

1908

- Kathleen Beard is born August 10, 1908 in China
- First Model T produced by Ford
- The boy emperor Pu Yi is chosen to succeed the throne by the Empress Dowager. He was forced to abdicate in 1912 but was allowed to remain in the Forbidden City until 1924.
- Flora is 39 and teaching in Foochow, China
- Willard is 43, Ellen- 40, Phebe- 13, Gould- 12, Geraldine- 10, Dorothy- 7, Marjorie- 2, and Kathleen an infant.

*[This letter dated **Feb. 2, 1908** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his sister, Elizabeth. It is Chinese New Years and there have been many fire crackers going off all night. Sister, Flora, went on a five day houseboat trip. Small pox and measles are prevalent and they were all vaccinated that week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
Feb. 2nd 1908.

My dear Elizabeth:-

I'm beginning this letter tonight almost sure that letters from you all are lying over in the P.O. But you will know that I am writing before being punched up.

Today is the first day of the Chinese New Year. Every thing is quiet,- it was not quiet last night. Fire crackers were banging all night long- worse than in an American city where no restrictions are put on the small boy at Fourth of July. Every one is in his best and brightest. Flora walked over to the Y.M.C.A. with me this afternoon and she was much struck with the gorgeous head gear, coats, trousers, shoes, and trinkets she saw on people of all ages. A Chinese puts on good clothes on New Years day if he can get any, and he has good things to eat if he can get them. Then- if he has to starve all the rest of the year.

Flora was gone on a house boat trip from Monday to Friday of last week. We felt quite alone- mother and father will know how to sympathize with Ellen and me. Our family dropped from eleven to seven. But Thursday a Mrs. Brown came in and wanted to take meals with us for a week or two just while they = she and her husband were waiting for a steamer to start for home and Flora is back so we have a family of ten again. Flora is planning to start for Ing Hok next Wed.

Small pox and measles are prevalent. We were all vaccinated Friday morning. You should hear Marjorie say "Doctor Scratch." She is very friendly with Dr. Rennie and he is proud of it. He feared if she saw him scratch her she would not like him anymore.

The season has been very warm thus far- we have had a fire only some 16 or 18 days thus far. This morning the sun came out bright and warm and we sat on the veranda to read.

Yesterday I opened some Soda and Graham crackers from Zina's [*Willard's cousin, Zina Chatfield, son of Theodore Edward Beard.*]. They are good. I forgot to mention the beautiful pictures which I suppose Phebe sent in Flora's box. They are beauties and just the thing that I like most.

All are well and all send love to all
Will.

*[This letter dated **Feb. 12, 1908** was written from China by Flora to her sister, Mary. She tells Mary about her houseboat trip, a trip up the Min River and a trip to Ing Hok. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Feb. 12, 1908]

Dear Mary:-

Your postal and letter have both been most welcome and much appreciated though I have been a long time in letting you know about it. The last few months have just flown by and this has been my first breathing spell since September. I am having a three weeks vacation now, and then for another grand scrabble until the first of June. I have been having a few treats lately that may interest you. About two months ago I took a houseboat trip off with a Dr. Burn- a missionary who is about to return home for good. She was capital company and we just sat and drank in the scenery and ate and slept to our fill. The days were fine and the wind in our favor so we just enjoyed the mountains. It was quite a lark for us for neither of us could understand a word of our crew. We had a cook who prepared our meals for us and as we were going nowhere in particular we got along all right and had a fine time. Two weeks ago Miss Bosworth and I took a trip up the Min River and had a nice quiet rest of it for four days. Now four of us- Miss Bosworth (one of the M.E. missionaries), Miss Hall, Miss Ruth Ward and I are off for a week's outing up the Ing Hok river. Our houseboat is fitted up most luxuriously and with a cook and a boy to look out for us we are living highly. The first day we took a long walk over the mountains to a very pretty waterfall. We crossed the mountain creek a dozen times if not more. It was a very beautiful walk. The next day we climbed another mountain to a very old Buddhist Monastery. It was very steep climbing up over a thousand feet but the landscapes were changed at each step so it was worth the while. Now we are at Ing Hok where Mr. Goddard and his wife were. It is situated on the banks of this lovely mountain stream with a veritable Swiss mountain scape. We came up over twenty four (we counted them) rapids and I am listening to the twenty fifth now. To-morrow we go down and I am looking forward to the shooting of the rapids with the eagerness that a boy enjoys the steepest hill in coasting. I should have explained that we had to leave all our elegance in living behind when we started up the

rapids. It was an experience to see these hardy river men get us up over such rocks and such swift torrents. In one place our boat bumped on both sides against high rocks and the men pulled us up through the worst places by long bamboo ropes. One man pushed the boat and several times we saw him lift us off the rocks by just putting his back under the side of the boat. Oh! it is great!

Did you get the collar I sent you for Xmas and the six little wheels of lace to match? As I have not heard from you about them I have worried a little bit lest you did not get them. I sent them quite early so that you should have them on time. They should not have bothered you in customs for the whole thing did not represent over \$1.50 gold. I think if you hired the collar with white chiffon it would set it off more.

Would you believe me if I tell you that we have picked great bunches of violets and bridal wreath and that the plum orchards are in full bloom? They look like drifts of snow from our windows here. But perhaps in California you are having the same things.

I hope you will forgive my seeming neglect and write to me soon, for I hope to do better in the future. Letters have been an impossibility for me for months and my pigeon hole is full of stuffing of the ones that should be answered.

With all love-

Flora Beard.

Ing Hok, China
Feb. 12, 1908.

At home.- I found your letter here when I returned and was glad to hear that you received the collar all right. Did you have any trouble with duty? Please tell me when you do. Now about getting a collar for Miss Coleman. If you wish to be especially nice to her for any reason I can get some for her. I am not anxious to send things home to everybody for the mails may think it time to intercept the parcels and ask for duty. I want to send little things from time to time to my family and friends and I do not feel rich enough to pay the 80% duty on all my gifts. If I get collars for her I shall feel like asking enough to cover all expenses. Please understand- if she is a friend of yours I shall be very glad to do it, but if it is merely to gratify a whim I am not particular. If she will write a note to the enclosed address I think she will get samples and be able to make her own choice. Let me know and I will do what you say.

Lovingly - Flora.

[This letter dated Feb. 23, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by 12 ½ year old Phebe K. Beard to her Grandpa and Grandma Beard. She tells about their school Field Day run by their teacher, Aunt Flora. She tells a little about Marjorie. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China,
Feb. 23, '08.

Dear Grandpa and Grandma Beard:-

We had a sort of Field Day yesterday. The children in Aunt Flora's school took the largest part in it. We were supposed to have ten events but we cut out event after event till we had only about six or seven. We wrote to an American Community lady, and to some Missionaries in the city. The rest of the people we went around and invited by word of mouth. We invited Consul and Mrs. Gracey. They were glad to come and most of the rest came too. Consul or Dr. Gracey was judge. Mrs. Gracey was prize giver. Gould beat in threading the needle race and Dorothy beat in the shoe race. Most of the children thought the "relay race" was fair, but you see it was the first time we had tried it so we didn't do very well. Gould bumped into a shy boy of their team named Harry and knocked the flag out of his hand and broke part of the stick. The 1 class beat the relay race. It is a rather hard game to play but it is fun when done right. Altogether it was a pretty fine thing for the first time I think. That afternoon after the sports were all over the boys went down to the recreation grounds to watch a game of football while the girls took a friend's cart and coasted down some of the hills around here.

Friday night or rather evening we had a molasses candy pull. We had two friends from way down the river (boarders) and two others that live right here. We were quite successful. While pulling I got a blister between the thumb and first finger. It smarted quite badly at first but it is alright now (Sunday evening). We let the two friends that live here take their candy home, the candy they pulled I mean. The two friends that live way down the river board here to come to school so they kept their candy here. It isn't all gone yet.

Marjorie is quite a big girl. She is two years old had her birthday week before last. She received her Xmas gifts and was so happy with them that she grew selfish. The Teddy Bear has twice lost his voice but has got well again and talks quite well now. I know she would send thanks for them if she could talk enough. Just now she said, Oket for lookat , "doggie eat," about as plain as could be. She takes up the news and story papers and pretends to read them. She is very fat. When she tips a glass of water of the table or does another thing similar to it she says, "Wy, wy wy," but it makes no impression whatever on her. She tells herself "no, no, no" very plainly but she just does the thing all the same. She is quite jealous. She will begin to cry if any body gets in to mamma's or anyone else's lap. She says a lot in Chinese, too.

Sending lots of love to all of you and hoping you are all well, we are and trying to enjoy ourselves which we do pretty well though we don't have any snow.

I am your loving grandchild,
Phebe K. Beard.

[This letter dated Feb. 28, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He updates her on the children and mentions that Geraldine is having a hard time getting over malaria. Willard signed a lease for a new house for the Y.M.C.A. He wonders if the financial crisis is affecting them at home. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Feb. 28th 1908

My dear Mother:-

Phebe has written to you and grandpa and offers to let me put in a few words. How helpful it is to have children large enough to take the initiative! Phebe is most thirteen years old. When I was thirteen father bought me a cut a way coat and a stiff hat. I was too much of a country bumpkin to wear either and altho it was spring I wore my old cap to church rather than wear the dudish hat, and the last I knew the coat was as good as new.

All the children are growing very fast. Ellen has just made Phebe a new dress with the first lengthening. That indicates she is no longer a little girl. Gould is getting to be a big boy. I was much interested to see him in the sport yesterday. In the hop, skip and jump he stepped over the starting line and was thrown out. But he stood it like a man. Geraldine, poor girl, had a chill yesterday and could not attend the races. She can't seem to get rid of the malaria. She took 5 grs. of quinine 3 times a day for 1 month in Nov. 1907 and again all thru Jan., but yesterday's chill shows some of the disease is there still.

This last week I signed the lease for a new house for the Y.M.C.A. I had to give \$1300 a year rent and rent for 3 years. McLachlin will take the upper story of the house and pay half the rent. But this will make a budget of over \$2000 for the Y.M.C.A. This they feel is pretty stiff. But they raised over \$1600 last year and I have faith to believe they will pull thru.

I wonder if you have seen anything of Fred Sumner in Milford. I think he went there last year. The last mail brought a lot of letters from home to Flora and us. It is sad to hear of Aunt Margaret's condition [*Wife of Willard's father's brother, James Henry Beard*]. We wonder what Helen [*James Henry Beard's daughter*] is doing, and what they are doing with the house. How nice it is to hear of Uncle Will's good health.

We are greatly enjoying our food stuffs from Century Farm and from Zina's. The oatmeal Ellen says is the best she has had for a long time. This is saying much for I always get the best from San Francisco Freight, etc. costs no more on a good article. The rye and corn are delicious and this evening we had the first taste of the farina. The crackers are good too. The box containing my shirts- the hardware etc. has not yet turned up. The brush for Alabastine is also in this box.

Does the financial crisis effect you greatly? I saw the notice of Burkharts death due to the monetary condition, in the Sentinal. It must be more difficult than ever to get help on the farm.- It is a strange condition- 1000's leaving New York for Europe weekly because nothing to do, and the Japanese and Chinese clambering to get in from the west.

God deals graciously with us. We meet you all every day at His throne, where distances are obliterate.

All send love to all
Will.

*[This letter dated **March 16, 1908** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He tells about their efforts to get the men of the colleges to study the Bible privately. Willard also talks about the various jobs he has to tend to at the Y.M.C.A. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
March. 16th 1908.

My dear Mother:-

Your letter to Ellen written in Feb. reached me while I was in the city with Gould for the Sunday. A week ago= Mar. 6,7 and 8, we held a Conf. for the student leaders, and directed most of our efforts toward Bible Study and the reaching of the non-Christian Students in the mission colleges. In the Am. Board College there are only some 50 Christians in the whole body of 230 students. The proportion in the Meth. Anglo Chinese Coll. is about the same. Each of these colleges is trying to get 100 men to daily study the Bible privately. The Chinese Y.M.C.A. Sec'y and I promised to attend the Foochow Coll. (Am. Board) Y.M.C.A. meeting last Friday evening to help them make it a Bible Study Rally. I got pretty tired before Friday came and Mr. McLachlin persuaded me to take a rest over Sunday. So here I am. Gould came in with me and we have had a quiet rest. Gould has been with Vernon Peet most of the time. They are both back in school now. I shall go home this afternoon.

I have realized that my letters in all directions are fewer than they used to be. There are more irons in the fire than I used to have. There are some limitations to the work as a Board missionary. At least one can stop at certain times. But it seems sometimes as if there was no stopping place in the Y.M.C.A. work. And when you add a general kind of work that seems to fall to my lot, - and which I very much dislike to refuse- because I know the language and the people, it makes pretty full time. Just now in the Y.M.C.A. I have to look after the repairing of the newly rented building, and the organization of the day and evening classes. We have over 30 students in day classes. These study Chinese in the morning, and English in the afternoon. There are 9 hours of English to provide and four teachers, Ellen, Mrs. McLachlin, the Chinese Sec'y (Mr. Cio) and myself. Then there are two evening classes, one fr. 5-6, and one fr. 8 to 9. I take these, - both in Eng. One is an advanced class and one a class of Japanese and Chinese mixed. Then there is a Sunday Bible class that I lead if I am not away. This has suddenly increased in numbers to 30+ since we are in the new building. Then there is a course of lectures- weekly for the Y.M.C.A. members. It is not easy to find the lecturers. And for all this work we must raise some \$2000 in Foochow.

Then there is the work among the Student Y.M.C.A. in lines altogether different from the City Association.

Then I am Pres. of the North Fukien Tract Society. This Society has been in a semi dormant state for 4 or 5 years. While conditions have changed, the Society's methods have remained the same as they were ten years ago and it is behind the times. We are striking out in two new lines this year. 1. A prize is offered for the best Chinese essay on ten different subjects by Chinese or Foreigner Christian or non Christian. We give the subjects like, "The present state of the fight against opium", "The Duty of an Educated man to his country", "Christ and the World's great Leaders." 2. We are opening a Public Reading Room to be stocked with the best newspapers in the Empire and also with modern Chinese books and monthly periodicals both Christian and Secular. This in the center of the City of Foochow- near the Viceroy's Yaman and we hope thru it to influence the best life of the city and province.

Mar. 21st- Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wade Hicks Sec'y of the A.B.C.F.M. arrived here yesterday just in time to take lunch with us. They want a steamer next Thurs. or Fri. for Shanghai, but it is hard to get. - All are well. - We opened the last box- the one that was delayed- night before last.

Lovingly Will

*[This letter dated **March 22, 1908** was written from China by Flora to the folks at home. She thanks her sister, Ruth, for the knitted bed socks and slippers Ruth made for her. She tells of how everyone dresses so formally when they go out to special occasion dinners. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[March 22, 1908]

Dear folks at home:-

Your letters have been arriving nearly each mail and have been most welcome. I have been trying to get time to write - for the days are so full that letters have had to be put off. First of all, I want to thank you all for the many remembrances in the Xmas box. It was only a few weeks late- and was quite as welcome, for out here we celebrate any event when we have the materials, quite as much as on the special date. I think of Ruth every night when I put on the long bed socks and if she uses all her imagination she cannot think how much comfort they have given me. It was positive suffering last winter instead of sleep at night just because my feet would not get warm. I

have not once been so troubled this winter- thanks to the socks. The knitted slippers get used every night and morning so you see how I needed them.

Tell Leolyn and her mother that I shall write as soon as I can to thank them for the sweet tie and pin. They got here just in time for me to christen them at Mr. and Mrs. Newell's house party. Every one admired them- and I enjoy wearing them. I found everything but one, pair of gloves. On the bill they are marked \$1.00 so I suppose they are the long sleeved white silk ones. If there was a mistake made and they were not sent will you please send me a pair No. 7 as soon as you can by mail? One uses such things out here much more than at home. When people go out to dinner in the evening they wear gloves as though to a reception. There is so much of such formality here in the community society. I do not go out much but wish to appear properly clad when I do go. - The children are busy with the patchwork pieces you sent. I hope they will last them through the long summer, for there is so little for the time of the children on the mountain.-You asked about the picture of James, Leolyn and the baby. Have you another one to spare for I should so like to have one by myself? - a week later at Ponasang-. I am sitting in Miss Hall's room while she is at C.E. meeting. I do not go because I've been once to see them and as I do not understand it gets rather monotonous. We miss Miss Newton very much here. [*Miss Ella J. Newton died.*] Everything seems changed and Miss Hall has been through a good deal of anxiety, but now things are getting settled and running along smoothly. Miss Ruth P. Ward is a treasure. She was one of our party at Chinese New Years on the Ing Hok trip. Here quiet enjoyment of things was most interesting to share. We all had a good time and it did us lots of good. I am thinking of spending the few days at Easter time at Mrs. Hubbard's down at the Anchorage. She has asked me many times and I have had to refuse so many times that I may go this time.

Do you girls want to do anything for your hdkf. sale next Dec.? It has occurred to me that you might like to get some of these linen drawn work ones for the sale. It would be well to let me know a little earlier.

Mr. and Mrs. Hicks of the American Board are here now and we had a pleasant afternoon with them here yesterday. They will be in port until Friday.

Will write again soon-

With love- Flora Beard.

Mar. 22, '08

*[This letter dated **March 29, 1908** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He has been asked to find a graduate of an American College to come to Foochow to teach college and another to teach high school. He tells of a special meeting of the Anti Opium League where opium smoking utensils were burned. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.

March. 29th 1908.

My dear Mother:-

It may be there is a letter lying in the office here from you. We do not have the mail delivered on Sundays, and altho the mail came in today we shall not see it till tomorrow. We have not had letters from any one at home since we last wrote.

The weather is getting hot. Last week we had two days very uncomfortably hot and then three cold days when we wanted fires in the house and yesterday it came off hot again. Gould and three of his boy friends had planned a walk over the "Alps" = the name of a range of hills on the island on which the foreign settlement is situated, about 500 ft. high- none of us had ever been there and I thought I would go with the boys. So at 8:50 a.m. we started. We reached the end of the journey at 10:30 and I found a nice shady nook for the boys who had taken a lunch along and who declared their stomachs would do as well as a watch. I walked back home for dinner. The boys returned about 5 p.m. When Ellen asked Gould when they ate dinner he said they began as soon as I left them and ate a spell, then talked a while and ate some more and really did not get thru eating that after 3 p.m. when they started for home. They declared they had the time of their lives. The day was very hot. Today has shown over 70 degrees in my study.

The Superintendent of Government Colleges in Foochow City has asked me to find for him a graduate of an American College, who is fitted to teach Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics 40 weeks in a year, 26 hours a week in a contract for 3 years, with \$200 mex. a month for salary. The salary begins July 1st 1908. He must be in Foochow ready to start work Sept. 10th 1908. One months salary is guaranteed after July 1st 1911, - unless a new contract is made for another term.

Last night the head of one of the high schools sent to ask if I could procure for him a teacher under the same terms and conditions- except the salary would be \$100- mex. instead of \$200 mex. per month.

I have written Mott of the first proposal and asked him to find the man.

Work in the Y.M.C.A. goes on nicely. Students are continually coming in. We are turning them away, for the classics are too far advanced to let in new ones now- unless they have already studied some.

It is also very gratifying to see the members frequently coming to the building. We have a very pleasant location and beautiful grounds- I have had several pictures taken this last week of the building, grounds, students and views from the building, and will send to you soon.

Last Thurs. was a great day for the Anti Opium League here. 1000 persons gathered in the Methodist Church and listened to the Commissioner of rail roads for the province and his Secretary speak on the topic. Then the President of the Anti Opium League spoke and he was followed by two or three good speakers on the same topic- all Chinese of course. After this meeting the whole company went out on the hill side where 400 opium pipes with as many lamps and opium smoking utensils had been arranged in big iron kettles, and had had kerosene oil poured on them. Already 1000 people were there. The matches were applied and all burned up. The odor of the opium was something fearful. Then the Chinese dignitaries went to see the girls at Miss Lambert's school at their calisthenics. These high Chinese gentlemen had never seen anything like it, and of course were greatly delighted.

Flora is spending Sunday with Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear. School goes on nicely. It is very gratifying indeed to see how much interest the parents take in the school, and how grateful they are to Flora for her work. The girls are doing nicely in music, and even Gould got up early yesterday morning and ask Aunt Flora to hear his piano lesson before he started in his walk.

The photo of Wells and Daniel [*Willard's nephews- the sons of Willard's brother, Bennett Nichols Beard*] is superb. It is a very happy position and the artist caught them just right.- I'll save the remainder of this sheet to put any last word on before the mail goes. We are all well.

Mar. 30th

Yesterday Ellen was 40 years old. She received a beautiful rose and a rattan chair for a birthday present from children and husband.

It has been very hot today. Boys and girls except Phebe barefoot and Marjorie in low neck and short sleeves.

All send love
Will

[This letter dated April 5, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to Mary and the folks at home. He talks about some of the classes he is teaching and the fruits and vegetables they have in China. He tells a little about Dorothy and Marjorie. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China

April 5th 1908.

My dear Mary and the Folks at Home:-

It seems a long time since we have heard from you, Mary. I wonder how school is going this year. I have turned teacher that is I am responsible for five hours a day of teaching English five days a week. I can find someone to take one hour a day usually and often I get out of two hours a day. And I am just agreeing to teach three hours each Saturday morning in the Government College in Foochow City. This is only for this term. And I do not anticipate that I shall have to teach as much in the Y.M.C.A. classes next fall. Ellen is teaching two hours a day and when I play football or hockey she takes one of my classes.

I am using some of the nice paper that came in the last box from home. I feel extravagant. But it is nice all the same and I suppose- up-to-date. The paper I bought of Oliver when I was at home is only about half gone. In the box I found a doz. pairs of white canvas gloves- fleece lined. I remember he had a lot on hand just before we left for China. I would have bought him out of these as well as of the paper if I could have used them.

Last Friday evening an entertainment of tableaux and music was given by Foochow talent, assisted by a Mr. and Mrs. Playne who are stopping here for some work connected with getting out a book on South China. The tableaux were good. The tickets were \$2.00 proceeds went to the Native Hospital. One of the chief items of interest to me was the fact that I wore my dress coat for the first time.

We are making a fruit orchard of our grounds here. This past week we have planted 4 peach, 2 plums, 2 pumelo, 2 orange, 1 mandarin orange, one lai che, 1 biba, 1 tigers eye tree beside several flowering shrubs. The

petunias, verbenas, and Marguerites are now in their prime. The pansies are the children's delight. We still need rain, altho corn that I planted a little over a week ago is up nicely. We enjoy our own garden immensely. Things like lettuce that we eat fresh- without boiling taste so much better if – here in China- if you can pick them out of your garden. Cauliflower, cabbage, beets, onions, parsnips, kale and tomatoes are also doing well.

The weather is getting hot and the children are discarding shoes and stockings. All are quite well. Marjorie is trying to be as big as the other girls, altho she finds it hard work. She seems to realize that Dorothy is the nearest to her age and Dorothy can get to do or say almost anything. She has one long nap just after an early dinner and goes to bed about 7:30 and sleeps till after 6 in the morning. The amah puts her in the bed, closes the door and that is the last. There is one little girl in the next house who is some three months older and two more little girls 5 min. walk away who are 4 or 5 years old. All are to Marjorie "Beba", and she looks at them and treats them like babies. She talks very plainly. Ellen was saying only the other day- "We are not going to have in Marjorie the pretty baby talker that Geraldine was."

I am writing this letter hoping that you will send it home after reading it. I suppose you have had strawberries in Cala. We have all we want- a few from our own garden. Oranges are still good and I ate the last persimmon this morning. Bibas will soon be in market, and after that fruit will be plenty. I smoked two hams last week. They are good- come over and have some- also some fancy sausage. With love to all, and commending all to God- Will



Marjorie about Easter of 1908
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



Magnified

*[This letter dated **April 12, 1908** from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He mentions having read in the U.S. papers about the Evangelistic meetings in Shelton and Derby, Ct. Dr. A. E. Cory has been in Foochow and has talked on Bible study. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.

April 12th 1908.

Dear Folks at Home:-

We have just read Flora's letters from Vinnie, Anna [*Vinnie and Anna are Zina Chatfield's sisters- cousins of Willard's.*], Ruth, Mother and Phebe. The mail arrived Friday with papers for three weeks. It makes a grand jamb, and with so much at one time we are subjected with reading for a week or more- never too many letters tho- and for the past ten days news from U.S. papers has been scarce. We are very glad to see that you were all well. We were also much interested in the accounts of the Evangelistic meetings recently held in Shelton and Derby. There was also an extended notice of them in the last Sentinel you sent us. I am glad to see that their effect has been so broad and so quietly forceful.

The Anglo Chinese College of the Methodist Mission has been holding special meetings for a week. Forty boys and young men has said they wished to become Christians.

Last Tuesday I accepted an invitation to a feast at the Administration Building of the College in which the young man, of whom I wrote last time, has been asked to teach. It was not an elevating occasion. An Englishman who is teaching there now, a German who has been engaged to teach, three Japanese who are teaching there now and myself were the foreigners. One blushes to be classed with the "foreigners" at such a place. But it is well for the "foreigners" that some of their number are straight and honorable to represent the best life of the so called Christian nations.

On Wednesday Dr. A.E. Cory of Wuhu- near Hankow of the Yangtze river arrived. He is the Secretary of the Bible Study Committee appointed a year ago by The Centenary Conference in Shanghai. He had been in Hong Kong and Canton and I telegraphed him to stop at Foochow on his way up the coast. He has visited the Boy's Colleges of the three missions and spoken at each. This afternoon he preached to a company of missionaries on Bible Study. The children, except Marjorie, went and said they had a "good sermon." On Thursday and on Friday

a.m. I called with him on nine different missionaries to consider how we could help the Chinese pastors, preachers and other workers to know the Bible better. Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock these nine men met in our parlor to further discuss the subject. The desirability was conceded at once, so we went at once to the methods, we did not want an extra committee, and it lay between putting the work on to the Sunday Union for Fukien Province, the Y.M.C.A. or the North Fukien Tract Society. I am President of the first and third of these and Secretary of the second so I was "in it" all round. We at last put it on the N.F.T. Society and that society held a meeting on Sat. p.m. and delegated the Y.M.C.A. to arrange for a yearly Conference of Pastors, preachers and other workers for Bible Study. We are also planning for a Student's Summer Conference to be held the first week in September.

Did I write last week that all the boxes had at last arrived? The coat and vest are a perfect fit- for all I can tell, and Flora says and Ellen says to. Therefore I'll believe it.

We have just had the transom lifters put on this past week. Without them transoms are of little use. The wood stains and the Alabastine must wait till we have a smaller family and less work. How we do enjoy the crackers from Zina's. The ham and sausage continues good and all who get any of it are good enough to say it is a treat. I hope they all tell the truth. Strawberries are nice but scarce this year. The shirts that Oliver sent are beauties. I have worn only one. That one fitted to perfection. I have had two dress shirts made by my tailor \$2.00 mex. each- about 95 cents gold and I have ordered a pair of dress pants.

Geraldine is a little off her best- she has had the nose bleed the last two days. I think it is partly due to malaria and partly to the warm weather. Marjorie is getting her back teeth and is a little "off feed" but otherwise all right. The rest of us seem to be holding our own.

And all send love to you all

Will.



Left to right: Gould, Phebe, Geraldine, Dorothy, Marjorie – probably early 1908
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

*[This letter dated **May 27, 1908** was written from Shanghai, China by Willard to his mother. He has been in Shanghai to visit with Mr. Lyon who would like Willard to take over the work of helping Chinese pastors and others to encourage more Bible study. He has not committed to the job yet. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Shanghai
May 27th 1908

My dear Mother:-

I mailed a letter to you two days ago here in Shanghai- just mentioning the fact that I was here in response to a telegram from Lyon who is leaving for home on the steamer next Sunday for a rest. I saw him Monday and finished my business and went about the Foochow steamer last night. She was advertised to start at daylight this morning. But just before breakfast the Captain came on and said she would not start till tomorrow morning, so here I am with a whole day before me. These coast steamers accommodate their sailing times to the freight not to the passengers, who really cut a very small figure in the business of the steamship co.

Mr. Lyon wanted to see me to place before me this proposition.- The Centenary Conference last year appointed a Committee on Bible Study. Mr. Lyon is Chairman of that committee, and Rev. A. E. Cory of the Christian mission in Wuhu, way up the Yangtse, is Secretary. Mr. Cory has traveled a little for the committee- has been to Canton, Hong Kong, Amoy, and Foochow. He staid with us while in Foochow a little more than a month ago. But altho his mission is willing to release him to travel half the time in the interest of the promotion of Bible Study, his wife's health is such that he cannot leave home for this work. So he and Lyon agreed to ask me to take up the work that he had begun. It is really to visit the different centers of mission work and arouse the missionaries to make definite plans for helping Chinese pastors, preachers and other Christian workers to lay more emphasis on, and take more time for Bible Study.

I did not tell Lyon that I would accept the work, but I told him I would give the matter my most prayerful and careful consideration. It is a very important task- probably nothing in the activities of the Church in China is more important. And the incoming of Japanese books, atheist and materialistic, books that staggered the Japanese Church fifteen to twenty years ago, makes it doubly important just now that the Chinese Church should have not only a reason for its faith gotten from a first hand study of the Bible, but that it should make that Bible its rule of conduct as well as of belief. The nation is in danger just now of worshipping Learning as an end in itself. And the younger portion of the church do not have the knowledge of the Bible that the older portion possessed. So the need for this work of promoting Bible Study can hardly be exaggerated. But the other question is am I the one to do the work? After talking with Ellen I shall telegraph Lyon our decision. If I take it up it will mean that I shall be away from home about half the time. This is very distasteful to me. I have had enough of it- and travel on these coast steamers is the worst of all travel. Of course there is the compensation factor that it will take me in most all parts of China, which must have no weight in making our decision.

With love to all
Will.

*[This letter dated **May or June, 1908** was written from China by Flora to her mother. She asks her mother for advice on whether she should accept an offer to continue teaching year after next. She says she is getting tired of the East and cheering everyone up all the time. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[May or June, 1908]

Dear Mama:-

Mr. Foster has just written offering me \$825 a year and the best position he can give me for year after next. He wants me to let him know early in 1909. What would be your advice from that side of the world? I shall have, I suppose, the same fourteen children of last year and there are two more who want to come. That fits me out for this year. Some of the children will be going home next summer and I do not know where there will be any to take their places. Mr. and Mrs. Main's health are each in such condition that the doctor has advised them (say nothing about this in your letters to me) to go home. They have gone away to spend the summer hoping to get strong enough to stay on, but there is nothing sure about it and they may have to go home at any time. If my number gets too depleted it means so little money that I do not feel I can afford to stay. Another thing- if I come home next summer it will take every penny to get me home and I'll not be able to pay you the money I want to this winter.

I am having about enough of the East. Being alone in my work and every one expecting me to cheer them up is getting to be humdrum, but I'll wait till I hear from you before I do anything decisive- unless something turns up to show me the right thing to do without any doubt.

Let me know what you think about it, please.

Lovingly-

Flora Beard.

*[This brief note dated **June 6, 1908** was written from China by H.N. Kinnear to Flora Beard. He is enclosing her pay. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[June 6, 1908]

Dear Miss Beard-

I have pleasure in sending you here with cheque for the boys tuition with many thanks for your splendid work in their behalf-

Gratefully yours

H.N. Kinnear

June 6-

[Following written by Flora]

A sample of the way I get paid.-F.B.

1907

Jan. - Paints & Crayons	(Madaworth, Howland & Co.)	\$ 5.14 ⁰¹
Feb. - Calling cards		1.00
" - Geo. - 6 -	(MacMillan & Co.)	3.60 ⁺
March - Arith. - 9 -	(Sauborn & Co.)	5.82 ⁺
Feb 19 - Hist. - 6 -	(MacMillan & Co.)	4.32 ²⁰
June - Mdac. -	(Phibe)	9.20 ⁺
Sept. - Books	(Maynard, Merrill & Co.)	4.46 ^X
Sept. " - Kindergarten Mat. -		7.68
E. H. W. (Phibe)		Postage .50
" - Books -	(Amer. Book Co.)	7.02
" - Books -	(Ginn & Co.)	2.20 ^X
Nov. - Books -		2.30 ^(?)
(MacMillan & Co.)		3.55
Dec. - B. & F.		34.53
		87.83
		43

Carried over

\$ 87.88

1908

Jan. - Kindergarten Mat. - 2.16
(Phoebe)

" Christmas order - 3.00
(Phoebe)

" Books - 2.66³/_x
(Ginn & Co.)

March 29 Atkinson, Mudge, Evans & Co.
\$3.10

Cr.

\$ 95.65

1 55

97 20

3 10

100 30

1907

March - Cash

\$ 5.

75.

June -

Helps to Ruth

.75

Dec. -

2 unbraided waists 5.00

"

1908

May -

1 unbraided waist 2.50

"

Cash (Mrs. Benbrook) 15.

"

Doilies - Phoebe

1.75⁽³⁾

"

Mrs. Benbrook shirt \$10.

\$ 105.00

"

1190.88

"

9.35

"

14.78

Ant. Cr.

Not included -
 1 pair white silk gloves - \$1.00^(?)
 2 Geog. - (MacMillan & Co.) 2.00^(?)
 Check for music to Mrs. Ward 1/67 3.25

That bill - or rather the two bills -
 from Macmillan which I have
 marked thus (?) I have never received
 and do not know the exact amount.

Will you please send a money
 order or check for \$3.25 - to Mrs.
 J. M. Ward, 13 Warren St., Newark,
 New Jersey. It is for music that
 she bought for me. She has never
 sent me a bill and you have
 said nothing about it so I
 have made a guess and think I
 have covered the amount due.

Here is an approximate
 list of amounts for this
 summer's orders. -

Sanborn & Co. - Chicago - 6 books -	\$3.98
Harner - Caesars -	1.25
MacMillan & Co. - New York - 10 books -	7.00
Ginn & Co. - New York - 12 books -	8.00
D. C. Heath - " " 13/12 " all come	7.60
Houghton Mifflin & Co. " 2 " come	1.30
Silver Burdette & Co. " Music	2.90
- about \$30.00 over	

Not included-

1 pair white silk gloves -	\$1.00(?)
2 Geog. - (MacMillan and Co.)	2.00(?)
Check for Music to Mrs. Ward	1,67 3.20

That bill –or rather the two bills- from Macmillan which I have marked thus (?) I have never received and do not know the exact amount.

Will you please send a money order or check for \$1.67 3.20 – to Mrs. T.M. Ward, 13 Warren St., Newark, New Jersey. It is for music that she bought for me. She has never sent me a bill and you have said nothing about it so, I have made a guess and think I have covered the amount due.

Here is an approximate list of amounts for this summers orders.-
[See photocopy for list]

[On another piece of paper]

Will you please go over this list and check it up with all your accounts against me and send me the result. Please do not include any of this summer's bills. I would like to get straightened up this summer and then begin again. I am not going to send any money home this summer for exchange is away down to the bottom of the sea and I am going to wait till she comes up again. I think Mrs. Burbrook will be sending you nearly enough to cover my indebtedness, but not quite enough.

*[This letter dated **June 7, 1908** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. He talks about a social event where he announced that a Christian Merchant would speak at the next Monthly Concert of Prayer and a wife of a merchant took offense at the word "Christian". Gould was given a pony. Dorothy broke her collar bone and is now able to get out of bed. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow, China June 7th 1908.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The past week has been full of events. Tuesday afternoon Flora had closing exercises for the school. 104 persons came to our home to hear the children. The whole affair was a complete success. The mothers and fathers of the children were justly proud of their offspring. The children have greatly improved in their singing. Phebe won laurels at the piano and Geraldine was not far behind.

As a social event for the Port it also ranked high. Those who call themselves the 400 were all here. The house lends itself to such an occasion perfectly. The only break was made when I announced that the Monthly Concert of Prayer would be held at our home the next afternoon= Wed. and that Mr. Shelley, a Christian Merchant from Melbourne would speak. The wife of one of the merchants= herself a Chinese woman and the couple were married several years after the oldest of their children were born= took offense at the word Christian as too discriminating, and her husband has spent a dollar to circulate an express which read something like this: - That almost extinct species the Christian Merchant having been imported to Foochow, we are now in need of a Christian Banker. He need not know anything about banking but he must be able to make an address. Some of the business men say that Mr. Shelley does not know much about business methods in Foochow. The phrase Christian Merchant was taken from me. Notoriety is cheap.

On Wed. some 60 were here at the monthly concert. Mr. Shelley spoke on keeping "sharp" as God's tools. All present were greatly pleased and many said it was a helpful and fresh meeting.

Some day or two before I left for Shanghai this same lady referred to above= Mrs. Siemssen had written Ellen asking if we would accept the gift of a pony for Gould. They got it for their little boy but he was not "keen" on riding. Ellen answered that we would take it but would have to wait till I returned from Shanghai to fix a place for it. We sent for it Wed. morning. When the girls came from school at noon, they rushed in the gate as usual, and the pony called to them when he heard the gate open. You should have heard the shout as they saw the pony, "Whose is it?" "Is it ours?" Then Gould came in and the pony called again and he fairly leaped into the air with delight. Well he will have something to do now to take care of the goat and the pony for we cannot afford a man to care for it.

Then this week we opened a shipment from Montgomery Ward's with shoes for the family and lots of other things – among them a nice large cart for the children.

Last night at the Y.M.C.A. we had a lecture on the natural Resources of Fukien Province- the building was crowded and the lecturer- a Second Degree Graduate- Chinese spoke for an hour and a half – not a man moved and the whole audience rose and asked him to speak again in the near future.

Yesterday Dorothy was allowed to get up for the first time since breaking her collar bone. She took such liberties in walking all over the house and yard and running up and down stairs that her legs- which had been in bed for nearly a month are very lame today.

All are quite well and send love
Will

*[This letter dated **June 13, 1908** was written from China by Flora to her mother. School is done and she is leaving soon for a trip to Formosa and Japan. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[June 13, 1908]

Dear Mama:-

School is done and I have been busy a week trying to get things done up so that there will be no need to hurry back in the fall. I am having my school room done over- the walls and floor, a tailor has been sewing for me three days and is on the last dress, and my room here is to be cleaned and shut up for the summer. I expect to have everything done by a week from tonight- Jun. 20. We leave on Sunday for Formosa where we spend until Saturday while we wait for our steamer to go on to Moji, Japan. Miss Dobbins, the new Y.W.C.A. sec., is going with us on her way to Tokyo. She has been advised to spend the summer in Japan as she seems to be having trouble in the getting acclimated here. The sun and heat affects her head very badly.

I am mailing mama's 4th of July present to-day, by sending it to Shanghai by Mrs. Main. I hope it reaches you safely. I have divided it so you must look for two packages. I am also sending a paper which contains an article written by our consul about my closing exercises. We had one house full and the children enjoyed it.

Will try to write once more before I leave. I shall be so glad to get away for I am too tired for any good use.

Love to all-

Flora Beard.

Jun. 13, 1908.

Foochow.

*[This letter dated **June 17, 1908** was written from Japan by Flora to the folks at home. She is a little confused for she has received notice that some silk gloves that were mailed to her were not correctly mailed. She talks about different items that she will purchase and mail. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[June 17, 1908]

Dear folks at home:-

Will you please get one copy of Kelsy's 'Caesar's Gallic War' at Gardner's and mail it to me in care of Y.M.C.A., Shanghai, China? I can get it there on my way back from Japan and save postage.

To-day I received word from Washington that the silk gloves were held up by the postal authorities for not being correctly mailed. I am writing to Washington that I do not know by whom they were sent but he may mail them to papa. Then you had better remail them to me in a parcel direct rather than in a newspaper. The wash cloth case got here safely. I should like to know how it was that the gloves got to the Dead Letter Office. They have the full correct address here in their communication to me. Please send the Caesar at once so I may get it in Shanghai.- I can use both pairs of gloves so do not worry about sending double quantity.

Ruth, tell Lucy that I shall be very glad to get the waists, but will be unable to do anything about them here until I get back. It may be that I can find just what they want in Japan.

I will see about your dress when I return. In the meantime you may change your mind when you see the silk waist I sent home- or Lucy may rather have that in pongee, embroidered instead. I think the Pongee would be cheaper. Either the pongee or white silk wash beautifully so are quite as serviceable. Would you like some of the

pretty materials one can get in Japan for your gown instead of the linen. They have some very pretty wash stuffs. Let me know at my Yokohama address – just Care of Gen. P.O.

I am enclosing a cuff of a set which I began for Aunt Ella. I gave her the rest of the set before I left home. Maybe she has worn out the collar by this time or it may be out of fashion- but here it is- if you will please give it to her.

Do you know whether Stanley got his silver tooth-brush holder I sent him? I feel a little anxious about it for I foolishly put it up in a very small bundle. I sent home mama's Fourth of July (got mixed on my dates) [*she wrote Xmas and scratched it out here*] present- in two parcels- for I thought you might like to use it this summer. Don't be too choosy of it for it washes beautifully.

I start on Sunday- at least that is the date scheduled for departure. It probably will be either Sat. or Mon.

Love to all-

Flora.

Jun. 17, 1908.

*[This letter dated **June 27, 1908** was written from the Japanese liner "Saikio" near Formosa by Flora to the folks at home. She talks about her trip from Foochow on a dirty Japanese boat. She and her travelling partners visit Mrs. Mackay in Formosa and Dr. Mackay's grave. They got to see the opium and camphor making process. They will visit Moji, Kobe and Tokyo. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

[Jun. 27, 1908.]

Dear Folks at home:-

We- Miss Hall, Miss Dobbins and I – are on board, the Japanese liner 'Saikio' going up from Formosa. The sea is calm, the boat excellent, and we are the only foreigners on board. We are trying to be as polite as our fellow passengers and I fear are rather awkward in our attempts.

We left Foochow a week ago to-night on a little dirty Japanese boat. Cockroaches played tag over our cabin walls, our bed linen had not met a tub for some time and everything was terribly stuffy. To add to all this there was a 'beam sea' on and Miss Hall and I spent our time emptying our already empty stomachs. We did not have a moment's peace until we anchored in Tamsui harbor in Formosa. We were a ragged looking trio. I left Miss Hall and, Miss Dobbins by the 'stuff' and started out to find a gentleman whom we had met. We were taken in by the Canadians Presbyterian Missionaries and cared for royally. It turned out to be the very house in which Dr. Mackay the pioneer Formosan and missionary had lived. We saw the schools and met all the people of the mission, also the British consul and his wife. We called on Mrs. Mackay- a Chinese woman, though very much foreignized. We walked out to Dr. Mackay's grave- just outside the foreign graveyard. He would not even be buried with his own people. We were struck with the unity of the work, and the workers. We spent two days sightseeing in Hokuto and Taipeh. We called at the U.S. Consulate which just now is being cared for by an Englishman. He secured passes for us so that we saw the whole process of opium making even to the poor wretch testing it. We saw the stuff boiling and later all put up in kegs- over a \$100,000 worth. Next we visited the camphor factory where I suppose at least half of the world's supply comes from. It was purity after pollution. We saw them shoveling up the snowy camphor into boxes and putting them under presses and the odor was so cooling. It was so strong that we could not stay in the same room for it choked both our nose and eyes. We saw the huge tanks where the vapor is condensed- very ingeniously arranged so that they make three grades of camphor. We visited the famous sulphur springs about a mile out from Hokuto. It was fittingly hot for a walk to the infernal regions- for the perfect dearth of vegetation and the stifling fumes from the geysers and the furnaces, made me think of the pictures Dante has painted of the Inferno. I think I never took a hotter walk. I was really afraid we would get prostrated with the heat. We walked back and cooled off at a picturesque Japanese Inn- and shocked the little table waiter by drinking five pots of hot tea. We were glad to get back to Tamsui where we sat in the evening and enjoyed the beautiful cool sea breeze. The only thing to mar our stay was that these kind people refused to take a cent of remunerations for our stay. Missionaries won't take a cent and one is almost always obliged to stop with them unless one can live like the natives.

We wrote over to Keelung from Tamsui for our boat and they telegraphed back that rooms would be received for us. Later they wrote that they would like us to be on hand for inspection at 2:30 P.M. The boat was to start at 4:30 P.M. The train we had planned to take would get us there just in time so we had a last whack at the shops in Taipeh. We got some lovely Panama hats- eight in all- and started for the train. Behold- a change in the time-table that day, which left only one train for us which arrived only a half hour before...

[The rest of this letter is written on columned Japanese paper where Flora wrote top to bottom, right to left.]

...the boat left. We telegraphed on ahead and were met at the train by a dapper little Jap who took us at once to the boat, settled our baggage and tickets and most politely bade us adieu just as they pulled away the gang plank. It was the closest meet of a steamer I ever made. We never heard a word about inspection but were asked the usual questions of who we are, where we came from and where we are going to. When we left Foochow we were asked these questions twice and then when we landed at Tamsui the interpreter of the police came on board and asked them all over again. Japan will know all about us by the time we get through this summer at this rate.

On board this steamer everything is European, - at least all things we see. There are only men in the dining room. We wonder where the women eat. Our dining room has just fourteen places at the tables. The officer at whose right I sit always stayed as long as we do and most politely bows us out.

To-morrow Miss Hall and I land at Moji for our trip east, thro the island. Miss Dobbins goes straight to Tokyo, from Kobe. She has had to come over to Japan for her health. The climate of the east has had such a serious effect on her nerves. She has not been free from head ache in the back of her head since she came, about two months ago. She is the new Y.W.C.A. Sec. We all hope this summer may set her right for if it doesn't it means she will have to go home. We shall hope to find letters waiting at Yokohama for us.

With love to you all.

Flora.

Jun. 27, 1908.

*[This letter dated **June 29, 1908** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to Flora. Flora has been gone a week now on her trip to Japan. Willard went to the mountain and found many families there. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
June 29th 1908

My dear Flora:-

A week has slipped by since you said good bye to us all. It seems much longer. Of course last week Mon. Tues. and Wed. were full with examinations all day and a class in the evening for me, beside other duties. The Pres. of the Commercial Coll. paid for a telegram to order a teacher from the U.S. for his school. This took two interviews.

On Sunday Mrs. Beattie with four children and Mrs. Montgomery with one, and two amahs and three or four men servants arrived they thought they saw the wake of your steamer over toward Formosa. Gould and I went over to Jardines at 12:15 and waited for them till 2:45 - without dinner fortunately they had had tiffin on the steamer. I got them home with 27 loads of baggage and made my Y.M.C.A. Bible Class at 4:00. Then Monday morning they were off bag and baggage at 7:20. - It was an easy thing to do - altho when Ellen first thought of it, it look prodigious and it was such a help to them!

On Friday I went to the mountain and found it pretty well inhabited. Worley's, Cooles, Butlers, Ward, Perkin, Storrs, Hodous, Newells, Gardners, and others. The new P.O. with its new road is a great improvement- so people say. The same day Mr. Cio Lik Daik went to Kushan to see about the getting of the Monastery for the Summer Conference. When it comes to talk real business they refuse. So we must find another place.

Galen M. Fisher General Y.M.C.A. Sec'y for Japan was to have stopped in Foochow yesterday on his way from Shanghai on board the N.D.L. [*Norddeutsche Lloyd*] S.S. Kleist, but he did not make it. I heard the steamer arrived too late to come in on the tide and will be here today. Mr. and Mrs. Jack from Formosa are coming over to stay with the Newells I believe this summer.

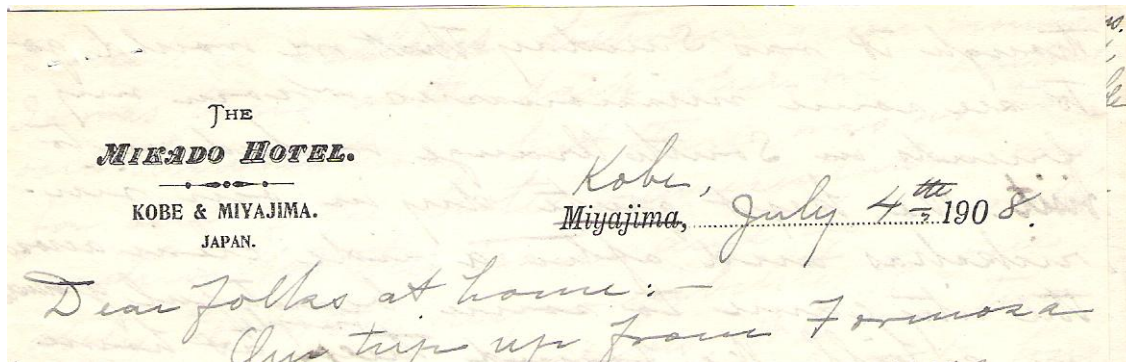
Sat. evening we had eight night blooming cereus open. It made a very pretty eight and the fragrance was delicious.

We are still in Foochow,- hoping to go to Kuliang the last of this week. The air is still fresh and we get a good breeze every day some time. Miss Fink reported that you were quite comfortable settled on the Amoy Maru. I hope you had a pleasant trip and will get to Yokohama all right. Remember us to Miss Hall and Miss Dobbins if you see her. Perhaps you will send this on home sometime.

With love from all

Will.

[This letter dated **July 4, 1908** was written from Japan by Flora to the folks at home. She tells many details of her trip to Moji, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Okayama, and Kobe. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



The
Mikado Hotel.
Kobe & Miyajima.
Japan.

Kobe, July 4th 1908.

Dear folks at home:-

Our trip up from Formosa on the Saikyo Maru was a very pleasant one. The sun shone every day until the one on which we reached our destination. We awoke in a pouring rain. Here in the East a wharf, which the boat can reach, is a rare thing, so as usual we were taken to the shore by a launch. Fortunately the rain slackened and the launch landed us at the ferry Moji. Here began the fun in making our way in a land whose language is unknown to us. We found we did not have the right change and something was not satisfactory about the bill we proffered. We had a group of ferry officials and passengers about us all trying to explain in their language but we did not find out until we reached our hotel that the bill was Formosan and that it was worth only \$.95. It did not take long to straighten out matters. After dinner we decided, even though it was Sunday that we would go to see some missionaries whom my friends in South Orange wished me to visit. We kept quite dry in our jin-rickshas and after a ride clear across the city came to some beautiful grounds on a hill. We found the people at home and had a most enjoyable afternoon with them. They are Baptists and we had the opportunity of hearing about the work of another denomination. - The next day we started on our railroad trip eastward through the island. Our destination for that day was Miyajima, the sacred island. We took a local train to a small station, Miyajiri, and got off just to see the sights. We had expected to have to eat Japanese food but were surprised in having some very decent steak and bread brought in. We took a walk up through the village street and succeeded in attracting every youngster in town if nothing else. There was nothing in particular to see, but just a typical little Japanese village. We took the train again and enjoyed some magnificent scenery- sometimes the Inland Sea and sometimes beautiful Swisslike valleys between green mountains. It was long after dark when we reached our destination but there was no trouble for one of the hotel representatives was waiting for the train and he immediately took the responsibility of our baggage and ourselves. We were two tired people and it did not take long for us to get to sleep. When we awoke in the morning we found ourselves in a most picturesque spot. Our hotel was perched on the steep slope of the mountain covered with laurels, pines, and all sorts of beautiful greenery. We had been lulled to sleep by the sound of a little mountain brook. There was no disappointment when daylight showed us its limpid waters tumbling over clean stones and flowing over white sands. We took a walk up the mountain side and felt refreshed with the pure air and pine odors. Everything was so clean. There is no agriculture done on the island. There are a few tame deer who will eat out of one's hands and they were about the only animals we saw. The mountains with their wooded sides made me think of the Black Forest, they were so beautiful. We spent a day and two nights here and wished we could stay longer in all the beauty. We visited the temple and the thousand matted room which is said to have been built out of the wood of a single camphor tree. It is at present adorned by thousands of wooden ladles. Every person buys one, writes his name on it, and has it nailed up for good luck. We saw one with Burton Holme's name on [Burton Holmes was America's most famous travel showman and even has a star on Hollywood Boulevard.], but could not spend time to read all of them. The custom started just after the Japanese war with China when the soldiers were housed in the

building. The Japanese words for ladle make a pun on the words for Chinese so these were put up for fun. As we were going to our train we saw the Shinto priests form their procession and solemnly walk to their worship. They looked very gay with their orange, green, black, white and violet robes. As we steamed away on our ferry the island looked very beautiful and we were sorry to lose the sight of it. We had an hour or two at Hiroshima when we went to call on some Y.M.C.A. people. They very kindly took us to see the place where "The Lady of the Decoration" was written. We saw the kindergarten and met all the people who know the author, Mrs. Macauley. It is one of the largest institutions in Japan with about six hundred students in all. It was afternoon so we did not see the little tots, but we saw the training classes, classes in drawing, serving, gymnastics, etc. We took the train and went on to Okayama where we spent the night with Dr. and Mrs. Pettee. Here we saw the largest orphan asylum in Japan, which has numbered as many as 1200 inmates. We went to chapel in the morning and saw over four hundred little waifs arranged in rows. They stood for more than half an hour listening to the story of the speaker. Their characteristics seemed very similar to those of the same class of children in our own country. They are divided into groups of about ten in cottages with a "house mother" to care for them. Many of the children were in other parts of Japan on farms or in private families. About sixty were learning agriculture in another place. They have to have chapel out of doors because they have no place that will hold the large number. It was very interesting to see the different departments and hear about the most perfect system of running this huge institution. Many of the boys have grown up to hold responsible and honorable positions. This is the institution with which Rev. Sao Abe, Will's classmate, has some connection. We saw the church where he preached, when in Okayama. Mrs. Ritter took us to see the famous park here which was originally the grounds of the castle which faces it. The gardens are full of beautiful little nooks and ingeniously arranged bridges and paths. We fed the storks and after a parting look had to go to our train. Here we met with a most interesting experience. Miss Adams, one of the A.B.C.F.M. missionaries, was just taking the train to go home. For years she has had to pass through the slums of the city on the way to her work. The little urchins were very rude to her, even throwing things at her. She felt sorry for them and tried to win them. It took a long time to get their confidence but she did finally and gathered together a little Sunday School. From that in the fifteen years it has grown to a real slum mission, with its school, hospital and other departments. The government has appreciated the need of her work and is in sympathy with it. She teaches in a boy's government school and uses the money for supporting the kindergarten. This morning the whole boy's school was down to the train, all drawn up in line and their shouts of "bonsai" as the train moved out of the station must have been very precious to her. There were nearly a dozen ladies at the station - ladies of the highest social rank. It was such good fortune for us to see them. Their dresses were such beautiful ones. Nearly every one was dressed in some shade of gray and their sashes matched in shade. All were in exquisite taste. Their greeting was interesting to us. It took three low bows to complete them with something said between each bow. These ladies were wives of professional men. Even the mayor of the city was there to do her honor. We were so glad to have seen it all.

Now we are here at Kobe College, a beautiful spot on the side of the hill. Unfortunately the students are gone so we shall not be able to see the work of the institution, but the buildings have been most interesting to see. There are seven teachers, all of them strikingly well educated and refined in manners. Their home life has been so restful to us. We have done little but rest since we arrived. Some way I seem to have 'petered' out and it is so good to just lie still. The weather is very cool and so refreshing to us. So far the rain has not interfered at all with our goings.

On Tuesday we start on again. This time to Kyoto, where we may stay nearly a week.

We have been away from Foochow two weeks and have not had a word of mail from anywhere. We are getting hungry for some. There seems to be some hitch in forwarding our mail. The postal authorities move slowly. There is always such quantities of red tape here but one usually gets it after awhile.

With love to all- Flora.

July 5, 1908.

Kobe College, Japan.

*[This letter dated **July 13, 1908** was written from Japan by Flora to the folks at home. Flora goes into detail about her visits to Kobe, Nara and Kyoto. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

The
Mikado Hotel.

Kobe & Miyajima.
Japan.

Kyoto, July 13, 1908.

Dear folks at home:-

Here we are in Kyoto, housed in a real little Japanese house, with sliding partitions, mats, garden, and all. Our hostesses are two simple English ladies and we are their guests, as much as if we were old friends. They have lost their money and are teachers of English to private classes of educated Japanese. They are rather alone here for the foreign community is small and they like to take travelers not only for a compensation but because of their company. Every day they map out our day's sightseeing and their trusty Kuruma man is as good as a guide so we have just congratulated ourselves on our good fortune in finding the place free for us. They have just the room for two so we have all the quiet and pleasure of a home. We had planned to go on to-morrow but on Friday is one of the biggest temple festivals of the year and our hostesses have been so good as to let us stay, that we are going to get the rest of our shopping done here and not make such long stays in Yokohama and Tokio.

When I last wrote we were in Kobe at Kobe College. We had a most delightful stay there. On Monday morning we visited the "Glory Kindergarten" with Miss Howe at the head. Phebe would have thoroughly enjoyed seeing her and the children. She has an ideal kindergarten and will have no other for she wants to instill into the Japanese minds only the highest ideas of the work. It is the one copied in Japan more than any other. While there we met the Hon. Mrs. E.A. Gordon, who has written several books on travel and is now in Japan studying Shintoism. We would call her a frump in America. I thought I should disgrace myself in her presence by laughing she was so funny but I managed to spare myself. Miss Searle the principal of the Kobe College showed us all about their fine buildings. It really seemed like going into a like institution at home, only the finishings of the buildings were even in better taste. The Japanese woods are so exquisite in color and so capable of polish that they are very handsome. Then too the furniture is so beautifully finished that the rooms appear elegantly furnished, whereas they have perhaps cost only a modest sum.

We left Kobe Tuesday morning and arrived here in the afternoon. We called at Dr. Davis's and, while we were waiting to hear from these ladies, he took us about, the grounds and buildings of the Doshisha, and through the Royal Palaces. The interpreter was gone so he did the honors. We had to have a special permit which the ambassador at Tokio [*Flora wrote a "y" over the "i" in Tokio indicating her uncertainty of how to spell it.*] had granted us – as he does to any American who applies. The building is situated inside high walls- and all in a large park. It was the home of the present emperor before 1869. The architecture is simple but some of the rooms contain very wonderfully carved 'rammia'- a space near the top of a side wall left for ventilation. Some of these carvings had different pictures on each side. Some were done in colors also. Many of the rooms opened into each other making a vista. All of the sliding screens were decorated mostly by a famous artist – Kano. One room would be done in bamboos and tigers, another in pine trees with snow on them, another with storks, others in geese, fans, goats, etc, etc. The throne room was decorated by life size pictures of Chinese mandarins. The throne was a silk canopied dais, upon which is a chair handsomely inlaid with mother-of-pearl. This was the only place where we saw a chair placed for the emperor. In all other places was the dais with a square mat in the middle. The whole palace was simplicity itself- an illustration of how the emperor in feudal times lived.

The next day we spent at Nara, once the capital of the Empire. The ride over in the train wound its way through bamboo forests, tea farms, rice fields, and fruit orchards. The scenery was very pretty. We would pop in and out of tunnels so fast that it made me think of a magic lantern show, for each interval of darkness brought a new picture. The tea farms interested us for they were so well cared for. The tea plants were nearly three feet high and resembled a neatly rounded hedge of box- only there were great fields as far as we could see on either side of the train. There were pickers every where in their picturesque head dress- their heads all mound up in white with an inverted basket hat on them. The fruit trees had their boughs all held up by arbors extending along the entire length of the rows, and presented a very neat appearance. We are having the most delicious peaches, apples, and summer oranges. The last named fruit resembles a grape fruit somewhat – only not quite so bitter. We very often buy them when on the train for they quench one's thirst very well. At Nara were so many beauties. The road in the park was lined with huge cryptomerias and the grassy lawns were everywhere the feeding places for scores of deer. The pretty creatures were so tame that we fed them- I had fifteen about my kuruma at one time. In the lake we saw dozens of tortoises sunning on the rocks and the usual giant gold fishes fighting like pigs for the food thrown to them. There were hundreds of stone lanterns lining the roads to the temples. We visited several of the temples and saw the 'dancing girls' but did not see them dance. We went to see the great "Daibutsu" the largest image of heathendom in Japan. It was so surrounded by scaffolding that it was rather hard to really see it. They have most ingeniously planned to get money from travelers. They get the people for a small consideration- to write their names on the tiles before they are baked. We saw hundreds of them- among them the name of Burton Holmes. We

did not indulge. We ate our lunch on the grass under the trees beside one of the picturesque little lakes. Then we went to see the queer twisted tree composed of six different kinds of trees. On it were hundreds of little twisted pieces of white tissue paper- each a wish which is supposed to be sure to come true. There we saw the wonderful trained trees, pine and cherry, where the limbs must be nearly a hundred feet long, propped up clear to the ends. We see these trees everywhere- carefully propped. We went to the great bell and our kurum-ia rung it for us. None of the bells here are rung by a tongue but by a huge stick striking the outside near the rim. The tone that came was beautiful but nearly knocked us over with its volume. It vibrated for more than ten minutes. Later we heard it at a distance and one can never describe the quality of the music. The bell must be over ten feet high and nearly a foot thick. It weighs many tons.

Thursday we spent going through the Nijo Castle, which was the residence of the Shaguno until the present regime. If the Mikado's palace was simple here we saw how elegantly his rulers lived. The gold- which is real gold leaf- of the screens made the castle very rich in appearance. And the paintings and coffered ceilings were extravagantly beautiful. It is wonderful how the artist was able to paint such tigers when he probably had never seen one. There are several very famous pictures here- the one I enjoyed the most was the sleeping sparrows.

On Friday we went to the shops. They were even more fascinating than the castles. Such beauty, such costly things and such quantities, I never saw before! It was embarrassing to us because we could not purchase but the clerks were extremely polite in showing us about. If we stopped to purchase, a cup of tea and little cakes were immediately brought. We feel almost surfeited with beauty, the shops are so full of it.

Must close now and will write more later.

Lovingly-

Flora Beard.

July 14, 1908.

*[This letter dated **July 19, 1908** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. The family has been on Kuliang now for a week. He tells about the children learning to swim in the bathing pool on Kuliang. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Kuliang, Foochow. China July 19- '08

Dear Folks at Home:-

I am sending you a letter from Flora. She is evidently having a good time. The weather is cooler in Japan than they found it in Formosa. This year is exceptionally hot in Foochow. Since July 1st the ther. has reached 90 degrees sometime everyday in Foochow. It has risen to 100 degrees in some of the offices. We never knew it so hot here on Kuliang. A week ago yesterday I walked down the mountain, rode across the plain, brought 80 lbs. of peaches, had four men to peel and preserve them- worked all the time in our house down there, attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. 5-7 p.m. and then came to the mountain arriving at 11 p.m. It was a perfect evening- with a big moon and the trip was much pleasanter than in the hot sun.

I have had a whole week here now. Marjorie is all right again- but she is much thinner than before her fever. Dorothy was in bed two days last week with fever and diarrhea but she is all right now. The children greatly enjoy the bathing pool. I went over four mornings last week before breakfast. Gould is getting to be quite a swimmer, and Phebe can swim 30 or 40 feet. Geraldine says she can swim two feet. Gould takes the whole care of his pony, and this is a good thing for him because it gives him regular work. The roads are so full of steps that riding is not much fun.

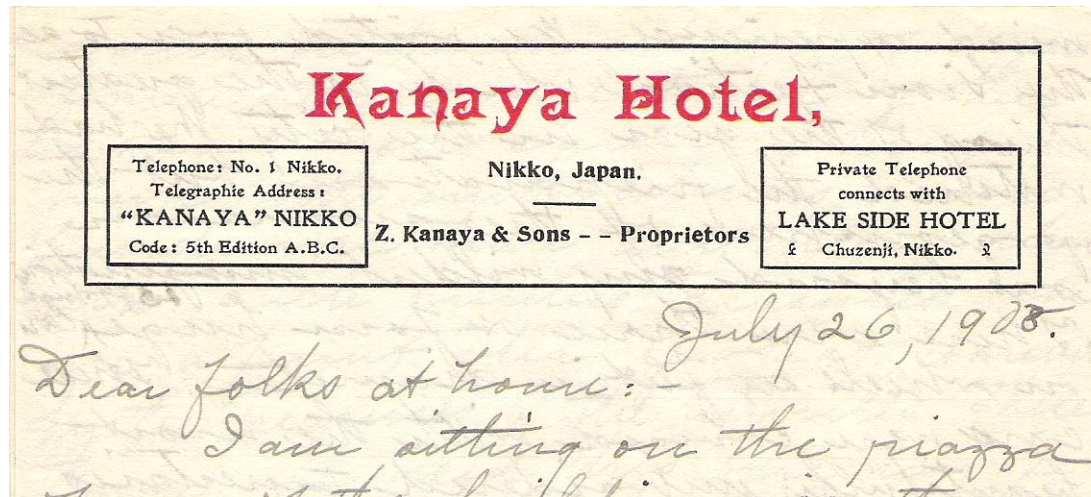
The weather has been superb for over two weeks- not a drop of rain and a beautiful moon each night. Friday night we had a slight shower- yesterday another. Last night it drizzled much and today we have had a good hard rain that must have wet down thru. In some parts of the province crops are burned up. Just here the rains will save them.

Tomorrow I act as Pres. of the Fukien Sun. Sch. Union at its meeting and also on Tues. a.m. when I am to conduct a Bible Class as a kind of model.

All the children are sound asleep. Ellen is reading. All send love. Will.

*[This letter dated **July 26, 1908** was written from Nikko, Japan by Flora to the folks at home. The letter is written on the Kanaya Hotel stationary. She tells in detail a procession for the Gion Festival in Kyoto and the huge and*

highly decorated floats or carts that are pulled through a parade. She stayed at a home within 100 miles of Fuji and visited Lake Chuzenji near Yokohama. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



Kanaya Hotel.
Nikko, Japan

July 26, 1908.

Dear folks at home:-

I am sitting on the piazza of one of the buildings in the group of temples at Nikko. We are in the shadows of an immense grove of huge Cryptomerias. It is after 4 P.M. so all is closed up and it is as quiet and secluded as in a front of a home with the birds calling and singing. It had been an ideal day for the beauties of Nikko. The red lacquer and the colors of the gay paintings have stood out their very brightest, and the sunlight through the openings of the foliage has been beautiful to see.

It has been over a week since I have had leisure to write so I will go back to where I left off at Kyoto. I think I told you about going to Nara and Lake Biwa with that interesting trip through the canal in the tunnel- a most weird experience. We waited over to see the Gion Festival which is the greatest thing of the year in the city. We had watched the preparations but the gorgeousness of the procession was beyond my wildest imagination. There were three or four huge 15 ft. high cars on wheels six feet in diameter. These cars were covered with the most beautifully embroidered tapestries with great silk tassels dangling at each corner. There must have been two dozen people in each one. The first one held three children, the middle one supposed to be a queen of the olden time. From time to time she went through some automatic actions as though giving to the crowd below. She looked for all the world like an image when she sat still. Two men, each holding a fan, and holding on to a tassel were singing and acting with the fans, while this ponderous vehicle was being dragged by sixty or eighty men and boys. In between the lines of the propellers walked dozens of men dressed in costumes antique. In between these high cars would come some shrine carried on the shoulders of dozens of men. There were twelve of these cars and then came a huge junk with embroideries more handsome than anything we had seen. Such priceless treasures gave on a faint idea of what is meant by the treasures of the temples. These things are used this one day of each year and then put back in their resting places for the 17th of July of the next year. In the afternoon we saw the other part of the procession which consisted of men dressed up in ancient warrior's suits of mail. They walked as though they were much encumbered. There were several floats (we would call them) illustrating some phase of ancient life, but the most interesting part of it all were the shrines, in which may have been some gods. These were carried on huge beams and cross beams so arranged that eighty men could help in carrying it. These men were bobbing their heads and shouting some lingo that helped them to keep in step. They acted like mad. Behind marched a relief squad shouting in the same insane way. The streets were all trimmed in lanterns and awnings and every one was out in his gayest colored kimono. The children were especially bright. They looked like gay butterflies with their long sleeves fluttering in the wind.

The next morning we left for Gotemba where we were to spend Sunday with a friend of Miss Hall's. We reached there after dark and had a long walk out to her house. When we waked up next morning there was Fuji with the clouds rolling away from that beautiful crest. We sat at the breakfast table and feasted our eyes on the sublimity

before us. By the time we were ready to go the church you would never have guessed that Fuji was within a hundred miles of us, for the clouds left only the gracefully sloping base in sight. After church I went home with Miss Moore, (who was my cabin room-mate on the 'Siberia') and had tiffin. At 3:30 P.M. we had tea with Mrs. Hill whom I had met at Shimoniseki. Then it was time for church again and a walk home to Miss Hall's friends. The next morning Miss Brown, Miss Stowe and I started for a walking trip through the Hakone district. We had a guide (or rather a coolie who acted as a guide) and started at 8 A.M. It was all the way up of course but when ever we wished to halt for a rest there was Fuji in all his glory to gaze at- for this morning there was not a cloud anywhere near. We saw all the gracefulness of the curves of outline and the beautiful slope of the base as it spreads out over the vast plain. It is the only sight I have seen in Japan that has reached the sublime, and I have seen Nikko! Before we reached the top the clouds had rolled over but from the crest of the ridge we saw the beautiful Hakone Lake. I can't tell you of all its beauties but it was not unlike the Scotch lakes. We had quite a scramble down on the other side and then a long walk across the lowlands to the lakeside. We walked through an iris field which [was] beautiful. They were just the wild ones but the variety of shades made a pretty sight. We halted at a little tea house on the side of the lake and ate our lunch. Then we took a boat across the lake, or rather the whole length of it, to our hotel just in the edge of the town of Hakone. The next morning we had the rare pleasure of seeing the reflection of Fuji in the lake and we felt fortunate indeed. It lasted only about an hour for the clouds again came over and that was the last of Fuji for me. We started out again with a guide to walk over the Myanoshita and had an interesting time between scenery and shrines and shops until we reached Kozu by the sea where I left my companions and went on to Yokohama. It was so good to find mama's letters for it had been a month since I had heard from either you or Will. On Thursday Miss Hall, Miss Carpenter (an artist whom we met in Kyoto) and I came up here. It was raining hard- but that is Nikko weather. We finally got settled all three in one large room having five windows and on the ground floor. On Friday we donned water proofs and with rubbers and umbrellas started for the temples. The first sight which met our eyes was the sacred bridge of red and black lacquer and gold trimmings. Then a ten minute walk under an arch of cryptomenias brought us to the first gage. If I were to describe each in detail you would be in a maze of similar words so I'll only say that for richness of color, large amounts of gold, and beauty of setting, the world cannot equal what is to be seen here.

The next day we took jinrickshas and two men each to go over the mountains to Chuzenji- a beautiful lake high up in the mountains. It was a beautiful ride- much of the time right over the middle of the river bed, where a road had been made by filling in the piled up rocks with sand. We often had to cross bridges over roaring waters and the views were often very pretty. The clouds were moving about the mountain tips but would never go away. There was just enough sprinkle to keep us comfortably cool. Just a few minutes before we reached the lake we made a little detour and saw a beautiful waterfall which made a leap of 250 ft. into the valley below. It was one of the most beautiful falls I have ever seen. When we reached the lake the sun came out in all its glory and the clouds kindly fled so that we saw every tree and mountain in the landscape. After eating our lunch by the side of the water in a little teahouse we started on the descent and reach the hotel a little before 6 P.M. To-day has been Sunday and we have been enjoying the cool and calm of these magnificent cryptomerias. It has been good to get out of the frivolity of the hotel verandas into the quiet of nature.

To-morrow, we go to Tokio where we expect to stay until Friday when we shall go up to Karuizawa for the month of August. We are going to be with Mrs. Fisher, 23 North, Karuizawa. Her husband is in the Y.M.C.A. work in Tokio and we count ourselves very fortunate to get into a private family where we are to be the only guests.

Will write again when I reach Karuizawa. I hope Aunt Louise is very much better. Give her my love and tell her that I am only waiting till we get settled to answer her letter.

With love to everyone-

Flora Beard.

[This letter dated Aug. 2, 1908 was written from Karuizawa, Japan by Flora to her Aunt Louise (probably Phebe Louise Nichols, sister of Nancy Maria Nichols Beard). She tells a little about her month long trip to Japan and how she and a friend got lost but found the Japanese people helpful in helping them find their way. She talks of the possibility of going to see an active volcano up close. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Aug. 2, 1908.

Dear Aunt Louise:-

When you wrote your letter there was snow on the ground and now the only place it can be found here is on the top of Fuji. We saw several streaks of it still remaining in July. We-Miss Hall and myself- have been spending the month of July travelling the length of Japan and seeing a few things. Fortunately for us the weather

was propitious and so we saw much more than July usually allows people to do. It is only this last week that has been hot. We had intended to go to Tokyo but gave it up till later. We have still some shopping to do, for I am getting my trousseau for coming home. Yesterday I received a letter with such a fine offer that I feel like writing and saying I'll come home next summer anyway. I really am not sure of pupils enough to warrant more than this coming winter. I would like to stay one more year and see Northern China, but time will determine what I am to do. We have been having great experiences. Neither of us knows a word of Japanese but we have always managed to get out of our scrapes gracefully, but I imagine the Japanese have had more than one laugh over those two American women. It is very queer to feel one's self watched and registered every where. We had not left China when an official came and got our statistics and on every occasion possible we have been asked for them. It was queer to have a train conductor take out his paper read it over and nodded his head to himself that everything was right. One day we were following a friend's written directions to find a certain house in Hiroshima. We made one mistake but everything else tallied even to the Japanese house with white curtains for which we were looking. But when we went to the door we found the contents of the house were not the people we wanted to find. With a move of his hand the gentleman made us understand that we were to go in another direction, which we did and found the right place. We saw our friends at tiffin so we thought we would walk down the street a ways, and not disturb their eating. At the end of the street we decided it was too uninteresting and were just turning back when we discovered a white suited policeman following us. He made us understand that the place we wanted was back a ways, so we could not get lost in Japan if we wanted.

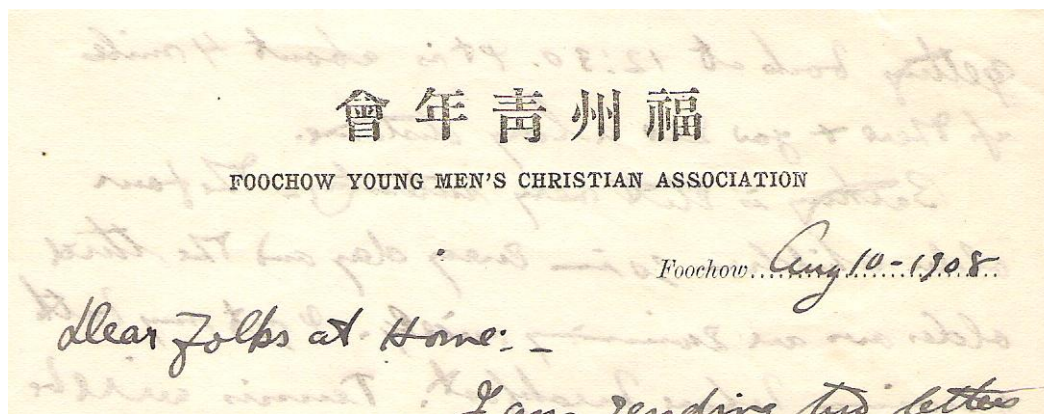
I wish you were here to go shopping with me. You would wish you had a million dollars, things are so pretty. We have seen so many beautiful things but they were all miles beyond our modest purses. We have bought lots of little things which will be very lovely when we get away from Japan.

Our veranda looks right over to a living volcano which gives us daily exhibitions. The night we arrived its top was all aglow and the smoke arising and curling off is a beautiful sight. Just now we hear the roar of its seething- a noise something like an engine letting off steam. We expect to climb it in a week or two. Parties go up every week. We saw Fuji in all its grandeur – a most sublime peak, rising majestically out of an immense plain, all isolated. Several of my friends have been to its top but I shall not attempt it this time.

We shall stay here in Karuizawa until the First of September, when I suppose we will have to turn our faces back to China. There are about a thousand people here, nearly all of whom are missionaries. There is lots going on but I am not trying to be in the services.

I hope you will get the time to write to me very soon. I have been so sorry to hear of your illness and hope you are long ere this quite well again. I wish you could come out here and see the sights for I am sure they would lure you. Lovingly- Flora.

[This letter dated Aug. 10, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. There has been a lack of water and because of this the rice fields have cracks in the ground. A Chinese Convention is about to begin. Swimming and tennis are very popular on Kuliang. Willard briefly mentions the pending arrival of a new baby in their house within hours. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



Foochow Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow Aug 10-1908

Dear Folks at Home:-

I am sending two letters from Flora that have recently come. She seems to be having a good time. She is very fortunate to get into Mr. Fisher's family. He is the National Gen'l Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. for Japan, and a very nice man. I sent your last letters to Flora.

Thus far the weather is delightful. Not one rainy day since we came to the mountain. But it makes one's heart bleed to see rice fields with cracks 1 in. wide in them and the rice all dead, and the potatoe fields hard and dry and the vines withered. Sat. we had a nice shower that did some good but we need ten like it.

Yesterday we closed the Convention in English, and the Chinese Convention began. We had a very good convention. The spirit was good. I attended all the meetings but one. That one I omitted to get a rest and Phebe, Gould, Geraldine and I walked to Kushan top- starting at 8:15 and getting back at 12:30. It is about 4 miles up there and you see a long distance.

Bathing is still very interesting. The four older children go in every day and the three older ones are swimming nicely. I get my bath and swim before breakfast. Tennis will be the rage for the rest of the season. Kuliang is full yesterday. The chapel would hardly hold the audience- either Chinese or foreigners.

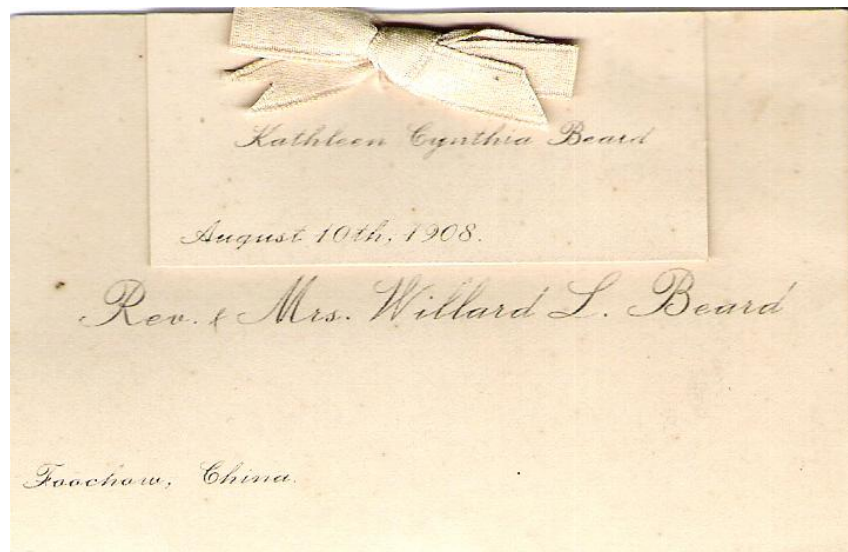
I'm going to put this into the morning mail. I may write again before night of the arrival of a new member to our house. It is now 9 o'clock [a.m.]. The news may get to you on the same mail as this.

All are well and all send love.

Will.

P.S. Marjorie went to church Thursday p.m. when I spoke,- at her own request and on her own promise "No, no talk, No no ky [*baby talk for cry*]." She was very good, and again yesterday she did the same.

W.



Kathleen Cynthia Beard
August 10th 1908
Rev. and Mrs. Willard L. Beard
Foochow, China
[Announcement from the collection of John and Nancy Beard.]

[This letter dated **Aug. 11, 1908** was written from Karuizawa, Japan by Flora to the folks at home. She went on a mountain climb and found it difficult. Her feet were quite sore afterward. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Congratulations to Phebe and Elizabeth for Aug. birthdays. F.B.

Kanaya Hotel,

Japan.

Karuizawa,
Aug. 11, 1908.

Dear folks at home:-

It is raining so I am improving the opportunity to get to the bottom of my letters 'due'. I have been looking for a letter from you- but in vain. I expect it is the old tale of the busy summer and I must be patient till the fall. I found your letter waiting for me at Yokohama and was glad to have it but I want another now. We have been in Karuizawa now for two weeks and we have taken great strides in getting rested. We've done little except eat, sleep, and walk. I have written nearly two dozen letters so I am getting my pigeon-hole nearly empty, and I hope my friends will take a new lease in believing in me.

I had a letter from Miss David in East Berlin, telling of the death of her sister, Mrs. Heald, early in May. I was really glad to hear it for she has been such a care to her friends and Miss David could not care for her personally, so it was torture to her to see her sister in such a bad state. Her mind was really gone.

A letter from Hattie Wildrun told of her visiting in Shelton and seeing Helen at the Library. She said that Mr. Maine (the man who came to our house to hire me for E. Berlin) is dead. Miss Maine is still living-with her sister in Middletown, Conn. They had all moved to Middletown and rented their house in E. Berlin.

We did some mountain climbing the other day and I met more than my equal so I prudently stopped. All the climbs about here are very steep and just wind a person in no time. This day we went by train down through the 26 tunnels that we have to pass through to get down from on high perch. We walked about 3 miles to a tea house at the foot of the climb and halted for our lunch. At 1 P.M. we started around two or three peaks to the one we were in search of. Then came some real rough climbing up to another tea house where we drank tea, rested, and enjoyed the wonderful panorama below and above us. The real climbing began soon. We wound about and up and came to a huge natural arch of rock over a hundred feet high. We passed one and scrambled up over a large rock and finally came to the second natural arch. In order to go through that and to climb on to the top of the crags one had to scale rocks holding on to chains. I was foolish enough to be afraid, and for fear I should keep some one back I did not go any farther. It was very exciting and the view from the top was worth the trouble so every one said. I had walk[ed] enough as it was and have been nursing blisters and lame muscles ever since. We are booked to climb Asama on Friday night of this week, so I am doctoring my sore places for all I am worth. We take horses for the 12 miles to the foot of the volcano- starting late in the afternoon. It is moonlight, and with our lanterns we shall escape the heat of the sun and still have light to see. We go up at night in order to see the glow from the fire in the crater, and to see the beauties of the rising sun. We shall get home about noon on Saturday.

This will be the last big climb I shall attempt here. I have worn my stockings to nothing and my shoes are in worse condition than I ever wore any before. I wish some of you would get a half dozen pairs of black stockings at Howard and Barber's (the 25 cent quality) and send them by mail (parcel post) to me. I am just at the bottom of the dozen that came in my box. One half dozen lasted me hardly a week a pair. The three months in the box seemed to have rotted them. The others have gone with this summer's hard wear. Did I tell you I had received the brown stockings safely?

I will write again in a few days, so hoping you are all keeping well, I am,
Yours lovingly- Flora Beard.

[This letter dated Aug. 11, 1908 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the folks at home. In it, he announces the birth of what will be his last child, Kathleen Cynthia Beard. Only three hours after the birth, they find out that Willard's Aunt Louise has died. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China.
Aug. 11- 1908

Dear Folks at Home:-

Yesterday morning I mailed a letter to you containing two from Flora, and saying I might write again soon. At 1:15 p.m. Miss Kathleen appeared on the stage and sang an original composition which we were all sure had never been produced in the world before. Her musical powers called forth many favorable comments from the audience. She is a fine strong baby. After she was washed and dressed she took refreshments and went to sleep. That has been her occupation even since. It is now 9 a.m. At 5 she awoke but took only a lunch and has slept since. Ellen is resting nicely, and all is as well as we can desire.

Kathleen is one name decided on. The children want another name. She was about three hours hold when the mail came in and we read the sad news of Aunt Louise's death. [*Phebe Louise Nichols, sister of Willard's mother, Nancy Maria Nichols died July 3, 1908 of kidney cancer and shock according to the death certificate. She had not been feeling well for 6 months.*] It affected me much. She was much like an elder sister to me- more like a sister than an Aunt. I have noticed in the letters from time to time something that indicated to me that she was not happy. This may have been due largely to her physical condition. But since Grandmother went she really has had no one thing to serve as an absorbing aim in life, and I wonder if this did not have something to do with her health. I wrote her some two or three months ago. I wonder if she received it.

To get this in the mail today I must close now.

With Love to all

Will

[From the Evening Sentinel, July 6, 1908:

NICHOLS- New Haven, July 3, Phoebe Louise Nichols. aged 51 years, 9 months, and 27 days.]



Written on back: "Compliments of Marjorie Aug. 11, '08"

This may have been taken the day after Kathleen's birth. Marjorie and Dorothy may be the 3rd and 4th children from the left in this photo. It would have been taken on Kuliang.

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

[This letter dated **Aug. 23, 1908** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to Emma (sister to Ellen Kinney Beard) and all the people. It is a brief letter telling them how Ellen and baby Kathleen are doing. He requests some Sunday School lesson cards to be sent to him. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China

Aug- 23-'08

Dear Emma and all the People:-

Phebe has told you most of the news. Ellen is getting on finely. Today Kathleen is 13 days old. Ellen was dressed and sat on the veranda just outside the veranda door in the rocker and ate dinner. Kathleen continues a very proper baby. She just sleeps and eats. Thus far we have not been up at all at night with her. The other children think it a very great privilege to see her bathed. I usually do this just before going to bed myself but as I was away last night and she did not get her bath, I gave her the bath just after prayers and the children were all there. How they beg to hold her "with only her little shirt on."

For our little foreign Sunday School we want some lesson cards for the infant class, - such as Miss Brown used to teach. I wonder if they ever have any left over. We want 5, and if they were old ones it would be all right. If they have them could you ask them to send by mail to me enough for one quarter- I'll pay for them. If they do not have them could you order 5 sets for one quarter. Send to me. I enclose a check for \$1.00. I do not know the cost nor the address.

I shall be be watch[ing] with interest to see where Willis [Willis Hume, husband of Etta Kinney] goes next.

This has been a very busy summer on the mountain for me, and a busier time is coming. I was glad you and father [father Kinney] and Elbert got off for a few days to the shore. I judge it has been very hot in the U.S. this year.

All send love to all

Will

[This note dated Aug. 23, 1908 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to his mother and all at home. The drought has ended and Ellen and baby Kathleen are doing well. The Summer Conference begins next week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Foochow, China Aug 23- 08

Dear Mother – and all at Home:-

Phebe has given you the important news, i.e. that Ellen and Kathleen are doing perfectly to date. Ellen sat on the veranda in the rocker just outside the dining room door and ate dinner with us this morn. A rainy week has put an end to the drought- and now it is clear again. Tennis has had to hold up for a whole week. But the bath is improved. We did not change the water-except as it was changed by the little stream that ran thru,- for three weeks. The well ran clean dry the very day before the rain fell.

Next Thursday evening I give an account of world wide Y.M.C.A. before a literacy circle here on Kuliang. The next week begins the Summer Conf. and Lacy and Grout will be coming for the Gov't college and work will begin in earnest altho I do not see where the hold up has come this summer.

All send love to all

Will

[This letter, dated Aug. 25, 1908, was written from Booths Hill by Ina Nichols to Nancy Maria Nichols Beard. Nancy's sister, Louise, died recently and Ina is thanking her for her donation of and organ. Letter from the collection of Virginia Beard Van Andel, daughter of Willard Frederick Beard.]

Booths Hill, let.
Aug. 25, 1908.

My dear Mrs. Beard:-

I want to express in behalf of the Christian Endeavor Society our sincere thanks for the organ. It is a much needed gift, and will be appreciated very much I am sure. I hope we may all be led to live as useful and helpful lives as did Cousin Louise.

Yours with love and sympathy,

Ina F. Nichols
Pres. Y.P.S.C.E.
Huntington.

[This letter dated before Sept. 5, 1908 was written from Japan by Flora to the folks at home. She has gotten letters from home talking about Aunt Louise's death, but is confused as to what happened. She tells about her hike to the Volcano Asama and describes the fire and fumes from it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

[Before Sept. 5, 1908]

Dear folks at home:-

Mama's letter and Phebe's came yesterday. Both of them are most mysterious. The only fact that I know is that Aunt Louise is gone- when, where, and what the trouble was, I shall probably have to wait to find out until I get to China. If you could only have sent the letter to me it would have delayed the reaching China not more than four days. As it is I wait four weeks to know the rest of the news. What does mama mean about "Walker", his "confession" and "long wait"?

We have a week more here before we start for home. We are both feeling about ready to go. This month here has done a lot for us in the way of rest. We took our last long walk last week, when we climbed the Volcano Asama. It was a most interesting trip. We left the house here at 7 P.M. A hard thunder shower was coming up, so that the night was about as black as it could be-between the flashes. We had horses to take us over the ten miles to the spot where the real climb begins. It was a weird spectacle to see the bobbing Japanese lanterns and the faint outlines of horses, men, and occasionally a tree or hill, and then to have all as plain as day when the flashes of lightening came. We were going away from the shower so we did not fear rain and besides the moon was due to rise soon. We reached the end of the horseback ride at 11 P.M. and there we halted until our lunches and maps came up. Then the rain began to fall exactly as it does at home when it starts in for a settled affair. It stopped, though, by the time we wanted to start on, so aside from getting our skirts wet, we did not suffer from it. By this time the moon had struggled through the clouds and we had plenty of light for the long climb. It was one of the steepest climbs I ever took. After the first mile we had no bushes- the path was up through ashes. It was a good hard one so there was very little slipping, and we had to rest very frequently. It was after 4 A.M. when we got clear to the top ready to look down into the crater. The last climb was the worst, through soft wet ashes and stones as large as my head.

It was the greatest sight I ever saw looking into that great hole with the fire roaring up like a million blast furnaces. The men tried to throw stones into the center of the fire but it was too far for them to succeed. It is over 2,000 ft. down to the fire. Fortunately the wind did not blow the fumes over our way. Sometimes the people have to just be face down in order to escape being smothered by the sulphur fumes. It is impossible to keep silver bright here. Well, we watched the sun rise over the billowy clouds below us, ate our breakfast, and then started down. We had a lovely morning to go home in and reached our house about 11:30 A.M. After a good hot bath and a dinner we went to bed. It did not take long for us to get to sleep.

Yesterday we had quite a unique wedding here. The people married were English and neither had ever seen a wedding. She had just arrived and they had had to wait three weeks- according to the law in English consulates here in the East- before they could get married. The young people here trimmed the church very prettily and lots of people went. The bridegroom was introduced to his best man in the morning of his wedding day, and there was no rehearsal, so it was quite impromptu. After the wedding party were in place in front of the minister he gave out a hymn and we all sang then he began the ceremony. It didn't take long and then the happy couple walked down the aisle and took their jinrickshaws back to a friend's house where a wedding dinner was served.

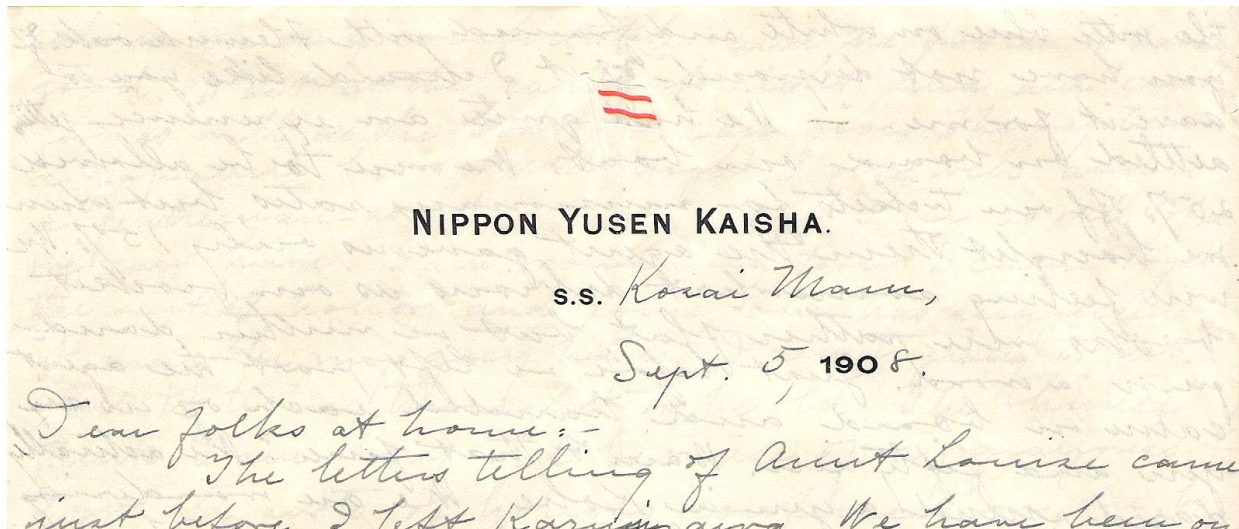
Tell Mary that the Miss Petter is a sister to Betty Petter that she knew in college. She and her father and mother are expected here to-day. She teaches in the Kobe College and expects to go home next summer to be married. Betty Petter is teaching in Nutley, N.J. - Think I shall probably write once more before I leave Japan. We expect to get back to Foochow about Sept. 15th.

With love to all-

Flora.

I shall wait anxiously to hear about Aunt Louise. I can't imagine what you mean. You can't think how hard such things are here. It came so unexpectedly that I can not make myself believe the truth. You write as though I knew everything and I know nothing. - F.B.

[This letter dated Sept. 5, 1908 was written from Kobe, Japan by Flora to the folks at home. She expresses sadness over the passing of her Aunt Louise. She mentions that because of her gray hair she seems to be receiving honors of various kinds. She has noticed a military build up in Japan as if they were getting ready for something. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]



Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
S.S. Kosai Maru,
Sept. 5, 1908.

Dear folks at home:-

The letters telling of Aunt Louise came just before I left Karuizawa. We have been on the move ever since but are now to be on the steamer for several days. Just at present we are in Kobe harbor loading on "Ashai Bur" to go to China. We are to stop at Moji and Nagasaki so we'll have a chance to get on land nearly every day. - The news of Aunt Louise was a great shock, but after thinking it all over it seems as if she and we had been spared much. She went the way she would have wished for I have heard her say more than once that she did not wish to live as long as Grandpa and Grandma did, and she was so afraid of being a burden to people. She has been spared both. We shall all miss her more than words can express for she has been a second mother to us all. I wrote a letter to her which you must have received a few weeks ago. What have you done with her household effects? Do you remember the little piece of Delft I brought to her from Holland? It is a little tile with blue on white and framed with Flemish oak. If you have not disposed of it I should like you to save it for me. - We had quite an experience getting settled on board our boat. We were to be allowed 25% off our tickets for missionary rates, but when we bought them the agent gave us only 15%. We were feeling somewhat dubious as our pocket books were rather flat, but we neither dared peep a word. Just before we left port the agent came on board and handed each of us six yen and fifty sen. Wasn't that fine? We actually dared spend a yen in Kobe. We are wondering how we'll get on about baggage at Shanghai. We have eleven pieces- nine of which belong to us and two to a friend in Foochow. I have never heard of any fuss over things entering port in Shanghai so I guess it will come out all right. - Did Stanley ever get the little silver tooth-brush holder I sent him last spring? Mary has written nothing about receiving a wide ribbon which I sent her at Santa Barbara. I have received no gloves yet but hope to find a pair waiting for me at Foochow. My brown stockings came safely to me- Will having forwarded them to me at Yokohama. I have one pair on now- with my sandals. They are just the thing for shipboard. We are on the worst smelling boat I ever saw. These little boats in the East are beyond description. The reason we took this one was that there was a difference of \$38 in price and we preferred the money in curios rather than boat hire. As we live all the day on deck we shall be able to stand it. Our cabins are very comfortable, and the food is fairly good. I sit at the captain's right and am cared for as well as the boat can give. The captain is a Japanese but speaks English very well and is a gentleman so I am as well off as we can have. I am wondering how I came to get the seat of honor and some one has suggested it may be my grey hairs. I am trying to get used to being thought to be old. The Chinese think I am very old because of my grayness, and I get all sorts of honors conferred on me, because of it. - We are now in Moji harbor coaling and loading on more beer, soap, condensed milk, etc. This A.M. a 'lighter' load of powder was taken off. Our captain said it was powder for cleaning but I am wondering if it was his way of telling me the truth without alarming me- for this is a great military stop, with every hill shooting into the other with their many forts. Japan is [has] more forts than any thing else. Everywhere the preparations for fighting has been the prominent sight. We see soldiers everywhere, drilling, travelling, getting ready for something. This boat on which we are travelling was built for hospital work

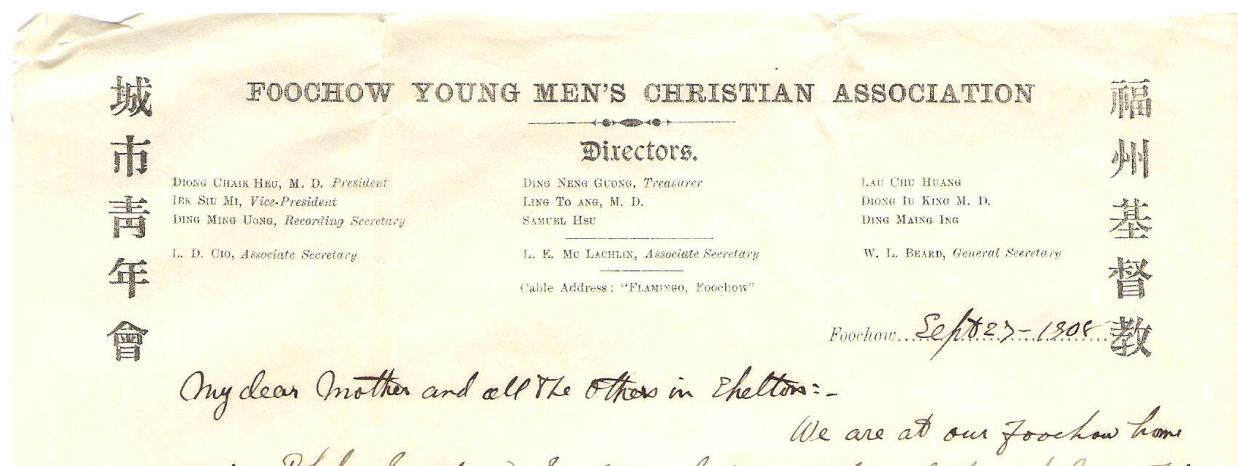
during the late war and has been adapted to its present use. It is much better suited to its original use than its present one.

Will you please telephone up to Lucy and Hattie this piece of business? I am sending by mail three shirt waists in separate packages- one to Lucy, one to Hattie and one to Nellie in care of Uncle Will [*Lucy, Hattie and Nellie are Beard cousins and Uncle Will (William Thomas Beard, brother of Oliver Gould Beard) is their father.*]. I did not know her Oronoque address. Lucy's and Hattie's waists are \$1.50 each and Nellie's \$2. Nellie's is a linen and if she does not like it tell her not to keep it. It was a great bargain- only half of the usual price- and I thought the novelty of the pattern and the extra cloth would just fit her. One cannot ordinarily get that linen for the price I gave. I happened to find all three patterns for bargain prices. I am sending in the same mail some bulbs of the Japanese gold banded lilies which grow everywhere wild on the mountain sides. They may amount to nothing but they cost so little that I wanted mama to try planting them. They are supposed to be hardy. The Japanese eat the bulbs here. Their blossoms was [*were*] such beautiful spots in the green of the hills. Some of these I dug up myself. Tell Ruth I have thought over her dress and it seems to me that the Chinese white silk will be the prettiest. I will get a piece and send it as soon as I can after I get back to China. I will send some samples of silk lace for trimming which is cheap and will be quite different from any one's else at home. She can choose her sample and send it back to me and I will order the lace for her. This will probably make her dress cost about \$7 gold. She will have a wash dress that will last longer than she may wish. Do you remember my graduating gown of white silk? I was never sorry that I had it for it made over as long as there was a scrap left. I have my lace waist linen with it now. The Japanese materials that would have been pretty are so heavy in weight that it would have been pretty expensive to send them. - I will write again when I get to Shanghai and let you know whether we met a typhoon. As we were rounding the point for Yokohama to Kobe where [*we*] met the end of a typhoon and you should have heard the copper bars in the hold chase each other back and forth from each side of the ship. We had to stay awake in order to keep ourselves in our berths. It was all over by daylight but the captain said it was a black night and he had to stay on the bridge until daylight.

With love to all- Flora.

Sept. 8, 1908.

[*This letter dated Sept. 27, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother and the others in Shelton. He tells how the family is doing and talks about a steamer trip he will take to Amoy to prepare for the Naval fleet. He tells of confusion over a telegram. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]



Foochow Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow Sept 27- 1908

My dear Mother and all the others in Shelton:-

We are at our Foochow home again. Phebe, Gould and Geraldine had a good time last week Mon-Fri on the house boat trip with Mrs. Worley and the three Worley children. Phebe and Geraldine came down from Kuliang Thursday Sept. 17th- Flora got in a few days previous. P. and G. came down to get the house cleaned for mama.

Don't we feel old- to have children large enough to intrust the cleaning of a whole house to? I was here Fri. and got them nicely started and Flora was here with them too. Sat. Sept. 19th I went back to the Mt. Monday Sept 21. Gould went fr. Kuliang down to the river and met the rest of the house boat party- the girls starting from Foochow. The children went in swimming every day- and I judge had a genuinely good time.

On Tuesday Sept. 22nd Ellen, Dorothy, Marjorie, Kathleen and I came to Foochow. The weather the week before had been very hot in Foochow but that day was cool and cloudy, so we had a very comfortable trip. We left the Kuliang house at 2:30 p.m. and at 7 p.m. we were eating supper in Foochow with the same dishes as we had used on Kuliang at dinner. Kathleen was a bit tired or at least did not settle down for the night till after 9 p.m. but then she slept perfectly all night. Marjorie feels the heat some- prickly heat has appeared on her head, but today is cooler. School begins day after tomorrow.

I plan to take the steamer tomorrow evening for Amoy to look over the ground and see what I can do in the name of the Y.M.C.A. for the M.S. fleet. I must spend only two or three days there now, then go to Nanking to attend a Bible Study Institute – then back to Amoy to be with the fleet. A telegram came yesterday. It read “Nanking, Beard, Foochow. Insfufu, convening wire arrival.” I knew from whom it came and I knew the general meaning. But Ellen and I took the first word to be a code word- but I could not find it in any of the code books. Then I took it over to McLachlin's and we all looked for it in the Western Union and in the China Inland Mission Code books- but to no avail. At last Miss Bosworth who was calling at Mrs. McLachlin's suggested that if we changed the f's to t's the word read Institute and it was a plain English telegram.

Ellen is very well- so are we all. I got very tired during the Student Conference Sept 5-13, and then took a cold and it has been very difficult to hold up in the work but the last week I have felt much better.

I think of you all as scattered again. We are glad to hear that Bessie Palmer is to be near Mary this year. Stanley seems to be getting indispensable in the Antitoxine [*Antitussive- see note at end of letter*] Establishment. I judge from what little I hear that the B.N. Beard Co. have all the business they can carry.

Two of the teachers for the Chinese Government schools, who were engaged thru me have arrived and are at work. Last week a telegram announced that a third teacher was found and is on the way. A fourth is ordered- to come next Feb.

I must close now and say good night

With Love from all

Will.

[According to A Genealogy of the Descendents of Widow Martha Beard, by Ruth Beard (Willard and Stanley's sister), published 1915, Stanley Beard was a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, 1907. Since that time he has been connected with the Lederle Antitoxin Laboratories of New York. He is now (1915) director of their laboratories in Pearl River, NY. In a Y.M.C.A. World Service Fellowship Questionnaire dated April 10th, 1939, Willard Beard stated his special interest or hobby as raising 47 rabbits for Lederle Laboratories. They have 18,000 and use the blood to make serum for #3 pneumonia. The serum is 98% effective.]



Ellen, Marjorie and baby Kathleen about September or October of 1908.
 [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **Oct. 24, 1908** was written from Amoy, China by Willard to wife, Ellen. He describes to her all of the preparation he is doing to set up a Y.M.C.A. tent in preparation of the fleet coming in. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Amoy, Oct 24th 1908

My dearest Ellen:-

After a "kind's" rough voyage we reached Amoy yesterday a.m. We took b-fast on board and went to see Dr. Mark. Then to the recreation grounds. Then back to Dr. Marks and received his \$1000. check. Then to the S.S. office- China merchants and received \$20- refund on my return ticket to and fr. Shanghai. Then to steamer to find that she did not leave till 4 p.m. Then to Mrs. Beattie's to lunch-wasn't that a half day's work?

In the p.m. we went first to the steamer and I let Roy take the baggage to Mrs. Beatties while I went to the H. and S. Bank and opened an account. Then to see the Postal Commissioner re putting a branch office into the Y.M.C.A. tent. This he is anxious to do. The H. and S. Bank are ready also to exchange the money. All the afternoon we were on the grounds. Most of the tents are up again- all but one was blown down. The wooden building for the officers escaped. The electric dinamoses [*dynamos*] were under salt water and have to be cleaned. All the cutlery was wet and several tens of men were rubbing up the knives yesterday. Ding Baik Cieng and four friends came down with me. Today the Viceroy is expected, and the Prince will be here in a day or two. Twenty

ponies and carriages came yesterday, and a part of the 100 rickshas. A steamer is expected soon with 200 sheep, fifty calves- steers- poultry, etc., etc. Sounds like a barbecue: stones are lying round by the dozen, nice cooking stones- the soda fountain is here. I am engaging 50000 souvenir postals, 10,000 plants are on the grounds- a lot of the dwarfed trees- grand old things. The collection is worth they say 50,000 taels. \$75.00 dollars- lots of other things too numerous to mention now. These are the chief- of those which impressed me most.

I am enclosing a check for \$800. You will need to endorse it before sending it to the Bank.

We shall spend Sunday with Mrs. Beatties and as soon as the tent is up plan to establish ourselves in it. I judge there will be work enough for all of us.

With lots of love to you all.

Will.

If you think best- you might sent this to Putnam to be forwarded to Shelton, - send to Mary first. It will give them all a view of what is going on here and I may not have a chance to write to all.

W.

[This letter dated Oct. 27, 1908 was written from Amoy, China by Willard to Ellen. He tells her more about the preparations for the fleet's arrival that week. A typhoon delayed some of the preparations. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Amoy Oct 27- 08.

My dearest Ellen:-

Yesterday a letter came from you and I rejoiced to learn that all were well. Today another letter came- the one that was intended to reach me in Shanghai.

Things are gradually assuming shape. Each day a little is done. The typhoon delayed things of course and set every line of preparation back very much. They put up our tent Sunday and yesterday. This p.m. all the furniture that I bought in Foochow was put into the tent. Yesterday I spent the whole day in getting the things thru the customs etc.

Today I have secured Mr. Rankin to take entire charge of the soda fountain, and 20 of his Anglo Chinese students to take charge of the selling of 70,000 souvenir postals. 20 more to distribute to each man each day 5 cigars and 20 cigarettes. 10 to help at the soda fountain and 10 to help at the writing materials. This makes 60 in all. The P.O. is very glad to get into our tent, and they are sending a fine young man named Ross with 4 Chinese assistants to take charge. I had a talk with Mr. Wallace of the H. and S. Bank about exchanging money. At first he was rather inclined to be haughty and lofty- but he came down after a while and this department is all fixed. I believe all arrangements are now made, - unless I can get the caterer to put up an afternoon tea. This of course is not essential.

The fleet is expected Thurs. afternoon. The men will come on the ground Friday. (Pen run dry-house asleep-so must use pencil.) Then work begins. I have thus far gotten someone to take charge of each department so I shall be free to help anywhere. Roy and I have taken a lunch on the grounds- Sat and Monday. Today we were here at Mrs. Beatties. Tomorrow I promise to lead the Wed. prayer meeting. Thurs. a.m. we plan to move up into our tent. The arrangement is like this on the enclosed sheets.

I must stop now to go to bed.

Kiss the children for papa Your Will

Wed. a.m. 6:45.

It was very very welcome news to hear that you were all well when the last letter was written. I am praying continually that you may be spared- yes it does seem that if the children have to be ill they select the times when I am away.

Geraldine's letter in the one that came to me yesterday was very interesting. I learned from it more about the children's riding the pony than I heard while I was home for two days.- I am glad to hear that Ewer has come- Comm??? Sch. teacher. I hope he will be able to make satisfactory arrangements as to board etc. I will try to put a note in this for him.

Very lovingly
Will

Tell the children to write. Love to Flora

[According to the American Fleet Souvenir by Rev. Philip Wilson Pitcher. M.A. of the American Reformed Church Mission:

The coming of the American Fleet to these waters, and entering the harbor of Amoy is to be an entirely different affair from that of the fleet that came in 1841.

The armada, composed of sixteen battleships, and more than a dozen auxiliaries, which left Hampton Roads, U.S.A., December 1907, making its triumphal cruise from sea to sea thro the Straits of Magellan and on up to San Francisco, then across the broad Pacific to Japan, China, Manila and other places, and finally visiting European waters on its return voyage has a far different mission to perform- a mission of peace which evokes the admiration and applause of the whole world.

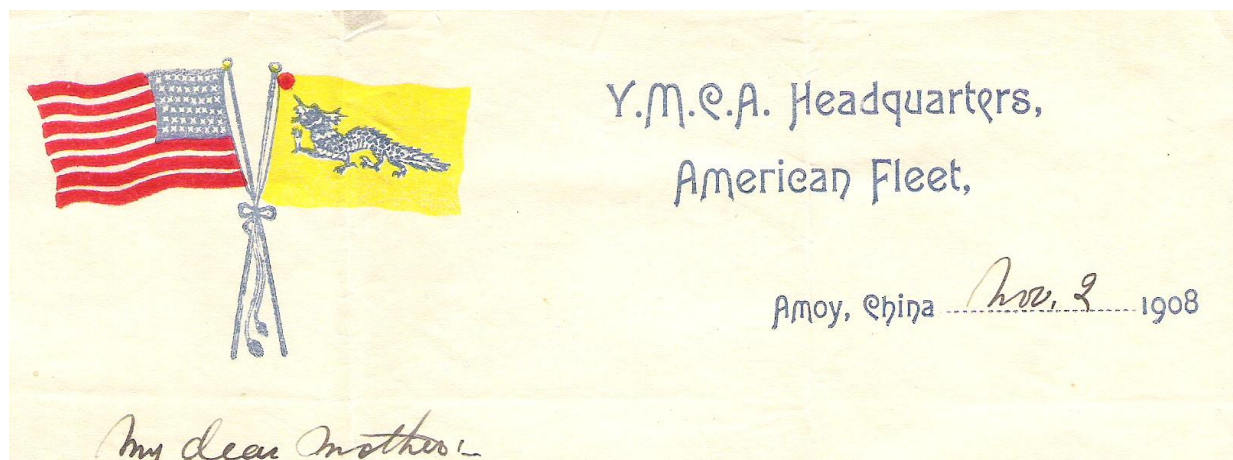
Amoy is honored as the place where a part of this fleet is to be entertained by the Chinese government. Thus again another distinction has been added to its already long list of notable events by the coming of this fleet of vessels on their peaceful mission.

The following vessels, forming the third and fourth divisions of the fleet are expected to arrive here on Oct. 29th, 1908. Louisiana, Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Kersage.

Each vessel carried from six hundred to eight hundred men. In additions to these battleships there will probably be accompanying them an auxiliary fleet of several vessels.

From another souvenir program are menus offered to the officers and crews throughout the week. They include: Bird's Nest Soup, Shark's Fins and Crab Roe, Roast Duck, Boiled Ham and Chicken Chop Sui, Mutton Cutlets and Mashed Potatoes, Roast Pheasant, Supreme of Capon, Potage Tortue Verte, Fruits, Cheese, Cakes, and Tea.

Both programs are from the collection of Virginia Van Andel. The program by the Rev. Philip Wilson Pitcher includes many photos and information about the Amoy area. The second program also has photos, but primarily lists the schedule of sports events for the week.]



[This letter dated Nov. 2, 1908 was written from Amoy, China by Willard to his mother. He tells her eight ships of the American Squadron arrived and of the activities in the Y.M.C.A. tent. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Y.M.C.A. Headquarters,
American Fleet,

Amoy, China Nov. 2 1908

My dear Mother:-

Eight ships of the American Squadron arrived here last Friday morning. The Chinese Commissioner in charge of the arrangements asked me to use one of the eleven large tents erected for entertaining the 7000 men of the fleet and asked me also to use \$2000 or more in furnishing it. I wish you could just look in on us. The tent is crowded all day. As soon as the men came ashore in the morning they steer straight for the Y.M.C.A. tent. Our

post office sells only \$600 of stamps a day. The first day about \$5000 of money was changed by our schroff [?]. In three days we have sold some 30000 souvenir post cards. Yesterday we held services on board four of the ships. About 300 attended. In the afternoon we held a song service in the Y.M.C.A. tent with the men sitting and standing in every available square foot of shade. It does me good to see these boys- many of them young ones writing to Mother and Father and brother, and sisters. It will do them good too. The Amoy people are doing all in their power to help and use the Y.M.C.A. as the medium thru which they work. It is a thrilling sight to see this motion, which is professedly non Christian asking the help of a Christian organization in this entertaining and giving absolutely free hand to use our own materials and spend money as we choose. We have the full confidence of the Commissioner of Arrangements. It also thrills me to hear the Amoy people say continually, "The Y.M.C.A. tent is by far the best patronized and the most useful place of the whole scheme. "This is true."

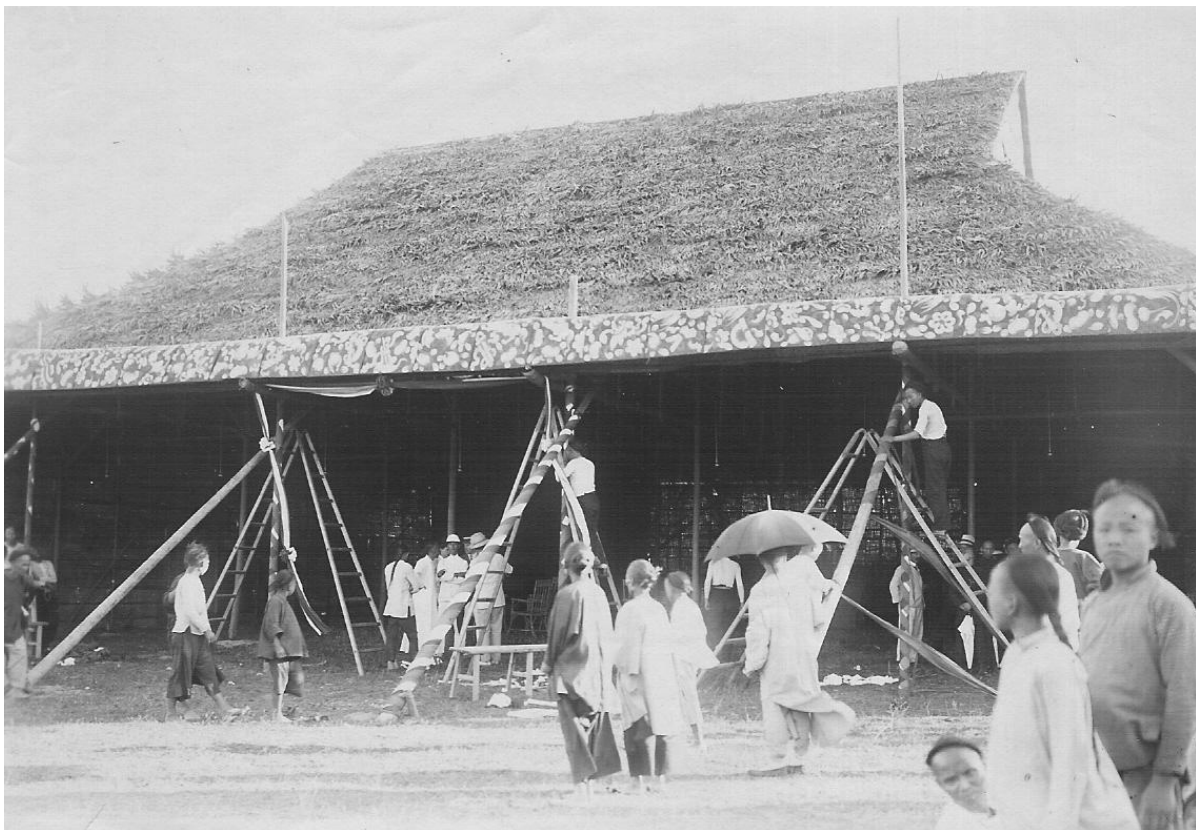
Sat evening I was invited by the Chinese officials to the dinner given by them to Admiral and officers of the fleet and the other dignitaries. The Prince met me at the door and shook hands as cordially and chatted as pleasantly as did President Roosevelt when he received visitors at the White House.

Very Sincerely Yours

Will.

This letter I wrote and asked my teacher who has studied English since last fall to copy it. Ellen's last letter said all were well. This is Tues. a.m. The Y.M.C.A. tent is packed as usual and the boys are reading, chatting, and all the tables are full of men writing.

Lovingly Will

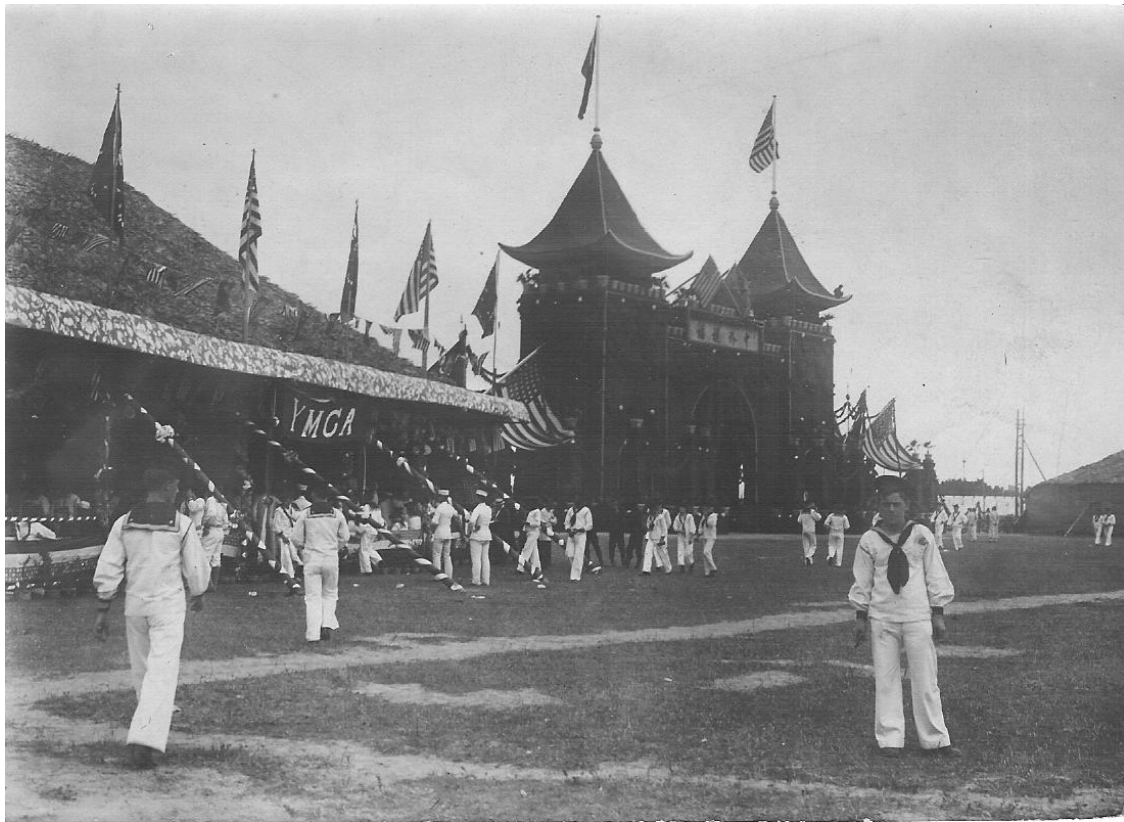


Preparing the tents for the Amoy reception of the United States Battleship Fleet Late Oct/Early Nov. 1908

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Welcome gate for the Amoy reception of the United States Battleship Fleet 1908
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



The YMCA tent with thatched roof at the Amoy Reception of the United States Battleship Fleet 1908
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



More tents.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



This program contains the schedule of sports from Friday October 30 through Tuesday, November 3, 1908. It also contains the menus for officers and enlisted fleet members.

[From the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Nov. 4, 1908 was written by Willard to wife, Ellen. He tells her about a fire in the Y.M.C.A. tent in Amoy. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Amoy, Nov. 4- 1908

My dearest Ellen:-

Last night at 11 p.m. just as I had taken off I wound my watch preparatory to retiring in the Y.M.C.A. tent I noticed a stir near the front of the tent outside and stepped out of my room to see about 5 ft. square of the mat roofing on fire. I ran out immediately and saw that nothing could be done to save the tent, so Roy and I at once carried out all our personal effects. Then I with three soldiers carried out the piano. Most of the bamboo chairs and tables were at once taken out. All the furniture was gotten out of the whole tent. But the electric lights were soon put out by the fire and the soldiers stole post cards, paper cigars with alacrity. Mr. Rankin lost a camera. It was 1:15 this a.m. when we had put our effects into the hands of Major Soon Chi near whom I had sat that evening at dinner and we started for Mrs. Beattie's house in a sampan.

The fire started from fireworks that had been set off on an adjacent hill. I remained outside the tent till I thought all was over and every thing safe. If it had to be it came at the most opportune moment, ten minutes more and we would have been had, and would have had hard work to save much. I had just that afternoon late given all my money to the Banker and all other valuables had been taken out of my room, for three or days and nights many valuable things had been left there. But Mr. Rankin's camera was all that I could learn of that was lost of value.

No one was hurt and as I have thought it all over God has most wonderfully led in all our movements. He will lead still. B-fast bell at 7:25 is ringing.

Lovingly Will.

[This letter dated Dec. 20, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by Flora to the folks at home. She tells about a Thanksgiving party she attended at the Consulate where everyone dressed in old fashioned costumes. For Christmas they will dine with the Methodist Mission. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Y.M.C.A. Headquarters,
American Fleet,

Foochow China Dec. 20, 1908

Dear folks at home:-

Enclosed are some pictures of myself which I intended to reach these people for Xmas but these slow Chinese prevented. Will you please give one to each of the people on the list enclosed? I have as many more of myself taken on my veranda which I will send later, when I get some envelopes big enough for them. I'd like you to keep this list so as to give the others out to them when I send them.



This may be one of the photos on the veranda that Flora is referring to.
 [Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

We had a most happy Thanksgiving at the Consulate- sixty-five plates laid and we were a merry company. Four of us went dressed in old fashioned costumes and were the choir for the old fashioned songs which we sung later in the evening. I resurrected Aunt Elizabeth's [possibly Margaret Elizabeth Beard, 2nd wife of James Henry Beard.] old pink chambray and matched it exactly with pink silk, and made it up so that with an old fashioned lace collar of Mrs. Gracey's and some old jewelry with my hair powdered I looked quite like 'ye old fashioned dame.' We sewed some bamboos into our petticoats and had hoops. Mrs. Gracey lent us some elegant old shawls and we made poke bonnets out of my Tamsui hats, which were most fetching. Mrs. McLachlin trimmed hers with real red chrysanthemums-those big blossoms that are buff on the other side of the petals. She was a beauty all in red with two of her husbands red neckties for trimming and strings. We dressed up the two men in some of Mrs. Gracey's real lace and corn-starched their hair and we had a good time. - Now, it is Xmas week. We have but the one day vacation for we are to have three weeks at Chinese New Years. We all go to dine with the Methodists, who always have a big dinner on that day. They simply let all their cooks meet and decide on the amount they can get the dinner up for. It usually amounts to less than the expense of an extra dinner at home- and we have the pleasure of each others company. The children always have a tree afterwards and they fare much better than they would at home, for every one thinks of them first out here.-Last week Grandma Hartwell died. She fell some weeks ago and broke her leg. It was mending nicely but she gradually grew weaker and lost her mind, so that it was a blessed release. - Our trip to Shaowu is off. Mrs. Newell had to have an operation and the doctors thought she ought not to attempt quite so much of a trip until she was stronger. So I am going for a trip off in an opposite direction for about two weeks and then Mrs. Newell is going to have a house party on the mountain in their cottage. - I have not yet heard from either of the ladies about one of them coming to take my place next year. I certainly hope one of them will come, for if one doesn't I shall feel as if I ought to stay. This next term I shall have three more boys and in March a little girl is coming- possible two little girls, so it will pay some one to come. There may be a scattering of the group next year for the Hubbards and Gardners are going home for their furloughs in the middle of the year, but there are more coming on in the lower grades to take their places. I am going ahead in my preparations for coming home until I find out reasons for stopping. I shall hear now within a month, and will write you as soon as I can afterwards.

Tell Lucy I got her letter and will get the waists in time. Don't Vinnie and Anna want some, too? Ask them for while I am ordering them I might as well get them all. Last week I bought 64 yds. of silk and shall buy as much more this next week. By getting such quantities I get it very much cheaper. Nearly all of this was spoken for

before I bought it. I am getting a pongee travelling dress, which will be the cheapest one I ever got and will probably be the handsomest.

With love to all-

Flora.

Dec. 20, 1908.

Tell Cousin Carrie I am looking about for her dress and will probably mail it to her, as I shall have so many things of my own that I shall not want to bring many other things in through the customs. F.B.



Flora's class about 1908. Flora is the woman in the back row. Gould is seated at the far left. Geraldine is seated and 2 down from Gould. Phebe is the only girl seated in the back row. Dorothy is seated on the ground to the far right.
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

[This brief typewritten note dated **Dec. 21, 1908** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He is sending some sort of key to her in the mail. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow Young Men's Christian Association

Foochow Dec. 21st. 1908

Dear Mother:-

By the last steamer I sent to you a lot of pictures. In this cover I enclose a key. I trust they will get to you safely. I wanted to register them but was too late that day as it was they day of the races here, so I took the risk.

There are two people waiting for me and the mail closes in a short time so I must make this letter very short. We are all well. Next Friday is Christmas and we are planning to eat dinner with the Methodist mission.

The last mail brought the Christmas cards from Ruth to us all.

Very Lovingly Your Son

Will.

[This typewritten letter dated Dec. 26, 1908 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his sister, Phebe. He describes to her some items such as winter underclothing that he would like her to purchase and send him. He described their Christmas and some of the presents. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Y.M.C.A. Headquarters,
American Fleet,

Foochow

Dec. 26th. 1908

My dear Phebe:-

A day or two ago I read one of your letters to Flora in which you write that you wish she would ask you to buy something for her. To help her out I am sending a little job for you. I hope it will not prove too arduous and I hope it will sort of make up for Flora's shortcoming in this line.

First I want 3 union suits for myself. Cotton, ribbed, summer weight, I cannot give you the number of these but my bust measure is 38 in. and my leg 31 in. My impression is that when I bought last I got size 38.

Then I want two more same size only heavy winter ones. I do not want the heaviest but something heavy enough to keep me warm. These also of cotton and ribbed. I would like all to button all down the front. I am not particular about color. When I was at home I bought some at Jordan & Marshes' in Boston. Perhaps you were with me. These are what I am still wearing and they have been very satisfactory.

I will enclose a check for \$5.00 on the National Bank of Putnam. Please ask the firm of whom you purchase to mail them to me as follows. Wrap strongly in two bundles. (Address, Mr. Chas. L. Boynton, 120 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, China. For W.L. Beard.) You know the postage to Shanghai is the same as in the U.S. Need not register. Of course you can post them yourself if you prefer.

Yesterday was a perfect Christmas day here. The sun shone brightly all day and it was cool enough so we could wear our winter clothes but not cold enough for much fire. We took dinner with the Methodist mission. Four turkeys did us. I carved one of them. We all went and all but Kathleen sat at the table. Some of the things you sent reached us on Christmas Eve. Flora says more will come. "The Efficient Life" arrived. I thank you very much for it. Mr. Mott sent it to us one year ago and I have read it once and now am reading it again to the family. The copy you sent came just as I was getting presents off for some of our Chinese friends. So I undid the book I was sending to Mr. Ding Ming Uong and put in the copy you sent me saying it came from us and the Family at the Century Farm. I think Marjorie had a tea set. She has already served tea several times. I have had a nice LITTLE drink of her tea (milk) twice. But her doll is what takes most of her attention. Last night we did not know if she would stop rocking it long enough to go to bed. And she did take it [to] bed with her and sang to it until the light went out when the little mother forgot her doll and herself and was wrapped in the arms of Morpheus. Kathleen is just learning to grasp a rattle and flourish it to the danger of her features. When she hits her self good and hard she stops and looks with the biggest of wonder written all over her face.

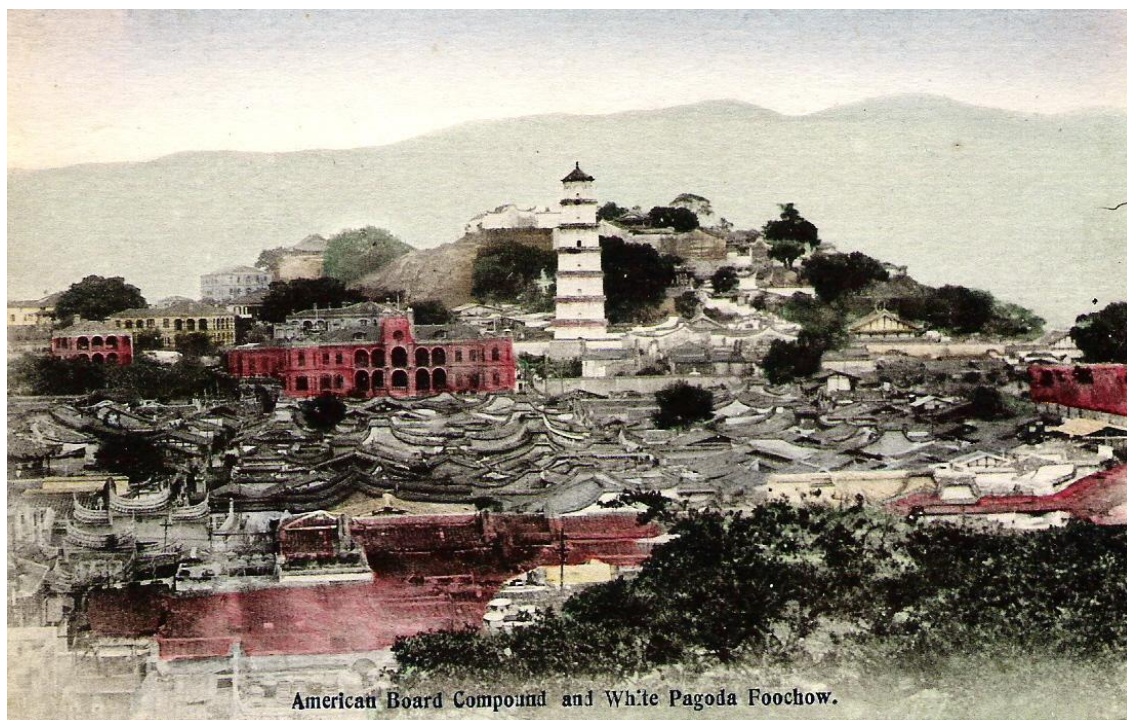
We have all been just as well as could be all the fall. The children grow like weeds. Ellen says she will have to let down Phebe's dress that was made only a few months ago. I got a tailor made suite for Gould for Christmas- the first one he has had. We gave the children a see-saw for Christmas. They have given it a rest only when they have been out of the compound. It is a good strong one that will hold the whole family. Ellen and Flora are talking of trying it, I want to see them.

I had a great time at Amoy with the Fleet as you have doubtless decided e're this. But the work drags on now. I have not yet got all the accounts settled.

Mr. Ding Ming Uong will be associated with the Y.M.C.A. next year. And we will plan to open the work inside the city walls.

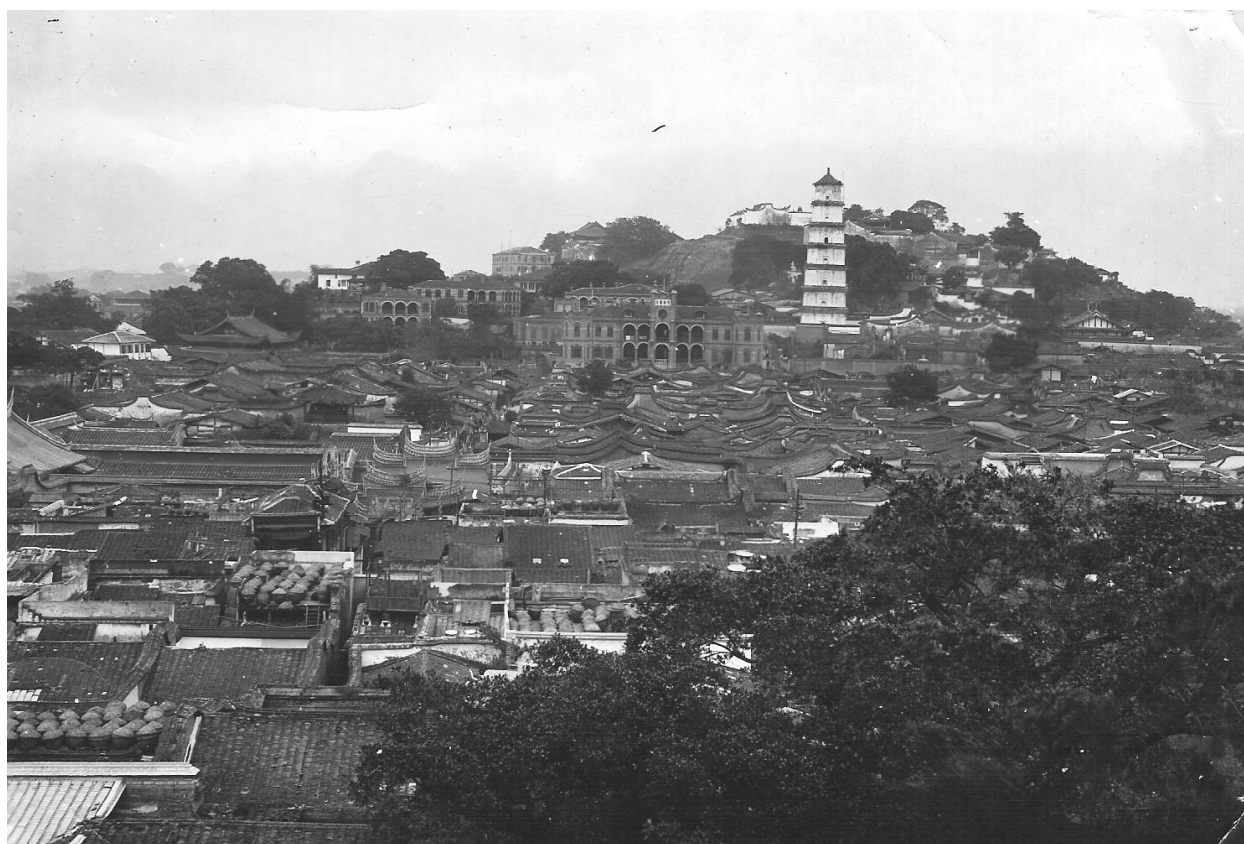
With lots of love to you from all

Will



American Board Compound and White Pagoda Foochow.

American Board Compound and White Pagoda Foochow. *[Photo postcard from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]*



Clearer and wider photo of the same. *[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]*