

# 1899

- Philippine rebellion against U.S. control
- Willard, Ellen and family are in Foochow, China
- Willard is 34, Ellen- 31, Phebe- 4, Gould- 3, Geraldine- 1.

*[This letter dated Jan. 1, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Examinations and Commencement will be later in the month. Willard describes the process of purchasing land from the Chinese and the custom of using a middleman. Willard chopped a tree down on Kuliang for Christmas and a coolie carried it about 10 miles back to Foochow for Christmas celebrations. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary  
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1898. [Willard wrote 1898, however, he mentioned Geraldine in this letter and she was not born until August of 1898. Willard was just used to writing 1898 and had not gotten used to 1899 yet.]

Dear Folks at Home:-

We all wish you a Happy New Year. A week ago this evening I was sending the Christmas greetings to you. (letter No. 20) With this exception the letters received and sent remain the same as then. We have just read the name Mary A. Paige in the Birthday Day book. Is it Edgar Booths sister that taught school one term on Long Hill – a widow at the time and after ward married- Mr. Paige? These folks who change their names- especially the girls whose maiden names we were familiar with- cause us much thinking to place them. We have the wedding cards of many, but a strange name read only once does not always stick fast.

I conducted a communion service at Au Ciu this morning and received six into the church. One little girl was baptized. For the first time since I have been in Foochow I had the pleasure of seeing the father and mother stand together while the child was baptized and together promise to try to teach the little one to love Jesus. The customs in China are all against a man and his wife appearing together anywhere. So one generally brings the child forward and the other sits in his seat while the child is baptized.

The Week of Prayer commenced to-day with a preaching service conducted by one of the Methodists. I will enclose a program of the week. I thought I should be fortunate enough to have a rest this year from leading one of the meetings but not so. I am getting good and tired as the end of the year approaches. The Chinese year does not close till Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. The Seminary closes Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, the week beginning Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> until Thurs. will be occupied with examinations and Commencement. During this week the commencements of the Boy's College and the Girl's College will also be held. So this week will be full. From this time on to the end of the Chinese year the Chinese will be very busy. The churches will have lots of business and it will not be easy to accomplish it all, because the church members are busy men and their own business will require much of their time, and the preacher can hardly go all around looking up the delinquent subscribers. Then the churches that have to make changes in their preachers or have to rent other places for churches will have a double burden. Land buying has gone very easily during the past week. One of the sellers is sick and the other wants a week to consider the matter, so I have had quite a rest. Have I ever told you how land is bought here: I want to purchase, I tell some native whom I know well. He looks about in the locality where I wish to buy, and probably finds another man. Man No. 2 looks up the owners of the land or houses, ascertains if they are willing to sell, and then if they are willing gets into communication with still another man No. 3. No. 1 may himself do all that I have attributed to No. 2. If he does then we have only four parties, i.e. buyer, his middle man, = No. 2. Seller, his middle man= No. 3. No. 2 goes to No. 3 who goes to seller and gets the price at which he will sell. This information passes thro No. 3. No. 2 back to buyer. In the case before me now, the price was \$2800. I offered \$1500. This information passed from me to No. 2. Then to No. 3, then to seller. In a few days my middle man said the other side would take 2500. I raised to 1600. After a time the other party dropped to 2100. I went up to 1700. It took about two weeks to do all this business and here the matter has rested for about two weeks. The man of whom I am buying nothing but a name=Uong= King. I am not supposed to see him at all until thru the middle men we have agreed upon a price and the deed has been written and the money is ready to be paid and he comes to my house to receive the money and sign the deed. When he comes, "he" may be six brothers or relatives and they may demand \$1.00 a piece for putting their names on the deed. - and they may not get it. After the money is paid to the seller my middleman comes around for .03% of the price paid for the property as compensation for his service-which I think I could have done without better than with- if the custom of the land only allowed it.

Last Monday I went to Kuliang with Miss Newton. Just as we reached the foot of the mountain Mrs. Smyth- a M.E. lady put in an appearance. So we here had a very pleasant Christmas together on the mountain top. I took an extra coolie along and cut a real Christmas tree and had it brought down. Was it foolish to ask a man to carry a tree almost 10 miles just for an hour's amusement? Well it cost 25 cents and we all had a very pleasant

evening. Ellen bought some little candles to light the tree, and we had oranges and Ellen made popcorn balls and these with the other presents made a fine tree- as fine as you would see in America. Miss Newton and Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear and their children and our servants made the party. All seemed to enjoy it immensely. Gould ate popcorn till he was full. It did him no more harm than the watermelon did James. Ellen put Geraldine to bed as usual at 7 o'clock. But she rebelled and her amah had to take her up. The little thing came into the parlor in amah's arms as wide awake as a lark and just as if she understood the whole business. She opened her mouth and gave a crow as much as to say, "You thought I was not on to this, did you?" Oranges and pumeloos have come in during the week till we are surfeited with them. As most of them have come from people able to give them we can receive them and feel grateful. We gave each of the preachers and pastors a hen for Christmas.

We think of you as together at the old homestead at this season. Give our love to Grandfather and Grandmother and Aunt Louise. Tell her to write.

Love to all in which Ellen joins.

Will.

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*[This letter dated Jan. 22, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard and Ellen to the Folks At Home. It is commencement week and Willard and Ellen have both been sick. They describe some of the new missionaries. Willard took a trip to Ing Hok with some of the new missionaries and had Ellen finish this letter. Ellen tells of taking Geraldine for a walk through Foochow in a baby carriage and was the entertainment of hundreds of Chinese. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Two weeks ago – Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> - I sent the letter for the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have received nothing from you this year. A steamer is expected to start from Shanghai to day bearing both the Am. mail and the five new missionaries for – 1 for Foochow and 4 for Shaowu,- then we should have a feast of good letters from Conn.

This week will occur the Commencements of the different schools. The Girls College in charge of Miss Newton will hold forth on Tues. P.M. The Boy's College in charge of Mr. Peet will hold forth on Wed. A.M. The Theological Seminary on Thurs. A.M. and the Hospitals, and Woman's School will be tucked in somewhere, beside examinations in the Seminary and class days, receptions etc. Well to prepare for the week I have been in bed all or nearly all of the past week. Ellen had just got to feeling a little like herself again after an attack of Tonsilitis, when last Sunday, I came home from church with a fever, tired and in the evening a sore throat. I went to bed till Thurs. about 11 A.M. The soreness is all gone from the throat but I feel, as I told Ellen to day, like a wooden man, and worth about as much. I shall try to hang round here till Fri. morning. The Seminary will then be formerly closed and I will skip out. First I'll go to Ing Hok and see Goddard, staying till I get ready to start away. Then I may go to Ming Chiang where the Methodists have a station and two ladies. Then I'll go to Ku Cheng where the other two Missions have work and where I am not sure but a Cong'l church will soon be organized, - started entirely by the natives. This order of march is as yet only on paper.

We had a perfect day. I got a good rest of a day. The new comers of course thought it a lark. Now as to the personalities of these new ones. The Missionary Herald which came yesterday has the photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Hinman [*George W. and Kate F.*] in it. I knew him while I was at Oberlin. Mrs. Hinman is a niece of Mrs. Walker. One of the Bement sisters is an M.D [*Dr. Lucy P. Bement and her sister is Frances K. Bement*]. She is rather small and slight. Her sister is rather stout and wears glasses. Lieutenant Hobson came over on the steamer with them and Miss Bement likes to talk about him and tell that she was his private secretary, i.e. that she answered some of his letters for him while on the steamer.

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. It is never safe for me to stop writing hoping to finish "to-morrow." That "to-morrow" is sure to be a long way off.

The new missionaries arrived on Fri. With them came a letter from Shelton and one from Abington. I am still in Foochow, have got thro the week pretty well. The exercises at the Seminary Commencement passed off nicely and nine good young men are to be added to the preaching force of the mission this year. One has been called by the members of the Au Iong Die church here in this station on a salary of \$7.00 per month. The established salary heretofore when the mission has paid the preacher has been \$4.00 per month. At the Commencement exercises the most prominent feature was the singing by the boys. Ellen has had the graduating class from two to five hours a week this term and the other two classes less time. They, by their singing, called forth praise from all. If any thinks the Chinaman stolid and incapable of emotion they should have been present as I spoke a few last words and gave

them their diplomas nearly every one of the young men was in tears. I never witnessed a like scene in China. It is proof that a tender chord has been reached in their hearts by some one during the past three years.

I am planning now to start next Wed. morning on the trip proposed on the first page of this. I went to Kuliang yesterday with Miss Newton, Mr. Peet, Miss Chittenden, Mr. and Mrs. Hinman and Misses Bement. The last four are the new arrivals for the Shaowu station.

*[The following is in Ellen's handwriting:]*

To continue the description, - Miss Bortz is a rather tall, pretty young lady, somewhat reserved; but as I am not yet acquainted with her can tell very little else about her. She is appointed to Pagoda Anchorage where Mr. Hubbard's people are and we have seen her only once. These are the first new missionaries we have had the pleasure of welcoming to our Mission at Foochow and we are very happy to receive them but it makes us wish for more as these all go to outstations and as many more are needed in the city and suburbs. The Shaowu recruits are stopping in Foochow for a few months till some of the missionaries belonging there who are at home on furlough, return to go with them to their field. We are daily expecting their teachers down from Shaowu when they will begin studying the dialect of the field.

Well, Will started on his vacation trip Wednesday morning Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 o'clock, and told me to finish his letter and send it. There was quite a party of them, - Will, Mr. Hinman, Miss Newton, Dr. Bement, one of the native teachers in Miss N's school and several of the girls, - besides the coolies who carried the chairs and loads and the servants who went with them. They first took a chair ride of 2 ½ hours then took a boat for Ing Hok. The rest of the day and night was spent on the boat and the next morning they started by chair to complete the journey to Mr. Goddard's home that day. Mr. Beard and Mr. Hinman making the distance on foot. Will wrote me from Ing Hok saying he was enjoying his trip greatly, - that he stayed at Mr. Goddard's the next Monday then proceeded with Mr. Hinman to Ming Chiang a station of the M.E. mission and that he would go from there overland to KuCheng where both the English and M.E. missions have work and from there home. Ku Cheng, you will remember is the scene of the massacre of '95. I heard from Will again at Ming Chiang when he was well and getting rested and enjoying every moment. I am very glad he could have this change for he needed the rest so much. I think he will return much refreshed or as Phebe put it "A new, new papa." (She has heard her papa tell about feeling like a new man). He had had especially fine weather; we might reasonably have expected rain at this season but it is holding off well. Miss Bement is staying with me while Will is away otherwise I should be in the compound alone as Dr. Kinnear's people are at Sharp Peak through the New Year's vacation. The last night of the old year I was alone as Miss Bement went to the city to stay with Mrs. Hinman over night. Mr. and Mrs. Hinman are stopping at Mr. Peet's and the Misses Bement at Miss Newton's. On China New Year's day took the children all into the city to dine with Mrs. Hartwell. Phebe and Gould rode in my chair and I rolled baby in the carriage through the street. I have no doubt it was the first baby carriage that ever wheeled along that street and was of course a great curiosity. A troop of men and children ran along beside us all the way more followed close behind and still others nearly blocked the road in front. I did not realize how uneven the stone pavement in the street is till I rolled the carriage over it but baby had a good shaking up I fancy. It was really a hot day and I was nearly melted when we reached the city; and this was Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. The baby took a chair home and the carriage was left for the coolie to bring home next day. If Miss Geraldine had realized what a picnic she had made for so many hundreds of people she would never forget her famous ride in the baby-carriage through the streets of Foochow.

The feast of lanterns is near at hand and last evening Phebe was presented with a lantern in the form of a steamship and Gould with one in the form of a horse. The steamer looks very pretty when lighted up and is a great delight to the children. Gould is afraid to face his horse on account of his wide open mouth which is a little hideous, in truth; but he carries it about with him, back toward him and is greatly attached to it. He calls it his "cow" for he has never seen a horse to get acquainted with its appearance.

The children are both well and growing rapidly. I have just shingled Gould's hair since his papa went away, and he looks like a real boy now. He talks in Chinese equal to Puddefoot himself, but is not as eloquent in English yet. Papa was never away from his darlings so long before and I suppose he will note some changes when he sees them again. We are expecting him soon now.

And now my tardy thanks to the donors of those lovely slippers they are just right and are a real comfort. Phebe never sees them without begging to be allowed to put on "those pretty red shoes" just a little while and she is occasionally allowed the privilege much to her delight. Many, many thanks for them. And to Flora for that beautiful centrepiece, so many thanks. It's just a beauty. You are so kind to send us these pretty and useful things-luxuries-and we appreciate them. I assure you, Will likes to wear his tie that Ruth sent the best of any he has. It is needless to say Phebe was quite elated with her doll and she plays with Gould's as much as he does. She is very fond of dolls. The children never tire of looking at the picture books. Phebe opens to a favorite picture and comes to me frequently with the request, "Now mama, talk about it."

Phebe often writes letters to Grandma Beard but some how they never are sent.  
When Will returns he will write you all about his trip.  
With much love to all,

Very Sincerely Yours,  
Ellen.

North and East Woodstock have secured a Yale Man permanently.



Faculty and students of Foochow Theological Seminary. In the middle sits Willard and Ellen. To Ellen's left (our right) sits Ding Ming Uong. About 1899.

*[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*

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Undated photo – Description on back: “Mr. Dings Eastgate Day School Shaowu, China J.C. Walker 88”  
[J.C. Walker is probably Josephine Walker. Photo donated to Yale by family in 2007]

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*[This letter dated Feb. 19, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells of his enjoyable trip to Ing Hok and Kucheng with other missionaries. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter for Shelton started sometime about Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. One Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> one arrived from Shelton. The main topic of this letter will be the trip into the country from which I have just returned.

Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. morning at 7:30 Miss Newton, Dr. Bement (Miss), Mr. Hinman and myself with three Chinese girls from Miss Newton's School started for Ing Hok. We first have a chair ride of 8 miles. Then take a boat for 20 miles to the foot of the rapids. At this place we have a chapel and often spend the night in it, and go on to Ing Hok the next day. We arrived at the foot of the rapids just at dark Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and spent the night on the boats. We could not engage the boatmen to take us farther so on Thursday morning the two foreign ladies and three Chinese girls called chairs and Hinman and I walked, started for Ing Hok at 9:30 A.M. It was a beautiful day. The sun shone all the time. The birds, altho few- were rejoicing in the balmy atmosphere, the little blue violets peeped at us from many a cosy nook and the apricot blossoms in many an orchard filled the air with a delicate fragrance for a long distance. We had been tied closely to our work for several months and were out for recreation, and felt like colts just out of the stable from the long Winter's confinement. The distance is 12 miles. We were in no hurry and took the whole day, arriving at 5:30 P.M. Mr. and Mrs. Goddard had seen no foreigner for several months. Mrs. Goddard and Dorrance had not seen any but Mr. G. since Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 1898. It is needless to add that they gave us a hearty welcome. We had hoped to be able to hire a boat to take us all the way to Ing Hok, and were not a little disappointed when we found it impossible. But it was just God's way of heading us off from going in the wrong path and making us take the right one. If we had taken a boat all the way we would [have] missed a delightful walk and healthful invigorating exercise. Then this was specially providential for Hinman and me. We had engaged two coolies to go with us from Foochow and stay with us for the whole journey agreeing to pay them 30 cents a day whether they worked or were idle. The two men were opium smokers and were unable to carry our loads even for the 12 miles between Gak Liang and Ing Hok. They gave out after walking about 7 miles and themselves got other men to carry their loads and returned to Foochow from Ing Hok. If we had got the boats to take us all the way to Ing Hok these two men would have simply sat in the boat and then rested three days and started with us the next Mon. morning for a tramp of 24 miles and given out after a few miles and left as in the country with no means of going on or turning back.

Arriving at Ing Hok Thursday Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hinman and I stayed until the next Monday. Friday afternoon two ladies from Australia who are working in the English mission here arrived and swelled the numbers of our party to



eight beside Dorrance. We had a most pleasant time during Sat. and Sunday. Hinman and I managed to get a walk of from 6 to 12 miles each day to harden up the muscles for a good tramp the next week. One of the Australian ladies was a good musician and we had some fine singing with all the rest of the good times. Mrs. Goddard put up a large quantity of jams last summer and she was afraid they would spoil. This fact, with my natural propensity to help people in trouble, materially increased my labors while at Ing Hok, and when we were started on the next journey we found our jam was still present. We did our duty bravely. Monday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 Hinman and I started for Kucheng on foot with our coolie and three burden bearers. That day we walked about 24 miles and put up in a native inn in the mountains. It was a very nasty place but it was this or nothing. At 7:20 Tues. morning we were on the road again. There was a heavy frost that night and in the morning the air in the mountains- we were about 2000 ft. above the sea- was crisp and sharp and we thoroughly enjoyed the walk. At 11:30 we were at Ming Chiang at the home of Miss Mary Peters of the M.E. Mission took dinner with her and went on about 9 miles and stopped over night at a Meth. Chapel. The next day we were at the Min river again at Ming Chiang city. Here we hired a boat for Cui Kau the part of Kucheng.

We reached Cui Kau at 9 A.M. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. On the night of the eighth we slept in the little boat. Eight of us in a space about 3 ½ X 16 ft. At 11:00 Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> we were off on the last stretch for Kucheng. This is a distance of 30 miles. That day we covered about 17 miles and slept in a native inn- a good one this time and reached Kucheng Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:45. The distance was not less than 130 miles. The distance on the boat was about 20 miles, so we walked fully 110 miles in 4 ½ days. The farther we walked the easier it was, on the last day of the walk we made about 15 miles. In the afternoon we played 3 sets of tennis for exercise.

At Kucheng the English and Methodists each have work. We were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. (also Dr.) Skinner of the Meth. All the people with the exception of one lady in both these missions at Kucheng have arrived in Foochow since I came. So you see we were a young set. Mr. and Mrs. Simester and Dr. Skinner were going to Foochow on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> and asked us to remain in Kucheng and go with them, so we had a jolly party all the way down- 120 miles. We arrived at Ponasang Fri. evening Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 o'clock.

Ellen and the babies were well and had not had any misfortune while I was away. I had not heard from them since I left home 17 days before. Miss Frances Bement had very kindly stayed with Ellen. All the others in the compound had gone off. Gould had grown in stature and in talking perceptibly and has developed a great like for Miss Bement which is mutual. Geraldine is fatter than ever and just as good. Phebe has grown fat. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> congratulations to Mother and Father on birthdays and before this reaches you to Flora also. Yesterdays mail bro't a letter with draft \$18. Lovingly Will.

*[In an email on April 18, 2008, Stanley (Stan) Owen Forbes, grandson of Willard's brother, Stanley Drew Beard, Stan wrote: "I think Oliver(Oliver Gould Beard, Sr) is the one who used to do a "head stand" on a big flat rock in the front yard at Long Hill, every year on his birthday. He did this every year until his 90th birthday. He is also the one who shot at a deer (about 50 yards away) in the field in front of their house, and when the gun went off, it not only knocked the deer down, but also Oliver. I was very young, but still remember him doing the head stands on the rock". Winn Valentine (grandson of Willard's brother, Bennett Nichols Beard) verified this in a telephone conversation on October 18, 2008.]*

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*[This letter dated **March 5, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. An added note at the end of the letter was written by Willard's mother, Nancie M.N. Beard prior to forwarding it on to one of her other sisters. The Seminary in Foochow has opened again. Willard is glad for new missionaries for he had written Dr. Smith of the Board and almost threatened to quit if they did not send more help. In July or August of 1899 Nancie M.N. Beard writes about her father's death, Nathan Bennett Nichols. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter No. 2 started Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The last received was Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> a letter came from Putnam and also one from Miss Wooster.

Last Thurs. the Seminary opened. This is the first time that the new year begins with graduates in the field. One of the graduates has accepted a call to the Au Iong Die church at a salary of \$7.00 per month. \$4.00 per month is the most the Mission has ever helped a young preacher. The Men's Missionary Society offered another \$7.00 per month, but he declines fearing he could not do as much walking as would be required. He is teaching in the

Seminary. The highest that I can give him will be \$5.00. I am sorry for the Missionary Society, but their loss is my gain. The boy's spirit is needed in the Seminary. He will be a great help in many other ways beside the class-room work. The new class brings eight men. The class which graduated contained nine. The building however is more crowded than it was last year. Now all are in the building. I am very much pleased with the Seminary faculty this year with the exception of myself. I am doing very poor work, which I am afraid will have to continue till another man is sent to this station. This year I have begun to have regular faculty meetings. It is the first time that I have had a faculty that I felt I could consult with mutual benefit. The boys have only one complaint i.e. they have too much work to do. While a student at home I always noticed that it pleased a teacher to find that his scholar made this complaint.

We used to think the New England weather was a very fickle commodity, but Foochow weather goes leagues ahead of it. We read in the Encyclopedia before coming here that there were two seasons- the wet and the dry. The rain was said to commence about January and continues till June. But since last Christmas we have not had a week of rainy weather all together. This must be the exception to the rule. Every year thus far has been like no other in its weather. A year ago this Winter we had a fire every day from Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1897 to Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> 1898. This Winter we had burned less than half the wood and for days together had no fire in the house. This warm and pleasant weather is most opportune for those who are building at Kuliang. Other Winters the masons could not work for about three months in the coolest time. This Winter they have worked nearly every day. Trees are blossoming already and are beginning to look green with the new foliage. The rooks- a large hawk-are building their nests and now and then a day makes us think of Kuliang. By the way I went up yesterday (March 11<sup>th</sup>) and found two or three kinds of flowers in bloom, near the foot of the mountain. The pine trees are just now very beautiful with their new Spring tassels. As I climbed [*climbed*] the mountain and looked down on the plain from time to time, it was a very picturesque scene that lay before me; the broad flat plain divided up into what looked like little garden patches, no two of the same size or shape; some yellow, with a plant like mustard in full bloom (Oil is extracted from the seed of this plant); some dark green with wheat just beginning to head; some flooded in preparation for sowing rice; and some black, not yet ploughed.

I left this sheet on my desk this morning while I went to church. Gould wrote a little-well spread out-to grandma. The children are perfectly well these days, and as full of mischief as two children ever were. Phebe puts her head on one side and in most winning accents says, -"Papa could you let me have this?" Gould is a boy. He sees a hole in his apron and the next minute there is a rent a foot long. He has found a little patch of peas which Miss Newton is proud of. He slips out there picks and eats the green peas. Just before we sat down to dinner to-day, he got on his winter cloak and mittens. Phebe had hers on also. They were told to take them off in preparation for dinner. Phebe obeyed, but Gould would not. So we made him wait dinner till he would obey. You know something of the appetite of a vigorous growing boy of two and a half years. It was pretty tough to stand by and see the rest of us eat, but he stood it bravely refusing repeatedly to take off his coat. Several times he slyly sidled up to his chair hoping the amah would put him up but her orders were to let him alone, - it was as hard to make her obey as it to make the boy- He stood it with scarcely a whimper till we were thro and were leaving the dining room. Then he voluntarily asked to have his coat off, and ate a hearty dinner. The two amahs that were with us last year have both left and we have two green women. This morning I found one of them trying to cram Gould's feet into his combination under garment after she had put his arms in.

Five more missionaries have been promised for our mission. A man and his wife to take Mr. Hartwell's work, a young lady physician to assist Dr. Woodhull, a young lady for Kindergarten work in the city and one for teaching in the Boy's College. I have written Dr. Smith almost threatening to leave if there is no help sent for this station within a year. To remain under the present pressure means to invite a collapse. And I am not ready now to destroy myself in this way.

I often think of Aunt Hannah [*Hannah E. Nichols, born about 1848, sister of Willard's mother, Nancy Maria Nichols Beard.*]. She is having a lot of trouble. How hard it must be for Uncle Charles and Edith. I will write them as soon as possible. In the mean time please give them our warmest sympathy and tell them we hope they may be well 'ere long. Remember us to Grandfather and Grandmother and Aunt Louise. Remind Aunt Louise that she has not written in a long time.

I will put a few things that we would like to have you send for the June shipment from Boston if convenient. We are trying Smith's Cash Store in San Francisco and like its goods and prices very much this far. The great advantage is in the nearness to us.

Most Lovingly Will.

½ bu. yellow corn



4 qts. rye  
2 “ popping corn  
1 pr. calf shoes No. 9 (lace, not pointed toes)  
1 “ overshoes to fit.  
1 dark olive table cloth – (cover for dining table between meals) 2 ½ yds. long.  
If cannot get dark olive 2<sup>nd</sup> choice brown, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice red.  
1 Boy's Winter cap for Gould. He will be 3 yrs. old Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1899- Head large.  
1 Croquet set \$2.00  
1 doz. linen collars- stand up.

[The following was added in **June of 1899** by Nancie Maria Nichols Beard, mother of Willard Beard. She signed her name as Nancie and not Nancy.]

[June 8, 1899]

My Dear Sister:

I hope you will pardon my keeping these letters so long, but I have been so busy. I did not feel like writing when I had a few moments. Last Thursday we laid Father's remains away [*Nathan Bennett Nichols, born August 12, 1810, died May 30, 1899 of old age and cerebral apoplexy according to the death certificate*]. He was sick about a week. We thought he would get up again until Sunday before he passed away Tuesday morning. Louise telephoned to us about 5 in the morning we got there about nine he was unconscious and breathed his last breath about 11:30. Mother is about as she has been through the winter. Our pastor Mr. Park has resigned but preaches for us next Sunday, after which I do not know what will be done.

It is getting so dark I am troubled to see.

Remember me to all of the family.

Affectionately yours.

Nancie M. N. Beard  
Shelton

June eight, 'ninety nine

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[This letter dated **March 26, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He took a quick trip to Kuliang to have a new roof put on the cottage. He discusses the finances the churches under his care. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, March 26<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter came March 23<sup>rd</sup>. One also March 17<sup>th</sup>. The one which arrived the 23<sup>rd</sup> brought the receipt for life insurance. My last No. 3 started March 13<sup>th</sup>.

We are very much pained to hear the news about Aunt Hannah's illness. You will take to them our deepest sympathy in this hour of sore trial.

The last mail brought a nice long letter from Phebe and one from James. I am sorry Phebe finds her work so hard. I am afraid it is harder than learning the Chinese language would be. James is contented and happy at Amherst. He is doing good work as his standing in class shows, and he has taken his place at the outset as a Christian man. The beginning is well made. He does not speak of Physical exercise. If he finds time and takes time for this he is all right for these years. He does not need to bother his brain over much about what he is to be- as to profession, - just keep the pace he has already set himself in his books and in his college life. When the senior year begins he can begin to think in earnest about life work- unless before that time circumstances shall point decidedly to his future vocation. Lucy sent a good long letter in the last mail also. It was specially newsy. You must remember us very warmly to her and to Uncle Will and Hattie [*William Thomas Beard, brother of Oliver Gould Beard, and William's daughters, Harriet Shelton Beard and Lucy Maria Beard*].

The exceptional weather continues. Very little rain has fallen yet. The Misses Bement who at first came to Miss Newton's and boarded with her, are now keeping house in the rooms in the other end of our house- where we first lived. They are very much interested in the children, and have been trying for some time to get Ellen to allow them to care for the children while she went to church. This morning she yielded and they had a fine time. The

children also had a good time. Ellen and I went to church together for the first time in a long, long time. We went to Au Ciu and I sat in the audience for the first time in a long, long time.

I went to Kuliang yesterday, - had a very pleasant time. I got half way to the foot of the mountain, and overtook Rev. L.I. Lloyd of the Ch. Miss'y Society who was also going up the mountain. When I go alone the 2000 ft. climb is a long one but with a pleasant companion one reaches the top before he knows it. Just as we arrived at the houses the rain began to fall. There was never a more beautiful morning than yesterday when we started from home, but the weather was "rushing" April. I had on a pair of white canvass shoes that I had worn all last Summer, so when I reached the foot of the mountain again my feet were damp, but a good hot bath after getting home put them all right. We are having a good roof put on the mountain cottage. The typhoon wall cost \$100. The roof and other repairs will cost about \$60. silver. Then we will have a good strong cottage. Ellen wants to go to Sharp Peak for the month of June. She will enjoy the bathing and she wants to see how much of the duck nature there is in her little brood. When they are on the mountain I can look up and see where they are and can get to them in 4 hours if necessary. At Sharp Peak they will be a day's journey away, but they will enjoy a month there and it will be a change from the mountain.

The work in all branches starts out very encouragingly for the new year. I have already referred to the work in the Seminary, with the full corps of teachers. We have added two day schools to the number of last year with a few dollars less appropriation. I have placed one of the Seminary graduates at Upper Bridge where the Huntington ladies are supplying the funds, and have arranged for the fitting up of a nice chapel there. The whole expense will be about thus, - day school 20, preacher, 60, rent 23, repairs 40, making a total of \$143. silver or \$71 gold. I do not know whether the ladies will furnish the whole of this or not. But the outlook is such as, in my opinion, to warrant this expenditure. If the money does not come from home we shall have to find it here. It is not certain yet whether we are to repair the house in which we were last year, or rent the house in which the Catholics were last year and which they are about to give up because of the bad name they have gotten in the place. As soon as this is decided and the work begins in earnest I will write Miss Wooster. The money she sent last year will be applied at this place instead of for the Theological student as I said last year. If you see Miss Wooster you might tell her these two items. This chapel represents the only pioneer work in my care. All the other work is either wholly or partly self-supporting and every other chapel is directly under the care of some church with an ordained pastor or experienced preacher, and has several church members who are interested in the work. At Upper Bridge one man united with the church- coming down to Geu Cio Dong at the last communion. There are one or two others interested in the truth so as to come regularly for instruction. Then there are something over ten who show some interest.

The churches have all started the year assuming as a matter of course that self-support is to be the rule. I have not yet had my yearly conference with the preachers and pastors, but I expect them all to prefer the self-support plan rather than the mission-help plan. I think I wrote of the increase in contributions at the Song Tung Gio church a few weeks ago. At Ha Puo the increase was also wonderful. The largest contribution last year was \$15. This year the largest was \$22. The next \$20 and many \$7 or \$8. My hope is that by giving the Upper Bridge a good start we may have there in a few years a self-supporting church. As yet I have not asked the churches to do any more than they did last year- i.e. meet all their expenses except rent. Such a tremendous burden was taken up and carried by them last year, that I want to be sure there is to be no reaction this year, before I press them to take up additional financial burdens. Then the price of living has increased frightfully since one year ago. Rice the food of the people has advanced about 2.5 in price. Wood is the same. These two commodities comprise 4/5 of a Chinaman's living, and the advance in price of these two makes an increase in pay necessary, so in reality the churches must make some advance in their contributions.

According to my best calculations at the present time, I must in order to keep up the work here give from my salary about \$260 in gold. This does not count the work at the Upper Bridge which would make the shortage in appropriations for the work of the year, about \$330. gold. Of this sum God has already sent \$53.00. He took care of us last year and He will do it again this year.

The children continue perfectly well. When I reached home yesterday from Kuliang I found Phebe and Gould on the back veranda washing clothes. Mama had pinned a towel about their waists and given them a tub and water, and those children were soaked from head to toe. But they had their baths immediately and were all right.

Ellen got some more photos of the children the other day. I send all to you and ask you to distribute.

Love to all  
Will.



Gould, Phebe and Geraldine 1899  
 [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

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*[This letter dated **April 9, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He takes the family on a relaxing house-boat trip up the Ing Hok River and saw water falls and hot springs. Willard is trying to purchase property for a residence near Ponasang. He discusses the business of the churches. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

March 26<sup>th</sup> letter No. 4 was started toward Shelton. The last one received has been acknowledged i.e. Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The past week we have been living on the water. I was afraid that if I remained steadily at the work I could not stand it till the Summer vacation. So we planned an excursion for the whole family. We ate supper last Monday evening and then all started for a house-boat that had been previously engaged. The boat is furnished with lamp, beds i.e. couches, table chairs, and mirror. We took bedding, dishes and food. After going on board we went right to bed and after a good nights rest found ourselves in the river near Mr. Hubbard's house at Pagoda Anchorage. The motive power is sail and six oarsmen. We spent about one and one half hours with Mrs. Hubbard then started up the Ing Hok river. Nine o'clock that evening found us near the first rapids on the river- about 18 miles below Mr. Goddard's home. We had another good night's sleep and in the morning took the children out on a gravel beach and let them throw stones into the water for a time, then dropped down the river to a point opposite a waterfall. We took Phebe and Gould and started with the head boat-man to see the waterfall. It was a walk of about 2 miles, - fairly level. The water falls thro an opening not over 4 ft. wide. In the top of the fall the water was not over 6 in. deep. The water falls without obstruction fully 100 ft. when it strikes the lower level it is practically spray. Gould called it rain. As you follow the brook up to the falls it is not over 50 ft. wide, with banks over 100 ft. high on three sides, so the water falls into a deep basin. At the foot of the falls is a pool of water perhaps 30 ft. in diameter. When we reached this place and sat down on the rocks opposite the falls Gould was perfectly silent but looking. Phebe said "I don't like this." There is the most beautiful scenery here in the Fukien province if one can only find it. The Chinese think nothing of it, and wonder that foreigners put themselves out of the way so much to get to these places. Phebe and Gould walked the four miles, with a lunch at the falls, without minding it at all. Back on the boat again we went down the river a few miles and stopped to go ashore again to see some hot springs. Ellen and Phebe went to see them. Gould, Geraldine and I did not go. Hot Springs are quite numerous in this region. I know of 4 different places within less than 100 miles of Foochow. The Chinese use them almost constantly for bathing. That night we got

down to the island opposite Foochow- about 8 miles from home. We waited next morning (Thurs.) for a fresh supply of milk, which we had ordered brought to this place then sailed up the river about 20 miles and anchored for the night. Fri. we dropped down the river to Foochow stopping on the way at Upper Bridge to visit the work there, arriving at Ponasang about 3 P.M. The trip was a delightful one. We went for rest primarily and we got it. Not a bit of business relating to any of the work for four whole days! We did not however lack for employment. The children had to be amused and we had the reports of our work for last year to write. Ellen does not allow me to copy the minutes of the business meetings of the mission into the record book because she is so ashamed of my writing. She had the minutes of several meetings to copy, we accomplished nearly all of this work on the boat. The children enjoyed the trip immensely. It was the best place to sleep we have found since leaving Kuliang last year. The boats crew were all that we could wish. The sailing was superb. Tues. we sailed at least 40 miles after 11:30 A.M. Coming down river we had to tack; an exercise which Phebe decidedly did not enjoy and Ellen preferred to do by daylight. Phebe was so afraid Wed. evening that we closed all the windows and shutters and she went to sleep and then did not know fear.

Just before leaving I had gotten deeds for a piece of land on a hill five minutes walk from Ponasang. I put them into the Consul's hands to be sent to the Chinese Official for his stamp. The land is an old burial ground. It is hard to get this kind of property. But we were going to try for this piece. On Wed. the people got pretty excited and the pastor of Geu Cio Dong who is helping us get the land came to tell Miss Newton- who was the only foreigner at tibly[?] in the compound that day,-that trouble was brewing. She went to the Consul, they were just returning home as the magistrate sent for the man who was selling the land and all the middle men to appear before him. The Consul said he would go with them and see that no harm befell any of them. They were at the officer's yamen from 12 till 4 o'clock and had a lively time I judge. The magistrate has not yet decided whether he will let us have the land or not. We are waiting anxiously.

I have just made out the statistics for the station for last year. The number of admissions I have already written 251. The amount contributed by the people for all objects was \$2065.31. When the work of the station came under my care just four years ago the total amount of the native contribution was less than \$100. It was only a few days ago that I was thinking about the outlook for the year, and I was quite certain in my own mind that the native contribution for 1899 would be less than for 1898, because there had been so much building and repairing in 1898. But yesterday one of the preachers called on me to say that a part of the Au Ciu church had already paid the bargain money on a piece of land to cost over \$100, and that they were to create a building on it for a church. The whole to cost about \$400. They were not even to ask a private subscription from a single foreigner. To day I attended service at a chapel opened by the Ha Puo Ga church last May. The chapel is rented. The owner is in a light place financially and must sell to get money. The people cannot bear to think of giving up the chapel so they propose to buy at a cost of a little over \$200, so giving for building has not stopped yet.

Mr. Ding is not at all well. He will probably have to take a vacation of at least a week beginning this week some time.

I shall look for the account of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the next mail. I wonder if the extreme cold, blizzards, mud, etc. allowed you to have a good time. I shall look too with a little interest to see if anybody prayed for a new Seminary building for Foochow.

We have been eating strawberries for over a week. Cucumbers came on this noon for the first time. Silk worms have been eating for two weeks.

Phebe and Gould are perfectly well. Geraldine is trying to cut two lower front teeth. She is having a hard time of it. It tells on her surplus fat, and gets the better of her good nature occasionally. On the house boat Gould got the bottle of peppermint and drank a good dose. He looked anything but happy, but there was no crying, - much mouth wiping but no complaining. In the afternoon he tried a dose of camphor and sweet oil, but no complaining. It was hard for him to see the same fun in these escapades that his parents did.

I do not know how to write about Aunt Hannah. Remember us very tenderly to them.

Most Lovingly Will.

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*[This letter dated April 23, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard's Aunt Hannah died recently and he discusses the changes at home while they have been so far away in China. Ming Uong has not been feeling well for a while. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Yesterday mail brought a letter from you. The mail a few days ago brought one from Etta. The last letter started from here Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>.

The news of Aunt Hannah's return home was not unexpected after your letter a few weeks ago. Another from the circle of friends to whom we bade farewell four and a half years ago has gone on before to await us. How little of prophecy is possible for us in this life. When we left home these two dear ones in Nichols we fully expected to see again in a few years, others we said good by to as we thought for the last time. God's doings are different from our forecasts. Each one of the friends at home stands out very distinctly from this distance. I think the distance only serves to render the individuality of each the more marked. Every vacancy is the more clear. You know as one stands near a long line of trees and looks up and down the individuality of each tree is less distinct than when one stands off and views them from a distance. The vacancies are also more distinct when one looks from a distance. This makes the third vacant place among my immediate relatives and there is one among Ellen's. But it is very precious to think that they are all waiting for us in a better land. A week ago today I held a communion service at Sang Bo. The day before the church had services fitting for Easter. I was present but was called away before I had spoken, so on Sunday I preached on the Resurrection. Among the Chinese there is a terrible fear of death. Steeped in centuries of superstition, even the most enlightened of the Christians find it hard to thoroughly believe and trust in the "abundant entrance" into eternal life. (This is equally true of many of Christ's followers in Christian lands). So I spoke specially of death as an unfolding of the present life into the perfect life. It seemed to me when we fully understood it, death would be a source of joy, - the temporary parting causes tears of sorrow, but underneath there is the assurance deep seated and abiding, that the dear one is infinitely better off and that in a short time there will be a joyous meeting that will be everlasting. When we left for China the tears shed were not those of sorrow. All the tears were shed by those who wished us to go.

The account of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary came yesterday. I wish Mr. Kenniston were rich. The Seminary building would be assured then. The piece of land on the hill opposite us cannot be bought at present. The young men of the Seminary are praying very earnestly for a new building and that God will help us to buy land in order to put the building up. They are also uniting with the Christians here in praying that God will in some way give us a large church at Geu Cio Dong. It was too bad that the numbers present at the exercises were so small. The kind words sent by so many from far and near were so many proofs of warm sympathy. I was specially interested in the letters from my own former pastors Rev's Higgins and Seymour.

When you see Oliver please remind him that he owes me a letter. Give our love to him, Grace, Annie and Olive. What has become of Ard Blakeman? Has he every married? Are you doing all your work with horses this year? What are you doing with the Inkley farm and the Wooster land? The whole of the home farm will be a garden with immense strips of stones or rows of stones and rocks dividing it into patches when we come home. Have you got to the Spring lot yet? How are "Kloffer" (strawberries per M.G.B. [*Myron Gould Beard*]) this year? We have been eating them for some time. They are at their best now. If Gould were at home he would pick them for you. He puts them in his mouth about as fast as one can count. He has changed his pronunciation during the last few days. They are now "Klofferies". I have to depend on Ellen for the spelling. She is an adept at it. Ellen has about 500+ silk worms again this year. When they first hatched out she was mourning for fear there were not enough. But it does not take many of the little things 1/16 of an inch long and not as large as a pin to make 500. When they get to be 2 in. long and as large as a lead pencil a very few make 500!!! when you have to feed them. Yesterday's steamer from Shanghai brought us a shipment from San Francisco. We have among other things a set of dishes. - (We have kept house for 4 years with only one set that cost a little over \$11.00 gold. How is that? This with Chinese servants. They are not by any means used up. But proud people want whole, un-nicked dishes for company.) We have also an oil stove, which we intend to use chiefly for baking. Quite an interesting fact has come to light in reckoning the freight on this shipment. It is the third time goods have come to me from S.F. The first time they came billed to Shanghai and were reshipped there by Mr. Edward Evans whose business is in this line. The second time the goods came direct to Foochow. This time they came care of Mr. Evans. After adding his commission for reshipment, storage and cartage in Shanghai the freight is about \$2.00 less than it would have been if shipped direct to Foochow. We are waiting most impatiently for the Boston shipment. Neither of the children have any shoes. Phebe has had to stay at home for nearly two months for want of respectable shoes. She is now wearing rubber overshoes as shoes. (Gould has been putting some of his Chinese on this sheet). Phebe just before retiring wrote a letter and put it into an envelope and sealed it. She would use envelopes most as fast as I if we did not restrain her. All the children are well and growing like weeds. Gould is growing very fast. At the present rate of growth, he will be taller and heavier than Phebe in another year. Geraldine has decided that it will not be best to use all her energies in making fat, so she is now developing muscle and stretching out. She is - to us a very interesting child.

Ming Uong has not been able to attend to his duties for two weeks. I do not know what to make of him- nor does Dr. Kinnear. If he knows Dr. will not tell what is the trouble. Ming Uong is now sending in with Miss

Chittenden's goods a small box of curios of something to Dr. Richardson. He has been watching for an opportunity to send this ever since he returned from America. This is the first time he could do so. Please tell Dr. Richardson Ming Uong has worried for fear he would think the articles had been forgotten. I trust the Doctor will pardon the delay.

The Misses Bement staid at home with the children and Ellen and I attended the Communion at Au Iong Die together this morning. One man was received.

Rev. Chas. Inwood delegate from the Keswick Convention arrived in Foochow Sat. Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> and spoke to foreigners that evening and each successive evening till Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>. In the morning of Sun., Mon., Tues. and Wed. he spoke in the Meth. church to Chinese and in the afternoon Mon., Tues. and Wed. to Chinese in the Geu Cio Dong church. I have never in Foochow seen better and more attentive audiences. The Chinese audiences increase each day. The last evening for foreigners nearly every person who could attend came. His themes were Sin – Sanctification. The Holy Spirit- I think some of the Chinese Christians now have better realization of the awfulness of sin than they every had before.

I am working on a report of the progress of self-support in this station and a brief report of the work in the Seminary and Day Schools for last year. I hope it may be printed and ready to send out by July 1<sup>st</sup>. I shall print 500 copies. It will cost me about \$75.00 mexicans. But it will pay.

Ellen and I are well. The house boat trip did wonders for us.

Love to all

Will

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*[This letter dated **May 7, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells about a dispute among members of one of his churches. Ming Uong is still ill. Ellen and the children may go first to Sharp Peak in the summer, then to Kuliang. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter to you was written April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The last received arrived on the same date. One came from Putnam with the same mail. I wrote Uncle Charlie [*Charles, husband of Hannah Nichols*] a week ago. How lonely he and Edith [*daughter of Hannah and Charles*] will be! How wonderful are the providences of God! But they are all right.

I conducted a communion service at Sang Tung Gio and received five men this morning. At Au Ciu last Sunday none were received. The church there is just now in a very bad way. There is an old man who was the moving spirit in organizing the church there and in renting and repairing the church building. He has been "boss" ever since till last year. The church was self-supporting last year and toward the end of the year the old man was afraid the preacher, who is a young man, was receiving too much salary. He succeeded in making the paid subscriptions less than the preacher's salary should have been by about \$9.00. When the people came to subscribe this year, he told the members they must give only 10 cents per month a piece. One man subscribed \$5.00 for the year. The old man reproved him. This action of the old man produced a division among the church members which however was not very serious. But about a month ago, one of the other side wanted to rent an empty room in the chapel to live in for a short time. He asked me about it and I said if the church members were willing I had no objection. Most of the church members were asked and were willing. The matter was spoken of twice after service on Sunday. But this old man was not at church on those days. He heard of the proposed renting just as the other man was about to move. He ordered him not to move but under the circumstances the renter had a perfect right to move and as it happened he was obliged to move that day because the house he lived in was sold on that day. Well the old man made a big fuss and we finally compromised by allowing the young man to live in the church for three months until he could find a house. This matter was the means of drawing the division lines in the church. The other party could not stand the old man's domination and at once planned to purchase property and build a new church for themselves. While I was off on the house-boat those four days property was bargained for, and now a new chapel is nearly ready to be opened. The preacher was, by common consent of the old man, his followers and all the pastors and preachers of the station, to remain at the old church, but last week I received a communication from the old man and his followers that they did not want him. So now he will go to the new place, and the old church will have no preacher. Well, Christ's church in the world is a very imperfect church. Every paper from home has the account of some church not at peace. The last mail brought the news of a church in N.Y. with closed doors and locked, and the pastor standing on the church steps and preaching to the part of the congregation which sided with him. The other



party had locked him out. Among Christ's chosen twelve one was the son of Perdition. But out of the whole church in the world God chooses enough that is good, to save the world. I am very much grieved that this early in the history of this Foochow church there has come this, -what now looks like calamity-But God knows how to use it for a blessing. It certainly has opened the eyes of the other churches here to this danger, and they will be more careful. It also emphasizes the evil of a one-man power church.

Ellen and I went over to see Ming Uong to day. He has been in bed for two weeks or more. He is looking much better now than a week ago. But he is still far from well.

Last Monday afternoon I went to Kuliang and stayed till Wed. afternoon. It is well nigh impossible to do any writing here. I wanted to finish the report that we are about to publish so took two days up there to work on it. The weather was superb. Just about like May days at home. Misquitoes had not hatched out up there, and there was nothing to detract from making the stay in every way enjoyable. Kuliang is a very busy place just now. Twelve new buildings are being rushed to allow the owners to live in them by the first of July. This work is of course all done by Chinese, so I saw no foreigner while I was there.

Ellen and the babies are all well. They are now planning to get away from Foochow about May 28<sup>th</sup> - perhaps first go to Sharp Peak for three weeks, then come back and go to the mountain for the Summer. Gould's affection for Miss Bement continues. This afternoon he had a nap and on waking his first question was, "Where's Mi' Bement?" Her sister the Dr. is at the Anchorage for a few days, and Miss Bement is taking her meals with us. The Boston shipment is in Foochow but not yet at our house- it will come tomorrow-Phebe is talking about "lots of big dolls." One box is reported "lost." Ellen is in a query- is it the one in which the children's shoes are? If so they will have to wear English shoes for six months. Geraldine is creeping backward a little. She is a most interesting little chick. She sees me the moment I come into the gate from a distance of 50 or 60 rods, and springs and shouts. If I go by her without taking her there is a vigorous protest. How is Annie? and how is Olive? We have heard very little recently from these little folks and their papa and mama. Phebe has written a letter to "Grandpa" this evening. I persuaded her to allow me to enclose in my envelope- for the sake of saving one envelope- but she is asleep and I do not know where the letter is.

Mon. P.M. We are having a good rain today. The first time we have thought of the "rainy season" this year. We have not had a flood yet. The Boston boxes are in the bottom of the cargo boat with a whole lot of Chinese stuff on top of them. We must wait till Wed. to get them.

Most Lovingly Yours  
Will.

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*[This letter dated May 21, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He wonders who all in the family is doing what and where back home. He describes a Chinese baby swing that they are using. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, May 21<sup>st</sup> 1899.

My Dear Mother:-

The last letter from home arrived May 11<sup>th</sup>. My last started for Shelton May 8<sup>th</sup> No. 7.

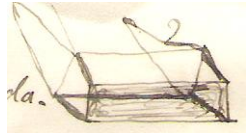
This morning I went again over to the church of which I wrote last time where the division is. There were only a few at the service but we had a good time. I spoke especially of overcoming one's enemies by love. I chanced just this morning to read of a Chinese Emperor who when he was told of a rebellion in one of his provinces promised to lead his soldiers himself against the rebels and destroy his enemies. He captured the enemy and then forgave them and let them go free. The soldiers complained that he had not fulfilled his promise to destroy his enemies. He asked where his enemies were, stating that those who were formerly enemies had thro his treatment become friends. In a quarrel among the Chinese the worst fear is lest the other side shall get the best of you. This so outweighs all other considerations that even among Christians it is difficult to get men to be reasonable.

Fri. the Triennial Convention of the National Y.M.C.A. of China convened at Shanghai. How I should have enjoyed being there. Beside attending the sessions of the convention, I should have enjoyed exceedingly meeting the young men- Lyon-Lewis Brockman, Gailey who are the secretaries in China and also the many missionaries from other parts of China. Some from our North China Mission were to be there.

I took dinner yesterday with the Dings. Ming Uong was not able to eat with us. But he came out after dinner and talked a little while. Poor fellow! It is hard for him to be unable to attend his work.

The rain has come at last. Every day for a week has been rainy. No flood as yet altho the river is pretty high.

By the time this reaches you those in school and college and those who have been teaching will be home or coming home. During the year I have had a good letter from James, two or three from Phebe, but Flora I can not think of clearly. She has been somewhere down toward Washington D.C. teaching in some kind of a school. Flora you must write a good long letter at the beginning of vacation and give an account of yourself and your work during the year. I want specially to hear of your visit at Mr. and Mrs. Seymour's. I expect that I shall be much interested in Washington D.C. because some of the churches there have taken it upon themselves to raise the money for any support. I wonder if James will try to attend the summer school at Northfield for students conducted by Mr. Moody. If I were to have the privilege of taking my college course over again I would make a great sacrifice in order to attend at least one of the summer schools. The one other regret that I have is that I did not learn to play on some musical instrument that I could easily carry from place to place. Whatever vocation James may decide upon, the influences that he will meet at Northfield in the two weeks of association with Christian young men from all the world, and with men whose reputation is world wide for influencing young men to take the right course in life and to make the most of life, will be of greater value to him in solving life's problems than a term at college. I shall look for another good long letter from James at the close of the first year in college. Phebe's letters are very interesting. I am very happy that she so thoroughly enjoys the work. Oliver has not written in a long time. I am glad to get a glimpse of his home and of him occasionally in your letters. You would enjoy watching your China grandchildren just now. Gould is sitting in a swing with Geraldine in his lap and Phebe is pushing them. The swing is a novel one that I never see in America. It affords the children endless amusement- they cannot fall out and it can be put up in



the house or on the veranda. It is made with a board about 1 ft. wide and 1 1/2 ft. long, a hole in each corner, there are four hollow posts. We use bamboos,- these are about 8 in. long. On top of these are four pieces of wood to form a fence like the ropes pass thro holes in the ends of these sticks, which are made of boards sawed into strips 2 in. wide, then thro the hollow bamboos. Then thro the holes in the boards and are fastened with knots on the under side. The bamboos and the strips are all loose so the whole affair is flexible, safe and inexpensive.

I had the pleasure this week of examining a self-supporting day school. The scholars did better than in many of the schools that received mission help because the preacher and ch. members all took an interest in the advancement of the scholars. The questions answered by some of these boys on the first four chapters of Mark and Matthew would have puzzled many boys of the same age (13 or 14 years) in America.

In the last shipment from San Francisco we had an oil stove with baker come. You do not know how much we enjoy it. It is a little thing that stands in the dining room as an ornament rather than otherwise. All the baking for the family is done with it. We use it for little else except in emergencies. It does the baking so much better than the native baker that we enjoy eating. The expense is about the same as charcoal, the satisfaction twice as much.

Yesterday Ellen took off the children's shoes and stockings and put on some old clothes and sent them out into the rain. What a time they had! Then they came in were bathed and properly clothed. In the afternoon she left them with Geraldine in the care of our amah for a few minutes. She looked out of door from another room at the sound of voices from the walk below, and there were Phebe and Gould with bare feet but with clean dresses and aprons on out in the rain slashing in the puddles standing under the eaves and having a fine time.

I have been thinking of my blessings this afternoon, and among others these stand out very prominently,- a good loving wife, three bright, active, healthy children, Christian parents whose prayers and counsels have followed me even to the other side of the world and four brothers and five sisters to pray for and all of whom are praying for me. Over all that the knowledge of God's Love, a desire to abide in that love. Then comes the feeling that God is using me. It seems to me that one can have no higher ambition than to wish to be useful to God. This is my daily prayer for you all as well as for myself.

Your Loving Son

Willard

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*[This letter dated **June 4, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Dr. Judson Smith answered Willard's letter requesting more help. There is now a flood on the plain and rice fields from so much rain. Dwight Goddard is overseeing the building of the Woodin Memorial Church in Ing Hok. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, June 4<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started for Shelton May 21<sup>st</sup> No. 8. The last received was on May 11<sup>th</sup> already acknowledged. We looked for a letter in the mail last week but none came either from Shelton or Putnam. One came from Dr. Judson Smith in answer to the letter which I wrote, and which was reinforced by vote of the mission, for another man to help in the work of which I have charge in this station. Dr. Smith writes,—"The case seemed plain and urgent, and the Secretaries are authorized to seek for a suitable man to aid you in this work, in the hope that when he is found the means will be available to send him to the field. This means of course that the question of finances will have to be considered after the man is found. If we are fortunate enough to find a man who will bring his own support, that will help the matter. If we can find a man whose friends are willing to add to their regular gifts to the Board enough to send him out this also will help the case. But if no such resources are at hand, so far as I can see we should be obliged to wait until the general resources of the Board are increased."

There is hope in this. The Board at least will not hinder a man from coming if he can find his own budget. The way, I feel, is now open for God to work and I can trust Him to do as he sees best. If He wants another man in this place he will point him out and introduce the Secretaries to him, and the means will be found to enable him to come. I know that you will all pray often that this man may be found.

Last Wednesday I took to the Press the manuscript for the Report of the work of the station during the time we have been here- specially the work in the line of self-support. It will make a good sized pamphlet of thirty or more pages. I trust it will do some good to the cause of missions.

To-day the water has steadily risen over the rice fields until it is about 8 feet deep on an average. The roads are all covered and people have been moving about in boats all day. To look out on the plain it seems as if we were surrounded by the ocean. One of our amah's lives only five minutes walk from our house. She wanted to go home this afternoon. After a short time she returned. The boatmen wanted 40 cents for ferrying her over to her home. Ordinarily a boat for three times the distance would cost 1 cent. This is one of the terrible effects of heathendom- the people are on the watch for and ready to take the utmost advantage of a fellow citizen in distress. It is to be hoped most earnestly that the water will subside speedily for the price of rice will jump to the sky if this flood continues. Rice is now double the price of two years ago. And this depth of water will smother the young plants in a few days. A day or two does not materially injure them. We are for the present practically prisoners on an island.

It was just three weeks ago that it began to rain, and there has not been a pleasant day since. The Bement sisters and Mrs. Hinman have been eagerly watching for a pleasant day to move to Kuliang. We have been trying to persuade them to stay here till the rain ceased for it is so damp and cold and cheerless on the mountain in the rain. They waited till yesterday. The Bement sisters started about 9 A.M. It rained more or less all the morning and in the afternoon the gates of heaven seemed to open and the torrents fell steadily. This continued far into the night. I am much afraid the mountaineers slept in damp beds. But the sun has shone most of the time today and it bids fair to be pleasant now.

Ellen gave up the Sharp Peak trip yesterday. The rain has kept her from putting away all the woollen garments and articles and leaving the house in good condition for the Summer until it is too late. She would have to leave the Sanitarium about June 25<sup>th</sup> for those who are to Summer there, and this would make her stay only a little more than two weeks. And as the cost of the trip and the inconveniences were so great she thought it would not pay. If the clear sky continues she and the babies will be on Kuliang before next Sunday. The excessive heat has held off later than in any other year since we have been in China.

Mr. Ding continues to improve slowly. Mr. and Mrs. Goddard and Dorrance came down from Ing Hok Friday and went into the city to stop with Dr. and Miss Woodhull a day or so until Dr. G. goes to Kuliang. Dwight will return to Ing Hok to oversee the completion of the Woodin Memorial Church before coming down for the Summer. Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear and family are waiting for suitable weather to go to Sharp Peak where they have a cottage.

For the first time this year I believe I did not go to church to day. I could get to only one church i.e. Geu Cio Dong. They did not need me there. There are other foreigners who attend regularly at this church. So I played nurse and Ellen went. It is most as rare an occurrence for her to go as for me to remain at home.

The Birthday Calendar is a continual daily source of pleasure to us. On May 16 we read a message from Lulu Baird Holmes. Who is she?

Where did Mr. Park go? Who is to take his place? I am afraid I shall miss his letters. He was faithful in writing frequently.

Give our kindest regards to him and all friends when you see them

Love to all from all.

Will

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*[This typewritten letter dated **June 25, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen has just recovered from a case of dysentery. The Congregational Association has decided that new members must be learners for six months before being examined for membership. Illness among the Chinese is causing two to three deaths a day just five minutes walk from the missionary compound. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, June, 25<sup>th</sup>. 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter from here started June, 4<sup>th</sup>. No. 9. June, 19<sup>th</sup> one came from Shelton and one from Flora. I see that one came from Shelton on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June also and one from Phebe on the same date.

A longer time has elapsed than I intended since the letter started, but as always there were other things to take our time and strength. Two weeks ago Ellen was taken with an attack of Dysentery. It was fortunately a light attack but it kept her in bed a week. This tied me pretty closely to the house and to the duties of nurse and baby feeding. Geraldine stood the change to Mellin's food well, but she looked as sober over it as a deaconess. And the one natural meal a day that she was allowed made of her the happiest baby alive. She would sit up and laugh and crow at me after nursing as much as to say "You don't know a little bit about feeding babies". Ellen and the children had planned to go to the mountain that week (the Sharp Peak trip having been given up) but this illness made that out of the question. We feared for the heat on the children, but the Lord very mercifully took care of that and kept the weather cool all the time Ellen was in bed. A week ago today the hot weather began and it has been quite comfortably warm since – 90 degrees. But a breeze every day has kept the children from suffering and we have been surprised to see how happy they have kept. Tues. and Wed. the prickly heat was pretty thick on Gould and Geraldine but Phebe seemed to experience almost no discomfort. Ellen got up with no drawbacks and Thurs. afternoon at four o'clock we started for Kuliang. We had sent all our things up before so there was no big caravan and the journey was a pleasure trip. The coolies at Ponasang are reaping a rich harvest and thus enables the coolies to get all the work carrying men that they can do at their own prices. So we had mountain men come down for us. These men are at home climbing mountains and they thought it only fun to take us up. We arrived at our cottage at eight o'clock, ate supper and went right to bed. I came down Fri. afternoon, leaving them all happy. This is the first time that Ellen has ever spent the first week of June at Ponasang.

Last week the workers of the station held their quarterly meeting, and the examination of the Seminary followed. All occupied the first four days of the week. Each day was full from 9 a.m. till 4 or 5 p.m. Fri. evening there was a meeting of the Kuliang Chapel Comm. of which I am chairman, and yesterday afternoon the dedication of a new chapel at Dung Song in this station. Today I have had communion at Au Ciu. Two more communions and I am free to go to the mountain to stay. Last Sunday at Au Iong Die no one united with the church. To-day the same. At Sang Tung Gio the same and the Sun. after at Dung Song the same. This is something that I have never known in this station since I have been in Foochow. But it is a cause for rejoicing. The Congregational Association of the station decided shortly ago that a man or woman must first be known as a learner for six months before he could attend the examination for church admission. This stops the inrush for a time and I am enjoying it for two reasons. First from a selfish cause, for it lightens my own work immensely not to have from five to thirty to examined every week. One year ago last Sunday I baptized thirty five and received to the church thirty six. It took one day and a half of hard work to examine them. The second reason for rejoicing is that the pastors and preachers and the most advance members see that it is not right to admit men to church membership before they have proved their fitness. There is a great change in the workers in this respect and it means much to the native church here.

The new church at Dung Song mentioned above is the result of the church quarrel of which I wrote sometime since. Half of the Au Ciu church went over to Dung Song and bought a double house and repaired it very nicely and already have a nice work started. The preacher went with them from Au Ciu and they seem to be trying to do the right thing. Every cash that has been expended in this new place so far as I know has come from the Chinese. They are about \$20 in debt thus far with \$30 of subscriptions yet to come in.

The sickness near here is most alarming to the natives. Within five minutes walk of our compound there are two or three deaths every day. It is worse right here than in other localities but bad enough everywhere. The undertakers have their hands full to do all that is required of them. I do not know the cause of it. I do know however that the street cleaning which was begun two years ago was stopped about two months ago. The rains began soon after the cleaning stopped and for five weeks we did not have one wholly pleasant day. Then as the rains ceased it was hot and muggy and the sickness began. The amount of filth that collected during the few weeks of rain when the streets were not swept was fearful and enough to furnish poison to keep off all the people.

Flora's letter was very interesting. It however did not tell as much of her work as we wanted to know. She is teaching a class in some kind of a school. But in what kind of a school, and what kind of a class, and does she have only one hour a day? I was of course interested in her visit and to hear of the interest the people both Mr. and Mrs. Seymour and the cousins Baird took in the work here. I think perhaps I have already written that some of the Y.P.S.C.E.'s of Washington are to take up our support. Your letters from home stating that Mr. Kenneston was starting a movement to raise the money for a Theological Seminary gives us hope that this building will come in time.

I was much pleased to hear that grandmother was able to ride down to church. You will of course give her our love. It is very pleasant to us to be remembered as we are by cousin Elizabeth Turney. You will tell her that we think of her often and that it is a great comfort to us to know that she remembers us and the work in which we are engaged. Give our love to all the friends. Oliver still does not write. I know he is very busy and away from home so much that when he does get a few hours with those two rollocking girls he finds little time for letter writing. Father's article in the Sentinel on roadmaking was very interesting. I was glad to see the Editorial reference to it. Tell Aunt Louise that there is a mail route now established between Huntington and Foochow. Remember us very tenderly to Uncle Charlie and Edith.

I have been kept happy today by the words in Phil. 4:7. How great our blessings are! The Book is full of the most precious promises that are worth their face value every day. We have direct access to the Throne of the Father at any time. On every side are loving friends whose sympathy and prayers are ours. If it were not for these promises, for the privilege of prayer, for the cheer of a dear wife and the company of the children and for the assurance that you are praying for us I am afraid the strain would be too great at times. But with all thee I have tried to take the best care of myself and the consequence is that I end the year in good condition. So feel no concern for me as far as health goes.

Most lovingly yours,  
Will.

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*[This letter dated **July 9, 1899** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. Previous Foochow missionary, Mrs. S.L. Baldwin (not C.C. Baldwin) is raising money for the construction of a new church building to replace the heathen temple that they Annual Meeting was held in. Five hundred soldiers from Foochow have been sent to Kien Ming to quell the Chinese who want Christianity out of the district. There was concern that some missionaries were killed there. Placards have been posted in Ponasang/Foochow threatening to kill the foreigners but Willard is not worried. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.  
Foochow, China, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Mother:-

The records are all at Guliang so I cannot tell when the last letters were exchanged. I think tho that I wrote you two weeks ago and as we have had but one mail since then and as that bro't no letters from Conn. you have the news of the arrival here of your last letters.

The last American mail brought very welcome news in three letters from N. York State. One was from Mrs. S.L. Baldwin. Dr. S.L. Baldwin is Recording Sec'y of the For. Mission Board of the Meth. Epis. Church. He and Mrs. Baldwin spent seventeen (I think) years in Foochow as missionaries returning about twenty years ago *[not to be confused with Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Baldwin who left Foochow in 1895]*. They were here two years ago again to attend the Jubilee of the Meth. mission in Foochow. While here they attended our Annual Meeting held in a heathen temple. This was too much for Mrs. Baldwin. She told us at the time that she should go home and raise the money for a proper new church building. She began her efforts in this direction last March in Dr. Meredith's church, Brooklyn. A collection was taken then which amounted to \$55. But undaunted she kept on telling the story in our N.Y. and Brooklyn churches and at last was asked to attend the N.Y. State Congregational Association Meeting at Corning. Here she again told of our dire need. As she finished Dr. Meredith jumped up and – as it was the day given to the Women's For. Mission Auxiliary- asked if a man would be allowed to speak. Of course his desire was gratified. He said he had heard this story from Mrs. Baldwin twice and could not stand it. He then offered to raise \$500 of the \$5000 if the whole were raised. Dr. and Mrs. Lyman Abbott then pledged \$100. The women then appointed committees who promised the whole sum.

This news is most gratifying to us. It is especially gratifying to me, upon whom the extra work of renting and cleaning and seating a place in wh. to hold the Annual Meeting always falls, to think of the time in the not far distant future when a place will be ready for such meetings. The same mail bro't letters from Dr. Whitney of our

mission, now on furlough, who with Mrs. Whitney were present when Mrs. Baldwin spoke and from Will Ireland who was also present at Corning. Will is now in Syracuse over a church. He is married and has two children and is happy. He says that as long as there are so many young men applying to be sent to the foreign field, and being refused appointments because of the depleted treasury he feels it his duty to stay in America and let those just fresh from the Seminary go.

A week ago yesterday I came down from the mountain expecting to conduct the communion service at Au Ciu and return to the mountain on Monday. Sunday noon the cook appeared from Guliang with a letter from Ellen saying that she was not well and the Doctor thought I had better come up at once. Ellen had taken a hard cold and it had settled in her bronchial tubes and made it very difficult for her to breath. So after dinner I did half a day's absolutely necessary business in about two hours, and started for what is now "home". It was never hotter altho I did not start till 3:30 o'clock. The first twenty minutes of the walk up the mountain was fearful. But as one climbed higher the temperature got better. I found Ellen much better. She had been out to all meals but the Dr. was afraid that the care of the children would be too much for her. It was most fortunate that I went up when I did for during the first part of the night I was up with Phebe 6 or 8 times. She had a cold and Ellen had given her a little Hive Syrup. The bottle was not locked up and Miss Phebe developed into a doser. She took a liberal quantity of the syrup and this helped to cause nausea. The next day she slept rather late, but when she did rise she was all right and has been every since. Ellen gained steadily all the week-slept all night every night and ate three meals a day so that she was perfectly happy to have me come down yesterday morning to stay till tomorrow. I hope to go up tomorrow afternoon and remain till September, and I trust that both E. and I will be able to get a good rest for preparation for the work of next Fall. And oh, if that other man would only come for this station in the Fall. This and a new building for Seminary I do hope God will grant this year. You must pray with us for them.

I do not know what reports you have gotten regarding the troubles in the northern part of this province. In a word the truth is, the people in Kien Ming where the Ch. Miss'y Soc'y have a Hospital and churches got mad at the church and all its work. At last the storm broke upon the Hospital first. Dr. Rigg staid till he saw the gatekeeper killed then he escaped. Mr. and Mrs. Philips at one time reported killed escaped to the official's yamen where they were protected, taken care of to the officials best ability and sent to Foochow under an escort of soldiers. Two churches, a parsonage, and a native house in wh. a missionary lived were burnt. The Hospital and foreign house occupied by young ladies were looted. The house in wh. Dr. Riggs lived was locked and not entered. So all foreigners are safe. Three natives killed, - a leper, a blind man and a heathen. The native officials both in Foochow and in the disturbed district have done their duty. At least this is the verdict of the Consuls. Five hundred soldiers have left Foochow for Kien Ming to subdue the people who declare that Christianity must be entirely stamped out of the district.

Dr. Rigg at one time felt sure that Mr. and Mrs. Philips were dead. He so telegraphed to Foochow and the news went around the world. He also wrote the missionaries in Kucheng only 2 or 3 days journey from Kien Ming to this effect and told them the mob were coming toward Kucheng and bade them flee at once, which they did. The Consuls at once called all foreigners into port, so Kuliang will be lively this Summer. Fri. night we hear thro a native that there was a rebellion in Foochow. Ellen was a little anxious as I was planning to come down next morning. But before we went to bed a native who had just come up from Foochow that evening said he had heard nothing of the kind and we were easy about it. Last Sat. evening just at dusk a note came to Miss Newton, still at Ponasang, saying that the city was placarded with threats to kill all foreigners. Well this sounds very horrifying to you as you read it. But I do not think that either Miss Newton or I lost a wink of sleep because of it that night. Under the present conditions it is next to impossible for anything of this sort to assume very serious proportions in Foochow.

To day I conducted the last communion of the month at the last new church at Dung Song. We had a very delightful service.

How I should enjoy the next two weeks at home on the Century Farm!! The smell of new mown hay is a remembrance only. Raspberries and blackberries I have seen and tasted only in the home land.

"My peace I give with you,"

Your Loving Son

Will.

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*[This letter dated **July 23, 1899** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Fellow missionary, Mr. Plumb died. He had been quite a help to Willard. The amah's son died of Bubonic Plague as have about 400 others near the missionary compound. Willard's children are doing well. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Kuliang] Foochow, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1899.



Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter arrived almost a month ago: - June 19<sup>th</sup> already acknowledged, the last from here started two weeks ago July 9<sup>th</sup>, this one had no number.

July 10<sup>th</sup> I came to Guliang as I thought for good. But Tuesday night about midnight we were aroused and told that Mr. Plumb the senior member of the Meth. Mission here died at Sharp Peak that day- July 11<sup>th</sup> and the funeral was to be held in Foochow early July 12<sup>th</sup>. I had some doubts about our mission being represented at the funeral and so thought it my duty to go down. This meant arising at 3 A.M. and made a hard day's trip, but the weather was quite comfortable and we all came back safely. Eighteen went down, and some were compelled to remain on the mountain because they could not get coolies. Nearly every man on Guliang who could carry a chair was busy that day. Mr. Plumb's death was occasioned by the sun. The week before he went from Guliang to the Peak with Mrs. Plumb who is troubled with asthma. He was in the sun a good deal during the day getting Mrs. P. and the baggage from the boat to the Sanitarium and then came back to Foochow that night on the house-boat and attended an estimate meeting of his mission. He complained of his head all day and it was necessary to keep wet clothes on it some of the time. Still he attended to the business as usual. He had intended to return to the Peak that night, and remarked that he would rather pay \$100 than go back down then. His companion tried to dissuade him from going and he did promise to wait till he felt better but later he started and was on the house boat another night, and on reaching Sharp Peak was a sick man. The end came very quickly. Every one on Guliang was taken by surprise. He was 56 yrs. old and had spent about half his life in Foochow. He had a very warm place in my heart because for the last few years he has had charge of the Theol. School of the Meth. Mission. When the Theol. Sch. of our mission was established and I put in charge, Mr. Plumb showed more sympathy with me and more interest in the work of the school than some of the members of our own mission. He has been a great help to me a number of times, and has from his experience given me light in more than one dark place.

Last Monday morning our Amah got word that her second son was dead. He died of the Bubonic plague, of which about 400 have died near our compound in Foochow, and we told her if she went to her home she must not come to us for at least two weeks. This left us with no one to do anything for the children and as the coolie was away two days we have had things quite our own way this week. If there were no work to do I should enjoy it hugely. The children are infinitely better off with their parents than with the Chinese woman. But when I realize the work in the form of letters and reports is piling up I get a little uneasy. Geraldine is just weaned. She is eleven months old day after tomorrow, - I have had to sleep with her to wean her at night. But she is a dear little darling. Sleeps all night. Wants to get up about midnight and have a drink of water and without waking goes right back to bed and sleeps on till morning. It is rather warm on Guliang this year than formerly and we have nothing over us at night. Geraldine flops around like a fish on land. I wake and find her in very strange localities on the bed. One night I found her between my knees. She was sleeping peacefully. We have all been out for a walk each afternoon. Geraldine thinks her father pretty fine if he will carry her all over the mountain. She watches Phebe and Gould and mama and shouts at them. Yesterday afternoon she made so much noise shouting that we were half ashamed of her. Ellen is getting strong with three meals a day a good walk and a good night's sleep. I believe Phebe and Gould will walk farther than Ellen and I, and when they get home and have supper they want a run before going to bed. They are both the picture of health, and a terror to goats. We have some hens here. Gould caught one the other day and his mother found him holding her by the head swinging her as a boy does his dinner pail. She told him to let the hen go. He gave her one more swing and threw her out into the yard. The hen was dazed but recovered. Both of the children attend church this year. Gould refused to go in two weeks ago today with his mother and Phebe. He said he was afraid of the "ladies and the big boys." But last Sunday I took him in to the Chinese service in the morning (in my arms and under vehement protest from him) and in the afternoon he went in with the family and behaved well. I am not on the Chapel Comm. this year but still remain treas. and Sec'y of the Board of Trustees of the Guliang chapel. We dedicate the chapel next Sunday.

Our Reports are ready and we are sending them out with this mail. To save postage we are sending to you a large number. Will you as opportunity offers give them to the following persons: one copy each.

Wm. T. Beard

T.E.       “

J. H.       “

Elizabeth Turney

Wellington Wilkinson

Ard Blakeman

Erastus Bennett

-     Platt

James Webster  
Frank Wells  
Fred Wooster  
Frank “  
Lewis J. Shelton  
George D. Nichols  
Ed. J. Buckingham  
O. G. Beard Jr.  
Charles Beard (Milford)  
Aunt Mary Hawley (if she is still alive)

I shall send you thirty copies. There will be others whom you will wish to give copies to.  
With lots of Love to all  
Will.

We’re sending several copies to Mr. Keneston and to many individual friends whose names are not down here.  
(Will)

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*[This letter dated Aug. 27, 1899 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. News from the U.S. tells that Willard’s grandfather Nathan Bennett Nichols has died. Mr. Walker and Dr. Bliss are coming back to go to Shaowu. They have had a typhoon recently but Willard offers few details. (In 1909 Ellen will refer back to the destruction of the 1899 hurricane.) Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Kuliang] Foochow, China, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Letter No. 11 started from here July 23<sup>rd</sup>. I am sorry that none has started since that. Aug 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> letters arrived from you. The letter of Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> brought the news that grandfather [*Nathan Bennett Nichols, father of Willard’s mother*] had gone on before. How different this translation seems to us from that of the others who in the prime of life or in the morn of life were called to a better home. We did not at all expect he would be there to see us when we came back and were ready for this news at any time. He had finished all he could do on earth and was waiting for the change. For the explanation of why one is left even after they become a burden to others while another is taken just as they seem to be giving promise of great usefulness to others, we must wait till we are called to where all things are made clear by the One who is the author of all things. It is best that we do not know now. We must simply accept things of this kind and strive with God’s help to perform our whole duty. Your account of his illness and funeral was very brief. I shall look for more particulars. How are grandmother and Aunt Louise? They will feel lonely but care will be greatly lessened.

A week after the day on which I last wrote you we dedicated the new chapel at Guliang. The exercises were very interesting and passed off to our entire satisfaction. You will see that I was chosen to represent the A.B.C.F.M. on the program, Mr. Walsh the English Mission, Mr. Lacy, chairman of the meeting Meth., Mr. Brown (preacher) the Amoy missions, during the week that followed the dedication which has been a continual bother. I have been down to Foochow twice about it- once yesterday and must go again tomorrow. The Consul is doing good work in the case and says we must get it. He was at the Mandarin’s with me yesterday. To morrow I go alone. All this- both typhoon and land purchase is harder on Ellen than on me. She was not in the best condition to endure extra strain on account of the attack of dysentery which she had in June. Since the typhoon Gould has had a fever of which he is better but has not got back to his former self. Geraldine has had a bowel trouble which makes her look not so rosy and the perfect picture of health as before.

Good news came by the last mail to the effect that a young lady for the Kindergarten had been appointed by the Board to come to Foochow. Another lady for evangelistic or Educational work is in correspondence with the Secretaries. The people who are raising the money for Geu Cio Dong are authorized to cable me “Build at Once” as soon as the money is raised. This looks like business. Mr. Walker and Dr. Bliss are coming back to go to Shaowu in Sept. Mr. Gardner cannot come this year owing to his health.

About three weeks ago I sent you 30 copies of our report “Self Support Attained”. Most of them were marked with the names of those to whom we wished to give them. The copies unmarked. You may give where you think they will do the most good or be most appreciated. We have sent direct to many of the friends in Huntington

so do not be surprised to be told "I have one already". On p. 35 under "Statistics", "The total cost of the work" etc "Theological Seminary" should not be included.

When you have the telephone sufficiently perfected we can have a chat with you once a week and save all this letter writing. Telephones- street cars- next will be free delivery into the country. It has been a long time since we have heard much about Oliver. I know he is in Bridgeport but just what his business is I could not tell-whether is in business for himself or doing commission business- whether or not he has a store. The papers say Travelling salesmen are thrown out of employment by the thousands thro the combination of big houses.

"God is our refuge". He has been very gracious to us this year, while others have suffered severely from the storms we are practically unharmed. Our mountain home was damaged perhaps \$4.00 silver. \$20.00 silver will easily repair the damages to the property in our care at Ponasang including Seminary and churches. One rented chapel was carried off by a pile of logs that came down the river, -otherwise very little damage to even rented chapels.

With Love to All  
Will.

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*[This letter dated Sept. 10, 1899 was written by Willard to the Folks at Home. Because of the typhoon they had "typhoon company" staying with them. Since some of the C.M.S. Missionaries are not allowed back to Kien Ming Because of the hatred of foreigners. A committee has been formed on Kuliang to care for the church, securing preachers for the church and for Public Improvements. Mr. Ding is still battling an illness. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter arrived Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>. One came from Putnam the same day. The last from here No. 12 started Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our vacation time is about over. I go down to open the Seminary next week. I went down last Wed. to see about the land I am trying to buy and had to stay over night, returning Thurs. afternoon. I got out the only remaining kink that the magistrate wanted before stamping the deeds. The Consul sent the communication to the magistrate asking him to keep his promise by stamping the deeds and sending back to me, whether he will do it remains to be seen.

We have had two weeks of rest since our typhoon "company" left us, and both the children and Ellen are improving. It was only last evening that Ellen was saying her dresses were getting tight. She shows it in her face also. The children are quite well or would be but for Phebe's visit to Mrs. Peets yesterday where she got too many cakes and today she is paying for it. And yesterday the amah allowed Geraldine to eat a whole banana and she was ill last night but all right today. She gets up all alone and stands alone but she does not take a step yet unless she has something to hold on to. When she stands up alone she feels as big as a boy in his first boots.

The Guliang community is getting very thin. This next week will see nearly every one at their work, or trying to get there. Quite a number of the missionaries of the C.M.S. who work in the North West in Kien Ming of the province are not allowed to go back because of the hatred and threats of the Chinese there to every thing foreign and especially to the foreigner himself. Three thousand of the leading men have pledged themselves not to allow a foreigner in the district. The treaty says foreigners may reside anywhere in the Empire. The English Consul has taken up the case in a vigorous manner but as yet he has accomplished nothing.

I got into office again last evening. Guliang has to have three committees to care for its interests now. (1) The Trustees of the church, who have in charge the care of the building and of course all finances relating to the maintainance of worship. (2) The Committee on Public Worship, who have in charge the securing of leaders and preachers etc. (3) The Committee on Public Improvements who have in charge the roads, fixing of coolie rates, mails and any thing else designed to make the few weeks spent here more restful and profitable for the missionaries. As soon as the church is built the work of the Trustees should not be burdensome. I hoped our talk was nearly over when the building was dedicated but the typhoon will necessitate the expending of \$1500 or more this year on the building, - not in repairs, but in additional strengthening of the building to avoid further damage. A week ago I was put on the Comm. of Pub. Improvement from our Mission and last evening at the first meeting of the Comm. was elected Sec'y and Treas'r of the Comm. This makes only three different Bank accounts for me and only three different Secretary's Books to write up. But until the Board sends more missionaries I do not see how it is to be avoided. This work is not without compensation however. The other members of this comm. and of the Board of Trustees are older than myself. The best men of their respective missions and representatives of not only the other

two missions in Foochow, but of three missions in Amoy. It is a privilege not to be lightly esteemed to be associated with such men.

Mr. Ding was quite like himself when I saw him about three weeks ago but last week he was taken again with a very bad fever and his physician wrote me that he was not allowed even to read a note from me. His illness is my hardest trial, because he is my most important man.

Among the churches in the Ponasang station this is a very trying year. Geu Cio Dong and Ha Puo Ga the two oldest churches are all right so far as I have heard. There has been more or less difficulty in all the other churches due entirely to: - first the ignorance of the church members in self-government and second to the fact the preachers in these places are young men and "old men for wisdom" every time in China. Sang Bo and Au Iong Die are doing fairly well. I think salaries will be raised but the number of admissions will be very small compared with last year. This is right and is one of the most encouraging features of the situation. It shows the people are aroused to the danger of admitting members before they are fit for membership.

[many scribbles]

The addenda are Phebe's as well as the few characters at the head of this letter. She did it while I was rocking Geraldine to sleep.

With Love from all  
Will

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*[This letter dated Sept. 12, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard feels positive about the purchase of land going through for their new residence. The Woodin Memorial church of Ing Hok will be dedicated Oct. 15. Miss Bortz (future wife of Dr. Bliss) is planning on building a house near Willard and Ellen on Kuliang. Willard expects Dr. Bliss, Mr. Walker and Miss Brown to arrive in Foochow from the U.S. in about 10 days. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The register of correspondence will just as it was in my letter of two weeks ago, except that that letter was written. All home mail has been very dear this Summer owing to its scarcity [scarcity]. We notice that vacations in the home land are not conducive to productive letter writing. We expect a dearth of letters about this time every year.

One week ago last Fri. = Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> I was down again to see about purchasing the land. The Magistrate asked me not to build the house too high and not to make new roads over the hill. So I knew that he had made up his mind to stamp the deeds and let us have the land. The matter I trust is settled altho we cannot be sure till the deeds are stamped and again in our possession. As soon as this is done we shall begin to build a residence.

The latest accounts are that Dr. Bliss, Mr. Walker and Miss Brown [Jean H.], the new Kindergarten teacher were to reach Yokohama to-day. They will be here in about ten days more.

The new Woodin Memorial Church which Mr. Goddard has just completed in Ing Hok is to [be] dedicated Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Ellen and I are planning to take the whole family up, starting Fri. morning the 13<sup>th</sup> and starting for home Mon. A.M. the 16<sup>th</sup>. This will take me away from the Seminary only three days. Ellen and the children continue to gain every day. No children could be healthier and happier than Gould and Geraldine. Phebe is well, but her health is not so effervescent as that of the others. Ellen is quite well, and enjoying to the full this bracing atmosphere on the mountain. The weather is perfect now, - just like Oct. 1 at home when the days and nights are clear. At Ponasang it was quite comfortable last week. I went down Tues. morning. The Sem'y opened Thurs. at 8:30 A.M. but I wanted to get down a day or two earlier so as to do some of the business relating to the churches and Women's classes and Day Schools that is always sure to come in. Tues. and Wed. were full. The Sem'y opened auspiciously with nearly all the students back. One will not return because he prefers to gamble. Mr. Ding is much better of his last illness and says he is coming back to the Sem'y in a few days, but I have made up my mind not to plan for his doing any work this term. I wish he could be around tho. His influence is worth more than can be estimated, - not to speak of his teaching.

Dwight has bought tickets to sail about Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. They will go by Suez Canal, visiting Rome and arriving at New York about Christmas. They will spend the Winter at Mr. Goddard's home in Worcester, then go to Mrs. Goddard's home in Ohio, where Mrs. G. and Dorrance will stay while Dwight decides what to do for a living.

The shipment which started from Boston last June is here. We have not seen the invoice so do not know what there is in it for us- a letter from Putnam told us there was a box for us from there.

Miss Borts [*Bortz*] the young lady who came last January for the Pagoda station has rented a piece of land on Guliang near our house and is to build this Fall. I have been doing the business for her, and have promised to oversee the building of the house. The severe typhoon has worked very marked changes in the minds of many people about the situation and way to build cottages here. I have already written that out of about 60 houses here only 5 or 6 were dry during the typhoon. Two people are already tearing their houses down and moving them to more sheltered places. Nearly all are putting on better roofs, and I am surprised to see the quantity of 10 lb. brick that are going on the ridges of houses. Before there was only mud with tiles laid in it and then a very thin coat of mortar over this. Last year as we were selecting a site for the new church here several spurned the site the Trustees chose because it was too hidden and when they were reminded that we must look out for typhoons they rather laughed at us. They have stopped laughing now tho!

The children have a little goat. Just now Gould saw two big goats tied near the house and at once he started for them. After he had stood watching them some time, his old amah ran out and led one of the goats into the yard and was about to tie it. Gould would not allow any such thing but had the goat brought in on the veranda where he held the rope and led the goat about. Pretty soon Mrs. Gould saw the veranda gate and making a dash pulled the rope thro Gould's hand and away she went. Leiter did not feel worse over his lost millions than Gould did to see that goat run away. But his old woman ran and caught it and bro't it back to him. I asked him if the little goat were not better. He said "Well, that's a bit o' tiny goat, can't ride on her". He is passionately fond of animals. When we are out walking he will leave the whole company for every goat or cow he sees, - in total oblivion of human relatives. And he is satisfied only when he gets his hand on the animal. How he will enjoy the cows when he gets home to America!!

You would have been amused this afternoon. Gould was lying on the veranda floor, on his back. Geraldine was playing near him. Suddenly she crept up to him and leaned over and kissed him as sweetly as possible. He put his arms gently about her neck and they formed a beautiful sweet picture.

I must be off for Ponasang tomorrow at 5 A.M. to get there in time for Sem'y prayers at 8:30.

You must write us all about what the different ones are doing and where they are this year.

Love to all

Will.

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*[This letter dated Oct. 8, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The family has moved off the mountain. Only Mr. Walker arrived from the U.S., but Miss Brown will come later. Dr. Bliss may not come back to China this year. Mr. Ding's health is improving. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter arrived a few days ago. We found it here Mon. afternoon when we arrived from Guliang. I wrote last Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.

A week ago Fri. afternoon, I went to Guliang again to spend the Sabbath. The weather was glorious. Nothing could be added to make it nearer perfect. I found Ellen had put the three children into the sedan and gone for a long walk. On Saturday afternoon the Bement sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Hinman and the Beard family all went to the farthest inhabited point of Guliang three miles from our home. Ellen walked there and back with the exception of a few rods. Sunday morning we spent out on the hills and went to church with about 25 others in the afternoon. Monday morning we packed up and sent eight coolie loads down. Two more loads went with us in the afternoon. The trip down was a very pleasant one. The afternoon was not hot, and there was a nice breeze. We arrived just in time for supper. The children did not mind the change and we have all been quite well all the week. The weather has been cool and the nights so that we could sleep. So we are all doing well- unless Ellen and I should complain of too much to do. It has been - or seemed to us to be - impossible for us to get to bed until 10 o'clock and after every night. This is a little later than we can stand continuously and keep in the best working condition. But I find that every term of school i.e. twice a year, the first two or three weeks are very trying. This Fall however we are favored with an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Goddard to attend the dedication of the Woodin Memorial Church which Mr. Goddard has just completed at Ing Hok. The dedication service will take place one week from to day. We plan now to start Friday morning arriving Sat. afternoon, spend Sunday there, starting for home Mon. morning arriving Tues. afternoon. We plan to go- the whole family. Take a house boat and go down to Pagoda and up to the foot of the

rapids, then by a shallow boat to Ing Hok. Dr. Woodhull will go with us on the boat. This will make a pleasure trip and will be a rest. I hope it will also give me a chance to do a little writing that has been awaiting several weeks. The Goddard's leave Ing Hok Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be in Foochow about two weeks before taking one of the German Lloyd line of steamers by way of London for the U.S.

Mr. Walker arrived at Ponasang yesterday about noon. Dr. Bliss and the Kindergarten teacher did not come. Miss Brown will come later. Dr. Bliss' return this year is uncertain. Mr. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Hinman, Dr. and Miss Bement expect to start for Shaowu a week from Wed. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Walker looks quite well- better than I have ever seen him.

The land that I have been trying to buy all Summer is at last bought. If all goes well we shall be on it in a new house one year from now. Then we want the new Seminary on a piece adjoining, which is for sale, and can be bought without trouble.

The box from you was opened last Thursday. Everything came in perfect condition. How my eyes opened and my mouth watered as I saw that dried pumpkin! Ellen thought the cloth for Gould's kilts "lovely". The Shelton people are very kind to the Foochow people in sending them cards. Those large Bible pictures from the Shelton Meth. Church are invaluable. They are the stained glass windows of the Foochow churches. My shoes, and the others are good fits. Ellen says the handkerchiefs are "very fine". I trust her judgement on these. The table cover was the best thing of all. It was just what I have been longing for a long time. It strikes Ellen's taste all right too. Johnny cake and milk is as good as ever and the corn came just in time to take the place of that that came a year ago and is not now tangible. You spent the money all right. Small gifts that are meant for us personally to be used in "getting something" I think would be most appreciated if used to buy some of the things indicated in our letters. If none of these seem to fit the bill, children's shoes and stockings, and cloth for dresses and aprons will always come handy. Gould does not outgrow shoes, nor stockings. He is just now half crazy over kites. Every hill top is covered with boys and men each afternoon flying them and nearly every day the young lad steals the march on his overseers and gets out among the Chinese. He is just now disturbing the equilibrium of the atmosphere in a large area because his old woman beat him in a sprint for the open gate for which he was making. Oh, how we long to get to America where he can have room to run and grow and pull the cows tails.

Mr. Ding seems to be getting stronger gradually. I am afraid however he can do no work this term.

Geraldine still does not walk. She goes about on her hands and feet like a baby elephant much to the amusement of all who behold. Gould is much impressed with the idea that he is a "big man". Ellen said as he was in the bath last evening he was romancing "And I saw great big pond, an' Miss Bement fall in an' she cried. I go pick her up. I am a big man". How you would enjoy hearing the children sing the blessing at table "God is great and God is good, and we thank Him for this food. By His hand must all be fed. Give us Lord our daily bread". Phebe and G. at times entirely drown Mama and Papa. And now the little bit of a girl tries to sing.

Well now that vacation is over we shall look for more letters. Grandpa Kinney sent Gould a hammer, saw and square. He ran to me with the hammer, "Papa see my hammer". I said "That's a dandy" he replied "No that is a hammer". He is not up in American slang. His mother thinks I had better call things by their proper names.

Love to All  
Will.

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*[This letter dated Oct. 22, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard tells about the trip with his family and many other missionaries to Ing Hok for the dedication of the Woodin Memorial Church. Dr. and Mrs. Goddard are leaving China for the U.S. Ing Hok has now been placed in Willard's care on top of his many other responsibilities. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> the last letter arrived from you already acknowledged. From here the last started for Shelton two weeks ago, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, No. 14.

The chief topic of interest during the last two weeks is our trip to Ing Hok. The occasion was the dedication of the Woodin Memorial Church which Mr. Goddard has just finished. The money was given by Mrs. Woodin, her children and friends. It is a beautiful church, - will accommodate about 200 persons. It is built much after the style of our Huntington church. The tower is in the same relative position and the entrance thro the tower. The floor of course is level and of red tiles not boards. Just to one side and opening off the church is the parsonage large enough for two families, - if they are not too large. There is a large well arranged and well built plant at Ing Hok now for



carrying on the work. The buildings are in one row. The Missionary's residence highest up on the hill side, just below the Woman's Hospital and School. Then the parsonage then the church. Beside this there is land for a Girl's and a Boy's School.

We had a delightful trip. Started Thurs. evening Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:45. We were on the house boat by 8:00 o'clock and moving down the river. It was a beautiful moonlight evening. Gould had gone to sleep before we started and I carried him in the sedan and got on board without his waking but the new atmosphere and commotion on board were too much for him, and he was on deck soon with his mother and sisters and father watching the "big water" and the "big boats". But the little ones were all asleep at 9:00. At 11:00 P.M. we dropped anchor near Mr. Hubbard's at Pagoda Anchorage to wait for the tide until 1:00 A.M. We then started under sail most of the time and arrived at the head of houseboat navigation about noon Fri. Our companions on the boat were Dr's Woodhull of our Mission and Lyon of the Meth. Mission. They are diametrically opposed in all their ideas and habits. Dr. Woodhull must have everything just as she wants it but she is willing to grant the same privilege to others also. Dr. Lyon takes what comes and says nothing about it. But they were very enjoyable companions. They put up with the noise and bother of three small children with excellent grace. When we reached the rapids we had to change the large houseboat in which we enjoyed regular beds and a real dining table with regulation chairs, for a small flat bottomed boat. For our use in this boat we all - 7 foreigners and a Chinese woman- had a space high enough to stand in and 6 ft. wide and 10 ft. long. We took this boat at 3 P.M. Fri. That evening the Dr.'s slept on the boat. We Beard's went to one of our chapels and spent the night. The Dr's came up and ate breakfast with us Sat. A.M. and we were off again at 8:30 A.M. The wind was dead ahead and the boat load was rather heavy. I pulled the boat up the worst rapids and we arrived at Ing Hok at 6 P.M. - 12 miles in 9 ½ hours. We found all the Goddards well. Beside our party Messer's Walker, Hubbard, Peet and Dr. Kinnear went up. There were also three Chinese Pastors from Foochow and near places. The services were most interesting. The memory of Mr. Woodin is still fresh and Mr. and Mrs. Goddard seem to have won the affection of all the Ing Hok people. There were many touching references made to the work they had done for Ing Hok, and many a tear dropped as reference was made to their departure.

We left Ing Hok at 9:45 Mon. morning and arrived home about 5 Tues. afternoon. The trip would have been a perfect one if the sadness of the departure of Dwight and Mrs. Goddard could have been eliminated.

In the business meeting of the Mission held last Wed. the whole of the Ing Hok work except the medical part was put in my care. On the face of it, it would seem that this would increase my work greatly. But in the first place I am doing now as much as possible. In the next place this work is 40 miles from Foochow. I must leave the work here when I go there and the occasional trip into the country will be a change and I trust a rest. It will be the work in this station that will suffer if any thing suffers.

I have conducted communion at Au Long Die and at Au Ciu today. There were no additions in either place. The preachers said there were only one or two ready to unite and I urged them to wait till next communion. They acceded willingly, which I count a good sign. At Au Ciu I saw a foreign sedan in the Chapel and was told that the Christians had bought it because last year one day I was at this chapel when a hard shower came up and I had to call a native chair to get home. This chair is for the next time I am caught in the rain at this chapel. - This is what the people say.

We had some pumpkin pie the other day that was pumpkin pie. Ellen was so fond of it I had to eat fast to get my share. When a pie comes on the table the first time with one piece gone and the man knows nothing about it, woman must stop talking about pie eating propensities of man.

I wrote you in the last letter that the land which I had been trying to purchase all Summer was now ours. The deeds have been stamped by the Chinese official, registered at the Consulate and returned to me. We are now planning for our new house. If all goes well we shall be in it a year from now.

Miss Newton is feeling the strain of the work too much and we have joined with her in asking for a furlough to begin next Feb. While she is [*in*] America I hope a new school building will be erected, on the site of our present house.

I have two very pleasant references to "Self Support Attained". One from Geo. Wilder in N. China and one from Arthur Smith D.D. of N. China. The "Chinese Recorder" the Missionary Journal for China spoke very nicely about it in an Editorial also. We have over 50 copies left if you can use more to profit.

Phebe told me this afternoon to tell you she was going to learn to read and write then she would write to you.

Your letters are very scarce recently. You must not forget us. We want to hear from all of you. You are getting so widely scattered that we can hardly keep track of you all unless a letter comes from each.

Most Lovingly

Will.



This may be the Woodin Memorial Church  
Caption on card: Ing Hok Church, Foochow Mission, A.B.C.F.M.  
[Purchased from ebay by Jana L. Jackson and donated to Yale in 2007.]

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*[This letter dated Nov. 5, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about "tramp" steamers and that Dr. and Mrs. Goddard will be leaving Foochow on one. He tells a funny story about daughter Phebe and wife, Ellen's snoring. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> '99.

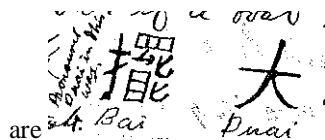
Dear Folks at Home:-

No. 15

Two weeks ago Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> the last letter started for Shelton. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> one came from Phebe and one from Mother. Phebe is to be congratulated on obtaining a good position. I am glad that she enjoys the outlook, and trust that her highest hopes may be realized.

Dwight and Dr. were to take the steamer this morning. It is what we call a "tramp", i.e. does not stop regularly at Foochow. She plies between England and the East, stopping where she can find freight or passengers. Points like Shanghai and Hong Kong she is sure to call at. But Foochow is a small place and uncertain. Their goods went by another "Tramp" direct to New York so they will find them there perhaps as soon as they arrive themselves. You may not fully understand the "Tramp" phrase. There are regular steamers plying between here and Shanghai and between here and Hong Kong. Nearly all others that stop are after tea and are steamers that ply between Europe and the East. If there is freight enough for them to make it pay they stop. An Express is sent around to this effect about three weeks or a month before. If the freight is not enough, it must either be sent to Hong Kong or wait. This stamp of steamer is the "Tramp."

The phrase in the Foochow dialect for "look out", (I take the meaning to be "Clear the way I am coming".) would be Bai Duai. This is what the boatman calls out if a boat is in his path ahead of him. The Chinese characters



are *Bai* *Duai*. Pronounce Duai in this way. Bai is pronounced "buy" - as to buy at the store. When a person makes a surprising statement you say "why". If his circumflex is not pronounced enough you hug him and squeeze his diaphragm, he then says it right. I should be interested to hear you pronounce it.

To day we hear Miss Brown the new Kindergarten teacher has arrived. She came down from Shanghai on the steamer that takes the Goddards. Miss Woodhull went over twice yesterday to meet her but the steamer was delayed. Our coolie said he saw Miss Woodhull go by and a strange young lady in a chair ahead of her. Miss Brown has an enviable opening in the city, - a nice large building, and a nice class already in working order with which she can begin as soon as she can say one or two words.

Yesterday we took Phebe and Gould over to Mr. and Mrs. Blands to Tiffin [lunch]. How the children did enjoy it!! Geraldine we left at home with the amah. We have made another change in this department, and now have one elderly woman a Christian for a long time. One of her sons who died in June was first assistant in the Ponasang Hospital and her main stay. We took her on trial in July. She is neat and honest and can be trusted if she is a little slow. The other woman is from Ing Hok and has been with Mrs. Goddard for about six months. She is younger, pleasant, and quicker. During the past four and a half years we have had eleven different women as amahs. While at Mr. Bland's we met Mr. Rigg of the Ch. Miss'y Soc. who had just come down the Min river from Yeng Ping, 150 or more up. He said he met our Shaowu missionaries about forty miles this side of Yeng Ping. But his boat was coming down the rapids so fast he could not stop.

I have conducted communion at Dung Song today. This is the last time for this season of communion. They commence again Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> and last just thro the month. But I want very much to get away for two weeks in Dec. to make a tour of the Ing Hok field. I cannot go in Nov. on account of the Meeting of Missionaries and Pastors and preachers which takes the place of our Annual Mission Meeting this year. This comes Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and with the Y.P.S.C.E. Convention will last till Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. By the way Dr. F.E. Clark is expected here the latter part of next Fall.

The children are perfectly well these days, and the mischief they cannot find is not worth mentioning. Gould can get along if he has about three outfits a day. His shoes go like hay in March, and he eats as only a boy can. He was sitting in Mama's lap just before going to the bed this evening and putting his face up against hers he said "I do love my Mama". Until a few days ago Ellen has declared to me that she did not snore. But Phebe took my side a few days since all unconsciously and since then Ellen has nothing to say on the snoring habit. Phebe walked up to Mama one day making a snorting noise with fearful grimaces. "Mama what makes you do that when you are asleep?"

Mama = "What makes you think Mama does that when she is asleep?"

Phebe = "Because I heard you go that way one night and I sat right up in bed. I was scared. I didn't know what it was. Then I lay down and went to sleep again."

Mama = (violent laughter)

Phebe = "Well, what do you snuff for when you are asleep?"

M. (Convulsed with laughter)

P "Well, what do you snuff for?"

Father Kinney must see this. And I want a photo of him when he reads it.

I wonder what is the matter with Aunt Louise. I have not heard from her in a long time. But [I] have written to both her and grandmother since hearing from them. You must remember us to them when you see them. I was glad to hear grandmother was able to go about so much.

Oliver still does not write. (Business must be driving . I hope he is all right. It is good to hear such fine things of his wife and children - How you do enjoy those girls!! What pleasure we shall have when God permits these little ones to meet. It is over five years since we saw the shores of our native land fade away in the distance. The Heavenly Father has been good to us all, "My Grace is sufficient for Thee".

Love to all

Will.

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[This letter dated Nov. 19, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about some of the political news regarding China, England, U.S., Russia and Japan. Ellen had two teeth pulled and now has a sore throat. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

No. 17

Foochow, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

This last news from home arrived Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. A letter from Phebe came on the same date. Both acknowledged previously i.e. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> letter No. 16. The mails are not loaded with letters these days. We hope the rush of business at home will ease up a little, and then with Dewey received we shall look for a letter now and then from our friends.

As to news from the Phillipines we get most of ours from the home papers. I am now taking with Dwight the weekly North China Herald, published in Shanghai. This is under English supervision and news of England's affairs of course is paramount, altho since this U.S. stepped up to the rank of a first class naval power there is a marked difference in the regard paid to the affairs of our Republic by Englishmen here in the East. There is one strain that we are sure of finding in all the newspapers published by Englishmen in China i.e. a severe criticism of English leniency with China. Englishmen of course want China's trade. To control this they must in a large degree control China's foreign policy. But Russia wants to do something at the same business, and she has been doing it to the detriment of England's business or trade in China and England has not been very stiff. Her influence at Peking is not what it was ten years ago. Just now the war in the Transvaal is the all absorbing topic in news circles. The little affair in the Phillipines is hardly worth noticing. The papers are also beginning to open their eyes at the influence which little Japan is exerting at Peking. Here is a sentence from the last paper "Japanese influence in Court and mandarin circle is getting stronger and stronger every day- that influence which should by all right belong to Great Britain." I will mail to you the last copy of the N. C. Herald. Will you please be sure to remail it within a few days to Rev. D. Goddard, 4 Homestead Ave., Worcester, Mass.

Things are running along much as usual. This week a little diversion occasioned by our Annual Meeting and a business meeting of the mission. Our Annual Meeting this year is a very quiet affair compared with the past few years. We distinctly asked all except Pastors and preachers to stay away. So we have had no crowds as formerly. The small numbers may not however lessen the permanent results of the gathering. We have had two long sessions comprised of only missionaries and Pastors (seven). Steps were taken for the permanent organization of the mission, for the transaction of business. I mean of the Chinese constituency. Previously there has been no organization. At a meeting a motion was put and anyone who chanced to be present voted on it. The Secretary pro tem wrote it down and the report of the Secretary was perhaps given to some missionary who kept it in his pigeon hole for a year and then threw it away. The organization effected this year I trust will stop this. The Men's Missionary Society had a quiet but very interesting and business like session Fri. morning. The report given by their agent who has made a circuit of the entire Foochow speaking portion of our field was most interesting and instructive. The Chinese are taking up this matter in a business like manner. They close the year with over \$50 in the treasury. To morrow and next day will be held the C.E. Convention. Then we shall settle down to work again in the ordinary routine.

Ellen is just well of a Tonselitis quinary[?] sore throat. Dr. thinks possibly the effects of the two teeth she had out two weeks ago may have started the trouble. The teeth were very well put in and they came out hard, lacerating the jaws badly. Of course it was a shock to the nervous system to have these out. Then the sore throat had a better chance. Ellen was in bed two days. She is well again now. The children all as well as you can find children. Geraldine walks three or four feet. But she is so heavy that it will be some weeks before she runs with Gould.

The sky for a month has been cloudy,- scarcely a bright day,- very little rain, colder than usual at this season.

Mr. Ding is much better, he is now working on a map of Fukien Province showing the places where there is started preaching. I want it for the Ecumenical conference in N.Y. next Spring. I have had made two models of Chinese houses- one Christian and one heathen that are very cute. The furniture is all there in miniature pieces with the idols etc.

Well you must do less and write more. Where is Oliver's pen? and Aunt Louise's? Remember us to them. Remember us to Cousin Elizabeth.

Lovingly yours

Will.

My motto this morning Lu. 21/19 "In your patience ye shall win your souls."

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*[This letter dated Dec. 3, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mr. Ding (Ming Uong) is better and working at the Seminary again. Willard constructed small models of a Chinese heathen house and a Chinese Christian house to be sent to New York for the Ecumenical Conference. He and Ellen are drawing up plans for their new residence. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter arrived from you Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. I wrote last Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, No. 17. Since then every thing here has moved along as usual. The blessings are as always too numerous to mention. Ming Uong is around again and working one hour a day in the Seminary. It is a great pleasure for us to see him about and his influence over the young men in the Seminary is all that we can desire. Mr. Davis- you remember him as a classmate of mine in Hartford- now in Springfield, Vt. wrote me by the last mail that his church would take his support next year. Two gifts have just come for the work in Ing Hok, one for \$50. and one for \$5. The news of \$25. from the ladies in Huntington was very welcome. When the money reaches me I will write Miss Wooster for the ladies.

Ellen and the children are as well as well can be. All of them growing fat. Geraldine is as broad as she is long. She has just begun to walk this last week and every door in the house must be kept open for her benefit. She goes down every 10 or 12 feet but it is not far to rise and on she goes. She thinks she is as large as the other children. They are romping about the house shouting and laughing and the little cherub toddles after them shouting with all the force of her lungs and looking as she was doing as much as any of them. We have a goose that is much enjoyed by Phebe and Gould. They pull him around by the neck and feed him and make a real pet of him. Last night after Gould had said his prayers he got up on his feet and just before starting for bed said - -"O! we forgot to pray for the goose." I told his mother of it. I found that he has of his own accord been praying for nearly a week "God bless the goose." We had a pie this week that really reminded me of the Century Farm pumpkins. IT WAS GOOD.

Three of the churches in the Suburbs Station have held communion services to day. At Geu Cio Dong 8 united. At Ha Puo Ga 3. At Sang Bo I conducted the service. No one united. There were a few men who wished to join but the preacher and deacons said it would be just as well for them to wait till next time.

I have made all arrangements to start for Ing Hok next Fri. to be gone two weeks and two days. I hope in that time to see each chapel and hold a service in nearly every one. On this trip I must decide as to the location of the preachers, the opening of Day School, and the opening of new chapels for next year. It rains to day quite hard. Such weather during the next two weeks will make it very interesting for me- the trip if carried out will be as follows. 1<sup>st</sup> day, walk 8 miles, by boat 20 miles; 2<sup>nd</sup> day walk 12 miles. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, communion at Ing Hok city. 4<sup>th</sup> day walk 20 miles. 5<sup>th</sup> day spend day and conduct communion at Mu Deng Mui. 6<sup>th</sup> day walk 20 miles communion in evening. 7<sup>th</sup> day walk 6 miles communion. 8<sup>th</sup> day walk 20 miles. 9<sup>th</sup> day walk 20 miles back to Ing Hok city. 10<sup>th</sup> day Sunday walk 10 miles conduct communion at two chapels. 11<sup>th</sup> day walk 18 miles. 12<sup>th</sup> day walk 8 miles. 13<sup>th</sup> day walk 14 miles. The other three days I shall be in new territory to look over the ground for new openings next year.

There was a fire this morning at 3 o'clock that gave us something of a start. It was only 5 minutes walk from our house and in such a place as this with a continuous line of wooden buildings between us and the blaze. It was interesting for a few moments till we found there were fire walls between us and the fire so there was no danger. This morning we found it was only a part of a big pawn shop.

We are just about starting off some goods for the Ecumenical Conference held in N.Y. April and May 1900. I have had made two models of Chinese houses- one to represent a heathen home- one to represent a Christian home. If they are not kept for a permanent exhibit I will have them sent to you after the conference is thro with them.

Some time ago you spoke of sending some photos in papers. We have never received any such and so far as I have known the papers have come regularly. We sat for the family picture yesterday, - had the children as still as mice for several seconds, but the artist (?) did not know enough to snap the machine. Afterward we got two shots but have not yet seen the proofs.

Where is Ben and what is he doing? Your last letter mentions him as being away from home but that is all. Is Elizabeth teaching on Long Hill this year? Have Stanley, James and Ben got so engrossed in their business that they have not time for even a word to a fellow?

We have been planning a house during the past two weeks, and I sent the results thus far to you. Ellen wishes to have on the S.E. corner of her study a round or octagonal window. We have not yet got this in to our satisfaction. This window is her hobby and the little private study is my hobby. I can with this arrangement meet companies of Chinese in the large study, and my desk and work is just off this study. Ellen's study we shall likely use as the family sitting room. Don't you think it will be cosy?

You must all write and oftener  
Love to all Will.

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*[This letter dated Dec. 24, 1899 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He describes his 16 day trip to Ing Hok beginning December 8<sup>th</sup>. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 1899.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter rec'd arrived Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> the last written started Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> No. 18.

According to the plans spoken of in the last letter I started on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> for Ing Hok. I returned yesterday about 12:45, making a trip of 16 days. It has been in every way a most successful trip. The weather has been perfect; not too warm or too cold, no rain, clear days and moonlight nights. Coolies were good, we were able to arrive each afternoon in good season at the place where we were to spend the night. My health was never better, not an ache during the whole trip- except a little soreness in the calves after a 20 mile walk much of it up a 45 degree mountain pass. I was surprised at my own ability to walk and to keep it up day after day for so long. I have covered 200 miles in the journey on foot. A great deal of this has been over very steep mountain paths both up and down. On the whole trip I have walked twice over less than 15 miles and 8 of these were on the road from Ponasang to the boat.

If you want to follow me on the trip take the last mission report "Happy Valley", and look at the map opposite p. 44. I went first from Ponasang to Gak Liong (5), next day to Ing Hok City (10). There I administered the communion and received one woman to church membership. Mon. walked 20 miles to Ngu Deng Muoi. (14) Held a service for heathen in evening. Tues. walked 3 miles and back in A.M. to call on some ch. members. In P.M. held communion. Wed. walked 18 miles to Sung Kau (16), held communion in evening. Thurs. walked 6 miles to Diong Keng (17) held communion in afternoon and evangelistic service in evening. Had to send the people away just before 10 P.M. in order to go to bed. Fri. 6:15 A.M. on road to Sa Sang (15) 20 miles and 2500 feet up. No work here, two learners both away. Chapel retired so we went to bed early. Sat. 6:20 A.M. on road to Ing Hok City 20 miles. Arrived at 1:00 P.M. In afternoon the messenger came from Ponasang with letters from Ellen and clean wardrobe and fresh provisions. I ate the last of nearly everything for lunch on the road Sat. morning and had a dinner of Chinese food after getting to Ing Hok.

The second Sun. walked 3 miles to Uo Cia (12) held communion, ate a lunch, walked 1 ½ miles to Gak Tau (11) preached walked 1 ½ miles to Dai Uong (9) and preached in evening. This was a hard day's work. Mon. at 6:20 on road to U Ngiang (8) 3000 feet above Dai Uong and 15 miles distant, arrived at 1:00 P.M. Preached in evening, slept that night with Ling Nik Huak the young man who accompanied me on the whole trip. Tues. at 6:10 ready to start but not yet light. Waited till 6:20 off for Puai Sioh (7) 6 miles distant. Down, up, down, up. Stopped 1 hour with the Christians at Puai Sioh. Then walked down to Dai Kau 8 miles at the junction of the branch of the river, running down near (7) and (8), with the main stream. Took dinner here then went on 6 miles to Uong Kang about half way between (6) and (12) in a straight line- and near the sky. The last mile was as bad a path as I ever walked, and at the end of a long day's walk. I was afraid the burden bearers with about 75 lbs. apiece on their shoulders would not make it before dark so rushed ahead up the steep and sent two men back to meet them, but their strength and good nature was better than I credited them with. They came about a quarter of an hour after me all right and happy. Here I held the communion for 4 Christians in the evening. Nik Huak and I were both pretty sleepy- and the bed felt good that night. Wed. A.M. at 6:20 off for Lik Iong about the end of the river on which © is placed. This was a terrible road all the way, 9 miles. Much like our East and West roads. It runs across the mountain ranges, is not a main road. In one place we could scarcely find the path. It is in one place nearly perpendicular. None of us knew the path and we had to depend on information gathered on the way. Pedestrians were few, houses fewer, but we did not once get off the path. At a house outside of nowhere we stopped for tea and the inmates all declared no foreigner had ever been that road before. At another house our very presence scared a year's growth out of a flock of hens. We ate dinner at Lik Iong, accepted a pound of venison and started down the mountain for Lung Chong (6) 3 miles distant. Here we stopped only a few minutes and then went on down down down to Gak Liang, 6 miles. We were tired that night. I knew before leaving Uong Kang that our day's work was to be tough so I packed most of our goods in two baskets making a heavy load and sent one coolie direct to Gak Liang only about 9 miles. The other coolie had a very light load and followed us. Thurs. 5:05 A.M. we were on a boat going down the river. Stopped at Bo Hung opposite and a little above (3) then went on down to Chong Ha (3), arriving for dinner. In the evening held a service. Fri. morning walked over to Nang Seu 3 1/2 miles examined and recommended for admission one man, took dinner with the preacher and family, walked back and went across the river to Deng Chio



(4). Held a service in the evening and examined two persons and recommended them for church membership to be admitted by the Pastor next week. Sat. at 7:30 we started for Ponasang arriving at 1:00 P.M. If God had arranged everything with a view to our comfort alone I do not see that he would have done differently. One of the burden bearers had the shakes the first week. But the days that he was sick we did not travel or made only 6 miles. The second week we had two new men and they were well and strong. When we got on board a boat the wind was in our favor altho it turned square about as soon as we landed.

The general impression that I get of the field is that the work is in a prosperous condition. The station at Sa Sang will be given up and we are considering the opening of three or more new places. I have slept like a brick every night, eaten three square meals and a lunch every day and Ellen says I have grown fat. The hard part of the work is to come tho. Here are about 19 different centers of work to plan for for next year. Which man to place where is the question. In the Ponasang Station this question settles itself because of self support. But in the Ing Hok field some of the churches have only two members and I must do the planning largely. Pray for me that God's will may be done thro me.

Ellen and the babies have been kept well and happy. Geraldine has grown fat. She is too cute for anything-girl idiom- as she waddles about. We had a photo of the family taken just before I started for Ing Hok. I send you 5. Please give to Putnam and White Hills. They are poor photos but perhaps better than none. Please thank Miss Wooster for the \$20.00 from W.C.T.U. 5.00 fr. Grandma 3.10 fr. children. I will write sometime to them. I hope Cousin Erastus [*probably Erastus Bennett, Willard's first cousin once removed*] is all right by this time.

Yesterday we had a gift of a bouncing big gobbler for Xmas and 10 big oranges from our Christmas shop, and a big piece of bacon and 60 oranges from another and a goose and an embroidered cap for W. from Ming Uong who by the way seems well.

Love to all  
Will.

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This may be the family photo Willard refers to in the above letter. Children L to R: Gould, Phebe, Geraldine.  
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

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Gould, Geraldine and Phebe about 1899-1900  
[*Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.*]

