

1898

- Geraldine Beard is born August 25, 1898 on Kuliang, Foochow, China
- Chinese "Boxers" established
- The Spanish-American War
- Willard is 33, Ellen- 30, Phebe- 3, Gould- 2, Geraldine - newborn

[This typewritten letter dated Jan. 2, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells about his enjoyable and relaxing trip in December of 1897 to the Ing Hok region with Mr. Goddard. He describes the village structures, the land, and tells about their hikes from one village to another. The missionaries are disappointed that their salaries have been cut. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Jan. 2nd. 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter sent was Dec. 15th. We received one the 31st. from Ruth. She speaks of snow storms and sleigh rides. These are only visions to us Orientals. I think I have spoken to you of Miss Wooster's letter and the \$28.50. Will you kindly send \$28.88 to Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co., 752 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey, for my life insurance premium, No. 166224.

Ruth's letter spoke of Flora's illness, but it was good to read in the same letter of her convalescence. You know how to sympathize with many of the foreigners in Foochow. The liver seems to be the organ most frequently affected. Dr. Shelton will feel the loss of his wife very sorely indeed. The same letter also mentions the death of uncle Ezra. How the situation will have changed by the time we come home!

I returned from the Ing Hok trip with Mr. Goddard Tues. Dec. 28th. It was one week of uninterrupted pleasure. We started from Ponasang Tues. Dec. 21st. It was about 9 o'clock when we reached the boat that was to take us to Gak Liang. This place we reached about 5:30 p.m. that day. In the evening after supper we had a meeting with the church members and consulted about next year's work. Mr. Goddard has just finished a nice church and parsonage and "Prophet's chamber" in this place. The new buildings are all white washed on the outside and present a strong contrast to the dirty buildings of the village. The pastor and members are justly proud of the new premises. We had a good sleep here, and after a good breakfast Wed. A.M. we started for Puai Sioh, a village about 12 miles away and about 2500 feet above Gak Liang. The first three miles of the path was level. But then we began to climb and kept it up till we reached Puai Sioh. It was about 1:30 p.m. We had three coolie loads of bedding and food. This climb was rather tough for them. But at two o'clock we sat down and did justice to a dinner of rice, meat, and potatoes. After dinner we went all over the mountain to see the church members and other villagers. How I wish some of the people in New England who talk about rocks could see the farms that these people have to work. The side hill is so steep in places that one cannot find a footing and yet these very side hills are all used for growing sweet potatoes, peanuts, rice etc. I saw one little patch and measured it. It was three cornered. Each side was 18 inches. On the three sides were stones and there was no other field on the same level. The other fields were either higher or lower. In this field were two hills of sweet potato. The land is all in terraces. The fields are of all sizes, but one may say that on an average they are 4 feet wide, and one terrace is about 4 feet above the next. After supper we held an interesting service with the members and a few of their friends who came in. This is a new field. The oldest Christians joined the church only a little over one year ago. But the Christian atmosphere was fresh and enlivening. You would have enjoyed seeing these men and women listen to the story of Christ's birth as told in imperfect language by the foreigners. Then after the meeting they planned for the work of next year. There are about 15 church members here and as many more who are interested in the Truth. The room in which we met has been furnished by one of the members free of rent for two years. It was on the second floor. Beneath was a stable. The walls were of mud with no plaster. In one corner was a fanning mill. In one end was a loft which were various farming implements, ploughs, harrows, hoes etc. These people sat in this room and planned how to beautify this place for the glory of God with just as much enthusiasm and earnestness as do men in America when they are planning to build a church that will cost tens of thousands. These people were planning how to most wisely spend \$6. We were ready for a good sound sleep that night. It was cold, but fire for warmth is an unheard of luxury here. It was good to get into the blankets that night and feel warm.

Thurs. morning at 8:30 we had eaten breakfast and had prayers with a few of the Christians who came in and were ready to start for U Ngiang, a place still farther up in the mountains and farther back from the river. Two of the Puai Sioh Christians went with us for the purpose of taking us to houses of several other Christians on the road. These men were over 50 years of age and our walk was not fast. We first ascended 500 feet, then descended 1000, then went up 1000. I enjoyed this walk very much. The two men with whom we were going were earnest Christians. One in particular seemed to have gotten filled with the belief that God was over and in all things. When we spoke of any danger his response was that if we trusted in God there was nothing to fear. On one of the high peaks was a large boulder. I should say it was 100 feet in diameter. It looked as if its fastenings were not very secure. I asked him if it could fall down. He replied "What God has made cannot fall down. I thought he ought to be

commended for his faith at least. This day we were fed with fresh roasted peanuts twice on the journey. I did not have such a definite and well defined longing for dinner as on the day before. At U Ngiang there are only two houses. The population numbers about 100. The church is one of the largest rooms in one of the houses. Here as in Puai Sioh the room is given without rent and in it are various farming implements. This room is on the ground floor and has no floor. We took dinner and started for a place, Ding Sang Tau, 1000 feet or more above U Ngiang. There is no work here but some of the Christians at U Ngiang have relatives up here and wished us to go up and see the place with a view to starting a work in the future. The path is straight up the mountain. When we got to the top we found a large plateau with a population of 6000. Among them not one had heard the gospel. Many had never before seen a foreigner. I realized here the diversity in the dialects in China. At Puai sioh the people spoke fairly pure Foochow. At U Ngiang they spoke and understood the Foochow but in conversing among themselves they used another dialect which was Dutch to us and which the people from Puai Sioh only 6 miles distant could not understand. At Ding Sang Tau we could not make ourselves understood without an interpreter, and the people could not understand the Foochow dialect. Ding Sang Tau is 40 miles from Foochow. We were a little late in starting from Ding Sang Tau and I took the lead coming down the mountain. The distance is a little over 3 miles. We were one hour in dropping down. I felt this rush the next morning in one of my ankles, and in one knee. That evening at U Ngiang the people from the two houses and others from the mountains so far that they had to stay over night came in to worship. We had a good time. After talking with them a short time, for we held no long meetings. I asked each Christian to offer a short prayer. All but two prayed. These were a boy 18 yrs. and a man from a lone house way up on the side of the mountain. I urged a little then the other Christians urged and before we sat down both had broken the ice and had prayed before their relatives and neighbors. At Puai Sioh for a bed we had two wooden horses and some rough boards laid across them. At U Ngiang we had some horses and some boards of varying thicknesses. We slept here in the room used for the church, and there was no floor, except the earth. We did not worry over ventilation even after we had closed every door and barred it. While we were getting ready for bed there was lively scuffling outside to see who could get the best crack to peek thro. But how we slept!

At 8:30 the next morning Fri. we had taken breakfast and had a short service and were on our way to Ing Hok city. We walked steadily from 8:30 till 2 in the p.m. First we climbed 500 ft. then went down 1500, then up 1500, then down 3000 plus. This was a tough walk. The whole distance is about 18 miles. The first 14 miles has very little level road. The last 4 miles follows the river and is level. When we reached the level road we were ready to stop. But this was not in the question. To make the walk all the harder our coolies were mountain men and just gloried in running up and down these paths. They were in a hurry also for they wished to go back to U Ngiang that afternoon. We had to run some of *[the]* way to keep up. Sat. we did not go far or do very much. Dwight has the new house at this station ready for occupancy, and is just beginning a building for a hospital. He and Mrs. Goddard with their son Dorrance will move up about the first of Feb. Sun. we went up in the mountains again to two chapels and held two communion services. This was a short walk, of only two hours up to the farthest place. We had the service here and then came down to the other place and took dinner then returned to Ing Hok city in time for supper. I conducted both services. This made 6 communions for me in 5 weeks. Sun. evening we held an evangelistic service at Ing Hok city.

Monday at day light we were on a boat ready to start for Foochow. That night we slept on the boat and woke up Tues. morning at day light to find ourselves at the landing within 7 miles of home, this distance we walked in about two hours and found wives and babies all well and happy.

I never enjoyed a weeks outing more. There was absolutely no responsibilities for me on the trip. I was in the open air day and night. The air was pure. There was no rush of business. All the mountain solitude. Every day I had walking enough to make me good and tired and to make even a bed of boards with a blanket throw over them feel refreshing. I came back feeling that I had been made over into a new being.

Miss Garretson, Dr. and Miss Woodhull arrived the night before Christmas. The appropriations came Fri. The missionaries wear long faces. Last year we thought the cuts were pretty bad. This year the cuts are about 8 per cent in salaries over last year's cut which was 10 per cent of what we asked. This makes 18 per cent less than when we came here three years ago. But we can live on this all right. The cut in the money for mission purposes is what reaches the heart strings. This last year was 35 per cent off what we asked. This year there is an additional cut of 40 per cent over last year's cut. This gives us less than half of what we asked for to carry on the work of the mission which has trebled in the past three years. Well as the Rabbi said "God is good and all is for the best". The friends at home who are specially interested in us and the work in which we are engaged here enables us to keep from cutting down the work last year. We have not planned definitely yet for next year but I have hopes that we can do as we did last year. And trust the friends at home to keep up their interest.

We heard of the death of Mary Peet by the last mail. I think I have explained that Ming Uong's sister did not die. That the report was a false one.

I must stop now and say good night.
Most lovingly, and remember us to all the friends especially Grandpa and Grandma.
Will, Ellen and Babies.

[This typewritten letter dated Jan. 16, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard had to notify his churches of the money cut backs by the Board, but the church members were not discouraged. Mr. Ding is to be married but seems bored with the idea. Willard has noticed an increase in Western influence in China. He tells about a case of persecution of some church members. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Jan. 16th. 1898

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter wh. arrived from Shelton I acknowledged in my last to you. I wrote last Jan. 2nd. and Ellen sent a letter on the 7th. Since then we have been living along much as usual, eating three meals a day and enjoying the children and each other. I have not been tied to the Seminary as previously, but the demands on time and strength have decreased but little. The money granted me for use in my field this year is not enough to meet the expenses of the Seminary alone to say nothing of the work among the churches. I called the pastors and preachers and other helpers together the other evening and told them the plain facts and said that the work among the churches in my field would have to be supported entirely by native contributions. I promised them to help them on the rents of the chapels. Every thing else, preachers salary, janitors salary, incidentals and repairs they would have to look to the church members to supply. I then asked them to express their opinion as to the possibility of carrying this thro. No one suggested a backward step. They treated the matter with all the gravity that it demanded. They understood what it meant to them as the leaders of these church members. They are in the delicate position of being obliged to urge the people to support them. They must face an immense amount of discouragement. And this sentence does not convey to you what it means in this land. A discouraged Chinaman reminds me of a dead tennis ball more than anything else. It requires a supernatural power to put hope into one and elasticity into the other. These pastors and other helpers must meet this discouragement and overcome it so that the people will be willing to undertake the cause of self-support at one bound. Then they will have to be on their guard every day this year to keep the members up to their promises. I think it can be done and I think it will be done, and I have faith that the work will not suffer any retrenchment during the coming year. This will take an immense amount of prayer, and immense amount of faith, not only in God but in ones fellow men, and it will take an immense amount of mental and physical strength, and what patience! But I am committed, and the business must go on on this basis, i.e. I will guarantee the rents on the chapels. All else must come from the natives or they must shut up the churches.

Now you will be interested to hear how we have done this. I needed for the whole of my work this year \$936. gold. I have \$468. It will take to meet the expenses of the Seminary, which cannot be reduced except by turning the students away, and this would be suicidal to the work of the whole mission, \$500. The rents on the chapels which I have promised to be responsible for will amount to about \$100. I must find somewhere about \$200 to keep the work in my care from going down. We are going to pursue the same course that we did last year. That is lay the whole matter before God and ask Him to send the needed funds from the friends at home. Money has be entrusted to us to expend this year so that the work has not suffered and we believe when the friends hear of the condition that the work is in now they will be only too happy to meet the small amount that is necessary to make up the deficiency in the native contribution.

I have not heard from Mr. Ding for nearly two weeks. He was then about to start from Shanghai for points up the Yangtse, going as far as Hankow. I expected to see him yesterday, but the steamer came and he did not. His mother is half wild. She has been spending all her strength for over a month now getting ready for his wedding. She is a genuine Chinese about this matter. He is old enough to take a wife, he is thro school and she will not rest easy till she has some more grandchildren. But I am very much afraid that the wedding will not come off till after Chinese new years which occurs next Sat. Jan 23rd. If Ming Uong himself was in a hurry or if there was any reason for the hurry I should sympathize with the old lady, but he acts as if the whole matter was a bore to him. And he would gladly wait till his course in the Seminary was completed.

Mon. Jan. 17 The children were weighed this morning. Phebe weighed 32 lbs. 8 oz., Gould 28 lbs. He walks like a fat miller. He always stands very straight and sometimes too straight so that he goes over backward. He is determined to move from one place to another on his feet not on his knees. He is getting so that he understands

much that is said to him. He knows some of the parts of himself, as mouth, head, hand, ear, etc. He hears a dog bark and imitates it. In short he is the most advanced boy that we ever had. It takes him about five seconds to look his mother out of countenance, and when his amah crosses him he goes for her with his mouth open and bites the first place that he can get a hold on.

The last Sentinel reported that Ruth had returned home. I wonder if this is true. I wanted to write one letter direct to her if she was to remain in the Adorondacks all Winter. The last letter from home was written before Thanksgiving and we did not hear whether she was home for that occasion or not.

Since the Seminary closed and the rest of the schools we have had what is called vacation. It is much quieter than at ordinary times, but there is enough to keep us all out of mischief. I have to write my yearly report for the Board and want to write a report of this station for the past year and have it printed to send to all the friends at home.

Germany has evidently got her foot on Chinese soil and expects to make a protracted stay. There is some talk of a division of the Empire, but with the recent loan in the hands of England, I rather think China will remain intact for a time to come. The whole Empire is yielding very fast to the influence of Western teaching.

Schools of Western Learning are being opened in all parts of the Empire. In these schools the English language is taught as one of the fundamentals. Mathematics is the most important of the branches. In the eyes of the native Mathematics is the avenue that leads him to the construction of Gun-boats, and other engines of war by which he may conquer his enemies as the Japanese conquered him. He is beginning to realize that the mountains of his native land are rich in untold wealth of nearly every kind of mineral. He sees also a willingness on the part of the crafty officials to allow this treasure to be utilized. He knows that the road to the mine is found by the application of the principles of Mathematics. History also interests him, and it is this perhaps that leads him to study Geography to some extent. The more he sees of Western products the more he sees their superiority to the products of his country. Change is very apparent as one passes along the streets. There has been an increase of foreign articles for sale in the shops of Foochow that is noticeable since we arrived. Such articles as elastic garters, wristers, jack-knives, white-enamel ware, tin-ware, condensed milk, soap, and wholesalehouses where kerosene is sold, and other wholesale stores where lamps are the only or chief article for sale, also umbrellas and such like articles. These are mostly of German or Japanese make and of an inferior quality. But here they pass for good articles. They are mostly made in flashing colors and a store which sells foreign articles is at a distance not at all unattractive in appearance. Condensed milk and foreign medicines of many kinds may be bought at places far in the interior. When we were in the Ing Hok region two weeks ago we heard the praises of Quinine at every place we visited.

Tues. 18th. This evening another case of persecution came to me, not that it has been a rare thing (I am getting a little callous with so many) but this is one of the rare kind that calls for immediate action and one which shows a Chinese custom so clearly that I am going to run the risk of tiring you with its details. Near the city gate are several church members who are hotel keepers, this afternoon the runners from one of the official yamens came to his hotel and said that he had kept a thief over night a short time ago. He said he had not. These runners are simply the servants of the officers. They have no authority except as the official commissions them. They are looked down upon by the people and there is an unwritten law that says they can never become officials themselves. These men this afternoon seized this church member without any warrant or any proof other than their words and the story of a thief which they brought with them, and put him into prison. Why? Because it is near the end of the Chinese year and as we have written before there is a general winding up of all business at that time. All debts must be paid. The people make the season a time for feasting gambling, visiting drinking and for having a good in general. These runners wanted some money. To get it they thought to imprison this Christian and pocket the money paid for his release. I shall go to the Yamen in the morning and see about it. Lovingly Will.

[This typewritten letter dated Feb. 6, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Mr. Ding is now married. Willard discusses the lack of money from the Board for church support and the need for the Chinese to have self support in their churches. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Feb. 6th. 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Your last letter arrived Jan. 28th. and our last started Jan. 28th No. 2. That last mail brought just a letter from father and one from mother. Ellen enjoyed her's from mother very much, as much as I did the one from father. It seems that the receipt for the freight had been received by the Treasurer but he had neglected to notify me. So it was

all right. I wrote Miss Wooster about the money she sent some time since. It is to bear the entire expenses of a new chapel and day school at a place called Hung Sang Gio, or in English, the Upper Bridge. Last year I had a day school there, but it was in an out of the way place and at first did not amount to much. But toward the end of the year the people were so pleased with the teacher that they offered him a house in the middle of the village free of rent for the rest of the year. This year there will be a day school and regular preaching there.

As to cereals, I think I wrote about the whole truth. We have lost very little. Perhaps 3 or 4 lbs. out of the whole. The cerealine was the worst. We have sent for a few things with some of the other missionaries to San Francisco. This is an experiment. I think it will be too expensive, and I have in mind trying putting each kind of cereal in a separate tin and sealing it. But I will write more explicitly when the time comes. The regulations of the Chinese Imperial Post are too much for me. During the past year they have changed so many times that I could not even get word to the people in Shaowu in time for them to affix the proper stamps, and we at last gave it up and they sent the letters down, and I put on the stamps and charged them. At present the regulations say affix one ten cent stamp for each one half ounce. A ten cent stamp in China is equivalent to a five cent stamp in America. I obeyed the instructions of the Post Master here in sending the postal but he told me some time after that he was wrong. I think that postals are good for use in China, but the letter is better for foreign work. What say you? I have been very much interested in the fight over good roads and rejoiced with you over each victory as it was reported in the papers. We hope you will have them all fixed up when we come home so that we can use bicycles, and not be to the expense of keeping a horse.

Mr. Ding was married last Wed. The whole family had their pictures taken yesterday. There are four generations, eighteen persons in all. I will try to send you one. Yes I have no doubt he can do almost everything that is useful. I think if he were at the farm in corn picking time he would manage to do some of that. I think you were correct in surmising that he was a little homesick on leaving.

Keep the paper until you send the next box. If in the future any small bundle of that sort is ready and you are not sending a box, there is always one box in the shipment called the general box in which odds and ends for all are packed by Mr. Swett. This goes with each shipment. If the package is sent too early it is all the same.

Mon. 12:30. The mail goes this p.m. so I must hurry. I want to tell you just the condition of the work here in my care this year and you may repeat it as much as you like, that all interested in it may know what we are planning. I asked \$1900. to help the natives carry on the work in the churches and chapels and to keep the Seminary running. \$1072 of this was for the Seminary. This left \$828 to help the work in the churches and chapels. The amount granted me is \$974. What was I to do? Well this is what I did. Ellen and I talked the matter over and decided that we would keep the Seminary up anyway. Then we prayed over the matter and decided to consult first with the two ordained pastors in this station, telling them the exact state of the finances, and ask them if it would be wise to call all the preachers and other workers whom the mission was helping together and tell them the whole truth, and lay the burden on them, of keeping the churches open or shutting them up. That is laying the burden on them of going before their respective congregations and telling these church members that the work this year must depend on their gifts instead of on foreign money. The pastors recommended this talk with the other workers. Before this meeting took place, Ellen and I talked over the matter again and it seemed to us that our faith was not strong enough to place the rents of chapels beside the salaries of all helpers and all incidental expenses on these church members. Two years ago about half of them were worshipping idols, and they are not wealthy. Most of them are common day laborers, or men with little shops. So after counting our own resources we found that we could guarantee the rents on the chapels. In doing this we did not go beyond our own resources, but we did think of the special gifts that had come to us this year and we thought it only reasonable to hope that more would be forthcoming this year.

These rents are as follows:-

Au Iong Die chapel	\$30 gold.
Sang Tung Gio “	\$20 “
Au Haeng “	\$20 “
Au Ciu “	\$20 “
Sang Bo “	\$10 “

Of these amounts I am going to ask the Sunday School of Shelton to allow me to change their gift of \$12.50 which came some time ago and which I had promised should go toward the support of the work at a place called Ak Mo Ciu. That work is now wholly supported by Chinese funds. I think they will be willing that this amount should go toward the support of a student in the Seminary. Well we had a room full of men and I told them the circumstances. Not a man was willing to acknowledge that he was discouraged. Each said of course they could not promise what the people would do but they were willing to trust God and to trust the people. I wish you could have heard the prayers of those twelve men. One began by thanking God for bringing this distress upon them and prayed that it might prove a blessing, asking that God would enable him to see the blessing. The prayers were all full of trust in

God as the One who knows all and who does all things for the best. They were the men who must bear the heaviest load in this new work of self-support. One of them Pastor Ding, Ming Uong's father must trust his people to raise the subscription \$75 above what they gave last year. The preacher at Au Iong Die must receive \$60 more, the one at Au Ciu \$48, the one at Sang Tung Gio \$40 or more. Beside these amounts the people must at each place raise \$30 for the janitor. At Au Iong Die they must raise \$60 for the janitor, and \$40 or more for rents and repairs above what I have promised. In all the church members in this station must increase their subscription about \$400 above last year's. I am glad for their sakes and for the spread of the Gospel here that they must do this. It will do them more good than any one thing that could happen to them. It will be hard for them this year and the pastors and preachers will have to bear some things that will not be pleasant. They may not receive as much as they would like. But they will be cared for. Now will you pray first and with the most emphasis that the church members here may have that love in their hearts that will enable them to think and plan for the church, and be willing to give more than a tenth if necessary to keep the church in this station in a growing state. Then pray that some friends in the U.S. may be led during the year to send gifts that can be used to make up this deficiency. There are now only two objects which need the money i.e. chapel rents and Theological Students. One Theol. Stu. needs \$20 gold per year.

We are all well except the colds of the children which do not improve much.

Lovingly

Will.



Pastor Ding's home, Ha puo ga Foochow City

[Photo from the collection of Jill Elmer Jackson]

[This typewritten letter dated **March 9, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The Seminary has opened for the year. Willard took Dr. (Judson) Smith and Pres. and Mrs. Eaton to visit Ing Hok. A box of goods from Shelton arrived in Foochow for Willard's family. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, March, 9th. 1898

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started from here Feb. 7th., No. 3 unless I forgot to record one, and the last received was Feb. 28th. and Mar. 3rd. The first from Ruth and the second from Mother.

So since I wrote the Seminary has entered on another year of work. There are now the full number of classes in the school. The whole number is 22. The way in which they are stowed in reminds me some of the way that we used to plan to put all the cattle under cover on an especially stormy cold night in winter. But the rooms have no ceiling so above the rooms is a large air space that makes the ventilation perfect. I have each day three hours in the class room. Since the term began both Ming Uong and Gong Sieu Dieng have been ill. These two men are my main stays. With them gone the boys are having a picnic. I have had to prepare for the chapel exercise- a brief talk on some passage of Scripture nearly every morning. I have not taken many of their classes simply because I did not have the time and strength. I am teaching Theology and the O.T. Prophets at present. I find the vocabulary in Theology very different from what I have been accustomed to use. Theology is so close to Phylosphy that the instruction is in abstract ideas instead of in concrete substances. This makes teaching more difficult in ones native language, and in a foreign language doubly so.

Fri. Mar. 11th. 10:00 a.m., I am waiting for Dr. Smith and Pres. and Mrs. Eaton of Beloit, to arrive from Pagoda Anchorage. The party reached Pagoda Tues. morning. They will visit the City Station from today till next Monday afternoon, then they come to Ponasang and Tues. morning I start with them for Ing Hok. We expect to be gone four days. On the return to Ponasang Fri. Mar. 18th. the Deputation will remain here till they start for Shanghai. This will be about Mar. 24th.

ow

Will left this letter here when he started for Ing Hok. Gould put in a short paragraph and I will finish it and send it along. Pres. and Mrs. Eaton left on a steamer for the North the next morning after Will and Dr. Smith left. They are having unexpectedly good weather for it has been warm and there has been no rain. ::aa

Sat. Mar. 19th. Ellen evidently did not have an uninterrupted week while I was in Ing Hok. I asked her to finish this and send it on by the mail that left here last Tues. But - - - - . Well Dr. Smith and I had a very pleasant time all thro. The weather was superb. The boatmen and the coolies were good natured and we made connections all right except on the first evening we were a little late into Gak Liang our first stopping place. Mr. and Mrs. Goddard and the boy are nicely situated in their new home and the natives are glad they are among them. The work in the Ing Hok field is so scattered and so much in the mountains that we could not see many chapels. This gave an excellent opportunity to talk over the various questions that are before the mission to be decided. Dr. Smith was a delightful companion to travel with. He ate every thing that the cook gave him and was interested in all the new sights and customs except when the man wanted to examine the gold in his teeth. That was a little too intimate.

The boxes from Putnam have just arrived and I have opened them. The tie from Ruth arrived O.K. Thank you. Father Kinney sent a lot of honey which we are preparing to eat with an anticipation that can not be described. Gould received a little horse that delights his boyhood much. One of Ellen's old dolls came and we immediately put it away lest she (Ellen) break it [*see photo following*]. I must not stop to tell all the articles now. Ellen can do that better by and by.

We are all well and all send love. I will finish now so as to be sure that this goes on the next steamer.
Will.



Written on back – Gould’s handwriting? : “Phebe Kinney Beard and her doll “Happy Delia”. M. Gould Beard with a Chinese doll in the old Ponasang mission house, about 1898 or 99. These old brown Dr. Dentens were heavy wool and warm in the damp winter months. The feet of mine were dunked in the “pottie” more than once when I got out of bed at night, from under the mosquito netting.”

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

On the back of another print of the same picture is written in Ellen’s handwriting: “Phebe’s fourth picture. Gould’s third picture. Ready for bed. Phebe is holding my wax doll which I had had for twenty four or five years. Gould holds a Chinese man doll.”

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This typewritten letter dated **March 27, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to Grandfather and Grandmother (probably his mother’s parents). Willard tells them funny stories about his children, Phebe and Gould. He tells about the fun Dr. Judson Smith had going down the rapids coming back from Ing Hok. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, March, 27th. 1898

Dear Grandfather and Grandmother [probably Nathan Bennett Nichols and Phebe Ann Drew]:-

A letter from mother the other day stated that you were as comfortable as usual. I have not heard of your taking any sleigh rides this winter so I suppose you prefer the fireside to the cold out of doors. How we long for a good snow storm here. We have not seen an inch of snow since we left the States over three years ago. Phebe and Gould would not know what to say to a foot of snow. Gould would probably wade out into it and make snow balls and his hands would get as cold as ice. He will not allow mittens to stay on his hands two minutes. Ellen puts them on and his hand goes at once into his mouth and when it comes out the mitten is in his mouth not on his hand. Phebe rather enjoys wearing them.

Ellen has taught Phebe two Bible verses. One, “God is Love”, and one, “Watch and pray”. Each Sunday she repeats them. The first is easy for her but the second she has never been able to repeat without help. This morning Ellen asked her to repeat them and the first went all right. Then the second was asked for Phebe began,

“Clock” then Ellen asked her for the rest of it. She began again, “Clock and pray”. And she thought she has said it correctly. Both the children continue to be as healthy as little pigs. They eat five times a day and sleep from 7 in the evening till 6:30 in the morning. As to mischief there never were two such rouses [*rogues*] in the world. Gould went into the bedroom the other day and reached up on to the wash stand and pulled the only wash bowl we have off from the stand and broke it into a thousand pieces. The eggs are kept in the dish closet and supposed to be locked. The other day Gould came in from the dining room slyly and when he came in sight of me stopped and looked as if he wondered what I was going to do. I did not notice at once what was up, but his face made me suspect something and on a second look I saw that he had in one had two eggs and in the other one. I arose and went toward him and he turned and ran. When I caught him he just clenched those eggs and you may imagine the result. I had to call his mother and get her help to separate boy and egg. The other day Phebe poured sand on his head which he enjoyed as much as she did. But when he had walked about a little the sand began to get down his back and cut a little, then he began to think it was not so much fun. Ellen had to change every stitch of clothing on him. Phebe feeds him sand and he eats it as if he thought it was the staff of life. We bought a goose a while ago and kept it a week to fatten it. Both the children were completely crazy over it. They would stand on the veranda and watch it by the hour. And when the door was opened Gould would run straight for that goose. He would take a stick and drive it around the yard, but Phebe would pick it up in her arms and carry it about. It was not full grown so there was no danger of its hurting them. Phebe sings “Little Boy Blue” and “Jesus loves me” without any help. Gould looks at her and then turns to us as much as to say “Can’t my sister sing though!!” The children have meetings several times every week. Phebe is the minister and choir and Gould is the audience. She can tell a Testament from other books and selects one then reads something and then she sings and then tells Gould to shut his eyes and then she prays. It is needless to add that the audience does not always observe the utmost reverence. She is just now having meetings all alone. I asked her what I should tell you for her. She said tell them “I like them to sing for me”. So you will have to practice a duet and sing it for your little great grand daughter.

The weather is getting like Spring. Yesterday we had to take off some of our winter clothing. To day is not as warm. The farmers are beginning to plow and prepare the ground for rice. This year there has been very little rain, last year from Jan. 1 to July 1 there were only about a dozen clear days. This year there have not been as many rainy days thus far. The ground is very dry and rain is needed.

Dr. Judson Smith sailed this morning for the north where he is to visit the North China missions. He was here in Foochow for 19 days. I went to Ing Hok with him and was gone 4 days. He enjoyed the trip as a child would. We go half way up on the river in a common boat. Then we took a chair the rest of the way because the boats are very slow pulling up the rapids. But coming down we took a boat. The first half of the way down the rapids are so steep that the boatmen have to use two steering oars, one in the stern and one in the bow. The last half of the way the rapids are less strong and only the stern oar is used. When Dr. Smith saw the steersman begin to take in the steering oar from the bow he said “What is he going to do?” I said that he was about to take in the oar. He asked, “Are there no more rapids?” with as much disappointment as a child shows when some great pleasure is about to cease.

Well shall I come home to help get the hay this summer. What horses do you have now? Is uncle Dan still peddling milk? How are Cousin Cary and George? And John and Annie and uncle Alonzo and Aunt Elizabeth and Lonnie and all the rest? I sent a Jubilee Report to Lonnie some time ago. Of course you will remember me to the folks at Long Hill and Nichols. The Sentinel has some pretty bad news about matters at the Center. I hope that before this reaches you all will be at peace again.

With lots of love from all of us. Will.

Dear Aunt Louise:-

I am going to add just a word to you in my own hand. It is a long time since you have written. We miss such letters. So you must let the sweeping go some day and write a sheet or so just to tell us how you are and what the news is. Remember us to Aunt Ella.

Lovingly, Will and Ellen.



Written on back of photo: "Foochow, China Nearer view of a River Boat"
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated **April 4, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He mentions the conflict between the U.S. and Spain. Mr. Ding (Ming Uong) has not been feeling well. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China April, 4 '98.

Dear Folks at Home:-

Yesterday letters arrived bringing good news from Putnam, Shelton, New Britain, and Nichols. March 21st I sent No. 4 to Shelton Mar. 27. I wrote to White Hills.

To day I enclose an order for June shipment which is self explanatory.

The latest telegrams are smothered in war clouds. But before this reaches you I presume the U.S. and Spain will agree or disagree. It does not seem to me probably that in her present plight, Spain will dare to enter another conquest and with such a country as the U.S. Unless she thinks by doing it she can in some way so turn affairs that she can back out of the situation in Cuba with a better face.

Since his marriage Mr. Ding has been at his classes about two weeks in all. I do not know what is the matter with him, pretty tired I guess, with some malaria. I hope nothing worse. This makes my work much heavier. I cannot take his classes, but I must take responsibilities that he would take and I must prepare four mornings in a week for lead prayers at the Seminary and also keep him in good spirits. To make things all the more lively, it seems as if the Devil was exerting himself to his utmost to bring troubles persecutions on the Christians. I do not help in all these cases, but I must listen to each one and sympathize and advise, and urge the Christians to be patient. But we must expect that special activity on the part of Christ's forces will arouse the forces of the enemy. Last Sunday at Au Iong Die 6 joined. The week before at Ha Puo 12. The week before at Geu Cio Dong 14. Next Sunday at Cui Cio 4 or 5 will unite and Sunday after next at Sang Tung Ga 4 or 5. This will make 60 admissions for the first two communions of this year in my field.

Your account of the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Peet's family was very interesting. I am glad you could have met them in this way. Of course we were glad to hear that the ladies of the W.C.T.U. of Huntington were planning to send more money this year to the work entrusted to our care.

O yes an addition to the order. Please send me 1 Lincoln fountain pen. I think you can put it into a package of newspapers carefully and it will come safely. I do not want to wait for the shipment if I can't ??

The dinner bell!!! Ellen and babies well and as dear as ever. Gould 2 more teeth. Phebe says "Uncle Willits".

Love to all
Will.

[This letter dated April 16, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Ellen and the children went to Ing Hok to visit Mrs. Goddard. Willard talks about how the rice is planted in the plains of Foochow. He is concerned about the situation between Spain and the U.S. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China, April 16th '98

Dear Folks at Home:-

It seems only yesterday that I addressed the last letter to you, but my register tells me that letter No. 5 went April 5th. Since that date we have received nothing from you. Ellen and the babies started for Ing Hok Fri. April 8th. I had a nice letter from Ellen written this Monday evening. It reached me Thurs. afternoon. I think it should be sent home on account of the excellent description of the trip up the river over the rapids. So I just say here that they arrived safely and are enjoying the visit with Mrs. Goddard. I expect them home next Tues. This will make twelve days away from home. I am very glad Ellen could make this trip for she is shut up here in a little compound 100 ft. sq. and when she does go out it is only thro the crowded, noisy, nasty streets for two miles to the city or over S. Side and back again in an hour or two.

To day I have been to Kuliang, just for the fun. The plain between Ponasang and the foot of the mountain, about 7 mi. was fairly alive with people in the rice fields. The work was in all stages. A few laggards were just plowing the fields, more were harrowing and a few enterprising ones were setting out the rice. That is transplanting it. There were acres of beds from which the little plants are taken. These are scattered conveniently over the plain, and when the ground is prepared, the plants are pulled up, tied in little bundles about as large around as a man's wrist, and packed in a basket and taken to the field where they are to be set out. In the beds the plants stand even thicker than they can. These beds are made as follows: - the soil is made very fine like a garden. Then it is flooded with about half an inch of water, which really makes a padding. Then the rice is sown broadcast, and so thick that the kernels lie one top of the other. I think nothing is done to cover it. It just sprouts and grows. With acres sown in this way you can gain a little conception of the amount of rice that is raised on this plan.



Providing Food for China's Millions. Bringing Rice to Market, Fukien, China.
Providing Food for China's Millions. Bringing Rice to Market, Fukien, China.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

Sunday morning 9:50. What a sleep I had last night! I was awake a little while in the night, but I made it up this morning. The watch said 7:45 when I awoke. It does a man untold good to get away from the crowded city to the quiet mountain, and to do enough physically to get good and tired. I must start in a few minutes for Sang Tung Gio where I administer the sacrament to today. Five will unite with the church. 8 united last Sunday at Au Ciu, 6 the

Sunday before at Au Iong Die, 12 the Sunday before at Ha Puo and 14 the Sunday before at Geu Cio Dong. I have baptized all except the 12 at Ha Puo and 1 at Ciu Cin and in addition to the adults I have baptized 8 children. So this makes for me during the five weeks 40 baptisms. The whole number uniting with the five churches in this station during this year thus far is 66. During the whole of last year 110 united. The 66 were received at only two Communion seasons and there are four more Communion Seasons to be counted in this year. I think tho that this second Communion which ends today will be the most fruitful in numbers of any of the year. I can but wonder at the preference of a young minister to remain at home, where the need is not to be compared with the need here, and where he rejoices if the results of this labors are 1/50 of the results he would see if he came to the foreign field. The present time sees a crisis in Missionary work in China and especially in Fookien Province and especially in the Foochow district. What is done must be done now. Christianity and heathenism are at war. Catholicism is straining every muscle. But the Truth must prevail. It is a great blessing to have a part however small in this saving of a people.

2:30 P.M. Well another service over. Five more names on the Church roll. I hope they are also on God's roll as members of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mrs. Kinnear was good to ask me down to dinner. My coolie does pretty well but variety is the spice of food as well as of life.

In the shade the thermometer registers 83. How is that for April 17th. Strawberries have been in market for two weeks.

Ming Uong is a little better. He has been able to sit up some for three or four days.

Telegrams from America give us much apprehension. The last up to date said that the resolutions from the Foreign Office advising that Spain be given an ultimatum had passed the House. But is difficult to see how Spain can now endure war with the U.S. unless other powers back her.

Dr. and Mrs. Whitney took the steamer last Fri. for Shanghai to sail from there for America April 23rd thus the force of the Mission is continually depleted. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner and family and Dr. Bliss started Apr. 6th. There is a plague in Hong Kong and the steamer before their's left all its Hong Kong passengers, refusing to take any on account of the plague. So we are in doubt as to whether our associates are not still in Hong Kong stranded for we do not know how long.

This day has all thro seemed like a day at home in June. It has been one of those days when ones inmost soul is at peace; when duty seems the easiest thing to do; when questions of right and wrong are easily settled; when one gets hopeful and correct views of life; when it is easier to see the good than the bad in others. It has been one of the days which the All-Wise, All-Loving Father graciously gives us as the ideal after which we should strive to pattern all our days. I want to keep this and read it to Ellen if possible. Then too you can hear of her return to Ponasang. Lovingly Will

April 19th. Ellen and babies arrived at 2:00 P.M. All safe and looking fresh and happy. Ther. at 88 degrees. Will.

The Missionary Herald
April, 1898
Page 128
A Call from Foochow.

Mr. Goddard, of Foochow, contrasts the growth of the work in the Foochow Mission with the decrease of the missionary force. Two years ago there were 926 converts, thirty-five preaching places, eighty-one native agents, while the native contributions amounted to \$1,390. Within the past two years the converts have increased to 1,440, the preaching places to sixty-two, the native agents to 117, and the contributions of the year amounted to \$5,531. But while there has been this wonderful increase in the directions named, the missionary force on the field has decreased within two years, so that in place of twenty-seven missionaries in 1895 there were in 1897 only sixteen. Thus the work is doubling and trebling while the foreign missionary force is steadily decreasing. The plea for reinforcements is therefore most urgent. Our brethren cannot understand why in the stress of the work upon them they are left without support. Do the churches in America know why it is?

[Missionary Herald from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

*[This letter dated **May 1, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to Father and Mother. Telegrams are received in Foochow about the war between the U.S. and Spain. Mr. Ding (Ming Uong) is still sick. Willard has been busy examining the day schools. He tells a funny story about Phebe, Gould and a large container of sugar. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, May 1st 1898

Dear Father and Mother:-

According to my register the last letter started from here to you April 17. No. 6. The last one received was on April 4th. One came from Ruth, and one from Oliver Apr. 23. I wrote Oliver a week ago.

Telegrams concerning the war reach us almost daily. Of course these are very brief and give us only the results of legislative action or of battles. Last night's telegram stated that the Americans had destroyed the partly built battlements at Manatanzas and that a battle had been fought between a U.S. torpedo boat destroyer and a Sp. Man of War, the U.S. retiring after eleven shots. All of this does not tell us of the excitement at home, or of the anxiety with which you are watching events. The 100,000 volunteers for which Pres McKinley calls are doubtless received ere this. It does not seem to one that much fighting can be done on land. The strife must be mainly on water. May God watch over and protect the right, and may the righteous cause prevail. We can only leave you all in His care praying for you daily.

Good news came in Ruth's last letter to the effect that the Dr. had told her that she might go home. God has been very good. I suppose she is home before this. Mr. Ding is very ill. I have written that he has not been able to do any work in the Seminary since the year began. He gets a little better for a few days and then falls back again. The Dr. does not seem to be able to tell what is the matter. Dr. Kinnear is attending him now. His bride is a physician educated in the Woman's Hospital of the M.E. Mission, and his elder brother is practicing after a little experience under Doctors in our Mission. So Ming Uong does not lack for medical care. The family has always been ill a great deal. I think six children have gone to Heaven and six still remain. The daughter who was so ill last Summer is better now and is teaching the Station class of women at Ha Puo.

This is the first day of May. You are just about rising now, and will celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection at the different churches today. It will not rain as hard and incessantly there as it has here all day. I was going to visit a chapel about one hours walk from Ponasang. But it rained so hard I knew I should be wet up above my knees and no umbrella can stop the water as it falls from the eaves on the street as one walks along so ones shoulders have to be padded to keep them dry. I just went over to Geu Cio Dong and came home after service and took a nap. Another chapel was to have been opened for the first time today. This has been rented and repaired entirely by the native Christians. I have not yet seen it, nor have I ever been to the part of the suburb where it is. This rain is a great blessing to us. We have had almost no rain all winter. Wells were drying up and in some places the rice planting was delayed for want of water. But this will make it all right.

During the past two weeks I have been examining the Day Schools ten in all. This has made from two to five hours a day extra work. The schools are much like schools at home- some good, some medium and some poor. There is much illness in some parts of the suburbs and the schools in those localities are feeling it, both in numbers and in quality of work done. Tomorrow I shall begin to add one hour a day to my teaching in the Seminary. This will be with the class that entered this year and in a subject which I have taught before, so the added work will not be great.

Ellen and the babies and myself are quite well. The babies are getting big enough so that they amuse each other a great deal. The mischief that they cannot find is not to be found. Phebe curls (?) her hair most every day, and trims it with the scissors- when she has a chance. A few days ago we bought a 60 lb. bag of white sugar. I put some of it into a large tin because in damp weather it does not keep in the bag. The tin with its cover on stood innocently in the dining room on the floor. After dinner I have about half an hour before my class at the Seminary. Ellen and I were in the study reading. The children were playing about, and unnoticed by us they opened the door and went out into the dining room. Presently we heard a very happy laugh from both. Ellen went to see the fun. They had taken the cover off that tin of sugar and were throwing the sugar over one another. Phebe would take a handful and throw it over Gould's head- right into his face. Then both would laugh as if they would burst. Then Gould could take his turn. The result was two exceedingly happy children and about two lbs. of sugar on the floor. It did not yet occur to them that sugar was good to eat. Of course we had to stop their fun. But then they discovered that their hands were covered with the damp sugar and that it tasted good. It amused Ellen exceedingly to see Gould go about licking his hands of the sugar. Phebe is most pleased when her sleeves are rolled up and a big towel tied about her and she is allowed to wash. Washing seems to have been born as a part of her being. I do not know but it is so with all girls. Perhaps that is one reason why boys do not like soap and water.- I mean this may be the reason for the reputation which boys have for an antipathy to soap and water.- They do not show well when compared with their sisters. For

about two weeks Gould has carried about any hammer nearly one half of his waking hours. He brings it to the table with him and takes it to bed with him. The only damage he has thus far done is to break a 6X6 glass in one of the doors. He is a boy with a great appetite- takes after his mother. He is never happy in the morning till he has had a cup of gruel and milk. He hears the dinner bell from almost any part of the house and he makes a straight line for the table. Nothing diverts his attention while on the march. He enters the dining room on the run with mouth wide open and gasping as if he was almost gone. He reminds me of a flock of geese with mouths open and wings extended running for their food. And eat! Why he will ruin me unless the Board increases the allowance next year. But he is healthy and happy, goes to bed at 7 P.M. and sleeps all night without a sound if the bed clothes are not too heavy.

Trusting that God will protect you all and prosper you all.

Most Lovingly Will

*[This letter dated **May 15, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells how the Chinese boil chickens, head and all. Willard will be visiting an English gun boat with some of the Chinese pastors and preachers. He attended the service of the first church built by the Chinese with Chinese money. He updates the family on Gould and Phebe. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, May 15th - 98

Dear Folks at Home:-

We received your last letters May 2nd. The same mail brought word that Etta's wedding was postponed. The last letter started from here May 1st. No. 7.

I am having a unique experience to day. Gould and I are taking care of the house. All the others have gone to church. I expected to go into the city to visit the Ciu Haing chapel to day, but I asked a man something about the streets and he said they could not go. There was too much water. Then I proposed to go the other way to Ciu Cin but the street there was flooded. This meant that Geu Cio Dong was the only church accessible, so I decided to rest one Sunday. Gould is asleep and the house is as still as it is at home when all but one or two are at church. It is a beautiful day much like a Sunday in June in Connecticut.

Mr. Hartwell has received letters from Mr. Peet saying that they are to start for Foochow about this time to arrive the last of June. This is very early for them to return.

The last war news was to the effect that the American fleet has demolished the Spanish fleet at Manila and was awaiting orders to bombard the town. We have had no news from the other side of the world for several days- this bad writing is due to the fact that Gould called to me as I was writing the last sentence.

I went into the kitchen while Gould was asleep and noticed the kettles and skillets on the fire boiling nicely, and heard a sizzling noise. The skillet in which the chicken was boiling was too full and the broth was feeding the fire. I took a larger skillet and turned the whole into it. Among the other pieces out rolled the head and neck of the bird intact. This is one of the delicacies that are incident to a Chinese cook. The Chinese eat every part of the fowl except the contents of the crop, gizzard etc. We have found the feet and claws cooking in with the other parts. Of course they are not brought on to our table, and we are not supposed to know that they are boiled in with the rest. These are only "tricks of the trade."

To morrow I expect to go down to Pagoda Anchorage with the theologs and some of the Pastors and preachers to see the English Gun Boat "Daphne". This will be a great day for them. I well remember the first time I went to Bridgeport. Aunt Mary had been at our house on a visit and she was leaving. Father took her to B-port and we first called on Cousin Henry Clark(?). Well when we began to enter the streets of East B-port where the cartridge factory is and where the sewing machine factory is. How my heart went pat-ty-pat. I was excited and a little scared I guess too. But that was a great day in my life as great as will be tomorrow in the loves of these boys if all goes well.

Yesterday I attended the dedication of the first church built by native money in the Foochow Mission. Other churches or chapels have been rented and repaired and furnished by native money but this was newly built by the native Christians. The money expended by them was \$314. The church is 14 X 60 ft. There are an audience room, and rooms for the preachers family in this space. About 150 persons can sit at worship. One week ago yesterday I attended the opening of a chapel in one of the remote parts of the suburb. This chapel was also rented and repaired by the natives without help from the foreigners. In another part of the suburb another chapel is already rented and repairs are going on. It is hoped that it will be ready for occupancy this week and the opening may take place next Sat. I want the Christians to open one more place then the suburbs will have churches and chapels enough. Any one in any part of the suburbs can go to church by walking 15 minutes. I am a little afraid that the

people will want to go on renting these little places instead of settling down to work in the places already occupied and making these large strong and influential. This is the thing that ought to be done.

Mr. Ding seems to fluctuate with the weather. When it is pleasant he is better. When it is cold and rainy he is worse.

The hot days that came a week and over ago were rather hard on the little ones. Phebe feels the heat this year less than she did last. But Gould looked wilted. Boils have not yet made their appearance, altho Gould has signs that make us anxious lest they are about to trouble him. They are a great deal of company for each other. Of course they fight at times, but it is soon over and they are as sorry as older folks and much more ready to make up. It is pathetic to see Gould. He gets angry and strikes occasionally. (I am glad to say less frequently than formerly) but a reproachful look from either mama or papa and only a word brings the little fellow to repentance at once. He drops his head and runs straight to us and wants to be kissed. Then he kisses sister and all is well. Day before yesterday when he got out of bed he took his hammer the first thing and in trying to improve the lamp knocked the handle off. It is glass and pretty hard to mend. Only two panes of glass thus far are the worse for his investigations with the hammer. He has the best wash bowl, a small pitcher and a few other minor quantities to settle for, but he would not be a boy if he committed no depredations. He has not yet greased the cats- but he has put a silk worm in his mouth- and taken it out again. He was 18 mos. old day before yesterday.

This sheet shows the extent of my work today except a little reading, so it should be valuable- I fear tho it is less interesting than many a letter I have just scrubbed off in haste. Where is Flora? Ben's letter was a veritable treat. Good for you! But don't wait till next year to write again.

Love to all Will.

*[This letter dated **May 29, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about their move to Kuliang. Because the church is becoming more popular, people want to join for the name. Mr. Ding (Ming Uong) is still feeling badly but improving. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, May 29'

1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

May 15th I sent a letter addressed to Ben. The last received from you was on May 2nd, we are still waiting.

At 9:30 A.M. I am writing in the coolest spot I can find with the mercury at 84 degrees. A little breeze makes the heat endurable. Friday, day before yesterday I went to the mountain with Ellen and the babies. The heat was beginning to effect the children. Each had one little boil such as heat produces and our experience last year made us dread a recurrence of these comforters on the little one so we packed off where a cooler atmosphere prevails tho nights too were getting so hot that Ellen did not get the rest she needed. I have seldom been more thankful for a blessing than I am for this cottage at the mountain. The thought that the dear ones are comfortable up there takes away half the discomfort of the heat for me here. We started a few minutes before 7 o'clock Fri. morning. At 11:20 we were all at the cottage safe and happy. The whole journey was a very pleasant one. Our baggage had mostly gone up the day before. On Wed. we sent the coolie up to clean up the cottage and open the doors and windows so as to have it aired out nicely. Every year before we have taken most of our baggage with us as we went. This made 15 or more coolies to manage and with grumbling and strikes etc. the journey was tedious. This year we had only 9 to go to the foot of the mountain and 6 up the mountain. The amah carried Phebe across the plain and I carried Gould. This left Ellen free. Then to go up the mountain amah and I walked and put Phebe and Gould into one chair. They got along very well most of the time. On the way up there are three resting places. When these were not too far apart the little ones were quite happy. But after about so long Gould began to think he needed some exercise and he would flop over on his stomach and begin to slide out of the chair shouting "Ba, Ba, Ba", which freely translated is "I want to get out and walk". Phebe also thought it fine sport to walk up the stone steps. So at each rest place we let them get out and exercise. The morning was little cloudy so the sun did not trouble us at all. Just ahead of us all the way up was Mr. Worley and his family- wife and six children. They were just far enough ahead so that they could rest, and move on just as we approached a resting place. I spent Fri. night on the mountain and came down yesterday afternoon. And now I am looking forward to 4 or 5 weeks undisturbed by family cares, - unless I find an opportunity to run up once during the time and spend a day.

I am afraid that the work this year will need me until July 10th. The next communion season begins June 19th. On that day Geu Cio Dong and Ha Puo hold communion services. June 26th the Au Iong Die church, July 3rd Au Ciu, July 10th Sang Tung Gio. From all reports there will be from 60 to 70 persons to examine for admission to these five churches. With these large numbers I feel that I ought to be present at all the examinations. This is a time

of unprecedented growth in the church here and the danger is great. The name of the church is getting popular, so that as I walk on the street men speak with me and ask about Christianity, and tell me of their own accord that they are going to "obey the doctrine". This means that many will wish to join just for the name, thus the greatest care is needed at this time in admitting members. The Seminary will close June 21st. With this off my hands the other work will be much lighter, and I think I shall plan to spend about 4 days of the week at the mountain and three down here.

War news from the other side is very scarce. The most important engagement thus far of which we have heard was at Manila. Judging from what I have heard the Spanish and American fleets are either in search of one another or they are trying to evade one another.

I wrote that on May 7th I attended the opening of a chapel at a part of the suburbs called Dong Ciu, and that on the 14th I attended the opening of another at Sang Bo. On the 21st I attended the opening of another on an island a few rods from the shore, in the Min river, a little above the big bridge. The name of the island is Sang Gaing. This last chapel was planned by the Ha Puo people, the other two by the Au Iong Die church. In all three native money above was used. Except in the purchasing of land at Sang Bo, the other two at San Gaing and Dong Ciu are rented places. There is one large temple, near the Au Iong Die church. The adherent of which have embraced Christianity in such numbers that the head men are getting alarmed lest the temple will go down for want of care, and for want of worshippers. This is one of the strongest proofs of the triumph of Christianity.

Mr. Ding is improving slowly. I hope he may be able to go to the mountain before many days. The chief advantage in this move will be to keep him quiet. In these days a church in Foochow is anything but quiet. The incessant callers and their incessant talking and planning keeps him all the time tired.

Mrs. Hartwell is 70 years old June 30th. The missionaries of the three missions are planning to give her a surprise and present her with a silver tea set. As June 30th is rather late the surprise is to be next Wed.

I think of you as just thro with corn planting. The young cattle are turned out to grass. The cows are getting a good living from the pastures now. The horses and oxen are still on hay. I wonder where your crops are this year. When you see Aunt Louise you must tell her that it is a long time since one of her letters has arrived here. Remember us to all the uncles, aunts and cousins.

Lovingly,
Will.

*[This letter dated **June 12, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Because of the heat, many have moved up to Kuliang. Ellen has had five teeth pulled in six weeks. The drought has cause the price of rice to rise. Willard is grateful for the donations of money from various groups in the U.S. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]*

Foochow, China, June 12th 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started from here for Shelton May 29th. No. 9. The last received from you was June 6th.

The last time I wrote Ellen and the children had just gone to the mountain. It has been very hot since they went. We have had no rain for about a month until last Thursday. Last year at this time the people were afraid the rice and other crops would be drowned. This year the rice in some places is dried up and potatoes not planted for want of water. Of course being so dry the weather has been hotter. Thursday I went up to Kuliang and was surprised to find so many houses occupied. There were six houses with people in them and as I came down Friday I met Mr. Pitcher from Amoy going up. His family were coming up the next morning. The number of people on the mountain in June is a good thermometer for the plain. Beside those at the mountain there are others at Sharp Peak. Dr. Kinnear went up with me on Thursday and took out three teeth for Ellen. This makes five that she has had out within about six weeks. We hope now that she will be all right till Fall. Then it looks as if most of the others would have to come, and false teeth take their places. Phebe was looking rosy, tanned, happy and well. Gould was not feeling well. He had a severe attack of diarrhea the day and night before and he could not see much pleasure in living. He seemed much better Friday and as I have not heard anything I hope he is all right. I walked up the mountain Thurs. A.M. and in the afternoon I walked about some with Dr. K. Fri. morning I did some more walking and fixed up some things about the house and in the afternoon walked down the mountain. I rested all day yesterday. I came down hoping to finish copying a lot of work with the typewriter. I copied just one page. Last night I slept nine hours straight and feel much better this morning. Until a week ago I was pitying myself because I was working hard. But when I was at the customs office the other day I stepped on the scales and in the thinnest clothes possible tipped the weight at 168 pounds. I stopped complaining, and pitied the coolies that had to carry me.

The people in Foochow and also in other parts of China-especially in and near the ports are in much distress on account of the high price of rice. 100 pounds ordinarily cost from \$3 to \$4. It now costs from \$5 to \$6. This with no corresponding rise in wages makes it pretty tough for some of the poor people. A week ago the alarm over the drought was so wide spread and we had had two or three cloudy days and there had been showers in the distance that gave some hope of rain, so the officials put out a proclamation that no pigs should be killed. This would appease and please the rain god and bring rain. Some of the people began to ask what they could get to eat. Pork is as universally eaten here as beef is at home. But in spite of the officers proclamation a few pigs squealed in secret. Last Thurs. we had a delightful shower. Fri. another, and yesterday another- each day it rained a little harder than on the day previous. So the anxiety about drought is quelled for this time.

An original speech of Phebe's comes to me just now and I must put it down. Ellen was sitting by her bed while she was going to sleep the other night. Gould and she sleep together at the mountain. He was already asleep and Ellen was singing for Phebe's benefit. When Phebe said in a low tone "Mama sing a little downer". Ellen said it was a long time before she could understand. Finally Phebe said "Sing a little downer, not wake little brother."

To morrow I go to examine and close one of Ellen's station classes for women. Tues. and Wed. Mr. Hartwell and I invite all the workers in our two fields to meet at Geu Cio Dong for a quarterly meeting. Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Mon. are held the examinations in the Seminary. Thurs afternoon comes the examination for candidates to church membership at Geu Cio Dong and Fri. afternoon at Ha Puo Ga. The communion in these two places will be held next Sunday. The last communion will be held at Sang Tung Gio about the time this reaches you July 10th.

This last week I received from Shelton C.C. \$43.60 and from S.S. \$12.50. Your last letter brought the news of a gift of \$15.00 from the W.C.T.U. of Huntington. This places us beyond any anxiety for this year. We have a little over \$200 in silver in the bank here and did not know but we should have to take it out for the work this year but it will not be necessary. God always cares for his children when they trust him. If you should see either some of the ladies from Huntington or some of the Shelton people you might tell them that the money is received all right. I will write as soon as possible which will be in about two weeks I hope. Just now beside the duties I have mentioned for the coming week I have a lot of writing to do in connection with our estimates for next year's work to be sent to the Board at Boston. Beside all the minutes of the Annual Meeting held June 2nd and 3rd to be copied and forwarded, and also the report of last year's work to be put into shape and forwarded and I am also reading the last proof of the printed report of the mission for last year. All this work is well under way and I hope to get it out of the way within two weeks. Then I will remember the friends who have so kindly remembered us. By the way please keep the \$15.00 and credit it to me on account. I think financially we were all square up to the bill for the box that is starting about now when that bill comes I'll square again.

Mr. Ding improves very slowly. Dr. said the other day that he was not yet strong enough to leave Foochow for the mountain, and he could not say when he would be strong enough.

The only news of the war since I last wrote is that several thousand troops have sailed from America for the Philipines- that the Governor of the Philipines is in despair- that the American fleet has the Spanish fleet cornered near Cuba,- that a large number of troops had left Tampa for Key West thence for parts unknown.

I think to day must be Children's Day at home- The 2nd Sunday in June. How delightful it would be to see a field of pure white and yellow daisies! "A pretty field" is almost an unknown phrase here. If the children could only get into one of grandpa's meadows, how they would roll the grass down. There is one little corner of our yard here at Ponasang where the grass grows a foot and over tall. The children were out there the other day, - a few days before they went to the mountain. How they enjoyed it- the place was 10 ft. sq.

Remember us to all friends. Lots of Love to all

Will.

A pleasant vacation to all the school ma'ams and students.

W.

[This letter dated July 14, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He talks about the heat on the plain and how the missionaries are grateful for the mountain which is thickly populated this summer. They had fun on the 4th of July on the mountain. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, July, 14th 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter already acknowledged came July 1st. The last sent started July 4th No. 11. It is time for another mail. There may be one waiting at the office for us.

Since I wrote you last I have been to the mountain each Monday morning and returned to Ponasang each Friday morning. Each Friday afternoon I have attended an examination for admission to the church and each Sunday administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. July 3rd 6 united at Au Ciu and July 10th 7 united at Sang Tung Gio. This makes 67 in the five churches in the suburbs station at this communion and 133 since Jan. 22nd.

Last Monday morning at 4:35 o'clock I started from Ponasang as the people here say "for good". That is to remain at Kuliang a few weeks. The Monday morning before July 4th I was off at 3:15 A.M. It was just 2:50 P.M. when I first opened my eyes. I got up here before the table cloth was spread for breakfast- just 4 hours on the road. It has been pretty hot on the plain. The coolest place I could find last Sat. morning the mercury registered 93 degrees. This was in the second story from the ground, with a good breeze. Imagine so hot it was in the afternoon in a close dark chapel where the only breeze is produced by your fan, and where 30 or 40 men are sitting in a room 12 X 30. It has about "done me up" every Sunday morning to preach in one of the places and then administer the Sacrament.

We had quite a glorious fourth here on the mountain. Some fireworks-Chinese-were procured, and there are boys and girls enough to give zest to the fire cracker fun, and girls enough to scream at the pin wheels and snakes etc. and ladies enough to make indigestible eatables and a Consul and one or two others who can make a speech, and this year there was the news of the victories of our fleets.

Kuliang is more thickly populated this year than every before. Six houses are just completed and the occupants were in before the workman had left in 4 of them. The chapel is not large enough for all the foreigners to crowd into but as they will not all come at one time we shall get along this year. Land is purchased for a new chapel, which is likely to be erected in a year or two. What a blessing this mountain is! The missionaries could not live now without it. It was a great menace to their health- especially to the children in earlier years to be compelled to live in the city during the Summer. But then the work did not crowd them at all. They were complete masters of their time. Now it is all changed and with the rush of work a man could not live thro the heat. The merchants stand it, but they have punbabs= large fans 10 ft. long hung from the ceiling and so fixed that a Chinaman sits in the hall and pulls a rope and creates a breeze. This must be kept up 24 hrs. a day. This expense we can hardly afford.

Ellen and the children are quite well. The photographer is coming up in a few days and we are going to have their photos taken again. I am writing this with the "Lincoln".

Ellen says "send my love with yours to all of them".

Lovingly

Will.

[This letter dated July 31, 1898 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He is glad that his sister, Ruth, is feeling better and that sister, Phebe, is employed. They had photos of the children taken. Willard relates some stories about the children. He is chairman of the committee for building a new, larger chapel on Kuliang. Willard hints at the anticipation of the birth of a new baby. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission

Kuliang, Foochow, China, July 31st 1898.

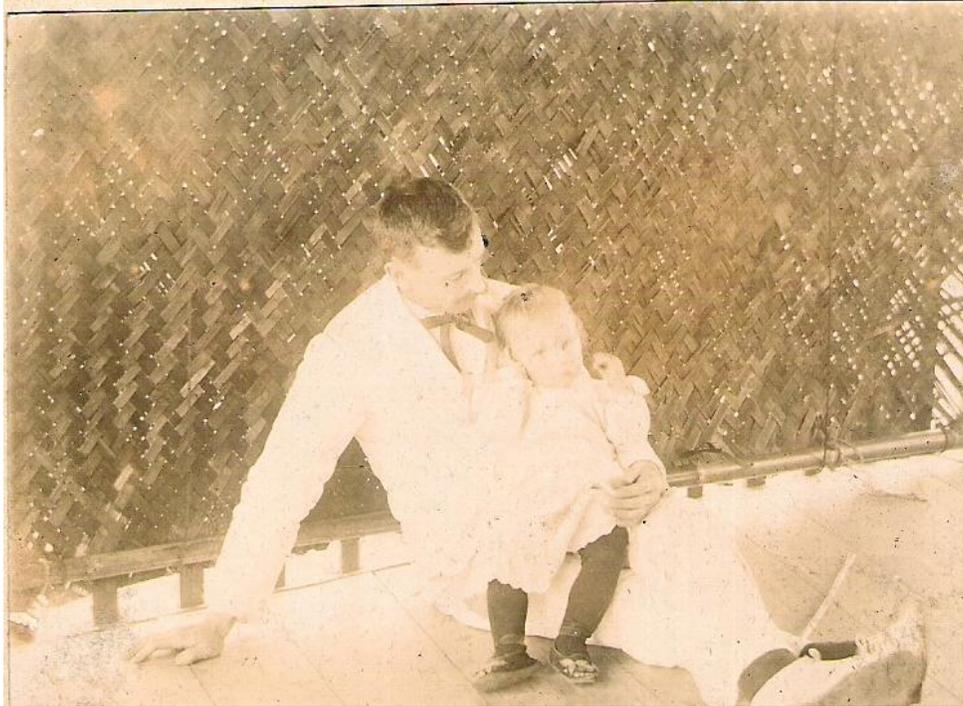
Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started from here July 14th No. 12. We received one from you July 19th and one yesterday July 30th. It was very cheering to hear of Ruth's good health and we most hopefully trust that we shall hear only confirmations of this good news.

We send congratulations to Phebe on being offered the position in New Britain. It is a flatter offer, especially for one who has only just graduated. *[According to her 1957 obituary, Phebe Maria Beard was a 1898 graduate of the kindergarten training school department of the State Normal School of New Britain, CT. She was appointed assistant in that school and served one year.]* I should be pleased if she would give some other excuse for not want to come to Foochow, than the language. That's a snow man, and melts very rapidly in this climate. Her little name's sake talks like a "house a fire" as Stanley used to say. And even Gould the other day taught me a Chinese word. I was out in the yard with him and he was throwing stones. As he threw he said dai. This I found means to throw away, - all of which is of course very interesting to you.

Well we have had more photos of the children taken. When the photographer came the first time, Gould bore the marks of a collision with the stone steps on his cheek bone and Ellen wanted him to wait. While she was dressing Phebe I was playing with Gould on the veranda. The camera was all set up and the man waiting. Gould

came in a ragged dress and shoes out at the toes and all perspiration and dirt from his play, and dropped into my lap as I sat on the veranda floor directly before the camera. I motioned the photographer to shoot and he shot. He hit the little fellow square. I gave him my "tick tick" to make sure.



Written on back of photo: "Father and Gould"
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

Ellen says he is a little sober but he is so naturally. I wanted to vignette myself out but Ellen would have some with me in. The photo is so good of Gould that Ellen has about half forgiven me for allowing the dirt and rags to appear. Both children are as well as ever, plump and ruddy and growing like weeds. They practically live out of doors and the air on our hill comes direct from the sea over about 8 miles of mountains and valleys. So it is of the very best. Gould is a born "clod-hopper". He is determined to go out on the hill every day and watch the cows graze for an hour or more. As we stand on our veranda we see a large area of hillside. Gould is the first one to spy a cow and he gives a jump and a whoop "Oh! Cow!" I never saw him show signs of fear at a cow but once. I was out on the hill with him one evening just at dark as a cow came along led by a man. She came within a few feet of us. When within about 8 feet she bellowed low. Gould said nothing, but he hugged very close to me, till the danger passed then ran after the cow shouting with glee. I asked Phebe what I should say to Grandma Beard for her. She said "They way ov'r America". This evening she did not seem very hungry at supper and was playing with a cup of milk for the first time she put her hands into it. We told her that was like the pigs. She thought a moment and said, "Gramma Beard got some white pigs." All the pigs in this part of China are black. But this is all babies so far, so to change the subject.-

Kuliang seems to be booming. Every year finds more and more people here. Six new houses are occupied this year for the first time. Seven pieces of land have just been bought and five houses are now being contracted for there will undoubtedly be more before next winter. The building is used for a chapel is too small for either foreign or Chinese meetings and we are preparing to build a new chapel. The chairmanship of the committee to arrange for all meetings and care for the chapel and to build a new chapel falls to my lot this year. The "new chapel" bids fair to be a serious problem. Some want one plan and some another and some want one site and some want another, but it will be settled in some way all right. This is the week of our Kuliang convention. It really began this afternoon with the service at 5 P.M. Each day we have two services at 9:30 A.M. and one at 5 P.M. closing with the communion next Sunday.

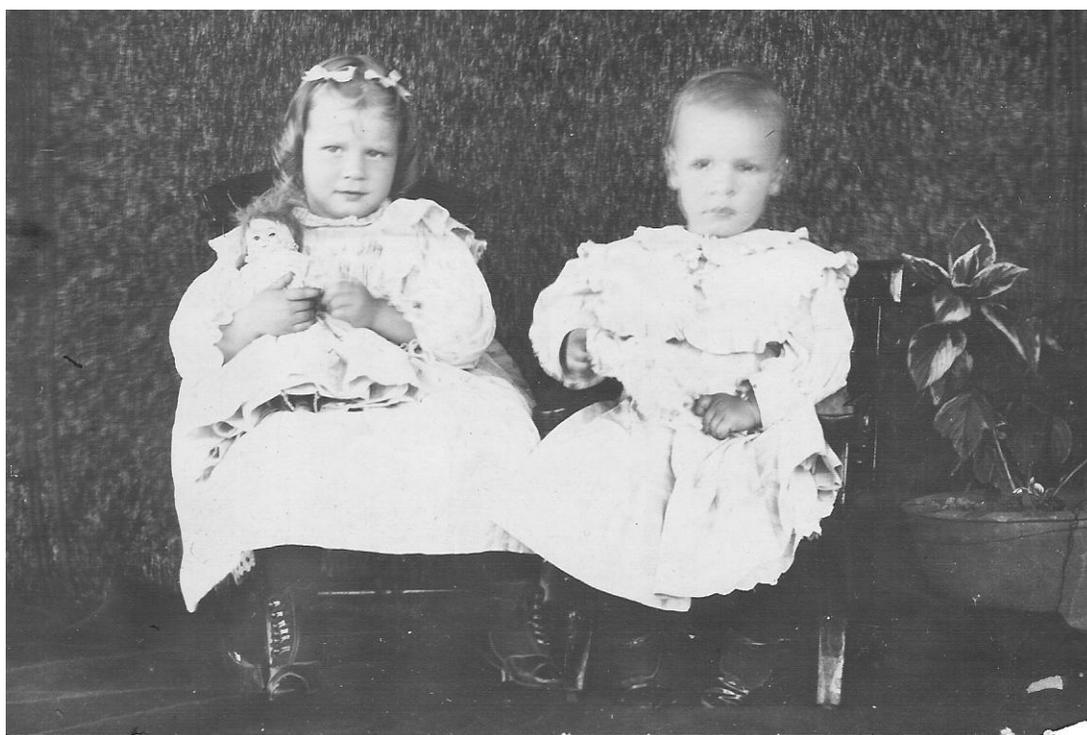
The telegram Fri. morning stated that Spain was suing for peace. Pres. McKinley replied that Cuba must be given independence. Porto Rico and one other island ceded and a coaling station be granted in the Phillipines. We hope to hear that peace is declared very soon. This of course will disappoint many of those at Tampa and others who have started for the war but who have not had the opportunity of fighting. This war bids fair to be very far

reaching in its results. Our country can no longer remain shut up within itself. We are one of the nations of the earth now. Last year the condition of things in China was nothing to the U.S. We have hither to left the policing of the seas to England and have considered questions that concerned countries out of the Western Hemisphere as out of our jurisdiction. But now we must help in solving the "Easter question" and we, as one of the two distinctively Christian nations of the world, must do our share in bringing order out of the world's chaos. It was probably best that we should have remained until now, quiet in our obscurity. We have been growing and have just awakened to the fact that we have attained to the full grown stature. Now we must use the power that we find we possess. May God direct us to use it for His glory.

Ellen is quite well and sends love. She is just now engaged largely in looking up names for boys. Gould says he would like a brother.

Give our love to Grandpa and Grandma, Aunt Louise and all the rest.

Lovingly Will.



This may be one of the photos taken of Phebe and Gould by the photographer in 1898.

[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This letter dated Aug. 15, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Ming Uong Ding to Mr. O. G. Beard (Oliver Gould Beard, father of Willard). He apologized for not writing sooner but explains that he has been sick. He thanks him and his family for the hospitality and reminisces about his time and activities while visiting in Shelton, Conn. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Foochow, China.

Aug., 15th, 1898.

My dear Mr. O.G. Beard:-

You will perhaps be surprised, for the lapse of so long a time, to receive a letter from me. But believe me that a letter to you have been in my mind for a long time. I do very often think of you, your family, the "Century Farm" and the friends I met there. Therefor first of all allow me to thank you for your hospitality and kindness and assure you that the pleasant hours you caused me to spend in Shelton and its neighborhood I shall ever remember as one of the happiest weeks in my life. I can recall very pleasantly the visits of the paper mill and Shelton Park with you, the riding to Bridgeport up the river road with Mr. Ben Beard using his span of horses, the Sunday School at Long Hill school with Miss Beard, the visit of Derby Silver Co. with Mr. James Beard, the picnic with Misses

Beard, the berrying with Miss May and Mr. Standly Beard, the party on the Tuesday afternoon Aug. 17th and other pleasant occasions.

Although I am now on this side of the globe thousand miles from you and separated by a mighty ocean yet often my thought goes back to you and my prayers ascend that God will bless you richly and give all of you good health and long happy life.

Indeed I am glad that I have met you and knowing you so well. I have told Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Beard that I have not only known him but I can say now that I have seen and know theirs.

It is no doubt that it has caused us to throw ourselves together more closely. I was sorry that I could not write you sooner my silence had arisen from two reasons. Immediately after setting my feet upon my home land I was called by our National Committee and General Secretary to proceed to the north and after seeing the Secretary I made a hasty tour among the Chinese colleges and traveled many thousand miles in the empire. As it was near our Chinese New Year therefore almost all the schools were closing. Thus I had to fix the dates of my visits and hurry from place to place and many times I had to travel at night and through rain and snow. And as we did not have many rails like America I had to travel by donkey riding mule-cart and other modes of traveling which were very tiresome and not accustom to me at all. At the close of this journey I was very tired and then became ill. I got home on the afternoon of the very last day of our Chinese Year.

It was my hope that after settling down at home I might have little time to write letters and to clear off piles of business which I have filed up since I went to America. But the ill-health dragged on day after day I became weaker. The fever gradually became higher and higher and the shooting pain from join to join [*joint*] indeed could hardly be described here and then I was confined in bed as stiff as a rod. During those days I was obliged to give up both reading and writing. I am now pretty well and hope that I shall be able to go to my work in the Seminary this coming term. I did not go to Kuliang this summer for Dr. Kinnear thought best for me not to go. So I am here at Foochow and it is quite hot in this city. I think during those hotish days the thermometer went to about 100 degrees. I hope that the weather is cooling off now.

Allow me to congratulate you upon having another granddaughter here in China. It seems to me it is very gratifying for one to think that he or she has children on both sides of the earth and thus far and near day and night there are some one calling him or her father, mother, grand-father and grand-mother. It is said that Mrs. W.L. Beard and the baby are very well and probably they will be at the mountain till the weather gets cool.

China is now waking up both the Emperor and the people are seeing their own faults and they changing as fast as they can so it affords much for us to do here. We do pray that God will give us more wisdom and good health and supply us with means so that the work can be carried out more widely.

Please pray for us for we need your prayers much.

My father, mother and Mrs. M.U. Ding join me in sending our kindest regards and best thanks to all of you. Please remember me kindly to friends I met at your place.

I am.

Very Sincerely Yours,

M.U. Ding.

[This letter dated Aug. 21, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. A typhoon recently hit the region which damaged houses. Many are living on the mountain now and more are planning on building cottages. Because of the increase in population a new church must be built on Kuliang. Willard hopes the U.S. will be able to control the Philippines and not let Spain come into their control. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Aug. 21st 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started from here July 31st No. 13. The last came from you July 30th. Our life has been running along smoothly since last we wrote. The most exciting experience was a typhoon two weeks ago. It had been raining some each day for over a week. The wind had not been very hard until Mon. morning Aug. 8th. We had arisen and were standing in the back door looking at the rain as the wind drove it thro the big stone typhoon wall. Suddenly about 4 ft. of the top of the wall for a length of 15 ft. gracefully bent over to the ground before the wind. We went to breakfast just after. Before the meal was finished there was a knock on our front door and I opened it to find Mrs. Main with her little 9 months boy in her arms. She had been staying in the house just above us. Mr. Main had gone into the country and in the house were only Mrs. Main, a single lady and the baby. Mrs. Main saw the top of the typhoon wall of the house in which she was staying fall off, and saw and heard the tiles fly off the roof, and

became frightened and ran for safety. She had just sat down and was telling how the tiles were flying from the other house, as there came a terrific gust and a crash and the ridge of our house lay on the ground. This left plenty of room for the rain to come in. The fiercest of the storm was over by 11 o'clock. The middle room was pretty wet. But we found a dry place to eat and sleep in and all in all the experience was not a bad one. Two or three houses were so badly used by the wind and rain that the inhabitants could hardly live in them. The weather did not become settled till Wed.

July 31st – Aug. 7th. was held the Kuliang Convention as usual with a prayer meeting at 7 A.M. a meeting at 9:30 and one at 5 P.M. The meetings this year were very helpful. This Chinese Convention was to have followed during the next week but on account of the typhoon it was postponed and ends today with the communion union service.

There is one fine tennis court on the mountain air the East side of a hill so that it is in the shade by about 4:30 P.M. from that hour till it is too dark to play the crowds on the mountain are to be found there. There are more people here this year than ever before, and more houses are being contracted for to be built this Fall and Winter to be ready for use next Summer than ever before. Thus far ten families are thinking of building with more in prospect. The increase in population overcrowds the little building used for a chapel so we are planning to build a church. I had the misfortune at the beginning of the season to become the chairman and treasurer of the chapel committee. It devolved on the committee to start the matter of the new chapel. We recommended a board of Trustees of six men to take charge of building and caring for the new chapel. I got my share of the work again by being elected as secretary and treasurer of the Board of Trustees. During the past week I have collected in checks, cash and pledges over \$1200. The church will cost something over \$1500.

The seventh moon communion begins today in my field with communion at Geu Cio Dong and Ha Puo Ga. 16 were to have united at Geu Cio Dong. I have not heard from Ha Puo. I shall go down next Fri. to the examination of candidates at Au Iong Die if Ellen allows me to. But I shall delegate one of the pastors to administer the communion on Sunday. I had a letter a few days ago from one of the preachers- the one at Au Ciu saying that a man owed one of the members there \$30. The member could not collect the debt. He told his trouble to the preacher. The preacher chanced to know the debtor and went to him succeeding in inducing him to pay the debt. The member as a thank offering gave \$15 of it to the church. Tell this to any one who says the Chinese show no proofs of sincerity in their religion. Mr. Ding I think from reports is improving some but is yet far from his old self. He expects now to take up work in the Theological School the middle of Sept. I expect one of the oldest Pastors to help in the teaching this next term. This will relieve me greatly and allow me to do better work in the subjects I teach. A letter from Mr. Walker to Miss Newton spoke not at all assuredly about his return to Foochow this Fall. If he does not come there is no one for the Shaowu field this year. And that field has only one ordained pastor. (There are 3000 people in this district who have asked to be taught the Gospel.)

The statement of the goods from Boston came this past week. You have sent an "old whopper" of a box. 26 1/10 cubit feet 625 lbs. We shall look for a "stock" of picture cards etc. In the last mail I sent you a lot of photos. Some were marked. Will you kindly distribute these. Those unmarked will you send half to Putnam and give the rest to whomever you think will care the most for them.

Phebe has been perfectly well all Summer. She runs all over the mountain as sturdy as a little goat. The rainy days are rather hard on both children. They do so love to be out on the hills in the open air. The house gets to be a prison for them when they are shut up too long. Phebe goes to church every Sunday. Ellen has not been for three Sundays but Phebe goes with me and is the admiration of all for her good behaviour. Gould is now having a very bad cold and is getting the two teeth below his eye teeth. This makes him about sick, but he gets out on the hill and tends cows every day and sings "All power is given unto me", unless his cold stops him then he says "ma, ma"- like ma in man= cannot and begs either Phebe or Mama or Papa to sing it for him. He carries the tune to this chorus all alone and approximates the sounds. Of course we think this phenomenal.

One of the recent mails brought an invitation to the wedding of Annie Tomlinson to Daniel Sammis Sanford. The Sentinel spoke of the wedding of a Mary Blakeman whom I understood to be Ard's sister. Is Ard still a bachelor?

Remember us to the folks at White Hills and all other places. If my reckoning is correct grandfather was 89 the 12th of this month.

The news that Spain had sued for peace and that the conditions imposed by the U.S. were such that in the main they were accepted was very good news to us. I hope there will be some way of retaining a controlling influence in the Philippines. It will be a sad thing to let Spain get hold of them again. The problems before the country at this time which the war has precipitated are broader and perhaps more difficult of settlement than was the problem of reconstruction thirty years ago, but we are able to grapple it and to settle it. McKinley is loved by all the Americans in Foochow. The papers printed in China by Englishmen speak in the warmest terms of America and

Americans. They have no epithets good enough for the common sense and good character and ability of Admiral Dewey, and General Merritt they say is as good as Dewey. May God guide this young nation in the right, to take her part in the government of the world in righting the wrongs of oppressed weak nations and in protecting such nations as China against the greed of Russia and France and Germany may be the enlargement that our beloved country needs to be able to save herself from destruction due to evils that are rampant among her own people.

Love to all from all
Will.



Houses here on Kuliang can be seen with their typhoon walls.
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]

[This letter dated **Aug. 25, 1898** was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He writes briefly to let the folks back home know Ellen gave birth to another baby. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang. August 25th 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

A letter arrived from Ruth day before yesterday. I sent No. 14 to you on Monday of this week. I am writing this just to say that a little daughter arrived this morning at 4:50. She is a lively little miss- and pretty. Her lungs and throat are all right. Ellen is doing nicely. Both she and the baby have been asleep since 7 o'clock now at 9:00.

I must not keep the man waiting longer. Will

You send the news to Putnam,

Lovingly

Will.

Phebe and Gould are getting the better of their colds.

W.

[This letter dated Sept. 4, 1898 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. The new baby and Ellen are doing well. Another typhoon came but caused them no damage. People are beginning to move down from the mountain. Willard is embarrassed when people ask what the new baby's name is because it is 10 days old and they haven't yet named her. The war between the U.S. and Spain seems to have gradually stopped. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang, Sept. 4th 1898

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter started from here Aug. 25th, the day of the arrival of the newest missionary. Every thing has gone as nicely as we could ask from the first up to the present time. Ellen sat up in bed yesterday some, and today she has been hopping all over the bed like a frog in a frying pan. Baby was ten days old this morning. She has had the colic once bad and once or twice lightly, otherwise she has eaten and slept like a jewel. Last Thursday when baby was just one week old I went to Ponasang. Dr. Goddard came over and spent the day with Ellen. Ellen talked so much that she has been a little hoarse since otherwise I found everything in perfect order when I returned about 7 o'clock in the evening. A week ago to night another typhoon set in and it was pretty lively here for 48 hours. Fortunately we had just had the house roof thoroughly fixed after the first typhoon, and this one did no damage at all. You cannot imagine tho how one of these storms tries a roof. The wind first blew from the South, then it gradually moved around with the sun, until it reached the N. West, then the rain came. The velocity of the wind increased constantly from the first. When the wind reached the north it was blowing hard and the rain was falling in torrents. Then it moved on to the N.E. and blew from a little after noon Monday until toward morning Tuesday. Then it gradually subsided and left us with a South breeze and clear sky. The wind blowing hard from about W.N. West to E.N. East and the rain falling heavily all the time finds any weak place in a roof to a certainty.

The first of Sept. sees a marked decrease in the numbers at Kuliang. Every day loads and chairs are going down the mountain. In two weeks from to day this will be a deserted place. And the various centers of Christian activity in the different parts of the province will assume their usual activities. I have gotten a good rest this Summer and do not dread to go back into the work. (Last year I felt like a boy just whipped and sent back to school as I went down from the mountain in Sept.) But I am glad to get back this year. I think the work should be a little more satisfactory and therefore some easier this Fall than last Spring. Ming Uong will be able to teach some in the Seminary and his presence there and general oversight will be of great advantage to the school and a great relief to me. Then I have arranged for another teacher- one of the oldest Pastors to assist in the class room work. The churches are becoming more and more independent. That is they are learning better to do their own planning and to settle for themselves the various questions that are constantly arising. They are also learning that a live church must be a growing church and they are themselves planning new work and putting their plans into execution. One church, the one at Au Iong Die has just rented an adjoining shop and refitted the church so as to increase its seating capacity from 70 to about 150. I have not been to the place since this work was begun. The 7th moon communion is now in progress. At Geu Cio Dong 16 united, at Ha Puo Ga 8, at Au Iong Die 24. At Au Ciu today there will be 7 or eight. The communion at Sang Tung Gio next Sunday will complete this communion season. Not counting those who join today at Au Ciu 181 have united with the churches in my field since the beginning of the year.

Sunday evening: - Ellen sat up on one corner of the bed this afternoon and watched the people come out from the church. The audience was about half the usual number. The same is true of the Chinese audiences. My worst trials these days are to be asked what the baby's name is and when I say I do not know- well you know how the people look and talk. One little boy about five years old had a little sister born in July. I was talking with him a few weeks ago and offered to buy her. He said if I would give him one bright new dollar he would sell her to me. Then afterward he became sick of his bargain and backed out. The next day after our little girl arrived I was passing this little boy's house. He came running out to the path shouting "Now you don't want to buy her. Now you don't want to buy her. You got one of your own."

Well the impression that the telegrams give one is that the war stopped rather gradually just at a most opportune time to save our soldiers from the ravages of fever in Cuba. The negotiations for peace will not in all probability be completed in a hurry. In the mean time and perhaps permanently the East is the residence of more U.S. citizens than ever before. It was a very happy and Christian step taken by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to write the different denominations to first consult about the occupancy of the Phillipines before any of

them had sent Missionaries there. One of the last telegrams says that Russia pleads with the powers to stop this race for arming. One nation adds to its forts and its army and its navy and then another must outstrip her in armament and so the competition goes on to the injury of all, to the benefit of none. All the powers except France answer favorably.

Well "God is in the onward march of the nations", and all things are as they should be. We are all working out His will. Trusting that you are all well. We are waiting to see what the beginning of a new school year will do with you. Love to all Will

[This letter dated Sept. 25, 1898 was written from Kuliang, Foochow, China by Willard to the Ones at Home. They are getting ready to move off the mountain. The Theology School has opened and Mr. Ding is well enough to be teaching again. Baby Geraldine is doing well. Since coming back to Foochow from Kuliang, Phebe and Gould have had fevers. A strong typhoon hit recently and they were glad there were not still on Kuliang. Rumors say that the Emperor is dead and Li Hung Chang and Russia are responsible for it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Kuliang Foochow, Sept. 25th 1898.

Dear Ones at Home:-

I am writing from Kuliang for the last time this year. The records have all been transferred to Ponasang so I cannot say when the last letter went or when the last one came. I have been down for one, two or more days for the last four weeks. Last week I went Tues. morning and returned Fri. evening. We are all going down to Ponasang day after tomorrow, Tues. morning. The mountain is almost perfect now. The atmosphere is all that one could wish. It is only slightly cooler than in July and August. Nearly all the missionaries have gone back to their work and the mountaineers are waiting for their sweet potatoes and rice to ripen- in the mean time they are off gathering fire brush- and there is an air of quietness and rest that makes one feel while here as if he were growing fat. There is nothing to do and after having been at work in the hotter regions for four days I feel when I get back here for two or three days something as Tennyson pictures the "Lotos Eaters."

The Theological School opened Sept. 22nd. Nearly all the boys are back and they are all seemingly happy. Ming Uong is back as my assistant and he has the department of the school under his care. This will be a great help to me and it will be a great advantage to the boys. We have two teachers and two students more this term than last. The building is thus crammed full. The mission's greatest need is for a new building for this school. It will require about \$1400 or \$2000 to supply the needs Dr. Smith said when here last Spring that this was our first need and I think if the Board had the money we would get the building now. As it is...

Sunday Oct. 2nd 1898.

Well this has had a good long rest. In the mean time we have not been idle- if we have not written letters. The last day at the mountain was of course occupied with preparing to go down. We sent every thing possible down Monday, so that we had only a load for one man to pack Tues. morning i.e. the bed clothes etc. We were off at 7:45, and arrived at Ponasang at 11:00. The journey was rather hot but we all stood it well. Geraldine was an angel. She slept all the time till Ellen got into her chair and was as good as she could be all the way down. To get Phebe and Gould down the mountain we put them into one chair and had the coolies carry the chair back and forth so they could not fall out. They fitted in tight. We came down from a temperature of about 70 degrees where the atmosphere was bracing and just about perfect with a temperature of 90 degrees where the air was thick and hot, and anything but bracing. Phebe and Gould have taken it pretty hard. The poor little things are the ghosts of the children that were romping on Kuliang only 5 days ago. They have both had high fevers every day and have had chills some days. Tues., Weds., Thurs., and Fri. continued hot Fri. afternoon a typhoon- the third this year- set in and has continued till this morning. Fri. night a gust woke up both Ellen and me. We did not know but the old house was going to succumb but it still stands. Miss Newton said she was up ready to run. It was the hardest she had ever seen. Our cook who is not far from 30 says he never experienced one as hard before. If the storm was as violent on Kuliang,- that is if Kuliang was in the path of the storm as was Ponasang- the houses have suffered severely, because of the higher altitude and of its openness to the sea. We look right out to sea from the back of our house so we count it a kind Providence that led us to come down before the storm even if we did find it so hot. If Ellen had remained, I should have been down all week intending to go up on Fri. afternoon late. The storm was so violent this would have been impossible and I should have been down here worrying for fear the house would blow down on the dear ones on the mountain, but they were all safe here with me. The typhoon has made it cooler, and we have the doctor after the children and hope the little ones will soon be all right again. They slept all night last night soundly and they gap well. Gould is cross enough at times, and today he has been playing out on the walk and seems better. Phebe prefers to keep quiet most of the time. She rocks her dolly to sleep each day and plays a little. She is just like her Uncle

Stanley when she is sick- as quiet as can be, not a word of complaint; her requests always have a “please” and there is always a “thank you” for any favor. All medicine-even castor oil goes down without a word. Gould? Well he is different. Now for Geraldine. Well to begin she is the best baby that was ever born. She eats and sleeps and grows. When she is full and otherwise all right, there is not a peep. Since she was two weeks old she has scarcely waken Ellen more than twice between 9 P.M. and 6 A.M. next day, sometimes only once. She takes as much pleasure in being bathed as her mother does in bathing her, which is beyond the power of language to express. She has hair enough to curl, blue eyes, big fat cheeks, a back broad enough for a farmer. She is plump all over and perfectly well so far as we can see. She is now 5 weeks and 4 days old. She notices people and follows them with her eyes, holds her head up and looks about, rolls off the pillow for exercise and tries to stand on her feet. We heard about two hours ago that Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard have another daughter born the night of the typhoon.

The box from home arrived last week. It came thro all right. Only one breakage. One bottle of flavoring – lemon had a little hole in one corner. All the liquid of course ran out and was absorbed. Nothing was hurt and the loss was not worth mentioning. The cereal is in perfect condition- mostly. The tin of oatmeal got jambed and burst and the bugs got in a little. But we are so used to picking bugs out of our cereal that it is the natural thing. The shoes are just right. The paper and envelope came just at the right time. The hickory nuts and pop corn will be great treats. When Phebe first saw her doll she looked at it a second then uttered a Chinese exclamation “Ai a” ai like ai in “aisle” a like a in bar. The mark above indicates that “the tone begins with the key note of the voice uses to the pitch of a second with strong emphasis, and descends with through stress to about a fifth below”. Ai is a smooth level tone a third above the key note of the voice. Then she took it and looked it all over and remarked that it had eyes and hair and stocking and shoes, and a necktie. Then she lay down and put dolly beside her and went to sleep. Gould took his old man up and looked him over and gave him to Phebe as if it was entirely outside a boy’s province to have anything to do with dolls. He has never cared for Phebe’s dolls. He kisses them but Phebe can take all the care of them. The ball struck him as very nice. Ruth has a great eye for ties. I never had two prettier ones than the one she sent in the last box and the one that came in this. We have not yet given the tea set to Phebe. The picture cards are Ellen’s delight. The scrolls are so beautiful that I am afraid we shall appropriate some of them for our own wall. Tell the people at Shelton that the large Bible pictures are just the thing. I was in great need of just what they sent. I think Uncle James is to be thanked for the smaller scrolls.

The Emperor is dead. Li Hung Chang and the Russians are at the bottom of his death. All the reforms recently started by him are revoked and China put back in her old shut up condition. All the powers except England, Germany, U.S. and Japan are happy at the new turn of affairs. This is the latest and is believed to be authentic.

We want to hear from Bridgeport. It has been a long time since your letters have reached us. July 21st was the date of the last you wrote.

With lots of Love from all. Will.

[This letter dated Oct. 9, 1898 was written from Amherst, Mass. by James Beard, brother of Willard L. Beard. James described a fun trip he took to Mt. Tom with some fraternity boys. He decided he might join the fraternity at a later date. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

No. 19, South College.

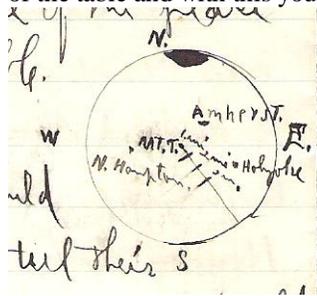
Please send this letter to Phebe.

Amherst, Mass.
Sunday Oct. 9, 1898

Dear Folks at Home,-

I have just returned from breakfast and will spend the time before going to church in writing to you. This week has been full of activities. Friday was Mountain Day and we had no recitations. The day is set apart for the students to ramble off over the mountains and get acquainted with the surrounding country. The Sophomore dedication of “Phi Delta Theta” took the Freshman delegation of their fraternity for a trip over to Mt. Tom across the Connecticut river and very kindly invited me to go with them, so I accepted on being pressed by them. Furthermore they went so far as to supply a substitute for me at Hitchcock Hall, consequently there was nothing for me to do but go and I believe I never spent a pleasanter and more profitable day. (I have just returned from church where I hear Josiah Strong L. D. preach on the passage in Revelations, “Behold I make all things new.” I wish I could give you an account of his sermon; but it would take too much space and time. He made everything so plain and impressive, that I think I could follow his whole discussion through.) I will now continue with the account of my trip. We started in a four-horse carry-all at about 9.15 A.M. We drove through Hadley, South Hadley and cheered the Holyoke girls, then on to Holyoke going clear around Mount Holyoke. Here we took the electric cars up

Mt. Tom till we reached the base of the cliff and there we transferred and went up in the cable car. Some of the grades on this line I should think were 25 ft. to ?? hundred. (You probably remember seeing a description of these cars in the Century Magazine) It made me feel as if he wondered where he would go to, if anything gave way; but there really was little danger; as the conductor told me that there were five ways of stopping the car if the cable did not work. This road is also run or rather regulated by electricity. The cars pre attached one to each end of the cable and the one coming down helps pull the other up. They leave the depots every half hour that is it takes about that time to make the ascent and descent; and they run, I should say at the rate of about 10 miles an hour. I never found myself so at a loss for language to express my feelings as now when I wish to describe the view from Mt. Tom. We were about 1300 ft straight up in the air and the side of the mountain opposite from the one we came up is almost perpendicular it being formed of rock. On the top of the mountain is an observatory with eight large glasses in it which are at the disposal of the guests. Two or three of these glasses are on tripods and may be moved about the floor at will; the other are stationary and may only be swing around and tilted. In the centre of the floor there is a circular map showing the layout of the surrounding country for 40 miles in all directions. From this you may find your place and then take the glass and look it up on the landscape. There is a tape attached to a screw in the centre of the table and with this you may ascertain the distance of the place from Mt. Tom. This is the table.



We could see the impressions in a yard a number of miles away and could distinguish children eating and even tell their color. We threw stones over the precipice, but could not follow them till they struck at the bottom; as they disappeared from sight. Railroad trains winding along through the valley looked like little serpents; in short, the whole thing was like a dream, being realized. After luncheon on Mt. Tom we descended into Holyoke and again took the team and went clear around Mt. Tom; so that we got a full view of that precipice. The rock reminds one of the palisades, as there are numerous creases running up and down through it. The solid rock is, at a rough estimate, 75 ft. or 100 ft. high, then for as many feet below this, the side of the mountain looks as though it were made of crooked stone; and only a very few trees have succeeded in forcing their way up through this rocky mass. Below this the thick underbrush begins to accumulate and as the mountain slopes off more gradually as its base a heavy forest flourishes. I shall leave this description here with the hope that some of you can come up sometime and let me take you over there. After passing the mountain we drove over through North Hampton and gave our college yell for Smith, thence to East Hampton and back to Amherst at about 7.00 P.M. having covered a distance of between 40 and 50 mi. as one of the fellows estimated; and having ridden continually with the exception of the half hours spent on the summit of Mt. Tom. The view which we got of the mountains as we road through the valleys was exquisite; and one can appreciate it only when he has the right before him and feels "the ripple" caused by such a scene, run up his back.

From your last letter, Mother, I inferred that you understood that I had promised to join the fraternity. I distinctly told you my pledge viz.- that I would join their fraternity if I joined any. They understood it so; and I have lived up to any pledge. However, I have decided and told them my decision that I would not join them this year at any rate. When I pledged to them in this conditional manner, I told them how I was situated and also told them that if I did not come in with them, I did not wish any rupture of feeling to exist between us. They accepted my request and said that they were glad I felt that way about it. When I came to give them my decision, they were disappointed but very courteous, and told me that, whereas they could not count me as after one of their number and allow me the privileges belonging to a member, they should be glad to have me call at the Frat. House whenever I could or desired, to see them. It was with the foregoing relations existing between us that they invited me to go with them; and I would not have missed the day for anything. They bore all expenses which could not have been less that \$.50 or \$.75 I think. I feel somewhat under obligations to them for all that they have done for me and am at a loss to know how to show them my feelings in a proper manner.

Mother, do you think I can wash my own flannels in cold water without injuring them? My roommate does without hurting his.

I wrote a letter to Mrs. Betts last Wednesday; for your reports were rather disturbing and I do not wish to be recalled from college. I also received a letter from Helen and Bessie telling about their experiences at Wellesley.

I received the letter from home all right with the check from Ben and I handed this check after indorsing it, to the assistant registrar. This saved me the trouble of identification at the bank; but I thought afterward perhaps you would like to have had it cashed immediately.

I was mistaken about my scholarship. That \$47.50 was for my whole three term's room rent. I will not know whether I got anymore or not till I do not know when. The trustees or some other committee will decide that later. I went down to see Mr. Word about it the other day and was told that I would have to wait with the real before I knew for certain whether I was to receive anything further. I got a receipt for the whole \$47.50 whereas on the paper they said that I should receive only half of it now. Your promptness in sending me the check was a pleasant surprise to me; and I was among the first to pay my installment. I inferred from Mr. Fay. My promptness pleased him.

I have no more time to write now. If the news accumulates too fast I will try to write you during the week. Wednesday I deliver my oration before the class of 1902. Tuesday I have my last rehearsal.

With Love,

James.

P.S. No, mother, I find no great change in the weather here, but a great one in the environment.

Ruth, I have had one good square meal of grapes and we have an apple orchard on the college commons which bears lovely hard Baldwin apples. We get quite a good deal of fruit at our boarding place.



JAS. D. BEARD

James Daniel Beard, Graduation photo from Amherst College 1902

[Information provided by Amherst College Archives. Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

[This typewritten letter dated **Oct. 16, 1898** was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. His children, Phebe and Gould have recovered from malaria. Ellen now works at the Seminary teaching the young men

Seminary music. Willard discusses at length the current political situation in China with Kong, Liang, Tang and Li Hung Chang. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
Mrs. W.L. Beard [*written in*]
Professor of Vocal Music.

American Board Mission
Foochow, China, Oct. 16th. 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter was of the date Oct. 2nd. No. 16. Oct. 4th. we received two from Shelton. One week ago I wrote uncle Will's folks. I was so pressed that I did not write you but asked them to tell you that the children were better. They are now all right. Phebe has got most of her color back and is tripping about again as happy as ever. Gould gets tired easier than he did before he was ill, but the malaria has all left him and he is treated just as he was before he was sick. This year the children have not had the heat boils as they did last year. Possible this accounts for the fever internally. Geraldine is perfectly well as she has been since she arrived. She just eats and sleeps and kicks and grows fat. She already coos and smiles when she is noticed. When bed time comes she has her supper and is put in the bed and she kicks herself to sleep. She likes a midnight lunch and then she is all right until daylight. Ellen is well and began last week to teach the young men in the Seminary music. They enjoy it immensely. It will be of great advantage to them in their work. If they are able to sing the tunes correctly it will make one more part to each tune, for each man and woman in the country districts, and often in Foochow, makes up his part as he goes along. And it is rarely that his individual part ever coincides with the part as written in the hymn book.

Every thing in the work has moved along at a rapid pace. I think perhaps I have already written about the repairs that have been made on the church at Au Iong Die. The members have spent about \$300 on the building, and have a pretty little church now. The members at Au Ciu are now repairing their chapel. They have rented an adjoining house at their own expense and are to spend about \$100 in repairs. The members at Ha Puo Ga are considering the question of buying the house adjoining the church and holding it for the time when the church can be enlarged. It will take \$1000 to purchase. How they will ever raise the money I do not know, but where there is a will there is a way in China as well as in America. The 9th moon communion season began today. At Geu Cio Dong there were received 14. At Ha Puo 5. I am very much pleased thus far with the way the Seminary is moving this term. I have written you that with the returning health of Mr. Ding he is back in his place and that one new teacher has been added to the faculty which really make as addition of two to the teaching force. This makes four native teachers and myself. We are able to give the young men all they want to do. I should have mentioned also Mrs. Beard as a member of the faculty.

The political situation in China just at present is most engrossing. The theory in China is that the people are the servants of the Emperor and the land is his personal property. Whatever then touches the person of his majesty is of interest to the people. Mr. Goddard has just returned from a trip to our North China mission and has visited Tientsin and Peking, and was in that region when the events at Peking took place. He has therefore the latest and most reliable facts. I asked him to give the boys in the Seminary a talk on the situation. He did so last Sat. The substance of what he said was: - A little over 3 years ago the second degree men from all the provinces of China were gathered at Peking for the examinations. China was talking of making peace with Japan. The literary men were not in favor. They were about to prepare memorials to the throne and present them urging that China instead of concluding peace with her enemy, should send proclamations throughout the empire urging the people to rise and save the country. At that time among the literati discussing the matter was a man by the name of Kong Iu Ui. He gathered the literati and told them it would be better to have one memorial drawn up and signed by each of the literati than to have so many different ones sent to the throne. His reasons were so patient and sensible that his suggestion was accepted and he was chosen to draw up a memorial. This he did and the document was signed by his associates, but before it was presented peace had been made. This circumstance however had served to bring Kong (You will probably see this in the papers Kang) prominently before the greatest minds of the whole Empire as a man of great ability coupled with good sense. Associated with Kong was a man named Liang. Liang was or orator of great power. He was the speaker. Kong was the thinker. These two men after the Examinations went to Shanghai. Liang was soon called to Hunan to assist the Governor there. As a result of his work Hunan is today the leading province in adopting foreign methods. Kong spent his time in Shanghai in translating books and in editing a news paper called the Chinese Progress. This paper had an immense circulation in all parts of the Empire. It urged progress and reform with no uncertain note. Among the books translated was a life of Peter the Great of Russia. This book found its way into the Emperor's hands and was read by him. He asked for the author and praised him highly acknowledging his powers.

Last year at the triennial examinations again Kong and Liong were present. There had joined them a man named Tang. Timothy Richards and Gilbert Reid were also there. The literati gathered each day to discuss progress and reform measures. These gatherings were broken up by a decree from high authority. But the seeds of reform had been sown broadcast in all parts of the Empire for three years and over. The brightest young minds of the Empire had been inoculated. Among these were several who had been educated in mission schools. They had studied history, they knew what the country needed, they loved their country and more important than all they believed in God. Add to this that the press had been used continually for more than three years and that books translated and books written by able Chinese and books written by the most able Christian foreigners in China had been circulated by the thousand copies in all parts and ready by many of the officials and by nearly all the literary graduates in this class would be included young men fitting for official positions. - - Remember also that Kong, Liong and Tang were leaders of reform clubs which had been organized in some of the most important cities of China and you have some idea of the strength of the reform movement. The young Emperor himself became thoroughly aroused on the subject of reform and set about learning the best methods. Early in this year he was in daily consultation with one or more of these men – Kong, Liong, Tang. Soon Imperial Edict after edict came from the Emperor each one ordering the most radical reforms. The literary examinations were to be changed; any body was free to memorialize the throne on the subject of reform; Institutions of Western learning were to be established in all important centers of the Empire; temples not dedicated by the throne were to be turned into schools; fat offices of no value to the country were to be abolished and the officials turned out. Etc. etc. Lastly Li Hung Chang thro the influence of England was retired. In all these reforms the Emperor stood alone. The Empress Dowager did all in her power to nullify each one, for example when the Emperor appointed Kong as imperial printer and made the Chinese “Progress” an official organ and Peking the head quarters. The Dowager relegated the whole thing to Shanghai, and it was then a mere private business enterprise. Li Hung Chang was told by her that he need not leave the palace but that he might stay and keep his position acting as advisor, etc.

By this time it became very evident that either the Emperor or the Dowager must get out. As to which it depended on who had the most power over the under officials of the palace and who could play the faster. The Emperor realizing the situation sent word to Kong and Liong to escape. These two are saved. Kong is in Hong Kong and Liong is in Japan. The Emperor then ordered the only powerful man who was on his side to take 5000 soldiers and go to Tientsin and arrest and decapitate the Viceroy for disobeying imperial orders. Then to return to Peking arrest the Dowager and shut her up in a palace where she could have no power and hinder his reforms. This general instead of proving true dare not carry out the order but went to the Viceroy and showed him his orders from the Emperor and waited. Of course the Viceroy telegraphed immediately to the Dowager. The Dowager sent a pressing message to the Emperor requesting an immediate audience. The Emperor went to her palace and has not been seen since. That is all that is known now. The Dowager has selected a boy not in the direct royal line to be trained for Emperor. He is 10 years old. All reforms have been abolished and China stands now where she stood ten years ago. That is she thinks she does. But these things are only for a moment. When the Dowager had silenced the Emperor she began to deal with his advisors. Many were sent to their homes with threats hanging over them. Some were banished. Six were beheaded. One of these was a younger brother of Kong, one was Tang, one was a Mr. Ling from Foochow. These young men were from 26 to 38 years of age. They understood fully the danger of urging and working for reform. But they loved their country just as the brave boys who laid down their lives at Santiago did their country. While they were discussing the plans for reform with Timothy Richards one day he stopped them and told them the dangers of their position, and said plainly that it might cost them their lives, and then he asked who was willing to die for his country. Kong rose first and many others followed. Several months ago some of Tang’s friends warned him of the dangers he was incurring in this trying to advance his country and urged him to escape while the way was open. He said “I am willing to die for my country if I can thus help to save her”. When the sentence was pronounced condemning these young men one of them said to his accusers, “You may cut off our heads, but for every one that falls a thousand will rise up!” Pray for China. Lovingly Will.

[This typewritten letter dated Oct. 30, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. Willard’s churches are using their own money for repairs and other expenses. He is having his typhoon wall rebuilt on Kuliang. Willard relates a story of the mistreatment of a Chinese woman by her husband. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.

Foochow, China, Oct. 30th. 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter from here was dated Oct. 17th. The last received was on the 2nd. We looked for a home mail by the last steamer, but it did not come, so the next one must bring the looked-for letters.

To day I have conducted the communion service at Au Ciu. Three men united with the church. The People here have rented a house adjoining the church and have taken out the partition and thrown the two houses together and thus made a nice large church. They will now be able to accommodate about 250 persons. Last Jan. the preacher and some of the church committee sat in my study for a whole half day teasing me to help them pay the preacher's salary. They received no help however and a few days ago the preacher told me that his salary was paid up to date and the remainder of the year was sure. In addition to this they are now spending over \$100 on the church. I think I wrote you in the last letter of the repairs the people at Au Iong Die had made on their church. One very noticeable feature of these new chapels repaired by the people themselves is that they are done in much better style than the mission ever did such work. These chapels now stand out on the streets on which they are situated in a conspicuous way and they are the first thing that the eye catches when you enter a street.

One week ago I went to Kuliang and arranged to have the typhoon wall rebuilt so that the wind could not blow it down. The wall will be 100 feet long. At one end it is 9 ft. and at the other 15 ft. high. The first 30 ft. of the lower end will be of stone only. The rest will have a stone face next to the house 15 ft. high. The back face will be only 8 ft. high and the space between filled with earth. This style of wall can not be blown down unless the workmanship is very deficient. The man guarantees the wall for three years. I am to give him \$100 silver for building it. Next Spring I shall have to lay out \$40 or \$50 more on the roof. By the way we told Dwight to write Dr. Ashmore of North China that we would take \$1000 for the house if he wanted it, just as it was with all the furniture in it. I have just said to Ellen I hope he will not take us up. After I have done so much on the house it will seem like an old friend and I shall want to live in it longer. But there is another piece of land only a short distance away that we shall like better, for our site is a little too cool and breezy much of the time. Dwight you know has been in North China this Fall and while there learned that some of the missionaries were planning to go up the Yangste two days sail from Shanghai and buy sites for a summer residence. He mentioned Kuliang and Dr. Ashmore at once asked him to purchase two sites for houses. So we offered ours all built and furnished. We will have spent in all about \$900, and we have had the use of it for two years. \$100 will cover the trouble of building and caring for it and furnishing it.

A brother of our Kuliang landlord has had an interesting experience this year with his wife which may serve to give you an insight into Chinese customs and character which nothing that we have ever before written had done. When the wife was a little babe before it was weaned the mother of the man bought her, a large sum of money at one time for a wife. In due time they were married. All went fairly well until a year and a half ago when the wife was sent into the fields to hoe potatoes. The foreign houses had become somewhat numerous and the girl thought the shade of a house with the servants to gossip with was more fascinating than hoeing potatoes out in the hot sun. For this her husband was advised by his brothers to "beat her a little" which he did. The punishment did not have the desired effect and he repeated it. Some time after the wife was missing and after a long search was found at her own mother's house and taken back to her husband's house and again beaten and tied and watched for some time. But again in the Spring she slipped away and it was only after a long search that she was found. They knew that she had gone to her mother's but her mother had this time helped her to hide away from her persecutors. When at last she was again caught she was fettered with wooden fetters and kept in confinement just as an unruly cow would be fettered at home. She however got hold of a piece of iron and sawed her fetters off and again ran away to her mother's. This time her husband and his brothers looked for several weeks before finding her. They came to me and wanted me to go to the officials and demand that she be given up to them. But at last by bribing some of the villagers where her mother lived they found the lost wife and took her home and so tied her that she could not get away. I asked them of what use she was to them in that condition and was told "Her husband can sell her and thus she will not be a dead loss to him and then he can have some money with which to buy another wife."

Woman's lot in this country is not an enviable one. The Gospel is a blessing not to be estimated to these poor ill treated creatures. It does ones heart good to see a happy Christian wife enjoying her liberty. The face of one of these has been in my mind all the afternoon. I passed her on the way to church this morning. The first thing that attracted me was her neat appearance. Then I noted the happy look on her face. By that time I recognized the wife of one of the Christian men at Au Ciu. She is also a Member of the church.

Ellen and the children are as well as usual. The children are not entirely free from ague yet. There is very much of it all about us. But Phebe has got back her color and her dancing run. Gould is getting back to where he was when he returned from Kuliang but he is yet paler than we like to see him. Geraldine is still the best baby yet and as fat as ever.

Love to all especially to Miss Olive
Will.

[This typewritten letter dated Nov. 27, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. He tells the latest about his children. The Annual Meeting has just finished and there are many villages asking for preachers. The Emperor has been nominally reinstated. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Nov. 27th. 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The mail yesterday brought your letter. The last one started from here No. 18. Oct. 31. You speak of my not having written to the W.C.T.U. at Huntington, so I looked at my diary and found that a letter started for Miss Wooster Sept. 5. Will you see her - - no I will take the time to write her again within a few days.

We have just finished supper and Ellen, Phebe and I are sitting about the table in the dining room. Yes the most interesting one I left out. Geraldine is also here. She is developing very fast these days. She is outstripping both the other children in everything. She was three months old yesterday. She has been laughing out loud for three weeks. Ellen has just been talking and coughing with her and she burst out in such a hard ringing laugh that Ellen was almost frightened. Yesterday afternoon I was at home late in the afternoon and while at my desk heard her as she lay on the bed in the next room, talking to herself and making noise enough for a child six months old. For about a week now she has a long talking spell each evening. She is as good as ever, well as ever and fat as ever. Both the other children are now perfectly well as far as we can see. The fresh color had returned to their cheeks and they are eating like young bears and running all over the compound when the weather permits. The other day Phebe was minus. She was found in Miss Newton's parlor rocking a doll. Miss Newton said she came over knocked at the door and entered as any young lady would and when inside asked for the doll. Miss N. gave it to her and she proceeded to have a good time.

The Annual Meeting of the mission has just closed. It was the best one yet. Every advance made last year was held and there has been progress in all lines during the year. One of the most enjoyable and profitable features of the meeting was the presence of the pastor and one delegate from our Shaowu field. The reports that they gave of the work were simply astounding. Village after village is calling for preachers. The house is all ready and the preacher's salary promised; there are from one to five hundred learners who wish to know the truth and to join the church. This was the report from many places. Perhaps ten different villages are in this condition. Then there are as many more that have a chapel already opened and the work has been started, but they have no resident preacher. There are twice as many places ready to provide the necessary expenses of preaching in this field. At present there is no missionary to take charge. All the Shaowu missionaries are at home. The last mail brought the news that one married man and two young ladies had been appointed for this field and that they were to sail about Dec. 10th. One lady is also coming for the Pagoda Anchorage station.

Another special feature of this year's meeting was the session given to the Men's Missionary Society. This session was planned and lead entirely by the Chinese. It was one of the most interesting sessions of the whole meeting. This society was organized one year ago. The work of this year has been completing the organization and in beginning the subscription. The organization is now complete but there were \$110 reported. There are still nearly three months in this Chinese year and the whole amount will exceed these figures by a good deal. The society expects to begin work with the new year. The great advance made in self-support this year has made the starting of the missionary society very uphill work. There has been an advance of at least \$2000 in the native contributions toward the evangelistic work during the year. But in spite of this the missionary society has made a beginning. The women conducted one session of the Annual Meeting as last year.

We had a difficult task to find a suitable place in which to hold the meetings, but just at the last moment the keeper of an old Idol temple offered us the use of the temple and after washing it and fixing it up with screens and covering up the idols and tearing four or five holes in the roof we had a very nice place. At the evangelistic service held Sunday afternoon in this temple 20 persons rose for prayers and waited after the meeting and put down their names as learners of the Gospel.

The last letter brought the receipt from the Insurance company. We were very pleased to hear of the good health of grandfather and grandmother. Thank all who wish to be remembered to us and tell them we think of them often. One of the choicest gifts that have come to us from America was one that arrived in the last mail but one; - a birthday calendar the contents of which you already know more of than we do. This will brush the dust off a great many names that would otherwise have become almost obscure in our minds.

You have doubtless heard before this that the Emperor has been nomanally reinstated. Otherwise the politics of China remain much as they have been for a month. The Empress Dowager seems determined to kill all the reforms the young Emperor had tried to inaugurate, but she finds foreign pressure and the start already made in the line of progress in her dominion too strong to enable her to abolish everything. From this side of the world it looks as if there would be another war in which our country would play a leading part. May God guide her. And may she stand before Him in such an attitude that He can use her to advance the cause of Righteousness in the whole world. To this end may He purify the lives of the high and low legislators and executives. And may He make the heart of the people to serve Him.

Most lovingly yours,
Will.

I enclose an order on the Treasurer at Boston for \$50. Please pay the bills of the last box and then pay my life insurance. \$27.86 Policy No. 166224. Mutual Benefit Life Ins. Co. 752 Broad Street, Newark N.J.

[This typewritten letter dated Dec. 25, 1898 was written from Foochow, China by Willard to the Folks at Home. It is near the end of the year and the Chinese settle all accounts at this time. Mr. Brockman and Mr. Lewis came to Foochow for the Y.M.C.A. conference. Willard is expecting five new missionaries to the Foochow area. Four of them are for the Shaowu field. Willard is planning on changing the walls of the Foochow missionary compound. The back of one of the letter pages has some child's scribbles on it. Letter donated to Yale by family in 2006.]

Theological Seminary
W.L. Beard

American Board Mission.
Foochow, China, Dec. 25th. 1898.

Dear Folks at Home:-

The last letter came Dec. 6th. The last sent was on Nov. 28th. No. 19. A Merry Christmas to you all. This is just right here but it will be rather old by the time it has gone half round the world. It has not been for lack of news that such a long interval has elapsed since the last letter started. News has been accumulating at a very rapid pace, so rapid that I have not had the time or the strength to put it on paper. The typewriter has had a good long rest and it ought to do good work now. Most of the work has been in the ordinary line of teaching and work with the churches and day schools. The end of the year is approaching and as you know the churches are all working on the self-supporting basis this year in this station. You will also recall the Chinese custom of settling all accounts at the end of year. As the time approaches some of the churches find it rather tough to see just how the end of this year is to fit on to the beginning of next without a gap in the financial fence. But at the present writing I am not at all disturbed about the condition of things. One of the churches will probably carry over a debt of perhaps \$200 silver. This is however lent by the church members and was spent with the full consent of the members who lent the money so they cannot complain. Furthermore this church has been a little headstrong and has not been exceedingly careful in the expenditure of many. I trust this may be a lesson to them and that they will count the cost more carefully in the future. The other churches I think will come out all right. I am preparing to have printed a report of the work under out care in this station this year. I am preparing four representative photos, one of the pastors, preachers and their wives, one of the Theological School, one of the best woman's class and one of a day school.



Could these be photos of a women's class and a men's class?
[Photos from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]



Dec. 15 to 18 we held here a Y.M.C.A. conference. Two of the Secretaries who came out from American this year were with us. Mr. Brockman and Mr. Lewis. The conference was well attended from first to last. Messrs. Brockman and Lewis did all the speaking except an address by Ming Uong and one by myself. Each of the gentlemen spent a night and a day at our home. You cannot imagine how I enjoyed this. I think Ellen also had a good time. You see since Dwight went into the country to live there had been no young man in the mission. The

others are all out on their second term, and there is really no companion in the mission for us, and we were hungry for young life, in these young men fresh from America we found it. After learning the mandarin language, in the north of China Mr. Brockman hopes to make his home in Foochow as Secretary for Southern China.

Today if the expectations of all are realized five new missionaries will start from San Francisco for the Foochow mission. This sounds very nice, and on the face of it looks as if we were to have a large reinforcement. But in reality these five persons will not help the real Foochow mission at all. Four of them will go 250 miles up the river tho Shaowu, and it will take additional work on our part to send up their mail and supplies. So you see the one who is to stay in Foochow will only a little more than offset the extra burden of those who go into the country. But we are exceedingly thankful for this addition to the Shaowu field. This whole region, as large as the state of Conn., and with 4000 men who have put away their idols and declared their intention to learn the Gospel, has no foreigner to supervise the work this year. We can do very little to help them because the dialects are entirely different. We hope in the course of time to have recruits for this part of the mission also. Just now in addition to the regular work I am watching the enlargement of our compound here. For about 8 years the mission has owned a piece of land adjoining the compound but because a narrow path ran between this land and the compound and because the people who owned the house at the end of the lane wanted to squeeze the mission the walls have never been changed so as to include the land in the compound. I got the consent of the mission to undertake this job a year ago and have been working away at it all the year. At last I have the written consent of the parties interested to change the walls. All the neighbors are very happy over the change and they say it will be much better for them to have it so. The Chinese neighbors I mean. When you remember that \$400 was the price set at which the users of the lane would be willing to allow the lane to be changed and that it has been done without the payment of a cent and with the full consent of all interested parties and the praise of all the neighbors, it is not a bad piece of work. Beside this I have been negotiating for a piece of land on a hill opposite our compound. We hope to buy here and erect in the course of time a residence for ourselves, and the Theological Seminary. My hope is to buy enough land now to erect another residence for a missionary and perhaps also one for young ladies to be sent out in the near future.

The "Birthday messages from the home land" are an increasing source of enjoyment to us. Every day we meet an old friend. Sometimes we have to scrape away a lot of rubbish in our brains before the lost one can be found, but we have given up in only one instance. That was yesterday. The names Elizabeth Lewis Nichols, Dec. 24, 1819 I cannot place. I am pretty sure she is mine, not Ellen's to place but who she is I can only guess. Some one in Bridgeport I think.

The children are quite well now a days. We are preparing to celebrate Christmas tomorrow. I am going to Kuliang and hope to get a real Christmas tree. I have a present for Ellen but she does not know what it is so I must not tell you now. Ellen says "you didn't say I had one for you, but I can't say what it is." When did you hear from Aunt Mary in Milwaukee last?

I must close now with Love to all. Will.



Gould, baby Geraldine and Phebe about October 1898
[Photo from the collection of John and Nancy Butte.]



Phebe taken about 1898.
[Photo from the collection of Virginia Van Andel.]

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE FOOCHOW MISSION
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Foochow:
"Happy Region"

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14 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The front page from a 1940 report of the ABCFM [From the collection of Virginia Van Andel, daughter of Willard F. Beard and granddaughter of Myron Gould Beard.]