The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005111

C.W. BINGHAM
2157 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, O.

June 1, 1919

My dear Niece-in-law
Dorothy

Two or three things impel me to write you today. First the letters from Willard Straight published in Scribners you know I never met him but no one can read those letters without feeling that a man like that should not have been cut down in his prime - and especially (from my grandfather standpoint) sorry that you who were so close to him have lost so much - Another reason for ~~writing~~ is that I have that silhouette of your great grandfather promised you - now ready - Please let me know where to send it -

Still another reason is that

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I have heard from time to time of what you are doing to help others - It seems to me you have a realization of the responsibility which ability to help brings - and also that you love to do such things -

This is the spirit which is dominant with my own daughters and I always wish you could know them better - They have recently purchased a large apartment house here and are giving it as a home for working girls - under the care of the Junior League - and they are very happy in doing it -

Perhaps something may bring you out to this Western country - If so remember you have a welcome always from

Your old uncle

L.C.W. Bingham

[6-1-19]

Custom House,

1st. June, 1919. Shanghai, China,

Dear Mrs Straight,

I received some 3 weeks ago a letter from the Inspectorate general of Customs in Peking in which I was invited, at my friend Lewis Bales's suggestion, to assist in providing material for a series of newspaper articles concerning your late husband, Mr. Willard Straight. I was asked to write direct to you, and I therefore do so very gladly in the hope that what I can contribute may be of value in helping to perpetuate the memory of one whom I knew very intimately during his first days in China and always regarded with the greatest esteem.

On joining the Chinese Customs Service in 1903 your husband was first appointed to Nanking where he was sent to study Chinese. The house in which he was quartered was a rambling Chinese "Kung Kwan" of a type possibly known to you - all courtyards and draughty rooms + passages, but picturesque enough, some 8 miles from the Yangtze river where the Custom House was. I had myself spent 8 months there during the previous year, studying the language with eight others among whom was Lewis Bales. The city of Nanking contains probably a bigger area than any other walled city in China. The walls are 22 miles in circuit and distances are great. In those days practically the only houses of European type were those of the missionary community; there were hardly any other foreign residents.

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When your husband arrived I was living with my office colleague in a
hulk moored some 200 yards from the south bank of the river, just below
the port, and I remember well enough the morning (the 8th January, as
I see from an old diary) when your husband arrived. He came direct
to me with a letter of introduction from Yale, his fellow student at Cornell.
and, liking him instinctively and at once, I did what I could to cheer
him up in the first days of his life in Nanking. He found two fellow
students already in "the College" – as we called it – when he arrived,
with neither of whom he had much in common, and I think he liked
to get away from the city + come down to the "Kwashing", one hulk.
At any rate he came most week-ends, dining + sleeping on
board on Saturday nights + going out with me for long tramps over
the surrounding hills on Sundays. We had many such days
together + he used to say in after years that I had "saved his life" when
he first came to China. His interest in things Chinese had then
not been awakened. One is apt to see at first only the sordid side of
Chinese life, the dirt + the slipshod ways of the people: and it is only
when one looks deep that one sees the fascination. But this soon came
to him. He was always keen to learn anything he could about the sky
+ the Chinese of what he saw around him. Chinese Art, life,
superstition, ceremony, were all fascinating for him + his keen brain
+ his equally keen sense of humour and his discrimination all helped
to dispel the feeling of homesickness that had depressed him at first.

The numbers of students at the college was increased shortly
after his arrival from 3 to 6. Of these, besides himself, two were

French, two British, one Austrian. There is only one of these now in
China, Mr Norman Shaw, who, with me, is at present stationed here.
As regards your husband's studies, the students were examined after
6 months work. Straight was easily head of the list, getting – as I
see from my diary – 850 marks out of a possible 900.

In his spare time he drew assiduously. Picturesque coolies
from the street were bribed to come in + sit to him + he accumulated
a considerable number of pencil studies of remarkable merit as the
result of his stay in Nanking. One of these I have now and value
greatly. He did not care for shooting game + as far as I remember
neither owned a gun nor expressed any wish to do so. He was very
fond of riding + with two of his fellow students used to gallop
over the country with huge enjoyment. He was always welcome
in any house into which he went, firstly for himself, but also
for his music, for he played the guitar very pleasantly. I well
remember a concert that he organized in the college in April.
I helped both best of my ability by accompanying some of the songs
on the piano – the words, strictly topical, being your husbands.
The rest of the foreign community came + the function was a great
success. He played tennis keenly + well + we had many games
together.

He left Nanking on 28th June 1902, transferred to Peking
where he soon found opportunities of showing his exceptional
qualities. He wrote me many letters of which I now have six
– two illustrated with his clever pen. These I enclose: they may be

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of some use. I should like to have them back if you can spare them. But they may give you some data as to his life as a journalist in Corea & Japan.

After the Manchuria days I saw him only once or twice again. for I was on the Langtze till Dec. 1904 when I was transferred to Tientsin by which time he had already severed his connection with the Customs. The last occasion on which we met was in Tientsin in April 1907 when I was on the point of going home via America. He gave me, I remember, six letters of introduction to delicate should I be able to do so. It was a great regret to me that my plans did not admit of this.

That I never saw him in after years was always a great grief to me. I always felt that he might have made a name for himself in any walk of life that he adopted: but I always hoped to hear of him again as an artist. As a business man I never knew him but I like to remember him - and I can very vividly - as I did know him, full of fresh enthusiasm, artistic, genial, of simple habits, of great imagination & yet full of most intellectual promise.

—

My wife & I hope to be in the States in late October this year: and if, as is likely, we pass through N. York, I shall be very glad to call upon you & give you any further details that I may be able to supply about his early days in China.

I am, dear Mr Straight,
very truly yours,

E. B. Howell.

June 2, 1919

Dear Dorothy:

The attached copy of a telegram I received this morning from Leland explains itself. I know you will be glad to get it.

Affectionately,

Paris, [encl. 6-2-19]
Dated May 31, 1919.
Redd. 31, 1044 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

2367, May 31, 9 p.m.

Urgent. For Miles from Harrison. Please tell Dorothy family in Paris, also Mac and Waddy, attended memorial ceremony at Suresnes yesterday and placed floral tribute on Willard's grave. Our thoughts and love with her and hers. [illegible]

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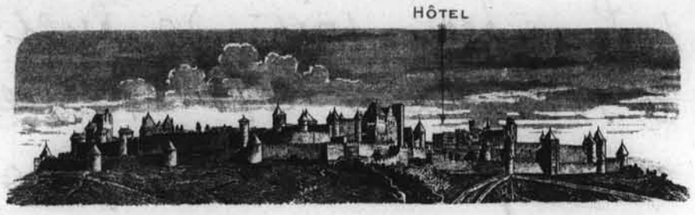
1919
SC.

HÔTEL



La Cité de Carcassonne est la Ville la plus curieuse de France, un Monument unique au monde

HÔTEL DE LA CITÉ
Dans l'Antique Cité
(au milieu des remparts)
CARCASSONNE

HÔTEL DE TOURISME
DE LUXE

DIRECTEUR:
MICHEL JORDY

Cité de Carcassonne, le 3 Juin 19

Dear Dorothy,

I was in Paris on Memorial day & went out to Senlis. I took some flowers for Peggy & Dorothy & Willard. It was lovely & peaceful. The sky was so blue & the grass so green & smooth. I wish you might have seen it on that lovely day.

[6-4-19]

268 KNAPP STREET

My dear Mrs Straight,—

I enclose a letter which was written by Mr Straight to my mother shortly after Henry's death. The other letters of which I spoke to you when we met in Baltimore, you have no doubt received by this time. Mrs Schoellkopf and I shall feel very

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I had been with you such a short time before, I felt as though I were bringing a message.

My Post to Wm

Miss Cromwell

happy if, in sending you these notes, we have given you pleasure and we assure you that if we can serve you in any other way, we shall be only too glad to be asked.

I count the days spent at the Junior League conference as most inspiring and pleasant —

Believe me

Very sincerely yours

Gertrude M. Schuchardt

Wednesday

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[6-11-19]

When Willard D. Straight entered Cornell as a freshman, there was nothing in his appearance or manner which would differentiate him from or attract the notice of his hundreds of classmates. He was a quiet, unobtrusive and obedient freshman. He was friendly to a certain degree but he was also inclined to have a slight reserve or hesitation in offering his friendship promiscuously. Never in his whole course did he seek popularity although he achieved it.

He was a clean-minded, rational, well balanced boy and if he had a love of things artistic, it did not develop in him any eccentricities. His career in college was simply an unfolding of the character and personality within him and it was all without consciousness on his part.

But this reserve and quiet enjoyment of college life could not withstand the friends he was acquiring. He had a perfect talent for making sincere friends of the solid type and what is more rare and valuable, a genius for retaining them. As I say, never a hale fellow well met boy, he nevertheless as he progressed through his four years at Ithaca, unbacked by any peculiar athletic prowess or political leadership, he drew to himself by the sheer pleasure of his companionship, the best elements in his class and in Cornell.

He chose to study architecture, influenced largely by, I believe, by his love of beauty and a certain artistic instinct. He enjoyed his work I know but it did not severely engross him neither did it make any heavy drain upon his energies. For a time there is little doubt but that he fully intended to follow the profession he was studying and this was true until he fell under the sway of Prof. H. Morse Stephens. That I believe to have been one of the great turning points in his career.

Willard Straight was studying for a technical profession, the preparation for which does not unfortunately, provide a liberal education. Morse Stephens was a liberal education in himself. He opened up a new sphere of life for Straight. His conversation ranged from history through literature, dwelling with emphasis upon the more virile phase of life and generally leading his

listeners into the great world and the problems of international life. Prof. Stephens was the great exponent of Kipling and all he stood for and the fascination of Kipling's worldon the other side of the globe gripped Straight's imagination.

As I say, from the time Willard Straight came into intimate relationship with Morse Stephens and met with him in that delightful club of under graduates which he gathered about him in his rooms each Thursday night, his outlook on life changed. It was clear to anyone who had the confidence of Straight in the beginning of his Senior year that he would never spend his years in building up an architectural practice. The great world was going to be his arena.

And so it was that, through Morse Stephens, he decided to cut loose from the conventional life which he had chosen and he set his eyes toward the orient and all of the fascination which it was exerting upon him. Of course, this is written after the happening of these events and it is difficult to see with the eyes of those days but it is difficult my memory and I believe that if I had then been asked to analize what was going on in Willard Straight's mind, I would have said he was finding himself through the medium of Morse Stephens and his own awakening consciousness.

But while all of this was going on more or less subconsciously, Straight's college career was unfolding itself in such a manner as to be a matter of pride to his friends. He really important social activity was the artistic editorship of the Cornell Widow, which during his regime, improved very greatly and as a consequence thrived.

Honors came easily to him. He was sought by all the various clubs and in his senior year the honor was literally thrust upon him of the presidency of the Savage Club. And this in face of the fact that he was hardly qualified to be a member of a club which at that time was almost entirely composed of musicians.

But it proved a wise choice. The Savage Club at that time was in a somewhat moribund condition; it was not making itself felt. Straight's executive ability was soon felt and the present Spring Day, one of the outstanding features of Cornell College life, is directly attributable to the Savage Club under the

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leadership of Straight. The athletic funds in the winter and spring of 1901 might almost be said not to have existed. Straight and others organized a parade on the campus, advertising a great performance at the Lyceum by the Savage Club. That parade and that show was the first organized effort of the undergraduates to get back of the finances of the athletic council and all that Spring Day has become is but a development of that day in March, 1901, which Straight was the instigator of.

When the class of 1901 came into its last term, every one knew that we had if not a future great man, at least a wonderful companion, a boy clean and whole-hearted in all his occupations and pleasures. He was not the most popular man in his class, but I think it could safely be said that among the men who counted for most in the class, he had become, without any of the false glamor which surrounds athletes and others in high political college offices, one of the really great forces and at the same time, enjoyed the friendship, admiration and love of all who really knew him.

[6-11-19]

EDWARD L. ROBERTSON
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
311 SEDGWICK ANDREWS & KENNEDY BUILDING
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

My dear Mrs Straight - My hesitation in writing you was so great, feeling that knew me so slightly, that I did not write you at all until the time came when I was actually ashamed to do so. I was simply one of thousands who were so shocked at the terrible loss that it was almost impossible to reconcile or justify the thing as being possible. Any one of us could have been so much better spared.

When your request came that I write a few words about Willards life in College, I was much pleased that you had thought of me, but my total inadequacy to do him justice made me again hesitate. I did not wish to be misunderstood by writing so short a statement which I assure I have done more to show my desire than in the hope that it will be of any use to you. Do not hesitate to reject

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[6-11-19]

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it in whole or in part.

I trust that you will understand my position and that you will accept my excuses for not having written sooner. You have my sincere sympathy and if there is ever any information that I can give you, do not hesitate to write me

Sincerely yours

June 11th 1919 Edward R Robertson

Paris - June 12th. 1919

My dear Mrs. Straight;

I am sending you these films which we took Memorial Day at Suresnes. I haven't had any prints made of them for I thought they belonged to you to have printed or not as you wished. The one of the French sailor in the company that was guard of honor to the Cemetery flag-pole on that day I don't know who the officers were standing by the flag-pole. Flier just happened to be there. Much love to you always. - Marguerite S. Corbett.

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ÉGLISE DE LA SAINTE TRINITÉ
23, AV. DE L'ALMA, 23
PARIS

June 13
1 9 1 9.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

You may remember that I wrote you a note immediately after your husband's death, and when in New York in February, I tried to see you for a few moments, as I knew him very well, both in Paris and at Langres when he was studying there.

As President of the Paris Memorial Day Committee, charged with the services of the Day in church and cemetery, I have several photographs which were taken, not only of the speakers and guard of honor, French and American, but also of the graves themselves.

Yesterday, I received one which shows your husband's grave with its floral covering of white peonies and other flowers, so I am sending it to you. His grave is the one showing the most flowers, and nearest the people who are walking away from the service just held.

L'Illustration of June 7 has a cut of this service at Suresnes and an account of it.

With every best wish,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Frederick H. Gerlman

I
in
In

2022 Hillyer Place
Washington D.C.
June 13

June 13, 1919
SL.

Dear Mrs Straight:

I only heard of your great bereavement in Germany in January. It came to me as a great blow to learn as I soon learned of what kind of woman I soon knew. I had particular reason to be deeply grateful to him for an opportunity to do a piece of work and an effort at

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service in which he was as interested as I was. He made it possible for me to do what I wanted to do when I came home from England in 1916. I kept at it until we went abroad again within a week of each & other in 1918.

I haven't ventured to write to you before because in the beginning I was too inarticulate, and since then I have really been unfit. I was thinking physically and even after I got home in February I was kept in the service until the end of March until I was fairly fit again. But I do want you to know how grieved I was and am and that my heart is full of sympathy and some understanding of your loss.

I shall be coming on to Ely. Toward

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The end of this month and I hope you will let me come in to see you some afternoon for a cup of tea.

Yours sincerely
Edward L Bowen

I became acquainted with the Major while he was serving on the staff of the 5th Army Corps down in the Vosges Mts while I at that time was serving as Chief Instructor in an Infantry-Aviation ~~School~~ School at Luxeuil-les-bains in which he was very much interested.

I knew nothing of his wonderful success in the affairs of the world at large but came to know, him, like and respect him

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AIR SERVICE
WASHINGTON

June 15th 1919

Mrs Willard D Straight
New York City

My dear Mrs Straight

I have just noted the death of your husband from reading an article in a late Scribner's. If it is not presuming too much may I extend to you my heart-felt sympathy in your great bereavement.

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first as a superior officer and then more as man to man for the genuine interest he was taking in the school and his general good-comradeships.

I was unfortunate to have to return from the front to this country last November as an instructor in aerial observation and was sent to Fort Sill Oklahoma where I spent the winter, which accounts for my not having seen a notice of his death.

Again my sympathy

Very sincerely
Fraser Hale

Captain Air Service

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THE PROMETHEANS

414 Cutler Building,
Rochester, N. Y.
June 16. 1919.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your letter of Thursday brought great joy into my heart. I really tried to put a great deal into my brief comment on the letters, — I felt the whole thing deeply, and I am glad that you — more than anyone — should find this out. Some time I want to tell you what I feel about Willard, not for publication, but from the occult point of view, I cant go into that in a letter.

I am glad you saw and liked Hamlet. For my <u>debut</u> in a new field it was creditable enough, but I want you to see it again in about a year when I have

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had a chance to develop the lighting!
Mr. Hampden was deeply grateful for the financial help you gave him. He has lost about four thousand dollars in giving this beauty to the world, but expects to recoup next season.

I feel a great call to this theatrical work but the conditions in the commercial theatre today are intolerable to an artist.

I still interest you to know that we have really built a laboratory for the development of an art of mobile color. It is on Mr. Brice's farm, and Wilfred the Lute player who is also an electrician and mechanic is living and working there from morning till night. We call ourselves "The Prometheans" as you see from this letter head, and our first task will be to develop a better system of lighting for the theatre — to be operated from a keyboard in full view of the stage. Keep the enclosed clipping

Your gratitude, your appreciation, are very precious to me. and I thank you again for letting me know Yours always sincerely Claude Bragdon

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June 17th 19

GLENVIEW,
YONKERS ON THE HUDSON.

Dear Dorothy

I often think
of you & wonder how
you & your dear
little children are.
I have enjoyed

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So much reading
the charming letters
from Mr Straight—
in Scribners.
they are so full
of charm + a
Blendid Spirit—

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
New York City, N. Y.

Eureka Kansas
June 19th, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight,

No doubt you will be surprised to get this letter but, as I know of no one else to write to for the address I am writing to you. now first I must explain to you, who this is writing, if you remember your trip to Camp Doniphan then maybe you'll remember me. I am the young man who used, to help take care of the Majors things at Doniphan. & if you remember the boy whom George Bennett used to chum with, now I want to write Bennie a letter or so if he is still alive. would you please give me his address if possible, if Armstrong is still your horseman perhaps he can write me the address.

(over)

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I will try & tell you some of my little
exploits in the Argonne Forest. I was in
the 138th Infantry 35th Div. & while
lying in a shell hole one of our tanks,
advanced over 2 of us & never even
scratched our bodies but, later in
the fight I got 2 pieces of Schrapnel
one in the breast & one in my back
also enough gas to send me to
the hospital for Eleven weeks. now
while there at Base 9. I learned of
Mr. Straight's Illness & death we
all felt the shock in the 35th because
he had won our confidence, thru
his kindness in the early days at
Old Camp Dupihan. however, will
you please be kind enough to
write me a few lines at your
leisure & give me the address
of Bennie as we used to.
(over)

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Call him. he looked real nice
in his uniform in France when
I last saw him. well I must
close by saying it is sure nice
to be in civil life again, hoping
to receive a letter from you I,
remain ever,

your Friend,

Fred L. Weatherbee

Eureka,

400 N. Elm St. Kansas

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1. 3 Copies

[6-20-19]

A Reminiscence

Professor Henry H. Straight and his wife, Emma Dickerman Straight were members of the Faculty of the Oswego Normal School at a time when it ranked foremost amongst pedagogical authorities of the world.

Prof. Straight taught experimental or objective science with inspiring power and unforgettable charm, and Mrs. Straight taught History of Art and Literature with vital helpfulness.

Oswego being my Grandmother's home city, I was permitted to follow a whim to take the course in pedagogics there for which the Normal School was famous. I was the youngest student that had ever entered, and had the good fortune to be taken under the fostering wings of Prof. and Mrs. Straight, both in the school and in their modest, magical home, where simplest conditions were made glorious with finest living.

Prof. Straight, a disciple of Agassiz, was a scientist of

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2) distinguished mind and manners. He was something over six feet tall, of large frame lightly carried, and topped by a most commanding head with full, protruding brow and searching, deep set gray eyes in which burned clear the fire of a tender, tireless devotion to Truth, that illumined his ascetic face, and seemed always threatening to consume the man. He had no worldly habits - but moved with the careless grace of loosely hung length and the rare distinction of kindliness and modest unconsciousness of self — while, without specific effort, he thought, saw or noted nothing but scientific inquiry and discovery.

At the time when del Sartean teaching of manners was in vogue, a teacher came from del Sarte himself to Georgetown and Prof. Straight modestly decided that his manners needed mending, and joined her teachers' class. The lady was at great pains to teach an elaborate bowing performance - which Prof. Straight took to heart because he was too apt to pass acquaintances without noting them at all, or with nothing them do

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3. [6-20-19]

tardily as to leave time for only the scantest and most-flurried greeting. Shortly after the famous lessons in bowing, I passed Prof. Straight on the street one day as he was walking thoughtfully from the Library with a pile of books reaching from his arm to his chin. As I approached him, I saw that he was not going to see me - and after passing him, I jestingly called back "How do you do - Too late!" at which he turned and begged me to come back while he carefully placed his books at one side of the walk, and with the quaintest most childly painstaking made me a carefully elaborated salutation after the newly acquired pattern. Then he picked up his books, earnestly murmuring "I hope that I shall not forget again" - and went his way.

He was at all times and under all circumstances the most lovable of scholarly men.

Mrs. Straight was as unlike him as one could be. Their only likeness lay in the facts, that they both had

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4 very beautiful speaking voices and that both were [6-20-19]
aristocrat- in tellectuals of the highest order, however differing.

Mrs. Straight- was short- of stature, as gipsy dark of coloring as ~~the~~ Rogers was her husband was sandy blonde, and as tactfully observant as he was socially oblivious. So, vitally alert- was she with- eager thought and caring for everything beautiful and best, that each strongly waving black hair stood separately alive and uplifted in a reflecting frame above her great- black eyes that so easily dimmed with tenderness almost- tears. Her complexion was olive, her mouth generous and sensitive and her general build was nervous, strenuous and not- strong enough to bear her insatiate- ideals for high service. When she came to Newyork for a rare holiday and went- to the- opera, she brought back to school her thrill of ecstacy - for all of us to feed upon for

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5. works. And she wondered how folk could often endure such joy.

Mrs. Straight taught the meaning of Art of Living! - the art of a frugal meal - however in expensive its accessories its tempting, nourishing food and its perfect hospitality; the art of Harmony, of cleanliness of honesty, of courage and Kindliness as well as beauty. Priceless teaching was here at school and at home it was generously and unconsciously given with endearing courtesy, to all who came near her.

To these magnanimous leaders there had come no children, because there was not income enough to carry adequately that additional expense, - until one year, salaries were raised and conditions were bettered, - and then came the news of an expected child to that delightful home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Straight wished that they might give the newcomer better chances for good looks, than they themselves possessed and what they considered

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6. their extreme plainness dismayed them as never before, for [6-20-19]
Their child's sake.

Just- at that time came one day- Mrs. Straight a lovely picture of the young Saint John, that satisfyingly typified her ideal of youthful beauty. This, she deliberately hung above the- fire- & her head ached upon its lines, its- expression and their origins, as only her feminine understanding could do. Then- wonder of wonders- one happy day, Willard Straight- was born- looking just- like the- young St. John!

What- jubilation there was! I believe I was the- first- to be told the news and shown the wondrous babe, who was to- grow to- such distinguished manhood, to win a most lovely wife and to leave the- world another young St. John.

All too soon after their son's birth, Prof.- and Mrs. Straight- were called to Chicago to fill their great- teaching

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[6-20-19]

7. to a "working man's School" there.

Later a daughter was born to them and they were called to teach in Japan.

Here they died helping others to live, leaving their son Willard Dickerman Straight to be a notable power amongst men, their daughter Hazel, to adopt the moral-merciful of all professions. They are followed by three delightful Straight-Whitney Grandchildren to "carry on" their great-hearts' desires.

The fitness of this fulfillment of noble parentage is a source of pride and rejoicing to their thousands of grateful students wide spread over the earth, amongst whom I have the happiness of being most grateful and most proud.

Mary Perry King.

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1919?

June 27th

TELEPHONE
147 ORANGE

"Overlook"
Orange, N.J.

My sweet Dorothy

I have thought
of you so much + so
lovingly +, remember,
I carry you in my
heart always —

Yours is a beautiful
+ sensitive nature, dearest
child, + therefore
it + suffers as only
sensitive natures can —
+ questions as only
sensitive natures can!
I know all the pain

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and I can only hope
that the poignancy
of the joy of life
may be equal to the
pain - for you -
I long to feel that
you are truly happy
for I love you very
much my sweet
Dorothy, & would help
you if I could -
The hand back is
that no one can help
much in the great
crises of life -
The Spirit Rus-

We are to our Lethargic
Thanksgiving Dinner
& afterwards I shall go
to Church, & count
my blessings
for you are
among them -
Friends are
Scarce elsewhere
in Petrograd. Good Russian Roommates Russian
Teacher, Russian Nurse, Russian Doctor
I am sleeping on a tiny
Leather Couch in the Drawing
Room of Prokovich's

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Telegraphic Address:
"STATISTICS, SHANGHAI."

INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF CUSTOMS,
STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,

SHANGHAI, 1st July 19 19

Dear Mrs. Straight,

I have been asked, through Mr. Palen, to give some details of Mr. Willard Straight's early days in China. But first let me express my deep sympathy with you in your loss, which I heard of with great feelings of sorrow. He was so full of vitality and high spirits that it is hard to realize that he has gone. It is a consolation to know that he gave his life on duty for his country and for the great cause of the Allies, where so many of us have lost our dearest and best.

I was with him for four months at Nanking, in the Customs College, at the beginning of 1902, when China was an open book to us, with all the strange, fascinating ways of the people to study. I believe that Kipling must have had a strong influence on him, as he was often quoting from those pages which mirror the East so well. It may even be that Kipling 's books helped to decide him to come out to China - this point would possibly be known to his Cornell contemporaries.

How he threw himself into the study of Chinese and of all things Chinese! He used to go out through the narrow lanes of the city or onto that marvellous wall which

[7-1-19]

girdles the city, and,note-book in hand, get right into contact with all classes. His sketches of faces just caught the true character of his subjects (he was not at his best in "Verse And Worse" ↓ and must not be judged by that book). Among remarks I remember of his was one when he and I were looking at some old coins for the first time, and he was struck by the great age - 2000 years mor or less - of the tokens. His mind was one singularly open to impressions, and his imaginative faculty was well developed. At the same time he was very practical, and he made phenomenal progress in his Chinese studies. I have still the marks which he obtained in the first examination, on the result of which he was chosen to be Sir Robert Hart's private secretary. They were as follows:-

ORAL 389 out of 400 ; Written : 469 out of 500
Total 858 out of 900, or 95.33 percent: practically perfect.
There was not a trace of "side" about him in about this .

I am glad to be able to send you a photograph of an entertainment given by the students of the Customs College (I was away myself but heard a good deal of it). W.D.S. is on the right with his banjo. Yes, he was certainly full of the joie-de-vivre. His songs still linger in my memory "Last Night I had dinner with the King of Spain", etc. And I fear he shocked some of the more austere missionaries by singing Kipling's "Mandalay" at one sing-song: - I remember his indignation when he was told of this ! In our mess we had W.D.S, one Austrian, two Frenchmen, and two Britishers, Round the devoted heads of the two last (myself and another also gone

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in the Great War) great arguments went on at mess about the Boer War, then still being fought. The two Frenchmen attacked the British policy, and the Austrian and W.D. defended it. Arguments were very vigorous: the two Britishers kept silent throughout; W.D. was an excellent advocate. He certainly amused the whole of Nanking with his coon songs and he was the life and soul of any party where he was present.

He was in earlier days at school in Japan, where his mother was a shhool teacher, but of this time I know nothing (tho' I was at the same ti school myself for a time) - but it surely is worth recording, and must have had some influence. I remember that at that school (which was French) the American & English boys used to stand up to all the others as allies, leaving friendly scraps aside for July 4th. W.D. was later than my time, but this must have influenced him. He certainly had the glamour of the East in his veins. I remember a pregnant remark which showed his powers of observation. He said that he had found it was quite untrue that the Chinese do not respond to the beauties of Nature, for he had seen a man admiring a beautiful sunset on the City Wall.

As to his deeper feelings, I shall never forget the time when I was much upset at a wire giving me the news of the death of my father, and how he burst into my room and gave me a warm handgrasp telling me how deeply he sympathised with me. It was very hard for him that he lost his parents when quite young, but it had made no difference to the brightness of his very genial nature. I met him once again in 1907 and recall how generously he spoke of

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a man whom none of us had liked, but who had acted well on just one occasion.

Please excuse the scantiness and scrappy character of these notes. All of us who were in Nanking carried away memories of a bright, straight fellow who helped to make one's first days in China more lively and interesting than they would have been had he not been a member of our mess.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Shaw.

Enclosed is a photo. which I still have of the entertainment given by the Mess in April 1902. W.D.,got up as a coon, is on the right. The other men are French, British, and Austrian - from right to left.

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C

AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

Paris, France
3 July 1919.

My dear Martin:

Herewith are ten photographs showing Willard's grave from five different angles. Please give them to Mrs. Straight with affectionate greetings from yourself, Mr. Stettinius, Herbert Hoover, Mr. de Cartier, Belgian Minister to Washington; Phil Patchin, Fred McConnell, Frank McKnight, Harry Howland, and myself.

The wreath at the top of the cross is the one from yourself and Mr. Stettinius. The large bunch of flowers, tied with a ribbon, at the foot of the cross, indicated by an "x" on two of the photos, was sent through Mr. de Cartier by the Belgian delegates to the Peace Conference. The blanket covering the mound came from the rest of us. Hanging along the cross under the wreath, you can see a good sized silk flag which Palmer Fuller placed there. Please also tell Mrs. Straight that the other graves were not as bare as they look in the picture. The authorities had placed wreaths on each cross and a flag at the foot, and during the day every grave was partly covered with lovely wild flowers and some carnations. Had this not been so, we would have divided our flowers among the nearby graves, knowing that Mrs. Straight and Willard would have preferred it so.

We all went out late in the afternoon and had our own little ceremony there. It so happened that during the public ceremonies earlier in the day a number of Navy and Army men, who had known Willard well, were able to stand by his grave, so that there was much thought of him all of Decoration Day and I think we had a little feeling that he was not alone among strangers.

As you know, the cemetery is so situated that some day it will be very beautiful. For my part, there is always the thought that as the years pass and the peoples of the United States and France come to have a larger vision of events, these American graves in France will become an everlasting symbol of the faith that we kept and of the debt that we paid. It is not likely that with such reminders there will ever be a serious estrangement between France and America.

Yours, Geo R.S.

Mr. Martin Egan,
% J.P. Morgan & Co.,
New York.

153. Brattle Street.
Cambridge. July 5

Dear Dorothy.
We are called unexpectedly to Paris by the illness of Blair's wife. + are sailing on the Espagne on the 19th. Can we see you in New York? I hope so. + we are to be at the Cosmopolitan Club on the 17th & 18th. If you are near New York I am sure you are working there. It is one's great help. and Oh I do want

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To all your Dorothy dear.
You know what the
Harvard-bit of ground we
Home is to us- the
only thing beyond Edith's
room we mean to do
is to go where Willard
is laid- His bigness-
+ his gentleness have
always been an inspi
ration. and he is as
constantly in our thoughts
as a living help and
friend. as he has been
for 14 years-
With Mama's love -
Your devoted friend
Sally Fairchild

[7-8-19]
West Stockbridge - Mass.
Tuesday -

My dear Mrs Straight -

I'm so sorry
not to be able to see you this
week-end - I have been
wanting to tell you how much
I appreciate your attitude
towards Asia and Lois work.
It makes all the difference
in his attitude towards life.
He's so awfully interested in
the magazine that if your
interest had been forced or
half-hearted it would have
killed his zest, I think -
But you've backed him

[7-8-19] [2]
up so wonderfully that it
makes it all seem worth-
while to him - and he
loves it and is happy doing
it - and to have him happy
is my greatest happiness -
I wanted to write you at the
time of Major Straights death
but felt I did not know you
well enough - I felt I knew
him better than I really did
for he always heard a lot
about him from men he
was in college with -
I never met any one with so
much charm - Its wonderful
how far-reaching a personality
like his is - Every one who

[9-8-19] [3]
knew what his life stood for
feels that they must give
added expression to his
ideals to make up in some
degree for his loss -
Most sincerely -
Katharine Greenland Froelich

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Answered
Aug. 14th
stating will to talk matter over later sometime

PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EIGHTY WALL STREET
CABLE ADDRESS PADELCO

NEW YORK July 14, 1919.

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your letter to me of March 12 missed me in the Philippine Islands and I have just this morning received it here, having returned a few weeks ago from a ten months' trip in the East. I am going to follow your plan, which seems to me a most excellent one, of dictating this letter as I find it more and more difficult to write intelligent longhand letters for ones thoughts usually get muddled by mechanical delays in putting them down.

I shall deem it a very great privilege to add my little to the memorial of Willard. He occupied a very unique place of usefulness in the world and I know of no man who had more real friends or whose loss has resulted in more genuine sorrow. I should be most happy to write for Willard's memorial something of what I felt about Willard and his help and usefulness in connection with our Company. Coming now, will it be too late to be of use?

A number of us in the Orient talked over various plans as to the possibility of working out some memorial for Willard in the East, and I have thought out a plan in my own mind which it seemed to me would be about the most suitable thing we could all do. From your knowledge of the situation in China you know that the American community in China is placed in the uncomfortable position of being the guest and having no facilities to be the host in social functions or official gatherings of any sort. This is due to the fact that the French, British, and now the Japanese communities in China have adequate and pleasant town and country club facilities. In the case of both the French and British communities, these clubs are of very old standing - the British Country Club of Shanghai, which incidentally was originally founded by an American who was a member of the firm of Russel & Company, secured its land at a time when land was very cheap in Shanghai and is in a very firm financial position. The French Country Club receives its land rent-free from the French concession and Americans in China are now in a position whereby through the courtesy of other nations they receive the privilege of joining their clubs, have no club of their own worthy of the name, and no opportunity to return the courtesies extended to them.

I talked this matter over with the leaders of the American community in Shanghai and as a result of our conferences it was decided that the small Downtown Club and Columbia Country Club, which rents very inadequate buildings in the Bubbling Well Road district, should consolidate into a club to be known as the American Town & Country Club. The Americans in Shanghai realize that such a club is badly needed, not only from the point of general American interests in China but for the increasingly large number of highgrade young American boys who are coming over to China and for whom it should be made a home rather than having them thrown on the tender mercies of the various institutions in China that go toward under-mining character.

What I hope we can do is to get enough support in this country, coupled with what the American community in Shanghai can do, to put up a really dignified country home for this club and arrange with the Standard Oil Company, who are putting up a very fine building in Shanghai, to get the upper two stories of the building for the downtown home of the Club. It seems to all of us that we ought to have the Country Club, building and grounds, a memorial to Willard - as the kind of thing he would like best himself to be remembered by, a place which would stand for the best of American social life, and at the same time would be dignified headquarters for American interests in China.

I should be glad to talk this matter over with you if it appeals to you.

Faithfully yours,
Edward B. Price

EBB:G

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ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

July 25, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I want to tell you how very enjoyable it was to be with you at Old Westbury. It was most gratifying too to get your ideas for the magazine and I am confident that its destiny can be steered along the lines you mentioned. It is exactly the way it should be developed.

I received yesterday a letter from Gerald Morgan, of which I am enclosing a copy. I am afraid this puts him out of the question both for the biography and for the special department we discussed. I have never met George Marvin and know nothing about his work. I talked with Mr. Croly, however, and in his opinion George Marvin is entirely impossible, so we shall dismiss him, if this meets with your approval.

You remember that we mentioned Mrs. Egan and Mr. Croly suggested that in his opinion she would be a very good person for the work for us, if we can get her. This Mr Croly told me yesterday.

Do you approve? If you have any other suggestion, won't you kindly let me know? If you approve of Mrs. Egan, I would appreciate knowing at the earliest opportunity for she is in town now and may skip out at any moment. Martin Egan once said that he felt sure she would be delighted to do this.

Mr. Herbert Parsons has sent in a memoir of Willard which is being copied and I am sending you a copy and also one to Mr. Croly. It is an interesting sketch of some of his reminiscences in France.

We are working on plans for the future of

[7-25-19]

the magazine over a period of years, trying to determine when it should be on its feet. I am very confident that happy day will be reached and is not so very far off. The figures seem to indicate it would be well to try to develop it as quickly as possible in order to get the benefit of increased growth from the circulation that we are putting on within a short time. As soon as the figures have been completed and I have had a talk with Mr. Croly and Mr. Patchin, I shall write to you.

I hope that you and the children will have a wonderful time in the Adirondacks.

Yours sincerely,

Louis D Rochick

LDF:C

Mrs. Willard Straight,
Camp Deerlands,
Racquet Lake, N. Y.

Have sent a 1919 file to Camp Deerlands; a copy to Old Westbury.

I sent you a telegram today about Mrs Egan as I fear she may slip away if we delay to ask her to write and do not do it soon. I hope you will not ~~fear~~ any hesitation in telling us how you like about this suggestion.

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[7-25-19]

Point-a-Pic P.Q. July 18/19

Dear Mr. Froelich:

I wired you today "Awfully sorry unable to accept your suggestions. Have written."

I could not even with unlimited time produce the kind of articles which, as you planned, ought to be written about Willard Straight. Only those who actively took part in his Eastern activities could do this. George Marvin is the only man who could begin to do it, as he was with him during the most interesting times at Mukden, and really knew what was going on and what Willard had been doing and hoped to do.

With regard to your other suggestion, I should not like to write about the East after so long an absence. I plan to take up a specific field on my return to New York in late September, but if circumstances prevent my doing this specific work, I shall be in a position to make other plans, and in that case I will make an engagement to discuss with you "Asia," and the general subject of the East in matters of publicity. But I should not be willing to write about Japan and China without going there again first.

Yours very truly,

Gerald Morgan.

Pointe-a-Pic P.Q. July 21/19

Dear Mr. Froelick:

I will send you a tribute to Willard Straight, for you to use or not as you prefer, as well as I can do it. I want to do this on his account, and of course I want to <u>give</u> it to you.

Youre very truly,

Gerald Morgan,

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[enclosure 7-26-19]

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Mukden, China, June 20th, 1919.

Louis D. Follick, Esquire,

Publisher of ASIA

The American Asiatic Association

New York.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of May 14th with regard to collecting material for a biography of Willard Straight, I would state that I am very much interested in this project and shall take the matter up in the way you request and shall reply fully as soon as the material is collected. I am asking some of the people here who knew Mr. Straight to give some of their personal recollections of his life and work in Mukden.

Very truly yours,

E. Carlton Baker

American Consul General.

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

July 26, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I have just received this letter from Consul General Baker at Mukden, and trust that he will be able to collect something of interest.

Yours very truly,

Louis D Follick

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Camp Deerlands,
Racquet Lake,
New York.

LDF:MM

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ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

July 28, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

Thanks for your telegram of the 27th. regarding Mrs. Egan. I am to see Martin Eagan tomorrow and hope to see her the same day. Sometime ago Mr. Egan said that he was quite sure that she would be glad to do this if she could possibly find the time.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Louis D Hoelick

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Camp Deerlands,
Racquet Lake,
New York.

LDF:MM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

Rockport. Mass.
July 25, 1919.

My dear Mrs Straight,

I wish I could tell you how extraordinarily happy your letter made me. Of course I am glad beyond measure that you felt the translation worth while, but the really precious thing was that you should have given me some insight into the inspiration that Willard everywhere gave.

And he did leave a living monument behind him. Somehow, I never think of him as in connexion with him, but always of the strength of the things he did. I shall always remember that dinner at Herbert's, where he helped me to express the feeling I had about the New Republic and England, the keenness of his support, his earnestness, and, above all, the delicacy with which he pressed his point of view so that all of us felt his fairness and wide judgment. and then I remember an accidental meeting in New York where we lunched together and I, being full of the difficulties of making Liberalism understood at Harvard, opened my heart to him. He gave me a responsive understanding which, outside of Felix and Walter and Justice Holmes, I had never met in America, as also a courage to go on with my work which has never left me. And when I got back to Cambridge there was a note from his office telling me that he had meant every word he said. That is why I feel you that we who are left bound in him a stimulus to idealism which few men have it in them to create. He knew the pathway to the stars.

Certainly the book must have Willard's name upon it. And I think for many reasons that it will be a messenger of goodwill. In the first place the

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book will make men see the side of Germany that needs new emphasis now - patient scientific enthusiasm and an endless scholarship. Then its about one of the great liberals of modern times and his doctrine is at the root of most of the solutions of governmental difficulty - its at which people like Weber and Graham Wallas are laboring. And above all it puts a superb tool into the hands of students who want to know the technique of their profession. So that if I say I am glad, you will understand it is not unreasonable.

I look forward to seeing you again sometime soon. My wife and I had a very pleasant glimpse that day we were with Weber; and, above all, she felt that my representations were not exaggerated.

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Laski

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

July 31, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a memoir of Willard by Herbert Parsons. I have also sent a copy to Mr. Croly. Perhaps Mr. Parsons has already sent you this.

Yours sincerely,

Louis D Frelick

LDF:C

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Camp Deerlands,
Racquet Lake, N. Y.

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Parsons, Closson & McIlvaine,
52 William Street.

HERBERT PARSONS
HENRY B. CLOSSON
TOMPKINS McILVAINE
WILLIAM E. CARNOCHAN
ALBERT S. WRIGHT

New York, July 21, 1919.

Louis G. Froelich, Esq.,
Publisher of Asia,
627 Lexington Ave.,
New York.

Dear Mr. Froelich:

Some time ago I received a letter from you asking me to give you reminiscences of Willard Straight's ~~his~~ life in France. I enclose some pages which are quite unworthy of the subject. In them, however, I have endeavored to bring out what Willard Straight did in France so far as I was personally acquainted with his actions.

In his biography I hope that something will be said about his connection with the Canton Christian College for he was a member of its Board, and he and his wife were liberal contributors. It was through him that I became a member of the Board. He always tried to give it the assistance that it essentially needed, and his knowledge of Far Eastern matters was such that he knew whom to go to. His death was a great loss to that Board.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Parsons

Enclosures.

7-21-19

RECOLLECTIONS OF WILLARD D. STRAIGHT IN FRANCE BY HERBERT PARSONS.

Willard Straight attended the Second Course of the Army General Staff College at Langres from the last week in February, 1918, through March, April and May, 1918. There were 150 officers attending the Second Course, about 80 of them Regular and 70 Reserve officers. While the course was substantially the same for all, those who attended the ~~Corps~~ Course were divided into three sections according to which of the three sections of ~~the~~ Staff work they had to follow or expected to follow upon leaving the College. Most of the lectures however were given to the Class as a whole and the map problems were the same for all. Straight was assigned to the G-I Section, which was the section which had to do with transportation and supplies. Had he remained in that section and become an Assistant Chief of Staff G-I Division he would have been responsible for the plans and their carrying out, for food, clothing, equipment, ammunition and transportation of ~~the~~ a Division composed of 28,000 men. The Great War has sometimes been called G-I War, for the fighting which could be done by stalwart Americans ~~Straight~~ was limited only by ~~them~~ two things, the ability to get ammunition and supplies to them and their own endurance. The work of G-I however was supposed ~~also~~ to look towards the rear. Willard wanted work which would look towards the enemy lines and bring him into close touch with troops. He therefore during the course secured a transfer to the G-3 Section, which was the section that had to do with operations. Some of his friends criticised this transfer and contended that his energy and business ability and

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training would make him more useful in the G-I section which needed the knowledge and drive and quickness that were peculiarly his.

All his work at the StaffCCollege was admirably done. Lectures were given by British, French and American officers. The methods of the British and French armies varied somewhat. In some respects the American doctrine had not yet been determined. ~~ixwas~~ There was therefore some conflict in the lectures. Willard made a comprehensive compendium of lectures as they went on, and was in position immediately to refer to the authority for any particular view.

The course consisted of three lectures a day, except Wednesday and Saturday, which from 8 in the morning until 6 in the evening, except for lunch, was given up to map problems. These map problems would suppose that a division or part of a division was located in a certain way with reference to a map and that it was designed to move the division or make an attack or some such thing; the problem was to write out the orders and generally to accompany those orders with a map. The orders to be just what the orders would be if it was a real event. The localities were the localities on the Western front. The problems were frequently problems that would actually occur. The test was one which the officer might often have to meet later on in his daily work. It was a splendid method. While the student could use any book or lecture he frequently did not have time to look into them and ~~even if he did~~ he learned his subject so well through the problem that it stayed with him as part of him afterwards. Those hours from 8 to 6 were hours of intensive work. Willard's work was always done as a result of

thoughtful planning and in a clear logical manner. His maps because of his artistic ability were well-nigh works of art. Occasionally he did put a little decoration on ~~it~~ the last 5 minutes work. If he had time, and they became famous.

As the result of his work at the Staff College he was recommended for Staff appointment. It is said that he was recommended for a greater variety of positions than any other student at the College, and that although he was only a reserve officer his marks were from the start among the very highest.

The Head of Staff College then Col., later Brig. Gen. Bjornstad was selected during the course to be Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army Corps, which had not yet been formed. He selected Willard to be one of the members of that Staff, and of its G-3 section, and put him in charge of Liarson. Liarson, which means all ways of communicating orders and information from the Division Staff to the front line and back, is one of the most difficult problems in warfare. The side that has the best systme of communication has a great advantage. It knows and knows instantly and can act accordingly. The side that does not know can only act unintelligently. Liarson included communication by telephone, wireless, runner, signalling, pigeon, aeroplane. It involved communication from the division headquarters to Brigadier headquarters, Regimental headquarters, Battalion headquarters and so on down to the out-posts, and also communication to the units on each flank and to the artillery. It sounds simple. In practice during battle it is a most difficult problem. There had been lectures

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in Liarson at the Staff college. There was a French booklet which had been translated for the American Army. ~~That was theory~~. The ~~question~~ difficult was to give the best practice. Willard went at it fast and hard. He ~~took it~~ talked to American officers who knew or were supposed to know about Liarson. He got hold of a young French officer who was supposed to know everything about it. He with other members of the 3rd Corps Staff prepared problems. A week before the 3rd Division went up to go under fire for the first time at Chateau Thierry, A problem ~~at~~ Liarson was held by it in ~~his~~ training area, skeleton formations being used. The problem had been prepared ~~x~~ by the 3rd Corps Staff and was attended by all the ~~membeen~~ of the Staff college, and so important was it that Gen. Pershing himself came down to see how it worked out.

The 3rd Corps did not long remain where it was first sent. In the course of a few weeks itmwas moved to Remiremont which was back of the Vosges and Alsace front. While the 3rd Corps was there Willard made expeditions to the front line. After one of them he was ill for several days. ~~A little~~ Some gas was ~~left~~ lurking in a trench that he went through and he became slightly gassed. ~~He~~ always studied up the question of Liarson. He went up to the north to be with the marines of the 2nd Division. ~~in~~ the Battle of ~~Bellwood~~ Belleau wood, which he spent at a regimental headquarters.

The results of the work which he did theoretically and practically, and of his observations of the plans and ~~setting~~ working out and ~~bringing~~ breaking down of systems of Liarson led to a preparation by him of a memorandum which, except for a change on one ~~routed~~ moved point, be-

came the standard for the American Expeditionary Forces, and was also issued as such by G.H.Q. He ~~xxx~~ received ~~xx~~ the great distinction for a reserve officer, of being asked to lecture at the ~~3rd Corps~~ Third Corps of the Staff College on the subject of Liarson, which he did.

The 3rd Staff went to the north. Willard was transferred to the 5th Corps. He was extremely anxious to be given command of a battalion and be with troops,- a life of much greater exposure than staff life. He had requested this and had received ~~xxxx~~ some promises and thought they were more likely of fulfillment if he remained where he was . To his great disappointment this wish was never gratified.

While he was at Remiremont he came up to St. Die in the Vosges at the time that the 5th Division was to make the only change in the line made on that front in 3 years and take the Village of Frapelle. He came there to see. He talked with the people he knew. He went into the front line. He spent a great deal of time with the Battalion Commander, always eager to learn and help. From Remiremont he was sent up to Ligny-en-Barrois ~~Barrows~~, which was the headquarters of the American First Army when it was first formed. Just before the Battle of the Argonne ~~xx xxxx~~ the first army moved back up to Somilly on the Route Sacree to Verdun, but Willard was up with the rear Eschelon at Ligny in charge of the personnel, Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. activities under the G-I section of the First Army. This was not at all according go his liking, and he was impatient at being kept so far from the scene of activities and at not having work which would tax his mind and strength.

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Weekly meetings took the writer of these reminiscences to Remiremont, and he always saw Willard when he went there, if Willard was there. He also saw him at St. Die. It was about 3 weeks before the St. Mihiel battle, and when the writer was leaving the training area of his division to go via Langres and Chaumont up towards the St. Mihiel area he met Willard en route. Willard had then been ill for the third time since he had been in France. His first illness had been towards the end of his time at the Staff College. Some poison had got into his leg, and riding, of which he was very fond, had irritated it, the attack coming on probably because he had ridden without stirrups and therefore caused greater irritation. He then had the illness above referred to caused by the gas in the trench. The poison in his leg however had come back to trouble him and when met at the time just mentioned he had been at the French seashore recovering and had there been told that the Americans were to attack the St. Mihiel salient.

While at the Staff College it was obligatory to ride horse back four times a week. Willard usually rode five. The writer and he were in the same riding section and frequently took long rides together, mostly across country exploring. There was not a bit of woods or little valley within 5 or 6 miles of Langres that we did not know. It was charming country to ride over. When the riding started it was still winter and the ground was stubble - a dull yellowish stubble. Then the plowing commenced. It was dark rich soil, growing lighter as it dried out. The Langres country is a rolling country, and the color of the

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soil harmonized beautifully with the colored tile of the roofs of the French villages. There were no isolated farms. People lived in villages and went out into the land to work it. Later these rolling hills became green. At all times they were beautiful. Willard planned in some future year to take his family to that vicinity, take a house and let his children learn what France is really like by riding over that land.

At the Staff College Willard had rooms with then Major, later Lieut.Col. Grayson M. P. Murphy, who had been head of the American Red Cross in France, but having been educated at West Point and served 4 years in the army before entering business, had insisted upon resigning his position in the Red Cross which he had held with the greatest credit, and go into Army Service. In the house which they occupied was a mess composed besides them of Lieut. Col., later Col. H. L. Stimson, who had been Secretary of War, and the writer. All 4 were members of the Staff College, and until Col. Stimson was advanced to the position of a club leader, all 4 occupied a study room together and formed a staff for the solution of staff problems together. Willard ran the mess. It had the best food and the best drinks and the best cigars and the best cooking and the best singing and the best conversation in Langres. Their fellow officers were entertained; heads of the College and Staff officers from G.H.Q. were entertained; Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., soldiers, generals, officers and other friends were entertained as they passed through. The British officers who were instructing at the Staff College were guests; likewise the French officers; likewise the french officers at school at Langres. About once a week

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there was time enough for an evening of several house entertainment. If the case was at all special Willard generally would illustrate cards for the guests & and they were always appropriate and entertaining. He liked good talk and saw that any guest was made to give of his best. A guest who had special information did not leave without having given it. The evening was never a success until Willard had sung, accompanied by a guitar which he had found thereabouts. The members of the mess discussed many things when there were no guests. The night before a map problem they would return their opinion as to what the problem would probably be and the points which it would be designed to bring out. But they discussed many other things than matters which concerned them as officers of the General Staff College They discussed the war, politics at home, etc. They had ideas of service for the future to be rendered, by the four of them helping one another. Of all this life Willard was the principal inspiration.

His energy was constant. He wished to get what he could out of the various army schools that were established . He learned to shoot different kinds of machine guns; to throw different kinds of hand grenades; to shoot the 3 inch millimetre gun, etc. His charm, ability and energy was soon recognized by both the authorities of the Staff College and his fellow students. He was selected as one of the committee to prepare for the final entertainment of the College.

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It was always a delight to hear Willard talk about his experiences in the Far East. He gave vivid accounts of the Japanese practice of the Open Door policy in Manchuria. He told of his experiences in Mukden during the Russo-Japanese War, of some hair-breadth escapes that he had, and of the service he had been in keeping other neutrals, one of them a German, out of the clutches of the Japanese when they were suspected of being Russian agents.

Outspokenness was one of his marked characteristics. He knew when to be outspoken, and with his intimates gave his views freely.

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[Encl. 8-4-19]

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

August 4, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

Bennett was most anxious to have a copy of the January ASIA which carried Mr. Foord's brief appreciation of Willard. His note is most interesting, and I am sending you a copy, although no doubt he has probably already told you this and other incidents.

Yours sincerely,

Louis D Froelick

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Camp Deerlands,
Racquet Lake,
New York.

LDF:MM

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Ward 51,
July 24/19

Dear Mr. Froelick:

The two copies of "Asia" came, and I thank you indeed for sending them.

The article about the Major was indeed true, he certainly was lacking in pettiness, he was much too big and broad for that.

To those who were fortunate to have met and known him, he must always be an inspiration. He stood alone in his remarkable thought of others, and his unselfishness. I'm sure had he given more thought for himself and less to others, he might have been here today, but, besides having his own work over there, he was helping others to do theirs.

Many an officer and enlisted man too, benefitted by little comforts he gave and things that were useful. Whenever he went to the front, he always took a huge supply of tobacco, cigarettes and different things for the men, they sure appreciated that, for they did not always get these supplies up. He was always looking to help others, and he gave for the pleasure of giving.

I know this world would be much more worth while if there were more like him.

May I congratulate you Mr. Froelick on the tone of your paper, may it long flourish.

Trusting you are keeping well

Believe me

Yours sincerely,

George Bennett.

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One incident of many that might interest you:

One morning going in the automobile from Provins to a little villa named La Ferte, the car was held up by a troop train which had come to a stop across the road. The Major got out and went to the train and spoke to the boys, "Well boys, how are you, have you any tobacco or cigarettes?" Replying in the negative the Major came back to the car and got them a big supply, he also asked them if they had any money. Again No, the Major gave them some. They proved to be a detachment of the 5th Marines, and a few mornings after the Major saw some of those same boys shot down, that was, of course, before Chateau Thierry was taken. That was one of many incidents that he was continually doing over there.

ARMY SERVICE SCHOOLS
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

July 31, 1919.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Will you please except from me a few words of appreciation of our late husband, who gave me such valuable assistance in time of national need.

Major Straight was on duty in the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-1 in the First Army during both the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne operations. Major Straight was especially charged with questions of personnel, provost-marshal work, traffic control, and other important tasks. During the entire time his assistance was invaluable and a great help in producing the results we secured.

In addition to the foregoing Major Straight's personal thoughtfulness and appreciation of others made him invaluable to the Army Commander during the trying days of the above operations. Personally I feel a great debt to Major Straight for his ever helping hand.

Sincerely yours,

Brigadier General, G. S.,
Formerly Chief of Staff, 1st Army, A.E. F.

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[c. July 1919]

Miss Burgan. Cable
accommodation desired —

Dear Dorothy
The plan is
grand. I've already
seen Miss Hinckley of
the Schools. —
We will go over
details as soon as
can arrange. and
I'll write you as
soon as I can get
something definitely
started. — So much

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depends on the
"method of application"
— The thing will be
to get it to the
right youngster. So
that this wonderful
opportunity will be
fully availed of. —
I would be most
glad of your
suggestions for the
working mechanism —
Sincerely yours
Vice Gray

Loveday

Aug 2nd 1919.
60 State St
T. N. PERKINS Boston -

Dear Mrs Straight

I did not mean to
bother you to write to me but
I am very glad you did because
your letter makes me sure
that it was not a bother to
you and it certainly gives me
a very real satisfaction -
In the comparatively short

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short time I had known Willard I not only had grown very fond of him but in a way he had come to be an important part of my life - I knew or thought I knew that he was fond of me - To have you say what you do confirms me in this belief and gives me that warm feeling that knowing someone you care for cares about you does give one - I had so much pleasure from being with Willard and he took so much part in my day dream plans for the future that I find him constantly in my mind - It was really a very remarkable life - and one which brought something of help or inspiration or affection into the lives of more

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people than any one I have known -

I am going to get away next week for a short vacation, which I can't say I need but which I shall be very glad to have - I am going to take my notes of our trip with me and will see what I can do on the Memoir - I am very poor at that sort of thing - I write with difficulty

and my ideas come slowly so I am afraid I shall disappoint you and fall far short of what I should like to do - However I'll do what I can and whoever is to put the Memoir in shape for you can feel free to rewrite as he thinks best -

There is one thing more I want to say - Willard talked

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to me a great deal about you
and from what he said to me
I am quite sure he talked to
you about me - The result is
that I do not at all feel as if
you and I were the complete
strangers which the few times
we have seen each other would
naturally mean - I am a very
busy person and I am very bad
about keeping up with people
but I am glad to be of any use
I can to the people I feel are
friends of mine - The meaning
of all this explanation is that
I shall be glad if you will
regard me as a friend who
can be called upon if opportunity
serves and who need not be
bothered about -

With many thanks for your
letter and all good wishes
I am very sincerely yours
Thomas W. Lamont

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Vineyard Haven. Mass.
August 4, 1919

Dear Mr. Croly,

The enclosed manuscript is only the first draft of a chapter which I hope I can improve after your criticism comes. Since writing it, I have heard from Mr. Hoover who suggested a number of details which had not come to mind. In fact, I wonder if I have put in enough of the concrete; for, perhaps, I have given too much of my own interpretation and not enough actual fact, a difficulty due largely to my own vagueness of memory. I have written to one of his

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Always friends who may know of more incidents which I can insert very easily. Perhaps, if you are going to use his mothers records as material you may not need the first part of mine, which is based somewhat on them. And I did not know just how much to say about her.

At the last, I hoped to find a quotation from Les Trefles which has seemed so fitting to describe Willard. When I can find a copy, I will look it up further.

In two or three weeks I am going to Arizona, - and hope to be able to work very hard on the paper then, - I can have your comments by that time. If not, I shall do the best I can and send you the result.

With best wishes.

Yours Straight Sanborn
(Mrs. James F.)

I am sending a copy of this to Dorothy.

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Vineyard Haven, Mass.
August 4, 1919

Dorothy dear,

This is a story of the little chapters I am sending Mrs. Croly, - which I hope I can improve very much after I have your criticism and his.

Your letter which came Saturday to gladden my heart, suggested a number of things I had not thought of; and I have written Elsie Jenwold asking her to let me know of any further incidents. I am afraid my memory is rather vague in spots, - for Willard seemed so much older, and I was such a timid

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more I missed a good deal of the big business that was going forward.

I wonder, too, if I have really caught the right note? Do, please, write me frankly won't you. It is difficult to spare the feelings of some of the people who may read it, and it is difficult too, to give a just and intimate statement of the part played by our two dear Amities. I hate laudatory remarks, - yet I don't want to seem ungrateful. Your suggestions will be more helpful than I can say.

just now I can't do any more. A thing like that has to stand awhile, I think, before one can take it up again.

Jim's mother and sister are here for two weeks and soon after that, I may go to Virginia to be with Jim a few days, take the Grand Canyon trip and return with him. On the way out and back I can do a lot more writing and perhaps finish it.

We shall be here until the first week in October.

My reading progresses slowly, but I am happy to say surely. The horse

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walked with me the other evening, -
the riding masters - running at right
angles with mine so he couldn't help me.
But I stuck on and won my first round.
It is a tremendous experience for me
in every way. Mrs. Bradley reminds
me so much of Willard that I
am continually startled. His quick
way of speaking, his inflections, and
even a certain quality of voice, -
are quite astonishing, - though perhaps
it might not seem so to you. But
I love to be with him. He's a funny
mixture of Willard, Neil Gray and Jim, -
without being really like any of them.

I am so happy to think of you in
the peace of the mountains. It must
be heavenly there, - really wild -
really real with a remoteness that
is hard to find.

Here, we seem very near Infinity to.
It is easier, under these wide skies
to know that there is only Now,
and only Here and that we need
only to grow in the power of seeing
and feeling all that is immediately
around us. If one can get that
only a second, - the effect will last

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for weeks.

If anything I have ever written has been a help, - I shall begin to feel that my life is at last being justified a little. If I could only do more!

Dear Dorothy, I pray constantly to know for you as well as myself, the nearness and the Infinity of Love, - and the constant presence of all those we think of. It comes gradually as we grow to realize that our real living is mental and spiritual. Then space begins to count as the nothing it really is, - and time disappears.

With all my love,

Hazel

[incomplete] [8-4-19]

copyright to Mrs Cady

Mrs Seabrooks article

The story of Willard's childhood is that of one who lived in the abundant life of his imagination. It is, therefore, a record of interruptions, so to speak; of the breaking in upon him of the irrelevant, and of the jarring of commonplace of daily existence upon the more vivid realities of his own world. Indeed Willard's whole life seemed to be given ever to the high adventure of pursuing the visions on his bright horizon, and giving to the world not only the inspiration of them, but the zest and joyous vigor of the race. He "reckoned his life as a thing to be dashingly used and cheerfully hazarded," - because he was continually painting on a mental canvas infinitely larger than anything which could be mastered by daily or yearly achievement. It was the color and the glow of this inner fire that lifted him "a tip-toe on the highest point of being."

"On my way to school," said he at four, "I saw a normous lion!" and set the pedagogues wondering whether that was an early indication of low ethical standards, or a sign that he was to become a master of fiction.

Happily his parents believed in a richness of literary background, but it was all more real to him than his daily bread.

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"Are you old?" said he to a friend with gray hair.

"Yes," was the reply, "Quite old."

"Are you very old?" he continued with genuine scientific interest.

"Yes, I'm very old."

"Are you as old as the siege of Troy?"

But a child of his temperament must sooner find that nice adjustment between the two worlds which alone makes mature living possible.

In his boyhood this adjustment was the more difficult, for the reason that the period of his life from seven to nine was so full of a diversity of incident and the years following that so contrastingly empty of it, just at a time when the craving for adventure is as vigorous an appetite as that for food. Probably too, the child suffered, - perhaps unconsciously,- from the tragedy that took so much of his mother's strength. The bond between them was all the closer for the feeling his mother had that he was to be the inevitable expression of her love not only for him but for the beauty of the world. She must have known with some deep instinct that the fine restless spirit of her son was to find a more brilliant flowering than hers in her more restricted

life, could ever have. To understand him aright, one should have known her, her love of life, and the cool courage with which she faced it.

"A pard,-- like spirit, beautiful and swift."

His head was always full of plans. At one time he and two intimates formed a partnership in amateur photography; the notables of the entire district were soon to be begging for the honor of its patronage and the firm to live in affluence for the rest of its life. In addition to the ignominy of being a girl, I was just enough younger to be disqualified for active part in such proceedings,-- but I remember constantly living in the exhilerating atmosphere of big business going forward,-- the launching of new enterprises, the excitement of some vast scheme about to startle the astonished world. His firm belief in the plausibility of whatever he had in mind always fired his companions;-- his hopes for the success of the next undertaking carried them over present failures.

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him in Paris and elsewhere, I learned to appreciate him more than ever before.

To those of us who were fortunate enough to know him in civil life, there was added the additional zest which his presence occasioned.

My present illness precludes the possibility of my interviewing you personally in the matter, but I shall be glad to despatch my secretary to ascertain your views if you so desire.

With continued well-wishes for the welfare of yourself and children, and in behalf of all of Major Straight's friends and acquaintances, pray accept these, my most profound sentiments.

August 5th. Sterling Clifford Wyman, M.D., A.B., Ph.B.
Lieut.-Commander, Med. Cps. U.S.N.R.F.
(Chevalier of Legion of Honor).

[Aug. 5, 1919]

"The Retreat"
Box 176, Lake Placid
Neuman, New York.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

With no purposed intention on my part to awaken your poignant grief, I write to enquire when you propose to set the stone which shall commemorate the last resting place of your loved husband, the late Willard Dickerman Straight.

I am at present formulating plans to honor Major Straight and a part of such plans includes the presence of a detachment of military and naval

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officers who will have Willard Straight according to military custom and tradition.

If this plan meets with your approval I shall be pleased to hear from you.

I have also been contemplating the writing of Major Straight's biography, which I propose will consist of his accomplishments and achievements in the financial world, in the realm of diplomacy, his military attachments, and last, but not least, his family life. The latter will require the production of letters, private and otherwise, to you which might be of interest and bearing on the subject. The testimonials of friends will also be included therein.

The task is one of great magnitude but I will endeavor to fulfill my duty to the man who assisted me to climb my claims to fame.

A devoted father and husband, a man of unusual attainments; possessing a sphere of knowledge equalled by few and surpassed by none, Willard Straight stands to-day, as he always did, an American incarnate.

During my intimate conversations with

[8-6-19] P9

132 WEST FIFTH STREET
OSWEGO, N.Y.

Dear Dorothy
Here else first
suggestion.
That the candidate
for the Cornell
Scholarship be elected
by his (or her)
classmates in the
Senia class of the
High School instead
of being selected

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to get it just right and as you would like.

Sincerely yours

Dorothy Straight

Wednesday.

The photos of the old home I expect prints of tomorrow and will send them on to you promptly for your approval, or retaking if you wish other views.

by a committee. — also, how can the interest be kept up in the other 3 years? — Shall see if I can get some one else to provide scholarships say at Harvard. Yale Union. etc. so as to have a yearly election and opportunity. — You see I am a poor "messenger to Garcia" one. but I am thoroughly anxious

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526 – 44th Ave.
San Francisco –
Aug. 11th '19

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your dear letter of Aug. 1st came duly to hand a few days ago.

How glad I am that there is some little thing I can do for you! And that you have asked me so kindly and simply to do it – as if the favor

large of the two – "like a tax" told.

It became one, too, to me

I may be the only one who can – was part and parcel of the there, that meant so much

"Old Mrs. Young, long dear Mrs. Straight, comes the most a Aua all these pa pure, and pathetic mi this please – Tempora Be assured, dear Mrs. heart to you; and ou of love, Sincerely –

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were all on your side. Why, you can't realize how it touches me to have the opportunity to say or do anything for one I hold in such tender esteem.

I shall feel it to be a sacred duty to recall the incidents of that far away day. Fortunately, I remember them vividly, although all the letters and records and snap-shot pictures were destroyed in the fire of 1906, which left us destitute of house, furniture, books, pictures, clothes - everything, in fact, that we ~~had ever~~ possessed.

I remember Mrs. Straight's personal appearance, the clothing she wore, her wraps and luggage, as she drove up from the station and the mutual friends who were with her in the carriage through whom her coming to me had been arranged; and the little white cottage I had assigned to her. It all comes back to me now, as a cinema glimpse through the

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

U. S. General Hospital No. 1
The Bronx
New York City

Aug 12th/19

To Mrs Willard D. Straight-

Dear Madam

Nothing could say, could express what I feel, in receiving the most sacred letter there. I know the major would not wish you to worry or grieve, it will pain him more if he sees you suffer here. I am sure he will be more at rest, and he his resting now, a rest truly earned

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more than any man ever did, if it had only been his own choice, and not other's he would have been here now. He was so sincere and humane and he stood alone in that, in a world of insincerity and falseness, and he could and did, surmount all that was unfair and unjust. It was his greatest joy to bring joy and happiness to others, and he lived for that, but I am sure [illegible] as you say that

[illegible] 8-12-19

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

U. S. General Hospital No. 1
The Bronx
New York City

God willed him - that he did something bigger for him - more than people may know of, but he is still here. He may is not dead. I never felt he was, or never shall, all the wisdom and knowledge of this world can teach that unknown something, that his glorious spirit has created. To feel and know that and that the honor of serving him, is worth more than all

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the treasures that he,
Oh. how I wish that he
might have lived in
person for you, and
everybody. I would have
given my life, my all.
to have taken his place.
That wonderful poem was
indeed true. Death cannot
claim such a spirit, and
he must always be an
inspiration to those who
had the honor of knowing
him, and he made life
worthwhile. I thank
you indeed madam for
all you have done for me.
for your sacred letter and
poem, I am praying that

[8-12-19]

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

U. S. General Hospital No. 1
The Bronx
New York City

I might be useful to you,
your children, that God
be granted the power
to help you, with your
book, and prayer he
helped those achis.
Forgive me Madam for
writing you thus, but
I cannot express, what
I feel. it is not granted
to me, but I loved the
Man. I trust that God
will give you courage and
strength to bear this sad

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journey, and that the major glorious spirit will be a little consolation to you, Master Whitney will be anxious for you, and I'm sure, he is going to be like the major. May I ask you Madam, please, when you go to Smyrna, to take a wreath for me.

Your grateful Servant

George Bennett

[Geo. Bennett] M.d.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

U. S. General Hospital No. 1
The Bronx
New York City

Madam.

Perhaps you might care to meet a madame Flocard, who now lives in Paris, she was the former landlady at 11, rue Chambrulard, she was awfully fond of the major, and she greatly amused and interested him. He called her the Lawyer Brocky she would make it her business to talk to him every morning while he was at breakfast. and she could tell you a lot about Langer.

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M. Duquis of the Cillon was very fond of the major, and he arranged a great many things for him.

Capt Otto Lautenbahn was the man in charge at Suresnes, and he done all he was permitted to do for the major dear.

If you were going to Reminimont. the address where the major stayed was 5. rue Jules Ferry M. C Burgoyne was the Gentleman name there. Madame Florent addres. was. 21, Bd Bonne-Nouvelle. Paris.

have the person you love best taken from you. It is just now a year ago that Billy went and it seems but yesterday in a way and in other ways a long, long time as I have had a complete revolution of thought and a new philosophy of life.

Billy seems so very much alive to me and very near it has helped

ENDEAN, EAST WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

My dear Mrs. Straight

I hope you will not mind my writing to you. As you were one of Billy's friends is the reason I am. I have thought of you so much the past few months as I understand so well what it all means to

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me over many hard places and I feel it is always going to be that way. You find you can endure and do almost anything when put to the test.

From so many people I have heard how fine and very much loved your husband was. Mine was too and I feel we have much in common and I hope we will meet some day before long.

Did you forgive me for writing you but I must see you to learn there is some one besides your friends Mrs. Guinness & you with real sincerity.

Sincerely yours

Margery Willard Birk

August 12. 1915.

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to the uttermost - has such pure qualities of fearlessness, compassion, wisdom and love ~~as to make~~ that it is flowerlike in its grace - and in deity a "~~star in the firmament of the~~ star, that in earth's firmament doth shine" - as someone once described a flower.

Our glorious holiday is over and we are back in our little nut once more. I think that the best part of it all is the knowledge that nothing in this world can ever rob us and of those days - days in which we played almost like children it all seemed so joyous and tennis and golf developed a lot of new charms - and in the night time and quiet time came always a great thankfulness in my heart that the days and days of 1918 were really gone - and a great feeling of wanting to skate as much as possible

P.S. No luck at all on the piano - Laura and I did nothing but disagree with Steinway et wife - Why one of the 14 days we were there - So it is hopeless as far as Joan concerned. Monday [Aug. 12, 1919]

PG

Dear Dorothy;

I am so thankful that there is such a day as August 14th and such a ship as the Adriatic.

So often during these past months I have thought of you - knowing your wish - and feeling so stupidly helpless about it - and I am very glad you are going.

I shall think of you on the sea, which will I am sure be very blue - just a dauntless sort of blue that looks back at me the way a very few blue eyed people do sometimes - you know the kind of eyes that last a rare combination of steadiness and gentle humor?

The flower you speak of dear Dorothy can never fade - for your soul which has been tested

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P. P.S. This letter is a mess but I am far too sleepy to attempt another.

Somehow I want to say God bless you on this trip, and may He make the sun to shine on you always.

the joy and happiness which is so undeservedly mine.

It is fine of you to understand what I seem to say in such a bungling way - and yet I am quite sure I would not even try to express myself were I not very sure of your understanding.

What the accompanying books will be I know not as to - morrow has still to see their purchase, but they bring great love and great thanks for your letter.

James T. Riker.

P.S. Promise not to give the league even a tiny teeny thought? Mary will be perfect at the Helen and your every gestures are wonderful. I would love to see you this very minute but as that is impossible I shall turn out the light and go to sleep.

P.P.S. Trust Natalie and many lightnings at noon tomorrow - Thumble - as Ysel so heedlie and regulated and contented as to be useless!

J.F.R.

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COPY

McCUTCHEN, WILLARD, MANNON & GREENE
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

Merchants ExchangeBuilding
SanFrancisco, California

August 13, 1919.

Louis D. Foelilk, Esq.,
The American Asiatic Association,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of August 6, 1919; also copy of your letter of July 21st to President Wheeler and of Mr. Cartwright's reply of July 26th. I am attorney for the executor of Professor Stephens' estate. I am enclosing a copy of his will, from which you will see that he entrusted all his private papers to me.

I have had all of Professor Stephens' belongings placed in rooms in the University of California Library as protection against fire. The papers to be gone through are very voluminous, but I will bear very especially in mind your request and see that anything relating to the late Willard Straight goes to you.

I might add that when I was teaching in the law school at Berkeley I shared rooms with Professor Stephens, and therefore I know full well the affection in which he held Willard Straight and Mrs. Straight and their children. I wish you would be kind enough to hand Mrs. Straight a copy of the will (lest she may not have received one) and say to her for me that if there is anything among Professor Stephens's belongings which she would like to have it would be a very great gratification to me to send it to her. I probably cannot do this until eight or nine months from now, but I am certain that it can be done then as I have no doubt the men who are associated with me in the distribution of the personal belongings other than books, etc., will wish to give Mrs. Straight anything she wants. We all remember the devotion with which Mr. Straight brought Professor Stephens back to health when he was so ill in New York a few years ago; and I have personally heard Professor Stephens speak time and time again of his love for all the Straight family.

Very truly yours,

Farnham P. Griffiths

(2 enclosures)

TELEPHONE 9237 LENOX

NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE
PARK AVENUE

August 13th
1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:.

I have just heard you are leaving tomorrow for Europe and feel I must therefore write you what I was waiting to tell you — how deeply I appreciated your letter from Raquette Lake. I have read it many times and always with satisfaction because it is so expressive not only of the things I felt of Willard but of the depth of your love

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for him and your comprehension of him. And I do want to say that to me it is a great satisfaction ~~That~~ - really a great comfort - that I can sometimes talk to you about Willard. His memory will always be green in my heart and I want it always to be vivid and lifelike ~~and~~ in every way.

If my friendship meant to Willard a fraction of what his did to me it was because his nature drew from those of whom he was fond more than they ordinarily had to give of good.

[8-13-19] [2]

TELEPHONE 9237 LENOX

NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE
PARK AVENUE

You will be pleased to know that the memorial suggestion has met with the approval of all those we have spoken to and as soon as I receive certain data from Mr Thomas now at London there will be a meeting of a few friends to arrange to place the proposed formally before a larger number and then proceed to make it a reality.

It was not a surprise

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but was gratifying that everyone thinks there should be a memorial – That no person is more worthy of it than Willard. Indeed Mrs. Straight he is more missed than any one I ever knew.

My wife joins in best wishes for a comfortable journey and a safe return.

Faithfully Yours
Robert H. Patchin

Mrs Willard Straight.
The S.S. Caledonia

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
Aug. 15. 1919.

Mrs. Willard Straight.
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Now the ending of the war our thoughts turn to the many friends who gave up their lives in the service of humanity.

Twice during the war I was closely associated with Major Straight, the first time at Camp Dix, where we were together on the Staff of the 35th Division, and again on the Staff of the 1st Army in France during the operations.

His death brought sorrow to a veritable host of his friends. He combined with a great grasp of affairs, and practical efficiency in all he undertook, such kindliness of disposition and personal charm that literally none knew him but to love him.

His military work was at all times of great value, particularly in his arduous duties in the G.1 section of the Army Staff, where he spared himself not at all, devoting himself to his staff duties heart and soul, although always desirous of sharing the dangers and adventures of his comrades in the line.

I feel you not permit me to express my own sorrow and that of his comrades, upon his untimely death. None could so ill have been spared.

With deepest sympathy to those nearest and dearest to him, I am,
Very Sincerely Yours.
Robert McCleave
Colonel of Infantry.

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[c. 8-13-19

Tuesday

Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Dorothy.

I took this photograph for you & your husbands grave the day before leaving France, and am sorry it has not reached you before.

It was taken on Decoration Day, just after

2

Leland Harrison and General McCoy had said the most beautiful thing of flowers I have ever read, on Reynolds Straights grave.

I happened to be alongside of them at the moment, covering the grave of a young aviator called Faber with flowers.

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Dorothy — I don't know why I have never written you before, for having been in Paris during your husband's illness, and hearing so much of him from Daisy Hahlman — I have thought of you and your terrible grief constantly

All Paris was ringing with the highest praises

him, your friends Dan Chapin & Jay Gould
You exhandmaid Daisy Hahlman
Skip will kum, also
so many kneed it all seemed
— Next Dec Carl
I am sure
is all, and
his own wonderful courage & will.
With best wishes for your voyage,
and deepest sympathy
Very sincerely yours,
Dorothy Kane

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†

Diocèse de BEAUVAIS

ARCHIPRÊTRÉ ET PAROISSE
de SENLIS (Oise)

Senlis, le 14 Août 1919

Madame.

Ce me fut une bien douce surprise d'apprendre à mon retour Banque Morgan que vous étiez à Paris et que j'aurais pu avoir la joie désirée de vous offrir mes humbles hommages et toute ma reconnaissance pour votre si généreuse bonté à mon égard. Un peu préoccupé de n'avoir point trouvé dans votre lettre reçue hier Lundi, le chèque annoncé par vous, j'avais fait le voyage de Paris pour signaler le fait à la Banque où votre cher Mari avait pris le chèque dont je vous ai parlé, et voici que vous-même, vous obéissez à la même pensée en vous rendant à la même maison et dans le même but. Si je n'avais été obligé de rentrer au plus tôt à Senlis, j'aurais tenté de vous aller présenter cet Archiprêtre qu'une si franche affection unissait à Monsieur Straight. Si vous le voulez bien, je réparerai cette impossibilité d'aujourd'hui par une visite prochaine. Je serais bien heureux si vous pouviez m'accorder la faveur d'une entrevue. Malheureusement, je ne connais pas la langue anglaise, mais les cœurs se comprennent vite, et je sais que je pourrai recourir sûrement à votre indulgence.

Il pourrait également arriver que vous désiriez voir cette ville de Senlis habitée par votre cher Défunt. Ce serait pour moi un grand bonheur de vous accompagner dans cette visite.

En attendant ce bonheur, je vous prie, Madame, de daigner agréer ma très-grande reconnaissance pour votre extrême bonté et votre générosité princière, et l'expression de mon bien respectueux dévouement envers votre personne vénérée.

L'Archiprêtre

Dans le cas où il vous serait possible

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ou agréable de me recevoir, je serais heureux que vous puissiez m'indiquer le jour et l'heure qui vous conviendraient le mieux. Je ne serais pas libre d'aller à Paris le mercredi, 2 septembre, anniversaire de l'invasion barbare à Senlis, qui sera célébré par un service religieux à 10 h.

TIFFANY & CO
25 RUE DE LA PAIX & PLACE DE L'OPÉRA
PARIS
221 REGENT STREET W.
LONDON
FIFTH AVENUE & 37th STREET
NEW YORK

Paris: 26th. Aug. 1919.

Madame Borden Harriman,
Hotel Rits, Paris.

Madam,

We beg to inform you that the plate we are making with grave number, cannot be finished before Saturday or Munday next.

In case you wish to show Madame Willard D. Straight the style of plate, we are sending you one exactly like it which was made some time ago as a model, before the grave number was exigable.

We are Madam,
Yours very respectfully,

PPor TIFFANY & CO
F. Willard

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Paris, August 30, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL W. D. CONNOR,
Commanding American Forces in France.

Mrs. Willard Straight desires to fix up the military cemetery at Suresnes according to a plan drawn up by Mr. Joe Davidson and Captain Herbert Haseltine. The scheme is more or less elaborate, and Colonel Kromer knows just exactly what it is. The C-in-C approves of this scheme being carried out. Will you please inform Colonel Kromer, as Mrs. Straight is anxious that work be commenced as soon as possible?

J.G.QUEKEMEYER,
Colonel, Cavalry, A.D.C.

COPY:

To Mrs. Willard Straight.

n.d.
[c.8-30-19]

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your plans for fixing up the Suresnes cemetery has been approved. If you will be so kind as to call me on the telephone, Aviation 111, I will give you further particulars.

I had the pleasure of serving with Colonel Straight at Governors Island and again over here. I was Chief of Staff of the 77th Division at Camp Upton.

Chief of A.E.F. staff

E.E. Booth
Brigadier General

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[c. August, 1919]

ONE HUNDRED FORTY BROADWAY
NEW YORK

Dear Dorothy.

Dr. Kenneth Taylor who was I think one of the doctors who took care of Willard was here a short time ago on his way home to St. Paul. He was anxious to see you but of course you were away. I think he expects to be back here in a few weeks but in the meantime his address is 206 Globe Building St. Paul Minn. If you wish it I should be glad to let him know when you expect to be home

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I hope you are having
a real rest though I
suppose you are spending
a large part of your
time planning how you
can exhaust yourself
when you get back.

Nathalie is awfully peaceful
this summer but I
can feel her gathering
strength for a winters
debauch. My best for
you all

Yours faithfully

F R Swan

Monday

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Sept. 6th.

[1919]

Sibley coming for the day on the 13th & we will meet them without fail and it will be wonderful to see you at the boat.

I was so touched by your letter, Dorothy and all I could think of while reading it is - what your friendship means to me. I turn to you for every-

Dearest Dorothy -

Thanks so much for sending me Susie's letter which was most amusing, wasn't it. And the "ten years" certainly adds a touch! Victor and I are simply thrilled at the idea of Whitney & Mr.

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thing instinctively - because I know that you are always there - ready to help and understand - and that is everything! I find myself always wondering what you would do or think in a given situation because you have the wonderful power of looking at things from the other person's point of view. You have always given me such lovely things for the house and to wear that I love to live with them & be constantly reminded of what you have meant & and do mean to Charlie Tinton and myself - We all have an entirely different feeling about you than any other friend and the

is very close to you in spirit and that you will spend the day together. I have never known anyone whose personality lasted after him the way Willard's has. I always feel it so strongly when I am with you. I have read and re-read "An American in Asia"

[2] [9-6-19]

extraordinary part to me is the amount of different types of people in the world feel the same way about you!

When I think that to-morrow is your wedding anniversary Dorothy - I can hardly bear it for you! I know that Willard

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and what a fascinating picture it is, Dorothy, of these days of Willard's life - with his great charm & talents and above all his wonderful ability and real understanding of these people. How proud you must be of him and how proud the children will always be - to be the children of Willard Straight! It is a name that somehow spells romance and means something all around this world & who knows what it means when he is now and to you. Ah! Dorothy my heart is so full and I am thinking of you both every moment these days and particularly to-morrow. God bless you, dear Edith.

Peking, China.

10th September, 1919.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
120 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I am sorry indeed that I have not acknowledged the letter of introduction which Mrs. Henry Field brought to us from you, but I have been laid up since June, and have been unable to attend to anything at all.

We enjoyed very much the unfortunately short visit with Mrs. Field and herfriend Miss Emery. Helen took them around to call on Princess Pukin, and they afterwards dined, Chinese style, with the Princess. The Princess made many enquiries regarding you and the children, and expressed deepest sympathy with you in your bereavement.

We are now in the throes of breaking up house. We are booked to leave Yokohama for San Francisco by the S.S. Nile, the 9th of October, and plan at present to go to join Helen's mother and sister in Santa Ana, California. As soon as I can settle the family down I shall go to a sanitarium to see if they can patch me for a few years. I have rather serious heart trouble but am hopeful that I shall pick up and be able to do a few more years work. Our address in Santa Ana will be, c/o Mrs. Whiting, 519 West First Street. I may say that included in the "we", are Helen, Lillian and Nalson. The last mentioned is a Captain, and has been on duty here in connection with the Chinese laborers since his return from France in February of this year, after eighteen months service there. He intends to resume his College course, just where it is not quite certain.

With kindest regards to you from us all.

Yours very sincerely,

J. P. Gatrell

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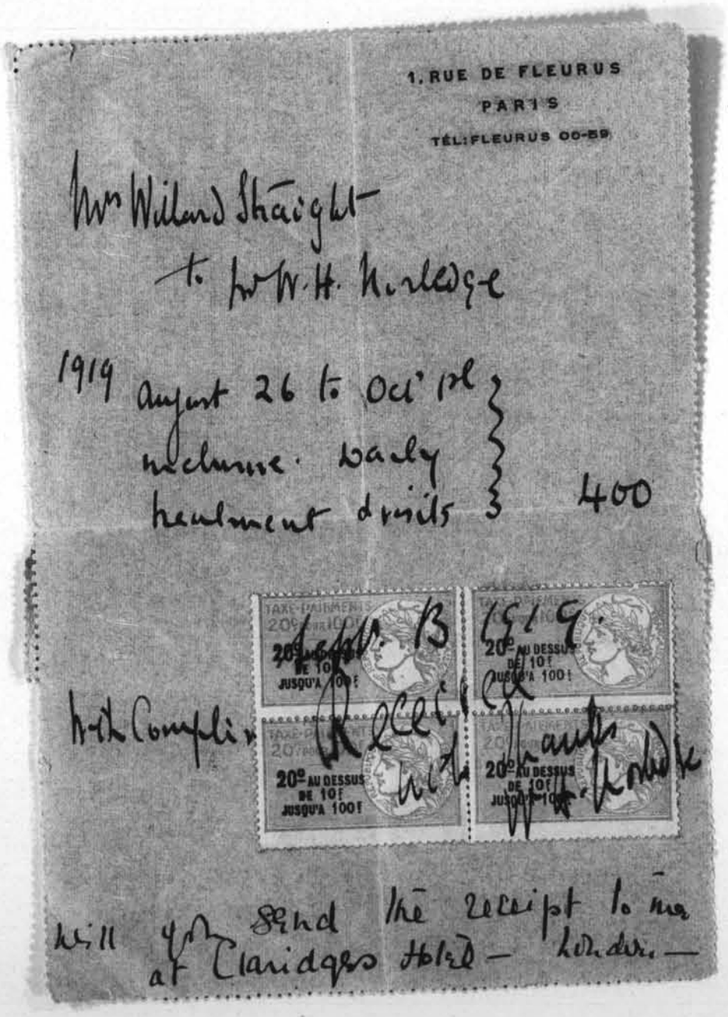
1. RUE DE FLEURUS
PARIS
TÉL: FLEURUS 00-59

Mrs Willard Straight
to W.H. Nurledge

1919 August 26 to Oct' 1st
inclusive. Daily
treatment drills } 400

20c AU DESSUS DE 10f JUSQU'A 100f

With Compli

Will you send the receipt to me at Claridges Hotel — London. —

COPY

September 16, 1919

Mr. Farnham P. Griffiths,
McCutchen, Willard, Mannon & Greene,
Merchants Exchange Building,
SanFrancisco, Cal.

Dear Mr. Griffiths:

Because of my absence out of town I have been unable to reply to your very kind letter of August 13 until now. I wish to thank you for your kind expression of cooperation and am forwarding to Mrs. Straight a copy of your letter. My secretary informs me that the two enclosures which you mention as accompanying the letter were evidently omitted from the letter as they were not in the envelope when it reached here. If you care to send me another copy I shall be glad to forward it to Mrs. Straight.

We are planning to start the biographical articles which we are to publish in ASIA before the time at which you say the Stephens' Estate is to be probated. I regret therefore, that we shall not be able to derive the benefit from any papers among Professor Stephens' belongings which would have to do with Willard Straight. However, I am sure that Mrs. Straight will be glad to have whatever you find at that time. And if there is any possibility of getting these papers before then, we should be glad to know because of their possible use in the articles we are to publish.

Do you happen to know of any man at Cornell during the time Professor Stephens and Willard Straight were together who could tell us of Professor Stephens' influence upon Willard Straight during their association there, and particularly with regard to Willard Straight going to the Far East? Personal recollections of this kind from someone who knew both these men would be very valuable for us.

I would appreciate hearing from you, and thank you for your interest.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) L. D. Froelick

LDF:MM

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L. O.

Paris, September 16th, 1919.

Madam,

We beg to inform you that we this day credit your ordinary account - unless we hear from you to the contrary - with the sum of :-

Frs. 225,000.- being the equivalent at 9 of $25,000.

Yours faithfully,

per pro. MORGAN HARJES & Co.

Mrs. D. Whitney Straight,
Claridges' Hotel,
London.

44, RUE DU BAC. VII[e]

Sept 17 1919

My dear Mrs Straight

I am afraid that the photographers will disappoint me in delivering the good Prints of the "Dongway" - La in time. So I am sending you the only proof I have - It's a very poor one - however - I thought you might like to have it with you. Showed in the photos appear - I shall send them along. all the preparations are getting on famously and we will set to work - on the models and drawings on Monday or Tuesday.

I shall keep you in touch of all the developments

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L9-17-17

and send you Blue Prints as soon as they are in condition to be seen.

Mrs. Davison joins me in sending you our sincerest regards.

Faithfully yours

J.P. Davison

Mrs Straight -
After reading will you please return the enclosure to me to be copied?
A.H.D.

WESTMINSTER HOUSE,
7, MILLBANK,
LONDON, S.W.

September 17th. 1919.

Mrs. Willard Straight,
C/O The Estate of Willard Straight,
120, Broadway. NEW YORK CITY.

My dear Mrs. Straight,

I trust that you are in the same good health as when I had the pleasure of lunching with you in New York just before I sailed for England.

Referring to the Memorial to your late Husband Major Willard Straight I beg to say that before leaving New York, I took the matter up with Mr. Robert H. Patchin and also with your Secretary Mr. Fiedler and this week I have received a letter from Mr. Patchin stating that he proposed to get together a number of Willard Straight's friends immediately after Labour Day on September 1st, and organise this Memorial which I am certain that he will do, and also that he will keep you advised.

I have met here Mr. Grant Forbes and explained the whole proposition to him and he states that he would be very glad to go on the General Committee and at the same time give us material assistance. I believe that you are acquainted with him.

I am enclosing you herewith a copy of a letter that I have just written to Mr. Louis D. Froelick which will explain itself, and I invite your attention to what I have said with re-

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gard to Willard's life in China, which I trust you will read and eliminate such portions of it as you do not agree with. The correspondence that I had with Willard, covering several years, is at present in New York, however one of these days it is my intention to send this complete correspondence to you. There are some letters that I am certain you would be glad to have and I am in thorough accord with the biography as it will not only be an incentive to all young men but to your Children in later years.

I feel rather guilty about not being able to be in New York where I could give the matter of the Memorial my personal assistance but I cannot say at this time, when I will be returning to America. However, I want to do all that I can to get the Memorial Committee organised and feel certain that we will meet with success - the whole proposition must be a success.

I found Mr. Fiedler very enthusiastic and he stated to Mr. Patchin and myself that he would gladly give his time and assistance to the proposed Memorial and I am certain that he will take great pleasure in doing so.

With kindest regards.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Thomas

September 17th. 1919.

Louis D. Froelick Esq.,
Publisher of The Asia Journal,
American Asiatic Association.
627, Lexington Avenue,
NEW YORK CITY.

My dear Mr. Froelick,

I received your letter of August 20th, with enclosures, and am very much interested in the proposal you submit with regard to collecting material for a biography of Willard Straight, of his relations with the Far East - his life and accomplishments etc.

I have never written anything for publication but feel in high sympathy with what you are undertaking.

A few days ago I had a talk with a Mr. J.O.P. Bland, formerly of Peking and who was a friend of Willard Straights' and in Peking during the whole of the time that Willard Straight was in China. No doubt you have read some of Mr. Bland's Books, and I consider him thoroughly qualified to write a biography of Willard Straight and in this connection I might mention that Mr. Bland is sailing from here some time next month for New York, and will call upon Mrs. Straight - and I would like for you to get in touch with him. Mr. Bland has already intimated that he would be glad to write a biography of Willard Straight as he knew him and his accomplishments in China, and I hope that when he arrives in New York, you will have a talk with him and get him to commence the work.

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The Biography that Mr. Bland would write would be a useful incentive to all young men of all nationalities and most gratifying to Mrs. Straight and to their Children.

I will now relate to you something of what I knew of Willard Straight in China and leave it in your good hands to edit what I say, thereby making the Article readable. At any rate I hope you will be able to work up an article from what I say below:--

Willard Straight was endowed with a determined pioneer spirit. In the latter part of 1902 I was returning to China, via Marseilles. We sailed from Marseilles at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and I was given a seat at a table for four. Our party consisted of a lady and gentleman, also returning to China after many years resident in that country. Willard Straight was travelling out to China to join The Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs under Sir Robert Hart.

We soon became acquainted and talked China, its people, customs, and the future in World's affairs. Very soon I discovered that our young friend Willard Straight had a good working knowledge of China. He was young, strong, accomplished, just out of College and was going to China to learn all that he could about that wonderful Country. His broad vision of Asia and the Far East appealed to me to the point that I was determined to at once cultivate his acquaintance and make a friend of him, and to if possible get him to join the commercial interest that I was associated with.

The voyage was a pleasant one, we became friendly and were on common ground in talking China. I mentioned that I did

[9-17-19]

not see much future for a young man in The Chinese Maritime Customs service and that there was an excellent opening in my Commerdial undertaking for young men, and further, that a position for him was to be immediately had at more salary than he was to get in the Chinese Customs Service. My proposition was taken under advisement and after a few days I received Willard Straight's frank reply that he thought he had best at least remain in the Chinese Customs Service until he had learnt to speak Chinese. His decision confirmed my first impression of the man, namely, that he would make good -- and he did.

We parted at Singapore with the understanding that we would keep in touch with each other, and I wish I had the correspondence that passed between us during several years at hand now, for I am certain that it would be interesting.

Upon Willard Straight's arrival in China, he was placed in a small Customs Station on the Yangtse river; was later transferred to Korea and when we next met he was Secretary to the United States Minister Morgan at Seoul and could speak Chinese and knew China so well that he foresaw many things which took place years after. He made friends with and knew well many prominent Chinese and Chinese officials and had their respect and confidences - one could see at a glance that he was not long to remain in The Chinese Customs Service.

Willard Straight conceived the idea of building the Chinchow and Anguin Railway and with the assistance of His Excellency Tangshih Yi, he secured the franchise to build this

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railroad. However, before definitely deciding to submit the proposition to Capitalists he travelled from Mukden to Titsaha by rail and from Titsaha he secured the necessary transportation and Outfit and ~~road~~ route across country to Anguin and from there back to the railroad head and to Mukden; in order that he might see for himself the commercial possibility of the proposed Railroad, the topography of the country, in fact he made a preliminary survey of the country before submitting the proposition to financiers. On his return to Mukden, he secured the franchise and immediately proceeded to Peking to have the franchise confirmed by the Imperial Government of China, all of which he carried out successfully. Both Russia and Japan objected to this Railroad being built on some pretext or other, but personally I could never understand why, for it would have been to the interest of these two Powers to have had the Railroad built and to have given the proposition their support.

Willard Straight was a great big broad-minded man who could instantly see over all petty jealousies and international turpitude. He was just not only to China and his own country but to the Nationals of all countries. In qualification of why I think it would have been to the interest of Russia and Japan for this Chincho and Anguin Railroad to have been built, I might say that my experience teaches me the fact that it is always cheaper to buy a Railroad after it is built, than to build one. It was to the interest of China, England, Russia, Japan and America to have had this road built and these Powers were dealing with a man who would have taken all interests to heart for the general benefit and development

of China for the Chinese and all Nationals concerned.

In Mukden one morning I called upon the Honorable Willard Straight, United States Consul General at Mukden - an appointment given to him by President Roosevelt after he had met the President. This appointment was given, in my opinion, on true merit and Willard Straight filled that office with credit to his country and to himself. It was a difficult position which he filled, several of the Powers were establishing Consulates at Mukden and trying to arrive at a working basis with regard to the three Eastern Provinces of China. These Consulates were established soon after the Russia-Japanese War. I mention this to emphasize the fact of the difficult position which Willard Straight had undertaken as United States Consul General at Mukden.

Willard Straight entered finance through the diplomatic door and located himself in Peking with the American group of Bankers. One of his first moves was to organise the four power group of Bankers - the idea being open door and free opportunity fo all Nationals in China. The four power group consisted of England, France, Germany and America, later Japan and Russia were admitted to this group of international Bankers who would undertake to negotiate loans with China for the development of that country. This consortium had the approval of the respective Nationalities and the negotiations for loans to China proceeded; and in the meantime the Honorable Woodrow Wilson was elected President of the United States and it appeared that the Wilson administration was not in accord with the terms of the Loan Agreement consequently the

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American group of Bankers withdrew from the consortium. A loan however was made to China in 1913 by the five Powers, which assisted China greatly.

Willard Straight was a kind courteous civil man who always took at least seven steps out of ten in civility. In so far as his operations in China were concerned he was dealing with a most difficult subject.

Financiers are apt to view Investments on purely a financial viewpoint and any financial proposition that borders on Politics does not interest them to the same extent as a purely financial proposition and it naturally followed that any financial proposition which Willard Straight submitted to Financiers was difficult to handle for the reason that any Security which had a political tinge to it was hard to market. My belief is however, that Willard Straight was a constructive Financier who looked into the future.

When America entered the World's Great War, Willard Straight immediately volunteered and went to the Front although he was over the Draft age. His untimely death in France is a great loss to his family, America, China and his friends.

I could say a great deal more with regard to Willard Straight but I do not think it necessary for the reason that I am certain a great many of his friends will be writing something for this biography which will be more interesting than anything that I could say.

In saying what I have, I have tried to keep away from Politics and if I have said anything in the foregoing that is too

political, please eliminate it from what I have said.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Jas Thomas

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Smithwood. Sept. 21st 1919.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

This note is merely to tell you that I have completed the little sketch in memory of Mrs. Straight, and will send it to you after I have had it type-written, and have heard again from you with specific address.

I answered your of Aug. 1st addressing my reply to you at Old Westbury, L.I. under date of Aug. 12th.

I could not well find time

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at home for literary work and to availed myself of a friend's invitation to spend a month with her in the Solitudes of the High Sierras.

We are fourteen miles from a P.O. and must send mail as we can by hand of some mountaineer who walks the distance.

May I hear from you again before sending the article I have written? No answer came from my letter of Aug. 12th—

With every good wish for your health and happiness—

Sincerely Yours.

Josephine D. Libby—
526—44th Ave. San Francisco—

COPY

McCUTCHEN, WILLARD, MANNON & GREENE

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

Merchants Exchange Building
San Francisco, California

September 22, 1919.

Louis D. Froelick, Esq.,
The American Asiatic Association,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Froelick:

I am in receipt this morning of your letter of September 16th. I note what you say regarding the early publication of the biographical articles in Asia, and if I can find any of the Straight papers soon will try to arrange with the executor to send them to you without waiting for the final closing of the estate.

I think Mr. Harold L. Leupp, now librarian of the University of California, was a student at Cornell at the time when Professor Stephens and Mr. Straight were there, and I know he would be most happy to assist you with personal recollections.

The enclosures that should have gone with my letter of August 13th were a copy of the will and an extra copy of that letter. You said that you have sent Mrs.Straight a copy of the letter, so I presume you made one. All that remains, therefore, is a copy of the will, and one is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully yours,

(Enclosure) (Signed) Farham P. Griffiths.

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[encl. 9-22-19]

Faculty Club
Berkeley
California

January 6, 1919.

This is the last will and testament of Henry Morse Stephens, Father Professor of History in the University of California, written in his own handwriting and with his signature attested by two competent witnesses.

I leave all my property to the Regents of the University of California upon the following conditions.

First, that they pay to my sister, Amy Ellen Stephens, the sum of fifteen pounds sterling a month, as I have been hitherto paying, for the rest of her life;

Second, that they turn over to the Directors of the Faculty Club the furniture in my rooms there;

Third, that they place my books in the University Library;

Fourth, that they turn over to Karl Clayton Leebrick my lecture notes, card catalogues, student's essays and similar material for giving instruction in history;

Fifth, that they entrust my private papers, letters, manuscripts, and so forth to Farnham P. Griffiths to be examined and destroyed by him or to be preserved in part, as he shall think fit;

Sixth, that they request my very dearest friends, Farnham P. Griffiths, Ralph Palmer Merritt, John Dundas Fletcher, Prentiss B. Gray, William Clark Crittenden, or any of them, to distribute among my personal friends such of my personal belongings, apart from furniture and books, as they may care to possess.

I nominate William Clark Crittenden, attorney-at-law, of San Francisco to be my executor.

In the presence of
Harry B. Wilcox)
: Witnesses
Arthur P. Watts)

Signed: H. MORSE STEPHENS

[c. Sept., 1919]

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 5164

HOURS 10 TO 12
AND BY APPOINTMENT

DR. KENNETH TAYLOR
445 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

Dear Mrs Straight -

Damn sorry not to have seen you before you left for France. This is merely to give you my address in case you should wish to see me. Am finally back from the West and at work here and know that you also are home again.

Very sincerely yours
Kenneth Taylor

Sunday.

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[1919]

Dear Dorothy

The types memos are suggestive only & I will be glad to have your change them in any way you want. & when you want the articles put in the local papers I will attend to them - I expect now to be in Oswego until the latter part of November

Sincerely yours

Willard Straight Jr.

October tenth

44, RUE DU BAC. VII[e]

Oct 11th 19

My dear Miss Staiger

The work on the models for Suresnes is going splendidly and in three or four weeks time - I expect to be able to send you a complete set of Blue Prints.

I am sending you the long promised photos of The Dooryard I have been so busy with the Cemetery that I have not as yet obtained the statue. But expect to by soon.

Mrs Chadbourne has finally arrived from New York. But Mrs Standish has unfortunately been very ill. but the crisis is past. and she is sitting up very well

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[10-11-19] [2]

44, RUE DU BAC. VII[E]

Have you been able to locate any of the books. I gave you the list of. as this may most [illegible] useful for the final drawings -

Mr. Hankeline's mother has been very ill. and he is not yet back from Italy. I however expect him next week. and we will all get to work - and get the details out in a hurry.

Mrs Dawson join me in our [illegible] best regards -

Most sincerely yours

J. W. Davidson

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
289 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY
TEL. GRAMERCY 1172

Oct. 16-1919

Dear Mrs. Straight -

Returning to my desk I find your letter written from the Mauretania. It reassured me that I had not done wrong in writing you from France.

If what I thought of Major Straight were only my own opinion it might not matter so much. But I felt that there were hundreds of men in the A.E.F. - sergeants and privates and young officers who would never write you - but who thought of the Major as I tried to tell you I did. They saw he had the ability and competence expected of higher officers and not always found: and they were devoted to him because of his eternal kindness and consideration which nobody expected of higher officers in wartime and which he always had. —— I think these men will always be looking for a man to work for such as Willard Straight was.

Most sincerely yours.

Asher Blankenhorn

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PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EIGHTY WALL STREET

CABLE ADDRESS
PADELCO

NEW YORK October 16, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I have been trying for a long time to write what seemed to me an adequate statement of my opinion and friendship towards Willard and what I felt that he stood for in connection with America's relation in the Orient. After a great many trials it seemed to me that I could best do it in the shape of a letter to you conveying the feelings which I had when I received, in the Philippine Islands, the news of Willard's death. I feel that the enclosed is very inadequate but I hope you will accept it as a very sincere although I realize a bungling effort to express a very deep feeling.

Faithfully yours,

Edward B. Price

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

EBB:G
Enclosure

[enclosed 10-16-19]

Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island, P.I.
December 15, 1918. [ficticious date]

Dear Mrs. Straight:

Yesterday I received here a telegram forwarded from Manila carrying the news of Willard's death in Paris on December 1st. It came to me as a great shock. Since then I have been thinking constantly of Willard, of what he meant to me personally, and of what he meant to American interests in the Orient. And though I have no gift of expression, I cannot refrain from trying to convey my thoughts and feelings to you.

When I look back on my friendship with Willard, it is hard for me to realize that I had only known him personally for about four years. Long before I met him, he was familiar to me by reputation. Indeed, every American in the East knew about Willard Straight and realized what he stood for in American Oriental relations. Thus, when I first met him in 1914, it was more like renewing an old friendship than like making a new one. His action on that occasion was characteristic of his generous spirit, keen insight, and swift understanding. Within fifteen minutes after our meeting, he was not only deep in the plans we were making for building up American trade in the Orient, but he had joined heartily in our enterprise. And from then until the very end, he gave me not only a warm personal friendship, but active and effective support and help in every problem that came up.

Willard possessed all those personal qualities which endear a man to his friends. He had the rare gift of sympathy with and

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interest in the other person's opinions, aspirations, and point of view, coupled with an infinite tact that made him delight in doing the thing which was sure to please. He gave unsparingly of his time and thought without conveying the slightest hint of an expected return, and he had to a very unusual degree that spirit of constancy which made his friendship not a thing of whims or moods, but something steadfast that you could pin your faith upon.

Through my interest in the Orient, I came in touch with one of his many activities, the one which was perhaps closest to his heart and which occupied most of his thoughts. His intense interest in Oriental affairs was equalled only by his desire to promote a better understanding between the East and the United States, and to place the relations of both sides on an extraordinarily high plane. This was a very profound part of his life. It was a problem we had endless discussions about. And while we did not always agree in regard to details or to particular proposals, I was invariably struck with the way in which he subordinated every discussion to the highest aims of business management and statesmanship. If ever a man understood Ruskin's view that business should be "a great intellectual, civilizing agency," he did. And he not only understood it, he applied it. He utilized the remarkable knowledge which he had gained of the Orient for the improvement of human conditions there, and for the lasting benefit of the friendship between their people and ours.

In thinking of Willard as an associate in business, I immediately

recall his unfailing generosity and his cheerful willingness to go to all sorts of trouble to do a favor or to give help in a difficult situation. He always seemed ready to take the time to do the things that ought to be done and yet that don't get done because they are no particular person's business. This was an outstanding trait of his, noted and admired by all his friends.

It is my deep belief that Willard's remarkable personality will live on in the memory of his friends as a standard of integrity of action and sincerity of purpose. What is perhaps equally important, his work will remain as a part of any permanent result that American civilizing influences may hope to achieve in the Orient.

Faithfully yours,

Edward B. Price

EBB:G

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10-19-19-
Borrego. N.Y.

Dear Dorothy,

Brother Will says you are still away but I want you to know that when you return and feel that you can come to Borrego. We want you very much. I had not time before you sailed to tell you how splendid I think your plan is for benefitting Borrego's youth via Cornell. It seems just the kind of thing that Willard

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would approve most heartily.
for his love for Cornell was
real and his affection for
Norway also — and to join
the two places that were so
closely associated with him
is a fine, a very fine
thing to do.

With love & devotion,
Faithfully yours,
Elsie May Jerrold

The temperature at noon today was ....°

HOTEL DEL CORONADO
W. A. TURQUAND, MANAGER
Coronado Beach, California

October 19th 1919.

Dear Dorothy:-

I am in receipt of your very sweet letter, duly forwarded from my clubs, and I am especially grateful for the nice things you say about Helen — you see, none of my family in New York (the Davisons, I mean of course) had known her before she became engaged, and it is so nice to realize that you had met and appreciated her, quite independently of me! I certainly hope that we may see you often when we return, and that you will become to Helen the sympathetic, understanding friend you have been to me ever since I first knew you.

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I am glad that my letter to you at the time of Willard's death was some comfort — I wish I could have a talk with you about him, for I have a feeling that I understood a certain spiritual quality in him that you, of course, loved best which some of his friends I think did not have the opportunity of observing. We had some long talks just before your marriage which make me feel always very close to you both. And I think you are wonderfully brave and splendid in your trouble — as I knew you would be!

Very sincerely,
F. H. Whitmore

BURRO MOUNTAIN HOMESTEAD
TYRONE
NEW MEXICO.

Oct 23
1919 —

My dear Dorothy —

Not a day goes by that my most loving thoughts do not start in your direction — I hope some of them have reached you — Corinne & Ethel keep us in touch with you & your blessed small family — but, above all, do you tell us of the wonder of your bearing these many months — It is inspiring to picture as I do very vividly — & it takes me back to our school days when grief came to you so early — Dear Dorothy, you are such a wonderful influence among all of us & you can't imagine what a privilege I felt it to be even on the outer edge of the circle that reflects your fine interpretation of life —

In our sitting room, we have a sketch that your husband once gave us & that we have always

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Cherished + Carried with us on our travels —
We would love to have such a snapshot of you
to put near it —?

One of the keen pleasures of going East is that
of having a glimpse of you — Our plans are
necessarily vague but I shall hold the thought
of seeing you very near — + in the meantime,
the love of enclosing years is yours dear friend —

Effectionately —

Isabella Bunnow-Ferguson

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

October 23, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

We are going to have a wonderful story of Willard in ASIA for next year. Mrs. Egan, as you know, is going to do it and she is going to make it much more than simply a biography. As a story it will be fascinating and I believe it will be one of the most important contributions that can be made at this time of our history and expansion around the world.

Roughly, Mrs. Egan and I have outlined a series to run, we think, all through the year beginning with the February issue and to be double the size of the usual article we have been running, being eight to ten thousand words in each installment. The diaries have a rare fascination, and with Mrs. Egan weaving them into her knowledge of Willard's nature and life, and the background of the Orient which she knows so well, the series will really be an inspiring thing.

Mrs. Egan suggested, and I think it would be a splendid thing, that, if you agree, the story be published in book form and the proceeds be given to some charity or public work. Such a book ought to have a splendid sale. I am sure that many publishers would like to have it. I would like it to be the start of some publishing work which we might very well do ourselves in connection with the promotion of ASIA. The story would be done for the popular reader and would carry an unusual appeal. Both articles and book should be illustrated with Willard's work and with photographs of him and of the people and places in his work. Won't you help us get drawings, pictures and other work which could be used in illustrating the series?

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[10-23-19]

There is a large gap in the material at hand between 1908 and the beginning of the war. Mrs. Egan told me that you and she had talked of sources for this part of the work, and I hope it may be possible for you to give those parts of his letters which will illuminate this period.

We did very well with publicity and sales with the Shantung number. The total sale of the issue appears to have been between twenty-six and twenty-seven thousand. We spent a good deal on getting up the number and advertising it, but it was an opportunity that I think was well worth while because of the public interest at the time.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Louis D Brandeis

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

LDF:MM

[10-24-19]

Law School of Harvard University,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dorothy—

To a letter like yours one can only be silent — and yet I wish you might somehow know how deeply it moved me, how profound a motive your visit in me has been only to stir deeper the friendship which you so generously express. I am sorry we missed the week abroad — there is so much today, to exchange thought and feeling. I remember our long talk in September 1914 after I had seen Col. House — and came away with real sadness about their unpreparedness for War. Alas! all my prophecies have only too crippled

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[10-24-19]

Law School of Harvard University,

Cambridge, Mass.

I shows how much you feel pride and confidence in the N. R. It was not easy to steer a new and already powerful ship into such waters — but under Herbert's hand the paper has done and does it finely! Of course unfairness and ignorance and unfriendliness are born in the country. But make the duty of speaking clearly and speaking loyally to make — and that responsibility, long since, the paper has discharged. Enemies, it has created — I count the paper has earned them, and how amusing some former friends. But how could it be expected otherwise. And it's a joy and happiness to feel — to know how the paper steadily has the unanimous

[3] [10-24-19]

Law School of Harvard University,

Cambridge, Mass.

record of your way & life that should be just and true that each intelligence & you

Somewhere in Europe I chanced on Holland's letter from Paris. What standing bewilderment and his downright rage was and respect for life they showed. I know a bit the cruelty & a long young life going from us — but if he is remembered what a great memory, what a stirring impulse will have left to his fellowmen.

Let it never be forgotten and by whom & how.

Faithfully

F.F.

[F. Frankfurter]

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

October 28, 1919.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I hasten to reply to your communication of the 24th inst. which has just been delivered in this morning's mail.

As regards the scholarship which you propose establishing in the Oswego High School in memory of your husband, "the annual and total cost" will of course depend upon the object you desire to accomplish. If you have in mind a scholarship sufficient to cover the student's tuition and other fees, there would be needed at the present time a capital of about $5,000. Our present rates of tuition are two hundred dollars a year; and laboratory and other fees would in most cases fall within fifty dollars, though in the case of a student specializing in the sciences the laboratory fees would be somewhat higher.

If you desire to provide also for the living expenses of the student the fund would need to be considerably larger. A first indication of the amount necessary will be furnished by the charge now made in the two women's halls for "room, board, laundry, and service", which charge is four hundred dollars a year. The men students do not lodge and board under the same roof as the women students do in these halls, and their expenses, if averaged, would probably be found to be a little higher.

A small outlay would also be necessary for books and instruments and I should think twenty-five dollars a year a minimum for that purpose.

A student's expenses for clothes and other personal objects depend so largely on the tastes and habits of the individual that it is impossible to make any accurate estimate.

As Cornell University is open to women as well as to men and as approximately 15% of the student-body is composed of women, it is eminently proper that, if you establish a scholarship in the Owsego High School in memory of your husband, it be open to young women as well as to young men.

If there is any other information you desire regarding this proposed scholarship do not hesitate to communicate with me. I shall be glad to give you all the information at my disposal.

I was not surprised to learn that as your husband's estate is now in course of settlement it has hitherto been practicable for you to carry out his desire in regard to the University but that you have it in mind. Since, however, you have referred to this matter

[10-28-19]

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

I take the liberty of enclosing for your information a copy of my annual Report which has just come from the press, along with Bulletin No. 7, in both of which I have endeavored to describe the present situation of the University and the problems which confront it.

I note your desire to see me when I am next in New York. I am to be in New York and Albany in the third week of November for three or four days and I shall probably be in New York for a day or two either next week or the following week. I shall be glad to put myself at your disposal on any of these occasions as may best suit your convenience.

Very sincerely yours,

Jacob Gould Schurman

Mrs. Willard Straight
130 Broadway
New York City

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
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Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University (Committee on General Administration, March 6, 1915).

WHEREAS, Edwin G. Vail, late of Dutchess County, in the State of New York, in and by his last Will and Testament bequeathed unto Cornell University "the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, the same to be held intact and the income therefrom to be expended by the Board of Trustees of said University in the aid of needy students from Dutchess County who may in the annual examinations therefor succeed in winning a State Scholarship in Cornell University. In the event of this State Scholarship being abolished then and in that event said sum of Ten Thousand Dollars to revert to Elias C. Vail and Lavina C. Vail in accordance with the residuary clause of this my will."

THEREFORD RESOLVED, That Cornell University accept the bequest of the said sum of Ten Thousand Dollars upon the conditions therein stated and said University through its Board of Trustees hereby expresses its grateful appreciation of the generous purpose of Mr. Vail to aid needy and meritorious students from Dutchess County in acquiring an education.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University (Committee on General Administration, January 6, 1917).

The President presented correspondence in regard to and the Will of Eudorus C. Kenney of the Class of 1882, who died December 24, 1916, at Washington, D.C. By the Will Mr. Kenney's estate was left to the University "to be owned, held and invested in the same manner as other similar funds belonging to said University and the net annual income thereof to be used for one or more scholarships, as the amount may be sufficient in the judgment of the authorities of said University - said scholarships to be competed for in the manner designated by said University authorities, excepting, that, if at any time there be an applicant from the town of Truston, Cortland Co., N.Y., competent to enter the University in the judgment of said University authorities, he or she shall be accorded the scholarship without competition, and, if at any such time there are more such applicants than there are scholarships open, said University authorities shall select the one or ones most worthy to receive the benefits of said scholarships. The scholarships endowed by this will and testament shall be denominated The Eudorus C. Kenney Scholarships."

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SEALAND W. LANDON, A. M.
Headmaster

COL. THOMAS D. LANDON, Late 163rd Inf., U. S. A.
Principal and Commandant

DAVID STYER, C. E.
Executive Secretary

Bordentown Military Institute

Bordentown, N. J.

29 October 19

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Old Westbury, L.I., N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

On the strength of my indirect acquaintance with you through your having had a protege',young Henry B. Williams with us, and of your having married one of our finest graduates, I am going to ask you to indulge me in a personal interview.

I had talked over with Mr. Richard R. Hunter, Vice President of the Equitable Trust Company, an old B.M.I. graduate, the idea of presenting to Major Straight some plans for the further development of B.M.I. My idea was to offer what I consider an opportunity to Major Straight for his consideration, but before I could see him about it we both went to the War. I came very near to meeting him in Langres, France. We exchanged greetings through other B.M.I. graduates. Then came the shock of his death in Paris. Very closely to me also has come two other deaths, first the death of my father about one week after I entered the U.S. Service and this fall (announcement enclosed) the death of my cousin,Headmaster S.W. Landon.

I am starting my thirty-fifth year with B.M.I. My past work has been and my future hopes are very largely unselfish in the ambition to make the school thoroughly honest and efficient for character building on the highest lines. Notwithstanding the fact that we have the largest enrollment in our history and have had to refuse many boys for lack of room I am anxious to develop plans in which I believe you will be as interested as I know Major Straight would have been.

May I at your convenience have the privilege of frankly talking with you about these plans for your husband's old school?

I am

Very sincerely,

T. D. Landon

TDL/C

[10-29-19]

SEALAND W. LANDON, A. M.
Headmaster

COL. THOMAS D. LANDON, Late 163rd Inf., U. S. A.
Principal and Commandant

DAVID STYER, C. E.
Executive Secretary

Bordentown Military Institute

Bordentown, N. J.

30 September, 1919.

Dear Friend:

It is sad news that I must bring to all old B. M. I. boys who knew the Headmaster, and even to those who did not know him. All have heard of him, and the knowledge that he passed away Monday, September 29, will bring a great sense of loss.

After a very enjoyable summer Professor Landon returned to B. M. I. as usual the Saturday before school opened, He motored down from Vermont with Mrs. Landon and two daughters. They had a pleasant trip, although he had been ailing and under the doctor's care for a couple of weeks. He was anxious to get back to his home in Bordentown. On arrival here it was recognized that he was very seriously sick and ever since he has been slowly but surely leaving us and the work he has loved so devotedly and followed so indefatigably and unselfishly for the twenty-one years just past.

The cardinal notes of his character were modesty and service. For the past forty-five years he has been always on duty, and to those who knew him he was ever ready to respond to every request for help of any kind. His native state of Vermont and his adopted state of New Jersey, and the educational world has lost a great educator. His impress will be felt long after time has softened the present grief. The funeral services will take place at the Bordentown Military Institute on Thursday afternoon, October 2nd, at four o'clock. The interment will be at St. Albans, Vermont, on Friday afternoon, October 3rd.

I am

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS D. LANDON.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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[11-2-193]

414 E. Buffalo St.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I cannot half express to you the delight and pleasure you gave me in my memorable visit to your beautiful home. Most of all did it delight me to see your exquisite Children and to learn to know them. It breaks ones heart to realize that they can no more know their wonderful father, but O! how worthy they are of him and of you. It is very dear to me that you wish me to do a bust of Whitney, and I will be a joy indeed whenever

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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you can find a convenient & have it done. your friends were so wonderfully fine and interesting. All in all my visit will be a great moment of my life. Your exquisite hospitality warmed my heart and I thank you and thank you again.

I am sending a little about the things we talked about and have put down suggestions for what, to me, would mean Mr. Straight & Cornell. Some of these suggestions are ambitious, perhaps too utterly Utopian, but I have begun modestly.

I have written & sent a note for some of the Mr. Straight's friends whose collection of Chinese curios and Buddhist images I would like to examine, so soon as I get there, so soon as I get a letter of my memories of Mr. Straight's own thank you again let me thank you for all that you meant to me. Please give my love to Whitney, Beatrice and Dorothy.

Faithfully yours

Olaf P. Denman

Nov. 8-1919

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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[encl. 11-2-19]

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
ITHACA, N. Y.

Oct. 31-1919

My dear Mrs. Straight

According to your wish I am writing several suggestions for memorials to Mr. Straight at Cornell- Any one of these, it seems to me, would stand for what he was interested in.

1st A travelling fellowship in the College of Architecture of $2000.00 per year. (This would not help Cornell financially, but would give the College of Architecture more standing among other Colleges.)

2nd An endowment of from $125,000.00 to $150,000.00 for a professorship in one of the three following subjects:

a. International Law and Diplomacy. (this because of Mr. Straight's interest in, and his position in, the Diplomatic Service)

[10-31-19] 2

b. History - (this because of his interest in that subject and because of his close relationship with Morse Stevens.)

C- Art - (This because of his vital, personal and continuous interest in all that pertains to Art.)

3d An Art Gallery, at (?) dollars. 40'X100' containing one small office and one small coat-room and one gallery. I have not presumed to name cost as this would be according to the kind of building. Cost today would, of course, be much greater than before the war.

To run this gallery would be needed an endowment of something like $100,000.00 for the following: A Curator (a girl to be at the gallery, watch the exhibits and to take care of correspondance), the expense of 3 exhibitions per year; for 3 prizes of $300.00 each to induce artists to send their works, for the travelling expenses of 3 jurors for each exhibition, for janitor service, etc.

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4th An Art Gallery, twice the size of the one suggested in 3d., containing 2 galleries and with an added endowment of from 40 to 60 thousand dollars to allow for the purchase of pictures from the current exhibitions for a permanent Collection - This would take the place of prizes as an inducement to send works. One gallery to be finally filled by the permanent exhibition and to be kept open during the entire year, the other gallery as in plan 3d to be devoted to temporary exhibitions.

5th A College of Fine Arts - (the great dream of us all at Cornell).
This would cost about $1,000,000.00
And would need an endowment of over a million to pay professors salaries and for running expenses.

I mention this last only because I know that Mr. Straight has so many fine friends who are wealthy. Perhaps some of them might wish to give all or part of such a College to serve as a memorial to a great Soul.

As I told you in my letter I begin modestly and end with a great dream. Whatever you decide to do I know will be acceptable to Cornell - the College whose well-fare was of great moment to Mr. Straight. And a memorial should be there to ever hold before the students of Cornell the example and character of one of her finest Sons.

Please let me hear from you if any of my suggestions appeal to you.

Sincerely yours
Olaf M. Brauner

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WILLARD STRAIGHT RECOLLECTIONS BY R. M. COLLINS, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 24 OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E. C. 2, - November 6, 1919

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Two of the most important passages of Willard Straight's life were spent in Peking. He came first to the crumbling and fascinating Chinese capital as a junior member of the Imperial Chinese Customs in the deeply interesting days of 1903 [1902] and 1904 when the whole atmosphere of the Far East was quivering and rumbling with the ~~politick~~ intrigues and conflict of political forces which were to blaze into war between Japan and Russia. His second residence was in the years 1909 and 1910, with the important mission of ~~xxxx~~ representative of the American banking group in the five power financial consortium which was trying to organise the finances of the rickety empire. Between those two chapters of Straight's career, - the student of the Chinese language fresh from an American university and the ambassador of high finance, - was a span of only five or six years, but those years crowded with a record of work and experience which fall to few lives.

All doors of opportunity seemed to open easily to Straight, but he could have discovered no theatre for education and opportunity more inviting to an eager mind spirit than China at the beginning of the twentieth century. And, as an alternative, none more fatal for promising and weak spirits likely to succumb to an attractive and easy going ~~life~~ current. There was a small and brilliant -

cosmopolitan colony living its own life, and a unique life, in the heart of the Chinese city ; Oriental and European worlds mixing but apart, regarding each other with interest and curiosity, each inwardly sure of itsself as the superior civilisation. In the foreign community were the members of the diplomatic body with their families, the officers of eight contingents of legation guards with two thousand men under their command, the staff of the Chinese Customs, two or three banking establishments, missionairies, and a few detached ~~foreigners~~ Europeans and Americans, - newspaper correspondents, concessionaires, and foreign advisers and employees of the Chinese government.

The Imperial Customs, needless to explain, was that institution without a fellow in the world, created and commanded by Sir Robert Hart, himself a character almost as alone as his creation. This was the one solid and honest department of what in China is called by courtesy the Government, standing forth like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. It collected the revenues from foreign imports, disbursed the large share of income set apart for foreign loans, and did this, - in China a miracle, - without graft or "squeeze." Also, in its relations with other foreigners it claimed for its staff, and was accorded, the general official and social status of a diplomatic service. From the beginning Sir Robert Hart had made it an international body, the membership enlisted from young men of all nationalities and the balance of power carefully preserved. Probably Sir Robert could have ~~made~~ built a better machine if he had made it all British, but that would have meant the jeasousies and opposition of others. He had early to teach the -

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British Government ~~XXXX~~ the lesson that he was the servant of China and not of Downing Street. No Civil Service Commission selected his staff through school examinations; he was the autocrat and sole arbiter. He tried to find young men with both business and personal qualities, and attached most importance to personality. Nominations from high quarters carried weight but not to the disregard of the international equation. An appointment meant an assured career, with gradual promotion and retirement on pension, - a career of safe and honorable routine and a snug harbor for those playing for safety.

Straight had served an apprenticeship of a few months in Nanking before he was transferred to Peking, whither the I. G. brought the most promising of his cadets to have them under his own eye. The designation of his status then was "student interpreter", which meant that he devoted several hours daily to study of the Chinese language under the tuition of a dignified old Chinese gentleman with flowered silk gown and pigtail, a gentleman of the old school now passing from view. The teacher, with Eastern peoples, is a personage, commanding profound respect and awe. His comings and goings at the quarters of the student interpreters were enveloped in an almost ambassadorial atmosphere of salutations and ceremonial on his part, with reciprocal deference from the young men who sat at his feet.

The Customs establishment was on that side of the foreign quarter nearest the Forbidden City. Sir Robert Hart's residence and offices combined were a series of rambling one story Chinese -

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My first meeting with Straight was at the dinner table set in the court yard under a clear Peking summer night, with white clad young men around the table and soft footed Chinese "boys" in the background.

buildings partly Europeanised, the younger men of the Customs staff had similar premises adjoining. There were half a dozen of the Junior Mess, among them an accomplished and companionable Japanese, Kurosawa, a Russian, Konavoloff, a Hollander, Maas, and an Italian, Prince Rospigliosi. Life in that small international family needed as much tact as the ward room of a man-of-war. Dinner giving was one of the few forms of stereotyped social diversion possible with Peking, and the junior customs mess was expected by the I.G. to uphold the traditions of the service. But the outstanding event of the Customs' ~~life~~ circle was the I. G.'s weekly garden party, weather permitting, himself a friendly figure with grey beard, the tiny bottle blue necktie he always wore, surrounded by his staff and all the foreign ~~set~~ residents with his Chinese band playing European music very valiantly, although many thought with Mr. Henry Cockburn of the British Legation that it was the form rather than the substance of real music and that the bandsmen " always felt the ~~XXXX~~ wrong emotions."

Straight at that time was the typical young American just from college. Cornell pictures, and souvenirs, and flags hung about his rooms, he treasured his fraternity pin, and his thoughts and talk were much of college life when he found a sympathetic and understanding American listener. Still there was more of the man than the boy in his face and manners, the features which with age would have taken on what is known as the judicial cast, dignified and distinguished. There was no other young man in the Peking of that time who so quickly became known and fell into such popularity. Thrown

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upon their own resources for amusement as the few hundred foreigners were, rank and position counted comparatively little, personality was everything. One who was interesting, who could contribute something to the talk, was welcomed everywhere, so Stright very soon was at home at the dinner tables of the American and British legations, and in a wider set. He was interested in everything Peking had to offer, in every phase of Chinese and foreign life,, and he soon became a conspicuous item of the latter. He made one of the summer excursion parties to the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs, he rode at the ameteur races, he played tennis, he danced, he appeared as an actor, he even attempted to sing. Some will remember an entertainment at the Club when Straight and "Tom" Haskins of the American Consular students obliged with an original song and dance in real burnt cork and negro minstrel costume. The parody on a popular song done into local topical allusions was of his authorship, and the Spanish Minister Senor de Carcera nearly fell from his seat with joy at the refrain :

" Last night I dreamt I was the King of Spain."

There were other lines dealing in a spirit of levity with even His Imperial Majesty Kwang H'su the Emperor of China, and coupling the names of high Mandarins with the extremely delicate matter of " squeeze", entirely disassociated from the habitual posture of the Imperial Customs towards its Masters, and understood at the time to have given the Inspector General a shock rare in his experience.

Nor was this the only shock which the I. G. suffered through the exuberance of his young American attache. Straight became -

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interested in the Buddhist religion, - among many other things, as was his nature, - and to the length of taking part in its rituals. He made friends with the monks of the ancient Llama Temple at the North East city gate where inquisitive foreigners before the Boxer revolution were welcomed with menaces and clubs. The Emperor Kwang H'su worshipped there on an occasion of high ceremony. Seated with the first row of monks on the floor of the inner temple, with close shaven head and wrapped in a yellow and not over clean robe of the brotherhood, earnestly beating a drum and unctuously intoning the ~~kitany~~ Thibetan litany, was Willard Straight, undoubtedly the first American to officiate in such a function.

The news spread as all news does in Peking, swiftly and without losing any color in its flight. The result was a quarter of an hour before the Inspector General with closed doors. Evidently Straight stood well with his chief because the I. G. was a strict disciplinarian, and a favorite treatment for young men whax guilty of originality was exile to some post on the border of Thibet or Mongolia where there was no society of their kind except missionaries. Incidentally Straight's pal among the monks who had been accessory to the indiscretion was suspended for a month from his priestly functions and revenues and his upkeep through this period fell upon Straight's purse.

How well Straight spoke Chinese I cannot say but there is no doubt that he picked up a conversational fluency very quickly. In native restaurants and shops he could joke with the attendants in the vernacular but probably he was not so familiar with Mandarin.

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Drawing was another of his accomplishments and unquestionably he might have made a name as an artist if he had devoted himself to that work. Before coming to Peking he had done the illustrations for " House Boat Life in China" a book written in lighter style by an "old China hand" J. O. P. Bland, and very good pictures they were. With all of his other work and diversions he made time for solid reading mainly of books on the Far East.

No, that was later, in Mukden L.S.

Verse and Worse P.S.

The human element of Peking in those days was an education for a young man attracted toward world affairs. One would have gone a long way to find elsewhere so many interesting figures, or in so small a circle so many men important or destined to importance. Sir Robert Hart was the Sphinx and the best known among all the Europeans in China. The extent of his influence in the Forbidden City, and how he used it, were questions for endless speculation, tradition being that he never offered the government advice until asked for it and that it was always followed : the position with other foreign advisers being that they always offered advice and it was seldom adopted. Russia had two remarkable representatives in the persons of Paul Lessar and M. Pokotiloff. Lessar was the Minister, a slender of a man small figure and an invalid who had been one of the pioneers of Russian expansion in Central Asia, had a record of hardships and adventures seldom equalled, and now coming to the end of his career, with almost fanatical zeal was conducting the affairs of the legation from his death bed. M. Pokotiloff was nominal representative of the Siberian Railway and Russo-Chinese Bank, but was credited with being the real and final director of all Russian interests.

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He was believed to be of Armenian blood, had a huge frame and fierce black beard, looking altogether the Oriental, ~~with a knowledge~~ Gunther working with a knowledge of the Chinese dialects as well as most European languages. The figurehead of Great Britain was Sir Ernest Satow, a courtly and reserved diplomatist steeped in the Victorian traditions of that service, who had spent nearly all his official life in Japan and was an authority upon the Japanese language and literature even with the Japanese themselves. For Germany was Baron Mumm Von Schwartzenstein of the famous champagne family, a clever modern man, popular as the host at the best dinners given in Peking, and with a German passion for method illustrated by his scrap book which contained a daily record of his activities in the form of the menu of every dinner he ate, the program of every theatre he attended, the invitations he gave and accepted, even the time tables of the train he travelled on. One of his lieutenants was Herr Krupp von Bohlen, who afterward married Frau Bertha Krupp and became director of the great Krupp works. He was marked then as one of the young men with ~~unusual abilities~~ a future.

In these legations, and of course the Japanese, was concentrated the tortuous campaign for the absorption of China, and for territorial and trade bases, and the blessed word in the Orient, " Concessions." The American colony stood apart from this diplomacy but held an position not less important because of its aloofness from the game of grab. Mr. Edwin H. Conger, best known as Major Conger, was the American Minister, remembered with affectionate respect by all ~~the~~ Americans who knew him He regarded the young men of the colony as his sons, and took a strong interest in Willard ~~the~~-

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Straight as in others. Formerly a business man and a Member of Congress from Iowa, not a professional diplomat, but with strong common sense and native shrewdness which is the pith of real diplomacy, Mr. Conger's sturdy and cheerful personality made for confidence. His power in those times was that he was honest and disinterested, as was the American Government in its dealing with China, and the Chinese knew it. Therefore high mandarins came from the yellow roofed palaces in their green chairs with many outriders, sometimes quietly to the side gates at night, for consultation and advice when the government was being crowded into a corner by the predatory haulings and proddings of the predatory legations. Many diplomatic notes from these legations to the Foreign Minister's yamen ~~xx~~ intended to be of the most secret ~~xxxx~~ went quickly to the American fu.

The influence of the American Legation owed much to the presence as Chinese Secretary of Dr. E. T. Williams, now of the University of California, whose understanding of the Chinese and sympathy with them made friendships as warm as ~~Dr. Williams had with~~ members of the American circle had for Dr. Williams. In Mr. John Coolidge of Boston, and Henry Fletcher now American Ambassador to Mexico who has justified the early promise of ability in his profession, Mr. Conger had two secretaries, whose presence contributed to make the American Legation one of which its countrymen were proud, a circumstance less common at that period than now. Outside the official set, on a pinnacle entirely his own, was Dr. Morrison, Correspondent of The Times, next to Sir Robert Hart the best known Briton in China, for several year past adviser to the Chinese Government.

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There were other interesting Americans, notably C. D. Jameson, an engineer, and Frederick McCormick well known as a writer on the East. An artist also was Mc Cormick. One American Christmas dinner was enlivened by a menu card the joint work of Straight and McCormick, with sort of heraldic bearings on either side taking the form of a portrait of Straight done by McCormick and a portrait of McCormick done by Straight, each unsparingly libellous toward the other.

These were some of the men whom Straight knew in Peking. A young man just beginning work could hardly have come into such close contact with similar personal forces in any other environment one thinks of. He was able to see at first hand how power is weilded, what forces count in doing big things, he was behind the scenes of a unique drama, and no doubt doubt he measured in his mind his own abilities to become an actor. At the same time the routine life of a Customs official began to loose its attraction.

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One thing that would have been impossible for Straight was to sit on the side lines at close range with stirring events and not have a hand in the game somehow. He was one of the most eager and interested in the highly charged debates over the coming war which raged over the Peking dinner tables. Neutrality was the proper pose for a member of the Customs but in the Far East of that time there could be no neutrals. Japan was to stop the Russian steam roller of colonisation, was to save Korea and Manchuria, to safeguard the Open Door, - that was the view of the Americans and British near the scene. The German community sympathised with Russia, and laughed at the little Islanders who who dared stand up to the largest power of Europe and Asia.

When war began to seem a certainty The Associated Press and Reuter's Telegram Company of London started to organise a joint staff to be spread over Japan and the strategic points of the Asiatic continent. Martin Egan was sent from New York for The Associated Press and I went from Peking to Tokyo to co-operate with him in this work. Before I left Peking Straight had been tentatively promised a billet as a war correspondent if the war should materialise. The offer was made with some misgivings, because to take a young man away from a safe position and an assured career for an enterprise that was temporary, dangerous and at best a gamble, was assuming responsibility. The hazards of the step were fully discussed, not the least being that in such a war a correspondent who really got near the fighting stood a large risk of becoming a casualty. That consideration weighed lightly with Straight, the danger was -

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an attraction, what did trouble him was the point of his obligation toward Sir Robert Hart. For light on this question Straight naturally went to the I. G. himself. If he had met the attitude that the Customs had a claim on him which could not be broken without ill-feeling that would have acted as a vete on the proposal. Perhaps the I. G. understood that he had a young man who would always be restless in the harness of a slow moving machine like the Customs. At any rate there was a friendly understanding that Straight might resign with the good will of his chief.

Some weeks afterward, - the war in the meantime having become a fact, - Straight received a telegram to join the newspaper forces mobilising from all over the world at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. He responded with enthusiasm and promptness. Under normal conditions the journey was a matter of only a few days, but with the red tape and shortage of steamers incidental to war it meant a progress by slow stages, to Tientsin, Cheffo, Shanghai, and a long wait in Shanghai for a steamer to Japan. The Japanese Consulate at Shanghai must satisfy itself regarding his status, the purpose of his going to Japan, his personal character present and past, and all that involved ~~asking~~ exchanges of cables between Shanghai, Tokyo, Peking and Washington. When Straight arrived in Tokyo the credentials for the first contingents of correspondents with the Japanese armies had been arranged. All that the late comers could do for a time was to get their names registered on the waiting list.

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There was plenty of occupation in Tokyo, however, both work and amusement. Egan and Straight and Henry Satoh had their hands full in reporting the diplomatic developements of the war, in handling the news from the front issued by the War Office which was often the first and best information of battles, and in wrestling with the Press censorship. No other newspaper staff in Tokyo could compete with this combination or won the confidence of the Japanese officials as they did. Their work was essentially on the order of diplomacy. Straight soon gained for himself the same sort of position in Tokyo which he had held in Peking. He was on good terms with both Japanese and foreign officialdom. He formed personal friendships also which lasted throughout his life, with the American Ambasador Lloyd Griscom, with Richard Harding Davis and his wife, with John Fox, and neddless to say Mr. and Mrs. Egan. What he lacked in knowledge of newspaper work was balanced by his enterprise, enthusiasm, and faculty for making friends among the people most worth knowing.

Opportunities to be a spectator of some of the great historical episodes of the war were the chief gains which this new venue brought to Straight. He was able to visit Port Arthur on the evening of the fall of the fortress and to witness the entry of the Japanese Army, the crowning event of Japan's ambitions in of those days. Afterward he spent some time in Newchwang just on the border of the fighting zone and under Japanese occupation, and later was with General Kuroki's army in the ancient walled Manchurian capitol of Mukden which was afterward to be the scene of his first -

work as a member of the American Consular Service. The private advices from Tokyo which preceeded Straight's visit to Kuroki's headquarters established his status there. It was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for any foreigner to get credentials to see the Japanese army. The Japanese staff was the first to adopt the modern attitude toward correspondents that *a*ll were suspect and possible agents for harm, an attitude which evoked much grumbling and ill-feeling among the correspondents and military attaches but which every army has since decided to be the only safe or possible policy. General Ian Hamilton was one of the most conspicuous critics of the Japanese on this point, yet probably his own later experiences must have confirmed the necessity of the Japanese methods. General Kuroki, a fine gentleman and warrior of the old Samurai ~~school~~ caste, and his chief of staff General Fujii, both took to Straight and had him often as a guest at their mess. Incidentally his presence was a tonic and delight to the only correspondents then left with the army somewhat in the position of prisoners of state, Frederick Palmer and myself.

After the war it was my fortune to meet Straight but a few times. I spent a week with him in the American Legation at Seoul when he was the actual guiding spirit if not the nominal head of that establishment and Koreans were coming at all hours of the day and night to lay at his feet their troubles with the Japanese administrators. Of his career as Consul at Mukden I saw nothing but heard much. The post was a difficult one because the Manchurians, like the Koreans, looked to the American official as their natural friend and protector against the new masters. Friction between Japanese,

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on one side, and Chinese and Europeans on the other, was acute. There was one incident which caused great discussion in the newspapers throughout the Far East. The Chinese servants of the consulate had trouble with a Japanese postman, and one of them was badly beaten. Straight took a strong line and demanded satisfaction from the Japanese administrator. The policy of the American Minister at Peking who was Straight's superior, a policy probably imposed by Washington, was to avoid trouble with the Japanese at all costs. The Minister refused to support Straight, but all the sentiment of the Americans and English in China was with the young Consul.

Across the world from the Orient in recent days I had seen Straight only occasionally in London and New York. He had been in Peking during one of the military outbursts which came after the Manchu dynasty disappered, living outside the Legation quarter near the home of Dr. Morrison. He described as the most trying moments of his life the night when the Chinese rioters came howling and beating against the door of the compound where was Mrs. Straight and one of their children. A party of marines and civilians from the American Legation came to the rescuse and took them hurriedly away from the area of fighting.

When in London Straight's time was absorbed with financiers and public men, in New York he seemed to be living on the telephone. He had become an important and beseiged man of large affairs, but his interests were as varied and wide in the larger world as within the narrow boundaries of Peking life. He was absorbed in the fortunes of India House, of the Asiatic Society, and of the New Republic

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review, while none of supporters of the Plattsburg military training propanganda were more enthusiastic. His personality matured but did not change, the East seemed always his "spiritual home", he was loyal to the friends of those days, and in the most strenuous times he never lost the touch of humor. Straight and Egan gave a dinner at the Metropolitan Club to a one time Peking friend afterward resident in London, which was a reunion of all the old "Eastern hands" who could be collected. Every guest at the table ostentatiously flaunted a monocle as a cheerful affront to an American whose only pride in life was that he had lived for years in the British atmosphere and was still a mere American. It was easy to guess whose mind had conceived this unmerited tribute.

Throughout the European war Straight's sympathies were wholly with the allies. They could never have been otherwise. So when the United States came into the field all who knew him knew that Straight would not be among those to stay at home. The news of his death was a shock , but not altogether a surprise to some who had watched him. Perhaps he had lived too strenuously, and tried to accomplish too much, and had burned life's candle too fast. How much he had accomplished ! And where would have been the limits of his accomplishment ? These are one's chief thoughts of that lovable and brilliant and valuable life.

Robert Moore Collins.

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Robert Moore Collins.

Straight, Willard D. 14/17/247

November 6, 1919

L. D. Froelick, Esq.,
The American Asiatic Association,
627 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Woodford Patterson, Secretary of Cornell University, has sent me your letters of October 10th and 16th and a copy of his reply of the 14th. I regret that it has not been practicable for me to write you sooner what I can recall about Willard D. Straight's going to China in 1901. If it involves personal details otherwise irrelevant, please believe that they are given only to aid you, or Mrs. Egan, in judging how far I had opportunity to know the circumstances.

Straight (I follow our teachers' habit of using, for friends whom first we knew as students, the unadorned surname) was met at the train, when first he came to Ithaca in September, 1897, by Frank S. Baker, a sophomore then, and now (or recently) a lawyer in Rome, N. Y., who had known Straight at school and hoped that he might join, as in fact he did, the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, to which Baker already belonged. It happened that Baker, having brought a note of introduction to my sister, knew our home on East Buffalo street; it happened, also, to be a very warm day when Straight, accompanying Baker, made his first pilgrimage up "Buffalo Hill", distinguished for steepness even in Ithaca; and it happened that my sister was sitting on the verandah. So they stopped, ostensibly to ask for a glass of water. It soon developed that some kinswoman of Straight's, had been a school-mate, at Claverock, of my Mother, no longer living. From such accident began an acquaintance, fostered by those qualities of Straight's which you know, that we have valued ever since. no. Charlottesville

Sometime in 1901, or possibly late in 1900, when Straight was a senior, President Schurman received from Sir Robert Hart, or his secretary, a letter saying, in substance, that various American Universities were invited to recommend suitable young men for apprenticeship in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service. Cornell might suggest three. This letter the President

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referred to me, for the reason, I suppose, that I was at that time teaching political economy, and was therefore assumed to know about customs of all sorts. I had, in fact, but the vaguest notion of the Maritime Customs. Sir Robert's name looked English--though he was Irish--and I turned, as often, to my British friend and variously-informed colleague, the late Henry Morse Stephens, for enlightemment. He knew a good bit about the Service, and we promptly agreed, as I recollect, that Straight, by reason alike of his boyhood years in Japan and of his personal qualities, was peculiarly suited for appointment, if he could accept it. As a second man we recommended Louis S. Palen, and as a third one whose name I will not mention as he promptly went to pieces in Shanghai of too frequent peg. Palen, who became at length Collector in An-Tung, kept up such acquaintance with Straight as distances permitted, and might be able to give you more information than I, if you can wait for it. He is now manager of a wheat ranch, somewhere in the Yalu valley, owned by the American International Corporation, as I understand, or by one of its subsidiaries.

My recollection of Straight's attitude toward the Chinese proposal would be that Morse Stephens found no difficulty in "persuading him to go to the East," on the contrary that he was quite disposed to go there and hesitated chiefly because it meant abandoning his intended profession of architecture, which might disappoint someone, an aunt I think, who had helped him to meet his College expenses.

My impression that Straight was rather eager to go is confirmed by my colleague, Professor E. P. Andrews, born in Owego, and a life-long acquaintance of Straight's, and also by Andrew's wife, who was a Miss Putnam, whose father, as it happened, was Straight's guardian. Mrs. Andrews suggests that if Straight was at all in doubt or hesitant about going to China, Miss Hazel Straight, his sister, probably would have known it.

I seem to recall an afternoon meeting with the three men at Morse Stephens's study in Cascadilla Place--as the University's building is called where he lived--when the situation was explained by him and talked over by all, but my recollection is that Morse abstained from using direct persuasion, merely discussing the pros and cons and leaving each youth to decide for himself.

I do recall that Straight came to see me several times after he had decided to go out, probably in the spring or early summer of 1901; that we discussed the relative advantages of the routes via San Francisco and Suez; and that he chose the latter as affording

him a chance to see a little of Europe before his cycle to Cathay. We planned his trip so as to include some places where there were buildings or picture galleries that he particularly desired to see, and he noted inns in France and Italy which I, traveling en garçon, had found comfortable and not expensive--the latter a point in those days important to him, as it had been to me a dozen years before (and still is.) On my file I find a picture postcard from him dated Suez, December 5, postmarked there the 6th and here the 22d., bringing Christmas greetings and thanks for the Baedeker's lent him, which he was mailing to me again.

All this is told because it is what I recall and it does not include any particular persuasion of Straight by Morse Stephens to go to China. I doubt that there was any. But in other connections Morse's influence on Straight was, I am confident, profound. That remarkable man had the greatest capacity for genuine and stimulating friendship with his juniors that ever it was my good fortune to know. He was not a great teacher in the sense of founding a school, or of bringing on a group of young scholars determined to study, and to write upon, his own topics. But he had a catholic concern for worth-while boys of the most diverse gifts, a quick sympathy with their aspirations and bepuzzlements, and an unrivalled capacity for stimulating their interests. Undeniably he preferred a gentleman to a boor, however worthy morally or able intellectually the boor might be. In consequence most of his young friends, as it was sometimes sneeringly observed, were from families whose wealth had offered opportunities to the boys. They were welcome however, not for their wealth--surely Straight had none--but for their personal qualities, for varied appreciativeness and quick responsiveness, for capacity to have sentiment and make no parade of it, for moral and intellectual honesty, men of whom it might be said, as it was of another Cornell student: "E'en

"E'en as he trod that day to God so walked he
from his birth
In simpleness and gentleness and honour and
clean mirth."

In the luxury of such friends Morse Stephens indulged himself without restraint.

Straight was one of the group of undergraduates, more likely to be students of engineering, or of law, or of forestry, or almost anything else than of history, who gathered fortnightly, of a Thursday evening, in Morse's big, book-lined, otherwise rather bare and always smoke-filled study, to read aloud from books, or to discuss subjects, quite remote from their class-room studies with a man who forgot as completely as they did that he was ever their school-master. I recall, particularly the delight with which Straight rehearsed the comparison that Morse drew, after showing them various reproductions of "corporation pieces" by Hals, and Vander

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Nov. 6, 1919

Holst, and Rembrandt, between the custom that evoked those glories and their own way of being photographed in fraternity "groups." But of those sessions I know only by report. Morse reserved them jealously for his boys. And that, I am sure, the boys liked.

That Straight was a leader in this group, as in much else of student activity, the enclosed circular letter may indicate [please return], which produced the loving-cup given Morse when about to go to California. The names attached reflect, to one who knew the signers, the high and varied qualities of his friends. There is Straight, and Alfred Sze, now Chinese Ambassador near the Court of St James's (as you know); and anybody in Cleveland to-day will tell you who Bascom Little is.

Morse Stephens's family were all Anglo-Indians. Britain was to him the Empire rather than the United Kingdom. He never tired of talking of Asia, and I feel no doubt that he thus confirmed, perhaps even aroused, Straight's Eastern interest, and very likely contributed indirectly to determine his going to China. But of direct persuasion I fancy that, as above said, there was little, perhaps none.

Sometime in March, 1906, I happened to pass through Havana on my way home from Antigua, and ran upon Straight on the Malecón and we spent most of the evening in a harbor café, talking over his plans and prospects, the chances (or lack of them) that our diplomatic service offered a penniless youth; the possibilities of architecture and of journalism, the uncertainties of "business", and of politics; and his then disinclination towards marriage. My recollection of it all is confused, but such as it is, would be at your service if desired.

Yours sincerely,

Charles H. Hull.

CHH*LFG

Archibald L. Irwin.
30 Church St.
New York

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Ave.,
New York City

Dear Mrs. Straight:

The Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, of which your husband was a member, is going to hold a banquet at the Waldorf on November 13th. One of the features of this banquet will be historic stereoptican pictures of the founders of the Fraternity, presidents, chapter houses and its prominent members and I wish that you would send me one of Willard's photographs in order that I may have a slide made of the same.

Thanking you for this courtesy, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Archibald L. Irwin.

November 7, 1919.

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The AMERICAN LEGION

New York County Organization

MADISON AVENUE AT THIRTY-NINTH STREET

Telephone: Murray Hill 234—9010
2838-3149-3547

COUNTY ORGANIZATION
GEO. BROKAW COMPTON
Chairman
ROBERT McC. MARSH
Vice-Chairman
GEORGE W. JAQUES
Secretary
JOSEPH L. SELIGMAN
Treasurer

HAROLD BOLSTER
ABRAHAM C. FINELITE
W. H. DANNAT PELL
W. IRVING TAYLOR
D. LINCOLN REID

GEORGE J. RUSSELL
Chr., Committee on Speakers

November 8, 1919

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Because of my very high personal regard for Major Straight, I venture to bring to your attention the enclosed copy of my brief remarks in introducing the Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt at the Reception given by The American Legion to King Albert in Madison Square Garden on the evening of October 4. It will be of interest to you to know that there was generous applause at the mention of Major Straight's name and also at the mention of the name of John Purroy Mitchel, both of whom sacrificed noble and valuable lives in one of the greatest causes of history.

Very sincerely yours,

George Brokaw Compton

The Willard Straigh

[encl. 11-5-19]

THE AMERICAN LEGION

NEW YORK COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Remarks of George Brokaw Compton, Chairman, New York County Organization, at meeting and reception to King Albert of Belgium at Madison Square Garden, October 4, 1919, at 9:00 P.M.

Fellow Americans — "100 per cent Americans."

The First Annual Convention of The American Legion, New York County Organization, convened in Carnegie Hall last Wednesday evening, October first. The following morning at two o'clock it adjourned to this date, place, and hour to receive King Albert of Belgium. The Convention is hereby formally reconvened.

We of The American Legion are highly honored and feel deeply grateful for the proud privelege of being host for a short while to the democratic Monarch of an heroic people.

While we have fresh in our hearts the thrill of this wonderful occasion, we want to express our gratitude to Mr. Francis L. Robbins, Jr. and to the other members of the Reception Committee for the excellent arrangements for this meeting. Their work has been done under peculiar difficulties due to the printers' strike and to the changing of the date from October 8 to October 4. It was not until Monday evening that this date was positively fixed. More than to any other one person, we give thanks for this opportunity to Ambassador Brand Whitlock who first approved our plan and interceded for us at Washington. We are also deeply indebted to the State Department, to Secretary Phillips, to Secretary Long, and to Mr. Maitland Dwight, all of whom have devoted themselves personally to the success of this gathering. And the Mayor's Committee and Mr. Rodman Wanamaker have been most gracious and helpful in their cooperation. It has been the purpose of Mr. Robbins and his Committee to make this occasion entirely worthy of the great City of New York and at the same time, by request of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, to make it national in its message, in its significance, and in its heartfelt welcome to the King, to the Queen, and to the Crown Prince of the Belgians.

"The greatest good to the greatest number" is a fine old phrase that bristles all over with "100 per cent Americanism".

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This is what "100 per cent Americanism" means.

Nearly every family in the United States is eligible to be represented in the American Legion which in proportion to the wisdom of its leadership during this formative and growing period will become one of two things. Either it will be the most wholesome and patriotic asset for patriotic service in social, civic, and political affairs; or it will become a positive evil in our public life, tending to increase rather than to allay unrest and to add to the problems of reconstruction. With the good-will of the public, the Legion will have a large field of usefulness and of service to its members and to the Nation. But, if it incurs the suspicion and the ill-will of the people the harm to its members and to the Nation will be incalculable.

The problem and the need of the moment is to determine how the Legion can win the confidence and deserve the cooperation of the people. Deeds not mere words must be the method. On this theory, the New York County Organization at its business session last Wednesday night unanimously adopted a resolution divorcing the Legion from partisan politics. This resolution records us as unalterably opposed to the holding of any office in the American Legion or membership on any of its standing committees by and candidates for public office. It forbids the endorsement of any candidate or candidates for public office by any post or other administrative unit or by any committee of The American Legion; and it recommends that these provisions be included in the permanent State and National Constitutions of the Legion which are to be adopted this month and next.

Concrete action is the most convincing expression of sincerity and honesty of purpose. Over the country American Legion workers have been declaring since last May that there is no partisan politics in the Legion. The New York County Organization is the first in the country to take positive action.

IT IS GRATIFYING THAT OUR ACTION HAS ALREADY RECEIVED THE STAMP OF APPROVAL BY THE RESIGNATIONS FROM OFFICES IN THE LEGION OF MANY SINCERE AND LOYAL MEMBERS WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, AND WHO WERE WAITING TO HAVE THE WAY POINTED OUT IN THE TRAIL BLAZED. WE DEFY ALL WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE

PRINCIPLE OF NON-PARTISANSHIP IN THE LEGION, AND WE SERVE NOTICE TO-NIGHT ON THEM AND ON ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR, THAT THIS FIGHT WILL "CARRY ON" TO THE BITTER END, UNTIL THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-PARTISANSHIP IS ENTRENCHED IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. LET'S HELP THE POLITICIANS, THE PEOPLE, AND OURSELVES, TO KEEP THE LEGION OUT OF POLITICS.

The American Legion can not perform its mission on any platform of sordid self-interest. The sort of intelligent self-interest that places the welfare of the general public above that of the individual, is in the end the best policy. It is the only way by which the highest interests of the individual members of the Legion can be realized. So we must train ourselves to value accordingly the good-will of the public and to seek in every way to deserve that good-will. We must strive after foresight and vision. There are many not inuniform who kept all their business and social connections and earned large wages during the War. Those in uniform have been at a comparative disadvantage since discharge. We hear much talk about bonuses, civil service preference, and other suggestions, in the words of Father Duffy "for getting cash out of the National treasury to make some of us rich and spoil us". The public will be just in these matters, if we can restrain ourselves from being unreasonable. All those who have suffered any permanent physicial disability from disease or from wounds must be rewarded with the greatest generosity and in xxx a way that does not allow the element of charity to obtrude itself. But the rest of us, greatly benefited physicially, morally and mentally, by our experiences in the Navy, the Army, and the Marine Corps, ought not to be insistent upon present material reward. Do we want bonuses and civil service jobs now, together with envy and ill-will of the people, or do we want largely to forego those things for the present and five years from now to have the good-will of the people and then to enjoy a place of advantage, accorded by a grateful public, the value of which as a benefit to the individual members of the Legion and in services to the nation will be beyond measure?

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I do not say that there should not be some present adjustment of these matters of material benefit; but shall we not avoid the passing of isolated resolutions on related subjects. All the subjects that fall under this one head ought to be considered together and ought to be adjusted by a single comprehensive statesmanlike act of legislation.

To accomplish its mission in the largest sense, the Legion must have a membership truly representative of the best feeling, judgment, and patriotism of the 4,800,000 men and women who served in uniform during the World War. Such a membership will be a true and accurate cross-section of the social, economic, and political life and opinion of the American people. A referendum opinion by this membership would be right; because whenever the composite opinion of the American people as a whole can be sensed it is found to be right. If there is superior genius in American democracy and in the American people, herein lies the secret. Under the thoroughly representative plan of government now in force in the Legion, the majority may rule at all times; and generally speaking the referendum opinion of the members of the Legion will be a helpful index of the opinion of the American people.

In conclusion, please urge your friends to join the Legion and "boost". Do not let them stay outside and "knock". Again quoting Father Duffy "Get on the band wagon of the American Legion and put it across for the public good."

INTRODUCING THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The address of the evening is next on the program. The speaker is the kind of youngman one likes to think of along with memories of John Puroy Mitchell and Willard D. Straight, each equally public spirited though in different fields of usefulness and both

[11-8-19]

"Gold Star" Members of the Legion.

We are greatly honored to have as one of our guests this evening the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

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120 East 31st St.
New York City
November 10th, 1919

My dear Mrs. Straight -

I have been talking this afternoon with one of my friends and college classmates, Mrs. Barrett Andrews, whom you also know, I think, as a fellow-director of the Consumers' League of New York. She was director of the Smith College Relief Unit in France during the war. She has been telling me how Mr. Straight helped her to carry out a plan, which brought much happiness to thousands of men at the front. It seemed to me a wonderful experience, which you might wish to hear about from Mrs. Andrews herself, and so I am venturing to send you this word. Mrs. Andrews' address is Bronxville, N.Y. She would be glad indeed to tell you the story, if you

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should feel it possible to ask her.

Yours very Sincerely

Mary Van Kleeck

Phone 772 Main 102 Remsen St.
Brooklyn
Nov. 10th 1919

My dear Mr Straight

Mr Willard Straight, in 1917 had kindly written me stating that he would in all probability be able to use me in Russia in connection with the International Corp'n on account of my knowledge of Russian.

I did not know Mr Straight personally but he was in intimate terms with my father, chief of Imperial Customs at Shanghai China, who died very suddenly this year. Mr Straight's untimely death removes his influence in my behalf and I am taking the liberty of writing you in another matter.

After volunteer service with the Red Cross in France and Germany I returned in July this year after 15 months abroad to find my practice of Physical Therapeutics entirely gone, and to office within my means available. I have therefore resolved to begin at the beginning and practice massage, Swedish movements &c till I can again build up a clientele.

It is only necessary to get a beginning with the right people and this letter is written frankly to ask you to use my name before you if, among your friends, any one should require massage, reduction exercises or any form of physical

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treatment. I should, of course, much appreciate Your giving me an opportunity to demonstrate to Your own satisfaction my efficiency.

My apology for writing this letter is simply that I must save money. If I were a skilled laborer it would be easy but for an educated man without capital it is extremely hard these days.

While I, in no sense regret my service abroad, it has ruined me and made things extremely hard more especially for my wife. In years gone by I was attached to the Russian Court and should be glad to give other credentials if necessary.

I realize that this is a queer what

Strange letter but it is a matter of bread and butter to me

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morning to tea at night
until three days ago
since then I have been
catching up threads
at home - and also
Elizabeth has been
with me. So you see
I did not have the
time to sit down and
really write you, and
I did not want to
send you just a hasty
line. Your letter

Dorothea Deford
who is a medium -
I was
enthusiastic
N.Y. Trip

Nov. 11 1919
Tc.

Dearest Dorothy

Can I ever make
you understand why
I have never answered
your dear letter before.
I will try to anyway -
I started work on my
Hospital Campaigne
the day after Francis
left me - and worked
from nine in the

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I have put away with the few letters that have meant a great deal to me in my life - I know I did not deserve all the wonderful things you wrote, and that is why I like to keep them & try in the future to live up to them. She typed both & signed and it was just like you to take all that trouble for me. They are wonderful to have and I have read and reread them. They have become a sort of religion to me. And if your husband can realize, which I feel he can, the good he has done me, I know he will feel his great work is going on here, as well as in his plane. They

NOV 11 1919 S.C.

are so wonderful and will be my strength and help during the disturbing - and if they have been a comfort to you it makes me so happy — I have it also after — I feel that I understand, Thanks to Darling, Thee Heart

I want you to know
and feel this - and
when you feel you
want to communicate
again will you telegraph
and one day -
greatest happiness in
life has come to help thee
too also after —
and I feel that I
understand, thanks
Darling, Thee Heart

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are passing through the
shadow searching for light.
I would love to have you here
now with me. It is a rainy
day - and we could have
much time together —
I feel this letter is disjointed
for there is so much I want
to write, but my power of
expression is very poor. My
poems were criticized by
Mr. Harper. He said they were
the best of their kind he
had seen, and that he
is anxious for more to publish
but if you still want to
see them I will send them
to you - would love to —
Don't forget I want you to
come to me when ~~ever~~ you will
need Long to help you - with
Love Your friend Dorothea H. Oxford

14, AVENUE DU MAINE. X V:

Paris 13 November 1919

Dear Mrs. Straight,

Mr. Jay most kindly volunteered to take this letter to you together with the plans and details, so far completed, of the Suresnes cemetary. The plans I am sending you consist of:

1. Main Building
   (a) Plan of main floor
   (b) Plan of basement
   (c) Elevations of front, sides and rear
   (d) Sections of the interior (front, sides and rear)
2. Landscape Gardening
3. Guardian's Lodge
4. Gates & Walls

The Gates are a mere tentative design. I have heard of some very fine Georgian wrought iron ones for sale in England. These would correspond to Colonial ones during the same period. I am going over to England shortly and will have a look at them and let you know. Such gates would certainly be cheaper than having new ones made at the current prices.

The Gardner tells me that if we want

[11-13-19]

(2.)

14, AVENUE DU MAINE. X V:

the trees and shrubs in the cemetary this Spring, the planting must be begun not later than January and finished by the end of March. All work at Suresnes has been suspended at our request waiting for our modifications. American visitors are very dissatisfied at the State of the cemetary and are continually complaining to the military authorities who in turn come to me and want to know when we will begin work!—

I expect to have photographs of the magnette next week and will send them on to you as soon as ready, also the bids from the various contractors.

Of course you understand that some of the details need a closer study and will probably undergo a certain amount of modifications in the full-sized drawings on which we are now at work.

A large model of the Dough-boy is set up in my studio, but owing to the work on the magnetta, I have not been able to give him the time that I should have liked.

Have you been able to get in touch with the Powers that be in regard to my exhibition?—

Please let me have your answer as soon as possible as I would like to arrange my plans accordingly.

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14, AVENUE DU MAINE. X V:

I am very anxious to have your opinion of the plans and if you have any suggestions to make about the details please let me know.

You will notice that I have provided a space on the outside of the building for a running frieze in case you should want such a one executed. I think it would look better on the outside than on the inside; for this, however, there is plenty of time.

The Gardner's plan is a general idea of the emplacement of the statue and the buildings. I will send you a more detailed and definite one for the Gardening together with water-colors showing the arrangement of trees, shrubs, hedges etc.

With kindest regards Believe me

Most Sincerely yours

J.O. Davidson

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6.53.16

J. P. MORGAN & CO.

CABLE DEPARTMENT

2 15 pm NEW YORK. Nov.14,1919

COPY OF CABLE RECEIVED FROM Davidson,

Paris.

For Mrs. Straight:

Sending you plans and letter through Jay sailing Adriatic today. Bids from contractors will follow. Please wire if you have succeeded for my exhibition.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

November 15, 1919.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I enclose herewith the suggestions made to you by your Oswego correspondents relative to the memorial scholarship you propose to establish in the Oswego High School.

So long as no endowment is turned over the matter seems to me a very simple one. I have thought perhaps that the best method would be for you yourself to select the candidate from a small group, say half a dozen applicants, recommended to you by the principal and faculty of the school.

If you prefer to delegate the choice to a committee I see no objection to the arrangement, though it is a question whether it would have any advantage over the more natural plan of letting the principal and faculty themselves decide.

In case you endowed the scholarship a trust would be created under the laws of the State. In that event you would have to provide for the administration of the trust for all time. You could not, therefore, give to a committee a choice in the selection of the scholar without also prescribing how that committee should be permanently constituted. It occurs to me that, if you are not satisfied that the selection be made by the principal and the faculty of the school or by the principal alone, you might provide that the final decision should rest with a committee consisting of the principal of the school, the president of the Oswego Board of Education, and a third member to be selected by them in case they themselves should be unable to make a unanimous award. The advantage of this arrangement is that the principal of the school and the president of the Board of Education are incumbents of offices known to the law which would presumably continue without change since the functions which they perform are permanent functions in the State.

If there is any further point in this matter on which you desire to confer with me I can put myself at your disposal some part of Thursday of next week. I plan to be at the University Club both Wednesday, the 19th, and Thursday, the 20th, but I already have engagements all day Wednesday.

Very sincerely yours,

Jacob Gould Schurman

Mrs. Willard Straight
1130 Fifth Avenue
New York City

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[11-15-19]

CORNELL SCHOLARSHIP SUGGESTED PLAN

Any student in the high school may become a candidate for this scholarship by making application to the Faculty at the beginning of the fall term.

The Faculty to select (secretly) from these applicants six (?) candidates in the spring term and submit them to the Committee.

The Committee of four to select the candidate to receive the scholarship.

Committee to be-

Miss Adeline Hinckley
Dr. W. H. Kidder
Mr. George H. Campbell
Niel Gray, Jr., Chairman.

10-10-19.

Enclosed 11-15-19

Through the generosity of Mrs. Willard D. Straight a memorial scholarship at Cornell University has been established in memory of her husband, Major Willard Dickerman Straight, by which an Oswego boy or girl will always be kept at Cornell.

These scholarships will be partly competitive, partly selective, with the idea of selecting a strong, all-round boy or girl, showing excellence in scholarship and in athletics and in home and school duties; that is, a real American boy or girl, that Oswego will be proud to have as a representative, and that Cornell will be fortunate to enroll.

The first scholarship will be available in the fall of 1920, and candidates for it in the high school must make application to the principal immediately in order to be considered. The performance of these applicants during the school year will be carefully observed by the Faculty, who in the spring in time for the entrance examinations to Cornell will recommend a certain number of these applicants to a committee, who from this number will select the one to go to Cornell.

The Committee is composed of the following, who will be glad to give any further information or assistance-

Miss Adeline Hinckley
Dr. W. H. Kidder
George H. Campbell
Niel Gray, Jr., Chairman.

10-11-19.

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[12-8-19]

414 E. Buffalo St.

My dear Mrs. Straight.

Since writing to you a very sudden and exciting jolt has come into my life. The President of the University of Washington in Seattle was here on Friday and offered me the directorship of the College of Fine Arts at his University. This College contains Architecture, Painting, Sculpture, Design, Music, and the Dramatic Arts. He said that if I would only come he would give me an entirely free hand and all the support

I have had so many dear friends in the East and have more I should, I suppose, be sorry to leave it but my chance, I think, is here and I cannot afford to throw away the opportunity. I would like very much to have your advice on the matter. I cannot decide whether to accept or not. Please take me into consideration as soon as you can and give me your advice which I shall be very glad to have. Please write me at once and tell me what you think I should do.

Yours very sincerely
Olive M. Braun

Dec. 10-1919.

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I wanted – also to write my terms and, if they could do all such them, we wanted me much to come. Although Cornell University, as I have found out today, has raised my salary from 3000 to 4000 dollars, I am afraid that Washington University will make me such an attractive offer that I will be unable to refuse.

The reason for my writing is this that I fear, should you adopt my suggestion for a gallery in memory of Mr. Straight, that no one would take the same interest in it here that I would. I may be very conceited in this matter, but so I feel. I therefore feel, that in view of Mr. Straight's wishes, I ought to urge upon you, that the gallery should rather be established in Washington than here. Straight's interests were there, and his memory will be kept more alive there. The Willard Straight Art Gallery — I feel sure would be visited by many persons interested in Art, as what is the use of having a gallery in a University town, unless it is visited by many persons interested in Art? Mr. Straight's wife has asked my advice about this matter, but as I have not been in Washington for many years, I do not feel competent to give it. I have however written to Mr. Straight asking him to ask his advice about it. He is a very intimate friend of mine & I feel sure he will be able to give it. I am very busy — lecturing every day — & have a family to care for — & I

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[11-18-19]

P.S.-

I am, of course, appreciated here. My Dean of our College told me, when announcing my raise in salary, that he considered it impossible to fill my place and that President Thurman agreed with him. But nevertheless appreciation does not pay for bread and butter.

[11-23-19]

115 East 60th St.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your words of understanding and appreciation of my husband have helped me more than I can tell you - and the years he watched me & tided over much of the bitterness of loss. I doubt if healing my bruises yet - It is as though Walter had gone on a journey & we would soon be together again. And then I know that this is not true & that hence with I must carry on alone the work that he had planned & so counted on doing.

You are right - in saying that we cannot live in the past - it is in the future that I shall find my husband & in his work & interests that we will be together - I am trying desperately hard, and as soon as I can get my strength I shall be able to fight the battle better than I can now.

My little lad, Nathaniel, has been left a wonderful heritage & we together, must rejoice & carry with the coming days the manifest love & understanding that has surrounded us always.

I wish that you would come & see me. I find that it is those who have suffered themselves that understand & help - Sincerely

Dorothy Poole Weyl.

Sunday.

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[11-23-19]

115 East 60th St.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your words of understanding and appreciation of my husband have helped me more than I can tell you — and the poem has soothed me a tide over much of the bitterness of loss. I dont realize my loss yet — It is as though Walter had gone on a journey & we would soon be together again. And then I know that this is not true & that hence forth I must carry on alone the work that he had planned & so counted on doing.

You are right — in saying that we cannot live in the past — it is in the future that I shall find my husband & in his work & interests that we will be together. I am trying desperately hard, and as soon as I can get my strength I shall be able to fight the battle better than I can now.

My little lad, Nathaniel, has been left a wonderful heritage & we together must rejoice & carry with the coming days the memories of love & understanding that has surrounded us always.

I wish that you would come & see me. I find that it is those who have suffered themselves that understand & help —

Sincerely
Dorothy Payne Whitney Straight.

Sunday.

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Washington D.C. Nov 29th 19

STONELEIGH COURT

Dear Mrs. Straight

Fate threw this card into a trunk where it lifted to the bottom, and stayed and stayed for years in the storage warehouse.

The grand upheaval of clearing out and moving out there has brought it to light, and I have had the heart to throw it to

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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waste paper -
You may not remember it,
but you surely attended that party.
Sincerely Yrs
Eliza [illegible]

To Mrs H.D. Straight Nov 30th/19

Dear Madam

This book of poems, the major would read quite a lot in France, when he was ill with his leg at Langres, and at times it seemed when he was depressed, there must have been something in them, which helped him, and I thought you would wish to know that. The major also lent the book to Col Murphy, while there.

Working so hard at the college there learning the war business, the major did not like, for he remarked several times, "how sad it all was, spending

major they went to, when in trouble, and seek credit for his telling. It was the same at the 1st Army Hdq, he went to assist, but it was the major who ran his department. I trust Madam I have not trespassed in sending you these lines, but he did not get a fair deal, and he should get the credit, for what he done. The major knew it, for he spoke about it. I feel I want to say so much to you, about the major, and yet when I try, I cannot.

The major's photo is one I had, and the frame is one that he liked, for he said "How great they were" when he received them at Langres.

May the wonderful spirit of the Major, which he has left always help you.

From Your Grateful Friend
George Bennett.

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Walter Lippmann

WHITESTONE
LONG ISLAND

Oct. 30. 1919

Dear Dorothy,

This day is green, not having yielded to winter, and unconquerable like Willard's soul. There are kind strong winds blowing through country places, messengers it seems to-day of him. He had become the wind and not the blown. That is what war and France and London & affairs had & think meant in the last four months.

As I think back through many tasks when loneliness was all too close to heartbreak, this is what I most was remember. He had learned to accept the calamitous places by life turned upon his aims and his inclinations, had seen their values in all their dimensions, and was in an extremity free of them. They arose not his private concern, his helpless hopes, his disillusionments.

And yet the men who believe in him

that time at College, learning to see how many of your fellow-men you could kill". It was only another name for murder."
Fighting against his own nature, which was always to help others, and tolerating and missing with other officers, whose aims were entirely diffuse, made it so much harder for him to endure, but- I always noticed that the major principles were admired by decent, clean and real men, and by the rank and file. Many often I have heard the boys say, that the Major was the only one who knew anything, and who they could respect, or help from, and he was always ready, to assist any body, his office was always filled with someone who needed help and he worked like a Turk to relieve the oppressed. He could stick to his desk for a month at a time, and when he got back to his room, and his writing to you. He was his friend by assignment. The 3rd Div. The Army Corps, and the 5th Army Corps, and the 1st Army was the life, you could find him in anything, and yet they were fearless, and without intelligence or knowledge, yet all things, it was the

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decisions. In G-3 he did not move
rubber divisions across a map, but
saw and lovers and Ghurkas boys
across snow and wire and filth against
other boys. He has Nirvana, but now he saw and
felt and was ashamed. Complacency and
routine, fanaticism and disbelief, cache and
subjugation were no longer what hurt him
things intolerably costly: impotence
frustrations.. A weaker man, confused
so sensitively, would have revolted totally, but
the impulse in him moved triumphantly back
less in reaction and organic action.

I had hoped to write something
about Willard for the N.R. but this is
hardly the time, it seems to me to say
publicly such things as these. Men is no
reason to accept such inhumanities now, and
we cannot let a holy thing be part of a
trivial controversy.

Please accept my sincere sympathy
from Faye and me — Walter Lippmann

and asked us them were still more important
than their relations to him, for they were human
beings, brutality. beings, ignorant beings

He seemed to strangers the ideal man
of action. I said that I him that was. Re
female was in which he saw the women was the
way the artist sees it, as a sight decision
and is indistinguishable apart from anything anyone
does or says or thinks about it. The combined
with perfect unconsciousness about the way
they are done, their blessed innocence of the
eye as to what they are. Into the enormous
flexibility of his practical imagination was I believe
a phase merely of a playful and free fancy. that
touched
touched all their capacity.

War has broken down the compartments
have destroyed the subways under and the
practical connection is broken. They have been, I think,
separate, alternating, almost unconscious. Now
in France, on the staff work, on the Marne, and
brutally at Soissons destroys the Corporal he saw
with horrid clarity the human cost of practical

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[1919]

1341 New Hampshire Ave.
Washington.

Nov. 30th.

Dorothy dearest. You are in my thought every moment and these must be very sad days for you! It doesn't seem possible that a whole year has gone by - what a terrible year it has been for you and what a brave showing you have made before the world! Every day of my life, I am prouder to have you for a friend, Dorothy, and I can't possibly tell you how much I miss you. I hate to be away from you just now and if I only felt there was something I could do for you, I would come up. Anniversaries are so hard and I know

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how desperately lonely you must be for Willard - a loneliness which your wonderful children and lots of friends can never fill. In going over some old letters I have just come across a kodak picture of Willard that Warwick sent me some years ago. He is in polo clothes with that eager sweet expression that made him so charming and he looks so alive that I keep it on my desk so as to look at one of the really great people that I have known and one of the best friends that Charlie and I ever had.

Good-bye, darling, I am thinking of you every minute

Edith. [Lindley]

Dec. 1 – '19.

2017 F STREET

Darling Dorothy - For two days I have been living over again every minute of that last sacred hour of a year ago, and today, as then, you have been the one dominant thought in my heart – Dear Willard's individuality is just as vivid & vital in my memory as if I had seen him only yesterday and it is just as great a joy to dwell on his beautiful characteristics that endeared him to so many hundreds of people. So, I must tell you how strongly I feel that

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there is no separation – no beginning & no end – and that that Crystal clear, pure, radiant, is beside you still, & guiding all who were fortunate enough to cross his path. How I hope that you have been able to get comfort, too, from this thought, and – that these days have not been too cruel, & long, & hard to bear –

Everyone missed Willard desperately at 1718 Part Eight, but I couldn't feel that he was far away –

My love & prayers are yours always, and – may Divine Love guide you, & comfort you, & give you strength – always devotedly

Dorothy

[Harriman]

WAR DEPARTMENT.
WASHINGTON.

December 2, 1919.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

The newspapers have been carrying only partial accounts of statements made from time to time by the Secretary of War regarding the resting places of our dead in France and the return of those bodies desired by the next of kin. Perhaps you may wish to glance through this somewhat incomplete collection of statements made by Mr. Baker during the past several months on that general topic.

Faithfully yours,

Ralph Hayes

Ralph Hayes,
Private Secretary.

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

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[12-2-19]

THE SECRETARY OF WAR TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING INFORMAL AND VERBAL STATEMENTS IN CONVERSATION WITH THE NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS - May 29, 1919.

* * * * * * * * *

"I was asked whether the War Department had any set plan for the return of the bodies of soldiers from overseas, and I explained the difficulty of carrying out that policy and the fact that we had not yet been able to formulate any definite plan on the subject. I called attention to the fact that a number of people had sent in word that they preferred to have the bodies of their relatives remain in France, and were very anxious to see established a great National Cemetery where reverent care could be taken of the bodies of our soldiers. The members of the Committee expressed great sympathy with the idea of advising parents, who perhaps do not realize just what is meant by the disinterment and transportation of these bodies, to bring them into harmony with what seems the wiwer suggestion of leaving them in France to be cared for by the Nation, under suitable dignified circumstances. I told the Committee I thought it very important to press the bill for the establishment of a great National Cemetery. We have three cemeteries in the front area, into which there have been gathered the bodies of a great many soldiers who have died here and there and have been buried in small groups. There are also a substantial number of other places set aside where small groups of bodies have been buried and have not yet been disinterred. The idea is to gather all these bodies into one National Cemetery and beautify it. One lady of bery large means and great devotion and beauty of spirit, whose own husband died in France, came to me sometime ago and asked me whether, if the idea went forward, I would not permit her out of her own means to place

[5-27-19]
[12-2-19]

a memorial gateway to the soldiers at the entrance to the cemetery. I think it would soon get to be a place which the people would be glad to help to beautify in an artistic way."

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[encl. 12-2-19]

(Time 4:15 p.m.)

From War Department News Bureau #12

Immediate release. May 29, 1919.

PRESS INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY OF WAR
MAY 29, 1919

The Secretary of War to-day made the following informal and verbal statements in conversation with the Newspaper Correspondents.

"I was present this morning at the opening of the Committee hearing on the Army Appropriation Bill, and simply stated my understanding of what the Committee is about to do. General March was there and went into figures much more fully, and the Bureau Chiefs are going forward with their detailed items.

* * * * * *

"I was asked whether the War Department had any set plan for the return of the bodies of soldiers from overseas, and I explained the difficulty of carrying out that policy and the fact that we had not yet been able to formulate any definite plan on the subject. I called attention to the fact that a number of people had sent in word that they preferred to have the bodies of their relatives remain in France, and were very anxious to see established a great National Cemetery where reverent care could be taken of the bodies of our soldiers. The members of the Committee expressed great sympathy with the idea of advising parents, who perhaps do not realize just what is meant by the disinterment and transportation of these bodies, to bring them into harmony with what seems the wiser suggestion of leaving them in France to be cared for by the Nation, under suitably dignified circumstances. I told the Committee I thought it very important to press the bill for the establishment of a great National Cemetery. We have three cemeteries in the front area, into which there have been gathered the bodies of a great many soldiers who have died here and there and have been buried in small groups. There are also a substantial number of other places set aside where small groups of bodies have been buried and have not yet been distinterred. The idea is to gather all these bodies into one National Cemetery and beautify it. One lady of very large means and great devotion and beauty of spirit, whose own husband died in France, came to me sometime ago and asked me whether, if the idea went forward, I would not permit her out of her own means to place a memorial gateway to the soldiers at the entrance to the cemetery. I think it would soon get to be a place which the people would be glad to help to beautify in an artistic way."

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"I have today asked General Bullard to go to West Point to deliver the graduation address to the West Point cadets. He is, of course, the only Army Commander who has yet returned from France, and having been in command first of a Division, then a Corps, and then an Army, he is one of the very distinguished soldiers of our operations on the other side, and I think it will be a fine thing to have him make the commencement address on June 11. I shall also be there, and probably the Chief of Staff will also go."

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[12-2-19]

#3

JUL 29 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following:

Not long after the United States entered the late war the War Department announced that it would be its policy to bring back to the United States the bodies of American soldiers which were buried abroad, provided the nearest relatives requested their return.

Since the Armistice many communications have been received by the War Department from the families of deceased soldiers requesting that the bodies of the latter be left permanently interred in France; many other families have requested that the bodies of their dead be returned to the United States.

Many families may not be fully aware of the present situation or of the conditions which will attend the return of the bodies, conditions which, were they better known, would have a deciding influence on the question in the minds of relatives as to whether or not it would be best for the bodies to remain permanently interred in France.

The Graves Registration Service of the United States Army is now and has been for sometime engaged indisinterring, identifying, and collecting into cemeteries, preparatory to return to the United States, the bodies which, through the necessities of war, were temporarily interred where they fell. This work which has been of considerable magnitude, involving the removal of bodies from many isolated and scattered places on the battlefields, has now reached an advanced stage.

Before the next step, the actual return of the bodies to the United States, can be undertaken, the consent of the French Government must be obtained. There are approximately 4,500,000 bodies interred in France as a result of the war. The attitude of the French Government is against the removal of any of these. A proposed law is under consideration by the French Parliament, which, if passed, would prohibit such removal for a period of three years from January 1, 1919. Pending the enactment of the proposed law the matter is being regulated by ministerial action of the French Government, along the same lines as the proposed law itself. The French Government feels that it can not consistently extend to the American Government greater privileges in this respect than it accords to its own people. The following are, perhaps, some of the reasons which may have entered into the consideration of this matter:

(a) France was a nation in mourning for the four years of the war. To permit the removal of the French dead by relatives, with consequent funerals and renewed mourning would only add to the long period of national depression and sorrow at a time when the opposite should prevail in order to undertake the tremendous work of reconstruction.

(b) The removal and transfer of large numbers of bodies might be productive of epidemics and pestilance.

Negotiations with the French Government are now in progress with the view to securing a modification or waiver of present ministerial prohibition, and of the proposed law itself, if passed, so that the American dead may be returned to the United States before the expiration of the three year period. Future action in regard to the removal of such dead will depend upon the extent to which the French Government will consent to modify its ministerial decision and the provisions of the proposed law.

It should be remembered that during the continuance of hostilities, it was nearly always impossible to embalm our dead, or even to provide caskets for their burial. In every case of reinterment, however, a coffin was provided. Every effort has been made in the removal operations to secure definite and positive identification and, to a large extent, this effort has been successful. There still remain, of course, some who suffered from the

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destructiveness of modern engines of war too much to make this possible. The lapse of time, too, has affected the situation by rendering it undesirable that caskets on their arrival in this country should be opened.

For the bodies that are to remain permanently in France the United States Government will undoubtedly provide cemeteries of " American Fields of Honor." They will be maintained and cared for always by the American Government. The French Government has considerately offered to cede several tracts of land for this purpose. One of them, at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, is in the heart of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield. Another is near the city of Paris, upon the slopes of Mont Valerien, overlooking the pretty town of Suresnes, the valley of the Seine, and the Bois de Boulogne, No more beautiful site could be imagined. The Municipality of Paris has already constructed a splendid highway called Boulevard Washington, connecting the latter cemetery with the French capital.

If we follow the example of our Allies, no private monuments will be permitted to be erected over the graves and thus all discrimination will be avoided. Where every one did so well in life, there should be no distinction in death. On the contrary, standard or uniform headstones will be provided at the public expense, as in our national cemeterial, differing only in the inscriptions and symbols of religious faith, and possibly grouped in accordance therewith. Perhaps national monuments b may be erected, as well as state memorials, after being passed upon by an Art Commission and with the approval of the proper authorities, thus making one or more enduring testimonials to the courage of the American soldier and to the decisive part played by the United States in the Great War.

The British Government does not contemplate the return of its dead. The attitude of France in regard to its dead has already been stated.

Among the many who elected to leave the remains of their dead abroad, were two of our most distinguished citizens, both service men, the one an ex-soldier and ex-President, the other a sailor: the late Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and Admiral Gustav Kaemmerling, United States Navy, each of whom wrote in effect that he could conceive of no greater honor for his dead son than to rest where he fell, fighting the foes of civilization, upon a battlefield of France.

The Nation feels to its depths the loss of its sons who gave their lives to it. It mourns for them and sympathizes with the families whose grief by reason of personal loss lies upon them with particular poignancy. A comforting thought is that in the hour of the Nation's need her sons responded nobly and with full devotion. What can be a better testimonial to the valor and devotion of her dead sons and the respect and love in which their memories are held,than that the Nation should secure and maintain in perpetuity vast cemeteries in France - cemeteries which in themselves,with their thousands of graves,will arouse sentiments and emotions in the pilgrims of future generations, which mere monuments can never do? The graves of those dead soldiers, who are to be returned and delivered to families will no doubt be cared for and revered during the lifetime of the members of the families. But would it not be a comfort to know that the bodies of their soldier dead are resting with those of their comrades in a place to be maintained and cared for as long as the Nation endures, each by its presence contributing to a shrine which will be the object of pilgrimages for thousands of Americans now living and for un-numbered thousands yet unborn?

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[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau # 11

Immediate Release August 19, 1919.

The War Department authorizes publication of the following cabled communication:

Believe it inadvisable to return dead from England before definite decision as to entire question and particularly before final action as to dead interred in France. Have given the entire question of our dead much thought and my opinion is that we should leave our dead near where they fell. Am sure that this course would be fully appreciated by the Allies and that our Government will be given every facility in beautifying and caring for the cemeteries already established on the fields won by our heroic dead. Believe that could these soldiers speak for themselves they would wish to be left undisturbed in the place where, with their comrades, they fought the last fight. Those who rest in England gave their lives in the same cause and their remains represent the same salvation as those who lie on the battle fields.

The graves of our soldiers constitute, if they are allowed to remain, a perpetual reminder to our allies of the liberty and ideals upon which the greatness of America rests. Think the sentiments above outlined are held by many who have given this subject thought. These sentiments should appeal to the relatives and friends. Recommend that none of our dead be removed from Europe unless their nearest relatives so demand after a full understanding of all the sentimental reasons against such removal, and further recommend that immediate steps be taken for permanently improving and beautifying our cemeteries.

PERSHING

-----E N D-----

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[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau (Time 1:55 p.m.) #5

Immediate release. October 20, 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following:

Bringing home the remains of Army dead buried in Italy, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Luxembourg, and North Russia.

As announced by Secretary Baker on October 3d, it is the policy of the War Department to return to the United States the bodies of Army dead buried in Italy, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Luxembourg and North Russia, as soon as possible. Steps to this effect are to be undertaken at once without waiting on the action of the French Government with respect to the dead in France. The project, however, is so extensive and presents such different phases in the various countries involved that it cannot be carried into effect precipitately and without well perfected arrangements.

It is expected that the friends of the dead will be comforted by the announcement that the movement has been determined upon, and that they will be willing to accord such time for its completion as may be required to insure accuracy and proper care.

Regardless of whether or not the return of these dead has been requested, no bodies will be left in Germany, Luxembourg and North Russia. All bodies from North Russia will be returned to the United States if they have not already been reinterred in France.

France has been purposely omitted from the operation of this plan for the reason that the problem in that country assumes an international aspect, the determination of which is still a matter of diplomatic exchange. Many inquiries as to the removal of bodies from France are being received by the War Department, to which it is necessary to reply that nothing can be done at the present time, and that due announcement will be made when it becomes possible to do so.

The Director of Purchase and Storage is charged with initiating, arranging for, and executing all measures to carry the policy outlined above into effect and is now engaged in arranging the preliminaries of the work.

--o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o--

The preliminary work of organizing a force of officers and men to carry out the bringing home of these soldiers' bodies, is now going forward in the Office of Director, Purchase and Storage. Certain arrangements have to be made through diplomatic channels, but, as the work involves several different countries and includes thousands of individual cases, its magnitude may be appreciated. The Director of Purchase and Storage is taking every precaution to carry out this work in the best possible manner. Many difficulties arise with every step and great precaution is necessary. No immediate results can be expected but the officer in charge is planning to undertake this work with the utmost care, doing everything humanly possible for the reverential treatment and care of these bodies. The definite plans in connection with this great undertaking and the progress made, will be announced by the War Department from time to time.

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[12-2-19]

(Time 10:37 a.m.)

From War Department News Bureau #2

Immediate release. October 31, 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following information from the Office of the Chief of Staff:

(a)

It is the policy of the War Department to deliver, upon request of the next of kin, the bodies of American officers and enlisted men buried overseas to their bona fide homes in foreign countries, where such a course is practicable.

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(b)

The Secretary of War directs that whenever an enlisted man is required to perform guard duty armed with the pistol and such man has never completed either the dismounted or mounted courses with that weapon, authority is granted to have him pursue the dismounted pistol course and to expend the ammunition necessary therefor.

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[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau (Time 11:15 a.m.) #4

Immediate release. November 3, 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following letter from the Assistant Secretary of State:

October 28, 1919

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 21, in which you state that it is intended to return as soon as possible to the United States the bodies of Army dead buried in Italy, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Austria and Serbia,* in all cases in which their return has been requested by the next of kin, without waiting for the action of the French Government with respect to the dead in France, and your further request, in order to expedite the work, that the necessary diplomatic steps be taken to initiate this project and to secure a statement of the sanitary and other regulations which must be observed in its excution.

In reply I have the honor to state that instructions to this effect have been sent by cable to Rome, Brussels, London, The Hague, and Belgrade. In the case of Germany and Austria, the American Mission to the Peace Conference has been requested to bring the wishes of the Government in this connection to the attention of the German and Austrian delegates in order to ascertain what measures may best be taken to carry through the project. It is suggested that in the case of Germany and Austria it would also be desirable for the War Department, simultaneously to undertake to effect the necessary arrangements through military channels.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For the Secretary of State:

WILLIAM PHILLIPS,
Assistant Secretary.

*NOTE: - The records show that one American Soldier is buried in Austria and two in Serbia.

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[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau (Time 5:45 pm)# 12

Immediate Release November 7, 1919.

INFORMAL STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR IN CONFERENCE WITH NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS, NOVEMBER 7, 1919.

With reference to the bodies of American soldiers being returned to the United States on board the S. S/ DARAGA, the Secretary said:
LAKE

This ship which sailed from Archangel brought 111 out of the something over 200 who were killed in the North Russian Expedition. The remaining bodies are buried outside of the lines which are held by friendly forces. These 111 bodies were originally ordered to Brest and were to have been buried in the American cemetery at Brest, but when the policy was established of bringing home the bodies of all those killed abroad except thos who were buried in France for the present, this shipload was started to America. With the exception of two bodies which were irregularly returned to this country, this is the first return of the bodies of American soldiers killed in this war. The names of the men will be sent by wireless from the ship, and the family in each case will be notified and asked whether they desire to have the body shipped for burial at home, or desire burial in a National Cemetery. In those cases in which the return of the body is desired, each casket will be accompanied by an enlisted man, or, if several go to any one place, a squad will accompany them.

The bodies will be taken off the ship and will lie in state in the very roomy concourse of the pier at Hoboken. The pier will be suitably draped, and a stage will be erected from which addresses will be made by the representatives of the Senate and House who have voted to go there and receive these bodies. A delegation, I am told, will be there from Detroit, and it is not unlikely that the friends and relatives of some of the men will also go to New York for the occasion.

** E N D **

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[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau #8

Immediate release. November 11, 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following from the Office of the Director of Purchase and Storage:

ARRIVAL OF DEAD SOLDIERS FROM RUSSIA. The Steamship "Lake Daraga" is expected to arrive from Archangel, Russia, this week bringing the remains of 111 soldiers who have died in Russia. The relatives of some of these soldiers have requested the possession of their bodies for family burial. In the cases of those where the relatives have not requested the bodies for burial the Government will give them proper burial, either in the Cypress Hill National Cemetery at Brooklyn, N.Y., or at some other national cemetery to be selected later. It is supposed that Cypress Hill will be selected because of its proximity to Hoboken where the bodies will be landed. Upon investigation it has been found that the majority of these soldiers are from the State of Michigan.

NEW DIVISION IN THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL. A new division has been created in the office of the Quartermaster General, Director of Purchase and Storage, which will be known as the G eneral Service D ivision. This division is charged with the technical examination and study of all Quartermaster operations and activities functioning under the direction of the Quartermaster General, Director of Purchase and Storage. Colonel Charles J. Symmonds, Cavalry, is designated as Chief of the General Service Division.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF C REDITS BRANCH, OFFICE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, DIRECTOR OF PURCHASE AND STORAGE. An organization found necessary and created in the War Department during the stress of war which has clearly demonstrated its indispensability is the Credits Branch of the Purchase Service, Office of the Quartermaster G eneral, Director of Purchase and Storage.

Th e Credits Branch was created for and charged with the establishment and maintenance of the list of Approved Bidders. The actual object of its operations is to safeguard the Government's financial interests and to so control the placing of contracts for supplies as to reasonably insure their delivery in accordance with the terms of the contracts.

To accomplish these objects only names of concerns are placed on the list of Approved Bidders who are financially sound and who possess sufficient resources to finance the operations necessary to fulfill their contractural obligations. Only names of manufacturers and bona fide dealers are placed on the Approved List. Thus names of sales agents, brokers and other middlemen are eliminated.

Manufacturers and regular dealers who desire to be included in the list of Approved Bidders file with the Credits Branch a balanced financial statement of their affairs, furnishing the names of two banks and three trade connections as references. Letters are sent to these references requesting information as to the financial responsibility, management and general standing of the applicant. The rating given to applicant by the commercial agencies are noted on the application card, and special reports are secured when necessary.

The application cards furnished by the applicant also shows what products or commodities are offered for sale, with the monthly capacity, kind and quantity of raw material on hand, or information as to the source of supply. Other pertinent information is furnished.

Stress is laid on the fact that information collected by the Credits Branch is not available for the public, but is held in strict confidence.

The establishment of the list of approved bidders has shown rapid and steady progress, investigations having been completed on over 7,000 bidders and their names placed on the list.

In addition to maintaining the list of approved bidders, the Credits Branch operates an immense commodity index, so that buyers of the various procurement divisions may secure names of bidders on any specified commodity.

Any individual or concern which desires to compete for War Department business should communicate with the Credits Branch, Munitions Building, at Washington. Captain L. O. Grice of the Quartermaster Corps is Chief of the Branch, Prior to the War he was for several years connected with the Accounting Department of the Atlanta & West Point Railroad, at Atlanta, Georgia.

INSPECTION OF QU ARTERMASTER RET AIL STORES. Colonel William Elliot, Chief of the General Supplies Division in the Office of the Quartermaster General, has been detailed temporarily to inspect the retail stores of the quartermaster supplies in the United States. During his temporary absence Lt. Col. J. P. Barney will be in charge of the General Supplies Division.

COAL DISTRIBUTION Lt. Col. J. P. Barney has been designated by the Quartermaster General, Director of Purchase and Storage, as the officer to whom all these matters will be referred and who will have charge of the distribution and confiscation of army coal.

COAL SUPPLY FOR THE USE OF THE ARMY. Reports from most of the posts, forst, garrisons and depots show that there is approximately thirty to sixty days supply of coal on hand for the use of the military forces at these places. In some places where a shortage is manifested steps have been taken to supply them with the necessary amount to run them for thirty to sixty days.

AMERICAN REMOUNT ASSOCIATION TO HOLD MEETING. A call has been issued for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Remount Association, to be held in Washington November 14th. At this meeting the American Remount Association will be organized and plans fostered looking toward the breeding of better animals throughout the United States.

This organization already has a memb ership of over one hundred. These members are officers and enlisted men who were on duty in the Remount Service during the late war. However, the membership is not limited to the Remount Service alone, but it is extended to the mounted branches of the service, and to horse breeding and racing associations, horse shows and private individuals who are interested in the breeding of better animals.

There will be a dinner at the Army and Navy Club the night of November 14th at which members of the Association will be invited to attend, when there will be an informal discussion of the plans of the Association.

ARMY REMOUNT STAT IST ICS. The latest reports compiled in the Remount Service show that practically all the animals in the A.E.F. have been disposed of. At present there are 82,898 animals in the Army in the United States, of which 31,557 are in Remount Depots.

SALE OF BURLAP BAGGING AT NEW YORK DEPOT. On August 25, 1919, bids were opened at the New York Depot for the sale of burlap bagging. The highest bid received, which was rejected, was as follows:

150,000 lbs. Burlap Baggins $.02-7/8 per pound.

This material was reoffered for sale, bids opened on September 12, 1919, and the highest bid accepted was as follows:

150,000 lbs. Burlap Bagging $.03275 per pound.

This sale nets a gain of $.004 per pound for the government or a total gain of $600.00 on the entire lot of 150,000 pounds.

SALVAGE ACTIVITIES, OFFICE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL. Statistics recently compiled show that up to October. 1, 1919, the net saving to the Government resulting from the reclamation of unserviceable clothing, equipage and equipment approximates $60,124,929.44. The largest item in that total represents the repair of outer clothing, including shoes and hats, which amounted to $51,388,239.44.

-----END-----

(Time 4:45 p.m.)

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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[12-2-19]

(Time 11:15 a.m.)

From War Department News Bureau #4

Immediate release. November 12,1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following information from the Office of the Chief of Staff:

Concerning the removal and transportation of dead buried in France outside of the Zone of the Armies, the Chief of Staff directs that the return of such of the dead buried in France as may, under the authority of the French Government, be removed and transported and as are, under the approved policy of the War Department, to be removed from France, be begun without delay, and that this work be carried to completion as rapidly as conditions permit.

------END------

[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau (Time 2:45 p.m.) #6

Immediate release. November 22, 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of the following statement, which is in substance the reply of the State Department to an inquiry concerning the return of bodies of American soldiers buried in France:

(NOTE: - The Ministerial order of France prohibiting the exhumation and removal of military dead did not apply to those buried outside the Zone of the Armies, and already the War Department has authorized the return of the dead not buried in that zone.)

The matter of the disposition of the American dead in France has long been receiving the earnest consideration of the Secretary of State and, at the instance of the Secretary of War, in whose hands the matter primarily lies, there has been repeated effort to adjust the restrictions which the French Government have found themselves under the necessity of declaring.

Briefly the situation is as follows: During the summer of 1918 an agreement was concluded between the French and American Governments which provided that "as soon as hostilities have ceased the Government of the French Republic will examine conjointly with the American Government the measures to be taken to insure, in conformity with the laws and police regulations regarding hygiene, the transport and return to the United States of the bodies of American soldiers or sailors interred in France." Following the armistice and during the period in which the War Department was engaged with the huge task of transporting the Expeditionary Forces back to America, the French Government gave consideration to the many problems involved in the possible removal of four-an-a-half million graves of Allied and enemy dead in French territory and orders were thereupon issued forbidding the removal from French soil of the bodies of the military dead of all nations. Representation was immediately made through diplomatic channels of the desire of the American Government that exception be made in its favor from the operation of this prohibition. The French Government, however, asked that there be a consideration of its situation, first of all, by the American military authorities as preliminary to further diplomatic correspondence. It gave assurance of its desire to meet the wishes of the American nation in every way consistent with its obligations and the well-being of its own people, and emphasized its wish to set apart appropriate cemeteries as a service of gratitude and to assist in their maintenance with becoming dignity. It stated that it had given due consideration to the various aspects involved in the transportation of millions of military dead over its national railways or highways, and pointed out what it considered the insuperable difficulties of transportation, sanitary regulations, the public health, effective registration, and problems of reconstruction. It further stated that, should an exception be made in the case of American dead, it would at once involve each of the other nations in clamorous agitation for like action to satisfy its own people, and called attention to the very extensive operation in the upheaval of cemeteries which would result from a compliance with the American request and the consequent depressing effect on the public morale. France, it declared, would become a veritable charnel house if such extensive exhumations should take place. Finally, it expressed its strong hope that some solution could be found whereby the date of removal could be postponed.

From the American standpoint it has been felt that there were many considerations which differentiated the case of American soldiers buried in France from those of other Allied nations. It was realized that to make an exception in favor o America was by no means free from difficulty; but notwithstanding the apparently determined opposition of the French Government it was believed that the American Government should do its utmost to keep faith with the relatives of our soldiers

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[12-2-19]

ised who had been led to believe that when the war ended the bodies of such soldiers, if it were desired by their next of kin, would find their final resting place in their own country, and the following considerations were suggested as constituting reasons why such exception might reasonably be asked:

(a) The great distance between France and America and the expense involved together make it impracticable for the large majority of relatives to visit graves as is easily possible for those who live in the other Allied countries.

(b) The comparatively small number of American soldiers buried in France whose removal is desired by their next of kin. It is stated by the War Department that of 4,500,000 soldier dead only 65,000 are American soldiers and of these the next of kin do not desire in excess of 40,000 returned to America.

(c) A large proportion of American dead are buried on or near battlefields and arrangements can probably be made to avoid transportation over any considerable portion of France, thus avoiding any great interference with traffic or a depression in morale, which seems to be the principal reason for the French Government's opposition.

(d) This Government has approached the other countries regarding the return of bodies from those countries, in number about 4,600. It is pointed out that such return will necessarily create towards France an unfavorable impression because of the persistent refusal of the French Government to allow similar action. The War Department, influenced by the agreement with the French Government referred to above, sent out inquiries to all next of kin to ascertain if return was desired. It would now be very embarrassing for the War Department if it were compelled to inform relatives that France refuses to permit the return of bodies, such information arousing resentment against France of relatives of Americans who gave their lives in defense of France.

In accordance with those considerations the American Embassy at Paris has been instructed to bring the foregoing arguments to the attention of the French Government and to make the strongest representations possible in order to reach an understanding with the French Government by which the present ministerial considerations prohibiting exhumation and transportation of military dead may be rescinded or modified in the case of American dead so as to enable the War Department to undertake as speedily as possible the removal of the bodies of American soldiers, where removal is desired by next of kin, in harmony with the repeatedly announced policy of the War Department.

----END----

[12-2-19]

From War Department News Bureau (Time 4:20 p.m.) #12

Immediate release. November 22, 1919

The War Department authorizes publication of following from the Chief of Staff:

It has been brought to the attention of the War Department that some mistakes have been made in the identification of bodies of the American troops who died or were killed in Russia.

The Department is carefully investigating the whole matter, but from evidence at hand, whatever errors in identification have occurred, were made at the time that the bodies were disinterred and placed in the caskets in Russia.

It must be remembered that at the time this took place, the removal of the bodies and the departure of the ship had to be made in the quickest possible time. It is the understanding of the Department that the departure of the ship, at a given time was insisted upon by the British authorities.

No doubt whatever errors in identification have occurred are due to war conditions and conditions of the emergency which exists in Russia.

After the remains were removed from the "Lake Daraga" the caskets were removed from the outside boxes in which they were received and were placed in new boxes. Identification marks on caskets were copied on cards which were then placed on new outer boxes, only one box at a time being opened and casket put in new box which was closed before another box was opened. Verification of marks on caskets and boxes was made and certified to by a commissioned officer. Metal containers were not opened. Names on caskets were checked against list which came on "Lake Daraga" and each box was carefully checked on to train before shipment to destination. Every possible precaution was taken to insure against error, without actually opening the hermetically sealed containers, which is contrary to law. All work in connection with handling of remains at this point was under direct supervision of a commissioned officer.

------END-------

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The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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15/4/19

H 17/18 H

Dear Dorothy

We have just had a dinner for Mac with the room Complete — table & all — except for adjustable lamp shades & I hope shortly & yet — Mrs Bordie tried some but they didn't go — We have temporary shades of it's all low lights & we give a nice soft yellow glow & do for the time — Piece Flora was here, & all Mac's friends —

We were all so touched by your letter — We more than understand; but at the same

2

time wanted you to know that we had you in mind & hoped somehow it might work out that you could take part in our old dream that Willard invented. Everyone is unanimous that the room is really an unqualified success — this will please you — We shall put your check into a fund for the proper up-keep of the room taking from it [illegible] things as the shades, & are immediately needed. So far the room with the furnishings has cost about $4000 (apart the rugs) & I know you will be really pleased that so much of it

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3

Les been rec'd by the Family = Jour check makes its full touch × permanent maintenance a certainty as well as a possibility =

My Odyssey outwards, begins somewhere about Jan 1st — If ya can come down here for a Sunday with Mrs Borie & Beatrice before that time we could perhaps see it — I would like to see you see it for the selfish reason that I'm the only one who has led the time to watch it to completion =

The rugs are a great success & a foundation for the whole thing and their merit is that they come from you =

BO

RS

I completely forgot to thank you for the check! Monroe to tell you that we only recently realized that you had the Bethesda house with Willard for us to use in summer = Is that true?

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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14. AVENUE DU MAINE. XV.

Dec. 8th 1919

Dear Mrs Straight

Mr Polk has kindly consented to take to you. The Photos of the Maquette detail drawings and the Bids of the various contractors of which I am Enclosing a summary.

The Bids do not include the Gates Eagles or any of the incidental Sculptures.

To manufacture wrought Iron Gates at the present moment would cost about 300,000 francs for the three gates - i.e. the Monumental Gates for the main Entrance - and the two side gates.

I am sure that one could find some old Georgian gates in England. which on side of being Handsome and of the Epoch we want, would

[12-8-19]

14. AVENUE DU MAINE. XV.

cost at least a third of what it would take to execute the same to day.

The other day I showed my maquette to some of the members of the American Commission including the Ambassador. and they were all delighted with it. The photos will give you but a scant Idea of it. It is quite an enormous affair measuring about 13 feet by 10.

Thank you so much for the Books and photos which you so kindly sent me through Miss Bishop. They will be most useful for the details for the final Execution from plans.

The "dongeon" is progressing and I hope to send you some photos of him very soon.

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[12-8-19]

14. AVENUE DU MAINE. X V:

It was awfully good of you to try and convince the Public Library people to show my ~~Bronzes~~ But seeing as they don't want to. I was thinking perhaps the Metropolitan would.

Of course. I can always show them at Rembrandt's. but I thought it would be rather nice to show them where "le peuple" would be able to come and see them however -

Do write and tell me how you like the maquette and plans I am going to try and see if I can manage to bring the maquette with me when I come over Sometime in January, and perhaps show it at the same time that I show my busts.

[12-8-19]

14. AVENUE DU MAINE. X V:

It has been a most wonderful experience doing all this. I have been working like Trojan but it certainly has been fascinating - and time never went so fast in my life.

Mrs Davison joins me in sending you Kindest regards

Believe me

Most Sincerely yours

Jo Davison

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TÉLÉPHONE
712-65 et 712-73

" LES CHARPENTIERS DE PARIS "

Société Anonyme Ouvrière au capital de 1 100 000 francs

L. FAVARON O.*C.✣O.✣* DIRECTEUR

SIÈGE SOCIAL : 24 à 28, Rue Labrouste — PARIS

N° du Devis

N° du Compte

ANNÉE 191

Mois d

Montant

Série

Remis, le 191

DEVIS

DES TRAVAUX A EXÉCUTER POUR LE COMPTE

de Madame STRAIGHT

Constructions au Cimetière Américain

de SURESNES

Monsieur J. DAVIDSON *Architecte*

DATE:

Le 9 Décembre 1919

SAVOIR :

La charpente métallique formant voussure et supportant le plafond vitré, le lanterneau au-dessus de celui-ci, au-dessus des parties latérales,

Fourniture d'un chevronnage en sapin disposé pour recevoir la couverture,

Le plancher en fer dans la petite partie au-dessus du couloir en sous-sol ainsi que le

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palier du Ier Etage,

Ferrage des 3 baies..... 64.800,-

PAVILLON DU GARDIEN

Le plancher en fer des caves,

La charpente en bois du porche,

Le comble et le faux-plancher du pavillon ainsi que l'escalier encloisonné,

Les ferrures des différentes menuiseries,

Pour la somme de..... 60.200,--

PRIX TOTAL.....Frs: I25.000,--

CENT VINGT CINQ MILLE Francs

L'ensemble des travaux de charpente et Serrurerie de notre profession, conformément aux plans et au devis descriptif.

CONDITIONS de PAIEMENT

25 % à la commande,

Le reste suivant l'état d'avancement des travaux.

[12-9-19]

Devis

des travaux de Peinture & Tôlerie

à exécuter pour le compte de

Mrs Straight

à Suresnes (Seine)

Courant de Décembre 1919

Monsieur Davidson Architecte
14 av.e du Maine

Par M.rs Barbet & Sander Entrepreneur
11 Rue Mansard Paris
T. Cl.e 63-26

Savoir:

Peinture aux Mats Américains

Pavillon d'Exposition

Intérieur & Extérieur

Les 2 grandes portes devant rester en bois apparent

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2 Huile pour 1 Couche pour mur et Vernis 2 Coucher aux 2 faces intérieures, Extérieures Croisées étaient le escalier Imprimées reboucher et peinte en ton gris à la fin intérieure. La fin Extérieure peinte deux fois façon de décor en raccord des bois apparents et Vernis 1 Couche Impression et peinture à l'huile 2 Coucher des fers du faux plafond vitré, fers apparents des chassis de Comble et galerie au dessus La rampe de l'Escalier peinte deux fois

Ce travaux Sélevant à la Somme de - 3284.^f.

Vitrerie

Les Croisées Vitrées en Verre 1/2 double Le faux plafond en Verre double en mesure du Commerce, le Chassis de Comble en Verre armé

Cette Vitrerie Sélevant à la Somme de - 7570.^f.

Pavillon des Gardiens

Salle à Manger

Le plafond fait à la Colle, la Corniche et Fleurs au dessus du Lambris Huile 2 Coucher aux Enduit sur Fleurs et Impression reboucher sur Corniche les Fleurs à 2 fois

Le Lambris d'appui les portes et Chassis Imprimés huile 2 Coucher façon de décor 1/2 Vernis 1 Couche

Chambre

Le plafond à la Colle, Les Boiseries et Corniche Imprimées Reboucher et peint 2 Coucher

Egrenage des Fleurs fournitures et Collage de papier de tenture et bordure

Cuisine W. C. Degagement, Bains. et W. C. Publics

Entièrement peint à l'huile 2 Coucher aux Enduit préalable sur plafond et Fleurs, Impression et reboucher sur Boiseries

Tous les Extérieurs portes Chassis Poiche d'Entrée Saillies deux fois Imprimer et peint à l'huile 2 Couches

Ces travaux Sélevant à la Somme de ——— 3630.^f.7

Vitrerie

La Vitrerie des Chassis et emportes des portes faite en

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Verre Simple, La porte d'Entrée
sous Porche et Celle de Communication
ave la Cuisine en Verre 1/2 Dlle
Cette Peinture Télève à la
Somme de ——— 310.00

Récapitulation

Pavillon d'Exposition

- Peinture — 3284.00
- Vitrerie — 7570.00

Pavillon des Pâtres

- Peinture — 3630.00
- Vitrerie — 310.00

Total Général — 14.794.00

J. P. MORGAN & CO. 2072.
CABLE DEPARTMENT

6 20 am NEW YORK. Dec. 11, 1919.

COPY OF CABLE RECEIVED FROM J.O. Davidson, Paris.

For Mrs. Straight:

Cable received. Have sent you photos of Maquette detail drawings and bids with letter through Polk.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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MORGAN, HARJES & Cie
PARIS

J. P. MORGAN & Co
New-York

DREXEL & Co
Philadelphie

MORGAN, GRENFELL & Co
Londres

Adresse Télégraphique: HARJES-PARIS

14 Place Vendôme

Paris, 12th Dec. 1919.

F.L.

Madam,

We are informed by Mr. Jo. Davidson, that the models, plans and bids for the A.E.F. Cemetery, have been completed, and have been sent you through Mr. Polk. At the request of Mr. Davidson, and in accordance with the terms of the contract between you, we have transferred to his credit the sum of :-

Fcs.25,000.- and we debit your account accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
PP. MORGAN HARJES & CO.

Mrs. Dorothy W. Straight,
1130, Fifth Avenue,
New York.

WALTER L. CLARK
119 EAST 19TH STREET
NEW YORK

New York, December 20th, 1919

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I had some communication with you last Summer in regard to a portrait of Mr. Straight that is here at my studio, and which I would like very much to have you see. I am writing now to ask if you cannot spare a few moments to come in on Monday. I am not here very often, but could make an appointment any time on Monday between early in the morning and half past two o'clock.

Hoping you may find it convenient, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Walter L. Clark

My telephone number is--Gramercy 8853.

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Parsons, Closson & McIlvaine,
52 William Street,

HERBERT PARSONS
HENRY B. CLOSSON
TOMPKINS McILVAINE
WILLIAM E. CARNOCHAN
ALBERT S. WRIGHT

New York, Dec. 23, 1919.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

When I saw you the other day you told me that you had received no account of the service which was held at the Canton Christian College in memory of Willard. I enclose a clipping from the Canton Times of February 20, 1919, which gives an outline of the services, and also a copy of the resolution adopted by the Council (the Faculty) of the Canton Christian College. I think you will be pleased with the resolution. Mr. Graybill, who made the address at the memorial service, knew Willard, and the secretary of Dr. Edmunds, the President, in forwarding the clipping wrote that Mr. Graybill's address was particularly well adapted to make the boys feel the force of Willard's character and the loss sustained by China in his death.

When I saw you the other day I referred to the fine support which we were getting from the Chinese. This is evidenced in gifts. At our October meeting we passed resolutions thanking Mr. Ying Piu Ma, a Trustee of the College, for a gift of $10,000. Hong Kong currency for a guest house on the campus, thanking Mrs. Cheung Chu Yun Chi for increasing her pledge from $5000. to $7000. for the erection of a cottage in the Elementary School group, and thanking Mr. Cheung Tit Guan of Singapore for his gift of $70,000. Hong Kong currency for Wa Kiu buildings. (These Wa Kiu buildings are to provide a preparatory school for the children of the Chinese in federated Malay states so as to fit them to enter the College.)

Do let me know when I can talk to you some more about the matter.

Very truly yours,

P

Herbert Parsons

1708 - 19th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
28 Dec - 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:-

Happy new year.

I arrived in New York from France on Christmas Day and came down here at once to join my family for the holidays.

Just before leaving Paris on the 9th I went over to Mr. Davidson's studio and saw the magnette and "The Daughters". They are wonderful! I can not imagine anything better. Mr. Davidson

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said he had given Mr. Polk pictures of the Magruth to be delivered to you and Gen. Pershing. So doubtless by this time you have seen them and had first hand information as to the progress made.

Col. Rethers was ordered over to Paris from London to take charge of all mortuary work in Europe. So when I left, Maj Shipman continued on in charge of our branch of the work as one of Col. Rethers assistants - I have been here to the Q.M. Gens. office and not accomplished much as Gen Rogers is away for the holidays and so I won't see him until his return next week - I was told that Chaplain Peirce has sailed for Europe.

I am at present on a short leave of absence. I was detailed in the A.G. Dept. last September and am to be ordered here for duty for the time being - I may run up to New York next week in which case I will try to get in touch with you -

Sincerely Yours,
Leon B. Kromer.

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2/ That the trouble was anaemia & so left her there under their care. She has enjoined so much that we get her back on Tuesday for the holidays & we very happy to have a reunited family today.

It has made a wonderful day for me — and because it is the best day that I have known for a long time, I want to give part of it to you and Willard. He has been much in my thoughts & you are inseparably connected with

Nov. 1

Christmas Day, 1909.

37 EAST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET

Dear Dorothy -

I received that sweet letter of yours last summer, when we were at our camp near Bar Harbor. Our youngest girl — Eleanor — was not well & gave us much anxiety — so in October we took her to the Johns Hopkins doctors in Baltimore for a diagnosis. They found

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him. I knew him before you did & watched him during those nine years of splendid development & achievement & know how much you were a part of his life - as the world knew its. It is on days like this - when we who live on, & from day to day try to meet the problems that life presents, find time to look back to the simplicity & sincerity that compelled the devotion of the rich & the poor, ignorant shepherds that the lives of the men who had those same qualities became doubly dear & significant to us. And to Mary Willard means more to me than ever.

I want to see you some time soon. May I come to see you? Or will you come to us Tues some evening? I hope you are all well. As always

affectionately yours
Herbert Satterlee

[1919]

CLIFTON-BERLEY
ROSEBANK POST OFFICE
STATEN ISLAND

TELEGRAMS, QUARANTINE
RAILWAY STATION, GRASMERE
TELEPHONE, TOMPKINSVILLE 2106

Dear Dorothy - I was in France
while I worked with the Unity Hospital
here Hospital also, among
the Bellevue Unit.
Her did most splendid
work in the Carpet-Cubic
in France & the Army There
is only one in that Cubic
from Army was Ely - Fells
that where the All Soul Hospital
I should like to keep them
I learned to
Dear Mrs Thorpe the Red Cross
& was engaged in
that relief by the R. R. C
Local Officer and specially
but in Secretarial Service
I was decided that
her unfitness to differ-
enlist Relevant the N. Y.
Unit - I suppose this
is right
Bellevue Medical is
Hospital of all Encourage-
ment the Americans Unit
Hand I are asking for

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is the installation of an Electrocardiograph
Machine in the Medical School, they are
the only School which does not already
possess one & when I mentioned the fact
to Dr. Brewer he was unwilling to believe
that they did not have one it is of the
greatest value not only to the School
but the Hospital and at this time when
there are so many discharged soldiers
with disabled Army Hearts, men who
from this class would naturally
gravitate to Bellevue, it is of even
greater importance.
There is only one maker in America
his estimate including installation
& all wiring is three thousand
nine hundred and twenty five dollars
($3925.00), if you want any further

CLIFTON-BERLEY
ROSEBANK POST OFFICE
STATEN ISLAND

TELEGRAMS, QUARANTINE
RAILWAY STATION, CASHMERE
TELEPHONE, TOMPKINSVILLE 2106

E1913

in connection with the Hospital
Service Committee
with the Medical School
Bureau of the Secretary
of the Secretary of War
Washington

My dear -

I am asking for a leave
of absence - this I have
to do because of the
fact that I am a member
of the Red Cross -
Unit and the Base
Hospital is a Cantonment
Unit and the place
to operate in that
is Washington. I have
been home for five
days & I find re-

ealthy Girl- Daring to make an
appointment for me to see him,
& wanted to tell him of his very
Great- kindness to me When I was
ill at- the Carlton in January 18 x
also how we all tried to do what
we Could for him, I think he was
the- only the Most- respected &,
the Most- beloved Man in the A.E.F.

Always Sincerely Yours

Anne C. M. Avery

—

Memoir file

Return to a.M.j.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
120 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Mrs.Straight:-

You asked me if there were any incidents of Willard's boyhood that I could recall that will be of interest to you. He was a nice clean wholesome boy, full of the right kind of mischief which any boy should have who is going to amount to anything; he was about the age of our second son, Gene, and they were together a great deal, so we saw Willard at our house quite a bit and we always enjoyed having him there.

I note that many accounts speak of his father and mother as missionaries. This is incorrect. Mr. and Mrs. Straight were members of the faculty of the Normal School here at Oswego and were loved and esteemed by all who knew them. As I understand, they went from here to Japan and there taught in the Royal School. After a time the father died and then the mother, later in Chicago. I believe, and the two children, Willard and Hazel were left without relatives to care for them, so that their position was really pitiful. Then Dr. Ranier and Miss Newkirk, two of their (the parents) most intimate and warmest friends in Oswego, knowing of the situation, adopted these two children, not legally but better than legally, for they took the position of both parents with a full-heartedness that commanded the admiration of every one. They did for them everything that a fond mother could do for a child.

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Willard and Hazel were always most grateful and appreciative of all that was done for them; a spirit of gratitude was highly developed in them both, and on every proper occasion they made acknowledgment .

When Willard was some fifteen or sixteen years old his heart was set on going to West Point. The time came when there was a vacancy at West Point for this district and our then Congressman gave notice that there would be a competitive examination to fill the place. Dr. Ranier, wishing to gratify Willard in the matter, came to me and asked if I knew the members of the examining committee appointed by the Congressman to hold this test at Watertown. I told her that I knew them well; then she remarked that it was too bad that Willard had no father or other male relative who could take him to this examination; that she felt it was a sort of a handicap and would I take him ? I told her that I certainly would with pleasure, although it would do no good further than to advise the examining committee that Willard had friends and they were deeply interested in him; that they were men who would deal with absolute fairness, but it might perhaps help a little in case it should come to a point where the decision was balanced between Willard and somebody else. So one summer morning, about six O'clock, he and I took the train for Watertown; arrived, and I went with him to the rooms where the examination was to be held and there introduced him to members of the examining committee as my boy that I had brought over to get that appointment. The examination occupied the better part of a day, and along late in the afternoon the papers were marked and the record made up, and it developed that Willard stood third out of some twenty boys. They were to appoint a delegate and an alternate, so you see that Willard

was just a trifle below the lucky ones who had first chance for admission to West Point. Shortly after we took the train for home, and you never saw a more broken-hearted boy than he. The trip from Watertown to Oswego was a very doleful one for him and I was principally occupied in cheering him up and assuring him that while it was awfully hard for the moment that it was the best thing that could have happened to him- that life in the army was not what he was built for; that it was altogether too inactive and he would tire of it. I could not satisfy him,so I finally landed him at home in that frame of mind; he felt sure that the world was hollow and his doll was stuffed with sawdust.

Some years later I called his attention to this and asked him if he didn't think I was a pretty good prophet. What a loss it would have been to make a Second Lieutenant of Willard.

The foregoing are some of my thoughts in this matter, quite crudely expressed, but will no doubt be of interest to you. If anything further occurs to you that you think I can in any way help you in or furnish you data in regard to, I trust that you will feel at perfect liberty to call upon me, for I will regard it as a real pleasure to do anything I can to aid you.

With very kindest thought for you and yours, I am,

Sincerely, Elisha B Powell

EBP/N.

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Photo by Dr. Fritz Holm.

In memory of Willard D. Straight.

The Mongol Lama's Last Prayer:

At last, oh Great Buddha, the goal can be seen,
Which from childhood so humbly I prayed for,
That goal which is Thee, intense and serene,
Adored in all Asian folklore.

At last, oh Thou Mightiest, tired I kneel,
In Thy Shadow, close by the shrine,
In ecstasy turning my prayer-wheel,
To merit the peace that is Thine.

At last, oh Gautama, the end is in sight,
The bliss of Nirvana -- eternal!
For letting me reach, oh Master, the height
all blessings be Thine!

Now happy I die ---
Leaving my prison, the earthbound,
And rising, on High, to Thy side!

1914.

Fritz Holm.

In Memory of Willard D. Straight:

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Leaving my prison, the earthbound,
And rising, on High, to Thy side!

Frits Holm.

1919.
N.Y.

(A photograph by Dr. Frits Holm of the Yellow (Lama) Temple in Peking, appears at the top of the holograph original copy).

[1919]

My dear Mrs. Straight: —
How can I tell you how much I appreciate your cordial invitation to see the parade from your house. Much was eager to see it but I couldn't think of

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taking her anywhere in a crowd. So it was wonderful to be able to take her comfortably.

I think you are so good to open your house on that day, when it couldn't have been an easy thing

to do. [1919] I had two I [2] wanted to lend you a hand, but realized that you would have so many. However I did think of you often, and with deep sympathy, because I had known and admired your

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husband when he was in college, and because of my brother's pleasant association with him there last year.

Again thanking you,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary Rankin

[Article dated November 1, 1919] (1)

Dear Dorothy-

I have been so interested in this article of Mr. Bland's - so touched that you should have given it time to read, and I have found so much to warm the heart in the love of sincere friendship and admiration in which it is written. I only hope since you have asked for my opinion you won't find me too critical & tell you that I have been a little disappointed.

I have always thought of Willard there there China years as a very real force in affairs. An enthusiast, an optimist as Mr. Bland tells de-Custis him, but also as a deep and earnest student of the Eastern problems, a man whose opinions were acquired by hard work, and in-tense effort, and were in effect highly con-sidered and followed by his associates both there and here. I think Mr. Bland pre-valls by omission than by anything he says, the idea of super sociality, of undeveloped depth. She could be attacked, perhaps, by under-lying in her article an account of some of Willard's travels in Manchuria, and a glimpse at the interior study he made of China & her people.

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Thus too I think Mr Bland has failed to show the larger side of Millard's character. He speaks of his Knight-errantry as something of Quixotism, and leads one to feel that because he could not achieve the whole of his purpose in the East he had set his face West and turned to more material pursuits.

To me Chuns for Millard only represented one of the many topsy-turvy things in the World which he would, if he could set straight. His was a world vision, & everything he did, every thing he undertook to do was only part of a great aim, and not entirely the goal to which his efforts and powers tended. Almost wherever they were big things to be achieved in a big way - and always for the ultimate raising of standards, the improvement of conditions, whether in diplomacy, in high finance, in control of public opinion, in any of the many ways that interested him. I always think, that even his connection with Mr Morgan's office was but a stepping stone

to other and more important things, and that he so regarded it.

Perhaps, I am getting away from the point, perhaps Mr Bland intended to write chiefly a resumé of the Far Eastern problems of those days, and did not mean to make the development of Millard's character the predominant feature of his article. If this is so, there is of course nothing to say. except perhaps that we could wish he had shown more of Millard's achievements, his successes, than he does. After all he accomplished much during those years in China with which Mr Bland must be familiar. And perhaps he accomplished even more in moulding public opinion in this Country during his meteoric visits, and as an adjunct to the State Department, and the new controlling the American Interest in the East. Results not perhaps written into diplomatic archives but far reaching none the less.

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the this point I would ask Mr Bland to explain, had I the opportunity, and that is the atmosphere that Willard created in his associates at Manchuria. I have heard it spoken of by so many of the young men who passed that way. The clean wholesomeness of the place the demoralizing currents, things & temptations of the East. I would like to hear the echo of his voice and his guitar as they sang there the hearts of more young men, bringing to them so much of the beauty and sweetness that were his.

There are I think the points I would want to see developed. A Bohemian Willard was, especially in his aversion to the common place, the conventional, but his "wanderlust" was never a busy mind or aimless restlessness, but a well defined determination to find the right road, and never to follow the wrong road no matter what charms it had to offer. Nor did it ever occur to me that the

artistic and practical sides of his nature were at war, but rather that one rounded out and completed the other.

Big, strong, courageous, dominant, head and shoulders above the men about him, leading them as much by the charm of his personality as by his force and intellectual superiority. A clear pure mind blooming through the murk of that Eastern atmosphere. A lover of all that was truly beautiful in art & science & humanity. A hater of corded intrigue, of shadows, of meanness, this is the Willard I knew and whose picture I would wish painted.

I think Mr Bland could do it. I have always admired his writing - but he would have to approach his subject from a different angle. He would need to forget some of the controversial points of the long [illegible] in front of the fire and on the Siberian Railway & and remember more of the personality of his companion - He would have to give up,

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in part at least, his own share in the
problems and intricacies of Mr East;
and Mrs Mrs more fore than effect
on Willards character and his reactions to
them - Thus would of course mean putting
Willard more into the foreground of his
picture, which he may not care to do. But I am
afraid if he leaves his article in its present
form he will disappoint those who know
Willard, and will give them further at large
the feeling that he - no not, after all,
enough of a person, enough of a factor, to
warrant the biography.

Forgive! I've spoken my on. Forgive me
for thus laying my subject very
much at heart.

Devotedly always -

E.M.S.

[Eliza Morgan Swift]

[drafts of letters of thanks] 1919?
By Mrs. Straight

Dear

OLD WESTBURY, LONG ISLAND

In the many hurried observations
last night I don't think I
said what the thing that was
uppermost in my mind — I
wanted to thank you with all
my heart for the really wonderful
letter you wrote me at the time
W's death — It touched me deeply
to have you write as you did — I
shall always be grateful to you for
that expression of your affection
understanding, & with all my heart I
thank you for it.

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I wish I were going to have an important Xmas dinner to-night & the thing that has been in my mind so many months - but I am afraid that spiral. I shall have to write it. I have wanted for so long. To thank you - etc.

I have allowed months to pass without thanking you for the very beautiful letter you wrote me at the time of my husband's death. But it is not too late to tell you now how much it meant to me - how truly & sympathetic & understanding it was. I shall always be grateful to you for having reached out to me in affection & sympathy.

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