

1896

- Myron Gould Beard is born November 13, 1896 in Foochow, China
- Utah is granted statehood
- First modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece
- William McKinley won the U.S. Presidential election against William Jennings Bryan
- Willard is 31, Ellen- 28 and Phebe- 1.

[This letter dated Jan. 13, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells about his experience getting bids for the new Theological Seminary Building and includes a sketch of the floor plan and estimate of costs. There is interest from a region near Pagoda Anchorage to learn the Gospel but there is a shortage of help. It is decided to send spiritually fitted men regardless of vocation or calling to become "home missionaries" to help out. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow Jan. 13th 1896.

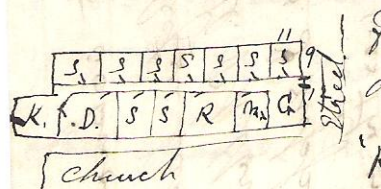
Dear Folks at Home:-

Since I wrote you two letters have arrived from you and one from Ellen's home. I have only a moment now then must attend a business meeting of the Mission to plan for this year's work. I trust you will pardon the careless way in which I have answered your letters. I have been so taken up with the things about me when writing, and the thought that you would like best to hear all about the home here and the work in which we're engaged, has been so prominent in my mind while writing that I have neglected to look and see if all the questions in your letters were answered. We did receive the letters and the pictures referred to in your last letter. In fact I may as well make a universal statement and say that as we read the letters Sat evening we had to admit that everything which you referred to as sent and not acknowledged had been received.

The mail before last brought a note from Mrs. J. D. Philbrick and a package of cards from her. I suppose she lives in Mass. East Andover was the only address at the head of her letter. She is Mr. Keneston's Mother-in-law. If you think of it when you see him you might ask him if I sent to the right place, and if he can write to East Andover, Mass. and have the letter forwarded. It pleased me to read of the interest in my letters shown by the people in Shelton, and to hear that they would send more cards. The money which they sent me last year has helped to purchase land on which to fit up a building for a Theol. Sem.

For the past two weeks I have been busy making arrangements for the fitting up of this building. Of course my lack of experience with the customs as well as with the language of the people has made this task harder and longer than the next one will be. It has not been the custom for the Missionaries here at Ponasang to write out a contract with masons and carpenters, nor have they received bids from two different men for the same work. I had written a plan of the work to be done, both in masonry and in wood work and told the carpenter to tell me their figures. I told him that would not do, but that I must now give No. 1 another chance. No. 2 was at last the lower and I gave him the contract. No. 1 then had a grievance and accused me of unfairness. But after a little he had to own that I had been entirely fair. I find later that it hurts his standing to be underbid, and that he was relying on the fact that he was a church member at my Ponasang church and the other man not, to give him the job. To add to the unpleasantness, the Pastor and fellow church members of No. 1 wish very much that he should have the contract. But I think it will do the man good to find that even if he is a church member, he must act on principle and that he himself must bear the responsibility of his actions. I have given the masons each an envelope and told them to enclose their figures, seal, and give to me and that I would accept only one bid.

The new building is to be 26 ft. X 70 ft. with an extra room in the rear for a kitchen.



A 3 ft. hall will extend the entire length, with doors opening into the students rooms "3", the Dedication room "R" and Ming Uong's room "M", the room marked "C" is for a reception room. In front the wall will be of brick 1 1/2 ft. thick and three ft. higher than the roof to act as a protection against fire. On the north side, the opposite side from the church there will be a fire wall 1 1/2 ft. thick and a little higher than one peak of the roof. The rooms will be wainscotted 4 ft. up from the floor and plastered 4 ft. above that. Above this all will be open - no ceilings. "D" is for dining room and "K" for kitchen. I can put two students in each room, and if necessary 3 and 4 in some.

The land and building - a mere native shell - posts enough to hold up the roof and a board partition in front, - cost \$931.67. Cost of recording deeds about \$125.00. The repairs will cost, carpenter \$174.50. Mason about \$110.00, moving the fire wall from the South to North side \$70.00 making a total cost of about \$1410.00. It is now the intention to use this lot for the enlargement of the church as soon as the funds come (when?). I am trying to arrange the repairs so that they shall be permanent in case the church is enlarged. The front wall of brick will stand, the fire wall on N. side also. The floor will be all right for the church floor. Of course the frame and the roof must be changed. To meet the cost, we have \$420.70 only at present. The rest of the money will have to be furnished by individual missionaries and we will wait till more is sent us for our pay. We can not use the funds of the Board for

the work, but when money is sent as the Shelton church and as Abington church and Hartford Sem. has sent to me. I am at liberty to use it as I see fit.

The men from the English Gun-Boat, the "Swift" which lies in the river at Foochow, have attended our meetings regularly during the week of prayer. Six partook of the Communion with us last Sunday. I have been over to the city with two this afternoon. They are clean, earnest Englishmen of the working class and it does us good to associate with them and they do so enjoy a bit of home life. One of those who was with me this afternoon had just received a photo of his wife and little boy. I know how delighted he was with it. We have asked some of them to attend Communion in our native church next time. They are very sympathetic and much interested in our work. It will do them good to see native Chinese baptized and with them partake of the emblems of Christ's body. This intercourse of Missionaries with the men in the navies of both U.S. and England and the knowledge which the navy gets of the work among the natives, will be the best means of giving the people at home a true estimate of the work which the missionaries are engaged in.

For several weeks news has come from a region between Pagoda Anchorage and the Ocean that the people wished to hear the Gospel. Later men from different villages in this region came to Foochow asking for preachers. But all our preachers were engaged and there seemed to be no one to go. The Mission was doing nothing. The Pastor of my 1st church preached two rousing Missionary sermons. Speaking in particular of this opening where the people actually asked for instruction in the Gospel and promised definite sums for the preachers salary and the rental of a suitable place to hold service. A week ago Sunday evening Miss Newton told me how earnest Pastor Bang Ho was and that he could hardly endure it to think that the Mission was doing nothing to occupy the field which had opened it's doors so widely. I asked Miss Newton to go back with me and talk with the Pastor about it. Some of the Y.P.S.C.E. members were still there and after talking over the matter we decided to let the pastor come Mon. A.M. and recommend ten men without regard to vocation or calling. If only they were spiritually fitted to go down to these villages and work for a few days or two weeks. Mon. morning he came with ten names, but he thought they would all want wages and board, and travelling expenses. These I refused to give. We finally agreed to give four of them \$1.00 apiece if they would go down and stay for at least a week. In the evening he returned with the names of four men who were willing to go Tues. morning at 8 o'clock and the pastor was to go with them to arrange for the work. But the field was under the jurisdiction of Mr. Hubbard and Dr. Whitney, and it would not be right for me to send men into it without their consent and approval, so I had to take an early breakfast and board the launch and go to Pagoda.

On the way down the most of the talk among the natives near me was about accepting the "doctrine". This just to show that in general people are becoming to know and think about what the missionaries are doing. Of course the Rev. and Dr. were glad of our arrival and after eating dinner and bidding my fine companion Home missionaries adieu, with the understanding that they would go immediately that afternoon into the field and work. I took the launch for home and arrived at 4 o'clock. Went 15 miles from home, transacted business, ate dinner, made a call and returned home within eight hours in China! Don't call us slow.

Tues.

Last evening, Jan 13th, the Missionaries arrived home, and gave the following report, which I took from the Pastor this morning. Their plan was to go two by two into villages, and if received, stay and work, talking and praying with the people. They went to villages where no work was being done, and where the people invited them. 11 villages were visited. Some of them twice. In these there were only 8 church members. 5 in one village and 3 in another. There were 149 men who were already going to church on Sunday and learning the truth. Some of these were walking 17 miles and back on Sunday over a bad mountain road for the privilege of hearing the truth. To do this they must rise before light in the morning cook and eat their rice, and start by the light of their lanterns. Returning they would not reach home till after dark. Is it any wonder that such men are calling earnestly for a teacher, and are willing to give money to one who knows the truth which they are seeking, if he will come and live with them and teach them?

In one village an organ has been given and awaits a skillful hand to use it for the Lord. In one village a large house is offered free for worship in another Buddhist temple is offered. The brethren used it last Sunday. This means that a majority of them are not given to swimming about looking for a chance to get into the net nor do they try to find the hook to deliberately swallow it. Christ told his disciples to follow and He would make them fishers of men. Man must be baited and caught to-day as well as 200 years ago. These men near us are looking at the bait. Shall we withdraw the hook for fear they want only the bait? And wait till we are sure they want to swallow hook and all? I say by no means. Teach them the truth as fast as they will hear it, and leave it to the Holy Spirit to lead them "into all the Truth".

I have been much pleased with this Home Missionary Enterprise. Because of the five men who went, three were business men and gave up their business for one week. These are the members of the church which is this year

to be self supporting. The men- some of them- who took off their long robes and carried the benches from the church to the tent for the Y.P.S.C.E. Rally.

About the time that this reaches you I shall be opening the Seminary. Pray for me Love from Ellen and Phebe and me Will.

[This letter dated Jan. 27, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He travels to the village of To Cheng 36 miles away to witness a native Christian wedding. He describes the trip and the ceremony but sadly realized the bride was purchased and will become a slave to the wife bridegroom's brother. The Theological Seminary is now under construction. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China-
Jan. 27th 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last time I wrote was on the eve of the wedding day. I arose at 5:30 next morning and was off before sunrise. The cloth dyers were spreading the native woven cloth about 14 inches wide on the fields sprinkled with rice straw. The sun would shortly be shining and dry the colored fabrics. The farmers in the little hamlets by the way came out of doors rubbing their eyes as if they had just come out. My three coolies knew that they had kept me waiting for nearly half an hour and that I was afraid we should not reach the village in time to witness the marriage. They therefore made good time. In a little over 1 hour we had made 15 li or 5 miles and reached the Upper Bridge. Here I was dropped and the coolies went after some breakfast- no less than 40 men and boys gathered about me, almost shutting out the light. I was glad to rise and stand. One after another asked my name and age and residence and native country. My clothes were duly wondered at and the material and price inquired about. A "Christian Herald" which I had been reading on the way and had finished was eagerly snatched by the boys as I divided the leaves and gave each a picture. These people knew of the work of the Missionaries and some of them had been to our churches in Foochow. (Last week word came that this village would give \$36.00 toward the support of two day school teachers, - about half enough to pay them. We shall supply them and hope to teach them something beside and better than Chinese classics.) Rice eaten the coolies started on only one more stop of about five minutes for a drink of tea before we arrived at To Cheng- having made the distance of 36 li 12 miles in 3 ¾ hours. I had walked over the roughest places and up and down the hills to help the coolies. The family were awaiting the arrival of the bridal chair bringing the bride. I did not wait long. An Eastern house you know is a big thing. There are 353 people in this one. There is only one outside door. We walk thro this into an open court. Directly in front of this court and opposite the front door is the parlor or guest room. The first announcement of the approach of the bridal chair is the sound of distant music. Then a man enters the door carrying a large Chinese lantern on the end of a long pole. The bridal chair is a sedan covered with bright red cloth, and highly ornamented with gold and other materials and raised images and pictures. Four men carry it. They bring it into the open guest room where I am seated and where the family are standing about, and set it on the earth floor. The poles are taken out and the chair left while blankets are spread before it and the youngest child in the house is held before the chair to call the bride out, (which the half frightened child does in natural, lusty child yells- something like a hungry American baby's language- the bridesmaid takes off the front curtain and reaches in and half drags out a covered figure, the bride entirely covered. The chair is removed and the bride is led away by the bridesmaid. The blankets are taken up one after another and carried before the bride spread out for her to walk on so that her shoes do not touch the ground. She is led into an inner room while the bargain is sealed and the grooms father pays the rest of the money. Then she is brought back to the guest room, and she stands on one side of the blanket and the groom on the other. I am asked to read the service with the help of the grooms brother (who speaks a little English). I read the character, explaining the Christian marriage and ask the young man if he takes "this woman to love cherish and protect while both love." He answers "yes." The woman is asked the same and thro the maid answers. A hymn is sung. I offer a few words of prayer in Chinese and pronounce the benediction, then some native ceremonies which I could not understand were performed. On the table I noticed a platter with some cakes, a pair of scales and other articles on it. I watched the ceremonies closely till the maid reached for this, without detecting any idolatry. Here I exhibited some concern and the ceremony was stopped. The bride was led away to the bridal chamber and preparations for the feast began. I had brought no lunch so of course sat down to eat with the most distinguished guests. Ellen tried to make me promise not to eat any of the native food but I was hungry and I ate. However I should think that pigs were the chief product of that farm. The courses were many and I could eat some of them. When I could not eat, I took up the time eating water melon seeds. After the feast, the neighbors and friends came to see the foreigner for half an hour. Then I was asked to come and see the bride. Three of us men beside the groom all of whom had eaten with me, were led into

the bridal chamber. The groom and I sat on the bed. The others on stools. There were perhaps ten people in the room and we filled it. I saw only one woman and I recognized in her the maid. Query, where was the bride? I waited. I thought I could see all over the dimly lit little room and I was sure she was not there. But presently there was a stir at the foot of the bed- between the bed and the wall, a space of about one foot. I looked and saw the maid pulling at something. The groom turned to me and said "She is very cross." By this time the blushing, bashful maiden stood before us with chin on her breast. I arose to greet her. The maid stuck her hand under the girls chin and raised her head. When she saw me she smiled, and I saw a pretty girlish face. She was in a hurry to crawl back behind the bed out of the gaze of so many pairs of eyes. I was not happy. I was sad as I sat beside the young husband and told him that he must be loving and gentle to his wife, and saw the other men staring at the poor girl in idle curiosity. It seemed just like the purchase of a new cow at home. There was no sign of love in the husbands act or word. The girl had been brought away from her home to this strange house and not one of her kin were present. She must come out and be looked at and laughed at and commented upon by all who wished to do so. If she uttered a word of remonstrance, she was dubbed as unfilial and "cross." She was virtually now the slave of the oldest woman in the house= the wife of the oldest brother of the groom. I left for home, glad that I had been present to help the Christians stand against the pressure for heathen ceremonies, and thinking of the vast difference between this poor girl and an American bride. "How long O God, how long??", before this kingdom shall know the Love of God, and emancipate these enslaved girls? How long before true love shall be the basis of the family instead of \$150.00 silver dollars? The groom would remain at home four days then return to his school and study for five years more unless a lucrative position is offered him before the expiration of that time. The bride does not know a character, and cannot write her own name. She will wear the common blue cotton dress of the field women and go barefoot. Her husband will wear silk and his hands will not know toil. His fingernails will be half an inch long to testify to his high literary position and to the fact that he does not work.

Since I wrote you I have written to the Miss'y Herald about the call for workers in Diong Loh [*pronounced de-ong-lock according to the ABCFM*], and the offers of financial help which the villages of that field make for Christian preachers and places for worship. I will not write of this in detail, trusting that you will see at least the main points in print. The "Chinese Recorder"- The Missionary Journal of China- Intercontinental- gives my account of the Y.P.S.C.E. Rally of Nov. 12- in full. Sat. evening another home mail arrived. I was gratified to find again the cause of Missions was given space in the Sentinal. I was also glad to read of the dedication of the new Library and of the new advance in Christian activities outlined by Mr. Kenneston. Please remember me to him and to Mr. Tomlinson and thank them both for the cards which are on the way. The last mail brought a few picture cards from C.S.B. Tilton N.H. I cannot think who it is. The Advance, Golden Rule, Century, Public Opinion, and Christian Herald now come regularly. The Independent will soon begin to come. Some of these are gifts and some we have subscribed for. I have begun to read the new serial in the Advance "Mand Brayton" "The cow-boys adventure in the Girls Seminary was very amusing.

The Theological Seminary is going up as fast as 15 or 20 men can make it. The mason has been in to consult about putting iron bars in the street windows. It is pleasant to be able to talk with him. I had to tell one applicant for the course that he could not be accepted. I asked Miss Newton to translate for me and told him frankly that his reputation was not clear. That he had not been strictly honest and square in his business during the past year; that I would let him continue to teach his day school another year and would pray for him and help him in any way possible to live a strictly honest and manly life during the year and if his actions warranted it would be glad to have him study next year. He thanked us for the talk when he left. Dwight has been given the charge of the Ing Hok field 40 miles up the river, where he hopes to build a house and live in about two years. He with Messrs Hubbard and Peet have started for that field to-day to visit the churches and to arrange for a building site. The appropriations have not yet arrived. They are later this year than ever before the missionaries say. It makes it bad for us because we ought to have our plans for this years work all laid now. But cannot complete them till we know about the money foundation. We have changed personal teachers. This year we are to have a 1st degree man who joined the church only at the last communion.

After the last letter was mailed it occurred to me that I had not mentioned Phebe at all. Why? Well why do men go to town with only one errand and return after having done other business, and suddenly remember that the one errand had slipped their minds? It is a queer freak of the human mind to sometimes forget the most important thing. The little sunbeam has just torn a paper into little bits and scattered it all over the floor, and has put her tired head on the Amah's shoulder and gone to sleep. Still we say, without thinking of exaggerating, that Phebe is the best natured baby in existence. She never cries except when she is hungry or tired or frightened. And all of these causes have remedies which she yields to immediately. She is always ready to smile at Mama or Papa and is getting to play bo peep, and to clapping her hands etc. She sings (?) a great deal. Her notes were all vowels, till Saturday evening when she struck up a new strain that sounded like "Gu Ge, Gu Ge", u as in put, e as in her". This was just

after Dwight had been in and as I was holding Phebe and we were all joking. Dwight made a sudden gesture and spoke rather loudly. Phebe was very much frightened. Soon after she recovered she began this new strain. It sounded a little like "Goddard, Goddard."

Both Dwight and I have written urgent letters to James D. Solandt to come out and take the Theological Seminary. If he does I shall take several churches and do direct evangelistic work.

Flora's long letter was a delight. Until I can write her she must accept congratulations for her success. The Mission is calling loudly for seven young ladies to come out to take up teaching and work among us men. Who will come? Who will send them? The Eng. Ch. Mission has 12 ladies on the way. These have come out to join the Methodists this last Fall. The Eng. have also welcomed three young men and the Methodists one.

We have arranged to spend the summer at Mt. Guliang sharing a house with Dwight and Dr.

Tell Grandfather and Grandmother we think of them often. Tell Aunt Louise to wait patiently and she will find a letter from Foochow. The same to Elsie.

Love to all from the whole family.

Ellen, Phebe, Will.



This may be similar to the bridal chair that Willard talks about in the above letter.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **Feb. 9, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Problems arose when in the process of building the new Seminary, a wall fell on a wire shop and injured some of it's inhabitants. He tells the story of a church member being seized and imprisoned and how he and Mr. Walker and others of the church had to intervene. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.

Feb. 9th 1896

Dear Folks at Home:-

Yesterday and to day have been so full of events and doings which were not in the ordinary course of my life in Foochow hitherto that I think a diary of the events which have occurred may be the most interesting form to cast this letter in.

The fitting up of the building to be occupied as a Theological School has progressed rapidly and as far as all could judge, well, the high fire wall on the north of the First Church and between the church and the building which we were fitting up, had been moved so as to protect both buildings i.e. pulled down and built up on the north side of the school building. The wall was of dirt made by building brick posts about 14 feet apart in the wall and then filling in between these with mud tamped solid. The wall was about two feet thick at the bottom and tapered to a little more than one foot thick on the top. It was about 20 feet high. One of these walls stands for a long time if it has a good chance to get dry, after it is built. This wall was finished a week ago. There was very little dry weather while it was in process of construction. Every day was cloudy and damp. Just as it was finished the heavy winter rains set in. Thus giving the wall no chance to dry. On the other side of the wall from our building stood a native

shop about 16 ft. wide and of the same length as our building. This shop was used for the wire pulling business, and four men and a boy occupied it. Yesterday morning at 5:30 before light there was a loud pounding on our compound gate which brought both Ellen and me to the window to see what was the matter. The keeper opened the gate and I heard the Pastor of the First Church tell him the wall had fallen and some men were under it. I went to the door immediately and the Pastor wanted to call my coolie to go over and help rescue the men. I started at once for the scene of the accident, and found the wall had fallen, and had taken the wire shop with it. Wall and shop lay flat on the ground. 30 or 40 men had already collected. But they were all strangers to me. Our friends were away notifying interested parties. I met the Pastor when I was about half way and he told me one man had been killed. I asked him to go and call Dr. Kinnear. I was perhaps a little excited when I reached the scene, and the men who had collected were in similar state of mind. I asked how many men were in the building before it fell and understood 7 or 8 and that only 5 had been found. I tried to have them tell me where the three were sleeping and wanted to know why they were not trying to find them. I was much relieved however to see a much battered man come to me and tell me there were only 5 in all. Three of these had been rescued and the other two were nearly dug out. I went over and helped free these two. By this time, Drs. Kinnear and Bliss and Mr. Walker arrived. All the men but one had been able to walk when dug out. He was placed in a sedan and taken to the hospital. Three others afterward went there. After examination no bones were found broken and the wounds were all superficial. So my mind was greatly relieved.

Now that life and limb were safe the next thing to demand attention was the damage to property. According to Chinese custom the mason who built the wall would be held responsible for all damages. I wrote Mr. Hartwell, before I ate breakfast, all the facts, and started for the city immediately after breakfast to talk with him. But the mason was there before my note arrived begging Mr. Hartwell to have pity on him and to influence the Mission to help him bear the loss. The wall was built so far as I know according to contract and I think it only just that we bear most of the loss. This matter however is still to be adjusted.

We have some time ago tried to buy the lot on which the wire shop stood, but have been unsuccessful hitherto. It seemed best to try now to purchase the whole thing instead of throwing away money in replacing the building. Operations were accordingly begun. You will be interested to know these in detail. First let me say that the Chinese year ends Feb. 12th. And you remember I wrote last year that there is a general settling of accounts at that time. This makes the end of the year a very busy time, and a time favorable for purchasers who have ready money.

We tell one of the church members we wish to purchase this lot. He calls another man. They together go to the owner and get his price. \$600.00. They come again after consulting the owner and report that he will take \$550.00. I answer the same as before, and we stop for Sunday. In the early afternoon another go between hears that we wish to purchase and comes to ask me if he may go and talk with the owner. He is quite confident that we have offered all the land is worth. I tell him to go ahead. He reports that he has seen the owner who has several brothers, these will all be consulted to night (Sat.) and the business will be settled satisfactorily. Here Sunday- the day of rest (?) - stops operations as far as I am an actor.

I had just finished dinner yesterday as the Pastor came and wanted me to go down to the hospital. One of the wounded men wished to talk with me. With Mr. Walker as advisor and interpreter I go. It is the head man of the shop. He is looking better than when I saw him in the morning- his head sticking up out of the debris in which his body was still buried. He is now quite comfortable lying on a clean couch in the hospital ward. He says that a friend had entrusted to his care the day before \$28.00 in native bank bills and he did not get them from the ruins. It took several questions and some pressing to extract from him the place where he had left this money the night previous. Finally he said he put it into a table drawer that the table had been carried away, but no money found. I asked why he did not tell us before, instead of waiting 7 hours, and until the debris was nearly all cleared away. He said his head was not very clear in the morning. The Pastor thought it highly improbable that a man would have \$28.00 in a table drawer, unlocked, and go to sleep, especially as the money was in bills and could easily be put into a pocket. Here this business rests with strong suspicion that the shop man is trying a sharp game in which he will be worsted.

About the middle of the afternoon a man comes in for the yearly dues of the police in the vicinity of one of my chapels. In the evening our personal teacher who next year will preach in one of the villages recently opened to Christianity in Diong Loh next Chinese year came in to say good bye. Add to this two hours talk with Ming Uong about theological school matters, a talk with various interruption and you have an account of yesterdays work.

This morning I walked over to the Au Iong Die chapel to morning service. Just before we were ready to set down to dinner, Mr. Walker came in to say that one of the members of the First Church had been unjustly seized and imprisoned. The Pastor wanted us to go and help get him out. I heard the story and thought it wise to go to the Yamen and see about it. It might be interesting, but it is too lengthy to report the different versions of the story that I received until I was satisfied that I had the true one. So I will give only the one. About a week ago an official came up the river, and was going into Foochow city. He had three men loads of goods to be carried into the city. A little more than half way in the coolies stopped to eat at a restaurant kept by a man who has been attending church and

learning about Christianity at the First Church. After the coolies had finished eating the shop man wanted his pay. The coolies had no money but opened one of the baskets and took out a garment proposing to pawn it. The shop man said "no." And recognizing that the goods did not belong to the coolies, refused to let them take them away. For they had already proposed to pawn some. They would never dare to take the baskets to their owner with some of the goods missing. So the shop man suspecting that the coolies intended to steal the goods and run off with them, compelled them to leave the goods with him till the owner instituted a search, then restore them. In a few days a reward of \$10.00 was offered for the goods. The shop man restored them. He went before the Prefect who commended him for uprightness, and allowed him to depart. But before he could get outside the Yamen gate, some of the "runners"- the words used to designate the innumerable swarm of hangers-on, about all the official residences here, - seized him and shut him up. They knew that he has some money and hoped that money would be paid for his release.

Mr. Walker and I with the Pastor and another Chinaman went to the Yamen this afternoon and called on the attendant who had had charge of the case. He admitted all that I have written above and pretended not to know why the man was not released. But said he would go and speak to the official. After 15 or 20 minutes he returned accompanied by the aforesaid shop man who kneeled before us in grateful acknowledgement of our help in gaining for him his liberty. Mr. Walker said that it was very probable the "runners" did not wish the head official who had commended the man and sent him away, to know that they had detained him. And it was not at all likely that the attendant who said he would go and ask the official, had seen that official at all. But this attendant had just gone to work to get the man, and if the justice of the affair were to be enquired into he wanted to be rid of the man.

What a system of Government!!! No man is ever safe. Justice is well nigh impossible. Even if the head officials are all honest and try to be just, there is such a ravenous pack of vultures hanging about- each official, upon whom he must depend to execute his commands, that his honesty and justice does not reach beyond the walk of his own apartment. But this supposition is contrary to fact. The officials are neither honest nor just. How can the people rise? Never except by the interposition of a merciful Heavenly Father whose is all power in heaven and on earth who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He knows how to purify even this corrupt mass called the Government of China.

Ming Uong graduated from the Anglo Chinese College last Tuesday [see photos following]. have sent you his graduation essay on "The Education Needed in China." This is the production of a young Chinaman who has studied English for eight years. Mrs. Smyth the lady who looked over and corrected all the essays for the class told me that she made a very few corrections. Ming Uong is now at home. He will have a vacation till Mar. 1st., then the Theological School will begin and he will teach 2 hours a day and I will give him private lessons in the Theological subjects. I think the fall of the wall will not have any bad effect on the Theological School.



Written on back of photo by Willard: "Teachers and students of Anglo Chinese College Foochow- South Side. Methodist."



Ding Ming Uong can be seen in the middle of this magnified view.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

I sent with the essay 10 photos. In this letter I enclose the index to the photos. Perhaps in justice to the photographer I should say that these are not A No. 1 photos but some cells that he let me have for less than half price. Perhaps you will send them to Putnam some time and let the friends there look at them.

Love from all to all Will.

Tuesday, Feb. 11th.

I had so much other business yesterday that this letter could not be sent, so I can put in a word about Phebe. She is just the same little sun shine. Her mother bathes her after we are thro breakfast and then the Amah has most of the care of her until we are thro with supper, then we give up an hour or more- until she goes to bed to visiting with the young queen. This is the happiest time of the day for all three. She is now taking one or two meals a day of cows milk, - has two upper and two lower teeth, - will be 8 months old one week from today.

The wire shop men have given up the \$28.00 dollar business. It was too thin.

Love Will.

[On back of letter is written:]

I enclose an invitation to the wedding I attended a few weeks ago up in the mountains. It is in English(?)

Will

I can say Ba Ba and goo girl
 Phebe.

Catalogue of Photos. *[Location of actual photos unknown]*

- No. 1- Junks anchored just below the bridge at Foochow in Min river
2. Mr. Pye Telegraph operator at Sharp Peak, - sedan and coolies.
3. Parade ground at Foochow, - showing lines of soldiers trying to keep back crowds about 10 minutes before execution of the 5 Kucheng murderers Nov. 7th 1895.
4. Same ground as No. 3, - The five prisoners condemned kneeling, hands tied behind and flags stuck down their back telling names and crimes. The middle bent forward ready for the executioners axe.
5. Native carpenter at work. He is a member of the 1st church. See, plane, saw, square, axe, ink pot, with marker in it and line or reel attached.
6. Native travelling shoe maker
7. " Barber
8. " house- showing manner of drying clothes hung on bamboo sticks
9. Native travelling restaurant
10. Rain coat- made of a fibrous palm.

[Invitation from Ga Dieng Wong:]

Foochow Jan. 13th 1896.

Dear Mr. Beard,

How are you sir? I like to write to you today. But I am sorry I have no envelope, paper, ink and pen. Please excuse me. My brother will be merry in Thursday. I am very glad to have you come to me and get a feast on that day. If you will come please tell me now. Kindly return your letter to me.

Yours truly

Ga Dieng Wong.



A native barber. This photo may be similar to the one Willard refers to in his catalogue of photos.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **March 4, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells of the latest developments of baby, Phebe. He purchased the building and lot that the wall fell onto and described the process. Mrs. Walker died of stomach cancer. Willard tells about the Chinese and their feelings toward death. Mr. Walker, Mr. Gardner and Dr. Bliss have left for a trip to Shaowu. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.

March 4th 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

My diary tells me that three weeks have passed since I started a letter toward the old home. We received letters from you Feb. 21st bringing the proofs of the girls pictures. Father spoke of sending his proofs but we did not find them. It did us good to see how foolish you all were acting over Phebe's picture. But the dear little sunbeam is worthy of it. She is so good that the amah has a very easy time. For a few days past the sky has been clear and the weather mild. Phebe has spent nearly all day in the open air. If she does not get out before about 2:30 P.M. she begins to tease and keeps it up till she is in the fresh air. She is now taking two meals of cows milk each day. Her mother thought she ought to have some mellins food with the cows milk so we bought some and tried it yesterday. Phebe was not wholly pleased with the experiment. At 8 months old she weighed 19 ½ lbs. with no clothes. Her

eyes continue to be blue. She does not creep and I think she will not learn. It is better for her not to be on the floor as the ever present flea would be too cordial. She stands in chairs and holds herself up by the backs of the chairs, enjoys her baths as much as ever, sings and jabbars like any other common baby- in short is the most uncommon baby that we have ever had.

The mail Mr. 2nd brought a letter from Mr. Park- Miss Wooster (Ella), Mrs. Albert Smith of Abington, and one from a Mrs. Parsons of Salt Lake City. He wanted me to send some stamps to his little son. He did not put sufficient postage on the letter and I pay 20 cents for it. A few weeks ago an advertisement came from a Chicago firm on which 20 cents was due. This overdue postage is quite an item in our expenses in the course of the year. The worst of the matter is that these letters are nearly all of the nature of above mentioned two- of no importance to us.

Since I wrote you, very much has transpired here. I think I was in the midst of buying the lot and building on which the wall fell when I finished the last letter. We bargained to pay \$500.00 in a bank check. But at this juncture Chinese New Years came and all business came to a stand still. We waited till the bank opened. Then the go-between came and demanded that I go to the bank and get the silver dollars and give the owners. This I flatly refused to do. After an hour of bantering I told them I would go to the bank with them, as I had business there, but I would not bring the money. Then four brothers who owned the property came to our house. Three of them signed the deed. The two go betweens signed and the man who wrote the deed signed. Then the fourth brother took the pen and told me that before he would sign I must give each of them \$1.00. I kicked. After talking for an hour and a half, one of the go betweens said if I would give \$1.00 he would fix it up. I succumbed and the fourth name went on the deed. Then we counted the deed eighteen in all. Each sale makes two new deeds so we have the records of the last 9 sales of this property. We had consumed the whole forenoon in getting these 7 names on the new deed. Ming Uong had been with me to help as interpreter. I was hungry and not in the happiest frame of mind. It was raining hard and the bank was nearly two miles distant. I told Ming Uong to come up stairs and have a little lunch with me and then we would go to the bank. While we were waiting for our lunch I thought about loving enemies and doing good to those who spitefully use you and we asked the five hungry men down stairs waiting to come up and take a cup of tea and some cake. Then in all that rain 7 Chinamen went over to the bank to get the money. So distrustful are they of all mankind. When we agree to pay so many "dollars", we meant the so called "chopped dollar." But these are becoming scarce and when the bank pays new dollars a premium of .50 on \$100.00 is charged. I had at last to bear this for the \$5.00. All the gouging the 7 Chinaman did amounted to \$3.15. This is not so bad when you know that in a transaction of \$900.00 last year it amounted to over \$30.00.

This was my first experience. The natives are beginning to think of me that when I say \$10.00 I mean it, and not \$10.50. They are also getting rather wary of asking me to lend money. The falling of the wall has made many changes in the plan of the building for our Seminary. But it is rising slowly and all we want is pleasant weather to see a nice clean building ready for use.

When I mailed the last letter Mrs. Walker was not well, but as she was subject to attacks of indigestion we thought little of it. Tues. Feb. 11th Ming Uong graduated from the Anglo-Chinese College, and Mrs. Walker had known him from a babe, and made a great effort to go and hear him. When she arrived home she felt worse, and continued gradually to fail. The next Mon. Miss Newton, with whom you remember Mr. and Mrs. Walker were staying, and Dr. Kinnears family went down to Sharp Peak for a vacation. They did not think that Mrs. Walkers illness was serious. But Thurs. Feb. 20th the Dr's decided that her trouble was cancer of the stomach and said that she could not recover. Sat. P.M. Feb. 22nd she passed on before very peacefully. She was conscious to the last and very happy. She suffered almost none at all. The funeral was arranged for Monday 24th at 10:30 A.M. Telegrams were sent to Pagoda and Sharp Peak. The Pagoda people arrived in time. But there was a flood in the river and the friends from Sharp Peak did not get up till 5 P.M. Mrs. Walker leaves one daughter a little over 20 yrs. in Oberlin. Mr. Walker has shown the sustaining, comforting presence of God's Holy Spirit to a wonderful degree. I can see now how God uses the Christians death as well as his life to bring the heathen to a true knowledge of Him. There is and always will be a mystery about death. But in this heathen land this mystery is enveloped in a mass – a thick cloud of superstitious fear. The whole family will spend the last dollar to have the proper rites and ceremonies performed, and the requisite number of prayers chanted, for fear the spirit of the dead member will return to harm in some way. There were about 50 Christian natives present at the services Monday morning. Much was said of the joy that Mrs. Walker had during her last days, and of her willingness to go. Mr. Walker came over and took his meals with us after Mrs. Walker's death. That Saturday evening the cook as he came in to serve tea said to Mr. Walker "So Mrs. Walker has gone to heaven." Mr. W. said "yes." The cook said "Alas!" Mr. W. at once said, "No, don't say that. She is very happy now with Jesus and the Angels." On the next Friday Feb. 27th the little boy of our Ha Puo pastor passed away and his funeral was a thoroughly Christian service. The little body laid in flowers was brought with into the church and a beautiful service held there. This was also a great object lesson to the unconverted Chinese. No member of the family can touch the body of the dead member. Strange hands must

perform all the last ceremonies. The casket must be sealed and never opened. But here the little boy's father and brother (Ming Uong) and I placed him in the casket and carried him into the church and after the service the friends were asked to take a last look at the little Christian. One needs only see a little of the heathen superstition about death, and the ceremonies to which it leads to heathen, and then to witness a ceremony like this and hear the father himself standing by the open casket, tell of his last talk with his little boy to realize the power of Christianity to lift up the poorest mortal however far down in sin and ignorance and superstition he may be Pastor Ding said. Before the little boy passed away he asked him if he was ready to go and the little fellow said yes. He told him then that Mrs. Walker had gone on before and would be ready to greet him. This pleased the little boy very much. He has been ill with a spinal disease for over three years, but has always been a very patient and trusting little sufferer. He was about 11 years old.



Pastor Ding's family. Foochow City

On the back is written "The oldest daughter graduated from Miss Newton's last Jan. 1895 stands next Ming uong"
[Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]

Since the last letter I have arranged for 9 Day Schools in connection with the other work here. These are to be under Ellen's care.

The Seminary opened this morning with 8 young men to study for the ministry. Ming Uong is a prize. I shall put him into Fairchild's Theology next week and into Greek. Until the new building is ready for occupancy the boys will have to sleep in the chapels. They are now studying O.T. [*Old Testament*] exercises under Mr. Hartwell 3 hrs. weekly. Biblical Geography 3 hrs. weekly, Geography 1 hr., the Romanized Foochow colloquial 2 hrs. under Ming Uong, the native books 5 hrs. under my personal teacher, 1 hr. per week in general exercises. Then we have chapel each morning at 8:30. Sat. is free. On Sunday the young men will visit the different churches in the morning and in the P.M. each will have his S.S. class. In the evening they will help in the Y.P.S.C.E.s of the churches. We help each man to the extent of \$2.50 silver= about \$1.35 gold per month. This makes about \$17.00 per year in gold. On this the young man lives, with the little help he can get from home. You might put this bit of information in the paper. \$17.00 enables a young man to study theology one year.
 Thurs. A.M. Mar. 5th.

The Shaowu brethren Mr. Walker, Mr. Gardner and Dr. Bliss start for Shaowu this morning. They are happy at the thought. And the Christians up there will be rejoiced to meet them, they have been away so long. They will be about three weeks on the way. It takes a large boat to hold them with all their goods. This boat costs \$28.00

for a little more than half the distance. A contract is written, a little bargain money paid, at the time of signing the writing more when they take the boat and the remainder when the journey is accomplished. The goods were put on the boat yesterday afternoon, and the boat was to go up the river about 7 miles last night. The brothers will walk up to this place and go aboard. Yesterday afternoon, they went over to see the boat as the goods were being put on. After a long search they found it with 1 ton of kerosene oil aboard. This was rather tough considering they had bargained for the whole boat. The duty on all foreign articles is very heavy for natives. Missionaries goods go through free. There are 8 or 10 "leekin" stations where duty has to be paid between here and Shaowu. These boat-men thought to get this oil on board and run it up river as Missionary goods thus avoiding the duty. The oil was all taken off the last I knew. What they will find this A.M. I do not know. Thursday evening. The Seminary has now 12 students and is doing regular work. I am pleased with the men thus far. Six have applied who for various reasons are not admitted.

To-day has brought two experiences of the same kind, that are more depressing to my feelings than other experiences that I have in my work. First one of the school teachers came in and wanted money to buy brooms etc. for his school room. I have not furnished these articles to any of the new schools. But the old schools under Mrs. Woodins care last year were furnished. But the teachers also had less pay than I give them. I gave one of these teachers .20 yesterday for these articles and he was perfectly satisfied. To day the other boy came and wanted .30. I gave him .20 and told him that was all. He begged for a long time and all I could do was to say no until he got tired and went away. In about an hour the mason who built the wall that fell came and wanted some money. He wants the Mission to bear the expense incurred by the falling of the wall and I told him to-day positively that I was willing to bear just ½ of it. He put on a very injured look and said it made him very sad. He wished I would help him a little. The man is rich- has got rich out of the work the Mission has given him. According to native custom he would have to stand the whole expense of the falling of the wall what makes my position all the harder to bear. Mr. Hartwell sympathizes with the Mason. Well you will find it very difficult to understand the Chinese way of begging. But I want your prayers that I may be able to strike the golden mean- not be too severe so as to repel the Chinese- not be too easy so as to take away their sense of manliness and self respect.

Ellen is buying peanuts by the half bushel, - come over and visit us Stanley. You may have all the peanuts you can eat after each meal but nothing between meals. Pumeloes are gone. We are now reduced to 2 kinds of oranges, bananas and peanuts.

We are talking of riding out to Century Farm on the electric cars and visiting the public library and art Gallery of the city of Shelton. Its prominent citizens must stop pleading in court for more saloons tho or prosperity may not dwell within her borders. Love to all from all Yours

Will, Ellen, Phebe.

*[This letter dated **March 15, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. They have had many days of rain in Foochow. Willard tells a few stories of instances where he has been called upon to intervene in cases involving church members. The Seminary building is progressing slowly. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
March 15th 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It looked like rain. It began to rain. It rained. It has been raining. It was raining. It rained again. It continued to rain. It rained incessantly. The rain fell. The rain descended. The rain came down. It was rainy. Day and night the clouds distilled rain. It stopped raining. It rained again. There was a thunder shower. Then another. There is a thunder shower at the present moment.
Mar. 19th.

We have had a pleasant day today, but this evening, there is thunder and lightning and it rains. The winter seems to be over. The air feels like spring but very damp. The pastors and others in my chapels and parsonages are complaining of leaky roofs and some of our houses are letting in the rain. But it will stop sometime. The workmen have been busy again on the Seminary today. They worked some yesterday. And it did me good to see the building move on a little.

The Secretary of the Woman's Board for Boston, Miss Abbie B. Child arrived Tues. Mar. 17th with her sister. I met them at the launch which bro't them up from the steamer. They will stay with Miss Newton, and Dr. and Miss Woodhull, visiting the work of the W.B. M. and also to a good extent the work of the parent Board. Yesterday morning, Ellen and I took them over to Ha Puo church where Ellen has charge of a Woman's Station

Class. About 25 women were present. They were learning characters i.e., learning to read- some John's Gospel, some Mark's, some the Acts, some the Commandments, some the catechism, etc. They were all reading these different books aloud. Miss Child asked if any foreigner was compelled to listen to the jargon all day. Fortunately not, then after she had spoken a few words and I had tried to translate them for the women, she and Ellen looked over the pastors house with his wife while I played with his grandson and chatted with him. Then we visited the Day School connected with this church with the 27 boys present,- then went on a mile or more and visited another Day School with 17 scholars, then another with 17 scholars. Of these 61 students 3 were girls and 5 were from Christian families. This shows somewhat the foundation work which these Day Schools are doing. The boy from the heathen family goes to the school and read Christian books, - learns the Lord's Prayer and 10 commandments, hears the Gospel each Sunday, and learns Christian hymns. Thus the knowledge of God and His Book is spread.

A few days ago a man came to me and said he owned the house in which the father of one of my chapel keepers lived. He said that during the last 15 years about \$10.00 had been accumulating on rent due and not paid,- a little each year. Then on last years rent \$2.00 were still due. - The rent was \$12.00 per year. He asked me to take this amount out of the chapel keeper's salary and give it to him. I told him I would investigate and he might come again. I found that during the 15 years the owner had repaired twice. That the renter had to repair often himself. I found also that the owner had promised a year ago not to say anything more about the \$18.00. That the chapel keeper had asked him to wait a few weeks and he would pay the \$2.00 due on last years rent. Well when the man came he met me just coming out of the door to go into the city to prayermeeting, I told him I was busy but would do his business. In about 4 minutes, I told him of his promise concerning the \$10.00 and assured him that the \$2.00 would be paid. I also assured him that I would let severely alone all that pertained to the \$10.00. He then asked me if I would not collect his rent for him and give it to him. I answered him with one word. Then he asked me if one of my pastors could do it. I answered him in like manner. He began to talk about the bothersome business of collecting and I told him I had lots of bothersome business, meanwhile closing the door of my study, and asking him to walk slowly left.

Last Sat. evening as we were going out into the dining room for supper I was called back by a helper and a church member. They had the following story. A man who is learning the truth at Au Iong Die bought some goods for \$2.00 a load after looking at the sample. The goods came and he said they were not as good as the sample and was willing to pay only \$1.50. The two could not agree. The learner went to the helper at Au Iong Die and the helper and a ch. member went to the merchant. The two parties could not understand each other very well and after a time the merchant thought that these two men meant to help the learner cheat him, and told his men to beat the visitors which they did in short order. The helper and ch. member ran to me as little boys at home do to their parents when bigger boys pummel them. I told them it was too late to do anything then and the next day was Sunday, and I was busy until 12:00 Mon. They might come then. I decided at that time to call the merchant and have a talk with him. I sent my card and asked him to come over immediately. He could not come that P.M. but would come Tues. A.M. He sent his card with his greeting to me. Tues. A.M. at the Seminary prayers at 8:30 about 12 church members were present. They had come to see that the merchant was dealt with in the right manner. Fortunately he had not arrived when prayers were over and I took these ch. members into a room by themselves and asked the pastor to read Matt. 5:38- end of chap. then told them we were not seeking this man harm but his good. He had hurt some of our members but now we must not want to injure him in return, but pray for him. When he came I asked him about the beating. He began to tell about the money difficulty. I had to shut him off and tell him I would not touch that. That was a purely business transaction and I had nothing to do with it. But when I heard of men beating other men without cause it was my duty to help the weak. I asked him if he did tell his clerks to beat the 2 men. He frankly said "yes." I asked if he considered that he did right. He frankly said "no." I asked if he was willing to make reparation. He was willing to pay the doctors expenses to visit the man who had been hurt by the beating. He also promised to tell his neighbors that the beating was wrong. I thanked him for coming to me and for being so frank and fair and left. The natives afterwards settled the money difficulty; assured him that we were not after money but wanted fair dealing and honesty. They also asked him to come to church and hear the Gospel. He promised to come. I was very much pleased with the visit from this man and especially please with his readiness to do the fair thing. I cannot account for it. Because all the other cases of this kind have been so troublesome. I may be hasty in judging but so far as I have heard, the older missionaries are very apt to try to find out the facts thro third parties instead of going directly to the parties interested. This is the Chinese custom. Do no business direct- always have a middle man.

Good night.

Mon. Evening Mar. 23rd.

It rains. This is the principle new item since I wrote last. The Theol'l School goes on each day, slowly but surely. Ming Uong is proving himself invaluable. He does not work so many hours each day for so much pay but

has the welfare of the school at heart and spares no pains on his efforts to promote the efficiency of the school. Beside this he is doing good work in his father's church. The S.S. and Y.P.S.C.E. already show the results of his efforts. The last scheme that he proposed was to institute a Village Improvement Society to keep the street in front of his house= our church- clean. I am going to help him in this all I can. This help however will consist principally in sympathy and such influence as I being a U.S. citizen can exert. The Seminary building progresses slowly on account of the rain. The roofs are only partly on. But the carpenters are at work every day. The floor is all down and the partitions partly up. The doors and windows are all made ready to be put in.

Phebe is the next and last topic for discussion. I am sorry I cannot give as good an account of her as heretofore. But it is not her fault. Her mother has ceased to furnish her with the staff of life, except during the night and the young lady feels slighted and as is her custom she expresses her dissatisfaction in tones of unmistakable meaning.

This however has been the order of the day for over a week now and the princess is getting a little accustomed to the spoon. We tried a rubber nipple the other day and she rebelled absolutely. We desisted. She now takes 6 good tea cupfuls of milk each day. It is going to be an added expense to us to keep her in this way. I have already ordered half a bottle of milk extra for each day. This will be \$1.00 a month added expense. But I tell you she is a cherub, - a dear little comfort. Plays like a kitten only with much more intelligence. Sees her Papa as soon as he comes in sight and always has a smile for him- unless some one is trying to stuff milk down her in that unnatural way. Her naps during the day are quite short- never over 1 hr. and seldom as long as that- generally ½ hour. She still sleeps well at night calling for food 2 or 3 times. But scarcely waking while taking it. She is now trying the experiment of ducking herself when in her bath. Twice she has deliberately put her face under water and of course drew in her breath almost strangling herself. But it does not make her afraid of the water at all. She passed the 9 months post last Wed.

I send in this letter a list of goods that I should like you to put up and ship to Boston if time permits. I sent a draft on the treasurer of the Board for \$50.00 last Oct. I sent to Oliver Jr. but have not heard from it. Will some of you not look up the matter and let me know just how I stand with you. Tell me also how much there is due on this (enclosed) order after you have put it up and I will remit. The last shipment has not yet arrived. It is unusually late. It has also been over three weeks since a home mail arrived. We are expecting one at any time now.

I ought to add a word more about some of the things in on this list. As to the shoes. I think it would be well if either Ben or Oliver could go and try them on. They should be a little large for them. Also ask the dealer to remember the style and size and name of shoe. Please do not get pointed toes. If they fit I shall want about 1 pair a year. \$3.00 ought to buy a pair good enough.

Most of the things ordered are perishable and I think it would be wise and perhaps the cheapest way to estimate how large the box should be and after making it have a lining of cheapest tin put in and then a tin lid soldered on before nailing the board lid on. Dr. Kinnear is packing all his goods in boxes fixed like this. - Bedding and books etc.- If you do this way cloth bags or paper board packages are good enough for all the cereals- By the way Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear are going to live in Meriden a good part of the next year and a half. I know you will see them. I will write more explicitly later. Ellen and Phebe send love- me too Will.

The whole page of Love to Grandfather and Grandmother and uncles and aunts and cousins.

Will.

[This letter dated April 8, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. They have received word that Dr. Bliss' father has died but this information will not reach Dr. Bliss for a few more weeks. Miss Abbie Child from the Woman's Board visited many of the churches. More women are needed in the fields to work with the Chinese women. Willard has had a touch of malaria. Churches are full and Willard is concerned that there are not enough missionaries to do the work. He is so busy now that he has less time to study the Chinese language. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.

April, 8th 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

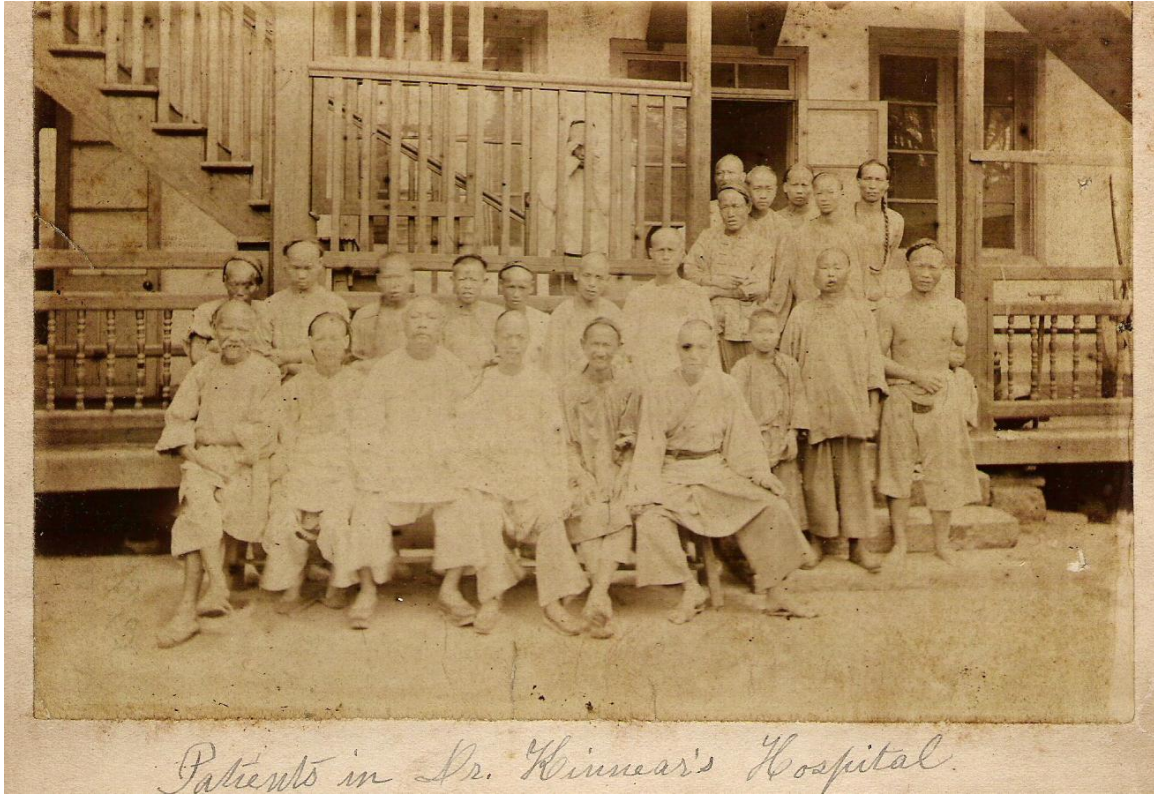
It seems more like Spring for the last few days. The warm weather is later this year. A year ago we had misquito nettings up before this. Last night we heard one or two of the visitors but were not annoyed. Strawberries are not yet in market. I am afraid that the continued rains will damage the fruit. We have not yet taken down our stoves, but shall in a few days.

Since I wrote last letters have arrived from both homes and one from Northfield from Etta. The last mail brought the news of the sudden death of Dr. Bliss' father. He does not know of it yet nor can he hear of it for two or three weeks to come.

Miss Abbie Child Sect'y of the Woman's Board left us a week ago to-day, and went to Pagoda, hoping to have two or three days there to visit the work. But her steamer sailed two days earlier than advertised and she had to go on board Thurs. evening- 24 hrs. after arriving at Pagoda. Her visit here was a very pleasant one. She was at Ponasang Sunday Mar. 29th. In the morning she attended Geu Cio Dong= First Church. As usual the standing room was all utilized. The vestibule full and men could not get near enough to hear the preacher. This was the same last Sun. Apr. 5th. How to obtain funds to enlarge this church is one of my great problems. I want the people to make a start first tho'. In the afternoon I started with Miss Child at 1:45. We visited Au Iong Die chapel- found it full of Sun. School scholars. After remaining 15 min. we went to Ha Puo Ga and found it full with orderly classes systematically arranged. Here we went thro' the customary opening exercises and part of the lesson study and Miss C. watched. Then we went to Dr. Kinnear's Hospital and saw 120 little street waifs gathered in a room not more than 12 X 14 singing Christian hymns, learning the Lord's Prayer and listening to the explanation of the parable of the vineyard. When we were thro here we stopped for the afternoon. As to the results of Miss Child's visit I am sure that she realizes as never before and as one never can from reading letters the difficulty of reaching women of China. She sees that in order to reach the women, women must be sent to us. The men cannot work among the women. If 3 or 4 young women do not come out during the next year I shall be surprised. Then she also received the impression that we needed more room in our church.



Rear View - Dr. Kinnear's hospital [*Jill Jackson had a similar photo of this hospital and stating that it was Dr. Kinnear's hospital, but this photograph is clearer. Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.*]



Patients in Dr. Kinnear's Hospital
 [Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]

One week ago to day I laid me down and rested and rested till day before yesterday. - Mon. I got up and took breakfast with Ellen. I believe some say I have been trying to work my Chinese teacher too hard, others that I had imbibed some of the malaria with which the region is abundantly supplied. I am on my feet again however- went over to the Consulate and took dinner yesterday. To day I have done nearly my usual amount of work.

Apr. 9th.

The next subject to which we will give our undivided attention is a new one i.e. of recent date- June 18th '96. Phebe is all right. She is entirely weaned, and accepts the situation as one that is for the best and that is to be permanent. We take supper at 6 P.M., and are thro' with it about 6:30. Then the little girl gets into her night robe and either her papa or mama lies down with her a few moments while she coos and pulls their nose and pinches their necks until Somnus [*Roman God of sleep*] gets the better of her and takes her off. She wakes once or twice before morning and takes a drink of water or is turned over and then goes right to sleep again.

This morning I awoke at 6:30. She was singing away like a canary. She had kicked all the clothes off and her feet were the drum sticks and Ellen's body the drum. E. was asleep but soon awoke. The little girl is in doors just long enough to sleep and eat. The rest of the time she spends in the open air. The Dr. vaccinated her the other day, and her arm is getting pretty tender. The vaccine took well. So during the next week she may not be as good natured as usual. She sits alone now anywhere, and pulls herself up on her feet. While sitting in her bath she has great sport in turning to one side and taking hold of the top of the tub and pulling herself up. The other day her mother wanted to leave her a moment and so put her in the clothes basket thinking she would be safe there. She had not moved ten steps before the young giant was on her feet ready to go nose first over the edge of the basket on the floor. We have not had another picture taken but are watching for it.

There is nothing but the most encouraging news to write concerning the work. The churches are all full every Sun. Every week requests come for a preacher to go to some new place, - sometimes the people offer to pay his salary if we i.e. the Mission will provide the room to meet in. I have started three new centers of work this year. At one 5 min. away, 70 were present a week ago last Sunday and as many more last Sunday. In another place a little temple was filled with people who had come to listen to the preaching. In the third place the room hired for a day school could not hold the people who wanted to listen. So it is all over the field not only in our Mission but in the other Missions as well- all the churches full and crowded to the doors- not with curiosity seekers but with men and a

few women who want to listen and learn about the Truth. There is only one phase of the present condition that disturbs me. We have not the laborers to thrust forth into this wonderful harvest. The people are anxious to learn the Truth, but where are the men to teach these multitudes that throng our churches and homes and the homes of our Pastors. The force of Christian workers is inadequate. Consequently many are asking admission to the church who have not been, and could not be sufficiently instructed in the Truth to intelligently accept the vows which church members are required to make. These must wait then until they are better instructed, unless the examining committee is too late.

Sat. April 11- Yesterday afternoon I went with two of my right hand men to visit a village which has been calling for a man to come and teach them the Truth. I found one of our church members there. I wish you could have seen him when he saw me. He did not know how to express his joy. He made all sorts of excuses for his poor house and when we said we were in a hurry and started to go he fairly held us down and declared that he must have the privilege of showing his respect to us and said that he had a meal almost cooked for us. I knew I could not eat much, but I told the boys we must go in and sit down and eat a little to please him. I'll not describe the room or the food or the 20 naked and half naked children that were within the sweep of my arm while I ate (?). We saw about 6 men whom this church member had interested in the Gospel. All the people were very friendly. This man comes to church quite regularly. To do so he must walk 2 miles to the river, cross in a ferry boat, and walk 2 miles more. This makes a walk of 8 miles to attend church. Don't you think he ought to be helped in his endeavor to tell of Christ's love to his neighbors?

When we returned he accompanied us as far as the river and kept the boatman from charging us twice as much as he should for our fare.

This morning another American mail arrived bringing a letter from Etta and one from Mr. Kenneston. That letter from Mr. Kenneston was better than all the pills Dr. has been giving me during the past week. Work has pressed very fast. One of the Meth. brethren is finding fault with me for getting a school to near his. Au Iong Die chapel wants to break off from Geu Cio Dong church and this just as the church and chapel were together working to make one self supporting church. Calls and requests are coming oftener than once a week for men to go to new places to teach the people the Gospel of Christ. The Theological Seminary requires 2 or 3 hours of my time every day. Then I pretend to be studying the language. I must confess however that this takes a back seat now-a-days – altho I get the practice in the business that I have to attend to every day. I hope that the oversight of the 30 or more men who are under my care will become easier in time. I have put a stop to borrowing- am getting hard hearted. Last week a young man sent word to me that he was sick and out of money and wanted to borrow \$2.00. I said no flat because I knew he was not in destitute circumstances. Dwight is with me in this movement, so are Dr. Kinnear and Miss Newton. As soon as the men see that I mean what I say, when I tell them "no" they will stop coming to me. But you must not think that all these 30 men are of this stamp. Many of them are as conscientious as I am about these matters and these men are the people that hold me up.

Monday April 13. We are now having genuine hot sultry weather. Last night and this morning heavy thunder and copious rain is the order. Ellen was a little under the weather yesterday, but is better today. Phebe's vaccination is past the worst stage. The little girl looks about melted these hot days. But she is happy when in the open air and gives us very little trouble at night.

Next Fri. a church is to be dedicated in Diong Loh, Dr. Whitney's field. It is an Ancestral temple given up and made over into a house to be used for the worship of the one true God. Our washerman was taken out of a heathen home when we first arrived in China. He has been under Christian influence now for more than a year. But he has never said any thing about becoming a Christian. Two or three weeks ago I asked him if he was not going to make a start and he said he wanted to go slow. I told him I thought he had been slow enough. But that Jesus never said "go slow" in becoming a Christian. I was pleased last evening when he told me he was to join the C.E. next Sun.

Love to all from all Will.

*[This letter dated **May 4, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Some of the churches are beginning towards self support. Willard tells a story of a dying widow who wanted to will her 7 year old daughter to him. He talks about Phebe's latest developments. Willard wonders when more help will come to do the missionary work. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China
May 4th 1896

Dear Folks at Home:-

If I do not begin to write very soon I shall loose my bearings and shall not know where to begin or how to select from the many interesting items those which will be most interesting to you.

Last week I was busy on my Annual Report which each Missionary must write to be sent to the Rooms at Boston. This week I am the only member of the male persuasion in our Mission, at home. Messrs. Hubbard and Goddard are in Ing Hok. Mr. Hartwell is also in the country. Messrs. Peet and Dr. Whitney are to night half way to Shanghai to attend the Education Conference, and Mr. Peet expects to remain for the Y.P.S.C.E. Convention the last of May.

Two very interesting developments have taken place in my work since I last wrote. Thursday April 23rd. The Senior deacon at Geu Cio Dong came to me and said there was a division in the church regarding the self-support of the Pastor this year. The Pastor he said wanted \$10.00 per month. Some of the members were willing to give it but some were not willing to give more than \$8.00 per month. He wanted to know if he might come with some of the church members and talk over matters the next evening. I told him of course. He also went to Miss Newton and asked her to be present telling her the same that he told me adding "do not let the Pastor know as we would prefer to talk over the matter in his absence." With Friday evening came about fifteen of the church members- with the Pastor. I saw the Pastor alone and told him the business to be discussed and suggested that it might be better if he were not present. That the men might feel more free to express their real thoughts. But the Pastor did not seem at all alarmed and said the Deacon had invited him to come. So we all sat down. I said to them, "We have a difficult matter before us. What shall we do first?" Some one said "Pray." After two prayers I asked the Deacon if he were spokesman and if so if he would state the business, - telling just where the difficulty lay. He simply said, "We members of Geu Cio Dong have talked the matter over and are agreed to pay our Pastor \$10.00 per month. We are also ready to vote to night on the question of paying our Pastor." This gust of wind from this unexpected quarter caught me unawares. I had rigged all my sails to meet two factions of men at variance, and was steering to affect a reconciliation thro a compromise. This sentence from the old deacon upset my bark and I was left sitting on the wrecked hull helpless. I could hardly believe my ears, and lest I had misunderstood simply said "That is very good. I am glad. Then there is no difficulty?" the men answered with a shake of the head while a sly smile passed along the line and I realized then they thought best to act on self support. The little seed has made wonderful growth in one short year. Pray for this church that it may be guided by the Holy Spirit in this new undertaking and that the leaders may be given great wisdom in managing the money matters of the church.



Written on back of photo by Willard: "Interior of Geu Cio Dong church- oldest church in Foochow. I now have charge of it. It seats about 250 and is packed every Sunday at 10:30 and at S.S. in P.M. 2:30."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

About a month ago the man who preaches at my Au Long Die chapel told me that there were several men who spoke a Southern dialect (which was his native dialect) doing business in the great fish market, the busiest place in Foochow, who wanted a chapel started in their street. They were willing to pay him if he would come and preach for them. But they wanted the Mission to rent, repair and furnish a chapel. This would take about \$200.00. There was no money in the Mission treasury, so I went to Miss Newton and told her the state of things. She was willing to help \$50.00. We put in an equal amount. I told the people that we could help them \$100.00. If they could do the rest we should be very happy. At first they said "Impossible." I also said impossible to raise on the \$100.00. But in about a week they came five men and told me they were ready. They had the carpenter and the mason with them with contracts all written out. And the orders for the benches and other furniture had been given. They are to have the new chapel dedicated in a few weeks, and pay their preacher from the first. This makes two self-supporting for me. The next surprise I expect from Au Long Die. I do not know in what line it will be, but there are some energetic, warm hearted, Christian men there who are not poor, and they are planning something these days. I do not know exactly what. I prefer to give any help in the form of suggesting principles and giving hints and leave the people to do the thing in their own way. If they do it in my way, they derive no benefit, and they do not take the interest in it that they do if done by themselves in their own way, feeling that they have my prayers and sympathy and that I am ready at any moment to help them in any difficult problem.

We are just now busy examining the Day Schools. Thus far three have been examined. I go with our personal teacher to the school. 20 or 30 pupils are sitting at their desks awaiting our arrival. I ask my teacher to offer a short prayer, after which he calls the pupils one at a time to come forward with the books which they have read. The first boy brings two or more books, some the native books of Confucius or Mencius and some the Christian books written by the missionaries and native Christians. He places these books on the table before us, turns his back toward us, and begins to recite as if his supper depended upon his finishing at a given limited time. The teacher turns two or more leaves ahead of where he is reciting – for there is not time to hear him recite the whole book- and reads three or four words. The boy takes up one passage without even repeating what the teacher has said- literally takes the words out of the teacher's mouth and rattles on at a break-neck pace. This break-neck pace of itself is laugh-provoking, but you add to it that peculiar swaying or rather tattering from side to side, from one foot to the other it makes Ellen and me bite our lips. This motion is for the sake of helping the memory and when the memory stops the boy stands still. When the memory is the swiftest the boy goes from side to side like the sieves in a farming mill. This motion is however going out of date in our best schools. I have three teachers who have never taught for the Mission before and do not know how ludicrous we regard this practice. In other schools it is not so prevalent.

May 8th.

I was roused this morning at 2 A.M. and requested about 1 mile to see a dying widow who asked to will her little girl 7 yrs. old to me. I dressed and went over to Ha Puo Church of which the widow is a member, and told the Pastor and his wife, who had sent for me that I was not willing to accept any such responsibility. If they or the church wished to take the little girl good, I would witness the transaction and be of any service within my power. Here the real state of affairs came out. The woman was the 2nd wife of a man who had 2 brothers- one older- one younger. When he died according to custom the older brother has power over his family. In this case the older brother came and ransacked the house taking away all the deceased mans deeds to property and leaving the widow destitute. She had one little boy and a girl who had been bought for his wife. She herself has since bought another little girl and has the deed for the little girl!! Afterward she became a Christian and joined the church thinking that she was not likely to live. She realized that these children would fall into the hands of the husband's elder brother and his only thought regarding them would be to get as much money for their sale as possible. Lord how long, how long? must this people continue to devour each other? Widows houses are devoured, the bread is taken from the children's mouths. - The man that falls is trampled under foot by those who are stronger- every advantage is taken to get a cash. Mercy is almost unknown- and justice is rare.

I told this Pastor if the church wished to take the little girl good. They must write a will to that effect. I would witness and this they did. Then we went to the house. Within were the elder and younger brothers- ready to grab the booty as soon [as] the woman was really gone. Also a daughter of the deceased husband by a former wife all bitterly opposed to Christianity, also a Bible Woman, an old man, a church member and myself. The note which called me said that if they waited till day light they feared the woman could not speak- she however could make a good deal of noise when I arrived and I did not feel in any hurry for fear we were too late. We asked her in the presence of the brother-in-laws what was her wish. She spoke very plainly saying she was afraid she might not live and if not she feared that the older brother of her husband would take her little girl and bring her up to worship Buddha and perhaps sell her for the worst purposes. She spoke plainly also of her love of Jesus and of her desire to have the little girl brought up to love Jesus and to serve Him. Then we read to her the will we had prepared and she

assented and signed it. I signed as witness. Ming Uong as another witness. We then asked the elder brother to sign but he refused. He said however in the presence of us all that he had no power over the girl. The woman bought and paid for her. With this oral evidence from him we left after praying with the woman and saying a few words of comfort and cheer.

Not until just this moment has the realization of my situation while in that house reoccurred to me. But it comes back to me now as it flashed over my mind while standing in the room alone last night with those Chinese. I was alone far from any other foreigner at dead of night in the presence of two men whose evil purpose I had openly come to thwart. Within sound of their voices were not less than 100 persons who were not friendly to Christianity. But did not once for a second think of fear. I think this fact has two explanations. 1st I am accustomed to go anywhere among the people and have never received anything but kind treatment. 2nd I think God shuts out fear from the mind of His children when they are about His business.

Sunday evening: May 10th. It is my first duty to say that after the Dr. had been to see the above mentioned woman, and found that she had indigestion and worms, and is now well on the road to recovery, my sympathies have abated.

The amah has gone home for Sunday. As Ellen has a S.S. at the Hospital and as she plays for the Y.P.S.C.E. at Geu Cio Dong, I have been amah, have had the care of Phebe all the P.M. and until she went to bed and fell asleep. Her habits are getting quite regular now that the weaning process is over. She wakes about 6 A.M., takes breakfast 6:30, her bath at 9:00, then has a good long nap, and another meal and works (?) till 1:30 when she eats again and then has another nap, eats again at 4:30, again at 7:00 and goes to bed. She is very active, never quiet. One of her great amusements is to play with four or five little stones on the steps. She will pound these against one another by the half hour. Perhaps she will make a stone mason. Then she is much taken with watching the birds and gets so excited she almost flies. I have not gone down stairs with her today when she has not begged for a flower. The red and pink geraniums are very pretty now and she will hold one of these blossoms extending it now and then for me to smell and if her mother comes out will hold out for her to smell and she will keep it for a long time, then suddenly crumble it up and train to other business. Ellen gives her cows milk boiled and the cream stirred in with enough hot water to warm it and with each meal 2 tea spoonfuls of Mellins food. She is getting fat every day. To day she received her first severe bump. I was rolling her in her carriage on the walk when she suddenly put both hands on one side of the carriage, raised herself up on her feet and went out head first turning a complete somersault. Fortunately the place where she struck was soft and in a few minutes she was all right. I expect it is only in this way that she will learn to be careful about falling. At present she is entirely devoid of any fear.

Dr. Kinnear's family started for home a week ago Thurs. I am the only man in the compound. A week ago for four days I was the only man of our Mission in Foochow. The others were either in the country or had started for Shanghai.

As to your offer to make the balance due me \$50.00 and put it in the bank father. We intended to do that very thing before the year is gone only we shall not tie the money for any length of time. To accept your offer I should have to send you an order for \$30.00 which I do not want to do now. Her allowance is this year \$45.00. We expect to lay this aside each year. But it would not be wise for us to lock it up till she was 21 years of age for if every thing is favorable she will need some of it before that time for her education.

The boxes from home have not yet arrived. They may be expected any time. Mr. Kenneston wrote that the Shelton church had sent 14 lbs. of cards to us. We have not received them. I wonder if he put them in the box which you sent.

The work is very encouraging in all parts of the field. We no longer seek opportunities to preach, no longer try to gain an entrance into villages or sections of the city and suburbs. We simply cannot supply all the calls that come. There has been one chapel connected with Geu Cio Dong for three years. Within the next two weeks there will be two more off-shoots- one a chapel, the other the self-supporting church in the fish market referred to above. Not a week passes when the pastor does not tell me there must be one more chapel in another important section where there are several church members. One village that comes under the care of Ha Puo Ga has teased so long that I have at last given the church members there money to buy the lumber and they are going to make benches themselves to put in one of the members houses, so as to hold worship each Sunday. Other places are waiting. The harvest is ripe. Laborers are few. Who among the 1000's in Christian America will say "Send me??" Who will send him?

Lovingly, Will.

[This letter dated May 21, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the items sent from the U.S. and the condition in which they arrived. They went to Guliang (Kuliang) for the

weekend and Willard enjoyed getting a rest from the many problems brought before him by the Chinese. He is pleased that the idea of self support among churches is catching on. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.

May 21st 1896

Dear Folks at Home:-

Last week brought with it the long looked for boxes from Shelton and Putnam. The box from Shelton came all right except two of the glass cans. One in which dried apples were put must have had a good rap some time for it was well shattered. One of the cans of butter arrived- only we could not find the butter- with the lid in two parts. The butter was in the box well distributed but we could not find it. However the damage amounted to almost nothing. Perhaps two pounds of cereal were damaged- nothing else suffered. Elizabeth was very thoughtful to put in pumpkin pie seeds and dear little Stanley- is little right now? - was very kind to put in the popping corn. We shall enjoy it so much and it will make us think of home. Ellen's eyes snapped when the little shoes and bonnet came to light. Do you know the little girl has such big feet that those shoes will just go on now. We gave Phebe the ball and she looked at it rather demurely, but when the little paste board box with the pumpkin pie seeds came out and we shook that before her she gave one jump, stretched out her hand and during the rest of the day that old rattle box was her companion- she likes a noise. Ellen put on the ring from Uncle James, but after a glance she turned again to her pumpkin pie seeds. The ball has since become attractive to her, and a rubber rattle from Putnam has been a great source of amusement to her. When the boxes of cards came to light Ellen fairly screamed with delight. She had given away nearly all of her stock and the children were literally crying tears for more. It looked rather dubious, but this addition makes it all right for the next few months. Ellen said the dress pattern for herself was exactly what she wanted. The pen, shears, comb etc. were all in perfect condition.

Last Sat. afternoon we went up to Guliang- the mountain resort with Dwight and his Dr. and staid till Monday afternoon. It seemed like moving to another sphere. The air was cool and clear. All was as quiet as it is out in the fields at home. The temperature on the mountain was about what you are enjoying at home at this season of the year. But the best of the outing was to think that no Chinaman could reach you for two whole days with any business. Now don't accuse me of disloyalty to the cause which we came here to foster. But since the first of last Oct. I have had three days off at different times. With this exception it has been a steady pull almost seven days in the week in spite of everything I could do. The work has grown and developed wonderfully since Jan 1st '96 and every day brings men to consult about new work or the enlargement of old work- or some man is in trouble and wants help- or a church or chapel must be repaired etc. etc. this is all work that must be done and therefore is in the line of duty and when done brings its reward in a peaceful and contented mind. But the body gets weary and the mind gets weary, and two days of perfect quiet surrounded by God's own handiwork- out of the din of the crowded city, are better than any amount of pills if one must remain in the whirl. We were in bed at 8:30 each night. Sun. A.M. we breakfasted at 9:30 o'clock. Mon. A.M. we did better. Phebe was asleep when we started from Ponasang. She woke up while we [were] on the plain and did not know where she was. She acted just as if she thought some one was carrying her off. I had to carry her in my arms about half way up the mountain. This gave me good exercise.

Fri. May 22nd. Last night was Ong ick that is very hot and this morning is about like a hot, muggy dog days morning at home.

Ming Uong was taken ill last Sunday, and has not done any thing this week. I have taken two classes. But as I do not have to teach him, I have been comparatively free this week and letter writing has advanced a peg. This makes the sixth since Tues.

We have waited most a week vainly for a home mail. The last arrived three weeks and three days ago. Yesterday we hear that the "Rio" one of the Pacific steamers was off for repairs and so one trip skipped. The result is a long period with no letter, no papers, then we are covered with both up to our necks.

The work grows amazingly. The self support idea has taken hold of the heartstrings and purse-strings of the people in my field, and every one is planning for enlargement of the work- and planning to give themselves a good share of the money. Several of the members of Geu Cio Dong live within the city wall. There are about 20 of them living quite near together. Goddard wanted to do a little work on his own hook and I told him these people would greatly appreciate a chapel in their midst. He told them to rent one and he would meet the expenses. They tried several places, but it is a section in which foreigners are not well known and none of the natives were willing to rent. The Christians had no suitable place. So they say, "Never mind, we will rent ourselves and pay for it." Now this is the spirit that will be conducive to the surest and swiftest, and healthiest growth of the native church. I have been working and praying for this spirit during the past year and the pastor at Geu Cio Dong has preached and talked and prayed for it. Now I have to hold the people back sometimes. A few evenings ago I asked some members

living in a suburb if they could not rent a house for a chapel and pay for it themselves. Yesterday morning they reported that they wanted to buy instead of rent. They wanted a nice looking church, but they could not raise the money now and wanted me to advance it and let them pay it back after a few years. But I do not do business in that way. And I told them to begin small and as their numbers increased enlarge and beautify.

It is most time for another letter telling all about the farm work, and the cattle and horses, - telling about Flora's school, and Phebe's lessons, and James' and Ruth's. I shall hear whether Mary goes to Shelton in the Fall. And is Stanley as indispensable to the running of the farm as ever? How tall are you Stanley? If you can be spared for a few moments, I wish you would write me another letter. Ben's letters are very interesting, but like many interesting things they are rare. Elizabeth I know is having a great time playing duets with Grace. Now my dear girl, just lock up that old noise board some day, and give Grace a sheet of paper, take another yourself and write a good long letter- leaving space for Oliver to add a few pages. I have not heard directly from him since I was in China.

The news has come to us from a round about source that five new ladies were coming this Fall to help us. One is Mr. Hartwell's daughter. We know she is coming. But as to the other four we do not feel all sure the news is too good to be true, and then why have we not heard directly? Mr. Woodin has written that he was to return in the Fall.

Phebe creeps some. We do not encourage her in it. But she goes all over the bed and in the morning when her mother wants to sleep the little girl is just full of the old nick. This morning she woke Ellen by screaming. Ellen found her more than half off the bed caught in the corner between the side of the bed and the door post. She knew enough to be afraid. She pulls herself up on her feet, but has not yet tried to stand alone. She says MaMa and PaPa all right and eats five times a day. She knows when she is hungry and whether her food is properly fixed or not.

Strawberries have been very plentiful this year. We have them three times a day and I believe Ellen has several quarts canned. The other fresh fruits are pebas, a yellow round fruit about the size of guineas eggs- 1 ½ in. in diameter. Each has three large seeds in it. We like it very much. Bananas and oranges are nearly gone. Plums will be ripe in a few weeks. Another fruit that looks much like strawberries- but which is very sour is just coming into market. We can eat it if plenty of sugar is used and it is cooked.

We have packed and addressed another box for America this time we send to Putnam. The box contains most (?) every thing that the Chinese use! It is full of stuff and is Ellen's gift. You will need to buy no more knives or forks or spoons or razors, or ear rings, etc. etc. use chop sticks and Chinese substitutes instead. The box contains two of each article. The Putnam folks will keep one of each and send one to you.

I must close this now with love to you- a lot of love to Grandfather and Grandmother and Aunt Louise. From us all

Will Ellen Phebe

*[This letter dated **June 5, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Phebe continues to develop. A line of steam launches has been put into the river at Foochow recently so travel is quicker. They will be leaving for Kuliang and at times Willard will go back and forth with work. Two new chapels were dedicated. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow China
June 5th 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

This is writing an answer to letters before those letters have arrived. I do not know what is the matter with the mails but during the last month American news has been very scarce. We have had two papers- no letters.

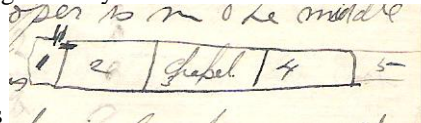
Phebe is just getting there! Her daily gymnastics are to climb the stairs to our house three times each day. It is fun to watch her go up. The Amah ties her dress up so that it cannot trip her. And the little thing acts just as if she knew we wanted to see her creep up. She often goes from bottom to top without stopping. She never goes from top to bottom,- because Amah does not allow it. She creeps all over the house, and mops up the floors in great style. It has been so hot that we have put nothing on her feet lately and she wears only a very thin little sleeveless shirt and a thin white dress. Her knees are getting brown and callous. She stands the heat very well indeed- better than many of the other children. She says Papa and Mama and "shakes a day-day" when her papa goes away. As yet she eats only Mellins food and milk. She pulls herself up on her feet and stands by holding onto things, but does not yet try to walk. She goes out of bed frequently, but as the mosquito netting is always well tucked in at the edge of the bed and as there is a good deal of elasticity to it, her fall is so broken that she is not much hurt.

Mr. Walker, Mr. Gardner, and Dr. Bliss returned from Shaowu Wednesday. Since they have been away from Foochow a line of steam launches has been put on the river, running up to the foot of the rapids. Mr. Gardner

took the launch when they got down to the place where the launch was. He arrived about 5 P.M. Tues. Mr. Walker and Dr. stuck to their boat and arrived about 3 P.M. Wed. So the launch makes some difference. These little launches that run up and down the main river and a little distance into the branches are completely revolutionizing to passenger traffic about Foochow. In this way- by the patronage which these launches have the Chinese shown that they do have some idea of the value of time. The launches must be immensely lucrative, for it is reported that one line paid the government \$30,000.00 for it's charter. Another line offered Mr. Peet \$1200.00 if he would simply help them get a charter, and allow his name be used in connection with the company. When I tell you that I can go 15 miles on one of these launches for 5 2/3 cent you can estimate the immense traffic there is on them. But the expense of running one of the boats is slight. An engineer, a fireman, two steermen, two conductors to collect fare, and perhaps two others. \$2.00 a day will pay all eight. \$1.00 will buy the coal. The furnishing amounts to almost nothing. A few wooden horses, the passengers for the most part sit on baggage on the sides of the boat, on the floor or stand and lean against each other.

Before this reaches you we shall be at Guliang if all goes well. The Seminary will close June 26th. Then we are off as fast as possible. Ellen and Phebe may go up before. We can see the house on Guliang in which we are to live from Ponasang, so we seem very near home. It takes a little over three hours to go up from Ponasang. This will make it easy for me to run down occasionally and see how the work so going on. I can come down in the early morning and return in the afternoon, thus avoiding the heat while travelling. The Seminary building- temporary building- is almost done. We expect to recite in the new recitation next week. The sleeping rooms will not be dry enough this term for safety to health so we shall not move into them till next Fall.

Mon. June 8th. Yesterday we dedicated a new chapel- rather two new ones. Mr. Hartwell has opened a new one in the city. He pays all the expenses there. The other in my field is self-supporting from the first. The people there have also furnished most of the money for the repairs and furniture. This chapel is in the busiest portion of the suburbs.- The big fish market- It is the back portion of one of the stores. These stores are from 12-15 ft. wide and this one is nearly 200 ft. deep,- very long and very narrow. We have about 90 ft. on the back end. The chapel proper



is in the middle 30 ft. It is arranged thus and lamps is in the center. 1 is an open court at the rear, with a door opening on to a side street, and is a room fully as large as the chapel which we can use for a school room. 4 is a court closed in which can be used to enlarge the chapel. 5 is the house of the fish dealer i.e. the rooms in which he lives. Further from the chapel and next the big street is his store.- The arrangement for the chapel makes a very elastic affair, ordinarily they will use only no. 3 or the chapel proper, which will seat 100 men if crowded. Yesterday 2, 3 and 4 were all thrown together and there were about 300 men and women in attendance. Over no. 2 are the rooms for preacher and janitor. The funds for this church are as follows: rent \$72.00, Preacher \$50.00, repairs about \$70.00 I=Mission have helped them \$100.00.

The mail has just arrived from home. How we rejoiced! Hurrah for Annie Gilbert Beard [*daughter of Oliver Gould Beard, Jr. and Grace Gilbert Beard, born April 25, 1896*]. I'd like to see her and Phebe have a tussle. They would stand and look at each other and then Phebe would touch her, then feel of her eyes to see what color they were. Can she walk yet? But I'll save further inquiries to send direct to Oliver and Grace. It's most time for a picture to arrive. We did not receive a letter from Aunt Ella, but are ready for one at any time. I am afraid it got lost some where. You see from the "Herald" (Missionary) that a fellow has to do lots of writing or I should say ought to do lots of writing. I have a whole stack of unanswered letters now on hand. I try to write regularly to you and to report all interesting items to the Herald. Other correspondents are answered when I have time.

A mail closes this afternoon. The messenger is waiting to take this so I must close with love to all from us all.

Cards came this A.M.
Thanks.

Will.

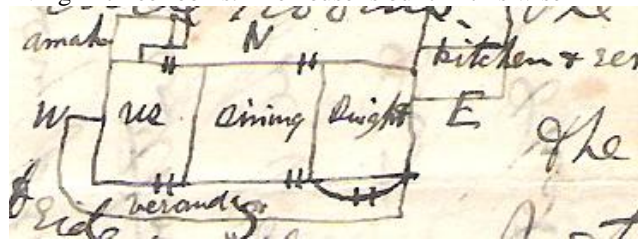
[This letter dated **June 29, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He moved Ellen and Phebe to Guliang (Kuliang). He is pleased that self support is catching on in the churches. The Kinnears, Woodins, and Mr. Walker have all left for America. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Guliang.

Foochow, China
June 29th 96

Dear Folks at Home:-

Last Wednesday we all three came up to Guliang. I staid just long enough to put up the bed and do a little unpacking so that Ellen and Phebe could be comfortable for a few days. Then I went back down the mountain to Ponasang. Thurs. the examination of the young men who have been studying in the Theol. Sch. took place. Mrs. Hartwell [*Hannah L.*], Mr. Peet, and Mrs. Goddard and two of the native pastors were present. The boys acquitted themselves well and the examiners spoke very favorably. Thurs. afternoon I met them for the last time this term and talked with them about the Summer's work, and they went away to their various homes where they will help in their home churches, with happy faces and I think buoyant hearts. Fri. morning various little things had to be done, and the cook had to be paid off and a good bye said to him and I had to listen to his story, that he was honest and that Ellen had misunderstood him etc. I started in company with Miss Newton at 3:45 P.M. and reached the house here at 6:00 P.M. Dwight and his Dr. had arrived for dinner. You know we are living with them in their house. We are all living in three rooms. The house is built in this wise



The rooms are each 12 X 20 ft. The outside walls are of stone two ft. thick, the veranda has a wooden floor, is 8 ft. wide. We are snugly packed in here, and thus far have not fought at all. The temperature is very much like that at home in New England. When I was down at Ponasang I had to wear the very thin white cotton pants and coat with the thinnest undervest. Here the clothes I wore at home in America are very comfortable. At night we need a blanket. I hardly knew Phebe when I came up Fri. evening. She had changed so much since Wed. The heat has caused a bad breaking out all over her head, hands and body. This had all disappeared by Friday and her little face was sweet and fair.

June 21st was one of the most interesting Sundays I have spent in Foochow. Mr. Walker conducted the communion at Au Iong Die. This was the establishment of a church organization in this place. Mr. Hartwell opened a chapel there two years ago. The work had been connected with Geu Cio Dong and the people in this field have joined the Geu Cio Dong church. I have had charge of it since March '95. 39 members took letters from Geu Cio Dong and formed a new organization at Au Iong Die. 6 men and 1 woman also joined on confession making a church of 45 members. These people have already offered a man \$8.00 per month to be their pastor. I attended church that morning at Ha Puo Ga. The subject of the morning was "giving." Ha Puo Ga had not yet been very enthusiastic on the subject of self support. I have been talking to them for a long time and they have at last opened their eyes. The Pastor, Ming Uong's father, gave a good sermon on giving. Then I spoke a few words, and the two deacons and Ming Uong followed. Subscriptions were taken and collectors appointed. One man subscribed \$4.00 another \$3.00 another \$1.00, another \$6.00. The whole amount subscribed that day and previously was about \$60.00. This compared with the \$18.00 of last year is very gratifying.

In the afternoon I went over to city, to attend the opening exercises of a new chapel. About 12 members of Geu Cio Dong live near together here and it is over two miles for them to come to church. They have with their own money rented this chapel and are going to fit it up. I had tried to rent three different places in this vicinity for these people but the rentees were afraid to rent to foreigners. It was very pleasing to hear that the people had gone ahead and done it themselves without asking a cent of me. The room was filled with about 100 persons. The Pastor of Geu Cio Dong was over and gave them a good talk- telling them that God looked not to the house they worshipped in but into the heart. If that was all right, it mattered not whether the house was fine or coarse. A thunder storm came up during the service and I was sent home in a sedan chair at the expense of the people. Mr. Walker was also thus treated to a free ride by the people at Au Iong Die after his morning service.

So you see that three events of marked importance make June 21st 1896 long to be remembered. The self support idea I think had taken firm hold of every one of my churches and the churches in other parts of the field are beginning to catch the idea.

Last Sat. evening a letter arrived from you addressed to Ellen. We were glad to hear good news from the baby. It must be fun for Elizabeth to take care of a baby two hours each night. I sent a letter to Oliver and Grace in care of father because I did not know the B-port address.

(This is Phebe's greeting to Annie in her own hand. Her mark is above.) [*There is a 3" pencil line on the letter. He's referring to Oliver and Grace's new baby, Anna Gilbert Beard.*] We were also happy to hear that Grandfather and Grandmother were so well. The measles seem to be having their own way in Conn. It was good tho to hear the news

after you were getting most well. By this time Phebe is out of school with all the rest. Flora is home, and with the exception of the two eldest the children are at home. How your borders are enlarging father and mother, and how your numbers increase! When Au Iong Die took 39 members away from Geu Cio Dong, the pastor and leading members of the mother church looked rather anxious especially as they are just trying this year to pay all of their own expenses. I told them this church was like a father and mother. They have now three children. One a church as large as themselves- another with 70 members and the youngest Au Iong Die with 45. The Lord is prospering them greatly. And in a short time they will have grandchildren. But all this time this parent church itself has gained in strength and numbers to found other churches. After the last church- before Au Iong Die- went away, there were about 70 members left. After Au Iong Die left there were about 170 left. This it always is, when we are willing to give freely God amply reimburses us. A man never loses by unselfishly giving of the goods God has lent him to the Lord's cause.

I wonder if a letter was lost or whether you have not yet received it. I wrote father about the Literary Digest, saying that a gentleman from Putnam sends me the Public Opinion each week. This comes before the Digest does, and covers nearly the same ground, so perhaps it will not be necessary to send the Digest. If the Putnam gentleman discontinues I will let you know. I also wrote concerning the money you offered to put into the Bank. I do not know when I can do it but we plan to put by at least that sum. It looks as if we might have to put up a shanty here at Guliang that will take about \$300.00, and will make it look sharply to the dollars for a time. We have not been here long enough yet to decide certainly. The weather is much cooler here, and it is much easier of access than Sharp Peak. The expense of summering at the two places is about the same. It takes at least a whole day to go from Foochow to the Peak, we come up here in 4 hours easily and go down in less time. We also get better food here. Meat and fruit are fresher. There are now so many on Guliang that two stores have been started here and we can buy every thing we need. I can run down once a month to see how things are going on in the churches. But Ellen counts this a draw back and declares I am not going. The only reason why the Peak should be chosen is that the rent there can be paid each year. Here we must build and have all the money at once. This we shall be able to do next year.

We have heard that Dr. Kinnear and family were quarantined in Japan. They must be in America by this time however. I do not know when they will come to Meriden. I hope you will see them while they are there. Mr. Walker started for America last week Friday. He said he should be likely to visit New Haven. I gave him your address and invited him to call. We feel very slim in numbers now but hope that the Autumn will bring 4 or five out to help. Mr. and Mrs. Woodin, 2 Misses Woodhull, Dr. Kinnear and family and Mr. Walker are in America.

With Love from all of us to all of you Will.

*[This letter dated **July 13, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard left the cool mountain and went back to the heat of the city. He tells of a church member who was seized, imprisoned and tortured. He went on a hunting trip with Henry Whitney but they shot nothing. There are about 200 people on the mountain for the summer - missionaries and merchants all with their servants. Willard is thinking of building a summer house on Kuliang. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.

July 13th 1896

Dear Folks at Home:-

I started from the top of Mt. Guliang this morning at 5:55 o'clock and reached Ponasang at 9:30 o'clock. I never experienced a more rapid rise in the temperature. When I arose I tried to dress for the hotter regions below, but was compelled to put on an extra woolen coat, to eat breakfast and I found it very comfortable during the first quarter of the descent, then the temperature went up as I went down and I soon found myself in a reeking perspiration, from which I have scarcely dried yet. The day here has not been as hot as many but coming down from the cool mountain air one feels the heat more than he would if he were in it all the time. I have ridden in a sedan or walked before it about 12 miles today. This is the time when I have to meet the Day School teachers and Preachers to give them the money which comes from the Mission as help. As soon as it was known that I was in the compound every one who was at home and had any trouble rushed in and the relatives of the absent ones came as representatives. The mother of a young man under Dwight's care came to ask for her son's money, Dwight had paid it two weeks ago and I knew it. One man came once and four men came once to get me to intercede with the Consul in behalf of some people in trouble, who are in Mr. Hubbard's field and this after Mr. Hubbard had himself twice visited the consul about the matter.

God had very richly blessed our churches during the past ten months. They have nearly doubled their membership. Now it looks as if he were testing and hardening the young shoots by persecution. If the persecution

did not come, it is certain the growth of the church in numbers would be abnormal. It would be next to impossible to keep men out of the church until they had learned the fundamental truth of the Christian Gospel.

A man from a village about 100 miles up the river Min joined my Ha Puo church three months ago. Upon returning home he was seized and imprisoned and has been in torture every since. As near as I can get at the truth of his case it is this: About two years ago there was difficulty in his family over a wood lot owned by several members of the family. This man was seized and imprisoned – not for the wrong he had done but because he had money. He was tortured till he promised to pay \$200.00. This money he did not pay. But the case was dropped until this man joined the church, then he was rearrested, and he has had his hands cramped in a torturing position for three months. I can hardly endure to think of him in this condition and I have to by mere force of will power put him out of my mind. He called on me twice while he was in Foochow. The last time was the morning before he left for home and just as he was about to say good bye he asked to have a prayer with me and we knelt and prayed together. Pray for him.

It is bed time and I have had a long day of it. It seems very lonely with no dear ones near. I have thought once or twice I hear that familiar little grunt that means Please Mama or Papa come in a moment and kiss me and pat me a few times then I'll go right to sleep again. But it is only a delusion and I am alone in the midst a teeming multitude. I must retire to a hot bed and try to sleep. - Will

Sunday, July 19th. - You see I have taken a rest. But to begin where I left off. I slept quite well at Ponasang. I just opened all the doors and the slats of the blinds and drew the bed into the middle of the room and thus got the benefit of every breeze that came along.

Tuesday morning I paid out about \$100.00 and met and talked with 25 or thirty natives one or two at a time to "Pang gong" i.e. chat. About 3:00 P.M. I started for Guliang and arrived just in time for supper.

Thursday Henry Whitney and I arose at 3:50 and started at 4:30 A.M. on a deer or anything – else hunt. We went down into a valley and the four natives with their dogs raced over the mountain sides for game. We hear partridges whistle, but nothing better till 8 o'clock when we scented bread and jam and boiled eggs etc. After a lunch we were resting a little when one of the dogs began to bark and a native shouted "gi eeng duai" which is being interpreted, "A deer, very big." Of course we started but the deer came down into the valley, crossed the path right where I had been standing and went up on the other side of the valley. This was about 10 A.M. It was getting hot and the dogs were getting tired. I must tell the truth. We lost the deer and then returned home having had a grand good walk, and seen some beautiful scenery.

There are now about 200 foreigners on the mountain, including missionaries and merchants. Several missionaries are here from Amoy. Sunday is a full day. I try to attend Chinese service at 9:30 A.M. Chinese C.E. at 5:00 P.M. There are more Chinese appendages to foreigners than foreigners themselves. You see there must [*be*] a teacher, cook and coolie for every house, and where there are children an amah is added. A special effort is being made to interest the mountaineers in Truth. The missionaries have been here now for eight summers and there is not yet one Guliang native who has embraced the Gospel. They have been too eager to get money out of the foreigners, and the foreigners have been too eager to keep from being cheated by them, I am afraid, to pay much attention to the higher spiritual things.

Phebe is developing very fast. She stands alone and walks along the wall quite easily. Mrs. Goddard is very much attached to her. The little girl kisses every one permiscuously. When she happens to have a kissing speck on she begins to smack her lips and reaches first toward one and then toward another to let her kiss them, giving the amah her full share. She still wants her milk and Mellins food and is very much grieved if we try to palm off oat meal on her. The other evening we gave her the soft part of popped corn and she ate it ravenously. To day she ate the best part of two lie chis- a fruit of China.

Well I am glad to hear that Long Hill Ave. is to be macadamized, and that Ben is to do the work. What a lot of stone will disappear from the old farm! I shall be interested to hear all about it. How many teams were on the work, and how the work was done, and [*how*] long it took etc.

Mrs. Kate Johnson's death must have cast a gloom over the whole community. I have not been so much surprised at any news received since I came to China. But the Lord's ways are always wonderful and always best.

I was glad to hear that the measles had withdrawn leaving you all well and that Grandfather and Grandfather [*Grandmother*] were able to come down to see you. I wonder when I shall find time to write directly to White Hills. I must also write Mr. Park and Mr. Kenneston. James Solandt has written me a very earnest letter of enquiry about coming to Foochow. I must answer that.

The days are getting pretty warm, but not so bad but that I can wear collars and cuffs. I could not think of doing this at Sharp Peak last year. We are talking seriously of buying and putting up a house this Fall to be ready for

use next Summer. If any one wishes to send money to me they can either give it to father to place to my credit, as I shall have to send home twice a year for things- or they can send it to the treasurer- Frank Wiggins 1 Somerset St. Boston and ask him to place it to my credit. I shall personally receive it then. Lovingly Will.

*[This letter dated **July 19, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Ellen to the dear ones at Huntington home. Ellen talks about the latest on Phebe and thanks those at home for the box of gifts. She thanks them for the cards that they sent for the Chinese church members. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Mt. Kuliang, Foochow,
July 19", '96.

My dear ones at Huntington home.

Just as I sit down to write, Phebe climbs up by my knee and offers to dictate while I write her thoughts; at least, she is chattering away as fast as her little tongue can move and pulling at my dress to attract my attention. Is this a plea for that "whole letter about her", do you suppose, Ruth? I hope before the summer is gone I shall find opportunity to gratify your wish.

The little girl has been very happy entertaining and shall I say "cute"? this afternoon. She has just learned to kiss and always gives three rousing smacks when asked to bestow that token of affection. She goes spitting about the house at a lively pace especially if she knows she is wanted, or any one chases her in play. She is learning to walk and can already stand alone for a part of a minute. Her amah is very fond of her and cares for her very patiently and lovingly; Phebe likes her very much too and always stays with her contentedly. She was thirteen months old yesterday and weighed twenty-one and one-half pounds.

Now Phebe and I both want to thank you very much for the beautiful gifts you sent us in the box. The dress pattern is especially appropriate for a wool dress in this climate since we wear summer clothing so long and need it so thin for comfort. Phebe's pink cashmere is just her color and will make her a very handsome dress for next fall. The bonnet she has had a great deal of use for already. The shoes she will wear when her little trotters become accustomed to their work. She has taken one deep breath of the perfumery so I think she appreciates it. But one thing in which she takes great delight is the pansy bouquet calendar. She points to it across the room and when held up before it talks and laughs, pats the faces and says very plainly "pretty babies." The box of pumpkin-seeds she enjoyed immensely as a rattle: it made such a big racket.

Until I came to the mountain Dr. Kinnear's Hospital Sunday School was in my charge, from the time they left for America. In the little clinic room were gathered the lame, the leper and the sick of all manner of disease- a company it seemed to me as I looked upon them, not so very unlike the multitudes that followed Jesus when upon earth. Of course I could only teach them, through my Chinese assistant a simple Bible story from one of the large Bible pictures such as are used in primary classes at home, and give them one of the cards you sent with a text pasted on the back. It is the ambition of many of these boys and girls to learn that text to recite the next Sunday and so receive a large, beautiful card in addition to the one received in the general distribution. In this way some part of the Scripture is carried each Sabbath, into more than a hundred homes.

If you could be present once and witness the eagerness and delight with which they listen to the story and receive the cards, you would feel repaid for the trouble you have taken to collect them.

Several hundreds of the cards were given to our day-school scholars who thanked us profusely for them; but as we only asked the American friends for the pictures, I think their gratitude should be passed along to the real donors.

Now, we have sent a box of -trash Willard calls it, to Putnam; after taking out the things designated for them they will forward the rest to you. An explanation of the articles and their use will be sent later.

Thanking you for all the kind letters and promising a longer answer next time I am yours with loving regards to all, especially little Annie.

Ellen.

*[This letter dated **Aug. 9, 1896** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The Kinnears were stuck in Japan because their children had whooping cough and had to stay there 6 weeks longer than their 3 weeks intended stay. The Kuliang Convention was held. Mr. Saddler of the London Mission in Amoy discussed those who were murdered in Kucheng. Willard tells the family back home about the process of obtaining land to build upon on the mountain. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China.
Aug. 9th 1896.

Mt. Kuliang.

Dear Folks at Home:-

During the last ten days the mail has arrived twice but other people had all the letters. Mrs. Goddard received letters from Dr. Woodhull and her sister written en route for Van Couver from Yokahama and one also written two days East from Van Couver while they were resting for Sunday. Just as the ship came into Van Couver a heavy freshet came in that region and trains for the East were delayed. Their train was the first to pass over a large bridge that had to be rebuilt. They left Yokahama June 19th. Dr. Kinneer and his family were still there. The children had the whooping cough and the ship's Dr. would not let them come on board. They intended to stay in Japan three weeks. The last we knew they were detained six weeks longer making nine weeks in all. It is too bad for the delay will bring them into the hot weather to cross the Continent and will also cut a big slice of the stay in America.

The past week all the residents of Kuliang have given themselves up to the "Kuliang Convention." There have been two meetings each day one at 9:30 A.M. and one at 5:00 P.M. there has also been a daily prayer meeting at 7:00 A.M. which we have "skipped." The meetings as a whole have been very interesting and profitable. I will enclose a programme. There are about 50 young ladies here, most of them from England, Scotland, Ireland and Australia. About ten from America. The British young ladies especially are very fond of prayer meetings, and they can attend longer services and more of them than people who have families. Then too they are entirely free from care and work connected with their stations, so we are well supplied with meetings. We found the meetings on Mon. A.M., Fri. A.M. and Sat. P.M. very interesting and helpful. Ellen and Mrs. Goddard attended Thurs. P.M. and told Dwight and me, who climbed the next to the highest peak near here, instead of going to meeting, that we missed a good service. The Memorial service Aug. 1st was very impressive. Mr. Saddler is a man of about 60 of the London Mission in Amoy. He is a very effective speaker, and made us all feel that the eleven who laid down their lives at Kucheng a year ago had served Christ in this way as they could in no other way. It is generally conceded that the connection between the massacre and the great interest in the truth in this whole region during the past nine months, is very close. Mr. Saddler made the thought very impressive, that when we came to China to work with God we gave ourselves into his care and into his service to be used in any way, whether by our lives or by our death for His glory. The meetings all through with the exception of Miss Newtons have dealt with the subjective side of the Christian life. We most need one or two meetings now to fasten these new glimpses of Truth and to help us apply them to every day life and service. There will be several conferences on different subjects following on now. This coming week we will meet to consider the Student Volunteer movement. I am to head the meeting. Then we talk of considering the subject of persecutions and how we shall act with regard to taking these troubles of the native Christians to the officials and to the Consuls. Doubtless other subjects will be presented at other meetings. I was reading an article to day in the Advance which said that a minister needed to attend some good rousing convention during his vacation, for his mind was apt to get in a starving condition, and the quiet solitude of the country was not all that he needed. Kuliang furnishes both. The Archdeacon of the English Mission here has built his house about two miles away from the other houses because he did not want any company, nor did he want people coming to see him all the time while on Kuliang. He came here to rest and he wanted quiet. I have seen him at just one of the meetings this week.

We were very happy to receive the piece of paper with a blot on it. Annie must be a very handsome baby to affect the camera in that way. Allow me Flora to suggest that next time you do not let your camera face a window. However this is a very good piece of work for an amateur. I am afraid that Phebe's photo which has reached you before you read this will be a disappointment. Phebe had had rather a tough time with her teeth. She now has ten, four in front both lower and upper, and one eye tooth and one next back of it. The two corresponding on the other side are trying to get out to the light very hard. She eats fish balls, bananas, apples, and other native fruit. Her mother gives oat meal with nearly every meal.



This may be the photo Willard is referring to in the previous passage.

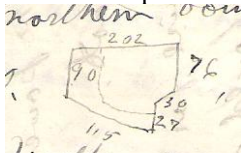
Written on back: "Phebe"

About April 1896

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

I have been negotiating for the rental of a piece of land on which to build. You will be interested in the details showing Chinese greed, custom, law, and that quality which keeps the greedy from utterly devouring the widow's house and lands. You will also see the rise in property which will equal some of the instances in the Western part of the U.S.

I wanted a piece of land on a hill top sloping to the South. The northern boundary is 202 ft E. 76 ft. S. 115,



W. 90. *Brother's gran*, three fourths of it was claimed by two brothers, grandsons of the oldest man on the mountain. The N.E. portion of this lies nearly on the hill top, and is useless. The other quarter is lower and has sometime been used to raise potatoes (sweet). I was to rent this piece of land for 20 yrs. for \$3.00 per year, all to be paid now. The land lords were to furnish a place for a well and to provide a place where stone could be gotten for the house. They wanted the contract to read that at the end of 20 yrs. the house should be owned by them. But I changed the pronoun. Well the contract, after three days of bartering was satisfactory and I was to have it all fixed up last Mon. P.M. But then an old woman- a widow without children or near relatives put in appearance. She said that her son who was an opium smoker, had sold the hill top (3/4 of the piece wanted) unknown to her some years ago to these two brothers who claim now to own it. They had given the son about \$1.50 for the land and he had given them a false deed. She now demanded of the \$50.00 if they rented the land to me. They were willing to give her \$4.00. She finally came down to \$20.00 and they raised to \$5.00. Here the matter rests. As near as I can learn

\$1.50 was a fair price for the land, but now that the value has so much increased, the man who last sold it, can come and demand a slice of the "unearned increment." This would be the case even if the sale had been bona fide. As it is the sale was not straight and the widow has the men in her power. She is a pauper, but has friends who are backing her. So long as the land remains vacant nothing will be done, but if these men rent the land without satisfying her she will take the case to the court. She has nothing to loose. The men have money. If the officers send for them the fees will not be less than \$10.00 and they will have to give up the land and loose the chance of renting. The natives tell me that if this woman were a man the case would be much better for the two landlords. Custom, public opinion, and the fear which the people have of each other are China's salvation. This fear, gives an old woman who can scarcely walk, who has to live off her neighbors, who is alone in the world, the power to say to a rich household of 60 persons "You must not" and they dare not.

The invoice for the last shipment has arrived. The goods started very promptly and should arrive about the middle of Sept. I do not see any account of table cutlery. I wonder if I made a mistake in ordering. But it makes no difference. We can live with what we have or buy here. I sent a letter to Aunt Louise last week. I directed to Shelton I believe. That was before the Ladies H.G.[?] with her Derby address arrived. We are all well and send Love

Will Ellen Phebe

Friday, 7th Aug.

9.30 A.M. Example . . Miss ELLA J. NEWTON.
Rom. 14:7.
5.00 P.M. A Royal Priesthood . . Rev. J. R. S. BOYD,
I Pet. 2:9.

Saturday, 8th Aug.

9.30 A.M. The Second Coming of Christ . Miss ALTHEA M. TODD.
5.00 P.M. Praise Meeting . . Rev. J. MARTIN.
Sunday, 9th Aug.

5.00 P.M. Sermon Rev. L. W. KIR.

M. E. Mission Press, Fochow

KULIANG CONVENTION.

August 1st to 9th.

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE.

1896

5.00 P.M. Memorial Service REV. J. SADLER.

5.00 P.M. Sermon REV. D. GODDARD.

9.30 A.M. Filled with the Spirit . . Miss PHOEBE WELLS.
Eph. 5:18.

5.00 P.M. { The Mutual Indwelling }
 { of God and His Children } REV. W. L. BEARD.

9.30 A.M. . *Qualifications for a Witness.* . MISS HARRIET B. RODD.

5.00 P.M. Divine Friendship . . . REV. F. P. JOSELAND.

Wednesday, 5th Aug.

9.30 A.M. Earthen Vessels ... Miss ANNIE TOLLEY.

5.00 P.M. Sacrifice.....REV. C. C. BROWN.

9.30 A.M..... Satisfaction . Miss FLORENCE OATWAY.

5.00 P.M. { The Motive Power of }
 { Christian Service. }
 REV. G. B. SMYTH.

Jno. 14:23, 24.

[This letter dated Aug. 23, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the squeezing of money by the servants and what a problem it is. He now has land on which to build a house on Kuliang for next summer. He includes a sketch of what he would like for the house floor plan. Mr. Woodin died in America. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

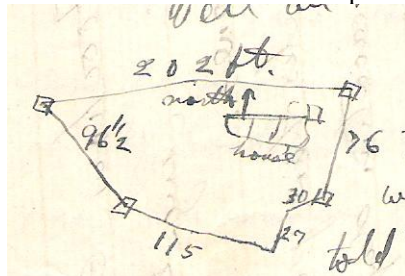
Foochow, China
Aug. 23rd 1896

Dear Folks at Home:-

Two weeks have passed since I wrote you. These vacation days fairly fly. Only one week and two days more for me, then the Seminary must begin. I shall go down Sept. 1st for the opening and see that everything starts all right. Then I shall come back and spend a few days before taking wife and baby down. The hottest weather is past on the mountain now. The days are getting shorter and the sun does not have time to heat things thro. Some days are still rather hot in the middle of the day but we must keep under blankets at night and an hour at noon is a very short time to endure the heat.

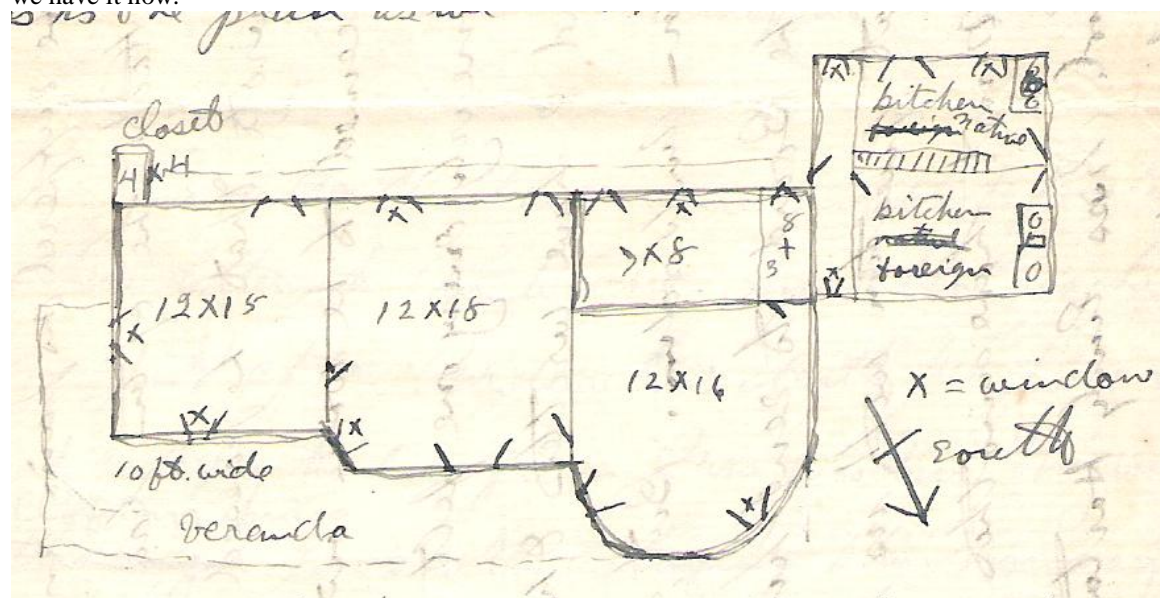
After the convention week the Chinese held meetings each afternoon for a week following much the same topics as the English services. There was much interest taken in the Chinese meetings. At the last one on Sat. P.M. several Chinese arose to confess their sins. Many of the cooks said they had been cheating and charging more for things they had bought them they had paid for them. This is something that the missionaries have been very much troubled over and which they have failed thus far to remedy. The cooks of course have us entirely in their power. We must depend on them to buy for us. The prices fluctuate, and then we do not know the prices of all articles. So they can charge any price they like. The native custom from the highest officials down is for servants to get most of their living thro squeezes. Not only do they take a portion of all the money they pay out for their employers, but no one can bring anything to us to sell without giving the servants a tip. Miss Newton happened sometime ago to order a ton of coal. She had a new servant and an honest one. When she paid for the coal the coolie who ordered it for her came back with 50 cents and said the man who brought the coal gave both cook and coolie 50 cents. He, the coolie thought it not right to take the money and so he returned it. This squeezing is felt to be wrong by all the servants, and they do not like to admit that they do it. It is a great problem for us. We pay the servants enough so that they do not need to do it. Can we treat as a Christian one whom we know is cheating in this way every day. We knew our cook was doing this last Winter and Spring, and we discharged him. Now we must look up another (Mrs. Goddard's cook is cooking for us all this summer). Shall we be able to better ourselves?

Well we have rented a piece of land. This is the shape and dimensions.



The land is rented for 24 years at \$3.00 per year and the money is all paid in advance. I believe I wrote you that an old woman without relatives and a beggar had blocked the business. Well I finally told the men I would rent the land for 4 years longer. This would give them extra money enough to cover the difference between the woman and them. I also gave him just two days to come to our agreement and he did it. I wish you could have seen the signing of the agreement. There were present two men who owned most of the land- or claimed to own it- their uncle who owned the remainder. The woman who claimed a share, and two of her relatives, my teacher and myself. The agreement was read in the presence of all. The uncle then took one of the copies to his father, an old man 87 years old to read for fear of getting cheated. Then the two men, their uncle, my teacher and myself signed the agreement. The second I put my name on one of the men grabbed the three copies which had been signed. I told him I was to have one of the copies. He said "money." So I got the checks. But before the checks were given the woman and her two relatives had to sign the deed quitting all claim on the land which her son had sold some 8 years ago without her knowledge. I gave the woman a check for \$20.00 and the uncle one for 26 and the two men one for 26 they were happy- why not. The land was bought for about \$1.35 and now after only 8 yrs. rental for \$72.00. They do not worry about the morality of accepting money before they have earned - or without having earned it. It was 25 days after agreement was written before it was signed, and not a day except Sunday when some of the parties interested did not come to say something about the matter.

We plan now to put up a house immediately so as to have it ready for occupancy next Summer. This is the plan as we have it now.



We can use either the middle or the round room for a dining room and the other two rooms will be used as sleeping rooms. The kitchen will each have a loft over them for teachers and servants. The double traced lines indicate stone walls. The stone is broken out of the quarries by hand, and laid up in the rough just like a stone wall at home only not as smoothly. Then the cracks are filled up on the outside with mud mixed with rice straw, and an apology for white plaster put over this. The inside is plastered with the same mud and straw and a very good looking wall is made. The partitions are boarded up four feet then a single set of reeds or sedge is woven in among some pieces of wood above the partition and plastered on both sides. The roof is of tiles. I want the whole done for \$1500.00 silver. This is as yet in my mind. I have not put it into a Chinaman's mind.

Your letter to Ellen came night before last. Mother's letter to Mr. Woodin must have reached them just after Mr. Woodin's death. We have received full particulars from Mrs. Woodin. They were at Clifton Springs June 10th attending the Missionary Union. Mr. Woodin was advised to take sulphur baths and did so, but he was there only a week- not long enough to do any good. Returning home he did not feel well Sunday June 21st, but did not see the doctor till Fri. and he then walked to the Drs. house in the morning. Dr. was out, called on Mr. W. in the afternoon, found him with a high fever and malaria. He had had so many like attacks that Mrs. Woodin nor he thought much about it till Sun. noon when Mrs. Woodin knew he was much worse than she had ever known him to be. She at once called the Dr. who said Mr. Woodin was past recovery. He passed away at 4:30 P.M. He suffered no pain and was hardly conscious after Sat. noon. When he had these attacks he often lay in kind of stupor for half a day at a time. Mrs. W. wrote that he passed away so quietly that they did not know the exact time. He seemed to be worn out and like a tired child fell asleep. On the field here nearly every one felt that his work was done some months ago and Goddard and I have written that a young man on the field would be of more service than Mr. Woodin. But, altho he knew this, he wanted to return and asked the Board to send him out again. The Lord had other plans. Now the great question with us is will the Board send another young man this Fall. We must have another young woman also to help Miss Newton in her school. Miss Emily Hartwell sails tomorrow from Van Couver but her work will be in the city. We want a young lady at Ponasang to be with Miss Newton. She has over 70 girls in the school and for 2 years has been alone. She cannot stand it much longer. It seems sometimes as if the work was going to break us all down. When will the young man and young woman offer themselves and when will the people to whom God has entrusted the money send them?

Phebe eats fruit and cereals and milk toast and pins and seeds and stones etc. She takes two steps alone, but she has creeping down so finely that she does not try very hard to walk. Both Ellen and she are quite well.

The last papers brought the news of the Chicago Democratic Convention. The sense this year seems to be along the line of finance, and it looks as if there was going to be a general shaking up of political parties. We shall watch the result with interest, both as to ourselves and the work. If silver goes up it means less for the work here unless more gold comes from home. But God reigneth in the Heavens and on the Earth.

Love to all Will Ellen Phebe

[This letter dated Sept. 6, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He is in charge of handling the shipping or selling the Woodin's possessions in China. The Chinese try to chase off sicknesses with lanterns, gongs and firecrackers. He often finds his time is spent dealing with persecutions, quarrels and bad reports from new church members. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang

Foochow, China

Sept. 6th '96

Dear Folks at Home:-

The mail from America has been very shy of bringing home letters recently. Last week both Ellen and I had a letter from Mrs. Woodin relating to the settling up of her affairs here. She has practically left everything in our hands with very large discretionary power. Nearly all of her household furniture, dishes, books etc. are in our house in Ponasang. We are to dispose of these as best we can, or send home to her some few things. The prices she leaves with us. This will be no easy task. Most of her things are several years of age- many could vote if they were U.S. citizens.

My work has begun, the Seminary opened last Tuesday, Sept. 1st. I went down on that day and came back Fri. afternoon. The weather was terrific, - 93 degrees in the coolest place I could find. In other houses 97 degrees and 98 degrees. At this season there is apt to be much sickness in the city and suburbs. The way the natives ward it off is to form big lantern processions and carry an image of Buddha about till daylight. Or they decorate the streets with gay colors, and about one store in five they trim up in all colors of the rainbow, and then get foreign clocks, and glass cases with wax flowers inside, and a lot of other nice looking things, and then light the whole with Chinese lanterns, and beat gongs and fire crackers and yell. The image of Buddha sits serenely in the rear of the store pleased (?) with the sights and the sounds. The first evening at Ponasang I had occasion to go over to the church and so had a good view of the proceedings the street was so full of men I could scarcely squeeze thro. At night with the ther. at 90 degrees and 100 beaters of puter for idol paper within from 40-100 ft. of my bed, and these idolatrous ceremonies as near, with canon crackers going off hourly you may imagine me not sleeping all the time. But Thurs. most of the idols were moved to another region and I forgot the heat and had a good nights rest. But how refreshing the mountain air was Fri. afternoon as I ascended into it. The Seminary was my one source of encouragement while at Ponasang. The 9 young men are all back in good health and in good spirits and have gone to work at once. Both Ming Uong and Gong Sing Sang- my native teacher are well and for a week to two will have charge of the teaching. Most of my time however was spent in dealing with persecutions or with quarrels or in listening to bad reports from new church members. This however must be expected after the great increase of the past 9 months. In my field three new chapels have been opened since May and they have all borne most of their own expenses. This is new work for the Chinese here, and it is almost inevitable that mistakes will be made. Some of the church members have been seen in the idol processions. Some are reported to have been connected with gambling, some men who I hoped would be ready to join the church this month are still smoking opium. One chapel is reported to have been fitted up with money contributed by evil men who will use the chapel for wrong purposes. The man who has taken the lead in fitting up this chapel is rather an aristocrat who joined the church last December, and who thinks more of making a big show than of being of a true heart. He has fitted up a chapel in elegant style. It stands among the other buildings on the street like a rose among dead thorns. He has spent \$30.00 more than he has collected, and now he comes to me and tells me that I promised to pay the rent on the chapel. Last Spring I spoke to the church members in this place about renting and fitting up a chapel with their own money telling them very plainly I had no money with which to help them. They tried to agree on some plan but could not raise money enough. This old man kept saying they must have a nice looking chapel or people would not come. They tried in every way to get me to help. I simply repeated what I told them at first, that I had no funds. Now this old man thinks if he goes ahead and gets a nice looking chapel all ready I will be that pleased that I will give them money to pay the debt. He finds me different from his expectations and he actually foams at the mouth as he talks and gesticulates. What is worse he is in a quarrel with a young man who lives near him. I do not know the beginning of the quarrel- some difference of opinion I think. This was fanned into a flame of hatred when the young man wrote to me that they had raised \$80.00 and spent \$65.00 on the church. The old man did not know of the letter till after he had shown me his memoranda of \$80.00 spend and \$55.00 raised. He then was too mad to be sane. I sent for both men to come to see me and talk over matters with the two Pastors. The young man arrived first. The old man came up the stairs out to the veranda. When near the top of the stairs he caught sight of the young man, and he could not have gone down those stairs quicker if he had been knocked down. He refused to see the other man, saying "When I see his face, I am so mad I do not know what to do." The young man withdrew and then the angry man came up but words were lost on him and I shall have to pray about the matter and work over the case again this week. One day

was spent in helping Dwight in a case of persecution in his district. This has been going on all Summer. Seven members of the church are not allowed to do business. Two influential men in the village command the people not to see to these members and if any one buys of them, these wicked persons give authority to any body to snatch away the goods with impunity. The Day School of the village is closed and the work on the new church is suspended- I write these things to show that a Missionary's labors do not at the present time consist of going about with a bundle of tracts and preaching to crowds on the streets until he is tired, and then going into the house and reading or writing or resting. Thursday morning before I was up I had a call and before I had finished supper five men were waiting to see me and they left just in time for me to retire reasonably early. Fri. I had to politely send a man away in order to get to the mountain before dark. These poor people are suffering. It is often due to what we may call their own impudence. But they must be taught better. Then there are those who are in distress from persecution for righteousness sake. They need sympathy and physical help. All need counsel and advice. The Missionary's store of patience should be inexhaustible. The coming year is going to be [a] hard one on my stock patience. Six centers in my field have put forth strenuous efforts toward self support. They have done it after many talks with me. Their ideal has been high. It is as hard to raise money here as anywhere, and I feel as if the next year was a very vital time. The first burst of enthusiasm will have passed ere long and then the hard pull will come. Pray for me.

Have I written that John R. Mott chairman of the Students Volunteer Movement was coming to Foochow? We expect the Conference here to begin Oct. 14th or 15th. D. Willard Lyon who arrived in Tientsin a year ago under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions is coming with him. The Conference will last 5 days. Chinese addresses (Mott's addresses translated) in the morning and English addresses in the P.M. I have the work of committee of arrangements, and it is not easier to satisfy 75 Missionaries than it is to satisfy that number of people at home, as to time, place and other details. Then we are going to try to unite the young people of the three missions more than they have been before. We are working for a grand rally and get about 1200 of the young Christians together for a day about the middle of Nov. I seem to have the arrangements for this mostly on my hands also.

Phebe is learning to walk and as a result gets numerous bumps. She is such a good creeper that she does not see the need of walking until some other children come around her. When she sees them walking she wants to do likewise. Ben must have the road all finished. I should like to drive over it. Ground was broken for our house last Fri. The men promise to have done Jan. 3rd. We expect a new Missionary about the middle of Nov. We have not heard whether it is to be a gentleman or lady. Whichever it is will board with us. Ellen is quite well.

Love to all Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 13, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Ones at Home. He has been both on the mountain and in Ponasang for the past 2 weeks, but those families on the mountain should soon be moving back down soon. Willard and Ming Uong and others settled a disagreement between 2 church members. Willard and Ellen have been married 2 years now. Word came of Mrs. C.C. Baldwin's death in America. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow China
Sept. 13th 1896

Mt. Kuliang.

Dear Ones at Home:-

The past two weeks I have divided between Ponasang and the Mt. I have gone down on Tues. morning and week before last returned Fri. afternoon- last week I returned Thurs. afternoon- the weather was very pleasant and comfortable last week. The mercury did not rise above 80 degrees, and I wanted a blanket at night. But it is lonely down there with no other foreigner. Four days on a stretch is enough. It is very pleasant to meet a wife and little girl again as I ascend the Mt. I have taken a sedan to and from the foot of the Mt. and walked both down and up the Mt. I can go down in 45 min. easily and can come up in 1 hr. 35 min. if the temperature is not too high. I shall go down again on Tues. and come back Fri. to go down the next Tues. with Ellen and Phebe. Week before last was very hot. Last week was cooler. It is already getting quite warm again. I am counting on a warm week this week and a cooler week next week. It makes a pretty hard life to keep running up and down and the expense is not trifle. But both Ellen and Phebe need to stay up on the Mt. till the hottest of the weather is broken. Phebe seems to feel the heat very much. She was very badly broken out with prickly heat in June and once this Summer here she has been broken out some. Next Tues. Sept. 15th, Kuliang will be nearly deserted. The schools will all begin this week. This is the signal

for all to go down. Mon. to pack and Tues. to descend. Mr. and Dr. Goddard will go then. Ellen and Phebe will be alone in the house till I come up again on Fri. Four or five houses will be occupied, so they will not be all alone.

Phebe is getting quite independent on her feet. She runs along by the side of the house and by chairs easily and thinks nothing of cutting corners with nothing to hold on to. She has eight teeth on the upper and four on the lower jaw, with two more on the lower trying hard to come thro. She talks a great deal but does not say much. She however understands very many things, either in Chinese or English. She is familiar with the word "misquitoes", and knows how to distinguish several different persons when the names are spoken and understands when we talk about her food or a drink of water. The word "dog" or "cow" makes her very animated. She continues as healthy as ever. Wouldn't it be fine if she and Annie could see each other!! We are anxiously waiting a letter from Oliver and Grace for only then shall we have the praises of the dear little cherub worthily sung.

I think I wrote you a week ago about the old man who had been fixing up a chapel this Summer and is now in trouble because he has spent more money than he could collect and because he could not bluff me into paying something which I had not promised and which I had on five different occasions distinctly told him I could not pay. I wrote also about how angry he became and how mad he was at a young man who lived near him, because this young man had written me a letter giving a different account of the finances of the new chapel from that which the old man himself gave. Well, this last week I again invited both men to come to my home and meet with some of the pastors and Christians. The old man came first and took a much more hopeful view of the financial situation. He says he can raise the money all right, and wants the chapel dedicated in about four weeks. When this was nearly settled the young man came up the stairs on the veranda where we sat. The elder man immediately went down stairs. I kindly invited him to return and Ming Uong went down and talked with him. But not till I had asked the young man to withdraw to the dining room would he come back. We talked with him for some time. I called his attention to the "forgive" petition in the Lord's Prayer and made it very clear that if he could not forgive the young man, he was asking God not to forgive him. After a time he consented to let the young man be called. I asked the young man if he felt sorry for what he had said and written. He answered "yes." I then asked him if he wished to be forgiven. He said "yes." Then I asked the old man if he was willing to forgive, and he said yes. We then knelt and two prayers were offered, after which we consulted in regard to a case of persecution, and before we separated the old man had frankly spoken his opinion in a calm manner and had also offered prayer for the persecuted. I felt very much encouraged.

A letter from each home arrived last week. They reported the visit of the Putnamites, Phebe's graduation, Flora's intended visit to Putnam and return to East Berlin. The road stoned to Donavan's gate, and dug out to school house, grandparent's at church, haying in progress. Etc. Etc. This mail has been delayed somewhere. It was nearly two months coming.

A week ago yesterday was our wedding anniversary- no. 2. Four young ladies from Amoy who are spending the Summer near here came over in the evening and ate goose with us to celebrate.

Theodore Hubbard arrived Sept. 6th. Mrs. H. and the boy are both doing well. This makes three girls and three boys.

The excavation for our house goes on slowly. This morning as I was on my way to Chinese service I saw the full force at work up on the hill. I went up and told them this was Sunday and they must not work. But they immediately said they had not been informed. I told them they knew now, and must stop. I asked them to accompany me down to service. One accepted and after the rest had taken their tools and left we two went to church where we listened to a simple sermon on PS. 90:12. Much of the talk also was based on Math. 6:19 + The man listened attentively thro the whole service.

Tues. evening Ponasang.-

I started from the Mt. this morning at 6:45, and reached Ponasang at 9:00. My theory about the heat is proving real thus far. The ther. has registered 84 all day and stands there now. I hope next week when Ellen and Phebe come down the ther. will also come down.

It seems quite like old times here now. Miss Newton came down yesterday preparatory to opening school Thurs. Mr. Hartwell came from Sharp Peak last Fri. and I have seen him twice today. To-night I think of Mr. and Mrs. Peet and family, Miss Chittenden [*Caroline E.*], Mr. and Mrs. Goddard as in the city and tomorrow we have our first prayermeeting.

Another home mail arrived this noon. It came to me. I looked over finding papers and letters for all the folks but us, and wondered at it until I remembered that the mail distributors were informed yesterday that the others were all coming down- we were going to stay on the Mt. another week. So Ellen will have the pleasure of whatever letters came. As for papers, I have a whole stack of Mr. Walker's papers here to read if I have time.

Wed. A.M. 6:30. Ther. 80 degrees. Quite cool. We have just heard of Mr. [*actually Mrs.*] C.C. Baldwin's death. She went home just 31 days after Mr. Woodin, Dr. Baldwin writes very pathetically. In his 77th year he is

quite well, but few husbands and wives were as attached as he and Mrs. Baldwin. He will feel very lonely and his desire will be to join her as soon as possible. This makes the third Foochow worker who has gone to his reward since last Feb. 22nd. Our question is- when will God send more to take their places. The work is more than doubled in the last 3 years. The force!!! When we came to Foochow there were 27 missionaries here. To day there are 17- Miss Emily Hartwell will arrive next week Tues. and Mr. and Mrs. Peet will go home next Spring. If no more come out next year we shall have 16 to do twice the work that 27 were doing 2 yrs. ago. But God has a purpose in it all. The Chinese are learning to do more for themselves and the missionary is learning (or ought to be) to help them less. Kiss Annie for us all and take our love.

Will.

[This letter dated Sept. 23, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Because there have been jokes about his penmanship, Willard has started typing his letters. They moved back from the mountain and their house at Kuliang should be ready in May. The box was received from home and the enclosed cheese made quite an impression on them when the box was opened. They are still working on the disposal of items from Mrs. Woodin's house. Willard comments on the upcoming election and choosing either a gold or silver standard. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China Sept. 23rd. 1896.

Dear Folks at Home,-

When I was taking lessons in Bookkeeping of Mr. Joseph Tomlinson he told me that my hand writing was below par. Since that time very many persons in different parts of the world have agreed with him. Oliver once told me that he could not spend time to decipher my letters, so he let the others read them and tell him the contents. Since I have been in China the Missionaries have had a standing joke about my penmanship. Dr. Whitney declares he cannot get the meaning of the letters I send him. I know you folks at home would say the same thing if you spoke your mind freely. The only one that might differ would be Flora, and she is prejudiced because she has already said that if I ever wrote a letter to her on a typewriter she would not read it. Now I am truly sorry for her, but really I do not see what to do about the matter, except to write you as usual and allow her to get the substance from you. Fairchild says that "Benevolence" consists in regarding the greatest good of the greatest number. This I am trying to do.

Fri. Sept. 18th I went to the mountain again and remained till Mon. when we all came down. Sunday was a homesick kind of a day. The sun did not get out at all, and there were only a few people left. We had a service at which I held forth. In all there were eighteen present. Of these only four were men, the rest women. This week will see nearly every house deserted. The men are still digging away at the sidehill to make a level place for our house. They agreed to have it all finished Jan. 3rd, but if it is ready for occupancy by the first of next May we shall be satisfied. It was very hot coming down the mountain Mon., the sun had unhindered access to our path, and the wind could not strike at all. But when we reached the plain there was a fine breeze all the way home. Phebe seemed to enjoy the journey, talking to the birds and other objects along the way.

The weather seemed to understand that we were green hands in China, and the delightful cool atmosphere that I had found for two weeks, withdrew in favor of 90 degree weather. Every day has been sultry and hot, - much like our dogdays at home, only more so in all bad respects. The little girl feels the heat very much. Her neck is covered with prickly heat and she looks as if she was miserable. To add to her trials, two double teeth are just coming thro. She is running wherever her fancy leads her. This helps to make her cross, (for I shall have to admit that she is cross these days. She continues to sleep well at night tho, so it is not as bad as it might be. We are going to have a hard time to tell whether she is to speak her native tongue or Chinese. Several words already she says in the Foochow colloquial. Would you not laugh to hear her come home now and address you in the Chinese tongue?

The boxes from Boston arrived last Fri. just as I was starting for the mountain, so I had to let them remain till Tues. before opening them. Every thing came in good condition. The cheese- ah, well the cheese. Its strength was not at all impaired by the long journey. It came out as fresh and strong as when it was put in. I believe if the engine had at any time given out that cheese could have pulled the load alone. But Ellen says it is good, so never mind, it has done no harm, and we will call it - - CHEESE. A little blue salt or pepper shaker surprised us as we opened the box, the samples of cocoa and soap also came in perfect condition. If we are to thank any one for these - THANK YOU- The different pieces of cloth also came in good condition. The doll's head made Phebe beg for it. The picture cards will make the little Chinese eyes bug out with delight, and anticipation.

We have had two mails this week. One came Wed. and one tonight. - Fri. The picture of "the most wonderful baby on this side of the earth" arrived in perfect condition. The earth is now balanced, and ought to run

smoothly for two months. I was very much please to receive a good long letter from Oliver also. Mr. Kenneston sent a cheerful, spicy letter at the same time. The mail to-night brings a letter from Mrs. Woodin merely repeating what she wrote in the last, in case that should be lost. Dr. Smith writes a very pleasant letter from the Rooms at Boston in reply to mine of July 6th. He says nothing about finances in which we folks out here are particularly interested. The work has assumed such large proportions that merely to keep up with it requires a large amount of money. Of course the Chinese are themselves giving liberally in many places, but there are many important centers where the work is new, and to curtail in these places means disaster. Then as I wrote last week it seems as if we must have more foreign workers.

Just now Ellen and I are both utilizing every moment possible in settling Mrs. Woodins affairs. She has left a lot of things to be sent to her, and more to be sold and others to be given away or destroyed. It is very slow work, for I can work only half a day at a time. The Mission work demands the rest. You should see our house. Not a room put in order yet. Mrs. Woodins things everywhere. Today I nailed up the first box, and got two more under headway, so the coast is beginning to clear.

I expect times are pretty lively at home just now. The issue is entirely one of principle. This I consider fortunate. Both candidates are clean men, with clean records. The youth of the country will not have to read a lot of filthy stuff in order to get the campaign news. On the other hand they will be educated in one of the greatest questions that the countries of the world have to deal with. A dissertation on the relative merits of gold and silver as monetary standards, from me, would not influence the coming election greatly so I refrain. At the same time I cannot help thinking from what I have been able to read, that the Silverites are working for the poorer classes and the Goldites are pulling for the moneyed classes. It is not at all strange that the people who have money due them should desire to be paid in gold, and the people who owe of course would prefer to pay in the cheaper metal. But whether the gold or the silver standard will be better for the poor man in the long run is the question. I see one paper in Ohio recommends the free coinage of mud at the ratio of 6,000,000,000 to 1. Well I expect that neither party will demolish the government in four years. If something can be done to let the merchants and others who invest money, know upon what basis to make their estimates, and upon what to depend, they will be willing to invest.

Ellen thinks we have done enough for one day and had better go to bed.

Good night.

Mon. Sept. 28th.

The Shanghai steamer came in to day, so I must finish this and start it eastward. The first and most important new is – It is HOT- I think the mercury rises as high at home, but it never continues as hot for a long period. Day and night there is no let up. People say it is unusual at this season. I hope so. Phebe bears it bravely, but she looks most uncomfortable, with her little head covered with red blotches. Tonight we have another theater to make things lively.

Yesterday the churches here were full. Geu Cio Dong was filled to the doors and men left for want of room. What is to be done here I do not know. The people are doing bravely at self support, but they do not seem to be able to build a large church. It will require about \$1500 to enlarge this church so that it will seat 1000 people.

We are not going to send to you for an order of groceries etc. this Fall. The cereal that came last Spring is not all gone yet. If we want one or two things it is very easy to send to Boston. The planes that arrived last week have already nearly paid for themselves. I have had to make special boxes for three of Mrs. Woodins articles, and the planes were indispensable.

Fruit is just beginning to be good again, after a few months of comparative scarcity. Pumeloes, and persimmons are very good. Bananas are good part of the time. Phebe enjoys all kinds of fruit. It is also good for her. She often eats a whole banana and used to eat peaches and plumbs like old folks. As soon as I get some of Mrs. Woodins things off my hands, I am going to make a chicken coop and buy some fowls. We then shall have good eggs and good poultry to eat. The idea that it makes no difference on what hens are fed, about the quality of the eggs, is erroneous. It does not take any more of an expert than I, to tell the difference.

The M.E. Mission has just received an addition of a young man whose name is McVey. I met him today, and one of the first things he said was that he had a card of introduction from Davis. He met Davis in Leipsic, about Spring. It was unusual to hear from an acquaintance in such a round about way, as McVey came back by way of the States. The message came more than half way round the globe. It is Davis' business to start another class letter on its way around the world, but I expect his mind is so taken up with Ph.D. and Matrimonie, that he has not time for miner details.

Well this machine is getting tired. So wishing you all the best things from the Giver of all good.

We are with lots of love,

Ellen, Phebe, Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 1, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mr. Mott and Lyon and many native preachers and teachers will be coming to the Foochow Conference of Christian Workers. He checked on the excavation of his future Kuliang house and found it was not to his specifications. He and Ellen have now been missionaries for 2 years and Willard feels that it was the right thing for him to do with his life. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, October, 1st. 1896.

Dear Folks at Home;-

I am writing this simply to let one of my boys see the wonderful machine that can write. Oct. 10th.- This paper has enjoyed quite a rest. I on the other hand have not. Mrs. Woodin's boxes are all packed but one little lacquer box which is not dry. We have one room full of her things. It is a veritable curiosity shop. Every thing in it from an old tin plate to a mahogany bureau. I just let the things rest there, and nearly every day something is disposed of. To-day has been an especially good day in sales. 9.00 p.m. Consulting with Miss Newton about the program for the S.E. rally to be held Nov. 18th. has consumed the evening, so I must say good night, and good bye till another time.

Sunday p.m. 4:30. Today has been the regular day for the 9th month Communion. All of our churches that could, have observed it. Those that have no ordained pastor and those where an ordained pastor or a missionary could not attend, will celebrate next week or week after. Today at Geu Cio Dong 9 people joined, and at Ha Puo Ga 6. I think that 5 or more will join at other places in my field in a week or two, making the number for the Suberbs 20. As many more have been examined and asked to wait. For the first time, I have today helped in administering the Sacrament. I went over to Ha Puo Ga, and finding the pastor laboring under a heavy cold, I accepted his invitation to help at the service. This means that hereafter I must stay at home if I do not wish to take part in the service. Query, - how long before I preach the first sermon in Chinese?

The Foochow Conference of Christian Workers is the all absorbing topic now. I received a telegram last night at 11.00 o'clock saying that they would start from Shanghai today. "They" means Messrs Mott and Lyon. So they will arrive here tomorrow or Tues. The conference will begin Wed. morning with a session in Chinese. There will be two Chinese and two English sessions each day. The tent which is in process of construction will seat about 1500 people. I think it will be full. Very encouraging letters have come from country stations far up in the country, announcing that plans were being made to send native preachers, teachers etc. down to Foochow to attend the conference.

The weather has at last changed. It was an awful struggle but the cooler head has at last come off victorious. Today is the first that I have been able to wear my ordinary home Summer clothes, since we came from Kuliang. The mercury stands at 74 now. Phebe is looking quite like a healthy child again. The heat came out on her so badly that she resembled one who has been poisoned and is just getting well. The skin that covered the festers of heat is all peeling off. She is sitting at the table with us for dinner and supper. We let her eat most every thing that we eat except meat. She is very fond of fruit and eats most kinds without harm. She is getting too old for two naps a day. One nap a little before noon is all she can find time for. This makes her sleepy earlier than formerly and she now wants to go to bed as soon as her supper is over. I have Annie's picture and Phebe's on my desk side by side. They are two pretty good specimens. I should think Annie was a little fatter than Phebe. She has never been fat, only plump. If she would be content to keep still long enough the fat might accumulate now as the weather is all right and she is eating us out of house and home, and sleeping like a log every night.

I went to Kuliang last Monday to see the house. The mason told me the excavating was done and he wanted to have me stake out the position of the house. I went up and found the land all smoothed off nicely, but the excavation was only 6 feet and a half. It was to have been 7 feet. Be-sides the lower portion of the land was not excavated at all. This would let the water run under the house when it rained. So our house is not yet done. One of the greatest reforms that Christianity has to accomplish in China is that of making men keep their agreements. I agreed with the carpenter to give him so much to make a speakers stand and some seats for the meetings this week. The work was to be done Tues. noon. I was over yesterday and the job was not half finished. About three fourths of the time was gone. I told the man that for every hour after twelve o'clock Tues. noon, I should cut him 50 cents. We buy potatoes and stipulate emphatically that there shall be no small ones. The tubers are brought just as they are taken out of the ground. It is not at all pleasant to be compelled to keep punishing by cutting in money payments and other ways all the time, but if this people were perfect or comparatively so, we should have no business here. Then we and the nation which we represent are not above reproach in many of the qualities for which we blame the Chinese. These two facts, especially the former, are a great help to me in being patient.

I must close this now. We have not had a home mail for a long time, the next steamer should bring as news from you. All about what each one is doing this Fall. More than two years have passed since we said goodbye to the dear ones in Conn. The time has passed very swiftly, and pleasantly. I have never had the thought come to my mind that I ought to be doing anything else than working right here. I do not know why I should have thought of it now. Before we actually decided to come to Foochow, I used often to wonder if this were really God's plan. But for two years now I have not thought as there could be anything else for me to do.

Give our love to all the friends. Hug and kiss Annie. Congratulate grandfather and grandmother on their 55th wedding anniversary (if I'm right). Tell Mr. Park I'll try hard to get a letter around for the New Year. Take a lot of love for yourselves from us all.

Will, Ellen, Phebe.

[This letter dated Oct. 25, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mr. Mott and Mr. Lyon arrived just on time for the Foochow Convention. One of the topics discussed at the convention was a need for a National Y.M.C.A. for China. Willard hints at the coming of another baby. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Oct. 25th 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

It seems as if it had been a long time since I had sent a letter eastward, but if I am right in my calculations, it was only about two weeks ago. These two weeks have been full tho, so the time may seem longer on that account. I cannot give as detailed an account of the doings of the last fortnight as I should like, but I will try in the little time remaining before I crawl into my little bed to give a brief outline of events.

When I last wrote Messers. Mott and Lyon had not arrived. The meetings were advertised for Oct. 14th. The steamer was late and the gentlemen reached Pagoda Anchorage at 1.00 p.m. Oct. 13th. I had spent all the day Oct. 12th. trying to find out when they would arrive, and decided to let them come up the river alone. But the 13th. dawned bright and clear, with a good breeze blowing down river. I arose a little early and took my houseboy, and hired a sampan. We were at Pagoda in 2 hours and 30 minutes. I took dinner with Dr. Whitney, and had just arisen from the table as the steamer came in sight. The trip up the river we spent in arranging affairs for the Convention. We arrived at Ponasang at 4.00 p.m. It was decided that the gentlemen should go into the city that night and visit Mr. Peet's school. Mrs. Mott who accompanies her husband on this trip, spent the night at Miss Newton's. At 9.30 a.m. of the 14th. the first session would commence. I was over the river where the tent was to be erected, at 8.00 o'clock. Just about one half the work was done. I was sick- that is sick of depending on Chinese workmen to do anything on time. But Ming Uong and the 9 young men who are studying Theology under me proved true. We all took off our coats and in less time than I am writing this we had a covering of cotton cloth over the seats, and the meetings began on time.

The friends had to return in three days, so the meetings had to be crowded in pretty thick. There were three meetings in the tent each day for three days. Beside these, Six Institutions were visited, and a Y.M.C.A. instituted in each. Also one session in English was held each day. The friends left at 10.15 Oct. 16th.

The results of the work done during those three days cannot be written now. We can see only a few of the influences which we exerted. The people here are alive to the benefits and necessity of a National Y.M.C.A. for China. As I have already said six local Associations were established here in Foochow. Each of the three Missions is planning to send a delegate to Shanghai this week to attend a convention of the leading Educators in the Empire, for the purpose of establishing the National Association. Beside the Missionaries and other Foreigners, who attend, there will be present several English speaking Chinese from the various Colleges and schools in the Empire. At least two will go from Foochow. It has been my good fortune to be chosen by our Mission to represent them at this Conference. I expect to start next Fri. Oct. 30th. and shall be gone a little over a week. So before this intelligence reaches you I shall be back in Foochow.

There are now about a 20 Associations in China. These are scattered from Tientsin to Canton. They reach into the interior to Hankow. Gilbert Reid will be present at Shanghai to represent some of the interests among the higher classes in North China. Dr. Sheffield of our Board will come from Tungchoo. Mr. Banister of the English and Mr. Smyth of the Methodist Mission will go from Foochow.

The day after the friends left, an interesting gathering was held in the tent by the Chinese. On the Sunday following the church members of the three Missions here met together in the tent for a united Communion service. About 700 were present. 550 partook of the Sacrament. The oldest Pastor present, Ming Uong's father, stood before the audience and said that in his more than 30 years of service, here in Foochow as a Pastor he had never witnessed

such a sight. He was glad to see the union. The Christians of our Mission and those of the English Mission are working hard to get the three Missions united. The Methodists rather stay by themselves.

At the Convention were 51 preachers, 570 students, 150 teachers, and over 400 others. A good number volunteered for the ministry and a very large number agreed to study the Bible daily. Prayer and Bible study are impressed on the minds of the Foochow native Christians as never before.

[*The remainder of the letter is handwritten.*]

Phebe is a joy forever. Wonder what she would say to another incumbent. - Ellen is delighted (?) with the rapidity and perfection with which her tailor does his work. The Shaowu people are hindered on account of sickness and are still here at Ponasang.

Lovingly Will.

[*This letter dated Oct. 16, 1896 was written by Ellen Lucy Kinney Beard from Foochow, China to her family back home in the states. The letter was started in October and finished in December. Willard was in Shanghai for various missionary meetings. The Gardner's and Dr. Bliss are leaving for Shaowu after being away from there for a year because of a massacre. She reports that in November she gave birth to a baby boy named Myron Gould. She talks of her missionary work preparing for Christmas and tells a funny story about daughter Phebe and a doll. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Foochow, China,
Oct. 26", '96. [1896]

Dear Home Friends,

It is time I began another letter to you. The needle was mailed day before yesterday and this is the knot-at-the-end-of-the-thread.

I don't think I shall dare write such familiar and nonsensical letters if you are going to send them as a whole to Mr. Beard's people and others. I naturally have written them only for the family knowing of course that you would tell or read some portions to others; but if your scrutinizing and conservative judgment does not condemn them or feel ashamed of them I suppose their author ought not to be.

I am glad you asked these questions in your last letter indicating what had been lacking in my previous letters as I often do not recall when I sit down to write what I have not written nor know what you would most like to know. But in this letter I would like to write about things to which you have suffered or about which you have asked in former letters.

First let me say that I suspect there have been about two home-bound mails lost; one leaving here a little over a year ago now in which there was a letter to Mr. Sargent from Willard which we thought would be read on Church Day or, at least at the Missionary Concert preceding; but of which you have never written not Mr. Sargent ever acknowledged. The other leaving here last January in which there was a letter from me describing our last year's Thanksgiving party at the Consulate of which I distinctly remember of writing and which could not have reached you in December at which time you say your last letter from me was received. I am particularly sorry that Mr. Sargent's letter was not received, for obvious reasons.

Nov. 8.

My pen has had a long rest and I doubt if I can recall all that has transpired between, that might be of interest to you. One thing I do not forget, in that time is our largest separation since our marriage. Willard has been in Shanghai for a week and during that time Phebe and I have been in the house alone with the servants in the basement.

The occasion of his going was an outcome of the visit of Messrs. Mott [*John R. Mott, 1946 Nobel Peace Prize winner*] and Lyon. During Mott's trip through China he has organized twenty-five Y.M.C.A.'s in the Educational Institutions where he has held conferences; and before he left China he picked delegates, one foreign and one native from each of those institutions to meet at a central city, Shanghai, and organize a National Union. Willard represented the Theological Seminary and Mr. Peet the College. Three other foreigners went from the other missions here.

They started from here at 7 o'clock, Saturday morning Oct. 31" and arrived home yesterday morning rather unexpectedly to me. Willard was dreadfully seasick both ways and now that he has landed at home is in bed living on toast and milk, and under the Dr.'s care. A very poor sailor, I fear he would make. It takes two days and one night to make the distance from Foochow to Shanghai. Willard was appointed secretary of the meeting. Upon him

also, devolved the management and responsibility of the Mott Conference, and there was a great deal of planning and hard work to be done for it; so I was very glad that he could have this little rest from regular duties, and recreation in the trip, but don't know as he is going to gain so much as I had hoped from it, the voyage was so trying to him.

Our Annual Meeting begins next Tuesday and Willard has had charge of arrangements for a tent (a huge affair of matting and bamboo) to be erected in our compound for holding the meetings. With so much to attend to he can ill afford to be sick long. We shall have lively times in our compound for the next week.

Tomorrow the Missionaries whose work is at Shaowu, several hundred miles up the Min river, return to their field after the summer vacation spent here and at Sharp Peak. The company consists of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, their three boys and Dr. Bliss. They came down a year ago last summer and on account of the massacre the Consul did not give his consent to their return the following October as they had planned; but Mr. Gardner and Dr. Bliss went up later, returning for this last summer, while Mrs. G. and the children have remained here a year and a half. As she goes unaccompanied by any other woman and will probably not see any other foreign woman till she returns next summer, she will probably be rather lonely. Mrs. Walker who died last fall has always been up there with her before. They have occupied Dr. Kinnear's house in our compound since they came from Sharp Peak and we shall miss them when that house is shut up and vacant and there is no one but Miss Newton and us in this compound. They have been detained here a month longer than they expected on account of the illness of the two youngest children of dysentery.



Written on back of photo: "Dr. and Mrs. Kinnear wish you all a bright 'Good Morning'." And also in different handwriting: "The comfortable temporary home of one of our missionary doctors (Dr. Kinnear of Foochow). One of the newest and best houses of the Foochow Mission."

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

December, the sixth.

As this news could not reach you in time to be counted among your blessings for Thanksgiving, nor yet to be hung on your Christmas Tree or put into your stockings, we present you with a little Grandson and Nephew for a New Year's gift, as reaching you nearest that distinguished day of any unless it be better to call him a Valentine or his Grandpa's Birthday gift.

In November, the thirteenth at 1:20 P.M. the new little life began and brought a great new joy into our home. We have both gotten along nicely and are now today for the first time all out in the library with the regular routine of life taking up again.

"Boy" or "Buoy" as Phebe pronounces it, weighed 8 ½ lbs. on his arrival- over ½ lb. more than Phebe weighed. The first week he gained 1 ¾ lbs. a very remarkable gain. We thought Phebe a very strong child but this one goes ahead of her. His papa often remarks that he doesn't think of being careful of him in handling him,- it doesn't seem natural to be, he is so stiff and strong. The way he stretches and straightens and kicks, and the kaleidoscopic variation of physiognomy resultant there from is certainly amusing to say the least. This is the fiftieth anniversary of the Mission in Foochow and as he came in the midst of our Annual Meetings in which we celebrated the Jubilee, it was suggested that we name him Nathan Jubilee. We hesitated some time between Myron Gould and Nathan Bennett for a name; the latter, to have him like Phebe, named for the great-grandparent; the former, for both grandfathers. But I wanted Willard to name his first boy and as Myron Gould was his first choice, of course it was mine. We call him Gould to avoid confusion by having two Myrons in the family and also to have a name somewhat new and unique. We were over two weeks deciding on a name for him but were less than that number of hours deciding our little girl's name. He has brown eyes like his father, I think, and dark brown hair.

[The next paragraph is written by Willard.]

At this p't E. left to give the little dear his supper. I have read the letter once- out of curiosity, but according to our custom of always knowing and criticizing each others letters- I want to write just a word re the first paragraph of this letter. You must continue to send these letters (RARE GEMS) to the home in Shelton. They would feel very badly indeed to be deprived of any letters at all from Ellen. Ellen also seconds this command. It was only her false(?) modesty that led her to write that first paragraph- Loving Father of the Boy.

[Back to Ellen's handwriting.]

Dec. 13th 1896.

Phebe loves her little brother very much, and expresses it by kissing and hugging him, the latter quite to his displeasure. He thinks too, that she pats him on the head rather savagely sometimes; but she gives it all in love. The other evening Phebe was very tired and for the first time thought little Gould had usurped her rights. She pulled at my dress asking me to come, ran to the bed and told me in, in Chinese, to put the boy down there then came back and asked me to take her. This was plainer than she ever expressed herself before.

Dec. 13.

This letter having taken three long rests decides to be finished and start for America.

I have been busy for the last two days preparing cards for Christmas distribution. We give this season over four hundred cards to women and children only, who are members of the church, and of the schools. The finest and largest cards of all that are sent us during the year must be selected for Christmas gifts; they often need the edges trimmed after their long journey through the mail; and these things with the counting and apportioning to each church and school preparatory to our teacher's writing the names on them takes more time than one would think. This is one of the small branches of missionary work but contributes much to the happiness of the Chinese,- small as regards my share of the work, but very much appreciated as regards the work and sacrifice of contributing and collecting at your end of the line.

Each church and chapel has its celebration on a different day so that its members may attend all the others.

In my next letter I will give you some account of how they celebrate Christmas.

Now something more about the children, of course. I must tell you about Phebe's doll. Some one from Willard's home sent a doll's head to her, in a box; but as it was breakable we thought it best not to give it to her until she knew better how to handle things. But Mr. Goddard bought her a doll (all dressed) of the Shanghai merchant who was here for a week or two.

You should have seen the expression on her face when she received it. She looked astonished to see a human being (as she evidently thought it) so small and acted as if she were waiting to see what it would do. Then she reached out her hands and took it, held it up to look at it again then hugged it to her bosom as naturally as a mother would her child. Back and forth she ran from one room to another putting the doll down in a chair and taking it up again many times. Finally she dropped it on the floor and in trying to pick it up stepped on the dress which was made of thin cheap silk. She grasped the doll gave it a jerk that entirely faced it from its gay gown leaving it in rags on the floor while a few shreds dangled from its neck. Before she went to bed that night the

unfortunate doll had lost an arm; and in five short days, all that remained of this luckless doll was a one-armed headless body with a petticoat and sash on. Not all of her toys end their career so promptly.

By the By I want my two old dolls sent in the next box, the wax one and the "speckled faced" paper-head doll, with the hat, just as they are. The one will be a great treasure to her a few years later; the other will stand hard usage by another family of children I think.

Well I drifted off on to a branch stream and found myself so far from the main channel that I have not attempted to return against the current of thought; so "the things to which you have referred or about which you have asked in former letters" are not "written about" after all. [*Letter torn*] you are as well and happy as we are under the one Father's care,

I am

Your loving daughter

And sister,

Ellen L.K.B.

N.B.- This letter is too stale to be sent away from home to anybody.

E.L.K.B.

That is to say, I shall be overjoyed to hear, - as I have heard from each one of my letters excessively, - that it has been read with pleasure and profit by all friends near and far, and that it has been read in the columns of the Patriot.

[This letter dated Nov. 10, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He went to Shanghai for the Annual Meeting and was very seasick on the trip up. While there he visited a cotton mill and felt it was very similar to those in the U.S. He feels Shanghai will become the New York of China. It was decided at the meeting to organize a National Y.M.C.A. of China. The Gardners and Dr. Bliss left for Shaowu. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Nov. 10th. 1896.

Dear Folks at Home;-

Just before I started for Shanghai I dropped a short letter into the mail for you. Two weeks have again slipped away and no writing has gone homeward in the meantime. Our Annual meeting begins tonight and the next ten days will be fully occupied so I must dash off a few lines to let you know we are well and in working order.

On the trip up the coast from Foochow to Shanghai I was seasick. Please notice I use no adjectives. I leave you to use your most vivid imagination. No man was ever sicker than I was. We started Sat. a.m. at 6 o'clock from Ponasang. The steamer left Pagoda at 12 noon. A head wind made the ship pitch all the way. Sun. night we anchored at the mouth of the Shanghai river. At daylight we went up the river reaching the city at 9.30 o'clock. There were ten of us in the party. Five foreigners and five natives. We went directly to the Presbyterian Press and were assigned to various places in the city for entertainment. In the afternoon we went with the Chinese out to see the big cotton mills in which Li Hung Chang is a very large owner. These mills cover several acres of ground, are run night and day, are lit by electricity, and furnish employment to 5000 persons. The machinery is driven by a giant engine made by a firm in England. It seemed for a little time that I was in one of our American cities looking thro a big factory. The only thing to remind me that this was China were the Chinese. The operatives are mostly women. The looms are tended entirely, so far as I saw, by women. The men were engaged in the heavier labor. A large number of boys were also at work at the spindles and then lighter parts of the work. The cotton comes to the mills from the cotton Gin. It goes out in the cloth. The machinery is of the most modern type and there is no reason why these mills should not compete with the mills of any other country. As yet only plain, unbleached, white cotton cloth is made. But as the cotton is raised near the mills and as labor is so cheap- about \$8.00 per month- gold- England and Germany which have shipping this cloth to us in large quantities, must feel the difference in the amount of trade.

This mill is controlled by Chinese capital. One Foreigner is employed to be at the head and look after the running of the machinery, and have general supervision of the mills. Otherwise the Chinese do all. The location is a little over three miles down the river from the city of Shanghai. Adjoining this mill are two other large mills in process of construction. These are built with foreign money. Each is about the size of the one in operation. This new industry has the same effect on the city of Shanghai as it would on any city in the U.S. There is a great influx of population, and wages are creeping up fast. There seems little doubt that Shanghai is soon to be a large and influential city, - the New York of China. Just now everything seems to be centering there.

While in Shanghai I met J. Arnold Norcross a class mate in the Birmingham High School. I was too busy to talk long but it was very pleasant to meet an old schoolmate for even a quarter of an hour.

The Conference of course was first in order. We held five sessions. Two on Wed. and three on Thurs. There were present 21 voting and 13 visiting delegates. Each Institution in which a Y.M.C.A. had been started was allowed one voting member. These were mostly Foreigners, but in some cases the Chinese were given the power of wielding the ballot. Perhaps I was the youngest member of the company. At the other extreme were Dr. D.Z. Sheffield of our Board from Tuncho, and Dr. Calvin W. Mateer, Presbyterian, from Tunchow.

It was voted to organize a National Y.M.C.A. in China. The time was then given to the constitution, and the terminology to be used. Nearly all the terms used in an organization of this kind have been coined by Missionaries. In this big Empire of course a great many different terms have stood for the same idea. And so when these men from different parts come together to decide on some one term which shall represent the same idea in all parts, there is much discussion. After the committee of the best scholars had worked for hours together - some of them had been working for weeks - The Convention spent over an hour on the term for "Young Men's Christian Association." But in the discussion there was the utmost unity and all were satisfied at last. An Executive Committee of 14 was elected and the National Y.M.C.A. of China is now a fact. The management of the National Association is in the hands of this Executive Committee. Another Committee is appointed to decide on the relation the Student Volunteer Movement shall bear to this Y.M.C.A. I was unable to remain for the meeting of this Committee, as the steamer left Thurs. morning at daylight. If I waited for the next steamer it would delay me too long. So I left Ming Uong to do the business for me. By the way he is one of the Executive Committee of the National Association.

There are at present 26 Y.M.C.A.s in China. More will soon be formed. From the way in which this Movement has started, and the way in which the students of China are taking hold of it, I believe it will be a mighty power in this land to lead young men to Christ. One of the greatest advantages of the movement, is to come out of the union of the Christian young men of China. And the union of these again with the Christian young men of the world. The "World's Student Christian Federation" will encircle the globe as soon as Japan comes in. What a power against the forces of evil! - This band of Christ's Disciples with hands and hearts joined forming a complete circle of the globe!

Phebe is becoming more and more interesting each day. She is talking as much as a girl of her age ought to. She points to her nose, eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, etc. and can express "yes" and "no", calls the kitty, and wants her Papa to use the napkin if a little of the food gets on her hand or mouth at the table. I am afraid if she were to be the only child long she would become very proud.

The Shaowu people, -Mr. and Mrs. Gardner and three children and Dr. Bliss, started for Shaowu yesterday morning. That field needs a young man and wife and two young ladies. We must have a man and wife and three young ladies here. How long will God wait before sending them?

Lovingly Will, Ellen, Phebe.

I want a photo of Stanley. I wish it might be full length. Will

[This letter dated Nov. 14, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He is announcing the birth of their son who is yet to be named. Ding Ming Uong will be attending the Conference of the World's Student Christian Federation in Massachusetts in 1897. He asks his family if they would like him to visit at the farm for a week. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Nov. 14th. 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I have time for just a word this morning concerning very interesting business. Yesterday at 1.20 p.m. a young Missionary, a single gentleman, arrived. He will board with us for the present. His name is _____ . Phebe is as much pleased as any of us. The only thing that she rebels at, is the lack of attention which she receives since the new arrival. She realizes that something has changed, just what the change is she has not yet analyzed. But she knows that it is a detriment to her in some way. However she puts up with it well, and will soon fall into the regime. The BOY tipped the scales at 8 pounds and one half. He has behaved so as to bring credit to his ancestors. He aired his lungs well for about five minutes and has slept nearly all the time since. Ellen is doing very well. I told her I thought this was the ideal way to do things, - use the daytime for work and save the night for rest. We all got our usual amount of rest last night, and the regular order of things was not disturbed. Dr. Nieberg-Goddard is a jewel. She came in again this morning and gave the HEIR his ablution. We have an extra

Amah for a little while. I am the only man in the Compound now and I can not afford to work for \$4.00 a month, when a native will do the work just as well.

I received a letter from D. Willard Lyon last night giving me an account of the doings at Shanghai after I was obliged to leave. There is one point that may concern you a little so I tell it now and I hope you will answer as soon as possible. Ding Ming Uong my assistant in the Seminary has been appointed delegate to the Conference of the World's Student Christian Federation. This Conference will be held at Williamstown, Mass. about the middle of July next, - July 1897. - Would you like him to spend a week sometime in Aug. with you? I should like very much to have him speak in Shelton, Huntington, Trumbull, Stratford and perhaps other places. It is not certain yet that he will come, but probable. If he comes he will be in Springfield Mass. about June 1st, and probably remain there till July 15th or so. Then he will visit in Sept. some of the colleges. This is all for now. Send news to Putnam.

Love from the family of four. Will.

[This letter dated Nov. 29, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He lets them know how the new baby is and that they named him Myron Gould Beard. The Annual Meeting went well and Willard gave his first address is Chinese. More leaders at the meeting were for church self support. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, Nov. 29th. 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

There is no letter to answer, but I expect it will be all right to send a few lines. The heir and his mother have been doing well every day, and sleeping soundly every night. I think he is awake more than Phebe was at his age, but he is as good as you could expect a boy to be. His greatest anxiety seems to be in regard to food. He seemingly has an apparition that we are trying to starve him, and it is very evident that he has made up his mind that he will "die game." He has a prodigious pair of lungs, judging from the amount of noise he can make with them. He has a large amount of that commodity known as "sticktoitiveness". If he develops in this direction, there will be very few unfinished undertakings among the accounts of his life. He rolled off the pillow on which he was placed yesterday. He was lying on his face on the right side of his head the other day, and he raised up and turned his head over and lay on his other cheek. To make a long account of the wonderful feats he has already performed short, he is one of the most wonderful boys that this world has ever seen or had the honor to contain. I sent a short letter to Putnam a week ago, and told them that we had named the young man Myron Gould, and shall call him Gould. He will be known as M. Gould Beard.

Phebe is quite well and grows like a weed. She has eaten with me every meal since Ellen was in bed. I let her have nearly everything except meat. She is very fond of fruit and cereal. I opened the tin of codfish the other day, and have had the cook make it into fish cakes. Phebe is very fond of them. I have just weighed her and she weighs 26 lbs.

The Annual Meeting was in every respect a success. The numbers exceeded those of any other year in the history of the Mission, by at least 300. The attendance last year was about 400. This year 700. About the time this reaches you, this Mission will be 50 years old. The ANNUAL Meeting this year took the form of a Jubilee. The larger part of the time was given to historical addresses.

The oldest Christian in Foochow was present, the man who cooked the first meal for Mr. Hartwell was here, and many others who well remember the earliest days of the Mission. In the a.m. the men and women held separate sessions. In the afternoon a union session was held in the compound here at Ponasang. The audience numbered each p.m. about 700. Beside these there were from 100 to 200 who came and sat for a few minutes and went out. I gave my first address in Chinese before an audience. From the most authentic reports I think the people understood me. I had anticipated the session on self-support, which I was to have conducted, very much. The Suberb station here of which I have charge is the leader in this new department, and during the past year the whole field has caught the idea. Last year one of our oldest Pastors spoke against trying to urge the churches to become self supporting, because he thought the time was not ripe for it. But he has been changed during the year, and has gone to a district in which one church is paying the pastor's salary, and several others have made good liberal contributions toward their own expences. But unfortunately I was in bed that day. However I was very glad that the report of every one was the same- "It was a good meeting". Mr. Hartwell has not been at all enthusiastic on the subject, because he has rather held that the people were not able to meet their own expences, owing to the poverty that existed among the church members generally. But he was very much pleased with the results as brought out in the meeting this year. And he stands ready to push the matter now with the rest of us. Thus far this year in my field

there has been more than \$100 given by the churches which last year had to be paid by the Mission. If every thing goes well another \$100 will be paid before the end of the Chinese year.- a little after Feb. 1st.

The last day of the Annual Meeting, or rather the day after the Annual Meeting, the 4th. Annual Rally of the Foochow Y.P.S.C.E. was held in the tent here. 750 were counted in the a.m. and 900 in the p.m. Over 30 societies reported. And there are as many more in the province that were not represented. All the addresses were short. An American could not have done better as a presiding officer than did Mr. Ling Muk Gek the first Christian Endeavorer in China. At the Consecration meeting in the p.m. I believe 132 took part in one half hour. The leader resorted to a unique method in conducting this part of the meeting. He first asked those who wished to speak, consecrating themselves to Christ, or who wished to recite a verse of Scripture, to rise. They remained standing, and sat as each had finished speaking. Then he asked- those who wished to pray to rise, and all bowed the head, and as each had prayed he sat as before. This saved time and confusion. We like the plan. But I will not delay longer on this, for you will see reports of the Rally in the Golden Rule and in the Missionary Herald.

I have just sent Mrs. Woodin's goods to the steamer.- 5 boxes and a bale. They have been around in the way since Sept. 1st. The effects that she wished sold here are also off my hands. They have brought about \$160. These were as many articles to be sold as they brought dollars. So you see it was no small job. During the month of Oct. my bookkeeping amounted to as much in items as many store clerks have to show for a months work. I have over \$300 to collect for the Mott Conference and the National Y.M.C.A. of China.

Last Thurs. was Thanksgiving day. It was the quietest and most uneventful day that I ever knew. The Consul as usual invited all the American citizens to his home for the Thanksgiving dinner. But Gould thought we had better not attend. Of course we had to follow his directions. So we simply staid at home and rested. We want to hear all the news about the gathering at White Hill. The number was one more this year I suppose. Wheo! How the number of greatgrandchildren is swelling!

Ming Uong will probably cross the Pacific with Mr. and Mrs. Peet who return to the States next Spring on a furlough. His expenses will be about \$800. Mexicans i.e. silver. I know where \$500 of this is coming from. The rest I think can be raised without much trouble. It is a National affair and the sources are many from which to look for help. Mr. Lyon of Tientsin is fully as much interested in his going as any one, and he will raise a good part of the money. Of course there is some risk in sending him. He may get the "Bighead". But it is the opinion of all the Missionaries that this risk is small. I hope it will only open his eyes to greater possibilities in Christ's service here.

Love to All

Will.

[*"The 'clean' Mexican or silver dollar, - this term includes a number of recognized silver dollars, such as the Chinese 'Yuan' and 'Dragon' dollar, the Japanese trade Yen, the Hongkong silver dollar, etc. These dollars when not struck with a dye, or chopped are called 'clean' Mexican dollars.*

The 'chopped' Mexican or silver dollar, - this term includes all silver dollars of recognized standard which have been 'chopped' or struck with a metal dye, to denote genuineness. It is dealt in by weight only." Price, Ernest B, Anti-Cobweb Club of Foochow, Fukien, A Study of a Province in China. Shanghai, China: Presbyterian Mission Press, 1925.]

[*This letter dated Dec. 5, 1896 was written Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen is doing well since giving birth to Gould. A Second Degree Chinese man joined the church. Willard is hoping that their budget will be increased for the next year. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.*]

Foochow, Dec. 5 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last two days have been very pleasant. Unusually for Foochow, we have had several rainy days in Nov. this year. The weather has also been quite warm. We put the stove up today, and put the carpet down. I have had a stove in the bedroom for several days, with a fire night and morning. Ellen took dinner and supper with me in the dining room today for the first time since Gould was born.

Sunday: - Ellen has taken all her meals with me today. I have urged her to lie down but to no purpose. She says she is not tired. The boy grows like a weed. It seeks [seems] as if he were an exceptionally strong child. He holds his head up like a grown person, and if he gets the chance he bears his whole weight on his feet. He has thus far slept well every night. We are greatly blessed in having two children who go to bed and sleep all night. Phebe has taken only one nap a day for sometime. She goes to bed and sleeps all night. Phebe has taken only one nap a day

for sometime. She goes to bed about 7:00 p.m. and wakes about daylight. She wants to come from her crib into my bed when she wakes, and you should see the way she hugs! When it is time for me to dress she goes to the amah and has on a thick coat until after breakfast, when she takes her bath and is dressed for the day. Now that it is colder I think we shall keep her in bed until a fire is started and the room warm.

It has been a long time since we have heard from you. Mails have arrived, but they brought only papers for us. We have to accept no news as good news and trust the Father that all is well.

Mon.:- Yesterday was Communion Sunday in the churches here in Foochow. At Geu Cio Dong 8 were received. One more was examined, but he was not able to attend the service yesterday, because the Official called him to see about some matter. I counted this rather an unfortunate circumstance, because this man was a Second Degree man. - the first Second Degree graduate who has asked admittance to one of our churches. I had the honor to conduct the examination. He has been thinking about accepting the Gospel for nearly a year now. He seemed to understand the principle Truths of the Gospel thoroughly. I asked him if he found it hard to accept a Gospel that placed all men on the same level. - that told him to recognize the coolie who carried burdens on his shoulder, or the man who carried the sedan chair in which he the Literary man sits, as his equal. He said it was hard, but he recognized that the Gospel of Christ required this. Another who united was a First Degree graduate. This makes two of the First Degree men in Geu Cio Dong. It means much for one of these Literary men to leave the ranks of the Four Hundred, as they would be called in the U.S., and unite with the Church. Next to the Officials these Literary men i.e. those who have taken examinations and obtained a degree hold the power in this land. They are respected and feared by the people, and the Officials are very careful when a case involves one of these men. A case has just come to my notice this morning in which the Literary men instead of the Officials were consulted. There was a dispute between two men over a piece of land. The case was left to a number of Literary men to decide. In this instance however the decision, altho agreed to by both parties, was not final. One of the men has secretly carried it to the Officials. And now, as he has implicated me by writing the Official that "Several tens of Missionaries came to his house who looked as fierce as tigers, and forced him to give up his land to the other party," I have business with the Officials. This however is an unusual case, bordering very closely on perscutisn [*persecution?*]. I have seen the answer which the Official sent to this petition, and he tells the man who wrote it that he does not think the church member would do as he has accused him of doing. And that he has heard of the decision of the Literary men and thinks they are right.

If these Literary graduates are sincere, and earnest, they will be of great help to the Church. Of course there is danger of pride among the other members, because of the presence of these "Honorable brethren". There are other dangers also, but we are much rejoiced that the Gospel is taking hold of the upper classes.

Christmas is near, and the Churches are already planning for the festivities. Last year the crowds were so great that we are to hold the services in all the churches at the same time this year. I meant to have written earlier, but altho too late for Christmas this year, it will be of use next year. If you have and Exercises for Christmas, or Easter Concerts, I wish you would send me some. Of course one of a kind is enough, as I shall use only the translation.

Mon. evening: - I have been to Kuliang today to see our house. I am getting to enjoy a trip up there hugely. It takes me entirely away from all the work here, and gives me an entire change. The exercise is just right, not that I am used to the climbing. I ride to the foot of the mountain in a chair, and walk up. The ride occupies one and three fourths hours. It took me today just one and one half hours to walk from the foot of the mountain to our house. Today I laid out and drove the stakes for a house of one of the Methodist ladies. I was on the mountain about three hours. The air up there is clear and crisp. It is so cold that the workmen say they cannot work at all in the early morning and late afternoon.

An American mail came last evening. Letters arrived from Long Hill and from East Berlin. They were good and newsy, jut the kind we want. What was the matter with old Dandy? How much of the stone wall in front of the house went into the road? How have you fixed the ground in front of the house now? What has become of my little brother? You don't know how I long to see him. You must write oftener Stanley. I wish you would send me one of your photos- a recent one. And if I was real selfish I should want a full length portrait so that I might see your size.

I was very much pleased today to read in the account of the Board Meeting at Toledo, that the Prudential Committee have been instructed to increase appropriations for next year \$65,000. This gives me courage to hope that our appropriation will not be less this year than it was last. With this amount we can keep the work moving. To cut off help in many places, means to kill the work.

Love to all Will

I read with much concern of Mr. Keneston's illness- May God spare him to the work in Shelton. Cousin Carrie Bennett has endured much. I trust she is now happy with her Saviour. Remember me in sympathy to cousin Elizabeth.

W.

[This letter dated Dec. 18, 1896 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells how Gould and Phebe are doing. He has had the duty to prepare and send a shipment of food up the Min River to the Shaowu missionaries. The Chinese Christians are realizing that the missionaries do not have an endless supply of money. Results of the U.S. Presidential Election have reached China. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, Dec. 18th. 1896.

Dear Folks at Home:-

There is time to commence a letter tonight before going to rest. The mail Wed. brought a letter from Mother and one from Phebe. - aunt Phebe. Father and mother must feel lonely now with half their children away from home. But they must at the same time feel very broad and long when they think of the extent to which they have expanded, and they must feel very important when they think of the influences which today emanate from them thro their children.

Myron Gould is flourishing. He is a good boy. This is true whether his mother admits it or not. Ellen left him today for the first time. She was gone about three hours. His manship decided that his dinner basket should be filled before his mother returned, and the way he talked was a guarantee of his strength in body limb and lung. He never will starve because he did not ask for something to eat, or because he did not ask loud or long enough. He is good as can be about going to bed. His mother puts him in the bed wide awake and he does not peep but just shuts his eyes and goes to sleep. Phebe is just now suffering from Eczema which makes her rather particular. She is developing fast. Ellen has a set of blocks which the little girl plays with quite intelligently. She understands all ordinary household language and says many words. If she does not know how to express her thoughts, she finds other ways to tell her wants. This morning I took a stuffed cat she was playing with and used it for a foot-ball. After I had stopped she wished me to do it some more. She took my hand and put it on the cat and then patted my shoe, and stood off looking for the result. She loves little brother as well as ever, and is quite happy to sit on one knee and have the "Buoy" sit on the other. If all parents take as much pleasure in their little ones as we do in ours this world has a lot of happiness in it.

Today I have sent a shipment of oranges, potatoes and books to Shaowu. This is the first time I have had this duty to perform. It is not fun with all the other business connected with the Station. Oranges and potatoes, and in fact almost everything is bought by weight. The buying is much like buying at an auction or a fair at home. No goods guaranteed. You buy with your eyes open and if you get the worst of the bargain you must bear it.

Mon. Dec. 21st. All work now centers around Christmas celebrations. In my field there will be 7 this year. Last year there were 3. The first is today. One is on Thurs., one on Fri. (Christmas day) two on Sat. one next Mon. One place celebrates for three days in succession. It has been no little task to satisfy all these different sets of Christmas Committees in the amount of money which we gave them toward the expenses. A Chinaman thinks that what has been done once should be a precedent for succeeding generations. Last year there were 10 Missionaries in the compound and each gave \$1.00. This year there are only 3 of us, and the difference between \$10.00 and \$3.00 rather discourages the Chinese Christians. Ellen and I have taken pity on them to the extent of \$6.50. This is not by any means as much as they received last year, and there are fully twice as many to divide it among this year. It is good for them tho, the sooner they learn to be independent of foreign help, the sooner the Chinese Church will begin to grow by leaps and bounds of which the world has never yet known. The young Christians are fast learning this lesson of self-dependence, and they see that dependence on foreign help, (more than is absolutely necessary is a detriment to the Lord's cause. But these old men and women who have been "babied" for two score years or more, look on the Missionary's pocketbook and the Mission treasury as inexhaustible sources of supply, and as sources from which first of all the money is to come for carrying on the work. But we are thankful for the young blood and that some of it is finding its way into the veins of these older Christians.

Dec. 10th. the 2nd. Degree man of whom I wrote in my last letter, united with the church. The same day at Au Iong Die 6 men united. This makes 19 this month. Next Sun. I hold another Communion at the Fish Market chapel and shall receive 5 or 6 more.

Sat. p.m. the two eldest sons of one of our neighbors returned to Tientsin, where they have been attending the Medical Department of the Imperial University. The father of these boys was a preacher in our Mission, but for some misconduct was turned out. He is repenting now and talks of again uniting with the church. The mother is a

lovely Christian woman. There are three daughters in Miss Newton's school who are earnest Christians. Then there are two or three younger children. The family are quite well to do. These two boys (now about 20 years of age) have been in Tientsin for three years. When they went they were both hostile to Christianity. But they have come under influences in Tientsin which have turned them about and made them very earnest and outspoken Christians. Doubtless before this reaches you, the papers will be full of the accounts of the trouble in the Imperial University. These two young men were the prime movers in the affair, and I must get time to send a correct account to the Sentinel. The papers do not tell the truth, and as I have it first hand, and from those who have been in the thickest of the fight from the first I'll send it home. So I say no more here now. What I want to say now is that we are hoping to find that God has in this occurrence in Tientsin a blessing for His Cause in Foochow. The younger of these boys is very bright and seems to us to be thoroughly consecrated to Christ's service. He has the "stuff" in him that Paul and Luther and Finney and Neesima were made of. While they were in the University at Tientsin they were bound to remain in the service of the Government for about 7 years to come. Now that they are dismissed by the Viceroy of that Province it looks as if they be given power to preach so as to convert 1000s. They have begun well. The younger went with me yesterday and spoke in one of the chapels near here. Above all other temporal things we need now workers.

9.00 p.m. I made the longest speech in my life this p.m. - - in Chinese.

Tues. a.m. Dec. 22nd. Here goes for a finish to this document. The boys of the Theological School have been planning for some time to make a tour of the field of our Mission, and hold services in each place for a few days. Last Fri. the examinations were over and this a.m. at 8 o'clock they called to say good bye and ask our prayers. It is a bright cold morning- just the right time for a walk of 6 miles. They are to take care of themselves, as far as money goes, on the trip. It did me good to see them start off this morning with happy and expectant faces. I hope that they will have the courage to carry out their whole plan. It will mean for them a good deal of hardship. There will be much walking and they will shiver with the cold more than once. They will have to endure the hardships of a Missionary touring in the country in the winter season.

The papers announcing the Presidential Election, arrived last evening. You remember we heard the news of the election as soon as you did. Knowing the result, it has seemed rather queer to receive the letters from home discussing the preelection features of the campaign and the probable outcome. It is a good thing for us that the gold standard triumphed. - unless a silver bases would so increase the amount of money they are now sending. This I consider an impossibility. I am glad to note the hopeful tone of the papers relating to the financial situation in America. I hope it may be on a solid foundation, even if we do have to pay \$3.00 instead of \$2.50 a bag for our flour.

The shoes you sent me in the last shipment are just right. I hope you will be able to duplicate them for next Spring's shipment. We are enjoying Pettijohn's Breakfast food very much. Cereals form the major part of breakfast and supper for us. I have bought 50 lbs. of rice and 300 lbs. of sweet potatoes and 200 lbs. of Irish potatoes. I have a hen yard and 9 fowls. By this means we are able to know a little better what we are eating.

Ellen has been busy this week selecting the picture cards for the women and children of the churches and day schools, to be given at the Christmas festivities. It has taken about 400. I said something about this yesterday at the services at Ha Puo, and then told the great increase this number was over that of last year. I also said I was glad of the increase and hoped next year there might be an increase over this year of I stopped for a moment, and an old Church member shouted "Sioh chieng" i.e. 1000. I asked where the cards would come from to supply so many. He said he hoped God would help the good people in American to "Chok lik" i.e. put forth strength, and help a little.

I am glad if the typewriter is a source of pleasure to grandfather and grandmother. I should not be surprised to hear the same from many others who have grown weary trying to decipher my hen tracks.

Well I am waiting for a letter from Stanley. It has been a long time since he has written. We have had the Heir to the throne snapped. Today the proofs come. If they will answer we shall have some printed. He was 5 weeks and one day old. Phebe is all right again. Today her nose is as red as it would beat home on a cold Dec. a.m.

Will.



Tennis courts on Kuliang

[This photo was actually taken about 1915. Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Kushan Mountain and Monastery.

Kushan Mountain and Monastery.

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



A meeting or event of some sort held under a tent.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



This is probably another church in or near Foochow. Note the Chinese men's queues. Probably before 1910 when queues were still popular.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



More miscellaneous photos of Chinese churches.
[Photos from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

