

1913

- Suffragettes march on Washington DC
- Willard's house in Foochow now has electric lights.
- Ellen and the children remain in the U.S. and live in Putnam, CT
- Ellen's father, Myron Kinney, dies (obituary unreadable)
- Willard is 48, Ellen- 45, Phebe- 18, Gould- 17, Geraldine- 15, Dorothy- 12, Marjorie- 7, Kathleen- 5.

*[This letter dated **March 2, 1913** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his daughters, Phebe and Geraldine. He updates them on some of their friends in China. His college has opened and they have so many students enrolled that they have had to turn some away. Letter donated to Yale in 2006 by Cynthia Elmer Amend.]*

Foochow, China,
March 2nd 1913

Dear Phebe and Geraldine:-

A letter from each of you is in my till unanswered so here goes. Phebe's letter all about the cooking teacher and the Ancient History teacher and Mr. Sargent's present and the Christmas exercises, with Kathleen's piece written out for me in full and the night-gown piece and the presents, and the Christmas exercises at home, with the promise of "surprising news about my connection with the C.E." "in another letter," and questionnaire- was exceedingly interesting. Now for my examination: 1. Yes the Hodous and Kinnear children have grown just as fast as the Beard children. Rachel is a very pretty attractive girl. I have lots of fun with her- telling her she is my girl. She at first refused to admit it, and when I did nothing she said "Well if I am your girl why don't you come and get me?" Girl like- wasn't it? So I pleased her by running after her. I have not been able to find out how Artyn liked his post cards. I asked Artyn but he did not know. Both boys spent one night last week at Mrs. Hodous'.

Geraldine's letter of Jan. 16 came in last mail with a letter from mama. Geraldine tells also of Christmas presents. You must be pretty well stocked up. Her skating account was great. She says it was "rather" funny to see them scramble out. I shall think you would have doubled up with laughing as they were in no danger. I am glad to hear of you and Phebe and Gould being in basket ball. It's good fun and exercise. The Foochow College boys won the banner in basket ball from all the Colleges represented at the Student Conference week before last. I am pleased to see the place you all are occupying in High School and S. School and C.E. Keep humble and God will give you all the work to do that you can do well. But do not take too much in the way of offices- so as to impair your success in your studies. Because for you children your studies in school are your first duty. Take other work as a means to help you put in practice what your studying gives of theory. But make it secondary.

This last week has been a very busy one for me as well as the week before. College opened Wed. We received 177 that day and \$2050. + \$222.20= \$2272.20. Others came in Thurs., Fri. and Sat. so we now have about 245, and have received in tuition etc. \$3100+. All in silver. The safe cannot hold it all, and several old students are not back. I have turned away several boys for lack of room, so in this respect the College is successful and has entirely recovered from the trouble of Dec. 1911. Now you must all continually ask God to use me to unite the faculty and lead each member to think more of the success of the College than of his own personal success or advancement.

The weather since I have been in Foochow has been beautiful. No long storms and most of the time pleasant. Last night I washed out another union suit. It is as soft and nice as I can desire. I am to take Mrs. Peet's old cook Gang Bong and I shall have some one to help me then.

I must stop now and go to bed to get rest for tomorrows work. How I long to see you all. I can trust you all to do the right and I tell God all of a fond father's fondest hopes for his dear children so far away, every morning and evening and sometimes at other times. He has been very good to us all our lives and this makes it all the more incumbent on all of us to be good to each other and to others. I pray Him to make you a power for righteousness in Putnam. With a Loving Father's love to both of you, to you all and Dorothy and Marjorie and Kathleen.

Willard L. Beard.

*[This letter dated **March 17, 1913** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his 5 year old daughter, Kathleen. Willard is making changes in the layout of the compound. Mrs. Storrs and Miss Margaret Weed are expected in Foochow soon. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

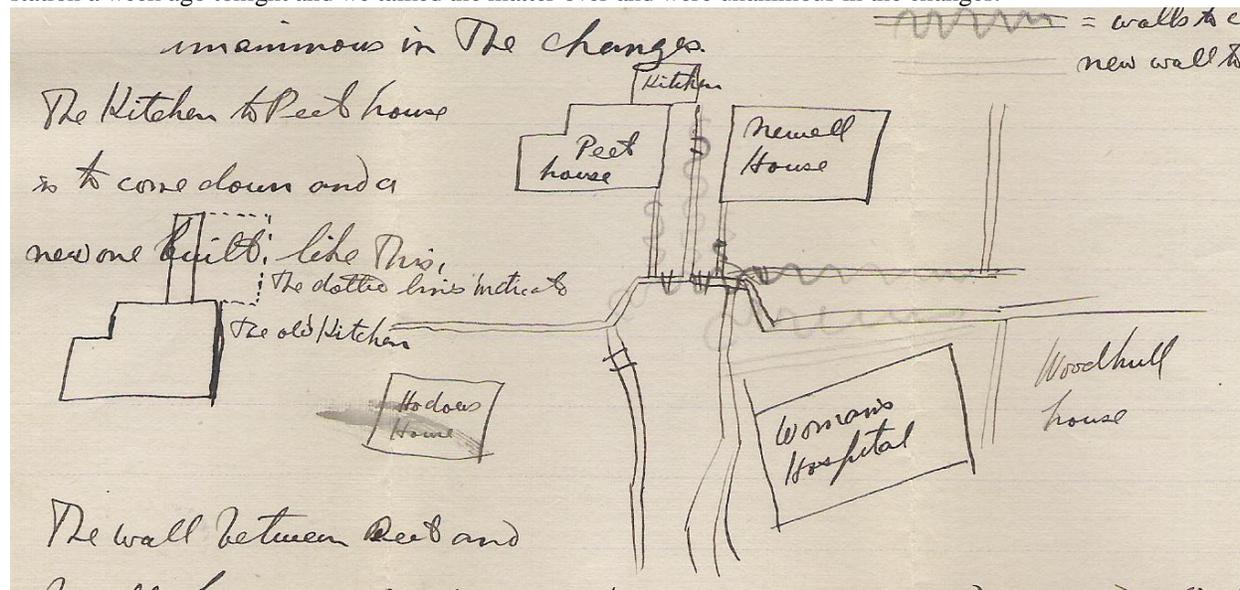
Foochow, China
March 17th 1913

Dear Kathleen:-

All the letters that I have received up to date I have answered so I am going to address this to you. I think after you have read it yourself you will be willing the other's see it.

I have a real nice little baby here to play with and she likes me too. Her name is Frances Beach. She is about nine months old and is a very dignified little girl. She smiles very sweetly to me.

We are making great changes in the city compound. I'll try to draw a picture of the compound as you and the others may remember it indicating the changes we are making. I called a meeting of all the members of the station a week ago tonight and we talked the matter over and were unanimous in the changes.



The wall between Peet and Newell house is all down and every one is glad. The air and light can now come in and there is a pleasant aspect as one approaches.

Last week passed rather uneventfully. I worked each day and night every moment I could spare from regular duties on the receipt of the College for entrance fees etc to get them so they could be audited. This was finally accomplished. We received about \$400 in all. This makes it possible to do some very much needed repairs and to purchase some new furniture that is greatly needed.

Mr. Storrs is expected in about two weeks and on the same steamer is expected Miss Margaret Weed who is to marry Dr. Gillett.

The rainy season I guess has started. It is raining every day now, and the rain is very wet.

I am enclosing a photograph of the Foochow College Quartet that furnished music for the Student Winter Conference, and under another cover I am sending a photo of the whole Foochow College delegation to this Conference.

When shall I receive another letter from you Kathleen? That one that you wrote on brother's knee with him holding your hand was one of the best letters I have received since returning to Foochow.

How are the hens getting on? I wish I had a taste of those young roosters and some of Mama's biscuit. I wish also that I could get my lap and arms full of babies- all Mama's and mine. Wouldn't you six, Phebe and Gould and Geraldine and Dorothy and Marjorie and Kathleen make a lap full now. Your own loving lonely Father

Willard L. Beard

[This letter dated **March 30, 1913** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his children. He mentions the Eddy meetings (Sherwood Eddy- Eddy Evangelistic Campaign) and talking to 88 boys who wanted to become Christians. Letter in the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson.]

Foochow, China, March 30th 1913

Dear Marjorie and Kathleen and Dorothy and Geraldine and Gould and Phebe:-

No letter has come from you since last Sunday so I have none to answer. The event that eclipses all others in the Am. Board mission during the past week is the arrival yesterday morning at about 6 o'clock of Miss Margaret Weed to be the wife of Dr. Charles Gillett. Dr. Gillett went down on the Chi. Merchants launch Friday afternoon to meet Miss Weed. Mr. Hubbard went with him. The steamer anchored about 5:30 p.m. but the launch was delayed in starting so long that they lost the tide and she stuck on a sand bar and Dr. Gillett, Miss Weed, Mr. Storrs and Mr. Hubbard had to spend the night. Fortunately Miss Weed had bought in Shanghai a rattan settee and two chairs so

they had something to sit in. Miss Weed is large like mama and Dr. Gillett thinks she is nice, - so do the rest of us. I have told mama about the Eddy meetings. This morning I asked the 88 boys who said they wanted to be Christians last Fri. evening to meet with me for half an hour. They all came and they seem to be in earnest. I think of you all as praying for me now altho you do not know the peculiar condition that needs your prayer just now. It gives me great help just the same to think of a dear loving mama and six dear children all praying that God will help me every day. And that was a beautiful prayer of the littlest one that God would bless Papa and "make him a good man."

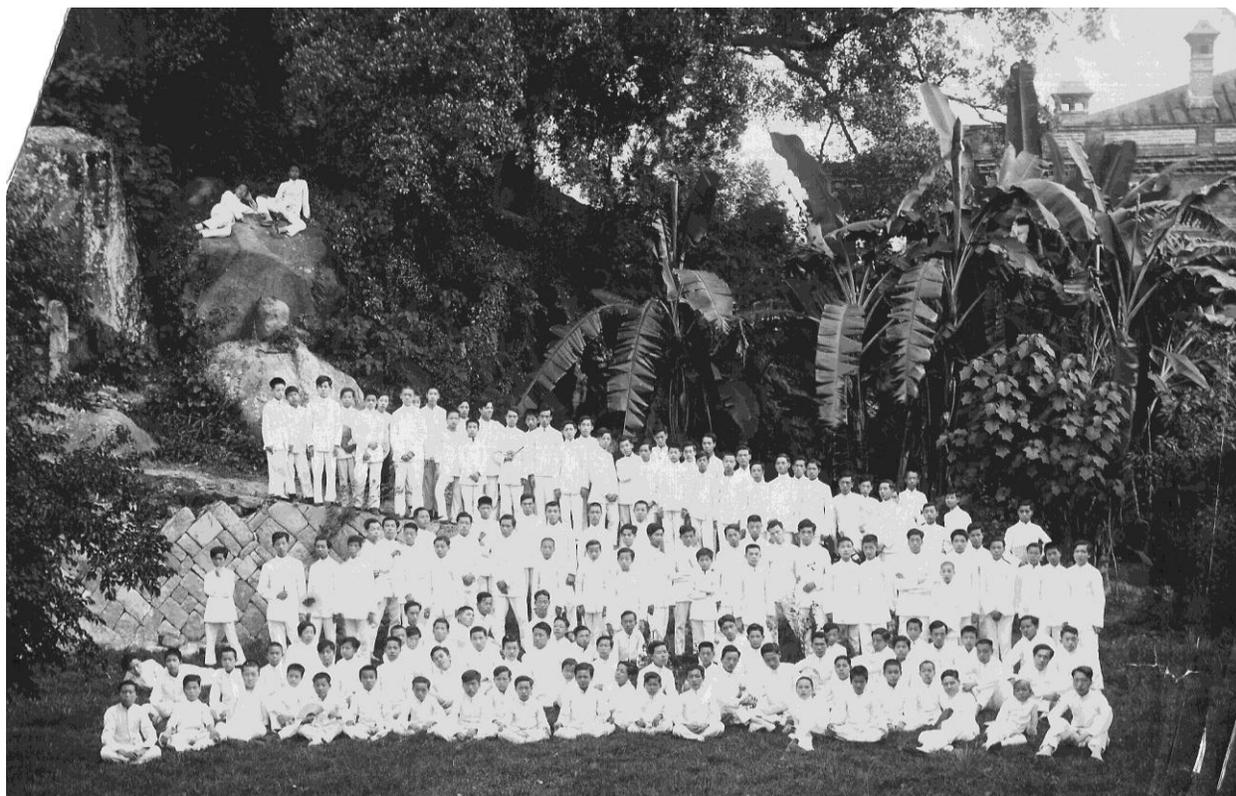
Yesterday I attended the first graduating exercises of the Blind School under Mrs. Wilkinson's care. They were of an unusually high quality. One boy spoke in almost perfect English - an address briefly sketching the work of the school. He also sang "Must I Go and Empty Handed" very sweetly. A Quartet sang "Holy, Holy, Holy" in Chinese very well indeed. Two boys play the cornet, two the violin, and they sang as a chorus a Hallelujah song well. These are only some of the principal features.

Last Monday Geu Cio Dong was packed for the Praise Service. I wrote you that I feared lest the flood would interfere. But there was no water in the streets and the day was lovely. The weather has been delightful all the week. The people on the street near the Club where the Eddy - Robertson meetings were held said that the Christian's God certainly had power and that he certainly loved them for it had rained up to the day the meetings were and had been pleasant all the time during the meetings.

I preach the ordination sermon at Ling Caik Ua's ordination tomorrow and lead the monthly Concert of Prayer Wed. so I must close now and rest. I hope that some "very tender" feeling and bearing toward each other continues that you wrote about just after I left last fall - May our Father bless and keep each of you in your loving fathers prayer.

Willard L. Beard

I had a nice letter from Ann this week.



Written on back of photo: "Group of students June 1913"
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated July 5, 1913 was written from Ngu Cheng by Willard to his 18 year old daughter, Phebe. Willard is in Ngu Cheng and staying with the Bissonnette's. He is there to conduct a conference and give talks. He was able to see the process of making salt while there. Willard encourages Phebe to write Oberlin College for a catalog. He tells her of the changes on Kuliang and who is living there. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Ngu Cheng, Foochow
July 5th 1913.

Dear Phebe:-

And as usual this means all the rest at Putnam and it also includes Gould who I suppose has been at Shelton several days already. I'm having a very quiet restful time here. At 8 a.m. I talk for half an hour on the importance of the body and the care of the body. At 10:30 I conduct the Conference in their study of Ephesians and at 7:30 I attend and help in a meeting that is considering difficult questions in the Bible. I find it a great relief not to have callers coming in at any time with all sorts of questions. This is what makes it so restful here. The weather is very comfortable. I can wear a collar and a coat with comfort. I'd like to get into the sea for a swim but at the right time= 5 or 6 p.m. The water is low and we could not walk out over the flats far enough to get the water and at noon the sun is too fierce to think of it.

Only ten minutes from Mr. Bissonnette's where I am staying the men are making salt. I went to see them the other afternoon- most interesting. Every pleasant day two men will make about 150 lbs. As I look out over the grounds they look like the salt meadows near Long Island sound. A portion of this about 50 by 100 feet is cleared of all grass. The surface is pulverized with an instrument like a small harrow. This surface is then shoveled up and a mound of earth made about 5 feet high and 10 feet in diameter at the top. This mound is hollowed out and a stone bottom put into the hollow and cemented so it is water tight with a bamboo tube leading from the lowest point into a well at the side which is about 5 ft. deep and 3 ½ feet in diameter and also water tight. The 50 X 100 foot plot is low enough so the salt water floods it at high tide. The earth is thus saturated with salt. This is carried and emptied into the hollow top of the mound, - dry earth. Then from ponds of salt water near the men carry water and pour into or onto this dry earth which already contains salt, so the earth is doubly saturated with salt water. The water filters thru the earth which is about 3 ½ ft. deep, runs into and thru the bamboo tube and thence into the little well. It is then dipped up and poured with the evaporating vats near by. These are about 6 X 10 feet with floors that look like mosaic work. They are made of broken tile and bowls set in mortar- and are only three inches deep. The water evaporates and the salt crystals are left. This salt is perfectly white and clean only in crystals about the size of these and 1/32 of an inch thick and they are very salt, all the savor is there.

Your last letter and Geraldine's were very interesting. Specially did I enjoy the copies you sent of your school reports and of yours and Kathleen's accounts. If you were to become a business man- to succeed Mellen as President of the N. Y. N. H and H. R. R. I should look with some concern at the unaccounted for balances in some of the accounts but I suppose girls are given some latitude in this and it is well that all of us do not have the same strong points. I have found it very difficult to make my private accounts balance this year. I do want to see the reports of Gould's and Dorothy's and Marjorie's school work.

I wonder if you have written Oberlin for their catalog. You would do well to write at once. There are different courses. You will want to decide on which course you will take. Then I hope you can arrange not to take all the examinations for entrance at once. It is a needlessly hard strain. And I think you can take part at the close of your junior year. That will be one year from now. It may be Oberlin will accept Putnam's grades or they may make some arrangements for you to take the exams without going to Oberlin. But if they do not, I should favor your going out next June to take the preliminary exams. It will cost \$50. But I will see that you have the money if you so decide.

Sunday Evening July 13-

Coming home from Ngu Cheng this letter had gotten sidetracked and I had hard work to get the other into the mail with Mama's and a brief note to Gould. One evening this week Thurs. your other letter came with Marjorie's. I also had the pleasure of seeing dear Mama's hand writing on the envelope that contained Marjorie's letter.

That day, Tuesday, at Tai Bing Ga was filled more than full of many duties and I had to turn the last men away. Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear with Morris and Gerald came up - the boys came that evening with me and Dr. and Mrs. Wed. a.m. We had a fuss with coolies as the boys started so we were pretty late- a little over half way across the plain a heavy shower struck us- The boys walked all the way - got drenched- but as they kept walking it did not hurt them.

We are not yet settled in our house- That is two ladies are expected from Canton in a day or two to take what used to be our dining room. Dr. and Mrs. K. have been here till last night. They are with Miss Perkins [Elizabeth S.] over Sunday and go down when the meeting is over- likely tomorrow p.m.

Things are some changed on Kuliang- Miss Perkins has a nice cottage on the pointed knoll between Dr. Lyons and Dr. Careltons. Mr. Main has built a cottage for rent just below his house. Mr. Smith has built one for rent just below the road near the turn after the village back of our hill on the way to Mr. Siemissens. Mr. and Mrs. Beach have built just back of Dr. Taylors and Mr. Adamson just back of Mr. Beach. I think I wrote you that the "Olives" lies a heap of ruins. There is a movement on foot to sell the church to the Club and build a new church. 37 thus far are against it and 36 for. I have not yet seen the Bath. Mr. Billing has a house below the village nearest the church at the foot of our hill. Mr. and Mrs. Hodous have put a new veranda on their house with stone post- looks very neat.

I plan to go to Foochow day after tomorrow or tomorrow evening. There is much work to do in connection 1. with the Press 2. with the College curriculum and marks etc. 3. with painting and repairs on the College buildings. It's very, very lonely here with out Mama and you children. It does not seem natural at all. I felt out of place this afternoon at the church service.

I wonder how are the mumps- you must have been a beauty when you wrote the last letter. Where does Marjorie put her mumps- she is already well filled in where the mumps should go.- What do you all do with yourselves during vacation? I am hungry for another of Kathleen's letters. In this I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Keith of Flatbush and also the Kuliang newspaper. Please send this to Gould when you have read it.

Very Lovingly your Father

Willard L. Beard

[This letter, dated July 14, 1913, was written from Shelton, Conn. by 17 year old Gould to his sister, Dorothy. He tells her what he has been doing on the farm and refers to the Space family and their two twin girls who moved into the next farm over. Letter in the collection of Virginia Van Andel, daughter of Willard Frederick Beard.]

Shelton Conn.

July 14, 1913.

Dear Dot;-

We are just in the middle of haying and it is nice weather today. Yesterday and the day before it was rainy and we could'nt get in any hay. I wish you were down here and could see the fine new team of horses that Grandpa has. They are just as gentle as can be and you can play with Billy the same way that you used to Genny.

Do you remember Mr. Wilkinsons farm? Well, that is sold to a Mr. Space. They have twins, both of them are girls. They are a pair of little rascals. They keep their mother buisy taking care of them. They can just walk from their home to ours. Their mother puts little overalls on them during the day and they look just like little boys. They have a little aunt only 7 years old. She is Mrs. Space's sister. They call her Bobbie.

How does it seam there in the Hospital? I should think it would be lots of fun. I just mowed a field of oates. We have our rye all in but our oats are still standing, most of them. We expect to get them in within the next 2 weeks.

Mamma wrote that you had pretty good care at the Bartletts.

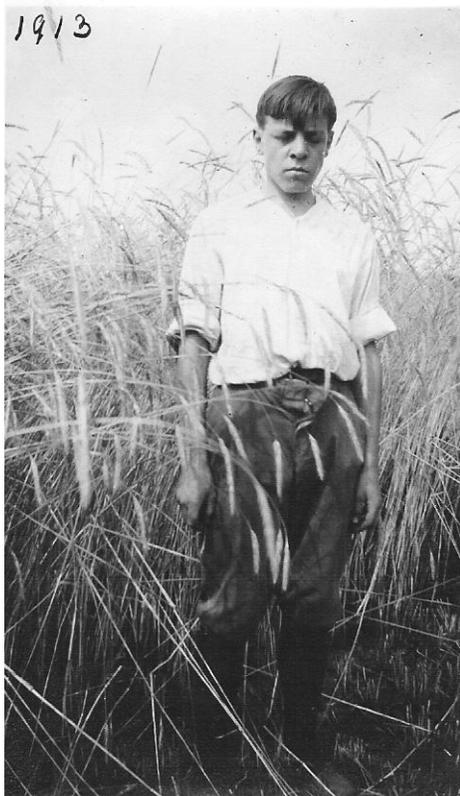
If you can not write ask mamma to for you.

Your loving brother,

Gould.



Gould on plow (or horse rake?) with horses- Century Farm 1913



Gould at Century Farm 1913
[Photos from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



Marjorie (front row-5th from left) in about 1913. Probably her Putnam school class.
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

[This letter dated Oct. 12, 1913 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. He mentions the good work the "Ford" is doing and the auto trip she took to West Hartford. He tells her he has electric lights in all the public places at the college and that on Oct. 1st he ate supper for the first time in his house under an electric light. He talks about two Koreans defecting to Foochow claiming to be Christians. The Revolution in China has affected business there but it is picking up. Yuan Shi Kai was just elected the President of the Republic of China. Mary is now teaching in Godfrey, Ill. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China
Oct. 12- 1913

Dear Mother:-

Yesterday your good letter came telling of your illustrious auto trip to West Hartford, and of the visit of Elbert and Marjorie and a lot of other interesting things like Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's visit to Huntington and Aunt Mary's vigor etc. It gives me a lot of satisfaction to hear of the good neighbors you have, - almost as much as to hear from time to time of the good work the "Ford" is doing and of the pleasure you are taking with it.

For Oct. 1st we ate supper for the first time in our home under an electric light. I wrote in my last letter that I had it in all the public places in the College. Of course we find it very handy. As to the cost you'll have to wait till the bills come in. 215 students have thus far enrolled. Two Koreans stole out of Korea and reached Foochow a week ago. Yesterday we gave them a room in the College. One of them speaks a few words of Eng. This is the only medium of vocal communication- the written language is the same as the Chinese written language so the converse by writing. They claim to be Christians, - say that the facilities for getting an education in Korea are very poor.- that the Japanese prohibit the Koreans from leaving the country and they had to steal out in the night. They are here with about \$50. in money, and scant clothing. I have accepted them after duly considering that should the Japanese government find them and demand them I should be compelled to give them up. It is at least an interesting case.

From Geraldine's letter received yesterday Oliver's girls and mine had a great old time in Putnam. Autos and horses and trolleys got tired all right. I'm awfully glad they could go. The Putnam schools are starting out with a new set of teachers this year and I hope better results will be obtained.

The drought was pretty bad in some parts of the West. I hope long before this that you have had good rains and that the wells and springs are full. We have thus far had a very good year in and about Foochow. All thru the spring and early summer it rained at least once a week and crops were excellent. In Aug. some places felt the dry weather. But crops are good now. The Revolution was the worst thing the people have had to contend with this year thus far that killed business for two months and things are just now beginning to pick up. At the same time I am surprised that there is much building going and it is all of foreign or semi foreign style. There is money somewhere. On account of the depleted treasuries of the government- only a few of the government schools have opened this fall. The American teachers here under the Y.M.C.A. for these schools are doing nothing not even drawing their pay- altho this will come in the future- no one knows when.

Last Monday Oct. 6th Yuan Shi Kai was elected President of the Republic of China, and on Friday Oct. 10th the National Holiday commemorating the establishment of the Republic was kept. We had a holiday then too. I was very glad of it- as much so as the students- for I was very tired. I'm trying to teach Comparative Religions and Ch. Hist'y from Chinese text books which I never before saw and I put more time on the preparation of the lessons than the students do. Then I preach nearly every Sunday, and each Friday morning address the students and teachers of the school for 20 minutes. Last week in addition I gave three addresses before the Women's Conference of the Methodist Mission, and it made rather a full week.

Today I preached and conducted communion at the church for the Manchus in Foochow City. 15 were received to membership. This makes about 160 all joined since May 1912,-and there has been no regular preacher there until a week ago. The work has been done by themselves and students from the College.

Some excellent photos came yesterday of Monticello Sem'y in the newspapers from home. You are quiet again in the Century Farm home, with children and grandchildren back in school. You can scarcely realize the influences that radiate from that home as a center to all parts of the world. If it ever seems lonesome during the winter months just remember that what you did last summer and the summers preceeding is now bearing fruit. And always remember that without that home as a base much of the efficiency of the work the whole family is doing in different parts of the world would be impaired. I am glad to note in Phebe's letters that Stanley got much rest from his vacation. I judge also that Gould got over any weakness that he felt as the mumps left him.

The photo of him in the rye shows off the rye well and people say "He looks like a husky boy." I hope Flora went back to S. Orange with renewed strength and courage. I cannot keep pace with what Oliver and Ben are doing. The work Mary is doing in Godfrey [*Mary was the head of the science Department of the Monticello Seminary in Godfrey, Ill.*] gives me much satisfaction. What was Elbert's business? And wasn't he proud to travel all alone with his little (big) niece.

With lots of love to all and asking the Father to keep you in all health and success.

Yours Lovingly

Will



Mary Beard about 1913.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Nov. 17, 1913 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his mother. The original letter is held in the archives of Yale Divinity School. Willard relates a story of hearing a pastor from Peking speak. He gives many details of the pastor's speech about the political situation in the capitol, including his assessment of the 1913 president, Yuan Shi Kai.]

Foochow China

Nov 17- 1913

Dear Mother:-

This morning I'm trying a new wrinkle that is- writing as I ride in a sedan chair. It is a beautiful morning- bright, cool 58 degrees and very cheerful- just like a day at home the last of Sept.

We are in the midst of our Annual Meeting and are having a very helpful time. Each morning there is a business session of 1 hr. and a half. Last year I was elected moderator and Friday morning re-elected for three years. All business is conducted in the Chinese language.

There are two very important matters before us this year. 1. The raising of money for the Union Theol. School and for a fund for aged and needy ministers. (2) The adoption of a plan and working out the details by which the money given by the Board at home shall be put with the money given by the Chinese here for evangelistic work and then all put into the hands of a Committee made up of Chinese and foreigners to decide where and how it shall be used. Until now this has been done entirely by foreigners. Both these steps you see are in the direction of placing more responsibility on the Chinese. They are taking the matter up enthusiastically. Beginning Fri. at 4 p.m. the Committee already in two days have \$2500 subscribed toward the fund mentioned above. This year a Congregation Pastor from Peking is with us. He is a power,- his addresses are strong- spiritual and practical. He knows his Bible, he knows God and he knows men. He is also in the Methodist Mission Peking,- in the church and these men- citizens of the Republic of China- hang on every word of his. Last Thursday evening they held a social here and the committee asked him to speak. The chairman arose and said there are three things that we want to hear about Peking i.e. the general condition of things there,- the condition of the church there- and the political situation. Of these the church is the most important, so we should first hear of that. At once a man rose and said "No, hear of the political situation first and he was backed by so many that no one dared ask about the condition of the church during the whole evening. When they asked him if they might ask him questions, he said "certainly". "But would you allow me to say just a few words before you begin to ask questions". "Certainly" they said. He rose and in about ten minutes said in substance, "I understand that some people in the south are not entirely pleased with Yuan Shi Kai as President. I want to say just a word about him and the presidency. He is the only man in the country who is acceptable to foreign nations. If Sun Yat Sen had been elected to the presidency the other nations would not

have lent us a cent of money. He also knows how to deal with the Ministers and Ambassadors of foreign countries as no other man in China. Again Yuan Chi Kai is the only man in China that can command the army. No other man in China knows the army as he does. He has trained the only real army in China. Again Yuan Shi Kai has about him reliable men who will stand by him and upon whom he can depend. Sun Yat Sen is surrounded by factions that are erratic and undependable. If he had been elected to the presidency China could not have been held together. The government would be a lot of warring factions and this would mean the splitting up of the county and its downfall. Yuan Shi Kai can hold it together and he is the only man in the country who can. You say, here in the South that he is ambitious and that he wants to make himself Emperor. Think a moment when during the revolution the Emperor called him to Peking. Yuan Shi Kai had really the power of an Emperor. The Emperor gave him whatever power he had left- all the Manchus gave themselves into his hands. The army was his. He had trained it. China's money was his. If he had wanted to be Emperor it would have been a very easy thing for him to have taken the place two years ago. But he did not. This is the strongest proof that Yuan Shi Kai is a true Patriot and a true Republican. These few words I wished to say by way of introduction to whatever questions you may desire to ask".

For over one hour the pastors and preachers and delegates asked questions about Peking- about Yuan Shi Kai- about the Assembly, about the little boy who was Emperor- about the stipend given to the Manchu princes and household by the Republic of China and many other things. They asked if Pres. Yuan worked against the church. Pastor Li replied:- "A few weeks ago we dedicated a Y.M.C.A. building in Peking. The doors were so arranged that they could be opened by the pressing of a button by the President. He gladly performed this function himself from his office and then sent his representatives to speak at the dedication. No he does not work against the Christian church. He treats them well."

"How about that request for the prayers of the church in China for the Republic. Did it really come from Pres. Yuan?" "It did not start from him. Some of us pastors were talking with a Christian man, a member of the Assembly and we suggested a service of prayer for the Republic. This was held. The idea grew. Others in the Assembly favored it and Pres Yuan gave the idea his approval and it was ordered telegraphed to the Governors of all the provinces. So the call for prayer really came from the Christian Church, but it had the sanction of the President and the government."

"What is this we hear about Confucianism becoming the State Religion for China. Is it really an article in the Constitution?" "No. It was proposed and earnestly supported by a certain member of the Assembly and his friends. But about \$600 silver - \$300 gold,- was given some of us to spend in the cause of Religious Liberty. Many telegrams poured in from all parts of the country to members of the Assembly. But these never came to the proper persons and their influence was nil. We organized our campaign, found an assemblyman who favored Religious Liberty, gave a feast to which he was invited with a few of his friends. Then got more men interested and gave other feasts and took the men riding and in this way we carried on an educational campaign among the assemblymen and the probability is that Confucianism will not be the national religion- neither of course do we want Christianity to be the national religion. We want Religious Liberty and it looks much as if this was now assured."

"How many Christians are there in the National Assembly?" "Five or six." "Is Mr. Ling of Foochow known in Peking as a Christian?" "Yes." "Does he attend church regularly?" "No." "How many Christians in the Assembly do attend church regularly?" "Only one. There are thirty or forty who come on nearly all special occasions."

Many more questions were asked about details and matters of special interest to Foochow people.

As I looked into the eager faces of these Foochow men- citizens of the Republic of China- each one hanging on every word of their brother pastor from the Capitol of their country to gain a better knowledge of conditions that affect the whole county, I realized that a revolution had taken place in their minds and hearts during the past nineteen years. Just nineteen years ago I asked some of these very men about the war with Japan "We have no war with Japan." "Oh yes you have. They are fighting now in the north." "Oh, well. That's an affair with Peking. It's none of our business." This is the real Revolution of which the change in government and name that took place two years ago in the outward region.

Nov. 29th

I have held back this letter a long time to get a copy made. Thanksgiving has come and gone. We had a very pleasant day here. I took dinner in the evening with a Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson T.M.-Flora will remember them. Last Sat. a week ago I played Basket Ball- stuck it out thru both halves, and it did not hurt me. I suppose tho that a man of my age ought not to play such strenuous games too often. I was however pleased to see how well I stood it. My weight now with ordinary fall clothing is 177 lbs.

I thought of you often on Thanksgiving day, and the letters telling of your gathering I shall await with pleasant anticipation. I hope some at least of the Putnamites can/did get down.

Where is Elizabeth? Occasionally I hear a rustle and am told that Elizabeth has gone somewhere but she does not write me. If she is merely paying me back in my own coin I suppose I must plead guilty. But the truth is I never wrote so many letters in a week in any of my weeks in Foochow as I do now. But the family or families are so scattered and others- like Mt. Vernon and Flatbush have come into my list that I do not get around very often. This morning a good mail brought excellent news from Phebe K. and Phebe M. and Mrs. Bean of Mt. Vernon. The Lit. Digest is one of my standbys and my thanks go to Elizabeth and Ruth. The Sentinel is always a delight and the postal of the Square is very good indeed. I'm glad to hear of the success of the Beard Co. When they retire I shall expect them to visit me on their way round the world, and put up a nice Science Building for the College. \$10000, gold will do it,- All is going very nicely in the College thus far. We still beat everything in basketball, altho this is not the measure of our prosperity. The Press is running all day and until 9 p.m. many evenings.

Can you send me by mail 1 pint (about) of two kinds of sweet corn, one fairly early one later. I want to plant them in March. I should also like some of those hard tomato seeds. God keep and bless you all Very Lovingly Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 19, 1913 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to 18 year old daughter, Phebe. He has been attending the Annual Meeting this week. He thinks of them all at Christmas together and is happy for them but a little sorrowful for himself. Willard noticed when he was back in the U.S. that people seemed to be spending less time in the evening at home because of various events to attend. He refers to a Golden Anniversary in Shelton which would be his parents. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow China
Nov. 19th 1913.

Dear Phebe:-

It is to you I think that I have addressed the letter this week. I wrote Mama's last Sunday evening. This last week all other things have had to wait while we held the Annual Meeting. But it has been worth the cost. Pastor Li Buong Nguong came down from our Central Congregational church in Peking and his addresses on "Prayer" "Peace that passeth understanding," "Conditions in Peking" and other addresses have been most helpful. I hope to send you a copy of his talks and interview on the conditions in Peking. I have written them out and plan to have a few copies made to send to different ones.

The main feature of the Annual Meeting was the Business sessions. Of these I was Moderator and reelected for three years. All went smoothly until they took up the matter of raising a fund for the Union Theological Seminary and for the help of aged ministers. There were several subscriptions in all amounting to \$2500 but some had pledged in enthusiasm and on sober second thought backed out, and the session closed rather despondently. But they did vote to appoint a committee to consider the division of all money that is used to help either churches or schools. So now the missionary will not decide alone how much each preacher or school teacher will receive but there will be a committee of 16 to take the whole matter into consideration- I am convener of this Committee.

We should have finished the business of the meeting on Tues. but did not get thru so voted to adjourn till Wed. a.m. Some could not wait and "ran home" but 44 remained. This I considered very good indeed.

Last week Tuesday at 4:30 Henry Lacy was married. I am enclosing his wedding invitation and also Clara Dornblaser's and a clipping about Irving Lacy's wedding in Shanghai just a week before Henry's. I am writing this on Sunday evening Nov. 23rd.

I hope it may reach you in time to bring you my Christmas greetings. I cannot think ahead to these occasions without having to swallow. For a picture of you all at home comes into my mind and I am so far away. But God has been most gracious to us all these years and gave us two years with so many reunions that we must all be thankful to Him- and added to this I can think of you all at home together and well. This takes all real sadness out of my mind, - only the tears come in spite of it all. Next Thursday is Thanksgiving. I wonder where you will eat dinner. I have accepted an invitation for the evening to dine at Mr. T. M. Wilkinsons. - I think it is just a quiet little home affair. People here are very kind to me- too much so almost. They keep enquiring of Mama and you children and evince a surprising knowledge of what you children used to do here- bringing up things that I supposed had been forgotten long ago. If they never said anything I might either get mad at them for their disinterestedness or get cold and indifferent, but with so much that is tender all about me it is very natural to keep tender.

Today a good letter came from Grandma Beard. She says that they have quantities of fruit- apples, pears, grapes and vegetables. Aunts Elizabeth and Ruth went to New Haven to the foot ball game this year. Mrs. Parkhurst had arrived but was detained to be deported. But appeals had been sent to Pres. Wilson to let her come in. It might

help the trade in hatchet and also it might give work to the carpenters and masons to let her in. I wonder if any of you will go to New York to meet her?

Aunt Elizabeth had R. Island Reds that dress 5 and 6 lbs. What has become of Gould's fowls? I have not heard a word since he left them in Putnam last June. And what became of those wild duck's eggs that he kept warm and put under a hen? My but I'd like just to spend one evening with you to see how you are in the home. I hear of various things in public life about you all but how about the home life. I hope it is not given up for public functions entirely. I think that no one thing impressed me more while I was at home than the way in which people were losing the idea of home. They had houses where they slept and where they ate when convenient but these were not homes. I missed it more than anything else. I used to plan for days to get an evening at home- only to find that there was a concert or something that spoiled the homey-ness, and my longing for an evening just with my dear ones at home was put off.

I am rejoiced at the good news that comes to me about the Putnam Schools this year and I hope it will continue. I am hoping every mail will bring something regarding your decision as to the College you will attend. I hardly think I need say more than I have said and written.

Yesterday our boys played the Anglo Chinese boys at Basket Ball and beat score 17-89 I believe. Then the foreigners played. And would you believe it I played for Foochow College. They had one tall man just from home- Gilchrist, and the other men were good young wiry fellows. Gowdy did not play. We had only one good man- Mr. Topping. The Kinnear boys and myself and a Mr. Cole from Hing Hua. They beat us 24-10. We felt quite elated to do so well. I have played three times in my life. To day I'm pretty stiff. Basket Ball is most too strenuous for a 49'er.



William H. Topping

THE Associate Executive Secretary of the Mid-Fukien Divisional Council of the Church of Christ in China, - in short, our smiling secretary is heartily welcomed back, fine and fit, looking quite able to be the recipient of the knocks and boosts of the whole church as well as of the mission.



Mrs. W. H. Topping

A mother of Toppings, a nurse of Toppings, a teacher of Toppings, a friend of the neighborhood. That's Topping! - No, Mrs. Topping.



Muriel, Rena and Lois Topping

LOIS aged 6, when asked if she were not a missionary replied "No, I'm a Canadian!" She with Muriel, 11, and Rena, 9, are just back from America with lots of new ideas to enliven the compound play hours.

I wonder if any of you will go down to Shelton for the Golden Wedding [*Oliver Gould Beard and Nancy Maria Nichols Beard were married Jan. 20, 1864.*] I very much hope some of you can. I did want to be home for that. And I suppose I found it as hard to give up that as any other one thing in deciding to come back to Foochow when I did.

A postal from Mr. Neff today says he plans to reach Hong Kong Dec. 28. Did I write that we expect Dr. and Mrs. Capen- Pres. of Am. Board and Dr. Wm. E. Strong the middle of Jan?

Our garden is producing lettuce and radishes and we have a lot of other things started. How I wish you could see our compound. I sent a lot of photos last Spring and Summer but you could not have received them. These last few days I have sent off 70 boxes of fragrant tea as Christmas presents and 30 boxes to Miss M.B. Preston, 1615 Newkirk Ave., Brooklyn for which she will send Mama some money. She ordered only 25 boxes @ .25 a box so she may send only \$6.25. If she pays for all she will send 7.50. Mama may do anything she likes with the money.

As Thanksgiving approaches I'm thinking of special causes for thankfulness and first comes Thankfulness for the loveliest wife in all the world, next for the six best children in all the world, next that Our Father has kept us all another year,- next that we all know Him and love Him. Isn't that a lot to be thankful for and then add to these that He knows us by letting us serve Him and giving us the satisfaction of seeing that our work does good. Keep in touch with God is your loving father's prayer. W.L. Beard

[This letter dated Dec. 7, 1913 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to his 17 year old son, Gould. Willard sends an account of a discussion about the politics in China which occurred at the Annual Meeting. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Dec. 7th 1913.

Dear Gould:-

This is to be a very short personal letter this week. I have had a copy made of these six pages and they will be of interest to you and Mama and the others perhaps can use them.

Last Tues. the Foochow College "Varsity" football team played the foreigners.= Hodous, Topping, Newell, Morris, Gerald, Kinnear Dr., Cooper Dr., Ding Hai Ceng at football. Score 5-3 in favor of "Varsity".

The Monthly Concert of Prayer this week was at Mr. Miners. He spoke only a few words then his son Wallace who has just arrived to do Sunday School work in the Meth. Mission spoke of his work. Then Mr. Ding the Chinese Sec'y of the Fukien S.S. Union spoke. Then Mr. Bondfield agent for the Brit. and foreign Bible Society spoke. The quartette- Mrs. Mac, Miss Wonzer, Misses Jones and Newell sang most beautifully. That day was the first day I have spent away from the College and Press since Sept. 14th. In the a.m. I went with Miss Hartwell and others to see some of the officials to ask them to contribute to the Orphanage. They said they wanted me to go to see one man. They got me to go to see four. At 12:30 just as I sat down to dinner a note came in telling me of a Federation Comm. at 2 p.m. at Mr. Mains- at 3 came the Monthly concert and then supper with Mr. and Mrs. Billing and then meeting of Union Normal B'd of Managers and home at 10:30. I know God is watching over you all, and I trust each of you is looking for His care. Your Loving Father Willard L. Beard

[Written in someone else's handwriting]

We are in the midst of our Annual Meeting, and are having a very helpful time. Each morning there is a business session of an hour and a half.

Last year I was elected Moderator and Friday morning re-elected for three years. All business is conducted in the Chinese language.

There are two very important matters before us this year (1.) The raising of money for the Union Theol. School and for a fund for aged and needy ministers. (2) The adoption of a plan and working out the details by which the money given by the Board at home shall be put with the money given by the Chinese here for evangelistic work and then all put into the hands of a committee made up of Chinese and foreigners to decide where and how it shall be used. Until now this has been done entirely by foreigners. Both these steps you see are in the direction of placing more responsibility on the Chinese. They are taking the matter up enthusiastically. Beginning Fri. at 4 P.M. the Committee already in two days have \$2500 subscribed toward the fund mentioned above. This year a congregational Pastor from Peking is with us. He is a power, - his addresses are strong- Spiritual and practical. He knows his Bible, he knows God and he knows men. He is also in the middle of things in Peking in the church and these men - citizens of the republic of China - hang on every word of his. Last Thursday evening they held a social here and the Committee asked him to speak. The chairman arose and said there are three things that we want to hear about Peking i.e. the general condition of things there- the condition of the church there- and the political situation. Of these the church is the most important. So we should first hear of that. At once a man rose and said "No hear of the political situation first" and he was backed by so many that no one dared ask about the condition of the church during the whole evening. When they asked him if they might ask him questions, he said "certainly", but would you allow me to say just a few words before you begin to ask questions." "Certainly" they said. He rose and in about ten minutes said in substance "I understand that some people in the south are not entirely pleased with Yuan Shih Kai as president. I want to say just a word about him and the presidency. He is the only man in the country who is acceptable to foreign nations. If Sun Yat Sen had been elected to the presidency the other nations would not have lent us a cent of money. He also knows how to deal with the ministers and Ambassadors of foreign countries as no other man in China. Again Yuan Shi Kai is the only man in China that can command the army. No other man in China knows the army as he does. He has trained the only real army in China. Again Yuan Shi Kai has about him

reliable men who will stand by him and upon whom he can depend. Sun Yat Sen is surrounded by factions that are erratic and undependable. If he had been elected to the presidency China would not have been held together. The government would be a lot of warring factions and this would mean the splitting up of the country and its down fall. Yuan Shi Kai can hold it together and he is the only man who can. You say he is ambitious and that he wants to make himself Emperor. Think a moment. When during the revolution the Emperor called him to Peking, Yuan Shi Kai had really the power of an Emperor. The Emperor gave him whatever power he had left. All the Manchus gave themselves into his hands. The army was his. He had trained it. China's money was his. If he had wanted to be Emperor it would have been very easy. But he did not. This is the strongest proof that Yuan Shi Kai is a true Patriot and a true Republican. These few words I wished to say by way of introduction to whatever question you may desire to ask." For over an hour the pastors and preachers and delegates asked questions about Peking- about Yuan Shi Kai- about the Assembly. About the little boy who was Emperor- about the stipend given to the Manchu princes and household by the Republic of China and many other things. They asked if Pres. Yuan worked against the church. Pastor Li replied: - A few weeks ago we dedicated a Y.M.C.A. building in Peking. The doors were so arranged that they could be opened by the pressing of a button by the President. He gladly performed this function himself from his office and then sent his representative to speak at the dedication. No, he does not work against the Christian church. "How about that request for the prayers of the church in China for the republic. Did it really come from Pres. Yuan?" It did not start from him. Some of us pastors were talking with a Christian man a member of the Assembly and we suggested a service of prayer for the Republic. This was held. The idea grew. Others in the Assembly favoured it and Pres. Yuan gave the idea his approval and it was ordered telegraphed to the governors of all the provinces. So the call for prayer really come from the Christian church, but it had the sanction of the president and the government.

"What is this we hear about Confucianism becoming the State religion for China. It is really an article in the Constitution? "No, it was proposed and earnestly supported by a certain member of the Assembly and his friends. But about \$600 silver- \$300 gold, - was given some of us to spend in the cause of Religious Liberty. Many telegrams poured in from all parts of the country to members of the Assembly.

But these never come to the proper persons and their influence was nil. We organized our campaign, found an assembly man who favoured Religious Liberty, gave a feast to which he was invited with a few of his friends. Then got more men interested and gave other feasts and took the men riding and in this way we carried on an Educational campaign among the Assembly men and the probability is that Confucianism will not be the national religion neither of course do we want Christianity to be the national religion. We want religious liberty, and it looks much as if this was now assured."

"How many Christians are there in the National Assembly?" "Five or six." Is Mr. Ling of Foochow known in Peking as a Christian?" "Yes." "Does he attend church regularly?" "No." "How many Christians in the assembly do attend church regularly?" "Only one." There are thirty or forty who come on nearly all special occasions.

Many more questions were asked about details and matters of special interest to Foochow people. As I looked into the eager faces of these Foochow men- citizens of the Republic of China -each one hanging on every word of their brother pastor from the Capital of their country to gain a better knowledge of conditions that affect the whole country I realized that a revolution had taken place in their minds and hearts during the past nineteen years. Just nineteen years ago I asked some of these very men about the war with Japan. "We have no war with Japan." "O yes, you have. They are fighting now in the North." "Oh well, that is an affair with Peking." It is none of our business." This is the real Revolution of which the change in government and none that took place two years ago is the outward sign.



This appears to be Willard playing tennis in the Foochow compound. Undated, but possibly 1913 time frame.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Willard Magnified

