Returned finally to Holyoke ~~[illegible]~~ Sister Bridgeforth

Bakersfield.

Kakahuch May 16. 1919
10 AM

Dear Mother

I am going to write to you before I get any deeper in the morning's work so as not to have to hurry at the end. I have been having a perfectly lovely time lately cleaning up things.

In the first place Mr Ashmore advised us not to study the morning of exam day (which was held in afternoon) so I little busied herself with some home matters and I celebrated by taking the teacher into my study and working on my atlas. The names are given in English letters according to the Mandarin pronunciation of the letters which constitute the name. But those same letters (which are given immediately after the ~~two~~ English word) are pronounced differently in our dialect; just for instance 古 means ranking. That is ranking is the way that most people note down in English letters the Mandarin pronunciation of those two characters. 年 But in our dialect they are pronounced kâm kia and ranking wouldn't be understood by any Chinese here unless he was acquainted with the Mandarin dialect. So in order to speak effectively of the names of the places we have to know how they are pronounced in this dialect. For that purpose our morning teacher is especially adapted. He knows no English. But he knows Chinese and among other things Chinese geography so that whenever he saw a name he knew what place it referred to. So he would pronounce the name, then I would look up the words if necessary, and write down our pronunciation in our dialect — in the margin. It was great fun, and we worked out nearly the whole book.

Our afternoon teacher isn't so well educated in Chinese, tho she is a

well trained woman. but she knows English and what is more understands what mistakes we foreigners can be expected to make in speaking. and also in hearing. so she was just what I wanted for another piece of work. This week Lottie took the afternoons off for housework and study. and I had the teacher to myself.

Now ever since I could hear Chinese at all I have been noting down phrases that took my attention. Sometimes I could look them up for myself; sometimes some missionary told me what the thing meant in general. But there were lots of phrases that weren't cleared up by either method. lots that hadn't been treated at all, and lots of similar phrases that needed to be differentiated and questions suggested by the phrases that needed to be answered. And she was fine at it. Some phrases she explained in Chinese. so clearly that there wasn't any doubt of their meaning. Some it was simpler to explain in English eg. sit means to lie down. Kshi means to go. But you have the two phrases. ~~sit-k~~ Kshi-it and it--Kshi. She simply told me one meant go to bed. the other go to sleep.. And there were a few that I want to investigate farther. Very few. The two sides of a 3x5 card held them and they were culled from something like a dozen pages of this size. That has been mighty interesting! and it's needless to say it was helpful

Another line of improvement has been in setting up my study. and carpenter shop. when I first unpacked I was swamped with the things. and for a long time I didn't get anything to work on arranging them. When I did get started I spread things out. and then came another busy time and the study was

a fright to behold. But a week or so ago I began to work at it in odd moments, and soon there came a slack spell, when I got fairly under way. I went over that letter file that contained clippings etc. and threw away a lot. I went over the letter file and weeded off out 4 inches thick of cards that were dead. And I have done a good deal toward correlating the two systems. Also I have gone over the most of the unfiled papers, thrown away some, and reduced most of the rest to their place in the file, making card index references when desirable.

This last Wednesday the prayer meeting was here and I had to clean up. So lots of stuff had to go into the carpenter shop temporarily, and some into drawers and pigeon holes, where they didn't belong. But when the meeting assembled my desk had such things as pens, clips, rubber bands & paperweights and nothing else. On the top (its a roll top desk) were the calendar, clock, stationery holder, prayer book, new Test and 2 pictures. On the table were the Bible, two neat boxes of books, four small cardboard letter file letter size about 4" in thick, a box about 4½ ft long the card index, the dictionary, and one neat pile of books. It was refreshing to look at.

Since then I have been bringing out from the carpenter shop convenient mouthfuls of papers and it is a revelation (of what I knew before) how much easier they are to handle than they were before the room was cleaned up. And instead of having to do my work elsewhere and come here for things it's a pleasure now to work in the study.

The prayermeeting on Wed was the

monthly union prayer meeting with the P.P. mission and Lettie was quite apprehensive that we would be short of chairs because we have exactly ~~enough~~ enough to seat all our own mission but we borrowed 6 chairs from the empty house where the principal of the Girls school ought to live if she hadn't gone home last summer; and of our mission Mr Scott and Mrs Waters (the latter is daughter of the former) had started for H.S.T. Mr Waters was seeing them off at H.H. Miss Sollman was in the country and Mrs Ashmore is deaf and doesn't attend. So we had 11 extra places and as 7 or 8 P.P.'s came we had a comfortable leeway. Mr. Ashmore led the meeting.

With love
Ellerson

Return to Holyoke finally.

Kakohick May 25.

Dear Mother;

There doesn't seem to be much to write about except the rain. I don't remember whether my last letter was on Sat or Mon but the big rain was on Sun. I wrote on Mon I must have mentioned it but here goes anyway. On Sunday it rained. Yes it did honestly. Lottie had to play at the English church. so we put on all the protection possible and went. and got wet somewhat in going. Six people from across the bay came, beside the preacher. which seems to me commendable faithfulness. Going home we got very wet and were glad to change our clothes. I don't usually go to S.S for good and sufficient reasons. But this day I thought I would go and see what sort of a turnout they had. so I got dampened again. And in the evening we did get soaked.

If we had gone the natural way to the Academy it wouldn't have been so bad. but the ~~wall that ha~~ retaining wall near the Sem had partly fallen down so we were advised to go the other way down across the valley instead of the natural way which is around it. Result many of the paths were miniature rivers and we had some careful dodging to do. And Lottie didn't know the way and I guess hadn't ever been out at night in anything just like it. and she thought it inexpressibly weird.

The reason we went out was so that Lottie could play the organ at a new variety of evening service that they are having. She plays for the hymns and also accompaniment for solos. and for the solo I would have insisted on her staying at home for I caned play the hymns — And then the chinese

who spoke talked so long that they omitted the solo. He was supposed to talk 20 min and he talked an hour 90 rub it in, during most of his speech there was no rain at all. but about 5 min before he quit it began to rain the hardest it had all day and we had that to go home in and got beautifully soaked. I don't know whether to say that it rains any harder than our hardest thunderstorms at home. The wind isnt so violent (at least in the storms so far; there haven't been any typhoons) and the drops are not so big. But it certainly does come down in buffuls. And the hills are so steep that when it does rain the natural water ourses are quickly transformed into raging torrents. Our house only leaked in a few unimportant places. In this respect we fared far better than some of the community people with their grand houses.

The unfortunate thing was that the rain continued some days and so we couldnt have our washing done. The trousers and shirt (white) which I wore that day mildewed quite badly. For some reason the coat did not. It is very hard to prevent mildew on these occasions when it rains so long. and we havent yet found how far (if at all it is possible to get it out)

Those services at the academy are a new departure. The attendance is optional the effort is to make them attractive so that the boys will be glad to come. and the purpose is distinctly evangelistic Baker was the speaker last night and his Thesis was. "You say when I know thoroly I will believe; the fact is that in order to know you have to believe". He showed this in the relation of marriage and friendship and business in which you

belive people when you can't know them; in arithmetic you have to believe 2+2=4 3x3=9 before you can go any farther; the blacksmith doesn't know that a certain piece of iron when red will be easy to hammer. he believes it; the physiologist knows that certain bodies which he has dissected had certain organs, he believes all bodies do; Baker himself didn't know that there was such a place as Shina till he came there he believed it." etc. As a grand finale he had them all join hands and take a few electric shocks from a battery. we Americans joined in the circle too and it was lots of fun to see how the Chinese laughed. There Baker summed up. In relation to other men. you can't know them, you only believe. In relation to things you can't know that they will act in a certain way but you believe they will. Its only natural in regard to God to say that this belief will come to knowledge.

A very interesting and effective talk

Lots of love
Ellison

Return to Holyoke to Northampton Springfield Robert Frost Wm Bakersfield

Kakchieh May 30

Dear Mother:

I am going to start for Chaochowfu in a few minutes. But I'll try to get off a letter to you before I start. In getting ready to go to Shayong this summer we have to have a lot of baskets which can be best bought at Chaochowfu. So I entered into negotiations with Baker who was only borrowed from that city and who knows conditions there better than any one else now in our mission. This morning a few minutes before our alarm clock ordinarily goes off, came a note from Baker which when I opened my eyes open. invited me to call on him after breakfast to talk about a trip to the city. We are to take the train up leaving Swatow at 11. or a little later. and come back leaving Ch. at 4.45 getting here in ample time for 7.00 Supper. This morning was exceedingly overcast but it looks now as if it would clear off all right. We have been having some beautiful bright days, but of course they have been sunny and hot and therefore not invigorating like today which was cool at least up to the present moment. You can't tell what it will be before night.

We have been having Mr Adams from Hopo for the last 3 days. An Educational Commission has been at work to formulate an educational policy and they have had meetings yesterday and the day before. He came down to represent the Hakka work. The first we knew was a disturbance on the verandah and I looked out and saw Adams's cook with some baggage. He had a note from Adams asking if we could take him in on such short notice and we were very glad to

The Commission has been having open meetings which I have found very profitable to attend and hear the various forms of educational work discussed.

It is Decoration Day and I am going out in a few minutes to put up our fine big flag. I meant to do it earlier but the Bakers try and Adams leaving I haven't been able to get.

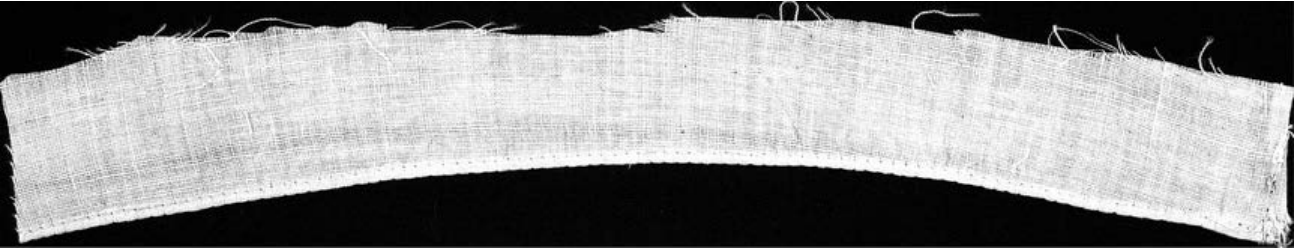
Adams told us about one of Whitman's Hakka servants who is with Whitman at Hopo and who has a wife and several children at Kaying. He spends all his money on himself and his wife has hard work to get along. Recently she had a little boy and told him it was a girl; and then sold the child for $150. People are glad to buy sons that way and he was glad to sell a daughter (if he knew about it at all) But someone let it out so he went tearing up to Kaying to try to buy the boy back. He found it in this and then brought suit claiming that his wife didn't know the child was a boy and sold it under the delusion that it was a girl thus implying fraud on the part of the buyer. But the magistrate said, "you can't make me believe any such yarn as that." and he had squandered his money on a useless law suit. Did you ever hear the like?

Lovingly
Ellison.

Ellison is looking very well, and feeling well too, I think.

Please thank Fannie for the Easter card and for the Mass music. It was very nice of her to send them and I was mighty glad to hear the music again.

Love to all. I expected to have time to write, but if mail time arrives before I finish my other letter, and I know that it reaches you in due time. I rely upon that E does not answer all questions always - as he seldom has your letters to refer to when he answers. ~~I forget what questions I wrote about~~ I'll try & help him. Lovingly



Holyoke. (Return finally)
Rockport - family
~~Gloucester~~ 333
Sent to Northampton
Stockbridge

1914

Hangchow June 21.

Dear Mother:

Here we are, and it took us nearly a week to get here. I wrote my last letter on Sunday evening and then in the rush it didn't get mailed on Monday and the boat that usually goes down on T or Wed didn't go. so I didn't get a chance to mail it till Thursday — I also didn't get a chance to write any more. Such a busy week. When we began to consider preparations it seemed as big a job as starting for China — and you don't have the same amount of time to get ready in.

Hangchow is a valley in the hills: it is high (1800 ft) & cool and it feels like home. not like the enervating heat down where our mission work is done. So altho it costs a little money and a lot of work and trouble to get there, a great many of the missionaries believe it is worth all it costs to put in July and August here, and I guess we agree with them. It's not all rosy here, tho. It rains a great deal, and we are mighty lucky that we got across the mountain over to here without being wet. Sometimes it rains all the way from W-ning-fu.

Well, I can't tell it all in this letter: the packing will probably need a letter of its own. But I'll give you an idea of the trip. Thursday morning right after breakfast the men came to carry the stuff to the boat. It was packed in baskets mostly, and the men sling one basket from each end of a bamboo pole and carry them down. They charged us for 18 carries, which means 36 "heads" (a head is the burden on one end) but they cheated us because when all was on the boat there were only 33 heads. We were too busy to count the

carries when they start so they cheated
so that much. But it only 50 Mex a carry
so what we lost was $7\frac{1}{2}$¢ Mex or $3\frac{3}{4}$¢ U.S.
so it won't break us.

That stuff was all put on a boat,
and our servants took it across and put
it on the Kityang launch with the aid of the
boatmen. Then Dr Z came over later in
another boat, counted the head, and finally
decided that our stuff was there even if we
couldn't make 36 load of it. At noon the
launch started and at about 3.30 or 4
we got to Kityang where we transferred
our stuff to Hakka boats on which to
travel to Wukingfu. Total cost so far.

Carries 18 × 5 =	90	
1st Boat	1.50	It rained on
2nd — "	.15	the way up.
Launch	1.25	and after we
	2.30	got there so

in transferring the goods Dr Lesher and
I got good and wet, but by the time
we were ready to go to supper we were
dry. ~~I should~~ The women went right
over to Dr Bethe Bacon's house and had tea
and we all had supper there at 6.30.
Then we presently started off again.
Boat 1. Dr Lesher and Mrs Lesher and
Isabel about 4; and most of Dr
Lesher's stuff. Boat 2. Dr Stirling and
most of our stuff. Boat 3. Dr Mitchell
Scott and a nurse from the Basel
Mission who happened to get in at
Kityang that day and was anxious to
get to Wukingfu. So we took her
along; also the nurse's companion (a
Hakka woman) and her baggage. Dr
Mildred's baggage and Mr Ashmore's
food supplies. The Leshers are to live
with the Ashmores; the Ashmores can't
come up till rice harvest time when
coolie hire is double — also several others
will be coming then so carriers will
be hard to get. Pa they sent their
stuff along now. That is one reason why
we were glad to come now — so at

get here before the expensive time.
Boat #. Our Chinese teacher and
his wife and child. The amah who
takes care of Mable Lesher. and their
baggage and the overflow
Lesher's and ours. We travelled
part of the night and all day to
Peachtree Junction at 4 P.M. Here the
Eng Preshs have a mission and they
are mighty fine and hospitable. They
invited us all to supper. and also
helped about arranging carriers etc
and the women stayed with them all
night but Lesher and I slept on
the boat to be ready about the
baggage the next day. Boat fare #4.
paid after the baggage is all out.

Sat AM just about daylight we
got up and at. Then began arranging
carriers. Each load must be not
over 53 lbs. and you have them
just 50 it saves possible wangling.
If the thing is big and awkward it
is hard to carry over the mountain
so it has to be lighter. We got the
stuff off finally. Then went up to
the Mission where the women
had already had breakfast and
the chairs were ready. So we started
about 7. or 7:30 and got here about
noon. Approximate cost of chair
for me (5 men) is $1.75 for 2 $1.16
and about ~~at~~ 50¢ per carry. ~~I forget whether I had~~ I had 17½
carries. You can figure up the cost.

We have been busy as can be
ever since getting settled. Lottie wants
me to say that she has been too busy
to write this week and I can vouch
for it. Please send this on to Rockport
after you have read it. and then if
you wish ask them to send back.

This is only an outline
of the trip I'll send the details
later. Must close this now to send

it back by someone who is going down to Wukinfu to morrow. Mail service here isn't so good as at Swatow. so please don't be troubled if letters are irregular

Lots of love

Ellison

Rockport
Bridgewater
Northampton

C. B. Bills
Bar Harbor
Mrs Dana-Robbins
Utica
N.Y.
976
Greece et.

Will Rockport please add names. Bartholomews do not need it. Return to Holyoke

Thaiyong, via Swatow, July 10, 1914

Dear Mother;

The most interesting thing, to me, that has happened recently, is in connection with our cook, so I guess I will tell you about it first. He is Mr. Page's cook, and came to us with the house, and Page expects to have him back when he returns, and we are glad that we had an experienced cook to keep house for us while we were green. He is an old man, and has been cook on the compound for years, and is a very good cook indeed; as for his honesty, that is the subject of an essay.

The Chinese look at the matter of graft differently from what we do. Their political system is built on graft, pure and simple. The magistrates recieve only a nominal salary, and have to make up the rest of their high cost of living out of perquisites; these include fees and bribes, and in general the man with the most money can be sure of the verdict. That perhaps is enough for me to say about that; I merely mention it to show that graft isn't a word of reproach with them as it is with us. Again, their whole system of commerce is built on the plan that money doesn't pass thro a man's hands without a little sticking to the palm. Most foreigners call that "squeeze". I prefer to call it commission; everyone recognizes the custom, expects to receive, and expects to pay, the commissi

Now our cooks do all our buying for us. They go across the bay, go around to the shops, buy to best advantage, and free the housewife from an infinite amount of such work, which she could hardly do at all. They charge, so we suppose, a commission on every purchase, and after charging the commission, we get the stuff a great deal cheaper than we could buy it ourselves in the market. I don't object to paying a commission; I look on it in the same light as buying your tickets from Cook instead from the company; we get the stuff as cheap, or cheaper, and if the other fellow makes a little for his trouble, I don't object.

Now our cook, A Un, has a reputation for being the heaviest grafter

on the compound. Page had a great deal of trouble with him. Page is a man who believes in economy, and not allowing any little leaks at all, and when his cook got too much commission, it distressed Page. So finally it worked out that Page kept so strict account of what the cook used that sometimes it interfered with the excellence of the housekeeping. We didn't want to have that effect so we let the cook have a much freer rein. It isn't easy to learn exactly how things ought to go, but as Lottie would learn where things were too expensive she would call the cook's attention to them and after that things would be chaeper, or else wouldn't go so fast. As soon as he found she knew that certain things were illegitimate, he would quit doing them. But he must have made money fast on us the first few months. At a rough guess, he may have made five dollars a month; I don't suppose it was more than that; but his salary is nine dollars a month, and is considered a g od amount, in fact very good wages indeed. And as the equivalent of $2.50 U.S. a month wouldn't break us, we didn't think it worth while to waste too much time going into controlling the cook.

But when we got up here things were different. For one thing the house is so small that I was brought into intimate cont act with the housekeeping. Again at Kakchieh we were more or less carrying on the regime to which the cook was accustomed under Page. It was new to us, and it took us some time to get used to the way things ought to be. But here we immediately set up new arrangements, and had something to say about them.

Well, it didn't take long to find out that our cook was working against us. It is his duty to make all arrangements about household matters, and to make them to our best advantage, getting his commission out of the matter either by agreement with the tradesmen, etc., or by a slight increase in the charge he makes to us; there is no objection to that. But for him to cospire with these Hakka to cheat us is a different proposition; and that is exactly what he has been doing.

One of the first thing to do is to hire someone to carry water for us.

Now the cook has been here several times, and he knows perfectly well that he ought to have made a bargain for about five cash a carry for driver to be used in cooking and washing, and somewhat more for spring water to drink. But he simply called the wife of Page's caretaker, which gentleman is one of the biggest rascals around here, and didn't make any bargain at all, and wouldn't until we simply insisted, after about ten days; and then he said that the woman wanted two and a half dollars a month. At the proper rate, one and a half would be high pay. But the game was to let the matter slide until there was a good big sum due her, and then refuse to accept the right sum due in payment. Then one of the missionaries says that if we fired her and got someone else for the work, her family would persecute the "scab", on the ground that this was their job and we had no right to give it to anyone else. Now that sounds like labor union methods, but there is a real difference. The price that others pay is liberal wages, vastly higher than they can get in any other way, and they are very happy to get the job for that price, unless they think that they can cheat or bully the foreign devil into paying much more; and that is all that we object. It wouldn't break me into paying a dollar extra a month; but I do object to have my cook enter into a conspiracy with some Hakkas to cheat me out of a dollar or more a month. That matter isn't adjusted yet, but I will carry the water myself before I'll let their scheme work.

A man came around to Mrs. Lesher's house selling pineapples, and wanted 12 cents a piece. She refused, and later he came around and was glad to sell them for 8. The man came around to my cook, and sold for 13 cents. The cook probably made three or four cents off that arrangement; I would be glad to give him a nickel if he needed it, but I don't like to be cheated out of money so obviously as that. If the cook had agreed to give 12 cents only, that would have showed that he was no good bargainer at all; the extra cent proves that it was dishonest, and all the talk about commissions can't overshadow that; because the cooks isn't so green

as not to know what those pineapples are worth.

Then he and the chicken seller, who is another rascal, hatched out another scheme. The cook came to me and said that the man wanted the pay for his work. Now that is the cook's business, to settle with the man, and account for it to Lottie; but he evidently thought he could fool me into paying much more than he would dare to pay. This man had brought up fifteen chickens weighing 44 pounds, and 45 eggs, weighing 5 pounds. Well we pay 50¢ a carry and a carry is about loo lbs, so that figures out at about half a cent a pound, and we ought to pay the man abouttwenty-five cents ~~###~~ for bringing the chickens up from the market. But he contended that it was rice harvest in Wukingfu, which is true, and that therefore labor cost more, which is true, and that therefore he ought to be paid at the rate of 70¢ a carry, which is not true, and that Dr. Stewart, and this one and that one, paide him at that rate, which was a whooping big lie; and my cook backed up every one of his statements, and they both assured me that I could ask anyone, and I would find out that it was so. Also he wanted to be paid for his trouble in hunting around the country for eggs, because you could only buy one here, and two or three there, and it was distressing, which is true, but then that is counted into the price of the eggs, and I knew it, and there was the first statement that I knew was a lie, tho I suspected the others were. Then there was some more question about the rate of exchange, and the cook got some money and gave me a lesson in high finance, to the onvious approval of the cheicken man, and to my complete mystification. So I decided to tell the man to come around in an hour, and I went off to another house to get some facts. So far, I have talked as tho I did it all; actually Lottie was associated with me in part of the work, and what she did was important, but it is simpler to tell it as if I did it myself, so I make this acknowledgment.

Well, I got a goodly number of facts, and when I came back I told the man I would give him twenty-five cents; when he strated in about the rice harvest, I told him that he had no relation to the rice harvest, because

he was not a farmer. What he is, is Dr. Stewart's messenger half the week, and he was in this venture in his spare time; if he were not doing this, he would not be in the fields, and he knew it, and when I told him again a little louder, he knew that I knew it, and withdrew his contention; but he wanted pay for his bother in hunting eggs, until I told him that was his lookout, and then he realized that I knew the custom about that, too, and he said he would be glad to accept twenty-five gents; so I paid him for the carrying. Then we decided topay him for the chickens and eggs, believing that we could make a better bargain than the cook would. We knew he would want to be paid in big dollard (cart wheels) reckoning ten dimes to the dollar, but the custom here is to reckon big dollars as worth elevn dimes. For instance if his bill was $2.20, we would pay him either 22 dimes or two big dollars. What he would ask for would be two big dollars and two dimes, and if he could get away with it he would be twenty- cents in. He had succeeded in doing it before.

We didn't have enough dimes to pay him all in dimes, so we counted out five dollard, that is fifty dimes, and I kept the big dollars concealed. When all was ready we went in, and Lottie counted out ten dimes and said one dollar, anohter and said two dollars.I figured that he would probably accept that, and he did, with a protest, which I overruled. Then it was a simple matter for me to hand out the big dollars, saying, "One dollar, and one dime; two dollars and two dimes, etc." Then when he had all the money in his hand and wanted to protest again I told him if he liked it all right; if not he could sell someone else his chickens; we hadn't gone into the question of the price, because we felt we could have a better chanceof maintaining our contention if we simply refused to be cheated in these obvious ways; and as the man was undoubtedly getting a very fat price for his chickens, he didn't want to call off the bargain.

Well, Lottie and I went off to our room, and had a quiet little celebration; that was the first time we had really succeeded in beating the cook, and I haven't got over feeling good about it yet. Then presently

I went after him about the charcoal. That is one of the hardest things to control. They can carry a little home here and there, or hide and sell it over again, or use it for their own cooking, so most of use simply try to keep the bills from becoming excessive, and that is all Lottie and I try to do. But they have a special scheme that they work on the newcomers here at Thaiyong, and our cook was going to work it on us. Mrs. Stewart told my how they tried to do her, so I'll repeat it. Her boy simply told her that there was no definite price agreed on for the charcaol,and let the matter run till another family moved to Thaiyong. Then her told her that Mrs. M. was happy to pay such and such a price, and would she be willing to. No, she said, she wouldn't pay any such price, and she wrote down to Wukingfu to her own cook to find out what the proper price ought to be, and paid that. And her boy was so mad that she wouldn't take his word when he lied to her, that her persecuted her all the rest of the summer. Lovely situation. So I simply told the cook that he <u>must</u> get a definite price, and if he bought any more charcoal before doing so he would have to pay for it himself. Also that other people could get 87 catties for a dollar, and he mustn't let himself be cheated. While doing this I found out where he got his charcoal and a few minutes later a woman who had been getting her charcoal from the same man said that her cook told her this man was cheating her three catties; that if you went elsewhere you could get 90 catties for a dollar. So I told the cook and exhorted him not to let the man cheat him. The next day he told me that he had reckoned with the man at 87 catties, but that the man wanted to be paid in big dollars. We figured it out and the cook's arithmeti is correct, but we doubt his contention for the big dollars, so that will constitute a further subject of inquiry.

I was pretty much distressed about all this for a while. I thought for quite a while that I would have to have a big talk with the cook and tell him that unless he would work for my interests instead of against them I would have to geta new cook. But of course I might have to, and it would

be very inconvenient. Still I had made up my mind to talk to him on Monday, and all the morning I was waiting for a time later in the day when there wouldn't be any Chinese around to hear. This came up right after dinner, and at first I was sorry, because it would postpone my talk, and I wanted to get it out of my system. But the results of the incident were so good that just now I am inclined to think that the cook will take the hint without the big talk that seemed for a while to be necessary.

Well, is that too much about one poor old Chinaman? I was going to write to you last Saturday, but we had compnay most of the day; I don't like to work the machine on Sunday, and Monday was largely taken up with this incident; Tuesday the table was being used for ####### ironing; but to-day, when I had made up my mind that I would take some time for a letter, whether or no, the teacher didn't come. So when I saw he was late, I started this le letter and as he hasn't yet appeared, I have been able to continue.

I hope you had a pleasant Fourth. We were awakened by fire crackers. We had compnay in the morning, and had quite a nice talk; in the afternoon we had more comnapny and they stayed longer, and we had the Giffin's graphophone going most of the time. That is lots of company. They say that last year there wasn't a scrap of music, so this year people resolved apparently to do better; because Mrs. Worley also brought her graphophone, and at one of the E.P. houses they have an Estey folding, an concertina, and a graphophone. The conertina played the air for us at church on Sunday and was a big help.

They have service in Hakka at the chapel on Sunday morning, and I go for the example, and also to see how much I can understand. Then at 5. they have English service at which the missionaries take turns in preaching. The singing at Hakka service, led by a Hakka, is the worst I ever heard; at the other, led by a man with a good voice, and the concertina, it is pretty good. I have to preach next Sunday, and if they don't put up someone else to lead the singing it is likely to be almost as bad as the Hakka singing.

I am sorry most of this is carbon. But I the took one copy to send the Bartholomews, and she happened to get your original copy yet noticing any difference. She had taken it down. so I left her take all but this page (one)

I wrote this some days ago. but there has been no chance to send it since then. did I tell you that I lost that nice little knife that Lo the gave me for my last birthday; it went while on the boat. that fine big one with 2 blades + screwdriver + corkscrew + leather punch I lost on a trip so I was knifeless and have been using Lt's baby pearl knife to sharpen my pencils

But Al Lesher has come up and he brought me a new knife with the above supply of blades and also a corkscrew and a fixture for a string. So now I'm going to keep the knife tied to myself and hope I don't lose it. But it's only about $1.05 net so I'm afraid the blades aren't especially good. They usually are not in such knives but the one I lost happened to have very good blades.

I preached in Eng this afternoon. The various missionaries take turns, and it means about once each. I had my usual experience of spending the week pondering on a subject and then on Sat finding it necessary to choose a new subject because the old one wouldn't develop. There were 24 English speaking people (counting 6 children of various ages) and 6 Chinese.

We have at last got messenger service started so I expect we shall be able both to receive and send mail regularly. You see by the time you receive this you will have begun to suspect that there was no new summer address & probably neglected to mention it. I'm sorry. I hope you are having as nice a summer as we are. With lots of love to my dear mother

Ellison

Love from Lottie.
Your letters are all so good!
We enjoy them.

Thaiyong, via ~~Swatow~~, July 25, 1914.

Dear Mother;

The summer goes on apace, and in just about a week more Lottie will be free from her housekeeping responsibilities, also from class work, and I imagine that she will be very glad. We have certainly had quite a time with the house affiars, but I think they are about settled now. I tiold you about how the cook had been conspiring with all the rascals that he could find to cheat us; but after we had successfully resisted one or two attempts he decided that that course wasn't worth while. He found that we knew how to get at the matter; and every time that we refused to accept his testimony and istead went and asked someone else he lost some face, and when we settled the matteron some basis other than the one he advocated he lost some more face; and to a chinese the loss of face is as important as the loss of the money that he expected to make off us. So some time ago everything seemed to be all right except the question of water carrying. That woman who carried for us for a while agreed to carry for our price, $1.50 and did so for about two days, and then demanded $2. a month, which we firmly refused, and we don't ever intend to hire her again. The boys whom I offered the chance to earn that extra also didn't want to. Mrs. Iesher's cook had been sure that he could get us someone, and he is an old enemy of our cook, so he would be very glad to do so; but when he tried he reported that our cook had fixed everybody in the village so that none of them would; I am not sure whether that is so or, whether the family or the woman who had carried for us had intimidated them but I think probably one or the other is the case. In the meantime all the servants had been carrying water without being asked to, for several days, even the old cook doing his share, which look strange to me. The situationwas that I offered a certain price which I am sure is fair, and told the cook to get someone for that price; he said that on one was willing to carry for that price, but made no effort to find out what they would carry for, as he would have done if he had been trying to fix things up for our benefit. Also we wanted to pay so much a

and he said that no one was willing to carry on that basis, but all insisted on being paid so much a month, which I am sure is a lie. So the matter dragged on for several days till finally it came to a head yeaterday, and the cook and I went up to Dr. Ashmore's and asked him to interpret and be arbitrator. The cook stated his side, and all that he said had full consideration. It is a story that sounds pretty good, and would be convincing if he hadn't lied to me so convincingly in the other matters. I didn't state to him my idea of the different ways that he had tried to cheat me, because I was afraid that in the absence of definite proof, and in face of the protestations of innocence that he would be sure to make that I wouldn't make anything by doing so. I am sure that if I had a good loyal cook he could arrange with someone at a reasonable rate per carry, but under the circumstances Dr. Ashmore and I decided that the best we could do was to tell the cook to arrange for our servants to carry at the rate of $2. per mo. If our boy hadn't had such a favorable situation for bargaining when we were arranging for coming up here I could had stipulated that he was to carry our share of the water, and saved all this bother. Another year the prospect of having to hunt up a new servant won't seem quite such a difficult matter, so I guess we shall have to say that all this is part of our experience, learning how to do or not to do things. And we have had to put up with this because we didn't want to get a new cook or a new boy just at vacation time.

When the next week is up our cook goes back to Swatow to take care of our houseand Mrs. Giffin has to wrestle with the question of housekeeping. I wish her better going than we have had, and I guess she will have it, for her servants seem to care for her interests. And I hope that Ours will now that they have tried working against us for a while. The cook seems in a mood to be good now, and if it lasts we shall have a good cook, until Page comes back and wants his cook again. Then we shall have to start in again, but we shall have some experience back of us, and we have two cooks in mind nowone of whom we may be able to get when that time comes.

Thaiyong, via Swatow, July25, 1914.

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K. B. H. Bridgeport Conn. Return finally to Holyoke
7.2.3. Rakaffoil.
E.P.L.
Glen Ridge Bakersfield Thayongyia via Swatow Aug 3. 1914

Dear Mother;

I have been looking over some of your letters and have been quite interested in them. That advertisement of Elmhurst that you sent is on my desk now. folded up so that the picture of our house is all that shows. Except the words LMHURST BEAUTIFU and "Every lot has the appearance of a well-kept lawn." The corners are folded in so as to produce the clipping of words, and I have wondered lots of times how a Chinese who knew a little English would go to work to pronounce Elmhurst (six consonants to one vowel. Yet it is more apt to be reversed eg. hwai (pronounced why) or jiou (joe). Anyway the house looks mighty nice and I am glad to have the picture.

You must have had a big time fixing up the house. I should like to come around and see how it looks now. I wish I could have seen some of the nice clean places that you found. It seems to me that a carpenters plane would be the proper tool to clean most of them. Have you any tenant for the north side yet? I hope you get nice ones who don't lie to their children.

Of course I was interested in the account of F's house party. When we read it L and I reminded each other of the house parties you had for us with "Jule" and with Raymond and Esther. I suppose we told you about being with Jule and her doctor husband in Los A. They are obviously prosperous and happy and are active in the Ch. & S.S. I am glad F had such a good time. Tell her I wish I could have been there. I haven't heard anything about Silver Bay yet. but am looking forward to it.

Am I to understand that you have a vested choir now? How strange it must look does Mr. Lyon wear a gown too? Pretty soon you will be equivalent to a New York church well I guess. Better than a whole lot of them.

Does Joe Bollingwood take the duplex

system with any better grace? I was interested in his complaint that people gave so much for missions etc. that they wasn't enough to pay running expenses. It was just the opposite in Bowlo. The year that we raised our budget for home, foreign & state, besides something for education and generous gifts to the anti-saloon league, was the year that we came to asso. time only a few dollars in debt on salary and with our debt on the church very largely reduced from the previous year. I should be glad to hear that Joe's complaint later turned out to be unfounded.

What is Mr. Dennis's present status? I was very sorry indeed to hear of what was done, as of course I mentioned at the time. How has he been able to get along since? I don't believe you told me how much they reduced his salary. Is there a good chair?

I was interested in your alcohol iron repair. Out here we use charcoal irons and they work very well indeed in the hands of the Chinese. Perhaps we should say they wasted too much time; I don't know. The ladies have tried several charcoal irons without much success. Perhaps the charcoal isn't good. People here use charcoal for all their cooking, they know how to use it, and I suppose it isn't at all for poor quality. It costs something like ½ cent Gold a pound and is light, so we consider it cheap. But it is expensive to the Chinese, and with some cooks is an important source of revenue, either by carrying it home, juggling weights, trading to other cooks for stuff for which they charge their master's money — or other ways that we haven't discovered yet.

You must be tired of trying to get that Xmas magazine settled. Did the letter that was to have settled the matter finally, may have gone astray. I'll say again that my choice was Christian Work & Evangelist: published at Bible House N.Y. And as I wasn't sure of the

price I thought it would be easier for you to order it.

Kodakery. And any similar trick of course is not worth sending, but if a report of Clear Lake Assn. Bull. should come, I should like to see it.

That package that was lost in the mail is still lost so far as we know and likely to stay so.

The ants that we have at Light are white not black. Black ants climb over things and get into the food. White ants eat your house and anything that's in it if you let them. I used to read letters from Africa and get a mental picture of white ants coming along like a swarm of locusts and eating your house almost before you had time to move some of your things out. Our white ants aren't quite like that. They are modest and retiring and shun publicity. If they have to cross ~~all that~~ tile, bronze or anything similar they build a mud tunnel in which to travel. They get into a board and eat out all the soft pieces leaving here and there a hard layer. They will eat along thro the floor then come thro and eat the bottom of the bookcase and then bite holes in your books. That happened to Mr Waters. The ant is small less than half the size of the black ants that are such good company on picnics at home. But be as they are numerous and a succession of little bites will ultimately make quite a hole. Mr Waters' books were not badly damaged. But when Bapen came out as a bachelor he had not enough bookcases so he left books all around on the floor and didn't look out for them. and the white ants nibbled them. Bookworms did a lot of damage to them too. but when the white ants get thro you can hardly notice the bookworm holes.

To guard against white ants use coal dust liberally. and when you find them pour kerosene. They won't

come back till the odor is gone. But the constant vigilance is hard to provide. We have found them three times. Twice they had just got in and hadn't done any damage; once they ate several boards from an old packing case belonging to Page. We have had no trouble with bookworms. With them the only way is to keep them out. When you get a new book put it in quarantine till you are sure it won't develop any worms. And when you find a book infected sweate it till cured. The signs are simple, holes in the middle of the covers close to the binding.

We were interested in Dr Foster's visit. He has a reputation for making hairbreadth connections and taking a long time for meals owing to much conversation. I hadn't understood the situation about Mrs Foster till you wrote but I guess everyone else did. If she can't come back the Board probably won't send him. When he came out a few years ago it was not with the expectation of staying a full term but he was to stay a stipulated number of years. And he has done more than that. He went home last winter for this reason. The faculty of the T.S. is supposed to consist of Fohmore Foster and Waters, but a year or so ago Foster had to be borrowed to fill in the important station at Kutjang. Waters' furlough is next spring for 1½ yrs. Fohmore's a year later. And Foster's would naturally coincide with one of them that would make ½ year when all 3 would be home. And there would be no Theol Sem at all. So they sent Dr. Foster home with the idea that he would be back before that time. But of course if he can't come back that scheme won't be a success.

Mr. Kemp came out without his wife some few years ago against the judgment of the board who have the

fixed policy of not sending back a married man without his wife. But Pang succeeded in putting enough pressure on them to get an exception made. But he has steadily grown worse in health. Till he either had to have his wife for company or go home. Finally it was arranged that he should go home for a rather long summer vacation at his own expense, hoping to bring his wife back. The day he left Swatow he got a cable gram from the Board that his wife would not be able to come and he was requested to wait for letters. But he conducted very well cancel his passage, and anyway his health demanded that he go home either permanently or temporarily so he went. We haven't very accurate news of what happened on the other side. But we think that a day or so after he got home he went to a hospital for an operation and died. He was pretty badly off when he left here all right. Living alone up at Shuochowfu, eating alone constantly, and having a cook who didn't bother to provide suitable food, was bad for him. I don't know whether he had any real disease beside. Anyway he isn't coming back. He need ~~will~~ pressure to get an exception made in his favor, against the policy of the Board. The experience isn't likely to encourage the Board to send other back alone — even tho he has been all right for one term.

I spend a lot of time trying to figure out how our men will be used in the sweet bye and bye. But it is pretty hard to figure out. Here is a little summary of the situation in our district (not counting Hakka district at all) and omitting physicians

Kakchek.
TS. normal staff 3 men
Ashmore furlough spring of 1916
Foster on furlough but assigned to Kityang
Waters. furlough spring of 1915

Academy. normal staff.
Baker just back from furlough.
Page on furlough. will probably return fall
Worley. " " wifey very poor health. but return

Chaoyang. Groesbeck just back from furlough
TK

Kityang. Formerly held by Speaker who is now at Canton. in China Bapt Pub Soc. Foster transferred from TS. but now home on furlough. will be needed for TS if he returns. Groesbeck has charge of his field, and he had charge of Chaoyang field during Groesbeck's furlough. But each field is too for one man to handle and about all Groesbeck can do is the book keeping.

Chaochowfu Normal staff.
Kemp dead
Baker borrowed for Academy at Kakch. during furlough of Page & Worley
Kline to go home on furlough next spring.

Ungkung. Lewis and family. Lewis about to insist (this is confidential) that he must either be supported or transferred to a field where aggressive work is possible.

Reserve. Hilbeth. studying the language
Clayton was to be transferred from Hanyang but was taken sick the day before he was to sail for Swatow, and presently ordered home. Believed to have tuberculosis. not certain whether Swatow climate would be good for it or not.

And (next page)

McGlashan due to sail this fall.

Now here is the pathos of the situation. Due to the fact that mission work has to be done on such a cumbersome basis. Lingkung is precisely the one field where at present the people are glad to receive the gospel and it is the field that has the poorest chance of being worked aggressively of all the fields in our district. Here is where the doctors come in. Of course there is a hospital at Kakoheh, there is a splendid one at Kebyang, at Shaoyang are the Leshers both physicians getting their work nicely started and they have just finished building a house. At Shaochowfu we have no physician at hospital. but the physician who is on furlough naturally belongs there and we are deep in negotiations with the English Presbyterians for union medical work at Shaochowfu. With so many old missionaries on both sides it hasn't been easy to arrange even this, which we are hoping will lead to more complete union. If I back out there would be a calamity.

And yet the farthest of these is only about 3 hours easy travel from a hospital. Whereas Lingkung is reached only by a very unsatisfactory launch which goes up one day and down the next. Miss Withers a nurse is running an informal dispensary and treating more patients than the Shaoyang doctors and getting more spiritual results from her dispensary than any other missionary in the district is getting but the women's board won't let her go back there when she returns from furlough (for reasons that are probably sufficient) and our Board won't start any new work till the old is put on an adequate basis. So that leaves out Lingkung. for Miss Withers work is considered evangelistic not medical.

So there you are. The existing hospitals are desperately in need of being put on a better basis and the Leaders at Chaoyang do need a hospital for their work. And if they were transferred to Ping Lung there is no telling but what by the time they got as well established at Pinking as they are now at Chaoyang, the opportunity at Chaoyang may be far greater. It takes a doctor a long time to get started and overcome inertia superstition & lack of confidence. Chaoyang is a very important city while Pingkuang is not much of a place in itself. Chaochowfu is the county seat and has a population of probably over half a million. And the negotiations for union work are well under way. It is hard to see how we could leave there.

Yet here are three places. Pingkuang where a nurse is doing a very successful dispensary work. Chiangning where a man without medical training is having to handle as many surgical and medical cases as his limited knowledge will permit and turn the rest away. And Hopo. where the Christians and non-Christians alike are so anxious to have a hospital that they are willing to — and indeed have raised most of the money.

Pingkuang is the one station in our district that where the people are glad to hear the gospel. Chiangning is the place in all our field where everybody even the officials are in favor of Christianity to an amazing extent. And Hopo is the best opportunity I know for starting a new place of self-support. And the Board won't take any of these opportunities because they can't until the existing work is put on a better basis. And they can't do that with the money at present available. And as for sending another man to Pingkuang. It looks to me as if we shall have to shave mighty close to keep one man at each station for the next few years.

I must go ahead and get this ready to mail now so goodbye with a whole st of love

Ellison

Sign. After reading Holcombe
Rockefeller
Bridgewater

Return finally to Holcombe

Thayongwia Swatow
Aug. 9. 1914

Please send to Rockefeller 8-19- to Br H.O.

Dear Father:

A lot of things have happened lately and several more are likely to happen before it reaches you. Our precedent news is: 1. Austria sent to Servia an ultimatum & Servia 2. Russia began mobilizing. 3. Ger. sent word that they must quit within a certain time or Germany would consider a state of war. Russia engaged in several military moves of varying importance and success. 4. Germany attacked France apparently without declaration of war. 5. Germany entered Luxemburg or Belgium or something contrary to treaty. 6. England wont stand that and is to send out an expeditionary force under Sir John French but apparently England has not declared war. 7. Eng & Fr have declared partial moratoriums & it is rumored that to preserve trade the US has or will admit foreign ships to its registry. That will give you an idea of how much foreign news we get & dont know whether you will consider it surprisingly much or surprisingly little. It came by telegram to the Commissioner of Customs who sent around copies and Baker sent up a copy from Kakchieh. Later the Hong Kong papers ~~complained~~ confirmed but didnt amplify very much and I am afraid that Hong Kong papers will be scarce for a while.

Now for some things that perhaps you dont know from the home papers. (some that you probably do)

1. Mail is likely to be uncertain so don't worry if you dont hear for long times. Our mail ordinarily goes to Hong Kong by the Douglas steamers (English) they have stopped running probably for fear some German boat may take them in. Our mail service now depends on Japanese boat and probably via Shanghai. The English

P.O. sends mail by a Jap boat occasionally and I believe the Chinese P.O. does more often. Chinese mails ought not to be interfered with. altho the means of transportation that carry them over various routes may be interrupted. I suppose that England is probably in the war by this time. If so the Chignak and German lines via Suez may have to quit running for fear of each other's boats. (surmise, of course). As for Siberian mails, I suspect that the war would not make the Russian Government unwilling to carry mail for the Chinese government. but that the service on the Siberian railway is likely to be curtailed. and as Russia seems to be at war with Germany the mails would have hard work getting from St Pet to Boston. As for Vancouver all I know is that the trip of one Empress has been cancelled. I am going to send my letters via Chinese Post route undesignated. and trust them to do the best they can in getting it thru. It looks as tho S F was the likeliest route. That would mean a trip up the coast in a local Jap steamer to Shanghai. connecting with the Pacific Mail or Toyo Kisen Kaisha for S F.; they might connect there by a Seattle or Tacoma line too.

2. Hong Kong is under martial law. and no ships are allowed to go in or out at night. No provisions are allowed to go out. and as we get our foreign stores mostly from HK that is inconvenient for us. Having the Douglas boats stop is also inconvenient. as our natural route out of Sw is via Douglas to HK. But I suppose the Jap boats are running to Hong Kong. So far as I know the Colony authorities haven't forbidden steamers from making

trips. But the Douglas freight is chiefly from HK up; and if they are not allowed to take stuff out of HK there is little profit in running: that is a consideration in addition to the possible fear of capture that I spoke of earlier. Maybe this latter reason is the real one. I suppose HK is preparing for being cut off from the world, and wants to keep everything that is there. ~~If the Kaiser supposed~~

3. Baker says that several German ~~ha~~ steamers have been lingering in Swatow bay afraid to go out. Prices have begun to go up there. Your first aff. went up 30¢ on a $3.50 sack. and has probably gone up more since that news. The merchants are used to getting all their stuff from HK. But when things get adjusted I don't see why it should not. It is possible to get stuff down from Shanghai. Probably it will cost more to live for a while. and I'm afraid prices won't go down as fast as they go up. Usually they don't

4. The question of finance may become a serious one. My account is in a Japanese bank in Sw. and is something over $1.25 per. I don't anticipate any trouble about that. The Bank is a pretty reliable one we think and isn't mixed up with Europe enough to be embarrased. But our mission funds are in the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank at H.K. and there is a possibility that they may be hard to get at. In that case probably arrangements could be made via Shanghai. that isn't bothering us yet.

Altogether our situation isn't bad. The mails are likely to be irregular, food to be more expensive and we may have to make different arrangements about some matters. But altogether I guess we are all right. Maybe as well off as people at home are.

I have written 3 pages of news from here. And Lottie has written 5 pages of answers to home letters, and we have been having a debate as to which was more important. It isn't the first time so I have decided to ask your idea of the matter. I try to write about the interesting things that have happened, and then every time that I have ~~[illegible]~~ leisure, to answer the things you have written about. It isn't as often as I wish because lots of times I keep on writing about things out here until time for the mail to close. Lottie on the other hand, reads over her home letters every time she writes and comments on them all — (I think before she begins to write about things out here usually.) I figure that the comments being 2 or more months old are rather cold, and if they have to wait a week or two would be about as good; whereas, some of the things I want to tell about get crowded out. I have found by experience that they are either omitted or else receive a brief mention in a later letter. Lottie feels that if we don't comment on each letter as it comes we don't keep in touch with the home folks. Would you rather have me keep on in my own way, or change to Lottie's plan?

I was foolish enough to let Lottie read this and she has mutilated and spoiled the neat appearance of the page. She says she usually writes about things out here first. In that case I don't know how she manages to answer that she has time to read and comment on home letters. Her saying 5 weeks is an unwarranted interpolation. But I admit that sometimes commenting gets crowded out more than one week. Lottie says to tell you that she has been scolding me good and hard for not writing you more often. Ask if you think I deserve it

Hanyang via Swatow
Aug 14. 1914

Dear Mother:

I was very much interested in your letter about the Salem & Ice. The Rockport folks sent newspapers about it but I didn't read them very carefully. Your synopsis gave me a better idea than all the rest I heard put together.

I was also glad to hear about the N Bapt Conv. and people here were much interested in your story of Archie Adams. It is a fact that he is brother to our Adams of Hopei and son of the founder of the Central China Mission at Hanyang. By the way I have modified my ideas about Central China quite extensively since I wrote that long letter to you. That letter pretty well expressed the idea of most of the Mission here - only many of them would make it far stronger. But it was because I wasn't able for so many months to get any of the Board's reasons. It seems the Board suspended action to wait for the return of the Judson party. and probably that was OK. but all I had for evidence to confirm the Board's view was a few words from one East China missionary and a short conversation with another. many of whose facts were flatly contradicted by a member of our Mission who has been to Hanyang. But recently the Board has been stating its side and that has called for a restatement of the case which I will make and send you as soon as the last news from Boston is in and digested.

I am glad you met the Page's but I wish you had said what you thought of them. Page is a fine man all right but folks on the field notice certain peculiarities and I wonder whether they are visible at home. Crothmore will be mighty glad to have Page come back and relieve him of the Mission Treasurership which business Page does very efficiently. And Capen will be glad to have Page back at his place in the Sem. That place is being

occupied at present by Baker who is doing well. But Page has had years of experience of it. And Baker is due to go home on furlough next spring.

Thank you for your congratulations about exams. I don't know who the "man following later" is unless it refers to Dr. Newman. We voted to send him to teaching new medical school in Canton. understanding from him that the board had given its approval to such a course (They have already endowed the school) So Dr N. went right down and began to study Cantonese without waiting for the Boards answer, because he was sure it would be favorable. But it looks at present as the the Board wouldn't let him go. He has had quite a history. The mission unanimously voted for him to go to Hopei. but the Board overruled us. affirming one of their policies in opposition to another which we believe to be vastly more important. But the Board doesn't seem to see it. Then we voted him to Canton. believing we were merely carrying out the already expressed wishes of the Board. It looks as if they would overrule us there and Dr N would have to start in this fall. about 10 months behind the game. Who says delay isn't expensive?

Miss Bulley is one we shall all be interested to see. Her parents are dead. We are all speculating as to whether McGlashan will be married when he gets here. but everything points the other way. It makes a mighty important difference about the housing question.

Glad I saw the Rowells on her way back from Silver B. Wish I had been able to see the mother.

I taught English under the auspices of the woman's Bible Training School, about 7 hours a week. It doesn't sound much. but it's a lot

Lovingly Ellison

Thaiyong, via Swatow,

August, 17, 1914.

Dear Father;

We are so well pleased with this room at Thaiyong that we have decided to buy it. It has been on the market for some time. We are sending Mr. Page, who owns it, an offer, accompanied by two other papers, to be used in case he accepts the offer. One is an order on E. S. Butler for $200. U.S. money. The other which is to accompany it, is a note for Mr. Butler to send to you, and reads as follows:

"On receipt of this will you please draw from my account with the People's Savings Bank Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) U.S. money, and send to Mr. E.S.Butler, Boston, to reimburse him for $200. which he has paid out on my account as explained in my letter to you of even date herewith", which letter is this one which I am writing to you now.

Page wants the money, and he would probably accept $100. down, and the balance in instalments with interest. But we think he will be more likely to accept our offer if we show him the most of the purchase price (we are offering him $240.) Compared with renting rooms, to own a room at Thaiyong is a fairly good investment, not gilt edge; but it is becoming increasingly difficult even to rent rooms, and as these rooms suit us better than any others in Thaiyong, and as one summer in Tahiyong is enough to convince us that we don't want to be forced to take chances of Double Island, we have decided to buy while the buying is good. Of course Page may not accept our offer. In that case the above-mentioned document will not reach you. That won't necessarily mean that we didn't buy the room. It may simply mean that we waited to negotiate further with Page when he comes out this fall.

Lovingly Ellison