

1900

- The Boxer Uprising in China
- William McKinley is re-elected for President of the U.S.
- The Galveston, TX Hurricane – about 10,000 die
- American Association of Baseball Clubs formed – later to become the American League
- Willard, Ellen and family are in Foochow, China
- Willard is 35, Ellen- 32, Phebe- 5, Gould- 4, Geraldine- 2

[This letter dated Jan. 21, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Miss Wainwright of the ABCFM in Japan is staying in the Foochow missionary compound for a three months rest from her work. Some areas near Ing Hok are calling to have preachers. The appropriations for the new year are the same as the previous year but only half of what they need. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Jan. 21st 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter was written Jan. 3rd. The last received came last year already acknowledged. This week's mail disappointed us in bringing no letters at all. We have not yet heard about your Thanksgiving. I wonder what you would all do. Grandfather is not there to make the center. I have been very much pleased with the good accounts of Grandmother's health. We used the \$5.00 she sent to buy a baby carriage. If we can ever get the time we are going to put the three babies into it and have their picture taken and send one to Grandmother. The carriage is a good strong one and large enough to allow the three children to sit in at once.

Since last writing we have had added to our numbers in the compound Miss Wainwright of the A.B.C.F.M. in Japan. She is tired out and is to stay here till April. At present she is staying with Miss Newton. She is very pleasant and is running in and out of our house making herself quite at home among us.

Jan. 7-15 we observed the Week of Prayer as usual. I had one of the meetings and on the 15th I preached the Bachalaurate sermon in Chinese before the students of the Anglo Chinese College of the Meth. Mission here. This is as good a proof of my power to use the Chinese language in the estimation of others as I have ever had. But with the preparation for these two meetings and attending the Week of Prayer meeting each afternoon, with the regular reaching in the Seminary each morning made a good full week. One of our amah's had four children sick with small pox in her house and we sent her home just before Jan. 1st. One woman can not manage our three cherubs alone, so we took Phebe and Gould to meeting every day except Thurs. when we both did not go. The children behave all right. We have never been troubled with their disturbing the meeting. Gould often improves the time by taking a nap.

This last week has been more than full with the graduating exercises of the various schools. The exercises of the Seminary came last week on Thurs. morning. Seven young men go out. This makes sixteen graduated. And with these there are present in the Ing Hok field two or three places calling for preachers, which must go without for another year at least. One place has been calling for three years and promising to furnish the house and help toward the pay of the Christian teacher. They promise this year to furnish the chapel and room for a school, and \$19.00 and 100 lbs. of rice. This will be not quite half of the preacher's expenses. But for the very beginning of the work it is exceedingly encouraging. I have a man for the place, and am planning to open work in this place with the beginning of the new Chinese year Jan. 31st. One of the graduates of last year's class of the Seminary will go there. Another place in the Suburbs station will take one of the graduates of this year's class, meeting about half their own expenses. This is Sang Gaing "8" on the map in "Self-Support Attained." The people have a house already owned by the church.

I am just now making the final arrangements for the work in the Ing Hok field for next year. It is no small addition to one's duties to make plans for twenty persons or more in eighteen different places. I have dictated a Chinese letter to each worker and one to the members of each church.

The appropriations for 1900 have come. We have exactly the same amount as last year, which is less than one half of what we asked for and must spend, in order to keep the work up.

Jan. 26th. Letters from Mother and Phebe arrived Jan. 23rd dated Dec. 15th.

2 ft. of snow on Guliang Jan. 10th - more here. - All well.

Lovingly Will.



This appears to be a photo (undated) of the plains between Foochow City and the mountains with snow on them.
[*Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.*]

Graduates.

Lin Yu Cheng, Salutatory. Ktien.
"The Possibilities of China."

Miss Lin Hui T'zu, Fuhchow.
"Higher Education for Chinese Women."

Hsiu Ching Wên, Fuhchow.
"Secret Influence."

Lin T'zu Yüan, Valedictory. Fuhchow.
"The Pleasures of Imagination."

Romanized Press.
FOOCHOW, CHINA.

Foochow College

A. B. C. F. M.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK.

JAN. 14-17, 1900.



You Are Cordially Invited.

Baccalaureate Sermon.

BY

Rev. Lyman P. Peet.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14th.

10:30 A. M.



President's Reception.

MONDAY, JAN. 15th.

7-9 P. M.

Presentation Day.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16th.

Gowan Hall.

10:30 A. M. { Class Histories.
 { Award of Prizes.

SENIOR RECEPTION.

7 P. M.



Commencement Day.

Peace Street Church

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17th.

2 P. M.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

AT THE

COMMENCEMENT

ON THE

Forty-Seventh Anniversary

OF

FOOCHOW COLLEGE,

January 17, 1900.

FOOCHOW, CHINA.
ROMANIZED PRESS.
1900



FOOCHOW COLLEGE.
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

PEACE STREET CHURCH.

WEDNESDAY, 2 P. M. JAN. 17th, 1900.

1. PRELUDE. Schubert, "Impromptu" Opus 142.
2. HYMN. 172.
3. READING OF THE SCRIPTURES. Rev. Cưỡng Gĩng-Bềng.
4. PRAYER. Rev. Dĩnh Lông-Gỗ.
5. Essay: The Possibilities of China, with Salutatory
Addresses in Chinese, by Lữ Ứu-Sĩng of Kutien.
6. HYMN. The Lord is King, translated by Lữ Cữ Ngưỡng.
7. Essay: Higher Education for Chinese Women, by Miss
Lữ Hiê Cữ of Fuhchow.

8. Current Events; by Hậ Gĩng Ủng of Fuhchow.

9. Essay: The Pleasures of Imagination, with Valedictory Addresses, by Lĩng Cậ Nguồng of Fuhchow.

10. English Hymn.

11. Address: How Can Educated Chinese Christians Benefit Their Native Land, by Rev. MYRON C. WILCOX, Ph.D.

12. PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.

13. Prayer for the Graduates by Pastor Lĩng Nĩk Sĩng.

14. PARTING HYMN.

15. BENEDICTION

Rev. Charles Hartwell.

16. POSTLUDE, "Pilgrim Chorus" from Tannhäuser, by Richard Wagner.

Miss Jean H. Brown

Organist.

HONORS.

Ling Cù Nguồn.
Ling Eù Sing.

Valedictory.
Salutatory.

Hũ Gĩng Ủng.

Miss Ling Hiê Cù.

Làu Còng Dáik.
Dĩng Mĩng Siũ.
Làu Kiềng Ấng.
Dĩng Lĩ Gũ.
Ling Cù Nguồn.
Dĩng Diòng Siàng.
Uòng Gĩng Hók.
Sòng Sẻng Mĩ.
Cỏ Lĩk Dáik.
Hũ Gĩng Ủng.
Dĩng Lẻ Chung.

Liòng Sẻu Cũ.
{Dĩng Diòng Huà.
{Uòng Chiòng Lụng.
{Ling Kĩng Gũ.
{Dảng Sẻu Hiòng.
Uòng Chĩng Ủ.
Dĩng Sẻng Tuàng.
{Dĩng Diều Sẻng.
{Ling Cĩng Gẻng.
{Diều Bẻk Ìng.

Ngũ Dẻng Hẻng.
Uòng Káik Chũng.
Ling Gẻng Ống.

{Ling Iũ Cũ.
{Ling Cẻng Huỏi.
{Lẻk Hẻng Bẻng.
Ling Hẻk Ngẻi.

MOULTHROP PRIZES IN CHEMISTRY.

First Prize
Second Prize
With Special Mention of

Ling Cù Nguồn.
Dĩng Mĩng Siũ.
Uòng Gĩng Hók.

OSGOOD PRIZES IN BIBLE.

Essay on "Daniel"
Examination in English Bible
Bible Catechism

Lĩ Giẻng Gũ.
Dĩng Diều Sẻng.
{Guỏh Chĩng Nguồn.
{Lẻk Hẻng Hẻ.

STEVENS PRIZE IN SPELLING.

Ling Giũ Sẻ
With Special Mention of

Ling Kĩng Gũ

[This letter dated **Feb. 18, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He, Dr. Woodhull and Miss Brown took a trip to Ing Hok and Gak Liang. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, Feb. 18th 1900


Dear Folks at Home:-

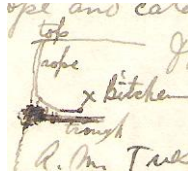
Jan. 21st letter No. 2 started for Shelton. Jan. 30th on Mother's birthday a letter started for Framingham [According to her 1957 obituary, *Phebe Maria Beard was named principal of the kindergarten training department of the State Normal School at Framingham, Mass. in 1899 and served there until 1912.*], Mass.- I should have written in both cases that these letters were written on these dates.- On Jan. 23rd letters came from Shelton, and from Phebe. The last few mails have been very destitute of letters for us. You see it has been nearly a month since we have heard from you. I am afraid also that a long interval is now elapsing in which you are to wait for our letters, because I hear that no mail has left Foochow for Shanghai since Feb. 1st. I hope however this is not so.

Miss Newton started for America Feb. 3rd on furlough. She will spend the cold weather in Cala. coming East in the Spring or early Summer. Her home is some where near Boston. I hope you will have the pleasure of meeting her before she returns to Foochow. I know you will enjoy her and that she will do you good. Mr. and Mrs. Goddard must be home before this. I am looking with much anticipation for a letter from them after their return.

Feb. 6th. Dr. Woodhull, Miss Brown and I started for Ing Hok. Dr. Woodhull went to start the Hospital and leave a recent graduate of the Foochow Woman's Hospital in charge. Miss Brown went for company and for fun. I went to be generally useful and to settle a few details of the work in that station for the year. We were late arriving at Gak Liang the first night. The boatmen stopped three miles below, just at the foot of the rapids and refused to go farther. I told them to stay there meant only \$1.00 for the trip, instead of \$2.00 as agreed. After burning a lot of idol paper and shooting off three canon crackers on they went half way up the rapids to Gak Liang. It was dark, about 6:30 o'clock and they again refused to stir. But the thought of \$1.00 for only one mile and a half started them on and we arrived a little after 8 P.M. The next day we took the road to Ing Hok. The ladies had chairs and I walked. Thus I helped Dr. Woodhull open and look over the Hospital, and consulted with several of the workers near there regarding the work for this year. Friday Miss Brown and I walked up to Gah Tan and Uo Cia- about 3 miles. On Sat. I was busy all day with different men and women planning for the work of the year. Just at night I found a few minutes to pull about three pecks of soft turnips which Mrs. Goddard had left growing, and a few carrots. We just grew fat on these turnips while at Ing Hok and brought the three pecks down with us to divide with the people down here. On Sunday I held communion at the Ing Hok church. Mon. morning we came down the river to Gak Liang. In the afternoon we visited the Monastery near Gak Liang. This is about 1 ½ hours walk from our chapel there. But as many times as I have been near it I have never before felt like taking the time to visit it. It is about 1000 feet above the river, with a good stone road in good condition all the way up. When we arrive we find a great cave in the rock, only with an immense mouth. The Monastery is built in this cave. The opening is perhaps 100 ft long and 50 ft deep



in the deepest part. It is semi circular thus  The buildings need no roofs for the solid rock overhangs so as to form a roof that never needs repairing and that never leaks. In recent years the monastery has been visited frequently by foreigners, both missionaries and business men and officers from Gun boats, Consuls etc. Every party has left a few dimes or larger change, this added to the good deal of money on the place. It is full of little – you would call them Summer houses. These are fitted up for accommodating people who come to the Monastery to worship from a distance and have to stay several days. There is now only one Priest in attendance. He has all fees that come from visitors and worshippers, and the income from quite an area of gardens and rice fields. There are three or four servants to attend and help him in caring for the buildings and the gardens. His “water works” are very interesting. From the top of the overhanging rock at point X on the other page a little stream of water falls over the precipice to the ground about 100 ft. below. The stream would hardly fill an inch pipe, but it is never failing. The Priest has climbed to the top and attached an 1 ½ inch rope, letting it hang down so the water will follow it. The water falls about 15 feet from the kitchen so the lower end of the rope is pulled into the kitchen and tied. The water follows the bend of the rope for a few feet and then drips down a bamboo trough is run out from the kitchen under the rope and catches enough of water as it drips to supply the water needed by the Priest



and his attendants. This saves all drawing of water. The place is very cool in Summer and delightful at any time.

We spent the night at the Gak Liang chapel and got up at 4 A.M. Tues. and were gliding down the river at 5, taking our breakfast on the boat. I stopped at one station on the way down, and we reached the landing at 3:30 P.M. still 8 miles from home. This I walked in 2 ½ hours and found the dear ones all well and happy. Geraldine was standing on the front veranda. The work in the Ing Hok station is now all planned. If it stays planned all's well, but if it gets out of plan it will require more work from me. I expect to be in the field again about the time you are reading this- in March 9th -20th.

Dr. and Mrs. F.E. Clarke are expected here for the national Chinese Y.P.S.C.E. Convention Apr. 4-7. There will probably be few from other parts but this province is likely to be well represented.

This is father's birthday. If I have counted correctly he is 58 yrs. old. Mother was 57 Jan. 30th. Flora will be 31 a week from today. The sum of our ages grows apace as time flies. How gracious has been the blessing of the Father to us during the past 5 years.

Ellen and the children are quite well. I think thus far we have never known a Winter in China when we have been so free from colds and other ailments. The trip to Ing Hok in Dec. was worth every thing to me physically. This last trip was rather lazy. I grew fat. Your letters that must be somewhere on the way, and near Foochow will likely tell us of the vacations at home. I have conducted two communion services today, both in the forenoon, received four men to the church. In one place some of the members I knew had been wicked and had not confessed. It was hard for me. As I walked into the next place, the members stood with bowed heads and two led in prayer after I had gone into the door. They did not know I was there. How my heart filled with praise to God as I felt the reverence and heard the prayers- asking god to cleanse their hearts and make them fit to receive the communion. Necessarily the service was short. But it was a very quiet, orderly, reverent service. Four babies were baptized. I tried to get the promise of the parents to bring up these children to love and serve Jesus but one of the babies had just woke up, and my voice was no match for his.

I am interested to know how the Huntington church is getting on. The reports are not at all reassuring that harmony has as yet been restored.

I'll not close this now hoping to receive letters from you before another steamer leaves for Shanghai to take the mail on to the U.S.

Feb. 20th

Yesterday letters came from Shelton to Putnam. We were glad to hear that all were well. The same mail brought \$60 for the work and the promise of \$100 more. As we must receive about \$400 in these special gifts this year, this is very encouraging.

Love to all from us all
Will.

[This letter dated Feb. 25, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard L. Beard to his sister, Flora. The original letter is held in the archives of Yale Divinity School. Willard comments on recent gifts to the mission, plans for an upcoming convention of Chinese missionaries, and the opening of a seminary in Foochow. He also comments on how the Chinese culture values male infants more than female.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, Feb. 25th 1900.

My Dear Flora:-

Your good letter came in the last mail, containing the request for a letter direct to you. I have been wanting to do this very thing for you and Oliver but I did not have your addresses. Phebe has her letter before this, and now your address is here.

It is very opportune to write you today. If I count straight you round out thirty one years with this day. I cannot realize that my thirty fifth birthday will never come again. The last letters brought a mine of home glimpses. You cannot realize how hungry I am for the detailed descriptions of each one of the family. I am still at a loss to answer the questions that come to me- as to what kind of a school you are teaching in- public or private- in what grade- on what salary- how many pupils etc. In spending your money to help the younger children get an education you are doing exactly according to my ideal. We have not wanted for anything necessary, altho we have to encroach upon the allowances for the children more than we liked in order to keep the work up. But we are astonished at the way in which God has remembered us this year thus far. In special gifts for all the work in our care we have received over \$350 gold since Jan. 1st. Last week one gift came from the parish of Mr. Davis.- my sem. [*seminary*] classmate- of \$116.06 for Ming Uong's salary and another of \$50 for the support of a preacher in the Ing Hok field. Then Sat. Mr. Hartwell at his own request took over the work of one chapel in the city which was started by me in '97 and of which I have had charge and which was to have cost me \$43. When Miss Newton started for America on furlough Feb. 3rd she handed me a check for \$100 silver= \$50 gold to be used as I liked.

Dr. Lyman Abbott will doubtless remember the promise of the N.Y. State Branch of the Woman's Board to build at Gen Cu Dong a \$5000 church in memory Mrs. Dudley a former President of the Branch. Mrs. S.L. Baldwin at Dr. Abbott's request wrote a brief account of our need for "Outlook" and the Editor added a note to the effect that as soon as the money was raised a cablegram should be sent to "build at once", so that we might not have to wait longer than necessary. This was last June. The cablegram has not come yet and we [*are*] "up a tree" for a building in which to hold the coming Y.P.S.C.E. Convention Apr. 4-7. Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Clarke are to be here. This is the National Convention for China and our largest central audience room will accommodate 500 when packed into the windows and aisles and doors and all over the platform- except room for the speaker to stand. The M.E. Church 2 miles from the center is large enough and some of the mass meetings will be held in it.

Last summer I sent one of the pamphlets "Self-Support Attained" to Mr. Seymour in Washington. I did not have his address and never heard whether he received it. I did the same for Cousin George Baird in Washington. There was talk of the C.E. Societies in Washington and Baltimore taking my support, and I have had some very pleasant correspondence with them. I wonder if Mr. Seymour ever said anything to you about it.

The Theol. Sem'y [*Seminary*] opened Fri last. I shall teach two hours daily. For one hour I shall endeavor to write notes and translate and dictate to the class on the Life of Christ, taking up also the more difficult passages in the Gospels.

Ming Uong has a little daughter a few days old. The Chinese say a girl is =\$1000 gold, a boy =\$10000 gold. Ming Uong's mother said when first informed that she had a grand daughter, "Well if it God's will that we should have a girl, then it is a girl that we want." She is a very earnest, active old lady in Christian work, and a woman of great faith. But a boy is still of greater value to her than a girl. None of us realize the immense blessing of a Christian ancestry.

Ellen and the babies are all quite well. They all join me in sending love and a most urgent request for another letter.

Lovingly,
Will

Mr. Ding Ming Uong with wife and probably baby daughter



This photo has two tissue papers of equal size attached at the tip of the photo. On it is written:

“To Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Beard. [*Oliver Gould Beard*]
From their friends in China with best Christmas greetings.
M.U. Ding and Belle S. Ding.

Mr. O.G. Beard.
Shelton, Conn. U.S.A.”

[*Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson and a copy is also in the collection of Virginia Van Andel.*]



Photo taken about 1900 and probably when previous photo of Ding Ming Uong with wife and daughter was taken.

The photo has the same backing or mounting and Ding Ming Uong appears to look the same and in the same clothing. Willard sits in the middle seated next to Ellen and Ding Ming Uong next to Ellen. Possibly the Foochow Theological Seminary Faculty.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



This photo appears to be taken the same day as the previous photo but a different setting. Willard and Ellen are in the middle. This is probably a photo of the Foochow Theological Seminary faculty and students in about 1900.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **March 4, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Consul Gracey arrived back to Foochow with a new wife. Ming Uong's wife gave birth to a baby girl. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
 W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
 Foochow, China, March 4th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter that my register gives started for Shelton Feb. 19th, but it seems as if I had written since then. Perhaps tho the letters which I wrote to Phebe and Flora have confused my mind, this is the forty third letter written for the foreign mail since Jan. 1st 1900, so I dare not trust anything to memory. Letters from you arrived Feb. 19th and 23rd. This must be a short note. I expect to start for Ing Hok again next Fri. March 9th to be gone over two Sundays, and if I do not get this letter off to morrow it will not go for two weeks.

Miss Wiley I suppose arrived yesterday for teaching in the City College. The mail yesterday bro't a letter from Mrs. S.L. Baldwin the Meth. lady in Brooklyn who is interested in our new church at Geu Cio Dong. She writes that \$3000 of the \$5000 is already collected, this means a new church for us this year. I have already made a move toward enlargement. The plans for our new house are just finished and I hope to talk with one contractor tomorrow.

U.S. Consul Gracey arrived yesterday with his bride. He came to the Consulate in '97 with his wife, his two sons and the wife of one son. In the Autumn his wife died. In '98 his wife's sister came out to keep house for

him but she did not like it here and last Autumn he took her to America and now returns with another lady as wife. The new wife is a close friend and parishioner of one of Ellen's neighbors in Union, Conn, also one of my college class mates. Her maiden name was Elsie Curtiss, now Mrs. (Rev.) A. Job of Kent, Conn. She has written Ellen introducing her to Mrs. Gracey.

Ming Uong is the happy father of a little daughter about two weeks old. He seems to be quite well this Spring. The Sem'y is open again with 2 classes instead of three to lighten my load a little. I consider it a very good testimony to the work the school is doing, that beside the regular students there are four men who are taking whole or partial courses this year. These men have been preachers for several years but without having taken a Sem'y course. One of them is walking over two miles to attend the classes. Two others come from places over six miles away and return for Sunday services.

Will you send me Oliver's address. I keep hoping he will write but the letter does not come, so I must write him. Your references to Annie and Olive are always most interesting to us. Annie would like our back yard now with the chickens and turkey. We are almost despairing of getting the turkey fat. It does not eat well. I think we will try it on unhulled rice and if that fails we will give the thing away.

Ellen and the children are quite well. Geraldine is a little waddler she is so fat. She does not talk yet, but understands nearly everything. She thinks Gould is about the best boy on earth. She hugs him and takes all his playthings away, pulls off his hat, pulls his hair and teases him in ways that only a girl could think of. All of which he takes as a matter of course and returning the hugging and kissing- never resisting her impositions. Phebe is quite mature in form and bearing for her age. Gould has a boy's way of crying when it is difficult to give a good reason frequently to his mother's inquiring he responds "I want you." Often he runs up to his mother and hugs her and kisses her with "My dear Mama." Phebe is getting so she nearly dresses herself- each morning. Ellen is using the Kindergarten method with them so woe is me if I teach any letters.

Give out love to Grandmother and Aunt Louise.

Take lots for yourselves

Yours

Will.



On the back in written in Ellen's handwriting: Taken March 1900.

1. Maurice Kinnear, 2. Myron Gould Beard, 3. Phebe Kinney Beard, 4. Chinese boy, 5. Eunice Kinnear, 6. Florence Kinnear, 7. Chinese girl, 8. Paul Kinnear, 9. Chinese girl, 10. Chinese married woman, 11. Chinese girl, 12. Harold Clark (son of Rev. F.E. Clark), 13. Chinese girl, 14. Rev. D. Willard Lyon.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **Apr. 18, 1900** was written by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard had to stay in bed for about ten days although he does not say why. He took another trip to Ing Hok and Gak Liang with the Clarkes and Hinmans. Word from home reveals that Willard's brother, Ben, was married. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

On River Min Below Pagoda Anchorage
On a House Boat

Wed. Apr 18th 1900

Dear Folks at Home:-

As the records are not now at hand I shall have to wait till I get home to see when the last letters were rec'd and sent.

There is a lot of news to tell this time- more than I shall be able to spin out at one time. I wrote you I think about my last Ing Hok trip from which I returned March 21st. On the 25th Dr. Willard Lyon Gen'l Sec'y for the National Y.M.C.A. of China arrived and came to our home to stay. He was on business connected with the Y.M.C.A. but made the time get in with C.E. Convention. He finally remained till Sat. April 14th. We enjoyed his stay very much indeed. He is of our generation in the College and Sem'y world and was connected with the Student Volunteer and Y.M.C.A. movement in our College days and knows some of our College friends and then he [is] about the same age in China as we are so we had good times together.

On March 29th I decided to take a little rest and remained in bed from that day till April 8th when I sat up a few hours. On the next day Mon. I sat up a little more and on the next day Tues. took a chair and went to Kuliang with Lyon and Miss Borts [Bortz]. The journey kept one out of doors all day but I took four chair bearers, and altho I got some tired the trip did me good and I slept like a brick that night. I was in bed during the whole of the Convention so I did not hear a single address. But from the reports it was a successful Convention. The delegates from other parts of China were few. But the audiences of the people in and near Foochow tested the capacity of the churches- about 1200 or 1500 in the audiences. Dr. and Mrs. L.E. Clarke of course formed the chief attraction and

Dr. Clarke spoke nearly every session beside addressing the foreigners three times in English. The Convention closed on Mon. Apr. 9th. On Wed. Apr. 11th a reception was given Dr. and Mrs. Clarke at the home of Miss Garretson in our compound. I was able to attend this.

On April 13th Fri. I started for Ing Hok with Dr. and Mrs. Clarke and Mr. and Mrs. Hinman who had come down from Shaowu to attend the Convention. We arrived at Gak Liang that night before dark with a fine wind all day. The Dr. had a cold just coming on and Sat. morning at Gak Liang he felt pretty badly with some fever and his bones all aching. We waited till 10:00 o'clock and then started in chairs for Ing Hok City. Dr. C. felt pretty badly and was afraid he was in for a siege with Influenza. These country chairs are not as easy as our sedans in Foochow and Dr. Clarke thought we were using him pretty roughly. (At Home 4/19) The last 3 miles of the journey I left my chair and put 3 men on each Dr. and Mrs. Clarke's chairs and we rushed arriving about 3:45 P.M. That night a Chinese woman physician educated under Dr. Woodhull came in to see Dr. C. and Mrs. C, gave him a hot bath and a good sweat and he felt some better in the morning but did not leave the house on Sun. This was a great disappointment to the Ing Hok Christians. We left Mon. morning at 10:00 o'clock, - and had a delightful trip down the river to the foot of the rapids where I had ordered a House Boat to meet us. Dr. Kinnear came on here and we began at once (3:30 P.M.) to tack down stream. That night we six slept on board and arrived at Mr. Hubbard's about 3:30 Tues. P.M. Dr. and Mrs. Clarke went there for the rest of the stay in Foochow. (yesterday Wed.) We all went to Diong Loh in the Pagoda Anchorage field to look at a site for opening Woman's work. There were 13 in the party. The breeze was fine last evening and we came up against the tide in the starlight- a beautiful sail, arriving at Ponasang at 8 P.M. Ellen and the children have been well all the time.

I found a letter from Father and one from Mother waiting me. My last started Mar. 24, No. 5. Ben's marriage was rather sprung on us. [*March 28, 1900 Bennett Nichols Beard married Abbie Jane Hubbell*] We have had no time to give them a present. Where are they living etc. etc. Our hearted congratulations and kisses for the bride our new sister.

The first \$1000 has come for the new ch. The rest is sure. This mail bro't a letter from the Pres. of the N.Y. State Branch. Another young lady has been appointed for work in the Pagoda Station with Miss Borts. Her name [*is*] Miss Vance.

Father's letter was exceedingly interesting. How it makes me long for a nice farm and a rest from all this turmoil. Dwight and Dr. Goddard have bought a little farm and are looking forward with much anticipation to a quiet rest.

We have had strawberries for a week. The weather is getting warm. We are now dressed just as we do on Guliang.

Give our love to all

Yours Will.



Written on back of photo: "Mr. and Mrs. Hinman and Father Endeavor Clark and Mrs. Clark on houseboat on the Ing Hok River."

[Willard is the man to the far left holding most of the pie. From Willard's letter dated June 3, 1900, we know that the pie is pumpkin pie. Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



On the back is written in Ellen's handwriting: "Taken April 1900."
 [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This typewritten letter dated **May 10, 1900** was written by Willard to the Folks at Home. He has awarded a contract to build his new house and will be paying \$3300 for it. Willard will be leaving for Ing Hok again for the Annual Meeting of that field. He tells of visiting a family at Deng Chio where a boy was said to be possessed with the Devil. Willard felt as he left the house that a good spanking would drive the evil spirit away. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
 W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
 Foochow, China May 10th. 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter that we have seen of yours arrived April 6th. almost, I mean over one month ago. I wrote you April 19th. no. 5. The mail came yesterday. I was out when it arrived. When I came in I saw lying aside from the other letters one that had a five cent stamp on it and the Shelton Post mark. It was a good fat one. So I opened and read the others reserving the home letter until last to top off on. When I opened it I found- Ben's wedding announcement. Well I knew that before. Perhaps this came to remind me that I had not yet written him our congratulations.

Since last writing you life has been even, very full of work. I have handed over one of the Seminary classes to the Second Assistant, so that I have now only one hour a day, except on Tues. when I am busy in the class room three hours. The contract for our new house was awarded last Tues. The plan is practically as I sent you some time ago. We pay for all including well and cistern \$3300. silver. The house is to be finished Oct. 15th. Beside this we have already begun to prepare for the enlargement of Geu Cio Dong. This business of itself is enough to keep one man busy, so I have to sandwich it in with the other work as best I can.

I start for Ing Hok again next Monday to be gone during the week only. This is for the Annual Meeting of the Ing Hok field. I shall simply go to the city and stay for a two days meeting and return. This will end my country work for the present. Perhaps by next Fall there will be another man to take it. Last Sunday I spent at Deng Chio the nearest chapel in the Ing Hok field. It took me four hours to go and the same time to return. I found a very flourishing work. One church organization and three day schools. All these seem to be doing good work. Sunday afternoon we went out into the country from the chapel to see a man possessed with the Devil. He was at one of the services and his father with him. Both entreated us to come to the house and pray with them. There were five Chinese Christians and myself. We read an account of Christ's casting out a Devil. Then I spoke very plainly telling them there was no other remedy but for the whole house to throw away their idols and depend upon prayer to the true God to stop their trouble. Telling them that there was no help from idols. They said they believed and were willing to destroy the idols. But at this juncture the Devil came and took possession of the boy. He began to spit blood. Seeing this his mother was frightened and called us to see. We however sat still, and after talking as much as I thought best, I suggested that we all pray. While we were standing praying the boy was trying to knock the partition down between us and him. I confess to wondering what would be the result if he should injure himself or should hurt others. This was my first experience with a case of this kind. But inspite of the entreaties of the mother and at last of the father to come and look we stood in our places until the prayers were over. I am afraid that my prayer was a little confused. I know my knees were. After saying that I would see him if it could do any good, but that I thought it might make him only the worse, we went out. As I passed the door of his room it was open. I saw him in a demonical position on the bed. The sight made me feel as if a good raw hide applied with vigor for about three minutes would drive the evil spirit away. I am more and more convinced that much of what the Chinese call devil possession is of the kind mentioned in Acts 8. I could not find as this man had ever injured himself. In the New Test. all the demoniacs injured their own bodies.

We are all as well as usual. The weather continues cool and the children are happy. [*He blacked out the following sentence: Ellen is happy with 1,000,000 silk worms at work.*] I am going to breakfast now.

Love to all
Will.

[*handwritten*]

I address a letter to Ben in this mail to Shelton.- The book that James rec'd is one that we gave Dwight to read on the steamer. He was to send it to James. Will.

[*This letter dated **May 20, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard decides that he must have had influenza in April when he was confined to bed. He talks about his trip to Ing Hok and Gak Liang. The Consul wants the missionaries to communicate with the Chinese officials through him even though they have been doing otherwise for 30 years. Ellen wants to take the children to Sharp Peak before going to the mountain this year. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, May 20th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The mail came yesterday bringing letters from you and Phebe, telling about Ben's and Abbie's wedding and trip. I wrote Ben and Abbie ten days ago and sent a letter No. 6 to Shelton the same day. Since Apr. 18th we had no word from you till yesterday.

The influenza seems to have followed Americans across the sea. Many of the missionaries and the children have had it this Spring. I suppose that was the cause of my staying in bed in April. Gould had it before I did, and the girls have both had it since. They are not well yet altho much better. Ellen seems thus far to have escaped the real disease. I hope she will not make its acquaintance.

A week ago to morrow I started for Ing Hok to hold the Quarterly Meeting with the preachers and other workers. One Pastor, two preachers and a church member went with me from Ponasang. The church member's name is Ciong Go. He is the proprietor of a large and prosperous restaurant here in the Suburbs and went with us to see the country and have a good time. For several days previous to our starting there had been heavy rains both in

Foochow and up in the country. The water in the rivers was very high. But we found a boat and started. On the way up the river we took on preachers and teachers until there were on the boat twelve of us. I have made ten trips to Ing Hok during the five years and a half that we have been in Foochow. Never before have I failed to reach Gak Liang in a day. Nor did I fail this time. The water was very strong against us and there was no wind. We reached the foot of the rapids four miles from Gak Liang at 7:30 p.m. - dark and raining. There is an Inn here, and they could put us up if we would sleep four in a bed. The men said the food was abominable, fleas numerous and hungry. A little after 8 p.m. all decided it would be better to walk on to Gak Liang than to spend the night here. The boat could not go up the rapids in the night. So we started after a little lunch. It took us three and a half hours to make the four miles. About half the path was stone steps, the other half was thro fields and over brooks and muddy. The mud was very slippery and one man, Ciong Go, said he fell nine times. Eight of the men lost the path and arrived fifteen minutes behind the other four of us who walked slower. Ciong Go said when he came into the pastors house at Gak Liang: "Preacher Ming Puong told us when we started that as he remembered the road was stone- paved all the way. I found one stone in one place, two in another place, and two in another place. That makes five doesn't it?" And then they laughed. The Gak Liang pastor had given us up and we had to wake him up. But within ten minutes of the time we arrived he had a big tub in the middle of his parlor floor with hot water in it and a number of pair of feet in it. Soon after all had washed and been fitted with the pastor's pants and shoes, a good meal was served and all were off to bed. The next morning it rained. The water was so high and swift that no boat would start up the rapids. Ing Hok was still up the river twelve miles. After much consultation, and after many expressions of sore feet and muscles we at last decided to call four chairs and take turns riding, and start to walk. The rain ceased and we had a good time going up arriving at 4:30 p.m. finding all the other workers there except one. Some of these men had always lived and stayed here in Foochow, and had previously not been afraid to walk five miles. It did them good to find out what the workers in Ing Hok have to go thro. During all the hardships I heard no word of complaint. Ciong Go whom I feared would be the first to complain was the jolliest of all, and by his good nature and jolly remarks did not a little to make the whole trip enjoyable.

We had an enjoyable and profitable meeting. Preacher Ming Puong of Sang Bo in the Ponasang station preached the opening sermon on "Faithfulness in the performance of duty." He spoke very plainly and straight to the preachers. But his message was given in love and listened to with rapt attention. He said plainly that the Holy Spirit gave him the message. The faithful performance of duty was the key note for the succeeding meetings. I spoke Wed. p.m. for half an hour to the preachers on feeding the souls of the ch. members. I enjoyed speaking and saw no one asleep. The communion was administered Thurs. p.m. and two joined the ch. Thurs. evening the farewell meeting took the form of rehearsing the benefits received during the sessions. It was nearly 10 p.m. before the meeting broke up. Many were the references to the work that Mr. Goddard had done in Ing Hok. Preacher Ming Puong held him up as an example of one who had been faithful in the performance of duty, and had left as monument of the farm of the land and buildings at Ing Hok that would never be forgotten.

We started for home Fri. a.m. at 7:30 on a boat from Ing Hok, stopping at Gak Liang to go up to the Monastery about 2 ½ miles up in the mountains. It rained all the way up and back. We all went bare foot coming down. Well I thoroughly enjoyed the whole trip. There were about four hours of suspense at Gak Liang Tues. morning while we were debating how to get up to Ing Hok. But aside from this I had a good time. It is quite possible to go off with a company of Christian Chinese and have just as good a time as with a company of one's own countrymen. Repeated too often one might get tired of it. But we joked and laughed just as if the company had been Americans. I try as far as possible to be one of them and get the restraint removed. Then the wheels run smoothly.

The mission is just now in a muss with the Consul. Two members of the mission have recently written letters to the Chinese officials. The Consul had expressed himself as not liking us to do this without his approval or rather without first consulting him. It however has been done for thirty years, by all missionaries who had occasion to communicate with the officials. The officials moreover desire us to write them direct instead of thro the Consul. Well last week two of the missionaries received documents from the Consul saying that if they persisted in this course he would withdraw their passports and the protection of the government. We are trying to make him believe that we have the right to address the officials direct. The others are doing the fighting. I am a silent partner thus far. I am going to see the Consul tomorrow on other business. There is no reason why if he is a reasonable man this fight might not be settled amiably.

Gould and Geraldine are just being prepared for bed. They are having their nightly air bath. How they do enjoy running entirely unrestricted. Gould is a wiry little fellow and twists himself into all shapes like a snake. Geraldine is perfect picture of a little cupid. Gould is much troubled with fleas and has to be covered with salve every night. The fleas do not bother the girls or me.

Ellen is talking of taking the children down to Sharp Peak next Fri. for a month before going to the mountain. I shall go down with them if they go and return immediately. The Seminary will close June 13th this year.

I see by the papers that Huntington ch. has a new minister and one of your letters I think spoke of repairing the parsonage. I hope you will write me all about the arrangements. What is his salary? Can the ch. raise it without too much trouble? Etc. etc.

Give our love to all Will.

*[This typewritten letter dated **June 3, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen and the children are at Sharp Peak for bathing in the sea. The preachers of the churches are being careful in admitting people into membership too soon. The foundation of Willard's new house is in place. Hopes are to start building the new church once extra land is purchased. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, June, 3rd. 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started for Shelton May 20th. The last one received arrived May 28th. The May 20th. letter was Nov. 7.

The last letter from mother was very interesting to me because it told so much about the different members of the family. You have no idea how we loose sight of you way over here on the other side of the earth. You move away from us and grow away from us, and marry away from us and we have hard work often to follow all of your movements and keep each one of you in place.

Week before last the mission held its Annual Business meeting. This meant an immense amount of writing for me. But I had it all out of the way before the end of the week. My annual report is also finished so I feel comparatively free just now. Altho I am not stagnating for want of work.

The Seminary has been badly neglected for three weeks now. One week it was the Ing Hok Quarterly Meeting, the next week the Business Meeting, and last week I went to the Peak with Ellen and the children. We started Tues. afternoon at 4:30 and arrived at Mr. Hubbard's at 6:30 p.m. After spending the night and the next morning with the Anchorage friends, we started again at 1:30 for Sharp Peak, arriving at 5:00 p.m. We all walked up to the Sanitarium. Geraldine allowed me to carry her only a fraction of the distance. It is fully one and a half miles. She walked fully one mile. And when she had eaten her supper she buzzed around like some wound-up toy. And even after she was in bed she had a great frolic. All the children and Ellen are quite well. They are a little pale from the heat but this will soon change to a pink under cooler sky. Ellen wanted to go to the Peak last year for the bathing for a short time before going to the mountain but her illness interfered. This year there seemed no good reason why she could not go. The last week in June they will go to the mountain. I arrived at the Peak at 6:30 Wed. evening and started away at 6:30 Thurs. morning. Wed. evening after super Mr. and Mrs. Hinman, who are now at the Peak went down to the sea with us and we all had a good wetting. I wanted very much to see the children when they first went in, but duty called me to Foochow and Ellen will have to enjoy that all alone.

I should like to be a fly on the window when you read the next sentence. Yesterday I ate four dishes of ice cream. Ate them one after the other, all full dishes. Then I slept like a brick all night. And I have enjoyed good health all day today. There is an ice machine in Foochow and when the hot weather gets pretty tedious we take this way of cooling off about once a year. Mrs. Kinnear has a freezer and the ingredients are furnished by the different ones so that the cost is less than we would have to pay at home.

This morning I preached and conducted the communion at Sang Bo. There were none to unite with the church here. The preacher and the members are extremely careful about receiving new members. This has been the point that I have thought it necessary to speak of most frequently during the past two years. Some of the churches have learned the lesson and are in danger of swinging too far the other way. This it ever is in life. We find it very difficult to maintain an even balance. Ming Uong helped me in the service this morning because the preacher had gone to his old home, Chong Ha in the Ing Hok field, with Mr. Walker, who used to be much interested in Chong Ha. Ming Uong was much pleased when I told him of mother's congratulations over the advent of his daughter, and his own recovery of health.

The Seminary closes June 13th. This is rather early, but we must go according to the Chinese moons in closing and beginning schools. There are thirteen moons in the present Chinese year. This will make the Fall term very long, so we close early this Spring.

The foundations for our new house are beginning to assume form and to look like something. We shall try to begin in earnest on the church very soon. It is important that a little more land be bought to insure the new church against fire. As soon as this is purchased we are ready to tear down, and begin building.

It is very lonely without any one in the house after being accustomed to hearing the life of three robust children. One can endure it for a little time but I have a profound sympathy for those on the mission filed without wife and children to make a place of rest – a home.

The country at home is beautiful now. The meadows are fresh in their new green, the trees are dressed in various tinted robes, the cows never have such distended udders as when feeding on June's grass, the crow is eagerly watching for the first sprout of corn, you are just thinking of "turning the oxen out to grass", and how they devour the tufts after eating dry hay for so many months, the barns are hollow and empty. It is the time between planting and hoeing when we must fix fence and work roads. I wonder if we will be a part of all this two years from now. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard are to return in the Spring of 1901. Naturally we should go the next year.

I am sending under another cover two photos of the party to Ing Hok with Dr. and Mrs. Clark. You will readily know the different ones. Dr. and Mrs. Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Hinman. The pumpkin pie needs no introduction. Please give one of the photos to the Putnam home.

Most lovingly Yours, with kind remembrance to all the friends
Will.

I have been all day today by Matt. 10/42

*[This letter dated **June 17, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen and the children are enjoying bathing in the sea at Sharp Peak. After the Seminary closed for the term Willard began to prepare it to be torn down to make way for the building of the new church. Willard makes his first reference to the "Boxers". He has heard that they have killed and injured missionaries and engineers in Northern China. International allied troops are supposed to be on their way to Peking. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, June, 17th. 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last on June, 3rd. No. 8. I received a letter from Miss Wooster, and on the 16th. one from you.

I have been lonely for two weeks now and over, except that Mr. Walker has taken his meals with me. Tomorrow I expect to be off for the Peak at daylight. I shall stay till Thurs., coming back in time for an examination for church membership on Fri. afternoon. Ellen writes that they have all been well and the children are getting to enjoy the bathing immensely. I was on the mountain day before yesterday. I think there have never been so many foreigners on the mountain at this season of the year since we have been in China, and certainly not previous to that time.

The Seminary closed last Wed. The examinations were held on Mon. and Tues. Six hours each day. I never was so glad of a vacation. After the boys had vacated the building I moved all the furniture out and over to this house, in preparation for the tearing down of the Seminary building to make room for the new Church, The Dudley Memorial. This will leave us without a home for the Seminary. Unless the Board grants us the \$2500 asked for which to erect a new Seminary I do not know what we are to do. But I do know this that I am to walk only one step at a time, and God will light the way as he wishes me to advance.

The mail yesterday brought a postal from the Treasurer of the Woman's Board stating that she had received and paid over to the Treasurer of the American Board the sum of Two hundred dollars (\$200) for the Ing Hok work. If this comes all right I am relieved of all anxiety over the financial side of the Ing Hok work for this year. This money came from Mrs. Emily Seymour of Washington. It is just the sum that the mission asked for in addition to the appropriations. I wonder if she could have heard of this request.

Last week at the examination for entrance to the church at Au Long Die one of the members asked a candidate as follows: - (I shall have to translate literally in order to bring out the force of the answer.) "After having embraced the doctrine, suppose you should meet with trouble and should come and ask the church members to help and they should refuse to do so, would you because of that renounce the doctrine?" "I do not embrace you church members, I embrace the doctrine, and the treatment that I receive from you would not effect my relation to the doctrine". This is the most "pat" answer that I ever heard at one of the examinations. It brought forth a peal of

approving laughter from all present. I received three into the church at Au Iong Die last Sunday and one at the Au Ciu church today.

Affairs in the North are very serious. The last accounts told us that the "Boxers" had killed two English missionaries and from four to seven German (?) engineers, beside badly injuring several others both men and women. British, American, French, Russian, Japanese, German, and Italian soldiers to the number of about 1000 have been landed and are on their way to Peking. This news is old enough so that the troops must have reached the Capital before this [*In reality, the foreign troops did not arrive in Peking until August 14 or 15, 1900.*]. An engagement took place between foreign troops and the "Boxers" on June 12 in which 50 of the latter were killed. The Chinese troops seem to side with the boxers. It is the general belief that the Empress Dowager is in sympathy with the rioters and secretly sending them orders to proceed with the extermination of the foreigners. It looks very much as if she has got herself into a box now tho. Russia is on hand with a large force and while acting in harmony with the other powers at Peking she is ready for any emergency. The Russian cassocks have been fired upon and wounded. It will be perfectly natural for Russia to demand reparation. But all this is rather political, practically China is at war with all the countries mentioned above. She has not as much courage as a barking dog. At the same time the power at Peking evidently thinks that a few tens of thousands of toughs with spears and tridents can drive the foreigners out of the empire. Thus does the desire for personal gain blind the eyes of the officials even to their own good. God may be taking this method to cleanse the official pot.

The people who need our sympathy most are not the foreigners who have strong military force to protect them but the poor defenseless Christians among the Chinese who have no where to go and no one to protect them. From all accounts one hundred must have been killed up to this time. China needs your prayers as never before.

The reports of the Ecumenical Conference are most interesting. How I should have enjoyed being present! I am glad that some of you could attend. I have not yet heard whether the models of the Chinese houses that I sent arrived in time or not. What an unanswerable argument this Conference was to the Globe Trotters who would have the world believe that missions have not accomplished anything! What an argument also for those who declare that Christianity has lost its force and is already dying out!

Please remember us to all the friends. It is very pleasant to hear how well grandmother is keeping. You must take a special lot of love to her and Aunt Louise.

Yours with love
Will.

*[This typewritten letter dated **June 24, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He is going to Sharp Peak and then take the family to Kuliang for the rest of the summer. They have heard of churches being torn down and Christians murdered in the north. One church in Foochow has taken their list of members out of public view for safety reasons. The missionaries from Kucheng are coming to Foochow for safety. Rumor is that Emperor Guang Seu was murdered by orders of the Empress Dowager. The children enjoy swimming in the sea at Sharp Peak. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, June, 24th. 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started a week ago today or rather I wrote it then, i.e. June, 17th. Your last I acknowledged in that. A mail came yesterday but it brought no letter.

Last Monday I went down to Sharp Peak as I wrote a week ago. I returned on Thurs. to attend an examination for entrance to the church at Sang Tung Gio. We admitted two men who were received today at the communion. Next Sunday is the last communion for this season. I expect to start for the Peak again tomorrow morning and which we wish to attend on Thurs. evening. Then Fri. morning we are off for the mountain to stay all Summer I hope. It is a hard trip down to the Peak, an all day's sit in a boat. Last week I was on the boat and going down stream at 4:30 a.m. I reached the Peak at 6:30 p.m.

There is plenty of excitement here just now. Affairs in the North are becoming more serious each day. But you doubtless get the telegrams as soon as we do here. The news that churches have been torn down and Christians murdered in several places is of most importance to us. The Church members, especially the newer ones and the weaker ones, are very much afraid. They are not afraid of the Boxers, but there is a large mass of people in and about all these eastern cities that expect to live off plunder. At such a time as this they hope for an opportunity to

work. They make all sorts of threats and these are magnified by an excited populace and it requires good sense and nerve to tell the truth and at the same time quiet the fearful.

The custom here in Foochow is for each church to write the names of the members and the church officers on a board and hang it in a conspicuous place in the church. One church has taken these down and put them out of sight, on account of a rumor that spies were about making lists of the names of church members, ready for trouble. Another pastor came to me to ask if it would be all right to omit the evening preaching service for a time. I told him I thought it would be well to omit it. This service is intended entirely for strangers and it might serve only to excite. Pastor Bang Ho of Geu Cio Dong said in regard to fears of the members, "This anxiety may prove a great blessing to us. During the China-Japan war we were very much excited, but as a result of the troubles of that time the churches were full and very many received to membership.

At five o'clock the mercury stands at 91 degrees in the coolest place in the house.

I have a note from the Consul written at 5 p.m. stating that there is no news for the past few days. The Viceroy of all provinces and other high officials have been notified that foreign soldiers have been sent to Peking to put down the Boxers and to protect the foreigners. The missionaries from Kucheng will be down this week. The latest news in the papers left the foreigners in Peking in a very anxious state. This was last Tues. As no news has come from them I have hopes that the foreign troops have reached there and they are safe. There was a report yesterday to the effect that the Emperor Guang Seu [*or Guangxu*] had been killed by order of the Empress Dowager while he was trying to escape from the palace. I hope this is also only a rumor.

Last Monday was Phebe's fifth birthday. Ellen gave her a little party which however came off on Tues. because Mr. Peet's children were to arrive at the Peak on that day. There were Hubbards, five; Peets, three; Kinnears, five and Beards three at the party. It would have done you good to see those children eat. Everything passed off very pleasantly without a cry from the little ones, and all expressed themselves as having had a very pleasant time. A large wax doll which arrived from Putnam two weeks ago was the present that caused looks of envy from the eyes of the other little folks, but Phebe is very generous with it and does not object to another person holding the doll for a time. Gould however thinks that he should be entitled to a doll and to a "girl doll". He has not cried for ribbons yet.

Wed. afternoon we were all down for a bath in the sea. Gould goes in like a duck. It makes no difference to him whether any one else is with him or not. He fairly enjoys the waves. He sits down in the water or gets on his knees where it is a foot deep and waits for the waves to strike him. The waves dash over his whole body sometimes wetting his head but he counts it only fun. The other day he had his mouth open as one struck him. His mouth was filled with salt water but it was all the same- only fun. Geraldine likes her bathing suit on but she wants the water a long distance away.

Remember us to all the friends, With much love, Will.

[This typewritten letter dated July 1, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard found the people at Sharp Peak anxious about the news from the North regarding the Boxers and these people did not think it safe for him to go back to Foochow. They did return but there was a flood which caused houses to float away and 3 spans of the Bridge of Ten Thousand Ages to wash away. The church is helping feed the unfortunate. He is concerned that the Allied troops have not yet reach Peking. He feels the flood in Foochow is diverting their attention from the Boxer problem. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, July, 1st. 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a letter last Sunday, just before going to Sharp Peak. No mail has come this week. It has been a week full of excitement. The trip down to the Peak was a quick and pleasant one, a good wind in my favor all the way. I made the forty miles in five hours, found the wife and children all right. But I also found the other people so wrought up over the news that came from the North, that they were unwilling to have us start for Foochow as we intended to do on Wed. morning. I had written the Consul that last thing Sunday afternoon and received his reply that in Foochow everything seemed to be quiet, that officials were taking all possible steps to suppress any disturbance that might appear, in its earliest stage. But rumors were thick and of all kinds. They had reached the Peak. There is a Telegraph station at the Peak and of course the operators are not allowed to tell any news that comes over the wires. All sorts of interpretations were put on the "reticence" of the operators when news was talked

of in their presence and some of the people had worked themselves into a state far from quiescent. To pacify them I promised to write the Consul again and ask him if he thought it wise to move to Guliang. Mr. Peet, Mrs. Hubbard and Miss Hartwell were going to Foochow to get their valuables and lay in a supply of food for the Summer. They took the boat that we intended to go up in on Wed. They started Tues. The boat got back to the Peak on Wed. afternoon, bringing a note from the Consul to the effect that Foochow was as quiet as usual, and no alarm felt by Consuls and merchants. So we were on the boat Thurs. morning at 7:30 starting for Foochow. The wind was very high and right in our faces. It was necessary to tack. The waves were ten feet high and our boat was a mere top on their crests and in their troughs. At times they broke over the whole bow and drenching everything. We were able to keep dry however, but the river soon demanded our breakfast. Every one of us succumbed. We stood it til about 9:30 o'clock, when Ellen thought it was better to stop and wait for smoother water. We anchored till 8:00 p.m. and started again with a gentle breeze that lasted for tacking till midnight, when we were at the Anchorage (Pagoda). Then the river turns and brings the wind in our favor. It was raining some all the time and was quite dark. The children slept fairly well. But we preferred to keep our eyes open. We had a good breeze and seemed to be fairly spinning thro the water. But looking at the shore we moved very slowly. Then the boat seemed to strike an obstruction, which proved to be drift wood. It was then that we perceived that there was a big flood in the river, and it was necessary to keep the sharpest lookout to avoid a catastrophe. At five o'clock we were within a mile of our house, but all was water. The wind had died down and it was impossible to get the boat up to the usual landing, so we went up a creek which flows into the river about a mile below Foochow, and which winds about and goes within half a mile of our compound. The rain now began to fall in torrents. We could find no place to land. At last we found a small boat that engaged to take us to a place where we could wade and get to the house. We dared not think of taking any of our things except what could be put into my little hand bag. Ellen took off her dress skirt and her shoes and her hat. I was also minus shoes and hat. The children in the same condition. We were on this small shell of a boat for nearly an hour trying one way and another to get to a path on which we could walk to the house. We fully expected to have to wade for some distance in water knee deep. But fortunately we hit upon a way that took us to within three minutes walk of the house and there was no water on the stone road. We reached the house at 9:30. This was nine hours and a half from the Anchorage, a trip that ordinarily is made in three hours. But we were safe in the old home again and were profoundly thankful that God had kept us from harm.

When we started we fully expected to arrive in time to attend a wedding in the Meth. mission on Thurs. evening. We found Mr. and Mrs. Hinman at Ponasang. They had come down from Guliang the day before and attended the wedding. Fri. morning the water was so deep on the road to Guliang that after two attempts to cross the plain they had given it up. We were prisoners on the little hill, now an island, of Ponasang. Our boy knew we were coming and bought provisions for a day or two. The Hinmans had almost no food. We have been living tho thus far quite comfortably. A shipment of goods from San Francisco had just arrived and with this to help we are all right.

The rain continued to fall all day Fri. and Sat. and today it still falls lightly. The water rose to heights that the oldest inhabitants never knew. People who lived on the lower ground moved into the lofts of their houses, only to be driven to the roofs, then to be carried off by the water if they were not fortunate enough to find a boat to save them. All sorts of furniture goes down the current right over the rice fields. Many houses have fallen and have been washed away. In one ward out of sixty houses twelve are now standing. From what I hear I should judge that the number of the drowned would reach into the hundreds just here in the Suburbs. Many high mud walls have fallen and killed persons who were near them. In some places where two mud walls twenty feet high stood on either side of a narrow street, they have fallen and nearly to get about some. Three spans of "The Bridge of a Thousand Ages" have gone down before the mighty force of the water. The rice crop is nearly destroyed.

We prayed yesterday morning that we might find some way to help the poor sufferers. Mr. and Mrs. Hinman wanted to get to the mountain very badly. So I sent a man out to find a boat to take them over the rice fields. He said the boats were all engaged in rescuing people from the tops of houses. He chanced to mention that a great number of poor people all drenched had taken shelter in a temple on a hill near us. These people had nothing to eat. I at once called the pastor of Geu Cio Dong and consulted with him about a feeding them. So we are feeding about 500 people yesterday and today. I hope by tomorrow they will be able to care for themselves.

This morning a man came over from Ha Puo to say that one of the fire walls there on our property had begun to go over. Fortunately it was coming over on to our own property. It will cost me \$60 or over to put it up. I had a mason go over and pull it down immediately so it should do no harm to any one.

News from the North is scarce. The last we hear Seymour had tried with a few hundred soldiers to go to Peking and relieve the Foreigners. He had not been able to reach the city and was obliged to turn about and fight his way all the way back with the loss of fifty or more of his men. This is very bad. All the ministers and the merchants and the missionaries and their families, beside the missionaries from Cheefoo are in Peking. We have not heard from them for three weeks. All communication by rail or telegraph is cut off. We know that large numbers of the

Church members there have been murdered, together with many of the servants of the foreigners. George Wilder and his wife are there. Lyon and his wife I think are in Tientsin, which is safe.

A colporteur [*colporteur*] told me yesterday that the other day as he was selling books he was told to put those Christian books out of sight. They were of no more use. The church was about to be destroyed. If he did not keep still about his Christian doctrine they would throw him into the river. But he talked calmly to the men and the crowd subsided. The flood has diverted attention for the present.

[*handwritten*]

Mon Evening. Letters from Phebe and mother came today. We expect to start for Guliang tomorrow morning. Flood did much more damage then I knew of yesterday.

Love to all
Will

[This typewritten letter dated July 8, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The flood in Foochow and the Boxer problems in the North have made church audiences small. The flood caused more damage than Willard previously thought and thousands may have been killed. News from Peking is that the foreigners are in the British Legation and are under heavy artillery fire. Some in Foochow are leaving for Japan out of fear. Others, including Willard's family, are going to Kuliang for the summer. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, July, 8th. 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote you one week ago today, I think. No letters have arrived since then. We were surrounded with water at that time waiting for a chance to go to the mountain. The water subsided on Monday and we got off for the mountain on Tues. morning. I came down yesterday to hold communion at Dung Song. One man was received. The troubles in the North and the rumors that result from them in Foochow made the audience small. The disasters from the flood perhaps were as great a cause as the other two.

After the water went down I learned that the flood had done more damage than we knew of at the time of writing last week. There is one place between here and the city where the houses on both sides of the road are swept away as clean as if a fire had burnt them. About one hundred houses were thus carried away. Between Ponasang and the foot of the mountain Ellen counted 36 places where walls had fallen. In some of these places a dozen houses had been crushed. Coming down yesterday I took a different road to go to the city. In one place the idol temple had fallen. The idols lay staring into sky, about a dozen of them, perfectly helpless. The preacher from Upper Bridge was down yesterday and said that a temple there had been washed away. The people said there was no good in worshipping such idols as those, that could neither care for themselves nor their houses.

It is very difficult to estimate the loss of life. I think I wrote of hundreds last week. It must be in the thousands. Thousands beside are left homeless and with nothing to eat. The friends of many of those who lost their lives could not procure coffins for burial. A subscription of 3500 has been raised among the merchants and other foreigners for the relief of the sufferers.

News from the North is still scarce. We have heard from Peking this week. Sir Robert Hart sent a courier from there with the news that the foreigners were in the British Legation [*embassy*], under heavy artillery fire. He thought they could hold out for 24 hours. Later all the legations were ordered out of Peking. This looks a little as if China was preparing to go to war with the powers. Of course you know the German Minister has been killed and that the Germans retaliated by burning the Tsung Li Yamen. The report is that Germany is sending a large fleet out here to see about matters. It looks very much as if this time matters would not be "patched up." My worst fears are that the powers will get to quarrelling among themselves over the trouble and then the latter state will be worse than the former. [*The book, The Boxer Rebellion, by Diana Preston, gives a thorough account of the events taking place in Peking.*]

Thus far in Foochow there is outward quiet. Every one feels the gravity of the situation tho, and some are going to Japan. Rumors continue, altho the flood has dampened the ardor of those who were fostering them. God has given them something else to do and something else to talk about in the distress from the flood.

Owing to the flood and the serious news from the North the celebrations on the Fourth were very meager. Gould teased for a bunch of firecrackers. We bought a bunch. Then he wanted them fired off immediately. I lit some of them. As soon as the noise began he ran to his mother and hid his face in her dress. We do not know what has

made him so afraid of firecrackers, unless it be that Phebe has always been afraid of them and he has caught her fear. Two years he just shouted when he heard them. He would nearly climbed over the veranda railing to get to them. I think however that he begins to realize that it is not manly to be so afraid. And I think another year will see him all right again.

While Ellen was at the Peak Mr. Walker went to our mountain cottage. We expected he would go to the Peak soon after we came to the mountain. But when we arrived at our house on the mountain and he found how many were in the sanitarium at the Peak he wanted to stay at the mountain. So we told him to stay as long as [he] wished to. This makes it a little crowded for us. But this is compensated by his being there for company for Ellen while I am away, as at this time.

Owing to the situation the people from Amoy have not yet come to Guliang. Most of the Foochow contingent is there, and the mountain begins to appear lively. Our chapel is in good condition and experts say it will stand the typhoons. Our new house is progressing slowly. The foundation is nearly finished. The money for the Dudley Memorial Church is slow in coming and the present troubles are not conducive to rushing things of that sort. So we are only planning as yet.

I know you are remembering us and this poor old wreck of a country in every prayer. May God have mercy on China. And may he control in the deliberations of the powers in regard to this country.

Very affectionately Yours

Will.

*[This letter dated **July 29, 1900** was written from Shanghai, China by Dr. H.N. Kinnear to Willard (Bro Beard). Dr. Kinnear, as a physician, advises Willard to move his family to Japan as soon as possible so that Willard would be away from the strain of the current situation and be better rested to resume work in the fall. Dr. Kinnear describes the challenge of getting to Shanghai. The letter is updated by Dr. Kinnear saying that the situation is sounding worse than before. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

From The
Treasurer of Foochow Mission
A.B.C.F.M.

Shanghai, July 29th 1900

Dear Bro Beard-

I was not at all satisfied with my own failure to communicate with you at the mountain a week ago- but the rush of getting off used all of the time and I write now to send on the next down steamer- by this time you have probably heard of all the reasons pro and con that led us to get our families away, and of the time we had at Pagoda- and will know how many of the reasons for our going apply to you- It seems to me that everything that influences us should have about the same weight with you- with the additional one that you have staid closely at Foochow- a long time and need the change of a summer away- It is a long way from a picnic to go off this way and I doubt if there is a man in the crowd that would not prefer to go back if the reasons for leaving the port did not still hold good, but we are all fully convinced that we have done the wisest thing.

I am writing all this to say that in view of the fact that the end of the business is not in sight, - that it is summer when we ought to be resting in quiet- that the nerve strain of hearing rumors of trouble one day and of safety the next- is bound to unfit you for work in the autumn- that in case of trouble it is difficult to move a family quickly- that you are in a condition demanding nerve rest- which cannot be had on Chinese soil this summer,- I urgently advise that you move your family to Japan as soon as you can come. This is my advice as physician- and I have no hesitation in saying that the mission will uphold you in acting upon it. There may be no trouble in Foochow- but there will be anxiety until matters are settled.

I think we get no new or important light upon the subject here, but the magnitude of the trouble grows upon one and it all seems more real and more terrible than it did at Foochow. The steamer that we came up on, the "Hsin Fung"- was at Taku- at the time of the bombardment- and some of the officers went on shore in the morning and brought away some relics (?)- a new Mannlicher rifle- a Nordenfelt taken from the hands of a dead Chinese- an officers sword- a shoot sword- piece of an exploded shell and the feeling that seeing the things and talking with people here gives me - is that a war is on that means a great deal- rather than a local uprising that will soon be over. Of course such impressions must be taken for what they are worth only. The most significant thing I have heard here was told me by Mr. Lyman. He says that Chan Chi Tsing[?] has notified the foreigners in his province that he fears he cannot control his troops more than a week longer and requested them to leave as rapidly as possible- and three hundred missionaries are expected in S. during the next few days as a result. My motion is that if he cannot

control his well-disciplined troops- no viceroy can, and that the Hunan hatred of foreigners may be pretty certainly depended upon to show itself if an opportunity is given. If this is true, there is no reason for assurance that there will be no trouble in Foochow which did not hold at Peking and Tientsin- before trouble commenced.

Here at Shanghai there is no undue anxiety felt- trouble is not expected and yet there is a serious appreciation of the seriousness of the situation, and no one makes light of the possibilities. There are 5000 well drilled troops, and at the arsenal beyond the city are a lot of arms and ammunition. There is an enormous amount of loot here, and of course, the full allowance of bad Chinese, good forts protect the entrance of the river which is easily stopped- and the few gun boats here at any one time, would find it difficult to take care of the large community of foreigners here- so even here it is not all one sided- in favor of the foreigners. The volunteers have been increased until there is quite a company- but there is a limit to the number of bullets they can fire.

We have had a hard week getting here. Monday P.M. took house boat for Pagoda- arriving in the evening, settled at Hubbard house for the night- early in the morning Tuesday- we saw the Lacy party (Misses Glenck, Longstreet, Mrs. Bosworth, Mrs. Plumb-Simesters and Lacy's coming up the walk. They had one servant- but our men had not been paid and staid by- so we got bread etc from Manni[?] and managed to live. We expected to sail Wed. morn'g but were told sailing was delayed, so made beds at the woman's school and Borts house for the crowd, leaving Hubbard house for the Peets who came Tues. ev'g. We did not live like princes but got along as well as any crowd would under the circumstances. We commenced getting to ??- moving baggage over Wednesday morning and kept three sampans busy during the P.M. The cap't gave different hours of sailing to different persons, but we supposed he would really start Thursday but finally he hoisted one anchor at 5 P.M. Wednesday while I was at customs jetty waiting for sampan to come back for us. However we got on board- an officer gave up his cabin with one berth and lounge to Mrs. Plumb and our family- but we found it too hot to sleep in and with most of the party slept in saloon or on deck- leaving Chinese girl and two of children in cabin. Had trouble finding anyplace to stay but Dr. Wilcox has had rooms reserved for the M.E. party at the Astor house, and by doubling up they let us in. I never expected to put up here by [*but?*] am forced to do so now. We have a room with a ¾ bed and lounge. By putting bed and lounge together Mrs. K and the three youngest can sleep under the large netting the rest of us sleep on the floor on steamer rugs etc. If you come and get in late in P.M. pay your board on steamer for night- then go to union church to reception Com who are looking out for missionaries. If a man comes on steamer with yellow badge, he is the member of Com sent to meet you. They are finding great difficulty in finding places for people and it will be useless for you to try to find a place in any other way.

Yesterday morning Peet and I went out to get passage and the best we could do was a French mail sailing Wed. on Thom. If you can get the big liners a second class passage wh. we got is good enough- for any body. Later in the day Lacy tried to get tickets for his party at the place and they refused to sell saying that they had had forty five applicants already and were only sure of having seventeen berths to sell.

Thus far we find Shan. cooler than Foochow- but the steamer was terrific- we brought our party here in rickshas and Buo-ing nearly put her jaw out of joint grimacing at the novelty of riding that way. She is proving an invaluable help to us on the journey and seems to be taking in a good deal.

Hoping you will get away soon. I remain

Yours truly

H.N. Kinnear [*Hardman N. Kinnear*]

I will send you a letter from Kobe fr. Mr. Evans- advising you as to where to go in Japan- providing I can get an information of use to you. In the absence of such a letter buy S.S. ticket to Kobe and go to the girls college.

Monday Mng.

Dear Beard- Things are said to be more serious here this mng. Massacres reported from just south of Fukien- in Che Kiang by our old friends the vegetarians- and from We an Hung chan. It is said that cannons are being put on the wall of the native city here and people are expecting trouble before long. In view of this and of the fact that it will be almost impossible to get passage from here hereafter- you better go to Hong Kong I fancy and take steamer from there. It will be more expensive but safer I think.

Yours in hast-

H.N. Kinnear

[*Added by Willard before forwarding on to the U.S.:*]

Dear Folks at Home:-

This letter written a year ago may be of interest to you. It will at least give you another glimpse of the factors in the problem that we had before us at that time.

I am writing this July 3rd at 10:30 a.m. I expected to be at Guliang by this time. But a flood makes me prisoner. I enclose Ellen's last note written Monday (July 1st) evening. The flood will injure rice crops seriously but it will help stop the plague.

Lovingly,

Will.

*[This letter dated **July 29, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The missionaries have been advised to leave Foochow and many have left for Japan or the U.S. Willard at first planned to leave but found many missionaries on Kuliang had not and they now had more updated information on the situation. The Chinese Christians have been openly told that they will be killed but local officials are keeping control. Willard states in his letter the three reasons why he decided not to evacuate his family from China. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, July 29th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

July 20th I wrote last. It seems ages since we have heard from you. The last letter arrived July 2nd.

These have been anxious days for the whole community. Many have decided to leave for safer places. I wrote you of the anxiety felt on July 17 and 18, and how near some of the people came to deciding to leave then. Mr. and Mrs. Main and Dr. and Mrs. Skinner of the Meth. Mission left on Sat. July 21st. Mr. and Mrs. Main and two children for Japan. Dr. and Mrs. Skinner and two children for the U.S. owing to Mrs. Skinner's health. On that day some of the people were in Foochow and the next day, one week ago today they asked for a meeting of American citizens to discuss the situation. It seems that many of the pastors and preachers of the Meth. mission strongly advised the departure of the missionaries on the ground that it would lessen the danger of the Chinese Christians if we were out of the way. The Consul also advised our going. In view of these two considerations I advised leaving Foochow, but said I would not take the first steamer. I wanted first to get some of our more important property at Ponasang, then go with Ellen and the children to Pagoda Anchorage and unless the situation changed take a later steamer for somewhere- perhaps Japan, perhaps America. With this plan in our minds, I went down to Foochow Mon. July 25th, and arranged money and other matters for leaving the port and sent for a lot of things to be taken to Pagoda Anchorage expecting that about half of our Am. Board people would go to the Anchorage that afternoon, and I returning to the mountain that afternoon would go the next morning to the Anchorage with the rest. Well, I was sorry, after I had been in Foochow and had talked with Chinese both Christian and heathen, that we had decided to go. So I was prepared to rejoice when I got back to Guliang and found not one of our mission had left. They had heard better news from other sources than the news of Sunday and decided to wait till I returned before moving. I strongly advised remaining quietly here as long as present conditions existed. So here we are still. Dr. Kinnear and Mr. Peet have gone with their families to Japan. Mrs. Hubbard on Fri. wrote asking us to go with her and their children leaving Mr. Hubbard at Pagoda for a time, but we declined. About 40 ladies of the Zenama Society, England are ordered home without option by the home society. Some of them refuse to obey and will remain. A cablegram came arrived from Boston on Fri, "Hartwell, Foochow Mission leave if best." This is equivalent to authorizing us to use our own judgment. The Consuls all say there is no danger. The French Consul has not called the French Priests in from the country. The business men feel safe. Not one has even moved his family from the port. The families of most of them are here on the mountain with us. The wife and daughter of our U.S. Consul are here with us. This however is not saying that there is no danger. There is a large amount of very threatening talk in Foochow, and the villages near. We are told openly that we are to be killed. The Chinese Christians are continually told this. July 8th was set for the day. Then July 14th. Then the City and Suburbs were placarded notifying and calling on the people to rise and destroy Christians and foreigners and all churches and foreign buildings on July 26th. These dates have all passed and there has been no damage done. The rabble are kept down by the officials. It is due to the vigilance of the officers and to this alone that there had been no outbreak. The higher officials dressed in citizens clothes go about the streets with soldiers also in common apparel, and if any one is heard talking in threats he is beaten on the spot and perhaps imprisoned. A threat was made on our house at Ponasang, but the official on hearing it immediately went himself and put a special guard there. A week ago today services were held as usual in

the churches with good audiences. I learned yesterday that at Geu Cio Dong one man will join the church today. This was a rebuke to my weak faith. I had said to my self that at this communion there would be no additions surely. Think what it means. Streets placarded with notices that all church members are to be killed. These ch. members told every day that they are about to die. A large element of the population crazy for plunder and rapine, kept from acts of violence only by fear of the officials! In the midst of this a man voluntarily casting in his lot with these despised ones.

It may be a mystery to you why we do not leave. There are three reasons for our staying as long as we think it not absolutely necessary to leave. 1. It will take a lot of money to go away and money is not any too plenty now. It will also involve the loss of more or less personal property to leave. 2. It is the worst time in the year to take children away. The steamers are all crowded, the hotels in all the ports are jammed. Japan is full of refugees from China already. It would be a hard pull on our own physical strength to take the family away. 3. And chief. It will be a great injury to the Chinese Church. I have not yet explained to my own satisfaction why the Chinese pastors and other helpers advised some of the missionaries to leave. I know only that these advisers had received three months pay in advance and that, altho they promised to stay and work on as usual, they were all gone two days after they had received their pay. One incident will suffice to show how our action influences the Chinese. I told Ming Uong last Monday that we expected to go to Pagoda and possibly farther. He immediately said he was going to take his wife and sisters off into the country. He moved his wife to his fathers home that evening. The next morning he heard we were not going. He wrote me he had decided not to move his wife and sisters. Mr. Lacy and Mr. Simester and families with several single ladies sailed with Dr. Kinnear and Mr. Peet. Following the departure of these was a great exodus of Chinese Christians from the city to the country. Our coolie refused to stay at the house at Ponasang, but when he found we were not going he went back all right. I earnestly hope God will allow us to remain.

Of news from Peking there is none. It is futile to write our fears. The last heard from them direct was on June 24th. They were then calling piteously for help. One can hardly call on God to have mercy on the perpetrators of the crimes committed in this Empire during the past month. It must be as Christ prayed on the cross- "for they know not what they do." The weather has been perfect on Guliang this month. We have had no rain since July 3rd. Rain is badly needed now to save the potatoe crop all thro this part of the country. My right hand man was down from Ing Hok yesterday. He said the disturbed condition of the country was second in importance to the high price and scarcity of food. In one place about fifty miles beyond Ing Hok people are reported to be starving. In Foochow rice is \$7. per load when it was \$5. a few months ago. This of course agravates the other trouble.

We have all been quite well this Summer. Mr. Walker is still with us. It has been very much to my peace of mind, and to Ellen's also, that he has been here for company for her in this troublous time while I have had to be away.

The Guliang Convention began this P.M. with the preaching service at 5 o'clock. I have a meeting Wed. afternoon. The audience will be small this year compared with the past few years.

The children are in their night gowns and are making noise enough for you to hear if your ears were keen enough. Geraldine is not a whit behind when it comes to making a noise. She has to stop periodically and run to me with "Papa, ba" whatever that means. We have not yet taken her to church. She is now trying to drink from a tall quart bottle that we keep water in. It's too much for her.

You are all at home now on vacations. Haying is almost over. Picnics and visiting are about to begin. I hope you will find time for a word now and then to us.

God is very near and real these days. It is a great comfort to know that you are all praying for us.

With Love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 5, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard has heard that men of Shaowu looted churches, Christian houses and foreigners houses. Damage was done to the houses and churches and some of the missionaries belongings were burned. More than 1/2 the members of 2 of the churches have turned away from the church. Willard and Ellen are keeping calm in the midst of the troubles in China. Since the flood they are now having a drought and crops are drying up. News sounds more hopeful from Peking. However, nine foreigners were killed in Shansi. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, Aug. 5th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last week has brought a letter from you and two from Putnam. I wrote a week ago today. The important event of the week has been the news of the looting of the churches, Christian's houses and foreign houses at Shaowu. No persons were injured. The raid was made Tues. July 24th beginning in the afternoon and continuing thro the night. The walls and roofs of the buildings are left. Doors, windows, partitions and floors were taken away or destroyed. All the winter clothing of our missionaries was burned together with their books and any other things the looters did not care for. The looters were Shaowu men, gamblers and others who hated the right and who wanted to plunder. The first news reached us last Monday morning at breakfast time by special messenger. The next day but one other letter came telling more details and saying that everything had been quiet till the letter from the Consul to the Foochow officials telling them that missionaries could not communicate directly with the Chinese officials, arrived. Then the rabble began to say this letter allowed of the looting of churches and houses, and the talk was put into action. The Shaowu pastor, evangelist and a Chinese Christian, a druggist, arrived yesterday. During the raid they had recognized twenty men whose names they gave the Shaowu magistrate. He himself told these three men that because of the information given their lives were in danger, and requested that they leave for a time. This magistrate at the time of the raid did all in his power to avert the raid and had his chair broken in pieces by the raiders and was obliged to walk back to his yamen. The other local officials did not help him in his good efforts. I do not know what you may have heard concerning this matter. Mr. Walker cabled the Board of the destruction of the property. Many of the Chinese Christians lost everything, but no one was injured. The Catholic mission fared the same as ours. At the time there were three French Priests in Shaowu. They escaped and are in Foochow. These are the facts of this case and I think all the important facts.

Now as to the bearing of this raid on the situation in Foochow. Probably it will not affect the situation here at all. The raiders were Shaowu men- not even a secret society. They are known and are already alarmed at what they have done. The Viceroy promises immediate punishment and we have proofs of the carrying out of his good promises.

This morning the Pastor and evangelist conducted the Chinese service here on Guliang. They were themselves living examples of the power of God's Holy Spirit to keep in the hour of peril. Their earthly goods are all gone. They are in personal danger of life. Yet the pastor's prayer was only of praise and Thanksgiving to God for his wonderful grace that sustains. The only petition was that God would in mercy forgive sins. Preacher Diong's testimony to the comforting and sustaining power of God was beautiful. He said that most of the church members were standing true. Some had rejected Christ- torn down the Sabbath calendar and put up the ancestral tablets.

I received word on Thursday that a raid had been made of the Deng Chio chapel- the one nearest Foochow in the Ing Hok field- four seats had been taken away. This also is only local. With this exception all places in and about Foochow are quiet so far as I can learn.

I went down to Ponasang day before yesterday. Miss Garretson went with me. Everything was perfectly quiet and natural all the way. We took dinner at Ponasang. I went in the streets as usual and with the exception of a soldier once every few doors, I should have noticed nothing to make me think of anything unusual. One man joined the church at Geu Cio Dong last Sunday. At Ha Puo Ga where Ming Uong's father is, the morning audience numbered 135. Ninety attended the Christian Endeavor in the evening. The members of two churches, Au Ciu and Sang Tung Gio, are much alarmed. More than half are turning away from the faith. The other churches have fair audiences. This is a terrible testing time for our churches. We know now who are the true and who the fake. There is a clear line of demarcation. I hope in all your prayer for us you will not forget the Chinese Christians, both those who are strong in the faith and those who are weak.

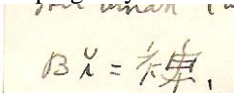
I wrote you last week of the departure of Messrs. Peet, Kinnear, Lacy, Simester, Wilcox, Miner and Ohlinger with their families, beside a number of young ladies. Dr. Kinnear writes practically ordering us to leave, lest the fear and worry of remaining here will be too hard for us. Mr. Lacy also writes to some of the Methodists remaining, to leave. But we feel it our duty to remain as long as conditions do not change. Of worry or anxiety we have very little. It is certainly true that God gives peace of mind to those who put their trust in him. There is no can't about this. It is based on hard cold fact and real experience. I have always called myself cowardly in this realm. And I must confess that I did not months ago dare hope for such a calm mind- not an hour's sleep has been lost this Summer over fear or anxiety. Ellen testifies to the same keeping power.

Today our Convention closes with a sermon and the communion conducted by Mr. Walker. The numbers this year have been few but we have had good meetings. One year ago today- just at the close of the Convention week, we had in our house 24 typhoon refugees. Today is a beautiful calm- not very hot day. We have had no rain here since the flood. The potatoes are drying up and on the plain many of the rice fields are dry and hard. They are too far from the river or too high for water to be pumped into them. What a year this is for China! Flood, insurrection, drought! But it is all working together for good, thro God's wise guidance, and the Kingdom of God in

this Empire will come, and his church will be the purer and the stronger for these trials. Thus far the Chinese converts in this place and the surrounding country have been exceptionally free from persecution. There have been individual cases, but even these have seldom been severe. In the history of the church, it has always and everywhere had to pass thro trial to gain success that was lasting.

Thus far self supporting churches are caring for themselves with one exception. I am helping the Au Ciu preacher.

The children and Ellen continue well. Phebe and Gould want to go to church regularly. Ellen took Geraldine once this past week. She did credit to her bringing up. She is developing very fast. Her amah takes great

pride in her accomplishments. The other day she told me her name was Bi . When she cannot express her thoughts in words she resorts to pantomime. She tried to tell her mama, Phebe was asleep. She could say "Pebe" but "sleep" was beyond her depth, so she dropped her head and closed her eyes. She wants me to take her on the veranda each night and rock her to sleep in the cool breeze. Ellen is very careful to have a blanket thrown over her. One evening this had not been done. So she said "Papa" and rubbed her chest with her hand saying "No, No" and shaking her head.

Mr. Walker is still with us and puts up with the three bairns quite graciously. During the past week about 25 of the Zenana ladies have left for home or for Japan. This quite thins the ranks on the mountain. These ladies were compelled to leave at the arbitrary cablegram from England. The tea merchants and some of the Consuls (Russian and French) are on the mountain with their families. They are comparatively little concerned about the situation. One of them told me the other day that all the Chinese compradores=the foreigner's Chinese agent= were perfectly confident that there would be no trouble. All these men are moneyed men and they would not risk in business ventures if they thought trouble would come.

The telegram of yesterday stated that the Legation in Peking were safe 7/27. That Boxers were fighting each other and Imperial troops fighting them- about 55,000 allied troops started for Peking from Tientsin three days ago. The N. China Herald came this morning and altho it was Sunday we felt justified in learning all we could of the situation. Its tone is very hopeful. The most serious item of news for us is the reported massacre of nine foreigners [Author/Missionary, Donald MacInnis wrote in green ink here "Che Kiang and Shansi."] in the province just north of us. It looks also as if our missionaries in Shansi were called to receive their crowns.

Trusting God for daily protection and guidance With love to all Will.

[This letter dated **Aug. 12, 1900** was written from Guliang (Kuliang), Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The main concern in Foochow is the drought. The 55,000 allied troops won a battle against the Boxers. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Guliang, Foochow, Aug. 12th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last Sunday. No letters have arrived since then. Thursday I went from here down the mountain to Pagoda Anchorage to Miss Borts house where our "valuables" were taken three weeks ago when so many left Foochow and when we came so near leaving Guliang and going to Pagoda. I had not see the things since they left Ponasang and I wanted to know their condition. Three other gentlemen went with me. They wanted to see the road down to Pagoda directly from Guliang in case a hurried exit from Guliang should be necessary. We started at 5:30 A.M. arriving at Pagoda at 10:00 A.M. The last half hour we were in a boat crossing the river. I worked every moment while there rearranging things. At 12:30 we were on our way back. We could take the boat to a point a little nearer the port of the mountain than we took it coming down. The tide was against us and it was 2:50 P.M. before we left the boat. 5:30 found us up the mountain about 1 ½ miles from home in the company of nearly all the Americans on the mountain who had come out to meet us - with coffee, water and a lunch. My feeling at the sight of those coffee and water bottles made me think of the way a car load of cattle rushes for drink after they have been on the car twenty four hours. The day was frightfully hot and one quart bottle of water for four pedestrians did not go far. We drank some of the brook water by the way, but even this did not quench thirst. I have not been worth much since. I think tho it was the sitting in a cool breeze at the lunch rather than the walk, for Ellen and Mr. Walker have both had trouble with their bowels since then. Mr. Walker and E. are nearly well and I am on the mend. Geraldine has been troubled in the same way for over a week - a little better now. Phebe and Gould are well. We have another boarder- a young man who only takes his meals here.

Foochow has remained quiet during the week. The greatest source of anxiety here now is drought. There has been almost no rain since the flood July 1st. Potatoes and rice are feeling it very much. Some of the rice is already dead, and the leaves of the potatoe vines are curling up. Friday there was a fire on the island between the bridges in Foochow suburbs. But I hear only a native custom house and five boats anchored near were destroyed.

The pastor, evangelist, and druggist who were down from Shaowu last week have returned with letters from the Consul and the Viceroy. It is hoped they may be able to begin repairs on some of the buildings before long.

One battle between the Boxers and the 55,000 allied forces was reported as having taken place last Sunday. The losses among the allies were heavy but they won the victory. The safety of other parts of China depends upon the victories of this army.

How we do long for letters from you, and it seems as if there never was such a dearth of them. Picnics are in vogue in the home land now. But we know that altho not many letters come from you, you remember this poor battered, sinking Empire and that you are praying for her and specially for us. We are now praying that God will not allow this crisis to pass without opening the way for the progress of His Gospel thro out the Empire. There must be a terrible upheaval before the existing order of things can allow the Truth to enter and control all circles. May it be at this time is our prayer.

With Love to all.

Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 19, 1900 was written from Guliang (Kuliang), Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. There has still been no rain. Willard's family along with some of the other missionaries hiked to the Kushan Monastery. Telegrams tell them that the Allied troops entered Peking on August 15 and all of the diplomats are safe and the Empress Dowager and Emperor have fled. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Guliang, Foochow, China
August 19th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a week ago today. August 14th a letter came from you. Every thing has gone as usual during the week here in Foochow- too much as usual. No rain has fallen yet, except one or two little showers that did not wet down an inch. Some rice is ruined, much is injured. The same is true of potatoes. To day about 200 mountaineers have gone about ten miles away from Guliang to the temple of a rain god to ask for rain. One man goes from a house. Each carried a bamboo on which a few leaves had been left and to which had been fastened a piece of cloth, color and size did not seem to be matters of deep moment. They had drums and some wore peculiar hats. They presented quite a spectacle as they marched along single file. From our house we had a good view of their assembling place and could see the different detachments as they came for the various little villages scattered all about among the mountains. When rain comes, will it be in answer to their petitions or in answer to the prayers of God's people that have gone up to him daily for more than two weeks?

Thursday Dr. Woodhull, Miss Brown, Dr. and Miss Bement, Miss Borts, Mr. Walker, Mrs. White (Eng.), Mr. Bucknall (Eng.), Ellen, the children and I went to Kushan Monastery. We started at 8:25 a.m. arriving at 10:50 a.m. The day was cool and clear the road is just a mountain path in some places so steep and crooked that one cannot ride in a chair. The Monastery covers about an acre. There are about 300 priests connected with it- not over half at home at any one time. These have about 70 servants to do their work. The work consists in caring for the buildings, in caring for the ducks, chickens, pigs, goats and cattle that are given to the monastery as deeds of merit. These are never killed- as you can easily believe by the appearance of some of the pigs. Then there are large tracks of forest, potatoe fields, and rice fields that belong to the institution. There are also very fine gardens. I was there once in the time Chrysanthemums. They were very beautiful. We saw them growing the other day in pots. In two months they will grace the courts of the buildings with blossoms six inches in diameter. The care of all these keeps 70 men busy. The kettles in which they boil their rice are 5 feet in diameter at the top and about 4 feet deep with round bottoms. One of the great amusements for the children is feeding a pond full of carp.



This may be a photo of the Buddhist priests at Kushan Monastery near Foochow.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole day. Phebe and Gould walked fully a mile on way over and all three were not quiet 5 minutes while there. A new building is nearly completed. The second floor of which is palatial. It was delightfully cool and made a very pleasant place to rest and lunch.

Yesterday Mr. Hinman and I went to Foochow. The day was not oppressively hot- to day is- Every thing was quiet and natural. The new residence has walls about 10 feet high, window and door frames of the first story are in place.

The telegram last evening announced that on the 15th the allied forces entered Peking by the Straight East Gate. All diplomats safe. Empress Dowager and Emperor fled. As soon as I can hear of a peace agreement I shall feel much more settled about the future. More chapels were looted in the Amoy field only 4 or 5 days from Foochow this last week. There is very bad talk in the Ing Hok district but no outbreak yet. I want very much to go up there but the heat is great as yet.

We are all quite well. Ellen says of Geraldine "She's a piece". Gould is working harder than anyone else here flying kites. He got one up and flew it a long time yesterday all alone. His patience and persistence are great.

With much love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 26, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. There has been no trouble in Foochow. The officials do a good job at keeping things under control. Willard received a letter from Mr. D. Willard Lyon telling about his experiences in keeping away from the Boxer troubles in the Peking area. Willard (Beard) discusses what he feels are the causes of the Boxer Rebellion. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Aug. 26th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a week ago today. No letters have come from you this week. In Foochow there is no change in the condition of things. Last Sunday at one of the Church Missionary Society's churches in the city a man was talking rather boastingly of the goodness of church members and comparing them with heathen. There was a large idol procession at the time passing the church and there were some very loud words that threatened trouble. The officials were on the scene immediately and all trouble quelled.

The program of the week is as follows:-

Monday – went calling with Ellen and Mr. Walker in the afternoon.

Tuesday- went to a picnic at Ox Head Fort. Took Phebe and Gould

Wednesday- Prayer meeting and tennis afterward

Thursday- Went to top of Kushan with a party. Took Phebe and Gould.

Friday. – Ellen and I went to Ponasang. Ellen went specially to see the new house. It is going up nicely, altho we shall not be able to get into it till late in the Fall. In the afternoon at 2:30 had a nice shower. At 3:45 we started for the mountain arriving at 7:00. I got wet thro purposely. Ellen kept pretty dry. Misses Brown, Borts, Bement and Dr. Bement took care of the children.

Saturday- Played tennis 5 sets.

All the time not occupied in correspondence and daily routine has been put on the Report for the Ing Hok work of 1899 which I hope to take to the press this next week.

There has been very little from the North this week. It is a little hard to wait patiently, but this is the only thing to do. We cannot feel secure and settled here in Foochow till there is a settlement of the whole question at Peking. I had a letter from Mr. D. Willard Lyon this week. He with his wife and 2 children fled from Peking to Tientsin, the day before the Rail Road was torn up. They then went to Peitai Ho seaside resort. In two weeks they had to flee with 33 other Americans and as many other nationalities to Chefoo on a hospital ship. From there the Americans were taken on the "Nashville" to Seoul, Corea. There they are now. They lost everything except what they chanced to have with them at the time of flight. George Wilder's family went to Japan at the beginning of the trouble. He remained for a time. Lyon says he is alive, but whether in Tientsin or Japan now does not know.

Details of the disaster all over the Empire are difficult [to] get hold of. But as the truth comes- a little here and a little there, it is much better than the reports received during July. Another fact seems to be coming out. The trouble is not due to foreigners and to Christians entirely- perhaps not primarily. There seems to be abroad in the land a spirit of rapine and plunder. For some time there have been two parties in China- one representing the Empress Dowager, the other representing the emperor. The first party opposed progress or change and stood up for the Manchus, the second party championed progress and the cause of the Chinese. Add to this poor crops, high prices and hard times thro out the Empire and the spirit of lawlessness found the way open, and the most conspicuous and convenient mark was the foreigner and the institutions he had brought with him. But now in the north west of this province a band of outlaws numbering 4000 are surrounding a walled city in which there is not a Christian or any sign of a foreigner. Plunder and murder is the only motive.

In the midst of it all God's kingdom stands. And this test will be a great blessing to the church.

We are all quite well. Mr. Walker is still with us and Mr. Bucknall who has taken his meals with us for three weeks leaves tomorrow.

With Love to all

Will.

Gould still prefers to fly kites to eating or sleeping.

[This letter dated Sept. 2, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard tells about a church theft in Sung Kau and how nearly 100 men rushed in to take away the three witnesses while they were telling their story to the official. The preachers at Shaowu had to come to Foochow because of threats. Willard does not feel the Empress Dowager should be reinstated. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Sept. 2nd 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Last Sunday I wrote you. Your last letter arrived so long ago I need not refer to it.

I have finished the Ing Hok Report and put it in the printer's hands. I went down to Foochow Fri. largely for that purpose. Shortly after I arrived at Ponasang, Nik Huak the Ing Hok travelling evangelist arrived with the news of trouble at Sung Kau. Last Sunday night thieves broke into the chapel there in the absence of the preacher and stole everything that they could take away. Nik Huak had left his travelling kit at this chapel that night and had gone with the preacher over to Diong Keng to rejoice with the preacher there over the arrival of a new son. On hearing of the theft they returned early Monday morning, notified the official who at once went in person to see the chapel, and then sent his runners to arrest three persons as witnesses. Two of these were in the chapel Sunday evening asking strange questions. The other was a ferryman. The official began to question the ferryman and found that he had that morning ferried over a man with some of the stolen goods. The testimony was getting valuable when about one hundred men rushed in and took away the three witnesses forbidding the official to investigate further, and threatening the Christians if they followed up the case. The official then wrote the magistrate at Ing Hok city that the case was too large for him to manage asking for soldiers to bring the case to a settlement. The Magistrate sent up eight runners who are no good.

I am planning to go up to Ing Hok this week Wed. That is start from Guliang Wed. afternoon, spend the night at Ponasang, start Thurs. morning for Ing Hok arrive Fri. afternoon, do my business Sat., administer the communion Sunday, start for home Monday reaching Guliang Tues. afternoon.

The Shaowu Preachers are down again. You remember that these men had their lives threatened at Shaowu and came to Foochow, then returned with letters from the Consul to Shaowu officials for their protection. Well the condition of things was such that their friends would not allow them to return but stopped them about 50 miles this side of Shaowu. A secret society is sending around a document purporting to come from the Shaowu Prefect, to him from the Foochow Viceroy saying all manner of bad things about Christians and calling on all members of the society to rise and drive out all Christians. This will take Mr. Walker and Mr. Hinman down to see the Consul tomorrow. If this document is a true one really from the Shaowu Prefect in accordance with the instructions of the Viceroy at Foochow then the Viceroy here is fake.

The latest from Peking is that the Emperor is in the Japanese Legation- not confirmed. 5000 American Troops are to Winter in Peking. Russia and America are willing to reinstate the Empress Dowager. I hope this is not true. She should be put on an island by herself and the Emperor reinstated. England does not agree to this proposition.

We are all quite well and are having a good time. Gould finds it hard lines to give up kite flying on Sunday. I heard from the church at Dung Song last Sunday. Pastor Ling Bang Ho conducted communion there then. Out of 15 communicants 10 were present. One absent is in Hong Kong and are away from home and one sick.

Love to all from all of us

Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 10, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Most of the letters from home have revealed little anxiety over the troubles in China. Willard and Ellen celebrated their 6th wedding anniversary with ten of their fellow missionaries. Gould enjoys flying kites. The Consul does not want Willard to go to Ing Hok yet because of the situation in China. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Sept. 10th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your letter of July 16 is just at hand. I have time for only a few words now. Yesterday I preached at the union service here on Guliang and did not have my usual chat with you. One of our sources of comfort has been the calmness and freedom from anxiety that your letters showed. In our daily morning prayermeeting held in the chapel here a frequent petition is that God will keep from anxiety the friends at home. I have little fear of your being over anxious (today's letters fr. you are a little anxious) because you know in Whose care we are and you also trust in Him, and because if your mail has gone regularly you have had letters every week during the time of trouble. The

"Alarmist" has certainly done much to make people feel badly this Summer. No news has been taken for bad news. We do not yet know the truth about the missionaries and Chinese Christians in many parts. There is enough that is terribly bad on the truth without augmenting it out of one's imagination. I have often said I had no opinion to express. I thought it better to say "I do not know" and simply watch. By this time you know much of the truth. We have been wonderfully kept this Summer. I suppose your anxiety for us has been many times what we have felt for ourselves.

Last Wed. was the sixth anniversary of our wedding. We had Mr. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Hinman, Dr. and Miss Woodhull, Dr. and Miss Bement, Misses Brown, and Borts and Garretson at dinner- a very pleasant time. Mr. Walker presented us with an original poem for the occasion.

I went to Ponasang on Thursday. The new residence is going up nicely, - a little slowly, but this is all the better.

Gould is still flying kites. Before he gets up he discusses the prospects. The other day (morning) he was just rubbing his eyes open and said "Mama the wind is too gusty to fly kites today." He has the whole household except Phebe and Geraldine at it. Even his mother goes out and flies kites with him and his proxy father does not refuse. The servants are all at it. For several days we have had a typhoon wind and to day Phebe and Gould are all taken with goose quill pop guns.-potatoes are ammunition. The floor is covered. Geraldine has had a hard cold for two days. She is much better today. Otherwise we are all quite well.

I expect to open work in the Seminary Sept. 27. The City College will open the same date if all goes well. Miss Garretson wishes to wait two weeks.

In and about Foochow the condition of things is much as it has been for a month. I had planned to go to Ing Hok last Wed. and start back today but the Consul put in a strong protest. I think he is a little nervous and scared. I have however acquiesced to his protest and will wait a little.

With Love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 16, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells about an incense shop showing a shadow picture of a Boxer killing a foreigner. A small typhoon is supplying needed rain. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Sept. 16th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote you last Monday No. 18th. The mail this week Monday brought letters from Shelton and fr. Putnam already acknowledged.

The week has passed without unusual events. I went down to Ponasang on Wednesday. There was a little disturbance connected with one of the churches. An incense shop was having a big time one evening and for a special attraction they arranged a shadow picture of a Boxer killing a foreigner. It was so drawing that some of the church members and one of the pastors were drawn to it. They told the shop keeper that it would not do, but he refused to take the apparatus down. A soldier who has been a church member for five years in good standing, had this street as a part of his beat as street police at this time. He also used all his powers of persuasion with the shop keepers, but he still refused to take the thing down. A church member then took it down with the approval of the soldier, who had authority to do it. Then after a time, and after an agreement had been made not to put the picture up again, the apparatus was given back and the rumpus quieted down but the shadow picture was put up again and kept up. But the Consul got hold of it and has taken the matter to the Chinese officials. This soldier has been degraded. I do not know what the outcome will be. This for the soldier is persecution.

The Methodist College and schools opened Friday. Mr. Simester came home from Japan this last week and telegraphed immediately for the other Methodists to return. They are expected sometime this week. Mr. Simester spent today on Guliang coming up yesterday morning. He has been with us. Last evening we were to have had Miss Wiley and Mr. and Mrs. Hinman to dinner. But all day the wind blew hard- a young typhoon- and in the afternoon the rain fell in large quantities. This broke up the dinner party. Mr. Simester's house is about ten minutes walk from our house. He came up to dinner in the evening and staid all night- sleeping in the dining room on the couch. This mountain cottage of ours is certainly an elastic affair. It was quite laughable this evening to hear Mr. Walker ask in surprise, after some remark- "What, did Mr. Simester stay here last night?"

This rain will fill up wells and brooks and rice fields. Saturday I noticed some rice fields with no water. The people and officials may not stop imploring the idols for rain.

Some time ago- about a month- I sent a photo of the three children in the carriage that great grandma Nichols bought for them to her. It was the only one we had so I registered it to make sure. We shall be interested to hear of its safe arrival and how you all like it.

We hear that the Woman's Board of the Interior does not wish its missionaries now in America to return until there is a settlement of the political trouble. I am sorry for this because I hoped all would return as expected. If we look only at the situation in Foochow, nothing will do so much to insure peace as a steady and firm perusal of the ordinary business of the missions. The people are watching us to see what is to be done. If every thing goes on as usual it will be a sign to them of our confidence in the situation, and will be the surest way to insure their quietness.

We are all quite well, have not decided when to go to Ponasang.

With love to all Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 23, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The Consul tells missionaries that if they travel back into the country they go at their own risk. The various schools in Foochow are re-opening. Willard discusses the positions of the various allied countries involved in the rebellion and what factors led to the rebellion. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Sept. 23rd 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The usual weekly letter was written one week ago. Nothing has been heard from you during the week. Everything has gone on here as usual. The mountain is getting very quiet. Ten houses of missionaries are now occupied. This next week will see two more closed. The remaining eight may be occupied very late. No missionaries are allowed to go into the country except to go to Hing Hua. The consuls protest against going there but acquiesce, telling those who go that they go at their own risk. So many of the Ch. Miss'y Society's people being unable to go back into the country makes their houses crowded in Foochow, so some will remain here in their mountain cottages. The thermometer is getting down into 50's.

I go down to Ponasang day after tomorrow to open the Seminary on Thurs. Mr. Walker goes at the same time to the city to help in the College. Dr. and Miss Woodhull go down to morrow. Miss Borts goes Tues. Miss Wiley was up to spend last Sunday on the mountain. Tues. she and Miss Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Hinman went to the Peak. All the people at the Peak expect to return to their work tomorrow. I shall be the only foreigner at Ponasang for the next two weeks. Miss Garretson has delayed the opening of the Girl's College until Oct. 11th. All the Shaowu missionaries except the Bement sisters go to the city to work in the College there. The Peets and Kinnears are still in Japan and are likely to stay there till December or January.

We are all quite well. During the past week Gould has had a great time flying kites. Twice we have put one up in the evening, then hung a Chinese lantern on a string and let the wind blow it up to the kite,- a very pretty sight that all enjoyed.

There has been no news from Peking during the week. Even speculation as to the probable progress of future events is almost impossible. England and Germany may save the Empire. Russia and France make the situation awkward. Russia sits herself down in the Imperial Palace at Peking as if she was at home and wished every one else was also. The U.S. is trying to play a difficult role, - to keep out of the trouble, while she is in it. Every one here is praying for the restoration of the rightful ruler, - The Emperor. The Dowager ought not to live. Much is being said and written about the causes of the present outbreak. Those of a certain temperament find here an opportunity to make the cause of missions the scapegoat. The truth is probably that the missionary should come in for his share of the cause with the merchant, engineer and consul. Of all classes the engineer with his railroad destroying the coolie and boat trade and with his mind contrary to all the Chinese superstitions, has done almost to cause the Chinese to commit violence against the foreigner. Then frequently the merchant and Consul have acquired land in treaty ports by methods closely related to land-grabbing. The missionary teaches a doctrine opposed to the religious and superstitious teachings of the Chinese sages. Every Chinese who embraces Christianity is one less to contribute to idolatrous worship. In many places this has made a severe drain on temple receipts and on receipts for idol processions. It has done much to anger the officials and people. The missionary goes about over the country as

no other class does. He is of course a constant reminder to Chinese of all that they hate in the foreigner of whatever class. But the charge that the missionary goes about the country and thus incenses the people against him and against foreigners is false as far as my observation goes. The people in all places where I have been are friendly. The rabble has been instigated by officials in every place. Even here in Foochow, officials and their runners early in the trouble showed plainly what was in their heads by an expressed desire to see Christians and foreigners killed and foreign property and churches destroyed. Fear alone restrained them and then after the rabble had been excited it was with the utmost difficulty that this rabble was restrained. The officials are at the bottom of and are responsible for all that has been done in and about Foochow, - not the people.

When we look for the causes of this feeling on the part of the officials, we must remember- the opium war when England forced opium- into China at the point of the bayonet, we must remember the French war in '84, when a whole fleet was destroyed here at Foochow over a trivial matter, and since that time the demand by France that some twelve or more Frenchmen be employed at the Arsenal here on fabulous salaries with little to do; we must remember the Germans at Kaiu Chow, the English at Wei Hai Wei, the Russians at Lew Chuang, and then the general fear that the Powers were only waiting the proper (?) time for dividing the Empire.

The work of the Reform Party is also an important factor in the present crisis. That party is of course against the Manchu government. Two years ago its measures were nearly carried out. The last blow- to make way with the Empress Dowager- was discovered thro the treachery of Prince Yuan who instead of using his army to seize the old woman, told the whole plot of the reformers, and the result- six beheaded, many imprisoned, Kang Yu Wei the leader in hiding ever since. This opened the eyes of the ruling Manchus and all the officials who hold office under the Manchus. The Reformers altho Chinese, got their ideas from the foreigner, and were in constant communication with the foreigner. The very existence of the Manchu Dynasty is threatened by the Reform Party, which understands full well that no reforms in China can take place as long as the Empress Dowager and her posse are in authority, and when you strike at the Empress Dowagers you strike at a large army of officials all over the country who have received and who hold their offices under her appointment. It is no wonder then that she hates the foreigner. It is no wonder that all the officials who live off her appointments hate the foreigner. In so far as the missionary has taught the people to long for a better government- for a better condition of things he is responsible for the hatred toward these reformers and for the troubles of the present time.

The foregoing will explain the attitude of those who are insistent that the Empress Dowager must not get into power again. If she does it will be only to renew the fight against the foreigner after a few years of preparation in drilling soldiers, and purchasing arms and ammunition.

With Love to all
Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 30, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard is very busy with the opening of the Seminary and City College. Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear are stuck in Japan because of Mrs. Kinnear's illness with typhoid fever. Mr. and Mrs. Peet lost their young son to croup. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Sept. 30th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a week ago, No. 20 I think. Two letters from Mother came yesterday. I went down to Ponasang last Tues. and opened the Seminary on Thursday. All the boys are back. Two may be asked to leave. The week has been an exceedingly busy one. The City College opened Thurs. also. This brought a lot of fathers and others down from Ing Hok, all of whom had to come in to say "how do you do" to me. This is very pleasant, but when the clock says 7:30 P.M. and I have just sat down to write a lecture for 9 A.M. the next day and two gentlemen call and stay till 9:30 P.M. it means 11 P.M. before I can get to bed. The only remedy for this is that the Board send out more help- a man for the Ing Hok field as soon as possible.

The Consul gives me permission to go to Ing Hok- I am planning to start Tues. day after tomorrow. I go to see the Ing Hok official to try and have the Sung Kau troubled settled. I shall have to go and return as soon as possible. There are some items of business connected with the station that I must attend to, but I cannot stay over Sunday.

I came up to the mountain on Fri. again, and go down to be at the Sem'y at 8:30 A.M. tomorrow and then off for Ing Hok on Tues. As soon as I am back from Ing Hok the Boston shipment consisting of 79 cases will be in to be attended to. This is Dr. Kinnears business, but he is in Japan and some one must do it for him. Eunice is still ill with typhoid fever according to the letter of yesterday. That letter also announced the death of Edward Peet the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Peet who was at Long Hill with you. He had some kind of croup.

The roof is on the new house, and it is going on nicely. Since the flood the weather has been superb for building.

I have preached again today here on Guliang- or rather read a sermon, so I am going to say good night to you. We are all quite well. Another missionary to arrive about Feb. 25th is promised us. He will stay with us and help (?) in the Ponasang station if all goes well. No news from Peking. I suppose we must wait till after election before either Eng. or America will do anything radical. Meantime we go about our work quietly. God will order all things right.

Lovingly
Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 7, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He went up to Ing Hok even though the Consul did not want him to. He visited the Magistrate about the previous trouble at Sang Kau. Willard and Ellen's new residence should be ready in late November. Willard hopes the missionaries who are in the U.S. will return back to China soon. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Oct. 7th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a week ago. No letters from home have arrived since then. I must say that thro forgetfulness on my part the letter written last Sunday was not mailed till day before yesterday.

I ate breakfast last Monday morning by lamp light and got down to the Seminary for prayers at 8:30 o'clock. I went to see the Consul about going to see the Ing Hok magistrate. The Taotai at Foochow, who is over this Magistrate, had just replied to the Consul's request that he would notify the Magistrate that I was coming, to the effect that he did not want me to go into the country now, that the Ing Hok district was now in a disturbed state and it would be better to send a Chinaman. The Consul read this dispatch and said to me "Well, you can go if you want to for all that." I took his card and at 6:00 A.M. Tues. morning was on the road. I took only a man to carry my load and do my cooking. We found a boat to take us to Gak Liang and with fair wind and clear sky reached that place at 4:30 P.M. The next morning the pastor of the Gak Liang Church who knew all the trouble at Sung Kau,- whose brother and his wife were both working at Sung Kau and lost most of their effects- and I were off for Ing Hok shortly after 6 A.M. arriving at 11:00 after a pleasant walk of 12 miles. I was busy all that afternoon looking after various items in connection with the work of the station. The buildings are all in good condition. The white ant is the great enemy of woodwork in unused houses during the hot weather, but I saw none at Ing Hok. The Hospital work seems in a good condition under the care of the Chinese woman a graduate of Dr. Woodhull's Hospital in Foochow City.

All the Sung Kau workers are at Ing Hok now. They left Sung Kau at the local official's request. One of the church members and his wife is also down so there is quite a party of Chinese there at present.

Wed. Evening the Sung Kau church member gave the other workers and myself a feast.

On Thurs. morning the pastor, the preacher at Sung Kau and I called on the Ing Hok Magistrate. He had only taken over the seals of office the Saturday before. He received me with as much gusto as if I had been the Consul himself. He listened very attentively while the pastor told him the main facts in the case, then asked a few intelligent and important questions, and promised to put the case thro immediately to the best of his ability. Just as I was leaving at 11:00 A.M. Thurs. after the call on him, he sent word that he would like to return my call the next day but I answered that I could not avail. I took the boat at noon Thurs. at Ing Hok and arrived at the landing 6 miles from Foochow at 7 A.M. Fri. morning. A two hour walk brought me to Ponasang where I found business enough to keep me going till 2:30 yesterday P.M. with 7 hours in bed Fri. night. Then I came to Guliang. We all plan to move down tomorrow.

The new residence at Ponasang is roofed in and the floors are nearly complete. The windows and doors are nearly ready to hang. The first of November will see it nearly completed. But we shall not move into it at once. It

does not adjoin the old compound. We shall be in a compound by ourselves. Until Dr. Kinnear returns, there will be in our compound only Miss Garretson in charge of the Girl's College and our family with perhaps the Misses Bement. These last are still on the mountain and are enjoying themselves here.

Tues. Oct. 9th We got down from the mountain yesterday without any hitch. It is pretty warm but this late in the season the days are so short that the nights are cool and the hot spell cannot last long.

You have heard that the Emperor has chosen several of the leaders in the troubles last Summer for punishment. Prince Tuan's name heads the list. This is good. I hope our missionaries who are waiting in America will soon start for China.

Lovingly
Will

[This letter dated Oct. 14, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. They have moved off the mountain. Willard talks about the allied powers in China and a comment that President McKinley made to Minister Conger who had been shut up in Peking during the rebellion. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Oct. 14th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a week ago No. 21. A letter arrived from Shelton last Monday just after we reached Ponasang from Guliang.

I think I added a few sentences to the last letter to the effect that we had moved down- had a pleasant trip and no hitch. It seems as if we had been here a month. Ellen has gotten the house in order except the pictures on the walls. These were all taken out of the frames in July when we thought of leaving and it will be no light task to put them in order again. Wed. afternoon we both went into the city to mission prayermeeting and on Friday we took the children in and took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Hinman, and attended a business meeting of the mission in the afternoon. These two half days with the regular work and the putting of the house in order have made a very busy week for us both. Ellen felt very tired last evening. But she had a good rest last night and is resting all day to day. While at Mr. and Mrs. Hinman's on Fri. we were all weighed. Geraldine 31, Gould 38.5, Phebe 40.5, Ellen 161, I 172.5!!! So the family weighs in their Summer clothing 443 ½ lbs.

Ming Uong's older brother died last week. His sister died in May. His father and mother feel very badly indeed. The death of the brother leaves a large family on the hands of Pastor Ding and Ming Uong to support. I was at the pastor's home yesterday afternoon and while speaking with them of their affliction Mrs. Ding, with tears in her eyes said, "I do not know what great sin I have committed that God should afflict me thus." "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, contains a very deep doctrine, and one difficult for the human mind, when in affliction, to grasp. From a Christian standpoint the children of no parents in Foochow are a greater honor to them than are the children of Pastor and Mrs. Ding.

The political situation changes very slowly. Germany and Russia are evidently dark horses as yet. Most of the powers have prepared to winter soldiers in Peking. The decree of the Emperor to degrade several of the instigators of the crimes of the past months is good, but we must ask what punishment is to follow? Unless the heads of many of the officials, high in officialdom too, are taken off, and the whole nation made to realize that there is to be no more broken treaties and no more double dealing with foreign powers, there is sure to be a worse upheaval in the future than we have seen this year. The trouble lies in the attitude of the officials entirely, the papers may land McKinley for having made no mistake thus far in his management of the China affair. But he made an exceeding foolish, to put it mildly, reply to Minister Conger's statement that the trouble were instigated by the officials, when he McKinley said that Conger was biased by his treatment during those fifty four days while shut up in Peking. You see much in the papers against the officials of China. There are a few good men in this class, but most I am strongly convinced that you may believe the worst you can find in the papers and then be sure you have not heard the whole truth. China has played with England and America so long that she cannot learn to be honest until capital punishment has been given to those who deserve it. This will be the best course not only for the foreign nations, but for China herself this is the only course by which she can be saved. There is no such thing as foreigners leaving China. There is too much natural wealth here for one thing. The greed of man will compel him to remain.

Then it is God's will that this people shall learn of Him. After they have learned of Him. They may become the rulers of the world, but a knowledge of God must come first.

We discussed the advisability of cabling for the missionaries in the U.S. to come at once. But there was strong opposition on the part of one or two and we decided to leave it for each missionary to decide for himself. We are all at work as usual in Foochow. We cannot say there is no danger. But we believe it is our duty to remain and work. This is different from telling another to come. Personally I feel they ought to come (1) for the good of the work (2) to relieve us who are carrying work too heavy for us.

Give our love to all
Will.

P.S. Rev. D. Goddard
Lancaster.
Mass.

Would enjoy reading my letter of last week about the Ing Hok trip.

W.

[This letter dated Oct. 21, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He feels the rulers of China will want to establish a new "nest" away from the Palace which has been desecrated and polluted by the foreign troops. Eunice Kinnear is beginning to feel better from her typhoid fever. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Oct. 21st 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote one week ago. A letter came from you last Monday. The week has passed with nothing of note taking place. The situation remains the same. For diplomacy the Chinaman beat the nations. Time is not a factor in any of his problems. He does however understand its use as a weapon in overcoming his enemies- especially has he learned that it is a powerful weapon when he is dealing with Western peoples, with whom time in all problems is an important factor. So far as we can learn the powers in Peking are doing nothing. If they are whistling for the return to Peking of the Dowager and her nephew the Emperor, their lips will need wetting many times before they are thro whistling. The imperial palace has been desecrated by the entrance of the polluted foreigner. It is unreasonable for one who knows anything about the Chinese to suppose that the Palace or even Peking will ever again be used as the seat of the present rulers of China. Their nest has been defiled and they will want to establish a new one.

There are rumors of rebellion in the province south of us- Kuang Tung- this rebellion is said to be only against the present Manchu dynasty. The leaders have written the Hong Kong "Daily Press" urging that the U.S., England, and Japan remain neutral. If it becomes necessary they ?? that these three nations advise and assist the rebellion. All this may be nothing to us.

The Methodist families- Lacys and Mrs. Simester and her children and one single lady returned from Japan last Monday. Dr. Kinnear writes that Eunice put her feet on the floor Oct. 4th for the first time this Summer. Ruth Peet is ill. One of the Meth. ladies in defiance of the Consul's orders has gone to Kucheng. Another lady was unwilling to let her go alone so has gone with her. This is bad.

Gould is as eager to fly kites as ever. He works away by the hour trying [to] get his kite up, very seldom getting discouraged. He sweats as if he were in the hay-field. Last Wed. Mr. Hinman rode out from the city on a Chinese pony. The man who goes with the pony led it into our compound while waiting for Mr. Hinman. Gould saw it. With eyes distended he ran shouting to Phebe "Here's a horse, here's a horse." I put him in the saddle much to his delight and the man led the pony about the yard. How he will enjoy the horses when he gets home!!

To day the little fellow got a fearful bump. He was running on the stone walk with a bamboo stool in his hand. He tripped and struck on his forehead just to the right of the middle. He got over it soon and is all right now altho he will look bad for two weeks. Geraldine also got hit by the swing to day- right in the middle of her forehead. It knocked her over and she will look rather tough for some time.

The new residence is fast approaching completion. We had two photos taken of it yesterday- one from our house here- one from a corner of the yard near the house.

Miss Brown and Miss Wiley came out from the city yesterday and ate goose with us. The Misses Bement came down from the mountain last Wed. They were here also to help eat the goose.

Our Boston shipment was stopped in Hong Kong by Mr. Swett. I have written for the boxes belonging to those who are here to be sent up to Foochow at once. Storage bills in Hong Kong will eat up the price of the goods in the boxes in a short time. I hope the steamship Co.'s agents in Hong Kong will honor my order.

Praying that God will keep you from anxiety for us and that He will preserve Southern China from outbreaks.

Lovingly Yours

Will.

*[This letter dated **Oct. 28, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about his new house and includes a diagram of the floor plan. Willard discusses the criticism of Mr. Rockhill's statement that the Empress Dowager was in collusion with the Boxers. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Oct. 28th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

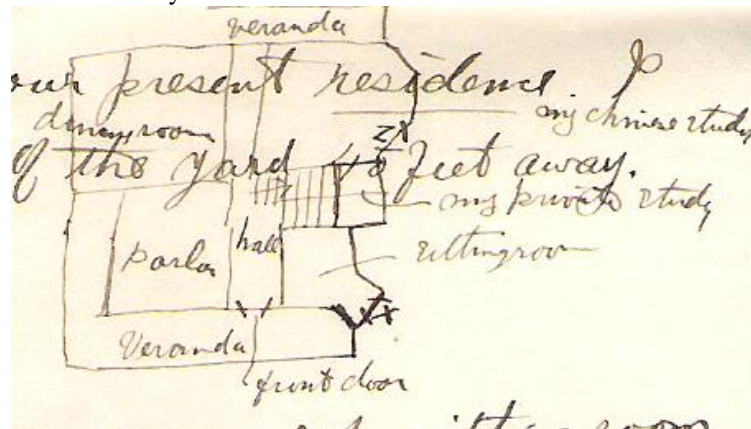
I sent the usual letter a week ago No. 23. No letter has arrived from Shelton. The week has passed with no unusual events. Mr. Walker stopped yesterday on his way to the city from Pagoda Anchorage where he had been for a day or two. He wanted to see what we thought of his cabling his daughter to come out immediately to help in the work at Pagoda. Of course we hoped he would cable at once. The Consul had approved of this course. Two Meth. missionaries have gone to Kucheng- Messrs. Main and Caldwell. They go for a visit only and the Consul told them to bring back the recalcitrant young woman who went up ten days ago against the Consul's orders.

To day the communion has been held in three of the churches of this station. At Geu Cio Dong five united with the church. Three were women and two were girls in the College who are engaged to preachers. At Ha Pua Ga four desired to unite but the church thought it better for them to wait till December. I conducted the service at Sang Bo. None united there. Coming home from this service I pass the shops of two church members, which are on opposite sides of the street. Both shops are always closed on Sunday. To day I was attracted by seeing all gathered in one shop and one of the clerks reading the New Testament. This kind of Christian is too rare anywhere. But it is a great encouragement to know that there are such Christians among the converts here.

The weather has been very warm for a week. To day the thermometer rose to 82 degrees. Three little cherubs have just been to my desk for the usual good night kiss. How you all would enjoy these little folks now. Geraldine says her prayers every night after Phebe and Gould have finished. Of course her pronunciation is inimitable[*inimitable*]. But she knows what she is about and she knows the different stages of the prayer. When Mama says "For Jesus sake" she always comes out with a very pronounced "A men". The amah says in her play with the other children she never gets left.

The new residence is ready for the painters to begin on. One photograph of it is ready and the other will be ready in a few days. I shall send them both as soon as the second comes. The picture of the house taken in the distance was taken from our present residence. I should say 500 ft. away as the bird flies. The other is taken in the corner of the yard 40 feet away.

You will easily make out the contour of these two sides of the house.



The open window in the middle of the photo is indicated by X on this diagram, and is in the sq. bay window of the sitting room. The little sq. window is also in the sitting room. The next two windows are in my private study 6 X 8 ft. The next window (closed) is indicated by Z in the diagram and is in the Chinese study. The second floor is divided as the first floor except that the front half of the hall is put into the room over the sitting room, making a nice large bed room. I think it will be a handy house, and adapted to the working needs of this station.



Ponasang house during construction.

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

A paragraph in the Advance Editorials seems to me to present the attitude of the U.S. in general, toward the China question. "Mr. Rockhill's hasty conclusion that the Empress Dowager was in collusion with the Boxers was very startling and proved his unfitness for his mission. What ever he may have learned about China he failed to appreciate the situation at home. We do not want war with China, and therefore do not want any American over there to make out a case for war." If this is a satire on the position of the U.S. and on the instructions it gave Mr. Rockhill, it is right to the point. But in its connection it is hard to read it otherwise than in earnest. In other words if Mr. Rockhill was instructed before leaving the U.S. not to find a Casus belli, he, by reporting the true state of affairs

made himself liable to criticism from his instructors. If on the other had he was sent to investigate and report the true condition why had he proved his “unfitness for his mission”? The man who wrote this criticism thinks he knows more about the situation in China during the past few months than those who were on the ground or than Mr. Rockhill who has been here since and made investigations on the ground. Those nations that say they are not at war with China only add a factor to make the situation more unique and more complex. One might almost say that the uniqueness of the situation and its complexity lay in this fact: - that all the conditions of war have existed and exist except the written declaration. The armies of the nations have fought against the armies of China, who resisted with all their strength. When China was defeated her chief rules deserted her capitol and are still in hiding. The situation is something like a big mature bull dog and a Newfoundland pup of a few months old. The pup has pitched into the bull dog which has shaken him up and thrown him down and now stands considering what to do himself and wondering what the pup will do. Well, what will he do? - What will the powers do? The rebellion in Kwang Tung continues. Foochow continues quiet and the English both missionaries and merchants are confident. I was at the drug store of Watson and Co. the other day. They are thoroughly overhauling the store and refitting it. The English Mission is building two residences recently contracted for.

God will guide in all our affairs. His methods and His times are best. May we all have grace to know and do His will each hour.

Lovingly Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 4, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Gould and Phebe enjoyed the annual kite festival. The churches with self support are having tough times financially as a result of the Boxer problems. Miss Newton writes from the U.S. that there is a strong feeling that missionaries should not go to China for now. Willard disagrees. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Nov. 4th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote a week ago, No. 24. A letter arrived from Oliver in the middle of the week. It was good to hear from him. From his letter I judge that he is fairly successful in business and that he and Grace have a happy home. No word has come from Shelton since Oct. 15th. Perhaps the mails are partly to blame. The mail this last week came via Vancouver, by the English Post Office. Letters of Oct. 4th arrived here Nov. 1st. The last mail before this brought us the papers of Sept. 13th. This mail brought the papers of Oct. 4th, so there are two week's papers somewhere on the road. This mail however brought the Sentinels so I had a little home news.

The annual kite festival came last Wednesday. The hill tops in Foochow were crowded with men and women and boys flying kites or watching those who were flying the kites. The city has one large hill that makes a fine resort and the Suburbs has another hill well adapted to the sport. The young people in the city, Mr. and Mrs. Hinman and the Misses Brown and Wiley wanted to see the sport. The prayer meeting of the Mission was at our house that P.M. so the young folks came out early to go up on the Suburbs hill. We could not go and they, knowing Gould's weakness in this line, asked if they might take the children. Ellen asked Phebe if she would go. She said rather dubiously, "No." Then Ellen asked her to go and ask Gould if he wanted to go. She at once said "Well if Gould goes I want to go." There is no need to tell what Gould's answer was, or in what tone he replied. Well they went out for the first time without one of us going with them, and they had a glorious time. They did not have a chance to tell us of all their experiences till at the supper table. I cannot quote Phebe's language, but an actor could not compete with in pantomime and real earnestness. She completely overcame her mother who laughed till the tears came. But Phebe kept on, occasionally looking as if she wondered why her mother should laugh so. Gould was all animation but he could not get in a word edgewise. At last Phebe turned to Gould and said in a perfectly composed matter-of-fact tone and manner "Now you've talked a long time about the crowd. Now let's wait a while and let mama rest a little". Of course her mother nearly burst at this.

["Then in the fall on the ninth day of the ninth month, comes the kite-flying. Because Fukien has such fine breezy hills great delight is taken in this sport. Kites of all sizes are seen taking from the city all misfortunes, an easy and pleasant way of getting rid of one's troubles. The boys have fights between their kites too." Steinbeck, Grace, and Armstrong Susan. Fukien, A Study of a Province in China. Shanghai, China: Presbyterian Mission Press, 1925. Book in the collection of Mark and Jana Jackson.]

Yesterday was the birthday of the Emperor of Japan. The Foochow officials all called on the Japanese Consul and a salute was fired in his honor which caused the people to wonder if the Japs were opening fire on Foochow. The cook said that the street talk yesterday morning was that the Japs were to attack the Arsenal at Pagoda Anchorage with their Gun Boats which is lying there. Well there have been months of rumors. I always tell the Chinese that I think it well enough to listen to all rumors, but never believe one till it is proven true. The situation in North China remains the same for all that we know, so does the situation in the Southern provinces.

I attended communion at Au Long Die this morning and assisted the pastor in conducting the communion. There was an audience of about 50, over 30 were church members. We had a good service. But these self-supporting churches are having hard times. Unless the situation changes and lets loose the money that is now bound up tight and allows business to start again, and also guarantees something like stability in business circles, I am afraid self-support will have to rest for a time. I have already assisted a little in five places. Geu Cio Dong and Ha Pua Ga have not yet asked.

The painters began on the new house last Thursday. The masons are on the last two rooms down stairs. Dr. Kinnear says nothing as yet about coming back. We shall not think of moving into the new house till he returns.

A letter from Miss Newton this week makes it appear that there is a strong feeling on the part of many that no more missionaries should come to China at present, and some think that all now in China should return. These people forget the immense financial interests at stake. Here, the buildings in our Foochow Mission could not be replaced for \$40,000 gold. Then think of the injury to the work. If we all leave for six months even, it would take at least two years under most favorable conditions to regain what would be lost. If the business men whose only motive is to make money, scoff at the idea of leaving, what should a man who professed to be here for higher interests do? But this is preaching. God will guide if we are only pliant in His hands.

Lots of love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 11, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He enjoys hearing about the summer activities back home in the U.S. Willard hopes the Emperor will return to Peking. McKinley has been re-elected as President of the U.S. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Nov. 11th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The time for writing has again come. The last letter was written Nov. 4. No. 25. Last Tuesday was a day of great rejoicing for letters from Shelton, South Orange, and Framingham arrived and we knew you were all well. The accounts of the Summer and of the old home from different views are not merely interesting. They give us a much fuller and more perfect picture of the conditions and the changes at home. I cannot promise when each of these will have its individual answer, but I hope it will come sometime.

Monday evening about 8 o'clock while Ellen was lying down with Geraldine to have her go to sleep and as I was taking leave of a helper who had been with me for an hour there was a loud knock on the compound gate and I heard the sound of foreign boots on the walk. Mr. and Mrs. Lacy and Mr. and Mrs. Simester had walked over from the South Side to call. Fortunately the cook had that afternoon made a cocoanut cake and I had not touched it at supper. Fortunately also we had on hand a lot of green oranges that make fine orangeade. On Friday we all went to dinner at Miss Woodhulls to celebrate the first anniversary of Miss Brown's arrival in Foochow.

The Boston shipment arrived at the jetty in Foochow Fri. It is ready for delivery tomorrow. The whole shipment consisted of 79 cases. We are not sending for Mr. Gardner's or for Dr. Bliss cases. Dr. Kinnear and Mr. Peet are having their boxes go to Japan. So it makes a mixed business. In my efforts to suit all parties, I omitted to send for our box, so it is still in Hong Kong. But the order is now written to have it sent up.

The stir over the movements of the Foochow officials and the Japanese Consul seems to have subsided. Of political news we know none. From the papers I have hopes that the Emperor will return to Peking. I still fail to see how anything can be done toward restoring order and ensuring safety in the Empire till the powers can communicate with the head of the nation. I have more faith now than I had a few weeks ago that the problem will be settled aright. It is a big question, involving all the world powers. There is no precedent to guide. It is not at all strange that it takes a long time. It should take a long time. I cannot work up much fever over the talk of restricting missionaries to

treaty ports etc. "The Gospel is not bound." - was not in Paul's day and has not been since. Man cannot find it now. Christianity has taken root in China and it is bound to grow here. It will do this on the authority of Him who gives orders to Kings and Emperors and Presidents.

I see McKinley is again President of the U.S. and telegram also states that there were riots and bloodshed in many places. One can but ask whether with fire, flood, tempest, strikes and election riots, life is entirely safe in America.

Ellen is feeling rather tired today, other wise we are well [*Ellen is pregnant* again.]. The weather has been very trying for two weeks past for two months we have had no rain and have had very warm weather - thermometer 80 degrees +. Thurs. it began to rain. Today it has rained very hard. There was a change in the temperature this afternoon it is much cooler.

I conducted communion at Au Ciu today - a good audience.

With Love to all

Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 18, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Seven officials were beheaded in Paotingfu for the murder of foreigners there that summer. Willard agrees with the beheadings. Ellen put a pair of pants on Gould for the first time in his life for his 4th birthday. Like other young boys of that time period, he normally wears dresses. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Nov. 18th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote as usual last Sunday, No. 26. Last Tuesday a letter came from mother. This letter was written the last of Sept. i.e. before the letter that came the mail before. We wonder if the letter that came from us in such quick time did not have a German instead of a French stamp on it. The Germans have established a Post Office here. But the French have none.

The chief news of the week was from Paotingfu to the effect that seven officials had been beheaded for their implication in the murdering of foreigners at that place this Summer. Three of these officials were high officials. The other four were also important men. It is with no spirit of revenge that I most heartily approve of this as a good beginning of a good work that I hope to see go on until the officials realize that they cannot plot or connive at the death of those who are living in China in perfect agreement with treaties made between China and other powers. For half a century the nations have simply asked a few thousands of dollars or a little territory as compensation for massacred humans. The mandarins care nothing for either. Such a weak-kneed policy only spurs them to hate the foreigner and to exert themselves the more strenuously to expel him from the land. But each massacre could be traced to the officials. These men at least knew of the project and did nothing to avert it. As long as they could make the powers believe that it was the work of a fanatical mob and as long as the powers were satisfied with the heads of a few unknown vagabonds and a money indemnity the officials only laughed at the matter. But when their own heads must pay for their own sins the matter must assume a different character. As I have said before unless drastic measures are employed now, there will be a repetition of the scenes of the past Summer all over the Empire in a few years. It is infinitely better that the heads of a few conscienceless, heartless, diabolical officials should drop now, than that thousands of innocent subjects should be cruelly murdered and thousands more rendered homeless and penniless a few years hence. Prince Tuan and Yu Hsien (Governor of Shansi at whose order the missionaries in that Province were massacred) should follow the Paoting fu officials. It will perhaps be impossible to carry out the execution of Tuan but the other if he can be caught could be executed. It is difficult to know what is going on in the conferences between the powers, but it seems to me they are making progress in deciding what demands shall be made upon China. These are included under three heads. Punishment of chief offenders; future safety of foreigners in the empire; indemnity for losses sustained.

Last Tues. was Gould's fourth birth day. His mother celebrated the occasion by putting pants on him for an hour and then cutting out another dress for him. The other day Gould did not want his clothes changed for warmer ones. Ellen had just told him that he must have more clothes on. Phebe seconded her mother's injunction by saying, "Gould, if you don't hurry and have those clothes on, you'll catch cold and be sick and die and go to Heaven before the rest of us do." For the past three days the mercury has been between 45 degrees and 50 degrees. We had a fire last evening for the first time this Fall.

Rev. and Mrs. Wilcox and family and Miss Bosworth of the M.E. Mission came back from Japan last Wed. We hear nothing about when Dr. Kinnear and Mr. Peet expect to come with their families.

There is much illness among the Chinese due I presume to the rain and the sudden fall in temperature last week. To day three churches in this station had to be supplied by Seminary boys because the preachers were ill. Our coolie is also in bed to day. I conducted communion at Sang Tung Gio today. Twenty five in all partook of the communion. There was the best of attention by the members, and 4 or 5 strangers came in and sat thro the services and about 20 strangers stood in the rear of the room.

Some one is dreaming of dinner hours in their sleep in the other room, so I think it must be bed time. We are all well and happy. God is very good to us.

With Love to all

Will.

[Paoting is pronounced bow'ding according to the ABCFM. I believe that when they add the 'fu' as in Paotingfu, it means that it is a center of government in the area.]

[This letter dated Nov. 26, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The Kinnears will return from Japan when things are more settled in China. Mrs. Peet's 4 day old baby dies. They are also still in Japan. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Nov. 26th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote one week ago yesterday, Nov. 13th was the last we have received from you. A letter from Putnam arrived yesterday. A letter came from Dr. Kinnear in the same mail. They are still in Japan and from his letter have no idea when they will return, except that they intend to wait till all is settled here in China. In the mean time many of his duties devolve on me. But he should get a good rest and be in good condition for work when he comes back-unless the illness in his family tires him out. Eunice has been in bed all Summer, just well now. This letter tells of Mrs. Kinnear telegraphing him to come from Kioto to Okayama on account of the illness of the baby Gerald. Mrs. Peet gave birth to a daughter Nov. 1st. It died when four days old. They write as if they might return as soon as Mrs. Peet's health made it safe.

By the way Abe's home is in Okayama. But he has gone to the bad theologically, and nearly killed his flourishing church of about 700 members. He has left the place and has left the ministry.

Last week was just a common place week. This week will bring Thanksgiving. The Consulate has invited all Americans to dinner at 7 P.M. We have declined, on account of leaving the children in the compound alone. But Mrs. Gracey is laboring with Ellen to find some way to go. The outcome is uncertain.

Yesterday the M.E. Bishop preached in the M.E. College Chapel and we went to hear him. To day Mr. Walker, Misses Brown and Bements have gone about 12 miles up in the country to marry Misses Bement's cook. Mr. Walker and Miss Brown had to come out of the city and stay over night to start together this morning. They were at our house. The Bishop's sermon took my afternoon and Mr. Walker and Miss Brown the evening. So this is just a word this morning to let you know we are all well and all hungry for dinner.

Lovingly yours

Will.

[This letter dated Dec. 5, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He is glad that the Meeting of the Board in St. Louis does not plan on taking backward steps in China. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Dec. 5th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

A letter came from you and one from Putnam yesterday. No. 28 went from here Nov. 26th. The Americans had a good time at the Consulate on Thurs. evening. We did not go for lots of reasons. On Sunday I preached in English on the South Side at an afternoon service.

To day our Annual Meeting begins. This morning we have had reports from all the work in the two stations of which I have charge i.e. Foochow Suburbs and Ing Hok. There is in all the reports a note of sadness, but the note of praise is loudest and will not [*let*] down. Yesterday's mail brought the first reports of the Annual Meeting of the Board at St. Louis. We are glad that no backward step is thought of for China.

A good letter from Dwight yesterday said he had accepted the call to the church at Lancaster, Mass. for a year.

I must not write more now. We are all quite well. Gould last Monday night kicked himself over back in his high chair and cut a gash in the back of his head ½ in. long. But it was not serious. We plastered it up. The plaster was taken off yesterday.

Political affairs are stuck. God is over and in all.

Lovingly
Will.

*[This letter dated **about Dec. 9, 1900** was written by Ellen and daughter Phebe to Grandma. It is written on 4" X 5.5" paper folded in half. Phebe is about five years old and writes a brief letter in scribbles (an attempt at cursive writing?) to her Grandmother. Ellen interprets it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[About December 9, 1900]

[The following is written in Ellen's handwriting.]

(This is what the first two pages of Phebe's letter say.)

Dear Grandma,

I send you some of my first knitting because I wanted to make you a Christmas present. I could have bought some thing for you that would be pretty but I wanted to make something myself so as I was learning to knit just now I wanted to knit a present. It isn't anything only just to look at you see because I had not learned to knit mittens or stockings yet. Next time I'll make something better, I pinned a little card with "Merry Merry Christmas" on it but I am afraid you cannot read it.

Gould and Geraldine and I want to thank you and Grandpa and Aunt Louise ever so much for those shoes, plaid dresses and Aunt Mary for that lovely flag and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas. Your Loving
Phebe.

*[This letter dated **Dec. 9, 1900** was written from Foochow, China by Willard and Ellen to the Folks at Home. A solemn Annual Meeting was held that week. Foochow has experienced flood, drought, hard times and sadness over the deaths of the Christians in the north. Willard must go to Ing Hok to look into charges against one of the pastors. Ellen adds a note about Christmas and 5 year old Phebe's knitting. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Dec. 9th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Last Tues. a fine mail arrived from America bringing letters from Shelton, Putnam, Dwight, Sec'y Baer, and two persons who are interested in and are supporting work in the Ing Hok field. These special contributions cause extra labor in correspondence but they bring many encouraging letters from Christian brothers and sisters. The value of which cannot be estimated in gold. I answered your letter that arrived last Tues. on Wed. No. 29. Phebe at that time was thoughtful enough to send a Merry Christmas. I hope it will reach you in season. Mine I send now with good wishes for the New Year. Mine will reach you after all others and will be a reminder of all the others.

We have had a good Annual Meeting this past week. The Pastors and preachers have seemed to enjoy it more than in former years. The political disturbances; the dangers which the church in Foochow has met this year; the destroying flood and the terrible hard times; and especially the thought that thousands of their brothers and sisters in the North had borne witness to Christ by their death all combines to impart to this meeting solemnity that is new to the church in Foochow. The meeting closed with Communion in various central churches this morning. Consul and Mrs. Gracey attended the communion at Geu Cio Dong and took dinner with us before going back over the river.

Just as we were finishing dinner our attention was attracted by several people standing in the tops of their houses and looking in one direction. On investigation we found a fire raging about 10 minutes walk from our house. It burnt very near one of our chapels - Dung Song- If the wind had been the other way this Chapel must have gone. The chapel at Au Ciu was in danger also. But God mercifully preserved both.

I intend to start for Ing Hok next Fri. for a week's trip. The character of the one pastor of this field is now in question. Several severe charges have been brought against him by the preachers in the field. The other 7 pastors and Missionaries are investigating the charges. I think some of them will be sustained and he will be removed to another field.

[Following is written by Ellen]

Willard has gone to the mountain with Dr. Bement today to look after our house into which thieves broke a few weeks ago and to assist Dr. in purchasing land for their prospective cottage; and to get a little needed recreation. So he wishes me to send this letter he began two days ago. He speaks of the "Merry Christmas" Phebe sent, - the little piece of knitting, - not of any use, but "just to show Grandma how I can knit. By next year she will be able to send something useful I hope. She put a great deal of zest and interest into the making of this first Christmas present to Grandma. This piece is almost the first stitches she took in learning. She felt quite happy that while doing this she herself taught her amah to knit. Please accept my "Merry Christmas" with this doily as a little gift to mother. It was made by a Chinese woman. The M.E. Mission teaches this industry to aid widows in their own support. With a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all, Lovingly Yours,

Ellen.

We are all perfectly well at this writing, altho Phebe explained her feelings a few days ago in terms not common to medical practice, thus: - "My stomach has gone bad."

[This letter dated Dec. 16, 1900 was written from Ing Hok, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard took another trip to Ing Hok and Gak Liang with Mr. Walker and Dr. Woodhull for four days. Ellen finishes the letter for Willard. She is helping prepare Christmas exercises for the churches particularly in the musical area. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Ing Hok

Sunday, Dec 16th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

A letter started from Foochow for Shelton last Mon. or Tues. I shall have to wait until I can consult my correspondence register to tell whom the last came from home.

Monday Dec. 10th The missionaries and pastors spent the whole day investigating the character of the pastor of the Ing Hok field. He has been accused of making money out of the lawsuits that the ch. members ask him to take up. Thus far nothing very criminal has been proved against him. But it is evidently best that we find another field of labor for him. He has more power in this field than one man can endure- unless he be very consecrated and humble.

Tuesday I was pretty tired in the head after a week of Annual Meeting and the trial of the pastor. So I ran away from all work and went to Guliang. Dr. Bement went with me and we staked out a building lot for her and her sister.

Friday morning Mr. Walker, Dr. Woodhull and I started for Ing Hok. The wind was not good and the boatmen were of like quality with the wind. The result was that we progressed slowly. We reached the foot of the rapids, three miles below our destination= Gak Liang- at 6 P.M. It was already dark. The boatmen declared they could go no further. But it was hardly convenient for us to sleep on the boat, and I kindly told the boatmen that I had hired them to go to Gak Liang. They had been reserving their strength all day and I was ready to pay them when we

reached Gak Liang and not before. If they refused to go on what they had done would be of no profit to them. They grumbled and kept on up the rapids. We reached Gak Liang a little after 8 p.m. all safe and happy. I gave the boatmen an extra 20 cents and I thought they were all going to hug me at once. If it had been light I expect you could have seen me blush at the compliments they heaped on me.

We had a good sleep that night at Gak Liang and yesterday we came by land up to Ing Hok. Mr. Walker and Dr. in chairs and I on foot. It was, as it always is, a very pleasant day's work. One of the pastor's from Shaowu is with us, and he adds much to the pleasure of the trip.

This morning Mr. Walker went up to Uo Cia and Gak Tau to preach. The Shaowu pastor and I preached and conducted communion at the Woodin Memorial Church here. This afternoon we have had a nice C.E. meeting.

The weather continues fair and mild. I have not yet put on Winter underwear. We are having a little fire here to eat by. But it is quite comfortable in my room now writing with no fire and no overcoat.

Mr. Walker and I expect to go down to Gak Liang on Tues. He will go right on to Foochow to attend Mr. Hartwell's 75th birthday celebration. I must go up in the mountains from Gak Liang three miles to Tung Chang to meet the Christians for a little service on Wed. morning. Dr. Woodhull will come down to Gak Liang on Wed. and she and I will go from there to Foochow on Tues.

I think I have not yet written that the home box has arrived all right and we have had a fine Indian meal pudding with raisins in it. The Consul and Mrs. Gracey praised it highly. It was good. The pumpkin you sent last year is not quite gone. The best of wives made a pie for me to bring on this trip. I have tried to enjoy sharing it with Mr. Walker and Dr. Woodhull. It is all gone!!

I shall ask Mr. Walker to take this to Ponasang for me so it may be mailed on Wed. Ellen will fill up the empty space.

With Lots of Love.

Will.

[The following is written by Ellen]

But the letter did not reach me until after the messenger had gone on Wednesday, and being in attendance upon a birthday celebration followed by a prayer meeting I have found no opportunity to "fill up the empty space: until now, Thurs.

All our present Mission force including children, with the exception of 6, were present at the Birthday Dinner. It is seldom we all meet in this way and this was a very pleasant occasion.

The Mission presented Mr. Hartwell with a silver-headed bamboo cane and a croquet-set, the latter being the almost only form of physical recreation and exercise that a man of his age could participate in, and he does enjoy that.

We are busy now preparing for the Christmas exercises in the churches, and for the graduating exercises that come a month later. My particular part of this work is to select music and drill the singers, distribute the cards and attend as many of the dozen or more services in various places, as I can. This together with attending to the details of finishing the new house keeps us both from being idle. But we are glad to make Christmas a happy time for the Christians for they give up a number of festivities when they give up idolatry. Just now they are having one of their idol feasts and music and drumming and firecrackers are common sounds. Whenever Gould hears it he says "The Chinese are worshipping "dirty dolls"", as he calls the idols. We are all well as we hope this finds you.

Very lovingly yours Ellen.

[This letter dated Dec. 30, 1900 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He requests that they send in his life insurance payment for him. Christmas exercises are over. Willard describes the odd Christmas decorations the Chinese come up with for the churches. Their new house has been painted. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Dec. 30th 1900.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last on Dec. 11th - no it was Dec. 16th while at Ing Hok and I have not recorded it. This letter was delayed in going to the office and was not numbered. Your last arrived Dec. 21st just in time for Christmas.

Yesterday I wrote Mr. Hartwell- acting treasurer in Dr. Kinnear's absence- for an order on the A.B.C.F.M. Treasurer at Boston for you- amount \$50.00. But her replies that Dr. Kinnear had left no Boston orders with him. We suppose Dr. Kinnear is now in Shanghai and will be here on the next steamer. I am afraid if I wait for him it will be too late to pay my life insurance so I am going to ask you to advance the money. I will send the order as soon as I can. If you chance to have any money on hand for me, keep it, only let me know of its receipt and the amount. The last mail brought \$3.00 in Dominion of Canada paper currency. I shall send this with the order in registered letter, hoping you may be able to use it. The number of my life insurance policy is 166224, Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.

752 Broad Street
Newark
N.J.

The amount of the premium is (\$27.86) twenty seven and eighty six hundred dollars. The premium is due Feb. 27th.

It seems to me it would be well for you to make a note of the address of this company, and the amount of insurance on my life = \$1000. Last year the amount of additional insurance purchased by the premiums was \$137, so the whole amount of insurance at the present time is \$1137. When the receipt comes to you this amount will be increased by about \$15.00.

The past week has been filled with Christmas exercises. They began last Sunday at Ha Puo Ga. If I describe the decorations here it will suffice for every place. The pulpit is covered with tables in tiers. These are first covered with white table cloths or with bright embroidery. Then on the tables are arranged clocks of every description. There are sure to be one or two with some kind of visible motion. One stands high and beneath the clock is an image sitting in a swing. This is suspended by a spring and the machinery of the clock keeps the image



going up and down. Then they had one piece of machinery this year that made the foreigners bite their lips to keep from smiling. It was a cigarette advertisement. A fat German's head is seen above an ad't board. His elbows rest on the top edge of the board and his hands point to the ad't. He has a broad grin on his fat round face and a cigar in one corner of his mouth. The figure the size of a 12 year old boy. The machinery makes the head move from side to side. The eyes also move from side to side and the first finger moves up and down on the board. Beside the clocks are lamps and handsome flowers or other articles in glass cases. Then there are always potted plants and cut flowers in vases and greens tied much as we tie them at home and festooned about the room. Add to these Chinese lanterns of various shapes and colors and you have the picture completed. Oh, no. On the walk are many of the large Bible pictures mounted as scrolls and generally foreign photos in frames. This year photos of the Czar and Czarina of Russia and Prince and Princess of Greece. We in America do not beat them very much for quantity of Christmas decorations.

The exercises on the whole have been better than in former years. Perhaps in one or two places the exercises have been better in former years, but this year they have been uniformly good. The day school scholars both boys and girls and the women also have taken part in the exercises. The teachers and literary men have written original accounts (that is the language and idiom were original) of the birth of Christ and original poems have been written and recited or sung by Sunday School Children. At each church there have been from four to ten addresses. These have been short and every one of them excellent. On Wed. and on Sat. I was absent from home all day. Eating a feast after the morning exercises at one chapel and also after the exercises in the afternoon at another chapel. The church members have very generally given up their business for the occasion and helped in the decorating and also attended the exercises-especially the feasts. In some places where the head of a shop or factory was a Christian he has celebrated the occasion in his shop or factory- giving his clerks or workmen a part holiday and holding appropriate exercises hoping to influence his employees for good. This is a very hopeful sign.

On Tues. evening we had a little celebration all to ourselves with others in the compound. Miss Garretson, Dr. and Miss Bement and all their servants with our servants. We had a little tree with some candles on it and pretty well loaded with presents- there were 20 persons in all and a little candy and the pop-corn you sent made excellent balls that just suited the Chinese tooth. This is the land of oranges and we had two bushels and over. This made the fourth celebration I had attended that day.

To day I helped at the communion at Au Iong Die. None united with the church. Three wished to do so, but it was thought they could wait till next year.

The new house is nearly all painted. I have spent three half days there painting veranda floors. A half day for me means two or three hours, - or less. I bought some floor paint from San Francisco and want to put it on myself, -then I am sure it gets on. We want to simply oil the dining room and the halls. The other rooms are mostly white or a suggestion of green with colored trimmings. Ellen has had her hands full with overseeing the painters for the past two weeks. We want very much to get into the new house to receive the new missionary in Feb. but things must move more rapidly then for three weeks past to allow it. Our room over there will be very much pleasanter for Ellen than our room in the old house.

We think of you as all at home again. Enjoying the holidays together. How quickly the term has passed. It seems but yesterday that we came down from the mountain. You have all had one term of work in school and college. But this year we in China have a very long term. There was an intercalary [*intercalary-Inserted in the calendar to make the calendar year correspond to the solar year*] eight moon and the last day of our year will be Feb. 18th 1901. Our school term will close Jan. 30th. I must spend Jan. 16, 17th at least in Ing Hok. If the trouble at Sung Kau in the upper part of the field is settled I shall arrange to go up there. I ought to hold communion at Ngu Deng Muoi, Sung Kau and Diong Keng.

We are all quite well. The children growing fast and eating like little pigs. You would stare to see them eat fruit. Our breakfast consists only of fruit and oatmeal. The fruits are two kinds of oranges, dates, peanuts, bananas, pear, pumelo.

We hope you are enjoying the Christmas tide. With Love to all. Will.



Back in Shelton in about 1900. Photo of the Shelton Congregational Church

Today there is a room downstairs called the Beard Room. It was dedicated in memory of Ruth and Theodore W. Beard in 1976. Theodore was Zina Chatfield Beard's son and Willard's first cousin, once removed.

According to church history, the church was founded in 1892 and Willard was slated to be the first minister of the church, but he decided to become a missionary instead.

Puritans seeking a more local autonomy and a simpler church service founded the first Congregational churches in New England in the 1600's. Over the next two centuries, Congregationalism was the most popular form of worship in New England, particularly in Connecticut.

"The Hilltopper News". Shelton Congregational Church. September 4, 2009
<www.sheltoncongregationalchurch.org>.

