

1897

- Amelia Earhart is born
- Klondike Gold Rush of the Yukon Territory begins in July
- An Anti-Foot-Binding Society was formed in Foochow, the first being formed in 1895 in Shanghai
- Willard, Ellen and family are in Foochow, China
- Willard is 32, Ellen- 29, Phebe- 2, Gould- 1.

[This letter dated Jan. 7, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his father. He is sending money and asking his father to pay his life insurance. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.

Jan. 7th 1896. [*Willard meant 1987*]

Dear Father:-

I have been very negligent this year about sending the money for my life insurance policy. I think however there is time. The premium is due Feb. 27th, so if you will kindly send the money as soon as you receive this I think all will be well. The premium is \$27.86, the address is Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. 752 Broad St. Newark NJ

The mails are delayed again for some reason or for no reason. It has been a month or more since we have heard from Putnam and about two weeks since a letter has come from Shelton. We are also waiting for the letter from Boston which will tell us how much money we can use in the work next year.

This is our Week of Prayer, - one meeting each P.M. New Years day our Mission met for the "Jubilee Dinner." Sat. P.M. we met for our Jubilee celebration. It was just 50 yrs. ago Jan. 2 that Mr. Johnson landed in Foochow- The first Missionary to take up work here. He was of the A.B.C.F.M.

Ellen and the children are well. We took Phebe to church with us Sunday. She was as good as could be. Yesterday I had to let up. I got up this morning at 11:00 and am on the right road again.

The weather had been quite warm for a week. We have had no fire in the study- and nor fire at all except to bathe the babies by.

Love to all
Will.

[The Foochow Mission was founded in 1847 by Stephen Johnson and Lyman Peet in the City of Foochow, the capital of Fukien Province. Foochow City in 1847 had a population of about 500,000 whereas the field which became the particular responsibility of the Beards had a population of over 2,000,000. In 1941 the city was reduced to about 300,000 due to migrations to the rural areas and to the West because of the war. Source: "ABC FM, Getting Acquainted with the Foochow Mission, 1940-41" from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Jan. 3, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. There were many Christmas celebrations in the churches. Willard checked over the house on Kuliang and it is coming along nicely. He updated the family back home on his children. January 2nd was the 50th Anniversary of the first missionary in Foochow. They are waiting word from the Board in Boston on their appropriation for 1897. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Jan. 3rd. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Since I last wrote the 7 Christmas celebrations have all passed off nicely. Three of the largest churches held their exercises on Christmas day this year so the crowds were not as great. Then too the Christians had the experience of last year and had taken the necessary precautions against any disturbance from crowds. I made a speech at each gathering and ate a Chinese feast at three. There is a saying here that if a man can eat the food of a place he can learn to speak the language. I found this daily practice in speaking a great help. Then too during those days I was with the natives almost constantly, and heard the Chinese all the time and had to speak in the Chinese if I would convey my thoughts. I am more than ever convinced that if a person would get the language quickly he should go away from foreigners and live with the natives where he would hear only their talk and where he would be compelled to speak in their language.

I went up to the mountain the last day of the old year to see our cottage. The roof is on the floors laid. The partitions are up and the plastering going on. We shall have a nice cosy little place to go to in the hot weather if all goes well. Dwight and Mrs. Goddard go up to their cottage about once in five weeks and spend parts of three days. Mrs. Goddard has an unusual amount of work this year, and she finds it necessary to take frequent rests.

The annual report of the Mission is at last printed and ready for mailing. I am planning to send 40 copies to various friends at home.

In the last mail I sent a photo of Gould [*see photo below*]. He was five weeks and one day old. It was impossible for us to have the picture taken in the house so we had to go out in the open air. The light of course was

very bright for such little eyes, but we told him to try and open them as wide as possible and he obeyed. The result as you will observe is a scowl. He has been known to look like this once or twice since his arrival, so it is not entirely unnatural. With the exceptions of the scowl the likeness is a very good one. Ellen's picture here is perfect. It is the first one she ever had taken when she was unconscious of her self. I wish her head was elevated then we should have a perfect likeness of all her features. Gould weighed 16 lbs. in his clothes Jan. 1st. Ellen weighed 161 lbs. and Phebe 27 lbs. I was not weighed. Both the children are quite well now. Phebe makes rapid progress in talking. She goes into her crib at 7 p.m. with her dolly and her "doggy" and after singing a little she is fast asleep, and she has reached that state all alone in the dark. Gould is a funny fellow. For the past day or two he has slept very little. But today he has slept all the time scarcely waking to eat. The week of prayer begins today. Mr. Hartwell preached an historical sermon in view of the 50th anniversary of the Lord's work in Foochow. Both Ellen and I wished to attend. One amah had gone home. One amah could not take care of two babies alone in this place. So we took Phebe with us. She was a good girl all thro the meeting. A few people who sat nearest us knew she was there but the majority of the audience knew nothing of her presence. How is this for an 18 months old girl?

The first Missionary came to Foochow 50 years ago yesterday, (Jan. 2nd 1847). The first Christian was baptized in 1856. I will not now say more of the work of the earlier day because it will all be printed in the course of time and sent to you. In commemoration of the beginning of the work here (this was done by Missionaries of the A.B.C.F.M.) we met as a Mission yesterday and listened to letters from the absent members, many of whom were here in the pioneer days. One of these letters came from a Mrs. McGowan now in England. She came to Foochow in 1847 with her parents when she was 3 years old. Dr. Baldwin who returned a few months after we arrived, first reached Foochow in '51. The American Board was first in the field, baptized the first Christian, established the first Hospital, sent the first Missionary into the country away from Foochow to live, and had done the greater part of the literary work in the Foochow dialect – the printing of the Bible and hymns and text books, and especially the Dictionary.

Today I held a Communion service at the chapel in the big fish market, that I wrote about last April or May. I was a little discouraged over the work and prospects there during the Summer and early Autumn, but today the results justify the opening of the work there. We received six men on confession. These are the first members of this church and we have tried to be very careful in admitting them. One of them was examined last June. The others last Oct. We have asked them to wait till now that they might prove their faith. As many more have been examined and asked to wait till another Communion season before joining because they did not seem to be thoroughly acquainted with the Truths of the Gospel.

Mr. Hubbard and his family are up in Foochow to attend the Jubilee and the week of prayer. Dr. Whitney and family also. They are all in our compound. We are quite a little city now in comparison to what we were before they came - - only three adults.

The Theological School closed two weeks ago and the boys have been out in evangelistic work since. They are enjoying the work. They have arranged to meet their own expenses without asking the Mission or the missionaries for any money. This is the most encouraging feature to me. The Chinese do so enjoy getting money out of the Missionaries.

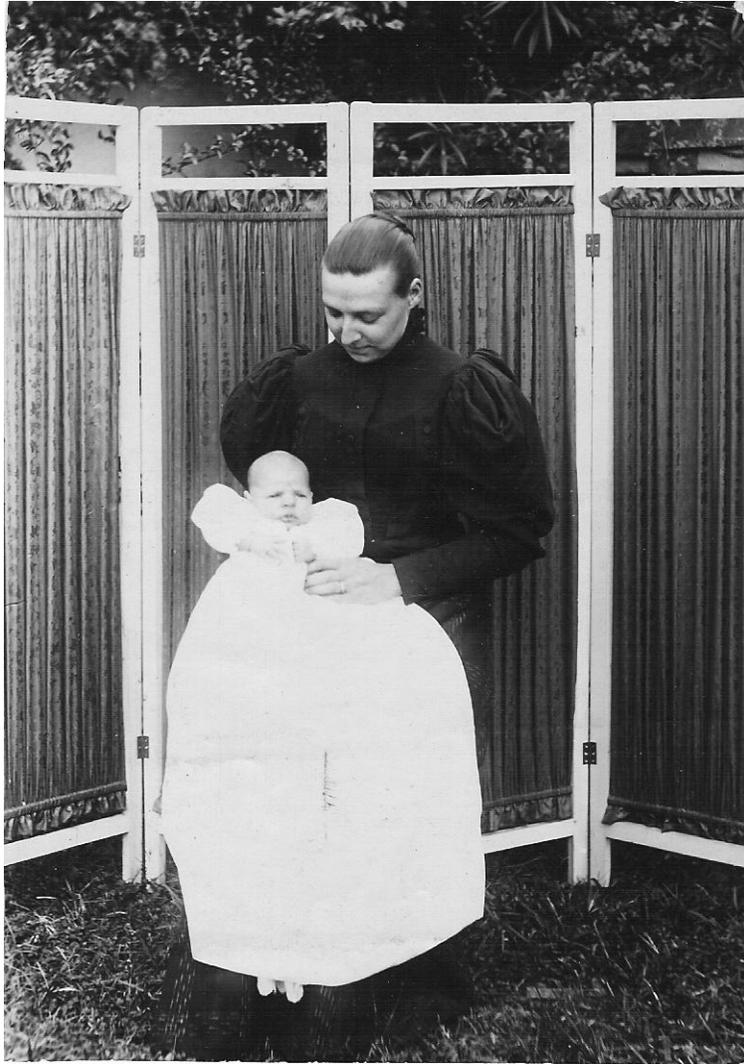
We are waiting anxiously for the letter to come from Boston announcing the amount of our appropriation for next year's work. The wonderful results of the efforts of the native church toward self-support this year have made it possible to meet all our obligations as a Mission to our helpers and we have enlarged the work and the force. Next year - - this year foreign reckoning - - I at least must have more day-schools and more preachers.

I must close this now for there are other letters that must be written and if I leave this in the machine over night I shall have more to write in the morning. This will delay the next letter.

Love to all the friends

From Grandchildren and children

Will.



Written on back of photo: "Gould's first picture, five weeks old. Taken at Ponasang, Foochow".
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

January 18, [1897] 6 A.M., a distinct earthquake shock was felt here. The natives said, "The earth-ox was rubbing his shoulders."

From the Banyan City News , Jubilee Number, Feb. 1897. (Published at the Banyan City Scientific Institute, Foochow, China.) [From the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **Jan. 31, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard and Ming Uong traveled six hours to a country village to perform a Christian wedding ceremony. He tells more about this five day trip to Chong Ha and Nang Seu. They have received the appropriations amount from the board and it is not as much as needed. Daughter, Phebe, is speaking a combination of Chinese and English words. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, Jan. 31st. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter bore the date of Dec. 7th. 1896. I wrote last about the middle of Jan. After this I shall keep a record of the letters received and sent. Then we shall know if any are lost and which. I will begin each letter as this is begun.

Jan. 21st I started for a stay of 5 days in the country. One of our nice young men who has been teaching a day school but who is to act as preacher in a newly opened chapel next year, had invited me to perform the marriage ceremony for him. His home is about 6 hours journey from here. I had been very busy planning for the work of the new year and thought I would take this opportunity to get away for a few days. Ming Uong and another young man who speaks English - - one of those who recently came from Tientsin - - accompanied me. We went about 8 miles by chair then as much farther by boat and then walked a mile and found a country village of about 500 inhabitants situated on a large plain on the other side of the Min river from Foochow. There are many other villages scattered all over the plain at short distances from each other. At this village, Chong Ha, we have a chapel fitted up for the use of our Missionaries when they are visiting the part of the field which lies up the river. After a lunch I was notified that the bride had arrived. I then read the ceremony for the second time in the Chinese character. There were two ordained pastors of our Mission present and several other helpers and christians. It was a christian wedding. The bride is a recent graduate of Miss Newtons school and a very earnest Christian. They will begin their work together in one of the newly opened suburbs of Foochow about ten minutes walk from our house. He will act as preacher and she will teach a day school in connection with the chapel and work among the women.

The wedding was on Thurs. Fri. I went over to a place called Nang Seu. Here the Mission has had work at intervals for 30 years, with no fruits. Last year Mr. Hartwell again opened a chapel, and a nice rather quiet man and his family have been staying there and doing what they could for the Master. Two men are now hopeful enquirers there. We went out on the street and had a good opportunity to talk with some 20 men who gathered as they saw us. Two of these appeared interested, and before we left the place one of them came to the chapel to talk more. While we were at the chapel two different men came in and were glad to talk about the all important theme of Redemption. At this chapel I for the first time sat at the table with a native family and partook of the ordinary meal of an ordinary citizen. Always before it had been something special - a feast or a meal specially prepared for foreigners. Ming Uong and I went back to Chong Ha for the night. The other friend stopped with one of his relatives in Nang Seu. Sat. morning Dwight came in just as I was eating breakfast. He had been visiting the stations in his field which lies on the river above Chong Ha for a distance of 80 miles or more. That day we all took a walk among some of the villages, stopping at the house of a rich young man whose father has recently died leaving a large property to the son. The father on his death bed advised the son to become Christian. The son has given up his idols and has attended church some. He refused to pay the idolatrous money and has thereby incurred the enmity of the rest of the village who are now doing all in their power to harass him. We took a little lunch and went up on a high hill to eat it. Sun. was a quiet day in a country church that made me think of some of the New England churches - - all the members with a very few exceptions old men, and very few of the young men ready to take their places in the church. The boys are all in the city of Foochow at school or learning trades or in stores. The rush for the city is just the same here as in America. Monday morning we walked over to Nang Seu where Dwight had gone on Sun. and from there we took a boat for home. After leaving the boat a walk of 2 hours and a half brought us home to the dear ones. Ellen and the children had been alone during the day. Mrs. Goddard had come out from the city each night to keep them company. I went for the change and rest. I have not enjoyed such a quiet time in months. It did me a world of good. It was just like getting out of the busy whirl of the city at home into the quiet of the country. I was away from all responsibility, where I had simply to follow my own inclination, and go and come when I chose and where I chose.

The appropriations for 1897 have come. The money has been divided. I have carefully counted the cost of carrying on the work of my station this year and it will amount to nearly \$300 in silver more than the sum allotted to me. Ellen and I have counted the cost and we can hold ourselves responsible for this extra amount. We have a little in the bank here and by careful living we can make the ends meet. Our hope is in God and we know He will not allow His work to suffer. I have faith that the churches in America will see the need and so increase their contributions to the Board that more money will be sent us. Or that God will lead private individuals to give to special objects. The planning to make \$1.00 do the work of \$1.25 when the sum total is \$2000 is extremely wearing on the vital energy of the Missionary. It sometimes seems to me that the churches are using up human lives very fast by these scanty contributions. We have had word that the Prudential Committee are ready to send Mr. Solandt to us as soon as the money is at hand to pay his passage and salary. Meanwhile he waits and we work. This is no complaint, only the situation as I see it. When I made up my mind to go to the foreign field I gave up all thought of an easy time in life or of making money. So if I am spent it is in line with my purpose.

Ellen and the children are well. Phebe is developing very fast. She says almost everything. Her speech is a jumble of Chinese and English. For instance she says "shoe" but for hat she says "mo". She says "boy siah" for "the

boy eats". She loves the boy as much as ever. She often wants to take him. He is getting to be an intelligent being. It was very gratifying to a father's pride to come from an absence of 5 days and have the little man smile and coo to me. I think you must have received his picture before this.

Father's letter was extremely interesting. We are already counting the years before we can go home. The changes are so great even now that I am afraid we should hardly find our way about unescorted.

The Seminary will open Feb. 18th. (father's birthday) The boys, 19 in all will be very much pleased with the organ. And they will use it to good purpose. I shall have to teach two hours a day during Ming Uong's absence. It will do me good in learning the language as I shall have to depend entirely on the Chinese tongue to express my thoughts.

The Sentinel is a welcome guest. Ellen's home paper keeps her informed of the changes in Putnam. The White Hill's paper is a credit to the enterprise of the people there. Give them my hearty congratulations. I must close now and go to the land of nod. This is the paper that the Chinese use to write their best letters on. In other words it is stylish.

The rainy season is here- Love to all- Yesterday was another birthday. Feb. will make many of us one year older. Will.

[This letter dated Feb. 14, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the cold weather they have been having. The young Chinese Christians held their first union meeting of all the Y.M.C.A.s in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China Feb. 14th 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter I dated Jan. 31st, I believe. The last arrival was Feb. 9th dated Century Farm Dec. 20th 1896. It contained a good letter from Phebe, who enjoys kindergartentry and is growing fat. The misses Woodhull [*Hanna and Kate*], who are now at home on Long Island someplace are looking for a kindergarten teacher to come back with them next Fall. Phebe will scarcely be ready by that time.



Dr. Kate C. Woodhull (left photo) and her sister, Hannah Woodhull (right photo).- undated photos
Written on back of left photo: "Dr. Kate C. Woodhull with children of Hospital patients. 'Please give us some sweet cough medicine'."

Written on back of right photo: "Gio Cais [?] girls with Miss Hannah Woodhull Kindergarten's future pupils."
[Photos from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

With regard to the present from Aunt Louise. I think it a good idea to put in the Bank at home. I think it will insure less complication if it is in my name.

This last letter brought good news concerning everybody. Grandfather and grandmother comfortable. Grace better. Mr. Kenneston able to be with his people again. The Father has been very gracious to us all since two years ago. I suppose we are more impressed with this fact because we are at a distance where we get a landscape view of all the friends in America and because the conditions as they existed when we left are so clear in our minds.

We have almost forgotten how it seems to wade in a foot of snow; to ride in a sleigh or go in a carriage. The past four days have been pleasant and cold. Fri. morning the ther. went down to 33 degrees. This is about as low as it goes here. But the day was clear and the cold was not felt as much as when the ther. is higher and the atmosphere damp. Feb. 5th I was 32 years old. I celebrated the day by going to Kuliang. The morning was cloudy but I thought it would not rain, so sent word into the city to Dwight to go with me. The note had not reached him when the rain was falling heavily. But in 15 minutes the sun was shining. We take different roads to the foot of the mountain, and we ride in chairs to the foot and walk up. We were fortunate to arrive at our destination in the chairs at the same time. It takes me about 1 hr. 40 min. and Dwight 1 hr. 30 min. to go from our house to the mountain foot. We reached our new cottage about 11:30 A.M. The ground in many places was frozen and there was no lack of ice in little holes and on sticks and on the trees, tho none in the ponds. The people were all in their houses. I went to see one old man and found him with his house shut up tight, and a bonfire in the center of the room, over which he was tending trying to keep warm. The people in the country do almost nothing in the cold weather. They put on all the clothes in their possession and double themselves up and sit around or for diversion gather a few sticks and build a little fire on the dirt floor. In the larger villages and in the cities business goes on about the same in Winter and Summer. I found our cottage shut up- all the workmen gone home for Chinese New Years, and they had taken the key with them. I burst in one of the doors and found the house nearly finished. The walls need a little more whitewash, and one or two door latches are not on. I bargained to have the wood which is exposed to the weather painted. This is not yet done. The wind wall is not completed and the grading needs a little more attention, then the house is ready for occupancy. The rain fell steadily, the wind blew strongly from the North, the veranda floor was all ice. We walked over to Dwight's house- a 15 minute walk. My hands became numb and my ears ached with the cold. This is the first experience of this kind in China. The cold is generally of that damp chilly nature that goes all thro you, but does not make your hands and ears feel like freezing. In Dwight's house we found a stove and soon had some water warming and our bread toasting and ourselves thawing out. I left my overshoes at the foot of the Mt. and wore the shoes that came from home in the last box. I found in the Mt. house an old pair of shoes that I had discarded last Summer. I put these on to walk down the Mt. as I knew it would nearly ruin the new ones to walk down thro the wet. Of course my feet were well soaked but I had two over coats and when I got into my chair I wrapped my feet in one and put on the other and went home warm and comfortable.

Last Fri. Feb. 12th the Y.M.C.A.s of Foochow held their first union meeting. I was surprised on Tues. while at Dwight's on business to have 5 of the leading Chinese Christians young men come in to consult us about the meeting. They had been to our house at Ponasang and learning that I had gone into the city walked straight in to consult. They had the plan all fixed up themselves, but they came to us as if they wanted us to help in the planning. However we little by little drew them out and finally found that they wanted 3 Missionaries and three Chinese to speak. The object of the meeting was 2 fold. (1) to inspire Christians with greater zeal in Christ's service (2nd) to explain the Plan of Salvation to those who did not know it. Geu Cio Dong was full- I estimate 308 present. These were picked people. Many students and teachers, and many from the well-to-do home of Foochow- many also from a Chinese Transport or training ship now lying at Pagoda. The meeting began at 2:45 and closed at 5:30. After the speaking by those who had been asked to speak and singing- an opportunity was given for testimony. I wish you could have heard those young men talk. I wish you could merely have been there to see their faces as they spoke and to have seen their earnestness. You would never again doubt whether a Chinaman-could be dead in earnest over Christianity. One young man denounced, in as bold language, as Mr. B. Fay Mills used in Washington, the Arsenal at Pagoda Anchorage under the control of the Chinese Government. He has been there a short time as a student, and he said to the audience "It is a very wicked place, full of temptations. Do not go there." It is very seldom that one hears such words as these in China. The Chinaman is altogether too polite generally to denounce evil in very forceful language, - even evil in the abstract, to say nothing of a concrete case. The young men of the six associations have decided to hold a Union meeting once a month. One of the most encouraging features of this gathering was the fact that not until nearly at the close of the meeting was mention made of the three Missions being gathered in one place. The young men came together as Christians and they forgot other names that suggested divisions. Another sign for laying aside doubts was this: - the meeting was planned by young Chinese Christians and all the speaking was (practically) done by them. The audience was composed of young people- most of them Christian young men. These young men were on fire. In these young men there is strength. They are the second generation of Christians. They have put their shoulder to the wheel, and Christ's cause here is sure to advance. I

write in the face of the fact that appropriations from America are so meager. I am trusting that from some source these appropriations will be increased.

Only half a page left to write about the Girl and the Boy. Well they are both flourishing. They have the best of care, during the day and at night they still continue to sleep like bricks. This morning the boy awoke and cleared out his throat, then lay looking about till we were ready to go out to breakfast. He is the very best boy that we ever had, and I have some misgivings as to there ever having been many better. Phebe is daily learning the language, from the ease with which she picks up the Chinese I am more and more inclined to think that this is a child's language. The boy is just now cooing and laughing with his mother. I sit more than four feet away and speak, and he looks and begins to talk to me. He is a very happy little boy, always ready to smile when we speak to him, and he almost never cries without a good reason. We had their pictures taken the other day. The Boy was sitting in a chair and Phebe standing beside him. The Photographer came late in the P.M. and I am afraid it was too dark. He has not bro't the proofs and it was five days ago, so I am afraid we must try again.

The post office regulations now allow us to send letters to the states with only a Japanese 5 cents stamp, and papers with a 1 cent Jap. stamp. To send anywhere in China we must pay 2 cents per ¼ oz. Love to all

Will

*[This letter dated **March 7, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the Chinese men and facial hair. Mr. Ding Ming Uong will be leaving for the U.S. in early April and will visit Shelton sometime during his stay. Willard hopes the U.S. will endorse the Arbitration Treaty. He visited a Chinese Christian who was being persecuted for not paying money toward idol worship. He and Ellen have reluctantly decided to call their son, Gould, "Myron" instead as it appears that neither side of the family back home likes the name "Gould". Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, March, 7th. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

According to my records the last letter sent to Shelton was dated Feb. 14th. The last received bore the date Jan. 10th.

We are glad to hear that the box we sent has at last reached you. I have heard something about that shipment lying in the custom house at New York for a few months. This was due to error in marking I think. I do not wonder that it puzzled you to know the use of some of the things. Ben must have been right tho about the mustache comb for there was such an article in the box. The Chinese carry them about and use them. A Chinaman is very proud of his whiskers. They are a scarce article, and when they can be induced to show themselves, the man feels greatly honored. I have not seen a man (with whiskers) (under 40 years of age). At that age he begins his mustache- if he can. Later on he longs for a little down on his under lip. And when in his 50's and 60's he stops shaving his face. I have often been told that I must be at least 40, and when I say 33 (in Chinese reckoning) they say "only 33 and has a Mustache! Why people in your country have whiskers when they are very young." The articles which you call drawings are evidently sheets of writing paper. As in America, so here there are many styles of this. If I remember rightly that which Ellen sent was the paper on which friends would write to each other. The size is uniform. The color and quality vary. When I write to an official, I must have a palish red with lines of a different shade of red from the paper.

This is the first warm day this year. The mercury registers 76 in the house. We dare not take off any of our Winter clothing, for the air is very damp and then tomorrow may be cold again. There has been much less rain this year than last.

Today is the 5th of the Chinese moon- and the year's work is not all running smoothly yet. We have been making preparations for enlarged activities, both in chapels and schools, and it takes lots of time to adjust all the several parts so that they will run smoothly, and not interfere with one another. This year there will be 2 chapels, 2 woman's schools, 3 day schools, 8 Theological students, 1 place at which services are held each Sunday except Communion Sunday, in addition to the work of last year. i.e. a year ago. One year ago there were 2 church organizations, now there are 4.

Mr. Ding (for such you will call him) started last Wed. for Tientsin where he will be with Mr. D. Willard Lyon for a short time to learn about the Y.M.C.A. before sailing for the U.S. on the "Doric" with Mr. Peet and family April 5th from Shanghai. As to the time when he will come to Shelton I can not say now. You can probably choose the time most convenient for you. I should think during August would be his most convenient time. His address in the U.S. will be care of Rev. H.P. Beach D.D. Springfield, Mass. I will ask him to write you as soon as he

reaches Springfield. Then there will be no difficulty in making arrangements. You will find him in every way a true gentleman. Don't let his clothes prejudice you against him. Find the man within.

March 14th. A whole week has slipped away since I began this. A mail has arrived from the States but nothing from either home. The papers are very jubilant over the Arbitration Treaty. By the time this is read by you the treaty will have met its fate at the hands of the Law Makers and will be history I suppose, unless Congress refuses to touch it or to endorse it. We look upon the Treaty as the greatest achievement of the Nineteenth Century Christianity. From the accounts in the papers Great Briton will not refuse to ratify it. God grant that the nation that takes the lead in Christian Freedom of all the nations on the globe may not block the passage of this advance measure.

My diary of the past week would read about as follows: - Mon. Taught three hours in the Sem'ry in a.m., in p.m. walked two and half miles to see the Christians in a part of the city where Christianity and Missionaries are not in high repute. Went to the shop of one man who is being persecuted for his refusal to contribute to the idolatrous ceremonies of his district. He has a small shop in which he makes cakes. He has one small oven, and used only charcoal. He refused of course to pay money toward idol worship. This he did repeatedly, until the collectors became angered and wrote the official that he had recently opened this shop and was using a stove which was very dangerous. They were afraid that the stove would set fire to the shop and the surrounding shops and houses. I went myself to see. On the opposite side of the street is a large shop of the same kind, using wood and having several stoves and furnaces. On two sides of his shop are two more shops both larger than his and both using wood which is far more dangerous than charcoal, of course the letter to the official was a lie of whole cloth. After the man had himself written to the official stating the truth, I also sent him a note telling the reason of the lie, and asking the official to stop the persecution. After eating dinner with 10 of the Christians in the place, and after talking money matters with them and receiving their promise to give \$33 toward the support of the Gospel this year, I returned to Ponasang just in time to sit down to the table with Ellen and Phebe. But what can a man eat after having taken a Chinese feast?

Tues. a.m. taught three hours and reckoned with school teachers and masons and carpenters and preachers etc. In p.m. studied and prepared goods to be sent to Shaowu.

Wed. a.m. taught three hours and studied a little. p.m. attended Mission prayer meeting.

Thurs. a.m. taught three hours, studied and planned with helpers about the work. P.M. went to see two chapels that are in process of being repaired. Worked on Shaowu order.

Fri. a.m. taught one hour and one half. Went over the river to buy things for Shaowu, and to do business at the Bank. P.M. went with Pastor Ling and one of the church members to visit some men who are interested in the Gospel. We went to a part of the Suburbs where the wealthier business men live. There are not many shops here but mainly residences. Four men had united and invited us to come over and eat and talk about the Gospel. The front of the house was all open and I should think not less than 30 men came in and listened for a longer or shorter time while we were there talking. After talking for an hour the feast was ready and we sat down to eat. While we ate the neighbors left, there were five men tho who ate with us or helped entertain who asked questions or listened all the time for an hour and one half. After the rest we sat down again to talk and the neighbors and passers-by came in and listened. All said the "Ta Su Gau" i.e. Jesus Doctrine was "Ceng ho" i.e. very good. I think an impression was made on some of the men who invited us to come. One of them was already subscribed \$5 for the work this year. They all say they like to go to church.

Sat. was spent in planning for the work in the new chapels, in reckoning with workmen who have been fitting up these chapels etc. I called on one church member in whose house a chapel was last year. Miss Newton and I together furnished \$100 for rent and repairs on this place for last year. The men who were interested there furnished the rest of the money needed to purchase furniture and pay the preacher. This year the man wants the whole of his shop to carry on his business. I called on him yesterday and he gave me in money \$20. This was to reimburse me for the money used in permanent repairs. If you knew how a Chinaman hates to part with a single cash, you would be able to rejoice with me to see the willingness of this man to help the church. He has subscribed \$20 toward the preacher's salary this year.

Today I have been to church and to Y.P.S.C.E. This p.m. I actually went to sleep, and slept nearly two hours. I am planning for some special meetings to be held next week in the Ha Puo church, (Mr. Ding is a member here) and if these are profitable I want to do the same thing in other churches. The two young men of whom I wrote some time since as having returned from Tientsin, and as being very earnest Christian workers are going to help in these meetings.

The children are both as well as they can be. Both homes seem to have rejected or refused to own our son, because we call him by a name that does not suit their fancy. Well I said at first that we could continue to call him by that horrid (to them) name and not take him to see them when we went home. Then I repented and thought that

would be revengeful, so we are talking now of calling the young gentlemen "Myron." Now you may just as well tell us that you think this name is "perfectly lovely" as to find fault with it because some one of Adam's descendents by that name once borrowed a pin and forgot to return it. He is not named after that man whoever he may be but he is named for his grandsires. His name is Myron Gould Beard. We shall call him Myron.

The clock has struck ten, so with love to all from us four.

I am you Loving Son and Brother

Will.



Written on back of photo in Ellen's handwriting: "Phebe Kinney Beard 1 yr 9 mos. Myron Gould Beard 4 mos. Phebe's third picture, Gould's second picture. Taken at Ponasang."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **March 28, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the Chinese process of working in the rice fields. His children are doing well. They have a night watchman now because thieves broke into Miss Newton's house. He talks about the baby tower which is an alternative method for burial of Chinese babies. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, March 28th. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter arrived Mar. 24th. With it came one from Aunt Louise and one from Grandmother. How we prized this! Mr. Kenneston also sent a note. My last letter was sent Mar. 15th.

We are very glad to know that the friends at home do not forget us. Please tell them all that we cannot forget them. Remember us especially to Cousin Elizabeth.

We can hardly think of our "little" sister Ruth as leading the singing in a public school. But time moves on and we must try to adjust our minds to the changes that are constantly occurring at home. Of course the picture as we saw it last two and a half years ago has very distinct outlines and it is difficult to change there when our only resource is a little ink on a piece of paper. Ben's photo is good. Ellen thinks he is not as fleshy as when we left, but I do not see much difference. I wish we had Flora here to take some photos for us. We have had very poor success with the Chinese artist.

Spring is here. I went to Kuliang yesterday. All the way across the plain the farmers were at work on the rice fields. Some were ploughing, some harrowing, some fertilizing and some had their fields ready for the rice and had flooded them and were waiting for the ground to - - I hardly know how to express the action, get ready. That is, the field waits a short time before the rice is planted. You would be amused at the process of harrowing. The harrow is of iron. The principle is that of the old mankilling hay rakes. It is 3 feet long, has about 8 teeth 10 in. long. Two pieces of iron run straight up from the head of the harrow and a rod connects these. This is the handle which the man holds and by which he works the instrument up and down, backward and forward and sidewise. A single ox or cow is attached to the harrow and is guided by a small rope- which is tied to a ring in his nose. There is water enough on the field so that all the field is under water except a few of the highest lumps. The farmer takes off all his apparel except one pair of trousers. These he fastens about the waist and then rolls up the legs so that there is practically nothing to get muddy and then he begins to shout at his ox and jerk to rope. This shouting and jerking continues till the man gets hungry. One of his household then comes to the field with a large bowl of rice which the man proceeds to devour while he squats on the edge of the field which is raised to keep the water in. His rice swallowed - - it would be more genteel to say eaten but it would not be true - - he goes to work again. During planting and harvest the farmers work hard. Their oxen also work hard. At other times both men and oxen do not work as hard altho the men are seldom idle. I have not seen the oxen at any work except plowing, harrowing and grinding. They have much leisure.

The flowers were beautiful on the mountain. The little blue violet was everywhere. The other varieties are not seen at home. On the mountain the farmers were just beginning to plow. When I started at the foot to walk up, I took off coat and vest and loosened the front of my tennis shirt. I was uncomfortable even then. Before I reached the top of the mountain I had to put on my clothes and keep moving to be comfortable.

Who can find words to express the joy that parents take in their little charges who God in his providence entrusts to their care? Both Phebe and Myron seem to be in perfect health. Since the rains have ceased they are in the open air all the time. This gives them good appetites and makes them sleep like bricks at night. I know of nothing that ever brought as much cheer into my life as does the smile of recognition from the little boy and the shout of "Papa" from the little girl as I come into the compound after a half day spent in these dirty nasty streets and among a people of strange habits and tongue. Phebe is developing very rapidly. At 21 and a half months we send her into another room after different articles of clothing and other things, her mother is teaching her to sing and she tries to make the tones. She tries to comfort little brother when he is alone and is worrying. Myron cries after his father when he leaves him and the other day he cried to go to me from his mother, - - which of course made his father proud. It is his chief delight to sit at the table with us and play with the spoons. It is fortunate that Ellen is not writing for if she was she would be telling what an indulgent father I am, and of her fears that I will spoil the children with indulgence. She has one good joke on me which you will never know until she writes.

Mon. evening: - One week ago this evening thieves broke into Miss Newton's house and took off several articles- - lamps, a clock, magnifying glass and other smaller things. Part of the articles have been found in a pawn shop. Miss Newton will have to give money to recover them. The man who is on the lookout for the thieves is himself a thief. This is on the principle that it takes a thief to catch a thief. This occurrence has had the effect to make us engage a night watchman. So now we are guarded as well as men can guard us both night and day. The watchman is Mr. Ding's uncle. - his father's brother who has recently joined the church. You may tell him when you see him, for I shall likely forget it. By the way, Mr. Ding is expected to sail for America on the same steamer that takes this letter. A telegram came last Thurs. from Lyon stating that the "Doric" was full. If this is the case and it is impossible for him to go on this steamer he will have to wait for the "China" which starts 10 days later.

Some time since Mother asked about the burial of infants in Foochow. I saw the article to which you referred. I have never seen or heard of any such thing in Foochow. Scarcely a week passes when I do not see at least one body of a man lying by the side of the street, or perhaps in the middle of the street so that every one has to turn aside to pass. But I have never seen the body of an infant. The "baby tower" is for the interment of infants whose

parents are poor or who do not care to go to the expense of a funeral. The tower is about 5 ft. in diameter and 6 ft. high. When it is full it is considered a work of great merit to clean it out, and there is generally some one ready to do it. When the tower is too old for further use it is torn down and the place is marked by a little mound which is covered over with mortar and lime to remain for an indefinite time. This operation has been done in the cemetery near us since we came to Foochow.

This morning another mail came from home. There were letters from Putnam and Shelton, from a boy in N.Y. State asking me to send him some silk worms, and offering to send me some Botanical specimens in return. For a wonder he put sufficient postage on his letter. We have come to expect to pay 20 cents on such letters. Your letters are all right as to postage.

Ckgg km, o.ea.l, lcmgkxckcl, aeiony: . , lcl,aa. .lcmgkge . aein:a .aeioyony
..a,lcmgkm?mgglfbedfdpcpfdaeeiony .aeoia. , lmmmc, wion .aeeeeepcfl,aei ..aalmcmk

Mon. a.m. I left this last evening and Phebe sat down here in her mother's lap. The two lines above are the result.

[The following was added in handwriting by Nancy Maria Nichols Beard. The bottom 3/4 of the page appears to have been cut off. It probably had an order for items on it and she cut it off in order to send the letter on for other family members to read.]

I have kept the order for June shipment. N.M.N.B.



[This is a photo of a "Baby Tower" in Foochow. Very small dead babies of poor parents who cannot afford a burial are wrapped in straw or cloth and put in. Every 2 or 3 days, when full, someone gains great honor by cleaning it and providing a decent burial. The arches in the left rear are memorials to virtuous widows, i.e. widows who have not married again. Information provided from the back of the photo from Jill Elmer Jackson's collection and from the book, Chinese Pictures, by Mrs. J.F. Bishop, a missionary in China at the time Willard and Ellen were there.]

*[This letter dated **April 11, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ming Uong did not find space on the ship, so he will be delayed in leaving on his trip to the U.S. They received a box from home and are grateful for all of the items. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

No. 1.

Foochow, China, April, 11th. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started Mar. 29th. It contained our order for the June shipment. Your last letter arrived the 28th. of Mar.

Fri. night letters came from Ming Uong in Shanghai stating that there was no room on the "Doric" for him and he is left in Shanghai. Mr. and Mrs. Peet, Henry and Mary Whitney have sailed. They will reach San Francisco about May 1st. I think they intend to stop at a few points in the States, and arrive in West Haven about June 1st.

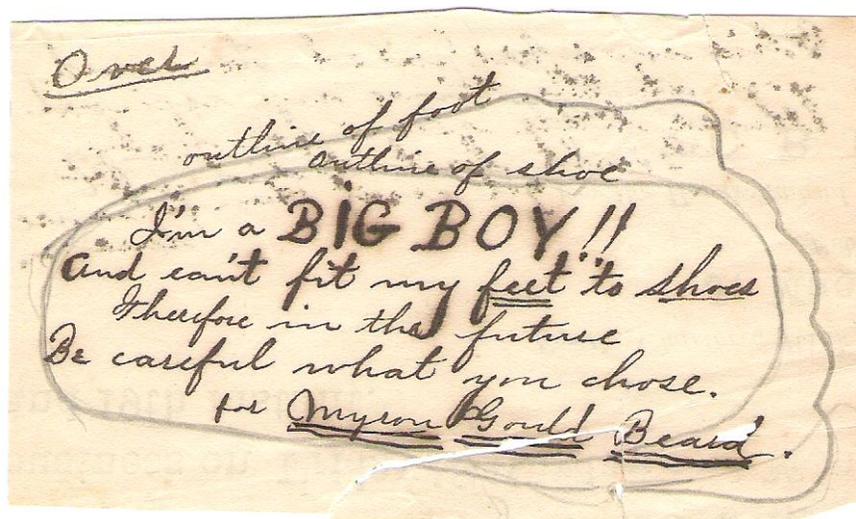
I have conducted a whole service myself for the first time. While Ming Uong was here I could call on him at any time to preach for his father and that left his father free to go with me to conduct the communion at the chapels. But it is not so easy now to find substitutes, so today I found myself alone with the preacher at Au Iong Die. I asked him to read the Scripture. The rest I did alone. O yes I asked him to read the longest part of the creed. I received two persons into the church. One man and one woman. I believe this was the time I have performed the ordinance of baptism at all. There were from 60 to 70 present. The majority were church members. Two weeks from today I expect to form a new church organization in the part of the suburb known as Au Ciu. This will make 5 churches in my care. One year ago there were two.

I have just finished my annual report for 1896-7. The number of additions to the churches in my care is 110. The amount of money paid by the natives is \$759.75. Last year the amount was less than half as much. Of this amount \$209.13 was paid by the scholars in the day schools for their tuition. About \$200 was paid for repairs on two new chapels and the furniture for these chapels.

The boxes from Boston arrived this last week. Phebe and Myron are rejoicing in the new shade for the baby carriage. They can ride out now if the sun does shine. A box came from Putnam with lots of things in it. Dress goods and hats and shoes and other things that Ellen could tell in a jiff. I should have to go to the Dictionary to find how to spell them, after I had learned the names. So you will have to wait till Ellen tells you all about them. I do remember one article. It was a pair of shoes. We could not determine who they were meant for. At first we thought it possible that some one intended to send them for Myron. But he could scarcely get his big toe in one of them. His bare foot is fully a quarter of an inch longer than the soles of these shoes. And his foot is half an inch wider than the shoes. I have drawn a line around his bare foot and then another line around the sole of the shoe. I shall send it to Etta. We think of returning the shoes, in case she may find some use for them.

The children are troubled with eczema. Otherwise they are well and happy. Myron is the best boy that we ever had. The little fellow wakes up in the morning and lies on his back and kicks and crows just like a jolly healthy boy. He is five months old day after tomorrow. He is beginning to put out his hands and take things. Today he pulled a rose, which I had in my button hole in pieces- I have to be careful of papers when they are in his reach. I must close this now hoping to be able to write more next time.

Lovingly Will



[This letter dated May 2, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The missionaries are trying to encourage the Chinese Christian men to bring their female family members to church. Miss Newton will spend her summer in the U.S. to get medical help for her eyes. Willard hopes for more help in the Fall. Ellen accompanied Miss Newton to a home where a young widow who wanted to rid her house of idols.

Willard has had a touch of malaria and realizes he must make sure he gets his rest, so he rides in the chairs more now. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, May 2nd. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My last letter was dated April 11th. No. 1. The last one received was on Mar. 24th. The last American mail was received here April 3rd. We do not know the reason but there must be some cause for the delay.

Three weeks ago today I conducted the communion service for the first time alone. Last Sunday I did it the second time. In all I received 7 into the church. The first person I ever baptized was a man who joined at Au Iong Die three weeks ago today. Last Sunday I spoke for about 20 minutes with pleasure. The people listened attentively and they understood a portion at least of what I said. Today I have been into the city to a chapel which was opened last year under the auspices of Geu Cio Dong. The chapel was full and men stood in the doorway filling it and some stood in the street. There are no women in this church yet and none come to the services. The preacher took for his subject the passage in Mark which tells of Jesus meeting Mary Magdalene after his resurrection, and then urged the people to bring their wives and mothers and sisters to church and to teach them at home. The attention was remarkably good. After the service we asked the people to remain a few minutes and talk over church matters. \$36 were subscribed and it was decided to give the Theological Student who goes over each Sunday to preach \$12. The man who is this year teaching a school and holding meetings in the evening, and keeping a parsonage where the people may come and drink tea and talk about the Gospel, is to receive \$12, and the mother church Geu Cio Dong is to receive \$6. This is all native funds. I shall have to help this place in all about \$50 this year. That is in gold about \$25 for a day school and chapel. This would make a nice work for some Sunday School or Endeavor Society to support.

A letter from Ming Uong written in Kobe states that he expects to start from Japan for the States about April 20th. If he got off at that time he is approaching Tacoma by this time and will be in Springfield about the time this reaches us if not before. His address while in America will be Mr. M.U. Ding, 40 East 23rd. St., New York. From here letters will be forwarded to him.

The weather is reminding us that we must begin to prepare for Summer. The trees are all leaved out and our lemon tree is in bloom. It stands just in front of the house as you will see by looking at the photo. The fragrance is very pleasant in this place where there are so many odors of a different nature. Our cottage at Kuliang is not yet ready for occupancy, but now that the weather has settled down the men can work and we hope in the course of three weeks to get it into livable shape. We plan now to let the children and Ellen go up as soon as the hot weather comes and I shall have to stand it two or three weeks longer till the Seminary closes. This will be about the last week in June.

Miss Newton expects to sail for the States the first of June. Her eyes for some time been giving her trouble and she can get no help here and her correspondence with her oculist in American is of no avail. She expects to reach San Francisco in time for the Endeavor Convention, and to return in time to take up her work again in the Fall. This will leave our mission so small that we can hardly find ourselves among the 30 single ladies and 6 or 7 married missionaries in the English missions, and the 30 or so persons in the M.E. mission. Our number will be 12 this summer. It seems as if the Lord must send us reinforcements before the year closes. Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear have their appointments to join us again in the Fall. This will take a burden off me as he will be likely to take the care of the shipments to Shaowu. I also have charge of the evangelistic work in the hospital. He will of course take that.

Ellen had a very interesting experience the other day. Some of the girls in Miss Newton's school had been out doing Christian work in the homes near Ponasang here and a young widow had become interested in the Gospel. Her husband died about a year ago, and only a short time ago her little girl about four years old died. This caused her to loose faith in her idols and just about this time the girls met her and told her of the Heavenly Father's love. They had visited her only two or three times when she said she wished to throw away her idols and become a Christian. The girls appointed a day and asked Miss Newton to go with them to help in the destruction of idol worship in this house. Miss Newton invited Ellen to accompany them. They found the house full of idols and idol furniture. The woman knew very little about the Truth but she knew that she wanted to destroy her idols and that she wanted to learn about the true God. One room after another in the house was stripped of its idols and idol furniture and the paper and other material that was of no value at all was put in the kitchen stove and a fire was made of it. But it was seen that the quantity was too great to burn quickly and the woman brought her rice out and put it on to boil. So even the idol paper was turned to account. The principle idol was taken from his shrine and given to Ellen. He will probably be introduced to you in the process of time. Phebe takes a great liking to him. She calls him her "doggie". I hardly think however that she is in danger of becoming an idol worshipper. Before the idol was taken

from the house an old man, a neighbor of the woman, tried as hard as he dared to get it to worship himself. This would be a cheap god for him. Before leaving the house Miss Newton had a prayer with the woman and told her that she must go to church. She said that would be impossible. But it was at last arranged that one of the girls would stop for her to day and she would go with her. Today she went to church for the first time in her life. She said she had never walked so far before since she was a little girl. The church was about as far from her home as from the end of our lane to the school house. This will give you an idea of how much the poor bound footed women here go about. The girl who took the lead in urging Miss Newton to visit this woman and who took the initiative in the destruction of the idolatry was the woman's next door neighbor. Her parents are both heathen and are to day worshipping idols. Her mother was there when her daughter was tearing down the idols. She was displeased too but the girl did not hesitate for a moment. She did what she believed to be her duty. At least 50 of the villagers gathered to witness this wonderful performance. They had a good object lesson in Christianity. The work was done in a kind and loving spirit. The next day we looked for trouble but every thing was as quiet as could be desired. So we hope that another soul is won for Christ.

Mon. May 3rd.

A mail arrived today. It brot a letter from Phebe and one from mother. Ellen got one from her cousin in India, Rev. Harvey Lawson [*Harvey Lawson's mother was Sara Ellen Corbin, sister to Ellen's mother, Mary Jane Corbin. Harvey was also a member of the A.B.C.F.M.*]. He has been on the field three years last fall. His wife is not well and they are on their way home for a rest. They passed Foochow this week but that was all the good it did us. They hope to return in the fall. A letter also came from a cousin of Ellen's in Springfield, Mass. Another came from the ladies of a Sunday School class in Putnam. This brought a postal note for \$6. to be used in the work.

Phebe remarks that the boy looks like her in that he has a scowl. She says that grandfather said when he saw the photo that the boy looked like him. He was exactly right. I have often remarked to Ellen that Myron made me think of his great grandfather. His head is almost the same shape. He has a broad nose and often an expression that reminds me of grandfather.

The churches in my care have given this past year over \$750 toward the work. This is more than double the amount they gave last year. 124 members have joined during the year. In the whole mission's field about 550 have united with the church. The year before the number was 251. From all reports I think the present year promises to be even more fruitful than last.

Mother writes confidentially to Ellen to know why I remain in bed so much. Well the truth is that I am not proof against the malaria that infests this region. I am all right if I do not overwork. This year I knew that all the work in this station depended on me. I used to think that it was my duty to walk a good deal. But I have for three months ridden nearly all the time. I have been the better for it. I spoke the truth when I said that I was resting. I have very little pain. It is simply a tired feeling with a little fever and no appetite till I have rested. Then I am as well as ever. I should say that last fall my liver was not right and I did have some severe pain. But since I took the vacation of a few days in the country I have not felt anything of this trouble.

I was very much interested in the account of the lively times you are having in the town meetings in old Huntington. The grand list proves that some one has not been paying more taxes than he should have paid. Does the revision effect your list and does the 7 mill tax lessen your taxes?

Miss Newton received a letter from Miss Child Sec'y of the Woman's Board that we were to have a new building her at Ponasang for the girl's school. This means that we are to have a new house to live in. - If the proposition really matures.

We are all well and all send Love. Will.

*[This letter dated **May 9, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen and Gould are on the mountain and Phebe and Willard remain in the city. He finds he has much correspondence to do all the time and estimates that he uses about 100 envelopes a month. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

(My Chinese card is enclosed.)

Foochow, China, May. 9th 1897

Dear Folks at Home:-

Another mail arrived yesterday. This makes your last letter arrive May 8th. I sent letter No. 2 (the last) May 3rd. You are surprised to receive another so soon. Well in the solitude of bachelorhood I am passing the time in this way. Ellen and the boy went to the mountain Fri. starting about 2 P.M. and arriving there about 6 P.M. Mrs. Goddard went up in the morning. Dwight went on Saturday. All will return tomorrow. Phebe and I have kept house. I was very tired today and took the advice given in mothers letter and remained at home this morning. In the

afternoon I just went down and stood around and then dealt out the cards at the hospital S.S. in Ellen's absence. Then I stepped across the street to attend a union meeting of the Y.M.C.A. When I came home you should have seen Phebe. She fairly screamed with delight as she saw me from the veranda. This touched a tender spot in her father's heart. The little girl misses her mama and little brother but she is no trouble at all, and makes a big lot of sunshine here for me. A package of cards arrived with the mail yesterday. I do not know who to thank, so leave the word with you to pass along. I used 157 this afternoon at the S.S.

I am afraid that I am getting negligent about my correspondence. My time is so full with teaching and doing the necessary overseeing and planning for the work and in writing business notes that I actually shrink from taking up a pen or opening the typewriter to write about the work for I know it means hard work- the letters which I have written during the last four or five months have either been done when I should have been in bed or they have been in the machine for a week and I have written snatches as I found opportunity. I use about 100 envelopes a month. This will give a little idea of the writing I am doing. Of course this is not large for a business man, but for a man who has most of his time occupied in other lines of work it is not bad.

Fri. afternoon I finished examining day schools. Ellen has examined two for me. She has examined 2, I 10.

Strawberries are in their prime. I wish I could send you some. I wish Ben would write a good long letter again telling me where the different crops are planted this Spring, how many cows, what oxen and horses, wagons, dogs, etc. he has. Flora's photos give a very good idea of the "new place".

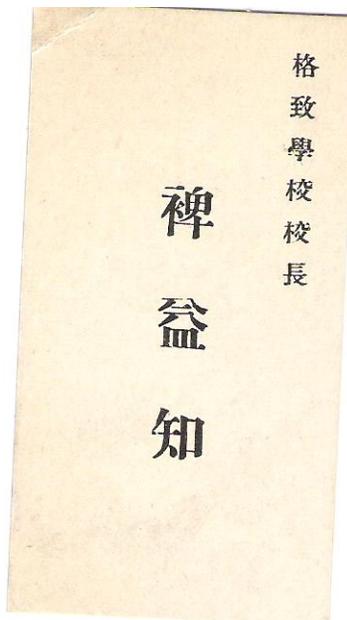
This is all for this time. Lovingly Will.

The enclosed order (\$10) is for the purchase of the goods we sent for last month. I shall ask Mrs. Smith to send the \$25 to you. Keep it. I shall wish to use it at home. W.

Tues. A letter from a Mrs. Smith an aunt of Mr. Kenneston arrived in this mail. She promises to support a Theol. Student.

Good. W.L.B.

dear Geraldine, Mayjane or Kathleen.
 I have sent orders for \$500. to last
 away for expenses of Mayjane and Kathleen
 out Fall
 Father
 Willard L. Beard
 President Foochow College,
 Foochow, China.



Willard's Chinese calling card

[An interpretation provided by Robbie Lau via email, friend of Jana Jackson.

"First the 6 characters on the upper right hand corner is your great-grandfather-in-law's title:

pronunciation ge zhi xue xiao xiao zhang

meaning NAME School Principal

First two characters is the name of the school.

3rd and 4th characters means school.

last 2 characters mean principal.

There is a high school in Shanghai with that name. The name means to "study the phenomena of nature to acquire knowledge".

The 3 big characters in the card is the translated name of your great-grandfather-in-law.

pronunciation pi yi zhi

American pee yit gee

It could have been the approximate pronunciation of a last name like Pitre."]

*[This letter dated **June 6, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his Dear Wife and Little Ones. He writes about the weather they have been having and tells Ellen that he will be sending coolies up with various items and she can send word back with them of what else she wants. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Sunday – Foochow, June 6th '97

My Dear Wife – and Little Ones:-

I wonder how the day has gone with you on the mountain top! It has been a very quiet restful day here. I went down the mountain yesterday P.M. quite easily. The little rest that I took after dinner did me good. The shower met us about half way between the foot of the mountain and the first village Au Seu. How it did rain! My umbrella acted as a sieve. The drops of rain were very large and came with a good deal of force. They went right thro the umbrella and settled on one in a fine mist. I had enough on about my shoulders so that I was not wet there but my pants were pretty damp, -also my feet. I took a hot bath after reaching home and was all right. At 8:30 I retired. Of course I was tired, and of course it was hot. I had nothing over me- put on only upper pajama, wheeled the bed into the middle of the room and went to sleep immediately. It was 5:30 this morning when I awoke. I went to sleep again about 10 o'clock and the bell for church awoke me. 4 were received at Geu Cio Dong and 10 at Ha Puo this afternoon. I have had another good nap. So you see I am resting with a vengeance. I wish I knew if you had rested as well. It has been quite cool today. This P.M. I have worn a woolen coat all the time. Dwight called and talked for an hour or so. The Am. mail came last evening. Only one letter (for Dr. Smith) for us. I shall send Miss Newton's letters to you to open as she requested. I judge 2 of them are from Dr. Baldwin. If so and they refer only to common matters- that is if there is nothing in them which Miss N. should see at once I should send them around for the friends to read.

I shall send I No up tomorrow morning. I cannot tell now just what I shall send with him. Perhaps you had better send back one of the baskets. The smallest one. The coolie Lliong Ging used it to take up the native bowls etc. in. He will get it for you. Let me know what eatables etc. you want. If we have a messenger and can just as well as not we had better save the 5% charges by the stores for carrying things up.

[The rest of the letter is missing. Page trimmed short.]

*[This letter dated **June 6, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the difficulty in working with the coolies at times. Because appropriations from the Board were low this year, Willard and Ellen are giving more of their own to help make up for the deficit. It appears that they have gone back to calling their son "Gould". Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China. June 6th 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

According to my register the last letter that started from here for Shelton was written May 9th (No. 3) Your last arrived May 24th. It is humiliating to me to think that almost a month has slipped away and I have not written – yes, I wrote to Grandmother. But such is the case. If I remember correctly it was getting warm the last time I wrote. Well it has been hot since. Both Phebe and Gould have felt the heat a good deal. I wanted the little fellow's picture taken as he is seen about each day but I could not have my want supplied- he has on just two articles of clothing- the little sleeveless vest is of the thinnest gauze. Arms, feet, legs, head all bare. The amah has a peculiar way of holding him. She lets him sit on her left hip with her right hand under him for a seat and holds him up by passing her left arm about him just under his breast. This leaves his legs freer to kick and his hands free to fly about or take things to his mouth. He is the happiest little boy that every lived.

Our house at the mountain is not quite ready to move into. But we had furniture in Dwight's house and he is not going up just yet so we arranged to go in there for a few days till ours is ready. Yesterday we were up long before light and ate breakfast at 5 o'clock hoping to start soon after but things do move slowly in Foochow. The coolies were asleep when I sent for them at 4:30 altho I charged them particularly to be here ready to start at the first ray of light. Then when they did come some of the loads were heavy and other complaints were made till I asked the head man if he would like me to complain to the Consul. He looked at me a moment and then did as I said. We started at 6:45. Fifteen men were carrying goods or sedan chairs. So you see it is not the easiest thing in the world to move a family from the plain to the top of the mountain here in China. If the coolies were only angles [*angels*] or even had angelic natures it would be different. If only you could use horses or oxen the problem would be simpler.

One could feed them well and be reasonably sure they would do the work. But it makes no matter what the bargain is or how kindly you treat these coolies. If anything occurs that makes his task a little difficult or if a circumstance occurs that puts you at his mercy, then look out- Be ready to sit down calmly and wait, - unless you have some means to compel him to behave. For instance, Ellen was in her chair yesterday morning. I was in mine with Gould, the amah was in hers with Phebe. Ellen has started. My chair was ready to start when the coolies refused to lift the Amah's chair. I simply ordered my coolies to wait and sat still while the head man labored with the refractory heathen. In about 10 minutes they had talked enough and then took up the chair and we started. Again at the foot of the mountain they made another fuss. But the times heal many kinds of sickness and it healed this. 12:30 found us and our goods all safely at the mountain top. The day was terribly hot on the plain, but on the mountain it was beautiful. I hardly expect to know the children when I see them again. They were so broken out with heat that they did not look like themselves. This will all pass away in a few days on the mountain. Miss Newton started for Shanghai May 24th. I think she sailed from Shanghai for Tacoma the 29th. She will attend the Y.P.S.C.E. Convention at San Francisco. I am the only foreigner at Ponasang now and expect to keep bachelor's hall for three weeks. The teaching in the Seminary is quite confining. I have taken Sunday as a rest day for a few weeks. But the next three Sundays I shall have to conduct Communion service and during the week I shall have to attend the examination for candidates for church membership in three places. Today at Geu Cio Dong 4 joined and at Ha Puo 10 joined. During the past two years I have not known a communion in any church of this station when there were less than one to be received. At one communion there was only one man to join.

Last night I was asleep at 8:30. I awoke this morning at 5:30 and have had 2 good naps today. I have been perfectly well for the past month able to do a full day's work every day and some extras. I sent a letter to Grandmother May 16th and one to Mr. Kenneston May 20th. So my delay in writing you may be compensated. Please tell Mr. Kenneston or any of the Shelton people that their gift came a few days ago. We are receiving a number of special gifts this year. They must be in answer to our prayers for the work. At the beginning of the year the appropriations were cut down badly as you know. Ellen and I pledged to the work here in order that it might not suffer, all the money we could call our own telling God that if it was His will we would use it. If He would send us money from other sources we could save it for future needs. He is sending money from other sources.

Ellen is well but the heat has worn on her somewhat. Then she has had two tailors for three weeks doing the Summer sewing. So she is tired. I am so glad she is at the mountain this early. She can rest there and other families are there so she will not be alone. With love to all – hoping that the ailing ones are better. Will.

*[This series of letters initially dated **June 10, 1897** was written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to Ellen. Ellen and the children are on Mt. Kuliang and he is in Ponasang. He lets her know about the laundry and who will be doing it. He is looking for padlocks for the new house on Kuliang. He tells her various things that he has been doing. Letters donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Ponasang, June 10th. 1897.

Dearest Ellen:-

I have just finished a very difficult task- that of telling Si tu he could not study in the Sem'y anymore now because his scholarship was too poor. He will go to Goddard this P.M. to talk about working in Ing Hok. The coolie who came up to the mountain on Mon. has been sick since. Diong Ging washed yesterday and is ironing your clothes to-day. Diong King and Lieng Die have entered into partnership to do the washing and carrying of clothes for us the Summer. Diong Kong will carry the clothes up and back and Lieng Die will wash and iron. I could not make them come up twice a week, so have told them to come up each Mon. morning. I wonder how you will like this. I think the washing and ironing will be done well. If the house is ready to move into by Tues. I will come up Mon. afternoon and help move on Tues. returning Wed. morning. If you can do this tell Ga U that you want his friend to come Sat. if possible to dong noh. He wishes us to hire some of his friends to do this and I shall be happy to do so. If the man can not come Sat. he must be on hand Mon. morning early. If the house is ready I will send up a lot of things Sat. anyway. I shall first send up 2 hasps and padlocks for the kitchen doors. I think the cook can get some one to put them on the doors. I think they had better go on the doors on the East side under the little shed. After these are on, the things that belong in the kitchen can be put in and locked up. After breakfast Sat. have the cook go over and receive the things and see to them. You can go if you like too. (Am I not good to allow it?)

How I should have enjoyed seeing you after that toad! Behold what a big matter a little toad kindleth- in a woman's sanctum! I was very glad to hear that your finger was eased. I hope that you and the babies will soon be able to enjoy the mountain air. You have no idea how lonely it is here. Of course my time is full, but when I do have

a moment there is no wife to speak to – and no little girl and boy ready to frolic. But I am taking much pleasure in anticipation.

If you have any soiled clothes send them down by bearer and they can be washed Sat.

With lots of love to you I am

Your Own
Will.

The Hubbards will be in Peets house- Hartwells go to the Peak.

W.

No. 2

Dearest =

The coolie asked for starch this afternoon. I could find none. Perhaps you had better send some down each time the clothes came. I have been over to Rethods[?] and Hong Sings but cannot find padlocks except \$2.00 ones. These are too dear. So I shall send up the store-room padlock and the big native I can put another one on the store room. Be sure that this man waits and takes the baskets. I must have them to send things up in next time.

This afternoon I saw the Ha Puo school's picture taken. I had some of the boys sitting at their tables studying- some standing and one with his back to the teacher reciting. I am thinking of you nearly all the time. It seems a month since I have seen you- kiss the babies.

Lovingly Will.

No. 3

Sat. P.M. 4 O'clock

My Dearest Ellen:-

Your Loving long letter came this morning. It was good. I must stay now tho to write only necessary business. A man has just come from Ga U's home saying that his wife is very sick and they want him to come home immediately. We ought to let him go at once. So I sent Diong Ging up to care for you. Ga U can reach home tomorrow. The time will be so short that of course Ga U will not return to the mountain. I'll board with Miss Newton- Say nothing to Frazer- let him come. You must let me know when you want to come down. You can fix up a coolie load of chairs, books, extra clothes, some of the kitchen utensils a day or so before you want to start and in that way I shall know- unless you can fix the date early enough so the milk man will get the word to me.

My idea about the window in the new room was to have it high enough so people could not look in. If we want the two windows of equal height I had rather have the other raised. This can be done quite easily.

A letter came from home this A.M. which I read.

I must close now for D. Ging wants to get up before dark. All Love to you All.

Will.

No. 4.

10 A.M. Sunday

Dear Ellen:-

Ga U is just here and starts directly for his home. This and the house makes lots of Sunday business. My contract with the workmen was, that the outside door should be 3 ft. wide in the clear. I did not mention height. The inner door was simply to be hung on hinges. The outside door was to open out. This will effectually shut out the weather. It was to be a door of the same kind as the inner door- not foreign style. If the place over the fireplace still leaks ask the workmen to fix it. Of course it was impossible before any work was done to tell just what the finished job would be. If anything more needs to be done I will "gau dai" you to see to it. When I come up to go down with you I will bring up a check for the workmen.

I am boarding with Miss Newton now. Frazer and I will have to take our meals there. Ga U may be gone till the latter part of the week.

This morning I went to Ha Puo to church. It was good to see so many of those one knew before and had watched for months, at church. I think there ought to be a Woman's class started at Ha Puo this quarter if possible. There are several women near the Geu Cio Dong who wish to study and they ask that Mrs. Long Bang Ho may teach them. Perhaps it will do no harm to try her. In this way you will get the Pastor's influence in the school which will be valuable.

Gould is getting able to take care of the house fast. I impressed it on him the day before I left that he would have to see that no care came to his mother and sister and that he would have to help in seeing that the amah's and cook did their duty. I suppose he was afraid the flour was getting musty. I have watched Phebe with a great deal of interest all Summer and at times there has been an impression which I have never voiced that she was a child that we should rather restrain, hold back then push forward. Her perceptive faculty works very rapidly, her mind is like her body, rather ahead of children of her age and I have been afraid sometimes that we were too proud of her achievements and in danger of pushing her too fast. The result of this in ten years will be a sluggish brain if nothing more serious.

The weather today is quite warm tho not hot. This afternoon a nice breeze makes it pleasant. I see you have some sun shine.

The Boston order has come, but the box from Shelton is among those that have stopped on the way for a rest and will not get here for a week or so. There are some of the Shaowu boxes delayed. This is too bad for their boatman is here now to start in a day or so. Tell Phebe papa misses her as much as he does him. Tell Gould to take his responsibilities easy. Hug and kiss them both. Yours entirely Will.

No. 5.

Tues. Evening.

My Dearest Wife:-

Your good letter with the most excellent one to Grandmother arrived this morning for me to read before b-fast. You do not know how much pleasure this letter will afford Grandmother Nichols. It will be next better to her, to seeing us all. It was very thoughtful of you to write it.

Mr. Frazer came last evening just as Miss Newton and I were sitting down to supper. It was pretty hot last night. Frazer did not sleep very good. I managed to do pretty well. This morning we went over to the Seminary and I stayed an hour, then we went thro the Hospital, then to the city and did up the Woman's School, Hospital, Kindergarten, Church, Institute- called on all the foreigners, then went over the hill thro the temple, on over the wall and home. This afternoon we went thro Miss Newton's school, then over to Cui Buo to help a household destroy idolatry. The man is a brother (elder) of the little fat, short Bible woman. He brought out the idol and all the paraphernalia and we held a very nice service with the heap lying on the table. Neighbors to the number of 50 that I counted and how many more I do not know gathered and paid very respectable attention. After the service they asked me to take the idol and all the books and other material away. So one of the men put them in the sedan. When we arrived at Ponasang I wanted the coolies to go on over the river with Mr. Frazer. The coolie asked if he was to take the same chair. At the same time saying that I must take the idol out. He did not want that to be carried over the river. A photo of, I suppose Annie came this A.M. In the last letter some photos of the Long Hill home and Stanley came I am sending all of to you. You refer to locks of the children's hair in Grandmother's letter but I did not find the hair so I will wait till you send it. I am also sending a Palinot and Babyhood. Dr. Whitney has a little mail locked up in his part. When it came the coolie was washing his room. I thought he would be down in a few days so-- ----- Diong Kong has just returned from S. side, has bought bananas, yellow bullets and persimmons. He says Dr. Whitney's bags are with him so I can send the mail. Mr. Frazer goes to Mr. Smyth to b-fast tomorrow morning.

It is going to be a hot night. How glad I am that you and the babies are at Kuliang! I must close now with lots of love for you all.

Will.

No. 4

Fri. noon

It has been quite cool every day this week. I have slept under 21 thicknesses of blanket every night but last Sat. night and have worn woollen clothes until yesterday.

Mrs. Hartwell was home and took the prayer meeting. Yes I sent the notice business meeting.

I cannot find the Kuliang record Book at Miss Newtons. Where did she say it was?

Lovingly Will.

No. 5

Ponasang, Sat. evening 9 P.M.

My Dear Wife-

Your note concerning the painting came by the men this afternoon. I finally made up my mind to pay him all and get rid of him. It is hot to night- has been all day. The shower about 4 o'clock cooled the air for a little but the atmosphere is dead now.

Diong Kong brought down some bread and cake yesterday to my surprise. Now don't let any more eatables come down- I am afraid some of the bread and cake will spoil. I expect to send this by a dang dang man. He will stop at Goddard's house perhaps but the things he brings, [I] want to be taken to our house. If the oil is dry, it will be all right now to put the furniture in. Unless you send word to the contrary. I shall send up the things now right along until they are all up. Then you can tell what are lacking. Diong Kong will not come up on Mon. If you have clothes to send down let me know and I will send him up for them Tues. or any time you say.

To day I have been quite free from interruptions - I have put in some tall studying. I shall preach and administer the sacrament at Au Iong Die to morrow. There will be none to join the church because the preacher and members decided that none of the learners were ming lik enough. There was no examination of candidates for this reason.

I am lonely and homesick to night- with no one to cheer me. I should have to school myself for some time before I could be happy to live all alone in this way. I shall not come up next week, unless you are very urgent to move Tues. I am afraid it will be rushing things to do it then. And I think with Ga U to oversee the moving it will not be a difficult task for you. It will make no difference if you wait till Mrs. Goddard comes up before moving. I should however send such things as you are not using over to our house now, - such as the diang and tables and book shelves etc. If the ground about our house is leveled to suit you, you and the cook can have the sodding done if you like. The ground should be level 17 ft. from the veranda in front and of course more at the W. end. It will be pretty expensive to sod all the ground W. of the house. I thought about 17 ft on W. and W. sides and back yard if you want would do for this year. Next year we can eai pah saung. I think the work ought to be done for 35 cents a daung i.e. 10 ft. square. You many have to give 40 cents. The well ought not to be f?? now. The ground is too wet and I fear it will go dry in Aug. The paper calls a halt so good night. With hugs and kissed for yourself and P. and G. Lovingly Papa

*[This letter dated **June 20, 1897** was written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to his Dear Daughter, Phebe. He talks about the weather, items for the new house on Kuliang and the Consul's reception. He forgot to send up some stationary to Ellen and she is probably not too happy with him because of it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Ponasang Sunday Evening June 20 '97.

My Dear Daughter:-

Your very interesting letter arrived by the milkman this morning. I remembered your birthday last Fri. and celebrated it by helping to finish up the business of the Annual Business Meeting of the Mission. You and your mother must have had great times celebrating, - ending up with a grand chorus and finale. I am glad to see that your cold has so much improved that mama allowed you to hold your head under the eaves. Is not this the greatest weather you ever saw? I think it goes ahead of all my experience heretofore. The moon changes next Tues. I hope the weather may take the hint and change also. I do not know whether to wish you were down here instead of on the mountain or not. Unless you suffer from the cold- which I have no reason to believe- I think you are better off up on the mountain. It has not been unbearably hot here but there is a steaminess in the atmosphere night and day that would be delightful if it were absent.

Yesterday I sent a coolie to the mountain with the dishes and two kitchen utensils and letters and papers. I hoped he would go up himself and so bring an answer back, but I was disappointed. I shall try to send more things up tomorrow. I want Diong Kong to wait till Tues. because the ironing is not all done yet. I shall send up by the first man who goes 1 box of flour, 1 of sugar and one of ground wheat. I have washed and partially dried about half the

whole wheat. The sunshine has been so bashful that it was difficult to catch it to dry the wheat after it was washed. I hope you will be able to move all right Tues. We have 2 stools for your bed, 2 for the rattan bed bottom and 4 for the springs, and 2 for amah's bed. This makes 10 in all. These are at Mr. Goddards house. I shall send up this week two long ones for the Springs and two shorter ones for Gould's bed, with bamboo for beds for you and Gould. Our table is larger than either of Mr. Goddards. The varnish is off the top in some places. If you are in doubt about anything as to whether it is ours or not let it remain till Mr. Goddard comes up.

Yesterday I sent mama's letters to me to Putnam, wrote a letter to Miss Newton and did a lot of writing on mission business. In the afternoon I went over to Au Cio to the examination of candidates for church membership. We examined four and admitted three. This morning I preached there and administered the sacrament, baptized and received the three new members this week. We have an examination at Sang Tung Gio. I expect a hard afternoon work there. We shall probably have in the teens to examine.

The Consul's reception is to Wed. P.M. from 3-6.- unless there is another flood- which would not be an unmitagable evil- I wonder what women would do if there were no men to help make receptions by making speeches etc.? Fortunately the quartet has gone by the board and I do not have that spectre to haunt me any longer. Some one told me that the women folks was a calculating to give the outgoing Consul a picture with a silver frame and the incoming Consul a lacker [*lacquer*] box. I shan't say nothing agin them goin on 'em these things but they must give 'em, not ask me to. I have better investments for my \$4.00. Now you talk to mama real nice so she won't scold me for not subscribing.

I must also solicit your services in appeasing mama's wrath for my negligence yesterday morning in not sending more writing paper. She said that if I wanted any more letters I must send more paper. I did not send more paper. You see the natural inference. Just tell her I did not do it intentionally. It was due to negligence. I would not do without the letters from her for anything- I am just living on them.

It seems over a month since I saw you all. I expect you have grown almost out of my remembrance, and when I see you next week, you will walk out and shake hands with all the dignity of a full grown lady. Well take good care of that young man, and don't let his mother torture him by leaving him on the bed on his stomach with heels and head in air crying. You remember her propensity to indulge in this pastime last Spring. Give the boy all he wants to eat- if you can find enough, - never mind what it is- put something into his mouth. I do not think he will be over particular as to quality. He will think of quantity. Only be a little careful in feeding him hot water that it is not too hot, and do not push the spoon too far down his throat. If it is thrust well into the aperture between his lips he will get the food all right. I give these cautions because I remember the way in which you used to feed him before you left Ponasang.

Mr. Gardner writes that the thermometer registers 100 degrees in Shaowu. They will have a tough time up there this Summer. Mr. Goddard has given the contract for his house at Ing Hok to be done next Fall so that they can move in by China New Years. I am going to try having a picture taken of the pastors and preachers in this station- with their wives. It will make a group of ten. I want the men and their wives to sit side by side. I think they will be willing to do so. I had only one sitting of Day School taken. This shows the whole thing nicely.

I close this now perhaps adding a few words in the morning. You must read it to mama- give her my love with a good hug and kiss. I would also ask you to hug and kiss the boy but your caresses do not seem generally to be received by him with any great show of delight. Perhaps you can ask mama to hug and kiss him for me.

Most Lovingly Papa

[This letter dated June 21, 1897 was presumably written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to his Dearest Wife. He believes the weather has probably kept Ellen from moving into the new house on Kuliang. She should expect some furniture items to be delivered. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Mon. Evening June 21st '97

My Dearest Wife-

I have heard from you this afternoon altho no letter has arrived. As I was about half thro dinner a knock was heard and I rang the bell and told the boy to go to the door. I heard a feminine voice ask if Bi Sing Sang was diok. I finally recognized the voice as belonging to Mrs. Whitney. The only real news that she brought was that Phebe had the hives. I am sorry that she is thus afflicted. I do not know whether it is reasonable to hope that she may outgrow them or not. Mrs. W. said Gould was not thriving but Dr. disagreed with her and said he was. I preferred the Dr.'s word.

If the weather or the mountain has been anything like the weather here you have not done much moving today. I kept the sedan down here because I would like it. I thought you would not use it on the mountain. If I have made a big mistake, and you were planning to use it in moving, I shall be very sorry.

Tues. morning 6- A.M.

Diong Kong is coming up to day, the large wardrobe and the stools for our bed and those for Gould's bed are also coming. If the long stools arrive in time I would have them put under the bed to day. This will save changing. I can see Kuliang this morning. It looks as if you were going to move. Miss Peters will probably be up some day this week for the day. She may take dinner with you. I am afraid she has disappointment in store for her when she finds the house not yet done.

This evening there will be crowds on the South Side. At a late hour there are to be very extensive fireworks- if the weather permits. Pastor Bang Ho is interested in it as Stanley would be if he were here.

I wish I were there to help in moving. But then you will get along all right- perhaps better, without me.

Hug and kiss the babies and tell them papa thinks of them very very often. Take good care of yourself and them. I shall be up in a week from now if nothing unforeseen happens.

Most Lovingly

Will.



Written on back of photo: "Aunt Ellen's summer house at Foochow, China, Mt. Kuliang"
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte. A duplicate copy is in the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Written on back: "Rice fields, Potatoe fields, Kuliang houses- foreign and Chinese, Mr. Mais [Main's?] on top to rt.
Mr. Smith's to left, Feathery bamboos, Pines."
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **June 22, 1897** was written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to his Dear "Mountaineers". He just sent off a batch of letters back home and jokes that the family will be kept busy reading for a long time. He got out his rifle for shooting tigers on the mountain if necessary. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Ponasang. Tues. Evening June 22 97.

My Dear "Mountaineers"-

I have received two letters from you today. I sent- or rather prepared for tomorrow's mail 20 cents worth of manuscript for the Putnam mail. As I was stuffing the letters in the envelope I thought - when they see these they will not lack of occupation for a long time- Father and Elbert had better be looking out for a housekeeper, for until those letters are read there'll be no baking, washing, ironing, cooking, sweeping, bed making or any thing else done. I do not know but we ought to have saved them up and sent them one at a time all along thro the Summer.

The examinations passed off finely this morning. I was proud of the boys. They did credit to the Seminary and to their teachers and to themselves. They were examined in the Life of Christ and the O.T. lessons and O.T. Geography. Tomorrow morning there are four subjects- Reciting in class and coll.-Ch. Hist- MK. Comm'y-and Geog. Mr. Hartwell and Dwight were present. Dr. took dinner with me.

Dr. and Mrs. Whitney have spent the day on the South Side. They came home at dark. Mrs. was as wild as a little girl. She nearly put her arms around me in her enthusiasm to make me promise to go back with them at night. She has told me a lot of things to remember if I do not go. I think I'll remember them- to tell the truth I have not one spark of enthusiasm over going. It would be pleasant to be there for a little while. But to purchase this pleasure I must ride 4 miles thro a jammed street and then be in a jam all the time I am there- get back some time tomorrow morning, - arise at 6 o'clock spend 3 ½ hours in the Seminary in the hardest kind of work, - go to look at the house South of Miss Newton's at 12 o'clock- then get ready for that bothersome reception at 3 o'clock. I think my duty is very clear to go to bed. The weather has favored the Jubilee to-day, and this evening bids fair to witness a good display of fireworks. Perhaps I shall see some of them.

I bethought myself of the (OUR) rifle this afternoon. I expected to find it all eaten up with rust, for I have not seen it since I brought it down from the mountain last Sept. But it is in fine condition. I put a bullet in it and fired it off once. It is in first class order for you to shoot tigers.

Now I think I have sent up almost everything we need this Summer. But of course I must have overlooked many articles. If you will as soon as possible take an account of stock and let me know what you want I'll send it up. I have the lantern, fly screens and a wash bowl ready to send up. Further than these I have not planned. I see from the letters sent down I must be careful about endings. So I simply say Lovingly with kisses for babies Will

[This series of three letters was written probably before **June 23, 1897** by Willard L. Beard to his wife Ellen. Ellen and children, Phebe and Gould are on the mountain while Willard is assumed to be in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

No. 2

Thurs. evening.

My Dearest Ellen

Is it not nice that we can have a letter running back and forth all the time. But I suppose it is about at an end now. I was very much surprised to see the coolie this P.M. I do not know how you will get supper and b-fast. I will send only eatables tomorrow morning. The new coolie is sick today. Diang Ging will have to wash tomorrow. I am glad you are in foreign company as the presence of Dr. Cross's little girl indicates.

Dr. Whitney is here for the night- goes in the morning- sends 3 dang loads of goods up to Mt. tomorrow- hopes to go up himself Fri. I hope the mountain air will be the means of cleaning up the blood of you all. I do not think this cold weather will last long. Hug and kiss the children for me and mind Phebe every time she tells you to write me.

Lovingly Will

No. 3

Monday P.M. 2:45

My Dearest Ellen:-

Your letters have just arrived. How good it was to receive them. But about the misquito curtain. I do not understand. I put one in the basket that had the pillows in. The other I put on the outside of the leather trunk wrapping the burlaps about it. If it is lost I must go for the coolies. Let me know as soon as possible when you have looked everywhere, and if it is gone I can investigate.

Ne Sau and Ga U and Diong Kong have just returned. I shall send them up tomorrow morning. They will take this. Diong Ging will return in the P.M. and can bring the answer.

Miss Hartwell is getting up a reception for consul. I will enclose her missive to me then you will know as much about it as I do.

I shall send up a curtain for Phebe. But still hope that you will find the missing one.

Loving with kisses for all Will.

No. 6

Sun. evening.

My Dear Ellen

I have just finished a letter to Etta. This morning I conducted Communion at An Iong Die. It was rather warm. After singing I offered a short prayer. I stood by the table on which lay my Chinese testament open. I knew that I was perspiring freely but I was surprised to find that the perspiration had dropped from my chin on the book and completely soaked a quarter of a page.

I have not yet found Gould's little shirt that you wrote about.

I can see the house in which you are every day- But I can't see you. Take good care of the babies. Phebe must be developing fast in talking. Diong Kong says she no longer says Sa So for amah but calls each by her own name. I am glad she does not forget her papy. I think her mama will see to it that she does not.

It is nearly 10 o'clock. I have been walking on the walk and sitting in the moon light since 7 o'clock- waiting in vain for my fair one to come. It is a perfect evening far too fine to be all alone.

Most Lovingly Yours

Will.

*[This letter dated **June 23, 1897** was presumably written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to his Dearest Wife. He dressed up and attended a reception. He relays the talk about the incoming Consul, Dr. Gracey. Letter donated to Yale by the family in 2006.]*

6:30 A.M. June 23 [1897]

My Dearest Wife-

The milkman has not arrived and I will add a few words. I went to bed and had a good sleep last night. The people who dissipated are now sleeping off their debacle. The servants all went over last night but returned a little after 10 o'clock. They said there were more than 10000 Chinese over to see the sights. I can not find that there was much to see-except lanterns. I saw a few rockets and candles. The milk woman came just as I began this so I shall have to find another way and time to send it.

Last evening I did not say any more about "Rags"- those pants were worn out. The last time I put them on I mended them twice in one day and after they burst open in another place. If I must tell the whole truth, I put my finger in the largest hole before I sent them to you, just to try it to see if the cloth was strong. It tore some more. In fact so much that I thought you would not think of mending it.

I am glad of the prospect of a pleasant day for your final departure to the new house. I hope the sun will shine enough to dry things off.

8 P.M. The milkman was too late for Dwight this morning so the letter came back to me. I will try again to morrow morning thro Dr. Whitney.

Well I attended the reception this afternoon. I dressed up enough to "stun". I wore my wedding shoes- blacked them before I started- my newest suit of clothes- vest and all-the cream colored tie that you have worn some. The one that you envy so. And my brand new straw hat just from Hong Kong- I took it off when I went in the house. There were lots of lies told- not by me tho'- several people who have said just the opposite told us how mightily glad they were to have Dr. Gracey come back- and do tell on the evidence of his reappointment as a proof of the high esteem in which the government held his services, etc. The little "Dr." himself did so love the dear brethren in Foochow. All the time was at home he was continually called on by various Missionary Boards to tell

about the work here. And speaking in an official capacity – not as a missionary he had no doubt his words were the more acceptable etc. He is here with wife, son and son's wife and a second son- how many more I do not know. They are evidently all very glad to get back to good pasturage again. The only enjoyable feature of the program was a song by the elder son whose wife accompanied him on the piano. The young man has a fairly good voice and it is trained somewhat.

I do not know what you and Phebe can be living on- five dollars has lasted you over two weeks and it seems as if I had sent up but very little. I am asking Dr. to take up \$5.00 to you.

The exercises in the Sem'y close tomorrow. I shall have to leave the last exam,-reciting the Romanized, for Ging Ung- and go to Sang Tung Gio to the examination of candidates. Most affectionately
Papa and Husband.

*[This letter dated **June 25, 1897** was written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to his Dearest Wife. He is sending a few things by coolie to Ellen on the mountain, including oatmeal and flour. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Ponasang June 25th '97

My Dearest Wife-

I am sending a man with various things this morning. I am going to tell him he must wait for an answer to this. In the large tin in the smaller basket is oatmeal on top and some flour in the bottom. If you are careful about taking the oatmeal out the two will not mix. There are papers between. I tho't the large tin would be used to keep flour in. The other things are evident so I need not write.

I can hardly wait for Mon. to come- it is very nice that the rain has ceased so that you could have a good time in the new house. I think these days must dry it nicely. I must not stop to write more now, as the coolie is waiting. I was too tired to do anything last night, retired a little after 8. The little basket is for a little 2 year old girl I know. Kiss the children and tell them papa will see them in three days if all goes well.

Most Lovingly Your
Husband

P.S. I want to get some matting of bamboo to hang in front of the back door so the cook will not get wet when it rains as he goes back and forth from the kitchen. Will you get him to measure with a string which I sent with this the distance from the eaves to the ground. I want to know the length. Will.

*[This letter dated **June 20, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. There has been a lot of rain in Foochow which has caused flooding. Willard tells of getting to the Annual Business meeting through the floods. He tells of the challenges of the trip and the prices the Chinese tried to charge. It was decided at the meetings to request a new building to be built for the Theological Seminary. Although Ellen would be happy to stay in China, the Board seems to feel that 7 years at a time is best. Ming Uong should be arriving in the U.S. soon. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, June, 20th. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It is time to start for slumber land but I am afraid that if I leave this till another day before at least beginning it that it will be more than one day and then another mail will have started and this letter will wait. So I will put this in the works and then to make room for something else this will have to be finished. Your last letter arrived June 14th. I sent my last June 7th. No. 4.

The last mail brought a long and interesting letter from Oliver and Grace. Elsie also wrote. I have not seen Ellen and the children since I wrote last i.e. since they went to the mountain. We have been fortunate in having a pretty regular messenger, so we have heard from each other nearly every day. I expect to go up to the mountain one week from tomorrow, June 28th. The Seminary closes Thurs. June 24th. Then I have one communion service with the examination of candidates for church membership. The communion will come next Sunday if nothing prevents. Then the work will do to leave for a season.

It has rained every day since Ellen went to the mountain. This evening there is a steady down pour. I went to the city every day last week except Saturday. Monday the streets were free from water. Tues. at the south gate the water was about two feet deep. Wed. as I went in at 3:00 p.m. the water in many places between here and the

city was two feet deep and at the south gate I took a boat going in and came over the wall on the way out. The depth was about four feet. I was in the city about an hour and a half. During this time the water raised at least one foot. Coming out I had to be carried on a coolie's back for about four rods. The water was about two feet deep. The coolie would not weigh over 130 pounds, my weight is not far from 160. It was necessary for him to descend two steps with me on his back and in running water. Well I thought of the prospects and made up my mind to be calm. If I went down the prospect of a wetting was the gravest result but we accomplished the feat successfully. Coming the next mile and a half the coolies had to wade in water from one to two and a half feet deep. Some of the distance the current was so strong that they could not walk in a straight line, but fortunately these places were not more than a rod long and were quickly passed. It was pitiful to see the women and girls in the lofts or on boxes and benches looking about them on all sides at the waters. The lower stories of the houses were all cleared of every thing that the water could injure or carry away. The poor dogs seemed to take the circumstance as hard as any one. They looked as if the last friend had forsaken them. Thurs. morning the street was impassable. The current was too strong for boats. This was the day set for our Annual Business Meeting to be held in the city. I was the Secretary and wanted very much to be there. I knew that all the other members were in the city except Dr. Whitney. I made inquiries in the morning as to any possible way to enter the city and found that boats were crossing the rice fields and landing passengers at the south gate. Ladders were placed so that the wall could be climbed. So I started with a servant. We found a boat that wanted us as passengers. The man said he would take us to the gate for 15 cents. 3 cents would have been a good price for a native to pay. We finally offered him 32 cash (a little less than 3 cents). My servant had not cash enough with him and had to ask the boatman to change a ten cent piece. In this way the man got 40 cash out of us. But he did not take us to the gate or even to the wall. He landed us within about 30 rods of the wall on a piece of land 3 feet wide and 40 feet long. Here other boats were waiting for passengers to take to the wall. They wanted 20 cents to take us this 40 rods. You see the scheme. Passengers were landed here with water on both sides so that they could go neither way. The price was not fixed and the boatmen got all they could. I told the servant, who kept as cool as a cucumber, that I was in no rush. If necessary I could wait half an hour. Fortunately there were a number of boats and after a little waiting we agreed for 2 cents. Then we came to the wall. Here was a ladder about 15 feet long. It was made of two pieces spliced. Two soldiers stood here to prevent disturbances. The man who had been so public spirited as to put this convenience for travelers, said we could go after paying him ten cents. I said that I understood the rules of the institution and that the price was fixed. Here were several ladders in different places and only the day before I had descended one and paid the regular price 2 cash. But the man declared if I went up I must pay him 10 cents. Well I simply pushed my way past him and went up the ladder. When half way up I stopped and waited for the servant who did the paying. I said nothing more. The soldiers said "Yes we know the price is 2 cash but you are a Foreign Teacher and you had better add a little". I sat on the ladder and let the servant do the bickering. He finally gave the man 4 cash for each of us and he was happy. In travelling on any new route I expect to pay more than a native but the difference between 4 cash and 106 cash is most too much. (106 cash is just 10 cents.) Once on the city wall we walked dry shod to the city compound. Thurs. night I spend at Mr. Goddard's. Fri. afternoon the water had subsided so that I rode in a chair all the way to Ponasang.

At the business meeting we voted to ask for a new building for the Theological Seminary as the most urgent need of the mission at the present time. China must be brought to Christ thro Chinamen. These Chinamen for a time must be helped in their study of the Bible and methods of Christian work by the foreigner. Without a trained native agency the work of the missionary is of little value. He must work thro a picked band of men whom he has taught. It is just as impossible to do this teaching in China without a building as it would be in America. We are asking for \$1500 in gold for the purchasing of land and the erection of a suitable building to be used as a Theological Seminary. This will supply the need for years to come. Think of the money required to erect a Theological Seminary at home. This \$1500 building will supply the needs of about the same number of men as one of the Seminaries at home. And these men in the progress of the Kingdom of God will have just as large a part as the majority of those men who year by year leave our Seminaries in the home land. Humanly speaking, \$1500 spent in Foochow in this work will do more to advance the Kingdom than \$15,000 spend in a similar way in America. The question that now interests us is, where is the money coming from. Dr. Smith writes that the Board is corresponding with a young man whom they hope will be able to come to Foochow in the Fall.

I am sending Ellen's letters that she has written at the mountain to me, to her home. She says that she is going to send my letters to her, also, and that these letters must all go to Shelton. This correspondence will give you the very best glimpse of our life here that it is possible for you to get. I wrote mother Kinney that they were for the fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and NO ONE ELSE. If others want their contents you may digest them and give them out but we don't want others reading the letters. I think perhaps Ellen would be pleased if you after reading send the letters to Putnam to be kept.

I return the blank from the Derby's Saving's Bank.

When the Kuliang correspondence arrives you will hear all about the children and all about life on Kuliang in the clouds and all about tigers etc. etc. Phebe is learning to talk very rapidly. Her mother forgot to ask the blessing the other day. Phebe sat back in her chair and after a moment said "Mama b'essing". She says "Papa way down Ponasang". She was two years old the 18th. last Fri.

I suppose you are thinking now which meadow to mow first, and selling strawberries and peas by the bushel, and you are all just home from school with the vacation before you. The last letter made me feel almost as if you wished I would come home instead of staying out here. But that wish was only on the surface and transitory I know. In your hearts you would not allow me to return if I wanted to. Ellen has her heart set on a stay of ten years. But I tell her we must wait and see what God's will is. It will depend almost entirely on our health. I see that the delegates at the FIFTH CONFERENCE OF MISSIONARY BOARDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA in Conference in New York in January of this year thought that the first term should be shorter than the subsequent terms. The feeling seemed to be that 7 years for the first term was about right. With so many brothers and sisters on both sides of our house we may be surprised sometime to see some of them taking a wedding or a pleasure trip to Foochow. If you come any time in Oct. Nov. or Dec. we can assure you a happy visit.

The last mail brought a letter from Ming Uong. He was not on land yet but expected to land the next day. This letter was mailed at Victoria. His passport was made out for San Francisco. I hope he is safely in Springfield before this time. Doubtless ere this you have written Dr. L.P. Peet at West Haven, and received a reply.

A reception is planned for the outgoing Consul and the incoming Consul at the same time. The event is to take place day after tomorrow. The new Consul is an ex- M.E. minister. He could not find a charge that would have him, and then tried Insurance and failed, then came as Consul. He was in Foochow as Consul 4 years ago. And every one says he is happy to return, - happier than the people are to have him I judge. I am to toast the ladies, at the reception- the ladies of the Consulate - I mean.

Love to All Will.



South Gate and Suburbs, Foochow, China

[I believe the pagoda in the photo is the "Black Pagoda. Postcard from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **July 5, 1897** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He has read in the papers that McKinley is going to work on annexing Hawaii. Willard went to Kuliang and he and the coolies faced deep water over the road on the way. They had a typhoon and the new house withstood it. There is a wide view of Foochow and the Min River from the house. Willard tells about the tiger sightings and the hunt for them. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China, July, 5th. 1eia[?]

Dear Folks at Home:-

My record tells me that the last letter was No. 5 and started June 21st. Your last arrived the 14th. of June. The mails are for some reason delayed. I heard yesterday that a mail was expected today. We are getting hungry for both letters and papers. Three weeks is a long time not to have any news from the home land. I am taking a Shanghai weekly which gives the most important world's events. These are in the form of telegrams and occupy about one column. I saw by the last paper that when McKinley got the tariff out of the way he was expected to set about the annexation of Haiwaii [*Hawaii*]. Spain is withdrawing slowly from Cube [*Cuba*], and the Greeks calling on the "Powers" to help them from being devoured by the greedy Turk.

The students in the Seminary wish to send \$3 to Ming Uong. This in gold will be \$1.50. Will you send him this amount and charge to my account. If you do not have his address it is 40 East 23rd. Street, New York City.

Last Monday June 28th. I planned to start for Kuliang early in the morning. But there was a little business to finish before I could get off and then when I was ready the water was over the road so that the coolies did not want to start. We waited till after dinner and the water only increased in depth. I told the coolies I would not insist on going but that I very much wished to go. They were afraid the water would be so deep in places that it would be impossible to reach the mountain. I said I would take any risks. They at last started. For about 2 miles the water was from one to two feet deep nearly all the way. Some of the time it was rushing across the stone road like a mill race. We had just passed one very deep and bad place, when one of the men stopped and said to me "You see teacher it is like this all the way. You can see now for yourself." I said all right and we went on. Fortunately the last half of the road was entirely free from water and the journey was on the whole a pleasant one. The day was cool and the sun did not shine. I arrived at our cottage at 4:15 p.m. How the children had changed! When they left Ponasang over three weeks ago the heat had wilted them so that they made one think of flowers that had been in the sun for a few hours. The change to the mountain had cleared up their faces and the wind had browned them so that they looked the picture of health. Gould came to me with a smile. But Phebe was like a bashful maiden. She hardly knew whether to smile or not. Gould had a cold so that he breathed like a rattle snake but he looked and acted as if he did not care if he did have a cold, it did not bother him at all. He is all over it now.

Last week we had five pleasant days. Sat. it rained a little. Yesterday it rained hard. Last night the wind blew violently and in gusts. This is the order of typhoons. A short time after we had retired something rattled about on the veranda. We could not tell what it was, whether a part of the veranda had given away or what. Ellen kept watch after that until midnight, getting up when the wind was specially boisterous and calming it down. She was afraid the stone walls of the cottage would collapse and cover us up. About midnight she fell asleep and the wind then had its own way. The house is all right this morning. So are we all. But when is this rainy weather to cease? During the last 37 days we have had 8 days when it did not rain. On 5 of these the sun has shone.

The new cottage is thus far very satisfactory. If only it will stand against the storms and keep out the rain, we shall be perfectly satisfied. We overlook nearly the whole foreign settlement on the mountain. Only one house is higher. That is a few rods back of us and about 10 feet higher. We see all of the city of Foochow and a large portion of the plain. About 25 miles of the Min river above Foochow is visible, and the mountains are on all sides of us. Beyond the river and the city the mountains form the horizon- indeed they are the horizon on every side. We sent you a picture or rather a plan of the cottage last Fall so it will not be necessary to send another now. We are expecting to have a photo taken as soon as the house and walls are finished.



Willard and Ellen's cottage is at the top right of the photo.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



This may be the view that Willard is talking about from his Kuliang cottage.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

Last night the strength of the house was well tested. Today the rain has fallen in torrents, and the house still stands and we are as dry as the atmosphere will allow.

Since I last wrote I have conducted another Communion service and admitted 3 to the church. There were 6 or 7 more who wished to join but it was thought best to ask them to wait till next time. The Seminary examinations passed off very satisfactorily. Three days were taken for the work. Perhaps I can give you no better idea of what I am trying to do in this branch of the work than by sending a program of the examinations. I am preparing some of the written papers which the students have handed me to send to different persons who they may interest. I will send you some if I think they will be of interest to you. I have not yet translated them and do not know just what they will be like. The examinations program was as follows:-

↓	Tues. June, 22nd.	a.m. 9-10	Life of Christ.	1st. & 2nd. classes
		Beard	10-11. The old Testament, Lev. to I Sam.	1st. class.
		Beard	11-12. Biblical Geog., Gen. & Exodus.	2nd. class.
	Wed., "	23rd. a.m. 9-10.	Reading in the classical & colloquial O.T.	1st. & 2nd. classes
		<i>Ming Hong's father</i>	10-10:45. Church History.	1st. class.
			10:45-11:30. Commentary on Mark.	1st. class.
			11:30-12. Geography.	2nd. class.
		Beard	p.m. 2-3:30. Written examinations in Bib'l Geog. and in O.T.	
			Gen to I Samuel.	1st. & 2nd. classes
	Thurs. "	24th. a.m. 9-9:45.	Native books.	1st. class.
		9:45-10:30.	" "	2nd. class.
			10:30-12. Romanized colloquial (written)	2nd. class.

I suppose it will scarcely answer to close this without at least the subject of "Tigers". There is very little to say on the subject tho, for Ellen has written all that there was to write. I had just finished breakfast Tuesday morning when a man announced that the tiger had just been seen over back of the hill on which our house stands. I took my rifle with six bullets in it and followed with grand visions of a nice tiger skin for the parlor floor. But after I had descended about 2000 feet on the other side of the mountain and seen nothing that resembled a tiger, and then climbed up that 2000 feet the vision disappeared. This climb on top of walking up the mountain the afternoon before materially lessened the attractiveness of tiger hunting at least till my muscles attained their normal condition. While we were watching for the game on one spur of the mountain, the natives began to shout across to other natives on the opposite spur that two tigers were coming up the path right in front of them. The natives were nearly wild. But they again gained their equilibrium when it was discovered that the two tigers were two yellow dogs that belonged to some of the natives. Afterwards one of the men who was so sure that he saw the tiger in the morning said it might have been a deer. I have not been hunting since. There are several trips set with goats as bait. If the tiger comes around he can take up with these. The stories about the tigers as they descend to the plain and get out among the missionaries and community people are increased in size and attractiveness as a snow ball grows larger as it is rolled down the hill in the light sticky snow. Last Sat. one missionary and two community men who have been afraid to allow their families to come to Kuliang because of the tigers, came up with their rifle to dispatch the beasts in short order. They had a deal to say about the remissness of the natives not going out and shooting the animals. And they thought the foreigners here might be a little more alert. These men thumped all day Saturday and at the close of the day one of the [men] wrote to a friend that he was perfectly willing to let his wife and children come up. He had seen only one man who had seen the tiger. However we are careful about sitting out after dusk and do not go calling at night.

The celebrations of the 60th. year of the reign of Queen Victoria was the scene of the biggest time Foochow has ever seen. 50000 Chinese attended. A reception was given the retiring Consul and the incoming Consul. I enclose a program.

The messenger is waiting so I must say Love to All.

Will.



Written on back: Ding Ming Uong delegate from Foochow, China to the Worlds Students Conference at Williamstown, Mass. in June. [1897] Also an assistant to Mr. Beard in the Seminary at Foochow. [*Unknown boy next to Ding Ming Uong but possibly Willard's younger brother Stanley Beard who would be 13 at the time this photo was taken. Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.*]



This photo was probably taken during Ding Ming Uong's visit in 1897 to the U.S. and New York as the mark states on the mounting of the photo- Brauneck's 122 East 23rd St. New York. He was the Principal of the Foochow Theological Seminary.

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

*[This letter dated **July 18, 1897** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Because the Woodhull sisters are not returning in 1897, the workload on Dr. Goddard will be heavier. They enjoy their new house on Kuliang. They must sleep with mosquito netting in the summer. Traps are set for the tigers and one was shot recently. Willard tells the tragic story of the deaths of the Collins family and Miss Lloyd and Miss Weller all of the English Mission. Ming Uong is now in the U.S. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Grand View Cottage
Paradise Hill
Mt. Kuliang
Foochow
China

July 18th 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

What is the matter with the mails. We have not heard from you for over 1 month now. June 14th the last letter arrived. I wrote July 6th no. 6. So there is nothing for me to answer. I must find my whole material this side of

the water. I have been so busy during this interval of 1 month since your last letters came that I have not had time to worry. The Seminary Examinations came soon after June 14th and then the Annual Business Meeting of the mission came and this have given me a lot of extra work both as Recording Secretary and as the one appointed to write up four of the principle needs of the Mission at the present time. Dwight was in yesterday and said Mrs. Goddard, who has during the past year been carrying the work of both Dr. Kate Woodhull and her sister Hannah Woodhull while they were in America on a furlough in addition to her own work, had just received a letter from these sisters stating that they were not coming back this year. This falls heavily on Mrs. Goddard for two or three reasons. The Mission is just opening a new station at Ing Hok 40 miles S.W. from Foochow. Mr. Goddard and Mrs. Goddard M.D. were appointed to go to this new station. The residence is now well under way and they hoped to move up next January. I cannot tell now what effect this decision of the Woodhull sisters will have on the Goddard's plan. But suppose they remain in Foochow another year and Mrs. Goddard has to carry the work of three persons for another year, with an infant to care for in addition to this year's duties. This is presuming on God's care. It is sacrificing human strength in such a way as is not called for in this last decade of the nineteenth century.

You are in the midst of haying at home. All the children except the two eldest are under the parental roof. What good times you are having. Flora's bicycle stands still during the night. At all other times, Phebe, Elizabeth, Ruth, Mary and Mother are endeavoring to balance it. What a saving of horse flesh it must be. I wonder if it reduces *avoirdupois* [*a system of weights*] at all? None of you have ever written about the lots East of the house that father has cleared of stones and smoothed off. What do you do with them? Use them for pasture or do you mow them? And what are the results of the labor suspended on them?

We are enjoying our cottage here every day. The children and Ellen are just as well as they can be. Gould has just cut his first tooth. He was eight months old last Tuesday. Night before last the children kicked and threw their arms about so that they got the mosquito curtain part way off. The mosquitos got at the young man and he looks like a freckled Irishman now, with about 50 bites all scattered over his countenance. They do not seem to trouble him at all. They do not swell, only make a little deep red spot about the size of a pin head. Both the children- in fact all of us are eating like wild beasts. I have eaten a little too much fruit and am resting to-day,-from eating. Phebe is in the same fix. But Ellen and Gould are as ravenous as ever. He is too big a boy to need two meals at night, but he has demanded them right along and till last night he has had them. We are going to give him water and break him of these nightly banquetings. I was up with him at 2:00 this morning. He asked in plain baby language for food but I put a glass of water to his lips. He said it was poor substitute. After discussing the matter for half an hour he drank some and went to sleep. He is a great boy for play. He pulls the handkerchief off his own or another's head and when in his mama's or papa's arms and his amah comes after him he snugs down to our necks and hugs us and then looks around as much as to say to amah "play some more". Then repeats the hugging. He is just beginning to navigate. He works himself along a little. He is so strong that when he finds out the manner of creeping, he will be all over the house and in to every thing. Phebe continues to develop in the line of talking, both in the English and in the Chinese. At morning prayers which are in Chinese, she always joins in the singing and kneels with us and remains quiet till we come to the Lord's Prayer. Then she joins in repeating the phrases after us. She is very much amused these days with a set of blocks with pictures pasted on them which her Putnam Aunties gave her. Every time I come around the pert little miss puts her head on one side and says, "Papa make a pitcher" pronouncing syllable as if it were the syllable *chum*= "chu", with the "m" dropped. She thoroughly enjoys the freedom here on the mountain. She can go out and walk here. The other day we went off for a little picnic with Mr. and Mrs. Goddard. We went about half a mile. Phebe walked all the way. She enjoys hugging Gould as much as ever and he dislikes it as much as ever.

The tiger scare is abating. One came within about 30 rods of our house ten days ago, and while investigating a cage in which a goat had been fastened ran into a string that was tied to the trigger of a gun, the gun went off. So did the tiger. I saw the tracks he made as he ran down the hill. I judge he was more scared than hurt. Some blood was found 40 rods or so from the gun. The natives thought he had been shot and would die. Sixteen men searched all day for him but did not find him. Last week a tiger was shot about 3 miles from here. I have not heard of any coming near Kuliang since the one that got too near the gun came. Yet we are careful to be in the house at dark.



Undated photo of a tiger.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

I had my turn at preaching in English a week ago to day. I must lead a prayer meeting the first Thurs. in Aug. The Mission is so hard up that they had to put me on as chairman of the Comm. to arrange for the Annual religious meeting of the Mission next Nov. This occupies seven days. To think out topics and select speakers for 14 sessions is no small task. But then I shall not do it all. Others will have suggestions.

Our house is finished except a few unimportant little things like the painting of two or three posts and the fixing of a fire hole in the furnace etc. These little things are sure to be left by a Chinese workman until he has worked for foreigners long enough to find that it is better to do all in accordance with the agreement.

A sad accident has cast its gloom over the Foochow Missionaries. It is the English Missionary Society again. In April one of their older missionaries Mr. Collins had just returned from a furlough in England. He had been up in the country at his station and was coming down the Min river to another station when in one of the rapids the rudder of the boat broke. The boat was dashed in pieces and Mr. Collins with some of his native Christian helpers were drowned. Mrs. Collins and two small children at once started for England. With her went two young ladies of the English Mission- Misses Lloyd and Weller. We knew both of the young ladies well. Mrs. Collins we had never met. They took passage on the P. and O. steamer "Aden". When off the island Socotra on the coast of Africa, the steamer met the storm known as "Monsoon" and was wrecked. Misses Lloyd and Weller were washed overboard and drowned. Mrs. Collins and her children got into a boat with several others and had not been heard from since. They had no provisions, and the sea was so raging that no one entertains any hope of their safety. It was less than two years ago that the Hwa Sang or KuCheng massacre occurred which took away 8 grown persons, and now 4 more are called to their reward, all suddenly. In his prayer one of the Missionaries of that Mission the other day said that the families of the lost ones were all Christians and thanked God that they all had a source whence to draw comfort and consolation. The holes made in the ranks two years ago are already more than filled up by new recruits.

We heard from Ming Uong the other day. He was in Chicago enjoying himself. By this time he has finished the Northfield Students Summer Conference and is with the delegates of the World's Student Christian Federation at Williamstown. Before this reaches you he will have been in Shelton. I hope his visit will be a very pleasant one both for you and him.

We have not received Stanley's photo yet and it seems a long time that I have not heard from him. I wonder if he is riding Flora's bicycle.

I must close now with love from us all to you all.

With Love
Will.

*[This letter dated **July 25, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He feels they desperately need more young women to come to Foochow to help in the mission work. His children are doing well. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, July, 25th. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The mail last Tues. morning brot a deluge of letters from America which was very pleasing to us thirsting as we were for news from home. Two letters came from Shelton bearing the dates of June 11th. and 5th. One came from Putnam, two from Ming Uong and one from the Rooms at Boston. Beside these we had several for Miss Newton which she asked Ellen to read for her. This mail also brot word that Miss Garretson, who was associated with Miss Newton till '94, was to return this fall. She has been in very poor health and was not able to return before. She is not entirely well now, but is to come back to try the work. I fear for her in this rush of work. She may think she can be careful, but it is impossible to be careful here and at the present time. Since I came to the mountain I have done little else than write letters on the needs of the mission. We have sent very urgent calls home to the Board for one ordained Missionary and his wife and for five young ladies for the Foochow field to be sent out immediately. These are our most pressing needs. Then we ask for \$1500 for a new Seminary and for \$5000 for a new church. I scarcely know what to say to Uncle James' action with regard to the cereals. But we shall have to say "Thank you" and be happy. But hereafter in such a case you must say that we wish to pay for what we order. You can see that if this course should be followed to any extent that it would destroy our freedom in ordering. Will you please burn this letter when you have read it. I would not send it but the mail starts tomorrow and I cannot rewrite it. Ellen says this is a poorly written letter. I confess to the truth of the statement. I have not said what I meant regarding Uncle James' gift. We are very thankful to him for this proof of his interest in us, and regard for us. But I suppose so much has been said about Missionaries and Ministers living off other folks, that I am sensitive. I made up my mind when I decided to be a minister that I should be careful not to give offence in this way.

Love Will.

We took Phebe to church with us this afternoon. She did not utter a sound except when we were singing. Then she joined with the rest. I tell you what tho, we have the boy for you! He is a chap to make any father proud. He got so mad a day or so ago because he could not pull off one of the long iron hooks that are used to fasten the blinds open, that he yelled for nearly half an hour. I remember when I was a youngster that father and I were after hay one day. A stone lay on the meadow near where I was walking and I tried three times with my hay fork to throw it over the fence. I did not succeed. Father reproved me for want of persistency. If this young man keeps on in the way he has begun whatever he sets his hand to will be done. He is just beginning to creep. One tooth is nicely thro and another is almost here. He is almost eight and a half months old.

I start for the lower regions tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock. I shall have to take two days to do all my business. I shall return if all goes well Tues. after noon.

We like our cottage in almost every particular. It is one of the coolest on the mountain. I have dressed so far just as I would at home. It is so cool that we do not sit out evenings much. There is a breeze most of the time. I am bothered with the mason to get him to finish up the work. The typhoon wall is not yet up. If a typhoon should come along and it should be a full grown one, I am afraid we should look dilapidated after it had played with the house for two days.

Lovingly Will.

*[This letter dated **Aug. 1, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Many families on Kuliang for the summer are from many other parts of China. There is much sickness in Foochow this summer and at least one case is Bubonic Plague. He talks much about the latest developments of Phebe and Gould. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China. Aug. 1 '97.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letters received were two July 21st and the last sent was one July 25th No. 8. I have been so lazy to day that I want to redeem the time in some way. This will make four usefull things that I have accomplished thus far today. 1st ate breakfast, 2nd attended professionally a poor man with a sore foot- a big boil on it, 3rd ate dinner. I did not go to the Chinese service this morning.

Last Monday I went to Ponasang, and returned Tues. P.M. It was a little warm but I had no time to think of the heat except at night. I got thoroughly baked Mon. right before I could go to sleep. Our house here on the Mt. is very cool. Not a night yet when we have not slept under a blanket. The tiger scare seems to have abated, with one tiger scared and another killed. The community here is representative of a large part of China this year. One of our nearest neighbors is from Central China. Others are from Amoy and one is from Hong Kong. For the past three weeks we have had pleasant weather with only one or two showers. Our life has been quite uneventful. Ellen bathes the babies and studies a little and has put up 10 or 12 quart cans of peaches, plumbs and pineapple. I have tried to a little studying and have written some letters. In the afternoon we take a run around some hill or make a few calls, eat and then go to bed. It seems an empty life. But I suppose it is necessary in order to keep up during the other ten months of the year. In Foochow this Summer there is a great deal of sickness. One of the coolies told me last Monday that 4 out of 10 had died in the city and suburbs. I am afraid however that he would find it difficult to verify his statement. One Physician reports that he has seen one authentic case of the Beubonic Plague.

Ming Uong writes from Kingsville, O. that he is with nearly all the Foochow Mission there. I hope they will give him a little rest. He has not (June 17th) heard from China since he left here in April.

I am clear run dry for anything to write about. When I come to this stage there is always one more subject i.e. the babies. Gould has four teeth, and can make his way in the world to the distance of the length of the bed. He is as fond of noise as James used to be. He found this afternoon that by catching hold of the back of a chair and tilting it back a little then letting go, the chair would fall forward and make a big noise as it struck the floor. He looked as proud as a boy with a new pair of boots and kept up the tilting of the chair for a long time. He woke the other morning and was very hungry. His mother was sleepy and did not hurry much. He kept crying till at last he said as plainly as anyone and in a tone of despair "Mama". The expression that is his and which he always recognizes as his and which we shall remember as his first work is "a da", the "a" is pronounced like the article "a" when spoken quickly. He only just touches this in speaking. But the "da" comes out with a very strong initial stress, with the "a" like "a" in "bad". He always uses a low base voice in speaking this syllable. This morning before light he was awake and I spoke these two words. He at once answered me with the same word. Two young ladies in the next house here have formed a great attachment for him. And his amah says he reciprocates. Phebe was ill Fri. night Sat. morning at 3 o'clock she began to lose her supper and did not eat any breakfast. About 11 o'clock she drank a little warm milk and about an hour later said, "I am hungry". She seems as well as ever this afternoon. She is a great business woman. She writes letters and cleans house, and dresses up in Gould's clothes, and goes out on the hill sides and chases the goats, and drives off the dogs, and (tries) to dress Gould's feet, etc. etc. When Gould wakes she runs and calls Ne Sau, and when she starts off on a new piece of business she has a business swing of the arm and a setting of the heel on the floor that means business. Lovingly Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 16, 1897 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. A tiger was killed on Kuliang with an arrow that had a secret poison on it. All of the multi-national people have been having picnics and tennis tournaments on the mountain. There are 10,000 First Degree men in Foochow to take the Second Degree test. Only 103 of these will be granted the Second Degree. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China, Aug. 16th. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My last letter started for the States Aug. 1st. Your last one came yesterday, Aug. 15th. The number on my last was 9.

The last two weeks we have been well supplied with meetings. From Aug. 1st. to Aug. 8th. inclusive there were two each day conducted in the English language. There was also one at 7 in the morning. This last week the same subjects have been repeated in the Chinese. The English meetings were more interesting than last year, I think. But the Chinese meetings were not as interesting. This is partly because the best of the teachers and other Christians are absent. The teachers are many of them First Degree men and are in the city taking their examinations for the Second Degree. This examination is held once in three years.

Week before last another tiger went the way good tigers that get in the way of guns with poisoned arrows in them go. She was carried along the path just as service was closing one morning. We all had a good look at her. The arrow is about four inches long, of iron, hollow at the end that does not hit the tiger, and is prepared with some

kind of poison that when it gets into the blood very speedily ends life. This arrow hit the tiger in the fore leg about three inches from the body. This shows how deadly the poison is. Only one family in this province knows the secret of making the poison. The hunters here on Kuliang and hunters from other parts have tried to get the tiger and have tried to learn the secret of poisoning the arrows but have failed in both.

I am sorry to hear of Mr. Peet's action with regard to Ming Uong. But instead of indulging in a polemic against a fellow missionary now I will wait and see what the months of Aug. and Sept. bring in the way of visits. Thurs. Aug. 19th. The people here are getting a little rested and now picnics are all the rage. These are very pleasant affairs, for the company is so varied. It is composed of Americans, Canadians, English, Australians, Irish and Scotch. O yes and Dutch. Mon. p.m. we walked about two miles away from our house to a beautiful grove of pines for a picnic. Tues. p.m. there was a tennis tournament. I was badly done up. Some laid the blame on my partner. As he was a man I think he is able to bear it. I must have had some good exercise for I have been so lame since that I could not walk naturally. Yesterday there was a meeting at which the missionaries from different parts of the Empire gave short accounts of their work. We listened to accounts from the southern part of this province, from Nanking a few miles up the Yangtse from Shanghai, from Chefoo up near Weihaiwei and from the northern part of this province. This meeting is to be continued for three weeks on Wed. p.m.s. Today we go to a place called Bellevue about 15 minutes from our house for a picnic.

The boy lies on the floor in the middle of the room on a blanket happy as a lark. He has numerous blocks and a string of buttons, and my bicycle padlock and a lid to a tin box and an old iron hinge, some pieces of thin board and his fingers to amuse him. He navigates quite a deal. When he gets almost off his blanket I throw a block or something over to the other side of the blanket and he creeps after it and in this way he stays on the blanket. He is a very happy little fellow.

Phebe is too mischievous to live. She writes letters on any paper that happens to come in her way, stones the goats as they feed on the hills near the house, calls the cook in when we do not want him, dresses up in Gould's clothes, etc. Yesterday she came to us with a hat on, an umbrella under her arm and a book under the other arm and very sedately said "Good bye". Then she started out the door as if she was going to make a call or on an errand. A few days ago she turned the camphor bottle bottom upwards on her nose. She found it a rather stiff dose. It would please you to hear her count in Chinese. She goes up to ten all right then she flounders about in the teens like a fish on dry land. Ellen has just put a picture of Pres. McKinley and Vice Pres. Hobart on the wall. Gould noticed it as soon as he was brought into the room and has scarcely taken his eyes off it since.

I enjoyed father's letter about the farm exceedingly. The description of the strawberries made my mouth water. It would do me an immense amount of good to be able to have a summer on the farm now. It is absolutely impossible to get anything off the dirt, but this is not like working on the New England farm. This morning I got up at 5:30 and worked an hour at raking off the yard. The sun was so hot at 6:30 that I had to leave. Then at about four one can go out again. In the house it is quite comfortable in the hottest part of the day. The last few days the heat has been greater than at any time this year before.

We have had pictures of the house and of the views from our veranda taken. The day was hot and the plates were taken down to Foochow to be developed. The photos did not come out very distinct. So we are to have another trial. At the same time the boy was snapped with the amah holding him just as she does in the hottest weather. He has a perfect picture. Perhaps not from an artistic standpoint, but it looks exactly like him. He is never quiet and the picture shows him in motion. He generally has something in his mouth and the picture shows this characteristic. Phebe's picture was good. She stood perfectly still. But the plate was cloudy and we must try again. We are to have a few of Gould and of Phebe struck off in case anything should happen that other picture should fail. We also had one of the family taken. This plate was so mottled that the photographer would not make a proof. He did however bring the plate up to us. We told him to make one picture.



Gould and his amah- 1897

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

So Stanley is boss of the farm! Well his photo has not arrived yet. I am waiting for it.

10,000 First Degree men are now gathering in the city of Foochow to take the examination for the Second Degree. Goddard and I have bought about \$100 worth of books to be sold at this time. These books are Scientific and Christian. My teacher who is a First Degree man and who is to take the examination has been down to hand in his name and make other preliminary arrangements and says that the higher priced books are selling very fast. The cheaper books are scorned because they are cheap. The Emperor has ordered that these books on Western Science shall be read by the Literati. The rules of the Examination are as follows: - About ten days before the examination each man must appear in person to give in his name. Then he must make arrangements to rent a room near the examination hall and go to cramming. This consists mainly in memorizing nice phrases from the books of Confucius or Mencius. When the examination day arrives each man must be in his place in the examination hall. This is built like a New York Horse Car Stable. Only the stalls for the horses would be all box stalls. One man is in each stall. When all is in readiness all the officials in the city except the Viceroy make a grand rush in their chairs for the examination hall. The streets are lined with the populace and at the entrance to the exam hall there is a perfect jam. When the officials are inside the gates are shut and locked. This will be on the 8th. of the 8th. Chinese moon i.e. Sept. 4th. Each candidate must make provision for two days and two nights during which time he cannot go out of his row of stalls. He may leave his own little room but must not go out of his section. On the morning of the 9th. at daylight the subjects are distributed. The candidate studies all that day and all that night. At daylight on the 10th. he begins to write. At about 5 o'clock he must have finished. During this time if he has slept at all it has been on the table on which he has written. He has boiled his rice over a fire in a little clay stove which he has taken in to the room with him. This routine is repeated three times and the examination is over. Of the 10,000 men who enter, 100 will receive the title of Second Degree. The other 9,900 will go home to earn money to try it again three years hence. The cost will be perhaps \$25 more in many cases.

Will you please put in the bank for me \$25. I enclose an order on the Treasurer of the Boards for the balance of this amount i.e. \$7.21. The balance due me after the shipment was paid for was \$17.79.

We are pained to hear what you write of Elsie. When Ellen and I heard that she had a bicycle we both said that we hoped that would be the means of building her up physically. In view of the news we can only wait and hope for the best. This God knows and will do. Remember us very tenderly to Uncle Charlie and Aunt Hannah [*Hannah is a sister of Willard's mother, Nancie Maria Nichols Beard*].

Good Night for we are off for bed.

Lovingly

Will and Ellen.

Hereafter our mail comes by way of Shanghai instead of Hong Kong. No mail with insufficient postage will leave the States for Foochow. This will save up about \$4.00 a year apiece in our Mission. W.

In another cover I am sending some photos. I have indicated on the back of each how they are to be distributed. There are more to follow not yet ready. W.



Phebe and Ellen taken about 1897

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

[*This letter dated **Sept. 15, 1897** was written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to his Dearest Ellen. He briefly updates her of what has been going on in his life and the city. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Ponasang Sept 15th 1897

7 P.M.

My Dearest Ellen:-

Sieu Deng is to start about 6 in the morning so I must scratch a few words this evening.

The weather is very cool. I have worn my drab or gray suit all day with collar and cuffs and it has been cold some of the time. If I were sure that this is to be the weather for the rest of this month I would vote to have you come down next Monday. But you can judge of that better than I. If you should happen to want to come let me know by milkman.

We had the first prayer meeting this afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Hartwell, Miss Newton and I at our home. Mr. and Mrs. H. stopped on their way home from Sharp Peak. Miss Newton brought your watch to day. I am not going to send it up because the time is so short, and I do not know where the chain is.

Miss N and H went into the house just South of here this P.M. to look at it. The man is coming this evening at 8 to talk money. If we can buy reasonable it will be a good thing. Mr. Walker will not return this Fall. The boys are all back now but two. These are ill, but on the mend.

Tomorrow I read the marriage service twice. Miss Newton will take Diong Huong's wife into the school to teach this Fall in place of Pastor Ding's daughter. The mail came yesterday, but it bro't only an Advance and a Golden Rule for me. I wonder if you received any.

A Shaowu boatman came today with an order from Dr. Bliss. He does not even mention the Gardners so I think Mr. Gardner must be better. The boatman said Dr. was in the city at the Hospital and Mr. Gardner's family at the hill.

Will you please look for the August number of the Recorder. I do not find it among the numbers I brought down.

Tell Dr. Whitney I have translated the Annual Meeting program and shall wait now till it is criticized, and torn to pieces. Miss Newton brought over a fine big Cal. orange this P.M. The four at prayer meeting were just enough to eat it.

How are the babies? Does Gould creep correctly yet? I must close now to see the man who is to talk buy land. Kiss and hug each little cherub for me. Take a good lot of each for yourself.

Most Lovingly Your Own

Will.

No. 2 ans'd.

These letters are sent on the same conditions as the other batch which we sent in July. Only fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters to read. - When you have finished reading send to Putnam.

Oct. 18th 1897.

Ellen is like herself again. Babies have boils-other wise well.

Will.

*[This letter dated **Sept. 19, 1897** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He spent some time on Kuliang with the family but had to go back down for the start of the schools. He read in the Putnam, CT paper that Ming Uong was doing some speaking at churches. Mr. Walker is not returning in the Fall and Willard is concerned over the lack of help. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China Sept. 19th 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter arrived Sept. 18th. I wrote last Aug. 23rd No. 10. This is a long interval is it not? Well during the last three weeks at the mountain I was too lazy to be of any use. I just ate, exercised by walking and playing tennis, slept and played with the babies, and flirted with Ellen. The month of July bore very little fruit for me in the shape of rest. I was getting ready to rest tho and when the work that came in that month was out of the way and I had got used to it I could spend the whole day and actually accomplish nothing. I came down to Ponasang last Monday, Sept. 13th (The day Gould was 10 months old). I had ordered coolies from our old stand at Ponasang to meet me at the foot of the mountain. But when I arrived at the foot there were no coolies, so I started on a foot and reached home at 5:59- starting at 3:07. How is that for a 10 mile walk? I had a grand sleep that night, got up the next morning at 6 o'clock and did a good day's work. At 8:30 the Seminary opened as advertised, altho the full quota of students had not arrived. On Wed. morning the regular recitation began. This is doing as well as most of the

Seminaries at Colleges at home do. They are often a week in getting into running order. Miss Newton had not arrived Tues. noon. Girls from a distance began to come to enter the school. The rooms were not ready, and I sent them away to stay where they could find a place for a time- until Thurs. when the school had been advertised to open. Tues. about 5 P.M. she came. I had planned to go ahead with the assistant teachers and start things if she should be delayed beyond Thurs. and I could see no means for her to get down from Shanghai for several days. The regular steamer arrived Mon. Sept. 13. The next could be in about Sat. the 18th. But fortunately what we call a "Tramp Steamer" happened to be starting from Shanghai the evening of the day in which Miss N. arrived and she came straight down arriving just in time. Ellen and the children will remain at the mountain till near the first of Oct. The past week from Tues. evening till yesterday afternoon has been quite cool. I have slept under two thicknesses of blanket till last night when I threw all off. Today has been hot. After the first of Oct. hot weather is very unusual, and we think it safe to bring the children down. Yesterday's mail brought the Putnam paper with an account of Ming Uong's Sun. evening talks at the Cong'l church. I shall look in the next mail for an account of his visit at the Century Farm and other places near. I shall be surprised to hear that he spent two weeks with you but hope he may.

What is the matter with the well? I remember the last few years I was at home the water often had a bad taste. You will have to resort to our method of boiling all your water. After one gets used to it this is not so bad. At first the boiled water seemed rather insipid but, we do not mind it at all now. You have not written how James came out on his Yale examinations. Did he take the whole entrance examination or only the preliminary. Has he graduated from the High School yet?

I was glad to receive the photos- I suppose it is a sample of the Amateurs work. Well some adepts would have done better with Stanley and the wheel barrow but the house was good. Please receive congratulations. The church also was good. A Chinaman seeing Elizabeth standing near the buggy in front of the church asked if that was the way they used carriages. He could not see how that position could help her in getting over the road.

We have received word that Mr. Walker will not return to the Mission this Fall. This leaves the Shaowu station in a pretty bad fix. There is a field as far from Foochow, in point of travel, as Foochow is from the United States. The field is about 200 miles long and 100 broad. The work is very prosperous. Village after village asking for Christian teachers, promising to pay part of the expenses and often themselves furnishing a place in which to worship. Nearly every mail that comes down brings news of a new station opened or of a new village calling for a preacher and announcing that they have raised \$300 more and less for a church. There is one man in that field now to take care of Evangelistic work in about 20 places, and all the educational work. Of course he can't begin to oversee it all and now Mr. Walker's return is put off a year. Not a recruit for the Foochow Mission in view. As I feel this great need and then read the account in the home papers of man after man who has a reputation of being wealthy and of keeping large sums of money in his house, and who lives chiefly to exult over his achievements in acquiring property,- as I read the accounts of these men being robbed and even murdered for their money, and having to part with that which they have held so dear, I cannot help wondering if they would not have been happier if they had given a reasonable or even an unreasonable portion of their ready cash to help make the world better.

Who is the Miss Beard that teaches the Long Hill School this year? If you have time I should very much like the dates of the birth of all the brothers and sister. I cannot keep track of the exact ages of all of them.

Phebe went to the head of my bed the morning after I left Kuliang and said "Where la Papa". Ellen said Thurs. P.M. was so foggy and damp the children could not go out doors to play. After playing in the house till she had grown tired Phebe went up to Ellen and laying her head on her lap said "Want la Papa." One morning as they sat down to b-fast Phebe saw the syrup jug, which I had bought only two weeks ago and which we had used only twice and on the table she pointed to it and said "Mama hot cakes". Her perceptive faculties are very quick and her memory is extremely good. She almost always remembers where she leaves things and when asked where she left a certain article stops a moment then marches straight to the place and brings it.

Gould creeps all about. Ellen wrote that he went into the dining room the other day and crept up to the tin in which we keep flour. It is about 16 in. high and 1 ft. sq. He got on his feet alone, then after standing a little while, he made up his mind to pull the tin over or to shake up its contents. This resulted in his manship's down fall. I should not be surprised if he walked at the age of one year. He is getting big enough so that he and Phebe have great times playing together. Nothing seems to please him quite so much as the antics of his sister.

The boxes from home have arrived. But as often happens, some of them got lost in some freight depot- probably at Hong Kong. Among those delayed is the box from you. It will probably be here next week. The soap came- with two bars gone. Oh, I forgot this was ordered from Boston. The box got broken a little and I suppose two bars walked out to see the sights and the train started too soon for them.

9:50 P.M. I must say good night. With love to you all and to all the friends from all of us. Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 3, 1897 was written from Ponasang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The family has moved down from the mountain with the help of six Chinese carriers. The Chinese are still holding onto the idea of church self support. Willard and Ellen received a box from home which included "lively" oatmeal. Ellen's sister, Etta, enjoyed Ming Uong's visit to America. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Ponasang, Foochow. Oct. 3rd '97

Dear Folks at Home:-

Sept. 20th I wrote letter no. 11. Sept. 18th I received the last one from Shelton. I am afraid that vacation is not the best time for prolific letter writing. I shall have to confess tho that I wrote a great many this vacation but they went to other places.

Sept. 25th. Sat. I went to Kuliang and spend the Sabbath. Starting for Ponasang at 6:00 A.M. Mon. morning. Thurs. P.M. I went up again and brought Ellen and the children down to Ponasang. We did some of the packing and fixing to leave the house over Winter Thurs. evening. Fri. morning we arose at 6:00 o'clock. At 8:30 we were on the way down the mountain. At 11:45 we were at Ponasang all safe and sound. We had 16 mountaineers to bring us and our baggage. They were pleasant all the way. This was quite a change from all other experiences which we have had doing and coming from Kuliang. The children are both quite well. Ellen has a bad sore throat and a little fever. She is about and eats three meals a day but that is about all. There seems to be an epidemic about here this Fall. Both natives and foreigners have been subject to it. There is fever with affectation of some part of the body, what part depends upon the person. With Ellen it is the throat. She is better tonight than she was last night and I trust another day will find her over the worst. Gould has been put off with Mellins food and milk today. He says it is a shame. He has got along very well for over a week on one meal a day of Mellin's food, but a whole day is rather tough he thinks- You should have seen the little fellow this evening when his accustomed fare was again presented. He took it as he was given a new lease of life.

Ellen and the children had been away from Ponasang for 4 months. Gould had entirely forgotten his old birth place. I took him into the house and upstairs and put him on the floor. He looked all around and at last riveted his eyes of the clock that came from Oliver and Grace. It was ticking merrily and he heard it. This was a new sound to him. But he seems quite pleased with the change and evidently thinks the new home a good place. Phebe spends much of her time going up and down stairs. Yesterday morning she cried at the table and I turned her chair away till she stopped. At noon the first thing she said after the blessing was "Baby cwy cwy. Papa turn her 'way table." She was careful not to cry.

To day I have administered the Sacrament at Au Long Die. 4 men joined the church. The preacher there has the prevalent epidemic and I took the whole service except the reading of the O.T. scripture. After the service, just before the benediction one of the deacons arose and said that the church was contemplating opening a chapel about two miles distant in another part of the suburb. He said the church wished to do the whole of it and all would have to help. He asked if they were happy to subscribe then and bring the money this evening. Then at a suggestion of the preacher's he said if any were ready it would be better to pray now. For the first time since I have been in China I heard silver rattle in the contribution box. Ten and twenty cent pieces jingled till there must have been \$6 or \$8. Every instance of this kind is another proof that the people are getting hold of the self-support idea. They are beginning to see that as long as the native church depends upon contributions from America, its growth and development will be uncertain and slow. When the Chinese themselves take hold of the matter, and give of their own means and plan themselves for the enlargement of the work, the church is sure to grow.

The box came this last week. The cereal was rather lively, especially the oatmeal. Some of the packages were all right. The corn and rye is in perfect condition. The dry goods etc. came all O.K. The box of candy is nearly the best we have tasted for three years. We have not given Phebe her doll yet. Did you father pay the freight of the whole box to Foochow?

Yesterday an interesting letter came from Etta in which she speaks in the highest terms of Ming Uong and wants him either to remain in America or be sure to come again. May God keep him from letting this trip and the attentions showed him in America sport him. We are waiting for a full account of his Shelton visit.

Trusting that those of you who were indisposed when you wrote last are better before this. We are very lovingly yours

All of us
Will.

Mon. A.M. Dwight has a son. The Chinese carpenters have only 5 foot poles. These are too short to reach him. I'll have to get a ten foot. W.

[This letter dated Oct. 8, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen has been ill with fever and sore throat and had to stay away from the children during that time. Mrs. Goddard has a son, Dorrance Dwight. Willard is looking forward to Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear's return to Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow China
Oct. 8th '97.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter arrived Oct. 6th from Grace. I sent on the 3rd No. 12. The mail closes tomorrow and I am going to send just a word. Ellen began to improve night before last. To day she has been quite comfortable. Her throat has let up and she has nothing to complain of except weakness. This week she has eaten nothing but milk and thin beef soup. These Asiatic fevers take away one's appetite and indeed one does better not to eat while the fever is on. Her throat was so bad that the Dr. said the children must not be with her. So she has not touched one of them and has scarcely seen them at a distance since Tues. morning. I moved our beds into the study and have taken the whole care of both during the night and supervise their baths and eating during the day. I dropped my classes in the Seminary and just did what could not be left undone. The servants have been very good indeed. The little boy has stood his weaning like a hero. He has wakened each night at 11:30, 2:30 and 4:30. The first two times he takes a drink of water, goes to sleep without a word. But at 4:30 he says water is too thin. I give him a cup of Mellin's food and milk prepared over an alcohol lamp with him in my arms saying in his own language "hurry up" and after drinking it he goes to sleep again til 6 o'clock. During the day he eats at 9, 1 and 5. I have tried to feed him again at 7:30 this evening but he politely declined and has gone to sleep. While in my teens at home I well remember how tough it used to seem to have to stay in and "tend baby" while an interesting game of croquet or something else was going on, but the grievous tasks of those days were not an immitigable evil. I do not know what I should do now if I did not understand "Babyistics" (my patent)

Mrs. Goddard and young Dorrance Dwight are doing well.

I have just succeeded in renting a Society Guild or you might call it a Club House in which to hold our Annual Meeting Nov. 15-22. This is in reality a big temple owned by men from another part of the province and used by the members of the Guild who go back and forth between their homes and Foochow on business etc. While here this is their home. In back are kitchen and bedrooms. In front on the street is a big temple fitted up especially with an eye to accommodate the native theaters. The idol has a fine stone pedestal but fortunately he himself has not yet been made. The Guild Hall is not yet completed. The hall itself will seat bout 1500 people. The stage for the actors will make a fine speaker stand. There are no seats so we must provide them. The Hall stands just opposite Geu Cio Dong Church. It is a grand arrangement if all works as it promises to. Slowly the temples of the idols are contributing to the worship of the true God.

I think Grace gave us a truer idea of Ruth's real condition than we have had before. But we must not worry or be anxious. God knows best and will do best. This thought is very precious these days. There is sickness on all sides among preachers, students, teachers and church members. The Chinese are childlike in their anxieties, and perhaps God saw that my words of comfort and sympathy would be empty if I had not experienced their condition of those in the home land.

We suppose Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear are in Japan now. How I am counting on their return! It will relieve me of Recording Sec'y and Shaowu shipping agent and general care of the Men's Hospital and 1000+ little details.

Ellen has just gotten up and put her head out of the door to see if she can catch a peep of the children. I must close now. Tell Grace an answer to her good letter will come in time. Please send this to Putnam as soon as you read it. Lovingly Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 21, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen has had trouble with an abscess and now she is having trouble with her teeth. She may have to have some pulled. Ming Uong is back from the U.S. and now he is to be married. The Annual Meeting and Jubilee surpassed the previous year in attendance. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Nov. 21st. 1897.

Dear Folks at Home:-

If my records are correct the last letter to you was written Oct. 8th. No. 13. Your last was received No. 9th. A postal I know has gone since this last letter.

Ellen had had quite a siege with an abscess. She has written about it in full to her home in Putnam, so I will only say here that it is much better. The Dr. says he will dress it only once more. She is feeling better than at any time since she came down from the mountain. The pain from the abscess has been slight. But she has been and is troubled with her teeth. We are afraid some will have to come out. The children are both perfectly well. They sleep from 10 to 11 hours every night and Phebe has one and Gould two naps every day.

Ming Uong arrived safely Oct. 30th. He stayed with us till Nov. 15th when he started for a trip among the colleges of China to report his work in the States. He will return about the middle or latter part of Dec. His first business after reaching home will be to take a wife. Then he will be ready to begin work with the new year. I can not see that he has lost any of his consecration or devotion to the work here in the Seminary, saying that many had laughed at him for spending his time in such a small Institution when he could take a position of almost any importance he chose with three or four times the salary he now receives. (He did not say this as plainly as I have put it but it was all implied and is all very true). But he said this work was only in its infancy and that in the reconstruction of China the men who are now being trained for Christian work are to be the men who will mould the nation. Mon. P.M. just before he took the steamer for Shanghai, he held an audience of over 600 people perfectly still for half an hour as they listened to his description of American life.

The, hh (This is Phebe's)

The Annual Meeting was a grand success from beginning to end. The crowds even surpassed those of last year, altho that was our Jubilee and special interest was centered in the meetings on that account. The most important advance was the establishment of a Men's Missionary Society. I think this was put on a sure basis. It is native throuth [throughout]. There is not a foreigner in office. But I will not take time to say more now. I have an account of the whole meeting nearly written which I will send in the next mail.

A letter came from Miss Wooster Thurs. stating that she had given you money to be sent to me. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank here cash drafts on New York banks for me without charge. But this money you had better keep to pay my life insurance. I will tell you the address in another letter.

Will you tell me again about the time in the bill for the last box for freight to Foochow. I am charged in the bill from Boston for the steamer freight. The item for freight in your bill is larger than this bill for ocean freight. It looks a little as if I had paid freight twice. But I await your reply before paying anything. Have you Swett's receipt for the freight?

Love to all
Will.

We are enjoying our variety of cereals immensely.

W.

[This letter dated Dec. 12, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mrs. Gracey, wife of the new Consul, died unexpectedly. The Gracey's had just recently arrived in China. Willard discusses the recently organized Anti Foot-binding Society made up only of Chinese. Phebe and Gould like to pretend to have church services. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Dec. 12 1897

Dear Folks at Home:-

My register says the last letter started for Shelton Nov. 22. It was No. 14. I have already acknowledged the last from you Nov. 9th.

I have just returned from the funeral of Mrs. Gracey wife of the American Consul. She has been ill for nearly a month. But we did not consider her in any great danger till Tuesday. Yesterday Ellen and I went over the river to make some calls and heard that she was very low and would not live long. This morning I was just starting for church as the notice of the funeral came. So the end was sudden as is so often the case. This is a sad occurrence for the family has been scattered for some years still this year. Mr. Gracey was reappointed to the Consulship here. He occupied this position during Pres. Harrison's administration. While here one son engaged in business and one daughter, the only one, was married to a young man whose business is in Foochow. It was with a great deal of pleasure that they were able to return here this year. The family now are together. But just as they had the home nicely fitted up the mother is called to her new home. The Consul is a Methodist minister. He is a brother of Dr. Gracey of Clifton Springs fame.

This morning I administered the Sacrament at Au Ciu. Two were received. Last Sunday I administered at Au Iong Die. Five were received. Next Sunday the service will be at Sang Tung Gio. This will be the last for this

year. Twenty three have thus far been received during this month in my station. And at all the churches there are learners ready to enter the church at the next Communion season.

Dec. 13th. Another mail arrived this morning. It brought the Adirondack letters and one from Phebe to Gould and from Etta. It said almost nothing about the visit of father and mother Kinney. But we shall get this in other letters. Ruth is home before this time. Her increase in avoirdupois is most gratifying. I wish we had more encouraging news of her cough. The mail today brought the sad news of the death of Mr. Peet's oldest daughter, of diphtheria. The first item of interest to us in the monthly home mail is the Treasurer's report in the Miss'y Herald. The report this month is the most gratifying of any in a long time. May God grant that it may be followed by many more of the same strain. This will make the work very much lighter, if we do not have to worry over the lack of funds to carry on the work. Mr. Ding's sister is not as reported to him. She is not well but is able to be about and does much work. I cannot find the source of the report of her death. It was so reported her. Mr. Smyth chanced to be writing him at that time and before corroborating the report put it down and sent it.

I enclose in this envelope a translation by Miss Newton of some rules which the recently organized Anti-Footbinding Society in Foochow have framed. This Society is purely Chinese. It is in no wise connected with the church. I do not know that any of its members are even occasional church goers. But of course they got the idea from the agitation that has been kept up for years all over China against this barbarous practice, by the missionaries. This Society means much for the future of this Empire. Men of influence and power are at its head. It also has the sanction of the Foochow Prefect. Of these rules he says in his proclamation on the subject, - "Although these rules come from the literary men to me, yet now they are my rules, and you must not disobey them." His proclamation consists mainly in bidding the people to simplify their marriage customs. Footbinding and marriage are closely connected because it is not fashionable for a young man to marry a large footed girl. A bound footed girl will bring \$150 or more. A large footed girl about half this amount. So when these literary men came to take up this matter their greatest obstacle was fashion. To overcome this they asked the Prefect to issue the Proclamation on a simpler code of rules regulating the marriage customs.

I send this to you hoping that the Sentinel will be pleased to publish it. I have had my Chinese teacher copy it on one side of paper with that end in view.

Ellen and the children are quite well. Both Phebe and Gould are developing very rapidly both physically and mentally. This evening Gould was sleeping in bed. Phebe had not retired. Gould cried. She ran in to the bed and began to hush him and rock the springs. When I arrived he was sleeping again all right and has not made a sound since. They both continue to sleep like bricks all night. Gould walks if some one will only take one of his hands. He has not yet ventured alone. His great delight now is to pull the hair pins out of his mother's hair, or to play with the stove. The weather is not cold enough yet to necessitate a continual fire, so he is not yet become afraid of the stove. He always approaches it cautiously tho. If he finds it warm it is as good as a circus to see him touch it and draw back his hand and look, then try it again. He is going to make a much more cautious person than Phebe. He gets a book or paper or letter and reads with no uncertain tone. He and Phebe have church service nearly every day. Phebe can distinguish a Testament from other books. She takes a Testament and reads with a scowl and a dignity worthy of a Curate. He looks on as if he was a little in the dark as to the exact import of the proceeding but as if he realized that it was important. Then after the reading comes the prayer. She kneels down over an old flower pot and mumbles over something. Well when I get to running on this subject there is no legitimate stopping place so I might as well break off now.

With Love to all
Will.

[This letter dated Dec. 26, 1897 was written from Foochow, China by Ellen to the friends at the Derby home. She and the children spent Christmas without Willard because he and Mr. Goddard had to take a trip throughout the Ing Hok mission field. Ellen was told that a Chinese person felt that Willard learned faster and spoke better than any of the other missionaries. Miss Garretson and the Woodhull sisters arrived from America on Christmas Eve. Ellen shares some stories about her children. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China,
Dec. 26th, '97.

Dear friends at the Derby home,

We have just received a nice big letter from you yesterday. It was a welcome Christmas visit from Mother, Flora, Mary and Stanly. You see the babies and I were all alone this Christmas day and the echos from America cheered us very much; for dear Papa was far away in the country with Mr. Goddard on a trip through the Ing Hok

field. We wished so much that it could have been at some other time than Christmas. But Mr. Goddard wanted very much to have Will go with him and said that his work required him to go at that particular time. Will was tired from the term's work and needed a little change and the rest which he could get by going away from the Chinese who are under his supervision and depend so much upon him. It is constant strain of listening to the troubles and wants of the Chinese who come to him for help in their plans and help out of difficulties, that wears on him fully as much as the teaching. He could have a little rest from this by going away where he was not known, and he could have his work now better than he could later. He asked our oldest pastor (Ming Uong's father) how the other pastors, preachers and christians would feel if he left them to have their Christmas service without him. "They have nothing to say; you must go", he answered. They were not a little disappointed however for they do enjoy so much having Will attend their feasts, celebrations and all "nan ick" times. He has such a lively pleasant way of meeting them and expressing his interest in them that they highly esteem his presence; - and he can eat their feasts and enjoy them, generally, and this touches a warm place in their hearts. Just here, while he is not around to hear it, is a good chance to tell you confidently something they said about him a long time ago. When we had been here less than a year, the Chinese told one of our ladies that "Mr. Beard is getting along finely with the language; he speaks better and learns the spoken language faster than any other missionary we ever had." (This means of our mission). Now, if he does not get home in time to read this letter, he will never know I told that.

Well, we are going to have all the Christmas festivities at New Years, for we expect Will home next Tuesday. But mama and babies kept wondering all day just where papa was and how he was spending Christmas. Mrs. Goddard invited us to spend the day with her as she also was to be alone. But a pleasant surprise awaited us for on Christmas eve. Miss Garretson and the Misses Woodhull arrived from America. They reached our compound at 10:30 P.M. which was too late for them to get in through the city gate so we kept them at Ponasang. Miss Newton came over to stay with me and gave her bed up to them. I had retired and did not meet them that night and the Woodhull sisters were off early for the city so the pleasure of meeting them was reserved for our visit at Mrs. Goddard's. I had never met Miss Garretson before as she was in America when we reached here. It seems to us that none of the three are looking very strong but their return will greatly relieve those who have had charge of their work during their absence. Mr. Goddard's people expect to move to Ing Hok soon now, - within a few weeks. I shall miss them so much for we have been very close friends ever since we came here.

Our babies are still objects of great interest to us and are always a good subject to write about and one about which we never tire of writing, I suppose you think. I have been especially interested of late in watching the development of imagination in the little two-years-old girl. She has reached that age where dolls are so attractive and I believe there is no portable inanimate object in the world which she could not imagine to be a "dollay." You would laugh if you could read over the list of things which I have seen her play with as a doll. It includes a stick of stove-wood, an Indian club, papa's slipper and a skein of embroidery-cotton among others equally as amusing. A few days ago a spoonful of rice was suddenly stopped on its way to her mouth and after looking at it intently a few seconds she said thoughtfully and with mingled surprise and delight, "T'ere la dollay! Tse? (There's a dolly! See?) But our imaginations failed to follow her. She has "by-o-by"-ed William Penn (his picture in an advertisement on the back page of the "Advance") walking up and down the room singing and softly patting it until it seemed that that worthy man's bones ought to rest in peace even if his newspaper-picture did not in her motherly but uncertain arms. In the Shanghai merchant's shop recently, she saw a little doll that could close its eyes. It amused her very much to see the doll go to sleep when laid down. A few days later she was playing with the Indian-club as a doll when I asked her "Can your dolly go to sleep as the little doll did"? "No." "Why not?" I asked. "No eye!" - a very good reason. I am making and dressing the doll whose head some of you sent to her over a year ago, for her New Year's present. We did not think it wise to give to her then as she had already broken one in a single day's play. I try to keep the clothes I am making out of her sight as that it may be a real surprise but at a mere glance as they are being whisked out of sight, she recognizes them as "dollay's eeo's" (her l's are always e's and make another syllable) and cries for them.

With regard to Sir Gould I am able to announce that he walks- can walk alone and quite a distance. He will surprise his papa when he gets home, he has improved so rapidly in a week.

He fell the entire length of the veranda stairs a few days ago receiving no injuries but a three-quarter of an inch long on his scalp. Phebe is a little more than a match for him yet but he bears her impositions good-naturedly unless she tries to ride on his back when he is creeping, or snatches from him and runs away with his favorite toy, or strikes him over the head with papa's cane. But when he is able to locomote a little more rapidly he will fight his own battles.

This year at Christmas we gave out over five hundred cards as gifts to women church members and day school scholars in this station, besides those used regularly in the schools.

The Chinese like to give the missionaries some little present too; and this year after the eight churches and preaching places had had their Christmas entertainments, we found ourselves well supplied with pomelos, oranges and cakes.

Jan. 7th.

Well, this letter has remained in the desk for a while, and time and events have been moving. Will has returned and written a letter home which will reach you before this does. We had our Christmas tree on New Year's eve which entertained our children, the servants and ourselves. Little Phebe did so want to take down that "pretty dollay that hung high on the tree; and little brother could not wait his elders pleasure to unload the tree so had his toy and went to sleep.

This week we have been busy attending school examinations, and week-of-prayer meetings in which the three missions unite. I examine one Woman's Station Class tomorrow morning; Will's work in the Seminary closed Wednesday. He preaches the sermon at the close of the week of prayer on Sunday next in the British Church.

Phebe often speaks of writing "a paper" to gran'ma and gran'pa 'way o'er 'n Merika" (America) and would like to finish out this sheet for me if she were awake.

With ever so much love to you all from babies, Will and myself,

Sincerely Yours,

Ellen.
