>Service</td>
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<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Biology</td>
<td>Religion</td>
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<td>Chinese Literature</td>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Chinese Literature</td>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Computer</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15PM</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Thinking in English</td>
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<td>Thinking in English</td>
<td>Laboratory Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30PM</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>History</td>
<td></td>
<td>Laboratory Demonstration</td>
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### Textbooks

- **Biology and Human Welfare** (Peabody and Hunt)
- **Second Book in Algebra** (Durrell and Arnold)
- **Thinking in English** (J. Spencer Kenward Jr.)
- **Human Geography** (J. Russell Smith)
- **Book Two Sentence Study** (Graybill and Caldwell)
- **Thirty More Famous Stories Retold** (James Baldwin)
- **Outline of Four Gospels** (Lecture notes, etc.)
Dear Mrs. Hildreth:

Did you receive the letter which I wrote to you two weeks ago. Last Saturday we had a test. It was not very hard. I am studying in the Fourth year Section B of the academy. Our lessons are Biology, Algebra, Geography, Reder, Grammar, History, and Chinese. We have four periods in the Morning and three periods in the afternoon. Assignments and tests give us every day. We tried our best and studied hard.

I have been told that President White will give me a scholarship about forty dollars a year. Hope this is true. Yesterday one of the Chinese teachers told me about that, and I am going to help the school one hour each day. Hope the family of yours quite well. Remember me to Pue Sin Seo Lim Sin Seo and give
greeting to the little friend (Children Church) when the Sunday School lesson is over.

Sincerely Yours

Stephen Chwang
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hildreth,

Many thanks for your kindest letters. I am pretty well now. Thank God that I am in fine feather and I can work and study as before. This is in my high spirits.

The winter vacation took place yesterday afternoon suddenly and all of the students start for their homes without the final examinations. Fighting of Kiangsu and Chekiang affected the school authority to do this.

Dr. Poteat made his last speech to us last Sunday. The subject “Samson and Riddle”. He concluded with the gambling of the Chinese New Year. He told us the gambling of Swatow and Chauchowfu clearly. Perhaps he has been to Chauchowfu one of his New Years.

The Hankow British Settlement has “into the land of South Away” (or Canton Troop). The volunteers have been drawn out by the Mass. Women and Children boarded
ships for Shanghai. I am very sympathetic with them. These are the result of "inequal treaties." I talked last week one of the foreign professors told us. He said "China not only need the political and industrial revolutions but also the educational revolution too." He compared the educations of U.S.A., Japan, Philippine Islands and China with his learner. China people only 0.005% received their middle school education (now hundreds only one received education of middle school). He suggested us to be teachers when we graduate. This is one of the ways to save China.

Yesterday I sent you to copies of catalogues. One is in English and the other is in Chinese. They are old ones. But the new ones are not yet come.

School will open again in February 14, 1927. I will keep a sharp lookout for the costumes, schools and churches here, and I will shake myself together of study next year.

I will graduate from senior middle school 2% years more 1927, Feb. 1928 June. (it means new system 1½ years in old system. But I think the school will not let me to do this.)
I am looking out some positions to do, in here. If so perhaps I will going to graduate in future. I will make this plan in my mind. (about if I continue my study then I shall graduate in the middle of 1933.

I shall graduate from middle school 2 1/2 years more from 1927-1929
1 1/2 years more 1927—June 1928 (old system)
From college 6 1/2 years more 1927—June 1933.

Hope all of you are pretty well.

Sincerely Yours

Stephen Chiang

I copy the news this afternoon in the back of the paper.
Shanghai Times

Canton Commune Rules Hankow

More Refugees Arrive in Shanghai

77 children killed in fire

Cantonese driven back in Chekiang

North China Daily News

Riot Pictures from Hankow

Mr. Chen's Cynicism

Any

Significant reply to

Paper's inquiries
April 5, 1928

Dear Stephen,

Your letter of Feb. 18th arrived here safely, and I was glad to hear from you and to receive your detailed account of extra expenses. That helps me to understand what extra money is needed.

I am writing to Mr. Naasimith to-day to ask him to talk with you, and to learn your desires and plans.

I am also sending 10.00 U.S. money to Miss Lacey at the Associated Mission Treasurers' rooms which you may call for if you need the money. She will change the money into Mexican.

I shall also expect to send you some more in the late summer if you intend to come back.

I have only a portion of the remittance for next year, but I will promise to get an amount equal to two hundred and forty dollars Mex. for the school year 1928-1929 if you care to continue and graduate.

I am sending 10.00 Mex. again toward food for your sister.

Believe:

How I do hope that you are well, that you are getting on in your work, and that you are getting new vision with your knowledge.

It must seem a long time to spend in preparation, and you must long to be thru with your work.
Dear Mrs. Hildreth,

I received a letter from you last Sunday. I was busy for my lessons this week, and sorry to say that I have been unable to answer sooner. I return you thousand thanks for your kindness and friendly advice. I am very glad to continue my study, but I knew that is hard for you to get the money, isn't it? Your kindness and regard make a strong and lasting impression in my mind. The Chinese proverb says "Do not forget the kindness you have received." Thank you for your kind inquiries after my health. My mother, sister and myself remain as well as when I last wrote. I am glad to hear that you are all enjoying good health. With kind regards to your family and circle. Miss Lu Ting-Kuan desired me to present her best compliments. I have forgotten last letter and hope you will excuse my carelessness. You knew her, aren't you? She has been one of our girl school students many years ago, and now she is the principal of Jio-pen Government Girl School.

China is having terrible time. The bombardment and occupation of Japanese army in Shantung, more than four thousands have died in the fire, recorded from the local news papers. The Japanese cabinet is sending soldiers into Peking the Chinese old capital by means to stop the unification of China and stationed army in Shan-hai-kwan to against the Chinese soldiers to go to Manchuria. China is do not like to fright will Japanese military but only wish to reason with the Japanese people to ask their conscientiousness to stop the action of Japanese soldiers. The proverb...
says "Where there is might, there is law." The strong state always right and the weak state always wrong." This is untrue. We know the Heavenly Father will reward the good and punish the wrong. We Christians get up and make the world to be peace.

School will be close in June 23, and reopen September 13, and I wish to go back this summer vacation. Will you kind to send me some magazine or newspapers which you have read through.

Your very sincerely
Stephen Chwang.
Dear Mr. Hildreth,

I had the pleasure of receiving your favour of July 23. When I came back to school, I am absolutely to express my most grateful acknowledgments for your repeated kindness and further offer of service. I hope to be always able to show you by my good conduct that I am deserving of your kindness.

I had gone up to Mokunsan via Hangchow before I went back to Swatow which Mr. Baker has already wrote you. After I went up to Chiaochoufu from Swatow I have opened a free night school for the poor under the church, my fellow-worker was Mr. Lo. He is one of the teacher and preachers in Canton. I like him very much. We made social lectures and phantasmagoria once a week. The hearers allow forty. I did not run the Children Church in summer, because hard to catch the children when the schools closed. I made the speeches to our fellow Christians thrice on Sundays. I was glad to do those. My mother and sister are all in the full enjoyment of health and hope all of you are the same.

I have traveled to Jiopheng, Thungkhoickie, Boundary between Fuhien and Kwantung, to see one of my friends there. We passed the villages, climbed up and down the mountains, tramped through the woods. We observed the life of the people there. They are uneducated. Their rivers are stony, shallow and rapid. We did not see any cart or boat there. It is about fifty miles (160 km) in the northeastern direction of Chaochowfu. I hope God send them some noble and wise men there in the future. educate the people there, teach
them to use the water power to run factories or to make electricity, improve their agricultural methods and daily life.

Miss Lacey sent me $120 Mexican in September 11, 1928. I paid the school $112 for fees, the other $80 I use to buy books. I will write the bill for Miss Lacey soon. I wrote a letter to Mr. Chao to ask some work in the team for me to do in the school to earn some money like last year. I do not know success or not, but hoping and hoping.

This is the last year in the academy. Our study is harder than before. We are preparing to graduate. We must study hard.

Mrs. Baker was invited to be the dean in the girl department here, but Mr. Baker went back to Choochung two weeks ago. Please give my compliments to your family.

Mr. Hildreth, Alice, John and your parents.

Very respectfully yours,
Stephen Chwang.

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School Fees:

- Tuition: $48.00
- Board: $29.00
- Dormitory Express and Incidents: $12.00
- Athletics, Gymnasium, and Swimming fee: $3.00
- Library Fee: $2.00
- S.S.G. 1st Fee: $1.50
- Book and Key Deposit: $2.00
- Laundry: $2.50
- Room rent: $5.00
- Chemistry Lab. Fee: $7.00

Total: $112.00

Books:

- Jordan, Introductory College Chemistry: $8.50
- Hawkes, Advanced Algebra: $5.00
- Huizinga, The World's Best Short Stories: $1.00
- Mr. A History of Chinese Literature: $3.00
- Kelemen, Select Essays: $0.50
- Burch, American Economic Life: $1.00
- Clement, A History of Japan (select course): $1.00

Take care of yourself as the season grows colder.
I beg you will take good care of yourself.