

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

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**Folder label: ESH to John and Kate Hildreth (parents), primarily from
Chaochowfu**

Dates: 1915 Jan-May

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515063

Chas. Lawfu. Okla
Jan 31, 1960

Dear Mother:

Now that the house is fairly well settled I am going to look over some of your letters that I have had barely time to glance over, and see what calls for an answer. But first let me say that the Christian work and Evangelist has come, and I thank you very very much for it.

I note that the game book which you have mentioned in your letters is the name of a game given us for Xmas which we have had no leisure to examine. You evidently meant to copy it. Doubtless we shall do that. You doubtless know before we did that we have bought the Pappas room which we occupied last year. We had it subleased anyway. We were sure of it for this one year. But we fail to do so now. even tho it is an added responsibility and we may have to pay as much for repairs this year as rent would have amounted to. We shall

I note that for birthday Mary gave you a hammer & the pupstains to have going down for one year appreciate how much that might mean. This is a two story house and oh - the trips I have taken up and down for trifling things put it's nearly settled and we have a wash stand etc installed downstairs in my carpenter shop. so I expect it will be done now. I am glad your steps are to be this saved too.

The letter I have just been reading speaks of Father not having been elected in Nov. I have forgotten what office he was running (or standing) for. I am glad to say a kind of his ticket. The Labor Force here seem say the Progressive Party is about to fall away. Is it so? I hope not.

I should have liked to see what had would happen when a big rain came

If that man had stopped up the brook, just as a scientific matter, but it would be more interesting than pleasant for those who had lived near by. I wonder what the man thought became of the brook water. When I was a child there used to be a swamp that we would go skating on. There in the field, and white violet grew there in that spring.

I was interested to say that you had been coming to play Bonfield. I used to think it was a fine game - a little too fine as it was hard to play saying it - even as a soldier after I got started. Was you ever there at all?

We have enjoyed Wotta and the young lady across the way as well as Jangleland some of the others. Thank you again.

I note that Marion says Helen B. has waited for a cuckoo clock ever since she was 2 years old. I wonder if I shall have to wait that long. When in London I used to say that looking a wife, a cuckoo clock would do more than anything else to make a house homelike!

I am certainly glad to hear you got out of that 10,000 mix-up. You certainly must have had an unhappy time waiting for it to straighten out. I hope you won't have any more such troubles.

Please congratulate F. for me on her fine job of the flat work. Also on the way she handled that B. S. note affair.

E has not had time to finish, and so don't mind me. He began studying to day. Both boys very happy and well. Love's Love's

Please sign just

Return, if possible to M-

Miss Tom's care Blackhawk
Feb 21, 1915

Dear Mother:

This is the first place I have had to work for a good long time. Baker and I got up to have an early start and would work late for service. It is now now and Baker is explaining to an old lady that the earth moves instead of the sun. and to an old man who presented him with two eggs said by his own sons, that they will as important in reality as boughten eggs. I don't believe either one really believed it. Anyway I don't think he needs my help so I'm going to write to you.

Father told me I was gone on the hunt. I got back Mid noon and also being grey as can be seen since. The house was badly unsettled after the workmen would quit in spite of all that hard work. I got out of it and I don't what I cared about getting it. The principal thing to was to hang the pictures and it certainly takes a lot of time to put in the screw caps and to screw and cover the proper places. The difficulty is to get the different pictures into the proper relation - but I suppose you know all about that already. In this climate we can't see the faded picture well that is used at home because the thin rays strands rust things so easily. So I bought common wire. It isn't quite as easy to handle but it is strong and safe. I paid 25¢ for a coil and after fixing all the pictures I have a lot left as it put too expensive.

Yesterday afternoon I took a picture out of its frame and replaced it by a picture of Father's father which was my Uncle present to him. The original picture was brown and of course the frame matched it and it didn't look so good with the new picture which was black. So I colored the frame with a brush and of course is of course used with a brush. I took some time to do the work - but when done it looked mighty nice. I am going to replace the rest to

that original picture by a picture of the
Gotholow family which came a while ago.

I could have got lots of time to work
in the evening. If it hadn't had company
But Mr. Bayle, the Baron and Mrs. Kattlett
came along with me from Szeged
where they had been visiting and stayed till
Sat. PM. Sat. Noon Miss Traver and Miss
Jolly came to stay till 9 o'clock and with
them a husband and a poor lady who
were going back on the next train. So we
had to get busy giving them a chance to see
the sights. Mr. Baker took them around
the city, and I went over to the station to
see that they got off all right. That all
means that my evening was combined
household have had company to entertain
whether by conversation, music or games. We
played Rook twice with thanks to the guests
of the game.

The arrangement a good long time back
was that the Aunt was to be from
Szeged South under the leadership
of Mr. Baker, and the wife was to con-
stitute a house party at Szeged but
they fell out. The Pages about were
in trouble. Baker had to go to Szeged
on business, and his wife with
two children wouldn't go anyway! Mrs. de
Braham who has two children is helping
run a school for European children
in Keszthely and felt she couldn't
leave. Or less had to stay at the hospital
because the next man is up.
went to Szeged to a Medical Association
Baker felt she couldn't leave her
house. So I and Miss Medescher
and I were all that was left, and no
women. When they finally found that
the world was done they sent in
back to Keszthely and I myself
succeeded in getting both women to come
and visit soon. They had already promised
to come to Szeged and visit again. The Aunt

went down. So when I got back to Shanghai I found that the next day they were planning to go to Szechwan. I persuaded them to try on the same train with me, as I had Company and help with my baggage. We enjoyed that visit very much. I had guessed the more because it was a real visit, the first one Mr. Bacon has made in the 4 or 5 years she has been in China. Previously they went she has made had led some business as a worker or agent, but this was really a visit.

My boy when I started to take on the train wanted to go off and get married so I told him to go to Shanghai with me and look for out for my baggage and then set him go. He wanted to follow the trip for himself and he's each had a boy and one boy to 2 may be enough. On the return trip (Mrs and had Mr's boy and that was enough. (Bacon continued his trip packing etc) had a 2 rode bicycle and the boy went with the baggage carrier. He was with me the first day but traveled together. The next day he went ahead on a different road and got to Shanghai for a late dinner. But the baggage didn't make such good time. So Mrs. decided to go on and take the boat to Kadeish along. But I decided I could make better time to wait for my baggage. (which really was a cheap deal) Got the boy saw Mrs. start for the boat so the next day Mr. Bacon & Miss Kothcott in chairs with their boy. Mr's boy with his baggage & mine, and I on the wheel stayed for the steamer. Arrived at Swatow we separated baggage and I transferred mine to the ship of Mr. Bacon's boy while I did errands. I had been packing my head to figure out what to do with it, which I stopped. As it was when I started for the station I had my gun on my back. Of the handbag a handbag with a pair of shoes & 2 pairs of pants. And in my hand bag a new pair of pants. And not quite as much time as I needed.

10/12

Friday

I have been trying at various times during the week to get a lot more written but so far haven't been able to. So as Latha has written a letter to the Annie I guess I'll just send this along. I'm sorry it has been so long since I wrote. It has been longer than I realized. But by the time I will have found how busy I've been. And the work is still stacked up ahead.

However I feel well, and the cancer is livable now. With lots of love
Eleanor.

Had not send your letter
about about money to Bridgman

Mon Nov 8 1915

Dear Mother:

There was excitement on the place
yes today, for Mr. Franklin was here, and
didn't mind in writing the letter, wanted
to. So before I say anything else I'll mention
the hope that it be just as Mr. Franklin
did.

I should like to have been able to see the
big fellow today. Your description sounds
attractive.

I was very to see that Mr. P could
was "bad" again. I think Ernest Poulis is
the one I need to get. He is a young man with a
pleasant looking smooth faced square jawed
man. I liked him but didn't know him
very well.

Thank you for writing me about
my statistics. I have found no clubs or
organization of the kind referred to. I
noticed that a good many of the class
have joined one or more. (several in two)
and seem to be proud to put it in the
statistics - another sign of the increasing
aristocratic feeling. I did once mention
that when I was at Anhalt if a man was
to be sent somewhere as a delegate, great
emphasis was always laid on the desirability
of throwing a "representative" man and we all
knew that meant one of the aristocracy.
we could always pick out the 10 or 15%
of the class from whom the man would be
selected.

I am glad you put Ben's Paul (as I
suppose you call) and that the duplex
system was maintained.

May I thank you again for that
comfortable. We certainly have enjoyed
it. This is the topic not on Read but
Curly at 6 P.M. it was 77°. But it was
to usually in the winter. It sometimes
goes below 32 and often down and
chilly. Since we got our stove I usually
have we have had a fire nearly every day.
The Spar is a little fellow some 6 ft high
by 1 ft diameter. It beats up my bed.

we don't mind
of Paul's
of Paul's
of Paul's

with ease, and sends some heat up into
the sitting room. If it is very cold we
can have a grate fire there too. We did
that in the evenings when we had com-
pany and enjoyed it greatly.

I hope we have already thanked
you for the draft, which arrived all
OK and was very welcome.

I suppose it is best to address
our mail Shaochow or Swatow
but any that is sent to Kuchai
or Swatow will get here nearly as
soon. They simply write X on it to
indicate that it belongs to the
Fujian Mission. X mi = Amoy
The Hok

It is quite possible I suppose it loses
half a day in that way. Mail addressed
to Kuchai goes direct. I suppose
someone has told you that the
word is not used here. They say
"county seat" and it is all OK in
the county. In the next county the
same words would mean its seat -
but they would be in a different
county. It is only on the border where
people say I'd like the which
is the Swatow way of saying it.
So we it sounds pronounced
to say "county seat" but I guess
the Chinese are provincial enough
to justify the sound. #
#

The Kuchai Weekly News has
suspended publication but it editor
hope soon to commence the semi-
occasional publication of the
"The Chao-chow Food". Please be
indulgent with the cook.

Thank you several times for the
No. 100 which comes regularly.

I am certainly glad to be able to have it again.

I was interested to know about Leonard Gray and Willie Brown being in the Army. Hope they get thro' all right. I read today that F. Deady, who was at Rochester with me since for Paul Vincent, son the pastor of the 1st Cong Ch of Paris was severely hurt in battle. His father was lying wounded when he heard the news, and I don't know if he died at the front. That is the first personal touch that I have had on the war.

I mentioned Mr Franklin at the head of the letter. He came out here to try to adjust the mental China matter, and is making a visit here as well. He got here probably on last Friday, and Saturday about 2:30 we got a telegram that he was coming to wife. I had some scrambling to do to get the house in shape, shape put up a mosquito net frame, and get away before 4:45 to go to the station to meet him. He had stuff that was to come down the river in a few days, scattered around everywhere, and it was more job to get it out of sight.

Mr Franklin and Mr Dresbach got in on the train all right, and then we found they were bound for Kazing. So they stayed with us and went to ch. Sun AM, and took the night boat for Kazing, arriving 1 P.M. They left Kazing 7 AM and got the 4:45 train at Cape which we also took to come down to Swatow. Conference was set for the evening, but Mr Franklin & Dresbach were delayed in Swatow even longer than we here and it was after 3:00 before we were there supper. Don't had to have a bath before this. It would come round along toward 9 to get there, and we found Dr F. still at the table.

We are staying in Mrs. Bulley's house and eating at Page's, which is next door. The Pages are very well indeed and want to be remembered to you. This is the first we have seen of the Pages since their return.

The local Lhasa matter seems to be
adjusting itself in a way that is better than
at first. Hope the present plan is
to keep a missionary there under the
Szechuan Mission, with the Chinese
working toward self support.

I must close now. It seems
pleasant to hear Kachick again
at Blackhawk in some way.

Lovingly
Lillian

Return to
Halcyon finally

Sand only to J. H.

April 1, 1915

Chaochow via Suatow
China

Dear Mother:

I sent a letter to you, to the P.O. by the cook this afternoon, and when he came back he brought me from you that getting your principal back with 100 % interest, isn't it.

How soon you had that cold. It seems to have been about like the kind I had had and was generous enough to get to me first. No cough, no snot, no fever, no nothing, but a certain sore and a cough. I had given her a good bit of talk for a while but is about all right now. My nose was more than a little sore, as of the throat and a lot of wet handkerchiefs. After my nose began to get sore, I had to get out some of my little handkerchiefs. I now know how many you have had them, and hardly use any one, but I have got lots of comfort out of them, the last few days. Now the whole business is no really joke that I seldom think of it.

You certainly had quite a snow storm. Lots of other that we here had lately have spoken about what a snow made it here. I had my much interest in your story of the boy who fell against a lamp post & cut a pad over his eye. I think it is in England that get the doctor and druggists fees for such accidents are paid for out of the police funds.

Please give my sympathy to Miss Burns. I was surprised to find she had so many relatives. I always think of her and her brother Doyle and Annie Sylvia as Nelly's dear.

I was glad you told me about Richard, and Miss Smith and the prayer meeting testimony. I didn't remember that day well and was glad to hear of it again.

In answer to your questions, I received 2 pairs of S. S. shoes, one high and one

low, and was in hope that I send the
high pair back and ask you to exchange
for a pair of low ones the size which
I trust you received them long ago and
had no trouble about the exchange I shall
be able to wear the pair I didn't send
back but a size with the feet. Thank
you.

I have received the Geo. Mag.
(and the next time the yr work comes
I will look and see if the labels
is arranged.

The furs here never
showed up to my regret. I fear you
ordered a whole group, and the size
is so long they are probably lost. They
may turn up yet. However, please don't do
anything about getting another lot. It was
of good if you do get these. Buffalo
is a very good, don't make any
special taste. It has lots of cream. The
bridge we have to cross is a wooden
bridge at Thaingy. The bridge across the
river at Yeh has huge pillars
45 feet long and about 6 yard square.
Come and have a look at them. The tiny
bridge at the foot of our hill here is also
of granite.

I was interested to hear about so
many who lost their first Ark one.
Gowen's made is the latest who has
mentioned it. We are looking forward
and hoping to have another prospect.
We are all right so far as far as the
back is concerned. But we shall know
better by the end of the week. I hope
Mrs. Fisher is expecting to come up here
and will probably give her another year.
We hope she will report all right to
go ahead.

We are glad to know something
more definite about your plans for
coming out here. I think you are free
in your choice, my personal preference
would be the fall, but I guess it's
better all around for 1917. Zolter
will tell you something about clothes

The excessive heat is all over by the end of October, and the weather is ordinarily cool and clear. Beautiful weather, as a rule, the one can't guarantee it. Then it gets cooler, and by the middle of December it apt to be quite cold, and continue so part of the time from then till sometime in March, when it gets warmer and damper. I guess you can say the warmer the damper, it is apt to be rainy a good bit of the time from now till June. I don't suppose it gets uncomfortably warm till May. Ned Jeffin's father (who came out to visit her this winter, is going to start home in a week or so

I am no expert on world travel but the trip as you lay it out, seems to involve considerable useless mileage. For instance, to see ~~India~~ ^{Italy} on that way back from the ~~Italy~~ ^{Italy} Suez Canal would seem more logical than in the way from England to Liberia. I do not know much about steamship routes so what I say may be incorrect. I simply look at the map and draw that conclusion.

Here's another point. Whether you go to Suez and India on your way out here or on the way back, it seems to me you would be going past there in the summer, and it's warm there in the summer. I imagine Madras has a latitude of about 13° the same as Fardona, in Central America. And lower than most of the Sahara desert. Gblantha is about the same latitude as Swatow, and most of Burma is lower. The Red Sea has a reputation for being very hot and breathless, and the tropic suns like the middle of it. These things suggest to me that you wouldn't enjoy a summer visit to India very much. I suppose you write the Board and get the address

Read paragraph marked with arrow

of pure missionary love from India
and ask their advice on that matter.
If either. If you went from Australia
to Suez you would have to cross the
equator. If you went from Suez to
India you would have to go by Singapore
which is practically on the Equator.

I judge you and father have slightly
different ideas. As to the plan you prefer
then as given, i.e. Mediterranean Italy
Siberia Poland.

→ I didn't read your letter care-
fully enough before commenting on
it. Let me put it out again. Father
suggests 2 alternate plans. 1. Medi-
terranean Italy Siberia China and
home (presumably across the Pacific)
2. Australia India Suez above
3. China & home (presumably both
way across the Pacific)

Of these the first depends some-
what on war conditions. You can find out
better than I can tell you whether Russia
via Italy is sound about or not. You have
a very good limited baggage allowance on the
Siberian railway. A party of 4 would be all
right but a party of three would have to
pay 4 full fares & 4 berth fares to reserve
1 compartment. — or else have them put
another passenger in with you. They are
4 berth compartments and 2 berth compart-
ments. Some of the 2 berth compartments
are reserved for married couples but I think
not all. It is a long trip by railway
much longer than to Hong Kong. You
reduce the sea voyage to a minimum.
across the Atlantic, across the channel,
and down the China coast. The English
sick people always prefer the Siberian

trip. But to them the alternative is via
Red Sea or via America.

If I were in America, and wanted to
come to South China in the fall, and have
a very nice trip I think I should cross
the Pacific. You can't always be sure of
as good weather as we had, to be sure.
But on our trip no day was as bad as
a "comfortable" day on the Atlantic trips
I have taken. You know what the Chinese
trip is and that China coast often is
somewhat similar. But of course all
these jaunts are mercifully short.

I don't think I approve of your
second trip at all i.e. via Suez. for
the reasons I have indicated.

So then between 1 and 3; if you
want to get here quickly, cheaply, and
easily, I should advise you to cross the
Pacific, coming with the missionary party
if possible. If you want to see Bechoh
and put forth a bit of strength and cash
or the way at all right via Suez if
war conditions present.

As for Australia, the same objections
apply as apply to India. You have to cross
the equator to get to Australia. I leave here
when it is getting too hot for you and then
cross the equator seems to me risky. Of
course, if you could get a steamer direct
from Hong Kong to Australia, and have on
board a few Europeans, it would be better. But
if you had to wait a week or so at Singapore
for your steamer (as you often have to do in
going to India, at least) you would probably
think that Singapore was located right
on the equator. Now India missionary
may be a man who has travelled via
Singapore, and can tell you more about
the matter than I can. I have known

Our house is plenty big enough to take in a party of four such as you and Father, APT and B. Here is that upstairs plan. A is our bedroom B the sitting room. C the guest room and D the sewing room. At present C is entirely furnished with Mr. A's kind furniture, and our two brass beds are in C. Also the sewing-machine some trunks - and heaps of house space.



And for guests, my computer shop can be fixed up to make them quite comfortable. A and B have bathrooms. C does at present, but I rather expect that by that time it will be requisitioned as an anal's room. However, all the essentials of a bathroom except the tub can be arranged for in a corner behind a screen and as it all in the family the folks in C can probably get a bath by the way they want it without necessitating anybody.

Don't worry about overcrowding us. We are thankful to have a house that has plenty of room.

Letter is afraid you may have felt badly because she asked for the account. And so I'll explain that Mr. Long has kept account with her parents; and I have pretended to. We've never succeeded in keeping it very accurately. One side I got the balance, and have been making my own way. I have started to pay for every thing I asked you to buy for me but you have been very nice and insisted on calling some a great many things presents instead. I am and have always been very grateful for it all. But I do feel that I ought not to get into the habit of asking you for things; it wouldn't be good for me. And so, with your permission, I'm going to keep account of all the things I ask you to buy and expect to pay for them unless once in a great while you specify that you want a certain thing to be called a gift. Instead of this way you will be giving me heaps of things & more than I deserve!

I was sorry to hear that Guy Beaman was dead. I shall miss him.

Going north for the summer, means of anything going to Prof. Kawahara. That is where our East Asian mission goes for the summer. It is close to Shanghai, and will be there, but whether I shall or not is still a question. It is nearly three months since I wrote you, asking that you try to find rooms. You replied to the letter, but no word since. We are getting a little concerned about the matter but hope it all will be all right.

Please remember me to the Mrs. Pryor. I asked the Finnish company finally to hold up. Frank wrote me a while ago complaining that there had been no divvy. He said the factory had had been set on fire, and if the affair had worked out just back up he didn't see why they couldn't declare a divvy all right.

I was very much interested in George Ingram's record. I suppose he is the one who held across the board for a while. It seems strange for him to be faithful to the church, as all the recollections I have of him is that he was a mean little scamp - worse than Loma. The oldest girls and the towns were my nice. The and I don't see any reason why George and Loma shouldn't outgrow what might be a temporary phase of childhood. What Loma so developed? Are any of them married?

To answer an old question which has already had a more comprehensive answer. I (I think) in charge of the paper work by during Baker's full time, or even for a short time. I would still be reported as "Miserable in charge".

I was interested to know that John Burton was such a rascal. When I knew him he was quite ordinary.

Please thank Fannie for the pictures
which I am returning they are very interesting
I should like to see them and see the
place and buildings and the beautiful
scenery — and the Nature Study Center

It would be well if we
knew ~~what~~ as soon as possible
whether you can come next
winter. On account of ordering
supplies it takes about six
months to get things now, and
we ought to order in May. I think
in order to get things in late
October. So please let us
know as soon as you can
conveniently decide. But if in
May or June you decide to
come I or even later —
don't let the question of
supplies stand in the way.
We could probably take care
of you if we got no home
supplies at all, (only you
might not like the food so
well). And if the supplies
~~are~~ were a month or so extra
you it wouldn't be a serious
affair. If you decide to
come with out sending word in
advance, come ahead, and when
you get to Shanghai or Hong Kong
write me c/o Kih above
Lovingly
Elmer

Please
send
Bridgwater

Choyang
May 2 1955

Dear Mother:

The Bakers have left Choyang
and so have we, but we expect to return
sooner than they do. The chief things of
interest in the last week and commingled
with the two departures. As you doubtless
know, the Bakers leave for a furlough
which is due at this time and which both
needed, because neither one was in very
excellent health, altho both were able to
get along and get their work done - The
being of bottles partly due to the fact
that Mrs Baker is a physician. They
take a boy 3 1/2 years old and a girl nearly
13 which complicated their getting away.
I had ample opportunity to see how they
were getting along because their pre-
parations for an important item of
logs talk. And my feeling is that
when I go home I should like to
pack up and leave behind the things
I have most and sell or give away the
rest. So many things that grow appeal
to me as being a liability rather than an
asset. For instance superfluous books
demand book cases. Extra demands extra
cabinet room. Clothes demand wardrobe room
take clothes boxes etc have to be stored
which demands coal and investment while
you are on the field. and call for packing
and storing when you go home. But when
you try to dispense with them - that
is another question. I envy some of my
Soviet people who bought ready made
with a stove, some pots & pans, and dishes
a table a few chairs, a cook stove
and a bed, a sewing machine, some
tools and bedding, 2 or 3 lamps, a few
books and two feet of book shelf from
But I don't get very far in my efforts
to simplify my own way of living to
that extent. Right on the street, if
one of those men had a working suit
a Sunday suit two pairs of shoes and
a hat. He was equipped. But I have
7 1/2 summer suits, winter wraps, clothes

and it is too little rather than too much. I have two or three times as many Chinese books as some of these people had of literature of every variety including the Bible and the news paper so I am afraid I'll have to continue the teaching life a while longer.

Anyway the Bakers got away and they had to work hard to do it. I told my teacher not to come 9 o'clock P.M. and wed AM and I spent the time helping them. They left one horse at 12 o'clock and had 3 min to spare at the station. Then I came home took a bath and spent the rest of the P.M. resting. I don't know whether the Bakers have had any rest yet or not, but I know they needed it. I was pretty well tired - and I had only watched them work, done easy odd jobs and noted down their instructions.

It was a contrast to Mr. Watess' departure. His wife had gone previously to America with her mother to keep horses and had taken loads of freight, showing him just enough to help Washburn's horse on. He got what he wanted to save into the boxes, and gave me the two keys and that of his chest. The Bakers didn't take any freight and I wouldn't let my horse - maybe they turned over to me, but sitting here in Shanyang I can mentally count up 40.

We had an early dinner and then I went to the station to see them off. Also my teacher, the preacher & wife, the chapel keeper, the young man preacher & teacher, the before school teacher and all her scholars, and others whom I can't remember. And the teacher near our house brought all her stock up to see Baker start. It certainly was nice and it especially had to feel that at this time when we are trying to get into union work with the S.P.

there is such good feeling in our own people
& I don't always happen that the Shikhs
think enough of the Missionary to want
to show with honor that way. And as the
one left in charge I am glad to feel that
things are pretty peaceful - right now
at least.

Theoretically, I ought to be free from
any responsibility ~~well~~ after my trial
exam. But practically I don't suppose
anyone in our mission has ever given
third those two years without having to take
up some form of word. In my case its
a compromise. Lewis is to have charge of
the field, and I am to carry out the
administer the finances, as per present
schedule. That gives me a chance to have
my finger in every pie that looks good to
eat, but any that doesn't seem just fills
along to Lewis. And whereas I can reach
Lewis in a day by boat & vice versa without over-
exertion. So my life is ~~very~~ they
considered as being by distant.

(Laws) (such things as)

My duties are 1. to pay the
preacher and the chapel helper 2. to
administer the Folds Support part of
the churches (there is an ordained
Shikhs who can serve part of them and
there are only 6 churches in all) and
to administer baptism, which is the
fact has never been an arduous responsi-
bility. 3. to see that one half of the
union work is kept up & to play the
organ at the Goby Chapel when I in
there and 4. anything else that may
from time to time be referred to me
The first 4 items are clear. And I
know they will not be burdensome. It
remains to be seen whether the 5th will be
or not. But at any rate when my
trial exam is over six months hence, I
shall have to take that much responsi-
bility. And of those 6 mos. I am likely
to spend 3 or more away from Goby.

So I guess the responsibility won't be too much of an interference with my study.
My prospect of course is that in the fall I shall be assigned to Sifu at least until September - if we return. This financial question is one that troubles me. This year the Board sends out no missionaries new or returning; we shall be able to get along; but if they should repeat it next year, that would make a very embarrassing situation for us. The picture that I painted you some months ago, had been anticipated by closing the missionary, but that's only a temporary expedient, and a bad one at that. For two years now the Board shouldn't hand anyone out east. Haslam and I might find ourselves in charge of the theological seminary and three other things besides us or something equally alarming. Let's hope the church will rally to the Board and prevent any such calamity as that.

As soon as convenient after the Baker's left, Lotta and I came over to Shaoyang for a visit. Lotta was quite miserable just before, moving sickness of what the girl supposed? Would I have had them once or twice already. The treatment is very simple and easy, and I didn't mind her much. But poor Lotta! She hadn't been eating much, and the room got hungry as instead of staying in the interesting place he belonged he came up into her stomach and one night she was busy from 2:00 am coughing him up. So when she found that out she took some medicine and a rest and was much better and now that she is at Shaoyang with pleasant surroundings and doesn't need to think of cooking, she is feeling fine.

Hoping you are the same!
@Lion

Read other part first.
Birds in the Rockport

May 14, 1905

Dear Mother;

It seems a good while since I wrote to you. I don't know just how long it is, so I'll go back some distance. You probably know that the Bakers are good for this time. We had a note from them at Hongkong telling about steamers, and I was much interested. You see we have if British steamers going to Swatow and they are so vastly superior to the Chinese & Japanese that we ignore the latter except in an emergency. We can't count on the latter anyway, but the British troops have a schedule that they adhere to pretty well, and that we can depend on. The 3 big boats run from HK to Sw. & Hong & Foochow, which are a day apart, and it runs so that there are two boats a week north & two South. Swatow usually has 1 in each direction on Sat. one up on Tue and 1 down on Wed. Besides this the Harbin the smallest of the 4 comes up from HK on Sun & Wed and goes back by Mon or Thu. We depend on the latter because she hasn't have the various delays of the Foochow trip. And she has three full days a week between.

Now Baker's boat was to leave HK on 9 noon and he started to leave Sw on Sat. I pointed out to him that sometimes the boat leaves from Foochow on Sat and just stop to call at Swatow at all. In fact we know of one man who was thus disappointed. Then he would have to take the Harbin on Mon and if he caught his boat on 9 noon it would be by 4 hours breadth getting by the furthest marshal in Hongkong and the easiest thing in the world. (By the way his office is out amongst the suburbs which makes a fine fat thing for the rich men, because everyone who wants to leave HK has to call on that & forget it. And it makes lots of traffic.) Baker forgot about the possibility of the boat failing to call. And I had to remind him of it several times and almost insist that he take the Harbin on Thurs. There is the sequel

One of the bigger boats has been ordered to go to Saigon. And the Hainan is therefore transferred to the 4 or 5 low run to take her place, the local trip being abandoned. The Hainan took the Babas down on Thursday and then started for Poohow, as she didn't go down on Monday and the boat down on Sat. didn't call at Suafow. Thus you have the uncertainty of travel set here. It seems foolish to start 5 days ahead of me for a trip that only takes overnight. But it felt the Babas & is so all right.

Will we let the Babas leave here and then we stayed around a couple of days to get things straightened up, and get Lattie to getting better after her worm adventure. By Friday she was feeling pretty well so we went to Kachich, stayed two nights, and went to Chayang in the afternoon. There was nothing conspicuous about the trip on the way to Kachich. In the night, left off drawing work to go out to Mount of Remembrance. We spent the night at Suafow and spent the evening talking with Galt about translation of the Bible — he is translating the Old Testament into our shorthand now. It seems strange that the Bible should first have been translated into the Alibical style which the majority of the people can't understand at all, but it is so. The Wen-Li (or Bunkli as it is pronounced, is our dialect; the phrase simply means literary style) well Wen-Li bears about the same relation to the spoken language that Latin does to French. Just imagine the condition if to name it, there was no written French language. And all the writing had to be done in Latin. It was all in the middle ages of course. In a somewhat similar like case that was about exactly the situation when the missionaries came. In order to put the Bible into any written form all they had to put it into Wen-Li. But then most of their hearers couldn't understand

it, for here as in some other place it has always been (at least up to the present time) the uneducated classes who were most accessible to the gospel. I imagine a full grown Penchuan who had never studied any letters at all, and who wanted to read the Bible. He might learn to read it in his mother tongue when he couldst think of undertaking to learn Latin. I believe people of moderate education might find it easier to understand books written in Chinese than in Latin. So the missionaries went to work to provide a way of writing the vernacular in our dialect. There are two missions. And each followed a different method.

missionary
method

So begin with these are certain words pronounced the same in the Manzi and the vernacular, so you use the appropriate character for such words. Then there are other words that are pronounced differently but ~~not~~ eg. large is tai in Manzi and tai in the vernacular. That is the common word for big is tai. And the character which means large is pronounced tai in Manzi. This is the problem that even a Chinese scholar would admit that if you were going to write the vernacular word tai you would have to use the character which means large. So far so good.

But you find many common and important words of the vernacular have no character for instance the way of saying "where" is to to ho and this is the character in other place.

to represent either -li or ho. wên to say
 何 何 何 but that is an entirely
 何 何 何 different phrase used in
 elegant conversation. Whereas to to ho is
 used by the most uneducated. However we
 Baptists have agreed that when the phrase
 何 何 何 is printed in a vernacular book
 it shall be read and
 understood as to to ho and all our

Gospel Christians understand this, this scheme is really characters of appropriate meaning with altered sound it being understood that when used in the vernacular that is this class of characters always has the altered sound. There is no difficulty about this, because in the acting sound the words fit into their place in the vernacular with which all readers are supposed to be familiar.

The other device to express words that have no proper character is to use characters of similar sound but different meaning. A good example of this is why ni meaning how, or why. We write $\begin{matrix} \text{何} & \text{尼} \\ \text{何} & \text{尼} \end{matrix}$ which

as nearly as you find 何 means to make broadcloth. But that would make no sense. Of course the man is reading out loud, and although his eyes see two characters which mean make broadcloth, his ears hear him say two words that mean "why" and as he gets the idea and after a time or two he gets to recognize the usage as a familiar one.

By one of these means, either using characters of different sound but appropriate meaning, or of different meaning but similar sound, we can express any of the words that have no character of their own. But the English Presbyterians violently object to our scheme. It is, they say, entirely illegitimate use of Chinese characters. A dialect like ours, they say, can't be properly written in native characters and so they use the Roman letters. Their vernacular books are known as Romanized and they would render the above phrase as 何尼 indicating their sound to be 何 and 尼. In times past there used to be a heated controversy between the Western, or the Palmer at East, and the Presbyterian, which included such points as the name for 何 shall we use

Siang ti (all most of the English do) a phrase
which means supreme ruler and is applied to
certain specific idols or statues, but the
Americans do) a word generic phrase
indicating any god, true or false. The
word for baptism shall we say chün-ko
which means the use of dipping, or rather
the use of washing, which is ambiguous -
from such questions to, contrary usage
down to the pronunciation of it, and
whether to use Romanized, or Chinese
characters. The Romanized is quicker to
learn, but not so easy to understand for
you have to depend on your ear to tell
from which of several words having the
same sound, is the one in question.
Our system has one great advantage
that it helps a man to learn wán-ti
because he already has learned some of
the characters and their meanings. It might
be noted that some of the scholars in
the Presbyterian schools are very much
dissatisfied with Romanized and prefer
our method; and that some are glad to
learn Romanized. I had an interesting
experience the other day. Someone had
written my boy a letter in Romanized and
he couldn't read it all, so he asked me
to read it. I read it very poorly because
it was illegibly written. And of that
subject of the letter hadn't been mentioned
in the first sentence I should have been
entirely his to do. As it was I could barely
get the drift. But the boy listening to
my poor reading understood it all.
That is one of the strange things about
the language. It is so beautifully
adapted to be ambiguous. And yet the
Chinese understand it so well.

About that exam. My residence in
Lepa has a bearing on an important
and unpleasant phase of mission history.
Old Mr. Holmore, evidently was a very tall
man to get along with. Like some other
people he was bound to have his own
way and he apparently was more furious
and aggressive than anyone else. He
that about May. Old Mr. Holmore was
the man who bought the site of the
Kakchich compound. It is a beautiful
place to live, and ~~it~~ we have lots
of room, and the English Presbyterians
on the other side are crowded in
their compound and have no room to
expand ~~but~~ they can reach the
Chinese readily and we have to cross
the bay to do so. So there are arguments
in favor of both locations. Mr. A. was
seriously criticized by some people for
buying so far away, and unfairly
criticized for buying such valuable
land and so much of it. The complete
answer is that the land in Kakchich
was all he could buy, and that it was
almost worthless, and he could buy all
he wanted for next to nothing. It
seems as though the matter might have
been allowed to rest there but it wasn't.
Evidently the Holmores thought it
necessary to bolster up the above
argument by proving that Kakchich
was a better place anyway, and that
even if we could get an equally good
place in Swatow, we would do
better to stay in Kakchich. And that is
all right for they undoubtedly
believe it to be true. But here is
where the trouble comes. A lot of us
believe that Kakchich is not a good
place for a theological Seminary. It
is so far from Suifu that the
men don't get the chance for practical
work that they ought to have. And
every once in a while something is

said about the desirability of moving
the first sem to Swatow or Chaochow
now that is a question to be discussed
strictly on its merits. But instead of
doing this the Ashmores regard any such
suggestion as a reflection on the old
U.S. and with some heat begin to
demonstrate again that U.S. had to
buy in K. or not at all. And that K
is the ideal place for a mission com-
pound, entirely ignoring the fact that
these two points are different from the
question of where the U.S. can best be
located. (By the way old U.S. gave
the money to build the present missionary
building, which is named for him &
a fine sample of the best kind.)
This all has happened so many times
that nowadays one has only to mention
that Khabich has some disadvantage
and Mrs Ashmore immediately begins
a heated demonstration of the old question
and Mr Ashmore feels just as strongly
about it.

For some reason neither one has
ever had much use for Chaochow
and they suspect have given especially
to have work stopped there entirely
during Baba's absence. They had a
new idea now, which is strongly recent,
that Khabich is the ideal place to
study the language. It has happened
to be so now, because all the good
language teachers that are available
had been concentrated there. The
most expensive one is a Chaochow
man who would be glad to come back
here but they keep him down there.
And then say Khabich is the place
to study the language because of
the U.S. and the other good teachers
at there. That is the reason why the
language committee put a veto on
that Mr Ashmore coming here. But

for many reasons Kachchil has many
the advantages as a place to learn
the language and my present belief
is that ~~Washore~~ is the better place
Chachil

Now here is where my opinion
comes in. When the reference com-
mittee was acting on my coming
up here. Mr. Ashmore announced the
vote of the language committee on
the Washore side coming and put before
on proposition by saying that if I
didn't do well in my next exam they
might vote again. (at any language
examinations come at here (an indefinable
position but I'm not in a position to
contest it))

Now out of the 6 months that I
have been supposed to spend in pre-
paring for the exam, I have only
been able to put in about 3 in
study, and my exam in Washore
showed it. But Washore is dead study
like Latin. My spoken language was
all right and it is by the test of the
spoken language that they decide
whether a place is good to learn the
language or not. So they can't see
my failure to condemn Washore. That
is why I was glad the exam went
as it did.

the process to—do you know what was going to take place? And when we see the realization of their vision. Thus it is this light which we must strive to seek, for it is greater than any other. The light is of many kinds—of the sun of the eye, of the intellect, of the guidance. This light is the supreme light, the omniscient reality which comprehends everything. The holy spirit is encompassing and surrounding all. The Christ is the central pole of the holy spirit. The holy spirit is the only power which will ultimately unite and harmonize the souls of men and nations of the world.

"The soul can receive and feel the love of God. Spiritual education consists in the purification of the vessel of dense morality and promotes high thoughts. This spiritual education is made possible through the power of the holy spirit. An ignorant man, filled with the holy spirit, is powerful. He who is educated by the holy spirit can in his turn educate others in the same spirit. The life and morals of a spiritual man are in themselves an education to others. Let your thoughts, words, actions, bring life to those around you. Do not think of your own limitations; think only of the power of the holy spirit. He may yet receive divine assistance."

■ One of the profoundest truths of life is thus expressed: "My calamity is my providence; in appearance it is fire and vengeance; in reality it is light and mercy." And again: "Tests are a means by which a soul is measured as to its fitness, and proven out of its own soul. The same test comes again in greater degree, until it is shown that a former weakness has become a strength, and the power to overcome evil has been established."

Mr. Milroy notes that this is an age of new and special spiritual significance. "From the merely partial point of view," he continues, "the age is one of interest, precipitation and intellectualism between different schools of thought, each expressing the spirit of some one definite character of living, and all struggling to impress themselves upon the emerging world-consciousness. A war of minds is now in progress, vastly larger in scope and

Bridges and Rickport

Dear Mother,
Lottie thought that you would be shipping this that described for business to see if there was any news. So I guess I'll write the news first.

While in Shabyang Lottie and I got inoculated against plague which grows after malarial and is a very bad sickness. Lottie was, but she ~~was~~ not only had her condition of trouble her, but also she had to take some anti-sperm medicine. So she was a pretty uncomfortable girl for a few days.

We intended to leave there on Friday and return to Kalgan. Then my exam would be on Sat A.M. and we would either leave Sat P.M. or stay over Sun. Miss Spelman was to go up Mon P.M. to examine schools, and stay with us at Gafe. But instead of that Lottie didn't feel equal to the trip on Fri. So I went to K alone, had my exam and got some war news. And went back to Shaby Sat P.M. I passed the exam; I don't know how well, but I do know this, the committee said that my talking was my best feature and my W. K. Li my weakest, and that I should be greatly as I'll explain presently.

Friday P.M. I heard three of the men talking about the war prospect with considerable interest. I joined in the conversation in a general way and presently found it was no accident. It was upon a practical one; that Japan had sent China an ultimatum insisting on every one of her unreasonable demands and war seemed imminent. That was the first I had heard. I had noticed that afternoon that the premium on Hongkong checks was very low. I should know the reason. I would have

cashed my checks at once, because I
knew the rate wouldn't rise until I
offer the ultimatum expired, and if
war was declared, it might be im-
possible to cash checks at all. But
I didn't know till I got across to
Kahului. So Saturday I had to cash
my checks because I had spent all I
had with me, and was going to have
some heavy expenses soon. And if there
was any possibility of war, I wanted
some extra money on hand. By Sat PM
the rate had gone down half of one
percent, and I had lost about \$1.00
result of not knowing the news. ~~But~~
The ultimatum was the issue on Sat
or Mon. I don't know which. And on
Mon we heard that there was to be no
war, so we were glad. I hope your
people didn't have occasion to
worry about us.

Japan's demands are the most unreasonable
thing I ever heard of. Austria's demands
on Serbia, and Germany's on Belgium
are mild and polite and reasonable by
comparison. Japan needs the best
the thing possible — if our news is
anywhere near reliable — and no
nation seems less in danger of getting
one. Certainly China isn't. The
Chinese, some of them, were en-
thusiastically excited and generously con-
tributed money for a war fund. But
a war with Japan would simply mean
the immediate capture of Peking
for the Chinese can't possibly defend it.
And then I don't know just what
would happen, but it would be
unpleasant. Of course a war would
be exceedingly bad for our mission work.
We are very glad the clouds have blown
over, and I should be quite interested
to learn just what did happen. (How
in fact) they doubtless know all about it
but I've heard I have only heard the matter

mentioned once, and that was to question
me about it.

Will I go back to Chaoyang
and we had a rainy Sunday. Went to
ch in AM. and attended SS. at the
boys school. where Fisher saw
assistant taught Acts in Mandarin.
It was the first lesson and amounted
chiefly to a language lesson. I don't
know how it will be later, and
whether he will be able to make any
real instruction or not. The
man is a splendid fellow, a graduate
of Peking Medical School. He is a
Kaiyang Presbyterian and Fisher got
him the position of one of the
Presbyterian doctors. Why say it
doesn't say to be on good terms
with your sister missions?

Thu. m. Fisher was called out
on a confinement case and I went
along to help. Rather a new experience
for me. Fisher is quite probably a
talented man already yet so soon. They never send
for him except in bad cases where
they have exhausted all Chinese methods
This woman had been in labor more or
less violent for 46 hours. She was
not in pain at all when we went in.
It was her 14th pregnancy; a very
large number for a Chinese woman
and I had been miscarriages. Fisher
and his assistants disinfectated their
hands and made their examination.
The child was alive and needed no
force. So Fisher disinfectated himself
again. The assistant applied the
chloroform. I held the bottom. The
Cantonese and anything else that was
necessary. in fact I handled everything
that wasn't afraid of microbes (and
Fisher handled everything that was.
The child turned out to be a boy
so of course everyone was happy!

He didn't want to cry, and Leake had to
work some time to make him do so, but
finally he consented to do so with con-
siderable force. We went in sedan
chairs in a heavy downpour of
rain, and came back in the same
result of the rain. Next morning
the road was washed out so that we
couldn't reach the launch landing and
had to pay an exorbitant price to be
taken there by boat. Besides paying
the regular price for the charts I got
full mistakes. We managed
to get the things all right, fortunately.

About that Ham (see other letter)

I was glad to see the picture of the
new pastor. Hope he will do well. I hope
to be
from
you?
Hope Annie has a good place for
next year and you have a good cabinet
by this time. Hope Maggie's cold
in her shoulder is better. By this time
your description of K. Mae Pittman's
peachy feeling is very much to the
point. I often had quite a time
with the washing. Hope the "Holly"
hope it won't happen again. Didn't
that use to be called a "foggy"?
How does that re-bonneting thing
have been much interested in that
affair.

I remember to mention
friends of Mr. Hicks
must be of the old school.

Return to the family

Bridge Street

Rockport,

May 25, 1915

Chaochowfu

Dear mother;

We were down at Khabich on Sunday and found that the packages of underwear thank you very much. They came not very long after your letter telling of the difficulty which had change of address necessary. It must be some mistake rule that applies to parcels sent only and probably the reason is this; as I figure it out all the China mail probably goes to Shanghai via U.S. mail (there is a U.S.P.O. at Shanghai) and is then turned over to English mail. So a letter to us here would travel by U.S. mail to Shanghai by mail to Swatow and thence mail to Befu. As a matter they will only dispatch Parcel Post to places in China which have a British Post office. That may guess. It's rather annoying in the to refuse to dispatch things to Befu and Khabich, because the real treaty port where foreigners are allowed to reside is Chaochowfu and not Swatow and the head British Post office is at Khabich and not Swatow. As distinct as it is Jersey City. Never mind we got the things.

While I'm talking about mail I guess I'll relieve my mind about my time with the British P.O. Father had a P.O. order that he wanted cashed, and I undertook to do it on some of my trips to Khabich, which have been rather numerous. Being little from Befu or Shao, it is difficult to get to Khabich much before 11 A.M. and leaving for the train one does not linger on the Khabich side much after 2 P.M. and I see the consul's ordered lunch hour so if I got there just about 12 or maybe a little before, either the consul had left Khabich or he had been faster than mine. If I called

at 2 he hadn't got back from dinner. One afternoon I was able to call as late as 2.30, and the consul had gone to Swatow. So I got discouraged and had the order cancelled by Mrs. Palmer about Monday. Lottie wanted to send a P.O. order to England, and as I had all the morning I was sure I could do it. This time they ran in a holiday on me.

Our trip to Kadehill was due to an urgent invitation which I had to come down and preach at the English chapel. The Presbyterians are responsible for it and our people since I have been in China had never said about being away the Sunday except when convenient. Apparently the folks at Kadehill now felt inclined to take some of the responsibility now - but this week end everyone was the busy. I was too, but I have always felt that the service was worthy of our time and effort in co-operation, so I finally decided to go down, Boat Day to prepare sermon, 1 day (Sat) to go down, 1 day (Sun) to come back, 6.05 (actual travel expense, and a large amount of strength, and the first case of a flu Monday that I've had. Again - the sermon, seeing some people during some shopping, changed for £. I guess it was worth while, but I don't think I would have done it except that I wanted to show how important to consider that English service; I mean - that I do consider it that important, and wanted to put my estimate into action.

Saturday was a fearfully humid day - an awful day to travel. I started to walk to station. Then ran into a bit of rain, my chairman had to wait. It was starting to rain too, so so the chairman said their shop was close & get them to send a chair for me. Lottie says

there was a long delay and she had to work hard to get them to come for me, when we got on the bridge I walked (almost ran) till we caught up with her. I didn't know she had waited, and so we had started a little earlier than usual I thought we were in good time. But when we met the band from the station who had come on the train. I realized we were not in good time. Ladies chair had got way ahead of us so I walked a half for half a mile or so to the station and when we got there the train had already left back from the line and was about to start. Fortunately the boy was with the ticket, so we grabbed various pieces of baggage, rushed for the train and had some 15 or 20 seconds to spare. Reason for this & the connection 1. the day white father chairman was calling my chair 2. the train was about 15 min fast by his watches - and they were actually only about 5 min slow, as we found when we got to Swatow time. It was a close call. I almost forgot to say that I got tired of waiting for the chair, he changed to an old pair of shoes that I brought along to Swatow, and started to walk. I walked 6 feet when I saw the chair coming. On the train I changed back to my good shoes and stockings, to the delight of the Chinese who watched me.

We got to Swatow on time, naturally after such a good start, and I escorted Katie to the boat. Then let her, the boy and the baggage go across while I got a haircut and did various errands. When I got to Kachick I found she had been sick ever since arrival - nausea, of course the only swell case since she left Hong Kong I think it is due to overwork the day before.

and the stifling hot day. The next AM
it was cold and she felt better.
I had brought a white suit & pruned
in but could have worn a pair, &
as well as not. However the only weather
one could prophesy was either hot or
wet, so the white suit was the thing
to plan on, and I just said 'It's all
right to wear it this season, and I
refuse to be troubled about it'.

We were invited out to dinner
with the Mellshams, and to tea
with the Commissioner of Customs.
He and his wife are the leaders of
the community and are also pillars
of the church. They are very nice
indeed to missionaries, and I hope
we appreciate it.

Mellsham is the man who came
out last fall. His wife is the widow
of a former missionary to India,
wife of Chittabam. She was pregnant
when they arrived and is expected
at July. They are going to Malaya!

Well I must close. The shirts
you sent were all right, the drawers
are a little tight but I think they'll
do. Thank you very much.
Ellison

... and so, with no money to pay for
... I had to buy a pair of shoes for
... I had a small amount of money with me
... I had to buy a pair of shoes for
... I had to buy a pair of shoes for
... I had to buy a pair of shoes for
... I had to buy a pair of shoes for
... I had to buy a pair of shoes for