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Miller, John G.

1922-1923

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Fukien Christian University

FOOCHOW, CHINA

(Incorporated in New York, U. S. A.)

August 23, 1922.

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 MR. EDWIN C. JONES, M. A.
 FOOCHOW, CHINA

Mr. J. Gaines Miller

43 Duane Ave

La Salle, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Miller:

Let me thank you for your letter and the enclosed contract. I am sending you one copy duly signed.

As to the trip, I have asked Dean Scott to write to you. You will have received by this time instructions from our Mr. Torrey. As to the trip, you will sail from Vancouver. The first port that you will touch will be Yokohama. Here you will have the opportunity to break your sea journey by going overland and taking your boat at Kobe. This you may arrange for on the boat with the purser.

I think that it will be wise, unless you are traveling with those who have been out before, to cable ^{from Japan} to "Missionary Home, Shanghai" the name of the boat on which you ^{at Shanghai} are coming so that some one may meet you. At Shanghai you will find the Missionary home a very pleasant place to stay. At Shanghai you will have to purchase your passage to Foochow. There are at least three Companies who have boats to Foochow from Shanghai, the China Merchants whose offices you will find on the Bund in the French Concession, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, also located on the Bund, and a company which has been organized recently. You will find out which boat sails sooner and take that unless you have business that delays you in Shanghai. When you know the name of the boat on which you will sail and are sure that the boat will sail on that date then send a cable to President Jones as follows: Jones, Foochow-----
if cable signed by you
 name of boat. This will be sufficient, for they will be able to find out when the

0358

[2]
Lewis Rodens

AUG 23

1922

boat arrives at Pagoda Anchorage where President Jones will meet you.
As to further instructions, Mr. Torrey will no doubt give you what you need.
It will be well for you to be vaccinated and also inoculated against typhoid
and paratyphoid. The two inoculations can be done at the same time. You should
have it done at once because it takes several shots - some days apart.

I am almost envying you the opportunity to go to the Far-East at the
present time and to be associated with the company of men we have at Foochow.
If there is anything that I can do for you will you kindly let me know.

Yours sincerely,

0359

205 Crescent ave.
Leonia, N.J.
August 23, 1922

Mt. J. Gaines Miller,
La Salle, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Miller:

I found out where La Salle was soon after sending you my postal, and should have written this sooner. I understand that you will sail along with Mr. Farley, early in September, but I don't know just when that is, but Mr. Hdous must have been handling that for you.

First as to your journey. If you sail by the G.P.R. or the Admiral Line, you start from Vancouver or Seattle, and have September weather for three days and then you have December weather for five days, as the ship goes north, (within 90 miles of the Aleutian Islands), then you reach Japan, and it's likely to be tropic heat. Three days in Japan, one day across the China Seas when, if you get a typhoon, it will be cold, then Shanghai, hot again. And in Foochow hotter. So be prepared with warm clothes for the winter days, and cool clothes for Japan and thereafter. In Shanghai you will probably stay at the Missionary Home. I have written Mr. Farley full details on that subject and on how to get from Shanghai to Foochow and on telegraphing Mr. Jones of your coming, etc. In Shanghai you will need to purchase a pith or cork sun helmet (tho, if you can wear a 7-size hat, you can get good and cheap helmets in Foochow).

Second as to your work. Fukien Christian University came into existence in 1915 with Freshmen and Sophomore classes. A year later land purchase on the present Site was begun and in February of this year the rented quarters of the school in Foochow were given up and we moved the plant down the river to the Site and housed it in two temporary wooden buildings. The first two stone structures were to have been begun this summer. The city of Foochow lies two miles north of the principal river of Fukien Province, the Min, and about 25 miles from the mouth. Coasting steamers ascend the Min to Pagoda Anchorage, about 10 miles from Foochow, beyond which the river is too shallow, travel being by houseboat and launch. The college is situated on a plain and a promontory about six miles above Pagoda Anchorage. Communication with the City is by the University launch. You will visualize President Jones then as engaged in being the head of the school, (embracing a student body of 125 and a faculty of 15) with all its problems, and also the general superintendent of the whole building program. We have an engineer, Mr. C.B. Mills, who oversees the actual construction, but Mr. Jones must be consulted at every point. Private secretaries to missionaries are still a new thing; but the fact is that those who don't have secretaries, simply don't keep up with their correspondence. And a missionary executive's correspondence public and private is enormous. That is where you come in. We have a Noiseless Type writer in the Office, and I think were going to get an Underwood also this summer. Your predecessor, Mr. A.W. Knoll, put the files in excellent shape. Your work will be the President's correspondence and filing, first of all; then in your spare time correspondence of the Engineer, the Dean, and other faculty men. Any special you have in any line, will find a use and a field, either for your own or profit or enjoyment. If you know anything about bookkeeping, you may see Treasurer. Can you sing, or play any instruments? You can have just a little contact with the student life as you care for? Mr. Knoll didn't much, which I think was a loss. With the school—and the building going on in just this particular period of China's and missionary history, you will have a dull day. Your term will be one of interest, often of excitement, and .

AUG 23
1922

[2]

Page 2

I assure you of great profit. I have been six years in Foochow - am home now on the first furlough - and I have never in all that time been once bored!!

Third as to your general living conditions. These temporary wooden dormitories are not nearly as bad as they sound. Last spring term Mr. Jones occupied two rooms, Mr. Neff (prof. of Sociology) one, and Mrs. Scott and I, two, we four sharing parlor and dining room in what would be Mr. Jones's own suite in the second floor of the building. Here you would probably live, since they will continue there this year and we may come back to Mr. Jones's suite when we return in 1923. Your room will be completely furnished for you. (If you should happen to have your own bedding now, it might be better for you to take it out with you - in any case take at least a good army blanket (an army blanket makes the best steamer rug). There are three modern faculty residences already finished on the Site and a fourth in process of construction, but these are pretty well filled with faculty people. Mr. Jones has his own cook, and an excellent one he is. We found life with him extremely agreeable and I have no doubt you will too.

The chief sport in the place is tennis. If you play take a racket. If you don't take one also, and we'll teach you, as we have done others. The Site lies at the foot of the highest mountain - Kushen - in the vicinity, so there's plenty of hiking in wild country. Further up the Min river there is hunting - if you take any interest in that sport - wild pig, pheasant, and even tiger. Usually at least one party a year is made up in Foochow.

What you will need in clothes: All you have got.

October to December is like Indian summer; we wear white ducks and pongees, which can be made by native tailors in Foochow for very little cost, also white canvas shoes, also made on the spot. December it begins to get a little cold, by January it is quite cold, especially when sailing on the river, and in February the rains begin. It continues cold and wet and raw till the middle of March when it gets warmer but still wet and often chilly. In January you put on little weight winter underwear and in February heavy weight (better medium weight). Overcoats, woolen gloves, etc. All these bring with you; cannot be made in Foochow. The underwear change depends somewhat on what sort of man you are and what you are accustomed to. Some people wear summer underwear all the time - not to be advised; some change only once, not twice. You will often have to work in cold rooms, hence sweaters and woolen socks will be found handy. The Chinese prepare for winter by doubling or trebling the number of coats worn; they would therefore often be uncomfortable in a heated classroom. Someday in late April or early May the thermometer rises 30 degrees, and you hurry to your room and get out your ducks and your pith helmet and you know summer has come again! These sudden changes of temperature are quite common except during the fall. If you at all subject to digestive upsets, these changes will increase them, unless you wear a cholera band (can be purchased in Shanghai), a flannel band across the stomach, next to the skin. White suits, as indicated, shirts, light underwear, and good shoes can be made in Foochow; bring what you have in clothes, including spring and winter suits.

If anything here is not clear, or there are other questions you would like to ask, please feel free to do so. The more you know before you go, the better you will feel when you get there. China is a great place to live in. I wish I were going back with you right now.

Very sincerely yours,

0361

43 Duane Ave.

La Salle, N. Y.

Sept. 2, 1922

My dear Mr. Hodous:-

Before taking my
Violin^{cell}o, I would like to have
you advise me whether it is
worth while to do so. Have they
any orchestra there? Please
let me know as soon as you
can, as I have either got to
take it with me or sell it.

I would also like
to have you advise just how
much money I will need to
carry me through to my
destination

Will you please set
me straight regarding any
expenses incurred. I have

SEP 2 1922 ^[27]
expended the following so far.

Passport - \$10.00
Fare Certificates - 2.08
Inoculations - 0. ?

Am I to put in an expense
account upon my arrival for
these items? You might also
tell me whether I will have
any cash fare to pay from
Yokohama to Shanghai?

Thanking you for any
helpful information, I am,
very truly yours,

James Miller.

1923 [17]

RECEIVED
JAN 31 1923
DESIG. INCOME DIV.

604 West Wilson Ave
Glendale
California

Rev. R. L. Torrey
American Board of
Foreign Missions

Dear Sir

I am writing for
in regard to my son
John G. Miller who is at
present employed as
stenographer at the Fokien
Christian University, Foochow

I have found it a
great privation & an
impossibility to be without
him in the home. as he has
always been my help & under
the circumstances at present

0364

1923

Conditions such as being
away & the small amount
he is able to send me I find
it difficult to manage.

I must have him here
to help me & must have him
at once

I wish you would
kindly bring your influence
to bear in having him
return home. Thanking you
in advance & hoping ~~xxx~~ to
hear from you at once

Very truly
Yours

Irene A. Miller

Thursday Jan 20th 1920.

February 2nd
1923

Mrs. Irene A. Miller
604 West Wilson Avenue
Glendale
California

My dear Mrs. Miller:-

Your letter of January 25th has been received.

I am sorry to learn that your son's going to China, as secretary to President Jones of our Fukien Christian University, has caused you so much anxiety. From your letter it is evident that his absence from home means great privation to you.

We had the pleasure of meeting your son here in the office in New York a short time before he started on his trip.

He mentioned the fact that because of the severity of the winters here in New York, you were planning to go to California and, from your letter, we know you are located there.

The arrangements with reference to your son's going to China were conducted by the Secretary of our Board of Trustees and I have just gone over his correspondence and find that your son entered into an agreement to go out as secretary to Mr. Jones, for two years, which both he and yourself, as witness, signed.

By signing this agreement no question was raised as to your willingness or unwillingness for him to go. In fact your signing would imply that you were quite willing for him to do so.

Mr. Jones' former secretary completed his two year contract last June and we had been unable to secure anyone to fill his place until your son's application was accepted. As he did not reach the field until about the end of November, Mr. Jones had been without a secretary for nearly six months and we know that his work had been accumulating from the fact that we have not received replies from letters which we wrote him sometime ago. To ask your son to return at once, without anybody to take his place, would bring about a very serious situation in our work there.

Then, too, your son's traveling expenses to the field were paid with the understanding that he was to stay for two years. Should he decide to return home now, it would mean that he would

0366

Mrs. Irene A. Miller.....#2

not only have to provide his home-coming expenses but that, in keeping with his contract, he would necessarily need to refund a considerable part of his outgoing expenses.

I trust that after reconsideration, looking at the situation from all possible angles, you will find it possible to forego asking his return at this time.

We trust that such arrangements may be made with other members of your family that the loneliness caused you by his absence from home will be at least partially alleviated.

We trust that you will not think we are unsympathetic with your request but have tried to look at the situation from all sides, and hope that you will be able, even at continued personal sacrifice, to let your son complete his contract.

Very sincerely yours

RLT
G W

0368