

1901

- Dorothy Beard born February 26, 1901 in Foochow, China
- September 1901-President McKinley shot and killed-Roosevelt becomes President
- Queen Victoria dies, Edward VII becomes King of England
- Willard is 36, Ellen- 33, Phebe- 6, Gould- 5, Geraldine- 3, and Dorothy is an infant.



Willard Beard and four unidentified ladies
Probably early 1900s
[Photo from the family of Myron Gould Beard.]

*[This letter dated **Jan. 6, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. New Years day has come and gone quietly. A well respected Chinese pastor in Foochow, Rev. Ling Nik Sing died unexpectedly. The Peets and Mrs. Hartwell are expected back in Foochow. Willard updates the folks back home about his children. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Jan. 6th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The right hand figure of the date changes again. The twentieth century has dawned. The old year went out and the new year came in without any fuss here. We went to bed as usual last Monday evening, and on Tues. morning awoke as usual in a new year and in a new century, and went about our customary duties. We were reminded however, while at breakfast, by the appearance of the teachers and students of the Sem'y, that New Year's greetings were in order. During the day a great many Chinese called to leave best wishes for the new year.

The last letter from Shelton arrived Dec. 21. I wrote Dec. 30 one week ago. The last mail brought a letter from G. A. Lawrence, my old room mate in Oberlin during the last term of our junior year and during the whole of the senior year. It was a refreshing breeze. The sheets were not filled with pious epithets. He did not dwell on the things we had given up. He assumed that we were still in the world of wicked humans- not all of whom are on this side [of] the globe, and not all of whom are Chinamen or even heathen. He is preaching in a Presb'n church in Monroeville, Ohio, near his old home. The Advance gave notice that Fred Sumner had accepted a son from his wife a short time ago.

The Mission met with a great loss this noon. Rev. Ling Nik Sing, pastor of the church in the city, connected with the college, was in his pulpit as usual for the Sunday morning service. During the opening exercises, he had just read the commandments and given out a hymn, when he called on the senior teacher in the College to preach for him. He went into his home, adjoining the church and asked for some tea. When it was brought he could not drink it. Dr. Woodhull tried to give him medicine but he could take nothing. He passed away within half an hour. Pastor Ling was the most conservative of the ordained men in our Foochow Mission. A man of unimpeachable character, thoroughly consecrated to his work. He has not been well since we have been in Foochow. One of the first matters that came up in business meeting after we arrived in Foochow was his health. I cannot think who will take his place. Ming Uong is the only man whose education and consecration fit him for the place. But I am afraid he would not last long in the position and then his present position could not be filled by any one now in sight.

God will take care of the whole matter and will find some one to fill the vacancy. How often we see in print "No one will be found to fill his place." Perhaps God does not want the place of any of us filled. Our work is done when He calls us home, and He wants another man- not to take up our work but to do another work, and have you ever thought, He always provides the man.

The Week of Prayer began to day with a sermon by Mr. Boyd of the Ch. Miss'y Soc'y. There will be meetings as usual each day at 3 P.M. at different residences.

I expect to start for Ing Hok again one week from tomorrow, Jan. 14th.

A letter has arrived stating that the missionaries on furlough in the U.S. started for Foochow Dec. 22nd. Mr. and Mrs. Peet, and Mrs. Hartwell are expected tomorrow. Dr. Kinnear and family we think are to come later.

We are all in excellent health. Gould said to his mother a few days ago "I would like to be married, mama. I would like to have a wife." He is urging his mother just now to take a picture of a pretty little baby up to God and ask him to send down a little sister for him. The plans that he makes for his little baby are beyond describing. Geraldine thinks it great fun to be "Dak Prost" (Jack Frost) and run about biting folks. Phebe is bathing Geraldine. Ellen says it is a circus to see the operation. It is as much fun for Geraldine as for Phebe. If Geraldine does not obey, Phebe shouts, "Mama you'll have to come with the spat stick" and Geraldine comes to terms at once.

Give our love to all
Will.

[This letter dated Jan. 27, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mr. Walker, Willard and two Theological students took a trip to the Ing Hok area. While travelling through a village they came upon a skirmish but they were not harmed and it had nothing to do with them. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Jan. 27th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My Correspondence Register tells a surprising tale this evening as I look at [it] to see when I sent the last letter. If it speaks truly I wrote last Jan. 6th, three weeks ago. I am afraid this is the truth, for the next week Jan. 13th I was just on the eve of starting for Ing Hok and the next week, Jan. 20th one week ago I was one hundred miles from Foochow at the farthest point in the Ing Hok field where we have work.

On the morning of Jan. 14th Mr. Walker and I and two of the Theological students started for Ing Hok. We arrived at Gak Liang that evening at 6 o'clock and found some 40 of the Christians assembled to eat the Christmas feast. We ate with them. The next day we walked up to Ing Hok. That evening we held the first session of the Ing Hok quarterly meeting. On Wed. we held three sessions and on Thurs. three sessions. Mr. Walker was very helpful. I was much pleased on Fri. morning to hear Mr. Walker say "A very successful quarterly meeting."

On Fri. morning Mr. Walker and the students started for Foochow. I, with three of the helpers and two load

carriers started for the stations up the river. That night we spent on Sa Sang- a level mountain top, at the house of the only man in that large tract of country, who professes to be a Christian. He is not free from the opium habit, and has not joined the church. We held a delightful and touching service with him and his family. He prayed very earnestly for the foreigners of sins and for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. A man who prays like that and who reads his Bible as I know this man does must have God's ear.

Sat. morning we were off for Diong Keng where we have a chapel, arriving at 4:45 P.M. On the road everywhere there were the best of opportunities for speaking of Christ. The three young men with me said I was as good as an accordion to attract a crowd. That Sat. at dinner in a native inn, we preached for an hour and a half to about twenty men. They listened most attentively and asked honest questions about the Gospel. The crowds everywhere were most attentive and polite. That evening- Wed. morning almost dinner time- we had a very interesting service at Diong Keng with four men who are Christians but have not the courage to stand up before their relatives and friends and confess Christ. They are afraid of being laughed at. But they will gain courage.

Sunday I conducted communion at Diong Keng in the A.M. and at Sung Kau in the P.M. Sung Kau is where the theft occurred in August. The thief and the man into whose house the goods were put are now in custody at Ing Hok and they have confessed. On the road from Diong Keng to Sung Kau we pass thro the village where these two men live. This village has for a long time borne a bad reputation. Just as we reached the village we hear a terrific shout and angry words. Looking in the direction of the sound, we saw about 15 rods away some 60 or 70 men collected with spears and tridents as if for no peaceable amusement. It was not exactly a pleasant sight in just that place and at just that time. Nik Huak the evangelist of the Ing Hok field was walking just behind me. He stopped and exclaimed "What is the matter?" One of the load carriers also stopped. The other kept on and I followed him. Someway I did not feel much disturbed. I thought of my sprinting days in college and made up my mind I could run as fast as the other fellow. But I felt all the time that this trouble did not at all concern us. This proved to be the case. These 60 or 70 men had been taking a feast over ancestral grave worship and had gotten drunk and then a fight ensued. We chanced to come along just at this time. We spent Sunday night at Sung Kau and Monday morning at 6:30 were going down rapids in a boat (ferry) with twenty other men. We made 12 miles in 3 hours, walked another 4 miles and took dinner at Ngu deng muoi. That afternoon I took the first rest I had had since leaving Foochow. In the evening conducted communion with one church member.

Tues. morning at 7 o'clock we were off for Ing Hok- arriving at 3:30 P.M. walking 24 miles. The next morning I started for Foochow arriving on Thursday at 10:30 A.M. finding all the dear ones well and happy.

Examinations in the Seminary were in progress, they were finished Fri.

Sunday morning I preached a baccalaureate sermon before the 7 Theol. students and the 10 girls who graduate this year.

Sat. we welcomed Dr. Bliss and Miss Walker. Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear came but they stopped on the South Side in a Meth. house.

Monday afternoon the graduation of the Seminary passed off nicely. Tues. P.M. the Girls College graduated ten girls with honor. Seven graduated from the Theol. Sem'y.

I have now had my dinner and am going into the city to attend the graduation exercises of the Boy's College this afternoon. Ellen goes with me.

We are all well and happy. God is always very good to us. We rec'd last Sat. a letter from Shelton and a beautiful picture of two little girls whom we have named Annie and Olive.

Love to all
Will.

[This letter dated Feb. 8, 1901 was written from Boston, Mass. by Francis E. Clark to Mr. Dwight Goddard. Mr. Clark writes praising Willard and the seminary. He is very supportive of the financial support the board is giving for the new building. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Copy.

Presidents Office. U.S. of C.E.
Boston, Mass. Feb. 8th, 1901.

Mr. Dwight Goddard.
Lancaster. Mass.
My dear Mr. Goddard:-

When in Foochow last year I became greatly interested in Rev. W.L. Beard and the students of his theological seminary in that place. There are few nobler men or more successful workers in the mission field than Mr. Beard. And few schools that if properly equipped can accomplish so much for the cause of Christ throughout China.

I am glad that you are assisting the American Board in securing funds for its much needed building and I am most happy to testify to my appreciation of the work of the school and to wish for you the best of success in placing it upon a firm foundation.

Faithfully yours.

Francis E. Clark.

Dear Miss Beard:-

Isn't this great? I feel like throwing up my hat. In another letter he says. "I believe with all my heart in Mr. Beard and his work." Will you send this to your home. You need not return it to me.

Yours sincerely,

Dwight Goddard

[This letter dated Feb. 10, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard mentions two new types of games – basket ball and hockey. He has noticed that the missionaries and merchants have become more acquainted since the troubles in China. They often play sports together now. The Shaowu missionaries have been cleared to go back to their station and resume their work. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Feb. 10th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I started the last letter about Feb. 1st. Your last arrived Jan. 21. But the mail last week brought a good long letter from Miss Newton, - all about her visit at both Shelton and Putnam, so we heard from you only a few days since. Feb. 1st the temperature took a sudden fall- going down to 30 degrees above. This is very unusual here. The cold has continued longer than we have known it to before in the seven winters we have spent here. Coming so suddenly after warm weather, it was very trying to mankind and there are many calls of the doctors. Gould is nearly over his cold, Geraldine is getting the better of hers, I have kept close to the house yesterday and to day and feel much better this evening. I have not gone to bed only held up and done as little as possible. Ellen and Phebe have thus far escaped and I trust they will not have to take a course. Last Tues. I attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Anglo Chinese College (Meth.) and Wed. A.M. the Commencement of the same college, and in the P.M. the Monthly Concert of Prayer at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Muller of the Ch. Missionary Soc'y. Fri. A.M. I went into the city to play "Basket Ball." This is a new game born since I left the states. "Hockey" is another game that I heard little of before leaving home. *[Hockey came to the U.S. from Canada in 1893.]* The missionaries and community men play together. The troubles and the dangers of the past few years have brought the missionaries and the merchants much nearer to each other than they were when we first came to Foochow. The athletic sports are now helping to bridge the chasm. Yesterday it rained. We have had very little rain since the big flood last July, so it seems good to have some occasionally. We cannot move over to the new house until (?) possibly not before next Sept. Dr. Kinnear and Mrs. Kinnear are staying on the South Side in a Meth. house and I must not leave the compound here until a man can be here. The prospects now are that the Shaowu missionaries can go back to their station about Mar. 1. Both the Chinese officials and the Consuls have given their permission. Miss Newton enclosed the money from the W.C.T.U. in her letter. This is all I'll write this time. Jan 20th I was 100 miles from Foochow at Sung Kau. Jan 30th we remembered. Feb. 5th has passed. The 18th and 25th are coming. *[birthdays]* Love to all from Will

[This letter dated Feb. 17, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The new house is almost finished. More of the missionaries have arrived. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Feb. 17th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Feb. 10th I sent letter No. 3. Feb. 14th one arrived from you. The past week has slipped away very fast and it seems as if very little had been accomplished. Next Tuesday is Chinese New Years. The last week or two of the year are always full of business. Then the arrangements for the work of next year are not yet completed, so the days have been quite full. Yesterday I painted the upper half floor and part of the back veranda floor of the new residence. The mission has appointed us to occupy it. But the time when we can go is as yet an indefinite quantity. We may not move till next Summer. Ellen had a hard struggle to make up her mind to stay in the old house in bed for three weeks, but now that her mind is made up it will be less hard to do it. Our bed room here is a very cheerless room, and the arrangement of the house makes it impossible to change rooms. Our bed room in the new house is a very pleasant room, with one of the finest views in Foochow.

Ellen and the children are quite well. Gould has entirely recovered from his cold and Geraldine is nearly from hers. Phebe and Gould have thrived in the cold weather. The thermometer dropped to 28 ½ one night last week. This is the coldest weather we have experienced in Foochow. Fri. and Sat. mornings there was a very heavy frost that has killed all the grass, and some of the flowers- The heliotrope is all black, and the callas look worse for the ordeal.

Miss Chittenden arrived Fri. morning. Dr. and Mrs. Whitney stop in Shanghai. He meets with the committee on Medical Nomenclature for China, in that city and will come down later. Mr. Walker and his daughter moved into Dr. Kinnear's house last Tues. so we are quite lively at Ponasang now. Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Hartwell moved down to Pagoda Anchorage yesterday. You know Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard's family are to sail for American Feb. 22, next Friday and Mr. Hartwell takes his work in that station.

I am sending you two photos. One should have had attached the tissue paper that I inclose here. The other I think you will recognize. We think both photos specially good. The one of the three cherubs is my own fixing. I promised Ellen I would take all the ones. The children are just as they chanced to dressed or undressed clean or otherwise at the time- about 10:30 A.M. Phebe was looking at the photo with Mr. Walker's Botany glass and remarked "How bushy my hair looks!" Gould was coerced into having his photo taken and this is hardly up to par in his looks. But the girls are good. Geraldine will never have a better one taken. It is perfect of her.

Give our love to Grandmother, and Aunt Louise and all the rest.

Lovingly Yours

Will.

*[This letter dated **March 3, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen gave birth to another baby girl and they names her Dorothy. Gould had previously shown Ellen a picture of a baby girl and told her to ask God for one like that. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary

W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, March 3rd 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last Feb. 18th No. 4. Your last letter arrived yesterday- the one addressed to Ellen. I wrote last Wed. to Putnam telling the latest and most important news concerning China- i.e. the arrival of a young lady at our house at 4:40 a.m. Feb. 26th. She thought it would not be well for some reason to have the same birthday as her Aunt Flora (Feb. 25th) or as her grandfather Kinney (Feb. 24th) so she chose the 26th. She had a swift and easy voyage, and is getting acclimated nicely. Her hair is black, she weighed 8 ¾ lbs. At five days old she is eating every time she gets a chance and anything that comes within reach of her beak from her actions one is led to fear she has been nearly starved for a long time. I did not tell the folks at Putnam her name for the best of reasons. We have decided to call her Dorothy. Will you either send this to Putnam or write and tell them of our decision. She has steadily improved in her behaviour since she arrived. She had evidently been used to American time, for the first three nights she waited to turn into day, only however for two or three hours. But the last two nights she asked only for two lunches during the night and slept perfectly. Ellen is getting on as well as we can ask. She even this early wants to get up. Gould says she is the little sister he asked his Mama to get from God. He found a nice picture of a little girl and asked his Mama to get one like from God for him.

This is in haste because many are the demands on my time these days.
With Much Love
Will

*[This letter dated **March 17, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard helped the 5 missionaries onto boats to go back to Shaowu. The family has all had the grippe (flu). Baby Dorothy is doing well. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, March 17th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Letter No. 5 announcing Dorothy's arrival started Mar. 4th. That letter acknowledged the last one received from you i.e. Mar. 1st.

Looking back from this date we have got along nicely. Briefly our history is – March 6th I helped the Shaowu friends put their things on the boats preparatory to starting up river. In the evening they all- Mr. and Miss Walker, Dr. and Miss Bement and Dr. Bliss- took dinner with the children and me and went on board the boats about 8 P.M. It was a hard day's work and even Ellen was somewhat wearied by the confusion all about. The next day we remarked that it seemed the day after a typhoon- all was so quiet. The Seminary opened that day. The next day Friday I stopped work at noon and just lay around. Sat. and Sunday I remained in bed. The children had fine times those days. There was no one to restrain them. But they seemed to keep very happy. At table they had three or four servants to do their bidding and we judged from the happy sounds that reached us that servants and children had nothing to complain of. We have one amah that is as good as she can be and at such times is worth her weight in gold. Monday morning I dressed and went to breakfast but did not get to the Seminary. I washed the baby both Sat. and Sunday, so you see I was not a complete invalid.

We have all had hard colds with fever. I expect in America it would have been called Grippe. We are all nearly well now. Dorothy had to come in for her share last. Her hardest time was last Sunday. She has troubled us very little tho. One or two nights we were up with her two or three hours. The first week she gained 1 ½ lbs. The next week- when she had the Grippe- she just held her own. The past few days we can see she has grown. Ellen has been sitting up in her room for nearly a week now, and she goes about in her room as she likes. Fri. she cut my hair. She is spending her odd moments copying the minutes of Mission business meetings into the Secretary's book. This task is happily at an end now, for Mr. Peet has the work.

On last Tues. the mission had another business meeting- an all day session. On Wed. I took my class in the Sem'y and have met it each day since. For the present I have only one class a day.

We are enjoying beautiful April weather these days. To day is clear and mild. The buds are swelling- almost bursting on many trees. Peach blossoms are out. The grass was killed by frost this Winter and the new fresh green grass is just appearing.

In the churches the work is starting slowly this year. I shall have hard work to push self-support. I hope however to carry it thro except in two places- as heretofore. Au Ciu and Dung Song cannot do it, and I shall help them. Geu Cio Dong will ask me to help the janitor. Ha Puo Ga I think will care for itself. I have had an endless amount of trouble over the Pastor in the Ing Hok field, Ciong Ging Beng. At last it is settled that he shall remove from Gak Liang to Chong Ha. This is something like cutting loose the key log in a jamb on the river. It relieves many other pressures and makes the planning of the work quite easy.

It is time to think of the shipment that is to start next June. I think one pair of shoes for me as usual No. 9 wide, about \$3.00. You need not send the rubber overshoes this time, 20 or 30 lbs. of rye, a little popping corn and a little dried pumpkin if you have it.

With best love to grandmother and Aunt Louise and all the others.

I am
Your
Will.

*[This letter dated **March 24, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen is doing well since Dorothy's birth. Dwight Goddard is working hard in the U.S. raising money for the new Seminary.]*

A new missionary named Lewis Hodous is being sent by the Board to Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, March, 24th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Another week has passed and I will write a line or two to let you know our condition. I wrote last one week ago, No. 6. March 20th we received letters from Flora, Phebe and Mother. On the 21st letters came from Putnam and from Dwight. So the week has brought a good lot of good news from different places.

With us all has gone much as usual. Ellen has gained strength steadily. On Tuesday when Dorothy was three weeks old Ellen came out to dinner with us. Two days later, Thursday evening, she took supper with us. These good deeds she has perpetrated daily every since. She still rises late and so still has breakfast in bed. She rises about 10 a.m. and sits up all day- without fatigue. Dorothy is a very proper child. She has learned to distinguish day and night, and seems to understand that night is the time when people sleep. As soon as she had recovered from the cold she began to sleep nicely at night, and to be awake more in the day time. I think during the past week she has gone to bed about 9 P.M. and asked for a lunch about 1 P.M. and breakfasted about 5 A.M. She is a bright eyed little lass, and already notices people or moving objects. She is very strong and would bear her whole weight on her feet now if we would allow it. I have bathed her each evening with Ellen to help. It keeps my attention fixed to prevent her from jumping out of the bowl. One night she nearly kicked the wash bowl off the chair on to the floor.

Phebe is never so happy as when holding Dorothy. She is very handy and holds her for a quarter of an hour at a time, and sometimes rocks her to sleep.

Dwight is hot after money for a new Theol. Seminary. He wrote me that the Board is really corresponding with a man to come to this station. I do not remember if I have written that Mr. Gardner formerly of the Shaowu station has written that he does not think it possible for him to go back to that station, and the mission has promised him work in some part of the Foochow field. He will in all probability take some of my work for I now have all the work of two stations alone, while each of the other two stations have two men in them. (I should have excepted Dr. Kinnear's Hospital). I hope one of the two young men with whom the Board is corresponding relative to coming to the Foochow Mission will be willing to go to Shaowu.

Monday- March 25th. A letter from Dr. Smith today states positively that Mr. Smith has been appointed to the Foochow Mission. Also that the Board is in correspondence with a man a graduate of Hartford Sem'y 1900, now studying in Germany, with reference to coming to this station. From Mr. Goddard we learn that this man's name is Hodous and from the Hartford Sem'y catalog we learn it is Lewis Hodous of Cleveland, Ohio. Well it looks as if there was help ahead.

Love to all from all
Will.

[This letter dated April 21, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard took a trip to Ing Hok with hopes of going on to Diong Keng but the rain was too hard. He tells about a man on opium. He tells a couple of tidbits on his children. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, April 21st 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My register says that my last letter was written Mar. 31st, that your last arrived April 8th.

April 7th two weeks ago I attended two services and then had to meet Dr. Stryker [Minnie] = Miss Garretson's niece appointed to be associated with Dr. Woodhull. The next four days were more than full so I am afraid you have gone three weeks with no letter from me. On Wed. April 10th I married one of the Sem'y graduates of '99. On Thurs. I was preparing for the Ing Hok trip. In the evening we took dinner at Miss Garretson's with friends from the other missions in honor of Dr. Stryker's arrival. On Fri. morning I was off for Ing Hok. For the description of that trip I am going to ask Ellen to send you the letter I wrote her from Ing Hok a week ago today.

I intended to start from Ing Hok city Fri. April 18th, walking that day to Sa Sang, and the next day to Diong Keng. Then on Sunday hold communion there and at Sung Kau 6 miles away. Then return to Ing Hok Mon. and Tues. and get home Thurs. But on Fri. morning it rained hard till after noon. The Sa Sang road is a mountain path, much of the way only an earth path. The coolies could not walk and carry a load and I should have had hard work to make the journey. To start later than 10 or 11 o'clock would be too late to allow of our arrival at Diong Keng Sat. night. I thought it essential to be at these places on a Sunday. Then I had been walking mountain paths all the week and was in no good condition, for five days of successive walking of from 6 to 25 miles a day. So I backed down and took a boat for home, planning to try for the remote part of the field again the first of May.

All over the plain the farmers are now busy reaping the wheat. On the plain there is a good crop, but up on the mountain sides the extreme cold days in Jan. and Feb. nearly destroyed the crop. In Ing Hok district the farmers are preparing the fields for rice. Opium is cultivated on a larger scale each year. It's ravages among the men are terrible. I went into one miserable den up on the mountain at Puai Sioh. A house had been divided by a partial partition and two young men, themselves smokers, each had opened a shop to sell opium. One of the young men was above the average in native ability and intelligence. He had been about the province much and understood men, and he knew himself. He fully realized his own condition, and he realized the gravity of it to a greater extent than is usual. He had used so much money in buying the stuff for himself to smoke that he could no longer keep shop for others and he now just exists, in rags and filth and misery. He made a pitiable sight. Usually the smokers are frank to admit that they use the opium, and immediately tell me that it comes from my country. If ever I am glad to be an American is at these times when I can tell those who throw this accusation at me, that the people in my country know little about opium. That it came to China from India. I feel for the English missionaries who are accused of bringing in this poison, for they must blush for their country's sin against China. But the ordinary low class smoker shows little sorrow over his condition. They usually tell me, "There is no help for it. The habit is formed and they cannot break it." - often asking me if I have any medicine that will destroy the appetite. One poor fellow told me the other day, that he would smoke no more when he was dead.

I was very glad yesterday to find Ellen and all the children well. Dorothy had grown quite perceptibly in the nine days. She is a fine, strong, good baby. Smiling at every one and even at seven weeks old tries to coo. Geraldine stretches her arms out as far as possible and says "I lo' Do'ty dat lo'". [*I love Dotty that long.*] She does not sound the "ve" in love or the "ng" in long. The o's are given the same sound as in speaking correctly. Strawberries three times a day! Phebe wants to know "Does Jesus understand Chinese?" Gould drops an egg on the stair. In a few minutes Mama sees the shell and a wet place on the stair. "But where is the egg?" Gould hangs his head. Phebe:- "He's aten it up."

I have spent all the morning sleeping and all the afternoon resting today.

With Love to all
Will.

*[This letter dated **May 26, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Since the last letter Willard has taken another trip to Ing Hok, Gak Liang and Diong Keng. Ellen had a sore throat and lost her voice. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China,
May 26th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter No. 9 started from Foochow, April 21st. One went to Oliver a week later. May 13th letters arrived from both Shelton and Putnam. I am surprised at my register for telling such tales and am of half a mind to accuse it of being false for I am loath to believe that I have not written you for over a month. Time however goes on eagle wings and four weeks is only a brief space as one looks back.

If April 21st was my last letter, I left you just after returning from a trip to Ing Hok. Oliver's letter written May 13th must of spoken of the next trip- May 1st to 13th on which I visited the farther part of the field, stopping at Ing Hok City on the way back for a two days meeting with the workers in the field, then spending Sunday May 12th at Gak Liang, returning to Ponasang May 13th. May 5th I thought of you all very often for you were sitting at the Lord's table in Huntington, Shelton, Bridgeport, Framingham, Amherst, South Orange and I do not know where. I thought also of the gathering in Putnam for the same purpose. That day I began service at Diong Keng at 8:45 a.m. This service closed at 11 o'clock. Two women were admitted to the church. At noon our dinner was over and we were off for Sung Kau 6 miles distant. 2:15 p.m. found us here and at 3 o'clock service began closing after 5 o'clock. Two men united with the church. The communion service in these far away places is always long and when

candidates are examined and admitted to the church it all has to be done at one session and it makes a long ceremony. I was tired that night- a little. But the next morning I was up soon after 4 o'clock and off for the ferry to go 12 miles down the rapids for 10 cents, and then walk 5 miles to Ngu Deng Muoi Chapel. I had eaten on the ferry 2 bananas, a rice cake and one cruller. Just before we reached Ngu Deng Muoi we came to a house by the road side where a man was boiling sweet potatoes. We washed them, cut them in diagonal slices and steamed rather than boiled them. They cost 8 cash a bowl. One bowl made a meal. On the whole trip I admitted seven to the different churches.

Arriving at Ponasang I found Ellen had been nursing a sore throat most of the time while I had been away. It has been a little better but was again growing worse. It continued to grow worse and gave her much pain and made it impossible for her to take solid food till May 24th- day before yesterday. She has been up every day except two- last Thurs. and Fri. when she did not dress. For just a week now she has been unable to make a sound with her vocal organs. She has to resort to whispering. Fri. the soreness went away, and she ate soft toast for supper. Yesterday she was at the table three times and to day she is eating as usual. Her only trouble now is the inability to speak and a general weakness due to fasting and to feeding Dorothy. That young miss has not realized that her mother was otherwise than perfectly well. Ellen could take liquid food enough to keep up the supply of milk. The little girl has slept perfectly every night and has been as happy as a little canary each day. She is just learning (three months old to day) that she has a voice. And like a young rooster just beginning to crow she is using her vocal powers to the full extent of her ability. She is a very happy little girl with a sweet smile for every one, and she is now adding a coo. The other children are all well. Gould and Geraldine have had symptoms of Ellen's sore throat but frequent gargling and cold water compresses have relieved them.

Last week the ther. stood at 80 degrees – 85 degrees in the coolest places. Fri. Dr. Woodhull, Miss Brown and Dr. Stryker went to Guliang to stay over Sun. and return to morrow. The day they went was very hot, but that night it rained and the mercury dropped 10 degrees. It has since gone 5 degrees lower and has rained almost constantly. We have been able to see the mountain only once or twice since they went up, so we do not envy them their altitude. If the hot weather commences now we shall take the children to the mountain very soon.

Phebe wants me to write "Dorothy is rosy". She is making good progress in reading. Ellen writes a blackboard 3 X 3 ft. full of sentences and Phebe reads them at sight. Of course Ellen selects words that Phebe is familiar with. Yesterday while I was present Ellen wrote "The red bird laid a white egg." Phebe read it without difficulty. She has just come and pointed out the word "egg" above in my wretched scribbling.

Lots of love to all.

Will.

*[This letter dated **May 27, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Consul Samuel L. Gracey to Willard. Consul Gracey requests Willard to do an address at a Memorial service. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[May 27th, 1901]

My Dear Mr. Beard,

Will you do us the favor of making a short address at the Memorial service to be held at the Foreign Cemetery on Thursday next at 5:30 P.M. and oblige.

Yours Truly
Samuel L. Gracey

May 27th 1901

My Dear Mr. Beard,

I must write and thank you for your part so faithfully rendered in our service today. We all felt that your prayer was so very appropriate and inspiring. I wish you would reduce it to writing for me that I might print it in the account of the services to be published in the ??- I should like to have by bearer if possible, if not please sent it early in the morning and oblige.

Yours
S. L. Gracey-
Consul-

*[This letter dated **June 2, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen is feeling better from her sore throat. Miss Newton will be coming back from the U.S. and Dwight Goddard continues to work on raising money for the Seminary. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.
June 2nd 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Last week I wrote No. 10 and started it for Shelton. Your last is still May 13th. It seems a long time since we had heard from you, - all the longer because of the condition in which your last letter left Uncle Theodore and Nellie Blakeman.

Ellen has quite recovered from her illness. But her voice still sticks in her throat and she speaks in whispers. Yesterday and today she has once or twice made a loud noise with her vocal organs. The children keep quite well. As to myself, no one will pity me for I tipped the scales at 171 ½ lbs. the other day in Summer attire.

The past ten days have been quite cool. It has rained most of the time. To day is the first nice clear day in much over a week. With the therm at 80 degrees we call it very pleasant. This evening the moon is full, the sky clear and it is delightful. Ellen is out on the walk for exercise. All the babies are fast asleep.

Friday morning at 6:45 o'clock we were pleasantly surprised at the arrival of the Shaowu people, Mr. and Miss Walker, Dr. and Miss Bement and Dr. Bliss. They started from Shaowu the Monday previous at noon, - a quick trip. Dr. Bement went immediately to the mountain. The rest are still here at Ponasang. They will all remain here till after the Annual Business meeting of the Mission which begins next Thursday morning at 9:30. We may finish in one day. But more likely it will take two.

By the time this reaches you, the old house will be full with school ma'ams and students. What an atmosphere of intellectuality there must be about the Century Farm during vacation! The trees will soon be talking in Latin and the cows lowing in Greek. Stanley will never again soil his "widder's" colars by climbing all over his shoulders when he comes to see him. With us strawberries are all gone. With you they are just beginning to ripen and this letter will find them in their prime. How I should like to be the letter about that time. We have not yet thought definitely of going to the mountain. It will depend entirely on the weather. If it should come off very hot it would send Ellen and the children off in two days notice. The Seminary closes June 19th. Then June 25 and 26 I have a Quarterly Meeting with the helpers of this station. Then I am free to go [to] the mountain- unless the money is sent for the Church Enlargement- or some other building commences. Miss Newton is expected back in about a month. I have just secured for her a native house that the mission has been trying to buy for twenty years or more and she will want to commence on the building of the new Girl's College at once I suppose. Then we are praying for success to Dwight in his efforts to raise the money for the property for the new Seminary. Well if one has nothing to do he is not at all happy. With plenty of work he has no time for unhappiness.

Give Our Love to All
Will.

*[This letter dated **June 9, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. John R. Mott of the Y.M.C.A. will be visiting China and Willard hopes that he will come to Foochow again. Dr. Bliss will be living with Willard's family on the mountain this summer. Willard feels he needs to go to Ing Hok to deal with a doctor at the hospital who has not been treating her co-workers well. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.
June, 9th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My register says that I wrote one week ago today, No. 11. I must again write the same date for the arrival of your last i.e. May 13th. We are anxiously waiting to hear about Uncle Theodore and Nellie Blakeman.

The week has passed pleasantly with us. Monday word came from D. Willard Lyon, General Y.M.C.A. Secretary for China, saying that John R. Mott, International Secretary of that movement, who visited China and came to Foochow in 1896, was to visit China again this year in November. But there was some doubt about his stopping at Foochow. So I have spent some time this week in getting invitations for him to be sure to visit Foochow during his stay in China. The pastors and preachers of the three missions here will send him three letters urging him to come. The six Y.M.C.A.'s will send a joint invitation, and the missionaries will sign a strong plea for him to stop.

His visit five years ago proved a great blessing to the Chinese church and they all want him to come again.

Last Thurs. we held the Annual Business Meeting of the Mission, for the first time out of the seven that I have attended we finished the business in one day.

The weather has been very kind to us thus far. The ther. has been in the 90's two or three times, but only for a day or two at a time. To day the sun is shining brightly and yesterday was also a pleasant day. At 2:15 p.m. today the mercury stands at 82 degrees. We call it very pleasant and comfortable. As long as such weather lasts we shall remain here at Ponasang. But it is more than probable that by one week from today Ellen and the children will be on the mountain. Dr. Bliss will be with us on the mountain this Summer. We are having another room built on to our cottage, so he will have the room Mr. Walker occupied last Summer, and we will spread out into two rooms for sleeping. Then one room will be left for dining and general living room. We enjoy Dr. Bliss's company. He is quiet and retired and is not annoyed by the children. We have already had two applications for the rent of our Guliang Cottage while we are at home on furlough. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner have the first chance. But as to whether they can have it next year or will have to wait till 1903 remains to be seen.

This last week news came from Ing Hok that may compel me to make another trip to that place before I go to Guliang for good. The physician whom Dr. Woodhull has placed in charge of the work there quarreled with the woman who taught the Woman's Station School last year. The physician was wrong. This year the school teacher was changed. A relative of the physician was asked to take the school. This school is in the second floor of the Hospital, so it is rather necessary that the two women could be on good terms. All went well this year till two weeks ago, when something- it is difficult to tell just what- upset the harmony and the doctor so far lost control of her self as to strike the young school teacher several times. Dr. Woodhull has about decided to close the Hospital for a time. If this is done it will necessitate my going up to Ing Hok this week or next.

I cannot remember when I have not gone to church Sunday morning, or as slight a pretest as kept me at home today. I was simply tired and sleepy and lay down on the couch at 10 o'clock. At 10:45 Ellen asked me if I was going to church. I did not go. But I must attend the Christian Endeavor this evening, a service I have not attended in over a year.

There is a little improvement in Ellen's voice over last Sunday. She can speak loud, but it requires effort. Wed. she went over South Side to do some shopping, and Thurs. the day of the business meeting, we had eight guests at dinner and Ellen attended part of the meeting. Then Fri. she went into the city to the closing exercises of the Woman's school and Kindergarten. I am afraid she used her voice a little too much and her general strength also a little too much.

The children are pretty well. Phebe and Dorothy seem to be perfectly well. Geraldine has had a little cold that exhibits itself in hoarseness and in cold sores on her face. She eats and sleeps all right and is fat as ever. Gould is playing so hard and growing so fast that he does not look as robust as a few weeks ago. To day he seemed out of sorts until 11:30 when I took him up to rock him a few moments and he went to sleep and woke at 2:30. He is happy now. Ellen has had some bows and arrows made for him and Phebe. He works so hard with his that he gets very tired. Love to all Will.

*[This letter dated **June 16, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The family will move up to Kuliang within the week. There is another illness killing many people in the Suburbs. Phebe makes a funny comment to Willard about men. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, June 16th 1901.

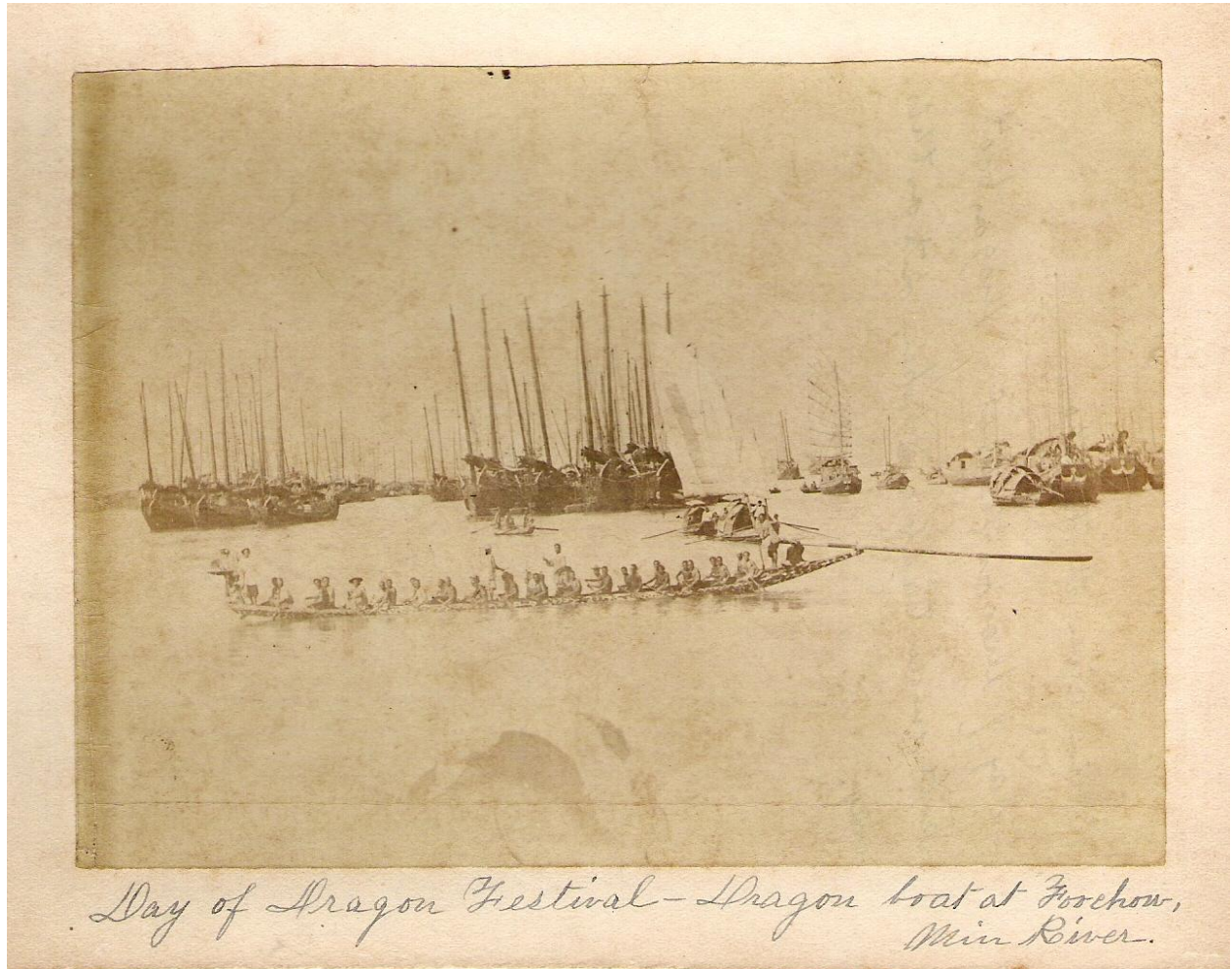
Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote you one week ago, No. 12. Another whole week we have waited in vain for your letter. A shanghai steamer is due here to morrow or next day. It must bring word from you.

We are still at Ponasang. The temperature has been quite endurable during the week. There has been some rain and but little sun. The thermometer has ranged from 78 degrees to 85 degrees. But we have had good nights rest each night and the children have got along nicely. Geraldine is showing the heat a little. The others are all right. They have discarded shoes and stockings and wear only about two garments. Dorothy night and day wears only one thin flannel gown. Yesterday and this morning were cooler and we have to dress by the hour, not for the day.

Last Tues. I went to Guliang to see if the cottage was all right for moving into. The Bement sisters were nicely settled in the cottage about ten rods above ours, and it was very nice to have a good dinner. Ellen and the children are now planning to go up on Wed. I will go with them for a day or two. I should like to start for Ing Hok on Thurs. But that is the day of the great Fifth Moon or Dragon Boat Festival, and I am afraid I could not travel. Mr. and Miss Walker and Dr. Bliss went to the mountain yesterday.

["On the fifth day of the fifth month comes the Dragon-boat festival, with its feasting and boat-racing. The numerous waterways of Fukien make it possible to celebrate this festival most elaborately. Every village gets out its sixty-foot canoe or dragon-boat and joyfully races the next village for days amidst the beating of tom-toms and the shouts of small boys." Steinbeck, Grace, Armstrong Susan, and Anti-Cobweb Club of Foochow Fukien, A Study of a Province in China. Shanghai, China: Presbyterian Mission Press, 1925. Book from the collection of Mark and Jana Jackson.]



Day of Dragon Festival - Dragon boat at Foochow,
Min River.

Day of Dragon Festival – Dragon boat at Foochow, Min River.
On the back of this photo is written "Boat kept under temple and taken out on this day"
[Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]



Holiday at the time of the Dragon Festival, Min River, Foochow, China
 [Photo purchased from ebay by Jana L. Jackson and donated to Yale in 2007.]

The people in many wards of the Suburbs here are dying off very fast. In the Au Iong Die church, the pastor's little boy and daughter in law, in the shop adjoining the church- kept by an earnest Christian-his, the Christian mother and his little daughter. In the next shop two persons. In another house next to the Ha Puo Ga church, seven people. In another place at a house in which lived twenty people nineteen have died. There was one death of a little boy, whom we were helping to support, in the parsonage at Ha Puo Ga. The second assistant teacher in the Sem'y Kiu Ging Nieng was taken ill last Wed. and I have had to meet his classes since. But Friday he was better and continues to mend. So I hope he will recover. The Classical Teacher Gong Sieu Lieng was taken ill Wed. also. He lives in the Sem'y. On Thursday he was no better and I sent him home. No word has come of his condition. Our best amah's only son died three weeks ago and she feels that she has nothing now to live for. She is in bed most of the time. The other amah is away for two days preparatory to going to Guliang so we are alone. The cook went to the bad a month ago and we turned him off and have been doing with a green boy. Ellen supplements his efforts so the rest of us cannot complain.

Ellen's voice has improved much in past few days. To day she speaks aloud more than half the time.

The fifth moon communion began today. At Geu Cio Dong five joined. At Ha Puo Ga two, at Sang Bo two. I was at Sang Bo. The attendance was good, and the attention excellent.

To-morrow and next day the examinations in the Seminary are held, then the Seminary closes for this term.

Tuesday is Phebe's birthday. She will be six years old. She is as active a little body as ever lived. She often bathes Geraldine- doing all the undressing and the dressing herself. To day she has been a great help in the absence of the amahs. This evening I was fixing the beds while Ellen was getting Dorothy to sleep. Phebe began to help. She could not take off and fold up the spreads, and while I was doing this she turned down the clothes and fixed the

pillows. She of course was thro first. She stood watching me fold the first spread and remarked in a matter of fact way, "Men are always very slow, aren't they?"

I wonder who the Mr. Lathrop is that the Shelton church has called for pastor. There was a Lathrop in Hartford in the class below mine. It was very pleasant that Mr. Kenneston could be present at the installation.

Now this will reach you in vacation. Please do not "vacate" so hard that you cannot find time for a word occasionally to us.

Give our love to Grandma and Aunt Louise and all the others.

Lovingly
Will.

*[This typewritten letter dated **June 24, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The family moved to Kuliang on Friday and found Dr. Bliss settled in. They are adding a room onto their mountain cottage. On one street in Foochow 80 people died in one day of the plague. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, June 24th. 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote as usual one week ago yesterday. Two letters have just arrived this morning, one from mother, one from Ben.

As I wrote last time we expected to start for the mountain last week Wednesday. But it rained that day and on Thursday the sky was threatening, the coolies did not want to go on account of a big feast that day, and we did not care. So we waited till Friday. The day was a beautiful one. The sun was bright on the way. The coolies were good and everything went as if it was greased. When we arrived we found Dr. Bliss there with the house all aired and dry and the Misses Bement had overseen the washing of the house and placed the furniture all in order so we had simply to go in and sit down to dinner.

Ellen and I were rather tired. We did enjoy the sleeping up there in the pure atmosphere and the QUIET. Phebe and Gould are the picture of health. Gould walked half way up the mountain and would have walked more if I had allowed. Geraldine has lost half her prickly heat already, and is a new girl. Dorothy is the same dear little sweet girl. To see her is to love her. But she is careful on whom she bestows her favors. At four months she is afraid of strangers when they take her. In her mother's or father's arms she laughs and crows at any one. While at the foot of the mountain waiting for the coolies to smoke and drink their tea, last Friday, I was holding her. She was looking over my shoulder and cooing as happily as could be. I looked around and there stood a crowd of little Chinese boys and girls. I told them she was telling them that God loved them.

I came down from the mountain this morning. I want to get the work done so as to go back tomorrow afternoon. The new room is well under way. We shall have a room to let now. Next year perhaps some of you will come out to see us. We have talked very seriously of inviting Mr. and Mrs. Sargent, Ellen's pastor and wife, to come and spend two months with in the Summer time.

The plague is raging fearfully. On one street in the city it is reported that 80 died in one day. The people are in a panic and are fleeing in all directions. In our Au Iong Die church there have been two deaths and in the house adjoining two and in the next house four. On this account there was no communion there yesterday and I had a rest. Mrs. Ding, Ming Uong's mother, was here this morning and said that on the street on which she lived there was only one house where there had been no deaths.

I think I wrote you some time ago about the Men's Missionary Society opening work on West Street in the city. They placed a young man a graduate of the Seminary this last January in charge of the chapel. He was the most promising man who has yet graduated from the Institution. My hopes for his success as a winner of souls was high. The pastors and other workers had great confidence in him. God also saw his fitness for service, for He called him yesterday to the higher service. His wife is ill with the same disease.

Ben's letter this morning was a fresh breeze from a new quarter. Tell him when you see him that I will answer it before long if all goes well. He seems happy and speaks as if Abbie was also happy.

You are in the midst of strawberries now. Haying is soon coming on. How I wish I could help you at it! The wayfarers are just coming home for all directions. The old home will be lively for two months. Don't forget to

write us. Give the company pen and paper and tell them to make pen pictures of the home while you are making raspberry short cake for them.

I must close now with lots of love,
Will.

*[This letter dated **June 30, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard and Ellen do not like to use the typewriter on Sundays so letters written on those days are handwritten. The Chinese have been beating gongs, blowing horns and making other noises to scare off the spirit that is causing the plague. Reports are that 4000 have died in Foochow and Willard believes it to be close to the truth. Ellen and the children are on Kuliang and Willard goes up when he can. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, June 30th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My last letter was written last Monday, June 24th. I neglected to number it. The number would have been 14, so I put that number on this letter. Your last arrived on that day and have been acknowledged. You will know the last week's letter from it's being type written. Ellen and I both feel an aversion to the use of the typewriter on Sunday. Hence as your letters are usually written on that day they are usually done with a pen.

The chief topic of conversation everywhere is the plague. The nights are hideous with the beating of gongs, the blowing of horns, the shooting of fire crackers and the yells of men. The people say that an idol from some other port has been imported on a vessel and he has decided to take a certain number of people from certain villages and cities. So they take the most powerful idol of each place and parade him on the streets with as many hideous noises as they can invent to drive the strange spirit away. As I write there is noise or better, are noises enough emanating from the temple in the corner of our compound to make man wish to be far away. It is strange what power superstition weilds over men everywhere- the moon seen over the left shoulder- the breaking of a mirror- digging potatoes or killing pork on the waning of the moon-thirteen at a table, might be termed the civilized cousins of the various superstitions that continually make life miserable for this poor people. Statistics of the plague victims are of course of doubtful accuracy. It is said that 4,000 have died in Foochow alone. I do not find it difficult to believe this.

And yet with all the fear of death the churches were never better filled than now. To day I conducted communion at Au Ciu, one woman was received. The church was crowded and the best attention was given to the preaching. Reports from other churches are very encouraging.

On Tues. p.m. I went up to the mountain again and remained till Fri. morning. I have been here at Ponasang since. To morrow and next day we have the quarterly meeting at this station. Then I hope to get off for the mountain for a rest. The heat has not been oppressive till this afternoon. I was feeling unusually warm and moist and looking at the thermometer found that it stood at 90 degrees.

Ellen and the children are well. We have a daily mail service, except Sunday. I feel quite composed to leave them on the mountain because Dr. Bliss is with them. The weather thus far up there has not been conducive to Dorothy's being out of doors as much as she would enjoy and the little Miss was not as happy as usual. But it did me good to see the evident pleasure that she experienced when she was taken out. Gould is in pants most of the time. He causes his mama no end of anxiety by climbing all over the half erected walls of the additions that we are putting on the cottage.

All crops are at the present time looking very well. Rice is very promising and if we do not have a flood it should yield well. Potatoes are also nicely started. Peaches and plums are in market of good quality and reasonable price.

We are preparing to celebrate the fourth on the mountain. How the first six months of this year have flown!!

We think of Etta now as Mrs. Willis Hume- dignified mistress of a parsonage.

With love to all

Will.

[Information about Willis P. Hume from his obituary: Willis P. Hume, husband of Etta Louise Kinney: Died April 29, 1939 in Cleveland, Ohio. Willis P. Hume was born October 23, 1861 in Marion, Ohio. He and his brother, Harry Hume, started the Marion Star which was later owned by the late President Warren G. Harding. He was a graduate of the Oberlin Theological Seminary and held pastorates for twenty-five years in the Meridan, North Bergen and North Tonawanda, N.Y. Since coming to Oberlin fourteen years ago, he has been engaged in stereopticon slide work.]

*[This letter dated **July 7, 1901** was written from Foochow, China to the Folks at Home. The plains on the way to the mountain are flooded and Willard had to wade 2 hours in it. Estimates now are that 6-7,000 people have died of the plague in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
Guliang, July 7th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My correspondence register is at Ponasang. But I wrote one week ago to day and numbered the envelope. No letters have come from you since I wrote last.

Tues. noon the rain began to fall in torrents and by Wed. morning the water was too high to start for the mountain. The water rose steadily all day Wed. and Thurs. morning it was no lower, but it began to subside Thurs. forenoon. Friday morning I started for Guliang at 7 o'clock. Before I was half way across the plain I sent my chair back because the water on the road was so deep the coolies could not carry me. Grip in hand I waded for two hours in water from 6 in. to 16 in. deep before reaching dry land at the foot of the mountain. At 12:45 I reached the home on the mountain just two days later than I had intended. All the dear ones were well and happy.

The flood this year has not done as much damage in any way as the big flood of last year. The water was four feet higher all over the plain last year. The rice crop will be injured about 1/5 according to the Chinese.

The plague had not abated at all the last I heard was before the flood. Some expressed the hope that the flood might wash away the seeds of the disease. It is estimated that from 6,000 to 7,000 have died of the plague.

The mountain is becoming quite populous. About as many families as usual are here but we miss the large contingent of young women connected with the English missions. They were recalled last year and have not returned. We expect Miss Newton in about another week. Miss Garretson and Miss Woodhull are still in Foochow. All the rest of our mission are here on the mountain.

I think Ellen has gotten a little tired during the week I was away. I have kept her on the bed all the morning and she has just had a nice nap this p.m. She does not like to acknowledge that she is tired. But she does admit that she feels very much refreshed by her nap. The children are the picture of health. Dorothy is growing fat on Guliang living. We all went over to Mr. Mains to dinner yesterday. Dorothy was asleep when we started. We left orders for the coolie to bring her over when she awoke. She came. But she sent her voice ahead. And when she arrived she was most cried out. The coolie has never taken her before and she was afraid of him. But a good dinner made to her own order made her forget all her abuses.

Monday- The mail has just come and it brot your letter of May 23rd. We are glad to hear that you are all well. Before this Mary is an alumna.

The three older children have accepted the position of mail carrier. The mail for several of our mission comes up by our messenger from Ponasang. The children distribute it to the several houses. Geraldine finds it rather hard to keep up with the others over the rough roads. They all went to church yesterday afternoon. With Dr. Bliss our family almost fills a pew. At supper Ellen had left the table to attend to Dorothy. I asked Phebe if she could tell what the minister said. She replied it would be better to wait till mama returned so she need tell only once. Then immediately she said, "Mama told me when I was at the table I must attend to eating."

Love to all
Will.



Undated photo- possibly about 1901. It appears that this group is travelling with their Chinese help – possibly moving up to Kuliang and taking a rest. Willard may be the man with the moustache at the right.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Magnified



This undated photo was probably taken between 1899 and 1901 in Foochow (or Kuliang). Willard is at the far right with Ellen at his side and Gould in front of Ellen. The little girl behind Ellen is probably Phebe. The two other little girls may be Geraldine (born in 1898) and Dorothy (born in February of 1901).

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **July 24, 1901** was written from Guliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The new room addition to the Kuliang or Guliang cottage is nearly complete. Dr. Bliss has gone to Sharp Peak for two weeks. Ellen had a fever but is better now. One of their amah's daughters died of the plague. Money has been appropriated for the new Theological Seminary. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Guliang, Foochow, July 24th 1901

Dear Folks at Home:-

July 7th a letter came from you. I wrote last two weeks ago last Sunday I think. I know I have written one since coming to the mountain. Etta's wedding invitation came this last week.

There is much to write if I tried to tell all that interests us, but it may not all interest you. It seems as if there was more work to do the longer one remains here. I suppose it is true that one who is willing to do and can do will always have his hands full. We have had delightful weather since coming to the mountain. Since the flood there has been little rain. The crops are beginning to feel the dryness a little. The dry weather is very nice for us. The new room is near completion. The plaster has dried very fast. I hear the carpenter tell the painter to come tomorrow or next day, that means finished. We are to have the wood work inside simply oiled over. This will dry almost immediately. They put it on with cloths and do not use an overdose.

Dr. Bliss went to Sharp Peak yesterday morning to be gone two weeks.

Ellen began to have a fever Sunday. Monday she remained in bed and is there yet. The fever is gone, but if she stays in bed, she rests. If she gets up she does not, so Dr. and I agree that it does her good to stay in bed. The children are as well as can be. Our second amah's little girl died of plague a week ago last Sunday and as she went home she cannot come back. So we are again with only one amah. The plague does not abate at all. The past week has been very hot in the city and on the plain. I see that you are having very hot weather in the States and in Europe.

The Convention of Guliang begins next Sunday. There are two meetings a day thro the week. I have the meeting Wed. p.m. Subj. "Fruit Bearing."

A week ago last Sunday a letter arrived from Dr. Judson Smith with the glad news that \$2500 had been appropriated for a new Theol. Sem'y building in Foochow. This makes three buildings for which the money is in hand. There will be something for someone to do to oversee this work.

You are in the midst of haying. How I would like to be at home to help you!!

We all send Love to you all
Will



This is probably Dorothy at Kuliang Summer of 1901. Since she was born in February she would be the right age in this photo. This may be the photo Willard refers to in the previous letter.

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



Gould is the boy at the far right in the back standing. Geraldine is sitting at the far right, with Phebe next to her holding Dorothy. The other children are unidentified. Taken at the Kuliang cottage. 1901

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

[This letter dated Aug. 11, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. A typhoon hit Foochow and caused some damage to their Kuliang cottage and the family had to split up into other houses for a day or so. Miss Newton had to stay at sea on a steamer to ride out the typhoon for two days until it was safe to come into port. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Aug. 11th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last July 24th. Your last came July 14th. The number of my last was No. 15.

When I wrote last Ellen was in bed, the Doctor kept her there until July 31st, that is she was not allowed to dress. She sat up each day for a time. July 31st she was up and dressed the next day she felt all the better for it. The next day Friday Aug. 2nd I went to Ponasang. Ellen was on the veranda with Dorothy in her arms to meet me when I returned. That night- Friday Aug 2nd a typhoon developed. It was in Mr. Bland's phrase, "a most extraordinary typhoon." Heretofore all typhoons of our acquaintance have come from the North East. This one began in the N. West and backed around to the South West to put in its best blasts. As we were at breakfast Sat. morning Aug. 3rd a hard gust took one section of our front veranda over the house. One rafter fell on the veranda floor with a crash. The houses here are not fortified for typhoons from the South and West. But many of them are well protected by their location. Mr. Bland whose house went to pieces two years ago and whom we housed for three weeks, was all safe this year and seeing our veranda on wings wrote down for us to come up. Ellen and the children decided to go, so I took Phebe wrapped in an old piece of canvas, and Mr. Bland's coolie took Gould and we went up to Mr. Bland's house 40 rods away. Dr. and Miss Bement are living in a house between ours and Mr. Bland's. They were well out of the wind and asked Mrs. Beard and Geraldine and Dorothy to come there. We accepted. So Ellen took off shoes and stockings and hat and with a pair of overshoes only and two woolen blankets around her waded up to Dr. Bements.

As soon as the veranda went I with hammer and nails fastened the rest so it did not blow away. The wind did not increase and the hole in the veranda roof afforded a vent for the wind. The house was not damaged more. Fortunately the veranda roof boards were of two lengths. The length from the ridge of the house extended down over the house wall, and the next began at the outside of the house wall and went to the edge of the veranda. Thus the veranda could go without injuring the house roof and the house did not leak.



Kuliang cottage veranda damaged by typhoon summer of 1901.
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

In the afternoon of that day Phebe and Gould and Geraldine came back home. Ellen and Dorothy came back Sunday morning none the worse for their outing. Heretofore typhoons of our acquaintance have cleared off in three days at the longest. But altho the rain ceased to be dangerous at noon on Saturday, the rain fell in torrents day and night, with only short rests on three or four afternoons until day before yesterday- just one week. Nearly every house on the mountain leaks because the tiles are soaked thro. The rain has been so heavy that it has caused a flood on the plain. Our messenger did not come for just one week. As we depend on him for fruit and meat and clean clothes, these commodities ran low. But canned goods kept us from want. Not so however in the case of clothes. It was a happy time when we received fresh dry clothes.

Aug 2nd I went down expecting to meet Miss Newton at the steamer office. But she did not come. We could hear nothing of her till Wed. Aug. 7th when we learned she was safely in Foochow. Yesterday I went to Ponasang again and she came up the mountain with me. The Steamer on which she arrived reached the mouth of the river as expected about 9 a.m. Friday Aug. 2nd. They tried twice to come over the bar in the mouth of the river, but the waves were so high and the wind so fierce they dared not do it. So they put out to sea five miles or so and were banged around for two days and nights- no enviable experience. Miss Newton got over to Ponasang about 4 p.m. Sunday Aug. 4th. The water had just begun to rise in the streets, so she was a prisoner till yesterday at Ponasang. Yesterday and today have been fairly pleasant. To night the wind is N.E. and it is raining a little.

The week of meetings came this year July 28th- Aug. 4th. The typhoon spoiled the meetings Sat. Aug. 3rd and it stopped the Chinese meetings last week. These began to day and we expect to hold them this week.

The addition to our cottage was completed and Gould and I slept there Wed. night July 31st. The typhoon did not injure it. Two houses had to be vacated and tiles blew off several. But the damage was only slight here on the mountain. \$10 gold will put our cottage in better condition than formerly. At Sharp Peak the storm did more damage. Dr. Kinnear had to move out of his cottage. He wrote me that he was damaged about \$100 gold. Yesterday I received from Dwight another copy of a plea for the money for the Theological Sem'y.

Gould is crazy over live stock. The Chinese bring up the cows and goats near the house to graze. The other day a cow and a calf- 2 months or more old- were in the yard. The calf was quite gentle- a slip noose about the neck. He held the rope for a time- as happy as a king. Suddenly he screamed as if hurt all thro and came into the house doubled-up and crying as if his heart were breaking. The man had taken his rope off the calf and driven it away to his home. Another day he saw a goat tied outside the wall and grabbing up my pith hat (\$4.50 silver) ran out to watch it. The wind blew the hat off. Did the goat eat it up or did a Chinaman run of with it? Certainly I have not pith hat now.

Monday morning-

It rains again with wind N.E. strong. We are having lots of weather.

Lovingly

Will.



Willard and load carriers probably in the early 1900s.
 [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **Aug. 18, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. They have had a lot of rain and the masons are relaying the roof tiles on Kuliang. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner are on their way back to Foochow from the U.S. Willard's children tell him to say thing for them in his letter. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
 W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
 Foochow, China, Aug. 18th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter came July 7th. Has it been too hot since for you to write? I wrote one week ago this evening.
 No. 16.

I think rain was falling when I wrote last. At any rate it fell in torrents Monday and part of Tuesday. Wednesday was better. Thursday was clear but not very drying. Yesterday and today have been about perfect. How quickly we forget the dark, dismal days when the sun comes out and all is bright. Just as in our lives when trials make us gloomy and discouraged and when we seem to have forgotten the experience of pleasure, a good sing, or a good season alone with God and his word, or some circumstance drives away the gloom and in our pleasure we forget the discouragement and the trial.

For the past three days the Guliang houses have put on quite a live appearance. The masons have been on so many of them relaying the tiles. I was down to Ponasang again day before yesterday=Friday to purchase land adjoining Geu Cio Dong church on which to build a parsonage. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner I presume are 8 days out from San Francisco to day wishing they were good sailors. We expect to move into the new house now, or begin to move now and finish when we go down in September. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner and family will probably go into the old house for the present.

The last mail brought the news that some friend in New England had sent to us \$250 to be used as we thought best. This will come in this year very opportunely. I wrote you that the Au long Die church had been burnt.

This money will help to put up a new church or it will help to put up a new Theol. Sem'y. Mr. Goddard has just sent- no he sent it out arrived a week ago and I must have written about it last week- another plea for the balance of \$1500 for the Sem'y.

We are sitting by the dining table after supper. The table is cleared off. Geraldine is lying on the table. Phebe wants to tell Grandma that Dorothy is all well, that Mr. Walker is going to send her the funniest doll she ever saw, that she bo't a doll for the sale that had on a pink dress. Gould wants to say that he killed the kitty doll (This was an image with a cat's head dressed in dolls clothes). He wants to say that he can say "The Lord is my Shepherd", that he is in pants. Geraldine says she wants some little slippers. Gould says tell you he is going to have a goat when he goes down from the mountain. Phebe says tell you she has learned the 23rd Ps. and the Beatitudes.

Ellen is getting like herself again. She went to an art lecture yesterday p.m. and today went to church. She still rests more than she did when she was tiring herself out.

Well I must say good bye for this time.

With love to all from all

Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 25, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Dr. Bliss has not been feeling well since the typhoon. Within the week many living on the mountain will have left. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Aug. 25 1901

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter, No. 17 was written one week ago today. Your last arrived the day after i.e. Aug. 19th. I had a very nice letter from Dwight yesterday. He is still in Chicago with Graham Taylor. He has been offered the position as head of the University Settlement Department of the Methodist Northwestern University. But he nor Doctor want to live in the West. They both prefer the East and so he refuses this offer which is one with a good salary and waits for something in the East. He seems pleased with the close friendship that exists between the Doctor and the Century Farm girls. I am pleased too.

The past week two engagements have been announced. One in the English Mission and one in the Meth. Mission. The latter is between a young Dr. Charles out only a few months and appointed to Central China. He came to Foochow on the same steamer with Miss Newton three weeks ago. So his was love only two weeks old.

Ellen and the two older girls are asleep. Gould and Dorothy are playing. She sits in amah's lap and kicks and shouts at Gould's antics for her benefit. The children are the picture of health. Dorothy is now taking two meals of Mellin's food a day. Ellen is the recipient of numerous compliments from all sides on her good looks. She is quite well except for an indescribable numbness in her feet and hands. This began in the Spring, but is much better. Dr. Bliss is not at all well for the past two weeks- since the typhoon. He thinks the damp weather at that time caused his trouble. Several on the mountain and at the Peak are similarly affected.

Miss Kauffman has given a few of us three very pleasant hours in the Art Galleries of Florence and Rome. I enclose a programme. Ellen and I attended. She for her interest and pleasure and because she knew something of the subject. I to try to imbibe a little knowledge of the subject.

Sunday evening 9:25-

We are having beautiful moonlight evenings now. Evening before last Mr. and Mrs. Lacy came in just as Dr. and Mrs. Whitney went. Ellen and I have just come in from sitting on Dr. and Miss Bements porch and singing "Refuge", and then going down to Dr. and Mrs. Whitney's and chatting a little while.

Gulianigites are already going away. This next week will see quite a decrease in our numbers. The time will soon be here for regular work to begin. We have not had as good a rest this year as last. But we are beginning to feel a little different. I find my time more than taken up everyday. So that I have not yet commenced the Ing Hok Report. I must close this now with love to all from us all

Will.

Monday -Aug 26

Your letter of July 13th came this morning. Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 8, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen's sister, Etta Kinney, is now married (Mrs. Willis P. Hume). President McKinley has been shot and not expected to recover. Willard and Ellen invited a few friends over for tea to celebrate their 7th wedding anniversary and much to their

surprise, many people arrived carrying chairs, cake, cups and saucers. Last page(s) of letter are missing. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Sept. 8, 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote two weeks ago Sept. 25th, No. 18- Another letter, Mothers and Ruth's came yesterday. Two letters have come from the Putnam folks since the wedding. All the letters agree in stating that the bride was a perfect beauty. I can easily believe it. Etta has written since she arrived at Meridian. On the upper left hand corner of the envelope was the inscription "Mrs. W.P. Hume, Meridian, N.Y." May God be able to use both Willis and Etta to be a great blessing to Meridian, and may he give them much happiness in their own home. It was very pleasant that so many of the Century Farm girls could attend and Emma writes as if they or she specially greatly appreciated Ruth's company for a few days after the wedding.

The loss of three horses in the midst of haying must have been a serious drawback. Shack is the only one of the three that I knew. - A telegram has just come saying that Pres. McKinley was shot twice thro the stomach, and there are doubts as to his recovery. What are we coming to? Three Presidents assassinated in a little more than one generation- in the memory of a large number of our citizens!! The Czar of Russia or the Emperor of China is in a safer position- perhaps because he takes greater precautions. It is not at all difficult to indulge in very pessimistic trains of thought regarding one's country after reading the newspaper accounts on lynchings, of the growing dissatisfaction in the ranks of the laborers in almost all trades, of the mad race for wealth, of the increasing disregard for the Sabbath, of the difficulty in obtaining justice in law courts, of the power which moneyed interests exert in elections and in legislative bodies, of the scramble for office and the idea that seems to be so prevalent that "to the victor belongs the spoils". But on the other hand the forces for good were never greater and stronger, from this distance it seems to me the danger now is not that the forces on the side of right are not sufficiently powerful, but that they are not united- they do not so work together as to use their strength to advantage. In New York for instance I have little doubt but that there are votes enough of those who earnestly desire good honest rule to carry the day. But they are not consolidated and some do not care to take the bother of voting at all. The forces of the saloon and its accompanying evils are united. What we need is a Christian principle Trust. Before this the Saloon must fall. Sabbaths desecration must cease, the Steel Trust must admit humanity.

A week ago Dorothy took a severe cold that has troubled her much all the week. She is much better now. Last night Geraldine began with the same. It seems like the Grippe. They have a fever of about 102 degrees. Nose is stopped up, cough and are hoarse.

I went to Ponasang Tues. I expected to remain a day or two and begin to move over into the new house. But Dorothy was so poorly that Ellen wanted me to return that evening. On Thursday Ellen invited a few friends to take 4 o'clock tea with us in memory of Sept. 5th 1894. Among those invited were Dr. and Miss Bement. Miss Bement came on time. All the others had arrived. We waited until 4:30 for Dr. Bement and were becoming a little impatient when two coolies came with about 15 chairs. Then appeared another with a load of cake. Then another with cups and saucers. Then came all the Americans on the mountain except 4 or 5. The explanation was this, - Dr. Bement knew it was our wedding anniversary. She also knew that Dr. and Miss Woodhull had invited all the Methodists to 4 o'clock tea that afternoon. So she agreed with Dr. Woodhull to bring all her guests over to our house and then went and invited all the others who were coming neither to our house or to Dr. Woodhull's to meet at her house and all come to our home in a body. It was a very pleasant surprise.

Friday morning I went to Ponasang again. On the way down I met a telegram from Mr. Gardner saying he was coming on a Steamer that started Sat. from Shanghai. This meant some hustling to get the house in readiness for him and get to the Anchorage to meet him. I worked as fast as possible until Sat. morn when another telegram from him said "delayed sail Wednesday" so I changed my plans. I had intended to go down river to the Anchorage to day with a house boat to meet him when the steamer arrived. But I came up to Guliang last night. I expect to go down again Tues. morning and possibly stay till Sat. morning. The Seminary opens Sept. 19th if all goes well.

We had Dorothy's picture taken a week ago yesterday. Ellen is holding her.

Ellen's picture is the best she ever had taken. Before Ellen was ready I slipped out with the amah and baby and had one snapped. The expression of Dorothy in the two is somewhat different. Both are perfect likenesses. The picture of the three older children is also laid at my door. They are in their every day garb. Gould's is good. Geraldine is not in focus. Phebe is wretched. She looks sick, whereas she is in perfect health. The light is too bright.

I must tell you how much Ellen has enjoyed those red knitted or crocheted slippers some of you sent her. She has worn them nearly every day this Summer and has taken solid comfort in them. Gould is at kite flying again as enthusiastic as ever. He is crazy for a cow or a goat. Last Sunday on our way home from ch. he pulled up the little peg which a goat was tied and started for the house with the goat. His heart was nearly broken when I took the rope from him. Thursday while the company were at tea on our veranda, he came thro the gate leading a yearling heifer. He had pulled up her peg and led her to the house then he drove the peg into the ground close to the veranda and was happy in the possession of a "calf."

[letter not finished]

*[This letter dated **Sept. 15, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Miss Newton is trying hard to get the Girl's College at Ponasang started. Mr. Gardner and family finally arrived. President McKinley died from his gunshot wounds. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Sept. 15th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

One week ago to day I wrote No. 19. A letter came from Stanley yesterday afternoon. The past week has been quite full of events for me. I left the mountain Tues. morning. That day I spent in various details at Ponasang. Wed. I painted the dining room floor of the new residence. 13 ft. X 12 ft. The back veranda floor 8 ft. X 45 ft. The front upper veranda floor 6 ft. X 30 ft. and the lower hall 6 ft. X 40 ft. Just as I was finishing about 6:30 p.m. I looked over to the Ponasang Compound and saw a foreign lady. The coolie came over saying that Miss Newton had come down from the mountain. She had decided to make a desperate effort to get the new Girl's College at Ponasang started. The building Comm. are Dr. Kinnear, Miss Newton and Miss Garretson and myself. Dr. Kinnear was at Sharp Peak. Miss Newton's intention was to go to the Peak to see him, then the plans could be made and estimates gotten from the contractors. Well I had received another cable from Mr. Gardner to the effect that he was starting Thursday morning from Shanghai. The last cable before placed his starting Wed. morning. I had the house boat engaged to start Thursday. With the change of time one day later I would not need it till Friday, so I agreed to go to the Peak with Miss Newton starting Thurs. We had a good trip down- rather rough arriving a little after midnight Thursday night. As soon as we arrived I went immediately to the telegraph station and found the Steamer would not be in till Sat. morning so we had a full day of it at the Peak and used it all on the College plans, starting from the Peak at 8 p.m. We then came up to the Anchorage arriving about midnight and waited there till 8:30 Sat. morning when the Steamer arrived. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner and the six little Gardners were aboard all right. We took bag and baggage on the house boat and arrived at Ponasang bag and baggage at 2:30 p.m. Another hour and I had arranged for them so I could leave for the mountain. I found Ellen and the children all right. The weather has been cold here. The ther. down to 63 degrees in the house. The children are entirely free from colds yet but are otherwise well.

We were very glad to hear that Stanley was going to the Exposition. We shall wait eagerly for his long letter describing his trip. A telegram came yesterday saying "President McKinley is dead"- At the same time we are receiving papers all the time that are totally oblivious to the fact. It will be a month before the papers chronicling the event and the attendant circumstances will arrive.

A letter from E. H. Smith appointed for Ing Hok stated that he and his wife hoped to visit both Putnam and Shelton before sailing.

I must close now with lots of love to you all
Will.

Please send to Phebe

*[This letter dated **Sept. 23, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard has moved into the new house and Ellen and the children will be moving from the mountain in about a week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Sept 23rd 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Just a word is all I can send today. No letters home came since I wrote a week ago No. 20. Last week I spent at Ponasang- coming down Tues. morning and going back to the mountain Fri. p.m. Dorothy is much better tho not yet quite her former self. The mountain is just perfect now. Ellen and the three older children are quite well.

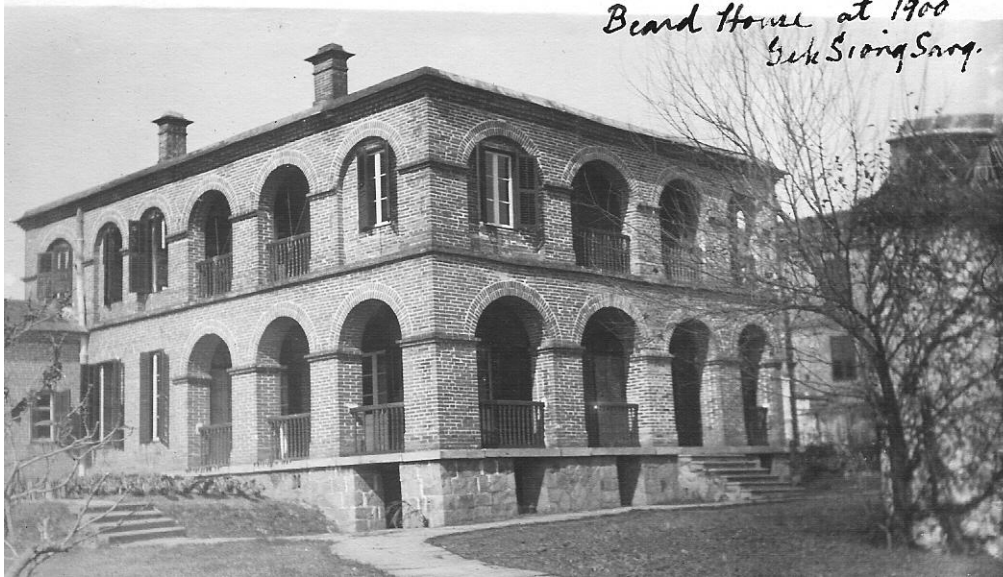
The Sem'y opened last Thurs. This with moving kept me busy. Most of our things are now over at the new house and I am writing this at my desk in my new study- a cosy little spot just large enough for desk and chair. I expect to sleep here tonight for the first time. I am still eating with Mr. and Mrs. Gardner. I came fr. the Mt. this a.m. starting at 5:30- expect to return Fri. p.m.- Ellen and the children plan now to come down one week from tomorrow- Tues. Oct. 1st- I am sending you some account of the Memorial services held here last Thurs.- the time of Pres. McKinley's funeral.

Love to all

Will.



Willard and Ellen's new house 1901
[Photos from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



1900 date written on photo is not correct- should be 1901. "Beard House at 1900 Gek Siong Sang."
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



This photo which was taken in 1914, shows a small part of the interior of Willard and Ellen's 1901 house.
 Written on back: "Gek Siong Sang House Dining Room. House built by Rev. W.L. Beard. Now occupied by Rev. and Mrs. G.H. Hubbard. The roses that induced the 'A Rose Petal' verses stand on the table.
 Greetings to Mrs. Beard and all the family from the photographed. G.H.H. and N.L.P.H.
 Gek Siong Sang May 14, 1914." *[Poem which was attached to photo follows.]*
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

A ROSE PETAL

Just trembling in beauty, perfection of grace,
With the daughters of sunshine, it lifts from the vase
That rests on the table, where reading I share
Sweet breaths of the Springtime that float in the air.

Rounded and rosy like the dawn of the day
Which announces the King as He comes on His way,
His kiss brought to life again that which had died,
Fresh proof of his power for this new Easter-tide.

“Ring round a rosy”, in the circles of fives,
These beautiful petals, they bring to our lives
The lesson of being, “To-day do your best!”
And all will announce you a beautiful guest.

Geo. H. Hubbard, Gek-siong-sang, Foochow, Apr. 7, '14.

[This letter dated Oct. 6, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. A French boy on Kuliang threw a rock at Gould for no apparent reason and injured his forehead. The family moved into the new house and are enjoying it. The new church, Seminary and Boy's and Girl's College will be built in the near future. Willard, Ellen and family will probably go back to the U.S. in 1903. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China,
October 6th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

According to my register I wrote last Sept. 23rd No. 21. We have not heard from you since Sept. 7th. Stanley was preparing to go to Buffalo then. I see by the Sentinel since that he and Aunt Louise have gone. The last mail brought photos of James, Ruth, and Mary. The likenesses that we have taken here in China now do not compare well with the work done in the States. But they serve to give you an idea of how we look from time to time.

I wish you could sit with me in the little study at this moment and hear Ellen, Phebe, Gould and Geraldine singing. They are now singing “Far, far, away” a favorite with Gould and Geraldine. Each of them can carry the tune, and they make quite a chorus. Geraldine's favorite of all is “Merry, Merry Christmas.” We often sing the Grace at breakfast. But we must not omit a few strains of “Merry, Merry Christmas” unless we are prepared for tears. She always joins in heartily and correctly, then with just as much zest helps sing the blessing. The children carry the soprano to one of the blessings that we sing while Ellen takes the alto and I the bass.

My last letter I wrote in this study two weeks ago tomorrow. That week I spent here, taking meals with Mr. Gardner's people and sleeping and studying in the new house. Dr. Bliss came down from the mountain that Tues. Friday afternoon I went to the mountain. Found all well. Gould had a narrow escape that morning. A French boy about 14 years old was going down by our cottage and Phebe and Gould were out in front of the cottage. The French boy said something to the children which they did not understand. The boy threw a stone at G. hitting him square in the middle of the forehead. Phebe said he “sat down”. She ran to him and he began to rise then and put his hand over his forehead from which the blood was flowing freely. He of course made a noise as soon as he was able and Phebe led him into the house. Ellen said the blood fairly spurted from his forehead. She used adhesive plaster and drew the edges of the cut together after washing it with turpentine and oil and then with alcohol. It was healed without the least inflammation. We cannot tell yet whether there will be a scar but hope not.

On Monday we packed up and were ready to start for Gi Siong Sang (our new home) at 2:00 p.m. We reached here a little before 5 o'clock after a pleasant and safe journey. The only hitch was in the coolie load that contained our food. That did not arrive till 8 o'clock. But we had rice, 3 eggs and a quart of milk which made us a good supper.

We enjoy the new house. It is light and well ventilated- neither of which are attachments of the old house in which we have spent the past seven years. We are very far from being settled yet, but each day finds us a little nearer arranged. After coming down from the mountain, I had to give up Tues. p.m. to a church meeting and to prove the truth of the old adage about raining and pouring it came my turn to lead the Monthly Concert of Prayer of

the three missions in Foochow Wed. afternoon. We asked Miss Garretson and Miss Newton to open their home for it as ours was not in order. This made a great difference in Ellen's work as well as in mine, for according to custom here the one who leads the meeting must provide sandwiches, cake and tea and coffee after the meeting. This for a company of 40 or more is not a small task. The weather has been very comfortable except on Thurs. and Fri. It was hot enough then to give Dorothy prickly heat. She is a tough looking little girl now with face and neck all red blotches. But she sleeps well nights and in the day time is happy most of the time. Her father's heart was made to rejoice last week when she began to say "pa-ba-ba-ba." The children have all begged to be allowed to go barefoot since coming down here and they have not begged in vain.

The money for Theological Sem'y comes in nicely. Over \$3000 is in hand and the Sem'y is assured. The plans for the Girl's College here are in contractor's hands. The plans for Boy's College in city are also. Plans for Dudley Memorial Church are about ready. Then comes the Sem'y. With all this building, most of which I have been intimately connected with from its inception, in progress I shall be very loath to leave next Spring. Ellen does not want to go home till '03 either. So unless the mission requests otherwise we shall be very likely to ask for a furlough beginning in the Spring of 1903. Smith and Hodous will have a good start in the language by that time also. It seems now as if Mr. Gardner would stay here at Ponasang. Mr. Smith will be able to help materially in the Ing Hok work very soon- while not taking the responsibility of the field. This will make my work very much less and I have no fears of staying another year. Of course the thought of seeing you all next year is very pleasant, but duty first, the good of the work in Foochow must be our first consideration, and the Spring of 1903 seems now to be just the time for us to leave. I have had very pleasant letters from both Smith and Hodous. They expect to reach here about Thanksgiving.

Lots of Love to all from all
Will.



On back of photo: "Gould and Ponto on steps of the new Ponasang Mission house of ABCFM about 1900 [*most likely 1901 since Mrs. Hodous in the photo did not arrive in China until 1901*]. Mrs. Hodous is at right edge of picture."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Dog Ponto, Gould, Geraldine and Phebe.

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



This is Willard and probably Dorothy in 1901.

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

*[This letter dated **Oct. 13, 1901** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen keeps busy teaching classes, social duties and tending to her four children. A Y.M.C.A. National Convention will be held in Nanking and Mr. Mott and Brockman are in China to attend. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
Oct. 13 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote last one week ago No. 22. Your last I have acknowledged more than once. The past week has come and gone much like other weeks. We have been busy with the work- Ellen has seen all of the station classes opened- has helped in opening those which Miss Newton has taken and has arranged with Miss Newton to take all the Bible women of the station. I believe Ellen now has 3 station classes. This is 3 more than she should have, - with four little children to look after and the various social duties that must be attended to by those who occupy the central station of the mission, and her music in the Theol. Sem'y. beside the numerous calls that she has in connection with the work normally in my care. We have worked at getting settled as opportunity offered. Thus far the new house meets our highest expectations in every respect. I think I enjoy most the Chinese study and my own little sanctum opening off it. In the old house every caller had to come right into our living room. Here they can come in and do all their business and Ellen and the children know nothing of it.

To day Ellen was teaching Phebe and Gould the ten commandments- As she repeated the Fourth- "For in six days" etc. Phebe sat and listened and exclaimed- "My- wasn't that quickly!" The children are all perfectly well. The heat has been very oppressive all the week. The mercury has been all about the 80's reaching 87 degrees one day. This evening at 8 o'clock as I write it is at 80 degrees. We have had no rain since the typhoon the first two weeks of August. Everything is very dry. Some of the farmers are nearly distracted and are actually fighting over the water rights. Dorothy is clad night and day in her napkins and one little short sleeved gauze shirt. She is troubled some with prickly heat. The other girls go barefooted and in "white pants" all the morning- no dresses. Gould wears the thinnest pants. Ellen is fairly well. She has worked too hard since coming down from the mountain to get the work among women started. But now that is done I hope she will take better care of herself.

Mr. F. S. Brockman Y.M.C.A. Sec'y arrived yesterday. He is here primarily to make arrangements for the National Y.M.C.A. Convention to be held in Nanking the first part of Nov. Mr. Mott is expected to attend this convention. We hope to have a visit from him at Foochow on his way to Hong Kong. I am thinking very strongly of attending the Nanking Convention. Brockman is trying to get Ellen to take the children up and stay with Mrs. Brockman at Nanking for a month or more. But the undertaking is too big- the financial side is also too large to think of.

The shipment from Boston is in but not yet out of the customs, so we have a treat to look forward to in opening the boxes- one from each home this week. A few days ago I sent to you a lot of photos of Ellen and the baby. I wrote on their backs for whom they were intended and am cheeky enough to ask you to distribute them. I shall feel much easier about them when I hear from you that they are received. I intended to register them but forgot it when they went out.

Hoping to receive a letter from you before long
With lots of love from us all
Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 20, 1901 was written from Ing Hok City by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard took a quick trip to Ing Hok. Mr. John R. Mott will be able to visit Foochow while in China. Mr. Gardner will be helping relieve Willard of some work at Ponasang. Willard jokes about the soles of the shoes he received in the shipment from home. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Ing Hok City
Oct. 20th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote you one week ago from Foochow. If I remember correctly a letter came from you last Mon. Oct. 25th at Ponasang.

I had written the above when a church member came into my room and took all the time that I had planned to spend with you. I had a good trip to Ing Hok. Friday the wind was strong and at our backs. It blew us up the river in fine style. I stopped an hour at Chong Ha and still reached Gak Liang at 4:30 p.m. The next day I walked to Ing Hok arriving at 1:30 p.m. On Sunday I conducted communion, and Monday at 10 a.m. was on the boat for home. At daylight Tuesday I was at the landing 8 miles from home. I walked into the house just as Ellen and the children were about half thro breakfast. I found all well and happy.

Yesterday a telegram arrived stating definitely that John R. Mott would come to Foochow. He will probably be with us for only two or three days and will spend most of the time speaking to union audiences in the large Meth. Church.

Last week Tues. p.m. and all day Wed. we spent in Mission meeting. Most of the time was spent in discussing the plans for the new building for Girl's College at Ponasang. After a full discussion they were referred back to the Comm. A new plan has been made and we are planning to hold another business meeting next Tues. to discuss it.

Mr. Gardner has been appointed to be associated with me in the work of the Ponasang station. When I went to Ing Hok he took the work in the Sem'y that I had, and he is too keep on with it till I return from Nanking. This eases me very much. I have taken the time to finish the manuscript for the Ing Hok Report, and to catch up on correspondence and bookkeeping a little.

The weather thro October has been exceptionally warm this year. At 2 p.m. today (26th) the thermometer stands at 75 degrees in the house. The children all go barefoot still. A little rain fell a week ago Wed., otherwise we have had no rain since August 1st during the typhoon.

Sunday p.m. Oct 27th 1901

Ellen and the three older children have gone over to the other compound to Mrs. Gardners where the children are holding a Christian Endeavor meeting. Dorothy and I were left together on the bed. She was asleep. After a good long nap she awoke as bright and fresh as a morning glory in the dewy sunshine. I know of few pretties pictures show that of a little child just after a refreshing sleep with the bright eyes and the beautiful pink complexion of perfect health. Dorothy is growing very fast these days. Ellen said this morning is seemed almost as if she would see her grow. She was eight months old yesterday. She is getting very interesting- sits alone and reaches after things, and plays peek-a-boo with a handkerchief etc.

Yesterday a good letter came from Emma, one from you- a very nice letter from Dr. Judson Smith. A letter came from a stamp collector in Chicago wanting to purchase a complete set of Chinese stamps, and offering to buy old ones. Phebe has begun to collect old Chinese stamps and was much elated over the prospect of making a fortune, "I can get lots of money", she said with eyes like big round moons.

The boxes arrived from Shelton and Putnam and were opened a few days ago. My shoes came. I'm going to open a wholesale sole leather store, and trim off the edges of my soles to fill orders- Such Soles!! My arms are of good length, so I manage to shake hands with people over their edges. Gould has a suit of clothes and an overcoat that we are thinking of trying to keep for him to wear when he goes home in 1903. Well so much for nonsense. Geraldine was overjoyed with a doll she found. Phebe is equal to the occasion tho. Geraldine was following Phebe in her propensity to keep pretty tight hold of her own doll. Phebe wanted to hold Geraldine's badly. Finally she said to Geraldine "You must have an amah for your baby." The scheme worked and the baby was given to amah Phebe to hold for a time. The jack knife in the pocket of Gould's pants is a good one.

Love to all
Will.

P.S. Ellen says I have not mentioned all the articles in the boxes-There were lots of articles- I remember there was pumpkin and many other things. Thank you and every one else for all. W.

[This letter dated Nov. 24, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mr. Mott and the Brockmans came to Foochow. It was arranged for a meeting one morning with a congregation but Mr. Mott had to leave earlier than planned to catch a steamer. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Nov. 24th 1901

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wrote you last from Shanghai Nov. 10th no number. Your last I acknowledged in that letter.

A week ago last night at 10 p.m. I reached home safe and sound, and found Ellen and the little ones all right. Dorothy was having a tough time pulling her teeth thro, but was otherwise all right. We brought Mr. Mott, Mr. and Mrs. Brockman with us hoping to keep them for two days or so and hold a Convention at which Mr. Mott's addresses would be the principle feature. But steamers were very bad. There was only one in at the time, going to Hong Kong and that one had been chartered by the English Government to go to Hong Kong the next morning= Sunday morning. Mr. Mott's dates in Hong Kong, Ceylon and India were fixed, and if he waiting here for another steamer he would be too late to meet these dates so he had to leave the next morning at 7:30. The steamer co. at first promised to hold the launch at their jetty in Foochow till 9:00 for us. But about midnight Sat. night sent word that this would be impossible. On the strength of the promise to wait till 9 a.m. we had arranged a meeting for 6:30 a.m. and there was a good congregation gathered at that hour. But they had to endure the disappointment.

Our Annual Meeting began Tuesday evening. It will close next Tuesday at noon. The reports from all parts of the field are most encouraging. The Men's Missionary Society (Chinese) is in a most flourishing condition. Altho it has met with all kinds of reverses this year, yet its condition was never better and the outlook for the future is very bright. Their treasury had in it at the beginning of the year a little over \$150. The preachers whom they employed died of the plague in June, and they had to use his salary for the whole year, to help bury him and care for the chapel etc. Notwithstanding this they have kept up the rent of the chapel and hired it watched. Then as soon as the plague ceased raging, they had the chapel cleaned and repaired and at once arranged to hold services in it. At present the treasurer reports the receipt of over \$100. This is within the past month.

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving. I wonder where you will eat turkey and if all the wayfarers will come home.

We are wondering if the Consulate is going to invite us all there this year. It is now pretty late and no invitations have appeared.

I am enclosing an order on Treasurer Wiggin of the A.B.C.F.M. for Sixteen dollars (\$16). Please pay whatever I owe you and if there is any left put it into the Bank. If the "left" comes on the other side let me know and I will send more.

I wrote the other day to a man in Chicago= Fred Otto who asked me to find the cost of a set of Chinese stamps and I told him to send \$5 to you and I would send him a complete set. So if you receive this money please put it into the Bank and let me know of its receipts as soon as convenient.

Ellen is writing at my elbow and it is time she was [in] bed. So good night.

With lots of love Will.

[This letter, dated November 27, 1901, was written from Century Farm by Nancy Nichols Beard to her daughter, Mary. She tells Mary about some of her siblings and news of other acquaintances. She tells about some of the latest improvements on the farm and relays stories about Willard's children. Letter from the collection of Virginia Beard Van Andel.]

Home Nov. 27th, 1901

My dear Mary:

I have swept, made mince pie meat, done some reading, brightened the silver, done some mending and now am going to write a few lines to you. Stanley has gone to Shelton to get James and read in the library. The boys are starting a debating society, and he is to write a composition now on Old England staircases which he finds a difficult subject. He was asked to write about his Buffalo trip and chose the other, as some of the others were to write their experience of the trip. E. got home this morning, she took Fred to the trolley. He is on jury in Bridgeport. Ruth went to mill with a grist and brought E. home. It has thawed a little to day, is clear to night, promises to be clear and cold to morrow. Mrs. Arthur Booth is to be buried Friday, P.M. The papers contain an account of Mrs. Seymour's death in Washington, she was buried in Vernon. I suppose Matilda is married. Gustina wanted to know what the minister's name was over to the Centre, so I think they must think of having him to tie the knot. Papa has his pipes laid from the well to the barnyard, has pulled the inside of the work shop out and laid a new floor from the work shop to the old hen house. His wind mill has not come. I think the iron is not at hand to make it. The carpenters have been here and laid a half-inch maple floor on our kitchen. We've oiled it twice, and hope to give it another coat. Were your shoes good thick soled? If you get thick shoes for that price I think they were cheap. A letter just here to night from Will says they are all well. Geraldine was overjoyed with the doll. Phebe wanted to take it. Finally she contrived a way to get it. She told Geraldine she must have an amah for it, so amah Phebe took the doll to care for. Gould found his jack knife and it was a good one. Well it is bed time and I must stop.

Do you like your room better on the third story? With whom are you neighbors? Bess says you have a change of occupation, wiping dishes. Do you want a curtain before you come home? If so you can get it. We can get curtains like mine in the bedroom, for between 30 and 40 cents a pair. I would not give over 50 cents. With lots of love, mother.



This appears to be Geraldine carrying a headless doll. 1901
 [Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

[This letter dated Dec. 7, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard took a trip to Deng Chio in the Ing Hok region. He held a 2 hour service to an interested crowd of about 70. He mentions the Likin inland river customs system of collecting money. The Hodouses and Smiths should be arriving in Foochow soon. Willard would like to take Mr. Smith to Ing Hok before Christmas. The Girl's College building is now under construction. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Deng Chio, 12 miles S.E. from
 Foochow,
 December 7th 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My register is not with me so I can tell neither when I wrote last or when your last was received. As you see at the head of this sheet I am at Deng Chio. This place has counted as in the Ing Hok Station. If you have a map of that field you will find Deng Chio nearest Foochow.

I started yesterday morning at 10:30 and arrived here at 2 p.m I took dinner on the boat and when I arrived went at one half a mile or more from the chapel to see a day school. The teacher has done good work with the students or pupils as they should be called. This teacher seems to be an earnest humble Christian.

Last evening a dozen or more men met in the church for service. Several of them wanted to be examined for admission to the church. This morning another came. I have received three. One was a literary man and another a well to do farmer. The other a laborer. There are some ten more that seem to be earnest in their profession, but they have been to church only two or three months.

This morning at Service the chapel was literally packed and the steps in front of the chapel were filled with men standing. There were about 70 in all. I have seldom spoken to such in interesting and interested audience. The service lasted over two hours, and during the whole time there was perfect quiet and individual attention in what the speaker was saying, which was the pure Gospel stating the fact of God as above all and ruler of all, instead of idols; the fact of man with his sin undeserving of God's love; the fact of God, notwithstanding man's sin still loving him and caring for him and sending his only son to die for him; the fact that salvation thro Christ is free and that each man is a free agent in accepting this salvation. There were many nods of assent in all parts of the audience.

This afternoon we had held the Sunday School. About 35 were present. Opportunities for preaching the Truth present themselves on all side. People seem to be honest in their desire to know the Truth. Of course the cause is to be found in the political situation. But God is able to use even this to arouse the people and to open the way for the Gospel. A man told me today that whereas two years ago 2400 applicants presented themselves for the First

Degree examinations. Only 1000 appeared this year. The cause is in the political situation. It seems to be universally taken for granted that a change has come in China and the old order of things is obsolete. The "Likin" or inland river customs is just now passing under foreign control. This will help to convince the people that the new China is appearing. Probably there is not a greater swindle in the world than the Likin in China. If the country, instead of the petty Likin officials could get all the money collected at these stations, she would have no need to put extra taxes on the people.

Well there are half a dozen boys studying just under me. They are studying hymns. I can hear them think. Their thoughts mount upwards in throat splitting accents. So I will close this now and finish it at a more convenient season.

Dec. 15th at Foochow.

The last letters received were on Nov. 25th and Nov. 28th. I wrote last on Nov. 24th.

This letter has been in good keeping for a whole week. The truth is I forgot it when I arrived home on last Tuesday morning, until the steamer had gone.

The past week since coming home from the country has flown swiftly. We have all been quite well. This morning Gould tried the metal of his head bones again. He was climbing on the veranda rail and went over, turning a somersault and half striking exactly on the middle of his forehead, just where he was hit with the stone on the mountain by the French boy. But this morning's bump was over a larger surface and does not seem to be at all serious.

The churches at Geu Cio Dong, Ha Puo Ga and Sang Bo held communions today. 11 united at Geu Cio Dong and 1 at Sang Bo.

This morning while at breakfast a telegram arrived announcing the starting from Shanghai on this morning of Mr. and Mrs. Hodous [Anna J.], Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Miss Dr. Smith. They may get in to morrow afternoon or perhaps not till Tues. morning. I want very much to make one trip into the Ing Hok field with Mr. Smith before Christmas or the few days after Christmas and another immediately after the Week of Prayer.

The dry weather continues. Our well has been dry for three weeks. The contractor who built it has had to take it up and deepen it about four feet. We are again using the water.

The Girl's College Building is going up nicely. I am putting much time now into arranging to rebuild Geu Cio Dong and in trying to purchase land for a Theological Sem'y.

Will you kindly write the American Tract Society, 150 Nassau St., New York for the following pictures as advertised in the American Messenger of Oct. 1900.

"Christ Blessing Little Children" 18X 22 in.

"The Child Jesus in the Temple" " " Three for \$.50

"Christ and the Rich Young Man" " "

"The Last Supper" by da Vinci 3 X 2 ft.

Also Etchings as follows.

No. 4 "Old Post Road Home"

No. 12 "The Coming Storm"

" 7 "Coming Through the Woods" 10 cents each

" 6 "The Lighthouse"

" 16 "Washington Praying at Valley Forge"

You may subscribe for the American Messenger for a year and keep it yourselves for the trouble of getting the picture for us. I think they may all be sent by parcel post, and if registered they will be pretty safe. If "The Last Supper" is too large for the mail, keep it for the next box.

Geraldine's grace at table just after I returned from Nanking. "Dea' Lo'd, be't di pood, be't papa, bin him home a' tafely. Po'De du' take. Amen."

God is very good to us all. O that we may always be fit for His use.

With lots of Love

Will.

Willard's uncle and Oliver Gould Beard's brother, Theodore E. Beard dies.

From the Evening Sentinel December 10, 1901:

BEARD- Long Hill, Huntington, Dec. 9, Theodore E. Beard, aged 68 years, 11 months, 15 days. Funeral services will be held at the house, Long Hill, on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock.

[This letter dated Dec. 21, 1901 was written from Foochow, China by Willard and Ellen to the Folks at Home. The Hodouses and Smiths have arrived. Willard is taking Mr. Smith to show him the Ing Hok field. Ellen is enjoying the company of the Hodouses and working on furnishing her new home. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Dec. 21st 1901.

Dear Folks at Home:-

In all probability this is the last letter I shall write this year to you, for I expect now to go into the Ing Hok field next Friday to be gone about two weeks.

We received a letter from Flora Dec. 18th. I wrote last Monday, Dec. 16th.

Last Tuesday morning I, with Mr. and Mrs. Hinman and Miss Chittenden started from Foochow for Pagoda Anchorage to meet the five new missionaries i.e. Mr. and Mrs. Hodous. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Miss Emily Smith M.D. They arrived at 9:10 a.m. Wed. The others of the party spent the night at Mrs. Hartwell's. I slept on the house boat. The tide did not favor us and we lay at anchor in the river till almost noon. Then with a good rising tide and a little breeze we came quietly up the river reaching Ponasang at 3:40 p.m. Our Mission prayer meeting was at Ponasang that afternoon so the new friends could meet all the older members of the mission. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are at Mrs. Kinnear's. Mr. and Mrs. Hodous with us and Dr. Smith with Miss Newton.

Dec. 27-

I am enclosing an order on A.B.C.F.M. Treasurer for \$30. Please pay my Life Insurance and then if I am not owing you put the rest in the Bank. The number of my Policy 166224.

The address is 752 Broad Street,

Newark,

New Jersey,

I have never received the receipt for my premium for this year = 1901- All the other receipts have come all right.

I am off for Ing Hok with Mr. Smith tomorrow morning. It is now 9:45 and so I say "good night with Love to all

Will.

[The following is written by Ellen.]

Will said I might add anything I wish and send this on. He was off early Saturday morning as he had planned although it promised a rainy day and rained a little when he started. But aside from the first two days they have had fine weather for walking thus far.

I have just returned from a "Musical Tea" given by our Consul's wife this afternoon. The music was furnished mainly by the English and German community ladies and gentlemen. Miss Brown of our mission gave one solo. The piano, violin, and mandolin music was all very finely rendered, - rather better than the vocal selections I thought, tho all were good. While these functions are not uncommon among the community people we missionaries rarely have the opportunity to enjoy them.

Will is introducing Mr. Smith to Ing Hok, his future field of work so they both missed this bit of social enjoyment. They are to be at home for the last half of the week of prayer meetings, in which the three missions join. Monday and Thursday the meetings are at our house. We are greatly enjoying having Mr. and Mrs. Hodous with us; they are fine people. They are working at the language now and doing whatever they can to help in various ways.

We are gradually getting fitted into the new house and getting necessary furniture made for it. It is not quite so easily done as it is in America everything has to be made to order and requires weeks of time for each piece.

Miss Newton has taken over a part of my work since she came back so I have more time to give to the children. The little ones are all well and thriving and keeps me busy and happy. It would be unbearably lonely at these times when Will is away so long, were it not for our little ones. They are so much company.

We have received two letters from you since Will went away and I sent them to him by the messenger who took supplies to him.

With love to all from the children and myself.

Yours Ellen.
