

北京西山八大处和美国使馆书记卫三畏

S. Wells Williams, Secretary of the American Legation
in 1860s~70s in Beijing, and His Summer Retreat at the
Tremont Temple, Western Hills

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围绕北京周围有不少山脉，其中西面有著名的“八大处”，那里既可享受森林浴，也可避暑休假，古今中外的很多名人都乐意到此一游。早在18世纪60年代，常住北京的英、美、法、俄的外交官员，以及传教士也不例外地游过此地。英国的植物学家 Robert Fortune 在1863年出版的《中国·日本访问记》中的最后一章里，描述了到过“八大处”一游。这次，作者想以卫三畏 (Samuel Wells Williams: 1812~1884, 曾经在中国生活过) 所写的书信为参考，着重叙述“八大处”在当时的避暑期所发挥的“作用”。

2011年夏天，宫泽真一将去“八大处”进行实地调查，然后再论证一些臧理的“对中国的避暑 (Resort) 发展史的考察”论点 (臧理: 毕业于日本的东京工业大学大学院，指导教授一渡边贵介，已故)。论文准备和臧理合作，在此先提供一些资料。原始资料 SWW 书简收藏于美国的耶鲁大学图书馆亲笔文书部 (Yale University Library, Manuscript and Archive, Williams Family Papers, M547。宫泽已翻刻决定引用自该书简的全文。)

Document No. 1. [SWW to Brother Frederick: 1864/ 08/ 12; 北京西山長安寺, Chang-ngan-sz, Western Hills, Beijing]

Temple west of Peking called
Chang-ngan-sz, or Monastery of
Perpetual Quiet, Aug. 12, 1864

Dear Brother Frederick,

It is not often that I have two letters from you demanding an answer, (for our intervals are nearly the same,) but on this occasion you have got ahead of me, and your letter of March & May are safely here. Today, news has arrived in 43 or 44 days from London, being 10 or 11 days sooner than ever before, bringing advices to 28th June, and telling us of the useless termination of the Conference there to induce the wrongheaded Prussians to retrace their evil doings in Denmark, and agree to quiet their prey; as well as of the destruction of the Alabama off Cherbourg. It is inferred that part of this rapid journey was effected over the wires which have lately been placed in the valley of the Tigris, and run not far from you. God is using many different means to advance his kingdom now from what he used when Paul and John were his missionaries, and among them electricity & steam perform a mighty part in increasing knowledge & helping many to run to & fro. We hear of projects to establish a line of steam from California to Shanghai, & a line of wires across Siberia to the Amoor & then to Sitka, & so on, through wildernesses and deserts. The activity, avarice, and ambition of man are great, and all form parts of His plan to bring in His kingdom upon the face of the whole earth. You must not lose sight of the glory, the certainty, and the wisdom of this plan in which you are a worker, & think yourself encumbered; for you are a witness of God's truth when you are and must not be impatient to see the result. I can never wonder enough at the amazing progress this truth has made in China since I came out, and the rate is constantly accelerated, and strengthens my hope that the last days of even my short life will see still greater triumphs.

Since I last wrote you, the rebellion in China which has been gnawing at its vitals since 1849 has received its deathblow by the capture of Nanking and death of its leader Hung, with the destruction of all his adherents there. It is the culminating stroke of the

successes begun in 1861 by the American adventurer Gen. Ward of Salem, Mass, who had organized & drilled a force of natives, & taken several towns before Sept. 1862 when he was shot near Ningpo; and then continued by an Englishman named Gordon, who showed great skill and was successful in drilling the Chinese & leading them on to carry one city after another, until Suchan and other strongholds are recovered from the rebels. Nanking has been besieged many months, and has probably yielded to hunger more than guns, but the result is the same, and it is delivered. I had no faith in this rebellion from the first, as likely to prove a means of promoting the truth, for there was no adequate cause for ensuring such a result; and the conduct of the insurgents during the last five years has shown increased ruthlessness and horrible idolatry & fanaticism, worse than when they began in 1850. There is nothing now to prevent these devastated provinces reviving and re-peopling, but the unreasoning cruelty of the victorious mandarins; however, it is plain enough that the Peking officials desire really to carry out amnesty, but their pashas & satraps are often too much for the them.

I don't know whether you ever saw Bp. Boone of the Ep. mission, who has lately died after a service of 28 years in the work in Java & China; he suffered much from a spinal complaint during his whole life, and was unable to do much more than superintend the mission. He returned last from U.S. in Jan. 1860, and had but recently come back from Suez, where Mrs Boone died in Jan '64; & on the way encountered a dreadful storm in the Arabian Sea. He died 17 July in the full possession of all his faculties, & leaves a clear example as a Christian pastor, and energetic man in the foreign community at Shanghai, where lately subscribed \$7000 & more to give him a sort of amenda for his losses in poor stocks in S. Carolina. Tho' a Southerner he was rather for the old Union, & decidedly opposed to slavery as a political institution; but upheld it as consonant with SS. His wife was a strong successionist, because her friends were all there in their adherence to that party. The Epi's mission, which had 25 men & women in it, all at Shanghai in Feb. 1860, has now only two men, 8 having died & 15 left to U.S., or abandoned it; it was the greatest single mission then in Asia, now nearly everything has dispersed, & I think the houses at Shanghai will be rented, & the mission moved to Peking.

We are spending a month or two at a temple about 14 miles W. of Peking, situated at

the base of the Hills, which commence the plateau of central Asia. It forms one of a group of eight separate monasteries cared for by 20 priests or more in all, and in the lowest down; the Russian, Am. & French ministers occupy others higher up the hill, embosomed in groves of trees and affording extensive views of the plain toward Peking. Ours is spacious & clear, but not so new as some of the others; it contains three terraces within the wall, & has 8 or 10 different buildings altogether arranged around two courtyards that contain many trees. The entire area is about 5 acres, part of which is occupied by a cattle yard & by two graveyards. The idols are of many sizes all of them belonging to the Buddhist pantheon, and are daily attended to by acolytes who rap the bell & tap the drum to arouse the gods when prayers are said & sacrifices presented & candles lighted, incense burned & heads knocked before them. The sacrifices are a little boiled rice, a plate of fruit & a libation of whiskey. The images are of clay & wood gilded, and dressed in long mantles which hide them. Among the trees in the compound, are six specimens of the white pine, of which is, I am told, over 500 years old; this tree is covered with a white bark nearby in the outmost branches, as white as if the whole trunk had been white washed like the bit I send you; the bark flakes off like the shellark hickory, & this keeps the tree constantly white, and fresh. It is truly a fine tree, & has been introduced into England & France, where I am inclined to think it will not show such a white trunk, because of the humid climate compared to this. Other trees are jujube plums (here called dates) persimmons, peaches, docurts (*Sophora*) arbor vitæ, crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) walnuts, and firs, besides flowers and pots containing gold fishes. It is a pleasant summer retreat from the dust & smell of Peking, & we have rejoiced in clambering the hillsides and breathing fresh air for six weeks. The region hereabouts is nearly bare of woods on the hills, but the groves of trees around the graveyards are large. All this region is cultivated like a garden.

I send you my official card, and shall collect autographs as I have time & opportunity for Carrie. There are not many distinguished people hereabouts. Sophy will try to send Cornelia a letter by & by, & I am obliged to hurry this off with the love of all here, especially

Yours aff brother

SWW

No. 2. [SWW to Cousin Harriet: 1865/ 07/ 15; 北京西山三山庵, Tremont Monastery, Western Hills, Beijing]

At a Temple, named the Tremont Monastery, west of Peking,

July 15 1865.

My dear Cousin,

With your letter of Jan. 11 & its inclosed note of April 11, came the news in all its details of Lee's surrender, the fall of Richmond, Johnson's surrender, fall of Mobile, and Lincoln's death & funeral, all matters of joy & grief to every American, and especially to us who live out here in a more national position than you do in the country itself. I cannot let a week pass without letting you know how much pleasure your letters give me, for you & H. Talcott are almost the only links I now have with my youthful days or places, others having gone or not being among my correspondents.

Sarah and the children are enjoying a vacation at one of the numerous Buddhist temples, lying in the vicinity of Peking, erected during the last four centuries when China was richer and the people more zealous for Buddhism than they are now, partly as fanes and partly as summer retreats from the dust & heat of Peking. In the days of the Emperor Kieulung a century ago, these temples were much visited by the courtiers, but lately fashion has taken another direction, & the whole group of eight separate monasteries are neglected, so that the foreigners can have them undisturbed. I am in nearly smallest one, where there is only one priest, (& he a besotted opium smoker) and two rooms for the idols. No one comes to their shrines, no one offers them incense, & the glebe land afford only partial support to the priests & laborers, so that they are glad to have our rent. The buildings in some of the temples date as early as the Reformation, & the one I live in was built before the voyage of the May-flower; we are used to ancient places & edifices in this dry climate, where a mud wall if well plastered lasts a century. These temples are all on a hill side from which we have a fine view of the country & plains of Peking, no small enjoyment of itself after the confined vista of the house in Peking. Mrs. Bridgman & Mrs. Bonney are at this moment both with us on a visit and recovering their spirits and strength amid these hills & woods. The trees around the house & the ravines of rocky

water courses between the hills, afford places for the children, Sophy & Fred, & their two playmates Claude & Newell Martin from the adjoining temple, to roam and play, make dens & caves amongst the shingle & play as children are wont. Poor things! They have small chance to commune with nature, no parties of boys & girls to roam the woods, no Sunday school to relieve the monotony of the week, no classmates and celebrations. Their early days & mine are so different, so doleful and uninstrucive, that I do not wonder so many missionaries leave their field for their children's sake, to go where they can educate them.

Mrs. Bridgman has sent her girls home for a few weeks, where they will tell their parents something of what they have learned, & be more willing I hope to enjoy the cleanliness, order & peace of their school after a spell at the dirt and darkness of home. Mrs. Bonney has done the same with her girls, & come up from Canton. These ladies are both doing what their hands find to do, & I hope they will find their harvest after many days. We sometimes forget that we have an immortality to reap our harvest in, and to rejoice with others who have entered into our labors, after we fall on sleep.

The news from home of Lee's surrender, Fall of Richmond, Lincoln's death, Fall of Mobile, arrest of Davis and others as accomplices in the assassination, & other minor items, indicating the end & desperation of the rebellion; has all come on us so suddenly & rapidly, as to bewilder us. We rejoice in the assertion of the power of the Gov^t., the destruction of slavery, the confidence of the people in their cause, and the prospect of a restored Union; but what events shall follow those fact[s] heard of? is always a question that comes up, and our surrender reduces our satisfaction & excites our fears. The telegraph has now advanced so far that its information tantalizes more than gratifies, & the errors mixed with the truth throw doubt on the whole.

I am truly glad that you have found it in your heart to take one of Fred's children: he wrote me in feeling terms of the kindness you & Mrs. Talcott had shown in his distressing bereavement, and I know you will do all that can be to supply a mother's place to the orphan thus thrown on your care. You have my thanks too, as well as Frederick's, and you will no doubt find the reward in the daily gratification & care of of the dear child. It will add another to the many ties which bind that dear brother & me in knowing that our loved

cousin H. Wood has the oversight of his daughter.

If you see Mr. & Mrs. Barton & their family, please remember me kindly to them; also to Dr. & Mrs. Fisher at the College if convenient. It must seem like beginning a new life in some respects to move away from Utica, & I cannot locate you, anymore than you can me among the Hills. Sarah sends love to you, your children & Mrs. Bridgman writes her own.

Aff^y Yours

S. Wells W

No. 3. [SWW to Brother Robert: 1866/ 07/ 11; 北京, Beijing]

Peking, July 11 / 66

Dear Brother Robert

I have 5 grs. weight and half an hour's time to spare, & so I send you a short note, thro' Mrs. & Mr. I Waine to tell you that your letter of April, inclosing H. Ivison's note & several newspaper slips, found us all very well, and enjoying our vacation at the Hills, whence I came in yesterday to see about finishing the new house for Mr. Burlingame, which is now ready for him. We have to exercise daily the supervision over the workmen, who indeed are no more to be trusted than other natives to do a job honestly, but who also are ignorant of many things which an American or Canton carpenter would not expect to be told about. Such a machine as a center-bit excites the admiration of these workmen, who also go into raptures over a door-knob, a brass hinge, a flush-bolt, or a door-latch, none of which they ever saw before. I dont believe that the palace of Prince Kung contains any of them, perhaps not even a screw, all of which we must get from abroad. These disadvantages add to the necessity of carefully looking how they do thing, for our cannot tell where they'll go wrong, till you see them at it. I had some difficulties in getting them to follow my directions about some points, such as putting sand in the lime, or not running the chimney thro' the plate, but if you show the reasonableness of a thing, they generally accept its novelty as a recommendation. It is every to treat them kindly, if you wish to get them to do work thoroughly. About noon they take a rest, & it is an odd sight to see 200

half naked men sleeping on the ground or on planks or tiles, as they select a soft spot, in the nooning.

We have Mrs. Bridgman with us at the Hills; she is not at well this summer owing to dyspepsia, which causes her dreadful spasms of depression. She however rallies, & wonders at the change. She asks after you & Mrs. Wood whenever we get letters, and remembers her visit to Utica with pleasure. She has 12 girls under her care now.

I shall make out a list of books for Mr. Ivison soon, & accept his very unexpected & kind offer to send me a lot. One of the ladies of the English mission in Peking is the daughter of a cousin of his, and saw one of his sons when in Glasgow.

The weather has been very hot for Peking during the last month, but the rains have recently refreshed the earth. Our day it was 104° in the shade, & 143° in the sun. This region seems to be drying up, the rains have been gradually diminishing.

I shall give you a longer letter by & by when I have something to say, & get the books by Mr. Doolittle. We are by no means so isolated and unoccupied as you seem to think, even if we do live beyond telegraphs & morning papers; and I have not time to read 1/3 of the papers that come, but use them to dry plants with.

Kind regard to the Hrlburt's & I F Seymour & Mrs S., to Uncle Samuel & Family, & H Wood, & others (Dear me, how list swells when I think of them all!) especially Abby & the Swards

Affly Yours

S W W

No. 4. [SWW to G.T. Olyphant: 1867/ 06/ 10; 北京西山三山庵、Tremont Temple, Western Hills, Beijing]

Tremont Temple among
the Hills West of Peking
June 10, 1867

My dear Mr Olyphant,

We have called the old monastery, where I am spending a few weeks with my family,

the Tremont Temple, because its Chinese name has that meaning, the San-shan-ngan exactly corresponding to Tremont Monastery. It forms one of eight Budhistic establishments which the devotion of former generations has left on this hillside, rising one above the other to a height of 600 or 800 ft. above the plain; they are now neglected or just kept up by a few devotees who make a holiday in the spring time or other time, and call it religion. Some of them were endowed by imperial bounty and show a lavish expenditure where every brick and peck of mortar must be carried high up the hill; but no emperor or grandee has been here to stay for a long time, and this year & last every available room has been taken up by foreigners, who escape the dust & heat of the city. Mr. Burlingame occupies the large one above this, & Alcock the one below, while the Spanish minister de Mas has taken another. The climate is so dry that there is little decay, and the walls remain much as they did 150 or 200 years agone. The few repairs needed are done usually by foreigners, and we pay something for rents besides. Altogether, the advantages of these secluded retreats are numerous, and we are happy to avail ourselves of them.

I have to thank you for much the longest letter you ever wrote me, and its contents have been read and reread. It shows some changes in politics & society, that a letter should come from Rome to me in Peking to get a couple of furs to be sent to New York, ---three cities that have as little connection with each other as any other three of their size in the world. The furs are already purchased, but I have not yet met with any oppy. to send them down to Shanghai; the price is \$300 here, which with charges & premium will be about \$318 or 320. This premium is not so much one of exchange as of difference in purity of silver, that at Shanghai being merely dollar silver reckoned in taels. I hope the parcel will reach N.Y. as safely as the former.

We are here living in the continual fear of an approaching famine arising from the gradual desiccation of this whole region, a desiccation which has been going on for four or five years. The signs of the approaching dryness are distressing to see. The little marshy spots where sedge grass furnished coarse food for cattle & donkeys dry up and sand covers the place as the grass withers. The rivulets are dry, but their beds used to contain pools under the stones where cattle resorted; these are evaporated. The tall trees which furnish so much shade, and ornamented this region with their fine forms, begin to die at the top &

their lean dead branches point towards the sky as if beseeching by their skinny fingers the rain from heaven. The fields of wheat show grain about 2 foot high, the ears yellowish & short, few leaves and thin, suggest the field along the Nile, which has been celebrated even since Pharaoh dreamed about it. At this moment, the hillsides look just the color of crust on overbaked bread, and if it was not for the trees, would compete with the desert of Gobi for dryness. Fields are spread out before us from the hillside, plowed & harrowed, but not a green spear or blade to relieve the brown, showing the faith & industry of the poor husbandmen in their preparation for the looked for blessing. Poor people used to get millet and greens, but are now dependent on flour from corn cobs and bran, on roots and offal, and not enough of these; others above them forego meat & fruits & rice, and live on millet; while the rich are obliged to support famishing relations, and the gov^t find employment for clamoring workmen. The Emperor & his uncles Princes Kung & Tun & others continually go to the temples to supplicate every god who can influence the weather favorable to their desires. The people resort to temples of their own for the same end, and in many streets by day & night one hears the minute bells struck at the doors of shrines for the same end, arresting the attention of the people as they pass along to the crying need. The mules, camels & horses show lack of food, the beggars multiply in the thoro'fares, and distress is embroidered on every countenance. The fruits fail in the markets, and the prices rise on labor, clothes and food. It comes on gradually like lava, & the scorching winds which dry up the sparse dews bring no clouds up from the Gulf of Pichili to refresh the chapped earth. We recall the melancholy description of drouth in the Old Test., and read the harrowing records of famine in Quissa last year, and wonder if the same is to reappear & be reenacted here. How helpless is man under such a visitation! how sad the condition of a heathen people who know not the Hand that afflicts them, & are ignorant of the best means to remedy their calamities. If rain does not come in a fortnight, the crops of the present season will be jeopardized, and famine stare half the people of this province as their alternative. I know not how strong the Gov^t will be found in presence of such a visitation, but the people do not charge their sufferings upon their rulers. Emigration to California would be a boon to many, if they knew its value.

Your remarks upon Papacy & its Ruler, upon the developments of Ritualism in the

Anglican Church; & especially upon the Reconstruction of the States lately in rebellion are very interesting. Since you wrote, the Military Bill has passed Congress, & Johnson seems to have concluded not to antagonize its purpose, but to let it have a chance at fulfilling its objects if possible. I am in hopes that under it the recalcitrant Southerners will begin themselves to work out their institutions, more in accordance with other parts of their country, and the mass of poverty, ignorance & dependence which the leading men used to elevate themselves on be rapidly changed into a thrifty, educated & self-respecting community. The blacks in the long run will fall behind, but their rights can never justly be entrusted to the keeping of others, and they will rise higher by emulation & example than they have done in Hayti or Liberia. I do not underrate the evil, which strike you as so deep and hazardous to our liberties, but I think that no security can be had that the rebellious section will not rebel again unless its old political caste is broken up, or rendered powerless. Education will do something, but more immediate measures are needed to reintroduce the states now out of Congress with such safeguards as can be framed. The root of the evil being reformed, its consequences cannot, it seems to me, be irremediable. Material prosperity will do much to reconcile the people then to laboring for themselves, and feeling the honor of honest industry.

Our latest rumors intimate that the struggle for power between France & Russia has at length come to a head, & that prof[] hostilities have been going on for six weeks to this date. You will be in the midst of them, and learn what issues are supposed to be involved. The Prussians will desire to wipe out the chagrin of Jana & Austerlitz, and the French to maintain their high position; consequently, the contest will be serious, & so far as I can see, rather useless in respect to the interests of humanity. At bottom, Romanism & Protestantism may be regarded by some to be involved, but I do not think so, from all that I can learn; it is only to see who shall be cock of the walk. However, as is often the case, the telegrams may be incorrect, but the sudden departure of the Prussian minister last week for Tientsin leads one to surmise his reception of a telegram to that effect. The French can annihilate Prussian commerce out here soon, as there is a large fleet. The non [-]resumption of hostilities in Corea by the French has caused the Coreans to chuckle rather prematurely. It will no doubt be their turn in a year or two. I cannot learn what

were the provocations the Koreans received to take such summary measures so suddenly, but they will perhaps be learned by & by. The case of the schooner “Gen. Shearman” is not yet clear, except that she knew she was going where she ought not.

Mission work is progressing apace. Four or five Am & Eng missionaries here are at work on a more popular version of the N.T., which will come nearer to what is the foreign language, & is likely therefore to be understood by more people. It is very carefully done thus far. Preaching goes on well in this part of China, & the articles in the treaties do furnish native Christians some protection against the spleen of local officials. The Central Gov^t. Seems disposed to wake up in its degree, & imbibe some portions of the light. Dr. Martin is gradually exercising a longer influence than he has, & if his life is spared will be a benefit to the Rulers who he is acquainted with. As missions advance & gather around them more adherents, the enmity of the literati will manifest itself in one way or another to test the faith & patience of the believers.

The two works whh you kindly procured for me, Lange & Smith, have not yet reached me, but I look for them before navigation closes. It takes, oftentimes, many weeks to get boxes up from Shanghai, & the transit from Tientsin here is slow too.

I hope you will find that the vacation you have taken will work renewed energy in your constitution, & that you have yet many years of usefulness before you. I am still busy at revising my Chinese Dictionary, which will demand three years labor yet before it is done, but it is likely to aid in the good work if I am spared to see it out of press. Mr. Burlingame takes an interest in it too, and my health enables me to go on regularly. Mrs. Williams & the children have had tolerably good health since the new year; Fred has had the scarlet fever, which has left him weak. This ailment has been very fatal among the people.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Olyphant, & to Geo Dent if you see him in England. I remember him with much pleasure, & hope he is thriving. We hear very little incidentally of old friends in this secluded place.

It shall always refresh me to hear from you

Yours with esteem
S. Wells Williams

No. 5. [*SWW to Cousin Harriet: 1868/ 06/ 29; 北京西山三山庵, Tremont Temple, Western Hills, Beijing*]

San Shan Ngan, i.e.

Tremont Temple.

a Buddhist monastery fourteen miles W. of Peking

June 29, 1868.

Where I have taken in hand to reply to your heartsome letter, dear Cousin Harriet, and tell you how it refreshed me to get such. Your note is written on very thin paper, too thin for easy reading, but the sentiments supported the tissue, & brought it out safely. You wrote it on a cold, blowy, snowy, March (4) winter's day. I answer it on a general, breezy, summer afternoon, sitting in the guest-room of this ancient pagan fane, and looking down over the vast expanse of this Plain, whose limits like the sea's, are bounded by the horizon. In its midst rises the walls and towers of the city, with pagodas and palaces amidst the locusts & elms, forming a pleasing relief to the monotony of fields and trees lying between this and there. We are, in Peking, living just on the edge of the Plateau of Central Asia, & these hills where this Temple is built are part of the buttress which upholds that Great Table Land and rises at last into the Himalaya & Bayankara. They are gullied with ravines down their slopes, & mostly bare of trees, and even of grass. The heat parches them because there's no screen of foliage to prevent the rains rapidly evaporating when they fall, and this very parching in its turn prevents the trees growing, & perpetual barrenness results from violating the natural law of vegetation & fertility. If people in U.S. don't reflect in time, their hillsides will become denuded as these are & the conditions of the soil will alter; you can see all the steps which have resulted, in this region, in stripping the mountains of their forests.

You wonder if I feel that I am now fifty-six years old, & understand my position, as the politicians say; and I fancy that I don't feel as I supposed folks at that stage do in other bodies than mine. I am as able to study and write as ever, and can walk and ride pretty well yet. Altogether, I hope to be spared to do a little more, and live to see my Chinese Dictionary through the press. I find that the one whh was issued 12 years ago has helped

many to learn this language, and they are now in great demand. The job is a long one to be sure, but the end is worthy of the job, and I have only some 1200 characters more to do of the 11,000 in all. It can be completed by somebody else tho', if I should be laid aside. Just now I am hindered by building a house; and when you know that I must give directions as to the size of every door, show how to put in the bolts, make the workmen lay the walls straight, direct how to mix the mortar, regulate the laying of the floors, point out the way to fix a door-latch, supply all the various screws, change all the bad glass and coping-stones, &c &c, it is easy to see that making dictionary can't prosper rapidly.

Mr. Burlingame's departure has made a great vacancy in our small circle, (for his family formed an important member of this community,) besides throwing some extra work on me. I hope his mission to the Treaty Powers will be of service to this people & its Gov^t. who have paid so much for their first lesson in diplomacy. How our new Minister will supply his place will prove his qualifications as much as anything can, not so easy as to write articles for Harper's Monthly.

Mrs. Bridgman has begun to introduce her assistant Miss Porter to the scholars, and all the various duties connected with training, clothing, ordering, governing & teaching 16 unkempt heathen girls. She feels much encouraged by this arrival, & it is touching to see the old lady's placid oversight of the lass, more than 40 years younger, who is beginning the same work. May God prosper both of them in their labors. Then our circle has been enlarged by Mr & Mrs Hunt, formerly missionaries at Madras 28 years, & of course well down the other side of life's ridgepole. He is to start a printing office in this out of the way place, & by the time it is under way, his patience & perseverance will have been perfected. Two of our English miss. Friends have left the service to take a chaplaincy. Dr. & Mrs Martin of the Presb. Miss. have gone by this str. to Calif. With their boys, & a Miss Smith of the Church Miss. is going home. Thus our friends about us change, & at present only three or four foreigners live in Peking who came here before me, and only one in China, so far as I know who came to it before me. It has been a pleasant life, on the whole more so than most of the merchants whom I have known,--- less care, less uncertainty, less luxury, less temptation, less to get between the soul and heaven, less to regret afterwards, besides all the positive points. There are no more trials in common life here than with you; it is

just as how you take them, so is their effect. I wish you had come on a mission too, for your early training would have fitted you for doing its work well. Much hard work in missions is lost because of misdirected effort. This experience is well enough for the missionary himself, for he can't well learn otherwise, but it is bad for the work, as when in Canton, we once had a Carolinian who was so eager to diffuse the truth that he published & printed a small tract before he could read it himself. But God perhaps employs these inadequate, imperfect means that we may see it to be His work throughout.

The many items you give of friends near & remote are to me the jolly parts of your letter, and recalling every name, a series of pictures from the past. I have lived away so long from them that nothing intervenes between the present & lang syne. That Little Flock of '32'; how many have gone you know better than I, but I guess none of the party remembers it so vividly for this reason. Huldah Dana & Cynthina Rockwell you will remember me to when you have a chance; gray hairs may be crowning us all, but I don't feel old at the heart's fountains.

Wally, Olyphant & Kitty daily carry my thoughts onward and upward, and seem to me to be still just as much mine as ever, only going to a better school than mine. I am glad to learn that Frank Wood is taking a front rank in the workers, and proving his fitness by his works. Mr. Gilbert & Dr. Dering I hear named in the list of departed, and every year & month the record must increase till it ends with ourselves. It is a fight indeed against sin & temptation in this world, and your experience does not differ from others. "In this world, ye shall have tribulation, but be not cast down; I have overcome the world." The millennium will come in good time, but ever since I was in Jerusalem & read there Christ's declaration that it must be trodden down till the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, I gave up seeing the millennium, and am content to work for it. The gospel must first be preached to all nations, as I told Walter King in 1847, before that day,--- preached intelligently & clearly, that the race for whom Christ died may know why he died, and this work has not yet been done. It is going on, & Corea is now the only land where it cannot be freely preached. In 1833, I found two missionaries in Canton, Morrison & Bridgman, & one convert --- now a Scotchman from Amoy told us that there are 1300 converts connected with the three missions there, & that does not include those near Fuhchau. It is refreshing to hear of the

advances making in this province of Fuhkien, which & Canton contain very energetic people.

I would tell you of our neighbors if it would interest, but as to Sophy & Fred I can only refer to their studies & their general conduct as satisfactory. If, as seems to be the best course, they go to U.S. next spring to pursue study under more favorable circumstances, you will perhaps see them. Sophy will write to her cousin Cornelia ere long, and I hope be willing to keep up correspondence, for it is the only way these young cousins have of becoming acquainted with each other. Rather different from our acquaintance, sundered as they are by a semi circumference, & no great impulse to write. Give Sarah's love & mine to Mr & Mrs Barton when you see them, & to your children, who have already begun to leave your roof. Robert's usefulness in various ways is a great joy to me; if sister Sophy could only help in otherwise in the same line, that joy would be greater. Perhaps she does. I shall look for a letter from you, having filled this, as I would talk to you, in a shorter time than the last. Our warmest love goes with this

Aff^{ly} yours as ever

S Wells Wms.

[P.S.] The copy of Harper's Weekly for 1867 & the pretty worsted ruff which you sent to the children & to Sarah have both come in good order. The ship had 160 days.

No. 7. [SWW to Brother Robert: 1869/ 09/ 01; 北京西山三山庵, Tremont Temple, Western Hills, Beijing]

Tremont Temple, near

Peking, Sept. 1, 1869

Dear Brother

I have not much of importance to send you this mail, but the pleasure of writing a monthly epistle is one that carries with it increased gratification, as it makes the only link which now joins fatherland to me, the only home letter that I write. After 36 years of continual letter writing, beginning with father & mother, brothers & sister, cousins & sisters in law, one after another, you are left, the one from whom I alone expect a family

letter. When my house was burned in Canton 1856, I lost about all my letters up to that date, & have not a scrap of father's writing left that I can find, out of the scores of letters he used to write. I have him well written down in my memory, with others equally well cherished, and I deem it a great pleasure to have you as a correspondent to keep up the link. I can distinctly recall the tableaux you & John made as I left Broad St. the 26th of May 1833, Grandma Wells behind you, all looking out up the street from the high stone step. That step over to China was a good deal into the dark, and as I sit in this Buddhist temple looking abroad upon this vast plain and its great city, this bright morning, I think of the way thro' which I have been led all the intervening years, I can praise & wonder; the goodness of God has been manifested every step, his power & love have been around me, and I am enjoying so many mercies because He has given them to me. I like to speak of his loving kindness in such a connection, as it warms all one's mercies.

Your letter of July will I suppose soon be here, but not early enough to be answered. However, I have the June one, to tell us that you had heard about the odds & ends sent to you by care of Mr. Blodget, & soon we shall know how you have recd. them. It may be that Mr. Blodget may travel to Oneida Co., but U.S. is a large country where people are not so near each other as they seem to be at this distance; his friends are in N. England, and I do not think he is likely to make a very effective speaker, but he will have a chance to improve. There were some things of his in the box, which may bring you and him into relations.

It is a great joy to me to read the report of the fraternal relations between the O & N Presbyterian churches, & to see how the Holy Ghost, coming into the hearts of his people, welds them together, and raises up the standard of truth & agreement. It is a great advance in the Christian world, and I rejoice to have seen it. It was a great compliment to Dr. Fowler to be chosen Moderator, & I am sure that he & Dr. Fisher would work as earnestly for reunion as any two could do, for their ecclesiastical connections are very nominal with the two sides, so far as being contrary in sentiment. And I suppose the man of Christianity behind their representations in the two Assemblies, gives a power and consent to the reunion which will make it durable.

You will have heard of Mr. Browne's being allowed to remain as minister after Mr.

Howard had resigned. Nothing could restrain Mr. Browne from starting right off, nothing keep him at his post till his successor arrived; and now I suppose he regrets his haste. But all thro' life he has acted thus, & here he did so to his loss. I urged him strongly to stay until he was relieved, but no; and his departure throws the whole work upon me, while he keeps his full salary I suppose, as he is full minister. However, I only wish that I could have known all this months ago.

The Chinese Gov^t. are fast giving the denial to every thing that Burlingame has been saying in their favor, for it seems as if the present administration was rather quailing before the growing opposition of the old anti-progressive party, and fearing where there should be full assurance. The great demands made upon the officials to introduce railroads, telegraphs, & what not, has had the effect to alarm them somewhat as to the ulterior designs of other powers, & they have shown this apprehension lately in their negotiations with the Austrians, who are here now to make a treaty, by objecting to things whh they have granted to other nations, & which are mere formal things, such as the refusal to call Francis Joseph an Emperor, by the same term they call their own sovereign. What advance can be looked for in a Govt. under the control of two women, for the Empress-regents have I doubt not very considerable power in the state. The next ten years will bring about very great changes in this Govt. and some of them likely to impress permanent alterations upon its policy.

I expect only to go to Shanghai with my family, and then after they gone south on their way, to return here till a minister comes out. I have been six years in Peking without going away, and want to see a little out of it. In six weeks I hope to be away, for one must be back in Tientsin before Nov. 25, lest he is frozen in.

I have the pleasure of several new books in prospect as H. Division has sent me a number, most of which are new, and all I have no doubt worth reading. My eyes forbid my reading much by night, but I manage to get thro' several vols. in a year. My dictionary is not quite ready yet for the press, and never will be complete, to my notion of completeness, but then somebody else can build on my foundation, as I have had others' labors to raise mine on. A complete Chinese Dictionary may be expected in AD 1909, or after; their language is one of the greatest obstacles now in the way of the improvement of this people.

I wish you great joy in your children, and blessing of God in all your ways. If you should ever meet, then will be thankful indeed, & if this is never to be, why it will only be for a while.

Affly Your brother

S. Wells Williams

No. 8. [SWW to Daughter Sophia: 1870/ 08/ 11 & 1870/ 08/ 25; 北京西山三山庵, Tremont Temple, Western Hills, Beijing]

Tremont Temple

August 11. 1870

My dear daughter

Dr. Martin went back to his school this morning, and I am left alone; I hope that Mrs. Edkins will come out, but she does not speak encouragingly. The terrible scenes enacted at Tientsin were followed by the strangest rumors, and she has lived in their focus ever since, so that her mind is much excited; and altho' things are quieter she is nervous and unwell. Everybody has been more or less disturbed, and Mrs. Hunt went off to Chifu last week, but met her husband at Tientsin. The remains of the people who were killed were buried there last week with great ceremony; every foreigner was present, and the grand parade of Chinese officials & troops with the crowd around, added to the solemnity of the occasion. It was a sad affair, and its serious results are not yet seen, for the consequences may affect all China, tho' the rulers seem to care very little.

I have had no letter from you since the one you wrote at Rome, and guess that three or four have miscarried on their way here, or have you been so much interested in what you have seen that you had no strength left to write about it? I know that it is very fatiguing work to visit galleries and museums, & the mind is too wearied with the variety to make many notes, when you get back to the inn. But as you get all the benefit of what you see, and I hope will learn much from the opportunities you enjoy, I can afford to imagine very much of the scenes you are in. I think you ought not to let Fred do so much of the writing, for if he can find time you can. But when you read this, I suppose you'll have been in U.S.

a long time, for I think you're there now, & I shall have had your letters, by that time.

The rivulets still run through gulleys, and I can hear the voice of the water after four weeks, since the rains began, tho' only in the still evening now. The reason is that the high grass along the hillsides prevents the evaporation; the grass is so rank this season that the flowers are not so numerous as in other years, & the children cut much for fodder. I have not roamed over the hills much, for there's no one to go with me, but I've had some rides & walks. We went the other day to the old temple beyond Mo-shi-kow village, where you went four years ago, and the old custodian asked after you & Fred. It is no better kept than ever. I collected a dozen of the *Adiantum gulieluni* last week, in the ravine beyond Tai-pi-sz, where it is plenty.

We made a visit to the Imperial Park lately; it and the other places are now opened, the custodians having ascertained (they say) that Mr. Andrews and the others who killed the deer have all gone away. Mr. & Mrs. Low & Flora found the party, and I led them over the hillsides and ruins where you and mother & Fred and so many others have passed and repassed, some of them (Burlingame & de Mas) dead. I can see signs of decay and pilfering in many places, and the abundant rains have caused a high growth of grass over all the grounds and slopes that looks very pretty. The people were civil, and seemed not sorry that visitors had come back, for as there are more than a hundred people appointed to care for the park, some of them will be glad of a tiao or two. Miss Douw was to have come with us, but she stayed at home with Mrs. Blodget & let Lottie go with us. Miss Douw has left Mrs. Collins house & is to live during the winter at Mr Blodget's and help Miss Porter. Mrs. Collins school is pretty much scattered, and Miss Douw takes three or four of the girls up with her, to put in Miss Porter's school, one of whom is Changma's youngest girl. I suppose you saw Mrs. Collins in England, and was glad to learn how your young friends have fared since hey went home. There are no boys now in Peking to play with the older girls, and Mrs. Burdon & Mrs. Lowry are likely to carry away their fours before the winter comes on.

Aug. 22. [1870]

Mrs. Edkins has taken your room for a while, Sarah & two of her pupils are with her, and three others are with Mrs. Dudgeon, so I have a little company for a few days. At the

service yesterday, we had Mr & Mrs Low & Flora, Dr & Mrs Dudgeon, Mrs Blodget & Lottie, Mrs. Schereschewsky & Miss Douw; I suppose some of the students would have come if they had been sure of the service. A second party went to the Park last week, who came back drenched. The crops are very large, and some of the fields are almost ripe for [pickle].

Mrs. Burdon goes to England this week, taking Aldu & Edward, and Mr Burdon goes to Shanghai with her, intending to return soon; she says that she goes home to get a set of teeth put in, but the uncertainly we all in as to what turn events will take in regard to the riot of Tientsin, has had its effect in inducing her to go. Mrs. Hart went on to Hongkong with her child & nurse. Mrs. Morrison is getting on very well at Tängchau, & has got a house to live in, where she hopes to do some work yet. There has been no serious trouble there, only a good deal of talk.

I suppose that you will already have entered school when you get this letter, and begun those studies which are most suitable for girls. Ask God's blessing on them all, and be honest with yourself in getting them, for it is your own heart & mind that way. Seek His assistance, and try to live at peace with all your schoolmates, tho' do not be in a hurry to make friendship.

Your loving Father
S. Wells Williams

No. 9. [SWW to Daughter Sophia: 1871/ 08/ 29; 北京西山三山庵, Tremont Temple, Western Hills, Beijing]

Tremont Temple
Aug. 29, 1871

Dear darling Sophy,

I've had your last letter of June 3^d on hand, about a week, and now the Sept. mail soon starts carrying the answers to it and others. I have great satisfaction, too, in learning of the satisfaction you have in school, with the teachers & studies, and the pleasure you show in progressing from one to the others, always having something to reach forward to; and thus you see how I sympathize with you in your plans and labors. I should think it was

hardly worth while going to Genoa, when you do so well in U. States, and have friends and facilities close at hand.

Since my last letter in July, the rains have come down in torrents, and the rain has been sad beyond description. The clouds poured down eight days in succession, and the plain was soaked, the roadways running, and houses, roofs, and banks, crumbling in every direction. The water soon ran off here, but towards Tientsin & southward, it flooded the plain and could find no exit. The villages were in some cases clean washed off the faces of the earth, in others a few of the brick ones survived, but universally all those mud houses soon vanished. Mr Meadows says, from the top of his house, nothing but one expanse of water could be seen, and it has risen within one or two feet of the settlement; this was last week, since when it has fallen, as the sun rapidly dries the country. The intercourse with Tientsin was by boats, & Mr Moore thinks of all the city houses are injured or destroyed. Bushell told me that in coming up from Taku, the str. hardly minded the channel; and Mr Wade's boat from Tientsin went thro' the fields all the way to Tungchau, sometimes a mile away from the river banks. The water drained off pretty well until it reached Yangtsun & eastward, but down SE. of that town there was no roadway. Carts have not run for three weeks from Peking to Tientsin. Mr Stanley's cellar leaked thro', and his roofs leaked sadly, too, so that his quarters were miserable. Mr Hodge's house fell on, and Mr Tunnoch's was almost uninhabitable. Stanley will have spend considerable to reroof his house, & the church must come down. I have no knowledge of the loss of life, but I hear that mules, asses, horses, sheep, pigs, & cattle have disappeared in all that rejoin, starved more than drowned. It is one the most distressing calamities of the country; & there is no help for it until the people will build higher than the plain as is done in Egypt; but so much water only comes now & then.

At the Hills, every temple leaked, but some of them slightly. In Lung-want Fang, there's not a whole ceiling left, nor in Tremont Temple or Chang-an-sz. I had Dr. Martin out here, but his room leaked as a sieve, & he got anguish & went home. I have not put up any paper since the rain. The stone wall at Pi-mo-yai, which you look over from Mr Chapin's old room-yard down to the entrance, slid down, & if it had not been for the roots of the trees the yard would have mostly gone. The corner of the wall near this temple,

where you remember the twin firs as we turned to descend toward the road, slid off, carrying a small mulberry there; & a new spring gushed out back of the yard as you go up to the graveyard, (the place where we all hunted for Amy's cat), which has run down the path & over the wall by the stable, wetting the whole backyard. As you may infer, the grass on the hills is very rank.

I send you part of a note from your friend Mr Drew, with his picture. You^d. do well to send him a letter, for he took much pains to write to you. He acquitted himself well in the trip to Corea as Mr. Low's interpreter; he goes home next winter.

I hope you continue to study the Scriptures, & learn everything you can of them; and obey them too, for this is the great thing. Look upward whenever you look into them for help and enlightenment, and you'll not go wrong; find the solution of all their difficulties that you can, and the explanation of all the obscure passages. I shall look forward to the journal you are going to write me as a proof of your willingness & patience to have me know how you get on. You can't know fully how much I have you in my heart & prayers, but God must bless you, I can't, only to cry to Him.

Ever Your loving Father

S. Wells Williams

[P.S.] Miss Douw has lent me *Little Women*, the book you ask me to read. I hope you are careful to read books worth reading.

No. 10. [SWW to Brother Dwight: 1873/ 08/ 15; 北京西山三山庵, Tremont Temple, Western Hills, Beijing]

Tremont Temple

Aug. 15, 1873

Dear Brother Dwight,

Somehow it turns out that the letters which are not imperative get passed over when the mail is made up, & have to wait till next time; and this sometimes happens to those which I wish had been written in time so that they could go. But nothing in this world gets done of itself, & so the long denied answer to your kind notes has not started, delayed

partly because I was not very well & had many things pressing on me, and partly because I had not much to say.

We are now at our former summer retreat at the Hills near Peking, and I think that my head is gradually recovering its power of work and collectedness, so that I am able to work better than in March. But a twinge of pain comes over it now & then, & I think of the day & place where the inhabitant shall not say I am sick. It is a daily joy to have Sarah & Sophy around me, & their presence delights & helps. Sophy is helping in the preparation of the index to the dictionary, which is simply a piece of drudgery and painful care, but as important to the usefulness of the book as it is tedious.

I send you the Shanghai News Letter, whh I sh^d like you forward on to Robert when you have read them, as he has taken an interest in their contents, and they are not worth filing away. The paper hardly exists, so little demand is there, and the price prevents many sending it away as news.

Mr Low leaves Japan I suppose by this mail, glad enough to get his face easterly. Sarah has sent you a paper containing some a/c of Consul Caine's trial at Shanghai for embezzling or misusing Gov^t funds. I wonder he did not get out of British territory when he left China. [Halleck] is working out his 2 years sentence at Shanghai, & his wife tries to support herself by taking boarders. I haven't much pity for him or Caine, as they sinned wilfully.

Things are quiet here, & the people have not gone into fits because the Emperor saw some foreigners in an upright position one day, tho' they have had strange rumors about the effect on the Ministers, that Wade died soon after, [Rehfues] was scared so badly beforehand that he had to run away, Low left for ports unknown right off, and Ferguson had to go off, so that the Russian Minister is the only survivor, [Geofroy] having gone to Chifu. But these rumors soon give way to others, & the affair is forgotten. It was a step ahead, and as the practice of receiving foreign ministers beomes more frequent, the emperor will be allowed to take more part, and he becomes less of a puppet. The vis inertiae [Latin=idleness] of this body of fossilized officials which rule China is sometimes the only obstacle to advance; they don't wish to do anything, & so cry non possumus [Latin =we cannot]. They will get knocked over some day, I fear, but they are learning slowly.

I haven't thanked you as much as I ought for the numbers of Harper, & now I am again obliged to you for the kindness you've shown to my body Fred. I hear that you have one of the pleasantest nests – men & women could wish to live in. By & by, we shall I hope get to the House not made with hands, whh is preparing for us. Love to Martha.

Affly Yours

Wells

No. 11. [SWW to Brother Robert: 1874/ 06/ 29; 北京西山三山庵, Tremple Temple, Beijing]

Tremont Temple near Peking

June 29, 1874

My dear Brother

Your letter of the 7th. ult^o. came in less than usual time, and found us at the Hills in our old quarters at the San-shan-Ngan, i.e. Tremont Monastery [三山庵], where we have passed eight summers. It is one of eight of a group of temples, whose name are suggestive of much the same associations as Romish convents, tho' in a different line; Nepturne's Hall [法海寺], Great Compassion [大悲寺] & Eternal Repose Temple [长安寺], Bright Spirit Monastery [灵光寺] & Fragrant Boundary Convent [香界寺], are the names of some others near us, & most of them are now occupied by residents, who like us, leave the city for a cooler purer spot.

Your letter found us all in good health, and we are likely to remain out here several weeks, as I do not think M^r Avery will reach Peking for some two months yet, as his house will not be ready for him. There is not much news to write about, for we are all so far from the centers of news, that you hear the tidings of important events almost as soon as we do. The telegraph made known the riot at Shanghai on 3^d May to all the western world a week before we heard of it here, & the N.Y. Observer brings back the news of events in China, in less than 6 weeks after they took place. That riot has left an uneasy feeling in Shanghai, I hear, for tho' the French have entirely yielded to the demands of the Chinese, who were entirely in the right in the question at issue, the precedent is one which may have a bad

effect. The separate municipality of the French is one which is a source of great trouble to other nationals living in its precincts, and is entirely unnecessary for even their security. In the present instance, the whole region came nearly being destroyed by the mob; unless the U.S. Marines & men had appeared in time, people think much ruin would have resulted, but one can't well describe what never took place, if they adhere in the main to facts.

I suppose the \$100 in gold paid you by H. Wood last year does form part of her payment for the chinaware sent this year from Canton. You will, I hope have no trouble with the matter, for the people have been told to send their payments to you, tho' I don't know myself anything about Mrs Blomfield. I have written to M^r Preston about the ware you wish, and I think he will take pains with your order. To my notion, Chinese ware is not so pretty as Europ^{en}.

The effect of the Veto on the waste-paper money bill will be to restore values to their proper standard, & lead to a better state of finances. The nation ran a great risk of permanent dishonor and much distress from the passage of the bill, but by next year many of its advocates will see their error. The condition of things in Texas, Arkansas, & Louisiana is very unpromising for good gov^t., and the flood has added to the distress caused by bad rulers. Altogether, the wages of the great sin of slavery seem to be sad enough to those who fought for its maintenance, & now can't get away from the fruit of their own doings.

I am glad to learn that M^r Low took the trouble to write to you, for it indicates much interest in you, as the acquaintance is rather second hand. He has recently been chosen Manager of the Anglo-California Bank. His efforts to get me as his successor shows his goodwill, at least. You will perhaps have seen an article sent by my friend G Nye of Canton to a NY paper, in which he argues against the appoint^t of a minister to China from Cal. because he is likely to partake of the animus against Chinese which seems to be increasing there. Such a life as Avery has had must certainly have led him to form opinions about the Chinese around him, and if it has warped him against them, some time will be required to disabuse his mind. We have had a curious struggle here during the past winter between the Chinese and Peruvians about coolie emigration, in which the former have tried every way they could to head the latter off and not be bound to allow them to hire laborers for

Peru in Chinese ports. The Chinese have shown a worthy desire on the whole to protect their subjects, and I think the Peruvians will be foiled, for no one here wishes them success, as they maltreat the coolies dreadfully. The US. Legation has shown so decided an opinion that the Peruvian Minister has gone to the British Minister for help, but at Tientsin he was indebted to the U.S. Consul for aid in getting a treaty. The people at Macao are still trying to hold on to their infernal trade, as I suppose it is all the business they have there.

I am glad to hear of the favorable prospects of the Monks R.R. but we shall see better next year. We are likely I hear to have a small attempt at a RR in China. Love to all with you, and the kiss of charity which binds us to each other across the hemisphere.

Aff^{ly} Your brother

S Wells Williams

[P.S.] You can read & seal & send Ivison's letter to him.

No. 12. [SWW to Wife Sarah: 1876/ 07/ 21; 北京西山三山庵, Tremple Temple, Beijing]

Tremont Temple,

July 31, 1876

My dear Daughter,

Since I wrote you last mail, your interesting letter of May 25th has come out to this well known place, and I have read it with much satisfaction. It shows a good command of the French language in the description of the street at Rouen, the mean look and fittings of the inns with such a grandiose name; the company, the cooking, and the chambers are also neatly described; and the dénouement of taking up your sacks and shaking the dust from your feet completes the picture. When I see you again, I shall perhaps try your remembrance of Chinese by translating viva voce the letter; for I guess you have lost one language as you've acquired the other. I translated the letter for M^r & Mrs Blodget who are staying with me, and we are fully appreciated your effort to make a cheap visit to Rouen, and how it turned out. You had time to see the old town in all its features, and to read up the history of the churches and statues, as well as derive more instruction than I was able

from examining the many objects of interest in the Museum there, broken monuments or tombs, armor, and bones. How little we should think of such a rubbishy collection, if it was not for their history, & the associations springing up as one looks at them; but the thing and its story serves to fix the whole in the mind. So this temple, I suppose there are some legends, some actors, some scenes attached, which if I could get hold of them would add tenfold to its interest; but those olden days have passed away without leaving their records, --- and no great loss perhaps. The real value of those former days depends much on their influence on our own; and we cherish a relic of a man like William the Silent or Washington only because of the power of life on our own times.

You'll see, by all this talk, that I haven't much to write about, no news, no events of dire important, no catastrophes. The rain has come & the fields, hillsides, and gullies laugh and clap their hands. Everybody is at work in the fields, and when Boldget & I were returning from Collins temple the other evening, we met the son of the wash-woman who lives behind Chang-an sz', who was pleased at being able to earn 10 cts a day clear with his grubbing hoe. Weeds grow so fast that everybody must run to catch up with them. We all hope the rain has come in time to preserve most of the crops of soybean, maize & buckwheat. *Ko liao pu teh!*

We heard yesterday of the death of little Taylor, whmo you remember as one who sung with you in the church; it was from typhoid fever at Canton. D^r Bushell & Fraser came out last week to Lung-wang tang, with children, mothers, nurses & baggage all, so that now there is some company up the hill. Yet a large difference from 1874. The Martins have gone to Tangchau with Hagan, to visit M^r Mills; Miss Porter & Sheffields to Kalgan; and the Whitings & Miss Douw to a temple near Yuh-t sien shau. Pirkis & Billeguins are near the Hi-loh sz, where you stayed with Mrs Collins, & so is the German Legation thereabouts. Miss Porter has not improved in health since she went to Kalgan, & her brother goes up next week to attend her. I fear she has overtasked her strength beyond recovery. The Chapins are all at Tungchau this summer, one or other of them ailing now & then. There are always invalids among such a number of people; and both the Misses Porter will probably return to U.S.--- a loss indeed, for their knowledge of the language fits them for much work, and opens out more and more all the time. Mme Butzow has remained at home,

but now goes to Chifu; and M^r Seward now regrets that he left his family at Chifu instead of bringing them up to Peking at once. M^r Mayers gave Mrs S such a doleful picture of living at Sz'-ping-tai during the summer, that nothing I could say had the least effect. She could have had Tai-pei sz' as it is empty. We have a new & worse edition of a priest in this Tremont Temple, not quite so bad as the ogre at the Robber Temple, but not an agreeable contrast to the good natured filial man, whose mother was his care. The roof of the room where Frank & Fred stayed has fallen in, & our new suzerain is trying to raise the money to rebuild the house, but he must let the subscribers occupy the quarters they thus pay for. If he succeeds, I think the chances are that San-shan-ngan will not be available for guests next year, which will disappoint Holcombe. Two curio men walked out here, 13 miles, to try to sell a piece or two, but I would not buy; their pluck and perseverance deserved a little reward, but I was obdurate.

Dear Sophy, hold on to higher & better things than I've been writing about, & keep your tho^{ts}. on high. You & Fred are daily remembered before God, that you may escape the snares of the evil & keep the faith

Aff^{ly} Your father

S. Wells Williams

[P.S.] I've just finished reading Col. Prejvalsky's book of travels in Northern Tibet.

No. 13. [H. Blodgett to SWW: 1877/ 08/ 29; 北京西山大悲庵, Pa Pei An, Western Hills, Beijing]

Ta Pei An.

Aug 29, 1877

My dear Williams,

I am a little vexed with myself because, having written three sheets to you, Aug. 19, in answer to your letter after Sophie's marriage. I lost my letter, and with it my labor in writing it. It may turn up at some time; but I will write again briefly in answer to yours of July 3, received on the 27th. (The papers came with the letters, and I send to my fill in regard to the commencement at New Haven, the most important event of which to you, and

the most interesting to me, was your appointment to the Professorship of the Chinese Language and Literature, the endowment of the Professorship still being in the air. I trust that will come thank you very many times for your letter & the papers. Mrs. Blodget also thanks you for the New York papers, which she receives from time to time. Our affairs are much as usual. On account of the absence of Mr. Hunt, who was in Chifu, and of Mr. Goodrich, who was in Japan, we did not come out to the hills until Aug. 16. Our stay will not be long. The Whitings and Miss Douw will go in next week. We are all at this one temple, which is at the foot of the 玉泉山. This hill is now bare of trees, and nearly all the buildings have been removed. The pagodas remain. The same is the case with Wan Shen Shan. The poor people are using up the Emperor's property with as little compunction as the British soldiers had, when they commenced the work of destruction. Yesterday I went to the old places of previous years. San Shan An is as inviting as ever. The pries overshot the mark in the price he asked for it. The old priest of Pi-mo-yien still lives. Mrs. Edkins should be in Peking tomorrow. Her disease progresses rapidly. Death is near as all suppose. The Hendersons have just received tidings of the death of their only son. The L. M. S. have just built two new houses near the Si-SZ-Pai-Leu 西四牌楼, for Meech & Owen. Collins has built one house for Mr Brereton. The rumor of the women's mission are somewhat troubled because you advised the Society against buying in Peking. They shrewdly suspect that, if you had been consulted as to the question of the Society itself dishandling, and resolving itself into the various mission boards of women, your answer would have been in favor of such a course. They on the other hand consider that they have a right to exist as a separate society, and intend to stand upon this ground. They have now twenty pupils. Yung preaches for them. Their efforts are worthy of all praise.

It was simply impossible for the conference to do anything in regard to terms: and on this account it was far better to leave the matter untouched. They might possibly have discussed the matter in a friendly way. What good would have come even of that discussion?

(1) It would have been an interminable affair. (2) No result could have been reached in which the missionaries would all agree. Eitel's notion that Shangti would be taken for God and Shin for false god was no doubt entertained by a [fm^e.] but it could not prevail. In fact

the Shang-ti party have lost ground the last six months. Legge's paper was an injury to them.

There are so many men (like Stanley), who hold very decided opinions without a very broad range of knowledge, and without any superior qualifications for judging in so important and difficult a question that it is impossible to move. Such men as Chalmers Edkins & Eitel are also difficult to [one illegible word] deal with.

I seem to myself to see some things clearly in regard to this subject. One is that Shén must be used for false gods, for "god, gods."

Another is that, for the present at least, two words must be used one for "God," another for "go, gods". A third is, that Shangti must be given up. Was God a wife? All Chinese history makes "Earth" to be worshipped as the correlate to "Heaven." "Forest" can not answer this. He sees the point at once. A fourth is that the word, generally used for God must be Tien-chu or Shang-chu 上主. If Shén could be retained in some cases for the true God, and for divine, it would be well. This I leave to time & experience. The word for spirit is very difficult, very difficult indeed. I hope Liny will answer. Did you read Mateer's reply to Douglas in the June Recorder? The experiment made by essays at Fuhchau was not without importance. Recently I conversed with Palladins somewhat about these subjects. He would not listen to Shén for God. He uses 天主 but spoke favorably also of 上主. His opinion in regards to Shén should be modified in the importance attached to it by his constant use of that word for "spirit," during his whole course. Yet it has weight, and, taken with my own knowledge and experience---another subject, confirms me in not using that words as the sole and principal word for "God."

In the old Test. Elohim was used once where Jehova was used three (?) times. In China 主 in some of its forms must be used, not three times only, but ten (?9 times---where 神 is used once. It must be the prevailing word. Mateer has a very labored, and really very able article in hand, not yet published. It will almost make a book. It has been burning in his mind ever since you saw him last, and has not yet been published. He is squarely for Shén, on Bishop Russell's ground.

McClatchie told me that he would use 天主, if all the Shang-ti party would consent so to do.

I am painfully impressed with the sense of how fragmentary is all I write you on this subject. I am turning away from this subject to other work. Its adjustment will be slow, and I can only give a portion of my time to it.

I have nearly finished my third of the revision of the N. Test in the Wanⁱⁱ. If we can make that in the Wén, what the version of Scher-1 and of the Committee is in the Ruan, good service will be rendered to the cause. It must be revised. It can't stand as it is.

I need a colleague. Why, is it that no young man offers?

I trust that Sophie will lead a happy and a useful life. Her temptations are greater than were yours and mine at her age. I am very glad that the family have given her so hearty a welcome. It is a religious family, and this, in your view & mine, is far more than the outward advantages it en[?]ys. Fred. will soon be through with his course. My kind regards to him. His view of Peking is not wide from the mark. We don't live here, because it is the fairest spot on earth.

The harvest is to be better than the fears if most mad it. "Five-tenths, six-tenths" of a usual harvest are now talked of. Mrs B. sits by me writing to Lottie. We both send very much love to Mrs. W. & yourself. Thank you for yr remembering Henry in your letter, & also for the mention of Plath's monograph. Come, let's go to walk.

Farewell. H. Blodget.

[P.S.] I sent the bill long ago. The tael is now=17.060.

No. 14. [Henry Blogett to SWW: 1878/ 07/ 19; 北京西山長安寺, Chang-ngan-sz, Western Hills, Beijing]

The Monastery of Perpetual Rest

長安寺 July 19, 1878

My dear Williams

Here I am in this quiet retreat once more, writing to you. The hot mid-day sun is pouring down his fiercest rays, and only a very slight breath of air draws through the green bamboo screen which hangs at the door. Mrs. Blodget sits in the long chair, reading the Missionary Herald which came last night; (she has finished reading the Tribune which you

sent); the voices of Dudgeon's children, the youngest of which is a son now three weeks old, born in this temple, are heard in the courts, and the perpetual jabber of the Chinese tongues comes in from the priests room in the south east corner of the temple. One or two feathered songsters still prolong their notes at this midday hour. The temple and surrounding are much as they when I first saw you here in 1863(?). Your family then occupied the inner court, and we are in the outer court, where your study then was. Edkins spends a good part of his time here this summer. He is writing on the Buddhism of China. Edkins is more sociable than in former times, but just as unreliable in his conclusions. His little daughter is peculiar, one by herself, difficult to manage, has will enough, and talent enough. Edkins does not profess much skill in controlling her. One thinks with sadness of the death of her mother. Round the hill in the old place are the Collins, the father however being absent in the country distributing to the poor near Ho-kien-fu, and one member of the family, Miss Dedrickson, having gone to her rest. Herbert, now a young man, is there. Mrs. Collins is very poorly. Her lungs are seriously affected. It is not without misgivings that we look forward to the next winter for her. Up the hill are the Holcombes, well & busy over the Oliphant & Peru Coolie case. I am sorry for the Oliphants. They are in danger of losing very heavily. Have your money in their hands? Further up are the students; then the McCoys with their four children, Miss Colburn & Miss Burnett, and Mr. Hagan, all in the Leung prong L'ang; and in Hsiang Chinae shi are the Lowries, Walkers, Pichus, Robertses, & Mrs. Ament. My aged friend in Pi Mo Yien is still hale & vigorous. Many inquiries are made for you as for an old friend.

Your welcome letter of May 18 was received yesterday, with enclosures; also by some mail some \$300 from Mr. Ward for famine relief, the result of your labors. Thank you the \$100, for the poor. There is need enough of it this year. I did not go into the country as anticipated. My own health, & Mr. Hurt's health was such, and the pressure of station duties was such that I could not leave at that time. However I did set a day to go, the 23^d May, five days later than the date of your letter. My tickets were prepared, and the list of names secured. But Mr. Hunt was ill, and I could not go. The sequel you know. Your letter to him was written the day before he was taken ill. His death has brought upon me the care of the treasury & of the press. My own health has been very indifferent, so that my

going out has been impossible. You urge Mr. Hunt to remain until Spring. He would doubtless have remained, had he lived. But now he is freed from all cares, and from all infirmities of this mortal life. He was a true Christian, a very good man. We miss him very greatly.

Goodlich distributed \$1000; Stanley, Smith, Porter, & Sheffiled \$9000 (?); Pursin & Ament 2500±. These last are out now. I do not think that 10,000,000 is a high estimate of the numbers who have perished by famine; 5,000,000 in Shansi, & 5,000,000 in Kan Inh Shensi, Honan, Shantung & Chihli. I rather think this number too small than too great. For many months typhus fever has prevailed in all these places, and multitudes have fallen. Little wheat was gathered in in June, almost none. The autumn harvests were very promising until recently. Now drought is again upon us, and myriads of caterpillars have been devouring the millet. They take here one field & there another, and strips the stalks bare, easting the leaves and the head. If the rain falls, there will still be something of a harvest.

Charles Hill took me recently, & I went before the committee of the Senate, & before the Committee of the house, and urged both the Committees not to give the indemnity fund to the Chinese officials. They would not give it to the missionaries, & I urged them not on any account to give it to the mandarins.

So it seems that Mr Charles Hill has more weight with our Congress than the Hon. S. W. Williams. Expresident Woosings & Co. "Children shall rule over them!" Hill acknowledges that he has a personal resentment, because the Chinese government has not granted his claim. This claim they regard as very questionable.

I think we must try again for the indemnity fund. It ought to be paid, and paid now, for this distress. The next winter will afford abundant opportunity for its distribution.

Smith is recovering from typhus fever. Miss Douw & the Whittrings have gone to Tenghau. I do hope that Mr Noble will come soon. I expect to see him in August.

Your message of love I have delivered, and shall deliver. Much love from Mrs Blodget & myself to you & Mrs. Williams. Are you coming to take Mr Seward's place? Perhaps not. I have first read through the Reminiscences of Webster, and I see how it went with him. In our country merit is not promoted.

Very truly and aff^y

H. Blodget.

[P.S.] Mr. Hunt made me his Executor. The Martins have gone to Shanghai. (over)

I ought to say a word or two more about the famine. In the famine stricken regions there can be no relief until autumn. The wheat crops in those regions was nothing at all. There it was very light, say three tenths of a harvest. The prospect for the autumn harvests was unusually good until written a month. The caterpillars first, and now the drought, raise doubts in regard to these. I do not exactly know how wide the devastation of the caterpillars are. Yet is it my impression that with abundant rains the harvest might still be very good. All things now are, the grain, a large part of which is already headed out, is drying up in the fields. The burning suns of July pour down upon the crops their scorching rays, and the husbandmen sigh in vain for the showers.

About here the people are just able to live. Yesterday I saw a woman picking grass leaves for food. They do not come to beg.

God has a controversy with this nation. Yet they do not [yet] awake to serve him. They seem to submit stupidly as to fate (天命).

No. 15. [SWW to Daughter Sophia: 1881/ 08/ 12; 美国, St Albans, U.S.]

St Albans

Aug 12, 1881

My dear Daughter

Sitting in the 客堂 of the Tremont Temple on the 13th of June you write, “Tom is sitting opposite to me with a volume of the Jung Low Mung, & your Dictionary;” this makes the whole picture complete to my mind. The courtyard has its four fine trees and the buildings inclosing them, the gods and shrines are quiet and dreamy as ever within the doors, and the servants dwell in the other quarters. All things remain as they were of old, in the mainly, only a bit more worn & ruinous. Charlie’s bones have moldered away since Sept 1874, and perhaps some of the people too who put him there under the cliff. Your letter has

refilled the vista of the past to me, as the sight of these places did to you; and I am again seated at the table with my work before me, and you children around me. Well it is that we can thus recall the beauties & pleasures of the past of our times, and compare them with the present; for, from this review & comparison, we can derive comfort, hope, & strength in going on with the work before us. I have read this letter with that kind of joy & thanks which [partakes] outlines so much of the future life when this has passed away; the retrospect & the prospect are alike encouraging--- thank you too for sending Lady Wade's letter for my perusal; she would be able to tell Lady Ebury many things about your mother, enabling the latter to appreciate your bereavement. I hope that Lady Wade will have will have great reward in her songs as they grow up, for they seem to be promising children. I asked Fred to take pains to see the friends at Moor Park for his own and your sake, & hope to hear more details when he gets home. Edward Bowers may return with him, for we heard last week that his father had been injured by a runaway beam colliding with his carriage & throwing him out, probably with some injuries not stated. It will be a sad & sudden ending to Edward's plan, but I need to know more.

I suppose you have already seen the Allerburys, & had much pleasure in their visit. I tried to explain matters a little to them, but sight w^d be the fulfillment of prophecy in their case. I am much pleased to hear what you say about the old native women around you, & glad that you can give them some work. The one with the gaiter sitting under the Sopharia tree beyond the *ch'o kwan*, makes a special vignette in the picture book I've drawn from your letter, and hope you have found others to aid. The company at the other temples seems to be varied and sufficient to make your summing everything you can desire. Praise the Lord, for his mercy has been great to both of us, and we have need to render him much for his benefits.

I rec^d. your letter at Saratoga, where I have passed 3 weeks, with Dwight in a pleasant manner. He had left his room at Mrs Morehouse's, as she had rented her house for the season, & we found good quarters at Temple Grove. Many interesting people were visiting there too, so that the days passed on agreeably. I made two addresses on China, & had an appreciative & large audience each time, a large proportion of clergymen being there, some of whom asked questions on certain points in whh they were interested. Saratoga has

inducements & rewards for all kinds of people, & the extremes of society; met there in close juxtaposition. Gambling, horse-racing, & shows crowd in with preaching, prayer-meetings & conferences, and from the 20,000 visitors in town, each arena seems to be crowded. The NY State Temperance Society held its anniversary last week, and this week comes a Banking Congress. Politics help too to fill the programme and every body drinks the water. All this & much more was new to me, and I enjoyed the novelty. I hope that I may have another chance, for it seemed to do me good. Dwight has very good health, and makes good company & is useful in the church of whh is an elder. I met one of your classmates at Mrs Hubbard's who inquired after you with interest; she lives at Wilkerbane now. Alas, for the rest, the nub of the record, for I've forgotten her name. Her unaffected pleasure in learning how you were situated in Peking made a deeper impression than the name so new to me,--- but it was not Osgood. She accosted me as I came out of the lecture room last week Monday morning. D' Washburne of Con'ple [also] was the lecturer on a previous day, and many are to come.

I came to St Albans on one of those pleasant days which come so generally after a hot term, & a shower between, & the ride across the lake to Burlington was very charming. Prof & Delia Lyman were on board, and told of their travels thro' the [Adironducks] by land & water making an instructive interchange & healthy recreation as one would wish. He told me of the loss Mrs Goodrich has sustained in the destruction of her new house in New Hampshire by lightning. She had recently got it in order, and enjoyed the newly made summer retreat much, when it was snatched away in flame a week or so ago, and nearly everything in it was burned. Many things had to be sent up to her from New Haven to supply present needs. Mrs G. lives opposite Prof Dana's, & I am not sure that you know her very well; her pew in College Chapel is behind mine. Her house was about the last one your mother went into last Dec. Mrs Russell Hotchkins died in the ripe maturity of a well spent life last month or before; you & I called there last year, if I remember aright, & your mother saw her the same day she visited Mrs Goodrich. Now they have seen each other, perhaps; I love to think it is so.

Your Aunt Charlotte sends a note which will tell you all & more than I can. There is to be a tea-party this evening, & Hatty is busy with the preparations as well her mother. I

have called on the three nearest neighbors, & at Mrs Jno Newbon's, I saw her husband, step-mother from Brooklyn, Kitty's old teacher in St Albans. The latter says she is quite exhausted with her teachings & labors. Mrs Lawrence [Brainead]'s sister is spending a few weeks from Plattsburg. How much & who of these people you know I am not aware, but enough, probably, to follow me.

I suppose you rec^d the \$500 from Mr Purdon before he left Shanghai, tho' you have not mentioned it yet. Mr Seaman has taken charge of my few a/cs, now that Mr Purdon has gone. I saw Sylvia Purdon last June, who told me of the death of her two cousins in Shanghai, just as they were all preparing to return home.

The houses here was entered by burglars last week, who ransacked it in a rude manner, but carried off little in comparison to what was not discovered. Hatties room was thrown about a good deal, & Clarence lost clothes, as well WCS, for all the rooms upstairs were entered and disturbed. Habby was awakened, & her surprised scream scared them off, and they were traced down to St Albans bay where they dropped some garments. No clue has yet been found, but one is led to suspect this man & that, according to the deductions made from their doings. Kate sends away her gardener next week, & hopes better things from the next one, as he can hardly be worse than this drunkard, whom Rodden recommended. Mr & Mrs Scranton have not yet come up, but their son is here with his nurse.

I send you & Thomas a RR advertiser which may answer you, as well as others around you, as it has me. Everybody has read your last letter, which tells about the Hills, & I have tried to explain things to them. Next week I shall be in Utica, & there await Fred's arrival. I have tried to tell you what has interested me, but the result is not very flattering. I cannot make up for the letters you used to receive.

Love to both of you, & regards to Sir Thos, D^r Bretshneider, the Dudgeons, Pirkises, and others. All here send love with

Your aff^e Father
S Wells Williams