

1905

- Willard's family moves back to Foochow February 17, 1905 where he becomes YMCA Secretary of the Fukien Province until 1910. He officially starts with the YMCA October 24, 1904 and ends February 12, 1910.
- End of the Confucian Examination System
- Willard is 40, Ellen- 37, Phebe- 10, Gould- 9, Geraldine- 7, Dorothy- 4
- Flora is 36

[A postcard with no photo addressed to Mrs. O.G. Beard Shelton Conn. postmarked from Pacific Grove, Cal. dated **Jan 2, 10 AM, 1905**. Willard is letting the family back home know that they made it safely to San Francisco. Postcard donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Pacific Grove, Cala
Jan 1st 1905

We reached San Francisco yesterday a.m. at 7:30. Safely and well. After settling the family at "The Occidental" I took the 5 p.m. train for here,- Callas, roses, geranium, wild flowers are all in bloom. Grass is about as in June at home. The farmers were plowing all along the way.

This is strange for New Years day.
A Happy New Year to you all Will

[This letter dated **Jan. 8, 1905** was written from San Francisco by 9 year old Phebe Kinney Beard to her Grandpa Beard. She tells him all about a visit they took to the US mint. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



San Francisco.
Jan. 8, '05

My dear grandpa Beard,
Saturday Mamma took us to the mint, to see Uncle Sam's money made. It was very interesting.
First we went into a room where we saw all the coins that were used a long time ago. Next we saw them rolling long peaces of silver and as we were going to the second room we saw briks of silver piled up by the side of the hall,- several tons of it. It was Spanish silver. In the second room too we saw them melting silver,- old Spanish coins collected in the Phillipines and sent here to be recoined and sent back to the Phillipines. We saw them pouring melted silver into moulds to form it into bars called ingots that were about a foot long 1 ½ inches wide and ½ inch thick and we saw him turn them out red hot. In the third room they were putting these ingots through rolling machines to roll them out long and thin. They had to be rolled through several machines to make them as thin as a coin. These strips were then sent to the cutting room where we saw them run through a machine which cut out the dollar peaces very fast. The tow [two] cutting machines in that room cut 300 peaces a minute. When the strips came out of the machine they were all full of holes where the dollars had been cut out and what was left of the strips was sent back to the melting room and melted over again. These dollar peaces are then sent to the waiing [weighing] room and all waied by hand and all by ladies. Then they are sent to the stamping room and stamped. Then they are all looked over by a good many ladies.

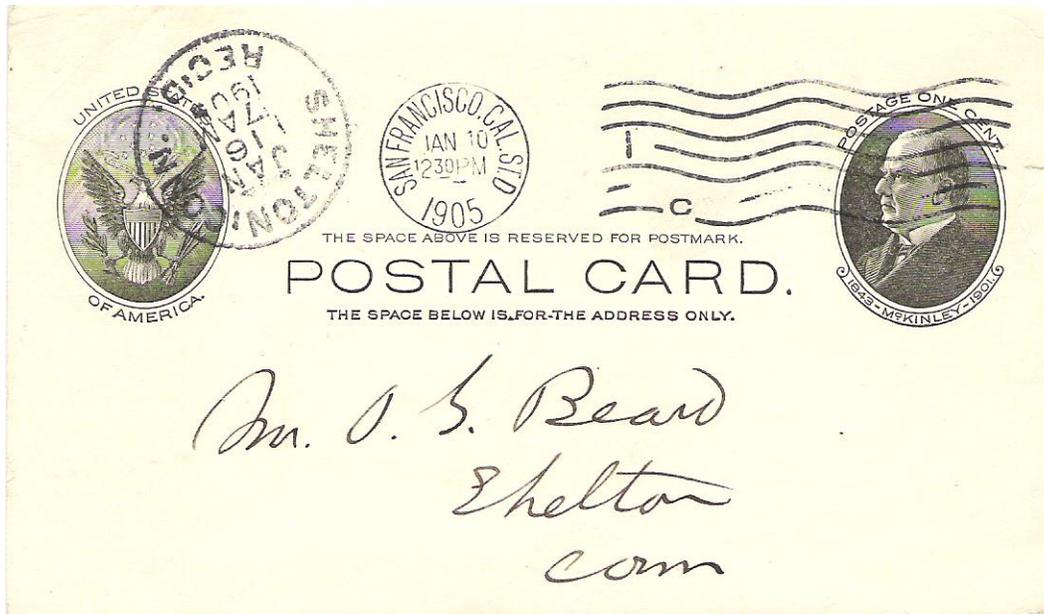
The first machine they went through in the stamping room was to put the rim on the edge.

The fluted edge was put on by die when they were stamped. The Spanish silver is so poor an equal quantity of American silver has to be mixed with it so they can work it at all. Befor they are stamped they are sent to the whitening room and by some process they are whitened. They were not making gold money. We are all well. With love to all Phebe K.

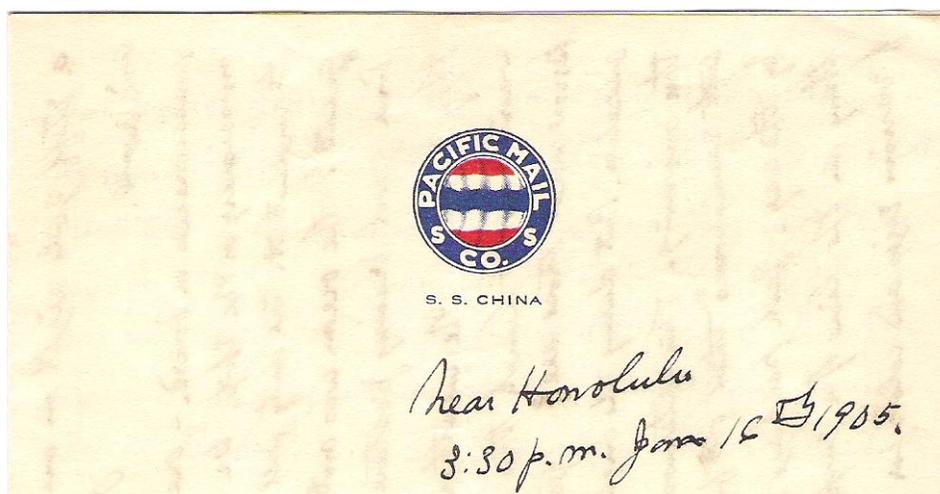
[A postcard with no picture is addressed to Mr. O.G. Beard Shelton Conn and is postmarked San Francisco, Cal., Jan 10, 1905, 12:30 PM. Willard writes that they are ready to leave on their trip back to Foochow. Postcard donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

San Francisco Cala
Jan 10-'05.

All is going nicely now. Our bags and trunks are on the way. We start in about an hour. All are well. One of the Foochow Missionaries who is now in this country and living near here is here to see us off- Lovingly Will.



[This letter dated Jan. 16, 1905 was written from near Honolulu, HI by Willard to his mother. The end of the letter is missing. He writes from the ship and tells of the various people who came to see them off. Many on board are suffering from seasickness. He talks a bit about people on the ship and the warmer weather. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



S.S. China

Near Honolulu
3:30 p.m. Jan. 16th 1905.

My dear Mother:-

Thus far we are safely on our way. The Pacific as usual is not pacific. Most of the passengers on board are wondering why this ocean was called "The Pacific." Our party took the steamer last Tuesday. She swung into the Bay at San Francisco at just 1 p.m. There were some fifteen or twenty boys from the University of California, whom Mr. McLachlin and I had met at Pacific Grove, at the dock to see us off. Beside these Mr. and Mrs. Dillon a Y.M.C.A. Secy. and Mrs. Dillon an old Oberlin acquaintance of Ellen's, and Dr. Geo. B. Smyth a Methodist Missionary who was with us in Foochow for several years, but who was obliged to return on account of his health was there also. I can not overstate the pleasure it gave us to have these friends at the steamer to see us start. Dr. Smyth was very helpful. He is one of the M.E. Secretaries now and lives just across the Bay from San Francisco in Berkeley, so he knows all the ropes about San Francisco.

We all took lunch as soon as the steamer swung into the Bay. But the social element did not play an important part in our lives for a long time. I wish Flora had been with us, - Oh, no, not that she might be sea sick, but that she might help us who were- that's all. Well we were miserable, and wondered why we had ever been induced to subject ourselves to the water again, and many other like wonderings. But all these did us no good. Phebe wished we had not come- or that we could change and take the train the rest of the way. But the captain kept right on.

We should make about 350 miles a day. One day our run was 237 miles, - a head wind was the cause. We should have been "Doing Honolulu" today, if it had not been for the head winds. We have had very little rain or cloudy weather- just a stiff gale right in our faces, that retards our progress, - and makes the ship pitch and roll.

Our fellow passengers are pleasant people. There are thirteen missionaries on board, - one Episcopal Bishop- I was told yesterday that I was the oldest missionary on the ship. We held a service last evening and after the Bishop had refused to conduct it, the duty fell to me because of my age and years of service. Doesn't that sound great? The ocean was not millpondish, but I made out to keep on my feet by standing in a good bracing posture and holding on to the table. The congregation wisely sat while they sang. The weather is perceptibly warmer. Today ladies sit on deck with white muslin waists on. At lunch this noon the dining room was furnished with punbahs [*large ceiling fans*]. Do you know what those are? Yesterday afternoon the wind let up a little and we began to enjoy ourselves. But during the night another gale was on, and it was a days work to get up to breakfast this morning. This afternoon had been pleasanter. Fortunately the children are less troubled with seasickness than old folks. Friends very thoughtfully arranged amusement for them by the way. Each package is marked 1st Day, 2nd Day, 3rd Day, etc. This makes something in the line of a surprise for them each day. Today it chances to be a pint of beads of various sizes and colors for stringing. The "big doll" has just made her debut this afternoon and a beautiful chain of golden yellow glass beads which mama Phebe has strung, graces the doll's neck.

Next Friday will be the 41st anniversary of your wedding. Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes then in ten days comes your birthday, - 62- our best wishes for many happy returns of the day. When I said "good bye" to you that cold morning it seemed so long before I should leave the country that I did not want to talk about it,

so I just said good bye in every day fashion.-4:30 p.m. We have just sighted land for the first time since leaving San Francisco. - We cannot enter the harbor at Honolulu till tomorrow morning.

Just before leaving the Hotel for the Steamer I got a pocket full of mail. This with all the friends there to see us off made a very pleasant departure. What a blessed thing friendship is!!- and what a host of friends God gives us in this world!! What must it be in the next [*letter was not finished*]

[*At a later date, the following "Index of photos" was found separate from the letter or photos. They apply to some of the following:*]

Index to photos

- No. 1.- Steamer deck, Phebe foreground, Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin in background.
- No. 2.- Children playing Lotto- Dorothy "mendin 'tards" Ellen
- No. 3.- Snow scene- Shanghai Feb. 13th
- No. 4.- Scene in Inland Sea, Japan
- No. 5.- Canon (Eagle) Rocky Mountain
- No. 6.- Steamer deck- Ellen, Dorothy, missionary friends
- No. 7.-Phebe, Gould, Mr. Province
- No. 8.-Gould on main stay. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin, Province, Phebe and a little Bohemian boy
- No. 9.-Children in snow- Shanghai
- No.10.-Opening package of dolls on deck under awning.
- No. 11.-Eagle Canon- Rockies
- No. 12.-Honolulu Harbor
- No. 13.-Ellen fastening Geraldines belt- Gould Dorothy examining binocular case
- No. 14.-As we left the pier at San Francisco

I have sent a duplicate of this to Shelton. W.



Ellen and (L to R) Dorothy, Gould, Phebe and Geraldine on board the ship S.S. China. Nothing is written on the back of photo.

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



Ellen tending to Phebe on the S.S. Asia – Gould is dangling from the wire according to information written on the back of one of the following photos which can be found in the Van Andel collection.

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



I believe it is Gould who wrote the following on the back of the photo: "Phebe Kinney Beard on board S.S. Asia [according to letters it is the S.S. China], Pacific Mail, San Francisco – Nagasaki – Shanghai Jan 1905. In background, Mr. and Mrs. McGlocklin [McLachlin] who were going out with us to start the YMCA work in Fukien Province, China." *[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*



Written on back – Gould’s handwriting? : “Phebe and a little Portuguese boy, Gould on the wire and Mr. and Mrs. MacLoughlin [*McLachlin*] of the Y.M.C.A. on S.S. Asia [actually *China*] Jan 1905”
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Written on back – Gould’s handwriting? : “Gould and Phebe on Pacific Mail S.S. Asia [*China*] San Francisco – Honolulu – Japan to Shanghai. Jan 1905” [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Ellen and Dorothy facing the camera on the S.S. Asia January 1905
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

[This letter dated **Jan. 31, 1905** was written from Yokohama, Japan by Willard to his father. He talks about shopping in the Japanese shops and seeing Japanese soldiers leaving on transports to fight the Russians. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

S. S. China

Just leaving Yokohama
10 a.m. Jan 31st 1905.

Dear father:-

Yesterday I mailed a letter to mother at Yokohama. We spent the day on shore in the city of Yokohama, - took lunch at a restaurant kept by a Japanese served in American style. Then in the afternoon we went to Benten Dori. This is the street on which the Japanese shops are located- that is the shops that contain articles which foreigners wish to purchase. We found some pictures and some frames that took our fancy. We found frames for some of the pictures that Flora gave us.

The children greatly enjoyed watching the Japanese and also thought it great fun to ride in the rickshas. Not all the Japanese are yet gone to fight the Russians. We saw a lot of them yesterday. Three or four days ago 3000 left on transports from Yokohama for the front to fight the Russians. As we were in one of the shops we heard the tinkling of a bell and saw a slight commotion. The shopkeeper stepped out and brought in a small piece of paper- 9 in square painted in Japanese. He said it was a war bulletin announcing an unimportant battle near Laioyang in which the Japanese had been victorious. This looked as if the people were kept informed of the doings at the front.

The harbor here is surrounded by a fine breakwater, and within there are steamers from all over the world.

We started from Yokohama at 9 a.m. today, and are due to reach Kobe at 11 or 12 tomorrow. This is a new trip for us because we did not stop here ten years ago- our steamer touched only at Yokohama and at Nagasaki. We

feel as if the worst of our journey was over now, for the remainder is cut up into short trips of not over two days in length- one day to Kobe, one to Nagasaki and two to Shanghai. Then two to Foochow.

We are all well and have been so since leaving home- with the exception of colds.

We find the weather here cold- penetrating- not with a low temperature. But we want our heaviest clothing on. Yesterday was mother's birthday. Yours will have passed before this reaches you. We send best wishes to you both for many happy returns of the day.

All send love to you all Will.

[This letter dated Feb. 2, 1905 was written from the Inland Sea of Japan on the way to Nagasaki by Willard to his sister Elizabeth. He tells her about shopping in Kobe for china, silk and cotton velvet pictures and toys that the children picked out. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

S.S. China

Inland Sea

Japan

Feb. 2nd 1905.

Dear Elizabeth:-

Yesterday morning we anchored at Kobe about 10:30. Kobe lies on a plain about one mile wide between the sea and the mountains. The sea is full of small islands and at times the steamer must go very near them, because the channel is so narrow. Back of the city of Kobe the mountains rise quite abruptly to a height of three or four thousand feet.

Ellen and I took lunch with the children a little before eleven o'clock and then we all went ashore. The business portion of Kobe is quite small. The shops that we wanted to visit were all on one street and the Post office was between the Custom's House and this street. First we went to a China shop. Ellen picked out 18 cups, 18 saucers, 18 tea plates. Each of these sets of three- cup, saucer and plate,-match, but no two sets have the same design or the same shape. Then she found tea pot, sugar bowl and milk pitcher, and a bowl, then two larger plates for bread or cake, 61 pieces in all. They cost us 15.70 yen or \$7 85/100 U.S. money.

Then the children went shopping. Geraldine first found her hearts desire in a pig puzzle. You have seen it- a round box about 4 in. in diameter, and divided by circular partitions. The five balls = pigs must be rolled into the center enclosure = the pen. Then Dorothy found a nice little tin pail about the size of a large tea cup. Next Gould decided on a boat. The model of a Japanese junk- about eleven inches long, with rudder and sails, and Phebe found a small Japanese doll about eight inches high that would squeak when you pinched it and that had the great toe separated from the others, just as the Japanese stockings are made, so the doll could wear the little Japanese shoes. All these toys cost 24 cents.

At this point I left the rest in a shop where they sell silks and pictures painted on velvet,- both cotton and silk velvet- and I went about a mile away to call on one of the Am. Board missionaries. I chanced to go in just as the whole mission was assembling at this very house for prayer meeting and I met them all- only ten.

Coming back I found them all happily still looking at things. We then purchased one silk velvet and two cotton velvet pictures- spending our last cent- I do not know where I shall find money to tip the stewards when we reach Shanghai,- and then we came back to the steamer on the launch that left the wharf at 5 p.m.

We sailed at 10 p.m. This morning has been well nigh perfect. We are steaming thro the Inland Sea from Kobe to Nagasaki. Little islands are all about us. In the distance the snow capped mountains rise in sunlit beauty. Mrs. McLachlin said "Would'nt it have been lovely if we could have had it like this between Honolulu and Yokohama." I suppose the "Siberia" took a letter home for us as she left Kobe this morning. I plan to mail this at Nagasaki tomorrow. We are to arrive tonight very late.

All are well and all send Love Will

[This letter dated Feb. 13, 1905 was written from Shanghai, China by Willard to the folks at home. While waiting for their steamer to finally leave, the family is keeping busy attending various church services and visiting St. John's Episcopal College. Willard has noticed new development in Shanghai since his last visit. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Shanghai, China.

Feb. 13th 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

We are still at Shanghai. The China Merchants Steam Navigation Co. said their steamer was to start for Foochow yesterday morning. But Saturday noon they had decided to wait till tomorrow = Tuesday. This afternoon at 2:30 they again changed the date to Wednesday morning. We say this is the third and last call and we really think she will sail day after tomorrow.

Yesterday morning I attended a Chinese service in the Presbyterian Church and Gould went with me. We went with Mr. Lyon and his little boy David who is three months younger than Gould. He and Gould have formed a very close friendship. Ellen and the girls went with Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood to the Union Church where the service is conducted in English. Yesterday afternoon I attended the Chinese Y.M.C.A. and McLachlin and I spoke. All the Chinese young men who attended understood English so we spoke in English. Then at 8:45 p.m. I attended the foreign Y.M.C.A. meeting. How does it strike you to begin a service at a quarter before nine in the evening?

While we were at the morning service snow began to fall and by the time we had finished dinner the ground was well covered. The poor ricksha coolies looked forlorn as they waded about barefoot in the snow. This morning there was about four inches of snow on the level. I took a photo of some trees covered with snow and also one of the children standing in the snow and holding snowballs. [See photo below] Gould made a snow man. The snow was just right to pack nicely. It was a unique scene last evening to see four Chinese snow balling.

This afternoon we have been about five miles out to visit an Episcopal (American) College- St. John's. It is now vacation time, so we saw only the buildings and grounds. Dr. F.H. Hawks- Pott, the President, an American was at home. His Chinese wife met us very pleasantly and after having afternoon tea with them we went thro the buildings. We also met Mr. Mann, a son of Dr. Mann who attended Pres. McKinley in his last hours. I had met Dr. Mann in Buffalo as I came thru, and he wanted me to see the son here in Shanghai.

The children have twice been out to dinner and supper without us. Saturday they were out to dinner with the Lacy children and this evening out to supper with the Lyon children.

Shanghai has changed greatly since I was here three years ago. First I notice many large dwellings, business houses and public buildings on sites that three years ago were vacant. Then I see in all parts of the city new buildings of large dimensions in process of construction. Again rents are very scarce and very high. Mr. Lacy pays 85 taels (1 tael = about 75 cents U.S. money) a month, and 10 per cent of that for taxes in addition to the rent for his house which has no lawn and is one section of a large tenement. A movement has been on foot for about five years to put in electrics. But this would open up the country for a number of miles around as that residents could go farther out to build, and a few of the large property owners have thus far blocked the opening of the street rail ways so as to keep up the price of rent.

Tuesday, a.m.- We are still here, but plan to go on board the steamer this evening and start tomorrow morning at daylight for Foochow.

With love to all from us all

Will.



Written on back: "Phebe, Dorothy, Geraldine and Gould in the YMCA compound at Shanghai on our trip back to Foochow Jan. 1905."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Feb. 26, 1905 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The family arrived at Pagoda Anchorage by steamer and then took a houseboat on to Foochow. They have found a temporary place to live and await their furniture from Putnam, CT. A reception for the new Y.M.C.A. Secretaries was held. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Postage to Foochow is five cents.
Letters enclosed in another envelope-
the inner envelope addressed to me and
the outer to Mr. D. Willard Lyon,
Shanghai, China will go to Shanghai
for U.S. Domestic postage. Mr. Lyon
will put on Chinese stamps and send
them to us.

Foochow, China
Feb 26th 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

We have been in Foochow for more than a week now, and nothing but a postal has gone to you from us. I have always found it very difficult to keep my correspondence up while visiting. We reached Pagoda Anchorage Thursday Feb 16th at 6:30 p.m. (One little girl has been furnished with paper and pencil- another with a pencil and Elsie Simester has been in and the children have promised to go up to Mrs. Simester's for Sunday School. In the midst of this and other distractions I had gotten ahead of my story and thought I was up to Foochow.) We reached Foochow Friday morning at half past twelve. One of the Meth. Missionaries - Mr. Bissonnette- met us at the steamer with a house boat. While we were putting the baggage on the house boat Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard and Mr. Peet came on board the steamer to meet us. We learned afterward that Mr. Hodous and Mr. Newell, a new man in our mission, came on the steamer from one side while we were getting off the other side.

A fine breeze and swift tide took us up the river about half way to Foochow. The breeze gave out then and the men rowed. Soon the tide turned against us and we made very slow progress. The three girls were asleep on the bed in the house boat about 9:30. Gould was wide awake and all about till after 11:00. When we reached Foochow all four were sound asleep. So we refused a very kind invitation from Mrs. Simester to come to her house, and Ellen and I remained on the house boat for the rest of the night. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin went home with Mr. Bissonnette where they have been since. We all went over to Ponasang to Miss Newton's for breakfast. It was a pleasant coincidence that we went back to the very same spot to which we went first over ten years ago, but into a new house this time.

We remained with Miss Newton until last Thursday morning, except as we went here and there to dinner or to supper with the different members of the mission at Ponasang and in the city. Thursday morning we came over to the Meth. Mission and took three meals with Mrs. Simester, we ate at our own table Friday noon for the first time since last Oct.

We are now in one of the houses that belong to the Meth. Mission. We have the promise of it for only two months. At present there is no house in the business community for rent.

Last Tuesday Mrs. Simester very thoughtfully gave a reception to the new Y.M.C.A. Secretaries. Sixty adults and twelve children were present. It was a very pleasant occasion. Dorothy has just come to me and leaned on my knee. I asked her what I should write to Grandma Beard for her. She replied, "I witted her a letter and put it in a envelop." She has gone to look for it now. You may receive it if she finds it.

Yesterday was the first real pleasant day we have had since arriving. The day of the reception there was no rain and the sun shone long enough to encourage the people to come out.

We now have our beds in such condition that we are all able to lie down, and we have a rug on the parlor floor and a few chairs there to sit in. In the dining room we are eating on two Chinese dining tables put end to end and sitting in borrowed chairs. Our boxes that started Nov. 30th last from Putnam we hope to see in about three weeks. Then we shall be surfeited with furniture.

A day or two after we arrived I began to feel that the filling in one of my upper back teeth was getting loose. It dropped out while I was at breakfast last week one morning. A Chinese dentist put it in last Friday afternoon. He said it would never come out again.

We think of putting the children in school tomorrow. Altho school is in session only in the morning = half a day.

Dorothy is four years old today. James and Flora have just passed another year stone in their lives.

All send love and hope you are all well.

Will.

*[This letter dated **March 3, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Willard is working again on learning the Chinese language. They placed an order with Montgomery Ward for various items and his children, Phebe, Gould and Geraldine have started school. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China

March 3rd 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I began this and got thus far while waiting for the others yesterday afternoon to go to Mrs. Consul Gracey's for afternoon tea. The others were ready just as I had written the salutation. We had a very pleasant time, found several other friends there.

I am spending all my working time now on the language. You know I did very little in the written language during my first term here and I am trying now to make up a little. I feel like a boy in short pants just starting to school.

The mail yesterday brought a letter from Stanley. I had heard from you also that he now has only one condition. I am glad. A letter has also come from Phebe. We are glad she has got over the grippe.

Since reaching Foochow rain has been the order of nearly every day. This morning is a beautiful clear morning and we are enjoying it immensely.

We are just making out an order for Montgomery Ward and Co. of groceries, shoes and stockings, a little furniture etc. Our household goods from Putnam have not yet arrived, and we have a house equipped in modern style, this is the style is not like any style that has preceded it.

Mr. Peet and family are planning to start for America sometime this month.

Phebe, Gould and Geraldine began school last Monday. They go only in the morning for 3 hours. The tuition is \$50.00 gold for each child.

I preach before a few missionaries tomorrow.

Well I must close this now.

We are well and all send love. We pray for you all every day.

Will.

*[This letter dated **March 12, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He visited the Ha Puo Ga church of Pastor Ding and found they have enlarged it. He and four other men got up early in the morning in order to witness the Spring Sacrifice to Confucius. He tells about it and his thoughts. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.

March 12th 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I wonder what kind of a day the 12th of March has brought to you. It dawned cloudy, but this afternoon is bright and cheery. I went over to Ha Puo Ga to church this morning. Mr. Ding's father is pastor there. He preached this morning. Mr. Ding's mother also was there, just the same as they were when we left them, now more than two years ago. The church members have enlarged the audience room since I was there, so they now have seats for two hundred persons comfortably. As I stood in the pulpit and looked about nearly or quite half the audience were familiar. The others were new comers or children who had grown and changed so much in two years that I did not recognize them.

Last Monday I played a game of football. As it always used to when I was in college it made me very lame. But Tuesday I played three sets of tennis and won two of them. Wed. afternoon I went into the city and spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous. They are in Foochow City now. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin went with me. Thursday morning was the time set for Spring Sacrifice to Confucius and we were in to see it. The alarm clock awoke us at 2:00 a.m. Thursday. After a little lunch five of us men walked down to the temple. The highest official in Foochow leads in the ceremonies. The other officials assist. But as clocks do not yet run all things in China it is never possible to predict when anything of this sort is to take place. We were at the temple two hours before the ceremonies began. But this gave us a good opportunity to see the preparations and learn something of the meaning and manner of the ceremonies. We were met very kindly by two of three of the Masters of Ceremonies who showed us great respect and one who had less exacting duties took us all thro the temple. The form in which the ceremony is conducted seemed the all important thing in the mind of every man with whom we talked. To insure against mistakes in the manner of conducting the ceremonies, the Master of Ceremonies stood in a commanding position and gave all the directions in a loud voice. Opposite him in an equally commanding position stood the censor, with his eye on all the officials. If a mistake was made by any the censor has the right to send the officials name direct to the Emperor, and the official is likely to be degraded.

We missionaries were courteously given a good position so near the path of the officials as they went from their position in the open court of the temple, into the temple proper, that their robes touched us as they passed.

To us the ceremonies would seem very childlike. First the officials at the command of the Master of Ceremonies bowed, after kneeling, three times. Then at the command, the highest official rose and went into the temple and knelt between the table on which the fruits were placed, and the tables on which the pig, bullock and goat were placed. Then attendants placed in his hands the dishes on which were the fruits. He uttered a sentence or two over each and the attendant replaced the dish. After all this part was over the head official left the temple worshipping in different places. Only the highest official was allowed to cross the temple and go out thro the left door. The others had to return the way they came in. Then after the temple service was over, the officials had much more kneeling and prostrating to do. During the ceremony there was music, both social and instrumental, - Chinese of course. Some of the instruments were large stringed ones, but our guide told us all the men who had ever known how to play on them were dead and the younger generation had never learned.

This was called a sacrifice. But the sacrificial part consists entirely in the official taking the dish in the hand and repeating a formula. After the ceremony a large company have a fine feast. The aspect in the temple was most ghastly. The pigs and goats were dressed- all the hair being taken off and then the animal was placed over a small horse (wooden) and its head propped up so as to be in the same posture as when alive. The bullock was placed on its stomach on the table with the fore legs over one end and the hind legs over the other end of the table. The head hung down between the fore feet. The throat was cut and blood still ran from the opening. From the backbone about half way down each side of the body the hair had been removed by the same process as is used in taking bristles off hogs. The rest of the hair was still on.

Now what is the significance of it all? That was what we tried to learn while there, and I have talked with several Chinese since. All that I can get from them is, that this ceremony is gone thro with purely and simply in remembrance of Confucius. Some would have it that no idolatry is practiced. But I am satisfied that it is idolatrous. The spirit of Confucius is worshipped.

We asked Mr. Ding, who was with us at the ceremony, what the consensus of opinion was among the Christian Chinese – could a man participate in this ceremony and at the same time be a true Christian. He said most Christians said they could not.

There is much to be done yet before China becomes Christ's.

We returned to Mr. Hodous' house about 6:30 a.m. Thursday. I got a nap of half an hour. Then we ate another breakfast and Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin and I started for Kuliang. The day was just right for mountain climbing = no sun- no rain- not hot- not cold. I found some charcoal in our cottage and built a fire in the native furnace and we had some condensed milk which with hot water and sugar made a fine drink.

Friday afternoon we all went to one of the English ladies, Miss Stevens – an old friend of ours, to 4 o'clock tea. Then at 6:30 a reception was given to us by the students in the Meth Anglo Chinese College and after this was over we had to go to meet two ladies who have just come from the interior- up the Yangste river five weeks travel by boat to Hankow.

We are all well. Dorothy is getting fat every day. The others are in school in the morning, and hard at play in the afternoon. Ellen was never in better health, and I am getting fat. Thus far I have stuck close to the study of the character. Next week Tuesday I plan to go to Ing Hok for a two weeks trip. Possibly Mr. and Mrs. Mac may go with me.

Mr. Peet and family plan to sail for San Francisco Apr. 12 from Shanghai.

With lots of love from us all to you all at home, in B-port, South Orange, Framingham, South Hadley, Shelton, etc.

Will.

*[This letter dated **March 17, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his sister, Phebe. He is sending on a letter from his daughter, Dorothy, who has taken up letter writing. The Y.M.C.A. day and evening classes have begun and the building is being repaired. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.
March 17th 1905

Dear Phebe:-

Gould and I were in the city from Friday evening till yesterday, and as I came to my desk last evening I found letters addressed to lots of people in China and in the U.S.- one to you in a large blue envelope, the most imposing one of the lot. Opening it I found Miss Dorothy's name at the end of the epistle. She is getting to be a big expense in this line. But I'm glad to do it, for it is a good education for the children and then I have a faint hope that it will in some small measure atone for the remissness of their parents in the line of letter writing. I am sorry that it is so difficult to find time to write, and during the past three years I keep thinking "this is only a temporary rush, when this line of work is on its feet I'll have more time" but the rushes keep coming. Now that the Y.M.C.A. day and evening classes are begun and the building is getting nearly repaired things begin to assume shape and chaos is disappearing.

Mar 21st

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wade Hicks, Assistant Sec'y of the Am. Board reached here yesterday and took dinner with us.

All are well. Gould is in the city with Vernon Peet over Sunday.

All send Love

Will.

*[This letter dated **March 19, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He tells of his struggles learning the Chinese written language. An English battleship came into the area and Willard and others enjoyed playing football with a couple of them. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
March, 19th 1905.

Dear folks at Home:-

Sunday has come again. Thus far it has been a real rest day for me. The only work that I have had to do on Sunday since reaching Foochow, was to preach in English on Sunday afternoon. In fact when I compare my work since arriving this time with what I was doing two years ago when we left Foochow, it seems very insignificant. Each day is much like every other. At 9:00 a.m. I sit down with my Chinese teacher and "The Four Books," and try to read one of them. Yesterday I finished one of them entitled "The Great Learning." It is hardly the truth however to say that I have finished it. For I can only read the Chinese, that is I can give the sounds of the characters = read it. These are all classical sounds and convey no meaning. I have read whole pages without getting a single idea of the meaning of it all. The character  is read wak. It is never used in the spoken language, but it means "to speak" so when I translate I must say, "gong" instead of 'wak'. Then to make the reading sound well a great many characters are inserted at the beginning and end of some of the sentences, which have no meaning and in translating these are simply passed over.

Then in addition to the translating I must learn to recognize all the characters when they stand alone. I find it is one thing to know the sound of a character when reading as I see it in its connection with other characters and quite another to recognize it when all alone by itself on a little piece of paste board.

For three hours in the morning I study with the teacher, and then in the afternoon I put in about two hours more with the teacher and another hour by myself. I have purposely kept pretty much to myself. This next week I am to begin some work. Next Tuesday evening I have been asked to translate an address for Mr. McLachlin, and on Thursday evening I speak in Chinese myself. These addresses are a part of a series of revival meetings held this next week in the Anglo Chinese College. Then on Friday morning I plan to start for Ing Hok, to be gone for about two weeks.

Last week I wrote that spring seemed to be coming. I must have scared it I think for the past week has been a cold rainy one, with almost no sunshine. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin are quite disgusted with Foochow weather. But with the first of April so near at hand we must have warmer weather very soon.

The diversion this last week was a fine game of football Monday afternoon- at which we had two men from the battleship "Columbia" English- these fellows thought they were a little above Foochowites and when the game began to go against the side on which one of them was playing he got rather rough. I had the pleasure of bumping into him once and of seeing him roll in fine style on the ground. You know I used to play center rush in Oberlin.

Then on Thursday evening there was a big fire just across the river, that caused quite a commotion. On Friday afternoon the band from a German Gun Boat came up to Foochow and played at the German Consulate. All the foreigners in port were invited. The Fete was to have been on the lawn, but it rained so hard that all had to be held in the Consulate. This was a very pleasant and enjoyable occasion. As I sat or stood in different parts of the Consulate I heard English, French, German and Chinese spoken. Gould and Geraldine went with us and enjoyed it immensely.

We sent the family picture to Mr. Ding a few days ago, and I enclose the note he sent in acknowledgement.

We are getting anxious for another American mail. The last one brought us no letters. We are all well, and still waiting for our furniture and other things in the boxes that we started from Putnam more than a month before we started from San Francisco.

I wish you could see some of the flowers that beautify many of the lawns of the foreigners here in Foochow. Callas, prim roses, English violets, geraniums, freesias etc. are now in bloom.

I think I did not tell you that Mr. and Mrs. Peet, Ruth and Vernon plan to sail for the U.S. on the "Siberia" April 19th. They will spend only a part of their time in West Haven.

7:30 p.m.

The children have kissed me good night and have gone to bed. As Dorothy was about to leave I asked her what I should say to Grandma Beard for her. She said "We have a play house, and Phebe has a big doll." I think you saw the large doll that Mrs. Boies of Scranton, Pa. gave to Phebe. It has been the admiration of all three girls. Dorothy's greatest grief these days, comes when Phebe takes that doll out and does not allow her to hold it. Tell Flora Dorothy is developing very fast. I wonder if you are planning to send a box to us in the Am. Board, June shipment. Mr. John G. Hosmer promised or rather offered to forward any cases for us in the regular mission shipment. If you have any little things only to send, it might be well for you to correspond with the people in Putnam and combine. The charges would be less in that way.

This will reach you about Easter time. I wonder if all the "peoples" will be home at that time.

We all send love to all.

Will

[This letter dated **April 8, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The first part of letter is typewritten. Willard just spent a rainy two weeks with Mr. Smith in the Ing Hok missionary field where Christianity is spreading. About 4 -5 months after shipping their furniture from CT, it arrived in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.
April, 8th, 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

A letter came from Phebe last evening. Enclosed was a letter from Mother to Phebe, also the receipt for the payment of my Life Insurance. I had forgotten that I had spoken to Father about it, so I sent the Company a private check on mine from Yokohama. The check was returned and came to me yesterday. So it is all straight.

I am enclosing a check to Father for the amount \$27.86 on the First National Bank of Putnam.

The last two weeks I have spent in the Ing Hok field with Mr. Smith. We have had a good time. The weather has not been pleasant but we have escaped rain. One or two days the roads were very muddy and we had wet feet all day but with a tub of hot water when we arrived at the chapels late in the afternoon and then dry foot gear all round we were quite comfortable. The weather is still cold and we did not suffer from the heat as we feared.

I suppose I should first tell you of the fine girl into which Helen Huntington Smith has grown, and of the fine big two months old boy, Huntington Thomas Smith that I found there at the central station of the Ing Hok field. I spent three different nights in three places where there were no Christians two years ago. The first night was in a Christian's home. He was most glad to have us stay with him, and he preached to the neighbors who came in that evening the best sermon of any of us. This man and his brother must take turns in going to church. They walk twelve miles to church and one of them is there every Sunday. How is that for some people who

[the following is handwritten]

Sunday April 9th:-

(I was called away yesterday just as I had finished the line) think if they live fifteen minutes from the church and it is cloudy, that they are justified in staying at home? The second night we spent in the chapel at Ngu Deng Muoi. The preacher here is of my old students in the Seminary. I was much rejoiced to find him in a growing work and every where spoken well of. We slept at Ngu Deng Muoi that night and had a good time with the Christians. Friday we walked on to Sung Kau. Another Seminary graduate is here. Then Saturday we went on to Diong Keng. Sunday we held Communion at Diong Keng in the morning and at Sung Kau in the afternoon. These places are seven miles apart.

Monday we started from Sung Kau to go up into the mountains. While we were taking our lunch in an inn the rain fell in torrents. It ceased just as we were ready to start on. But you should have seen the roads we walked over- rather thro. The mud was ankle deep in many places. I wore a pair of cloth tennis shoes and it is unnecessary to add that my feet were wet. We climbed about 3000 feet up the mountain and found a nice new church built by a Christian man in a region called Sa Sang where two years ago a big feast was held and the people all bound themselves not to accept Christianity. This very house was surrounded by a howling mob less than a year ago and the Christian was threatened by his neighbors. Now those very neighbors are attending church and learning the Truth. One of the graduates of the Seminary is living in this place as the preacher, with his wife, his wife's mother and his little daughter.

The next morning we walked on seven miles to another chapel also established since I left the field and found some ten church members. We administered the communion to them that evening. Two of the young men walked seven miles to the service and then walked home again after nine o'clock. I wish it were possible to get a picture of that service. We gathered in a small upper room about 10 X 20 feet. There were about twenty of us. For lights we had one foreign lantern and three bottles (glass) with cotton wicks held upright by little pieces of tin, and without chimneys. For seats we had what at home we would call "horses." The ceiling- rather the sleepers to floor of the room above us were about six inches above my head. But such eager faces one seldom sees. Every word was listened to with the most intense interest. The leader in all the work at this center is a man whom I have known for five years and over. He used to smoke 40 cents of opium a day. In talking with him this time he told me that his opium now cost him about \$1.00 a month, and that many days he used none at all. He has a son 19 yrs. old, - a fine young fellow. The father has brought him up a Christian. He is a church member, altho the father cannot join, owing to his opium. The opium smoker reads his Bible and prays earnestly and intelligently.

Wednesday we started for Ing Hok city arriving about 4:30 p.m. Thursday p.m. I started for Foochow arriving Friday a.m. about 10:45.

I had been well on the whole trip. I found the folks at home well- except the three girls had a kind of cold sore on their faces. I had expected to find some quite warm days before getting back but the weather continues cold, and the rain continues to fall. Someone said that for 70 days we have had five pleasant days.

Friday afternoon McLachlin and I were invited to play hockey. We did. Mc got a rap on one ankle that kept him in bed yesterday. He is about today.

The boxes that contained our goods that I shipped from Putnam the last day of last Nov. arrived while I was in Ing Hok. As far as we have opened them they are in fairly good condition. The boxes you know were made of oak boards, many of them with the quarter oak marks. I am planning to start a cabinet maker on a desk for me tomorrow.

Phebe writes that she has engaged passage for Europe to sail next June. I hope she will have as fine a trip as Flora had last year. When the school marms have "done up" Europe I see no reason why they should not leave the worn out paths of tourists and come over this way. We can show them something worth while and something that few people have seen. They will thus be adding to the store of knowledge already possessed by the many at home. And think of the pleasure it would give us!!! [*The ship's passenger list for the S.S. Columbia shows Miss Helen Willard Beard (29)-Phebe and Willard's cousin. She is the daughter of James Henry Beard. Also on the ship's list is Miss Phoebe M. Beard (32), Miss H. Wakelee (29) and Miss May Palmer (25) leaving from Glasgow, Scotland and arriving in New York City on September 3, 1905. All were listed as being from Shelton, CT. May Palmer may be a sister to Myra Palmer, future wife of Willard's brother, Stanley Beard. Phebe's application for a passport on May 16th, 1905 describes her as follows: Age- 31 years, Stature- 5 feet 3 inches, Forehead- Medium, Eyes- Dark Brown, Nose- Sharp, Mouth- Medium, Chin- Medium, Hair- Dark, Complexion- Dark, Face- Oval.*]

Well this is long enough to make up for the long time during which I have not written- while I was in Ing Hok. - A good letter from Oliver tells me that all are well at home and everywhere else, - practically-

With love to all in which we all join

Will.

If you see Oliver- tell him to send those collars by mail to Mr. J.G. Hosmer, 14 Beacon St. Boston for W.L. Beard, Foochow, China. I will write him tomorrow if possible. But I have several important letters to go on tomorrows mail and I am afraid I'll not get to his. W.

[This letter dated April 16, 1905 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. They have been busy going to various social events and prayer meetings. The weather has been very rainy. He is interested in the revival in Wales and Dawson's work in Boston. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow China

April 16th 1905

Dear Folks at Home:-

Sunday evening has come again and with it an opportunity to write a few lines to you. The thing that impresses us all just now is that the sun has been shining today and that it is very hot this evening. The children have been complaining for about two hours of the heat. The moon is shining brightly this evening for the first time since our arrival two months ago.

This last week has been a little more full of business than any previous week. Our boxes containing dining table, chairs, desk etc. had to be opened and the different articles of furniture set up. We found them all in good condition. I did all the work of setting up, myself. On Wed. afternoon another German gun boat sent its band up to the German Consulate to play and all foreigners in Foochow were invited to attend. We all went. Then Wed. evening Ellen and I attended the Meth. Mission prayer meeting. I should have said that a prayer meeting for all foreigners in Foochow has recently been started and held on Monday evening of each week. The object is to pray specially for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Fukien Province. We attended this last Monday evening.

On Thursday evening Ellen invited some friends in for dinner. In the afternoon Mac and I went over to Ponasang to attend the prayer meeting of the Am. Board. That morning we called on the Consul to see if he could tell us where we could find a house to rent. Every house seems to be full up here in Foochow. We also called on some people to see about holding a Summer Conference for Students,- something like the Northfield Summer Student Conference held each year about July 1st.

Friday afternoon the Student Y.M.C.A. in Foochow held a joint meeting in the city. Mac, Ellen and I attended. I spoke. After the meeting we held a committee meeting to discuss the holding of a Summer Conference. The city is about three and one half miles from our present house. When the committee meeting finished it was raining hard. We three had walked in and had planned to walk home. But to walk home meant wading thro six inches of water some of the way, so Ellen and I found street chairs for about three miles of the distance. We did not leave the city till 5:35 p.m. After getting home we had to change wet duds and go to Mrs. Plumb's to dinner. It rained hard all Friday night and part of yesterday morning. Some people remarked that they could not believe the sky could hold so much water.

Last evening again Ellen and I were out to dinner, - three evenings in succession. This great raid on dinner parties was due partly to the fact the Mr. Lacy has been down from Shanghai and returns tomorrow. You remember that we brought home one of his sons- Henry: when we went on furlough. Mr. Lacy was and still is a member of the M.E. mission here, and still has part in the work of the Press, so the missionaries delight to do him honor when he comes. He lives in Shanghai and has half charge of the M.E. Press there.

Today I preached in the first Meth. Church here.

The mail this last week did not bring anything from any of our home friends. It did bring our first home papers. It was interesting to read about Mr. Dawson's work in and about Boston. I wonder if the revival in Wales is as interesting to you in the U.S. as to us out here. The Congregationalist that came day before yesterday is full of Dawson.

I think of father as beginning the spring work about now. Probably the oat ground is already plowed. A year ago last Thursday night I spent with you at home- only father, mother and Stanley were there if I remember correctly. I arrived late and went early on my way to New York.

Monday morning:- Just as I was ready for bed last night, it began to rain or water began to fall from the sky again, and it came right thru the roof and down into the outside room adjoining our bedroom. I had to cover a wardrobe with my rain coat and some oiled paper. About 1 p.m. the wind blew furiously and this morning the atmosphere is delightful. The sun shines brightly and there is hope that we may get dried out.

The girls have had an eruption on their faces. Phebe and Dorothy are all right. Geraldine is not yet over hers. Otherwise we are all well.

All send love

Will.

*[This letter dated **April 30, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by 8 ½ year old Gould Beard to his Uncle Stanley. He briefly tells him about friends, school and a noisy mule. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow China
April 30 9105 [1905]

My dear Uncle Stanley

We have ben playing with a little boy and girl named Ralph and Elsie. We have a school right near our house it is a very small We have seven scholars We have for books. Our books are arithantic reading language and spelling.

Im reading we are on page 110 how far have you got in reading I will end the school sentences.

There is a mule right in the oter yard he whinnies wry now and then he is very ugly he does not like any body but his master if we go near him he will bite us if we do not run if we

If we get back of his heals he will kick. I ges aie will hafta say good by.

Myron Gould Beard.

*[This letter dated **May 1, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by 8 ½ Gould Beard to his Grandma Beard. He tells her briefly about school. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foocho China
May 1 9105 [1905]

My dear grandma Beard

We have some desks they are to hold in our lap grandma Kinney made them for us all of us have one even Dorothy had one they are white and dark-brown. There is a little box it has a little ink bottle and it has a pen and a pencil and a slate- pencil but there is no slate but there is a press nearby that has some slates their I will end this sentence.

I wished I were their two hang a may basket to you.

You did not think I am fooling I hope you are all well I have something more to tell you in the next letter give my love to Jennie good by.
Myron Gould Beard

*[This letter dated **May 7, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He has spent the last week going to prayer meetings, visiting the Girl's Boarding School and the C.M.S. Hospital. The Missionary Educational Conference and the National Y.P.S.C.E. Conference will be held in the Shanghai area soon. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
May 7th 1905.

Dear folks at Home:-

It has been two weeks since I have written you and a whole month since a letter has come from any of you. We are trusting that this is good news.

This last week has been more full of work for me than most of the weeks since I have been in Foochow. Tuesday evening I went into the city to the Foochow College to lead the prayer meeting for the students. About one hundred attended. I spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous, and led chapel prayers at the College on Wednesday morning. Wednesday afternoon the three missions met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hodous for the Monthly Concert of Prayer. Mr. Newell led the meeting and took for the subject the work of the Y.M.C.A., among students. In the evening I spoke to 250 girls in the Church Missionary Society's Girl's Boarding School. On Thursday Ellen and I went into the city again to attend the opening of a Hospital built by the C.M.S. This was a journey of about five miles. We are on the southern edge of what is called Foochow, and the Hospital is on the very northern edge.

The weather is very conspicuous for a few days. Last night with no clothes on we were fairly comfortable. Today is hot- say 97 in the shade.

Our house boy is home with the itch. The amah left a few days ago for sundry reasons. The washerman has been unwell for two days. We have one servant who is supposed to simply buy and prepare our food.

We are taking the Outlook this year. In the number for Saturday, March 25, 1905 is an article which I wish Stanley would read. It is by Henry Thomas Colestock, "Losing One's Religion" "A Student Experience."

One year ago today I was in Syracuse N.Y. It almost makes me tired now to think how tired I was that Sunday night. And Monday morning after a "cold bite". I was off early to catch a train. Mr. J.K. Brown was in Syracuse with me and he was at the station Monday morning with not even a "cold bite."

All of our home boxes have come. We unpacked the last two a week ago yesterday. The things came in good condition. I have given some of the quartered oak boards to a cabinet maker to make me a desk. He growls every time I see him of the hardness of the boards. They have no wood as hard as our good oak.

The missionary educators of China meet this next week for a three days conference in Shanghai. About fifteen are going up from Foochow, beside several Chinese. The National Y.P.S.C.E. Convention is held at Ning Po- a little south of Shanghai just before the Educational Conference. The two coming so near in place and time make a big attraction.

We are all well and all send love

Will.

*[This typewritten letter dated **May 16, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. They are currently living outside Foochow, but went into the city for a couple of days so Willard could fill in for Mr. Hodous while he was away. Willard has noticed a decrease in idol worship in the last ten years in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China,
May 16th. 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter to you I wrote one week ago last Sunday. Last Sunday I was in the city. I told you I was to go in each day for a time to take some of Mr. Hodous' work with the Theological students while he was away. And last Sunday hold the communion service. At Mrs. Hodous' urgent invitation Ellen and the children went also and we all were in the city from Saturday afternoon till Monday afternoon. Ellen and the children greatly enjoyed visiting the Kindergarten under the care of Miss Jean Brown. She had some carrier pigeons and sent one out by the children to return with a letter. The children are greatly anticipating the letting go of the bird. Miss Brown starts for home on

furlough in a few weeks now. She will probably reach Fair Haven about August 1st. I tell her she must surely go out to Century Farm and see you. Then she must also see the Putnam people. She is so near you that it will not be difficult for you to see her. Tell Stanley that she will be with her brother, The Rev. Mr. Brown pastor of the Congregational church at Fair Haven. If she does not get out before next term, Stanley must look her up some time.

I have been to the mountain today. Walked up the 2500 feet and quite a distance on the top of the mountain, then down again. It was beautiful up there. I was as wet as a rat when I reached the top, it was hot going up but while there I had nothing to complain of. I went up to plan for a few repairs that had to be made before we can move into the house.

Two or three different times since I have returned have Chinese spoken to me of the noticeable decrease in idol worship during the last decade in Foochow. Yesterday while at a feast one of the Chinese said that ten years ago every year over one thousand men went on a long journey South from Foochow to worship a certain idol whose influence was supposed to be very great. Now he said not one goes. A few weeks ago I walked from here nearly into the city thro the main street. I noticed a few men with yellow or purple garments on and with boards or swords or chains about their necks and with little stools on which they knelt at stated places. I asked what the significance was, and was told that, the Chinese on that day worshipped Tai Sang (the name of an idol). But that the number of worshippers now compared with ten years ago was very small. Then I remembered that some eight years ago I saw this same thing and there were twenty men then where there was one now.

A letter came from Emma yesterday. She spoke of receiving letters from Shelton so I suppose you must all be comfortable.

We are all well, and all send love.

Will

[*The following was handwritten.*]

A photo came yesterday. Ellen showed it to Dorothy and asked her who it was, she answered "Aunt Leolyn" "What dress has she on." "Bride" [*Willard's brother, James Daniel Beard, married Leolyn Seaver Smith on November 24, 1904.*]

Will

[*This letter dated **May 30, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. It is a brief note to accompany his daughter, Dorothy's letter. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Foochow, China.

5:40 a.m. May 30th 1905

Dear Mother:-

Dorothy has very faithfully written two letters- one to you and one to Aunt Leolyn. She brought them to me, and I laid them on the desk telling her I would put them with another envelope and send them. But this did not satisfy her. She waited till she saw them in the right one- then she was satisfied.

Gould and I [*are*] nearly ready to go to the mountain today to see about repairing the cottage. As it is Decoration Day there is no school.

Last Sunday I went about 10 miles from Foochow to preach and conduct the communion for Mr. Hodous. He came from Shanghai on Sunday- I must go now- we are all well and all send love.

Will



Geraldine in front, Phebe in back and Dorothy going for a ride in a Chinese carrying chair. This chair may be owned by Willard and Ellen. About 1905.

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

[This typewritten letter dated **June 5, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He made a trip to the mountain with son, Gould and three other men. He discusses at length a new exclusion law that the US Government has made with China. He is planning a Summer Conference for students in September. Sister, Phebe, is off to visit Europe. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China,

June, 5th. 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It was a week ago that I wrote a few words to mother. I do not remember when you last wrote but it was a long time ago.

I think it was on the morning of the day that I went to the mountain that I wrote to mother. Gould went up with me. We had a fine party. Beside Gould and myself there were Mr. McLachlin, Mr. Jones and Mr. Newell. The day was beautiful until shortly after we started down the mountain. Then rain began to fall and it came harder and harder until half an hour before we reached home when all restrictions were taken off and instead of raining the water just fell out of the sky. Umbrellas did little good. We had heavy coats so our shoulders were dry but below we were all soaked. The weather has been very trying for over a week. Dorothy is well covered with prickly heat. You would scarcely know her now, her face is so broken out with the heat which gives it a swollen appearance.

Word has reached China that our Government is making or has made (The Chinese do not seem to know which) a new exclusion law or treaty with China. Two weeks ago the Chinese in Shanghai were much agitated over the affair. The merchant's guild of that city met week before last and decided to boycott everything American. The articles agreed upon were practically these, - 1. Give the U.S. two months to make a treaty agreeable to the Chinese. 2. If by the 1st. of the 7th moon, about Aug. 1st. things are still not satisfactory, no Chinese will use any goods of American manufacture 3. No Chinese will ship any goods on American ships. 4 Chinese will not send their children to schools established by Americans. 5. No Chinese will join any American firm in any capacity whatever. 6. Cooks, coolies and other servants in American families shall resign and refuse to work for American citizens.

In Shanghai this decision of the Merchants Guild had the immediate effect of influencing about 40 boys in one school and 15 in another to leave and go home. The parents of some of them whipped them and sent them back. The fever struck Foochow last Wednesday. The students in the Anglo Chinese College of the Meth. Mission became very uneasy, but they had the good sense to ask for a conference with the Principal. He talked for nearly two hours with them, and the next day asked Consul Gracey to talk with them. So far as I know the air is much clearer in this school now. But to day it broke out in the Am. Board College in Foochow City. There were rumors yesterday. This morning at Chapel prayers Mr. Hodous was speaking and the boys began to shuffle their feet. Then when Mr. Hodous said something with which they could not agree the noise became greater and the seniors rose in a body and were about to leave the room. Mr. Hodous rose and tapped on the table and told them to be seated, at the same time ordering three of the seniors who he thought were the leaders to leave. He was obeyed. Then he asked some five or six young men whom he did not recognize to present their cards, saying that they always liked to keep the cards of visiting friends. These friends however did not care to give their cards and thought to leave. But they reached the gate to find that their exit had cut off. They then had to give their names. They were students from other places who have posed as Reformers. The boys who seem to want to go home do not know what it is that they wish to complain of, only they have a vague idea that in some way the U.S. is trying to injure China, and they think that if they boycott the College they are patriotic.

Well I do not know what will be the outcome but we do not anticipate any great trouble.

I have been putting much time and thought on a Summer Conference for students to be held in Foochow next Sept. 3-10. If all goes well there will be some thirty or forty students to attend. This evening I received a letter asking me to go to Hing Hua this week to visit the Association there for three or four days. The weather is very hot but I shall try to go down.

We are keeping well and shall be glad to get out of the heat up on the mountain as soon as possible. The foreign school has closed, and the children have all day to play in now.

We all send love, to all, and shall watch the mails for letters. Phebe will be off for Europe before this reaches you. I hope you will send us her address or rather her itinerary so we can drop her one or two lines direct from China.

Lovingly, Will.

*[This letter dated **June 11, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The family would like to go to the mountain (Kuliang) but the wet weather has prevented them from doing so. They expect to have boarders in their house on the mountain as they have for past summers. Plans for the September Student Summer Conference are progressing. Ellen and Willard visited a tea exporter's store and learned about the grading process. They also visited a camphor business. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
June, 11th 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Another week has passed with no letter from you. I wrote June 7th. My numbering of the letters this year has been defective. I am putting on this one "No. 5" and will try to do better in the future.

I am writing this letter on my new desk made of quartered oak boards, used in the boxes that our goods came in. I want to take a photo of the desk one of these days. Elbert thought the boards were a poor lot. I wish he could see the desk itself.

The weather has been very hot during the past week. The children are very desirous to go to the mountain. But it rains every day, and the choice between the excessive dampness of the mountain and the excessive heat here is difficult to make. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin are going up tomorrow if it does not rain. I am planning to go also to see if the = our house is getting ready to live in. The Macs are going to keep house by themselves. This will relieve

Ellen of much work- for boarders add to the duties of the housekeeper. It will seem queer to be in a house by ourselves. The last three summers we were on the mountain, we had boarders and the last year we were in Foochow Mr. and Mrs. Hodous were with us and while we were at home we [were] boarders, visitors or in the same house with father Kinney all the time. And the Macs have been with us since we came back. The children are standing the heat well. Dorothy has some prickly heat but it is not making her thin. Mr. and Mrs. Ned Smith arrived from Ing Hok yesterday. They will be in Foochow a few days before going to the mountain.

Yesterday I sat nearly all day with the Committee on the Student Summer Conference that we are planning to hold here next Sept. The plans and arrangements- program etc. are well under way. So far the Chinese have taken hold of it well and the missionaries are very sympathetic.

One day last week Ellen and I accepted an invitation to visit one of the tea exporter's hong's = store. We found thousands of tins of tea standing on racks. About one hundred tins- each holding about one qt.- stood on the table. These he said had come that morning, and it was part of his days work to test and record these samples. Each Chinese dealer prepares his samples in these tin cans and sends the cans with the number chests he had for sale of each kind to each foreign exporter. The foreign exporter puts into a cup a certain amount of tea- the amount is carefully weighed. The cups are of uniform size and an hour glass is used to gauge the time the tea is in the hot water. The tea is then poured off and as soon as it is a little cool it is tasted and at once ejected. The man will taste five or six or more samples in a minute, then he examines the color of the liquid, and the color of the tea both before and after it is steeped. For this examination a light from a North window is essential because it is more constant and has no glare. Then he feels of the steeped tea leaves and smells them. He keeps a careful record of each point and from all makes up his mind what the tea will be worth in New York or London,- wires his friends and if a favorable reply wire comes buys the whole lot from the Chinese dealer. As we saw them the lots ran from 200 to 1000 chests of 50 or so pounds each. The prices range from 10 cents to 50 cents per lb. here (gold.) We have bought two half chests of very fine "chop" = pigeon English for "brand of tea" and they are to be shipped to Oliver. Each half chest will contain about 50 lbs. +. One is for you folks and one for the Putnam folks. If you do not like it just say so, and we won't do so some more.

We were also much interested in the camphor business. Here they have produced the gum for only 4 or 5 years. The whole tree is destroyed. The wood is cut up and boiled and the juice is the camphor. The pure gum here is worth about 60 cents gold a lb. We were in the room with \$400 worth. It made our eyes smart altho the gum was in thick wooden boxes.

We are all well

All send love

Will.

[This partial letter dated July 2, 1905 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The family has moved up to Kuliang and find the air very cool there. Because of the deportation of an American born Chinese, some Chinese students approached Willard with a letter they wanted to send to President Roosevelt and asked him to look it over and make corrections. The remainder of the letter is missing. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, July 2nd 1905

Dear Folks at Home:-

My register tells me that a letter was received from Mother June 11th. I think Phebe has written to Phebe since. I wrote No. 5 to Shelton on June 11th.

We came to the mountain last Thursday. A week ago today it began to be very hot in Foochow. Mon., Tues. and Wed. were sweltering. Dorothy was well covered with prickly heat. It is all gone now, and the skin is peeling just as when she had scarlet fever. On Thursday morning we were up at 4 o'clock and off at 8 o'clock, reaching our home here at 1 p.m. We had sent one servant ahead to open and clean the house and receive the things that we sent up. Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin had been in the house next to ours for two weeks. They were at our house when we came to tell us that dinner would be ready at their house in 20 min, so you see all was very pleasantly arranged for us. How we did sleep that afternoon and again that night!! We are now pretty well settled, - the air is very cool here. We sleep under blankets. Last night a typhoon tried to develop but it did not make out much. The rain however fell in torrents. This morning the sun came out and we had a beautiful time for the Chinese service at 10 a.m. Then it began to rain and held up again for the Union service in English at 5 p.m. The wind is howling in blustering gusts again. It is only getting ready for a characteristic fourth of July on Kuliang. Ned Smith has an American Flag on a 20 foot staff on the highest part of the mountain. It looks great. But I can't help wondering

what we would say if the Chinese in some part of the U.S. should strap up the yellow flag with it's dragon on Am. soil.

The latest papers from home have much to say about the Am. born Chinese name Ju Toy. You may have forgotten the incident by the time this reaches you, but he was deported. [*Ju Toy was a Chinese man born in America. He traveled to China and when returning to the U.S. he was deported.*] Well every instance of this kind helps to incense the Chinese against us. A young Chinese- a Christian and an English speaking man called on me the other day to look over and correct a letter that he and some 330 students and teachers of one of the colleges here was sending to Pres. Roosevelt. This letter praised the U.S. for fighting for Independence, and for preserving the Union. Then asked why they dared not treat China fairly. It threatened to retaliate by boycotting all Am. imports, and suggested that innocent missionaries might be called on to pay the penalty of unjust exclusion laws, by their lives. We would call the general tone of the production rather sarcastic and in some places rude. The young men cut it and changed it quite maturely at my suggestions. I hope however the U.S. will be humane in this matter [*remainder of the letter is missing*]



This photo appears to have been taken in front of one of the stone buildings on Kuliang in about 1905. I believe Gould is the boy standing in front of the pole in the middle of the photo. The girl who is sitting next to him is probably Phebe and Geraldine is probably the girl with the long, dark hair just two to the right (Phebe's left) of Phebe. Dorothy may be the little girl on the right end in the front row with the scarf around her neck.

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

[*This letter dated July 30, 1905 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He expresses homesickness for the farm and all of the fun summer activities there. Cholera and Plague are not a problem this year in Foochow as in other years but Plague is a problem in the Ing Hok district. The American boycott has decreased some. Willard's sister, Flora has offered to come to China to teach the missionary children but Willard is not sure he can guarantee her enough pupils. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Foochow, China
July 30th 1905.

Dear folks at Home:-

A long time has slipped since I have written. My last letter was to Oliver July 10th. I see my register says July 2- No. 6 to Shelton. I am a little afraid to trust my register as implicitly as I used to do before the furlough. So I hope something has gone from here since July 2nd directly to Shelton. On July 10 a letter came from Mother and yesterday one from Mother and one from Phebe on the eve of her departure for Europe. I have had it in mind for two months to send one letter to Phebe so she would get it direct from us while on her trip. But the address came only yesterday. If I send it to the address she gave me it will not reach there till after Sept. 1st and I think it will go fully as quick via Shelton, Conn. as via Suez. So I am sending this to you. If there is time you will send it right on to her if not she will find it when she comes home.

We think of you all at home this summer- except Phebe, Ruth, Mary and James. How many does that leave? Father, Mother, Flora, Elizabeth, Stanley. The dishes will have a rest this summer, and how fast the days and weeks are flying up here on the mountain. And just as fast with you I expect. The children were much interested in Grandpa's two calves. Stanley has no big brothers about to hitch up horses and wash carriages for this summer. I have been more homesick since returning from furlough than I was after coming out the first time. And as the summer days come on, I can't keep out of my mind the haying and the hammocks under the trees, and table full of folks, and the beach parties, and the family reunions, etc. etc. I cannot at all sympathize with the missionaries who are glad to get back to the mission field because they really find the conditions of life all-round more congenial there. I think we must have had too good a time at home.

Thus far we have had a very pleasant summer here on the mt. This last week Thursday a nice heavy rain began gently and ended with a down pour that makes the farmers happy. This rain very kindly waited till the first crop of rice on the plain was harvested so it did not interfere with harvesting. The populace in Foochow city seem to be enjoying a peaceful summer- the most peaceful in some ten or more years- for each year since we came to Foochow either the Cholera or The Plague has made havoc with thousands. But up in the country-especially in the Ing Hok district the Plague is very bad- so bad that in some places the shops are not open for business.

The American boycott seems to have quieted down in general. The students in the schools have found in the framing of the petition to Pres. Roosevelt an outlet for their energies and their patriotism. But I am afraid that American imports will be decreased to some extent. The affair in Boston came very opportunely to help the cause of the Chinese.

I am trying to do a little studying these days, and it proves to be a little too often. The Kuliang Conventions are coming on now and I have most of the responsibility for the Chinese Convention week. Then the Student Conference planned for Sept. 3-10 demands constant attention.

Today has been hot. The air is quiet tonight and the mosquitoes, attracted by my lamp will hardly let me write.

Miss Newton took dinner with us yesterday. She is very well now. I wonder if you have seen Mr. and Mrs. Peet yet.

Phebe's report of the good health of the folks at Putnam was most welcome news to us. Etta wrote not long ago of the visit she had made to Putnam earlier in the season.

I have not yet answered Flora's offer to come to Foochow as teacher for the Foreign children if we would guarantee her 20 pymts. at \$50 gold per year. We have talked a little about it. But the pupils do not materialize. I am afraid we should have to do a little bargaining before we could think of making any definite promise. We have not given the matter up however.

The children are in bed- and the evening air is very enticing. Ellen is enjoying it in the hammock on the veranda. I am going to enjoy it with her.

We all send lots of love to all- Will.

[This letter dated Aug. 26, 1905 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Ellen to the dear ones in Shelton. She has found many new families have come to the mission field that they have not yet met and many families from all around have come to Kuliang for the summer. Various conferences, conventions and meetings have kept those on Kuliang busy. Half of the family has suffered bowel trouble with Willard taking it the worst. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China,
Aug. 26th, '05.

Our dear ones in Shelton,

I have received so many letters addressed to me from the Shelton home that it is about time for me to send one that way in my own hand.

Willard has written you several letters since we came to the mountain and I suppose he has told you what a pleasant summer we have had as regards weather, - unprecedented in our previous ten years experience of summers in China for the absence of typhoons, fog and long rain-storms have given the needed moisture. It has been a summer of unusual heat down on the plain yet there has been, in Foochow, no plague nor cholera that we have heard of altho neighboring cities have been seriously afflicted with plaque.

We find coming back after two summer's absence a great many new comers to the mission field whom we do not know, and circumstances are such this summer that there are still a number to whom we have not been introduced. Probably there has never been a summer before when so many missionaries and other foreigners have come to Kuliang for the summer's rest. They are even coming from Hong Kong now, a house having been built during our stay in America for the missionaries of that section; two came from Japan; and the local missionary force has been increased by new recruits to all three missions.

We have had the regular week of "Keswick" meetings (religious) which were very good this year. There have been several conferences on educational and evangelistic topics. Extended reports have also been given of the triennial educational convention held in Shanghai this spring; also of the national C.E. convention held in Ning Po this spring which many of the Foochow missionaries attended. Need was found for the organization of a new society called the Sunday School Union of Fukien Province, which organization was effected here at Kuliang this season. All these together with business meetings, medical meetings, religious meetings for the Chinese and committee meeting have kept most of the people on Kuliang busy attending meetings as well as resting and recuperating. But it is all a necessary part of missionary enterprise to unify the work of the six protestant denominations represented in this province. Next week will see many leaving the mountain and returning to the work and the following week more.

Just at this time there seems to be a number of cases of bowel trouble, especially down at Foochow. Half our family are just now coping with it. Geraldine and Dorothy have been ill three or four days and under the Dr's care but are dressed every day and about the house much of the time. Willard is not taking it quite as easily. Two weeks and a half ago he had a little diarrhea came on. He had not thought of calling a Dr. for it but as she happened to call in socially I suggested that she prescribe for him. She did so, and has been in twice a day nearly every day since. The first week he dressed and lay in the hammock or on the couch or was about the house but Dr. thought he would recover faster if he kept quiet in bed. So he has followed her advice. I think Dr. Woodhull personally preferred to have a gentleman M.D. associated in the care of the case so she called in Dr. Skinner of the M.E. mission. Both are very happy acquaintances of ours and they are going their best for us. They did not think best to give Will solid food and he has no appetite for liquids except water and Citrate of Magnesia (an effervescent drink) so he has lost some flesh and strength over it. At first they called it simply diarrhea; then congestion of the liver and spleen, and now intermittent fever. This morning Dr. Skinner examined his liver and pronounced it normal, -the congestion all gone. So they think from now on we will see daily improvement. Will has never been subject to that trouble out here in China and he has a good strong constitution to meet such an attack. He thinks he never took so much medicine in all his life put together. His countenance looks almost as bright as before he was ill, - is very little thinner in the face. His callers are surprised that he looks so well, having been in bed so many days. I think with the Dr.'s that he will gain strength and flesh rapidly when he gets fairly started in that direction. He will not be able to attend the Y.M.C.A. conference next week for which he has been planning and working all summer.

The children received the souvenir postals from Ruth this week and were pleased to hear from her. We have received two letters from you I think since Will wrote last. I will write again in a few days of improvement I trust.

Please excuse my hasty writing as the hour is late and Saturday evening at that. Trusting you are all well. I am. Yours with love,

Ellen.



L to R: Geraldine, Phebe, Gould, Dorothy. Taken about 1905 on Kuliang.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel, and also, John and Nancy Butte.]



Kuliang cottage about 1905: I believe Gould is the boy who is 3rd from the right leaning up against the pole. Dorothy may be the little girl just next to him in the light colored dress. I think Phebe is the girl 2nd from the right in the back row and right behind Dorothy. Geraldine appears to be the girl 6th or 7th from the left in a light colored dress and long hair. [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Sept. 5, 1905 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Ellen to the dear ones in Shelton. Willard is only allowed to take the little bit of juice from grapes and consume certain other foods. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow,
Sept. 5", '05

My dear ones in Shelton,

This is an important day in our calendar [*Willard and Ellen's 11th wedding anniversary*] and a good one on which to write a letter home as we can celebrate little in any other way this year.

I am glad however that the letter can bring good news to you. Five days ago we guessed we noted a little improvement in our patient; and the Dr. said he was ready to try a little nourishment. So she allowed him three grapes once in two hours but he was not to swallow anything but the juice. Next day the improvement continuing and the food agreeing with him and being much relished he was allowed six grapes and a little corn-starch pudding without eggs and with little sugar. As the days have advance there have been added gradually to his diet arrow-root gruel, beef steak to chew and swallow juice only, steamed apples. His strength has not perceptibly increased till this morning he says he feels a little stronger. We are so glad to see him improving. Must be brief this time. More soon.

With love,

E.L.K. Beard.

[This letter dated Sept. 17, 1905 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to his father. He refers to a bad storm in Shelton in which his father must have gotten caught. He expects sister, Phebe to be back from her European trip and ponders what types of fruit must be plentiful at the Shelton farm. Willard has been in bed for six weeks because of bowel trouble and he tells of the diet he's been following. He was not able to attend the Summer Student Conference that he had planned because of his sickness. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow,
Sept. 17th 1905.

Dear Father:-

It was good to get your letter about two weeks ago. The account of your peddling trip that stormy Saturday night interested us all and specially the children. You were fortunate not to have had an accident. The paper came in the mail following the letter. I judge there will be work for someone repairing roads and dams etc. I shall be interested to learn if Ben gets his full pay for his work on Center Street last year.

I have sent the Derby Savings Bank the blank filled out as requested. Your note is down in Foochow under lock and key. The first time Ellen or I go down I will get it and send it to you. I am quite sure they amount \$262.50 is correct.

I suppose Phebe must be home from Europe by this time. We had one good letter and several postals from her. She seemed to be enjoying herself immensely. We could see thro her eyes a little while she was in Naples for we spent one day there.

I am thinking apples, pears, peaches, plums, and grapes are abundant at home now. We have had a good taste of all these this summer but they are all gone now, and our fruit consists of two Chinese kinds – one a little round ball with a shuck as thick as a chestnut, then a thin pulp and then a big seed, and the guava- we did not any of us like these during our first term in Foochow but Ellen and the children are eating quantities of them now.

For almost six weeks now the bed has been my habitation. During the first week I was up and dressed most of the time and did the necessary work. The second week I was up every day but stuck pretty close to my room. The third week my appetite left me. This pleased the doctors and they told me to stop eating. For ten days I ate nothing- drank water. The doctors said my liver was the culprit, and it was in a bad way. I am poor as a crow but my strength is returning some. I have been eating for nearly two weeks now- began with three grapes once in two hours- only sucking the juice, ejecting the pulp. Now I have steak once a day, boiled potatoes- corn starch pudding, tapioca pudding, boiled eggs, tomatoes, and since grapes and apples (so called) have gone I am eating canned fruit-cherries, peaches, apples, pears. I eat a qt. tin of this in two days. I can also have bread. Every night is almost sure to bring me good sleep. I have sat up while Ellen cut my hair last Tues. I am writing this lying in bed. But I can feel myself getting stronger all the time and the doctors say I'll be all the better for the enforced idleness. There has been no pain any of the time. I have simply had to lie still and be patient.

The great disappointment to me came when I found I could not attend the Student Summer Conference which I had arranged for to be held in Foochow Sept. 3-10. But God took hold of four Chinese young men and

made of the conference the best one held in China. Of these four Chinese young men Mr. Ding Ming Nong was most prominent. The Conference taught the lesson that God's Holy Spirit works directly thro the Chinese. The most powerful speaker was a Chinese Diong by name from Ku Cheng. They said he was a Moody [*Dwight Lyman Moody was an evangelist of Protestant beliefs. He founded the Moody Church in 1864.*]. He not only carried his audience with him but he moved them to tears and brought them fact to face with their sins so that they were convicted- and those were Christian young men, some of them studying for the ministry.

When Ellen wrote last Geraldine and Dorothy were a little under the weather. They are all right now so with the exception of myself we are well. (Dorothy still not quite recovered.)

Letters from Putnam tell us they are well and that Etta has another boy [*Fulton W. Hume. Her other two sons born previously are Donald and Myron.*].

We all send lots of love to you all

Will.

Fri. a.m. Sept. 22. Yesterday I was up and dressed and at the table for b-fast and dinner. This morning I am at the table dressed and at the table the little girls are all right. Will.

[*This letter dated Oct. 1, 1905 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He reports on his progress towards good health and are trying to find out about a permanent place to reside in Foochow. He notes that he sees that in the American newspapers, America seems to be noticing that China is a country of human beings and that the boycott shows that China is waking up. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Kuliang, Foochow,

China, Oct. 1- 1905

Dear folks at Home:-

I wrote father more than a week ago before I began to sit up. A week ago last Wed. I got up and put my clothes on over my pajamas and went out to breakfast. Then I lay down most of the time till dinner, took dinner with the family, but then undressed and went to bed. Thurs. I took all meals at the table. Fri. I walked half round the house out doors. Sat. I walked up to the next house. Sunday I walked over a quar. of a mile, and from then it has thus far been a steady gain. This afternoon I walked at least three miles.

We are still on the mountain- the latest we ever remained here I think. Only yesterday did we know anything definite about what house we could get- everything seemed to go against us, and it looked as if we might be compelled to move over to Ponasang into the same house in which we lived the last year before going home. This would please the children- for they say there is no house in Foochow as good as that one. But yesterday a note came from Ven. Archdeacon Wolfe of the Eng. Mission saying we could have a house he is building and which I have been trying to get since last June. It is not yet finished but this does not disturb us. The International Comm. have also written telling us to purchase land and build. So within a year we hope we may have a permanent abiding place.

The weather up here on the mountain is cool 60 degrees yesterday morning. To this is added rain for the past three days. We put on a few more clothes and rather enjoy it. Ellen went to Foochow Wed. and returned Friday. We were sleeping under double blankets here, and she could scarcely endure a sheet over her there, and wanted a fan all day. She got father's note. I have torn off "Beard" as father wrote and enclose it.

We had onions fried in goose fat this evening. I shall never forget some onions which mother once fried in chicken fat. I remember we had a lot of old hens that were very fat- so fat that we dared not sell all the fat and mother tried [*tied?*] it up and saved it. She took the spider and cut up onions until they were heaped up and made a cone. Then she added the chicken fat and the whole thing fried down to less than a spider full. But my! they were good. Well those we had tonight were most as good.

There are five families of missionaries still on the mountain. One plans to go tomorrow, the other three are here because of health, and we shall plan to go the last of this week. I plan to go Tuesday and see just how the land lies,-housewise.

The American papers I see are beginning to realize that China is a nation of living human beings. The Boycott is actually bringing the "powers that be" to their senses. I think this Boycott is one of the surest signs that China is waking up. It will be a long time before she ever will get her rights at the canon's mouth, but she will find other and just as effective means. The truth is that Eng, Ger. and the U.S. want the market that China offers. And the increase of the imports in foreign goods- chiefly manufacturers and food products- is amazing. To keep this market

the western nation will be more nearly just in the future in their dealings with this nation, which in the past all have treated in a way to further their interest of the foreign powers with little thought of the justice in the case. If you want the proof of this statement get the first Vol. of Smith's "China in Convulsion" from the Shelton S. School Library, and look up the treaties that foreign powers have made with China- exacted from China would be a better way of putting it.

We are now having some fine fruit and nuts, bananas, pears, guavas (which we now like), green oranges for orangeade, pumelo, chestnuts which we boil, and new peanuts, the new sweet potatoes are delicious, and we get them out of the fields all about our house, for 10 lbs. for 74 gold.

Ellen has not been quite well- a little bowel trouble for a day or so but is better- the children are brown as fall nuts and all well. Gould went in swimming a week ago in the morning and now he is shedding his back's skin.

With lots of love to all from all.

Will

[This letter dated Oct. 8, 1905 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Ellen is now having digestion troubles. Bowel trouble has been a problem in the area for the last two months and Dengue fever is prevalent in Foochow. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China.

Oct. 8th 1905.

Dear folks at Home:-

As the address at the top indicates we are still on the mountain. These Oct. days here are superb. Sept. was rather damp and rainy but Oct. has been mostly dry and beautiful. It is a great place here now to get strong and brown. I wish you could see the children. All four are perfectly well and brown as nuts. Ellen has not been perfectly well for over two weeks. The trouble she thinks is with her digestion, and the remedy is fasting. I am fasting also. Every day from b-fast to dinner, from dinner to supper and every night from supper till b-fast next morning. Often the time seems very long. From the time I began to eat- about four weeks ago I have steadily gained in every way. Last Tuesday I went to Foochow. Archdeacon Wolfe had written me the Sat. before that one Community man who had rented his house had thrown up the agreement and he would let us have it. So I went down to see about it. He promises the house to us, but it will not be finished ready for occupancy till after the first of Nov. Until that time the Meth. Mission will allow us to remain in the house we occupied last spring. So it looks as if we were provided with shelter.

There is a big auction in Foochow tomorrow beginning at 10 a.m. Ellen wants me to go so badly that she is going to let me start at 6:30 and she will see to getting some 8 loads of our things off and shutting up the house. She and the children will start soon after dinner.

Bowel trouble has been very prevalent all about here this last two months. When in Foochow last Tues. and Wed. I found a sister of Mr. Simester of the Meth mission, on her way to west China, visiting her brother here, sick with disentary. Another missionary from Amoy was in Foochow sick with the same. A fever called Dengy [*Dengue*] fever is quite prevalent just now in Foochow- it is of a grippe nature.

The children will begin school again Tuesday I expect. They look forward to this with little pleasure I am afraid. And we do not greatly regret to two weeks they have not attended since it opened this fall. The teacher is not one that would command a high position at home. I have not yet been able to find Flora's twenty pupils at \$50 gold a year. Then the number is so uncertain from year to year, that I would not think it wise to come out dependent entirely on the pupils she might get or even have promised, for no one can make such a promise for even six months ahead here.

We are taking a monthly magazine this year called "County [*Country*] Life in America." I wish you would send 25 cents for the September number. There is an article "cheap farms in Conn." that Stanley would like to read. Address Doubleday, Page and Co. 133-137 E. 16th St. N.Y. City. Stanley and father will also like to read another article in this number- "How to improve the texture of the soil." To us out here the best feature of the paper is its pictures. They are the only very nice pictures that come to us. And they are first class in every respect. We talk of cutting some of them out and framing them.

Thursday Oct 12- We all came down to Foochow Monday. All well

With lots of love

Will

[This letter dated Oct. 22, 1905 was written in Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. A fellow missionary, Mr. Simester, of the M.E. Mission died of Dengue fever leaving a wife and four young children. Dengue fever is still a problem and most of the missionaries and many Chinese have had it. The family is all well now. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Oct. 22 – 1905

Dear folks at Home:-

Gould has written today to grandpa Beard, and has his letter all ready for the stamp. It is now 8:30 p.m. and I know if I do not write now I shall not do so for at least another week.

The most important news from Foochow is the call that came to Mr. Simester, of the M.E. mission, from God to receive his reward and enter on his rest last Thursday morning at 6 o'clock. He had been ill for nearly two weeks with what we call here the Dengue fever. This is not considered serious and under ordinary conditions does not seem to be. But Mr. Simester had worked very hard while at home on furlough and on reaching the field here about a year ago now he pitched into the work with his whole save and strength- this last summer he spent at Sharp Peak and studied the written language with all his might. He also had a building in process of construction here in Foochow,- was Pres. of the Theol. Sem'y and had charge of a country district. He began the term in the Sem'y early to close early planning to go into the country 150 miles or more for evangelistic work in Jan.- Feb. With all this work he was very tired and he so expressed himself before he was ill at all. So the fever had a big advantage.

He leaves a wife and four little children. The eldest nine years old last July, and the youngest born a year ago last June in Ohio. He was home at the same time we were. I met him once in Boston and lunched with him. Of all the foreigners in Foochow outside the A. Board mission I felt nearest to Mr. Simester. The whole illness and all seemed to me very sudden. I can not make it seem that he is not here.

I wrote you about an auction of household furniture I attended week before last. Last Friday there was another. I spent another \$4.00 mex. for flowers. So now we have about 275 pots in all. They have cost us about \$5.00 gold.

The Dengue fever is very prevalent all about the city. Most of the missionaries and many of the Chinese in Foochow city proper have had it. I hope it will stop now. The weather was very hot for this time of year until Thurs. when it rained and Fri. was cooler yesterday was beautifully clear and cool. Today has been a beautiful day.

I have promised to hold services with a large class of Bible women each evening next week or rather this week beginning tomorrow evening. You will like to hear that last week I gained nearly 7 lbs. in ten days. Twice last week I played tennis. But my running legs are not in good shape yet.

We have all been well. Ellen immensely enjoys caring for her flowers, and she thinks it does her good. Last night no Fri. night a big fat house mail came – a good letter fr. Ruth- one fr. Mr. Lathrop- and one from Elbert and one from Etta Mr. Lathrop wrote the day after Phebe returned from Europe. All the letters contained good news. God is dealing very kindly with us all. I trust we may all give Him our best time, strength and powers, and thus be useful to Him in advancing the Kingdom.

All send love to all

Will.

[This letter date Nov. 5, 1905 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The Annual Meeting of the American Board meets in a week and they will be talking about Revivals. A teacher in charge of the girl's school has Dengue and it has affected her mind. Ellen has Dengue now, as does Mr. Ding's wife and father. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Nov. 5th 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

We are feeling the cold today for the first time. The first thing I heard this morning was Gould dashing from the room in which he sleeps thro our room to the bureau where his heavy winter undershirts were. Dorothy has been most all day with her usual clothing. I am writing with an overcoat on this evening. But the weather is beautiful.

I walked over to Gen Cio Dong this morning = the first church in Foochow suburbs, near Ponasang. The Annual Meeting of the Am. Board begins next Wed. I am to speak on Friday afternoon on Revivals outside of Wales. The Friday afternoon session is given to the "Fukien Revival Society"- you may think this rather a queer

name, but that is the literal translation. The Chinese of the three missions in Foochow on their initiative have united and are holding meetings in the interest of evangelization and they call the organization as above. There is much in the very fact of the organization to give us joy and hope. It is a sign that the Christian Chinese are alive to a sense of their responsibility to tell their countrymen of God's love for them.

Miss Garretson who has charge of the Intermediate School for Girl's at Ponasang is quite ill. It started last week with the "Dengue." But she has been very tired for some time and her mind is seriously affected.

We are still in the same house, watching the new house which we have rented slowly approaching completion but never reaching the desired condition. The International Comm. have sent me \$2500 with which to begin to provide for a residence. About Nov. 15 a house and fine grounds are to be sold at public auction. We are waiting to see if this will answer our purpose, and if we can afford to buy it.

Last Thursday a little boy came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. McLachlin. Mrs. M is doing nicely I believe, but no one has been allowed to see her yet. Ellen began with the "Dengue" two weeks ago tomorrow. She came down and took dinner with us for the first time yesterday. She is obeying the Doctors orders and getting up slowly. I hope this cold weather will stop it. Mr. Ding was in this afternoon. His father has been quite ill for some time with other troubles he has had the Dengue. But is getting better. His wife is very sick. She was not at all well during the summer. He took her down to Pagoda Anchorage in August and she was better. But is much worse now. Poor fellow! God is giving him much sorrow these days. He frequently asks to be remembered to you.

I attended another auction of household furniture last Monday, and came home with a sofa and two large arm chairs all upholstered in imitation leather. \$30.50 mex. or about \$14 gold for the three pieces. They are practically new. And they say the furniture in the house referred to above is also to be sold at auction in the near future. But with all this rents are very high and very scarce. The lead priest of the Catholic Mission here owns a house. The man who has rented it for some years- thirty for all I know, asked \$80 a month. The renter hesitated, and within two weeks five persons were after it and the price jumped to \$100 per month.

We think of you as eating apples and pears, with peaches and grapes gone. I wish we could have some of your apples. But I doubt not you would enjoy taking breakfast with us. First we would ask you to have some pumelo, then two kids of oranges, bananas, persimmons, dates, boiled chestnuts, peanuts, and English walnuts if you desired. After these a little oatmeal with bread and butter or a hot gem, a cup of Postum or real coffee if you preferred and that's all.

I hope to hear better news in regard to Oliver and Flora in the next letters. The children are well and hearty and, tell Flora are "developing rapidly."

With Love from all to all

Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 26, 1905 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. Miss Garretson, who was in charge of a girl's school will leave China because of problems with Dengue fever. The talk in Foochow is of revivals. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China, Nov. 26th, 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My last letter was dated Nov. 6. Yours to us Nov. 12 and 21. The children wrote you Nov. 16.

To begin with ourselves, we are all well. The teacher of the school which the three older children have been attending was taken ill a week ago, with slight hope that she will be able to resume her duties. The children are studying at home. Flora has written definitely about coming out to take the school next fall. I am looking up dates to write her as fast as my daily duties and strength allow.

We had the pleasure of entertaining Mrs. E. H. Smith and Helen Huntington and Edward Huntington four days last week. Mr. Smith is making an extended tour in the Ing Hok field and Mrs. Smith and the children are staying in Foochow. The McLachlin boy is 24 days old today. Mrs. M. is getting on as well as can be expected. We are making plans to welcome another young secretary to our home next Feb. We are still in the old Meth. House and are wondering if the new house will be finished in time to receive the new secretary. The Meth. missions however do not now need the house so we are living in contentment.

Miss Garretson, who has been associated with Miss Newton in the Girls School at Ponasang has had a serious breakdown which has affected her mind. At first it was thought some one would have to go home with her immediately but she is much better now and plans to leave Shanghai the last of Dec. We expect to go into the city and take Thanksgiving dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous.

The important news from Foochow now is of the Revivals. All the schools in the two American missions here in Foochow are deeply stirred, for the Y.M.C.A. Summer Conference held here Sept. 3-10, 1905. I secured as one of the speakers a Mr. Diong, a preacher in the ch. Missionary Society's mission in Ku Cheng. The Foochow people knew a little about him before and had heard that he was a powerful speaker. But in the conference he had as hearers many of the most influential men in all the colleges here and also many of the leading Chinese pastors and preachers. When he came down from Ku Cheng he planned to return immediately after the conference. He has been more than full of work up to date and his time is all engaged until Christmas. He is the most powerful speaker that Foochow has ever known. He is compared to Moody. Each of the colleges in Foochow of the three missions- both boys and girls- have had him with them for a series of meetings. The conference found him and furnished the opportunity for him to become known, and also put the desire to hear him more and to have others hear him, into the minds and hearts of the few from each school who were present at the conference. After a month of prayer and planning and waiting the young men in the Am. Board College asked him to be with them for a week. The result is a deepening [*deepening*] of the spiritual life of all the Christians, and the conversion of about 70 boys. Miss Newton's and Miss Garretson's girls were greatly blessed by the talks there.

The young men in the Anglo Chinese Coll. Of the Meth. Mission had been trying hard and praying much to get him. On the evening that he, after consulting with one of the English ladies, had asked her to write the boys that he could not come for them on account of promises made to go to other places, a most wonderful and powerful revival broke out spontaneously in the college. The story to date is as follows:

(A week ago last Monday some of the boys asked if they might hold a prayer meeting from 6- 6:30 each evening. The request was granted.)

Instead of writing this out I am sending you carbon copy fr. my typewriter. (over)

All send lots of love,

Will.

I am sending you the fourth copy. It is not a good one. But I want to send copies to Mr. Sargent, Putnam, to Mr. Lathrop, and to Mr. Holden.

Will.

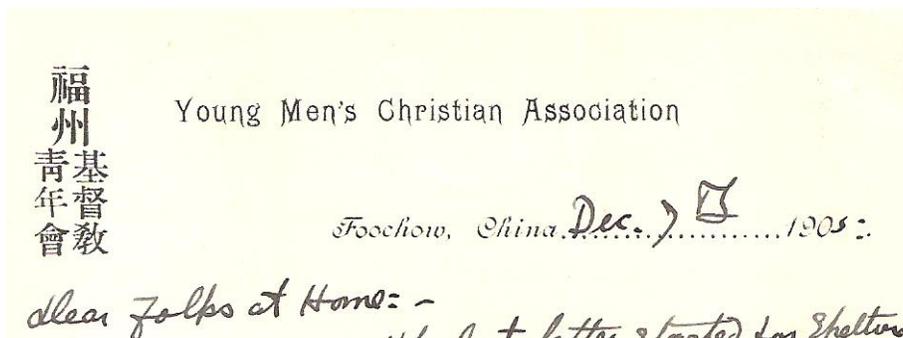
All send to all best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Will

You may find something in this letter of interest about the revival that is not in the typewriter copy. Mr. Lathrop and others may like to ?.

Will

[This letter dated **Dec. 7, 1905** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He has preached at twelve meetings in a series of evangelistic meetings. He mentions a new bath room at the Shelton house. Because her husband died recently, Mrs. Simester and her children are leaving for the U.S. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China Dec. 7th 1905.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started for Shelton on Thanksgiving Day. It would have been a nice thing to do to write to James and Leolyn on that day- the first anniversary of their wedding day. But I could not get it in. The memories of the day one year ago are very fresh.

This year we all took goose dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Hodous, and their two children. Mrs. Smith and her two children- Mr. Smith was away in the country- and Mrs. Whitney- Dr. W. is in Shanghai. In the afternoon I preached in one of the series of evangelist meetings now in progress in the city station. My part in these meetings closed last Tuesday. I have preached at twelve meetings.

This evening I take the boat to go to Hing Hua. Tonight I go down nearly to the Anchorage,- wait till the tide rises- go up the river on the other side of the island and Fri. and Sat. travel by land about 45 miles to reach Hing Hua. I am going down to see the Y.M.C.A. in the college of the Meth. Mission there, and plan to get back home the last of next week.

Ellen and the children have just come in from a sort of farewell party given to Mrs. Simester and her four children. They plan to start for the U.S. in a few days.

The weather has been very hot for a few days- today 76 degrees at noon. All four children were barefoot today.

The last mail brought letters from Stanley and Phebe. How I wish I could have been at home to help father get in his corn and fix up for winter. With the new bath room I suppose you will not need to go to the shore anymore, - great saving in expense!

Have we written that the teacher of the school wh. the children have been attending was ill? And that there is not prospect of any more school until Flora comes out?

Father need not bother about my life Insurance this year- or it will be next year- I can send the check direct from here.

The good work continues for the Kingdom. Last Sunday saw twenty of Christ's soldiers in the large open space in front of the Viceroy's Yamen in Foochow city preaching Christ.

All are well and all send love to all

Will.



Written on back of photo by Willard: "City wall of Hing hua, Fukien Province. Fields of tarrow and wheat- fruit trees."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

The Young Men's Christian Association
Beard, Willard L, and Anti-Cobweb Club of Foochow, China Fukien, A Study of a Province in China. Shanghai,
China: Presbyterian Mission Press, 1925.

[Book purchased from ebay and in collection of Mark and Jana Jackson]

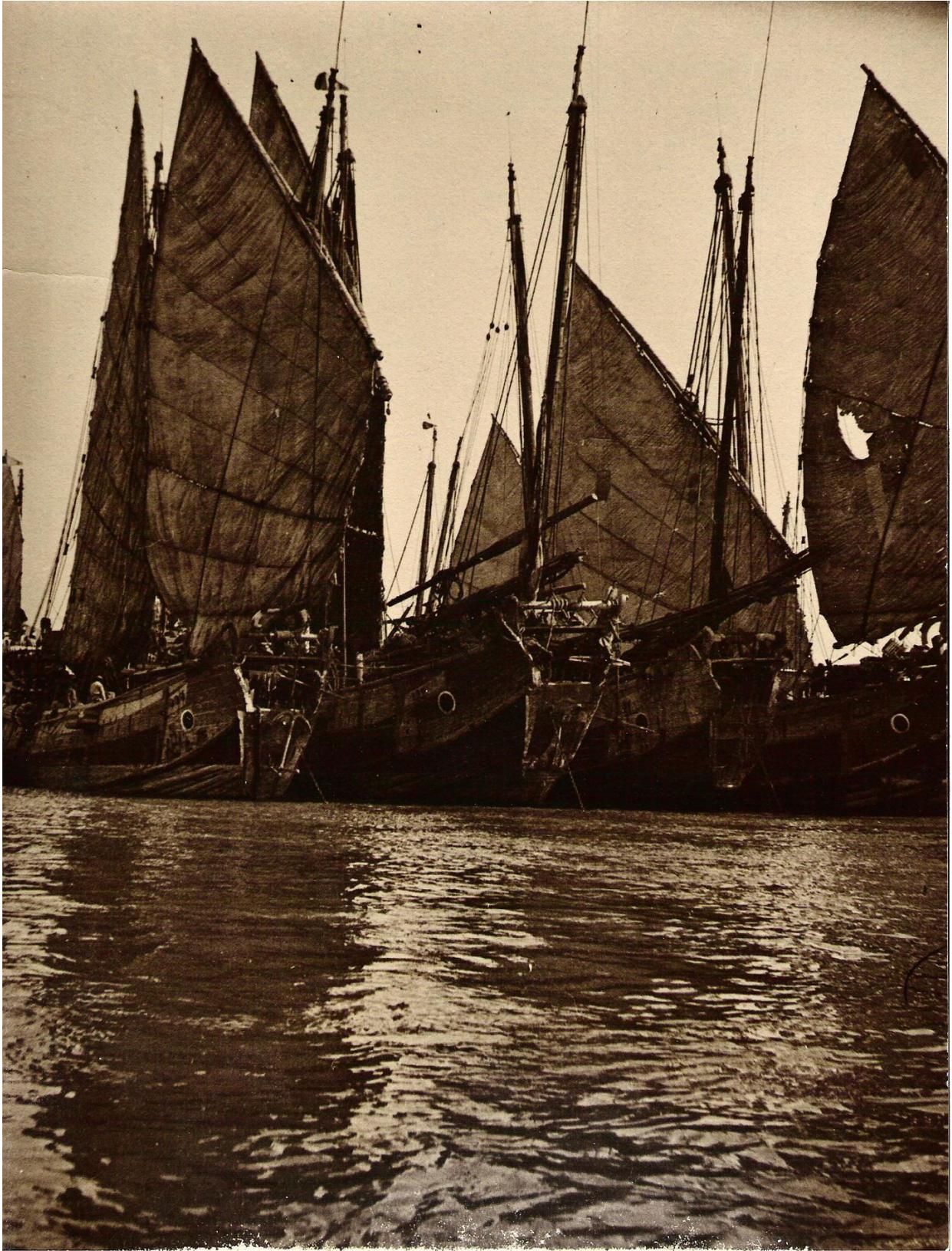
In February, 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. McLachlin and Mr. and Mrs. Willard L. Beard arrived in Foochow, appointed by the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association as Secretaries for Foochow. Mr. Beard had been in Foochow from 1894 to 1903 as a missionary of the American Board. Mr. McLachlin was a newcomer.

The Association has now five foreign and 18 Chinese secretaries on the staff with a membership of 2,400 and a yearly budget of \$25,000. Property was purchased near the north end of the Bridge of Ten Thousand Ages in 1911, and the Association has there a modern building with all modern equipment. On South Street in the Walled City property was purchased in 1913 and this branch is filling the need of a large constituency within the city. In 1922 the Association acquired a large property five miles up the Min river from Foochow, on the east bank, where three conference buildings have been erected.

Places of Interest in Foochow
Beard, Willard L, and Anti-Cobweb Club of Foochow, China Fukien, A Study of a Province in China. Shanghai,
China: Presbyterian Mission Press, 1925.

Hot springs, utilized by the provident Chinese for widespread bathhouses, are found toward the East Gate while a trip there can easily be expanded to carry one over Curio Street, a section amply described by its name, where antiques and fakes can be bought in large quantities. To those interested in temples the Confucian Temple, inside the city walls, and Sa-sieng-se (Lichee Temple), a few li outside the West Gate, are most appealing. The last named is famed for its flowers and its finely carved pillars of stone.

Mission work of all kinds, from kindergartens to institutional churches and schools for the blind, can be seen with little effort. A fine example of modern industrial plant with some welfare work carried on for its employees is the Foochow Electric Co., Ltd.



Written on back: Ning Po Junks in Min River, Foochow, China About 1905 [The circles painted on the bow of the boat are "eyes" for the boat to "see" where it is going. Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]