

**Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers**

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**To: Dr. Chamberlin**

**From: Sheffield Cheng, Stephen Chwang,**

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In the hills behind Swanton Aug 9, 1905

Dear Mr. Blumberg:-

When one is away from home a great deal, as I have to be with my present job, which I love, one sometimes misses something important: and that is probably the reason why your very nice Christmas letter never came to my attention till the other day when my wife mentioned that she was answering it.

It is very pleasant to think of your meeting our families, and talking things over with them. I am very glad you will be able to come out here, and hope you will long continue to be a member of the Board. The Board certainly needs to have members who understand the situation as it was, in order to be able to understand the situation as it suddenly now is.

The present outbreak is certainly sudden, but obviously its causes have been preparing a long time. I do not see how there can be any doubt that Red propaganda is stimulating and guiding the present agitation, and that the Russian aim is to eliminate foreign influence in China in order that Russia may become the dominating influence. But Russian agitation could accomplish very little if the grievances did not exist. No one would expect Karakan to admit that the Russians were doing propaganda work; but when Prof Wood asked him if they were, he said "we have no need to do propaganda work in China" The cry that it is all the work of the Bolsheviks is not; but I don't see how any intelligent person can believe that the Russian government would overlook such an opportunity as China affords for hitting a blow at the "capitalist-imperialist power", a situation where all they need to do is tell the facts, interpreting them in their own way; and the Chinese, seeing the undeniable truth of the facts, ~~readily~~ readily believe that the interpretation is true.

There is the rub. The Russians have assiduously told the Chinese that their troubles are due, not to over-population, nor backwardness, nor moral defects, nor to government corrupt from top to bottom, but to foreign

inference. The Chinese liked the sound of this, and decided to believe it. Then the rest was easy. Anybody who does anything against the foreigner is a patriot. No foreign nation looks China except Russia. And the whole panorama of events opens out logically. The Shanghai and other incidents in the north may have been planned in detail by the Reds, or not; perhaps not in detail. But the general plan they undoubtedly had a finger in. The police etc. played right into the hands of the Russians by using violence to suppress the "riots" thus giving the agitators the "murders" they needed as a talking-point for their campaign against the "brutal British." The Canton incident was undoubtedly planned by the Reds, and with consummate cleverness. They had all the student body of Canton, who didn't see the cadets fire the first shot. To testify that the firing was from the foreign concession, and with absolute sincerity. On the principle that the testimony of 100 men who say they didn't see the defendant steal the chicken, and who weren't there when it happened, is not equivalent to the testimony of one man who says he did see the theft, the testimony of all these students is valueless. They are absolutely sincere; but they were not in a position to see what happened. No one knows that the cadets fired the first shots, except those who fired, and those who were party to the plot, and they add their perjury to the honest misinformation of the rest, and make it unanimous. The testimony of the British consul-general is dismissed as not worthy of attention (a pathetic commentary on the Chinese attitude toward the virtue of truthfulness) No Chinese considers that the word of a Britisher is worth listening to; "of course they would talk in favor of their side," and the assumption is that all they say is lies. No Chinese doubts that all the reports in the papers are absolute truth. The papers that have ventured to print anything different from the "official" Chinese version of things have had to apologize and pay heavy fines. And there you are.

To the best information I have, the troops defending the foreign concession at Canton made a

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mistake, the first degree in snuffing the fire of the cadets. They have set themselves down to more-or-less wretched infamy in the minds of the Chinese as blood-thirsty villains, who wantonly massacred an unarmed patriotic procession for no cause except to gratify their lust for murder; and the concession was in no real danger: so far as I can see up the situation, if the whole procession had been armed with the ordinary Chinese military rifle, it would not have been able to capture the concession. The same foreign lives would undoubtedly have been lost; but to think that this island, accessible only by one bridge, heavily guarded by sand bags, and by soldiers armed with machine guns, and with naval vessels close by to add their pop-guns if necessary, was in any real danger from a bunch of cadets armed with rifles, argues a very nervous state of mind on the part of the defenders of the concession.

But one ought to be equally fair, and to say that for anyone to think that after all the trouble that has accrued to foreigners, mostly British, from firing on mobs at Shanghai, Hankow, and elsewhere, to think that the British would fire on a peaceful unarmed procession, without any provocation at all, is utterly absurd. There must have been provocation; and the probability is that it was what the Br. consul-general says it was. It is quite impossible for me to think that a man in his position, not a common rough-neck, but a British gentleman, would deliberately lie on the matter. If it were a matter of veracity, there is no question that the British are a more truthful nation than the Chinese. But it isn't necessary to put it so bluntly as that. To deny the British version of the incident, it is necessary to say that the consul-general is a liar (and doubtless others who corroborate him, tho' they don't get into the papers). To deny the Chinese version it is only necessary to say that the vast majority of the witnesses were not in a position to know what happened.

As they may think they were. and that those who do know the Cadets and others, are under the instruction of Russian Bolshewiks whose attitude toward the truth is quite different from ours, and who also know that the success of their plot depends upon the suppression of the truth as to this incident.

I suspect that the American public is inadequately informed about these cadets, who are students in Whampoa Military Academy, between Canton and Hongkong, who wear red neckties, and take the lead in all the anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist, anti-Christian movements. One of them told Mr. Baker without any secrecy, that the Russian government gave their school a subsidy of \$20,000 per month, on condition that they run the school in a way to please the Russians. These cadets are the main reliance of the communist government at Canton, which is giving all encouragement to the anti-British agitation, and is in rebellion against the Peking government. And then old Karahan, ambassador of Peking blandly denies that Russia is implicated in the present agitation; but tears his hair because a few white Russians, to avoid starvation, have enlisted for some minor Chinese army.

And so it goes. The outlook for settling up the matter is rather dark. If the truth could be known, it would be simpler. But the Chinese, with the exception of a few open-minded men, whose views are probably better known to foreigners than to Chinese, have entered into a conspiracy to suppress anything except what they have agreed to believe, whether the British are any more open-minded, I don't know. I don't see their pin-head Hongkong paper, and have only a few British correspondents, but I fear that all the HK. papers can say is that Britain is being attacked by irresponsible parties and must stand firm. I was much interested to read a Hongkong paper dated June 20th. Out of 20 pages this gave 5 columns to Quater Shamblerlain's speech on China (which is all to the good) and 5 columns to all the news about the troubles in China (in all about 1/10th of the paper; at the same time my Peking paper was giving 1/2 to the matter, and the other half to other news about China and the rest of the

world and advertisements. I don't know how much interest that 1/4 paper takes in the matter now, but I know that one or two people in our mission who take that paper are strongly anti-Chinese.

As I say the outlook is gloomy. Until the Chinese cease to believe that fundamental Russian lie, that all ~~the~~ their troubles are due to foreign domination, I see no hope. And at present, everything seems to be against any such a vision of belief.

One might hope for the church to take a lead. But the church seems to be as definitely the not a violently "patriotic" as the students. In this I think we can hardly blame them; they have undoubtedly clapped a long while under "missionary domination"; now they have been for months under a violent unscrupulous attack from the anti-~~in~~ forces of the foreigners. The natural reaction is to assert their independence of the foreigner, and to maintain that they are as patriotic as anyone else; and the only thing that anyone nowadays will admit to be worthy of the name of patriotism is agitation for freedom from foreign control.

Of course I see, but the Chinese don't, that there are other ways of showing patriotism. If the Chinese shake off occidental control, they will probably find that the little finger of ~~the~~ Russian influence is thicker than etc. and if they have neither occidental nor Russian control (nor Japanese) they will probably have anarchy. Maybe they will have to go through that stage. So it seems much wiser to reform their country, have upright officials and just courts, have their taxes paid instead of conscribed, so that they can pay off their foreign debt etc. Then sooner or later all the things they object to will cure themselves, and China's sovereignty will be as unimpaired as Japan's; also their country will be prosperous. They don't choose to do it that way; they say the treaties were extracted from them by force, and they intend to use a different kind of force to get them abrogated; the foreign nations have no right to dictate the terms on which China can get back her own sovereignty.

It is more or less the same way with the church, which has just declared its independence of the mission. For years now, it could have been independent, any time it produced leaders with the intellectual and moral qualities that are necessary for leadership, and was ready to furnish the necessary effort and money. It has never signified to do it that way. And has now declared its independence, but expects the money to come as usual, and the missionaries to continue at work, but "in advisory capacity".

It is quite clear that many - if not most - of the leaders and practically all of the laity fail to understand what is involved in what they have done. But - whatever we may say about the agitation in the political world - it is our precious privilege as well as duty, to thank the Lord for the present revolution in the church, and make the most of it. For years we have been trying to get the Chinese to take on this burden of managing the work; all the steps that I know of, for Chinese control of the work, have been taken by missionary initiative and often the Chinese were indifferent or worse. Whatever may be the reasons, we have failed to get the Chinese to consider the work as theirs, and to do it in that spirit. Now the Bolsheviki et al. have done this for us. Praise the Lord! Never mind that they haven't understood what is involved; they will find out soon enough; and when they get up against difficulties it is up to us to help them out, or through, and make the independent church a success. In spite of all we can do to help, they will make some failures, which will perhaps show them that the work of managing is harder than they thought it was when they watched the missionaries doing it; in many ways they will be able to do it better than we, which will be a source of gratification. I foresee that one of their great difficulties will be to get the common, or garden variety of Yn to come across with the \$ necessary for their plans; but as I think of it, I am not aware that we have had any conspicuous success by that line - save, but nothing to brag of.

The unanimous testimony of all who write me of the Chinese Convention, which I was unfortunately prevented from attending, is that the attitude of the Chinese toward the missionary was good, and increasingly good as the Convention went on. I can see that the opportunity for "missionary" work is much nowaday with what is practically a war against Great Britain going on, that might possibly take on a wider scope, with a strong anti-Christian campaign, that makes street preaching or undesirable as tending to controversy, and also tending to show that the church is a foreign affair after all, and with the Chinese Christians gradually adjusting themselves to the new status, which they can perhaps better do by themselves. So I don't feel you losing any great opportunity for work by being away in the hills. But the work of the kingdom is going on. God is working his purpose out, the Lord shalleth the wrath of the Bolsheviki to praise him.

On board "President Coolidge",  
Hongkong-bound,  
June 10th, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Hildreth:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 6th, which I was very glad to receive while I was still in New York. I had wanted to write you long before this, but I got busy towards the end of my year there and it was impossible to do so. I am glad to hear how well your children are getting on. It is unbelievable that we have all grown up now. Many a time have I felt like a child still! But in reality I am getting on too.

I am sorry I did not get in touch with you sooner. We might have had a chance to meet again. You will be interested to learn that I was enabled to stay in Great Britain from the end of January to the middle of September last year. The very first home I was privileged to be in was that of Mr. and Mrs. James! In fact I made their home my headquarters while I was there. Towards the end of May, I stayed for over two weeks with them. It was most delightful as you can well imagine. Mr. James is quite white now. Mrs. James is still as active as ever and just as fond of her garden. They have a lovely house with a big garden in Bickley. It was a real pleasure to have such fellowship with them during my stay there. Both Bill and Beth have grown up to be fine persons. You have undoubtedly heard that Bill has gone out to Singapore on Colonial Service and Beth is working in King's College Hospital in London, quite near where her parents are living. It has been delightful to know them too. Altogether I must say that I enjoyed my stay in Great Britain immensely.

As you know, I spent the last eight months in the Union Theological Seminary at New York. I enjoyed my studies very much indeed. I found the intellectual and the spiritual atmosphere both stimulating and helpful. I had what I wanted so much to do - to give an unbroken period of intensive study. I am sure this year will give me the freshness that I so much needed. Of course my experiences at Madras and Amsterdam were invaluable in broadening my horizon.

On my way to the west coast, I was able to stop over at Syracuse to see Dr. and Mrs. G. B. Cressy, at Cleveland to see Dr. E. M. Potent, Jr., and at Bakersfield to see Miss E. G. Traver. I spent two full days with Miss Traver and as you can imagine she did me a lot of good. She is such a beautiful soul. I enjoyed visiting Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon too. At San Francisco I was able to spend one afternoon and evening at the Fair and quite enjoyed it.

Our steamer sailed on the 8th and we expect to be in Hongkong by the 29th. There are lots of old friends and college-mates on board, which will undoubtedly make the trip very pleasant.

My address in China will be: The Church of Christ,  
Wukingfu, Kityang, Kwangtung, South China.

With very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

(Sheffield Chang)

Sunday

10-12 A.M.

3-4 P.M.

6-8 P.M.

Six hours in a week.

Please send me the address of Mr.  
Baker's.

## Weekly Schedule

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.	Sat.	Sun.
ENGLISH	Chinese Composition	Physical Education		Physical Education		Physical Education	
SCIENCE	Chinese Composition		Geography		Geography		Science
MATHS	Algebra	Biology	Algebra	Biology	Algebra	Biology	Religion
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Swimming	Reading	Gymnastics	Reading	Gymnastics	Reading	
CHINESE LITERATURE	Chinese Literature	Chinese Literature	Chinese Literature	Chinese Literature	Chinese Literature		
ARTS	Geography	Thinking - Logic		Thinking - Logic	Relativity		
MUSIC		History	Religion	History	Relativity		

### Textbooks

Biology and Human Welfare (Peabody and Hunt)

Second Book in Algebra (Durrell and Arnold)

Thinking in English (J. Spencer Kennard Jr.)

Human Geography (J. Russell Smith)

Book Two

Sentence Study (Graybill and Caldwell)

Thirty More Famous Stories Retold

(James Baldwin)

Outline of Our Gospel  
Lecture notes, copy

滬江大學  
SHANGHAI COLLEGE

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

Oct. 2. 26.

Dear Mrs. Hildreth:

Did you receive the letter, which I wrote to you two weeks ago. Last Saturday we had a test. It was not very hard. I am studying in the Fourth year Section B of the academy. Our lessons are Biology, Algebra, Geography, Reader, Grammar, History, and Chinese. We have four periods in the Morning and three periods in the afternoon. Assignments and tests give us every day. <sup>So we</sup> We tried our best and studied hard.

I have been told that President White will give me a scholarship about forty dollars a year. Hope this is true. Yesterday one of the Chinese teachers told me about that, and I am going to help the school one hour each day. Hope the family of yours quite well. Remember me to Poo Sin Sei Lim Sin Sei and give

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SHANGHAI CHINA.

greeting to the little friend (Children Church)  
when the Sunday School lesson is over.

Sincerely Yours  
Stephen Chwang

滬江大學  
SHANGHAI COLLEGE

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

Jan. 11. 1927.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hildreth.

Many thanks for your kindest letters. I am pretty well now. Thank God that I am in fine feather and I can work and study as before. This is in my high spirits.

The winter vacation took place yesterday afternoon suddenly. and all of the students start for their homes, without the final examination. Fighting of Kiangsu and Chekiang affected the school authority to do this.

Dr. Polat made his last speech to us last Sunday. The subject <sup>was</sup> "Samson and Riddle". He concluded with the gambling of the Chinese New Year. He told us the gambling of Swatow and Chaochowfu clearly. Perhaps he has been to Chaochowfu one of his New Years.

The Hankow British Settlement has <sup>fallen</sup> into the hand of South Army. (or Canton Troop) The volunteers have been drove out by the mass. Women and Children boarded

ships for Shanghai. I am very sympathetic with them. These are the result of "unequal treaties,"

Last week one of the foreign professors <sup>talked</sup> told us. He said "China not only need the political and industrial revolutions, but also the educational revolution too." He compared the educations of U. S. A., Japan, Philippine Islands and China with his learns. China people only 0.005% received their middle school education (300 hundred only one received education of middle school). He suggested us to be teacher when we graduate. This is one of the ways to save China.

Yesterday I sent you two copies of catalogues. One is in English and the other is in Chinese. They are old ones, but the new ones are not yet come.

School will open again in February 14, 1927. I will keep a sharp lookout for the customs, schools and churches here, and I will shake myself together of steady next year.

I will graduate from Senior middle school  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years more 1927 Feb. - 1928 June. (It means New System)  $\frac{1}{2}$  years in old system. <sup>1927 Feb. - 1928 June</sup> but I think the school will not let me to do this.

校學大江滬  
SHANGHAI COLLEGE

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

I am looking out some positions to do, in here. If so perhaps I will going to graduate in future. I will make this plan in my mind. ~~about~~ If I continue my study then I shall graduate <sup>my college course</sup> in the middle of 1933.

I shall graduate from middle school  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years more  
from 1927 - ~~1924~~ June 1929  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  years more 1927 - June 1928 (old system)  
From college  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years more 1927 - June 1933.

Hope all of you are pretty well.

Sincerely Yours

Stephen Chung

I copy the news this afternoon in  
the back of the paper.

See

Shanghai Times

Canton Committee Rules Hankow

More Refugees Arrive in Shanghai

77 Children Killed in Fire

Cantonese driven Back in Chekiang

North China

Daily News

Riot Pictures from Hankow

Mr. Chen's Cynicism

Amoy

Significant Reply to

Paper's inquiry

April 5, 1928.

Dear Stephen,

Copy

Your letter of Feb. 15- arrived here safely, and I was glad to hear from you and to receive your detailed account of extra expenses. That helps me to understand what extra money is needed.

I am writing to Mr. Nazmith to-day to ask him to talk with you, and to learn your desires and plans.

I am also sending <sup>10.00</sup> U.S. money to Miss Lacey at the Associated Mission Treasurers' rooms which you may call for if you need the money. <sup>ask her to send you</sup> She will change the money into Mexican.

I shall also expect to send you some more in the late summer if you intend to come back.

I have only a portion of the sum of money <sup>needed</sup> for next year, but I will promise to get an amount equal to two hundred and forty dollars Mex. for the school year 1928-1929 if you care to continue and graduate.

I am sending <sup>10.00</sup> Mex. again toward food for your sister Abelia.

How I do hope that you are well, that you are getting on in your work, and that you are getting new vision with your knowledge.

It must seem a long time to spend in preparation, and you must long to be thro with your <sup>study</sup> world of

May 19, 1928.

Dear Mrs. Hildreth.

I received a letter from you last Sunday. I was busy for my lessons this week, and sorry to say that I have been unable to answer sooner. I return you thousand thanks for your kindness and friendly advice. I am very glad to continue my study, but I knew that is hard for you to get the money, isn't it? Your kindness and regard make a strong and lasting impression in my mind. The Chinese proverb says "Do not forget the kindness you have received." Thank you for your kind inquires after my health. My mother, sister and myself remain as well as when I last wrote. I am glad to hear that you are all enjoying good health. With kind regards to your family and circle. Miss Lu Tio Khung desired me to present her best compliments. I have forgotten <sup>to call you this</sup> last letter and hope you will excuse my carelessness. You knew her, aren't you? She has been one of our girl school students many years ago, and now she is the principal of Jis-pu Government Girl School.

China is having terrible time. The bombardment and occupation of Japanese army in Shanghai, more than four thousands have died in the fire, recorded from the local news papers. The Japanese cabinet is sending <sup>more</sup> soldiers into Peking the Chinese old capital by means to stop the unification of China and stationed army in Shan-hai-kwan to against the Chinese soldiers to go to Manchuria. China is do not like to fight with Japanese military but only wish to reason with the Japanese people to ask their conscientiousness to stop the action of Japanese soldiers. The proud

says "where there is might, there is law": "The strong state always right and the weak state always wrong." This is untrue. We know the Heavenly Father will reward the good and punish the wrong: We Christians get up and make the world to be peace.

School will be close in June 23. and reopen September 13. and I wish to go back this summer vacation. Will you kind to send me ~~some~~<sup>some</sup> magazine or news papers which you have read through.

Your very sincerely  
Stephen Chuang.

滬江大學  
SHANGHAI COLLEGE

SHANGHAI, CHINA.

Sept. 29, 1928.

Dear Mr. Hildreth,

I had the pleasure at receiving your favour of July 23, when I came back to school. I am absolutely to express my most grateful acknowledgments for your repeated kindness and further offer of service. I hope to be always able to show you by my good conduct that I am deserving of your kindness.

I had gone up to Mokanshan via Hangchow before I went back to Swatow which Mr. Baker has already wrote you. After I went up to Chaochow from Swatow I have opened a free night school for the poor under the Church, my fellow worker was Mr. Lo. He is one of the teacher and preachers in Kantantung. I like him very much. We made social lectures and phantasmagoria once a week. The hearers below forty. I did not run the Children Church in summer, because hard to catch the children when the schools closed. I made the speeches to our fellow Christians thrice on Sundays. I was glad to do those. My mother and sister are all in the full enjoyment of health and hope all of you are the same.

I have traveled to Jiopsheng, Tsungkhookie, boundary between Fukien and Kwangtung, to see one of my friends there. We passed the vilages, climbed up and down the mountains, tramped through the woods. We obsered the life of the people there. They are uneducated. Their rivers are stony, shallow and rapid. We did not see any cart or boat there. It is about fifty miles (10065) in the northeastern direction of Chaochowfu. I hope God send them some noble and wise men there in the future. educate the people there, teach

them to use the water power to run factories or to make electricity, improve their agricultural methods and daily life.

Miss Lacey sent me \$120 Mexican in September 11, 1924. I paid the school \$112 for fees, the other \$80 I use to buy books. I will write the bill for Miss Lacey soon. I wrote a letter to Mr. Chas to ask some work in the team for me to do in the school to earn some money like last year. I do not know success or not, but hoping and hoping. This is the last year in the academy. Our study is harder than before, we are preparing to graduate. We must study hard.

Mrs. Baker was invited to be the dean in the girl department here, but Mr. Baker went back to Chochonfu two weeks ago. Please give my compliments to your family Mr. Hildreth, Alice, John and your parents.

Very respectfully yours,  
Stephen Chwang.

### School Fees.

Tuition	\$ 48.00	Books
Board	" 29.00	Gordon, Introductory College Chemistry \$ 8.25
Dormitory Expenses and Incidentals	" 12.00	Hawkes, Advanced Algebra \$ 5.25
Athletics, Gymnasium, and Swimming fee	" 3.25	Kniginga, The World's Best Short Stories \$ 1.25
Library fee	" 2.00	Hu, A History of Chinese Literature \$ 9.00
S. S. G. A. fee	" 1.50	Keimer Select Essays \$ 5.00
Lock and Key Deposit	" 2.00	Several books not buy yet
Laundry	" 2.50	Burch, American Economic Life
Room rent	" 5.00	Stement, A History of Japan
Chemistry Lab. Fee	" 7.25	Jeans and Society (second course)
	<hr/>	
	Total \$ 112.00	

Take care of yourself as the season grows colder. I beg you will take good care of yourself.