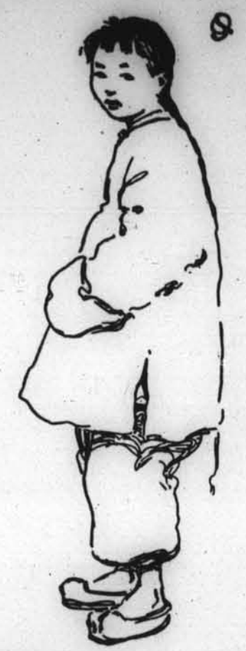
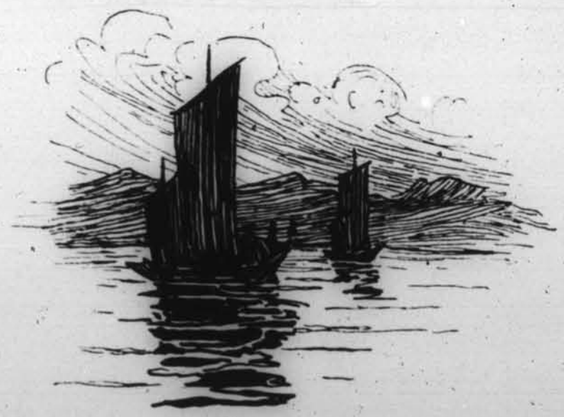
# The Willard Straight Papers



at

Cornell University

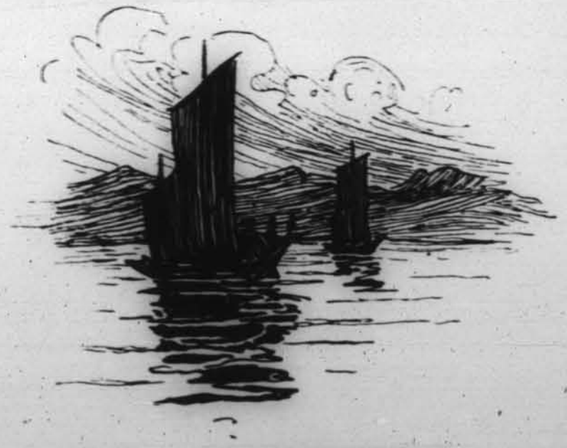


Reel Number

# The Willard Straight Papers

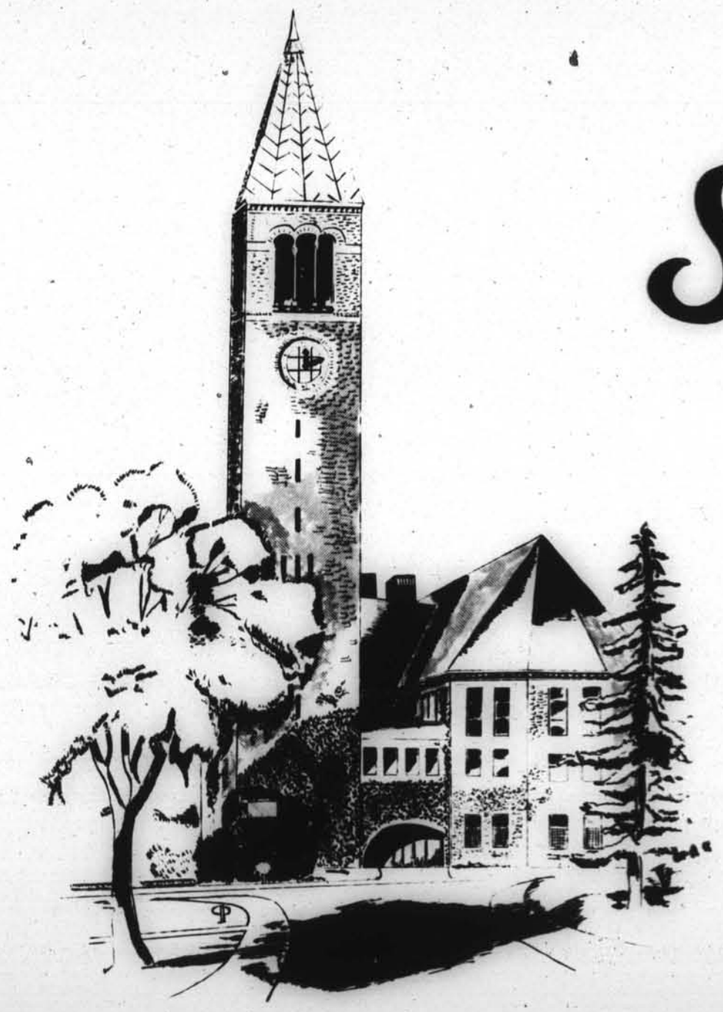
at

Cornell University



Reel Number

1

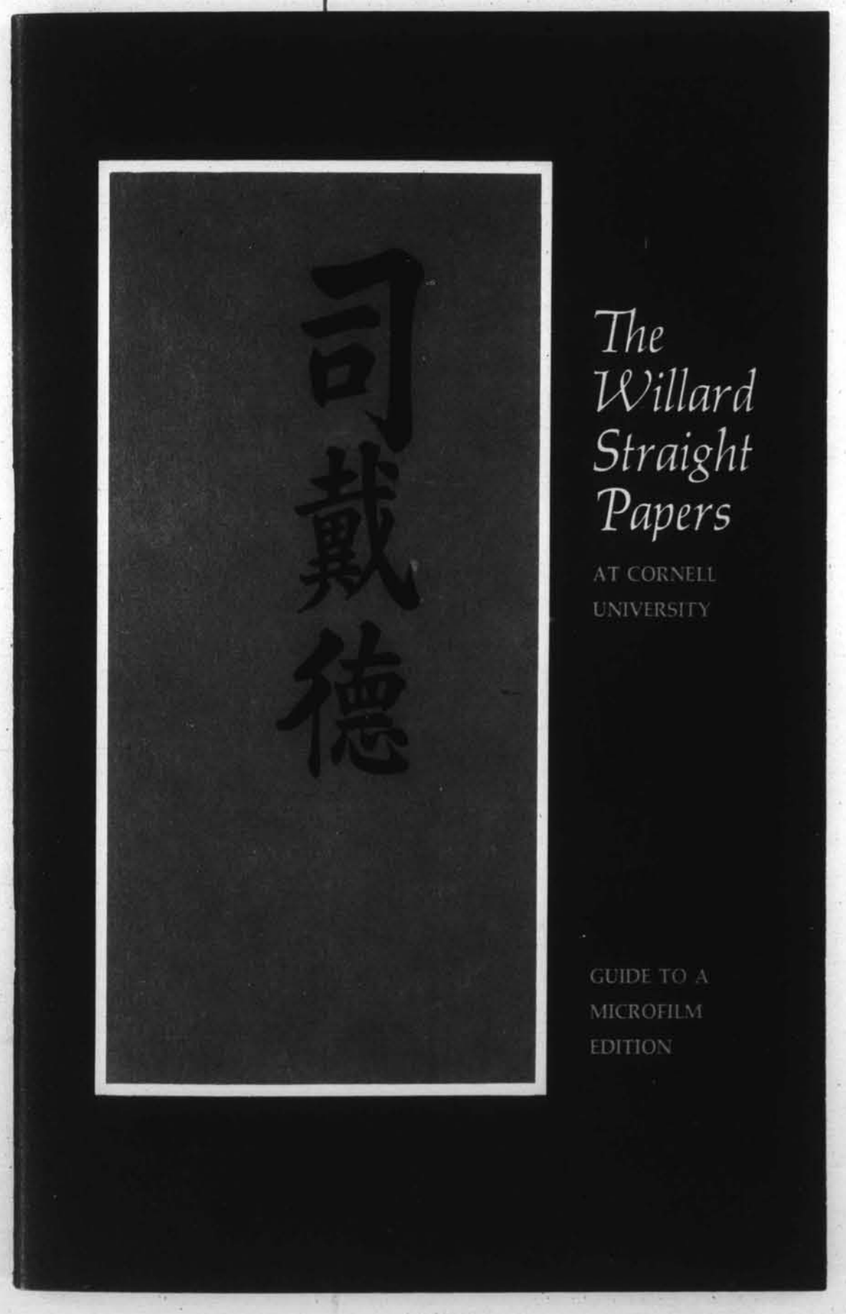


START

12

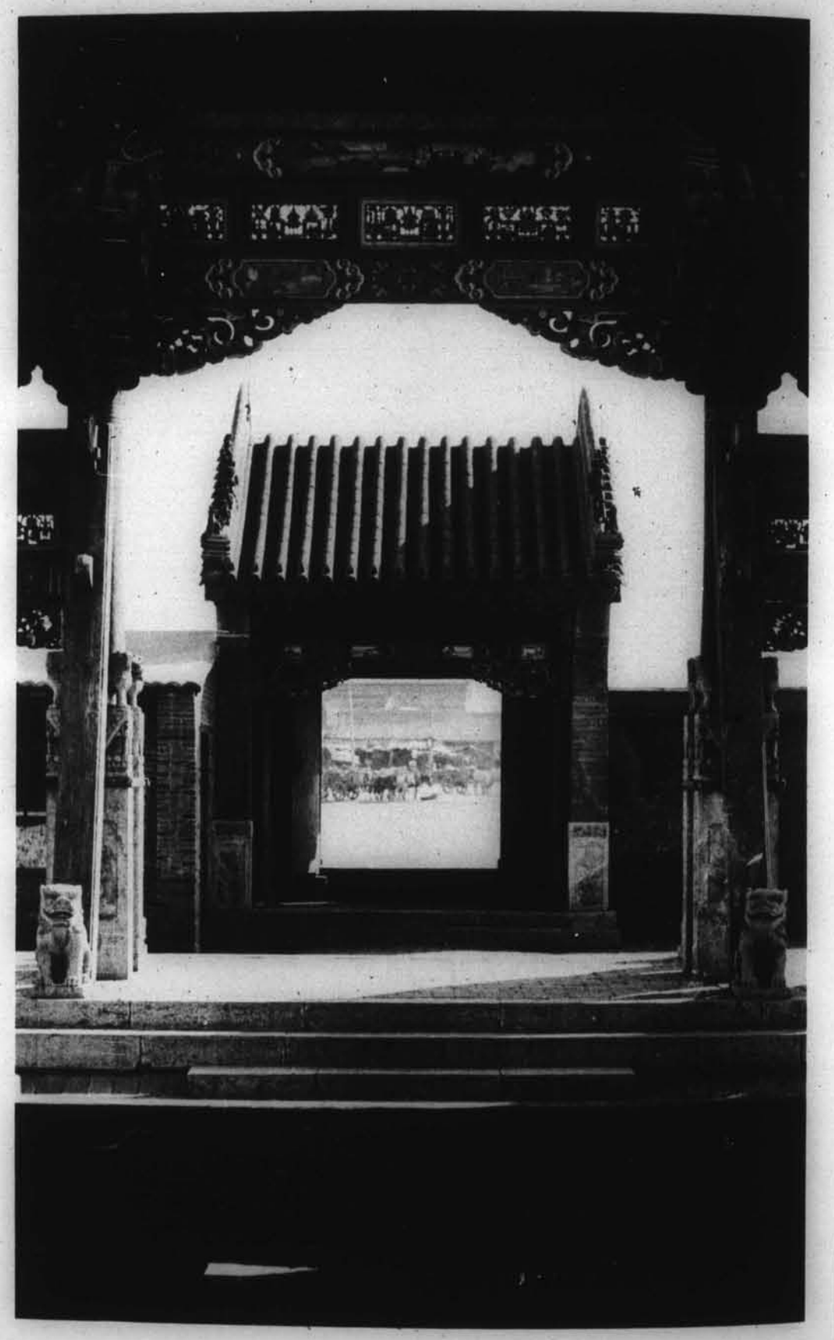
X

REDUCTION




***The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University***

*THE WILLARD STRAIGHT PAPERS*
*AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY*



# The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

1857–1925

Guide to a Microfilm Edition

Patricia H. Gaffney, *Editor*

Department of Manuscripts and University Archives

John M. Olin Library

Ithaca, New York

1974

*Property Rights*



Cover: *Willard Straight's Chinese visiting card.*

Frontispiece: *The American consulate general in Mukden.*

Drawings on the half title page and on page 31 are from Willard Straight's Chinese sketchbooks.

# Acknowledgments

The reorganizing and microfilming of the Willard Straight Papers was made possible by the support of the William C. Whitney Foundation and the National Historical Publications Commission. The Cornell University Libraries sought this support because they believed that this much-used collection should be available to the larger scholarly community through a medium that would also conduce to the preservation of the original documents.

Dr. Herbert Finch, Assistant Director of the Cornell University Libraries, has directed the project with his usual blend of tact and thoroughness, and Fred Shelley, the ubiquitous Deputy Executive Director of the N.H.P.C., has been unstinting in encouragement and cooperation.

Recognition is due Archivist Kathleen Jacklin of Cornell, who has long administered the papers and assisted researchers in their use, and to Professor Harry N. Scheiber, of the University of California, San Diego, who helped describe the papers in 1958. Gould P. Colman, Curator and University Archivist at Cornell, deserves thanks for the enthusiastic support and practical help he has given the project.

I should like to acknowledge the valuable technical assistance of Mr. Morris L. Brock of the Photo Science Studio of the University and the careful and continuing help given the project by Mrs. Jane K. Gustafson, secretary in the Cornell Archives. Mrs. Karolyn R. Gould, who is currently at work on a biography of Dorothy Payne Whitney, has been most helpful in effecting a loan of supplementary Willard Straight correspondence. Graphic designer David May was consulted in planning the layout of text and illustrations in the guide.

*Patricia Harland Gaffney*

# *Willard D. Straight*

1880–1918

Willard Straight's obituary filled more than two columns in the *New York Times* of December 2, 1918. "MAJ. W. D. STRAIGHT IS DEAD IN PARIS: FINANCIER & DIPLOMAT VICTIM OF PNEUMONIA WHILE ON WAR MISSION WITH COL. HOUSE: BEGAN LIFE AS A POOR BOY: SON OF MISSIONARY TO JAPAN & CHINA, HE WON INTERNATIONAL FAME–TRIBUTES HERE." Despite inaccuracies, these headlines sketch the career of the Oswego, New York, orphan who became a well-known figure in the world of international trade and finance. Straight's career in China made him famous before he was thirty. He married an heiress, kept a string of polo ponies on Long Island, and built a splendid house on upper Fifth Avenue, where he lived with the wife he adored and their three small children until he joined the army in 1917. When he died in Paris the list of men who followed his coffin from the Hotel Crillon to the American Church included Herbert Hoover, Walter Lippmann, Charles Merz, several generals of the army, and members of some of America's leading families. Even more striking was the affection Willard Straight inspired in literally hundreds of men who had known him in the Far East, in business, or in the army. He *was* a hero to his valet, and after the war not only was an American Legion post named for him, but a group of officers and men formed the Willard Straight Association and met annually for more than thirty years to renew friendships and keep alive the memory of the man they idolized.

Straight's parents were not missionaries but successful normal-school teachers. Henry Harrison Straight did pioneer work in applying the theories of Pestalozzi to the teaching of science; Emma

Opposite: *The British, Japanese, American, and German consuls in Mukden.*

Dickerman Straight taught art and literature in schools in Missouri, Illinois, and New York. When Willard Dickerman Straight was born in Oswego on the last day of January in 1880, both his parents devoted themselves to his training. Emma Straight kept a detailed account of his development through his first five years, recording both Willard's behavior and her methods of dealing with it.

Professor Straight died of tuberculosis in November of 1886, and in 1887 his widow, who had taken over his science classes during his illness, accepted a teaching offer from Japan. A former pupil of the Straights at Oswego Normal School had become superintendent of the Tokyo schools, and he invited Mrs. Straight to teach English in the girls' normal school. Emma Straight took her two young children with her to Tokyo and entered eagerly into her new life, but in less than two years the disease she had contracted from her husband forced her to seek a drier climate in the American Southwest. Early in 1890 she died, leaving Willard and his sister Hazel in the care of two spinster friends in Oswego, Dr. Elvire Ranier and Miss Laura Newkirk.

After graduating from Bordentown Military Institute in 1897, Straight enrolled in the College of Architecture at Cornell University. In the winter following his graduation from Cornell in 1901, Straight returned to the Orient to join the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. Conducted for the Chinese government by an international organization headed by Sir Robert Hart, the service afforded Straight the opportunity to acquire a working knowledge of the Chinese language and of Far Eastern commerce. When he had been studying in Nanking for only six months, Sir Robert called him to Peking to be his secretary. As the protege of the leader of Peking's international society, Straight quickly learned the social usage of a diplomatic community.

Drawing had been Straight's hobby throughout his childhood, and he put his skill to use at Cornell and in working for architects in Rochester and Buffalo during vacations. In his first months in China he filled notebooks with sketches of the faces and scenes that caught his artist's eye, and he wrote many articles about incidents he had witnessed and the customs and festivities he had observed. In 1902 he illustrated a book, *Verse and Worse* by J. O. P. Bland, that was published in Shanghai. A few of his articles were published in *Harpers' Weekly*, the *Nation*, and *Putnam's Magazine*.



When the Russo-Japanese war broke out in 1904, Straight left the customs service and set out for the front as a correspondent for Reuter, and later the Associated Press. While many reporters were bottled up in Tokyo, Straight managed to get to Korea in March and began to ferret out information that would be useful to the news services. In late June he joined the party of guests of the Japanese that were touring the Korean coast on the *Manshu Maru*, a ship seized from the Russians. Later Straight managed to get to Manchuria, where he followed the retreating Russians in the company of John J. Pershing, who was attached to the Japanese army as an observer. Straight's diaries and letters for the period contain vivid reporting, and some of his sketches of Japanese military and naval figures appeared in the *London Graphic*.

In the summer of 1905 Straight went to Seoul as private secretary of American Minister Edwin V. Morgan, and he was appointed to his first State Department post when Morgan had him named vice-consul for the United States in the Korean capital. In the five months before the Korean administration capitulated to the Japanese, a number of prominent persons passed through Seoul and were guests of the American Legation, including the Edward H. Harriman family and Alice Roosevelt and her traveling party. Both visits served to advance Straight's career, for he found use in Seoul for his many social talents. Not only was he an amateur performer who could write a skit, sing, play a guitar, and dance creditably, but he had unusual skill in interior decorating that Morgan put to use, and was adept in entertaining groups, preparing schedules and attending to details of travel and accommodations.

Straight was a tall, personable young man whose ability and enterprise won for him the friendship and confidence of older associates. He was avowedly ambitious, but he learned very early in life that advancement depended on performance. However genial a host he appeared to be, his close associates knew that he regularly worked on official reports far into the night. His direct manner, his loyalty, and his chivalrous attitude toward women, balanced by his tolerance toward the standards of others, impressed both men and women.

For a time Straight served as Morgan's secretary in his new post as American Minister to Cuba, but he was eager to return to China and spent several weeks in Washington job hunting. In June of 1906 Theodore Roosevelt signed his appointment as consul general



for the United States in Mukden, and in August he set off across Siberia to establish the first American consulate in that region. Straight was only twenty-six years old, and the responsibility was a great one. The temple compound he leased and adapted for the purpose of assisting American businessmen through China's Open Door became a favorite stop-over for Americans passing through Manchuria. Straight believed in Manchuria's potential for agricultural and commercial development, and sought to strengthen the Manchurian administration that was succumbing to Japanese control as had the Korean in 1905. He worked closely with Manchurian leaders who hoped to construct railroads and reform the monetary system with the help of American capital.

In 1909 Straight left the consular service to become Peking representative of a group of American companies: J. P. Morgan and Co., the First National Bank of New York, the National City Bank, and Kuhn, Loeb and Co. The venture was undertaken with the full knowledge of the U.S. State Department under the policy later referred to as Dollar Diplomacy. The American Group represented U.S. interests in a consortium with groups of bankers in England, France and Germany.

At the age of thirty Straight was believed to be earning as much as the President, and had become one of the most powerful men in the Far East. In September of 1911 Dorothy Payne Whitney, a pretty and highly intelligent heiress, became his wife after a courtship that Straight conducted with all the persistence and persuasiveness at his command. The first months of this remarkably happy and productive marriage were spent in Peking. When the Chinese Revolution hobbled the administration with which he had been negotiating, Straight returned to France and England, where agreements were signed admitting Russia and Japan to full partnership in the consortium, which was then considering a large reorganization loan to the Chinese Republic.

After he returned to the United States in August of 1912, Straight continued his association with the J. P. Morgan Company, and though the American Group abandoned its Chinese operation, Straight continued to encourage American investment in China through the American Asiatic Association and the Foreign Trade

Opposite: *Dollar Diplomacy in Peking, 1911.*

Council. In 1914 Straight was instrumental in developing a foreign trade club in a historic mansion on Hanover Square in New York. India House, which echoed the style and character of the old East India Company in Salem, is still in operation sixty years after its founding.

Before her marriage Dorothy Straight had taken an active interest in social reform, supporting the Working Women's Trade Union League and the campaign for women's suffrage. In 1914 she joined her husband in publishing the *New Republic*, a magazine of comment edited by Herbert Croly. Croly's *The Promise of American Life*, published by The Macmillan Company in 1909, had so impressed Straight that he sought out its author and asked him to prepare a report on the kind of social education needed in a democracy. The Straights sat on the editorial board of the magazine, but in matters of policy and content they deferred to the judgment of the board as a whole. The Straights also financed the publication of *Asia*, a large-format magazine with photographs as well as articles on the Far East. *Asia* replaced an earlier journal as the organ of the American Asiatic Association.

Straight left the Morgan company in September of 1915 after he had helped to arrange for the company to purchase strategic materials for the French and British governments. Later in the year he joined the American International Corporation, which invested largely in foreign engineering and transportation projects. This work took him to Europe again in 1916 and won him to the Allied cause before the United States entered the war. Straight himself invested in a number of small businesses; one of the companies of which he was director was the Pacific Development Company.

In the summers of 1915 and 1916 Straight attended U.S. Army training camps, and he enthusiastically supported the Preparedness Movement, giving funds to provide summer training for the cadet corps of Cornell University and serving as chairman of the Mayor's Committee for Defense in New York. A month after the United States declared war on Germany he entered active service with the rank of major, and early in December he sailed for France, in command of a contingent of uniformed accountants and lawyers, to conduct the U.S. War Risk Insurance operation. (This was his seventh wartime crossing of the North Atlantic, made perilous by mines and enemy torpedoes. He had been a passenger on the



*Lusitania* a few weeks before she was sunk in May of 1915.) His group was credited with assisting American servicemen to sign up for eight million dollars worth of insurance in six weeks.

When the insurance project was nearing completion, Straight enrolled in the U.S. Army staff school in Langres to prepare for the command of infantry troops. To his great chagrin he was kept at a desk job, but his revision of the army liaison manual was adopted in mid-summer and widely used. In October of 1918 he was assigned to duty with the Chief of the American Military Mission to the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies. He was stationed at Marshal Foch's headquarters through the Armistice negotiations, sleeping on the library floor the night of November tenth in order to be able to telephone the American headquarters as soon as the peace terms were announced.

Straight thoroughly hated the war, and as it drew to a close he feared that the peace negotiators would betray the sacrifice of a generation of young men. His last cable to Croly urged him to support Wilson and the League of Nations. He was engaged in arranging for the arrival of the American Peace Mission in Paris when he was stricken with influenza in mid-November. Two weeks later he was dead.

## *Willard Straight and Cornell*

The ties between Willard Straight and Cornell are many. According to a brief biography in *Historical Sketches Relating to the First Quarter Century of the State Normal and Training School at Oswego, N.Y.* Straight's father undertook "special study at Cornell during his senior year [at Oberlin] under the lamented Charles Fred Hartt." Henry H. Straight also enrolled as a graduate student at Cornell in the fall of 1875, and his wife attended lectures by Hiram Corson, Cornell professor of Anglo-Saxon and English literature.

Willard Straight attended Cornell from 1897 to 1901, and formed close friendships with a number of students and professors. His skill in drawing continued to develop in his course work in the College of Architecture and in his contributions to student publications. When he graduated in June of 1901 he was hoping to go to China,



but in the meantime he accepted an appointment as instructor in industrial drawing and art at the university.

A close friendship with Professor Henry Morse Stephens is believed to have influenced Straight's decision to seek a career in China. During his years in the Orient Straight kept in touch with Stephens and other Cornell associates, and when he returned to live in New York State he became active in Cornell affairs, contributing an athletic field house as a memorial to a close friend in 1913 and serving as a trustee of the university from 1916 on.

In his will Straight expressed the wish that his wife do something to make Cornell "a more human place," and this led to the construction of a large, handsome student union building. Willard Straight Hall, with its cafeterias, library, great hall, theater, box office, music and exhibition rooms, its facilities for crafts and games and offices for student organizations, is still the center of student life on the Cornell campus.

## *Description of the Collection*

The Willard Straight Papers consist of personal and official correspondence, reports, diaries, manuscript articles—published and unpublished, and memoranda and agreements concerning loan negotiations with China. The unusual value of the papers is that they chronicle the development of United States foreign policy in the Far East at a critical period in the history of modern China and that this development is revealed through an unusually articulate participant.

The character of the collection suggests that much of it was gathered for the use of Straight's widow in preparing a memorial volume. Many original Willard Straight letters were sent to her, and a number of personal memoirs were written by persons who had known Straight's parents or had been closely associated with Straight at college, in the Far East, or in France. There are many original letters from Straight's personal files, but most of Straight's own letters are represented by copies transcribed from letterbooks he kept in Mukden and Peking. There are also typed copies of some of his private

Opposite: *Peking in Flames, March 1912.*

letters from 1912 to 1917, and Straight's letters to his wife from December 1917 to June of 1918 exist in the collection only in typed copies. His letters to Edwin V. Morgan were copied for Mrs. Straight, but sections were cut from them at Morgan's direction. A portion of the letters in the collection were addressed to Mrs. Straight, but they concern him or the projects she undertook to preserve his memory.

A quantity of material not included on the microfilm is available for research in the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives at Cornell University. This includes items related to Straight and his family—scrapbooks, photographs, a genealogical sketch, portfolios of drawings—and some manuscripts and proofs of published biographies of Straight. There are also some documents in Chinese characters, Chinese paintings and art objects, photographs of Straight's associates in the Far East, snapshots of persons and places, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, maps, pamphlets, and books.

The papers of George Collingwood Bennett constitute a sub-series in the collection. Bennett, an Australian, was Straight's valet from 1912 until 1917, when he joined the U.S. Army and accompanied Major Straight to France. Though some family documents date from 1882, the correspondence extends from 1903 to 1952 and includes letters from other servants, from relatives in Australia, from World War I comrades, and from World War II servicemen he had entertained in England. Bennett had accompanied the Straight-Elmhirst family to Devonshire, where they acquired Dartington Hall and founded the schools and the arts and rural industries programs that still operate under the Dartington Hall Trust. There are many letters from persons who were on the Dartington Hall staff, and drafts of Bennett's letters, along with pamphlets and photographs, contain information about the early years of the experimental community.

## *Provenance*

In 1925 Mrs. Straight remarried. Her second husband, Leonard Knight Elmhirst, was an Englishman who had taken a Cornell degree, and the family returned with him to England and made their home in Devonshire. The papers and artifacts associated with Willard Straight's career were stored in the family's house on Long Island.



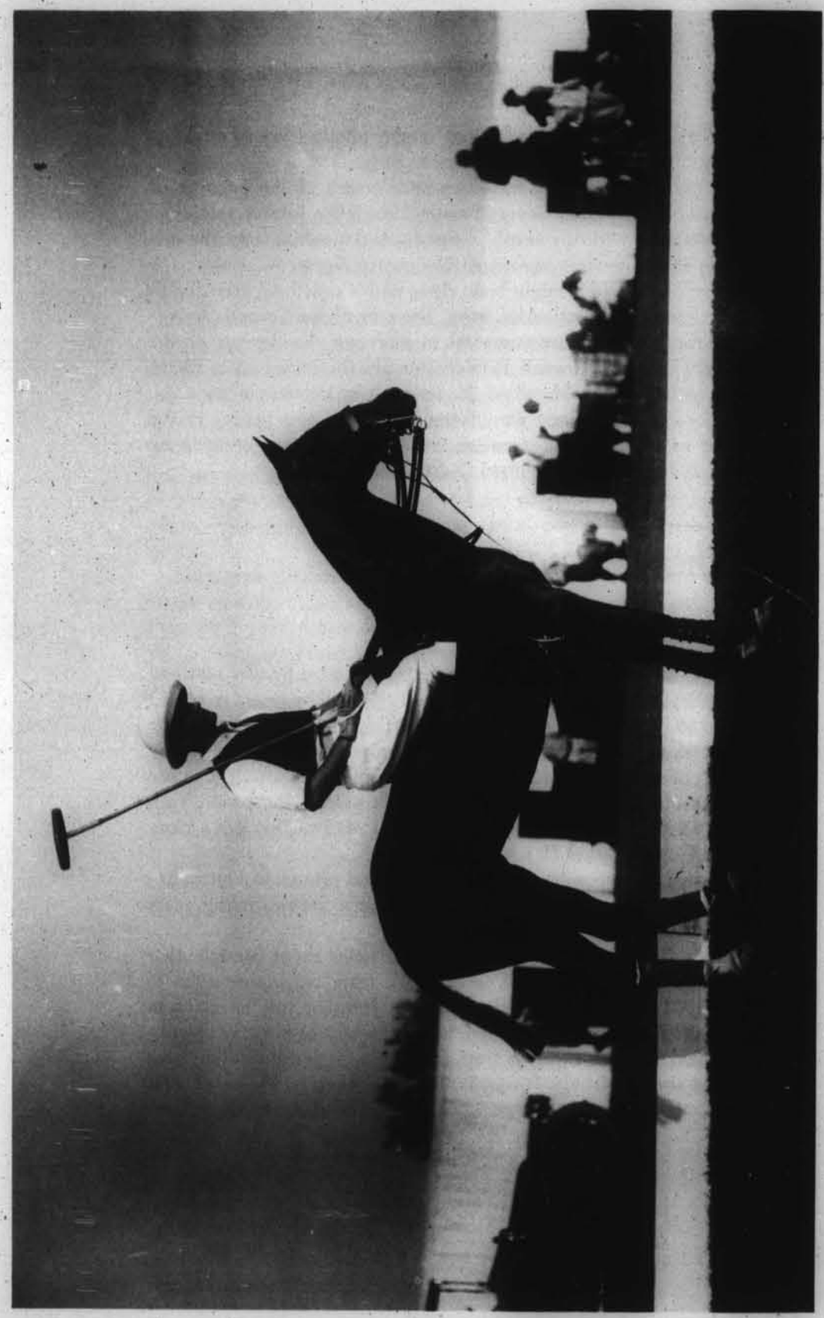
At the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of Willard Straight Hall, George Bennett, Straight's former valet who had remained with the family, helped select material from the collection for an exhibit at Cornell University. Foster M. Coffin, the director of Willard Straight Hall, along with Cornell Archivist Edith M. Fox and Stephen A. McCarthy, Director of the Cornell University Libraries, were instrumental in effecting the deposit of the Straight Papers at Cornell. Bennett brought the collection to Ithaca and assisted Giles F. Shepherd, Jr., now Acting Director of the C. U. Libraries, in listing and identifying the books and papers in the spring of 1952. Formal donation was made in March of 1953 by a son and daughter of Willard D. Straight.

## *Other Primary and Secondary Sources*

The official reports Straight made during the time he was attached to the State Department, from 1905 to 1909, will be found in record group 59 of the General Records of the Department of State in the National Archives. Related correspondence may be found in the papers of several individuals in the Division of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress, including those of Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson and their Secretaries of State and of Straight's close friend Henry Prather Fletcher.

Related correspondence may also be found printed in *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States* for the years 1906 to 1912.

Louis Graves wrote a series of nine articles about Straight that appeared in *Asia* magazine each month from September 1920 to May 1921, and were published in book form by the magazine in 1922 as *Willard Straight in the Orient*. The task of integrating various memoirs with excerpts from Straight's diaries and letters was offered several writers. It was finally undertaken by Herbert David Croly, the editor of the *New Republic*, who worked closely with





Mrs. Straight in writing *Willard Straight*, published by The Macmillan Company in April of 1924. Both the Graves and Croly books contain photographs and Straight drawings.

*The United States and China, 1906–1913: A Study of Finance and Diplomacy*, published by the Rutgers University Press in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1955, was written by Charles Vevier, who had access to the Straight Papers before they came to Cornell.

A Cornell thesis, copyrighted by Helen Dodson Kahn in 1968, is titled "The Great Game of Empire: Willard D. Straight and American Far Eastern Policy." Much of Mrs. Kahn's research was conducted in the Straight Papers, and her bibliography, beginning on page 583, contains a useful list of sources.

Another recommended work is Harry N. Scheiber's "World War I as Entrepreneurial Opportunity: Willard Straight and the American International Corporation," published in the *Political Science Quarterly* LXXXIV (September 1969), pp. 487–511, and based largely on research in the Straight Papers at Cornell.

## *Editorial Procedures*

In arranging the Straight Papers for filming, an earlier order, which attempted to separate the material by subject matter, has been permanently replaced by a single chronological series of correspondence. This will not seriously affect earlier citations, for, although box numbers will not correspond, the date of a document will serve as sufficient identification. The reorganization should eliminate duplication and improve the coherence of the collection as a whole.

Enclosures have been placed following the enclosing letter; undated correspondence has been marked with a date, enclosed in brackets, wherever the proper date was obtainable; and undated material appears at the end of the month or year in which more exact assignment was impossible. Letters from Willard Straight to the J. P. Morgan Company from 1909 to 1912 are numbered, but the series is incomplete. Copies of letters pasted in Straight's diary have been interfiled in the correspondence.

Opposite: *Pre-war polo on Long Island.*

Letters from Straight to Dorothy Whitney are represented by copies, which, along with a number of original letters from individuals, are still in private hands. These and other borrowed letters are identified on the microfilm by a line in large type. There is correspondence with Dr. Paul S. Reinsch from the Wisconsin Historical Society, a few letters exchanged with Herbert Croly from the archives of the *New Republic*, and a note from Straight from the Rutherford B. Hayes Library.

For the microfilm edition letters have been copied from other Cornell collections, including those of Eugene Plumb Andrews, George Lincoln Burr, Charles Henry Hull, Jacob Gould Schurman, Goldwin Smith, and Henry Morse Stephens.

# *Reel Notes*

## *Reel 1*
## *1857 – June 1907*

Scattered letters and documents from 1857 to 1894 concern Straight's parents. The correspondence in 1901 relates to his appointment to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service and his departure for the Far East. A letter from Peking dated 30 April 1901 was written by William Alexander Parsons Martin. Straight's letters from 1902 to early 1904 describe his experiences in Nanking and Peking and his impressions of the countryside, the commercial potential, and the varied people he encountered. In 1904 and 1905 the letters indicate his presence in Tokyo, Seoul, and a number of cities and towns in Manchuria, where he went in search of news for Reuter and the Associated Press, and where he made sketches for the *London Graphic*. The first letters from John Otway Percy Bland, for whom Straight illustrated two books, appear in 1904. Straight's own letters through the fall of 1905 detail the visit to Korea of Alice Roosevelt and her party and later the Japanese take-over of the administration of Korea. The Tokyo riots that followed publication of the terms of the Portsmouth Treaty were described by Frederick Palmer in late September. Other correspondents through 1905 were John Gardner Coolidge, Martin Egan, and Sir Robert Hart.

The few letters in early 1906 relate to Straight's months in Cuba as secretary to the United States minister to Cuba, Edwin Vernon Morgan, under whom he had also served at Seoul. Straight spent several weeks in Washington in the spring in the hope of securing an appointment in the United States foreign service, and in late June was named consul general for Mukden in Manchuria. On 15 October

1906 Straight send back a lengthy report to President Roosevelt summarizing his observations during the journey through Siberia and Northern Manchuria. On the thirty-first he addressed the first of several letters to Edward Henry Harriman about railways in the Eastern Provinces.

E. V. Morgan was a frequent correspondent through Straight's two years in Mukden, and his letters comment informally on U.S. policy in Cuba. There are a few letters from William Woodville Rockhill, U.S. minister to Peking, in the first months of 1907.

## *Reel 2*
## *July 1907 – March 1909*

From Mukden on 9 August 1907 Straight wrote a note of commendation to John Foord of the American Asiatic Association, and on 3 December he wrote at length to Edwin Denby, who was planning to publish a monthly on Asiatic affairs. In mid-November Straight prepared a memorandum on Manchuria that he later handed to William Howard Taft when they conferred in Vladivostok. Copies of some State Department trade reports incorporating Straight's dispatches are filmed at the end of 1907. Some letters in late 1907 and early 1908 concern a news service George Marvin was conducting for the Chinese government. A Marvin letter of 13 January urged that American college men establish friendly relations with Chinese students, as Straight had done with Alfred Sze at Cornell. There are letters from a number of consuls in other commercial centers in Korea and Manchuria. An attack on the gateman of the American consulate in Mukden by a Japanese postman, and the fracas that ensued, led Straight to complain to the Japanese consul. The injudicious release to the press of Straight's colorful account of the incident, referred to as the "Mukden affair" in the Japanese papers, led to the termination of Marvin's news venture.

Some other correspondents in the Mukden period are Henry Prather Fletcher, Frederick McCormick, William Phillips, Henry Schoellkopf, and Francis Mairs Huntington Wilson. On 24 May 1908 Straight and an associate began a three-month journey into Northern Manchuria, studying the transportation, agriculture, and



trade in outlying areas, and observing and recording the extent of Russian and Japanese control and colonization. In September Straight returned to the United States to help Special Ambassador T'ang Shao-yi place his Manchurian Bank proposal before American financiers. Straight exchanged a number of notes with Harriman and Jacob Henry Schiff. A letter from Elihu Root on 11 December 1908 defines the State Department's attitude toward the undertaking. T'ang's recall in January left Straight in Washington, where he prepared a number of reports for the Division of Far Eastern Affairs.

## *Reel 3*
## *April 1909 – October 1910*

In April Straight completed a memorandum on the navigation of the rivers of China, Korea, and the Russian Far East. Filed under the date of its signing, 11 May 1909, is a copy of an agreement between China and Russia concerning the organization of municipalities on the lands of the Chinese Eastern Railway. A State Department letter on May first refers to "oral directions by the Secretary of State to continue the study of the possibility of an advantageous introduction of American capital into China."

An agreement between Straight and J. P. Morgan and Co., Kuhn, Loeb and Co., the First National Bank of New York, and National City Bank of New York is dated 14 June 1909. Copies of telegrams through June chronicle the effort to have the United States admitted to an international consortium of bankers. In the weeks preceding Harriman's death in early September, Straight sent him a number of letters and cables. On October second he signed the preliminary agreement for the construction of the Chinchou-Aigun Railway. Through the next twelve months Straight wrote more than fifty letters to the J. P. Morgan Company and Henry Pomeroy Davison.

Dorothy Payne Whitney became a regular correspondent in 1910, and, though her letters do not appear, copies of Straight's letters to her contain much detail about his work. Copies of a number of documents relating to the Chinchou-Aigun loan appear under the date of 30 April 1910. Memoranda concerning the Hukuang railway loans appear in late May. Straight's contract with the American Group

dated 10 June 1910 doubled his salary of the previous year. Summaries of interviews Straight conducted in St. Petersburg with the Russian ministers of war, finance, and foreign affairs and with M. Stolypin, minister of the interior and Premier, appear among the papers of late June. A letter addressed to Frank H. McKnight by E. T. Williams concerning the State Department's view of the railway project is dated 9 August 1910, and a letter from newsman Joseph Ohl on September seventeenth sought to keep Straight abreast of developments in Peking. Many notes to Miss Whitney appear in the later months on the reel.

## *Reel 4*
## *November 1910 – November 1911*

The Chinchou-Aigun railway loan was the subject of many letters in the late fall of 1910; discussions in London, Paris, and St. Petersburg were reported in letters to the Group and to Dorothy Whitney.

On 7 January 1911 Straight wrote a memoir of E. H. Harriman for his widow, and he addressed letters to Lord ffrench, Frank McKnight, and E. V. Morgan in the first months of the year. Obstacles to a currency loan agreement — rumors of Japanese involvement, provincial unrest, an attractive loan offer from a competitor, and an outbreak of plague — are detailed in the correspondence. An account of the signing of the Currency Loan appears in letter number 175 to the J. P. Morgan Co. on 17 April. The final agreement for the Hukuang Railways Loan was signed in Peking on 20 May.

More loan documents appear in the summer of 1911, along with congratulations on Straight's engagement to Miss Whitney. Letters from Peking following the Straights' marriage and their return to Peking in October describe the political climate in the northern capital, as rumor and fear put many Manchus to flight before the approach of revolutionary forces. Edward C. Grenfell wrote on 17 November of meeting Dr. Sun Yat-sen and one of his generals in London.



## *Reel 5*
## *December 1911 – August 1917*

The first part of the reel is made up of correspondence during Straight's last months in China. On 22 December Straight confided to McKnight that he would prefer to deal with the most reactionary Manchu than with the rebel leader WuTing-fang.

Telegrams sent the Straights at the holidays provide an index to their closest friends. On 12 January 1912 Straight wrote a memorandum of a conversation with Prince Pu Lun, and on the twentieth he wrote another about the objections of Russia and Japan to the Chinese Currency Loan Agreement.

On February first Straight wrote William James Calhoun, U.S. minister to Peking, about talks he had in Shanghai with Dr. Chen Chin-tao, Thomas F. Millard, Sze, T'ang, and others. On the fourth he wrote the J. P. Morgan Co. an analysis of attempts by the Chinese to establish a stable government. On 24 February he summarized for Bland the loan negotiations with China, and praised American policy in the Philippines. A letter to Grenfell on 3 March describes the burning and looting of Peking that sent the Straights and other foreigners to the American Legation for safety. The passport issued for their journey through Siberia is dated 20 March 1912. A printed summary of negotiations for a Chinese reorganization loan is dated 23 June. Letters to Bland, Maurice Casenave, Fletcher, McKnight, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, James Augustus Thomas and Charles T. Whigham attest to Straight's continued interest in Chinese investment, and on 14 November 1912 he spoke about the Chinese loan negotiations before an audience at Clark University. On 7 March 1913 Straight sent Paul M. Warburg a memorandum on American diplomacy, and on 9 December he wrote Daniel A. de Menocal that the American Group felt the Chinese should offer them any contemplated railroad loans, since their Chinchou-Aigun agreement had been disregarded.

The few Straight letters in 1914 concern the National Foreign Trade Council, the development of India House as a club for men associated with foreign trade, and the plan to start publishing the *New Republic* in the fall. The first letter from editor Herbert Croly is dated 29 November 1914. Copies of Straight's letters through the

next months indicate his continuing interest in the development of the magazine. Letters in the fall of 1915 explain his resignation from the J. P. Morgan Company and his move to the American International Corporation.

Among letters written on shipboard on 17 March 1916 is Straight's note to George Kennan enclosing a nine-page article on E. H. Harriman's interest in the Far East. A Croly letter the next day mentions Vincent Massey and Lionel Curtis and their association with groups in Canada and England studying foreign policy. In March Straight and Thomas Nelson Perkins reported from London to Charles A. Stone about numerous foreign investment projects. After returning to the United States, Straight wrote letters to James Bryce and Gilbert Parker about the American attitude toward Britain. On 23 October 1916 he wrote a letter to appear in the *New Republic* disassociating himself from the magazine's endorsement of President Wilson.

Notes in January 1917 refer to a report on the mobilization of the National Guard. On February fifth Straight wrote Dr. Reinsch of his hopes for American-Japanese cooperation in a Chinese canal project, and on the first of August he wrote Croly, "I'm about the only person still interested in fostering this idea of internationalizing Chinese finance—which is, I believe, the only safeguard for China's future."

## *Reel 6*
## *September 1917–December 2, 1918*

Most of the correspondence in late 1917 relates to the War Risk Insurance project Straight was assigned to administer in France. Letters document a controversy with Washington officials over details of his plan of operation. A letter from Shanghai on November eighth concerns Straight's business interest in China and refers to his proposal to buy back his old Peking house.

Croly and A. W. Fiedler, Straight's secretary, reported on homefront matters in 1918, and Straight wrote frequent and detailed letters to his wife. In early February he wrote recommendations for members of his insurance staff, as he prepared to leave the project



and enroll in the army staff college at Langres. On 13 February he complained to James A. Logan that the army was "controlled by men too long a part of the regular army peacetime machinery, not flexible enough . . . to solve wartime problems of transport and communication." On the same day he wrote his wife that he had come to believe in universal service and "a changing, not a permanent, personnel."

A memorandum from General William Mason Wright of the Fifth Army Corps on 29 July 1918 enclosed several officers' comments on the liaison pamphlet Straight prepared. The last word from Straight is a long cable to Croly on November seventh urging support for Wilson and the League of Nations.

Straight died of pneumonia in Paris on December first, a victim of the 1918–1919 influenza pandemic. The remainder of the correspondence is addressed to Mrs. Straight, though most of it concerns him. First are a group of letters addressed to her before his death, 1910–1918. These are followed by a list of callers at the Hotel Crillon at the time of Straight's death and funeral. The last items on the reel are a group of cables and telegrams sent in December and the first of some 800 letters of condolence.

## *Reel 7*
## *December 2–31, 1918*

Letters of condolence are in chronological order, with correspondents on the same day arranged alphabetically. Writers include Straight's army and business associates, his college friends, and many persons who had known him in the Far East. On the third Harold J. Laski wrote, "Willard seemed to me one of the half a dozen men of distinction in America who really found himself in the sheer joy of service," and on December fourth Emory Roy Buckner wrote, ". . . the sorrow is not confined to a few, but is shared by almost an army of people who knew and admired and loved him . . ." Daniel A. de Menocal, a Peking associate, wrote on the eleventh, "There is no man with whom I have ever come in contact for whose qualities of character I have such admiration. I feel that we have all lost from amongst us the best personal example that we had to follow." Some

tributes from organizations are included among the letters. Some prominent persons represented on the reel are Norman Angell, William Cameron Forbes, Felix Frankfurter, Learned Hand, Florence Jaffray Harriman, Walter Lippmann, Charles Merz, Ernest Peixotto, Frances Perkins, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Henry L. Stimson.

## *Reel 8*
## *1919–1923*

A number of letters in 1919 suggest the form Mrs. Straight's announced gift to Cornell University might take. On January first an Ithacan proposed "a splendid building dedicated to the memory of Major Straight and thoroughly equipped for the enjoyable employment of the leisure time of all Cornell students." Jeremiah W. Jenks suggested founding a chair at the University in Far Eastern studies, Neil Gray and Jacob Gould Schurman discussed scholarships, and Olaf M. Brauner, on the last of October, suggested fellowships, an art gallery, or a college of fine arts.

Letters from Jo Davidson in the fall of 1919 discuss a plan to beautify the cemetery at Suresnes, but the project was later abandoned for lack of official approval.[1] An undated critique of an article written about Straight by J. O. P. Bland[2] is filmed at the end of 1919, along with another recollection by an Oswego friend. Many letters enclose contributions to a proposed memorial volume. An E. V. Morgan letter of 7 April 1920 encloses his memoir and another by Maurice Casenave, and he refers to copies of Straight's letters he had had typed, with certain deletions. A letter dated April thirteenth was written by a medium, and enclosed messages believed to have come from Willard Straight.[3] A letter enclosed under the date of 14 May 1920 lists Straight's dispatches to the State Department that might

1. Photographs of models of Davidson's sculpture and cemetery plans are among the Willard Straight Papers.

2. Bland's article is filmed with other memoirs on a manuscript reel.

3. Copies of many of these messages are preserved in the Papers.



contain biographical material. Letters in early 1921 concern a showing of Straight's drawings and paintings in March, and there are a few notes from William Gibbs McAdoo and James E. Fraser in regard to a statue to Alexander Hamilton that Mrs. Straight had commissioned. The figure was placed outside the United States Treasury in Washington anonymously, though two letters from Arthur H. Vandenberg in July urged that Mrs. Straight be identified as the donor.

A letter from China on 22 November 1921 and another in January comment on changes in Peking since 1912. The Willard Straight Post of the American Legion issued a statement on 21 September 1921 opposing preferential treatment of veterans in the New York State Civil Service. Early in 1922 the Post sought essays on its members' war experiences as advice to young men in the future. Some of these essays are filed at the end of 1922. Many writers in 1922 respond to the announced plan to erect Willard Straight Hall, a student union building, at Cornell. Livingston Farrand, president of the university, wrote on 5 July 1922 to discuss plans for the use and management of the building.

## *Reel 9*
## *1924 letters and other manuscript material*

The letters of 1924 were written, for the most part, by persons who had received copies of Herbert David Croly's biography of Willard Straight, and many contain recollections of Straight's life. A few notes were originally addressed to Croly. The book was published in April in New York by The Macmillan Company, and the first edition was largely distributed among Straight's friends and acquaintances. Some names that appear on the reel are Corinne Robinson Alsop, Mabel Boardman, Fairman Rogers Dick, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Herbert C. Hoover, Peter Augustus Jay, and Philip James McCook. The correspondence ends with two 1925 notes and a few undated items.

Next on the reel are a group of passports, appointments and other documents. These are followed by memoirs from forty persons. These vary in length from a paragraph quotation to a 41-page article,

and most are typed copies. Excerpts from George Marvin's Mukden diary from 14 August to 28 December 1907 are followed by excerpts from Mrs. Straight's letters to Beatrice Bend from 2 October 1911 to 25 June 1912. Most of these were written in Peking.

The last portion of the reel is made up of articles written by Straight.

## *Reel 10*
## *Willard Straight manuscripts and printed matter*

The reel begins with a continuation of Straight's personal manuscripts, translations and verse. The greater part of the reel is made up of copies of documents and printed memoranda and agreements relating to his work in Seoul, Mukden, and Peking, beginning with trade and customs in Korea and Manchuria and followed by various railway agreements and loan proposals for Chinese currency reform and reorganization. The reel ends with bound material, printed copies of Straight speeches about the loan negotiations and bound manuscript material relating to his study of the Chinese language.

## *Reel 11*
## *Diaries, November 9, 1901 to August 15, 1908*

The diaries vary in character and extent. The early books are not day-by-day records but occasional comments on his experiences, bits of self-analysis, and attempts at fiction based on his observations.

Later Straight often pasted in his diary carbon copies of detailed letters he wrote to friends. The diaries for the Russo-Japanese War period also contain a number of sketches.

In Mukden he kept a fairly systematic diary, recording his activities and naming his visitors and associates. There are occasional gaps, and some entries are very brief.



## *Reel 12*
## *Diaries, 1908 to November 17, 1918*

The first four books on the reel are an account of a journey Straight and a companion made in the summer of 1908. Traveling by train, by boat, and on horseback, they explored a portion of Northern Manchuria along the Korean and Siberian borders to assess the agricultural and commercial possibilities of the region. Straight recorded his observations in these diaries.

There is no diary for the late months of 1908 and early 1909. Entries in the Peking diaries, from August 1909 to March of 1912, vary greatly in length, but they contain detail about his work and persons with whom he was negotiating. The regular diary ceased when the Straights left Peking.

For a few weeks in 1915 and again in the spring of 1916 Straight kept diaries of business trips he took to Europe, the first for the J. P. Morgan Company and the second for the American International Corporation. These accounts were ostensibly prepared for his son Whitney.

The final diary was kept by Major Straight from 11 December 1917 until 17 November 1918. The reel ends with some miscellaneous bound material, a record of Straight's childhood, an account of a trip from Peking to the Great Wall in 1903, and the original illustrations Straight drew for J. O. P. Bland's *Houseboat Days in China*, published in London by Edward Arnold in 1909, and reissued in 1919 by William Heinemann in London and Doubleday, Page and Company in New York.

Reel 1 1857 - June 1907

Scattered letters and documents from 1857 to 1894 concern Straight's parents. The correspondence in 1901 relates to his appointment to the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service and his departure for the Far East. A letter from Peking dated 30 April 1901 was written by William Alexander Parsons Martin. Straight's letters from 1902 to early 1904 describe his experiences in Nanking and Peking and his impressions of the countryside, the commercial potential, and the varied people he encountered. In 1904 and 1905 the letters indicate his presence in Tokyo, Seoul, and a number of cities and towns in Manchuria, where he went in search of news for Reuter and the Associated Press, and where he made sketches for the London Graphic. The first letters from John Otway Percy Bland, for whom Straight illustrated two books, appear in 1904. Straight's own letters through the fall of 1905 detail the visit to Korea of Alice Roosevelt and her party and later the Japanese take-over of the administration of Korea. The Tokyo riots that followed publication of the terms of the Portsmouth Treaty were described by Frederick Palmer in late September. Other correspondents through 1905 were John Gardner Coolidge, Martin Egan, and Sir Robert Hart.



The few letters in early 1906 relate to Straight's months in Cuba as secretary to the United States minister to Cuba, Edwin Vernon Morgan, under whom he had also served at Seoul. Straight spent several weeks in Washington in the spring in the hope of securing an appointment in the United States foreign service, and in late June was named consul general for Mukden in Manchuria. On 15 October 1906 Straight sent back a lengthy report to President Roosevelt summarizing his observations during the journey through Siberia and Northern Manchuria. On the thirty-first he addressed the first of several letters to Edward Henry Harriman about railways in the Eastern Provinces.

E. V. Morgan was a frequent correspondent through Straight's two years in Mukden, and his letters comment informally on U. S. policy in Cuba. There are a few letters from William Woodville Rockhill, U.S. minister to Peking, in the first months of 1907.

REEL 1

Segment 1

(1857-1894)

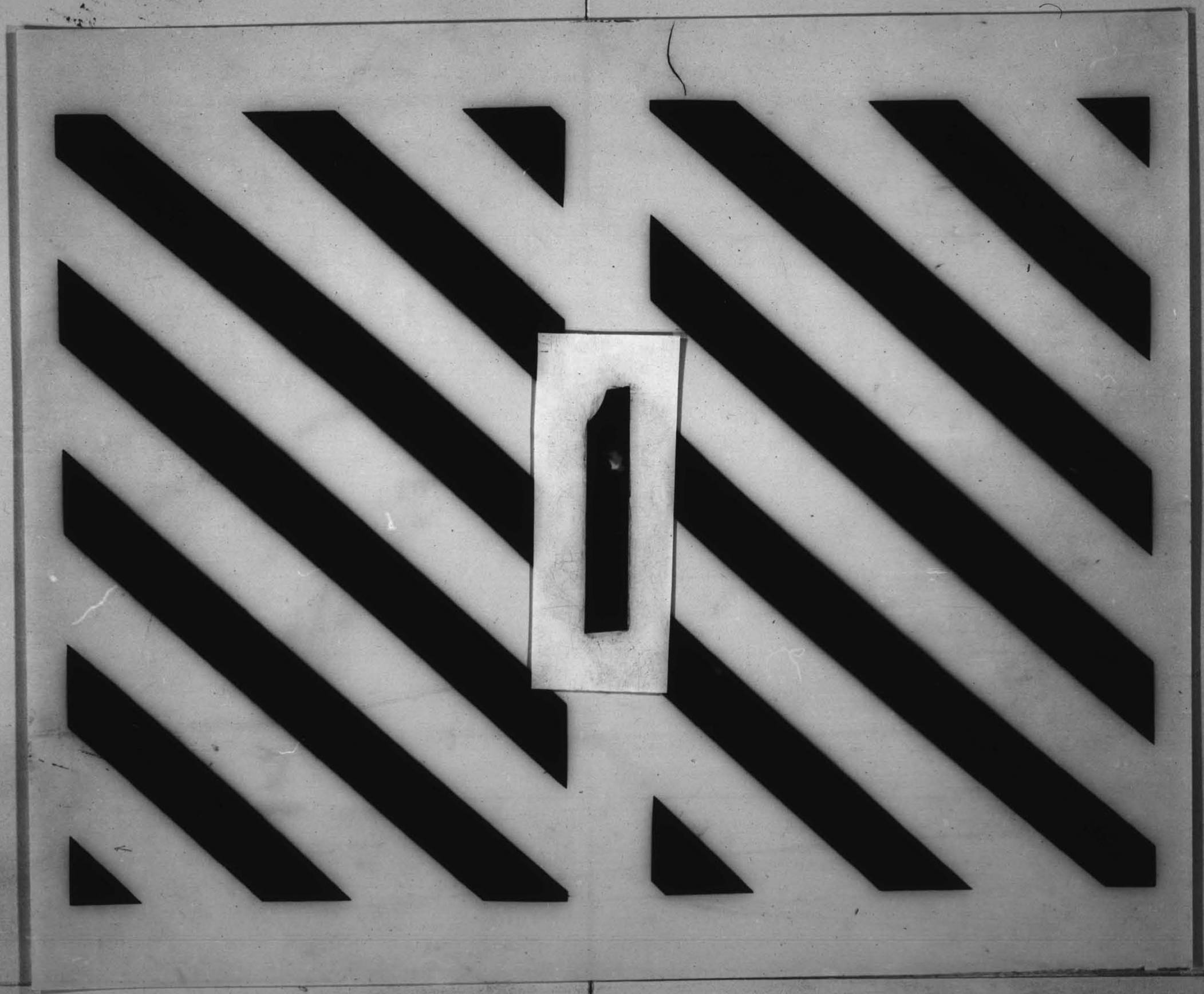
1901-1904

Segment 2

1905

Segment 3

1906-June 1907



[1857]

Saint Louis March 4 [illegible]

Dear Lis.

Your kind, fair, [illegible] letter of 25th ult rec'd this afternoon; I did not faint in its usual. in fact had no time to indulge in so much luxury. The privilege belongs to the more wealthy, in filthy lucre class.—. It is now nearly Eight O'clock P.M. Every one has left the office this half hour past, have been busy writing letters to Ely, the latter article, is in Book keeping making us cast of days transactions; have had no dinner & no supper yet. but thought would acknowledge your kind favor, "as we tell our Business Correspondents," before left for Hotel=Home. I heard from Longfort today, date only 2 days ago. all are well, Caroline School to be out next month, she expect a visit from Louie, if I can not make one to her.—

I am glad to hear you are progressing well in your Studies. Hope the Boys succeed as well, but I do not like to hear that you are in any way squeamish a little, try and conquer it. I rather fancy it is an embellishment of your own cultivation, not a natural gift.— You must excuse my brevity, I am well and able to do all that am called on to do.— Your Saint still confined to his room. You love to all the Hundred. am glad you still keep the Farm home. as Mother advised me of, thought I cannot say whether I answered the letter. I hope to be able to send Mother some money soon. hope to by the first mailing.— in our business today we have paid out 500 off.— I have had to take the financing in my hands since Lewis sickness.— again I say good Bye. refering you to Commercial Advertiser for condition our Market. remember me ever as your

Brother Willard

# MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE REPORTER
## AND PRICES CURRENT.

NO. 5. ST. LOUIS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1857. VOL. I.

COMPILED BY THE
SECRETARY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.




## HOG STATISTICS.

We present below a full statement, with the exception of a few unimportant points, of the number of hogs cut during the present season. The compilation from Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and a portion of other States, is made up from the correspondence of the Secretary of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and that, of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio from returns received by the "Cincinnati Price-Current." The total amount between the two tables differs to some extent. This difference may be accounted for, in some degree, from the fact, that at this place we have added several new points to the list heretofore published, and further, that important errors have been committed by the Price-Current of Cincinnati. For instance, Lagrange in Iowa and Missouri are given by that print with exactly the same figures, while there is but one point of that name; and Lewistown, Illinois, is put down this year at over 30,000 head, while the actual sum is but 3,500. By another season our own publishers will likely be enabled to assist more generally in the collection of valuable statistical information on this and other commercial subjects.

The deficit this year, according to our statement, is 686,876 head, being 95,431 greater than the deficit given by the Cincinnati Price-Current. We think, after a careful examination, our statement will be found correct.

Our St. Louis correspondence, (published as fast as received) served as the only means of information to operators during the opening of the market. Holders and buyers were, therefore, early made acquainted with the probable deficit, and operations became extensive at advanced figures. The "Cincinnati Price-Current," (long and favorably known for its enterprise in this field of commercial intelligence) published on the 25th ult., a statement, accompanied by the following summary:—"The deficiency is equal, as nearly as is necessary to calculate, to 25 per cent. As regards the average weight of Hogs, compared with last season, upon a careful comparison of the returns, we find it to be 6½ per cent. less than last year, making the total deficiency, as compared with the returns of last season, 31½ per cent., rendering the quantity of pork packed in the West 4½ per cent. less than of 1854-5; 24 per cent. less than that of 1853-4; and 1½ per cent. less than that of 1852-3. The comparisons of increase and decrease stand as follows:—The crop of 1856-7, 8½ per cent. less than that of 1855-6; the crop of 1855-6, 27½ per cent. greater than that of 1854-5; the crop of 1854-5, 20 per cent. less than that of 1853-4; the crop of 1853-4, 22½ per cent. greater than the crop of 1852-3.

The yield of Lard this season is, as far as we can ascertain, about two pounds to the hog less than last season. The proportion of Barrel Pork and Box Meat put up this season, is greater than last season; and of Box Meats, that is, meats intended for the English market, greater by 30 per cent. than in any previous year; consequently, notwithstanding the pork crop is an exceedingly short one, the quality of Bacon prepared for, and which will be exported to England the present season, is greatly larger than that of any previous season.

The exports to the East, so far as they have been received, compare as follows:

| | 1855-6 | 1856-7 |
|---|---|---|
| Great West. R. R. from Detroit | 137,325 | 147,485 |
| Cen. Penn. from Pittsburgh | 40,058 | 52,093 |
| | 177,383 | 199,578 |
| | | 177,383 |
| Increase this season | | 22,195 |

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOG OPERATIONS FOR 1856 AND 1857, OFFICIALLY RECEIVED:

### MISSOURI.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | 16,000 | 12,302 | .... |
| Boonville | 1,000 | none | .... |
| Canton, and Tully | 5,000 | 4,000 | .... |
| Carlton and Waverly | 1,350 | 200 | .... |
| Glasgow | 2,500 | 3,600 | .... |
| Hannibal | 19,640 | 15,409 | .... |
| Jefferson City | 1,500 | none | .... |
| Lagrange | 9,100 | 7,292 | .... |
| Liberty | 2,160 | 1,600 | .... |
| Lexington | 11,000 | 4,500 | .... |
| Louisiana and County | 5,181 | 6,300 | .... |
| Lynn Creek | 8,000 | 1,200 | .... |
| Oregon | 1,600 | none | .... |
| Palmyra | 6,490 | 6,800 | .... |
| Parksville | 2,000 | none | .... |
| Rocheport | 3,200 | 1,200 | .... |
| St. Louis | 93,700 | 71,641 | .... |
| St. Joseph | 3,500 | 3,100 | .... |
| Utica | 2,000 | none | .... |
| Versailles | 800 | 1,100 | .... |
| Weston | none | 2,300 | .... |
| Total | 197,721 | 141,894 | 55,827 |

### IOWA.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bellview | 2,500 | 1,200 | .... |
| Bennington | 2,900 | 2,800 | .... |
| Burlington | 49,574 | 29,500 | .... |
| Birmingham | 2,500 | 3,000 | .... |
| Davenport | 19,000 | 13,700 | .... |
| Dubuque | 12,000 | 200 | .... |
| Eddyville | 9,574 | 7,871 | .... |
| Fort Madison, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Grand View | 300 | 121 | .... |
| Iowa City, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Keokuk | 31,000 | 25,000 | .... |
| Muscatine | 29,000 | 19,000 | .... |
| Oskaloosa | 2,900 | 3,464 | .... |
| Prairie du Chien | 2,250 | none | .... |
| Port Louisa | 313 | 296 | .... |
| Wapello | 2,600 | 800 | .... |
| Total | 166,291 | 97,512 | 68,779 |

### ILLINOIS.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alton | 28,630 | 21,600 | .... |
| Atlanta | 1,850 | 775 | .... |
| Beardstown and Chandlersville | 27,159 | 13,603 | .... |
| Bath | 1,500 | 600 | .... |
| Barry | 6,850 | 5,200 | .... |
| Canton | 19,471 | 10,000 | .... |
| Chicago | 70,000 | 89,050 | .... |
| Cairo, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Carmi De Soto, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Exeter | 3,500 | 600 | .... |
| Fairfield | 1,000 | 2,300 | .... |
| Frederick | 16,000 | 10,000 | .... |
| Galesburg (packed and shipped) | 28,017 | 4,593 | .... |
| Galena | 7,000 | 3,900 | .... |
| Griggsville | 8,000 | 6,200 | .... |
| Grayville, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Havanna | 8,000 | 3,000 | .... |
| Hennepin | 2,100 | 700 | .... |
| Keithsburg | 8,500 | 3,500 | .... |
| Lacon | 9,741 | 7,169 | .... |
| Lynnville | 1,000 | none | .... |
| Lewistown | 3,800 | 3,500 | .... |
| Lawrenceville | 1,000 | 3,000 | .... |
| Monmouth | 4,500 | none | .... |
| Mt. Carmel | 12,000 | 7,227 | .... |
| Merodosia | 7,057 | none | .... |
| Milton | 1,300 | 1,150 | .... |
| New Boston | .... | .... | .... |
| New Canton | 2,025 | 1,000 | .... |
| Naples | 7,626 | none | .... |
| Oquawka | 5,000 | none | .... |
| Olney | 8,183 | 9,200 | .... |
| Pittsfield, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Peoria | 56,600 | 25,000 | .... |
| Pekin | 4,000 | 2,000 | .... |
| Perry | 6,256 | 4,283 | .... |
| Quincy | 44,500 | 38,505 | .... |
| Rushville | 15,000 | 9,500 | .... |
| Rock Island | 6,000 | 2,800 | .... |
| Springfield | 35,000 | 24,000 | .... |
| Shawneetown | 19,465 | 25,000 | .... |
| Spring Bay | 200 | none | .... |
| Winchester | 5,000 | 2,000 | .... |
| Warsaw | 10,000 | 3,500 | .... |
| Total | 504,009 | 341,496 | 162,213 |

### INDIANA.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Armiesburg | 3,333 | 2,420 | .... |
| Attica | 3,800 | 3,300 | .... |
| Alfredeville | 720 | 525 | .... |
| Americus | 400 | none | .... |
| Bedford | 3,100 | 5,200 | .... |
| Connersville | 24,600 | 9,800 | .... |
| Clinton | 10,000 | 6,000 | .... |
| Crawfordsville | 9,650 | 6,300 | .... |
| Cambridge City | 6,300 | 5,000 | .... |
| Covington | 3,000 | 2,500 | .... |
| Carlisle | 2,740 | 2,170 | .... |
| Dublin | 3,500 | 4,000 | .... |
| Delphi | 15,000 | 10,500 | .... |
| Edwardsport | 2,300 | 2,734 | .... |
| Eugene | 11,000 | 6,500 | .... |
| Economy | 4,820 | 3,256 | .... |
| Elizaburg | 2,740 | none | .... |
| Evansville | 16,122 | 13,116 | .... |
| Franklin | 1,300 | 1,500 | .... |
| Frankfort | 250 | none | .... |
| Green Castle | 8,500 | none | .... |
| Gosport | 18,000 | 9,300 | .... |
| Hagerstown | 579 | 1,250 | .... |
| Harrisonville | 730 | 580 | .... |
| Indianapolis | 65,930 | 27,160 | .... |
| Jacksonburg | 466 | none | .... |
| Jefferson | 7,100 | 500 | .... |
| Logansport | 8,800 | 5,000 | .... |
| Lagro | 200 | none | .... |
| Lodiville | 1,900 | 1,865 | .... |
| Madison | 77,465 | 56,706 | .... |
| Milton | 169 | 2,300 | .... |
| Montezuma | 6,100 | 4,000 | .... |
| Marion | 2,600 | 2,100 | .... |
| Martinsville | 800 | 500 | .... |
| Mt. Vernon and vicinity | 7,798 | 7,409 | .... |
| Mount Pleasant | 4,750 | 3,160 | .... |
| Newport | 1,253 | 700 | .... |
| Newburg | 6,784 | 6,050 | .... |
| New Harmony | 6,128 | 6,179 | .... |
| Princeton and vicinity | 17,329 | 10,577 | .... |
| Point Commerce | 747 | none | .... |
| Paris and vicinity | 2,000 | 1,100 | .... |
| Petersburg | 6,131 | 4,061 | .... |
| Richmond | 18,000 | 8,000 | .... |
| Rockport | 3,100 | 2,775 | .... |
| Roseville | 600 | none | .... |
| Shelbyville | 3,900 | 400 | .... |
| Terre Haute and Deggs's Ferry | 48,562 | 49,150 | .... |
| Vincennes and vicinity | 16,599 | 17,890 | .... |
| Williamsport | 2,700 | none | .... |
| Wabash | 1,510 | 1,115 | .... |
| Washington | 7,200 | 2,985 | .... |
| Vernon | 1,443 | 986 | .... |
| Total in Indiana | 496,468 | 311,629 | 154,889 |

### OHIO.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bellbrook | 982 | 850 | .... |
| Cincinnati | 405,996 | 344,512 | .... |
| Clarksville | none | 1,121 | .... |
| Carrollton | 3,100 | 2,800 | .... |
| Camden | 16,000 | 10,694 | .... |
| Chillicothe | 23,964 | 14,152 | .... |
| Columbus | 7,658 | none | .... |
| Circleville | 8,605 | 4,225 | .... |
| Cleveland | 40,810 | 11,500 | .... |
| Dayton | 1,000 | 560 | .... |
| Eaton | 1,450 | 3,400 | .... |
| Franklin | 1,400 | none | .... |
| Higginsport | 2,481 | 1,720 | .... |
| Hebron | 914 | 804 | .... |
| Harveysburg | 1,400 | 675 | .... |
| Hamilton and Rossville | 7,352 | 5,700 | .... |
| Middletown | 3,268 | 1,550 | .... |
| Miamisburg | 1,600 | 1,300 | .... |
| Marietta and vicinity | 3,500 | 1,600 | .... |
| Minerva | 3,500 | 640 | .... |
| Massillon | 2,750 | 500 | .... |
| New Paris | 2,194 | 1,708 | .... |
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 16,200 | 12,000 | .... |
| Piqua | 900 | 340 | .... |
| Salem | 3,180 | 2,500 | .... |
| Somerville | none | 1,300 | .... |
| Spring Valley | 1,218 | 1,475 | .... |
| Steubenville | 5,600 | 3,654 | .... |
| Tarlton | 100 | 860 | .... |
| Toledo | 1,500 | 3,500 | .... |
| Urbana, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Ripley | 19,100 | 5,888 | .... |
| West Florence | 3,900 | 2,100 | .... |
| West Jefferson | 150 | none | .... |
| Waynesville and vicinity | 1,225 | 740 | .... |
| Wheeling, Va. | 20,650 | 25,600 | .... |
| Wellsville | 2,600 | 600 | .... |
| Wilmington, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Xenia | 2,800 | 1,630 | .... |
| Zanesville | 1,850 | 2,500 | .... |
| Total Ohio | 629,057 | 468,698 | 160,359 |

### KENTUCKY.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bowling Green and Warren county | 24,000 | 30,900 | .... |
| Canton, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Frankfort | 13,833 | 14,950 | .... |
| Henderson | 9,555 | 4,500 | .... |
| Hickman, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Louisville | 332,128 | 244,387 | .... |
| Lexington | none | 13,000 | .... |
| Maysville | 5,413 | 11,657 | .... |
| Owensboro | 17,500 | 11,500 | .... |
| Oregon | 6,000 | 2,400 | .... |
| Paducah, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Somerset | 1,500 | 1,800 | .... |
| Total in Kentucky | 410,384 | 336,044 | 74,400 |

### WISCONSIN.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Racine | 5,000 | none | .... |
| Milwaukie, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |

### TENNESSEE.

| | 1856. | 1857. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Clarksville and Trice's Landing | 13,400 | 15,998 | .... |
| Chattanoogs, (not heard from) | .... | .... | .... |
| Nashville | 19,000 | 12,013 | .... |
| Shelbyville | 10,000 | 7,000 | .... |
| Total | 42,400 | 35,011 | 7,389 |

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE REPORTER.

ST. LOUIS, WEDNESDAY MAR. 4, 1857.

## REVIEW OF THE MARKETS.

We give on the first page a full statement, nearly, of the pork operations for the season, showing a deficit on those of last year of over 600,000 head. In consequence of this deficit, the markets throughout the country have advanced to unprecedented figures for so early a day, and the general impression seems to be, that quotations must yet reach a greater altitude.

Our latest dates from Liverpool are to the 14th ult., brought by the Niagara; but, as yet, the telegraph has furnished only slight information in regard to commercial matters. Breadstuffs were rather dull. Provisions generally without change. In our review the English quotations will be found in connexion with different articles mentioned.

At Cincinnati, yesterday, provisions were buoyant, with bacon sides at 10½, mess pork held at $20 50—more buyers than sellers. At New Orleans, day before yesterday, yellow corn 75c. mess pork $22 and firm; bacon buoyant—shoulders 9; choice keg lard 15c, bbl 18¾. At New York, same date, flour quiet and firm; wheat dull; corn declining; provisions steady.

The press on our columns by hog and other statistics being now relieved, we shall be able to give a greater variety of commercial transactions.

Weather cool—River in an excellent stage—health of the city good.

Since the beginning of the present week receipts have been light, owing probably to the muddy state of the roads. Flour is in good request for future delivery, or at least operators have confidence of an advance, but at present it is difficult to effect sales of city superfine at a higher price than $5 80. Wheat advanced yesterday in consequence of light receipts, lower grades showing an improvement of 5 to 7c. Corn more buoyant. Oats still high. Provisions checked to some extent—the rapid rise of the past two weeks coming to a stand still at $21 for mess pork and 13c for lard. A few days, however, will give an impetus one way or the other—more likely upward than otherwise, judging from the character of other markets.

Shipments to the South continues liberal. In next number we shall give a tabular statement of exports to New Orleans during the past month. The present growing crop of wheat throughout Illinois is said to be excellent. With a greater breadth of land, we may expect a heavy crop, the snow having left the young shoots vigorous and thrifty. Agricultural labor now commands the most remunerative prices, and the demand for that labor was never greater.

TOBACCO—A small amount of cigar leaf has been sold at the State Wharehouse, at an average of $10, and 6 hhds. lugs and leaf at Planters' offered and rejected, except one hhd. lugs, which brought $10. Manufacured remains as last noticed. Receipts for the past month, per river, amount to 114 hhds. and 4817 boxes. High prices continue to rule, and will doubtless continue.

HEMP.—Receipts since our last issue amount to 1,500 bales, and with a demand hardly adequate to the supply, prices have declined to $185 for prime, $188 for good, and $180 for fair, with common or inferior qualities as low as $125. This decline was anticipated, as heretofore remarked, and the opinion is entertained by many at this time, that the market must undergo a further depression in prices of fully $10 per ton. The reason given for this opinion is founded on the fact that a good stock of bale rope is held at New Orleans, (say 18,000 to 20,000 coils;) that our city manufacturers are well supplied until April, and that the demand from the Ohio, Atlantic, Lake and Canada factories will not be expressed until a late day. Russia hemp, with duty free, can well compete with American in the British Provinces. Still there is likely to be an increased demand this season over last. The winter just ended was unusually severe on marine rigging, while the next cotton crop will be greatly enlarged, (say from three to four millions bales) owing to existing high rates of that staple leading to increased planting, thereby requiring a largely increased amount of baling stuff.

Only one factory is now running in this city. Some demand is heard from the East, but the inducements to ship are by no means encouraging. A margin of $50 is generally considered requisite to cover the charges and incidental expenses between this point and the seaboard. We think it probable that the range this season between qualities will be greatly widened—say from $10 to $15, common to prime. Receipts so far are evidently of the early rot, and in consequence the quality does not come up to the anticipations of operators. This defect will wear away as larger supplies come forward. We regret to hear a general complaint of bad cleaning. The first lot this year came to hand on Tuesday, (week ago,) and was immediately followed by others, aggregating to date the amount above mentioned. The first receipts last year were as late as 7th March. Reported sales are as follows:—On Wednesday, 46 bales prime undressed, at $143; Thursday, several lots at $135, $140, $145; Friday, 107 bales at $138, $140, $145, and 50 in lots at $145, with 90 prime dressed at $200; Saturday, 114 bales undressed reported at $135, $140 and $145, the last a small lot of prime. The present week opened with between 600 and 700 bales on the market, 200 of which found buyers at $131, $133 and $135.

ROPE.—The last sale made public was reported a week ago—300 coils city machine at 9¼. The market is now dull, with nominal quotations at 9 to 9¼, and a light demand. A despatch from New Orleans on Monday (3d) quotes at 10¼ for St. Louis machine. The first inquiry will likely come from the bayou regions of the South, as navigation through those channels is only good early in the year. Russian Bale-rope has lately been introduced into New Orleans and Mobile, and is offered at the price our best brands command; but the American article is more favorably considered for standing rigging.

BAGGING.—Demand light. New Orleans quotation, (received per telegraph last Monday,) 16½c for power loom.

LEAD.—Stock light—8,000 pigs would probably cover the entire amount. Sales during the week steady at 6½c for Upper Mines, made principally to city manufacturers and the Ohio. The West now consumes all that her mines supply, and the modification of the tariff, in consequence of freight charges, can produce but little effect.

FLOUR.—The market remains steady at nearly former quotations. We closed our report last week at $5 35 for city superfine, with a sale of 1000 barrels. The next day 3000 bbls. do. brought $5 30, and 1,300 sold on terms not made public, together with 1000 bbls. country brands, in lots, at $4 50 for fine; $5 and $5 25 for scratched; $5 50, $5 60 and $5 75 for superfine, inspected and uninspected, and $6 12½ for extra. On Thursday, 2,500 bbls. were reported at $5 30 for city superfine, and figures above quoted for country. The week closed with 4,000 bbls. city superfine, (April delivery) at $5 30, and country brands as before given. On Monday a few transactions only were noticed of country brands, at prices somewhat less than previously quoted. Yesterday, 1,600 bbls. Magnolia, delivered at Harlow's Landing, at $6; 300 Keokuk at $5 50, on merit; 500 fancy and superfine, private; 100 fancy, $5 75, and 495 extra at $6, all country.

The steamer Niagara brings advices three days later than those given in our last issue. The flour market was drooping, with a turn in favor of buyers—quotations nominal. Commercial letters per Asia, from Liverpool, (three days earlier,) give the following intelligence:

"The arrivals during the past week consist of 81,532 bushels wheat, 51,312 bushels corn, 7,708 barrels flour, from the States; 1,350 quarters wheat, 500 quarters corn, and 150 barrels flour from the Mediterranean. The wind is now westerly, and farther arrivals may be expected. Farmers' deliveries of wheat for the week ending last Saturday, show a large increase over the corresponding period of last year, being 104,611 quarters, at 57s 11d in this year, against 86,395 quarters, at 75s 10d in last. We reported per "Ericsson," on Tuesday, a quiet market for wheat, with only a moderate consumptive sale, at the prices of last Friday; flour very difficult to sell at previous rates; Indian corn in better demand for export to Ireland, and generally 6d per quarter dearer. At to-day's market there were but few buyers present. Wheat was very slow, and quotations, although unchanged, are almost nominal, there being scarcely a transaction to report. Flour was exceedingly dull, and offered at rather lower rates. Indian corn less inquired for, and weaker than on Tuesday. We quote wheat—Red, 8s to 9s; white, 9s 3d to 9s 9d per 70 lbs. Flour—Philadelphia and Baltimore, 31s 6d to 32s 6d; extra Ohio, 34s to 34s 6d; Western, 31s to 31s 6d per barrel. Indian Corn—Mixed, 33s 9d to 34s; yellow, 34s 6d; white, 35s to 35s 9d per 480 lbs."

At Cincinnati, on Monday, the market was firmer, with a moderate demand, with 600 bbls at $5 25 to $5 30. At New York, same day, the demand was moderate, with sales of superfine Western at $6 20 to $6 45; extra do. $6 50 to $7.

Receipts for February, per river, 28,300 bbls, and 128 sacks. Up to this time for the present month, 2,448 bbls. and 89 sacks.

WHEAT.—Shippers, on Wednesday last, took over 5,000 sks. at 122½ and 125c, prime and choice red; 126, 127, 129 and 130c for prime and choice white; with 15,000 bu., red and white, delivered up the river, at 125c, sks. included. Millers purchased 6,000 sacks as follows: Spring, 103 to 105; red, 110, 112½, 115½, and 117, and white 112½, 115, 116 and 117, the quality of the latter extending only to good. The next day shippers bought only one lot—say, 300 sks. choice white at 124, and millers over 6,000, at 105c for spring; 108 to 120 for red, (the intermediate figures being 109, 110, 112½, 113, 114, 115, 116 and 120c), and 116, 118, 122 and 125 for white, showing an improvement. But little was done the ensuing day, (Friday) 500 sks. being sold to millers at 110 to 118c, and 500 do. prime white, to a shipper, free on board, at 131c. The week closed with sales of over 2,000 sks. to city manufacturers (no shippers entering the market), at 109 to 106 for spring, 112 to 114 for red, 116 to 118 for white.

Receipts during February (just closed) amount to 117,434 sks. and 700 bbls., against which last year's table shows nothing for the same month. At the beginning of the present week the supply received from the previous Saturday at noon, was less than 2,000 sks., owing probably to the overflowed condition of the river bottoms, which obstructs wagon communication, and the muddy roads generally. Sales to millers as follows: Spring 100 to 108, inferior to prime; red 113 to 116; white 116 to 125c, the last for choice; the total reported being over 6,000 sks., showing an advance. Yesterday, 1,000 sks. prime white, including sks. at 130c; and 6,000 sks. to millers at 110, 111, 112½, 115, 120 and 122c, red and white; the market advanced, owing to light supply and good demand.

CORN—Receipts for February 64,639 sks. and 9525 bushels in bulk. The market exhibits some improvement. On Wednesday last, reported sales of 1500 sks. were noticed at 47 to 48c, yellow and white, with 10,000 sks. delivered up the river, in two lots, on terms not made public. The ensuing day 3000 sks. mixed, yellow and white, in lots, brought 48 to 50, and on Friday 3000 sks. same qualities, were quoted at 50, 52, 54 and 55c, together with 20,000 bushels delivered at a point above, free on board, the buyer furnishing sacks at 37½c. On Saturday 1600 sks. were given for publication at 50 to 52c, yellow and choice white, and 6,000 bushels in bulk, delivered here, at 45c. The present week opened with sales amounting to 5500 bags, in lots, at 50 to 51 for mixed; yellow 52, and white 52 to 55c.

OATS—Last review closed with 6000 sks. at a range of 51 to 53c, afterward the market advanced steadily until Saturday. On Wednesday the same figures (51 to 53c) ruled, with sales of 3000 sks. The ensuing day, 54 and 55 were obtained, and the next, 55, 57½ and 58c. Saturday quotations ranged at 56, 56½ and 57c, with sales amounting to over 7000 sks. On Monday last we noticed sales of 1200 sks. at 56 and 57. Yesterday 416 sks, at 54½, and 600 do. on private terms—falling.

Receipts for the past month foot up 45,878 sks. and 33,588 bushels in bulk. The supplies for March to the present time are 5,145 sks. and 5,491 bushels.

RYE.—The latter part of last week showed the market at 85c, but on Monday we noticed a sale of 69 bags at 82c. Receipts light, amounting during the month of February to only 187 sks.

BARLEY.—Few sales only during the past week—say, on Wednesday, 150 sks. good spring at 160c, and 1800 do. prime at 165. On Saturday 448 sks. poor spring at 140, and on Monday 150 do. for seed, at 190c. Receipts for February, 14,285 sks.

MALT.—Sale on Thursday last of 200 bags at $2 per bus. The day before, 350 do. on terms not made public.

SHIPSTUFFS, BRAN, and SHORTS.—The latest sales were 160c for shipstuffs, 95 for bran, and 85 for shorts.

WHISKEY—So many intricacies enter into the trade of this article, that we find it difficult to trace the causes affecting even the usual changes of quotations. We closed the price last week at 24½. The next day (Wednesday) sales were made at 24, and the next 24½ and 25. The last figures have ruled steadily since, owing, perhaps to some extent, to the advance on corn. Yesterday, 50 bbls at 25c. Demand active, chiefly for Missouri river. Receipts for February 7368 bbls., and for March, to this date 962 bbls.

PORK.—We closed our last review at $20 for mess. Since then the market has gone up to $21, at which small sales have been made, and holders remain firm. On Wednesday last, rump brought $15 50, slightly soured, and mess $20 to $20 50, with the product of 3,000 hogs, delivered at Hannibal at 9c for ribbed, and 9¼ for clear sides, 7¼ for shoulders, and 4,000 ps. shoulders, delivered on the Illinois, at 7½. The next day, 1,000 bbls. mess changed hands, on private terms, delivered above, and smaller lots were reported at $20 75, with 900 bbls., in two lots, at $21, and a small lot of rump at $17. Bulk as follows: Product of 2,000 hogs, delivered here, private; 4,000 shoulders at 7½c, 2,500 sides at 8¾, and 3,500 hams at 9, delivered at a point on the Mississippi. On Friday, small sales rump at $17, and the product of 3,000 hogs at 7½, 9 and 8¾—shoulders, sides and hams. On Saturday, 67,000 ps. shoulders and hams, delivered here, brought 7¾ and 9; 2,000 dry salt hams, delivered up the river, 9c. The present week opened with a sale of 100 bbls. mess at $21, rump $16 75, and the following lots of bulk: Sale for delivery in April, 2,200 shoulders, 7½c; 400 sides, 9c; 2,200 hams, 9c, Missouri meat. Also, from levee, 2,700 pieces at 8c for shoulders, 9c for sides, and 9½ for hams; 1,000 rib sides, 9c; 3,600 clear sides, 9½c; 2,600 shoulders, 7½c; 1,000 sides, 9c. Sold also, the joints and sides of 2,500 hogs, delivered at Alexandria, at 7½c for shoulders, 8½c for sides, and 9c for hams. Yesterday but little, if anything, was done. The market seems for the present to be stopped at $21 for mess, and at the quotation mentioned for bulk. Yesterday, product of 2,500 hogs, deliverable at Alexandria, at 7½, 9¼ and 9c, shoulders, sides and hams; 10,000 shoulders, and 3,000 sides, on private terms; 5,000 boxes long middles, also private.

Commercial letters, per Asia, thus speak of the Provision Market of Liverpool:—

"Pork is without change; a small parcel new has arrived, but is not yet landed. Bacon in better request, with a fair business at our quotations, the market closing firm. We quote short middles, rib in, 54s to 55s; boneless, 55s to 56s; long middles, rib in, 53s 6d to 54s; boneless, 54s to 55s; Cumberland cut, 52s to 53s, per cwt. Short middles are scarce. Lard opened firm in the beginning of the week, and 70s was paid for small lots on the spot; since then considerable arrivals have taken place, and 155 tierces 'fair' quality offered to-day at auction were withdrawn, 68s being the highest bid. 'To arrive,' the last price paid was 68s for 30 tons on passage from New Orleans."

LARD.—The market has materially advanced since our last issue. Then the range was quoted at 11 to 12½; now 12½ to 13—and holders ask a higher figure. On Wednesday, No. 2 brought 12½, and prime 13, and quotations have ruled steadily since at 12½ to 13, with quite a number of operations on private terms. On Monday, 400 tcs. sold, April delivery, at 13. Yesterday nothing of importance transpired.

BACON.—This article hardly ever comes upon the market earlier than at this time; but the demand the present season is in advance, and a greater prominency has, therefore, been given to it. On Monday we noticed sale of 100 casks clear sides, city smoked and packed, at 11¼, for future delivery; 5 casks ribbed side, just out of smoke, at 10¾, with large lots held higher; small sales of plain sugar cured hams at 12c. SANFORD & CRANE's hams stand deservedly high, and usually command a higher figure than others for family use. The weather is now favorable for smoking, and we presume, if the same spirit continues which is now active in the market, large sales will be reported at the advanced prices noticed. Receipts, so far, comparatively unimportant.

SUGAR.—Receipts for February 4093 hhds., 856 bbls. and 1083 boxes. We noticed small sale of box, old quality, at 11½c, while hhds. fair to choice, command 10¾ to 11¼. The market may be stated as active, the navigation being favorable for the supply of the upper rivers. The past week shows only a small advance on quotations, our last figures being 10 to 11½c.

MOLASSES.—We quote the range at 60 to 70c for Plantation, at which the market has remained for some time. N. O. Sugarhouse commands 72 to 74c. Receipts for February 5000 bbls. and 206 hlf. bbls., with 82 hhds. probably for Belcher's Refinery, and 563 bbls. Syrup.

COFFEE.—The market to-day, has a range of 11 to 11½c. Receipts for February 12,904 sks. Sales of the week show prices at 11¼ to 11¾, and an active market.

SALT.—We quote sack salt unchanged—say, $1 20 to $1 25 for G. A. No quotation given for Kenawha.

HAY.—A week ago the market advanced to $1 40 per 100 lbs., and on Monday we noticed a sale at the same figures. The receipts for the month of February were 997 bales.

HIDES.—The extraordinary advance noticed in our last still continues. Our last quotation was 20c, and now we quote as high as 22½c, with sales on terms not made public. Two reasons may be adduced for this enhancement—the first a less importation, and the second a small supply at home, the demand steadily increasing.

PIG IRON—We quote cold blast Tennessee at $31 to 33, and hot at $24 to 25. Receipts for February 2907 tons.

CLOVER SEED.—Sales have been made at $7 to $7 25 per bushel.

POTATOES.—The regular season for this esculent has not arrived. We quote mixed as low as $1 per bus., pinks $1 25 to $1 40, and Neshanocs and pinks $1 45 to $1 50, in small lots. Prime will doubtless bring $1 50 for city consumption to retailers.

ONIONS.—No sales reported this week. Last quotation, $2 10 per bushel.

FRUIT.—Dried peaches have ruled steadily at $3 per bu., and apples at $1 90 to $2 50, running through $2, $2 25 and $2 40.

FEATHERS.—We quote, according to published prices, 42c for good.

TALLOW.—Latest sale at 10¼.

GREASE.—We quote yellow and white at 10 to 10½, with a sale, deliverable above, at 9c.

GUNNIES—On Friday last 10 bales, 3 bushels, at 12½; on Monday, 5 bales heavy at 14c, and 200 do. on private terms.

---

BALDWIN'S YARDS, BROADWAY.—MARCH 3.

CATTLE.—The supply offering is ample for the demand. Shippers are not anxious, owing to a decline in prices in New Orleans. Fair to choice cattle are selling at 7¼ and 8¼c; inferior 6 to 7. City butchers are using more cattle than usual this season of the year.

HOGS—But few arriving—demand brisk at 7½ to 8¼ nett, according to quality.

SHEEP—Scarce; selling readily $3¾ to 5 per head. At present the market is bare.

COWS AND CALVES—In demand at $25 and 45 per head.

---

*Printed by Ustick, Studley & Co., corner Main & Olive streets.*

before many years. I was married
the 23rd of August. I attended school
last fall term and then went home
and taught school last winter in
Lawrence which place I presume you
very well recollect. I taught 3½ months
at $30 per month and boarded around
so they said but it did not happen
to board around the whole dist.

They wanted me to teach another month
the school had commenced here, and
wished to be on hand at the commencement
of the term, so they let me off and
endeavored to make me promise that I would
teach their school again next winter.
But I acted upon the principle that
no promises made were broken and
told them I would teach their
school, if I thought in the Comm.
that the scholars and they averaged in
good wealth, [illegible] I was obliged to keep blubbering, and
had not much time to talk with the large
girls in school terms. The trustee said
that next winter he would try and
make the district think it best to
hire an assistant. But I do not imagine
that I shall go back there next
winter, as there are not very many
teachers from Charlotte. And the lady
with whom I now am boarding wishes
to get a school that is about a half
mile from her house, just in the outskirts
of Rochester and will board with her and
[illegible]

[6-4-65]

Ogden June 4th 1865

Dear Sister

I should know what just
to say to you, but as it is best to make
a clean breast of everything to you
that I am a sinner repentant, and
then show my father and tell that
the sayings come from the heart, I
can hardly tell. But as I am
[illegible] in return when
there are to I think I will show
the [illegible] and save time and
[illegible]
think that it is of more interest to you.

You can not imagine
how much good your letter did me,
as it came at a time when I was feeling
rather sad. Yes Dear Sister I do have
occasionally a time in which I long
for a word of cheer from a Sister
friend, a time when clouds of such
[illegible]

pierce the "silver lining". There is the time when words of cheer come as sunbeams piercing the clouds, and reaching down into the lightning-all within. And then to at shows me that you had not forgotten me, and that led me a vast deal of good, for though I have kind friends here; yet if I knew that my own brothers & sisters felt a lively interest in me, it would lend to drive away some of the gloom that arises. I have delayed this long to answer your letter for the reason that I have been waiting to find time enough in which I might write you at least half what I wished to.

I scarcely know where to commence and if when I have written enough you will in some way caution me I will consider it a kindness, and tell you as did an old gentleman in the country just after the death of the President, as he was going on with a long story, the chairman silenced him, and he told the chairman that his remarks were such that he could stop anywhere.

But let me see I do not remember where I did write to you last, so I will give you a short review of the past year. One year ago the 2nd day of last month (May) I was in the service of Uncle Sam, was in the defenses north of Washington all summer, and was in Fort Stevens at the time of the assault last July the 11th & 12th. We lost five men from the Co. while we were gone; one killed in the battle, the other died of the fever. My health was very good most of the time, and everything considered I spent a very pleasant and profitable summer, had an opportunity of seeing everything in Washington was in congress while in session ~~and~~ was in Alexandria and got a piece of the steps from which Ellsworth fell. I could write you a long letter of what I saw, but I will let that go until I see you. For that I hope we I expect to see you

I told him I thought he asked too much for me and that he could give it to some one who would do more good with it than I. He told me that a young man in the army gave it to him ~~and told~~ to give to some young man who was trying to work his way through College and he had as soon I would have it as any one he knew & and he urged me to take it. I finally accepted it and took up the required studies again. And shall enter College next August. Our Class gives an exhibition just before Commencement. The " " will be the 15th of August. The Young Ladies are expected to read essays and eight are chosen from the Class to deliver orations and I am one of the elect. Now I wish you could be here at the time and strength the commencement exercises. The place is always filled with people from all over but that this will seat between 2000 and 3000 people and it is always crowded full at that time. I have my speech about written. The subject is "Example a great teacher." And I must say just one word about our elections. Yesterday we happened down town together and we all went and made a process and treated everyone to icecream and soda water. I liked it & the rest could and so I played in hard luck. Well I have said enough, half what I want to, but I am afraid you will be tired, me to stop before then and so I will close by promising that if you will answer this as soon as you get it I will do the same and as much more as you like. I will answer it with my at least as long as this, and tell you everything that is interesting in the future and give you an account of our church [illegible] boarding them [illegible]

[6-4-65]

I will I arrive in Oberlin about the 1st of March with the intention of changing my programme for still. I had been studying in the [illegible] course and was intending to graduate from College. This was to take six years from the time I first began preparing for college, two years the academical department and four years in College. But owing to my limited means I thought it would be an impossibility to continue in the regular course as I could not obtain enough money to keep me in school three terms. ~~I~~ On account of this I thought I would be obliged to either give up the course entirely or teach a year and then go on thus taking a year longer to graduate. I talked it all over with Principal who is almost a father to me and he [illegible] my expenses for

ensuing year and comparing them with the means I had on hand, and it was found that I would stand next fall about $150 in debt, he had also reckoned in with my means $25 of his own, which he was going to give me. But we found that if I didn't get in debt I would have to alter my own plan, and concluded to do so, according I left Greek & Latin and took those studies which I thought would best prepare me for a teacher in a high school, expected to leave Oberlin at the close of the summer term and go to teaching. I also wrote to my trustee of last winter for a seat to assist me in getting the right kind of a school, he sent me one as good as could be desired.

But man proposes and God disposes. I had sailed in this new ship about three weeks when one day I made, as military language would express it "a right-about-face" haulled down the flag of secession ~~under~~ (secession from a college course) under which I had been marching, and again ran up the glorious old banner which will lead me, time alone can tell where. Well the Principal, who by the way furnished the soldiers in the shape of greenbacks by which the victory was won, cheered some, and my classmates cheered some when they saw me like the prodigal return to my allegiance. Well, well I guess that will do, quite a figure isn't it? But I think dear sister I will let you into the secret not many however know it.

The Principal told me one day that he would like to talk with me. He asked me if he would give me $50 this year and the assurance of as much more next, if that would induce me to go on with my class

Ellen is contented and healthy and has a kind husband, just like Fanny exactly.
She sends her love [c. 1867]

upon their minds which will be lasting. I have already heard of two of the larger girls experiencing religion and it is indeed a pleasant thought to me to think that perhaps I was in a measure instrumental in their conversion. Oh! it is a glorious thought!
I have had two classmates teaching in districts joining mine, a lady east, and a gent south. Some very pleasant times we have had, and you can not imagine how warm friends we all are they seem exactly like a brother and sister to me, and we could not think more of each other if we were of the same blood.
I have been at Ellen's for about a week, but am going back to Oberlin to-morrow as the term begins Tuesday, and then for another hard

time at study. Sometimes the way looks dark and I does run as I have but small means and board is higher than ever I expect to have to pay $3 per week for table board. But I expect there will be a way provided for me after next summer time. I think I can get a class to teach in the Academical Department of the Institution, that will help me considerably. Last fall I had a private class, taught an hour a day 5 days in the week for $1 per week. I shall get 25 cents an hour in the Institution. I have three years longer to study counting from next August. And then — well, we will see. It must come in some shape and I feel confidant that it will, if I can only get a school next winter for about 5 months at $20 per month. I should be all right, and I think I could teach that long and then by a little extra effort keep along until I get through. But I must close as it is more than time to be at work.

Agnes C. Doran
342 Livingston St.
Brooklyn L.I.

Brooklyn.
N.Y. April 9th 171-

My dear Mr Scholes,

May I take the liberty of writing you a confidential business letter, as I feel interested in knowing how my dear brother Willard's affairs stand. My Mother and myself have never received the smallest statement from Louisa, Caroline nor any one. Neither Emma nor Kate seem to know anything at all about the business.

1st Willard I believe left no will consequently who has administered?

2d Was the house & personal property given to Louisa by him before going to the war, if not,

why should his children be told that they had no right to be in the house if Louisa did not insist thereon?

3rd Are affairs now settled up in any compact shape, and are the girls entitled to anything and if so, how much?

4th Is it possible that the estate can pay what is due to my Mother, and how soon?

I have asked these questions because there seems to be no certainty as to what the girls can expect - Emma we thought had better have every advantage that we can give her, and at much inconvenience my Mother has advanced all the money required for her stay at Oswego. In July she will leave there. It will probably be September at the earliest before getting a situation anywhere. Now in July she ought to have money if there is any coming to her - I assure you Mr Scholes, I do not say this because I am, or that Mother is unwilling to do for her, but that I can not for any more than a few weeks do for both, and my Mother has not got anything to do with; for you probably know very well how very straitened she has been since Willard & Eugene died. As for Kate I have invited her to remain with us for six months, a year or indefinitely as it may seem to be advantageous. She has great talent for music and has done wonderfully well

since taking lessons here with the finest teacher in New York. If her health should be good I think she would be happier to teach music as a profession if her health continues delicate I think she had better remain with me for I shall treat her as our own daughter.

5th Are the girls indebted to Louisa and Caroline pecuniarily for they have been given to understand that they were?

Now dear Mr Scholes if you are kind enough to answer my questions fairly & sincerely I will of course say nothing to anyone, and with best love for your wife from Mother and myself & kind regards to yourself, believe me always

Yours sincerely Paide

Copy

Brooklyn
April 30th 1871,

My dear Mr Scholes

Your kind letter of the 19th I have received I can not say that I was much surprised at its tenor My prejudices are all in favor of the children and yourself as a matter of course –

With yourself, I believe that justice can be done on all sides without bringing any personal feelings in at all, consequently I shall express myself very little on that subject. I will only say here that on her visit to New York – far from enchanted herself to any of us – I think it was a great pity that Louisa did not go through the terms of her

It would have been easier and more satisfactory to all I think – As for Emma she believes you to be right (as well as Mr Farrell) in every particular, as for Kate it seems to me, as if she knew next to nothing at all about the business, and deprecates any trouble with her Mother and Aunt. For she believes them to be right in intention, but rigid austere and New England in their manner of doing things. My Mother and myself feel so of now affairs had better be closed up if possible for we all feel to a certain extent responsible that 1st If the girls owe the estate in of course it must be found and will be sooner or later – 2 If there be any money coming to the girls they ought to have it for of course several months must elapse before Emma can get a situation and as for Kate our house is not her home, if her health permit of course she can teach if she have an opportunity or paper otherwise her health being delicate I feel I can not do as much as I would wish in the way of money so she would feel happier if she had even a small amount she could call her own – 3d I do think that if all the debts except to my Mother have been paid I can not understand the right in practice of that being exposed if there be money to pay it with. As for the team my Mother has all the letters in

that subject and can produce facts if Lorian wish to see them.

I believe then Mr Scholes Mum answered the main points in your letter but shall be very glad to hear from you again until all things are settled

I think I shall write also to Mrs Dorset and tell her that I have written to you although I shall not go into particulars at all as to what I have written or what you have answered.

I at this season I do not like to do anything which does not look perfectly frank & "above board" and I do not feel as if I had sent anything that I had not a perfect right to say or to ask My Mother I hardly think will ever go West again - her means

[4-30-71] [2]

are very small and yearly growing smaller, any money she has would be more than acceptable now but she does not feel able to cope with the feelings you describe consequently so far as she is concerned she can help matters very little being at such a distance —

sincerely
A. C. D.

Liverpool Ills. July 21/71

Mrs A. C. Deans

Dear Madam

Yours of the 9th Inst to hand by Tuesday's Mail. I concur with you and your Mother in feeling indignant towards Mr Dickerman for using such unjust and ungenerous language in regard to your Mother's management of her own affairs - as your Mother has been the best friend she ever had on earth - had it been all truth which she uttered it was entirely uncalled for - as I was only politely requesting her to give her consent to send your Mother what was really her's all the Tax Receipts Deeds &c appertaining to the above described lots are in my possession - in the Iron Safe where Willard left them - about the location or situation of the lots personally I know Nothing - My inferences in regard to the probable value have been drawn from the steady and rapid increase of the annual Valuation & Taxes for instance the Taxes in 1861 were about $10.00 and ~~the valuation~~ Taxes last year were $56.00 - Wife and self send our regards to Mr Bond yourself and the children and be assured that it will afford me pleasure to answer all questions relative to Matters connected with the Interests of your Mother & the orphan Children Very Resptfy

Your Friend

Ranj: Scholes

I told her that if the Estate had really owed your Mother Nothing - that it would be only carrying out the wishes of your Brother Willard in sending part of what was his to his Mother - But these women have hounded up a few thousand Dollars which has come either directly or indirectly from the Estate - and they are very anxious to become possessed of every thing that really belongs to your Mother and the two Orphan Children - They each of them carry a Gold Watch - Miss Dalton the one that was Willard's and Louisa the one that was Marguette and I think it is a shame that the two Children should be deprived of every thing that belonged to their parents - but perhaps I have said enough on this subject.

My apology for not answering your last letter is simply this - I had wrote you a long and I fear a not very pleasant letter as on account of my very limited Education I am incapable of writing a good letter - and I believe you did not request me to give you any further information - and I assure you Dear Madam that your correspondence has been courteous, pleasant and respectful towards me in the highest degree - The Saint Louis Lots are in your Brother Willard's name and of course belong to his legal representatives. and are described in the Records at Saint Louis as Lots Nos 13. 14. 19 & 20 Block 9 Stoddard's addition, City Block 1844 - Each lot 20 feet front 150 feet deep -

Hannibal Mo. Sept. 14th 1872.

Dear Agnes.

You will certainly pardon the fact – or rather me, for not calling you Aunt. but it would seem quite too old a name for you, when your niece is a well-grown "elderly female." I yesterday received a letter from Uncle D., relative to that much vexed question of the St. Louis lots, over which so much protoplasm has been wasted. Well – he gave the no. of the lots. i.e – 13, 14, 19 & 20, Block 1844. Cass Avenue. Hoddard's Addition – St. Louis. I had written him – regarding the advisability of his giving to Mrs. D. the money he had – that she might pay taxes – and so relieve him of all trouble. He says – "As far as the title to the Real estate is concerned – Mrs. D. cannot dispose of it without your consent – except she should acquire a lien on it by paying taxes. He further says that Kit and I can convey all our interest, title and claim in the St. Louis lots to secure her (Grandmother) in the payment of what is her due." He says also that he holds in his hands $312.94 which he will not pay to Mrs D. without further advices

from Kit and myself. The lots are 25 ft by 130 ft. deep. At $25 per foot they would be worth $2500. a sum sufficient to pay Grandmother and give a little money to the rest of us - almost enough to pay Grandmother what I owe her. I do not know that they are worth $25 per foot. They are. Mr. Scholes has no agent; employing his commission merchant to attend to the business. I have sent or will send Uncle's letter to Kit - and write her what I now write you as my opinion; that she and I had better secure Grandmother's claims upon the property - and I also give up mine to her - then let her take charge of the taxes through Mr. Sloane and a responsible person in St. Louis. Mr. S - giving the money to Grandmother to pay taxes - And if advisable let the property be sold. This year I can pay Grandmother all I owe her, but - if she can get along I had rather wait until the latter part of the year - as I wish to put all the money I can into land so as to have a nest egg for the future. Harry and I want to be married before many years and we must have something for a rainy day - At present we are some-

what lacking in the root of all evil. However we may be in other respects. He is out of debt - and I see my way which is something. — So much -

I need clothes; my wardrobe consists of my silk dress - that Brown one of Louise's - practically useless - a black alpaca - which is good; my maroon which need remodeling. I thought this might be a good plan; make a skirt of the maroon - and get a polonaise of a contrasting material; say a gray like Kit's suit. Could you get me such an one ready made? If you could I should like to have you do so. I'll send my measure, bust 36 in, waist 24 inches, length from arm to waist 17½ inches, shoulders 7½ to 8 inches. I hope you can find something. This would make a good winter dress - but I need something more. I think, don't you? Would you get an entire new suit of some dark goods for a winter school dress? I would like to wear my alpaca considerable for school and had thought of getting a black American silk for a dress suit for fall & winter. If I do I shall send to Pease Bros. Hartford they sell very cheap. Tell me how to have it dress made & what trimmings to get. If I did this, I would have - 1 Blk Alpaca - 1 suit maroon skirt & waist, 1 blk silk - 3rd fall would that

do? or will I need another dress? They dress considerably here - I don't care for that. But I want to look decent. So that I will not be shabby. Flossie is to tell Agnes and me exactly what to get. Tell me what to get - if you please - get it. Goods are so much cheaper - that I can save here - I also want to knit wristlets for underwear and for - without - what do frighten me to - I must have them a yard. In scarlet & blue scarf - but such nice ribbon 1 yd. wide exact to match for hair. If you can get me gloves cheap - I should like good kids. 2 pair of some soft neutral color to match this dress for getting dressed. Would not a blue be pretty for a winter dress - a bright soft color. made neatly? (I like long button gloves). If you will write me as soon as you can about these things matters I shall be much obliged. I hope to be able to pay very soon - I do - per month and monthly payments. School has begun but I don't like it. We will pay more Monday. It is pleasant to be with Mamma. But I miss Penny and get very homesick. I have found a pleasant boarding place and have very delightful surroundings - darkey servant girl. A letter from Jim today - he is sick of farming. Can you write me Brooklyn? Grandma & Aunt Mary well and contented I hope. Do little Sid as busy as ever with his collection? He will have a collection & will

Hannibal Mo. Sept. 29th

Dear Agnes -

I waited before answering your letter to see what I could find out about the St. Louis property - and this is the result - E. L. Ohear & Co 312 Chestnut St. (Real Estate agents) wrote me in the following terms. "The lots ought to bring about $5.00 per foot. It would be a difficult matter to say which would yield the largest sum. the increase of the lots or the interest on the proceeds. We are inclined to the latter & would recommend that if the above figures were realized - to sell & invest otherwise." I wrote the above to Mrs. D. with this proposition - that the lots be sold at

soon as possible - Grandmother paid - and the remainder divided among the heirs. That in case this was done the money in Uncle Scholes' possession paid her right to exception of $100.00 - which I shall send to Grandmother at once. In case she will not agree to this - I say let him pay Grandmother $200.00 and give her the rest for taxes while I will pay 2/3 of these and let the lots be sold as soon as possible - I hope they will consent to sell - but it seems to me they can't justly do otherwise - This horrid business worries me. I'll pay Grandmother as fast as I can - and have put off some other payments for that purpose - I hope to be paid very soon and will send you the money and a list of what I want them - I'll not get a dress just now - but wait until the winter. I go out so little at present. I need nothing of that kind - Tell me how to cut over that coat of mine for the winter. It is shabby as it is - and if I can remodel it - I'll do so - Will you find & send me a pattern. I'll send Kit the money for the insurance as you said - I am very much obliged to Mary - I thought I had paid her for some of that - and am sorry I was so careless as to forget.

School and I do very well - I like my place here ever so much better than at Penn - but I miss the familiar faces there sadly -

as I grow older I grow more attached to persons and places.

'Tis too bad that Mr. Sloane's salary is not increased. Will not Mr. Gordon do something better for him? Can he find no other position?

Would he come out west if he could get a place?

I am naturally western but I really think it would be a good place for you to come west — if sufficient inducements as to salary were offered — So I give sides up for you — I wish I could get him a place out here — I hope that what I can do for Grandmother will help her some — I shall do all I can — believe me — You must love & kiss Sidney & Nessa for Cousin Ella — Yours lovingly

Emma —

Brattleboro Vt.

April 27. 1873.

My Dear Cousin:—

About a year ago this time spent a Sabbath very pleasantly with you and your daughter; at that time expected to meet you soon.

Remained on Hatchwan until the middle of July. Then returned home, hoping to return to Jersey in September, changed my plans and remained in Brattleboro. Often thought I would write you or Cousin Sarah, many little duties have claimed my time and I neglected letter writing.

Spent the month of Sept.

in Rutland with Aunt Harriett Haven, she made many inquiries about you all and I gave her your address, said she should try to call the next time she went to New York. Uncle Joel has been in the city several times & his time was so limited did not see you.

Cousin Frank, Aunt Hattie's only son, is in Boston in the "National Bank of Redemption", we all miss him very much, he was the life of the house.

We have had a fearfully cold winter, sometimes it seemed as if we would be buried in snow; for a few days past have had beautiful bright days, yesterday found a few buds of "Trailing Arbutus".

One day last week Aunt Hattie spent with us, her twenty fifth Anniversary comes the fifteenth of June; she has not fully decided whether to have a Silver wedding or not; I think it might be a real pleasant affair if all the relatives could be present. Have not been idle all the months since last I saw you. This winter have had pupils in Painting and Drawing that kept me busy, have finished a few pictures.

Does Emma still teach? or has she married Mr. Prof.— the name I have forgotten.

The young married lady whom I visited the same time I did you, has come to her Grandmothers (one nearest neighbor) to spend the summer, she brought her twins (boy and girl) with her, now I shall have some babies to play with

all the relatives think them models of perfection.

My friends in H— wish me to visit them this summer if I accept of some of their invitations shall hope to see you. Remember me very kindly to your daughter and family, to your sister and to Kate. Hope you and Kate will both write.

I remain always
Your loving niece
Hattie

A. E. Dickerman
Brattleboro Vt.
Box 770.

Dearest Auntie
We came here yesterday to spend a great deal of opportunity.
Minister Dear love
To Sallie from
Jenny and me —
So cute kate to
Good bye —
Yours
Emma Straight

Kate's invitation — Dear Grandmother:

Yours with little letter came a week ago Monday just as I was about leaving the island on my first yacht-sailing. Annie Coats brother had gone from N.Y. in his pretty yacht and called at the ice and took his cousin Kitty Orland. She in turn invited us to go with her on a sail down the bay. The

afternoon was lovely— just enough wind to make the waves dance beautifully— We enjoyed the sail very much— until just as we got into the sight of the island again & "was taken" with sea-sickness— It was said that I rendered up my tribute to Neptune in a very graceful manner— Next day we went dredging— and I was again sea-sick— Wednesday we worked at— I forgot what— Thursday I dissected a toad— Friday we went dredging again— Sea-sick again— So I have forsworn dredging henceforth— We got some flounders— Skates and quantities of flat sea-urchins— "Echinarachnius"— Saturday— I dissected a lobster. partially only— though I worked faithfully most all day— Put his remains in alcohol for the Sabbath— The largest Skate was opened— and the ovary found to be most perfect— the eggs shown beautifully and in so advanced a stage that the germ could be seen in most perfect condition. Prof. Agassiz was so enthusiastic he could not think of anything— said he wouldn't take $3000. for it— It was more beautiful than the Madonna of Raffaelle— He had never in his life been able to see so perfect a specimen— Sunday I drew it— in the after

Frank Leslie's artist was here last week sketching our look-out for our papers.

now. I put up some sea-weed & studied them a while.

Last week was a very busy week. Our laboratory is now in working order. Each one has a table of his own — where he may keep his specimens — & work all day. He is expected to clean it himself — for various reasons. Such a busy room you never saw — some are dissecting sharks — some flounders — some crabs — others jelly-fishes — or insects — lobsters — molluscs — or toads — the quantity of toad-dissections is enormous — the island abounds with them. Tonight we have been looking at the guinea pigs & rabbits — sent over by Dr. Brown-Sequard.





He will be here in about two weeks — Prof. Huyot came Saturday. It was beautiful to see Prof. A. and him together. They walked about with their arms around one another so simply — so beautiful to me. They were boys together — students together — fair friends of a lifetime. Dr. Huyot has given us two lectures — Dr. Packard still leads us along the path of Insects — Articulates, more properly — for we have been considering Crustacea more particularly.

Yesterday and today Prof. Agassiz gave us two magnificent lectures.

To be here is worth an ordinary life-time.

Miss Ireland is the funniest
woman here — and they are
all superior to the ordinary
dinner one meets daily —
We have the best, the
"nicest" people & have ex-
ceedingly fortunate enough to
meet — I can't write
from the list of students
because it will take
more time than I can
now give — I will try
and send you a paper if
I can get one —
Miss Cook of Packer
is very pleasant, cul-
tured — refined — She &
Miss Ireland are great
friends — While Miss Ed-
mand fraternizes with
Miss Smith — of Chauncy
Hall School Boston —
Mr. S — thinks more
of Mr. Whitman of the Eng-
High School — Boston — than
of most of the other gen-
tlemen — I am drawn
toward Mr. Hasely — a
German — who has
worked with Siebold —
and who is by birth close-
ly allied to one of the most em-
inent German natural-
ists — He is the one who
brought the salmon eggs
from the German Emperor
to the American Fish-
a few months since —
He talks very little
English — is so fat & jolly —
Then there is a young
man from Cambridge —
a Mr. Minot whom I
take to mightily —
We have been in a
fog for three days — One

Sunday Feb. 27th '76

My darlingest darling

Such a beautiful loving letter from you yesterday morning just as I was going in my work — It brought you wonderfully near me when you have been and constantly since. Now my darling you must not say anything more about your visit at Ithaca except in praise of it — As Andy Dandreny would say — "I remember how you & Lucy & Bill & the fellows came down there & how you made yourself miserable for a time & cupped yourself that way, Want it jolly

Clothes are as hot as can be — How I pity you in Shore! — I hope you will suffer less from hot weather the rest of the summer — but August is yet to come — I am sorry to hear Aunt May is feeling so poorly — hope when fall comes she will be better — Do the children keep well? — You must be real lonely without Sidney —

How I wish you had some of my cool, if you'd send us some fruit!! I want some dreadfully — huckleberries once — strawberries once — dumplings once — & puddings once all the fruit we had —

Thank the Mitchelles for

Darling I do love you like everything and a fellow can't keep saying it all the time.
Now shall I try & account to you some of the labors & exploits of the week
Think I wrote you about our jogging on Thursday - it was splendid - & about my hearing Wendall Phillips on "The Last Art" with a Centennial introduction - he spoke at a small white audience sprinkled with black in a small black church - I was the 1st one there sat an hour & read Histology before the silver tongued orator arrived my hair stood on end (or would if it hadn't been so long & it hadn't a curl come up through such a dreadful soil) & my heart went pit a pat when my eyes fell on the first time upon the great man I had so long desired to see & hear. Friday A.M. I tested the action of acids & alkalies upon the digestive power of saliva - In the PM took a rabbit & a pup & went out to Brookline to Dr Sabine's - we put various parts of the rabbit - lungs liver kidney salivary glands etc into hardener & examined connective tissue - washed the pup & put him

water & his Spaderas would
come off – work him up tomorrow
& Thu – Friday night
– Great Mandeley
Saturday A Mr. Learned
how to prepare gastric
& pancreatic juice – test the
their digestive power – white of egg
albumen & white of egg – also
proved the presence of sugar
in the liver – In the P.M.
I & Lambert went with a
Art gallery saw Bacon's
Boston Boys & Geo Gage &
various other beautiful
paintings – looked through
shop windows at dolls
& hats & silks – did this
for you of course not because
I cared for sight,

[2-27-76]

– went into bookstores
– purchased the Centennial
No. of the North Am.
Review – & --- dare I
-- tell – – a set
of the bound vols of the
Journal of Anatomy &
Physiology – It is Exceedingly
difficult to get them
& Every no contains original
articles upon Comp. Anat.
& Physiology by the most
Eminent English anatomists
& Physiologists – that I really
did not see how I could
do without as I propose
to make Comp. – Phys.
one of my shining points

The whole set from the
beginning to the present
will cost about $24
There are three other books
in the Physiological line
that must come through the
School in some way, viz
Stricker's Histology - Carpenter's
New Physiology - American
Edition some appear &
Tilton's New Chemistry
- then I will try to get the
City Library to get a set
of the Microscopical Journal
(Eng) - this will give all
that best in Eng. in
the direction Phys - Embryology
Chem. - You'll not blame
me will you for the purchase

I hesitated for some time
finally thought it was too
good an opportunity to lose
- I enjoyed the P. Ch.
very much - I like to
look at the names upon
the fine residences
- & how many great histori-
cal names we see
in Beacon & Boylston - Hist
Smith - Jones - Johnson
names whose fame is
not limited to the American
Continent even but is
world wide. One evening
would you believe it I
cut Prof Tisher's lecture
upon "The Rise of Christianity"
& actually went to the

theater for the first time
in my life — I had
~~My~~ spells a sort of a
guilty feeling as though
I was going somewhere
I ought not — but I
went — heard Sothern as
Lord Dundreary in "Our
American Cousin" actually
saw & heard Sothern
in American Cousin — &
all the rest — saw them —
— thought "this good to be
there" — enjoyed it hugely
— didn't care if somebody
from Oberlin did see me
— didn't care if had given
a dollar for a ticket that
ought to have gone to
the heathen — I laughed
heartily — felt rested happy
went home slept soundly & sweet



This A.M. went to hear
Dr Barlot — He spoke upon
"Charlotte Cushman &
Horace Bushnell" —
He said of Miss Cushman
she was neither a radical
a free religionist nor
a woman suffragist but
that she liked the ~~good~~
old way — ~~He~~ said
the Stage should be
~~proud~~ of her character
Even than of her power
as an actress — they
were both intimate friends
of his — was beautiful
that such a radical as
he should pay such a
tribute to those of orthodox

belief
This P.M. at 3 I went
up to Horticultural Hall
to hear Prof Felix Adler
on "The Old Testament
in the Light of Modern
Criticism" He is a little
young dudish Jew.
Just without the inner
door of the sanctuary was
a table behind which
stood a radical looking
man — upon the table
were various religious
books Darwin's Origin of
Species Descent of Man
Huxley, Man's Place in
Nature Lay Sermons Lubbock
Origin of Civilization Etc Etc
besides such other literature

as the Sunday the New Age
etc — & people were actually
buying these books on Sunday
& besides all this they
actually clapped their
hands vigorously at various
of the Prof's radical sayings
Next Sunday Mrs Cheney
speaks upon the "Religion
of Michael Angelo"
To night Gillmore's
Concert at the Boston
Theater & Wendall
Phillips at Parker Memorial
Hall — Why did they put
both these Entertainments
on same Evening when they
knew & might have known

with very little trouble that
I wanted to attend with
Oh darling how I wish
you were here to go
with me to all these
places — & what a story
I am spinning out & with
half done — But we must
leave the rest for the time
about that do whatever you
think best — It would be
very pleasant to have the
with us — If that little room
at Mrs Krusi's could have
a little wood stove in it for
winter we could get along
beautifully — With lots of
good feeling for the Krusis
the doctors & the Shelden
I am your loving loving
loving loving loving loving
husband husband husband husband
your plan for Lit is most
admirable — don't spend too much
time & strength upon French

From Mrs Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

Aug.12 - '86.

My dear Alice,

I am still at home but I leave tomorrow night again - Mr. Jones will escort me to the city and the Illinois Central Station whence I start at ten o'clock,- to reach Cherokee,Iowa at eight Saturday night. There I shall be two weeks - I have just been at Morrison Ill, for a week's work - which was pleasant in every way - as the teachers were enthusiastic and the Supt very kind.--- We are in the midst of wildest disorder - Everything is torn up - No rooms are locked and one's property is the public's - My bureau is in the hall opposite my door - Our books are piled up in a closet - The study is completely dismantled - For two nights we have slept in No. 22 - and I have been sewing in their - Tomorrow we may sleep in No.36- or 47 - or the attic. No one knows what a day may bring forth -! Anna is in No.16 - the girls in No. 20 - Mrs Many moves about from place to place - I do not see how they can settle the house for weeks to come - as nothing is yet done about the gas or the steam - The plumber is at work the past two days - but the painters were not here in force today for some reason - We cook and eat in No. 19 - quite steadily - but we "camp out" every place - The Commissioners have made no arrangement about the cleaning - and so nothing is being done about that. Col. Parker is away and the "course of events" is having its own way.

At school it is as bad - The Science room is being torn up - and the Halls are full of lime and dust - Both porches are down - Indeed we are given over to the reign of anarchy.--- No, I have heard nothing of any adventure that you and Mr. Fitz had - Remember he doesn't correspond with me - and tell me all about it. - K - has been out to see me this week - handsomer than ever. Lucky G.W.F.!



Aug.12 '86.

Bedtime --- I am sorry I could not see your mother - but I was obliged to be in just such a hurry ! - I shall be very glad to see you again - and am always -

Yours lovingly,

E. D. Straight.

From postcard.

Pasadena, Oct 13 -'86.

Dear Alice,

I was very glad to hear from you and hope you will write often - telling us of your work and your "Circle" and all that interests me - We are anxiously waiting the children and Anna - He has his good and his bad days.- We are sunny and bright in our little home and try to be brave and cheerful - With love.

E.D.S.

From Mrs. Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

Pasadena, Cal. Nov.12 -'86.

My dear Alice,

I have been sewing for nearly two hours upon a dressing - gown for Mr. Straight. It is of a gray blanket - the gay border being left on for the trimming of the bottom and the cuffs and collar are also of the same stripe - It is long and will be very warm - I wish I had one myself - Mr. Straight is not so well - but the weather has been so changeable - I suppose that is one reason - We take a drive almost every day - Our favorite one is along Colorado St. to El Molino Avenue - thence down El Molino to a "ranch" known as Phillip's - These streets are bordered with pepper trees -( graceful evergreens with red fruit ) and hedges of some kind of Cedar - The houses along the way have rose trees in full bloom along the walks - evergreens - geraniums - heliotrope - daisies - all in blossom in profusion - Clusters of pampas grass - Sometimes 15 ft high - with the great plumes waving in the breeze - or bamboo tufts - or banana trees - vary the monotony. The live oak trees are very picturesque and interesting - and this particular drive takes us past some very grand old king's of the oak family. They have gnarled trunks and wide spreading branches - and in one place I know a crimson passion flower has climbed to the very top! At Phillips's - the owner often gives us flowers - such roses! one he gave me yesterday was of pale lemon color each petal bordered with pink and of such exquisite texture ! I had a great crimson bud given me one day this week - it opened into a rose fully five inches in diameter, with petals of velvet - but each night it folded it's heart away in ever-lapping crimson! I never before knew that a rose went to sleep! But to our drive - After we leave Phillips's we go through a vineyard - now rich in Autumn colors - to a beautiful old ranch - from which we have a glorious view of the San Gabriel Valley - with its circumambient Mountains - The



vineyards are all russet and crimson - the smoke from burning straw or hedge - clippings rises into the air. The Mountains are pale blue against the horizon - and the scene is lovely as a dream - We stop and gaze our fill - then we watch the jays and mocking birds about the fountain - and turn our horse's head homeward.----

I am teaching now - so I hurry my dinner and at 12.30 I go down town to the "Academy" when from 1 to 3 P.M. - I teach the hilarious young Californians. I rarely get home till nearly 4.P.M. - then the day is done - and the moon rises in silver splendor and the night is a lovely vision. ----

I wish when you write Bessy you would tell her how much Mr. Straight enjoys his cap she knit him. He wears it daily yet - Where are your Brothers family? I should like to know -

I hope your work is not so hard as when you wrote- Anna told me, too - how you are overdoing - Stop !!!!!!

I shall be glad to hear from you - but cannot promise to write often - Mr. Straight would send love did he know I am writing - and I am always,

Your loving friend,

E.D.S.-

Extract from letter to Alice Krackowizer from Anna ---

Pasadena, Fri, Nov 12, '86.

Mr. S is very ill. I fear he is daily worse. I cannot admit it to Mrs. S. She doesn't want me to do so. I cannot give up hope when I see him, but when I think of his condition, his temperature, pulse etc, I feel as though it were useless and worse to hope. Mrs. S will put in a note she says. When you write to her only send love etc, and make the letter as full of news about yourself and all she knows as can be. She longs for letters telling about the people there and doesn't want any reference to Mr. S's probable or possible death. She is very brave, patient and cheerful. She has to work very hard indeed and would be as provoked as could be to know I am writing about her. The children are getting fat and brown beyond recognition. They are very good. Mr. S. loves to have them here although their ceaseless activity and noise are wearisome at times on account of his weakness. He rides out nearly every day still.

**********

[12-21-86]

The last Will and Testament of Henry Harrison Straight of the City and County of Oswego made this 18th day of April 1882. I Henry Harrison Straight being of sound mind & memory do make & publish this my last Will & Testament.

I do hereby give, devise and bequeathe to my beloved wife, Emma D. Straight, of said City, all my estate, real and personal, of whatsoever nature, kind or description, and wheresoever the same may be, including all my library and books, furniture, and articles of personal property, debts due me & demands of every description, all moneys, securities, choses in action, life insurance, & all or any other policy or policies of Insurance, with full power & authority to my said wife to have, hold & possess the same, & take all legal steps & remedies to enforce my or her rights in regard thereto, fully & absolutely, to sell & dispose of the same, as she shall think fit, subject to the payment of my funeral expenses & of all just debts & demands existing against me, at my decease. And do hereby appoint my said wife, sole Executrix of this my last will & testament, and do hereby revoke all or any last will or will & testament by me made.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at the City of Oswego, in the State of New York, on the day & year first above written.

Henry H. Straight. (Seal)

2

On this 18th day of April 1882, we the undersigned do certify that the above instrument was signed, sealed, published & declared by the above named Testator, to be his last will and testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses on said day & year above stated.

John M. Casey, City & County of Oswego, New York.

Delos S. Radcliffe, City and County of Oswego, New York.

Chicago, Cook County, Ills.

Dec. 21, 1886.

I, Joseph R. Putnam, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the foregoing copy with what purports to be the original will of Henry Harrison Straight, left in my possession for safe keeping, and that it is a true and correct copy of the same.

Jos. R. Putnam
Notary Public.

Copy of the Will of H. H. Straight

From Mrs. Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

Pasadena.Cal. Dec 31 - '86.

Dear Alice,

It is late in the last night of the old year - I wonder if you have heard the "Messiah" this evening - and so are all aglow with the glory of the splendid choruses! I am quite alone, as Anna is sitting up with some sick children - The night is warm and clear - We have had no fire since noon - yet the rooms are not chilly - The carriages drive past infrequently - and the coyotes have been having a jubilee far down on the next Avenue - Imagine a sound like demoniac laughter a wild barking and screaming and general shrieking as of a dozen creatures were in a general "fight" and you have a faint idea of a coyotes salutation. To wake up in the middle of the night and hear them is startling in the extreme - though they are harmless enough ---

Your kind remembrance of the children as well as myself was duly received and heartily appreciated - I am very glad of the little souvenir - It brings before me many nights of last June when the --- were in bloom - and you wore them daily - Thank you, very much. I have put it on our sofa where it looks very pretty. It was good of you to write about yourself so fully - I now can place you better. Don't be discouraged about your work - You are trying to do too much - Can't you give up something to the rightful owners? Try it - do - You are a good girl to not stay all the time in your school duties. The social life will be of so much benefit - I am glad you are in the Chautauqua.

We are all well - the children remarkably so. When I know what is my duty I shall begin to be strong again. Just now, I dont know. Please remember me affectionately to the girls, and believe me with much love,

Your true friend, Emma D. Straight.

May this New Year be the happiest you have ever known!

Extracts from letter to Alice Krackowizer from Anna L B. Williams.

Pasadena, Los Angeles Co,Cal.
Jan. 6th, '87.

Of our dear one leaving us and of our uncertainty as to the future. The latter consideration does not affect me in the least except for its troubling Mrs. Straight. She cannot make up her mind as to the course she should pursue. Sometimes one way seems best sometimes another. She went to San Diego yesterday(Wednesday) and will return Saturday or Sunday. I was so glad to have her go. She stands greatly in need of rest. Much more than she realizes. There are good openings here for her to commence work, openings of various kinds. There are many of her friends who think to stay the only proper course, and others who advise her to return. I do not know which she will do.

*********

From Mrs. Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

Normal Park, Ill. Aug 18, '87.

Dear Alice,

I am going to Japan, sail the 5th of Sept from Vancouver. So I shall not see any of my Eastern friends until I return. Dear child, be brave and hopeful as you can. Your sweetness and truth are always a help to those who know you. Give my love to your Mother and Sister, and remember me always as one who loved you tenderly and is glad you love her ---

Yours, E. D. S.--

I will write from Japan.

Chicago August 19. 1887

Dare
Est of Henry H. Straight
deceased

Mrs Emma D Straight Exr
To Wm Eliot Furness Atty Dr

| 1887 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aug 19 | To services in the Estate from July 10 to date. Proving Will by Medicus &c. Proving Hereof Letters testamentary, Appraisement Assigned. Inventory. adjudication &c. &c. | | 100 00 |
| | To Cash paid Appraisers | 6.00 | |
| | To " " Advertising for Medicus | 3 | |
| | To Cash paid Posting and advert for Adjud | 8 | |
| | To Cash paid Shorthand Reporter hearing | 2 | |
| | To Cash paid Costs of Ct. | 10 10 | 29 10 |
| | | | $129 10 |
| | Credit by Cash. on a/c | | 20 |
| | | | $109 10 |

Paid W. E. Furness

From Mrs. Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

High Normal School, Tokyo, Japan.
Oct 16 - 1887.

Dear Alice,

Your very sweet letter I could not answer before I left home - nor could I write to Bessie - so I will send you a company letter this time and you must reply by a Xmas message if this reach you in time, "Here am I in Arden!" - If I could paint for you the scene from my window at the Normal School - you would be delighted - the view is beautiful - a schoolyard filled with fine trees and shrubs - a busy street - crowded with jinrikishas - foot passengers, men, oxen and horses pulling heavy loads - street vendors of flowers, fruit, vegetables, lamps, etc,etc - Then beyond are the wooded banks of a little river - beyond these, still, trees and tiled roofs and trees - and in the distant horizon - lines of Mts - and the glorious Mt. Fuji - a cone of snow clear and fair against the sky! - Or if you like to look from the room where I now sit - you see junks - and sampans and other vessels, - great fish-nets drying on frames at the waters edge, hawks (kites and crows flying everywhere, - the forts built by the Japanese at the time of Commoders Perry's visit - are a little to the right down the Bay - We are just now at the house of a school friend of years ago - She insisted on our visiting her until our house is ready - and we were very glad to leave the little Hotel Sei-yo-ken - where we had been since we were at Mr. Takamine's house - Mr. Takamine took us home with him from Yokohama, so we spent our first ten days in Tokyo - in a real Japanese house living in nearly pure Japanese style - This friend has a Bible School for women - We have met a few of the missionaries - but on the whole have been very quiet - My teaching has been very light so far - but when I am in my own house - which is in the school grounds - I shall be very busy - I teach in the Girls' Normal. All the Normal buildings, dormitories, school houses, play houses, work shops, fire shops, lodges etc, make a very imposing array. The school



High Normal School, Tokyo, Japan.
Oct 16 - 1887.

grounds are those of an ancient and celebrated temple of the religion of Confucius, and the temple buildings still remain embowered in grand old trees. This is a most interesting city - Its dense population - its extent of territory, its parks - canals, temples, etc make it a constant panorama of beauty, picturesqueness and instruction. Our daily rides to school - in jinrikisha - (man-car) take us by the moat, which is always new - always wonderful to me.

Shall I like it? - Yes. My classes are a pleasure . Everyone is kindness personified. It is not all rose color, but life is easier here than I have ever before known it,- not that I think ease is the element most desirable. There is room now for one to be very useful in many different ways, and I'm going to try.---

The children do not forget any of you - Willard was wondering the other day if Nestel was as big as he. They keep pretty well, but Willard has been poisoned by going near fresh lacquer - so is very uncomfortable and babyish today. They long for America - however happy in Japan. - When you write me Alice, tell me all about your work - and your pleasures - Be sure to take plenty of rest and amusement. Don't worry! You must sleep enough and eat enough and rise in majesty if your Supt is "nasty" to you. Tell me where your brother is. - It is bedtime or rather sleepy time - and I will say no more. I hope you get the circular letters. - Write me at address given above - With much love -

Ever your sincere friend,

E. D. S.

[sent to DWS 6-10-25] [1888]

Higher Normal School.
Tōkyō. Japan.
April 24th.

Dear Miss Cheyney.
Indeed I remember you most vividly and your letter was a great surprise and pleasure. I thank you very much for your kindness in electing me an "honorary member" and I hope I may be of service to you in some way. And I thank you for your loving kindness of Mr. Straight and his work. It is such appreciation and remembrance that makes me feel less unreconciled to his early taking away from the work he loved so well and could not bear to leave undone. — Willard will be delighted to hear from your chapter and I think he can tell something of interest in return. My little girl is very fond of

Natural Science - but most strange to say Willard doesn't seem to care particularly about anything. He likes chemistry I think - but here I have not succeeded in giving him any opportunity for study. I have the two children only. I am glad you like your work and home - and, feel that New Orleans must be a very interesting city.

I know Cable partly only - and that I know makes me very glad to know more - I have read everything in the "Century". Do you know Grace King? I like her stories too - they seem to have "local coloring" as well.

—— I live in a little brown house in the Normal School compound - and at present I teach twenty hours per week

I have only English. You don't know how delightful it would seem to teach some science! I bring in a little but I want a great deal - Do you know the Nature Readers - pub. by Heath & Co. I am sure you would like them in your work - I hope to introduce them into Japan - I've had some classes using them and they liked them very much -

I teach all classes from little boys to Normal graduating classes. The children learn very rapidly.

All are very pleasant students - a most amiable people - I must attend to my house now as it is nearly 6.30 A.M. and so must say good bye - If you would like to see

[4] [4-24-88]

my published letters write to Dr. Lee - Oswego and I think your name can be put on the list - I wish I had time to write you of the beauty of the Spring time - but other duties forbid - I hope to be back in America in another year. —

From Mrs. Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

Nikko, Japan. Aug 15th, '88.

My dear Alice,

Were it not for your forgiving nature - I should not dare to write you after waiting just two months since your loving and delightful letter reached me. But I know you will not be severe with me - and so I will not waste any words in excuses - for you will understand. ---

I was glad to hear all the good news of your letter, that Minnie Van P. is better and that your brother and family are well and pleasantly situated.- It gave me pleasure to know that your year has been better - I am very anxious to know about your places for next year - for your own sake - I was very fully persuaded to ask you to come and be with me - but when I found that your catarrh is so bad - I could not think of it for a moment, for Tokyo has a climate that is most trying for catarrhal affections.- It is so damp and the winds and dust are so trying. The children have been entirely free from catarrh since we came to Nikko - but in Tokyo they always were affected and afflicted! - As yet, I have made no arrangement for them, but I am considering a young English lady as a Nursery Governess - It must be decided before long - The question - What to do with the children is the burning one with all the foreign residents who have little sons and daughters. It causes me many hour's of anxiety.---

I am off for a summer of rest - which, alas - is drawing to a close all too soon and too swiftly - Nikko is a village in the Mountains some 90 miles from Tokyo. It has its raison d' etre in the fact that here are the famous shines and temples and tombs to which the pilgrims resort, making the grand tour of the sacred localities - going hence to Nantai-Zan, the sacred mountain - near Chinseyi - and to the sulphur baths of Juinoto.- It is a most beautiful spot. The mountains are most varied in outlines and are clothed to the summit in trees or with low



Nikko, Japan. Aug 15th. '88.

shurbs and grasses - so they are a lovely green everywhere - They are, many of them volcanic peaks, and the larger ones are all extinct volcanoes I ascended Nio-Ho-Zan - and peeped into the great crater - now all clothed in trees with waterfalls dancing down from the edge of the crater. Everywhere are Mountain torrents - dancing and singing down to the rushing turbulent river the Daiya-gawa - over which Sho-do Shonin crossed on the rainbow bridge thrown him by the gods! Imagine the rapids at Niagara - (by the Sisters) dashing through a narrow channel of rocks and boulders with - Mountains rising from the bank - and you can see this charming stream -

In addition to the beauties of nature is the wonderful charm of art. Moss-grown shrines stand by the lovely waterfalls - Stone images encrusted with lichens and embossed with moss and ferns. Stand by the wet paths - the stones, the cliff, are covered with rich velvet moss - The trees are forest giants - The views everywhere are entrancing* It is indeed most beautiful, so the Japanese say - "You can't say Kekko until you've seen Nikko" Kekko - is splendid ---

Then add to this magnificent temples with carvings that are superb - are architecture that is as beautiful as it is peculiar, and you can think a little what Nikko is like.--- I live in a little Japanese house belonging to a priest - and the chief gods are all in the shrine in the back room - the Sunda blessing mankind - and the Horse-headed Kwannon and the 40 armed KWann by his side - while the sacred mirror is before them --- We have a lovely garden with a waterfall dashing into a little lake - which is bordered with iris and yellow lilies. Before our eyes is a mountain, behind our house is a bamboo grove - and another mountain rises gradually from the stone fence which bounds our domain. I really think my children will have the mountain concept very

Nikko, Japan. Aug 15th,'88.

thoroughly developed. --- We take little excursions to the various water-falls - and temples - A lovely place is along(?) the bank of the river where it is wildly picturesque - Here are more than a hundred stone statues of Buddha - life size or heroic - all seated on stone pedestals facing the stream - It is said no one knows how many there are - and that they cannot be counted owing to some dislike of the gods to being numbered, I suppose. Back of this avenue of gods, is a little Buddhist graveyard, where I spent a quiet half hour among the tombs. Many of the tombs represent the five elements - earth- fire- air- water- as a symbol - Man returns to the elements as he was created from them - Other tombs have the sword of Buddha - the lotus bearing this four ( drawing ) so! --- Sancrit inscriptions are on the pillars and decorations

But I could write on all night and I must send out some other letters so I'll add the "moral reflections". I am glad you are better.--- Now, dear, here is the great secret. You can do what you think you can do. You can be full of courage by starting the courageous idea - You will attract courage from others if you yourself have it - and your strength will develop steadily - Be hopeful - drive away the thought that you don't know - by looking forcefully at what you do know. --- And may your next year be full of hope and cheer and success - I am glad to hear from you - always - you know!---

I address this a little at random - not having your New York number - But I hope you will receive it! Please give my love to Bessie and the children, and your brother and mother -

Always much for you dear, from

Your loving friend,

Emma D. Straight.

From Mrs. Straight to Alice Krackowizer.

Higher Normal School, Kanda - Tokyo.
Jan, 1st, 1889.

My dear Alice,

The first letter of the New Year! I wish you may find 1889 full of blessings and pleasures, success in school - friends about you, health and prosperity.!

It is a gray - damp - bleak day - now at eight o'clock - the children are all flocking to school - as is the custom, to wish the Director a Happy New Year - and make their congratulations to the Emperor.

------ It is now almost four P.M. - so your New Year has begun! I have been occupied all day in reading to Willard who is sitting up for the first time in many days - He has had an attack of fever which alarmed me at first but which yielded to treatment very quickly, Hazel is at a kind neighbor's I saw her for a minute to wish her a Happy New Year - but was not permitted to touch or kiss her for Willard's fever is typhoid of a mild form, Hazel will be home in a few days I think, as all goes so well - The streets are very gay and festive, every shop is decorated with pine and bamboo - and with long fringes of rice straw over the door ways and porches. Boys are flying kites all day - They have some sort of attachment that makes a humming sound as the kite flies - a curious whirr all day in one ears! The soldiers are all in gala dress - every child has a new garment or a new suit. All the workmen and servants are in their New Year new dresses - the crest of the employer - so white and fresh - shining from the universal dark blue cotton garment. I've been giving presents to all those servants expecting - and I count up $12.20 for that alone - A money present twice a year is the universal custom, - You asked about the currency, paper money is the chief medium of exchange - silver 20 ct pieces ten cents and 5 cents with copper sen - 1 cent 2 sen and rin (1/10 of a cent) and 2 rin, - I see very little social (Japanese) life. The Japanese who live in their

Kanda, Tokyo. Jan, 1st, 1889.

native way - entertain foreigners very little. Most of the society Japanese wear foreign clothes and have foreign manners and customs in all social relations with the foreigners - and are extremely reluctant to let foreigners see their real domestic life. My intimates (of the Japanese) are very few, and I see them chiefly at my own house - Foreign society here is that of any large city in Europe; the etiquette being European in all particulars. - This must be so - with a nobility and all lines of caste being very closely drawn. - I have very few friends - that is - of any intimacy - Two or three old residents have been extremely kind to me and the children - but the life is rather isolated, as far as anything like friendships are concerned. There is much that is pleasant in it, the variety and gayety are very fascinating to one who has time for it, but I am a working woman and too busy to keep up social affair - I am not studying the language - though I think I may begin - I know a few phrases perhaps 100 words - but that is all.---

I am glad I did not send for you - much as I wanted to do so - much as I needed you. It is turning out for the best - It always does! - I hope you are more contented with your school. I am sure you are doing good work - and I believe you are going to be wiser and wiser and learn not to worry at all - Yes, Mr. Balliet would be a great help to anyone as a Principal - I'm sorry you could not be with Mr. Bright - for whom I have a great admiration.- Now I must close though I've just begun - Please send me Bessie's address - I enjoyed all your gossip - Please tell Miss Baber I'll answer her kind letter very soon - The autumn has been so very full. Willard hasn't been well since September. Now I think he will be much stronger - I wish you'd kindly remember me to your mother and sisters - I am glad Mrs. Boaz has a dear daughter. - With much love to yourself dear child.

Yours ever,

E. D. S.

[1889]

Vacaville, Oct. 16th.

My dear Dr. Rainier,
Your note enclosing Mrs. Olivia's letter. Dr. Leo thinks I have never answered. "If it be so - it were a grievous fault," I am so sorry - for I do thank you and Miss Newkirk with my whole heart for your kind offer to take care of my little Hazel. Dear child! Everybody is eager to adopt her. But my

Willard – nobody wants him! Yet he is really easier to manage than Hazel; is very affectionate and very susceptible to loving influences.

I have not yet felt it best to part with the children – but I am not sure but I should do so. Anna Williams seems to think that I ought to send them away from me, and if she is right – then I must put Willard



into some school. It is too bad to separate the children. I don't know what is the right thing to do.

I feel I was growing so much better that it was safe to have them, but Anna seems to think me much more ill than I have me considered myself. I think she looks on the dark side of things.

We are not yet settled for the winter.

Our present rooms are in a location which I do not like - but it seems almost impossible to get others. I do not like this place either - but I might if we were in a pleasanter part of the town. The children are well and going to school - The school is a poor one - but it is better than none I am inclined to believe.

— I hope you and Miss Newkirk are both well and enjoying the Autumn weather.



It is rather dull here, doesn't seem like California without the sunshine. We have one rain storm and I think will soon have another.

Please give my love to Dr. Lee and Miss Newkirk. I recd a card from Dr. but shall not write just yet. Tell her I heard from Mr. Krisi before he left. He takes a roundabout trip.

Goodbye with much love —

E. D. S.

P.O. Box 242, Berkeley,
Alameda Co., Cal.,
Nov. 12th, 89.

Dear Dr. Mainier:

Mrs. Straight being unequal to the task of writing much of a letter, ~~she~~ has resigned it & allowed me to do it for her. Your letter & one from Dr. Lu came this morning.

Hard as the separation will be, for the children's sake it seems as thought it must be, & the sooner the better. Now she does not have so much care of them so that on her account it would not be necessary. For nearly a week, until last Sunday, she had been better than any time since I came, but

for the last three days she has been worse - very weak, high temperature (103.0° tonight, 100.3° this morning) & no appetite. This is the highest morning temperature she has had it usually being, until quite lately, subnormal. She hawed-expectorated, I mean - a piece of reddish substance as large as the end of my thumb to the first joint. This was Sunday morning & Saturday night. Dr. Bennett says doubtless it was a piece of the lung tissue itself & that it was the cause of the high temperature. There have been no hemorrhages. Dr. Bennett said



yesterday that at this rate she would hardly expect her to live six months. She has said a year, before Mrs. Straight appears very ill to me - much worse than Mr. Straight did until a few days of his death. It may be because I know more about symptoms than I did then.

She will feel the separation extremely, but I think would prefer having the children there with you than anywhere else in the world. She has frequently said so about Willard, Hazel's going & you not having been thought of at all. The thought of their separation has been a grievous one & now that is done away

with. She is "troubled about many things" – their being transplanted to a cold climate, after three or four winters in a warm one, at this season of the year – their journey alone – snow blockades on the way, but with them all has concluded to let them go. She is so thankful that her fairies are to find a sheltering nest with the friend whom she loves so dearly & with her friend of whom she believes all that friendship can dictate. Dr. S's letter full of helpful, hopeful, loving words of the home they will have, of the



friends who will greet them helped also in her decision. She feels that there is nothing left that she could ask for them, it being denied her to care for them longer herself. She is spared the pang of the thought of a final separation. The nature of her disease, its progress, & ultimate result are unknown to her as you are aware. She hopes at the end of a few years at most to be able to take care of them again.

She is sorry to send them without more clothing for the severe winter, but feels that her heart will fail her if she waits to

long. The strain on her will be too prolong. heavy. She has thought of nothing else all day. We cannot state definitely the time now but will write later & telegraph, of course, when they start.

I am sorry she cannot write herself as I show how little idea of her feelings my awkward bungling will reveal. You who know her will not mistake it & you will convey to your friend the grateful thanks for her longkindness which I cannot do.

Excuse me if I too send love to both, I cannot help it.

Anna L. B. Williams.

Box 242, Berkeley, Alameda Co, Cal.
Nov. 21st, '89.

Dear Dr. Rainis:

You are quite surprised probably at not hearing sooner of the children coming. Thus far we have not been able to hear of anyone going East to take charge of them although we have asked the help of several people in the search. The proposition to send them alone effects Mrs. Straight so seriously that I think it must be abandoned. She was quite ill after getting your letter so that she had to keep her bed for the first time. A proposition comes from Mrs. Milliken Mrs. Johannot's sister living in San Francisco to either take the children until some one can be found to take them East or for the winter as may seem best. She will do the latter for Hazel Gladey without board or any money consideration but, if Mrs. Straight wishes the disposition of the

children will take board for Willard. On many accounts it would be well for them to stay here for the winter. The climate of San Francisco is so admirable during winter & that of Oregon so severe that they will be sick. Mrs. S. fears in transplanting them at this late season. It will save somewhat her dying hour, & know that they are within reach. Dying hour I am sadly afraid they are she cannot live long at the rate she is now going. Her temperature fell to 98.6° this morning for the first time in two weeks, but this evening is 103° or more, she coughed so I could not be sure but it had reached that before she coughed. She is very weak. Once in a while she feels strong enough, as this morning, to begin to reproach herself for being lazy & to insist upon doing things for herself, but it only lasts a little while, when she is tired enough

she would live longer than here. Should the children go at once to Oregon there would be but little inducement for her to stay here any longer. While they are in San Fran— she will want to linger. It will make them very late about entering this school year if they wait till spring. They would only have gotten fairly started here & would only get fairly started there before the summer holidays. Of course this last consideration would not weigh really or at all against the one of the change of climate being so trying for them.

Dr. Lee said that they must be gotten away at once & they would be quite as much away in San Fr as in Oregon. I have felt very uneasy about them ever since I came & am so thankful that a way has opened for their removal.

Our finances— Mrs. Straight has sent over a $1000.00 dollars to Mr. Putnam for investment. This does not

to give up. She has not the glimmer of a suspicion as to her disease. It seems really marvelous that she should not even suspect it if one did not know that she believes what has been told her & that no one has so much as hinted at it. I have now your & Dr. Lee's opinion as to the advisibility of telling her. I have at last gotten her at her will & found out something about her wishes as to her final resting place & little matters. She longs to go to Pasadena. Dr. Bennett says should she live until Spring she will have to leave Berkeley on account of the cold & fog. We should keep house there & it would be much cheaper than boarding as here at least. No rooms can be found here whatever at any price. The cost of the journey would be made up by the difference in price in a few months - her hope is - should she live so long. & there the doctor thinks



include the insurance which is, I think, $5000 in. She has in the bank here what will take her through until next July we hope should she live so long. She will sell the library & other effects.

Will you kindly let Dr. Lee know about the children & the money affairs so that I shall not need to write it twice & she spoke of it in her letter. She wishes the children to go to you & that Mr. Putnam should be their guardian - legal guardian -.

It is bed time. Mrs. Straight is asleep - she only sleeps with - the help of an opiate - & I will only add that as soon as we can find out about the children's going we shall let you know.

Yours sincerely,

Anna T. R. Williams.

[1869]

Berkeley Calif.
Nov. 25th —

Dear Friends.

Your beautiful letter about the dear children made us very happy — We could not desire a better home for them, nor hope for such good fortune. I thank Miss Newkirk and you — dear — from the depths of my heart.

But it seems that after all — we can not enjoy the proffered luxury. for we can find no way of sending the children to you. It is so late in the season that there are few Eastern bound trains. and we of course can't send them alone — Anna has written you of Mrs Millikin's offer — It is a source of gratitude that some way is open.

I am disappointed and grieved to not have them go East — but try to think it is all for the best.

If possible we will go South this week. I am anxious to be off. It is a little cool herein Berkeley now.

With again a thousand thanks to you and Miss Hackett for your large and generous offer — I am with love to you both.

Ever yours — E. D. S.

Mrs. Straight-Letter thanking me for the offering to give the Children a home.

Mr. E. D. Rainier,
Oswego,
New York.

BERKELEY CAL. 7 PM 25 1886

Yuma, A. T., 2-15-'90.

Dear Dr. Rainier:

Your letter to hand yesterday. Excuse me for not writing to you before, but I have relied on my postals to Dr. Lee to keep you informed of Mrs. Straight's condition. She is very low at present. Tonight every act of expectoration brings up what appears to be lung tissue. For two or three days she has had a better appetite & seemed to be recovering a little from the extreme prostration

of the week before last to a lesser degree of last week. Tonight she is worse, slight hallucinations - extreme weakness.

She is very glad to hear of an opportunity of putting the children in some one's care for the whole journey to Oregon. Mrs. Bass was to have taken them when she returned as far as Chicago. She has not had a thought of having them go to anyone but to you since your proposal & is much agitated whenever, as often occurs, some one who does not know of the arrangement, makes an offer of taking one child or the other. She is weak enough to feel any proposed alterations in her plans a great burden.

Do you know by what route the friends of whom you spoke intend returning from Cal? Mr. Libby, a friend in San Francisco can secure passes for the children for part of the way by the Central Pacific R.R. to Ogden - from Ogden to Council Bluffs by the Den. & Rio. Gr. perhaps they would leave to pay from Council Bluffs to Chicago again a pass. This of

course would be a great help. Mr. L. will have to know a few days before they start so as to have time to attend to it. If the friends could communicate with him it would be better than my trying to get word to him as we had intended. His address is 822 Twenty first St., Mr. Orville Libby. He is agt. for the Appleton Pub. Co. & his office address is I think 3 Post St. San Francisco. The children's address is care of Mrs. E. A. Milliken 1407 Jones St. I have sent the address before but suppose the letter was lost. It is late. I have another letter which must be written. I have much to say to you but cannot write it now. I hope some time I may see the friends who will have

2. [2-15-90]

my babies. meanwhile I may only send my love to them both.

Please also let this do for Dr. Lee's word this week, with my dear love.

Yours most truly,

Anna L. R. Williams.

Yuma - 2-22-'90.

Dear Dr. Lee:

Your good letter is hand. Mrs. S. in her will has left word about the children's going to Dr. Painter. Is there any other or further expression needed of which you can think? It is very distressing to her to have anyone suggest anything else even for a moment. She is perfectly content with & desired that arrangement above any other. She has been much more for a few days. Has such very hard sleepless nights. Weather not pleasant for a day. Mrs. S. Love to Dr. Painter & Miss Hewitt & Love to Alice. A. L. R. W.

Extract from letter to Alice Krackowizer from Anna.L. R.Williams.

Yuma, 2 - 28 - '90.

Mrs Straight has wandered from Berkeley to Dutch Flats, to Vacaville, Berkeley again, Los Angeles, and finally Yuma. She will never leave this place again alive. She is rapidly nearing her end. She is a mere skeleton, and very very weak. She has not spent many whole days in bed and is greatly depressed when obliged to do so. Lately she has given up hope at times, but usually expects to get well. She tries very hard to be cheerful so hard that it is very painful to see her. Lately she has had a fairly good appetite after fairly loathing food for nearly a year. For some days past her throat has been so sore that swallowing is a very painful process. It is a little better today but she has been too weak for the exertion of mastication, but has taken a good deal of nourishment in a liquid form. Almost her sole entertainment is my reading aloud. She has not cared for much reading today and has slept a good deal. The weather has not been very favorable for some time, but will be soon again probably although March is rather trying too, we are told, the state of the weather always affects her at once and I hope that a hot bright day will enable her to get out again.

***

Write if you can light cheerful gossip about your work. It pleases Mrs. S. when she can listen to anything with pleasure. Ask Sara to write her a letter too. She sends love to all, although at this moment she is asleep.

Yuma A.T., 3-10-90

Dear Dr Lee:

Yours to hand this a.m. In Mrs. S's will everything that Dr. R's name is mentioned Miss N's is mentioned with it.

Thus: "I wish my children to have a home with Dr. R. & Miss N. etc."

"I wish Drs. Jos R. Patterson to act as guardian to my children in connection with Dr. R. & Miss N. etc."

I do not pretend to
have the words.
We talked it over
this A. M. after
your letter came
& Mrs. S. says she
cannot & does
not wish to leave
any injunctions or
instructions in case
of the death of Dr.
R or Miss N. she
leaves that for them
to decide at the



time. If you
have anything
more to suggest
I shall be very
glad to hear it,
I never had any-
thing to do with
such business before
& am very likely
to make a mess
of it. Unless it is
important I shall
not trouble Mrs.
S. with it, as it is

agitates her greatly
& think that it
may not be all right
what she has done
I mean – or of
changing anything.
She spoke again a-
bout your choosing
some books.

She is worse each
day. She has suf-
fered a great deal
in the past week
The diarrhoea has
been very bad – gas-



pore throat – hem
orrhoids – fever
& violent paroxy
yams of coughing.

Yes, I am alone
with her – ~~although~~
No, hardly, there
is another family
living in the same
house. The neighbors
especially this one
have been very
kind. I have not

yet needed relief – a squaw does nearly all my work for me, outside of the nursing. I hope this week will not be so hard for her. I do not see how she lives, yet she is cheerful generally & so patient. Love to Dr R & Miss M

Love to Thee, Anna L. W. Willard

527 Hartmer St.
Pasadena, Cal.,
4-15-'90.

Dear Dr. Rainier & Miss Newkirk:

You will think that I am very slow indeed about writing I am afraid, & I am afraid it is too true that I am. I have been heading & commence this letter & in fact nearly all the letters I have to write now I dread.

You have asked me to find out for you what more Mrs. Straight wishes to dance for the children. I will copy for you some notes I took on a talk she had concerning them just one month before she died — I notice the date on my paper is 2-28-'90.

Hazel for the present she would prefer should only attend school for half a day if she could attend a good private

& have been waiting to hear from you.

school her mother preferred it to a public one. Music lessons she wanted her to have. She was always anxious that she should become an accomplished housewife, knowing all the accomplishments of sewing, cooking etc.

Willard she would like to have as much of manual training as possible to music also. For both some definite daily sharing of the family duties.

As to religious training, she would like them taught as few dogmas & doctrines as possible but she would like them to attend Church, learn Scripture texts & hymns & observe the Sabbath.

As to bodily care - plain food - early hours - much out of door exercise.

If either develope any strong tendency such as Willard's desire



to become a soldier or Hazel's leaning to music or acting she would allow them their bent. She would like both of them to take dancing lessons if practicable.

They have both had whooping cough & measles. Willard has a tendency to constipation & hemorrhoids - Hazel to sore throat & pneumonia, do not know how it is now, to ultimate difficulty.

In training them she thought that Willard needed a constant strong firm guiding hand while Hazel developed better with the least interference.

You have asked me of their dispositions, habits, tendencies etc. etc. It is a question which I find very difficult to answer. Not

because I have not thought of it & not because I have no opinion upon the matter but because I should be obliged to say things which would sound probably to them so badly as to be misunderstood.

Mrs. Straight thought I understood the children much better than I thought that I did & said that no one ever got along so well with Willard as I did. With Hazel everyone gets along. (I use this vague but comprehensive term purposely.)

Notwithstanding her opinion I dislike to give my view of the children's characters until you have studied them a little while yourselves. Although I so frankly acknowledge my ignorance you might be



unconsciously a little influenced in your judgment & consequently in your ~~first~~ treatment of their respective cases. I have nothing to withhold or reserve from you & if in your first letter you still ask me I shall willingly tell you as I certainly shall some time.

I am aware that this sounds mysterious & perhaps quite foolish to you but I have a reason which is sufficient to myself at least to make me risk both.

Let me assure you that to no one would she have so willingly confided her children as to you & to the assisting care of Dr. Lee whom she mentioned in her wishes as desiring her care with you. I cannot tell you how many times she spoke of it & the

shed tears of joy on receiving your letters. Poor little mag was very weary done, it is indeed well that she has entered the ark!

She suffered greatly during the last weeks of her life. Sore throat, hemorrhoids, fever, restless nights, & languor combined to make her last days very weary ones. I can scarcely bring myself to write it any more it gets worse & worse to tell about them. Her only fear in death was that she would have a painful struggle & she had the most fearful one I ever saw, her face neck & arms were livid - she was perfectly conscious & almost the last gasp & prayed for release until she could not articulate a syllable. If only that could



have been spared her & I am sure it would if I had given her a large dose of morphia. I shall always blame myself that I did not do so, although I did not have instructions to give it.

Every body was very kind & I left in 24 hrs. after her death for Pasadena. Every thing was packed & left in charge of a kind friend. Mr. Putnam will soon order them sent to Chicago I think. I was much disappointed at not meeting Mr. Putnam here, but after waiting for several days for me, he did not receive my telegram & left the day I arrived. He was also greatly disappointed. There was no

delay or trouble however. The Service was performed by the Episcopalian clergyman according to her request. (That reminds me of one thing I have missed in my notes. If the lady who had the infant class, in the P. E. S.S. still teaches there & the children could be in her class Mrs. S. would like them to be in her class. I mean the lady who was teaching while Mrs. S. was in Oswego. Of course she knew this was not very probable.) On Sunday the 30th of March she was laid by her husband. There are a good many things which I hope some time to talk over with her friends but I shall not write them. I want to ask the opinion of the Oswego friends on the subject of



a stone to mark the grave. The friends here seem to prefer that the boulder which marks Mr. Straight's grave should be engraved with her name & moved to a position between the graves. I should prefer another similar one - both because I doubt that the boulder can be turned so that the writing on it shall face Mr. Straight's grave & not be upside down & because I think it rather too small a boulder to look well. There is not room on the same face of the boulder for Mrs. S's name or there would be no difficulty about turning it. The cost of another would be very insignificant. As to an inscription she once said that she only wanted the name & date. I said I

thought that she might at least have "Teacher" added like Mr. Straight's. She evidently liked it, but thought she hardly deserved the same as his or the name teacher I was not quite sure which. I think some of her friends will be troubled on that score. I should like very much that you should answer very soon upon this subject as I shall be leaving here quite soon in all probability. It it would be so much better for it to be all attended to before I leave. The grass are now flat. I liked it at first but do not now, as there is a tendency on that account for the bolt sinking a little in the center



& they are less noticeable & therefore more likely to become lost sight of. I should like to have them raised like those around. The center could be left to do it even if no one was here he thought a great deal of Mrs. S. & really mourns her besides being a most conscientious man. Please let me have your opinions. There is some prospect of my getting a position as capt. in a hospital in San Diego - an Episcopalian one, if so I shall be on the coast for some time & should see the place again it is likely before long. If I do not get work I mean to return to Chicago in a very short time, as I am perfectly well & do not need longer

rest.

Miss Corley sent me a notice of Mrs. S's death out from, I think, an Oregon paper. Do you know who wrote it? I mean to have it published here. Mrs. Burr was going to write - one but has not felt equal to it, & she advises me to publish this one. She has also written to Mr. Prüsi to ask him to write. I had a letter written for the same purpose to send to him, but shall not send it now as she has done so. We had not seen this notice then & we both like it very much indeed. Mrs. Burr has been kinder than I can tell you. I should have found Pasadena a very wilderness, notwithstanding its beauty, without her.

You will likely hear from

Mr. Pulitzer about Mrs. ~~Sh~~ business, etc. You will hear from him the provisions of the will including the one concerning myself — which I cannot help regretting exceedingly.

There are other things I wish I am sure, but I cannot think of them & this is a very long letter. Please do not give the children my letter until they are settled & quiet, & not at all unless you deem it wise after reading it. I did not wish to write to them until I heard they were at home perhaps you will not think I was right there. I hoped they would go on at once, & not hear the news until they were with you. I suppose they know sooner now although I have not heard. Everything seems so long in coming.

8. [4-15-90]

If you get this before they reach you, will you telegraph me a line or a card at once on their arrival? I am not anxious as they are with friends, but I am uneasy until I hear.

God grant that the children may reward you by love & thoughtfulness for your great kindness, & that you may never be anything but glad of your devotion to your friend. I hope you are well & that I may hear it soon. Please share this letter with Dr. Lee & whom I shall not

write at me. I have not heard one word from Oregon since Mrs. S's death & think that surely the letters must have been lost.

Yours very truly & affectionately
Anna L. B. Williams,

[4-15-90]

My own dear Children:

Now that Mamma has gone away from us in body, Aunty feels, that even more than before, if that could be, you are her own dear dear ~~children~~. I have not written you before for I wanted you to have gotten to your good kind friends & become at home, with some of the strangeness worn off before I wrote of darling Mamma. I am sorry to have to tell you that Mamma suffered a very great deal during the last weeks of her life on earth—so much that all those who loved her dearly were glad when her spirit was free from

the poor sick & tired body.

She thought much, so much, of her little boy & girl & when you are both a little older & ask me about it I shall tell you many of the things she said.

You will always be glad to think, my darlings, that you wrote regularly to her all the last months of her life when she was separated from you. She always was so glad to get your letters & always so glad that you were happy & having such a pleasant home with dear Mrs. Millitten. Mamma was much more comfortable in Yuma than she had been anywhere since I came to her & we were glad every day that we had gone there.



I need hardly write you what above all else was the wish of Papa's & Mamma's heart for the son & daughter who were dearer to them than all the world besides. I cannot better say it than in the words you used to say every day & which they liked to hear you repeat.

"Be obedient Be true Be gentle, Be pure, Be strong".

Auntie has no other wish for you than that you should grow up in the spirit of your father & mother.

Miss Deaton writes me from Japan that she hopes you will not forget her & that she will always remember & want to help you for Mamma's sake who helped her

so much & whom she so dearly loved. I hope you can feel that Papa & Mamma love you no less now than when you could see & talk with them.

I know my precious one that you will be busy in your new home & that now your first care must be for those living friends Dr. Rainier & Miss Sinclair who are to be to you in Mamma's & Papa's place but I want you sometimes to write to your old Aunty who will always remember & care for you wherever you are or whatever you do & become.

Lovingly,
Aunty.

Estate of H. H. Straight
1886

**PROBATE COURT OF COOK COUNTY.**

ESTATE OF

Henry H Straight

BOND OF

Joseph R Putnam

*Administrator de bonis non.*
WITH THE WILL ANNEXED.

$ 600 D.

*Sureties.*

Filed ..... A. D. 188

..... Clerk

Recorded in Probate Documentary Records of Bonds and Letters of Administrators de bonis non, with Will annexed,

Book ..... Page .....

*Clerk.*

Wm Bacon
atty for Adm'r

STATE OF ILLINOIS. } ss.
COOK COUNTY.

I, THOMAS W. SENNOTT, Clerk of the Probate Court of Cook County, in the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that Joseph R Putnam Seth M Dunning Thos. M. Jimmerson

who are each personally known to me to be the same persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered said instrument, as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Probate Court, at my office in the City of Chicago, in said County, this 30th day of June A. D. 1890

Thos W Sennott
*Clerk of the Probate Court.*

[6-30-90]

PROBATE COURT OF COOK COUNTY—BOND OF ADMINISTRATOR DE BONIS NON WITH THE WILL ANNEXED.

**Know all Men by these Presents,** THAT WE Joseph R. Putnam, Seth M. Dunning and Benjamin W. Thomas

of the County of Cook and State of Illinois, are held and firmly bound unto the people of the State of Illinois, in the penal sum of Six Hundred Dollars, current money of the United States, which payment well and truly to be made and performed, we and each of us bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly, severally and firmly by these presents:

WITNESS our hands and seals this 30th day of June 1890

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, That if the above bounden Joseph R. Putnam

Administrator de bonis non with the will annexed of Henry H. Straight

deceased, do make, or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits, lands, tenements and hereditaments, and the rents and profits issuing out of the same, of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or knowledge of the said Joseph R. Putnam or into the possession of any other person for him and the same so made do exhibit in the Probate Court for said County of Cook, as required by law; and also make and render a fair and just account of his actings and doings, as such Administrator de bonis non with the will annexed to said Court, when thereunto lawfully required, and do well and truly fulfill the duties enjoined on him in and by the said will, and shall moreover pay and deliver to the persons entitled thereto, all the legacies and bequests contained in said will, so far as the estate of the said testator will thereunto extend, according to the value thereof, and as the law shall charge him and shall in general do all other acts which may, from time to time, be required of him by law, then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Joseph R. Putnam (SEAL)

Residence 4810 Kenwood Ave

Seth M. Dunning (SEAL) $20,000.00

Residence 5565 Wentworth Ave

Benjamin W. Thomas (SEAL) $10000.00

Residence No 1872 Indiana Ave

N. B.—First name of principal and surety must be written in full in bond and signature, and bond must be filled up without interlineation or erasure, and residence of principal and surety must be given.

[7-10-94]

# The People of the State of New York:

By the Grace of God Free and Independent.

To Martha L. Loveland, Family town
Marius L. Loveland, " "

Willard H. Straight, Oswego N.Y.
Hazel Straight, " "

Mary V. L. Banner, Palo Alto Cal.
Earl Banner, " "

persons interested in the estate of Mary V. Lee late of the City of Oswego in the county of Oswego, deceased, Send Greeting.

WHEREAS, Elvira Rainier of the City of Oswego, in the county of Oswego, has lately made application to our Surrogate of the county of Oswego, for the final judicial settlement of her accounts as Executrix of said Mary V. Lee deceased; therefore, you, and each of you are hereby cited and required personally to be and appear before our Surrogate of the county of Oswego, at the law office of J. E. & L. W. Churchill in the City of Oswego, in said county of Oswego, on the 28th day of August, 189½, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, then and there to attend the final judicial settlement of the account of the proceedings of Elvira Rainier as Executrix of said deceased.

And if any of the persons interested be under the age of twenty-one years, they are required to appear by their guardian, if they have one, or, if they have none, that they appear and apply for one to be appointed, or, in event of their neglect or failure to do so, a guardian will be appointed by the Surrogate to represent and act for them in the proceedings.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused the seal of our said Surrogate's Court, to be hereto affixed. Witness, FRANCIS DAVID, Surrogate of said county, at the village of Phoenix, in said county, the 11th day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety June

[L. S.]

J. N. Beckwith
Clerk of the Surrogate's Court.

I, the subscriber, one of the above named persons, and one of the persons interested in the estate of the deceased person above mentioned, do hereby admit due legal and personal service on me of the above citation and notice at and as of the date of said citation.

000079

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
COUNTY OF OSWEGO. } ss.

..... of the ..... of

..... in said county, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he is upwards of 21 years of age; and deponent further says: That he is well acquainted with .....

.....

heirs named in the within citation, and with the manner and style of handwriting of each one of said persons, having often seen each one of them write; and deponent further says that the signatures of said heirs, as the same appear signed to the admission of service on the within citation, are true and genuine handwriting and signatures of said heirs and each one of them respectively.

Sworn to before me this ..... }
day of ....., 189 } .....

.....

.....

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
COUNTY OF OSWEGO. } ss.

..... of the ..... of

....., in said county, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he is upwards of 21 years of age; and deponent further says: That he personally served the within citation on each one of the hereinafter named persons by handing to and leaving with each one of them a true copy of the same, at the time and place set opposite the names of said persons respectively; and deponent further says that he personally knows the persons so served to be the same persons mentioned and described in said citation by the names aforesaid, and to whom the same was directed.

| Name. | Date of Service. | Place of Service. |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Sworn to before me this ..... }
day of ....., 189 } .....

.....

.....

**Oswego County Surrogate's Court.**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FINAL JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF

Mary R. Lee

..... Deceased.

## CITATION TO FINAL JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT.

**Directions for Service.**

1—On all persons residing in the County and adjoining counties, personally, by delivering a copy at least ten days before return day, or leave at residence with some person of suitable age.

2—On such as reside in some other county in the State, in the same manner, at least fifteen days before return day.

3—On such as reside out of the State an order of publication will be necessary.

4—If any heirs are minors, serve in same way on them and also on the father, mother, guardian, or person with whom the minor resides.

5—A sufficient service may be made by procuring and proving the signature of the heirs over 21 years of age, to the admission of service hereon.

6—Have persons making the service make affidavit of same.

7—Be sure and have the original citation, bearing the seal of the Surrogate, returned with proof of service, on or before the day of hearing.

PERSONS CITED ARE NOT OBLIGED TO APPEAR.

Oswego N.Y.
May 6, 1894

Dear Auntie Williams

How are you? I hope you are well. I am, but Hazel has a sore throat.

Its pretty hot here to day. I am having a good time now a days. Are you?

I'm patiently waiting for school to decamp.

Hazel and I have a wheel now its a good one.

At present I'm in the stamp business and I made quite a little last week.

I am the Treasurer of the Junior Christian Endeavor Society.

I must close now

Goodby

Willard.

---

14/3/184


JOHN O. DRESSER, MANAGING EDITOR.
J. ANDRE SMITH, ARTISTIC EDITOR.
HAROLD B. PLUMB, BUSINESS MANAGER.

THE WIDOW.
1900-1901.
ILLUSTRATED. HUMOROUS. BI-WEEKLY.
PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY.


21/4/00

ITHACA, N. Y., Nov. 18th 1900.

Prof Goldwin Smith
Toronto
Canada

Dear Sir.

It seems rather bookish that I should give thanks and make a request at the same time and I trust that you will pardon me. I wish to thank you first of all for the letter which we print in the next number of the "Era" and to ask you, if I may, for another contribution. The Era has changed its old form & is now published monthly, as a review, in a measure, of Cornell life and history. Literary excellence is striven for but in a different way from that followed by the old "magazine". Stories and the like are subordinated to articles of more practical interest to Cornellians and especially Cornellians. If you could find time to write some reminiscences of the early days, we should be greatly indebted to you and feel that all alumni & undergraduate alike, would value such a contribution from your pen more highly. Thanking you again and at the same time hoping that you may favor us, I am

Very respectfully yours
Willard D. Straight

110 Edgemere Lane.

809 2d St
Evansville Ind
Jan 14 1901

Willard D Straight Esq

Dear Sir: I must with regret decline to ask Sir Robert Hart to appoint you to a place in the Customs. He appointed a young man very recently on my recommendation and it would not be agreeable to him for me to trial his good nature again so soon.

Yours respectfully
Charles Denby.

My dear Willard.
How much I would give if you could drop into the Home today and receive in person our most heartfelt congratulations on this your twenty first birth day
You are now leaving the first milestone of your life – and very soon you are to step

[1901]

Letter from
Aunt's Dre'

out into the wide world to meet the joys responsibilities and burdens of life. May the kind Father direct all your movements and lead you where you may develop your highest ideals.

My earnest prayer is that you may be a brave strong and noble man - always standing for the right - ready to lend a helping hand to those in need - as others have done for you -

I do trust - you have made some good resolves today which you will keep, among them that you will do business on business principles - entirely - and never live beyond your income at least.

Aunt Laura has written you what she and I have given you, for this twenty first birthday - I trust you will enjoy reading them and will think of your Aunties and the love they have for you whenever you are enjoying Stevenson

Lovingly
Aunties

Jan 31 - 1901
Oswego New York

Oswego N.Y.
January 31st 1901

My dear boy Willard

This is your twenty first birthday - and we are all lamenting that we cannot send you even a line to congratulate you or tell of our plans concerning it. We were to send list of a prospective edit of Stevensons Works, so you could see what they were - and we could complete the number as one as we were able - but you have gone off to enrich some country to spend most forbidding

and there we are. Well! My dear lad I wish you were with us to day and most heartily. When your letter came I thought it would tell us you were coming - & was much disappointed. So I can only wish the very best for you future life - be it long or short - that it may be a noble one filled with kind acts - pure thoughts and brave deeds well done. Having these, what can we ask for you. You have been much on my mind of late - and I would like to think you would always be, the true loving boy you are to day. Dear Auntie Dee and Hazel will speak for themselves! and now what would you like? Shall we send the books or keep them here until you come home? Please let me know as I may act accordingly. Mrs Reid will make a charming chaperone for Retta and Adelaide and they will all have a charming time I am sure. I would send this to Buffalo but cannot make out your address. It is too bad. It makes me smile to think of Carey wanting you again when he was so disagreeable to you. It only goes to show the merit of your work.

I wrote you on Monday thanking you for the tea, which was most thoughtful of you to send.
We have plenty of grip, vaccination, and enough air time, but we manage to keep well - busy & active. You will doubtless have visited the Pan American building ere. I wish I had been with you. I do think you are a much luckier lad the way you get about this country - take it I also imagine it is only a beginning of the end. With best wishes, dearest love - and earnestly trusting you may always be true to yourself and the dear Father of all -

Most lovingly
Aunt Laura.

[2-2-01]

Saturday [Oswego, N.Y.] P9

[2 Edgemore Lane] Ithaca

Dear Willard

You wrote from Buffalo came this morning. You are right. I do regret very much that anything should occur as it has to spoil in a way a certain good fellowship between we both

shared. However - it's over
now and we'll try to forget
it - won't we? Of course -
if my letters have ceased to
be of any value to you - it is
best for me to have them at
present. I can think of nothing
I ever wrote you which I regret
except when we had been
numerous - too numerous - except

and said particularly beastly things.
But it's much fairer - I guess - to
return them to me. I wish we might
shake hands - then - I should feel
that everything was o.k. When you
greet Adelaide next week - give
her a good hard grip and pretend
it is I. If my memory serves me
rightly you took the pict about
this time last year saying you had
passed your 21st birthday. So now
let me give you my most heartfelt
wishes for this 21st. Hope in
the next 21 years you will have
every happiness and success you deserve
- which same are many. And I also
hope that during these years to come - I
may be - Your faithful friend. Elsie.

To remain sealed until
ordered to (release yet the
) to the administration and from
stamed here.
W. S. Straight
Feb. 30 1901.

copy
(Schurman letterbook page 230)

Feb. 8, 1901

To whom it may concern:

It gives me pleasure to certify to the standing and reputation of Mr. Willard Dickerman Straight, who will receive, barring unforeseen circumstances, the degree of Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University in June, 1901.

Mr. Straight entered the University in the course in Architecture, September 1897, by taking the entrance examinations in all subjects required for admission to that course. He passed them all with very satisfactory marks.

His work during the four years of his college course has been well done and consisted of courses in architecture required for the degree of B. Arch. at Cornell University.

In addition to his University work Mr. Straight has been very prominent in student affairs and is at the present time on the editorial staff of the Cornell Era, a monthly publication published by the students of the University.

He is pleasing in manner and has won the respect of all his associates and instructors, and I heartily recommend him as one worthy of the confidence and esteem of any one desiring his services.

(signed) J. G. Schurman

President

P.S. Your appointment will be notified by telegraph.

Peking
30th April 1901

Dear Mr Straight,

Yesterday I handed your application to Sir Robert Hart along with your letters from the heads of professors. Sir R. received them very good-ably, but said that in the present unsettled state of affairs he's making no new appointments. "In two or three months" he added "we shall know what the powers are going to do with the customs service." I left it in my hands & shall want a good many new men". He gave me to understand that your name would be one of the first to go on his list. He was the more interested in you when I told him I was

education and uncommon energy as shown by her teaching in the public schools of Japan to support her family.

If the clouds clear up and things resume their normal course you may feel pretty certain of appointment. When you come to China perhaps you can bring your Mother with you, though it is not a good place for ladies just now.

If you meet President Raymond or Professor Jenks kindly remember me to them and say that Prince Chian assures me that we shall get our University afloat after the Emperor comes back. Many people doubt whether he will come at all. [sheet has been cut off]

From W.H.P.Martin. Peking 30th April /01.

Dear Mr. Straight:

Yesterday I handed your application to Sir Robert Hart along with your letters from the Kindest of [President and] Professors. Sir R. received them very favorably but said that in the present unsettled state of affairs he is making now new appointments. In two or three months he added we shall know what the Powers are going to do with the Customs Service. If left in my hands I shall want a good many new men. He gave me to understand that your name would be one of the first to go on his list. He was the more interested in you when I told him your [cut off] education and [uncommon] energy, as shown by her teaching in the public schools of Japan to support her family.

If the clouds clear up, and things resume their normal course you may feel pretty certain of appointment. When you come to China perhaps you can bring your Mother with you, though it is not a good place for ladies just now.

If you meet President Raymond or Professor Jenks kindly remember me to them and say that Prince Chian [Ching?] assures me that we shall get our University afloat after the Emperor comes back. Many people doubt whether he will come at all.

Unsigned. [signature and portion of letter have been cut off]

P.S. Your appointment will be notified by telegraph.

**********

No. 139.
General.

**Inspectorate General of Customs,**

Peking, 22nd August, 1901.
Shanghai, 2 September,

Sir,

I am instructed by the Inspector General to acquaint you with your appointment to be a Fourth Assistant B. in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs' Service.

Your pay at the rate of one hundred ~ ~ Haikwan Taels monthly will be issued from the day on which you report for orders to the Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai, and the equivalent of One hundred Pounds Sterling will also be then paid to you as an allowance for passage and outfit.

Should circumstances lead you to decline this appointment, I am to request you ~ will ~

Willard D. Straight, Esquire,
110. Edgemore Lane,
Ithaca.
New York State.
U. S. A.

will write to say so, in order that the vacancy may be filled up without delay.—

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. Grauella

Acting Assistant Secretary.

*Mrs. Henry H. Lyman*
*announces the marriage of her daughter*
*Lydia,*
*to*
*Mr. Henry Ellis Sayward,*
*on Wednesday, the second of October,*
*nineteen hundred and one*
*Oswego, New York.*

P.O. Box 122,
Salem, Mass.,
8. October, 1901.

My dear Mr. Straight,

Your letter of 6th inst was received to-day. I was unfortunate in my attempt to find Mr. Dy after he had made an unsuccessful attempt to see me, but he saw Mrs. Spinney and mentioned his friend who had applied for an appointment in the Customs Service. As you wanted an appointment, I congratulate you on getting it, and am sorry that you are in doubt what to do now that you have got it. You ask me for advice as to whether or not you should accept it and also for information regarding the prospects for a young man in the Service. My

My opinion regarding the Service is briefly this: – The Service is a good one which has grown to its present size and influence under Sir Robert Hart's care, the pay is not much at the start but the man who does good work and makes rapid progress in Chinese is almost certain to go on faster than his fellows in the way of promotion if he has no angularities of temper, &c., and for the ranks above the lowest the pay is good, an assistant's position gives him a place in the best society in China, the work is routine work for youngsters and sometimes monotonous, but it is never very hard and can usually be done between 10 & 4, the regular office hours. There seems to be no reason to doubt the permanency of the Service as China agreed when making the Anglo-German Bank loan in '95/6 to continue the Service under present systems till the loan is paid – sometime about 1934 – Its present financial situation makes the foreign inspectorate more necessary than ever. New ports are opened from time to time – when I went out in 1874 there were only 13 treaty ports – now there are 29 places at which we have control. This means a constant growth of the Service, and it must, I think, continue to grow making more places for higher salaried men – You would join, I presume, on HK. Tls 100. = Mex. $150. a month – and would be furnished with quarters – Your necessary expenses would be roughly these: mess (not including wine) $40., boy $7. teacher $10. Club $5. (not including games & refreshments) ~~the~~ laundry $4., incidentals $7. – say $75. a month. Then you might take wine or beer regularly and would have clothes to buy after you had worn out the outfit with which you started so that by living carefully you probably could not save more than $50. probably

lees, a month – or about $25. in our U.S. currency while you were on Tls 100. a month. I may say that very many young fellows save nothing but if a man wishes to save it is always possible to do so even from the start. The climate is as a rule good. There is malaria in a few places but as a rule men whose health breaks down in China are themselves to blame. You might be sent to any one of a dozen or more ports where the foreigners number from a hundred to several thousand as in Shanghai. In such places you would have opportunities for various kinds of recreation – cricket, tennis, boating, riding (involving cost of pony + its keep), shooting, &c. &c. There are places where foreigners are very few and you might find such places very dull – but you might find good shooting, & riding there and would doubtless have tennis, for majority of the communities is generally English

[10-8-01] 2

English and they are keen on sports & exercise as you probably know. Most men who go to China like the life. If one of our men is sent to a poor place, he knows it is for an indefinite period and that he may expect a transfer to another and possibly better one at any time. Promotion is not by seniority – men who simply plod along without any great interest in their work and without making good progress in Chinese go slowly as a rule – while there have been many instances of bright, quick, energetic fellows going on out of turn quite rapidly – a 4th asst. A gets Tls Tls 200. a 3rd asst B. gets Tls 250., a 3rd asst A. get 300., 2nd B 350, 2nd A. 400, 1st B. Tls 450, 1st A Tls 500., a Deputy Commr Tls 600 a junior Commissioner Tls 800. and senior Commr Tls 1,000 and Tls 1250. a month. There are senior assistants who have never been

in charge of a post or hold any acting appointments of any sort and on the other hand junior asst. (4th A, 3rd B + A, &c.) have been in charge of posts and been acting as Deputy Commrs. A mixed nationality sometimes helps him and some men really seems to have luck, but as a rule good, hard, conscientious work and good conduct count in our Service, as in most undertakings in life. – The above is a pretty fair statement with regard to the Service, I think. Now as to whether you should go in for it or not, I regret that I cannot advise you. If I knew you, your health, habits, tastes, family ties, disposition, &c., I might possibly say something of value to you, but I cannot venture to advise a stranger on a step that will affect his whole life. For instance if you want to accumulate money quickly, it can't well be done in the Customs Service but if you are careful from the start, your annual savings, small at first, and the allowance of a year's pay which is reserved to every one of us after every seven years service should amount to sufficient to enable you to retire before you are an old man. Again if you are engaged to be married now, you would have a long wait of 7 or 8 years before going home on leave, or if you married before you might cripple your career, as a married man is not available for many posts carrying acting pay with them to which a bachelor "flying light" can be sent. – In return for a wide knowledge of the world and of many men and people which you would acquire in living abroad and in travelling to from China, you pay something in getting out of touch with home + friends and

and finding yourself without a place in any community here such as any college man and good citizen might hope to hold if he remained & worked in his own country. But it is useless to continue for you must see what I mean and that I should be talking in the dark to advise you as absolute strangers on such a momentous step. Personally I may say that I have enjoyed my life in China throughout and so has Mrs. Spurrier except when we were attacked by the mob in Mengtze and burned out of house & home, but, if you should go to China, you will meet many men who grumble and growl at their treatment in the Service. On one point I do not hesitate to advise you – if you decide to go, go at once, for the sooner you get at it, the sooner you will get through the worst part on the smallest pay, and the younger you are when you begin to study Chinese the better. If you should decide to accept the appointment and go at once, I would be very glad to have you go out with us – but I am not sure that you understand that we are going out by way of England and the Suez Canal. We sail from Boston on 23rd inst. by the "Devonian" of the Leyland line. This gives us ten days in London and ten days in Paris, and we intend to take the North German Lloyd boat – the "Prinz Heinrich" at Genoa 26. Nov, which is due in Hong 24. December. This will be a pleasant trip probably and more agreeable than crossing the Pacific in December but it costs considerably more than the trip out to Shanghai via Frisco. If you decide to go and prefer the European route, and could be ready by 23rd

you could get passage by the "Devonian" from Boston, but in order to get passage by the "Prinz Henrich" from Genoa, it would be advisable to get Oelrichs & Co. Newyork Agents of N. G. Lloyds to try to secure you a berth by cable, as the Agents wrote me from London 25. Sept. that they expected a full steamer. If you want to go with us and could not be ready for 23rd, you could take a boat from Newyork later and overtake us in London or Paris.

You can get passage from Newyork to London by "Grosser Kurfurst" due in Southampton 16. Nov for $55. (see folder enclosed) - Or if you know London & Paris and prefer to go straight to Genoa, you could take the "Columbia" Nov. 9 - due 21. Nov at Genoa but that would give you five days in Genoa & one is usually enough for the average tourist - Whatever your decision may be, I hope you will never regret it - If you decide to join us (i.e. the Cushings) whether you go out with us or by Freiss, I shall be glad to answer any questions you may ask regarding clothing, &c. &c. &c. If you should go to London with us, you would have time to buy, and could buy cheaper, than at home, clothing, &c.

I have written very hurriedly but hope you will be able to make it out.

Yours very truly

W. F. Springer

JESSE H. WILSON,
Attorney at Law,
EQUITY BLDG., 317-319 FOUR-AND-A-HALF ST.
1325 32d STREET N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Oct. 8, 1901

Dear Izzy,—

You was mistaken. There is no immediate prospect of my coming to Ithaca, much as I would like to. I am tied down working deeds and other like engagements up matters here in the office and ~~and~~ fighting sleep at law lectures.

So you are appointed to the Imperial Maritime Customs? Sounds awfully grand doesn't it? All right, my boy, you go. Take an unlimited return trip ticket with you, and above all, when you receive your passage money ($100) salt it away in a bank and go to prison for debt before you touch it.

That little clause about refunding passage money in case of resignation before the expiration of five (5) years, is the soft padded pair of handcuffs which the Imperial Maritime Customs

slips upon to meet appointments. I mean, as one of the cleverest men now in China, a gentleman who was forced out of the service because he had a falling-out with a lady of whom Sir Robert Hart was very fond, said in his letter to a Mr. Dent B in the "Rotten".

"As your chances of saving that amount of money out of your salary within five years are just about as good as your chances of being fit for anything else on God's green earth, after five years, you might as well make up your mind that China is your long home."

You may object, that I take the position that you will necessarily want to get out. My dear Willard I have entirely too good opinion of you to think anything else. You are not an Englishman who has failed for the Consular, the Indian Civil the Army or the Navy and is to begin to study a profession who can't get anything to do at home. He says

[10-8-01]

JESSE H. WILSON,
Attorney at Law,
EQUITY BLDG., 317-319 FOUR-AND-A-HALF ST.
1325 320 STREET N. W.

2

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

and in fact don't care anything about being there in spite of all his talk about "Ours". You are not a thrifty, sober, sided German able and willing to make your living out of anything and get rich on a salary which ~~barely~~ barely supports an Englishman and want long on American luxuries, much less necessities; you are not a swindling little Frenchman, or Belgian, or Italian or Austrian with perhaps a title and no brains to make a living unless some one puts him in a "service" and guides his hand, who enjoys being next in prestige to the diplomatic Corps, dancing, and treating the drunk Navy with an exaggerated assumption of equal position; you're not the sort of American pictured in the English "Society" papers, so why in Hell do you want to join the Imperial Maritime Jimmy Rot Customs?

I don't know what you are interesting in at Ithaca. At any rate it is something you

had to learn to do. I don't know what your future career might be. It'll be something that requires the use of brains. There's a sign over the door of the Custom House "All ye who enter here leave Brains behind." Tubby Jones, one of the brightest Bushmen ever inveigled into the Customs, and kept there by the necessity of supporting his mother & sister, a stutterer and a wit, tells this story — Y'know Kn-Knox the other d-d-day, a c-ch-chap g-got si-s-somethin' the matter with his b-b-br-brains, and the d-doctors tools 'em out to f-f-fix 'em an' told the chap to c-c-come back for 'em in a f-few days. The d-doctors f-fixed 'em all right, but the c-chap did'nt come back, and f-f-finally the doctor m-m-met him on the street and asked why he d-did-didn't come after his br-brains, and the chap s-said 'Ah I'm in the C-C-Customs now an' I d-dont n-need 'em!'"

You will kindly notice that all my insinuating is against the Customs.

[10-8-01]

JESSE H. WILSON,
Attorney at Law,
EQUITY BLDG., 317-319 FOUR-AND-A-HALF ST.
1325 32d STREET N. W.

3

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

not against the East. I would like nothing better than some position in the East where I was would be doing something worth while — But you are not apt to find anybody in the East who wants you so badly that they will give up five hundred beans to get you out of the Customs and then pay you a salary. Jennie Palen had an offer of a salary slightly better than she and he got from the Customs but couldn't accept. Do you think he is still in the Customs because he likes it?

My dear Troy, you won't hesitate a long time before you bind yourself out for five years to do work you could have done ten years ago just about as well as now and which you will do-seeing Blank 2nd Cent A, just across the desk is still doing.

I'd like very much to talk this whole matter over with you and hope you can come down and put up with me for a few days. I'm afraid the Gov. will not even consider any immediate move on my part but I'll try and come and talk it over with you.

Yours Jesse H. Wilson.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

October 16th 1901.

My dear Professor Stephens

I have your kind letter of the 6th, for which please accept my best thanks.

My son Charles has written some details of the journey across the Continent in which I am figure very prominently as his guide, philosopher and friend! It is really very good of you to take so much pains on behalf of the young man.

I will set to work directly my present rush of affairs is over to write your friend Mr Straight some letters of introduction to people in China who may be of service to him. Meanwhile in great haste but with warm regards

Yours truly

Alex Fryer

To
Professor Henry Morse Stephens
Ithaca N.Y.

---

**The Philadelphia Press.**

WASHINGTON BUREAU: 1403 F ST.

*Washington, D. C.*, Oct. 23, 1901.

My dear Mr. Straight:- [110 Edgemere Lane]

Your letter, with enclosure, written in Oswego, is before me. I was very much interested in what Mr. Spinney had to say of the service in China. I think he is wise in not offering you advice in the matter, and you would probably be disappointed if you did not go. But I do not agree with you as to the fine chance it offers as I see nothing in it except a salaried position for the rest of your life, and removal far away from all home associations. On the other hand it may prove a good thing for you. As he says, it depends much upon the person. Still, you are not obliged to stay if you do not want to.

I shall be glad to do anything I can for you. I do not know anybody on either Harpers or Colliers Weekly and it strikes me that it would be a better plan to get some kind of a general letter from Cornell people which you could use in such cases where you have no personal letters of introduction. So far as "The Press" is concerned, of course, I can introduce you all right there, but I fancy in papers of that kind they would ~~know~~ do no more than agree to pay for such matter as they might use. I shall be glad to see you when you come to Washington. I am in my office all the afternoon.

Very truly yours,

E J Gibson

I return Mr Spinney's letter.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Oct 26th 1901

My dear Professor Stephens:-

During the confusion attendant upon house moving your kind letter has been mislaid before those letters of introduction have been written for your protege Mr. Straight. For this carelessness I am very sorry. I cannot remember the Christian name. Enclosed however are some introductions that may serve his purpose.

That Customs service is one of the best in the world, and I am sure Mr Straight will not have cause to regret his going to China. A graduate from this University, Mr Geo. Bretton is just leaving on the same errand via Vancouver.

Charles writes cheerfully & hopefully of his prospects at Harvard. With very kind regards

Yours truly
John Fryer

To
Prof. Henry Morse Stephens.

Form No. 44.

**NIGHT MESSAGE**
**THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH**
INCORPORATED
**21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL T**

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by ...
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not ho... in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Night Messages**, sent at reduced rates, beyond a sum equal to ten times the amount paid ... case when the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.
This is an **UNREPEATED NIGHT MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.
THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

1150 Pm

| NUMBER | SENT BY | REC'D BY | CHECK |
|---|---|---|---|
| 93 | Ng | Rm | 10 Paid Wite |

**RECEIVED** at 28 HUDSON STREET, HOBOKEN, N. J. Nov 8 1901

Dated Erie Pa 8

To Willard D. Straight
SS Columbia, Hoboken N.J.

Just a wishing you all
Kinds of success and happiness.
G P R

To our dear Willard

To be opened Christmas
1901

A very happy Christmas
time to our dear Boy to
whom for the past twelve
years we have tried hard
to fill the void of a loving
Father and Mother gone.
How well we have succeeded
possibly he will learn to
know during the years
of seperation which must
now follow.
Certainly few boys have had
more constant loving thought
from an own Mother.

As many Mothers are proud of their Son's achievements, and more anxious that he should prove himself a noble pure and upright-man. rendering to God and man the first he is capable.

And I have faith to believe that he will.

My dear boy when you handle this Token, think of the Mother who with yearns for her boy and whose prayers will ever follow him. while life is spared her.

And I hope he may ever keep a warm place in his heart for the dear old home and those who are left behind.

It cannot but be a sad Christmas time without our dear lad.

Lovingly Aunt

Dec 30 1901

A very happy Christmas tend to our dear Boy to whom for the past twelve years we have tried hard to fill the void of a loving Father and Mother gone.

How well we have succeeded possibly he will learn to know during these years of seperation which must now follow.

Certainly few boys have had more constant loving

thought from our Mother.

As many Mothers more proud of their Consecrations, and more anxious that he should prove himself a noble pure and upright man, rendering to God and man the best he is capable

My dear boy when you handle this little token think of the Mother love which yearns for her boy and whose prayers will ever follow him. And ever keep a warm place in your heart for the dear old home and the loved ones left behind.

It cannot be a sad Christmas time without our dear lad.

Lovingly Auntie.

Enclose in a little token and put into his clever trunk to be opened Xmas. morn.

Written Dec 31 1901

W. H. Wilkinson Esq
H. B. M's Consular Service
China

By kindness of Mr. W. D. Straight.

Cornell University
Ithaca
New York
U.S.A.
3 November 1901.

My dear Wilkinson,

I wonder whether you will recollect the signature at the end of this letter. You and I were at Balliol together and since I remember you so well, you may remember me. I hope so, for I want you for auld lang syne to do me a kindness.

While you have been making your way, as I know from such official publications as the Foreign Office List, have been making your way up the ladder of the Consular Service in China I have been, after perpetrating various books

of ports, teaching history in an American university. One of my dearest young friends and pupils, Mr. W. D. Straight, has received an appointment in the Chinese Customs service, and is just starting to take up his work. Now I know China is a big country, but it may be that some time Mr. Straight and yourself may find yourselves in the same place. If so I have asked him to call on you and deliver this letter. I shall take it as the very greatest kindness, if you will receive him, and I feel sure that you will like him and esteem him for his own sake.

It may be that you will be interested to hear something of the later life and work of an old friend, namely,

Yours very sincerely,

H. Morse Stephens

11-7-01

Copy of my letter to my dear Boy - Sent to the Steamer Columbia Nov 9th 1901

[11-7-01]

My dear dear Boy

I come to you with my greeting as you speed on the water which bears you away for your life work. I trust none of the tears will creep into this letter, which made your last talking of home so hard for you — Never before in my life did I want to be brave and strong as my dear Boy was — and could not. But that part — he will have to forgive and forget

And believe me Willard it is not lack of faith in you or appreciation of the great opportunity you have won from your life — and which comes to but few in a life time.

I did not — for a moment wish to hold my boy back — I would not

[2] [11-7-01]

if I could — as what it might —

But oh if it could have come a little later after a few more years of experience and better understood ~~better what all that~~ life means — It seems as if it would have been easier —

Then again the distance appalled me. Should my boy be ill or in any way or at any time need me — I could not get to him. And so only the dark side would keep constantly coming through my mind. and would hold down —

~~But I trust~~ But by the time you are reading this I trust that the sunshine of my better self will will have gained the victory. and I will be thinking of all the grand thing which you are to accomplish. and the broad life you are to live. And how proud we shall be to learn of each successful step.

I am sure it will be success

[3]

in its broadest sense — if your life is spared.

I do believe in my boy. although I fear he does think I always do. and perhaps. just at so — for I do not express my ~~hur~~ self easily but blundering le

My words of condolence warning was because I could not endure to see ~~you~~ burn himself.

But deep down in my heart I have always had faith in you. and I think never more than now. and so I leave you in the loving Father hand (who you call fate) who has guided you through all these years and loves you even better than I. your adopted Mother In these years of separation women there is no earthly love more enduring — or self sacrificing than a Mother and that I have given you the best — I was ~~capable of~~ in me.

I hope the men for the training for no harm — and that you couple of all my ill —

Could you Lew know. what a comfort [+]
it was to me. that you stayed and
had the good night sleep - and lost
something of the tired look from
your face. I am sure. you would
thought it paid.

I hope your friend are with you
at the Lake - and you have a good
send off -. I was there in spirit
I assure you.

I trust you will not suffer from
seasickness - long - and that the
entire journey. will prove a constant
delight also you will enter upon
your work. with the same enthusiasm
you had in anticipation

I shall imagine you on deck. with
Quiter half to quiet from the wild
rush of the past few weeks.

And now may God richest blessing
constantly attend you.

Lovingly Aunt

Nov. 7-1901

Cayuga. Nov. 16. 1901

My dear Boy.

One week today since my dear
last sailed - Oh how much I would give
to know what the week had brought to him.
I trust not even seasickness - Still I
fear he must have had some for he looked
so worn and tired to begin such a journey.

Then we have had such severe storms
then during the week I could not help thinking
of my lad protected. and we will only hope
that it did not reach him. making a stormy
passage. But by the time you are reading
this. it will be a thing of the past. and
I hope we shall have had word from
Genoa. telling us all about it. and the many
nice people you met and the good times
you had with them.

I started for home monday reaching
there at six p.m. and found your dear
letter to welcome me. You can never know
what a comfort - your dear words were
and are to me. and how they help me to
take up my life work and go on.
I have read them over every time lonely
and shall many many times during this
separation. which will not seem quite
so long. since I know my dear boy comes
one in pattern, for the great Master Craftsman
[illegible] them.

Then Tuesday morning we were delighted to get your steamer letter and I hope our steamer letter did you as much good as yours did us. Wednesday eve. Mr. Perry came in and we talked much about our dear lad. and what a little girl he had before him. She said Reta and the other girls send you steamer letter so I think you must have had some reading on the first part of the journey. Dales had a letter from Mrs Greenhow. and said my letter reached her in time so she sent a note for the steamer.

Hazel has been taken down with Tonsilitis since I returned home, and had to go to the Infirmary - she is much better. but should you not get word from her as soon as you arrive in S. you will understand she did not get out soon enough to catch the first ~~steamer~~ mail. Tuesday our Boy is within three days of Genoa. I do wonder if he is glad, or do he having such a good time would like to continue. I, I do trust - nothing will interfere with. with your meeting your travelling companion before you start - for your next final week - trip.

I do trust you will have had a lovely time in France and if you took the tramp you thought of doing - you must have enjoyed it very much. and perhaps made some nice sketches. How I would enjoy seeing them.

Reta tells me of a very sad death of one of your Cornell friends - Seeger I understood the name. she thought you knew he was ill. he died of blood poisoning - from scratching his face with a pin. Reta wrote me to send her love. she is quite broken up over going away so far. If all goes well tomorrow you land at Genoa and I hope letter will be on the road. homeward soon.

Hazel has been shut in all this week and fear she will not be able to get a letter off to you. although she hope to be out by the twenty first. She is out and at work again.

I have not seen the young people as have no news to write of them but keep sure. they will tell it all for themselves

While I've been enjoying the warm weather. or on
snow bounds. or dined in Boston. Enough to many
sleighs turn out.

Mr. & Mrs. Sloan have returned and he is much improved in
health: Mr. Mallison died on Sunday and Anna Lewis is at
his funeral. now. Now dear just as soon as you can settle
in your new home - write us all about you in detail. as
that - we may think of you. definately all through this
long journey I have tried to follow - you - in spirit you
on my first - thought - on a train and the last when
I go to sleep. But it all seems so vague and far away.
and yet already China begins to be nearer to me than
it ever did before. When this reaches you I imagine you are
bigger for work once more. Certainly this long journey
has given you a rest. which you have had - but generally
I am sure it has done you much good.
I must close this today. I expect you good bye for this time
Nov 21-1901 with heaps of love Annie

Nov. 25th 1901.



CÈNES
Grand Hôtel Isotta
KIENAST, SCHUCANI & C.



My dear Professor -

Returning from Florence last night I & the wife escaped to help you thru this morning - a most Christian hour. I wonder if we the courage - this morning and found that Mr. Shimeyhed arrived - Today I have been hunting about Genoa with the and the wife - and have found them charming people. He is a man I shd say of about forty - like a nice - but exceedingly polite and attentive - short - with a sandy moustache and bald - of the general type. Mrs Shimey is quite delightful & really and attractive.

The afternoon we went up the Riviera and after that Mr Shimey



and I went out for a walk to the Campo Santo - and - amused in getting lost - - then retrace the old walk - and had to climb around on jutting bastions and through holes - until finally found ourselves - see more - scrambled at great length about the Serpentine and the temptation of climbing - then met a very good young man who knew China - and they have all jumped that temptation thru into me - for all it's worth - thinking they think I'm a high roller - a western tycoon doing a in general humbug I hate - humbug.

It seems that Mr. Shimey - a have been man at Harvard, got notes and was "broke". The Cardinal seemed attractive and he went out some twenty seven years ago - and has now been - a Commissioner for some years.

Nov 25, 1901

3

The men - as the star - are much the same - whether they work and rise with the pressure - we cannot tell - we can only hope for good luck. The whole business is in a transition to some ~~[illegible]~~. There are now about five American Commissioners - all of them for a good many years standing and likely to drop out within the next decade. Then there are the forgotten - the men who went out with Wheaton Pratt - and we who go out this year. There are only a few men in between - and none of them, Mr. Shumway tells me, are men who have shown any particular promise or ability - so that the new blood is likely to be thrown into the gap. The older men have. It seems to be a case of working like the very devil for three or four years at chance and the routine of the Customs - making friends - something comes Mr Shumway says - a good berth - and a small time. And just changing right as to see the time. The best posts seem to be the smaller ones - where there is a chance to learn the whole routine of an office - not to be placed at a desk in Shanghai to have for some particular point - or order. And over and above all things we must learn Chinese and learn it thoroughly. He has had the temptations out. As you did - and the hardships. And a man is mighty likely business - and ordinarily a case where a man can make a living. I'm thoroughly glad that I came - and am on the way, for the very fact that it is dangerous and that other men have fallen by the wayside puts me where I can find myself. And if I am worth while - and clean and strong - I can win it - and if I'm not - worth a hoot - I'll confess out and I'll leave the salt water - a substitute for hanging

Nov 25, 1901





myself to what I am - good-hearted indifference, and that will be either - a Bloomie or an awful disappointment - but finish anyhow. Where are those years had been merely preparation and training - I don't see likely - but I'm going to try to do that very, very difficult thing - the most difficult of all things - to live for that around expectations of my friends - if we can do that - the end is dull and running on - aren't I not right?

This evening in the Smoking room. Mr. Stanney and a friend, an English tea merchant from Amoy - were talking of China - Hong Kong - Tuchow - Shanghai. of Rain - and cholera and foot-bale - of shooting and boating - of Cochin and Tea - and double of bubble - 80 - and 90. in '85 or 80 and 90 in '90. and there I was trying to



think in a new life, with a most filthy cold in my head - feeling like a clipping from clipping - It came on me with a rush of a shiver that I was part of a great machine, of a service and was coming my little part - he a little cog in a great wheel of government. It was quite different from anything else I've experienced - it was the beginning of a new life - "the first - fresh rifle of being" - a young man fresh recruit sent in the cold, big and hard - of I'm not a field, ploughed for cultivation. then now was a dull brown blade in base. I him heard talk of the U.S. and how he like a song and a bit of a story - a place where the Savage Club may be a Royal Road to Favor - of men in the culture and art of it: just think of what a full change I'll be when I reach Shanghai!

There is of course no earthly sense of my trying to write you - quite edge descriptions of sunny Italy or of life on the ocean wave.

Nov. 25, 1901



that all an open book to you - or would it has been a most fascinating kaleidoscope to me. Gibraltar, with its Moors - Mulsamy and Arthur and Gleneyd - and algiers and Nelles and Florence and Genoa. I have been fortunate. but I want to see the East - last & Suez. now that I need of that, that, like the poor, is always with us. but I am anxious - anxious as Kim was, to get into my game - and play the little game of a fourth a ~~random~~ B.. ~~was~~ me hundred hearts ~~that~~ her memory.

The news of the Columbia game reached me in Naples - and you may believe ~~that~~ I was thoroughly and supremely happy over it - and now for Pennsylvania! But it's like to see ~~that~~ game! my thoughts have been with you all - in ~~Ithaca~~ - on the fields and in Cornell of a Thursday and a Tuesday night and in between and between. underneath the world spread on the other side of the atlantic. I am looking forward to a cable at Port Said. with good news and big news - Please give my best love to Barbara and remember me to the Thursday nighters - with a great deal of regard - I am -

Very respectfully yours.
Willard S. Straight.

You ~~know~~ on the subject, meanest, miserable looking lot I am left to and during the rest of my life - Such a country - such a people - You dont had seem to even care pretty well -

a great crowd of them came aboard at Aden. Pilgrims bound homewards - and Aden merchants. Old men - and boys - middle aged men and babys. and hidden in one corner behind a stretched sail. some women and girls - they sleep and load - cook and eat - gamble and pray. all in top of the great hatch - and wash themselves and their dishes in the scuppers. There are and also her hearts measure. as we can judge from these whole humans - and we descendant of the Prophet Mahomet - the green indicate. the rest are of the common herd. Early in the morning they hold their individual prayer - and then about four in the afternoon the game begins again - first we and then another

DAMPFER „PRINZ HEINRICH"
The Indian Ocean -
Dec. 15th 1901.

My dear Professor.

When at Aden I had quite intended to write you a postal - with - "Aden ist ein barrich stone". but was unable to find any one among the disorderly crowd of sailors who came aboard. who could sell me a card. That is the first time since I left New York. that the chance has come to any boat with out having a great crowd to assist crowding about with - "P.S. card. mister".

But now that we are here

in the Indian Ocean. I can easily afforcible that race where "the Virgin Ocean sets an' smiles". for I cant remember having ever had such a wonderful day before. I have been getting up regularly about half past six - to get my exercise before my "bakee" but today. I made a great splurge and managed to look up serenely at six. and I shall never forget the wonderful beauty of the early morning - with a sea of brunette golds. broken only here and there by a purple ripple - and the green tree tops the flying fish made as they skimmed along the surface of the water - the clouds tumbled about in the horizon - their fringed - wispy edges - shining low - their tiny knots and hummocks outlined sharply in glowing pinks and lears against the sky - the green gray of the swamp and the yards and the rectangles as we stood there at the rail and watched it all. the warm breeze flapping our pajamas about our legs - and giving us cool comfort - in all that ruddy wealth of color.

Your Indian loving heart would be delighted with the deck-passengers forward.

Original in private hands.

DAMPFER „PRINZ HEINRICH"

light and shadows of the afternoon sun. and we back into the blue sea - shifting away to the horizon where the clouds are just beginning to color in the sunset - tints. And it is a cosmopolitan scene too - for looking down from the promenade deck - are Eighteen to me Sir Brooke Boothby of the Japanese legation - a young Belgian - Americans - Canadians. Austrians - Dutch - Japanese. Germans - and down in the deck below - watching the service - German stewards - Chinese laundrymen. Singhalese and English & Dutch & French as well. The boat is a veritable teeming Tower of Babel.

get up and look - and blink - and bow and rub their hands - kneeling prostrate and knocking their heads. They do seem to pay any attention to the around them. Their eyes are along the main deck as they watch the other passengers going to and fro. But they mumble in - tile. Then stint is finished. Then we down to gobble again - about half-hour fine - the whole crew. line up being mecca - the rank behind the other - and ahead of all - a solitary figure.

in gorgeous purple - with yellow sash and white turban. They watch him very much as a stranger in an episcopal church watches those about him - They rub their hands as he does, bow when he does - and rise again - the young men gracefully, with a cat-like spring, the older men more sedately and the old graybeards, groaning - and creaking their dry joints as they follow say nor. sometimes gravely. getting up in time to kneel down again. The priest chants the ritual - then drops his hands as a signal. and the rows and pile respond with a long drawn nasal wave. that sounds exceedingly like the "Amen" in an episcopal service.

The whole scene is bedecked with reds and blues, in the blanket strewn on the floor. yellow mats - green clothes - shiny black boxes - the dirty whites - and blacks. and the greens and yellow. and browns in the clothing - the dusky bodies - and the clean cut faces with their white teeth and shiny eyes and jet black hairs and brain - crowned the morning - soft yellow and humble in the

Original in private hands.

DAMPFER „PRINZ HEINRICH"

I have recently finished the two hundred volumes in the Middle Kingdom - and am working in information as best I can - from Mr & Mrs Shimey both. I find the latter very pleasant and very communicative, Mr. Shimey is too fond of his joke to be very serious - he doesn't feel inclined to take much life. though he's always ready to answer questions. I am thoroughly glad I came

in the lounge", tête-a-tête.
coffee - whisky & soda.
There was a woman who might well have been Mrs. Hardcastle - fifty odd age - clean cut face - blood gone white red - all extremely de rigueur.
a hale wife to a husband - he we
comes an ~~Indian~~ Englishman from the steamer - whom I've seen seen with her husband - talking with Sir Brook Bloodily - as usual -
way in the distance - her dying suffering little lady at whisky and soda.
The broad veranda - and beyond the tall bare-legged palms - like an abnormal ballet dancer sans head sans body - sans arms. The rickshaws and the coolies huddled about - and the evening rain falling noiselessly on the sweating earth. Then another rickshaw ride - and a row to the steamer in a crazy narrow craft with an outrigger - the rowers chanting as they slashed her along through the dancing - light craft wash - past loading steamer - and little harbor craft. It was bally - if not India - next door

Colombo - Dec. 16th I could not write adding a line
as I mailed this letter. Now before, I think
how I appreciate Kipling as I do now. Possibly
appreciate is not exactly the right word - understand
might be better. Tonight as we drove along
the Bund - tattooed (with jinrikishas) runners
crying out aloud - hawking rickshaws. and
Tommy's and brown folks - that smell of earth.
that he refers to so often - in the air. Bullock
carts and all the rest. Then in the hotel at
dinner - men and women in evening dress. little
dark men - in grey. touring here and there.
a white hand flaying in the court: after dinner

out - and certainly there
I shall take the East and
stick to the Eastern for the
more I know about the
Service the better I like
the business. and the more
I feel myself in the hands
that I get the opportunity.
With kindest regards to all
Yrs. Robert Gordon - I am believe
me —
Robert Gordon Jones
(signed) Straight

[A.—9]

No. 33.
Special Series.

STAFF.
No. 255.

Inspectorate General of Chinese Maritime Customs.

Shanghai, 3. January, 1902.

SIR,

1.—I HAVE to acquaint you with your appointment as a Fourth Assistant, C. in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs.

2.—You will receive in that capacity a Salary at the rate of Twelve Hundred Haikwan Taels a year, to commence on the 3rd January, 1902 on which day you will be required to begin duty at Nanking. There will be issued to you, with this Letter of Appointment, the sum of * One Hundred Pounds Sterling to provide you with a passage to that place.

£100.

3.—On arrival at Nanking you will report yourself to the Commissioner of Customs, who will give you such directions as he may think necessary.

4.—You will understand that the primary object for which you are appointed is that you should perform such duties as the Inspector General or Commissioners of Customs may allot, whether In-door duties in the Offices or Out-door duties on board Ships or at Jetties and Warehouses; but, in order to merit continued employment or increased pay, as well as to qualify yourself for higher functions, you will require to study the Chinese language, and you will find it to your advantage to fully avail yourself of the opportunities and facilities which residence in China affords to acquire an acquaintance with the literature, manners, and customs of the country.

5.—Before taking up this appointment you will be careful to make yourself fully acquainted with the explanations and conditions below set forth, remembering, however, that the employment of Foreigners by the Chinese Government, although generated by special causes, influenced by peculiar circumstances, and possible only under exceptional conditions, is, generally speaking, on much the same footing, in respect of certainty and duration, as employment in Governmental Departments in other countries—that is to say, depends on the continued existence of the Government, on the continued call for the Department, and on the continued fitness of Employés; and you will take note that, whatever other Service Rules you may be required to

* For men engaged in Europe or America this sum is fixed at £100.

Willard Dickerman Straight, Esquire,
Fourth Assistant, C.,
Chinese Customs Service.

comply with, the fact of your taking up this appointment implies an acknowledgment on your part that you comprehend these explanations and accept the conditions in full :—

1°. The Chinese Maritime Customs Service is a Department of the Civil Service of China; its members—by Treaty exterritorialised, if Foreigners—are employés of the Chinese, and not subordinates of any other, Government.

2°. This Letter of Appointment does not bind either the employé to serve or the employer to employ for any fixed time. It merely admits the employé into the Customs Service, and informs him that, once admitted, he will be treated in accordance with the Rules from time to time drawn up for the regulation of the Service; on the other hand, acceptance of the appointment pledges the employed to accept the Service Rules.

3°. The Inspector General of Customs is a Chinese official, and acts as Agent for and on behalf of the Chinese Government. He is not responsible to employés for any action taken or directed to be taken by the Chinese Government affecting the Service, and is not liable before any Foreign tribunal, or in any degree, for any Salaries or Allowances which the Government may cease to issue, or which he himself, in the free exercise of his official duty, may direct to be withheld.

4°. The Inspector General, acting under the orders or with the sanction of the Chinese Government, is at liberty to make alterations in rates of Pay and Retiring Allowances, and to modify or rescind the General Rules of the Service and Special Regulations concerning Travelling Expenses, Lodging Allowances, and other items of expenditure on which reimbursement is now or may hereafter, for any time, be provided.

5°. The Inspector General is at liberty to discharge any employé who, at the end of the first year, is reported for inefficiency by a Commissioner or other Officer in charge, or who, at the end of the third year, is unable to pass an examination in WADE'S Colloquial Series. An employé discharged at the end of the first year will receive pay to date and an allowance not exceeding Three Hundred Haikwan Taels, to provide a passage home; if discharged at the end of the third year he will receive, in addition, a quarter's salary.

A competent acquaintance with any local dialect will be accepted in lieu of ability to pass an examination in WADE'S Colloquial Series; in the absence of all knowledge of Chinese, exceptionally excellent qualities as an Office man, specially certified to by a Commissioner, may, at the option of the Inspector General, permit continued employment in the lower grades.

6°. The Inspector General is at liberty, with or without cause assigned, to transfer employés from one port to another, to delay promotion, to reduce the promoted to lower ranks, and to dispense with the services of employés. Where services are thus dispensed with there will be issued either three months pay or three months notice, if the employé was engaged elsewhere than in China, and pay to the end of the current quarter only in the case of individuals engaged in China; but such employés will not forfeit any other Allowances to which length of service and the then existing Rules may entitle them.

7°. The Inspector General is at liberty to dismiss summarily and without notice any employé reported by any Commissioner or Officer in charge for Drunkenness, Private Misconduct causing public scandal, or Official Malpractices; employés thus discharged forfeit any and every Allowance to which length of service, or discharge under other circumstances, would have entitled them.

8°. Further, if the employé leaves the Service of his own accord before the expiration of five years actual service in China, he is to refund the amount issued to him as Outfit Allowance (*i.e.*, Passage, § 2).

9°. The employé to whom the present Letter of Appointment is addressed accepts the appointment with a full understanding of the conditions set forth, and undertakes not to hold the Inspector General responsible, either privately or officially, for any disciplinary step by him taken, or for any official action said by him to be taken, in the performance of his duty, or for any action notified by him as emanating from the Chinese Government; and in witness of the same he signs his name in the margin (in duplicate) in the presence of the subscribing witnesses.

*(Signature of Employé)*

Willard D. Straight

*(Signatures of Witnesses)*

Ans Kiener

E. Lebas

*(Place)* Shanghai

*(Date)* 3. January, 1902.



6.—In conclusion, you will clearly understand that retention of this appointment and advancement of any kind will depend, on the one hand, on the requirements of the Service and the vacancies that may occur, and, on the other, on the ability shown by you and the general steadiness of your conduct.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. Bredon

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL

*Inspector General of Chinese Maritime Customs: as Agent for and on behalf of the Chinese Imperial Government.*

5

Shanghai, 3. January, 1902.

I. G.

No. 33

SPECIAL.

Appointment of Mr. Willard Dickerman Straight to a Fourth Assistantship, C.

[circa January 6, 1902]

My dear Pebble -

All your letters I found when I reached Shanghai. I had with the greatest delight imaginable - for while you see you had been heavily from me all the time. I was unable to get a single word from you all the way out. The Shansi arrived in Shanghai about a week late - which was a great nuisance as I had hoped to spend New Years in Shore. But we cannot always do the thing we wish - so I had to spend Holidays at Sea. I thought of you all many times before me - and wondered if you were having a jolly good time at home. I opened the little package and was delighted with the Cross contained therein. And when I

arrived here I found some photographs and a couple of books from home, which were very pleasant reminders of the day. But it naturally seems rather peculiar to think that I could not be at home with you all to get up at an unchristian hour in the morning and hunt around for my stocking and then grudge me the Christmas tree. It's too bad about old Brownie. That he should have suffered for the cold as she did. She has most of her nine lives anyhow - and you can't expect a great deal more than that, you know.

Well, my luck is still with me, and I am now in my way to Nanking to study Chinese the best thing that could possibly happen to me - for it will give me a first rate start as the language and this is very essential to success. When Dr. Morrison, of the well known Peking correspondent of the London Times came up in the steamer with us, and I was fortunate in being able to make a very good little portrait of him with which he was delighted. As he is one of the most influential men in China, and a great friend of Sir Robert Hart's, the fact that he will show the portrait to Sir Robert is very auspicious - the more so as that gentleman is old and full of whims, and is apt to give all sorts of promotion to a man to whom he takes a fancy - and when it comes to that, if I can get a chance to show him I'll bet I can attend to the rest. Then I'll send you money for christmas instead of the usual simple diet of plain good wishes.

The prospects seem to me to be very rosy indeed and I am looking forward to considerable success materially. I'm not here to stay for seven years anyway. and after that me - and I then my 10 years been at home. I'll know about what I want to do finally. While in Shanghai I stayed with three fellows we of alma I was in college with and another we alma I knew at U. of Pennsylvania - he was a Delta Tau there. Then I met two more Delts - one a lieutenant in the "Kentucky" - and the other a trader in the S.E. College - and a dully chap. There were six of us - all american college men - Cornell. Yale. Stanford. Pennsylvania. Brithly. Poly. in the gang and Saturday night we had a big dinner with some charming Brooklyn belle. who on was a Princeton man. that night as I left for up - when they all came down to see me off and we sang college songs - and yells - college yells - and the Star Spangled Banner.

14/17/249

Hankow.
Jan. 16. 1902.

My dear Professor Hull

Our apology is certainly due from me in the Guide Books question - for of course they should have reached you long before they did - It was slightly difficult in my hot in putting the "Trim co & Straight" in an unusual envelope. And as a result they reached Shanghai in the same steamer - being caught up at Port Said via Brindisi and made the trip out in the same bundle. Unless I in my turn, as you might have suppose, at any rate you are hoist to steam work, some bulk of a mud battered relic of Bedeckerdom for they've been across the globe in your earnest.

As to myself, at present I am here in Hankow working regular and nine hours a day trying to drive this - heathen tongue into my head, and trying to absorb it in the meantime. I walk in the streets. That is with unusual bul. lineum, for we have to be busy watching the roadway for [illegible] places that there isn't a great deal of time for anything else.

The teachers, of course, can speak no English

Now then and there has been long of you
Feb. 2-11. as we are going up the Yangtze shortly.

Now then you are only two when men. both Freshmen at the college just at present - but we are expected shortly - when there will be a little more life about the place. As we are seven miles from the other people in the Service we see little of them and are cast on our own resources - which is a better good incentive to work. How big I shall be by I don't know - not on six months I hope - for I'm anxious to get to Peking to commence a diplomatic career, as the case may be.

Everything is very well so far - altho homesick naturally and abt to think of what I might have been doing - but I'm getting over it gradually - and think that eventually I shall like it very well - if I get a good post - and lots of books.

I hope that you are all very well in Buffalo Street - and that your visit has been as pleasant as you expected it to be. Give my regards to your sister and family if you will please - and thank you again for the Guide Books. I hold myself as a very great favor if you would write to me now in a while - I wish but worries I am below me.

Very respectfully
Willard Straight.

at present it is rather trying - for while I know a good many words already - it's a matter of to make a sentence that the Mahos could understand - for there is absolutely no rule - by which to form the thoughts - and the number of permutations and combinations that a given number of words will make - would surprise any one but an expert mathematician - and discourage one such a being if he had to use his knowledge barely - in the same bad way. However - I am trying to get around the evil side of it all by flattering myself that I was able to come up here - or rather that I was asked. For it will give me an exceptionally good start w/ the other Americans who have just entered - and we are four all together.

As to the prospects out here they seem good. There are a goodly number of American commissioners and all of them are men well along in years and likely to retire in the next decade. The middle men - among the juniors are very inferior - and a few as I can figure Palen and myself right to be in a good way to quick advancement. Altogether - it's interesting ethnologically I assume - but I'm no ethnologist. Artistically it's different - and the flowers & fruit & natural - but it offends my recent education in a most surprising and astonishing manner. I do wish to be fair but I have been carefully nursing my eyes - to stay for some at least of the beauties of nature.

Palen looked very well and a little more cheerful than he had been. He was rather glad I imagine to find a working mate! Caught in the same hopes. And he and I may decide to stick out for one year anyway - and not to have an furlough for this year at least. By the time we may be dead - and in the field as experts - while in the meantime - the refining forces necessary after a beginner stay out here. I should think

J. C. Ferguson
Peking
24th Jan 1902.

Dear Mr Straight,

This is to welcome you on your arrival. It is not too late to meet you on arrival. It is however not too late to give you a cordial greeting and best wishes for the new year and for your success in the new service to which you have entered. It is a noble service and teaches the Mandarins how civilized people conduct their business. Sir Robert Hart and Mr Bredon have been our very best friends in Peking. Both are men of Christian principles; and to that

fact is largely due their growing influence.

As you ask my advice — let this be a legend for you. Stick to the best teachings of your mother and your mother country. Whereas you may be cultivate acquaintance with the best miscreants in the place. At most stations there are among them men worth of a respectable character. They seek the highest welfare of the Chinese and are without being more for education than any other class of men, but they a knowledge in shorsight into their hands good a gift from a viceroy of Hs 3000 for making books!



Brethren like some
Christian people
Chinese students and
Christian people
of materialism and
Mr. Hsu's book
reason why
[illegible]

From W.D.P.Martin.

I.C.University.
Peking, 24th Jan,/02

Dear Mr Straight:

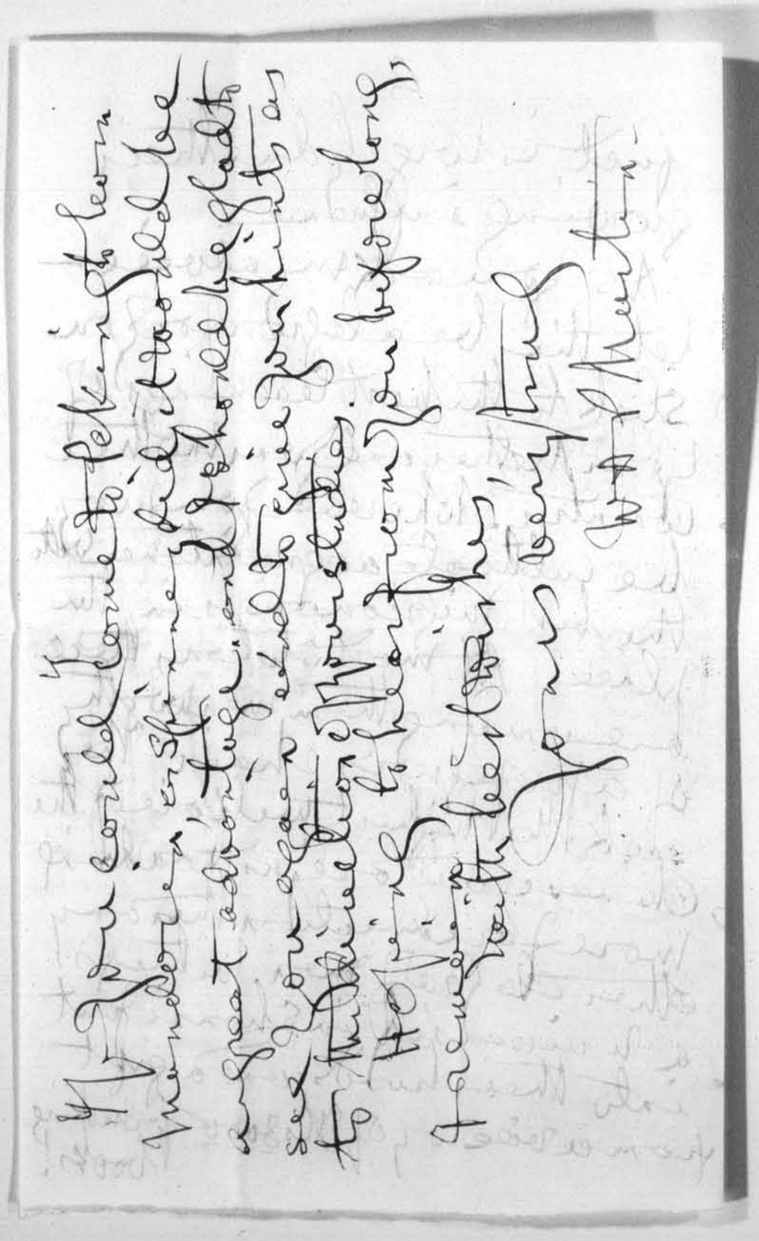
This is in answer to yours of 31st Oct is I fear too late to meet you on arrival. It is however, not too late to give you a cordial greeting and best wishes for the New Year and for your success in the new service in which you have entered. It is a noble service and teaches the Mandarins how civilized people conduct their business. Sir Robert Hart and Mr. Bredon have been among my best friends in Peking. Both are men of Christian Principles, and to that fact is largely due their growing influence.

As you ask my advice - let this be a lesson for you, stick to the best teachings of your Mother and your Mother Country. Wherever you may be cultivate acquaintance with the best missionaries in the place. At most stations there are among them men worthy of a professor's chair. They seek the highest welfare of the Chinese; and are just now doing more for education than any other class of men. Witness a University in Shansi put into their hands and a gift from a viceroy of Tls 3000 for making books! You may like Hart and Bredon be able some day to help them in their good work. Though for forty years in the service of the Chinese government I have never lost my interest in missions - as the medium of a spiritual energy required to import a new life to China. You are I trust not lacking in faith in the spiritual. Try not to sink into the indifference of materialism, and may God grant you His Grace. The New Year opens fair for my work of reorganization; but we shall not be able to reopen before the month of May.

If you could come to Peking to learn Mandarin, as Spinney did, it would be a great advantage, and I should be glad to see you again and to give you hints as to the direction of your studies.

Hoping to hear from you before long, I remain with best best wishes,

Yours very truly,
W.H.P.Martin.



Hawaiian.
Feb. 20th. 1902.

Dear Pepe.

You will have turned up on Wednesday. and I was. before me. awfully glad to hear from you. On those we intend to bring my days. line by. weeks. with most days on the road better days. & the minutes of time. I had rather expected to have some letters to send you this week but hours had been short & difficult to get. write news there is none to do. The troubles and the around here. and the issues are as those you will be able to appreciate what not of those. I hit, eat, sleep & have my being in.

The weeks are slipping by now. already the 2nd Pay day is coming and so not be long before we have the examination. and then only a short time to the breaking up of the whole affair. and the beginning of the actual

business looks to be my work for the next two years, if not the rest of my life. That last I'll write when I'm home in my first 10 years. Hard to have a look around at various things. I'm glad I'm young as I am. For it not be too late to have angles of prosperity out here. Keep go along as I think I should.

So far the city I like a lot all the time. It's full of interest & color - and there's no end of chances for shooting - shooting, shooting. Every day I manage to do a drawing or two. Generally I capture an some native boy in brown - his shirt. My own boy is quite good at going out and bringing up models.

This post would we have been badly gay. Had a couple of British naval officers up to tiffin.

On Tuesday. Then that night we had the leaders to dinner. Friday we entertained the Commander the British Navy & a friend of his. Last night we had the other Cadets over to see us and today some of us go on board H.M.S. "Andromeda" for tiffin. I imagine that next week will give a large tiffin for the wife of one of the British naval officers. So you see there's something going on every week to make life a bit more bearable. That it will be now at all hard, unbroken monotony.

I hope that everything is going on well in Denver that you are all well and happy, and enjoying the best of weather.

Kaulsing -
March 9. 1902.

Dear Parents.

Just in from a long tramp up hill and down dale. We started out early this morning. Homer of the Customs House. Saunders. the British Consul and Dean of the from the college - and went out - for a climb. We left the city gates at about 10 o'clock I think. and climbed steadily for two hours and a half. stopping at a couple of temples on the way. Lunch in the middle plugging right along. The highest point was 1450 ft above the lowest starting point - just the way you see. It was a grand day. and had it not been for the dust in the air brought down from the north by the heavy winds we could have seen down the coast for nearly forty miles to the south of the Shantung side - and so saw

It will be long before our spring rain commences and then it will be rather wet for a while I guess. Too much drainage last year caused a good deal of sickness in the alleys but with Cyprus will escape this time - for the floods last year were quite unprecedented.

I am now vaccinated and the lymph may work in most cases - though mine did not seem to have a great deal of effect. I feel too healthy to allow the stuff to work - Healthy and fat - and rapidly becoming quite a Chinaman you know.

We are well - well for the Arthurs and a good time I expect -

Good luck.

Lots of love,

Willard.

as we reached the top we were nearly carried off our feet by the northwest wind. there was a rocky ledge on the top of the hill and we scrambled along it for a way - and then went tumbling down the steep stony face. till we came to the bottom again. and a great race it was, jumping from stone to stone - stumbling along on rolling blds. dashing through thorn scrub. and tangling our feet in the low creepers or slipping on the dry brown grass. we had tiffin in the old ruined tower - the tomb of an emperor who reigned and died his bearing some five hundred years ago.

The week altogether has been a good one - am now receiving for the exam at the end of the month - and am beginning to feel my head above water in the Chinese for I can get what I want now if I don't get the words twisted up in quite the offensive fashion. Have made arrangements with the coolie to take a boy he knows this afternoon a week - for only ten dollars a month - or for of our good American dollars - for a dollar out here is not quite half what it is at home. two of the others were born babies and we three all in our white raiment go scambering on the country through fields and on the Chinese graves that seem to cover every available bit of ground that hasn't been taken up for cultivation and see in the grey enclosure fields have been laid out and beans and wheat and cabbage are growing away in fine style. Yesterday we all went out after the day work was over - and went out the gate at one side of the city. Then we circled out in through the fields and graves - along paths that a man on foot could tread.

Caulfield. Rolling away in this very
pretty little Chinese fashion. We
come along under the old wall. This
encircles the city, an immense
structure - some 20 ft thick and
60 ft high - and 23½ miles in length
all about the city - then gallopsacross
the fields - and fords the knee deep
bullrush and cross streams - till
we touch a highway again and get
into the city in the opposite side. 15
a great life this. No wonder he's brought
up half from ever being bored by a superfluity
of wholesome - and when it has come in
the form of good hard exercise we
appreciate it. And what more is -
healthy and better than all the dance
and dinners ever devised. I am enjoying
it thoroughly. Heard from Hazel this
week; and Aunty Dice letter arrived safely.
I shall think you might do as he letter of
a week! and I'd like a letter occasionally
to see goodbye - lots of love -

Willard -

Chinkiang,
2. april, 1902.

My dear Straight,

Yours of no date received night before last with great satisfaction. I am glad you are coming down. We shall expect you on Saturday and have got friends coming to dinner that Evening – a Baltimore girl and the fellows from the Mess. Hurry your steamer along and don't be late. If you find you are not going to arrive here till after seven – I advise you to dress on board – then you will be ready for dinner the minute you get ashore. My wife says "please tell Mr. Straight I would like him to bring his guitar". If it is a fine day Sunday, we want

--

--

to go to the Bungalow for a little picnic – about 7 miles away. You are a good walker and might easily walk that distance with me – but some fellows would ~~rather~~ doubt ride and I can perhaps hire you a mokè, if you want one – Don't think of going back before Monday night. We should like you to stay as long as you can – Write me by return boat if you want me to arrange for a pony for Sunday –

The Misses Martin are going up tonight to Kaiu in Hunking – They will stay with a Miss — Methodist Missions for the present till this new house is ready –

With our best wishes yours very truly

W. F. Spring

[4-7-02]

Chinkiang.

My dear Pepple.

At present I feel quite abundantly if I were home for Easter - for it's been so good to be with the Shimmeys again after motoring in Nanking. Here there are actually a few bunds & shuts with camps along the bunds. a club and about fifty foreigners exclusive of missionaries - who mean country.

Hope enjoying an awfully good time. Yesterday we went once onto top of the city to the Customs Bungalow - way out among the hills. and what is more pretty than hills - in Nanking there are no trees to speak of. we tiffined and then walked home. Mr Shimmey & the Mrs. and Victor & much. Dr Lyon. Hotchkiss and myself.

Thursday night I went to a Dr Brown's house and the latter art and he plays the piano. He's a sort of a queer genius. Draws very well and is a splendid musician. So he and I hit it off good shake and I spent a very enjoyable evening - and began to feel cooped again.

You really no idea how funny it seems to see a few white faces again. I hadn't realized how starved I really was getting up there the Monday until I saw this place. Which is not saying as a very fine bit either.

I had rather an exciting trip down. We on the roof of a Chinese launch. The wind came up pretty stiff and one of the junks we were towing broke loose and barely escaped sinking by being washed ashore. I was seen down in the engine crate and the only white man among some hundreds of Chinese. It was quite an experience - I don't know it better. Then show the other night went off fairly shake and the international minstrels acquitted themselves with much credit. Anders was a Chinese soldier, Simpson a French dude - Tony a French cook and I a nigger. So we had quite a show.

The hall a large shed rather, we had decorated with flags borrowed from Chinese junks in harbor - and after all the washing up from our

Hankow.
22nd April '02.

Dear Pebble.

Am sorry that I sighed up on Sunday. but I had a slight accident and didn't reach home until so late that I couldn't write that evening. I've been the whole thing has been most exciting. Sunday I went on shooting and arranged to have my tiffin sent out to a temple where I was working. No tiffin came. Hunger and I waited till half past two and then started for the Hotel where we had a bad half hour. Then next morning for my food, but once starting I had to get a carriage driving. altogether in a most abominable temper. Then last night - we stopped in the hulks to dinner after calling on the British man's war in harbor.

now to make the place presentable. There were about twenty-five people there I should say - and all seemed to enjoy it very much indeed.

At present here is climbing then are four men of war. One American. The Helena, two Germans and one Italian. The latter band gave a very decent concert last night - and we listened from the bund.

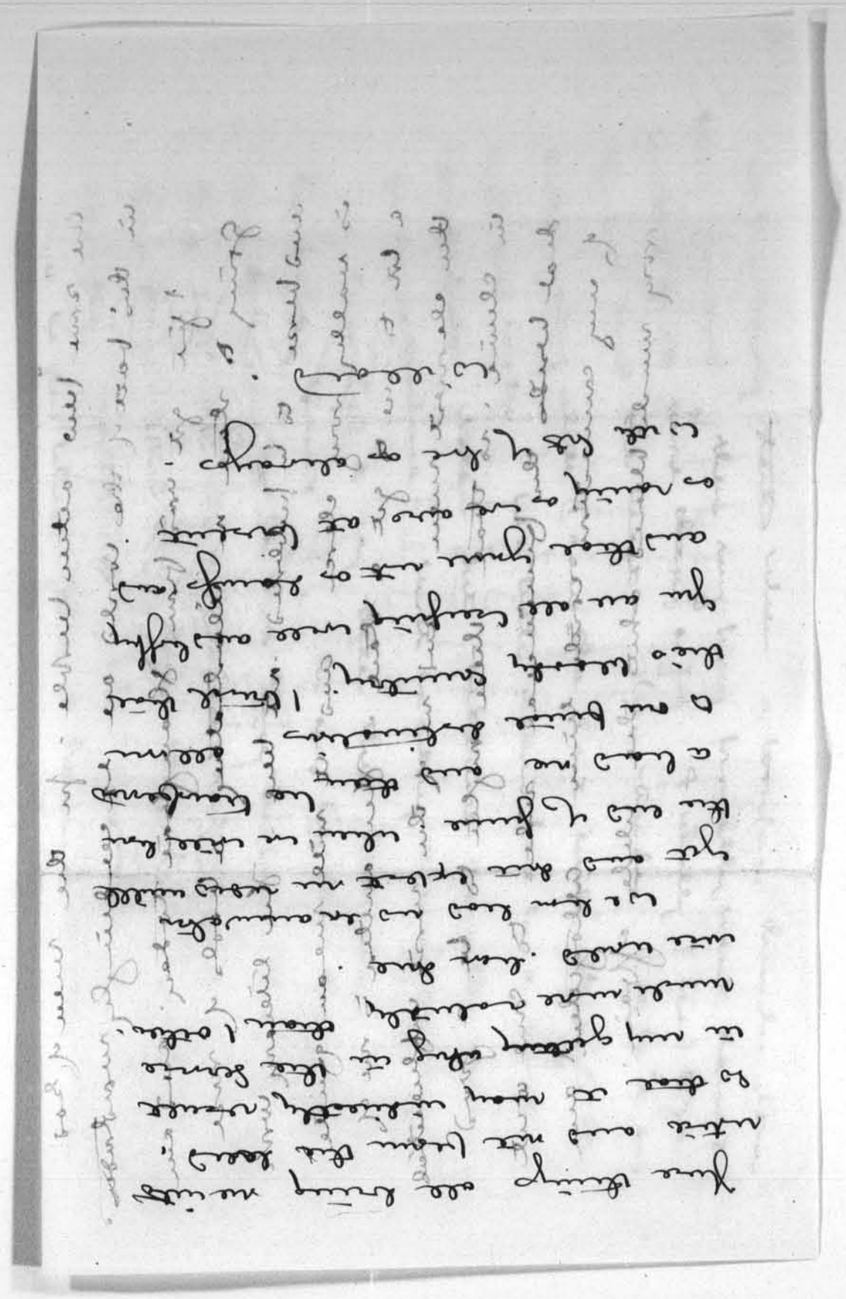
I go up tonight to Seymours steamer and shall call again tomorrow I suppose - was lovely Hankow - made to life.

With love
Cordially

We had barely started when a terrific thunder storm came up and then my long trouble went earnest could not go at more than a jog. I really I had to get off and lead the horse. Then we had to lie it and hold obey while I ran the last mile through the mud and water. We both arrived here in a most bedraggled state but otherwise none the worse for our experience. Most exciting it was really.

I am glad to say that the American man has finally turned up. He and his two daughters and they seem to be very nice people. Therefore there can be only American missionaries and with one or two exceptions they were the most narrow-minded, unattractive lot I ever came to see. I shall be glad when I get to a larger port where there are some less active people. For the men of God in this part of the world are exceedingly mundane.

I just got word from Shanghai today that I am going to start on circulating a book of mine and hope to be published out here. The literary work is really very clever and it will mean quite a lot to me to get a start. The author is one of the cleverest men and one of the most influential in China. So that there might be a good deal besides the financial side to come out of my connection with him. Altogether I am very much pleased about the whole affair.



(To T.B. Little
Cleveland, Ohio)

[March or April] pg
hauling - by the
Gangtze - Kiang - 2.

May 1, 1902

My dear Boo -

A letter from me Dalstein. Damned good of him it was to write, too. Tells me that you look as usual but your blood boil into I know to see how Theodore was doing - and I in the mention of your familiar name was reminded to see if I - subject stir you up into writing a bit and trying the effervescing of the chemical imbecile P.S.t.

The Saint says that you were just off from the seat of war. I presume you were stirring up their warm Spanish natures to gory deeds of all sorts: and in the meantime coaxing around at the Senorita.

If you must boil, take a trip out this way. You and Hiram, and bring the Venerable One along with you. You'll see a country that isn't God's country.

a land called - and well named so. the Middle Kingdom. 中國 - and so the middle of most anything. the great point - for right royal stranger. that old town are ordinary jay with a coat - iron strands inside out. The rest of Boxer Row and the home of the Imperial maritime customs.

Here in old Nanking, there are some twelve - fourteen and forty odd - and excedingly odd at that - missionaries. Six of "us twelve" - are up here seven miles away from everyone but the British Consul. and in the heart of the Chinese city - which I might add consists mainly of dirty boards and ruins with an occasional garden and a few crowded lanes streets. The rest of the show outside the great wall, twenty three miles around. to grow in to cultivate and an occasional college along the "ma-lu" or "Horse Road". that goes through the place like an artery. at one time another the whole place has been built up - and yet in the fields and everywhere one sees old brick and an occasional piece of stone carving. for in it dates no way back in the ninth century as some are cobbled - and have been more or less so since. The last dynasty that ruled here were the Mings. The first Ming made it his capital and no. 2. took the throne to Peking. It was the daughter of the Taipings. and now is the provincial capital - with the Viceroy resident here.

The city is really the key-stone of the whole arch of Yangtze provinces. Here this Viceroy leads other fellows. Here too, ten years ago were, when the Boxers were cutting loose in the north. This was the fruit in China. It happens that the American and German consuls with all the missionaries and other foreigners chased out, for the Yangtze region was ripe for an outbreak. The customs men and the British consul stood by the ship and to this consul belongs the credit of keeping the whole south of China quiet. He's a great chap and a most enthusiastic believer of Bacchus. Red faced and almost blue eyes. He sits and reads and reads and reads. He has all the dates since God-knows. When at his highest end. And for general information and ability to spread it probably almost rivals the Venerable One. At any rate, he



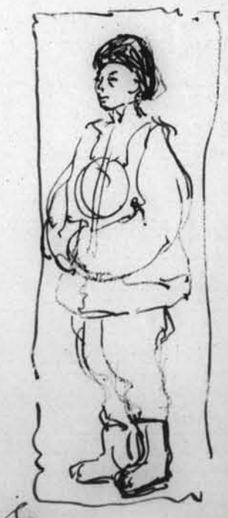
stood here in hankering and when he wasn't lob-robbing with the Vice-Roy sifted his toddy and rode his China-pony. And damped the missionaries for making all the row. His lob-robbing was successful. I mean. And he induced him Ki'ung Yi to figure the imperial Decree to kill all foreigners. And in that way kept down the Yangtze region and made it the whole south of China. He has more juice to the square inch than you find in most men. And lets them all with an exactly quaint choice in his English. One to them. A bubble he at. that. which he makes for me high chinese authority. Warning the rise of the Boxer movement. I'm going to write of and send home.

My own ideas in China are as bad very vague. When we

put in eight hours a day in the language, we both finished – that would do nicely. As a country it's all right but suffering from being a great expanse of neglected opportunity. The life we had is pleasant enough, with riding and tennis and plenty of interesting walks, and trips to men of war – to loosen up the whistle now and then. When I drop from an unusually big meal at the Chinese dictionary.

Time flies like the wind and will give Santos Dumont points in the business. I'm rather expecting you all out here some of these days, until then and before then I beg that I may hear from you some of these days. Give Ezra Kendall my best regards – and tell him I want a life insurance as there are rumors of another outbreak soon. The people are all with about money to burn, the indemnity – and ask him what he's got anything else. Believe me —

Very sincerely yours,
Willard Straight
c/o I. M. Customs.
Shanghai
China.



The Chinese Sojee man.

Hankiang.
May 17. 1908.

Dear Pafle

Just a word to catch the mails. I was so rushed on Sunday that I couldn't find a place to write. All went off fine ~~the~~ same. Mr. Spinney came up on Friday last and were there 'in time' into every night for me. and am off ~~tonight~~ again. Such gaiety you never saw - we're.

and to attain health
I am now here in
the country, and
am not well. Keep the
Solitude. Paul and
a man named Pelham,
a Italian in California
came up to see me,
Paul stay here.
and stay a week
under his name
Gilbert, and
send the letter here.

7. and hope that you will
excuse this rapid scrawl.

Sincerely
Willard

Don write I need money
men. I left the money for those
bills. I've understand why it wasn't
called.

Kaulsing
May. 18, 1902.

My dear People.

Joing notice that I am writing a great deal larger than used for it is easy of my old style of penmanship. I fear that my Christmas Career would not be particularly successful, like a girl, by writing in a beautiful round hand I will in the future be able to fill up a good deal of paper without hav-

having rained a great deal. That in itself will relieve my mind of an awful strain. These last few days, I have been spending a great deal of my time in going about and talking to miscellaneous people. To temples and "sich" - and airing my Chinese vocabulary on the staring crowd. I have invaded Taoist nunneries and Buddhist temples and the and even went to the mosque and talked with the old "Imam" about arabic - which he spoke, and which I complimented him upon - (I know such a lot, you see). The weather has been such that stifling indoors, poring over books is anything but pleasant. So I have gladly made use of any excuse to get "away". I feel now, though, with only a month before the examination that I must get down to business again and stop the monkey game for a while - becoming a bookish worm

nce more. Tomorrow the Spinney's pass up River on their way to Kaulsang and I am going up to see them as they go through. Of course I should like very much to be put in the same part with them, but I fear that such luck is not to be expected. and it is probably better so - for I think I should rather paddle my own canoe now that I am out here and in for it. I suppose Hazel will be soon with you again and that the drowning summer in Oswego will go along as so many others have due. but I fear that owing to other engagements I will not be able to be gardener this season for a few days.

Lovingly

Willard.

Kiukiang,25.May,1902.

My dear Straight,

It was good of you to come in the middle of the night to see us and we both appreciated it very much. You were fortunate in having such good company back to the city and I am sure Miss Levering was glad,for she sees enough,and possibly more than enough of Fraser in Chinkiang,but this is merely a guess on my part. We arrived here all right on the 20th,and I took over from Walsham yesterday. It has been hot ever since we came and so far as I can make out,there is not likely to be much of a let up in the heat till the last week in August. However the residents here seem well and cheerful as a rule,and I do not think the 3 months'heat here can be so trying as the 9 months'summer was in Canton,and we lived through two of them.

How are your eyes? I hope you won't be foolish and do them lasting injury in your natural desire to get some more book knowledge to your credit. Let me know how the examination goes off and what the I.G .decides to do with you all.

Palen wrote me of his sudden change of plans. I shall hope to see him some day when at home on leave and forced to go South in search of warmer weather and certainly hope to find him flourishing like a"green bay tree",if you know how that is,I'm sure I don't.

Give my kindest regards to the Martins please. I hope that they enjoyed Miss Levering's visit and that Miss L. had a good time,but I don't believe she had as good a time as she would have had if she had gone up with my wife,for she was there at the wrong end of the week for one thing.

Mrs.Spinney joins me in all good wishes.

Yours very truly,

W. F. Spinney

moonlight night. As Horace said "Pitch to your sails" – three of us – an Austrian, an Englishman and myself – lying back in the boat – smoking – quietly as we crept along – a half naked boatman in front, poling – another behind us, rowing at his oar. Pushing not pulling as christians do. First we crept along past fields – and an old temple – the creek is broad and glistens under the full moon radiance. On either hand are fisher-boats, with their nets laid deep in the bosom of the stream, the bamboo arms stretching out and down like the legs of some great spider.

↑
The 花船 – a Flower boat

Vol. I.
A Treatise on CHINA
IN FIVE VOLUMES

Nanking
May 29th 1902

My dear Bob –

Maybe my letter did bring a breath of China ~~did~~ with it – but if it did I'll warrant you took refuge in the can – and found it a attar of roses compared with your Eastern zephyr. However, that is another story. Your letter touched me in so many chords that I could go on and ring out symphonies for any length of time. That it did my heart good goes without saying, so a truce to platitudes.

The "glorious life I have led" (had a hen
done the laying, would never have owned such
a rotten egg) wobbles in and out with
pleasurable quirks and shivers and it's not
a bad one at that. There's much pleasure -
and of a kind that one doesn't find on
Euclid Avenue, or in garnished "gilded
halls" as "Ez" called them. Such things
as moonlight dinners at the Ming Tombs
where sleeps the founder of the dynasty
that ruled this great land from 13 hundred
and something to 1650. or thereabouts; or
by variety a serenade to the priests of
an eight hundred year old Taoist monastery.
The moon rises - sailing in the grass-smooth
sky a crowd of priests - Below the tree studded
city, clustering houses - scattered lands - and
broad reaches of field land - the shining grain
billowing under the wind - and all bathed
in a glory of moonlight. Singing "Soo Soo
Eyes" and "Boola" and "Carry me Back
to old Virginny". There in the heart of the
old "Southern Capital". Nan King - or
Nan Ching - as the Chinese call it.
And another excursion in a little "flower
boat". winding through the city - in a wonderful

succeeding in getting the old general drunk. On returning home we found the gatekeeper with a cut hand and all the coolies and boys in an awful funk. A robber had been to the house and tried to break in - was rebuked by the coolies and in having so now the gatekeeper is armed with an old sword which I have had in my room as a curio. and hence reigns supreme

The life my dear sir, may be a wonderful one - but though it suggests - echo breaths of sighing - I may much doubt if the strenuous idea suggested by that "stand by your works and be wise" enters into the discussion - IS foreign to the whole spirit of the Service as I've seen it so far - God knows I'm glad enough to look at it that



Vol. II. To T.B. Little

a couple of coolies squatting in the shadows are smoking and the reek of their tobacco comes across to us on the breeze. Then we slip under a bridge - turn - and go along under the shadow of the wall - The waterfront is lined with houses - and form written over the history of life. Then on we go - the scene becoming more and more animated until at last we find ourselves in the midst of the great flower boats, stealing on our way in the crowded stream as the buddha bedecked prows and turns in a truce fills street. The lights

within are gleaming sending twisting curling
lights out on the rippling river. The
boats are laden with Chinese gentlemen -
gambling, drinking, eating, and there is
the tinkle, tinkle, of the mandolin - and
the trill fairly of the sing song girl -
shrieks and cheers above the chattering
and the brawling of the pleasure hunters.
The great boats are most of them anchored,
though occasionally - one of the bulging crafts
comes sidewinding along through the water
of small boats, which are swarming -
and squirming - like the mosquitoes here.
in a stagnant pool.

Then last night I went to a dinner
on a big boat - a dinner given by the
Foreign Office Taotai, there were two other
Chinese officials there, and the American
consul his daughters with a Mr & Mrs.
Shaw of Chicago - Mrs Shaw said she knew
you - she was nee a Bessie Washington
of Cleveland, I think. we had sharks fins and
birds nests and some sweet champagne, with
a lot of Chinese wine called Martin, the usual
called toasts - and I had to do the honors.
"pouring down bumpers" after bumper to the
health of the Chinese officials. finally

that connection, a good healthy letter - breathing of work and bustle - will do more towards keeping good courage than anything else. for in a crowd of idlers - of scandal mongers, it hard not to lose a little of the lead we has a wheels strong and strenuous. So Bach, as when you wrote the "Sestina" and "Fn to admire". you helped raise the spirit of that dormant 10 enduring spirit of mine. now that you've got me in it. you must keep up the game. for a letter from a man like yourself means a good deal.

You ask of the Jennings in solitude in the East. I only that been what I have seen they are begin. To enumerate, there are four kinds

way, in fact it's the only way I can look at it, and be at all satisfied with the cards I've drawn. But its a hard row to hoe when you hear men all sides of you damning left and down, cursing a in and out. when you hear of the business of men who are notoriously poor office men, poor choice scholars and the rest. and yet see men, who you can tell at a glance are hard workers and bright chaps - going three and four years without a step, stalled in some God-forsaken outpost, eating their souls away. As a career, the satisfaction of working for the works sake, I very much doubt its usefulness.

as an opportunity for a man to study China and the Chinese, language, customs and art. it is unrivalled - for the work is routine work. done in routine way - requiring no more ability than that possessed by the ordinary clerk - until of course one becomes a commissioner or an assistant-in-charge - and is thrown in contact with the officials and is given the responsibility for the post. So with luck it might be attractive without luck, or a pull - it is a damned drudge. I myself am content to wait awhile and play the game waiting my luck which has always held good - But the Service will never be my life - or success in the Service my aim. it will rather be to be able to draw the chundamani he is - or to write of him - or to know him so well that some day - I can put my finger in the 1 ultimatum bit, and be of use to some one - But that requires time, and my first object is to master the language. last night I surprised myself by doing some fairly decent interpreting - and I like to master the damned tongue - and to use it in my business. But the spirit of the East is to make haste slowly, and I need must champ my bit, for a while at least - and in

are already a good many concerns
were established. The trade, the
larger part of it has been done
on the Yangtze. Of course
the great thing, as in any
business, but especially out
here, where advertising has no
particular hold, is the possession
of a clientèle. As I say the
Yangtze is already working
a little - and Andes, from what
he says knows the ~~not~~ West
River and the South, pretty
well. He was stationed there for
some three years, and is now
I believe corresponding with an
Italian firm in ~~H~~ going
in with them in some schemes
in the West River.

The largest business
~~made~~ methods as I saw
them are nothing to boast of.

VOL II. [5-29-02]

a. Mining, b. Railroading, 4
c. Shipping and d. Merchant
trading.

The first two are debarred
from your sphere I think, for
they are balled up too much
with international politics for
any one man to get into the
field - and besides that the
enterprise would necessarily
be on such a vast scale,
that it would require many
many, more money, and even
more time. Or where the
official concession is needed,
one might as well wait for
tomorrow as to expect any
rapid transaction.

In shipping there are many
chances and a great deal of
money. The Yangtze of course
4
is well patrolled, by two English
a German, a Japanese, and a

Chinese line, while the French I believe are going to establish one. But there are many other navigable rivers, with an immense carrying trade all handled by junks — and just waiting for the coming of the steam boat. On the Yangtse River, for instance, from south inland — there are at present a few lines — but not enough. and the ones that are running are mostly Chinese, and they may be bought out any day. The owners are ready to sell — and the prices I don't imagine would be too high. There, for instance, the Tung-ting Lake — one of the great inland lakes of China — a few light draught boats could do an immense ferrying business, and the profits could be large.

Concerning the last and most plausible of the schemes, i.e. the merchant trading, the field is not empty, but there is plenty of room. Instancing only one of the men here today — an Austrian — some ~~twenty~~ nine years old and a man four years in China. I heard of the following chance. At present in Shanghai there is an Austrian firm — Mebert and Cybert firm — who are ready to sell out. The man wants to retire, his wife of the East and is anxious to close out. The business has been well pushed — but the profits have been fair and as it is of some years standing, there

the Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council. He's a very bright man and necessarily in touch with all things mercantile. I shall go down in about three weeks to see him — and will talk this matter all over with him. and should get some valuable tips. In any case I shall keep you informed. The best thing of course would be for you to come out and see the lay of the land the men and talk the thing over. But that will come later. Let me know your ideas on the subject. what you want to do and how you want to do it.

I bring you very the Kaiser and Lenox with the "Valuable One" again. as you say comes like a bolt when they lose him. But his left his mark — we there will never be a good lad to give us automobiles and pictures. may you never hear the latter. write of the old days and the old things and particularly of the old gang. Remember me to all you know in Cleveland — and believe me

Respectively yours.

Willard, Bickerman, Straight



It is already go Friday: and get holiday whenever you can, not of an idea that doesn't appeal to an American's sense of the fitness of things. Europe hustling night to work up a good trade there, but there no question about about the growing demand for foreign made goods. and another thing — few if any of the merchant heads climbed. they are therefore obliged to work through third surfaces or middle men. The few men who have been able to break in that way — have been able to get into connection with the officials, have made large — perhaps quite large.

Here again we are in the field. but at present we can manage fairly well. has had something to do with officials - and with a little special study of the case - could handle it to the Queen's taste. Andes two heads. not only Chinese. and German. he is an Austrian, himself. but French. English and Italian as well.

Then of course we ~~states~~ in a good business. we has a chance to keep his eye on the market. and is ready to be in on any Rail Road. on Mining or Steam ship deal that is on. The Costume man in the Cut-Out. is excluded from these things and is of no great use as a business man unless he be extraordinarily alert. to what is going on around him. Besides this Trading time is a great chance. for a Paint. factory - a shirt factory that can turn out Chinese shirts at 60 instead of 80 ¢ a hair. and also all in Shanghai they want a firm ship & sports wear supply bureau - at present I understand there is absolutely no such thing. when the merchant knows a gem from a brom stick - Several years ago a man set up a saddlery shop in a small way. Public laughed at him and said they'd rather buy from home. now he has branches in Hong Kong and Yokohama - and is doing a immense business.

At present I am illustrating a book for

OFFICE HOURS: 10 TO 12 A. M. 2 TO 5 P. M. SATURDAY EVENING, 7 TO 8.

OFFICE OF

# THE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION

OF ITHACA, NEW YORK.

D. W. BURDICK, PRESIDENT. EDWIN GILLETTE, TREASURER.
GEORGE SMALL, VICE-PRESIDENT. C. C. PLATT, SECRETARY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

D. W. BURDICK, C. C. PLATT, O. L. DEAN, GEO. SMALL, JARED T. NEWMAN, JACOB ROTHSCHILD, M. E. CALKINS, CHAS. E. TREMAN, EDWIN GILLETTE, DAVID ROE, JR. PROF. DUNCAN C. LEE, PROF. J. W. JENKS, BENJ. RICH.

Office of Credit and Collection Department—Wilgus Building, Second Floor.

*Ithaca, N. Y.,* June 14 *1902*

Mr W D Straight

*Dear Sir:*

*Your account with* Mr E McCilling (Phelps Putnam)
*amounting to* $ 3 65, *Int.* $ _____, *Total* $ 3 65
*has been placed with the Business Men's Association for collection and settlement. Very kindly give it your prompt attention.*

*Yours truly,*

H L Babcock

*Agent Collection and Credit Dept.*

*Second Floor, Wilgus Building,*
*55 and 57 East State Street, Cor. Tioga Street.*

OFFICE HOURS: 10 TO 12 A. M. 2 TO 5 P. M. SATURDAY EVENING, 7 TO 8.

OFFICE OF

THE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION

OF ITHACA, NEW YORK.

D. W. BURDICK, PRESIDENT. EDWIN GILLETTE, TREASURER.
GEORGE SMALL, VICE-PRESIDENT. C. C. PLATT, SECRETARY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

D. W. BURDICK, C. C. PLATT, O. L. DEAN, GEO. SMALL, JARED T. NEWMAN, JACOB ROTHSCHILD, M. E. CALKINS, CHAS. E. TREMAN, EDWIN GILLETTE, DAVID ROE, JR. PROF. DUNCAN C. LEE, PROF. J. W. JENKS, BENJ. RICH.

Office of Credit and Collection Department—Wilgus Building, Second Floor.

*Ithaca, N. Y.,* June 14 *1902*

Mr W D Straight

*Dear Sir:*

*Your account with* Mrs A M Dyer
*amounting to* $ 5 14, *Int.* $ _____, *Total* $ 5 14
*has been placed with the Business Men's Association for collection and settlement. Very kindly give it your prompt attention.*

*Yours truly,*

H L Babcock

*Agent Collection and Credit Dept.*

*Second Floor, Wilgus Building,*
*55 and 57 East State Street, Cor. Tioga Street.*

Bulletin on Board

NANKING, June 25 1902

Dear Father.

Just a word - Exams. are all over. and I managed - to hit up the hottest box. leading in the exams with 858 marks out of a possible 900. The next man had 780. so you see I made a good margin. I am sending you some photos. The one for Chie of his Richardson. you will please forward. The

and let you know where I'm going and see the rest of it.

With lots of love to Sylvia and Ann I am —

Lovingly

Willard.

Chinese gunboat blew up on Sunday. killed about 75 or 20. under it didn't do much.

Miss's address is
Miss Grace Richardson
218 Seventh Street
Erie
Pa.

You see it costs a lot to have these things done up seperately and registered and everything. So you can do it for me if you will please. The one for Hazel. You can decide up as you go get. There are two sets of these pictures and you can have one set between you. and let Hazel have one. Mind of mailing these as you please.

We are here waiting now and it is a be amed nuisance I can tell you. One hardly knows what to do when the orders may come in at any moment. Yet they don't do it and there you are. But it will only be a day or so I guess. and I shall soon write

W.S. to T.B. Little

Pelsing
July. 13. 1902.

My dear Boc –

Here am I, indeed under the shadow of the Great yellow Emperor – for not more than 300 yards away is the outer wall of the Palace, red, dusty – and bubbling. For sometime I've been intending to drop you a billet-doux, but the last few days of my stay in Nanking were so filled with Exams, and Rumours of Exams and effects of Exams, that I ended – and, since then I've been on the run – not with the prevalent dysentery, but like the wandering Jew.

The last time I penned you words of wisdom, the hot-air

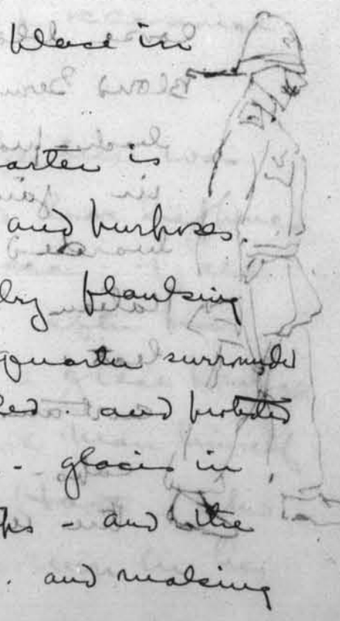
was, paradoxical as it may seem, foolishness, and I've thought about it several times since then and wondered how I could have written as I did. The facts of course remain the same, concerning the outlook, but in a more sober minded interpretation of your letter, I should imagine that the merchant scheme, which I laid next stress on, was impracticable. For I should judge that you want to have your money where some one else will handle it, and where you will have no particular worry as you might be inclined to do with a business house. And what is more I had no opportunity, while in Shanghai of looking up the standing of the man I spoke about before. There is one thing that I did hear of however, that might be more in your line. A friend of mine, fraternity brother in fact, a W.P. man, is out here as mining engineer for a syndicate of Philadelphia and New York capitalists known as the "Asiatic corporation". They at present have a lot of mining concession around the place and this chap has been all on the country getting ~~one~~ them. In some way, he got the big of some Higher Officials and they gave him a little private concession of his own, which he himself is going to develope. Another member of our Pennsy chapter is trying to get his money into it, and Shangle said that if I could write you about it and let you know something more of it later, but nothing for a while yet, until the company mines were well started and he had time to hit on his own business. He is not yet certain of the character of the ore, but thinks he has a good thing in copper and possibly a little gold. So I shall write you more about this at some later time.

when the affair is out of the tall grass.
Andes, the Austrian. I wrote to you about.
is going home on leave and coming back
by way of America. He asked for a card
to you. and said he had heard through
this friend of his, of something good in land.
He would not however tell me what it was.
I wasn't particularly pleased with the way he
acted about the matter. we in fact, with
what I saw of him in Shanghai. the different
surroundings of wine, women, and song
seemed to change him somewhat. However,
of he calls. you can judge for all these
things for yourself. you will find him
most amusing and a thoroughly
good fellow. with enough yarns to
keep you going till Times' End.

What I should propose to you anyway,
would be a trip out here to the East.
China while I would recommend it only
to my enemies as a permanent abode,
would be extremely interesting as an exper-
ience and you could besides see what



you might like to do. now that I am
in Peking I could show you a Society
which, I doubt very much, if you could
find anywhere else in the world. The -
anomaly of a Diplomatic Circle - whose
social life instead of centering about
the local Court, revolves upon itself and
depends entirely upon itself for its -
by no means stinted amusement and
gaiety. I doubt very much, as I said
before, whether one could see such
a life as this in any other place in
the world.



Here the Legation Quarter is
a fortress to all intents and purposes.
every entrance is defended by flanking
walls. and the whole quarter surrounded
by a high wall. loop-holed. and protected
by a moat - with a wide - glacis in
front. It is policed by troops - and the
isolated person leaving the Club. and making

for his own abode is challenged by the Sentry ere he may pass on. All the governments have huge barracks, there are machine guns and field pieces in every compound. and the next time John Chinaman makes trouble hell have the dogs of war about his ears in less time than it takes to write it. Such is the foreign quarter. Or hardly anyone saw the missionaries live outside.

One goes along the streets in the neighborhood. and they are, indeed, cosmopolitan - stolid Russians, in loose blouses. and little round caps. Blond Germans - in ill fitting khaki and back-piazza sun-hats. Tommy Atkins in jaunty bonnet - little Brown Japs. bearded Frenchmen in tam o' shanters. Italian Sailors in wide brimmed straw hats. and Austrians, with long curtains hanging from their round sailor caps - like the pictures one sees of the arabs - and here and there a

Chinese policeman in his red ~~tag~~ tasseled bowl and flowing coat. and in amongst the international show trudge the half naked coolies - crouching as they bear their heavy burdens. Great heavy wheeled, mule carts - official chairs - dirty & laden donkeys - and occasional a great string of gaunt camels. with their mouth eaten jaws, hanging in rags or tatters. and an old - the sun glares in fierce summer heat; and the folks in the street sweat great streams. which the never ending & dusty turns to mud. that calms on the occasional dry shots.

Of course my transfer here was the best ~~thing~~ that could have happened to me. Peking is the mecca - of all the Service. and here I am after five months study in Nanking. a great bridge in itself - under the Great Man himself. under the eye of Sir Robert Hart. who holds all our fortunes or our ruin in his

upon absolute power. So if I stay here a while and get in - I'll know that I'm all right for all time if I don't. I'll get out of the Service P.D.Q. or staying in will be useless and a waste of time.

Give my profound respects to Egra Kendall - and regards to any old "elsie" - you may see whom I have known in my palmy days - and with best wishes to you yourself I am -

Yours sincerely

Lovland Straight

c/o Inspectorate General of Customs

Peking

China

Original in private hands.

[9-3-02] p9

Dear Mr. Straight

Will you
give us the pleasure of your
company at dinner tomorrow,
Thursday the 4th, at
half past eight, if not
Morris night.

Yours truly
Alex Gault

3 Sq.

n.d.
[1902-3]

Dear Straight, If
free, please come
to dinner at eight
this evening — and
fill a vacant chair.

Yours
R. Hart.

Friday

If you are not free,
kindly ask Anderson
or Dupies to come
instead.

No answer required

From Sir Robert Hart. Undated.

Dear Straight:

If free, please come to dinner at eight this evening - and fill a vacant chair.

Yours sincerely,

R.Hart.

Friday.

If you are not free, kindly ask Richardson or Dupree to come instead. No answer required.

---

9-3-02
Undated.

Dear Mr. Straight:

Will you give me the pleasure of your company to dinner tomorrow, Thursday the 4th, at eight o'clock, if not otherwise engaged.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Hart.

3 Sept.

---

Kiukiang 20 November 1902.

My dear Straight,

Thanks for yours of the 10 Oct. I am always more pleased to get your letters than the promptness of my replies may lead you to think. But you will please remember that I have a fairly decent amount of official work to attend to, that I have many friends out here and at home to write to, and lastly that I do not like to write letters. Your last was very interesting all the way through from start to finish. It always amusing to the bystander to see the old game of hearts being played and if one is not in a position to see it it is interesting to hear what young people you are interested in may be doing in that line. There have been no telegrams from Peking announcing any attack on you by Italians or others, so I fondly hope that they have withdrawn and left you a clear field or became satisfied that you were not serious. I heard from Carl that the Drews, Miss Simpson and de Luca were tiffining with him the day he wrote and were en route to Shanghai, so their campaign in the North is over for the season and they are retiring to winter quarters or are seeking new fields for conquest. Carl did not say that Miss Simpson had an Australian horse with her. Carl also told me that his wife and sister had gone up to visit the I.C. They will have left again probably before this reaches you but if they are still lingering on please give them my respectful homages as the Frenchmen say. I shall be surprised if you did not like them both. Mrs. Carl is very pretty and graceful and sings very nicely and has always been amiable so far as my experience of her goes, while Miss Carl is an artist with certain little peculiarities but she is very clever and bright and we always found her very nice. You may have been shocked if you saw her smoke a cigarette, but she has no other vices so far as I observed. They had both heard of you from us so, if they

realized

realized who you were, it must have been quick work for you to get on terms of friendship with them. What a night you must have had when the I.C. asked you in to dine alone with him and the girls! Certainly it would have been an embarassing position for me to be told to go ahead and be amusing and live up to my reputation, and I congratulate you that you survived the evening at all. By the way you have never told us and I don't know now who the other three girls were. You say nothing about your work, so I presume you were at that date simply studying Chinese when you could get time and waiting for the Order Book to come out. A mighty fine chance you are having and you will be glad all your China life that you had such an opportunity given you to acquire a good start at the language before you had to settle down to the grind of an office in a place possibly where you could never hear Kuan hua spoken.

The after dinner part of your letter was not as amusing as the first part, but even more interesting, for it is always interesting to see how a youth meets the conditions of life as they present themselves. You were very pessimistic, and I hope you felt better in the morning. I know what you felt and how you felt it, and your feelings do you credit, but you must not think that the world is all bad because you happen to be pitchforked into a mess with a number of foul minded and foul speaking youths. It does seem strange that you should have met such a fate for in spite of my years and all my wanderings, I assure you that I never had the misfortune to find all my messmates or even the majority of them of that kind. Human curiosity is insatiable, and many of the best of men and women can't help showing an interest in the affairs of their neighbors, even when they border on scandal; some would say especially under such circumstances. But there is no excuse for foul talk, smutty stories, rank filth, etc. and I was never in a mess where it was allowed for a man indulging in it was frowned upon and made to feel small or was told to shut up. You can't well undertake to discipline or correct the morals of several men older than yourself, but you can do them good by your example, and if you never appear to take any interest in their nasty talk and clear out at the earliest possible moment when it grows outrageous, you will find that they will gradually limit the stuff. I am surprised that Wilzer should be a party to any such vileness as you describe. As the head of the mess, he ought to take a pride in having things go right, and as head of the mess, you can with perfect propriety discuss the question with him and suggest the desirability of reforms, and, if he is a decent chap in other ways, he would not tell the other fellows of his talk with you or rather of your talk with him. Lebas is a very able fellow and had received very good reports to the I.C. from men like Drew and Morse before he had any trouble in Pakhoi, and as I understand it, the trouble at first was not with regard to a lady but because the French Consul, an awful brute apparently, tried to enforce the conscription law on Lebas and threatened to send him to Tonkin to do his military service. In the end I believe the Consul was jealous of L. as he was of other men who paid his wife any civilities whatever, for he treated her abominably according to the accounts I have heard. The decision of the high authorities was against the Consul in the matter of Lebas' military service, and things were so unpleasant in the port that L. was transferred. Now L. may have been an awful chap and broken up the peace of a family, but I do not believe it: it may be that he was only very polite and friendly to a lady whom he saw being treated badly, as your impulse would be in similar cases. Don't believe the worst about any man or woman till you are forced to, and remember that there must be two sides to a story. I have found in my own experience that my opinion has been changed very much after hearing the other side. There is plenty of vice, hypocrisy, etc., in the

the world,and the longer you live the more you will know about it,but I verily

believe thatunless you make an effort to find the bad that you will in the

ordinary course of your life find much more good than bad in human nature,

but you are bound to get some hideous shocks and surprises from time in cases

of good people and possibly friends who go all wrong in their sexual relations

When the animal passions get stirred as they apparently do some times in spite

of all good resolutions,good men and women forget everything and go all wrong

I became very familiar with all kinds of men at a very early age and

knew much about the wickness of the world before I was twelve years old,

owing to my father's absence in the army in the first place and then to our

having gone to Keokuk to join him during the last year of the war,where he

was in charge of a hospital. I was big for my age and was much with the con-

valescent soldiers and a large number of medical students who frequented the

hospital wards and lived close by:these men made much of me because I was my

father's boy,I suppose,and the result was that I learnt much that comes to

the average youth later in life. I survived it in some way but I wish it had

not come to me for the longer one remains in ignorance of the seamy side of

life the better.But one cannot be in the world without getting some of this

knowledge sooner or later. I tell you of my experience to prove to you that

it comes to us all,and then to declare again that there are many more good

than bad in the world and that we can easily avoid the bad wholly or make

them soon feel that we are not sympathetic,the result being that they either

avoid us for more congenial souls or cultivate our friendship because they

like us and become more decent men as a result. This is more serious than I

intended to be when I began. If you have anything to say on this subject in

reply,please put it on a separate slip of paper for my wife likes to see

your letters. # # # # #

I have ordered four copies of "Verne and Horse" and intend to send Helen M.

Hawley one of them. With our united kindest regards,I am, Yours truly,

W. S. Pinney.

[1903]

Hukuang.
6th January. 1902.

My dear Boy:—

I have just written you a letter of endless date & interminable length so I have not a thing worth mentioning to write about from here — But Frank has a letter from you to-day which makes me want to write you again all the same — Good counsel & the like I should have to give — but I

Willard D. Straight, Esq

[2]

hope you will not mind if I send you a line of sympathy & good wishes - for you have my very best of both - I to grieve me sore to hear you have had such sorrowful news from home & the things that have gone in a way to give you anxiety. They say adversity has its uses - & perhaps a man is more manly if he meets hard things well & does not find life too soft & easy -

[1-6-03] [3]

but I cannot bear to think of you as anything but the happy care-free boy of our happy journey out - & I must sincerely hope things may straighten themselves out in a way so as not to bear too heavily on you. I am sure you will not think - from my writing like this that I am trying to meddle in things which do not concern me - but that you

[4]

will understand that anything which concerns you & your welfare touches me very nearly, for I always have the feeling that in your life out here in China you in a way belong to me — I hope you do not object to such an appropriation —

Mr. Pyne writing from Harlow says the new Viceroy has made quite a new departure — that he has a secretary who speaks the most perfect

[5]

English & wears a silk hat & a frock coat & adopts Chinese dress. it turns out is the man who was in your class at Cornell — is just before you — Mr. Sze was his name? —

The one who came to see us in Salem & talked about you & the possibility of your coming to China. He spoke to Mr. Pyne of his knowing us at home —

Frank's typewriter is

[4] receiving one where
I make a long letter
to you. I am going
to ask him to enclose
this —
With the kindest
regards I am
Yours very truly
Annie G. Gunn

Kiukiang, 6. January, 1903.

My dear Straight,

Your letter of the 28th ult. has just arrived and, although it is a time of small things with me in the matter of private correspondence, I am moved to reply at once for I can see that you are in a very uncomfortable frame of mind. Some time since I got your long letter which had been laid by till the rush of the annual work was over and I could pay attention to my friends again, but I must answer some part of that letter, as I am writing. My first feeling on reading it was that you had struck on a fine way of relieving the monotony of life in the East, viz. by taking 6 months or a year in the U.S.A. on full pay and expenses paid and also that you were evidently well read in your bible and had faith in the statement "ask and ye shall receive: knock and it shall be opened unto you". But you make one mistake in thinking that I had any influence that could help you in that scheme and another in thinking that, if I had, I would have used it. I gather from your letter that you thought that Carl is the man already selected by the I.C. for the post of head of the commission, but I can't make out whether you were only repeating guesses of the Peking staff or whether you had some real and positive information. Assuming that Carl is to go, I can assure you that he will not be likely to venture to suggest to the I.C. that any particular man should be sent with him and the I.C. would not be likely to pay any attention to his suggestion if he made one. If the appointment rested with me, I tell you frankly that I would not give it to you, for you have been out only a short time and to give you any such a "slant" as that would be would be unfair to older men who have served faithfully and deserve plums if any are dropping. Moreover if you are going to stay in the service, I don't honestly think such an

an appointment would be as good for you in the end as to remain right where you are as long as you can. Of course the I.G.may want to send a man with C. or whomever he may select,and it may well happen that he will have conceived so good an opinion of you that you will be the man selected:then you will have nothing to do but"grin and bear it",conscious that it was an honor thrust upon you unsought. Considering that he has made no announcement yet to the service about the commission to prepare the collection in China for the Exhibition which has always preceded heretofore the naming of the man or men to go to the Exhibition,I am inclined to doubt whether he has given out his selection for the job,but,if you know,that settles it. Now to come to the letter which has drawn forth this effusion. You will have gathered from what I have written above that I think you would be foolish to ask for a transfer from Peking. Your statement regarding your people at home is delightfully vague.Of course it is none of my business except in so far as you confide in me,but I cannot understand from your letter whether your sister's property became tied up by the death of the aunt or how,when it will be untied,how the death of the one aunt left the other in such straitened circumstances,or how much you would have to do for either the sister or aunt to ease the situation,so how can I advise you understandingly? I don't know whether you feel that you ought to remit them mex.$100 a month or whether one half of that amount would do any good. You are also very vague about your own expenses: you surely ought to know how your money goes every month! Can't you put it all down on paper and then see where you have been extravagant and where it would be possible to economize? You have never told me what your mess costs you. It is a shame and a hardship if you are in a mess with chaps who for the sake of cutting a big"swath"entertain like the I.G. and the Ministers & expect



expect you to bear your share in it all,and if such is the case you should not stand it. There is only one thing tangible in you letter that I can speak of with conviction and that is,if you are in need of money and feel that you ought to cut your expenditure to the lowest point,you should give up the Frenc soldier and get your practice in speaking by going amongst the French people who can't speak English and talk with them often:your knowledge of the grammar is good and all you need is practice in speaking and that any one can get in Peking. It really seems to me that you ought to be able to save more than $50 a month even if your mess bill is big,if you feel that you must do it,for you come out pretty well supplied with clothes and you have no doubt bought some more since you arrived,so you ought to be able to run on for ayear or two with out any expenditure of consequence in that line.What else is there? YOu don't belong to the Club and you have therefore only your boy,teacher and a few sum dries every month. If you have an 8 or 10 tael boy,sack him and take youngster at half the sum or less:he won't know how to do anything at first,but youcan show him and do some things for yourself just as we both had to when we were boys and young men at college. If the real rub is the mess,and there is no way of reducing the expense there,which ought not to be more than the British students are paying,then you have the right to go straight to the I.G.and tell him in a perfectly frank way how you are fixed and that you find it hard to the pace of the mess and that you would like to live elsewhere if there is any house where you could live,so as to avoid the expense attaching to the entaining done by the mess,etc. Of course if you find on inquiry that other messes all pay as much as you do and that there is no extravagance in your own,it would not do to ask such a thing of the I.G.for you would not have a case,and then you would have to hare a cook,coolie,boy,and your last end would be

be worse than your first. When I say you have a right to go to the I.G.about the matter if there seems no way for you to avoid stupid extravagance in the mess, I mean that it would be a right and proper thing for you to do and that he ought to sympathize with you under the circumstances and help you out by allowing you to live with some one else who live more quietly and cheaply. But don"t even think any more about asking for a transfer unless your money affairs are really in a desperate state, for you have a chance now to become well known by the I.G.and I can't remember any man who ever served under his eye and did good work who did not get some extraordinary advancement as the result. To sacrifice this chance would be a real sacrifice, and you ought to avoid it if you possibly can. My own idea is that you should find out if you have not already done so, what other messes cost in the place and if you find that any are living cheaper than you are, speak to Wilzer and let him know that for imperative reasons you can't afford to chuck your money away and ask him to put the mess on a more reasonable scale of expenditure, and tell him that, much as you would like to, you can't afford to bear your share of big entertaining, dances, champagne dinners, etc., etc., etc., and I believe you will find that he will be glad to meet your wishes, for while the world generally hates a mean, miserly man, it respects a man who is working for others and has the courage to deny himself pleasures for their sakes. Try making up an account of your expenses and see how they look on paper and see if there are not some of them that you can well get rid of. If this home demand on you is likely to continue and is not merely temporary, you have more or less burned your bridges, for you would have to pay up the allowance you received on joining if you resigned at this early date, and then you would have the heavy expense of getting home: therefore you must have some thing very fine open to you to warrant you in



in taking such a step, so the best thing to be done now is to live frugally and make the most of your position in the Inspectorate to learn all the Chinese you can and when you are set to work in the office do everything so well that not only can no fault be found with your work but that it will be approved by every superior: then promotion will come to you because you are on the spot and the I.G.will know what you are doing, although many men may be doing just as good work down in the ports, but unseen and unknown to the chief. You will remember that I told you how that sort of thing works while we were on the way out. I need hardly assure you that I take a deep interest in your case and am anxious to know how you work out of it. Tell me as much or as little as you like, and if you want more advice about this or any other matter, just ask for it, for advice is cheap for the giver, and if by any chance it happens to agree with the recipient's own idea, as sometimes happens, then the advice is called good and acted on, and the friend gets a cheap reputation for wisdom!!!

On looking over your letter of the 2nd ult. I find that you make a positive assertion that the I.G. has named the commissioner to the St. Louis Exposition, and that you think it is Carl. This is interesting, for it is so unlike his old way of doing things: it seems to confirm some of the remarks our friend Dr. Morrison made about him.

Thanks for the cutting from the "Press" which I return, as you may want it for your scrap book: it is pretty good, quite good enough for the home public who know absolutely nothing about things Chinese, but there are weak spots in it from the point of view of a full fledged "District Postmaster" who gets very sick of seeing the deficit piling up in the Postal A/c continually, and who can't take any of the rosy views of the future which come so easily before your mind.

If they pay you decently, you can always find time to send them an article on

on some subject of interest in this great country, and then you get dollars that are worth something. Speaking of dollars it does not seem easy for any to say when exchange will stop its downward course, but don't forget that something will have to be done for us if exchange does not improve; it may take some time to manage it but it must come for the service can't exist and do the good work expected of it unless the men are adequately paid.

Thanks for good wishes and kind inquiries. We are all bright. I don't get time for any shooting except on Sundays and holidays, but I go on those days unless the weather is too bad. I have made no big "bags" but I always get some game, pheasants, snipe, quail, teal, pigeon, woodcock, etc., and have a total of some 275 head of all sorts, principally snipe. But wait till the spring snipe come and then I hope to write of really good bags.

Bouinais left us early in December for Shasi and Bessell is coming from there to take his place: it is an awkward time of year for a change, and I am unusually busy in consequence, as with a new man learning the A/cs work, I have most of the correspondence to do myself, but I am not grumbling. The China New Year will soon be here and by that time most of the annual work will have been finished, and I shall be free to devote some time to pheasants in the outlying districts, I hope.

Old Mrs. Carl's death was a sad affair. It must have been a terrible blow to Miss Carl and young Mrs. Carl to find her dead on their arrival home. I thought you would like them: Miss Carl is very bright and clever aside from her ART & Mrs. Carl is very pretty and graceful and we always found her very amiable as well. I hope to hear from you again shortly. If you want something more substantial than advice to tide you over a difficult place, you know my address.

With all good wishes. Yours very truly, W. H. Prunner

are totally different from the Chinese-bred. and most charming. One plays the violin and the other the Piano. and they play. they shit stream. There have been two musicales at your legation. and it was a splendid treat to hear music again. Then two wives had a bit of a Shakespeare Club this winter and besides that me Flaherty. a marder man. and myself have had a habit of dining together of a Sunday. and reading. It's been very good for us both. I think. I am still at chinese and getting a bit tired of waiting for something definite. It will come sometime I expect.

Remember me to the Martins. and Proschma. tell him I was sorry not to see him again. Write me what things in general. and shit fellow my bad example as a correspondent. Good luck -

Yours

Willard D Straight

Peking.
March 2nd 1903.

My dear Howell.

First let me congratulate you on yours raise of Tls. 25 per month. Yours doubtless extremely pleased to have had such a rise in the world after four years service and even more pleased still to find that instead of eight grades there are fifteen or something like that. a quick circular that lost of the T. Is. and under the prescute deplorable circumstances, with silver on the wane and "general dissatisfaction". as Bland says, it would seem a rather ill-advised move as well. The document was given to Kroadoff. held for two weeks, recalled and finally sent to Shanghai. so that he himself evidently had some qualms about the matter. But

Thomas Devil Dawson.

he evidently survived them. and went bravely at the
mark, whatever it may be. What do you think
of it and what does Aylen have to say? Of course
it's all right if Beaumont succeeds as fast. But
it won't. I'm afraid. It seems a sort of a loophole out
of a tight place.

It has been disgraceful my not answering your
letters before. but I haven't answered any. So you
need not feel hurt at all. I had quite made up
my mind to curse you roundly for not knowing
better than to insinuate that I had humbugged stuck
my face in the book. I deny the accusation. Maybe
you're not the only one who has made it, and this
mad tend to convince me that something of the kind
his near. I can only say that all the great Italian
artists used the little birds. So that it would seem to
be one of the perquisites of genius. Even you hit-
-wallest people name boys and rats and flowers
after your respective and respected selves.

Simpson came down the other day. Country to show
himself I imagine. though he denied all such wicked
and deep laid schemes. He seemed quite healthy
and "By jove" and circumlocuted as much as ever.
Earl of Cheffoo has also been here. Having a bad
time with Imperial Princes who want to run an
exhibit at St. Louis on court etiquette and
hot air. (Miss Martin will Translate). He is an
awfully nice man. just as jolly as could be.
liked his toddy and his cigar and his game. altogether
quite human and like ordinary Christians.

We've been quite gay of late. Lady Susan had a
Ball a week ago and among her guests were two
English girls who have been visiting in Tientsin. They.

Chicago Mch 9/03

Dear Willard

Yours of Jan 24 came today, stamped at Shanghai Feb 6 & San Francisco Mch 4, a long step.

As to the account due you from Seth J. the land. I could send you the figures from my account book. You will see that I was off in my report to you from memory in my last letter. Here are the figures. Subsequent to the final report before you went away.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aug 1/01 | Cash advanced for interest on loan | | 15.00 |
| Oct 25/01 | " " for special assessment | | 29.08 |
| Mch 3/02 | Certificate abstract of title | | 8.00 |
| " 12 | P° Note for borrowed money | | 500.00 |
| — | " Interest on same to date | | 18.60 |
| " " | " Recording release deed | | 2.50 |
| " " | Commission on sale at 5% | | 40.00 |
| | Balance due me on a/c W.D.H.A.K. Straight | | 22.11 |
| | | | 635.29 |
| Mch 12/02 | Cash from sale of lot | $800.00 | 164.71 |
| | Balance from J.P. | | $800.00 |

[see 3-9-03]

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE.
Mukden.

Letters regarding hats Hazel Straight
and my ex-Guardian Col. J. H. Putnam
27 Portland Block
Chicago
WL.

[3-9-03] 2

You seem to have forgotten that you borrowed $500. on the remaining land & gave your note for it. You required this money for your Senior year, & I paid the interest on it up to the time of sale as well as the other expenses in the lot. When the sale was closed I charged you the same commission I should have charged any one else, that being the first & only charge I have made against you or Hazel for anything I have done. But you seem then this college & on an independent footing. The charge of $22.11 is the balance I found that was due me when I closed my guardian ship. — So there remains $164.71 due you. I have not paid the balance because I have been so very hard up. I have lost at least $1000. for years for the last three years, in expenses over receipts.

Now as to Hazel's affairs. At Mr Raymond's death she wrote, as did Miss Rockwell, for her money or half of it, as the I had it on hand. I replied stating the facts, that it was loaned to a man who had defaulted on his interest for a year or more & that I was foreclosing the mortgage as he promised, but that the land will not pay me either this month or August. Meantime I am advancing Hazel her interest $250. for year or $125 every 6 months & paying the taxes & repairs on the property covered by the mortgage, the owner having utterly neglected it for nearly two years. There is some possibility that he may redeem & give us back our money this spring & I sincerely hope he will. It has been a heavy load for me but it is my fault in coming to him & I do not intend that Hazel shall suffer from my mistake. She wrote me some time ago that she could get thro' the school year very well but would want some money next fall which can get for her as if I don't sell to advantage I can at least borrow all that she will need on the property.

Miss Rockwell seemed badly demoralized at Mr Raymond's death & wrote as the she had lost everything, but when I wrote asking some pointed questions as to her resources she did not reply, & as Hazel went back to college it was evident that things were not so very bad after all. — I intend to see that Hazel has what she needs as soon as I can get possession of the mortgaged property or the money for it. — Do you know what Miss Rockwell's resources are? Has she enough for her own wants?

[3-9-03] 3

As to family news. Mrs Putnam is now laid up. She had something very much like appendicitis, but is slowly recovering & will probably be about in a week. Helen is in Honolulu, teaching in the normal school there. Went out there with some other girls from Col Parker's school last fall. Is letting to stay another year I suppose, enjoying life there very much apparently. Alice is here with us. Has some violin students. Sibley is in the University. Expect here to go to Cornell state a mechanical course next year if I can manage to pay his bills, but I can't depend on the sale of lots for that purpose as in your case. Sales of such property are almost impossible now. Business in real estate is very dead.

I look as tho' there may be another scramble in China. I wish you were out of it & nearer the coast.

Yours affy

J. D. Putnam

Wish you would give attention to the formation of your letters in writing.

[1903]

SIR ROBERT HART

REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF

W. Straight Esq

COMPANY ON Friday THE 3rd April

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

R. S. V. P.

Peking.
April. 7. 1903.

My dear Howe.

Your esteemed favor to hand and contents noted. Hardly would say that the world do more as you have doubtless found out by this time. What do you think of Hillier as Commissioner and Smythe as your immediate superior - for such I suppose he is. Richarden came up to Tientsin and brought the news of Hedgelands latest variations and of Smythe's transfer. He also said that some one else had been sent to Kaulung but did not know who it was. Are you to have three assistants there? Again up here as Chief Secretary will make things quite exciting. To have him over us again, will seem quite like the days when the Tsungli Yamen loomed up in green

grandeur. Kuvaloff, lucky devil, goes to Kuwalewang in charge - and after six years service! It's marvelous. But he is a clever fellow - speaks four languages besides his own. and is a tremendously hard worker. While many others placed in the same position might have done as well as he has. still he has deserved his good luck if ever any one did. and we cannot grudge it him, but must be content with wishing that the same good fortune might befall us all. Myself - I am. placed at the accountants work. "To learn accountants work." the order read, but what that may mean I know not. Probably then when the whole subjects swoop up. I will be assisting Macrum and Richardson. Other surprises, they say, are coming - so we never knows.

And in looking, what's the good word? Wilgus says he had a letter from Tisdale, who knew nothing about his student pidgin - has that been hanging fire again? The rest of the community is, I presume the same, save that Proschmann has been entertaining royalty and some heavy courtiers are in Shanghai.

Padsu I have heard from but once. He was writing advertisements for Henry's Pickles - with a chance of getting along well I believe. His eyes were bad and he was obliged to give up his law studies, which was certainly hard luck. He went home particularly for that - and now that it has fizzled so doubtless rather sick and disappointed. He made a few references to life in China - being not so bad after all - and I have even heard indirectly that he was thinking of coming out, that however, is doubtful as he made no reference to it, in his letter to me.

What do you think of the new circular? You make no reference to it in your letter - and I should rather like your opinion on the subject. There is no news up here - save that the court has gone away - and the Rumours are rife concerning the probability of our all being massacred at no distant date. Which Sauce is aptly described as being "R[redacted]".

I had a splendid trip to the Coast with a very jolly party - among them two awfully nice English girls who have been spending the winter with their brother an Indian army Officer stationed at Tientsin. You came back to go to work for which I was glad —

Give my best regards to the Community particularly the meeting and believe me Ever —

Yours

W D Straight

(TYPESCRIPT COPY)

(Original in possession of Mrs. E. P. Andrews, Ithaca, New York)

Peking, China
May 2, 1903

My dear Gene,

Thank you very much for your letter just received. The card I am sending herewith and trust that the same will reach you in good season.

Certainly you are the most energetic man that ever wore the Badge, for if it hadn't been for your spirit and continual backing I am sure that many a brother would be lagging along, not that he wouldn't be thinking of it all, but he'd be careless and not pay much attention. However, things should be reasonably safe as long as you're at the helm, and I shall look forward to the time when, as a returned Bulumnus, I shall toast you at the Sphinx Head Board--and with a big bumper of good Schlitz at the Savage Club.

First concerning the former. I am owing something I know--and if you'd send me my shingle--a picture--but I forgot I have one of those--my shingle and the account I'll settle up with you and be decent. There's some sort of a five dollar a year game for the grub that's due too. Let me know what it is and I'll see if I can squeeze Her Imperial Majesty, my mistress for an extra tael or two.

I am delighted to hear of the Savage Club and its most appropriate location. One of these days I am going to send you a Chinaman of sorts to hang up in the old room, a fat Buddhist Priest I think would be best, and you must write Evermann for something as well. That's a good old organization and I'm looking forward to a leave years hence when I can strike the crowd--including yourself I hope again.

Yes, I am the unfortunate W. W. Straight whom the ____'d fool editor put down as Inspector General of Customs. When I received the paper last night I was in a horrible funk. I took my life in my hands and showed the thing to the real Inspector General Sir Robert Hart, this morning, thinking it would be better that way, than that some busy-body should do it for me. Luckily he has a house party on, and was in a good humour. Otherwise my young career might have been ruined. Many a man has been snowed under for less. But it's all right now for he laughed and wished me "luck," and told me not to worry. It all came I suppose from my giving my address as always, Inspectorate General of Customs--It was a narrow squeak, and well out of.

The life out here is fascinating, especially with Manchurian dickers and rumours of war. One of the men from our mess, a Russian, was the Commissioner just appointed at Newchang, this much discussed Treaty Port. It's rather good fun to be out where they're making History.

With kindest regards to all--and best wishes for success in all your good work. I am--

Yours in ⊣⊢ ⊡
Willard D. Straight


Lama-Tempel, erster Hof. Lama temple, first Yard.

Peking. X. It was from behind this first that I saw the Emperor who was at →

Peking
10. July. 1903.

My dear Howell,

Lest another most unwholesome period shuld pass by without my writing I shall do so now - even though the lamp light in front of me and the rapidly warming cold drinks in my little inside are making the sweat of my brow no mean stream. Honors, correspondence, even under such circumstances is an infinitely more pleasant performance than wades or rather Hirth's documentary chinese, on which I have been laboriously pouring for the last hour or so. It's a sad life when one must ruin his digestion by doing chinese on a July's night, but my love of total ruin was that of the lamented Gary.

The Service movements have you in chinkiang. Who else is there, and how do you like the place generally. It's a shame I think that you couldnt have been given a change

for you've been in the Gaughts for some time now, and must be looking forward to a sea fort, with cool green waves, instead of muddy stretches and lubberly river-craft. Is Pichon there, and De la Touche, you will be glad to be with him at any rate? and will be able to naturalize to your heart's content. One thing though, must have been a bit rocky, and that was leaving the Martins and the Hilliers, when according to your last you liked very well indeed. That is the Customs life I suppose.

There is nothing of here at present. People are in considerably in the exams, and seem uniformly satisfactory, which means doubtless that some several trouble have violently reared into the realms of their own flowery imaginings. Even Severin ~~who~~ was handled with gloved mits. We have had nothing and know not when the sword may fall. The T. G. goes to Pei-tai-ho in a fortnight and then there will be peace and quiet for a time (expect. We are all sorter half expecting a big order-book we of these days - but when & where or how we dont know. The new offices are nearly up, and the Secretary's houses code along, while there is a mess for six men, all ready furnished and waiting for its' occupants, so that means that certainly within a couple of months there will be some news of we sort or other.

Tomorrow I go to the Western Hills for a bit of a trip - just Sunday - and back to Office again in the Monday morning - last week I did the same standing the Glorious Fourth with the Sugers at their Temple - and making the welkin ring with fire-crackers and rotous song. But these good things are so fleeting that they are almost a nuisance.

Aglen goes along his usual way. His ankle is much better and he has taken to riding. He is shockingly healthy, and pleased with life — enough, quite, to turn me green. Certainly he has been a lucky man. I wish that he might bring you up to Peking, for a man of your pianistic attainments is badly wanted. As Mr. Hirth puts it, by Mr. Commissioner Po when he wrote to Taotai Sun." I wish you Promotion and Squeezes. and may you think of me mor'n nec."

Yours ever

W D Straight

INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF CUSTOMS,

PEKING, 21. July, 1903.

My dear Professor Hull,

Something or a year ago I think it was, I sent you a small packet of Guide-Books for northern China, — a precious parcel, which, I trust, reached you in good order — and no wonder for its unexpected journeyings around the world. Since that time I have been transferred from the old Southern to the modern Northern Capital of the Yellow Land, and seen many funny things facetiously described by the usual "do-it-all-in-five-days" globe-trotter, who of late has been turning Peking into a garden of note-books and interested smiles.

ne business in broken English and comic-opera costume, are hurrying back to their - summons in artillery and infantry and Engineers.

How it will turn out no one knows, most probably consider it a toss-up - with chances in favor - and once started, where it will end, whether there will be any China or not no one knows yet. It is a situation that one watches with some interest, for it's full of consequences for our Service particularly.

You've had a bit of typhoid lately, but all seems fairly quiet now so far as I can see by the papers and with notices such as we had on Dragon Day - those cyclones not to be any lasting effects do you think? Trusting that you are well, and with kind regards to your Father and Sister, I am -

Sincerely yours

Willard Straight

here however, the situation is becoming day by day more interesting. There are wars and rumours of wars. local news-sheets breathe fire and brimstone, local diplomats dine out, and talk platitudes and smoke cigarettes in the eyes of the world, and spend early mornings and late nights in offices with maps and telegraphic codes. Our mess is not far from the barracks occupied by the Japanese legation guard, to the west across the "Imperial Jade Canal". are Americans, Russians and British, to the north of us Italians, to the south French; on the East Austrians. Bugle-calls ring out at all hours of the day and night, and with wars fire those they have for the last year. In the early morning we hear the rolling, swinging tread of the little Japs - coming in from hard marching in the country - their bugles sounding defiance. all day long we can hear them drilling, wrestling, single sticking, at night they march through the streets, out for the air, without arms, but swinging along in a column of fours, singing their wild eastern chant, the solo shrill and wailing, the chorus deep and earnest. after dinner as we sit in the court-yard, drinking our coffee and with an evening smoke, the mellow notes of the Russian call come on the breeze, then the sound of the war-hymn - slow and solemn.

a news-paper correspondent friend, just down from Port Arthur, tells of the great conference, forty generals, admirals, ministers of Diplomacy - Finance - and general Duplicity - meeting to discuss the Fate of the East, every day the booming of great guns at target practice fill the air, troops are marching and counter marching. From Japan come echoes of war-barbarians, Impecunious Barbers and carbuncles and Travelling agents, who have been carrying

6376

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
Deliver documents attached only on payment of draft.
B/C
384

Ithaca, N. Y., July 23, 1903

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation
229

Pay to the Order of
W. D. Straight
First National Bank
$189 18/100
One hundred and eighty-nine 18/100 Dollars, (with U.S. GOLD) net of United

Value received and charge the same to account of

To Mr. W. D. Straight
c/o Imperial Maritime Customs
Shanghai,
China.

S. K. Bernstein

[See 7-23-03]

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Ithaca, N. Y., Nov. 2, 1901

Three months after date I promise to pay to the order of S. K. Bernstein $97 40/100 U. S. GOLD

Ninety-seven and 40/100 Dollars, at the First National Bank, Ithaca, N. Y.

VALUE RECEIVED.

With use

W. D. Straight.

DUE Feb 2, 1902

...VED PAYMENT .....
FOR THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.
.....AGENT.

Pay FOURTH NAT'L BANK,
NEW YORK, ORDER,
Prior Endorsements Guaranteed,
JUL 28 1903
FIRST NATIONAL BANK,
ITHACA, N. Y.
CHAS. W. GAY, Cashier.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK,
ITHACA, N. Y.
JUL 25 1903
Pay any Bank or Banker
Prior Endorsements Guaranteed,
CHAS. W. GAY, Cashier.

FOR THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.
ACCOUNTANT.

Hong Kong Shanghai Bkg Corp.
Pay ..... Cashier, or Order,
THE FOURTH NATIONAL BANK
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Dr Bernstein

MONTHLY STATEMENT

Folio 271-6

Ithaca, N. Y., July 23 1908

Mr. W. D. Straight
c/o Imperial Maritime Customs
Shanghai, China

TO I. K. BERNSTEIN, DR.

Merchant Tailor and Haberdasher

Please return this Statement when remitting. ...142 East State Street.

| | | To Account Rendered, | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1901 Nov 2 | | To note | 97 45 |
| 1902 Feb 13 | | collars | 1 50 98 95 |
| | | interest to date | 10 23 |
| | | | 109 18 |

*Dear Sir:—It is our custom to render a Statement as above, to our customers on or about the first of each month, of all purchases made from us, whether such accounts are due or not. Please examine above account, and if not correct advise us immediately.*

*Yours respectfully, I. K. BERNSTEIN.*

[copy of deteriorating letterbook sheet, approximate transcription]

I. K. Bernstein

26 September

Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Bernie -

Your bill and my note were presented the other day, and the account squared. I cannot help feeling that you did not play the game in this matter, for as the matter stood, I thought that the account was to run with interest, until such time as I could pay it. As for my ultimately doing so, you must realize that that certainly would be the case. However the matter is settled and the necessary money stands to my debit in the bank here. Kindly send me out a statement of the balance which now stands.

Yours truly,

W. D. Straight

26 September

Dear Colonel, [Putnam]

A letter came from Taylor and Carpenter of Ithaca the other day, and they said that up to the present they had not received the some $164.- which I believe you wrote were due me over and above all out-standing indebtedness, and as I have had no reply from you to my note concerning it, I thought I would write again and remind you of the matter. Under the circumstances, it would be best, I think, to turn the whole sum over to them and let them square one or two minor bills for me. Once that is done I will be clear save for the larger amount with Schoellkopf, and that will be most satisfactory.

As far a Peking goes, we are running along smoothly enough. I have been enjoying life thoroughly for in no place, I imagine, could one have the chance of meeting people as here in China. Last night for instance I dined with my chief, Sir Robert Hart, and I've met the Ministers for Austria, Italy, France, Belgium and Japan and the British chargé d'affairs. It is an interesting life I assure you, and an experience quite worth the candle.

I trust you are all well and that Sib finds college life agreeing with him. With best wishes to all, I am -

Very respectfully yours -

W. D. Straight

Peking 3

Dear Colonel,

A letter came from Taylor and Carpenter of Tientsin the other day, and they said that up to the present they had not received the same I 1/4.— which I believe you wrote were due we must have all outstanding indebtedness, and as I have had no reply from you to my note concerning it, I thought I would write again and remind you of the matter. Under the circumstances, it would be best, I think, to turn the whole sum over to them and be them square on the minor bills for me. Once that is done I will be clear save for the larger amounts with Schoellkopf, and that will be most satisfactory.

As far as Peking goes, we are running along smoothly enough. I have been engaging life thoroughly for in its place.

Tientsin could not have the chance of meeting people as here in China. Last night for instance I dined with my Chief, Sir Robert Hart, and there were the Ministers for Austria, Italy, France, Belgium and Japan and the British Chargé d'affaires. It is an interesting life I assure you, and an opportunity quite worth the candle.

I hope you are all well and that Sib. finds College life agreeing with him. With best wishes to all.

Yours —

Very respectfully Yours —

W. D. Straight

Peking.
15. October, 1903.

My dear Howell.

Hurray for you! It's only twenty-five tacks, but after all, that's something, and you get into another lot of running waters anyhow. Then too, it's probably only a hint of a rapid rise to the dignity of Commissioner and comparative affluence.

It was a Time in itself the clear cold air, and the smell of the woods. Hope you may see it all one of these days. The Hedgehog I understand is to go to Tientsin and will doubtless drop in on us one of these days. God save the T. G.

Write me a line sometime.

Yours —

Willard Straight

You have been among me a letter these many moons, and by rights I ought not to be dispatching talk to you now. But even though yours from Montevideo so well deserved as to make congratulatory remarks seem not amiss, I venture to intrude the same.

How goes chuckaway and the hermits of the Feathered World? and what is the news in your vicinity. Here the T.G. has exhausted a Bevy of Beauty, and I believe expects another consignment. This continual round of pleasure is wearing on mes health not to mention matters more sordid. At any rate I was well out of it for nine days for I was fortunate enough to go with the Trumbs to the Eastern Trumbs — a wonderful pine-forested place: with wooded hills, and bubbling rock beset brooklets, oak scrub and tall grass, shaded avenues and semblé sketches of meadow-land.

JOS. R. PUTNAM & COMPANY
REAL ESTATE BROKERS
27 PORTLAND BLOCK
CHICAGO

TELEPHONE MAIN 1301

Oct 21/03

Dear Willard You will be surprised to hear that I have not yet paid Carpenter & Taylor the bal due you. - The fact is I have been so hard up for the last two years that I can just manage to keep my head above water. There has been no time when I haven't had possibilities in view which if carried thro' would make me easy, but they have almost uniformly failed. The real estate interest has had no share in the general prosperity that this City & Country has had, & I see no prospect of it. But I have changed my business & now that I am now giving a good deal of attention to Texas land for which there is great demand & it looks as tho I should make some money. As soon as I can I will pay off that bill.

I loaned Hugh's money to a man who defaulted & it had

To foreclose him, & take the property. The total time, but I have
now got title in Hazel. & at her request & that of Miss Hewlett I have borrowed $2,000
& sent her $1,800. the expense of foreclosure & loan having taken a
good deal over $100. — I have no idea what they will do with the
money but Miss Hewlett evidently wanted it. They have
no idea of assuming any responsibility about the property tho
I expect her to sell it & pay them principal & interest, which I
shall of course undertake to do.

Coll. China is cutting a good deal of figure in the world
just now, Chiefly, by letting her entire powerlessness & indifference to
her own integrity. I have no reason why Russia will not get
on to Peking & Shanghai whenever she gets ready. There seems absolutely
nothing in the way, except opposition of other nations, which may
amount to nothing. As for Japan, the sympathies of all honest
folks should be with her. She has a difficult road to travel.

Nelly is in the Sibley College at Cornell. Helen is to be there for a
year in Honolulu teaching. Says she is engaged to be married. Alice is
home. Good bye. Affy C. R. Palmer.

Ithaca, N.Y., Oct 27, 1903

Mr. W. D. Straight
Inspectorate General of Customs
Peking, China

My dear Straight :

I am really ashamed of myself for not having replied long ago to your two very welcome and interesting letters, the second of which I took the liberty of sharing(except as to its more personal parts) with a number of your friends here by letting one of the newspaper men print it.

You are the only one of our boys who has felt inclined to stick it out in China, and we are all glad to infer that you are meeting there with that recognition which we felt sure that you deserved. Not, indeed, that you have become as yet Inspector General of Chinese Customs, as your obliging friend, the editor of Harper's Weekly made you a few months ago when he printed your article, but that after all you are making, as I hope, substantial and gratifying progress.

As a matter of fact I fear the Italian guide books must have gone astray since I never received them. That, however, is immaterial, and is mentioned merely because you ask the question and as an excuse for not acknowledging their receipt. The winter time Chinaman that you sent me is far more than an equivalent, and leaves me your debtor in a sort which I am the more willing to acknowledge because I am quite unable to repay you.

I presume that you hear from time to time what is going on here in Ithaca. After numerous vacillations, the Trustees have settled down, at least so far as we now know they have settled down, upon locations for two new buildings. The Physical Laboratory was at one time to have stood east and west across the middle of the quadrangle, half way from Boardman to Sibley. That, however, was objected to because it would conceal Arty Gibbs's architectural triumph, the Sibley dome, which I believe you have not seen. Therefore, the Physical Laboratory was swung around and was to stand north and south across Central Avenue from White Hall. I have forgotten just who was dissatisfied with this, but somebody was. Accordingly a third set of plans was drawn on the supposition that the building should be tucked away behind Lincoln, between that and East Ave., where as Mr. Schurman said, it would be an eyesore to nobody but the President. This was unsatisfactory to the Department of Physics because the site did not permit future expansion, and we are in a very expansive frame of mind just at present, the epidemic, contrary to our expectations, not having cut down the attendance at the University, which has a few more students than last year. So at last the Trustees have settled down upon the Simonpure original Schurman site, whereat His Local Excellency is as pleased as a boy. It seems that he once suggested this site to Nichols as an alternative for the one which Nichols wanted and has not been allowed,- west of White Hall and south of the Chemical Laboratory. The architectural objections to putting the building there are certainly serious, but Nichols hoped that they might be overcome, and he turned down the Schurman site accordingly, although he preferred it to any of those subsequently suggested which I have just mentioned. Now everybody has come around to that, the President is pleased, the head of the Department of Physics is satisfied, and pretty much every one is agreeable except only Professor Hewett, the milk in this cocoanut being that the site chosen is at the south-east corner of East Ave. and Reservoir and will evict and dispossess not merely Waite and Law and Creighton, which of course was to be expected, but the mighty Hewett himself.

If Physics goes up there on the hill, of course the proposed Arts building, which was long slated for that site, can't go there too, and accordingly it has been determined that the Arts building shall be built along East Ave. reaching from Stimson, the new Medical

14/17/249

Oct. 27, 1903

-2-

building, north to include the Dairy building. Both buildings are to be begun at once,-that is to say, unless the powers that be change their minds again before Carrere and Hastings get around to finish the fifth set of plans for the Physical Laboratory, and the contract is let. It has really been very disconcerting to go to bed at night without the slightest notion what the Campus was to look like, prospectively at least, next morning, and while I believe every member of the Arts Faculty without exception, regrets that the new building is to be so far from the Library, there is some consolation in having it finally located, or at least in being able to hope that the present location is final. I send you all this because I know your interest in and affection for the Campus is not based solely upon its architectural symmetry, and in consequence the news may interest you and will not pain you.

I am sorry to have to say, however, something that will give you much pain, as it has all of us. Sunday was Dr. Thurston's sixty-fourth birthday, and Mrs. Thurston had invited a few of his especial friends in to dinner in recognition of the anniversary. While he was sitting in the Library and waiting their expected coming, a failure of heart action seized him and he died almost immediately, to the great sorrow of us all. I do not know what the University can do to find a man to fill his place. It is all too new yet to seem altogether real.

I have also more cheerful news for you, though perhaps it is of a matter which you know already. Professor Jenks is going to China, indeed he has already gone, in his capacity as member of the Commission on International Exchange, and some day or tother he will be in Peking where he hopes to see you. He travels in state with an English and a Chinese secretary. The English secretary is a fellow by the name of Durand whom you don't know, and the Chinese secretary is Alfred Sze whom you do know. You ought to give him all the assistance you can because if he succeeds in his designs, you will be able to know just how many dollars X Haikwan Taels are worth.

The wish somewhere way back in this letter, as Bertram Willcox says when he wants to revert to an earlier period in a conversation-- that you may get ahead in the Customs, does not conflict, in my mind at least, with the hope that you may before long have a sufficient leave to revisit the pale glimpses of the Ithaca moon, and if in the meanwhile you can forgive my dilatoriness sufficiently to write, I shall try to be a prompter correspondent next time. My father and sister join in kind regards and good wishes. Believe me

Always sincerely yours

[Charles Henry Hull]

Ithaca
November 24th 1913.

My dear Willard -

This letter I expect will probably reach you about Christmas time - It does not seem possible that it is so near Christmas - how the years do roll by! I was so glad to receive your letter of October first - and also the prayer written upon silk - I prize that very much - what a curious thing it is - and what an interesting time you had getting it.

We are having a very cold November. Last Saturday there was some skating - skating for a few venturesome people - We saw a few on Beebe Lake - but

dressed - they are cheered equally well - Do you remember Mr. Trimington? he is back here this year completing his fellowship work - and also has some instructing to do - in the department - he ~~go~~ leaves here in February I do not know where he will go then. He remembered you very well and was interested in seeing the kodak picture you sent - I was glad to have that - so glad you sent it Looks as though W. D. S. had grown stout since he left here - China cannot agree with him -

This fall has been quite a busy one - and very pleasant too. Last week the K. K. G.s gave a dance at our house - it was a great success - I was surprised to see how well it (the house) opened up with all the furniture moved off the first floor - twenty couples danced easily - The addition that was built last fall (off the parlor) made a fine place for dancing - We enclosed the veranda with rugs and put the sofas and large chairs out there - making a pleasant place to sit - Every one seemed to have a fine time - Wish you might have been here - By the way - is it four or seven years that you expect to stay before you return for a visit to America?

Mr. Hodge I saw a while ago - he is back at the University

Ithaca
November 24th 1913.

My dear Willard -

This letter I expect will probably reach you about Christmas time - It does not seem possible that it is so near Christmas - how the years do roll by -

I was so glad to receive your letter of October first - and also the prayer written upon silk - I prize that very much - what a curious thing it is - and what an interesting time you had getting it.

We are having a very cold November. Last Saturday there was some skating - skating for a few venturesome people - We saw a few on Buck Lake - but it looked very dangerous -

You would have enjoyed seeing the Cornell - Columbia foot ball game here Saturday a week ago - The first half of the game was not particularly entertaining but in the last half Cornell seemed to wake up and made two touch downs and almost a third so the score was 17 - 0 - You would have enjoyed the college spirit shown. The cheering was splendid - Your class certainly woke up the University - and showed them what university spirit was - and since then it has been growing right along - No matter how badly the team has been beaten or how well they have

D

enjoyed - they are cheered equally well - did you remember Mr. Turington? he is back here this year completing his fellowship work - and also has some instructing to do - in the department - he ~~go~~ leaves here in February I do not know where he will go then. We remembered you very well and were interested in seeing the kodak picture you sent - I was glad to have that - so glad you sent it. Looks as though W. D. S. had grown stout since he left here - China doesn't agree with him -

This fall has been quite a busy one - and very pleasant too. Last week the K. K. G.s gave a dance at our house - it was a great success - I was surprised to see how well it (the house) opened up with all the furniture moved off the first floor - twenty couples danced easily. The addition that was built last fall (off the parlor) made a fine place for dancing - We enclosed the veranda with rugs and put the sofas and large chairs out there - making a pleasant place to sit - Every one seemed to have a fine time - Wish you might have been here - By the way - is it four or seven years that you expect to stay before you return for a visit to America?

Mr. Hodge I saw a while ago - he is back at the University



after his first few months study in Europe - I guess he has enjoyed his trip greatly.

Louis Fuerte has started building his house on Cornell Heights - It is to be a very small double house - Mrs Fuertes and Miss Fuertes will occupy one half and Mr. and Mrs. Fuertes "the other half" I think they plan to be married sometime this winter. I have not seen Louis to ask him if he has heard from you - he is spending the winter in Washington. Since receiving your letter Harry seems to be enjoying his school in Lausanne - Already the boys have gone off several delightful

little trips alone in the Black Forest! I sincerely hope that he does not acquire the German beer habit. But I think there will be little opportunity for such a thing - the way the toppers looked after.

I am anticipating a fine time in New York this winter. I go to visit Miss Morgan on the twenty-eighth of December. I will be with her until the seventh of January. She has planned many good times - a house party at a friends country home in Lattingtown, Long Island - and a Twelfth Night party. After

my visit there I go to stay with Mrs Blakeman for the rest of the month. While there I expect to work with my music - work which will be a perfect delight. I do want to get on with my harp and so I have decided to give up my visits and really study for a while. I had thought I would go to some boarding house as there would not be the distractions there that there would be if I was visiting. Mrs Blakeman however would not listen to my doing that. And of course it would be far pleasanter to be with her. She is living all alone this winter so we can have nice times together. between times. The Burdicks have rented their home in New York this winter and are living for the winter in a flat. Which Katrine writes is ideal for a change and rest. Flora is at school and Charlie is a senior at Princeton this year. Of course you have heard of the death of Prof. Thurston. How very very sad that such a man should be taken! He will be such a great loss to the University and to the world. It really does not seem possible that he is dead. He always





seemed so active and so well. Prof. Durand is trying to take up his work. Mrs Thurston and Romie will be away this winter. Mrs Thurston in Philadelphia with her sister and Romie at Pratts Institute in Brooklyn. Olive is finishing her senior year at Vassar. Next year they will be back here and expect to go into their new home (which they are now planning) on Cornell Heights. It is remarkable how the Heights have opened up. quantities of lots have been sold. worthy & prosperous.

This letter carries to you my best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

The family join me in kindest remembrances to you.

Very sincerely your friend

Ruth Miller.

[c. Nov. 1903]

PEKING - TOKYO - MANCHURIA.

November 18, 1903
to
March 15, 1905.

Letter to F. Willis, Esquire, Concerning Chinese Trade.

Your letter received some time ago was so general in its tone that in replying I am going to take the same more or less broad view of the matter, without going into the details as regards any particular article or class of article. In the first place you doubtless realize that the day of the old so called merchant prince has gone by, that Chinese trade today is carried on with much narrower margins and much greater trouble than it used to be, and that while in Shanghai there is still some of the "Spirit of the East" to be seen among business men, the short hours and frequent holidays of the old regime are rapidly being replaced by a much keener and more wide awake way of doing things. Competition along every line has made itself felt. While the old firms established many years ago still do their trade in tea and silk, the trade in the former has been steadily decreasing in value, though that in the latter has remained reasonably certain. These houses own their own fleets - they have coasting steamers and river steamers, and lines of heavy cargo boats going to England and touching at continental ports. They are tremendous powers and occupy a position that is practically unassailable unless one be backed by millions of capital and at the head of a large force of energetic and experienced men. The latter day merchants have therefore gone at things in a much smaller way. In Shanghai today there are any number of firms. I wrote a friend of mine asking him to give me information concerning the situation there, but he has not as yet seen fit to do so. I also wrote to the Consul at Newchwang who answered at some length, but unfortunately included so many political views that Mr. Conger, the American Minister, was only willing to turn over to me a much mutilated copy of his letter. However, you are welcome to the scanty fruits of what inquiries I was able to make, which may give you the chance to decide whether you will venture out or not.





The south of China as the oldest field, is of course the one least promising. Canton - Amoy - Swatow - Foochow, none of them offer a particularly tempting prospect. Shanghai is the great distributing point, and from its wharves all goods, nearly, are sent up the river as well as to the southern and northern Treaty Ports. Shanghai therefore is the Headquarters for most all of the large firms. The great imports are of course, cotton piece goods and sheetings, cotton yarn, though a good deal of this is now manufactured locally, and kerosene, - American, Dutch and Russian, (for machinery). There is not as yet any great demand among the natives, and while there is a tremendous amount of railway building going on, the fact that the syndicates are in every case organizations backed by their Legations, for the furtherance of the commerce of their own nationals, would preclude ~~of~~ the possibility of their ~~bringing very~~ buying very much in the way of railway materials. In any case, the great American firms already have their agents in Shanghai.

Such concerns as the American Trading Company and the China and Japan Trading Company, as well as the other houses of the same order, are nothing but commission merchants on a large scale, they have the agencies for various manufactories at home and sell what they can, relying rather on their capacity as a general store, than on their position as great wholesalers in any one staple, to make their profits.

At present the Japanese and Germans have the greatest trade in sundries. They have studied the Chinese markets and are catering to them at prices lower and with goods inferior to those we could or would afford to sell. The Japanese particularly are good merchants along these lines. The Chinese demand, with the exception of a few of the large Treaty ports, is still in embryo. They do not understand the use of foreign commodities, they do not need them nor do they want them. This will of course, change as railways are built, the mineral wealth enormous in its potentialities tapped, and the people enriched and by their more prosperous condition able to appreciate and enjoy the goods which the foreigners are ready to sell them. The demand must therefore be created by the sellers

themselves, and that point has not yet been reached.

On the Yangtze there are chances for lines of shallow draught steam launches. The same applies to the Lakes which are connected with the great river by canals and smaller streams. This field has been found profitable, but here you would have to compete with Japanese local lines, and the steamers belonging to the main River Company. The country through this region is rich - there are many exports, hides, silk, medicinal roots, etc.

In coming to the north, Tientsin is the busiest port, with exports of bristles, hides, furs, vegetable oil, feathers, etc.,while the same great staples form the principal items of import - sheetings and piece goods, not much woolens, some flannel. A great area is served through this place but there is the same undeveloped demand as we find in the south, and the danger too that the Peking-Hankow R. R. will divert the exports from the country heretofore serving Tientsin to the steam transportation to the River and the steamers plying thereon. In Newchwang, the one open port in Manchuria, conditions are much the same though less favorable. Silk is an additional export and bean cake and bean oil, another great staple. The former however, could not be exported much farther than Hawaii as fertilizer, and though the latter has been sent to England for use in soap making, it has not proved very profitable.

But notwithstanding the fact that the new American Treaty ~~will~~ would seem to secure the opening of two new ports, the Manchurian question has taken no uncertain complexion. The Russians have their heavy hand on the whole country and they are not likely to let go their hold. In any case the opening of these places would not be of any great benefit to American trade for most imports must of necessity pass through Newchwang anyway.

Another great handicap to any form of trade is the absolutely unsettled condition of the currency. While the Mexican, the Hongkong or Singapore and of late years the Chinese minted dollars have been used in the Treaty Ports, the copper cash is really the unit of value and a most uncertain one. Every place has its local tael or oz. of silver but in no two places in the oz. of the same



weight or value. The whole matter is in a hopeless muddle. You have brought forward a certain shipment of goods, knowing the prices at which you can probably sell them. On their being delivered in China silver has fallen, you cannot raise the prices with the native dealer, nor can you lower them with the merchants at home. You buy in gold and sell in silver, and run your chances on making a fair profit by the transaction. You can never be sure of the results.

The new American road from Hankow to Canton will pass through a section of country enormously wealthy in its mineral deposits. To mine these you have by hook or crook, bribery, intrigue and general scheming, to secure a concessionaires right. The mining laws are almost prohibitive, the officials obstructionists with an eager desire to squeeze at every possible turn, and the country people more or less hostile. You might waste a year or two in getting your concession and then discover that you had tapped the wrong vein after all.

But supposing for the nonce that you were to start in business here. It is almost imperative that you should have a Chinese manager or compradore. That is the system on which all the large concerns are managed. This man knows the conditions in the interior and he serves as a virtual guarantor for the men to whom on his recommendation you sell goods. He is practically your partner. He handles the native end, you handle the foreign end of the business. Some men have done business in a small way without the middle man. They have in most cases been people of no character or standing, willing to go to almost any length to smoke opium, to frequent native restaurants, to live the life of the people in order to obtain the knowledge necessary to handle their customers in a way that will be profitable to themselves. They speak the language, know to a certain extent the intricacies of exchange and have their cronies among the native dealers, but are versed in all the tricks of and have none of the reliability of their Chinese colleagues and for this reason would not be trustworthy. Of course I do not mean to say that good men could not be prevailed upon to become "drummers" but the conditions are almost prohibitive. Life in the interior is too meagre and sordid prospect to attract any man of reasonable ability unless the pay was such as not

not only to make it worth his while but to recompense him for what he has to go through as well as his ordinary business cares, and therefore in the end the old system for some years to come at least would probably be the safer, for there are so very many contingencies upon which the financial standing of a native firm depends, which are scarcely distinguishable to the eye of anyone but an expert, that it is the wise man who takes his compradore guarantee and runs no risks.

Tea too offers a field. The trade in the native article has been falling off year by year simple because of overtaxation and antiquated methods. All trade reports agree that if the China fields were to be handled properly and the plants cultivated scientifically as in India, that the tea trade would revive. This once done and an advertising campaign carried on at home, Lipton's future might be rivalled, but here again you want experts.

To sum up then, bristles, hides, furs, silk, feathers, and there are large profits made in all, are the safest things in export. With tea to be considered and camphor in Fukien and Formosa - imports, cotton, sundries, some day machinery in import, woolens have never been popular owing to the use of fur and cotton padding, general stores with cheap agricultural instruments in Siberia, and Russian Manchuria, with the chances that Port Arthur and Dalney and Harbin would be good places for a general business in everything from a locomotive to a needle, unless Russian ~~influence~~ interference is too overbearing.

The political situation is uncertain. Russian has Manchuria, and will work her way down. Germany has Shantung, France wants all the South, and in all these places it will be hard for an outsider to get in, but it might be done by lots of push and a great deal of tact backed by a knowledge of the language of the interested Power as well as of Chinese. In the Yangtze there are many openings, trade is certainly increasing and there should be many chances for the man on the spot who knows what he is doing. But competition is very keen. The Germans and Japs are in evidence everywhere backed by Consuls and gunboats. The American Government has never been of that sort and the man who makes money will probably make a lot, but it will be trafficking and using all his Yankee methods of push



and over-hours, backed by money at home. Many firms are clearing a great deal every year but politics will sooner or later turn this country upside down and where the Americans will land no one knows, nor no one can prophesy.

Nov. 22.

Dined with Flaherty, Morrison and Brewster being there. The former was in excellent spirits and as is always the case when he is feeling well, was most interesting, simply bubbling over with yarns of his past life, and a checkered career it must have been. Tales of his university experiences, and of the time he had with the twenty-two committeemen of the Ballarat Hospital, where twenty-two were against him, his only friend being his tailor. His extraordinary facility in giving names and even initials, makes his yarns seem much more real, and they may be. There is something a little vulgar about him at times but it always strikes me that it is a pose merely, and that in assuming it he is flaunting in the faces of a class of society which at one time looked down upon him, the fact that he has made himself a power in their midst.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
PEKIN, CHINA.

Feb 17, 1904

To All Diplomatic and Consular Officers in the Orient.

The Bearer Mr W. B. Straight, I have known intimately for a couple of years. He is clever, honorable, of high character and always to be trusted. He is an excellent Chinese Scholar, and has an unusual grasp of things oriental, and I earnestly commend him to your good offices. Any courtesy or kindness you may render him will be thoroughly appreciated by him and for which you shall have the gratitude of

Yours
Very Sincerely E. H. Conger

(12)

Reuter's Telegram Company Limited.

Peking February 17:04 1904

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This to certify that the bearer Mr.W.D.Straight is duly appointed as a correspondent for Reuter's Telegram Company, and as such is entitled to the confidence of all to whom these Presents may come.

Thos. J. N. Gatrell M.D.
(For Reuter's Telegram Company)

(13)

Peking,
17. Feb: 1904.

Dear Straight,

Thanks for your note and Sam's likeness. I have never had anything special to do with the worthy old gentleman, but he was with my brother during the long spell of work he had on the Tibetan borders more than a decade back and I have a certain affection for him as he was faithful to and appreciated by him; so I am glad to have the picture on the account, as well as because it is

a specimen of what you can do.

I am very glad Stevens is going for, seeing you gives him prestige of being a useful man and also of making a name for himself; but Providence steps in now & then to track the tedium of life and change the current, and I hunting with you they enough & happiness as you who enter — I feel all the more interest in its aims you confided to me the evening — a evening ago — for being to me more than ever your disciple as one owe, & I trust the life, too, will be fully realized.

I am just on the verge of my studies for the first examination: I enclose one of my photos for you to keep — it will remind you of your old chief later on. You know the photo represents life before you, and, as you go full speed ahead, I have no doubt you will do what all you might wish for. Let me hear from you as often as you can at the Lightship service & the rest.

Let me write,

Sincerely yours,

Dwight?

No. 75. Staff.
Special. No. 925.

Inspectorate General of Customs,

PEKING, 19. February, 1904.

Sir,

I am directed by the Inspector General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th February:

tendering your resignation from the Customs Service:

and, in reply, to inform you that your resignation is accepted, to take effect from the end of the current month.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Dr. Aglen
Chief Secretary.

W. D. Straight, Esquire.
4th Assistant, B.
Peking.

that the S.S. will take me back if in the end I want to go, he agrees, tho' my time before seeking other employment in China I'd better see the S.S. and then had a semi-official reply to it there was unmistakable.

Well, old man, be good to yourself - and may luck always be with you. Your friend Ryan, is about to resign. and I have other rumors in Tientsin. Hillwill has been asked to Peking in my place.

The best of luck, and all good wishes —

W. Straight

S.S. Tofping
23. February 1909.

My dear Horsell -

Of course you realize that you are my a letter! Horsewill evade of fire - for quill has no chance of answering either the flow or n the brasset effort - So - I am no longer your colleague. My lot has been severed from the customs pillar of salt - and fine of me my son - not as a wrong course, but as a wild and wooly Crossman. a newspaper correspondent backed by Mr. Reuter and the associated Press. For something I have

been in the wing as it were. I lead an Ph in November - and another at Christmas time, but as big as war was an open question I doubt think the job a justifiable one. But with cannon booming and the trouble of famous shells wide, I could not resist the call, first of excitement and then of the Pound Sterling whose seductive voice would have any one even of the smiling here, let alone the field of battle. So here I am on my way, feeling my mind like a Boy out of Schools, with my ascetic resignation in one bracket and my enumeration from Reuter in the other, and no seven year service stamp cut in the face, nor any child, I even the D.G's kindly sort, to knock my head to. I can hardly believe it true.

The old gentleman was goodness itself and gave me his blessing, signed, and sent me a benediction like note. all of the this but as it were. Agnes was disgusted with me I think, but the perfects in the service are all right, if the service itself were an assured thing. but when this scrap is on, no one knows what may be likely to happen - and anyway, the chances are

[copy]

S. S. Fuping, 24, February, 1904.

My dear Heinie:

Not that I had cold feet on the Service at all, far from it, I liked it, but because the chance was too good to miss, voila - Sir, I have left the Customs! and now D.V. I shall reach Japan on Sunday and then go with the troops into Korea, to see what real fighting looks like after the sham battles practised by the Cornell cadets. I am the duly accredited agent or rather correspondent of the Reuter Telegram Company, Ltd., and of the Associated Press which works with them, and no longer a 4th Ass't. B. in the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs. I believe I wrote you sometime ago of my intention to take this up should it be possible, so that you will be less surprised than you otherwise might have been. Of course it means the throwing over of a future that was almost certain to be successful, of a service which while it wasn't much of a catch for most folk, had afforded me the best chances possible and in which I was sure, from the fact that I was one of a very few Americans, of having rapid promotion. But Mr. Conger, and Mr. Coolidge and several older men advised the step and so I made it. The old I. G. was somewhat surprised and I'm glad to say a little sorry to see me go, but he was as kind as could be, and presented me with his photograph, an unheard of favor, and more or less gave me his benediction, so that I am quite sure that, should it be necessary in the future for me to go back into the Customs, I could do so without much loss of position and certainly with a lot of valuable experience behind me. But between you and me and the door post, I don't think I'll ever take it on again. The sense of freedom is too precious a thing to lose and when the war is o'er and victory won" as the Glee Club used to sing, I shall hie me to fresh fields, and always sing the "Sestina of the Tramp Royal."

The offer to go with Reuter at $50 a month and expenses was enough of course to tempt anyone, let alone a poverty stricken individual like myself



[2-24-04]

and with any luck and a long war, I'll be O.K. financially before very long. That reminds me that in leaving Peking I asked Mr. Coolidge to look after my stuff for me and in case of my pulling out to send my things home to my sister. As regards money, I made a note that I owed you $750.00 - it should have been more with two years interest which I forgot at the time and will change. But as my sister has not a great deal, and you have been so exceedingly good about the matter, I noted that after $500. not more had been paid her, the rest was to go to you, and after that amount had been settled the balance again to my sister. This I trust you will understand and agree with. I hope, however, that no settlement will be necessary but that I will be able to settle the matter without having to have it pass through the hands of any testator or executor, or any other third party at all. But in these things it is of course well to be prepared.

I was very much interested in reading the football review you so kindly sent me but exceedingly disgusted to find that Caspar did not give you the All-American full back, as many of the New York papers had done. It was I presume because you had played at Cornell or something of that sort. Some one ought to get after him some day and pull his wool for him, it would do the world in general a lot of good to see it fly.

As to the progress in the Far East, Russia of course has received crushing blows on the sea and her fleet is practically bottled up in Port Arthur and will not dare to come out again. The Captain of this steamer who saw the whole fight said that at least eight of the Russians had been disabled by the first torpedo attack and the battle of the following morning. It is marvelous to think that the Japanese should have escaped almost as unscathed as we did from Santiago. It is my firm belief that the land forces of the Muscovite will crumple as certainly before the perfect organization of the Japanese army, that their defeat will be as decisive though possible longer in the accomplishment. The average Japanese officer is a better educated, better equipped man than the Russian, and the privates are certainly more intelligent. The Russian officer as I have seen him is a jovial, hard drinking ruffian, with occasional notable exceptions - the Japanese is a hard

working, earnest, capable man, whose sole interest lies in his profession and whose habitual sobriety is only broken by occasional bouts at drinking. All of which is in direct contrast to the Russian article. The Yellow soldiers are better shots than their opponents and by picking off the officers on the others side will be able to throw the whole muscovite forces into the utmost confusion. The Japs are near their base, they have the first flush of victory and they are intensely patriotic. It is hard to see but one possible result of the war that is raging.

Well, Heinie, good luck - a fine career and a sweet wife to you, and all the thanks in the world from

Your friend,

W. D. Straight.

Address
mc/o U.S. Legation,
Peking.

[2d week of May, 1904]

53 Lowndes Sq.
London.
SW.

Dear Mr. Straight

I was delighted this morning at receiving that most delightful picture of the 'Buddha in ecstasy' It is very clever, and a more than pleasant reminder of a jolly day. I fear it comes too

Pekin. Someone told me you had left. the Customs to go in for journalism - Is that true, if so we have more chance of meeting again than we otherwise would have.

How interesting events are in the Far East, especially after coming home by that Route as we did -

Au revoir dear Mr. Straight: with best wishes for your future Yrs sincerely
Susan Townley.

Special this

late for the book alas, as I have already received the proofs of the illustrations which are all very prosaic being reproductions of photographs. The book itself will appear shortly and it will be a pleasure to me to send you a copy in memory of the good days we spent together in Peking.

The "Bebés" remain as they were and I have had no time to do anything for them. In fact I fear it would be altogether too expensive a job.

My husband is already in Constantinople, for which place I start next Monday May 16th. We were indeed lucky to get appointed here although I sometimes a momentarily regret

[1904] copy

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo June 8

My dear Straight-As I cabled you to-day Mr Hagerty of The Associated Press has been ordered to Seoul to relieve you. I cannot tell you when he will turn up but he should be in Seoul before the departure of the naval excursion for which you have been selected. He was at Chefoo yesterday and his instructions were to proceed to Seoul as soon as possible. If he fails to come before you leave please sec re some one to act for us for a couple of days until he does turn up and leave him a letter putting him on to the ropes as much as possible. If he comes before you get away please show him around and have him meet the people. The naval trip which you are to cover is an affair arranged by the Navy department for the foreign attaches (naval) some members of the Diet, some distinguished guests and ten newspaper men. It leaves Yokusuka on Sunday the twelfth, goes to Kure, Kobe, Sasebo and probably one other place in Japan, then to Chemulpo where the entire party will go to Seoul, then to Chinampho and Pingyang, and then to the Laiotung peninsula. There should be some good stuff in it for us for you will very likely see Admirals Togo, Uriu, and Dewa and anything about them, particularly Togo and Uriu would be good. I am trying to arrange for a formal interview with Togo and if I fix it up will advise you. There is also a chance that you will see the finish at port Arthur. I have not yet received your ticket but will probably send it to you in care of Commander Marsh who is going along for us. The other American newspaper men will be George Kennan and Dunn not Colliers. Neither will be cabled so you need not fear competition from them, indeed you may be able to get their allotment of cabling pri veleges, which is fifty words a day per man. I am having the regulations translated and will send you a copy of them. The vessel is to be the captured Russian steamer Manchuria. The party will number about fifty. I do not know what the baggage limit is but I would take along a fair amount.
After you finish the trip you are to come back here to Tokyo and labor with me for a time. I will write you again and as I said before will probably get Marsh to hand the letter to you. Please remember me kindly to the minister, Gordon Paddock and the boys.

Very truly

[Martin Egan]

[6-12-04]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
TOKIO, JAPAN.

Mr. William Le. Straight
Tokyo

S. Martin Egan, Esq.

[19047] PG

Tokyo June 12th

My dear Straight-I send you herewith the instructions governing those who go on the naval expedition with a list of those who are going,and for safety my office copy of a letter I sent you a few days ago.Marsh is taking them.I have little to add to what I have already written.I do not believe that the ordinary port to port movements of this excursion are news and unless something unusual happens to it send little or nothing about it.Of course if you see anything that is news plug it through.I am specially interested in Togo and Uriu and anything of the army or naval operations that you may see.Try hard for talks with Togo and Uriu in which I am cooperating from this end and if you see Togo cable something about how he looks and acts.If you run into anything good in the nature of operations at Port Arthur plug it through. Please conform very strictly to the regulations and do not attempt in any manner to beat the censorate.You can rely on Marsh and also George Kennan to advise you.please introduce yourself to Kennan. I have cabled a general story about the expedition telling where it is to go and as I say do not bother to send ordinary arrivals or departures. There is considerable interest in the location of Togo's bases and cable anything on them that they will allow.Good luck to you.Hit the wire to me on anything that I can aid on.

Very truly

Martin Egan

[6-12-04]

MEMORANDUM/

The date of the sailing of the S.S.Manchuria has been fixed for the afternoon of June 12th, from Yokosuka. Preparations have been made to run launches to connect with the train leaving Shimbashi station at 7:20 A.M. of that day.

A copy of the regulations to be observed during the voyage is transmitted herewith.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHS. (Delivery Form)

Station Seoul Office No. 5

Received Time 5. pm Date 14/10 1904

By Jem

Address

Straight
Seoul

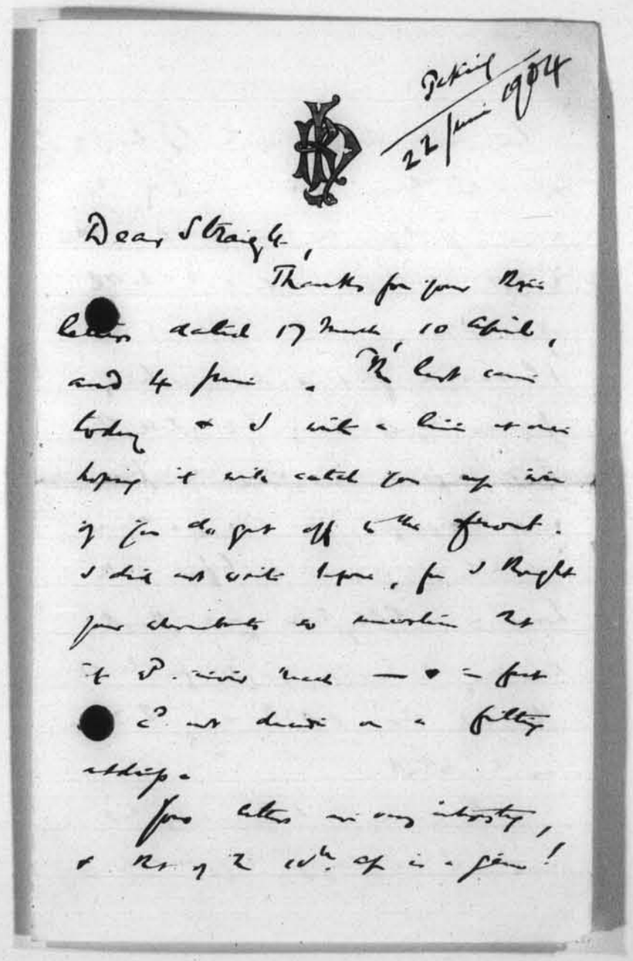
Class F Original Office Tokio

No. 102 Words 17

Date 14/10 1904 Time 1.60 pm

Remarks

Battleship petropaulovsk
mined destroyed
admiral Makaroff
drowned attack
portarthur wednesday
advise coldins
allen Bostwick Egan

Peking
22 June 1904

Dear Straight,

Thanks for your Rpts letters dated 17 March, 10 April, and 4 June. We had some trouble & I with a Rice & was hoping it will catch the eye if you do get off to the front. I did not write before, for I thought you should be in motion by the time W. was back — & for [illegible] not desire on a fitting occasion.

Your letters are very interesting, & we regret W. cut up in a fine!

his ex. always — & typical of
exquisite tact in avoiding the
mere footprint the attitude. Our
latest is the account of the Wedding
of Telissa and the kind of
characteristic phrase which was truly
Japanese throughout: but all the
best in fact as they are first
really significant, in this yet more.

Chance for me as before: the
house is a Kiltyclose, and though
having the interior enough for bulk,
the rest stands just the same chance
as the street.

The weather is hot — very hot
and I am hoping to get Patricia and:
but they feel — she has a cold —
not free. "Wednesday" will go
on, with a mixed policy: half one
way in varying directions. The gardens
look cool — the music is good —
the dust stings but seems to pass.
The two Lyceum ladies are from
an hotel and dance on being
made — Elsie Lyceum pass up:
inhabitants claim a lion in every
tavern: you can perform at all!

Nightbell is only so-so: sir
Hubert Parry I have had a little
out of quarter: I want to get away
as soon like I can't go: the jog
of it is they work in intensity, as as

[illegible] Gen'l [illegible] authorized [illegible]
Yen 720,000 for a P.O. & has
a current of expense to close a
and a!

Why do we [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] for a close to
distinguished journey.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. Schurman

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
PEKIN, CHINA.

June 29, 1904

Dear Mr. Straight:

Your 19th rec'd. also one for Mrs Conger. She bids me thank you and extend her kindest regards. I enclose a letter to Secretary Hay, of which you may make such use as you please.

Our hot weather has begun & with a little rain we are finding it rather uncomfortable. The Russians are beginning to pick up a bit, and they say here that their Combined Fit Arthur and Vladivostok fleet are quite equal to the Japanese

and they propose to demonstrate in a few days. But we shall see. Mr Coolidge has been a little unwell for a few days but is better now. All the rest about the Legation are well. Hoskins girl is now on route, and he is the happiest fellow you ever saw.

Remember me most kindly to Mr Griscom and his staff and believe me

Yours Very Sincerely
D. H. Conger

COPY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington.
June 30, 1904.

Hon. Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

I beg to endorse the application of Mr. Willard D. Straight, for the position of Consul, at Chinampu, Korea, where I believe a Consulate is to be established. Straight is a resident of my district, and has for over two years been in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Custom's Service. He has served most of that time on the Personal Staff of the Inspector General and recently has been in charge of the Reuter Corps of Correspondents in Korea, with headquarters at Seoul. He is familar with the language of the Chinese, Japanese and Koreans, and has, also, a working knowledge of French. I believe Mr. Straight is most admirably qualified for this position and I trust you will give his application favorable consideration. I will appreciate anything which may be done for him.

With thanks for your attention and great respect, I am, Sir,

Very truly yours,
(sgd) Chas. L. Knapp

[7-2-04]

# IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHS.

(Forwarded Message Form)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Time Sent | Station to | By | Remarks |
| Class | Original Office | | R. T. P. |
| No. | Words | | Via Manila |
| Date | 19 Time | m | |
| Delivery Station | | | |

Charges { Telegram / Total

Space for Stamps

Address

Associated Sanfrancisco.

(Please write distinctly)

fully second unnamed place Manshuria Marn bound Chinampo sighted searchlights near Sir James Hall Islands 930 evening first Ships lights immediately extinguished ~~During~~ next half hour lights frequently ~~&~~ observable above fog obscured horizon several hour flashes multiplied report, Suppose Russian fleet escaped recent fogs. Straight

Signature of Sender W. D. Straight

NOTE.—The name and/or address of the sender, if to be telegraphed, should be written as the last word of the message, otherwise the signature is not transmitted but is required to certify the genuineness of the telegram.

COPY

STATE OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF EXCISE

Patrick W. Cullinan
Commissioner.

Albany, July 6th, 1904.

To The Honorable John Hay,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

The subscriber is informed that the government of the United States has under consideration the question of the establishment of a new consulate at Chinampu, Korea. In the event of the government determining to establish such consulate, Mr? Willard D. Straight of Oswego, N. Y., is respectfully recommended for appointment as U. S. Consul at that place. Mr. Straight is a young man with a collegiate training had in this country, has spent several years in the Orient, possesses considerable linguistic ability, has an excellent knowledge of the Korean people and their country, and is otherwise well qualified to discharge the duties incumbent upon him as a representative of this country as Consul.

Trusting that you may favorably entertain his application in the event of the establishment of a consulate at Chinampu, I remain,

Yours very truly,

(sgd) P. W. Cullinan
(Personal)

COPY

CUSTOM HOUSE

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

New York, July 6, 1904.

My dear Sir:

May I file with you this note in behalf of Willard D. Straight of Oswego, N. Y., who is an applicant for appointment as Consul at Chinampu, Korea?

It is represented to me that Dr. Allen, the Minister to Korea, will recommend him for the position and that Mr. Straight has a special qualification and adaptability for the place. He has been for over two years in the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service, serving for most of the time on the personal staff of the Inspector General, Sir Robert Hart, and is familiar with the Chinese and Japanese languages. He has many warm friends in the locality of his home and am sure his character is such that he would be entirely satisfactory as a public officer.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Yours very truly,

(sgd) N. N. Stranahan

Hon. John Hay,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

[6-7-04]

HOTEL DU PALAIS.

L. MARTIN, PROPRIETAIRE.

Seoul, Corea 190

June 7th 1904

Mr. Hayashi who will leave for Japan within a few days summed up the Korean situation as follows / Up to the present time I have attained my main object in keeping the Koreans quiet. From time to time I have made suggestions regarding our future course here. To be successful we must have 'control which is only obtainable when there is a weight of dominant Power backing advice given. The lack of this has rendered services of foreign Foreign advisers useless. Heretofore there has been no definition of superior and ministerial functions. There must be a Government. Palace intrigue must end. A useless army must be reduced, officials paid a living wage & squeezing stopped for when complaints are entertained and acted upon extortion will cease. There must be education of the proper sort. Many Koreans who speak foreign languages and have been educated abroad are absolutely without administrative ability & stand for little save peculation. This takes many years. Necessary formulate comprehensive mining regulations avoid friction American, English, Japanese other foreign capital. The Korean Government must be submitted to an intelligent supervision backed by a force which precludes repudiation of the administration thus dominated. In effectuating such an influence Japan confronts a most difficult problem. To maintain the fiction of Korean independence while practically establishing a protectorate and yet avoid assuming the responsibilities of a Governing Power.

Dear Mr. Straight

Excuse slight alterations and also for this pencil note

Yours sincerely

T. Hayashi

[7-7-04]


My dear Horace.

The remark is hits but thus. Thus a damned poor correspondent! Puts you as I left China. and hopes I'm an answer. Nary one. You probably thought I was with the wars. War is Hell. Hell is hot. Heat destroys paper. You only rot with an asbestos. Voila. That all. Is it true? But now this nonsense. I am en-route for Tokyo. Have to wait for a time I suppose. It really is the only news center. Cabling from other points is practically useless. These be bad. When have I a time and try to understand things a little. Later I shall probably join Kuroki's army.

That remains the scene at present. Your
cousin Humphrey is a member of the Imperial Party
on the "Manchuria Maru". So far we have visited
two places – that is since his leave on the ships.
The others saw a lot of interesting things. This
place, Chinampo, is as dusty – stinking hole as
hole as quite bad anywhere in the East. It's really
awful. The Hoyles there by some chance are right
hard to his line is appalling. The mud at present
is worse deep – red, sticky. It is hot. There
are myriads of flies. The members of the Diet
the Marquises and Counts and Barons are
having a great time. They are dined and wined and
geished at every port. There are some two score members
including George Kennan and Frederic Villiers, and all
the naval attachés. Great.

Now write me some Service news. I hunger
for it. There are stories of the I.G.'s resigning and all
such strange things. Let me know of shifting promotions
and what at Peking, and whether the staff has
gone up or not – and whether the Secretaries Honors are
full. Now I must close off, and return
to the steamer. This written day M. le Baron.
Nefitti of the foreign Population. What's become of the
Martins?

Yours ever.

W. D. Straight
c/o Imperial Hotel.
Tokyo
Japan.

July 2, 1904

Mr. W. D. Straight
Chinese Imperial Customs
Peking, China

My dear Straight :

Thank you for the card of the Japanese Mars. He looks really, save as to his legs, like a Russian explorer sitting for his photograph ; perhaps the little sword is Japanese too rather than Russian. Was the card made in Japan or was it made in Germany ? The collar upon the subject looks as if it had been made in Troy. It seems curiously out of harmony with European notions of a uniform for a man to wear a collar with square turn over points. Perhaps after all that is an additional reason why the Japanese Mars doesn't look like a Russian.

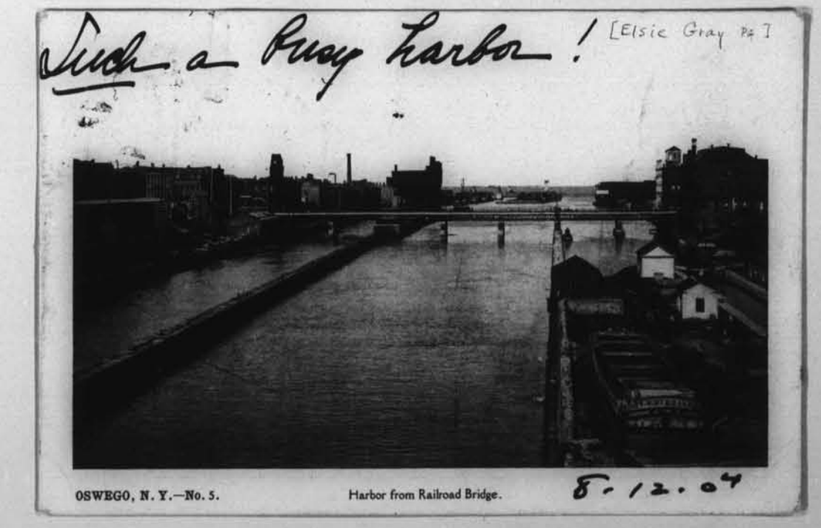
I hope that before this is written and long before it reaches you, you will have found most of the obstacles removed which I understand are worrying the correspondents in the East, and will have sent some sketches as well as stories to our part of the world.

I am leaving today for England and shall be back in Ithaca the 2d or 3d of September. If a war breaks out there meantime, I promise not to turn correspondent, but rather in company with the rest of the week to flee though no man pursueth.

I understand that Pulen is to return to Shanghai, this time as teacher in the college there from which Alfred Sze graduated. I forget the name of the college, but doubtless you have it. Believe me, with kind regards, as always

Faithfully yours

[Charles Henry Hull]



大

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA.

off Yongampho –
S. S. "Manshu Maru"
July. 14th 1904.

My dear Egan –

Your prophecy concerning the dearth of telegraphic news has been verified beyond your fondest hopes – there has been nothing worth a message – save the sight of the Search Lights in Hyung Haiju – this however, the Censor refused to pass.' I did send one message about the Rescued and Survivors of the "Hatsuse" and "Nyaku". This went from Chinampo. Most of the trip so far has consisted in delays. First in the fog off Haiju – eight for various excuses & in various futeets at Chinampo. and again twice here at the mouth of the River – we were unable to go up on account of the Summer floods. – at least that was the reason given. Personally I believe that there's a damned sight more sickness

among the troops than the authorities were anyone on the outside knew about. Certainly - as we lay here - the hospital ships just up stream took on board some 150 Typhoid and Dysentery Patients and expect as many more today.

The Bulletin Board now announces that we are off immediately for Yentao Bay. That may be so - and it may not be. The chances are that it is not. That Bulletin Board has begun to tell of too much and too deeply already to warrant much confidence being placed in it' veracity.

I am looking forward to turning up in Tokyo within the next ten days or so. If Sidebotham has turned up please keep him quiet until I return. With kind regards - and trusting that you understand my telegraphic silence - I am.

Sincerely yours

W.D. Straight


Emil Flaig. Manager.

*Tokio,* Aug. 15th., 1904.

Mydear Henry,

Youll see by this that I,ve once more taken up this machine as in the good old days when the possibilities of a trip around the World with one Jenks had some attraction. Many thanks for the books on the colour print as she is spoke inYapan ,so the Dutch say it,I shall do my best to live up to the reputation you say you gave me ,though I have some doubt about it,s respectability.

I enclose several letters of introduction that may be of use and may not . Anyway it,s always safer to have something of the sort on one,s person. Otherwise you might be taken for a Crook ,which in most cases you probably are , or else you would,nt have come to the East. I don,t send any for Tientsin for that,s a place to be avoided as you would the Plague, at least ,that,s the way I,ve always felt about it.Youmust be sure to go to Peking and see Coolidge and Fletcher ,both in the Legation,which explains the lack of an address thereon, the envelopes I mean. Bland in Shanghai is also a celebrity in the Far East and well worth the knowing I assure you.


[8-15-04]

Emil Flaig Manager.

Tokio,.....

The " Kinshu Maru" picture for the Maid of Myanoshita was duly despatched hier and no doubt will be much appreciated by the Fair Lady. THe other ppicture of which you wrote "Carrying the Wounded in the Rain " I will buy for you at once You were a good guesser when you figured that the picture would cost abouttwenty yen for that is exactly the price thereof. I have also as you requested purchased a number of the War Prints and if you wish me to do so will continue and get a coe llection for you as I am getting one for myself.

Now Hieenie , as our old friend Richie used to say, be good on your travels and I,ll probably see you again when you return, if no t I,ll leave you a long letter with many expressons of Love and Surprise therein. Remember me most kindly to any Friends of mine you may find strewn around the East/As an after thought I am also enclosing a letter to Miss Drew the daughter of the Commissioner of Customs at Foochow . She,s all right and you must not fail for my sake to call if you get into this Port as you doubtless will if you try youre coasting trip up the China Seas. Again I warn you avoid strong drink cards and lewd women , the woods are fullo, themas an egg of

Most Regards to your Party. Yours W. Straight

Alumni News J. UNIVERSITY CLUB OF SEOUL [8-31-04]

McDonnell, Furuya, Kuroda, W.D.S. East Palace

176

[c. Aug. 1904]

CABLE ADDRESS.
"GRANOTEL," YOKOHAMA.

TELEPHONE Nº 85.

# THE GRAND HOTEL, LTD.

COMDR. DAVIES, R. N. R., ASSOCIATE MANAGER.

Mr LOUIS EPPINGER, ADVISORY MANAGER.

YOKOHAMA.....1904

Is the ? :

I will be there as you say:
12:30 for the time of day
In the place where tourists
yell,
(Otherwise the Grand Hotel).
A brand new load is coming in,
Western youths & maids of sin
Spinsters from Duluth, Oskosh,
Buying curios and bosh.
For the fleet humpties here,
With the Cost plague of the year.
Do not grudge them poor allumpts,
Pardon this a lost opposes,
And forgive, in innocence,

R.

[9-7-04]

# IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPHS.

(Forwarded Message Form)

電第十八號

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Time Sent | Station to | By | Remarks |
| Class | Original Office | | |
| No. | Words | | Via Manila |
| Date 19 | Time m | | Press R T P |
| Delivery Station | | | |

Charges: Telegram / Total

Space for Stamps

Address

Associated Sanfrancisco

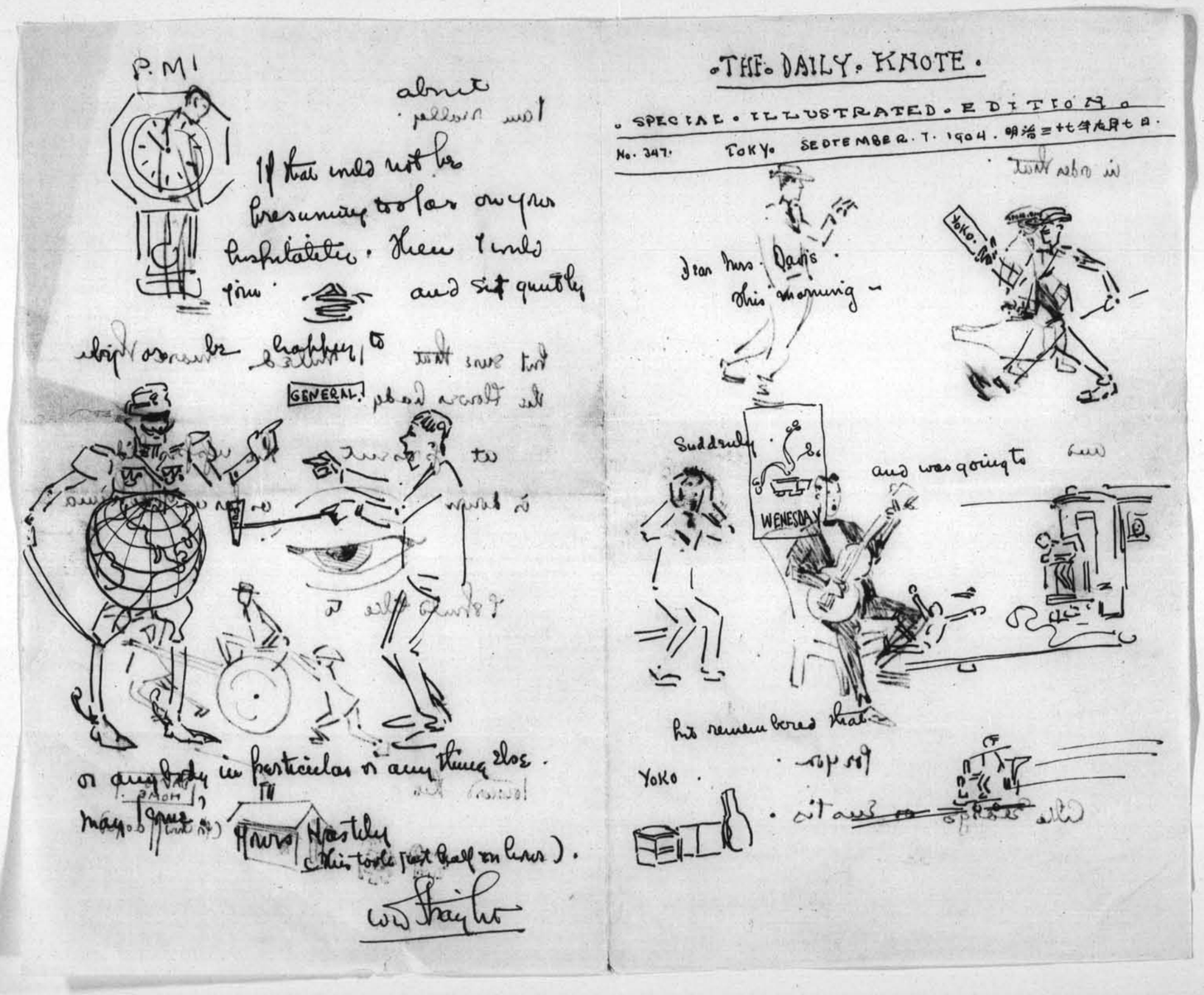
(Please write distinctly)

Wednesday seven evening popular expectation concerning Portarthur veering now generally doubted ~~fixed~~ fall before middle end september evident attackers changing plans attack engaged perfection new arrangements small list killed naval brigade fighting ashore gazetted today indicates light fighting reported great curious difficulty ~~encountered by japanese results facts~~ wire entanglements heavily charged electricity

Egan

*Signature of Sender.* Martin Egan
Imperial Hotel

NOTE—The name and/or address of the sender, if to be telegraphed, should be written as the last word of the message, otherwise the signature is not transmitted but is required to certify the genuineness of the telegram.




THE DAILY KNOTE

SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED EDITION

No. 347. TOKYO SEPTEMBER 7. 1904. 明治三十七年九月七日.

Dear Mrs Davis
this morning –

Suddenly
and was going to

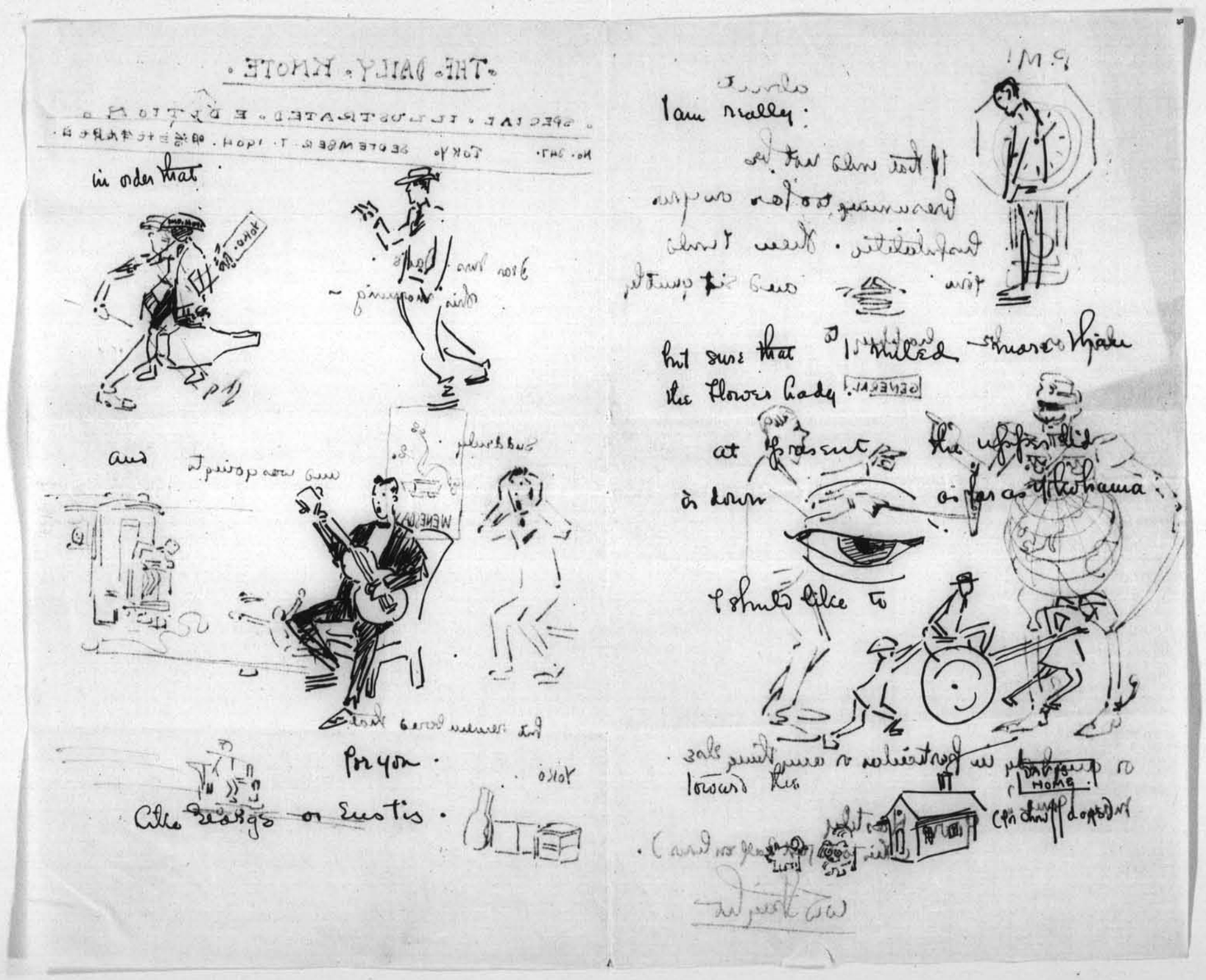
he remembered that

Yoko

or anybody in particular or anything else.

Mrs Hastly
(this took first half on Mrs).

Willard Straight




Original in private hands.

[1904]

Sept. 8.

Dear Straight

I, the most remiss of all correspondents will make an effort to atone. Do not imagine for a moment that the fault is not all on my side, for frankly it is, the only criticism that I can make which reflects unfavorably on your unanswered letters is that some of them required ingenuity & a magnifying glass to decipher. Kidston will bear me out in this for we have worked over them together full of exasperation that one who ~~writes~~ so well should write so damn badly. I have none of them by me now for they are in the office and I am doing this on the low table in the library(!) at home, surrounded by your Buddhas & such, so ~~I cant~~ that I cannot answer any of ~~the~~ your questions but there are some things I can do, & one is to thank you sincerely for the book which will have a permanent and

[7-8-04] 2.

without stretching too much I may say an historical interest in the days to come.

Your Consular ambitions might have roused me to action if I had approved of them at all but I didn't and I think that after a time you will agree with me.

I did make an effort to provide you with a tin guitar which I traced to Pritaiho & had shipped there via Tientsin to Chemulpo. Baddock when he was over here reported that it had arrived and I think that I asked him to send it back if he could not get it to you but I have not heard from it since.

There are sundry papers too, which you left, & some I think which Gottell turned over to me all safely sealed & labelled in the safe. I cannot quite forgive you for having overdrafts at the bank when you might so much more easily have had them from me but that I suppose was a matter of false pride.

Your books & buddhas etc are safe & sound and fat & have been much appreciated.

Some letters have come from Collins lately addressed to himself to be held till he returns, which makes me think that we may see him before very long. The correspondents are leaking out at a great rate. Lionel James of the Times & the New York Herald man came straight from Liao yang with their stories & of course will not return. I am told that Dicky Davis, Bennett Burleigh & others are on their way to Shanghai to sail for home but if this is true you will see them before this letter reaches you. Archibald must go back via Russia & Mr. Cornish I do not know about but I imagine that he will have to do the same thing. I should think that the time was coming soon when your chance for the life strenuous would present itself if you still feel inclined that way which is to be hoped. Your training in Tokyo ought to help you in a practical way but I am not in the least



afraid that it will turn you into a journalist of the accepted type, you must have seen too many of them before this.

If I keep on rambling in this way I shall never get anywhere, not even to the end of this letter so I will give you some local items. Sir Robert Hart got back safely from Peitaiho on the first of the month and I have never seen him looking better, he brought with him the two Mollendorf girls, is that their name & yesterday the garden parties were resumed in spite of my absence. I am told that the girls have no real talent for music, merely an aptitude, which makes their case rather pathetic. Aglen is looking very much out of shape, he is suffering from hope deferred as regards his home leave & a touch of the sun from trying to kill too many snipe on a hot day. Wilson is exactly the same as always and may be expected to remain so, though I think that he is coming near to the Change of life.

Konovaloff looks a little bit older ~~but~~ I have not had a chance to talk to him yet. Dupree seems to have fallen in love with Mrs. Bower who is just now far advanced in an interesting condition which he failed to observe, and for his foolishness has been seconded to some undesirable place in the South. Rospigliosi I have not seen lately but I think that he is the same. Holwill pans out well & ~~I think that~~ he is taking his work seriously, he is also a good man at a walk, an estimable quality in my eyes, My chief reliance in this respect, has been in Kidston and we have done many miles together, mostly walk toddling in the late afternoon when the work is done. He has been very busy all summer being the only working secretary on hand and I ~~am sorry~~ regret to say very sorry for himself most of the time counting the days which must be



lived through before his departure which should be in December, I think, if all turns out well. He is now at Peitaiho on a three weeks holiday in a house which he hired with the Cockburns at the beginning of the summer but which he now sees for the first time.

I had a vacation of two weeks much against my will, early in August, but I was not very well and everyone got so tired of me that I had to go. I put it in at Tuwchwang, Shanhai kwan & Peitaiho (at Mumm's) & enjoyed every minute of it. Jameson has been alternating in the roles of Paris Herald reporter in Peking & mining magnate at Jehol, his understudy as reporter being Mrs. Ed. Lowry. Just now he is suffering from a case of progressive stomach ache & has fears of appendicitis. Gattrell has gone out into the great unknown somewhere in Mongolia to forget himself and the rest.

[9-8-04]

The Mr. Connells sail for home on the 7. Manchuria early in October & you will have a chance to see them as they pass through. Mrs. Hoskins! is very much like him in appearance very tall & fair with blue eyes and quite pretty but not over strong looking. Williams has gone to Newchwang with Miller & Fletcher is in Peitsiho playing bridge with minor British officers. Arnold is in Shanghai at work & Cloud on his way to Hangchow. Clum has found a good posture somewhere in the Chinese city & I am tired & going to bed, so good night & good luck. I still have hopes of seeing you turn up here one of these days.

Yours sincerely

J. G. Coolidge

P.S. Let me caution you against Edwin Emerson, there is no truth in him.

Kind regards to Mrs Ward.

I have done all sorts of work on the house beautiful & it likes me well

Shanghai,

17th September 1904.

My dear Straight,

I have your letter of the 8th instant written from within the Tavern Gate, and I condole with you on sitting listening to the grunting of camels. Sit a little while longer and I think that you will find matters improving. Lionel James goes home on Monday, the last of the "disgruntled", but I hear from Tokio that the birds will be coming back with new feathers very shortly so that you will have done no harm in remaining where you are. Perhaps it's only another lie?

As regards the future, however, if you are really looking for a job, and find that food and drink do not come in sufficient quantities from any of your immediate neighbours, I think a position might be found for you here if you will give me notice sufficient. How would a cadet-ship in the Police Force, having special supervision of Chinese work suit you? The pay of this post is Tls. 150 with quarters, teacher & rickshaw, and for any man who does such work properly there would be openings hereafter, but it is not brilliant socially or financially in the beginning. Write me at once if you think well of the idea because there is at the present moment a vacancy unfilled. On second thoughts, it would be better to telegraph in case you should want to take it up, for I may as well explain that I may hear from London at any moment that a man has been appointed, so that the only object of your telegraphing would be to say that you would take such a post, and I could then wire London to seek no longer.

I only put this before you because of the concluding remark of your letter, but I do not think really that you would take such work or that you will ever have need of it. McEwen, later Police Cadet is being made Deputy Supt. Of course the post is in the Council's gift & they have been trying - so far in vain - to get a suitable man in England.

yours truly,

J. W. Bland


Emil Flaig. Manager.

To Luther Mott.

Tokio, Sept. 18th. 1904.

My dear Luther ;-

Your letter of the First of August reached me only the other day , for I shook the dust of Seoul from my feet some thre months ago . I am now part of the Tokyo scenery . On leaving Korea I had a most wonderful trip on the "Manshu-Maru", one of the old Russian Volunteer Fleet. Thiswas a sort ofCook's Tour to see Port Arthur fall . The passenger list consisted ofsome eight Naval attaches , a large assortment of the latest thing in Japanese Nobility, a crowd of Members of Parliament, anda few Correspondents. Every body hated everybody else , the Foreig ers the Japanese , the Japanese the Foreigners and each Race Cmp sub-devided into smaller and more critical cliques. It was indeed the outing of The Hammer Club. For no particular reason , with no real cause for complaint I now find myself hating the Japanese more than anything in the World . It is due I presume to the constant strain ofhaving to be polite and to seek favors from a yellow people . We cannot know them or understand them andthey dislike us thouroughly. Kipling was absolutely right whe he wrote "The East is East and the West is West , and never the twain shall meet"

However I did not start out to give you sidelights on the Real Eastern Question, but to thank you for the trouble you have taken on my behalf. It has been very kind of Colonel Mott to write these letters and I am sure that if anyonecan do anything in that district it is your Father. I am enclosing letters from Mr. Conger and Dr. Allen. I understand ,however that neither of these gentlemen stand particularly high in the estimation of the Powers that Be and it might ,for that reason ,be better to hold the letters yourself. Of course as you say this Consulate at Chinnampo has not yet been created , and I imagine that the Japa ese are rather anxious that it hang fire until this cruel War is over. I stopped in that place for twelve days about two months ago and it certainly was the most desolate town I have ev seen. All the buisiness for the American Mines would be done at this post ,however and there are a number of Missionaries up the River at Pingyang , who woud doubtless keep a self-respecting ma fairly busy . Of course the great thing about Korea at present is that the Japanese are going to open up this country which

[9-18-04] [2]


Emil Flaig. Manager.

Tokio,

Unless something definite happens before next Spring , I rather think that I shall take a run Home to the White Man's Lan again just to see how it feels . This would probably be more satisfactory all around for then I could take the letters which we might gather together in the District and personally take th to Washington . And also I have this last year or so been meetin many People several of whom as Morgan ,Consul at Dalny ( which he will never see) andR.H.Davis with two or three others , have said that when the time came if I wanted anything of this sort they would see that I met the Preident . Of course this only hol good if Mr. Roosevelt is re-elected . Don't you think the letter backing the personal scheme would probably be the soundest polic

I am glad to hear that the younger Mott is threatening to become a Foot-Ball Hero andthe pride of his County. I wonder if you ever recieved a certain wooly dog which I consigned to the Pride some months ago? I sent it on about Christmas time. Please remember me to your Better Half ?, I believe that's the correct term , and to the other good Oswego People. With repeated thank I am ,believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

FROM

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL,

NO. 82, BLUFF YOKOHAMA.

MEMORANDUM.

YOKOHAMA, 1. [1904] P2

TO Sept. 22.

Dear Bs he?

Very depressed today, rain and of Mrs. Davisian philosophy. I'm afraid I do not see the meaning of looking on the same views yr the 73d time, and being bored by an Australian Sheep with a boil on his neck. I prefer blind staggers or a 106 temperature: something to dull me. I wonder if I can excavate a quiet smoke into the prescription room — not for hara-kiri by the laudanum bottle, but just a dose to give the constipated bowels variety. The traditional side order of cauliflower substitutes my brain, and the soup at Biggin was dishwater. I grasp at straws. I imagine that the cigarettes lost on their way up from Lane & Crawford's will create a nice-fools paradise around me. So I sit in the doorway, and hope the

gardener, who is cutting the lawn with Brobdignagian scissors, will attack the Castor oil plant. You see I cannot shake off the objective.

"Ah, there is a significance", the dear Mrs. Davis might say, "Why do you hate an innocent Castor oil plant? You have taken Castor oil only once since coming to the hospital, and then it was in brandy. Your objective feeling must have an inner significance.

"The only one I can think of, is that a Castor oil plant is altogether too crudely symbolical, to be growing on a hospital front lawn," So I would reply -

To which she, like Calypso:

"But it may mean many hours and many doses to the Seacaptains captains who have barked their shins falling into the hold."

"But there is no evidence that that old wood ever bore a bud, to say nothing of a bean. For all the good it does me, it might be a tin Castor oil plant, painted green."

"But it could inspire you!"

"How?" said I.

"It suggests someone might start a poppy garden out there to supply your opium, and a cod fish farm for your cod liver oil, —

"And cauliflowers for skulls like mine", I exclaimed.

JESUS. H. CHRIST!!!!!

It is nice to see a blasphemy all

FROM

**THE GENERAL HOSPITAL,**

NO. 82, BLUFF YOKOHAMA.

**MEMORANDUM.**

YOKOHAMA, [9-22-04] 1.. [2]

TO

printed out. ~~So I~~ am reduced to inquire. Behold my ~~—~~

(Apologies to Dryden.)

Ode to a Castor oil Plant.

I.

Green blessing to mankind!
Thick-stemmed & coarse-leaved one!
Medicinally inclined —
Think of the fum
Of those that gulp
Thy oily pulp,
Who wake at 3 A. M. and have to run.

II

Born to the bilious, corked, otherwise,
The substance of thy dark green livery
Maketh the tendrest child grow shivery
Though lemon juice or brandy may disguise.
Not cascara, nor licorice powder borrow
Through the intestines so complete a furrow,
Persimmons green, nor peaches quite unripe
So grandly gripe.

III.

All ENO'S philosophic ~~scenes~~ Scenes
In the back pages of the magazines —
Trumpets that toot
The virtues of Salt Fruit —.
Or gaudy billboards reckoning the ills
Preventable by Carter's Liver Pills —
Are lies beside the groaning eloquence
Of an oiled stomach in midnight suspense;
~~which~~ Looking ~~the~~ ~~other~~ contents
Of Old Dr. Gray's Booklet No 2 (for men only)
Thumble 30 cents —

IV.

O potent plant, long may your juice defy
the insulting words of homeopathy,
Long may your moving powers bid defiance
to the vain boasts of female Christian Science,
And when all brother Eddy's
movements fail,
And "absent treatment" is of no avail,
Be on her ~~grave~~ grave a living epitaph,
(Whereat the passing philistine may laugh,)
To say in accents used by vegetation,
"Whatever may
"Her tombstone say
"She died of Constipation."

℞.

I.

[c. Sept. 1904]

We patients each have a disease
From some, issues pus near the knees
Some have their abdomen
Split up. (a bad omen)
(If the colon is found full ? cheese)

II.

And today a new victim appeared
With something exceedingly weird
He lies tire in bed
With ice on his head
And hunts for game, big & long-eared.

III.

At tiffin he caught by the paw
A leopard, then 3 lizards 'mong
And 6 crocodiles
He corralled hot within - miles
Rats, Rabbits, a boaconstrictor.

IV.

We patients each have a disease
From me, issues pus near the knees,
Some have their abdomen
Split up (a good omen)
And one, simply has the II. Ts!

Ty.

[1904] PG

Le Ministre d'Allemagne

a l'honneur de prier Monsieur

W. D. Straight

de vouloir bien venir dîner chez lui

Samedi le 1 Octobre à 7 heures 30 p.m.

à l'Imperial Hotel.

R. S. V. P.

Tokio

L. L. A. A. I. I. les Princes et Princesses

honoreront ce dîner de Leur présence.

Peking, 11. October, 1914.

My dear Straight,

I received your letter from Tokio & I see that you are going very strong with your typewriter.

I saw the other day Mr. Collins whom I spoke a little about you, & I have been very glad to hear that you have been re-engaged by the Reuters Co.

You tell me that now you are only No. 2. but you will see that very soon you will be the No. 1. Do you think you will remain in Tokio for some time more? If you are transferred

[4.]

why don't you let me know? You are in the opened world & may be you hear of something going on in Japan or in America or here in China. I mean some business where I could get in. I would be very much obliged to you especially if I could come down there together with you again. Of course don't trouble yourself very much about it in finding it out, but I mean in your position of a correspondent may be this could appear. That friend of yours Mr. Schoellkopf has not been in Peking at all, or at least I never heard about him: but if later he is coming I will do all I can for him. Miss Lavinia, her mother and her brother left a week ago for America. Who told you that Richardson is engaged? It isn't true at all & I news

Let me know where you are going to.

As you see I am still here in Peking waiting to know what Luzzatti doing. I have been rather unlucky last with this war! Everything was ready & Luzzatti had only to come out here when war was declared. At this new all London Capitalists refused to put any more their money in China's speculations so the end was "un bel fiasco" for Luzzatti! now he is trying again to form a different group of Capitalists, & if everything is going well, it seems that he is coming out in the beginning of the next year. I hope that this time I will be more lucky. Sabbione is now in Europe



with him, promised me to let me know every single step. – The Inspectorate in Peking is quite changed. – Dupree to Swatow. Wilbur on leave – left this morning. Duke who married a Theotokis of Corfu is here in his place as Chinese Secretary. Rosenoff is back from Newchwang – Kuroda is Deputy Commissioner there. Aglen is going very soon on leave. Dixon is coming in his place. Sandercock whom we met in Shanghai is here again – a lot of new men newly appointed are here too, amongst them a young Pim. I still do my old life seeing very little of them. I tell you I am rather bothered! – Now if you come to know anything fit for me

[5.] [10-11-04]

heard anybody say so. I told him this startling news & he laughed at it. I saw the other day Barbier who is back here for only a few days & after he is going back to Mukden. He spoke to me very much about the war. When do you think will finish all this row?

Good-bye my dear old friend. I hope you will excuse me for all the mistakes I can have made in writing this letter. – Don't forget me & be sure I always remember you with affection

Yours sincerely

Francis Rodgrigion

London Graphic, Oct. 22, 1904, p. 528.

(Drawn by W. D. Straight on July 17) p.g.

JAPAN'S NAVAL HERO: ADMIRAL TOGO

A SKETCH FROM LIVE BY W. D. STRAIGHT, ON BOARD THE MIKASA

Kaiserlich Deutsche
Minister - Residentur
in Korea.

25 X 1904

My dear Mr. Straight:

I received your very nice and humorous picture in the horse-shoe and I thank you very much for sending it to the universal Black Smith. I hope you are well and live a safe and nice life as a war correspondent in peaceless. You can certainly as

much in Tokio as you would see on the front. But the war will last longer than we all thought and certainly longer as the Japanese believed. I think Kuropatkin will be beaten again and again but the war will last 10 years and at the end the Japanese will be exhausted and glad to make a peace more favourable to the Russians than even now

though.

Excuse my bad english and bring me news:- your news-papers Vriegeleisen has written a article about my garden party in die Warte and that article made me furious. News paper people are very bad people, your name an exception.

Yours very sincerely

[illegible]

(147)

Sayonara

**Menu.**

Oysters and Clam Cocktail

**Potage**
Printanier a la Colbert

**Poisson**
Homard a la Newbury

**Entrees**
Pate de Gibier a la Gelee
Terrapin Stew a la Maryland
Filet de Boeuf a la Bordelaise

**Legume**
Asperges, Sauce Mayonaise

**Rotti**
Sarcelles, Sauce Groseille
Salade

**Entremets**
Charlotte Russe
Petites Glaces a la Vanille
Bouchees de Dame au Kirsch
Fruits Dessert.

Grand Hotel, Limited. *October 31st, 1904.*

Dear Mr. Straight,

I have written two poems which seem to be telegraphed to you but some cancelled after out of the table. Goodbye see more and thanks you for sending me the beautiful flowers. Hang Alcohol still trembles!

Adios — M. H. T.

He has turned out to be a lean, pale fellow with a big nose, who as he says "has travelled around so much he's worn the 3 blue bands off his belly." His greeting to Bill Lewis was "Say, are you in the celery business?" — and he writes poems for the "Tobacco Trade Journal."

J. F. J. A. turns out to be a sort of rather nice — but not very much — educated edition of R.L. Dixon, and as a humchauser rather beats The Orchid Hunter. The ribbon winner, however, is one Shearer, an ex-patriated young U.S. millionaire, the Paris of Parisian

Tuesday No 2. [c. Nov. 2 1904] P.8


S. S. KOREA

Nearing Honolulu -

Who is he?

And The Orchid Hunter walked aboard! He has introduced growing Sumatra cigar wrappers into Connecticut under tents; and talks of the town about "good tortes", "good lockers", "good burners etc." "A cigar is like a human being," he says after breakfast; and after tiffin, "A cigar is like a barometer" — as he carefully fondles a fine Japanese cigarette.

Vernuas, and a Monte Carlo King. His talk is the foulest and yet wittiest I have ever listened to, (not barring in Alaska) interlarded with auto-car-crooter slang. A certain English noble woman, who picked him up on the underground in London (her husband Sir So-and-So being in So Africa) and with whom he lived for days, recognizing photographs of his intimates in her bedroom — he described as to sweet subjections, "her farts smelled like baked apples." This is a mild instance. When you get auto-car slang applied wittily to buggery and sadism, in personal experiences that rather challenge a strong stomach at 3 A.M. (Columbus), even R.S.V., whom you imagine observes with cold ulterior motives up his sleeve, goes to bed.

Here is the tale taken up by Willie-on-the-yacht very cheeky because he has not yet been seasick. I would hold forth about Bobby — whose gammy leg is matter for general sympathy. The expatriated N.Y. millionaire explained the 'orrible accident to a girl by saying that our Robert was sitting on a fence looking at cinematograph pictures of the war — and fell off, with dire results. Altogether we have wherewithal for a human pie of the finest — adding for flavour a dry old coast captain from the Philippines, a typical S. Francisco business man, a couple of U.S.N. officers, a fresh

unvariety of the Imperial is manna beside this garbage. I am relieved to behold beans again, fish to vegetarian & red peppers.

You prodigal young Is-he! The idea of your wasting your substance on that bully cigarette case for me. So thank you, thank you. You do that sort of a thing in a generous way that makes me regret with jealousy that I haven't the mind power or the kindly instincts to do likewise to people who are so undeservedly decent to me. And here's a tragedy. I lost your sketch of me on the way to the boat. I found I was crushing it in my pocket, so rolled it, and stuck it in the brim of my hat — when it was not when I remembered it after the grand rough-n-tumble time I had to get through everything to catch this boat.


S. S. KOREA

the third [c Nov. 2 1904]
to pick me up on deck.

young woman in big-lamps who is dead stuck on R.S.D., a marine colonel who talks like a U.S. Senator and tousan, three vivacious dames who show their teeth, a youth who has cut me dead ever since I told him I was a reporter, two flossy-haired fungi from 'Frisco, and missionaries and their spawn in number as the windows of the Waldorf. All those graces, those engaging embellishments, which make you, my Is-he, the delight of drawing-rooms, would be wasteful and ridiculous excess here. And the food — my suffering aunt! what food! The infinite

I feel very badly about this, so if any unselfish Jap finds the thing, & sends it to you, for God's sake send it on to me — though I suppose I ought to go without it for my carelessness. Have you my address? For the next year, anyhow, it will be 55 West 33d St. N.Y. City. That's where Bill Moore & I have rooms, but the Harvard Club, 27 W 44th St. will always reach me, or 20 Kay St. Newport, R.I., where the family hangout.

Of course I'll always answer your 'pistles, so for God's sake write. My regards to Egan, who ought to be getting a monument to our mutual hatchet now. I am writing to Mrs. G. — my love to her, & trying to think of a limerick for him. D'ami. Then or from "Iroquois" & "Ramamutos" are on the boat, but we have treated them as outcasts, and not insulted to say what we think of the baboon seen outlined in the smoking room. Also, a pink-cheeked Adonis, who thinks himself the whole thing because the Shanghai council made him a deputy marshal to take two prisoners to Frisco — though he used to be porter at the Hotel House. Take care of yourself Pete? & don't get in the habit of playing the banjo in too many Jap or half-bred drawing rooms, & never on your life forget

Rf. [R. S. Dunn]

Nov. 15. [1904]

Dear Straight

Kidston tells me that he wrote to you the other night so that you know that he will be passing through on the next trip of the China and from him you will be able to get all the news.

I suppose you saw the Mr Connells and perhaps others on their way home from this end of the game. Mrs. Conger and Miss Campbell, may her shadow never grow less, left us about ten days ago on a trip to Shanghai, the Yang tze and the Southern treaty ports. They will take things quietly arriving in Canton or Hongkong about New years time. Mr. Conger if all is absolutely quiet and the work here permits it will leave Peking as soon as the Oct.-Dec. accounts are signed, which should be in the first week in January, and picking them up in Hongkong they will all go for a trip through the Philippines returning to Peking in the beginning of March. In writing this

to you I forget that you are a newspaperer and beg that you will do so too. Anything that you may hear about him beyond this you may put down as unpounded. He had already planned a trip to the Philippines, two years ago, and leave had been granted, but, owing to the departure of Bainbridge, he gave it up, as I could not do all the work alone. It is quite possible that this time too he may not be able to leave, if any important questions arise. I hope that this will not be the case, because he is anxious to make the trip, and I want to have my little two months run in charge; just as a nerve tonic, as it were. Judging by the public prints, if ~~he~~ my Congress were to leave definitely, there would not be much hesitation in the choice of his successor, so that instead of having a few months in which to show the stuff of which diplomats should be made, I would continue without interruption as a pale office drudge.



To be prepared for all emergencies, I beg that you will quietly and discreetly have a card plate engraved for me in Japan, for I am told that it can be done there, in fair shape, bearing the legend John Gardner Coolidge
Chargé d'Affaires des Etats-Unis
the card to be three inches by one and a half, and the story on it in script, not in block letters, which I abominate. And will you then have three hundred of the cards struck off and send the whole outfit to me, here, as soon as possible, with a note of the expense. Most of the Customs people seem to have arrived, with the exception of the Bredons. There are millions of them, of fourteen different nationalities, I believe, if there are so many. Wilger has gone home, and Ogden will soon follow. His successor, Oisen, I dont know how to spell it, is a very nice fellow, I am told.

On the kings birthday we had the greatest ball that ever was, at the British Legation; over forty ladies. Mrs. Carnegie, the

sister of Barclay, is charming and very beautiful. Lady Susan's book has arrived at last and I saw a copy of it at Mrs. Gray's, but have not yet had a chance to read it. I am told that the best of it has been cut out by the powers that be. Mrs. Meyers has a baby, and Mrs. Bower might at any time. Poor little Moss or Morse, I forget which, is very near death with typhoid, but Gray still has hopes of pulling him through. He was doing very well until a relapse came. Brewster has gone to Shanghai to meet his wife and Mary who are due on the China. Chang Chih Tung has memorialized the throne knocking holes in Jenksy's scheme, and making unfavorable comments on it's author; and the Emperor having a crimson pencil and no advisers by him has O.K'ed the memorial (handle with care). Ottwell is going to Ichang as Vice Consul in Charge and his sister goes with him leaving a mournful swain.



One Way, U.S. Consul in Barcelona has been appointed to Canton, and Langhorne to Chungking. Goodnow will go home for investigation very soon leaving Davidson in Charge. Miller is recuperating in Japan, Nagasaki, I think.

I saw Collins when he was here for a few days, and he was very sore about the delay in forwarding his winter kit, but it came at the last moment, luckily. I dont seem to think that if I were you I should gamble heavily on a chance of promotion through his influence just at present, but he is a queer little man, and not bad at heart. Gabriel is back after wandering through all sorts of places and I believe that he means to pass the winter here. I cannot see that he is very much better than when he left. Jameson is somewhere in the bizzle end of Shantung, but whether he is there to write for the Paris Herald or to collect gold

gold mines I am sure I dont know.

Drollette has left us to work for the slave trade (coolie labour) people in Tientsin on an increased salary, and in his place we have imported one Abele of Boston, from the Philippines, very much clever, and generally satisfactory. A little too good, I am afraid, for the job. Last Saturday we presented to the Empress Dowager, with great pomp, a personal letter from the President on the occasion of her seventieth birthday. Four other legations followed suit, and the rest will when their letters arrive. In return she sent us a gorgeous picture of herself by Yamamoto for the President and a smaller one for Mr. Conger. Sir Robert has now staying with him two Stuarts, very tall & ugly, two Mr. Leishes, a little less so, Miss Foley, still growing, and not as pretty as she was, and quite affected, and a chaperone of sorts.

Fletcher is there dancing at this moment and I thank God that I am not.

Yours sincerely J. G. Coolidge

---

No.

Council Room.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL — JUNCTA

Shanghai. 29th Nov. 904 190

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

My dear Straight,

Thanks for your welcome and kindly letter. It will be some time before I send you any "copy" for the simple reason that there are so many other things to be done that I ca'nt get beyond the fifth chapter of a book that must have at least twenty, and there's no use in bothering you until the thing's a certainty. When I wrote you I had just got out of the Nursing Home, full of good resolutions as to avoiding the world, the flesh and the devil for the next six months and working at this book, but l'homme propose and la femme and many other factors in life disposent, and so Hell's paved afresh. If I can get as much as half the thing done by New Year I'll send it to you, but take note, you willing collaborator, that I only want headpieces and a few marginal decorative bits, for the main idea of illustration will be photos of which I have taken a lot on purpose. The book is of such literary flavour as I can inform it with; it purports to treat sympathetically of Houseboat Days, a form of human joy of which you probably know little but which I, for one, have found to be very real. It is a subject which might appeal, as Phil Robinson's Indian work did, to a large circle of readers at home, if decently done, and I think it is fairly new. The head-pieces could be semi-sporting, of dogs and game-birds and wild-fowl, and semi-pastoral, with a Chinese motif in all. So you can prepare your pen. I know you will think me a barbarian for wanting to put photos in a book, but the idea is to show the milieu and actual surroundings of Houseboat

life in these parts and the people and places as they are. Not uninterting, and some of the pictures are really good, tho stiff, naturally.

I got a letter from Mrs Richard H.D. today and she sends me a copy of her husband's latest crime, the Bar Sinister. I really think if he could not do something better than this he should stick to telling of Japanese slaughter and such things for the press. He insults the intelligence of people who know anything of dogs when he asks one to believe that sentimental yarn of filial piety in canines, and the whole thing might have made a decent magazine article, omitting the said impossibility. It lacks that essential conviction without which dogs should not enter into the work of a literary man. He is a prize-winner, but no dog/man.

Nevertheless, the Lady is worthy of all esteem and devotion, and therefore he is forgiven any atrocity, in advance.

So long: no time for small talk. I am weighed down with cares Municipal & domestic:

Yours truly

[signature]

一當日午前十時參院スヘシ
一貴族院通用門ヲ入リ傍聽人入口ヨリ昇降スヘシ
一外套ハ院内ニ携帶スヘカラス
一車馬ノ置場ハ總テ守衛ノ指示ヲ受クヘシ
一社名姓名ヲ餘白ニ記載スヘシ

明治三十七年十一月廿日

帝國議會開院式
新聞社員特許拜觀

通常禮服（燕尾）著用壹枚壹人ニ限ル
入口ニ於テ掛員ニ示スヘシ

Nov. 30th. Rather a good ending to the month today. Saw the Emperor when he went to the morning — and had a long talk with Marchioness Oyama in the afternoon. The last three days — the New years tags. Satoh had failed to be first. [illegible] any information about the matter [illegible] Uchida had brought in late [illegible] the Ladies Patriotic association [illegible] several hundreds of thousands of [illegible], but no one knew anything [illegible]. Hence I wrote to Marchioness [illegible] to find me just what was so and [illegible]. Her reply herewith.

[illegible] the small boy at the door usherd me — and led me ~~to the door — the house~~ [illegible] the bare hallways. a Japanese [illegible] hutt house — seems to baffle the [illegible]. They can never ~~seem~~ manage [illegible] arrange it tastily. Something is always off. [illegible] is stark and ugly and unsuitable [illegible] soft wood — the dull colouring — the [illegible] screens are lacking — [illegible] charm of comfort there's [illegible]. In its place we find red plush furniture [illegible] carpets and ~~[illegible]~~ blank walls [illegible] invisible to give up the comfortable [illegible] Japanese seem ~~incapable of~~ [illegible] that when it comes to making [illegible] surroundings seem dreary [illegible].

[11-29-04]

Dear Mr. Straight,

As I do not know exactly what you wish to know about these bags, will you come and see me if you have time? I have been wanting to thank you for filling so many, but I have not had the opportunity. I am at present tied to

一當日午前十時參院スヘシ
一貴族院通用門ヲ入リ傍聽人入口ヨリ
昇降スヘシ
一外套ハ院内ニ携帶スヘカラス
一車馬ノ置場ハ總テ守衛ノ指示ヲ受ク
ヘシ
一社名姓名ヲ餘白ニ記載スヘシ

明治三十七年十一月廿日
帝國議會開院式
新聞社員特許拜觀證

通常禮服（燕尾）著用壹枚壹人ニ限ル
入口ニ於テ掛員ニ示スヘシ

Nov. 30th. Rather a good evening to the month today. Saw the Emperor when he went in the morning — and had a long talk with Marchioness Oyama in the afternoon. The last three days — the new year bags. Satoh has failed to be first.

my sofa with a sprained ankle and so I shall be at home for a few days. Any time, morning or afternoon that is convenient to you will be the same to me.

Sincerely yours,
Shimaj Oyama.

Nov. 29th [1904]

...h... the bags — any information about the matter ...ll. Uchida has brought in tales ...many the ladies Patriotic association ...several hundreds of thousands of ...its, but no one knows anything ...utely. Hence I write to Marchioness ...na to find out just what was so and ...worrie. Her reply herewith.

The small boy at the door usherd me ...and he met ~~the door — the house~~ ...gh the bare hallways. A Japanese ...you hutt house — seems to baffle the ...Japanese. They can never manage ...arrange it tastily. Something is always off. ...is stark and cold and unsatisfiable. ...soft wood — the dull colouring — the ...and ~~others~~ What gilt — screen are lacking. ...a Oriental charm of simplicity there's ...In its place we find red plush furniture ...ly carpets and ~~[illegible]~~ blank wall ...ce. Unable to give up the sunshiny ...Japanese seem ~~incapable of~~ ...tasty that when it comes to making ~~[illegible]~~ surroundings seem dreary ...ly.

— Dec. 11. 02. —

Dear Iggy: —

Your last letter, dated November 12, — tickles my vanity — for it conceited fellow to me, who have no talents with which to win my way into the heart of the ladies & make men stand back with envious respect. — There you can — As to Bob. Little's stickiness about not having received any letter from me, I don't understand it. I wrote him in answer to a letter which he sent me from some place in Tennessee where he was shooting & the letter has never been returned to me. Still if he really wants have gone, I feel as sorry about it as you do.

[12-11-04]

I appreciate your feelings on newspaper or rather journalistic truthfulness. It must be irritating and yet amusing to think that others know so little of what really goes on. — The effects of three years in the East are not as striking in you as I had expected, but still I notice a change — There was a good deal of the "White Man" attitude in you, that one naturally acquires after a lengthy stay among supposedly inferior people. — You seemed to have acquired a little spirit of unrest that would make it a little difficult for you to accept him yourself, say to Omaha conditions.

The other day Bobby Dunn dropped into the gymnasium where I was exercising. He has just

[12-11-04]

run over from N.Y. and was bent on finding me. — He looks to be in excellent health, but still limping and using a cane. — He told me all the latest gossip about the Eddies & the others in Japan. — Perhaps you'll remember the opinion I expressed about Mrs. Kinney & that I was not so far off. — Dunn is your everlasting friend and I believe that he would do anything for you. —

I room now until February I will be extremely busy as I have a number of examinations before me. I don't expect to go home for my Xmas vacation, which is somewhat of a sacrifice. —

They are getting out a history of Cornell, with photographs of the teams & other student organizations. I shall

[12-11-04]

send you one of those as a holiday remembrance. — as soon as it is ready, which ought to be at an early date. I will also send you the foot-ball reviews as soon as they are out.

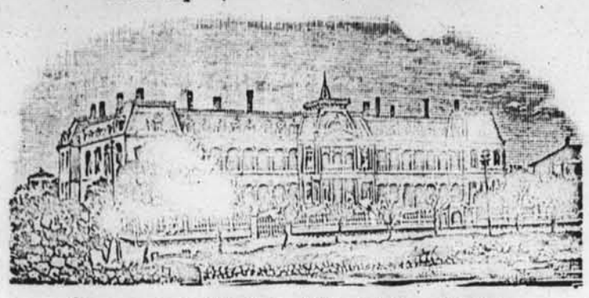
The letter which I sent Isabel in answer to one of hers has not been thought worthy of a reply. Perhaps I made one of my usual breaks; — however I'm quite unquiet. —

Your objection to my "dis" has been noted & I will not offend your aesthetic eye again. —

I almost forgot that this letter ought to reach you when the New-Year is well on. — You must know that you have my very best wishes for your success & happiness. — I can't frame a fine-sounding salutation but you'll

[illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible] this is. — [illegible] your friend, Henry Schwellenbach.

Leading Hotel of the Far East



Imperial Hotel, Limited, Tokio.

Emil Flatz, Manager.

Tokio, Dec. 12th 1904

Dear Professor Hull,

Sometime ago I sent you some Japanese war magazines which I thought may interest you. My letter written at the same time, missed the mail, and on re-reading, I discovered that it was indiscreet, and that my statements concerning the Japanese were decidedly "morning after." Hence the silence. It is rather too bad, for the other letter was prettily typewritten.

We are all excited now, of course, about the coming of the Baltic fleet – and at an absolute loss to know why the Petersburg aggregation allowed themselves to be pounded to pieces like rats in a hole. The only explanation for the enemy is that the crews had been practically dismantled, that secondary batteries and ammunition, as well as men, were ashore. Rather strange incident, in this connection, the other day. In talking to a member of the naval staff, I gave my chief, who asked if he couldn't do something to brighten the children, that we were considering the advisability of selling ships to Russia. He said he'd try and write a despatch, stating that should such a thing happen, the Japanese Government would resume the war until she was free and then go climbing the Urals. This would be particularly easy if Chile sold her navy. Unfortunately the Foreign Office censored the message. But it gets through. Some day, when you are about the Barn Ward and the Japanese Consul, I'll tell you another story and I must catch this mail sure. Please remember me to all, to your sister and father.

Sincerely yours,

Willard Straight

24 Fukide cho

Shiba

Tokyo

Union Postale Universelle.

CARTE POSTALE

Here's a secret to our friend Mr Sharp.
He's got more in his head than in his hat.
He's a second young Orpheus
And no one is Morpheus
E'en though the Room de Lait.

Christmas Eve – 1904