

## Inventory Noyes Collection

Tobin Chin  
 Zoe Johnson  
 Isabel Bonhomme  
 Rebecca Johnston  
 Annie Carney  
 M. Alex Kaufmann  
 Nate Weaver

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### Abstract:

The Noyes family, coming to Seville, Ohio in 1840 was a family heavily tied to the Presbyterian church, as well as having ties to The College of Wooster beginning when it first opened its doors in 1870, then The University of Wooster. Varnum Noyes, the patriarch of the family, was the first minister of the Presbyterian church in Seville.<sup>1</sup>

This collection contains accounts, journals, letters, pamphlets, prose, and sermons from different members of the family, the largest body of which are from Varnum's daughter Harriet, who spent most of her life, fifty-six years to be exact,<sup>2</sup> as a missionary in Canton, China (Guangzhou, Guangdong province 广东省广州市) from 1868 to 1923. Harriet opened one of the first schools for women and girls in all of China, the True Light Seminary (真光书院) in 1872, and spent the majority of her career as a missionary heading this school and others.

Beginning with her departure through her last days abroad, these materials document the incredible life of an expatriate in an environment different from her own. In her correspondence Harriet raises many issues of 19<sup>th</sup>-century imperialism, discussing the application of American presence in Asia. A product of her time, she uses language that is indicative of her race, class, and gender. Harriet also discusses contemporary politics in China during a period that marked the epoch of Western imperialism.

Harriet's [440] (updated 160513) documents including letters, journals, and reports among other document types, provide insight into the life of a missionary woman and the relationships she had in China and back at home. Furthermore, her letters reveal how Americans of the 19th century viewed and interacted with China and Chinese individuals. Harriet's letters are a valuable resource for those interested in researching Chinese history, the history of colonialism and/or imperialism, missionary history, the history of the Presbyterian mission, the history of women's education in China, American history, and Sino-American relations.

The annotations provided below on Harriet's correspondence and other documents that have been processed provide a partial look into her experience as a missionary in Guangzhou, Guangdong. The annotations serve to provide the researcher with a general basis of knowledge on Harriet, her work, and what life was like during this period at this location. However, it is important to note that the annotations provided below are not complete summaries of each letter, nor are they word-for-word transcriptions. The

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<sup>1</sup>M. Alex Kaufmann, "Noyes Main Stone #1", photograph, (Wooster, Ohio: 2015), from The College of Wooster's Department of Special Collections in Andrews Library: *Noyes Family Graves* in *The Noyes Collection*.

<sup>2</sup>M. Alex Kaufmann, "HARRIET NOYES", photograph, (Wooster, Ohio: 2015), from The College of Wooster's Department of Special Collections in Andrews Library: *Noyes Family Graves* in *The Noyes Collection*.

researcher using this collection should use this inventory as a tool to assist in their research, and nothing more.

[Other family members' information]

<b>Master List of Thematic Classifications of Correspondence</b>		
<b>Travel</b>	<b>Violence, War, and Politics</b>	<b>Medicine &amp; Health</b>
1861 May 6 (Henry)	1861 May 6 (Henry)	1861 May 6 (Henry)
1864 January 26 (Henry)	1868 July 28 (Harriet)	1866 August 13 (Henry)
1864 February 15 (Henry)	1868 December 11 (Harriet to Lois)	1868 January 13 (Harriet)
1865 January 10 (Henry)	1868 June 3 (Harriet)	1868 January 28 (Harriet)
1866 February 2 (Henry)	1868 July 28 (Harriet)	1868 February 20 (Harriet & Edward)
1866 August 13 (Henry)	1869 May 31 (Henry)	1868 May 21 (Henry)
1866 October 13 (Henry)	1870 February 10 (Henry)	1868 May 23 (Harriet)
1867 November 8 (Harriet)	1870 April 1 (Harriet)	1868 June 10 (Harriet)
1868 February 20 (Harriet & Emily)	1870 October 8 (Henry)	1868 July [10?] (Harriet)
1868 March 22 & April 13 & April 14 (Harriet)	1870 December 9 (Henry)	1868 September 12 (Harriet)
1868 May 21 (Henry)	1871 May 10 (Harriet)	1868 October 12 (Harriet)
1868 May 23 (Harriet)	1871 May 31 (Harriet)	1868 December 11 (Harriet to Lois)
1868 June 3 (Harriet)	1871 July 1 (Harriet)	1869 February 16 (Henry)
1868 July [10?] (Harriet)	1871 July 22 (Harriet)	1869 April 15 (Harriet)
1868 November 9 (Harriet)	1871 August 6 (Harriet)	1869 May 4 (Harriet)
1868 December 11 (Harriet to Lois)	1871 November 6 (Harriet)	1869 December 17 (Henry)
1869 October 15 (Harriet)	1872 February 13 (Harriet)	[1869?] (Harriet)
1869 October 18 (Henry)	1872 March 11 (Harriet)	1870 February 10 (Henry)
[1869?] November 10 (Harriet)	1872 July 9 (Henry)	1870 May 4 (Harriet)
1869 December 17 (Henry)	1872 July 23 (Harriet)	1870 May 31 (Harriet)
1870 January 10 (Harriet)	1872 July 25 (Harriet)	1870 October 8 (Henry)
1870 February 10 (Henry)	1872 August 9 (Harriet)	1870 October 11 & 12 (Harriet)
1870 March 9 (Harriet)	1872 September 20 (Henry?)	1870 December 9 (Henry)
1870 April 1 (Harriet)	1872 December 10 (Harriet)	[1870?] (Harriet)
1870 April 11 (Harriet)	1873 May 31 (Harriet)	1871 April 10 (Harriet)
1870 September 30 (Harriet)	1873 November 6 (Harriet)	1871 May 10 (Harriet)
1870 October 8 (Henry)	1874 April 24 (Henry)	1871 May 31 (Harriet)
[1870?] October 11 & 12 (Harriet)	1874 September 12 (Henry)	1871 June 10 (Harriet)
1871 May 31 (Harriet)	1874 October 19 (Henry)	1871 August 6 (Harriet)
1871 July 1 (Harriet)	1875 February 27 (Harriet)	1872 January 9 (Henry?)
1871 July 22 (Harriet)	1875 May 31 (Harriet)	1872 January 10 (Harriet)
1871 August 10 (Harriet)	1875 September 29 (Martha)	1872 April 10 (Harriet & Frank)
1871 September 5 (Harriet)	1875 October 13 (Martha)	1872 May 20 (Henry)
1871 October 11 (Harriet)	1875 October 13 (Harriet)	1872 May 31 (Harriet)
	1876 June 29 (Martha)	1872 July 9 (Henry)
	1878 April 22 (Harriet)	1872 July 23 (Harriet)
	1878 September 23 (Harriet)	

<p>1871 November 3 (Henry)  1871 November 6 (Harriet)  1871 December 6 (Harriet)  1872 January 9 (Henry?)  1872 January 10 (Harriet)  1872 February 13 (Harriet)  1872 February 15 (Harriet)  1872 February 15 (Harriet &amp; Varnum)  1872 March 11 (Harriet &amp; Edward)  1872 March 11 (Harriet &amp; Frank)  1872 April 10 (Harriet &amp; Varnum)  1872 May 4 (Harriet)  1872 May 20 (Henry)  1872 July 9 (Henry)  1872 July 23 (Harriet)  1872 July 25 (Harriet)  1872 August 6 (Harriet)  1872 December 10 (Harriet)  1873 January 30 (Harriet)  1873 March 31 &amp; April 10 (Harriet)  1873 April 10 (Henry)  1873 April 24 (Henry)  1873 May 9 (Harriet)  1873 May 9 (Henry)  1873 May 31 (Harriet)  1873 June 1 &amp; 11 (Harriet)  1873 July 10 (Harriet)  1873 August 25 (Harriet)  1873 September 14 (Harriet)  1873 September 25 (Harriet)  1873 October 7 (Henry)  1873 October 21 (Harriet)  1873 November 6 (Harriet)  1873 November 23 (Harriet)  1873 November 25 (Harriet)  1873 December 17 (Harriet)  1874 February 25 (Harriet &amp; Edward)  1874 February 25 (Henry)  1874 March 26 (Henry)  1874 April 16 (Harriet)  1874 April 18 (Harriet)</p>	<p>1880 October 25 (Henry)  1880 October 25 (Henry)  1881 May 6 (Harriet)  1881 June 12 (Harriet)  1881 September 30 (Harriet)  1882 February 3 (Henry)  1882 May 22 (Harriet)  1882 May 23 (Henry)  1882 July 1 (Varnum)  1883 January 3 (Harriet)  1883 February 3 (Harriet)  1883 July 18 (Harriet)  1883 August 31 (Harriet)  1883 September 26 (Harriet)  1883 October 22 (Harriet)  1884 January 24 (Harriet)  1884 March 1 (Harriet)  1884 August 7 (Harriet)  1884 August 28 (Harriet)  1884 September 4 (Harriet)  1884 September 30 (Henry)  1884 October 27 (Henry)  1884 November 17 (Harriet)  1885 April 16 (Harriet)  1885 April 30 (Harriet)  1888 September 26 (Harriet)  1888 October 11 (Harriet)  1892 June 11 (Martha)  1897 July 28 (Henry)  1906 July 28 (Henry)  1923 May 16 (Harriet &amp; Electra)  [?] April 23 (Martha)</p>	<p>1872 August 6 (Harriet)  1872 August 9 (Henry)  1872 September 30 (Harriet)  1873 January 8 (Henry)  1873 May 13 (Harriet)  1873 September 7 (Harriet)  1873 September 25 (Harriet)  1873 October 7 (Henry)  1873 November 25 (Harriet)  1874 February 25 (Harriet &amp; Edward)  1874 March 14 (Henry)  1874 April 18 (Harriet)  1874 April 23 (Harriet)  1874 April 24 (Henry)  1874 May 11 (Harriet)  1874 June 2 &amp; 8 (Harriet)  1874 June 15 (Henry)  1874 June (Harriet)  1874 July 3 (Henry)  1874 July 24 (Henry)  1874 July 27 (Harriet)  1874 July 29 (Henry)  1874 September 12 (Henry)  1874 September 14 (Harriet)  1874 September 21 (Harriet)  1874 September 22 (Harriet)  1874 October 12 (Martha)  1874 October 19 (Harriet)  1874 November 9 (Harriet &amp; Sarah)  1874 November 9 (Martha)  1874 November 27 (Harriet)  1875 January 30 (Harriet &amp; Emily)  1875 February 12 (Henry)  1875 February 27 (Harriet)  1875 April 13 (Martha)  1875 July 1 (Henry)  1875 September 4 (Martha)  1875 September 29 (Martha)  1875 November 12 (Harriet)  1876 March 27 (Martha)  1876 December 1 (Martha)  [1876?] December 6 (Marta)  1877 April 21 (Martha)  1878 February 2 (Henry)</p>
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<p>1874 April 23 (Harriet)  1874 April 24 (Harriet)  1874 April 24 (Henry)  1874 May 11 (Harriet)  1874 June 2 &amp; 8 (Harriet)  1874 June 15 (Henry)  1874 July 1 (Harriet)  1874 July 3 (Henry)  1874 July 9 (Harriet)  1874 July 24 (Henry)  1874 July 27 (Harriet)  1874 July 29 (Henry)  1874 September 12 (Henry)  1874 September 14 (Harriet)  1874 September 21 (Harriet)  1874 September 22 (Harriet)  1874 September 22 (Henry)  1874 October 1 (Harriet)  1874 October 12 (Martha)  1874 October 19 (Harriet)  1874 October 19 (Henry)  1874 November 9 (Harriet &amp; Sarah)  1874 November 9 (Martha)  1874 November 24 (Henry)  1875 January 12 (Henry)  1875 January 19 (Harriet)  1875 January 30 (Harriet &amp; Emily)  1875 February 10 &amp; 11 (Harriet)  1875 February 12 (Henry)  1875 February 27 (Harriet)  1875 April 13 (Martha)  1875 May 31 (Harriet)  1875 July 1 (Harriet)  1875 July 1 (Henry)  1875 July 5 (Harriet)  1875 July 7 (Harriet)  1875 July 30 (Harriet)  1875 September 4 (Martha)  1875 September 14 (Martha)  1875 September 29 (Martha)  1875 December 31 (Harriet)  1876 January 10 (Harriet)  1876 January 14 (Harriet)  1876 January 17 (Harriet)  1876 February 12 (Martha)</p>		<p>1878 March 24 (Harriet)  1878 March 28 (Henry)  1878 May 24 (Harriet)  1878 July 13 (Harriet)  1878 August 24 (Henry)  1879 April 24 (Henry)  1879 July 1 (Harriet)  1879 July 31 (Henry)  1879 August 23 (Mattie)  1879 August 25 (Harriet)  1879 September 30 (Henry)  1879 December 3 (Henry)  1879 December 22 (Henry)  1880 February 5 (Henry)  1880 March 23 (Harriet)  1880 April [6?] (Henry)  1880 June 28 (Harriet)  1880 August 6 (Henry)  1880 December 23 (Harriet)  1881 January 7 (Harriet)  1881 March 21 (Martha)  1881 May 12 (Harriet)  1881 May 14 (Harriet)  1881 June 12 (Harriet)  1881 June 27 (Harriet &amp; Mary)  1881 June 27 (Harriet &amp; Sarah)  1881 July 20 &amp; 22 (Harriet)  1881 July 27 (Harriet)  1881 July 28 (Harriet)  1881 July 29 (Henry)  1881 August 6 (Henry)  1881 August 29 (Harriet to Emily)  1881 August 29 (Harriet to Varnum)  1881 August 30 (Harriet)  [1881?] (Harriet)  1882 February 3 (Henry)  1882 March 20 (Henry)  1882 May 22 (Harriet)  1882 July 8 (Harriet)  1882 July 24 (Harriet)  1882 August 10 (Harriet)  1882 August 21 (Harriet)  1882 May 19 (Harriet)  1882 November 6 (Varnum)  1882 November 7 (Harriet)</p>
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<p>1876 February 14 (Harriet)  1876 March 12 (Harriet)  1876 March 14 (Harriet)  1876 March 14, 16 (Henry)  1876 March 20 (Harriet)  1876 March 23 (Harriet)  1876 March 23 (Harriet)  1876 March 27 (Martha)  1876 March 27 (Martha)  1876 April 12 (Harriet)  1876 April 12 (Henry)  1876 April 12 (Henry)  1876 December 1 (Martha)  [1876?] December 6 (Marta)  1877 January 1 (Martha)  1877 April 21 (Martha)  1877 October 28 (Henry)  1878 January 2 (Henry)  1878 May 9 (Harriet)  1878 August 17 (Henry)  1878 August 24 (Henry)  1878 August 31 (Henry)  1878 September 23 (Harriet)  1878 October 5 (Henry)  1878 October 18 (Henry)  1879 February 4 (Henry)  1879 February 5 (Harriet)  1879 March 29 (Henry?)  1879 July 1 (Harriet)  1879 July 1 (Henry)  1879 July 31 (Henry)  1879 August 16 (Henry)  1879 August 23 (Martha)  1879 September 5 (Harriet)  1879 September 9 (Henry)  1879 November 11 (Henry)  1879 December 3 (Henry)  1879 December 20 (Henry)  1879 December 22 (Henry)  1880 January 10 (Harriet)  1880 January 15 (Henry)  1880 February 5 (Henry)  1880 February 9 (Harriet)  1880 February 26 (Henry)  1880 March 20 (Henry)  1880 April [6?] (Henry)  1880 June 5 (Henry)</p>		<p>1882 November 20 (Harriet)  1882 November 28 (Harriet)  1883 January 2 (Harriet)  1883 February 6 (Harriet)  1883 February 19 (Harriet)  1883 February 27 (Harriet)  1883 May 4 (Edward)  1883 July 7 (Harriet)  1883 July 21 (Harriet)  1883 July 21 (Harriet)  1883 August 7 (Harriet &amp; Emily)  1883 August 7 (Harriet &amp; Sara)  1883 August 7 (Harriet &amp; Varnum)  1883 August 31 (Harriet)  1883 October 31 (Harriet)  1883 December 28 (Harriet)  1884 October 27 (Henry)  1884 November 17 (Harriet)  1884 July 1 (Harriet)  1884 December 22 (Harriet)  1885 January 25 (Harriet)  1885 April 16 (Harriet)  1885 May 18 (Henry)  1885 June 6 (Harriet)  1887 April 14 (Harriet)  1887 April 29 (Harriet)  1887 June 9 (Martha)  1887 June 20 (Henry)  1887 November 11 [Henry?]  1887 December 19 (Henry)  1888 January 23 (Martha)  1888 January 31 (Henry)  1888 April 27 (To Harriet)  1888 May 5 (To Harriet)  1888 June 30 (Henry)  1888 September 26 (Harriet)  [1888?] (Martha)  1889 March 24 (Harriet)  1889 April 16 (Henry)  1889 August 11 (Clara)  1889 August 24 (Martha)  [1880s?] February 19 (Harriet)  1890 February 22 (Martha)  1890 March 14 (Harriet)  1890 March 24 (Harriet)</p>
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<p>1880 August 6 (Henry)  1880 September 30 (Henry)  1880 October 9 (Harriet)  1880 October 25 (Henry)  1880 October 25 (Henry)  1881 March 5 (Harriet)  1881 March 21 (Martha)  1881 May 12 (Harriet)  1881 May 14 (Harriet)  1881 May 21 &amp; 28 (Harriet)  1881 June 13 (Harriet)  1881 June 21 (Harriet)  1881 June 27 (Harriet)  1881 July 29 (Henry)  1881 August 6 (Henry)  1881 September 30 (Harriet)  1881 September 30 (Henry)  1881 October 4 (Harriet)  1881 October 4 (Harriet)  1881 October 27 (Harriet)  1881 December 14 (Harriet)  1882 March 13? (Harriet)  1882 March 20 (Henry)  1882 April 11 (Harriet)  1882 April 13 (Harriet)  1882 May 23 (Henry)  1882 July 27 (Harriet)  1882 August 6 (Henry)  1882 August 10 (Harriet)  1883 January 2 (Harriet)  1883 January 3 (Harriet)  1883 February 3 (Harriet)  1883 February 27 (Harriet)  1883 February 27 (Mary)  1883 March 10 (Harriet)  1883 March 26 (Harriet)  1883 July 20 (Harriet)  1883 July 21 (Harriet)  1883 August 7 (Harriet)  1883 August 31 (Harriet)  1883 October 22 (Harriet)  1884 June 30 (Harriet)  1884 July 1 (Harriet)  1884 July 10 (Harriet)  1884 July 19 (Harriet)  1884 October 18 (Martha)  1884 October 27 (Henry)</p>		<p>1890 June 2 (Harriet)  1891 February 2 (Martha)  1894 May 23 (Henry)  1900 June 8 (Harriet)  1901 September 30 (Henry)  1904 May 26 (Harriet)  1904 May 31 (Henry)  1908 May 19 (Henry)  1909 April 24 (Henry)  1909 May 3 (Henry)  1914 January 22 (Unknown)  1917 November 18 (Harriet)  [?] February 17 &amp; 19 (Martha)  [?] February 18 (Martha)  [?] March 21 (Martha)  [?] April 23 (Martha)  [?] May 29 (Martha)  [?] July 30 (Martha)  [?] September 3 (Martha)  [?] October 2 (Martha)  [?] November 5 (Martha)  [?] November 24 (Martha)  [?] July (Martha)  Monday Eve (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Aunt Mary)  [n.d.] (Martha)</p>
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<p> 1884 November 28 (Harriet)  1884 December 22 (Harriet)  1885 April 16 (Harriet)  1885 April 30 (Harriet)  1885 May 18 (Henry)  1885 June 6 (Harriet)  1885 June 8 (Emily)  1885 June 22 (Emily &amp; Mary)  1886 April 1 (Harriet)  1886 May 14 (Harriet)  1887 June 9 (Martha)  1887 June 20 (Henry)  1887 August 3 [Henry?]  1887 August 22 (Henry)  1887 October 10 (Martha)  1887 October 30 (Martha)  1887 November 24 (Henry)  1887 December 19 (Henry)  1888 January 30 (Henry)  1888 January 31 (Henry)  1888 June 30 (Henry)  1888 September 29-30 (Henry)  1888 November 28 (Henry)  1889 February 7 (Harriet)  1889 February 9 (Harriet)  1889 February 28 (Harriet &amp; Mary)  1889 February 28 (Harriet &amp; Clara)  1889 February 28 (Harriet &amp; Clara)  1889 March 8 (Clara &amp; Edward)  1889 March 11 (Emily &amp; Mary)  1889 April 16 (Henry)  1889 July 10 [?] (Harriet)  [1889?] August 12 (Martha)  1889 August 24 (Harriet)  1889 August 24 (Martha)  1890 February 22 (Martha)  1890 March 14 (Harriet)  1890 June 2 (Harriet)  1890 June 25 (Harriet)  1892 June 11 (Martha)  1894 May 23 (Henry)  1897 July 28 (Henry)  1901 December 25 (Martha)  1903 February 28 (Martha) </p>		
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<p>1903 March 11 (Harriet)  1906 July 28 (Henry)  1907 May 13 (Henry)  1908 May 19 (Henry)  1909 May 3 (Henry)  1909 October 23 (Henry)  1911 June 28 (Henry)  1917 November 18 (Harriet)  1923 May 16 (Harriet &amp; Electra)  1923 August 20 (Harriet)  [?] February 17 &amp; 19 (Martha)  [?] February 18 (Martha)  [?] April 19 &amp; 27 (Harriet)  [?] July 30 (Martha)  [?] September 3 (Martha)  [?] October 2 (Martha)  [?] October 27 (Martha)  [?] November 5 (Martha)  [?] November 24 (Martha)  [?] 22 (Martha)  Monday Eve (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)  [n.d.] (Martha)</p>		
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<b>Culture, Language, and Art</b>	<b>Building &amp; Development</b>	<b>Locations other than Canton</b>
<p>1864 January 26 (Henry)  1864 February 15 (Henry)  1865 January 10 (Henry)  1866 August 13 (Henry)  1866 November 6 (Henry)  1868 January 28 (Harriet)</p>	<p>1865 January 10 (Henry)  1868 January 28 (Harriet)  1868 August 14 (Harriet)  1869 February 15 (Harriet)  1869 February 16 (Henry)  1869 May 31 (Henry)</p>	<p>1861 May 6 (Henry)  1864 January 26 (Henry)  1864 February 15 (Henry)  1865 January 10 (Henry)  1866 February 2 (Henry)  1866 August 13 (Henry)</p>



1868 February 20 (Harriet & Edward)	1870 February 10 (Henry)	1866 October 13 (Henry)
1868 March 22 & April 13 & April 14 (Harriet)	1870 March 9 (Harriet)	1866 November 6 (Henry)
1868 May 4 (Harriet)	1870 April 11 (Harriet)	1868 February 20 (Harriet & Emily)
1868 May 21 (Henry)	1870 October 8 (Henry)	1868 February 20 (Harriet & Edward)
1868 May 23 (Harriet)	1870 December 9 (Henry)	1868 May 21 (Henry)
1868 June 10 (Harriet)	1870 [n.d.] (Harriet)	1869 February 16 (Henry)
1868 July [10?] (Harriet)	1871 February 9 (Edward)	1869 May 4 (Harriet)
1868 December 11 (Harriet to Lois)	1871 April 10 (Harriet)	1869 October 18 (Henry)
1868 December 31 (Harriet)	1871 May 10 (Harriet)	1869 December 17 (Henry)
1869 February 16 (Henry)	1871 July 10 (Harriet)	1870 February 10 (Henry)
1869 April 15 (Harriet)	1871 December 28 (Harriet)	1870 March 9 (Harriet)
1869 May 31 (Henry)	1872 February 15 (Varnum & Harriet)	1870 April 1 (Harriet)
1869 July 1 (Henry)	1872 April 10 (Harriet & Frank)	1870 September 30 (Harriet)
1869 October 18 (Henry)	1872 May 4 (Harriet)	1870 October 8 (Henry)
1870 January 10 (Harriet)	1872 August 9 (Henry)	1870 October 11 & 12 (Harriet)
1870 February 10 (Henry)	1873 January 30 (Harriet)	1870 December 9 (Henry)
1870 December 9 (Henry)	1873 April 1 (Harriet)	1871 November 3 (Henry)
1871 May 10 (Harriet)	1873 May 8 (Harriet)	1871 November 6 (Harriet)
1871 July 1 (Harriet)	1873 May 13 (Harriet)	1872 January 9 (Henry?)
1871 November 3 (Henry)	1873 May 31 (Harriet)	1872 July 9 (Henry)
1871 November 6 (Harriet)	1873 June 1 & 11 (Harriet)	1874 April 16 (Harriet)
1871 December 20 (To Harriet)	1873 August 30 (Harriet)	1874 April 18 (Harriet)
[1871?] (Harriet)	1873 September 14 (Harriet)	1874 April 18 (Harriet)
1872 January 9 (Henry?)	1873 September 25 (Harriet)	1874 April 23 (Harriet)
1872 January 10 (Harriet)	1873 October 21 (Harriet)	1874 April 24 (Harriet)
[1872?] March 10 (Henry)	1874 January 9 (Harriet & Edward)	1874 April 24 (Henry)
1872 March 11 (Harriet)	1874 March 14 (Henry)	1874 June 15 (Henry)
1872 May 4 (Harriet)	1879 February 4 (Henry)	1874 July 3 (Henry)
1872 June 10 (Henry?)	1874 February 25 (Harriet & Edward)	1874 July 24 (Henry)
1872 November 9 (Harriet)	1874 February 25 (Harriet & Frank)	1874 July 29 (Henry)
1873 January 8 (Henry)	1874 March 12 (Harriet)	1874 August 10 (Martha)
1873 March 31 & April 10 (Harriet)	1874 March 26 (Henry)	1874 September 12 (Henry)
1873 April 1 (Harriet)	1874 April 24 (Henry)	1874 September 14 (Harriet)
1873 May 31 (Harriet)	1874 May 11 (Harriet)	1874 September 21 (Harriet)
1873 July 10 (Harriet)	1874 June (Harriet)	1874 September 22 (Henry)
1873 September 25 (Harriet)	1874 July 1 (Harriet)	1874 October 1 (Harriet)
1873 November 23 (Harriet)	1874 July 3 (Henry)	1874 October 19 (Henry)
1873 December 17 (Harriet)	1874 July 24 (Henry)	1874 November 9 (Martha)
1874 January 9 (Harriet & Edward)	1874 August 10 (Martha)	1874 November 24 (Henry)
1874 January 9 (Varnum)	1874 September 12 (Henry)	1875 January 12 (Henry)
1874 February 25 (Harriet)	1875 January 12 (Henry)	1875 July 1 (Harriet)
1874 February 25 (Edward)	1875 January 19 (Harriet)	1875 July 1 (Henry)
		1875 July 3 (Harriet)
		1875 July 5 (Harriet)
		1875 July 7 (Harriet)

1874 March 12 (Harriet)	1875 January 30 (Harriet & Mother)	1875 July 10 (Harriet)
1874 June (Harriet)	1875 February 10 & 11 (Harriet)	1875 September 4 (Martha)
1874 July 27 (Harriet)	1875 February 12 (Henry)	1875 September 14 (Martha)
1874 August 10 (Martha)	1875 February 27 (Harriet)	1875 September 29 (Martha)
1874 November 9 (Martha)	1875 February 27 (Harriet)	1875 October 13 (Martha)
1874 November 24 (Henry)	1875 May 4 (Harriet)	1876 January 14 (Harriet)
1875 February 27 (Harriet)	1875 May 31 (Harriet)	1876 January 17 (Harriet)
1875 May 4 (Harriet)	1875 June 18 (Harriet)	1876 January 20 (Harriet)
1875 May 7 (Harriet)	1875 July 30 (Harriet)	1876 February 12 (Clara & Em)
1875 June 18 (Harriet)	1875 August 6 & 13 (Harriet)	1876 February 12 (Martha)
1875 September 14 (Harriet)	1876 January 10 (Harriet)	1876 February 14 (Harriet)
1875 December 31 (Harriet)	1878 January 2 (Harriet)	1876 March 12 (Harriet)
1876 January 14 (Harriet)	1878 January 13 (Harriet)	1876 March 14 (Harriet)
1876 March 14, 16 (Henry)	1878 February 2 (Henry)	1876 March 14, 16 (Henry)
1876 April 12 (Henry)	1878 July 13 (Henry)	1876 March 20 (Harriet)
1876 April 12 (Henry)	1878 August 24 (Henry)	1876 March 23 (Harriet)
1878 January 13 (Harriet)	1879 March 29 (Henry?)	1876 April 12 (Harriet)
1878 March 24 (Harriet)	1879 September 4 (Harriet)	1876 April 12 (Henry)
1878 April 22 (Harriet)	1879 December 20 (Henry)	1876 April 12 (Henry)
1878 May 17 (Harriet)	1880 February 9 (Harriet)	1876 April 13 (Harriet)
1878 July 13 (Harriet)	1880 February 22 & 23 (Harriet)	1876 June 29 (Martha)
1878 August 31 (Henry)	1880 February 26 (Henry)	1876 December 1 (Martha)
1878 September 23 (Harriet)	1880 March 20 (Harriet)	[1876?] December 6 (Marta)
1878 October 5 (Henry)	1880 March 20 (Harriet)	1877 April 21 (Martha)
1879 July 1 (Harriet)	1880 March 20 (Henry)	1877 October 28 (Henry)
1879 July 16 (Henry)	1880 April [6?] (Henry)	1877 December 29 (Henry)
1879 July 31 (Henry)	1880 June 5 (Harriet)	1878 January 2 (Henry)
1879 August 16 (Henry)	1880 June 5 (Henry)	1878 February 2 (Henry)
1879 September 30 (Henry)	1880 June 26 (Harriet)	1878 March 28 (Henry)
1879 December 22 (Henry)	1880 June 28 (Harriet)	1878 July 13 (Henry)
1880 January 10 (Harriet)	1880 June 30 (Harriet)	1878 August 17 (Henry)
1880 January 15 (Henry)	1880 July 10 (Harriet)	1878 August 24 (Henry)
1880 February 5 (Henry)	1880 July 23 (Harriet)	1878 August 31 (Henry)
1880 February 26 (Henry)	1880 August 6 (Henry)	1878 October 5 (Henry)
1880 June 5 (Henry)	1880 October 25 (Henry)	1878 October 18 (Henry)
1880 June 22 (Harriet)	1880 November 25 (Harriet)	1879 February 4 (Henry)
1880 June 30 (Harriet)	1880 December 23 (Harriet)	1879 March 29 (Henry?)
1880 July 10 (Harriet)	1881 January 11 (Harriet)	1879 June 7 (Martha)
1880 July 23 (Harriet)	1881 March 21 (Harriet)	1879 July 1 (Henry)
1881 January 7 (Harriet)	1881 June 13 (Harriet)	1879 August 16 (Henry)
1881 March 5 (Harriet)	1881 August 29 (Harriet to Varnum)	1879 November 11 (Henry)
1881 May 4 (Harriet)	1881 August 30 (Harriet)	1879 December 3 (Henry)
1881 July 27 (Harriet)	[1881?] (Harriet)	1879 December 20 (Henry)
1881 August 29 (Harriet to Emily)	1882 May 4 (Harriet)	1879 December 20 (Martha)
1881 August 29 (Harriet to Varnum)	1882 May 18 (Harriet)	1879 December 22 (Henry)
		1880 January 13 (Henry)
		1880 February 26 (Henry)

1881 October 4 (Harriet)	1882 May 21 (Harriet)	1880 March 20 (Henry)
1882 January 3 (Henry)	1882 July 27 (Harriet)	1880 June 5 (Henry)
1882 January 11 (Harriet)	1882 August 10 (Harriet)	1880 August 6 (Henry)
1882 March 3 (Harriet)	1882 August 21 (Harriet)	1880 September 30 (Henry)
1882 March [13?] (Harriet)	1883 January 3 (Harriet)	1880 October 25 (Henry)
1882 March 20 (Henry)	1883 February 6 (Harriet)	1880 October 25 (Henry)
1882 April 27 (Harriet)	1883 February 27 (Harriet)	1881 July 29 (Henry)
1882 May 8 (Harriet)	1883 February 27 (Edward)	1881 August 6 (Henry)
1882 May 18 (Harriet)	1883 May 4 (Edward)	1881 September 30 (Henry)
1882 May 19 (Harriet)	1883 June 17 (Harriet)	1881 October 4 (Martha & Varnum)
1882 August 10 (Harriet)	1883 August 31 (Harriet)	1882 May 23 (Henry)
1882 August 21 (Harriet)	1884 November 28 (Harriet)	1882 July 1 (Varnum)
1882 September 12 (Harriet)	1885 January 7 (Harriet)	1882 August 6 (Henry)
1882 November 20 (Harriet)	1885 January 25 (Harriet)	1882 November 6 (Varnum)
1883 January 2 (Harriet)	1885 February 4 (Harriet)	1883 February 3 (Harriet)
1883 February 3 (Harriet)	1885 February 6 (Harriet)	1884 July 10 (Harriet)
1883 February 19 (Harriet)	1885 October 10 (Harriet)	1884 July 19 (Harriet)
1883 February 27 (Harriet)	1886 May 14 (Harriet)	1884 September 30 (Henry)
1883 February 27 (Edward)	1887 June 28 (Martha)	1884 November 17 (Harriet)
1883 March 10 (Harriet)	1888 January 30 (Henry)	1884 November 28 (Harriet)
1883 March 26 (Harriet)	1888 January 31 (Henry)	1885 May 18 (Henry)
1883 May 4 (Edward)	1888 November 20 (Henry)	1886 March 12 (To Harriet)
1883 May 31 (Harriet)	1889 September 7 (Harriet)	1886 March 17 (To Harriet)
1883 June 1 (Harriet)	1889 November 21 (Harriet to Clara)	1887 April 14 (Harriet)
1883 June 17 (Harriet)	1889 November 21 (Harriet to Edward)	1887 April 29 (Harriet)
1883 July 20 (Harriet)	[1880s] February 19 (Harriet)	1887 June 20 (Henry)
1883 July 21 (Harriet)	1890 March 14 (Harriet)	1887 August 3 [Henry?]
1883 August 7 (Harriet)	1892 June 11 (Martha)	1887 August 22 (Henry)
1883 August 7 (Sara)	1897 July 28 (Henry)	1887 October 10 (Martha)
1883 October 22 (Harriet)	1900 June 8 (Harriet)	1887 November 11 [Henry?]
1883 October 31 (Harriet)	1906 July 28 (Henry)	1887 November 24 (Henry)
1884 January 24 (Harriet)	1909 April 24 (Henry)	1887 December 19 (Henry)
1884 February 18 (Harriet)	1909 October 23 (Henry)	1888 January 31 (Henry)
1884 June 30 (Harriet)	1909 October 28 (Henry)	1888 April 27 (To Harriet)
1884 July 1 (Harriet)	1923 May 16 (Harriet & Electra)	1888 June 30 (Henry)
1884 July 10 (Harriet)	[?] April 2 (Martha)	1888 September 29-30 (Henry)
1884 July 19 (Harriet)	[?] April 23 (Martha)	1888 November 20 (Henry)
1884 August 28 (Harriet)	[n.d.] (Martha)	1888 November 28 (Henry)
1884 September 4 (Harriet)	[n.d.] (Harriet)	[1888?] (Martha)
1884 October 18 (Martha)		1889 February 7 (Harriet)
1884 October 27 (Henry)		1889 February 9 (Harriet)
1885 January 7 (Harriet)		1889 February 28 (Harriet & Mary)
1885 April 16 (Harriet)		1889 February 28 (Harriet & Clara)
1885 April 30 (Harriet)		1889 March 8 (Clara & Edward)
1885 May 18 (Henry)		
1887 June 20 (Henry)		
1887 September 30 (Henry)		



		[n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha)
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<b>Chinese Politics</b>	<b>Missionary Politics</b>	<b>American Politics</b>
1869 May 31 (Henry)	1864 January 26 (Henry)	1861 May 6 (Henry)
1870 October 8 (Henry)	1866 October 13 (Henry)	1866 October 13 (Henry)
1870 November 10 (Harriet)	1866 November 6 (Henry)	1868 July 28 (Harriet)
1870 December 9 (Henry)	1868 February 20 (Harriet & Emily)	1868 December 11 (Harriet & Edward)
1871 May 10 (Harriet)	1868 May 21 (Harriet)	1869 May 31 (Henry)
1871 July 1 (Harriet)	1868 May 21 (Henry)	1869 September 9 (Harriet)
1871 July 22 (Harriet)	1868 June 3 (Harriet)	1869 September 30 (Harriet)
1871 August 6 (Harriet)	1868 August 6 (Harriet)	1869 October 15 (Harriet)
[1872?] March 10 (Henry)	1868 September 12 (Harriet)	1870 April 1 (Harriet)
1872 May 4 (Harriet)	1868 October 12 (Harriet)	1870 September 30 (Harriet)
1872 July 9 (Henry)	1868 October 13 (Harriet)	1871 November 3 (Henry)
1874 January 9 (Harriet)	1868 October 13 (Harriet)	1872 March 11 (Harriet & Edward)
1874 April 24 (Henry)	1868 December 14 (Harriet)	1872 April 10 (Harriet & Frank)
1874 September 12 (Henry)	1869 February 13 (Harriet)	1872 August 6 (Harriet)
1874 September 14 (Harriet)	1869 September 9 (Harriet)	1874 March 5 (Martha)
1874 October 1 (Harriet)	1869 October 15 (Harriet)	1874 May 11 (Harriet)
1874 October 19 (Harriet)	1869 November 10 (Harriet)	1874 June 2 & 8 (Harriet)
1874 November 24 (Harriet)	1869 December 17 (Henry)	1874 July 27 (Harriet)
1874 November 27 (Harriet)	[1869?] (Harriet)	1878 March 28 (Henry)
1875 September 29 (Martha)	1870 January 10 (Harriet)	1878 August 17 (Henry)
1875 October 13 (Martha)	1870 February 10 (Henry)	1879 July 16 (Henry)
1876 June 29 (Martha)	1870 March 9 (Harriet)	1879 December 22 (Henry)
1879 July 1 (Harriet)	1870 April 1 (Harriet)	1880 January 13 (Henry)
1879 September 30 (Henry)	1870 April 11 (Harriet)	1881 July 29 (Henry)
1880 January 13 (Henry)	1870 September 9 (Harriet)	1881 August 6 (Henry)
1880 October 25 (Henry)	1870 November 10 (Harriet)	1881 September 30 (Henry)
1880 November 25 (Harriet)	1870 December 9 (Henry)	1882 March 20 (Henry)
1881 September 30 (Henry)	[1870?] (Harriet)	1882 May 22 (Henry)
1882 May 23 (Henry)	1871 February 9 (Edward)	1882 July 1 (Varnum)
1884 September 30 (Henry)	1871 April 10 (Harriet)	1885 January 7 (Harriet)
1884 October 27 (Henry)	1871 May 10 (Harriet)	1888 November 20 (Henry)
1887 October 10 (Martha)	1871 May 31 (Harriet)	1892 June 11 (Martha)
1890 March 31 (Harriet)	1871 July 10 (Harriet)	1923 May 16 (Harriet & Electra)
1918 January 14 (To Harriet)	1871 July 10 (Harriet)	[?] April 23 (Martha)
1923 May 16 (Harriet & Electra)	1871 July 11 (Harriet)	
	1871 August 6 (Harriet)	
	1871 August 10 (Harriet)	
	1871 October 11 (Harriet)	
	1871 November 3 (Henry)	
	1871 December 20 (To Harriet)	
	1871 December 31 (Harriet)	

	<p>[1871?] (Harriet)  1872 January 9 (Henry?)  1872 January 10 (Harriet)  [1872?] March 10 (Henry)  1872 March 11 (Harriet &amp; Edward)  1872 April 10 (Harriet and Varnum)  1872 June 10 (Henry?)  1872 July 9 (Henry)  1872 August 6 (Harriet)  1872 August 9 (Henry)  1872 September 30 (Harriet)  1872 December 10 (Harriet)  1873 April 10 (Henry)  1873 May 8 (Harriet)  1873 May 9 (Harriet)  1873 May 9 (Henry)  1873 May 31 (Harriet)  1873 October 21 (Harriet)  1873 November 6 (Harriet)  1873 November 25 (Harriet)  1874 January 9 (Harriet &amp; Edward)  1874 January 9 (Harriet &amp; Varnum)  1874 March 5 (Martha)  1874 March 12 (Harriet)  1874 April 16 (Harriet)  1874 April 24 (Harriet)  1874 May 11 (Harriet)  1874 June (Harriet)  1874 July 3 (Henry)  1874 July 24 (Harriet)  1874 July 24 (Henry)  1874 September 14 (Harriet)  1874 September 21 (Harriet)  1874 October 1 (Harriet)  1874 October 12 (Martha)  1874 October 19 (Henry)  1874 November 9 (Harriet &amp; Sarah)  1874 November 24 (Henry)  1874 November 27 (Harriet)  1875 February 10 &amp; 11 (Harriet)  1875 February 27 (Harriet)  1875 April 13 (Martha)</p>	
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	<p>1875 September 14 (Martha)  1875 September 29 (Martha)  1876 February 12 (Martha)  1876 March 27 (Martha)  1876 April 12 (Martha)  1876 June 29 (Martha)  [1876?] December 6 (Martha)  1877 January 1 (Martha)  1877 April 21 (Martha)  1877 December 29 (Henry)  1878 January 2 (Henry)  1878 February 2 (Henry)  1878 March 28 (Henry)  1878 October 5 (Henry)  1878 October 18 (Henry)  1879 April 24 (Henry)  1879 June 7 (Martha)  1879 July 1 (Harriet)  1879 July 31 (Henry)  1879 August 6 (Henry)  1879 September 4 (Harriet)  1879 September 9 (Henry)  1879 September 30 (Henry)  1880 January 13 (Henry)  1880 February 22 &amp; 23  (Harriet)  1880 February 26 (Henry)  1880 March 20 (Henry)  1880 April [6?] (Henry)  1880 May 4 (Harriet)  1880 June 5 (Henry)  1880 August 6 (Henry)  1880 October 25 (Henry)  1881 March 5 (Harriet)  1881 March 21 (Martha)  1881 May 12 (Harriet)  1881 August 29 (Harriet to  Emily)  1881 August 30 (Harriet)  1881 September 30 (Henry)  1882 April 13 (Harriet)  1882 June 17 (Harriet)  1882 July 27 (Harriet)  1882 August 6 (Henry)  1882 November 7 (Harriet)  1883 February 27 (Harriet)  1883 May 4 (Harriet &amp; Lois)</p>	
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	<p>1883 May 4 (Harriet &amp; Varnum)  1883 July 21 (Harriet)  1883 August 7 (Harriet)  1884 August 7 (Harriet)  1884 September 30 (Henry)  1884 October 18 (Martha)  1884 October 27 (Henry)  1885 January 7 (Harriet)  1885 January 25 (Harriet)  1885 January 27 (Harriet)  1885 February 6 (Harriet)  1885 June 3 &amp; 8 (Harriet)  1885 June 8 (Emily)  1885 October 10 (Harriet)  1886 March 12 (To Harriet)  1886 March 17 (To Harriet)  1887 June 28 (Martha) 1887  August 3 [Henry?]  1887 August 22 (Henry)  1887 October 10 (Martha)  1887 October 30 (Martha)  1887 November 24 (Henry)  1888 September 29-30 (Henry)  1889 February 28 (Martha)  1889 March 8 (Clara)  1889 March 24 (Harriet)  1889 April 16 (Henry)  1889 May 20 (Harriet)  1889 June 13 (Harriet)  1889 August 11 (Clara)  [1889?] August 12 (Martha)  1889 December 21 (Harriet)  1889 September 25 (Harriet)  1890 February 22 (Martha)  1890 June 25 (Harriet)  1892 June 11 (Martha)  1894 May 23 (Henry)  1901 September 30 (Henry)  1901 December 25 (Martha)  1906 July 28 (Henry)  1907 May 13 (Henry)  1908 May 19 (Henry)  1914 January 22 (Unknown)  1918 January 14 (To Harriet)  1923 May 16 (Harriet &amp; Electra)  [?] February 18 (Martha)  [?] March 21 (Martha)</p>	
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	[?] April 2 (Martha) [?] July 30 (Martha) [?] September 3 (Martha) [?] November 24 (Martha) [?] July (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Harriet) [n.d.] (Unknown) [n.d.] (Unknown) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha)	
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<b>Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese</b>	<b>Social/Cultural Practices: American</b>	<b>Mentions of Wooster</b>
1866 August 13 (Henry) 1866 November 6 (Henry) 1868 May 23 (Harriet) 1868 June 3 (Harriet) 1868 December 31 (Harriet) 1869 February 13 (Harriet) 1869 February 16 (Henry) 1869 April 15 (Harriet) 1869 May 31 (Henry) 1869 July 1 (Henry) 1869 October 18 (Henry) 1870 September 9 (Harriet) 1872 March 11 (Harriet and Frank) 1872 May 4 (Harriet) 1872 September 20 (Henry?) 1873 January 8 (Henry) 1873 April 24 (Henry) 1874 March 26 (Henry) 1874 April 18 (Harriet) 1874 April 24 (Henry) 1874 July 3 (Henry)	1861 May 6 (Henry) 1864 January 26 (Henry) 1864 February 15 (Henry) 1865 January 10 (Henry) 1866 February 2 (Henry) 1866 August 13 (Henry) 1866 October 13 (Henry) 1868 May 21 (Henry) 1868 June 10 (Harriet) 1868 July 28 (Harriet) 1868 November 9 (Harriet) 1868 November 27 (Harriet) 1868 December 11 (Harriet to Lois) 1869 February 13 (Harriet) 1869 February 16 (Henry) 1869 April 15 (Harriet) 1869 May 4 (Harriet) 1869 May 31 (Henry) 1869 July 18 (Harriet) 1869 September 9 (Harriet) 1869 October 15 (Harriet)	1864 January 26 (Henry) 1864 February 15 (Henry) 1866 August 13 (Henry) 1866 October 13 (Henry) 1869 December 17 (Henry) 1871 December 28 (Harriet) 1873 May 8 (Harriet) 1874 January 8 (Harriet) 1874 March 12 (Harriet) 1874 April 16 (Harriet) 1874 April 24 (Harriet) 1874 May 4 (Harriet) 1874 July 3 (Henry) 1874 July 9 (Harriet) 1874 July 24 (Harriet) 1874 July 24 (Henry) 1874 July 27 (Harriet) 1874 October 12 (Martha) 1874 October 19 (Harriet) 1874 November 9 (Harriet & Emily) 1874 November 9 (Martha)

<p>1874 August 10 (Martha)  1874 September 14 (Harriet)  1875 January 19 (Harriet)  1878 February 2 (Henry)  1878 August 17 (Henry)  1879 June 7 (Martha)  1879 July 1 (Harriet)  1879 July 31 (Henry)  1879 September 9 (Henry)  1879 September 30 (Henry)  1879 November 8 (Harriet)  1879 November 11 (Henry)  1879 December 20 (Martha)  1880 January 13 (Henry)  1880 February 5 (Henry)  1880 February 26 (Henry)  1880 October 25 (Henry)  1880 October 25 (Henry)  1881 August 30 (Harriet)  1881 September 30 (Henry)  1882 May 22 (Henry)  1883 August 7 (Harriet)  1885 May 18 (Henry)  1887 June 20 (Henry)  1887 August 22 (Henry)  1887 September 30 (Henry)  1888 January 30 (Henry)  1889 November 21 (Harriet)  1906 July 28 (Henry)  1909 April 24 (Henry)  1911 June 28 (Henry)  1918 January 14 (To Harriet)  [?] April 2 (Martha)  [?] July 30 (Martha)</p>	<p>1869 October 18 (Henry)  1869 December 17 (Henry)  1870 February 10 (Henry)  1870 May 4 (Harriet)  1870 July 4 (Harriet)  1870 September 9 (Harriet)  1871 February 9 (Edward)  1871 February 9 (Sarah)  1871 July 1 (Harriet)  1871 September 5 (Harriet)  1871 December 20 (To Harriet)  1871 December 28 (Harriet)  1871 December 31 (Harriet)  [1871?] (Harriet)  1872 February 15 (Harriet and Clara Noyes)  [1872?] March 10 (Henry)  1872 May 31 (Harriet)  1872 August 9 (Henry)  1872 September 20 (Henry?)  1873 April 7 (Harriet and Henry)  1873 April 10 (Henry)  1873 April 24 (Henry)  1873 May 9 (Henry)  1873 May 31 (Harriet)  1873 October 7 (Henry)  1874 January 9 (Harriet)  1874 March 5 (Martha)  1874 March 14 (Henry)  1874 May 4 (Harriet)  1874 June 2 &amp; 8 (Harriet)  1874 July 3 (Henry)  1874 July 24 (Henry)  1874 August 10 (Martha)  1874 August 14 (Harriet)  1874 September 12 (Henry)  1874 September 14 (Harriet)  1874 October 12 (Martha)  1875 January 12 (Henry)  1875 February 10 &amp; 11 (Harriet)  1875 February 12 (Henry)  1875 February 27 (Harriet)  1875 April 13 (Martha)  1875 September 4 (Martha)  1875 October 13 (Martha)  1876 February 12 (Martha)</p>	<p>1874 November 24 (Harriet)  1874 November 27 (Harriet)  [1875?] January 8 (Harriet)  1875 January 19 (Harriet)  1875 April 13 (Martha)  1875 May 4 (Harriet)  1875 September 4 (Martha)  1875 September 7 (Harriet)  1875 October 13 (Harriet)  1875 October 28 (Harriet)  1875 November 12 (Harriet)  1877 April 21 (Martha)  1879 July 16 (Henry)  1879 November 11 (Henry)  1879 December 3 (Henry)  1879 December 20 (Henry)  1879 December 22 (Henry)  1880 February 26 (Henry)  1881 July 20 &amp; 22 (Harriet)  1882 May 23 (Harriet)  1883 March 26 (Harriet)  1885 February 4 (Harriet)  1889 August 11 (Mary)  1894 May 23 (Henry)  1901 December 25 (Martha)  1904 May 31 (Henry)  1907 May 13 (Henry)  1909 April 24 (Henry)  1911 June 28 (Henry)  [?] March 21 (Martha)</p>
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	<p>1876 March 14, 16 (Henry)  1876 March 27 (Martha)  1876 March 27 (Martha)  1876 December 1 (Martha)  1877 January 1 (Martha)  1878 January 2 (Harriet)  1878 January 2 (Henry)  1878 March 28 (Henry)  1878 July 13 (Henry)  1878 August 5 (Harriet)  1878 August 17 (Henry)  1878 August 31 (Henry)  1878 October 5 (Henry)  1879 March 29 (Harriet)  1879 June 7 (Martha)  1879 July 1 (Harriet)  1879 July 1 (Henry)  1879 July 16 (Henry)  1879 August 16 (Henry)  1879 August 23 (Mattie)  1879 August 25 (Harriet)  1879 September 5 (Harriet)  1879 September 30 (Henry)  1879 October 21 (Harriet)  1879 November 8 (Harriet)  1879 November 11 (Henry)  1879 December 3 (Henry)  1879 December 20 (Martha)  1880 February 22 &amp; 23  (Harriet)  1880 February 26 (Henry)  1880 April 21 (Harriet)  1880 May 4 (Harriet)  1880 October 9 (Harriet)  1880 November 25 (Harriet)  1881 March 21 (Martha)  1881 May 4 (Harriet)  1881 June 27 (Harriet &amp; Mary)  1881 June 27 (Harriet &amp; Sarah)  1881 July 29 (Henry)  1881 August 6 (Henry)  1881 August 29 (Harriet to  Emily)  1881 August 30 (Harriet)  1881 September 30 (Henry)  1882 January 3 (Henry)  1882 February 3 (Henry)</p>	
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	<p>1882 March 20 (Henry)  1882 March 20 (Henry)  1882 April 27 (Willie)  1882 May 22 (Henry)  1882 June 17 (Harriet)  1882 July 1 (Varnum)  1882 August 6 (Henry)  1882 November 6 (Varnum)  1882 November 7 (Harriet)  1883 May 4 (Harriet)  1883 August 7 (Harriet &amp; Emily)  1883 August 7 (Harriet &amp; Sara)  1884 September 30 (Henry)  1884 October 18 (Martha)  1884 October 27 (Henry)  1885 January 7 (Harriet)  1885 April 16 (Harriet)  1885 May 18 (Henry)  1885 June 3 &amp; 8 (Harriet)  1886 April 1 (Harriet)  1886 April 12 (Harriet)  1887 June 20 (Henry)  1887 September 30 (Henry)  1887 October 30 (Martha)  1887 November 24 (Henry)  1888 April 27 (To Harriet)  1888 May 5 (To Harriet)  1888 November 28 (Henry)  [1888?] (Martha)  1889 February 28 (Harriet)  1889 April 8 (Harriet)  1889 April 16 (Henry)  1889 June 13 (Harriet)  1889 August 24 (Harriet)  1889 September 7 (Harriet)  1889 September 25 (Harriet)  1889 November 21 (Harriet)  1890 June 2 (Harriet)  1890 June 25 (Harriet)  1891 February 2 (Martha)  1897 July 28 (Henry)  1901 May 28 (Edward)  1901 December 25 (Martha)  1903 February 28 (Martha)  1903 March 11 (Harriet)  1904 May 26 (Harriet)</p>	
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	1909 April 24 (Henry) 1909 May 3 (Henry) 1914 January 22 (Unknown) [?] March 21 (Martha) [?] October 27 (Martha) [?] November 24 (Martha) [?] July (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Harriet) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Martha) [n.d.] (Aunt Mary)	
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### Frequently Mentioned Locations in Correspondence from Harriet Noyes

In East Asia:

- Canton, China. Canton is the antiquated Cantonese romanization for Guangzhou (广州), the capital and largest city of Guangdong province (广东省). During Harriet's time in China, Guangzhou was a major hub of foreign trade and mission work, and where she lived. Guangzhou was also captured by the British during the First Opium War in 1841, however was not controlled by the British government afterwards. Guangzhou was one location affected by the third bubonic plague pandemic starting in 1894, and the influenza pandemic of 1889-1890. Guangzhou is located approximately 75 miles northwest of Hong Kong (香港) on the Pearl River (珠江).
  - Fati, Guangzhou. Cantonese romanization of Fangcun District (芳村区). Currently annexed into Liwan District (荔湾) on the Pearl River near contemporary downtown Guangzhou. The neighborhood where the Presbyterian missionary homes were located.
  - Shakee, Guangzhou. Antiquated Cantonese romanization of Saagei district (沙基区), opposite of Shamian Island (沙面岛), inside contemporary Liwan district. Where True Light Seminary was located.
  - Shameen. Shameen is an antiquated romanization of Shamian Island. Shamian Island was the location where much foreign trade occurred, and where many foreigners lived in Guangzhou, essentially the Guangzhou Bund.
  - North River. The North River (北江) is a tributary to the Pearl River coming from the north of Guangzhou.
- Hangchow. Antiquated romanization of Hangzhou, Zhejiang (浙江省杭州市), capital of Zhejiang province.
- Hongkong. (香港) Port city controlled by the British starting in 1842. Where Hattie first arrives in "China."
- Linchan River. Unknown location, a tributary to the North River.
- Macau/Macao. Alternative name to Aomen/Oumen (澳门) from the Portuguese often used by English speakers, a prosperous port city under control of the Portuguese.

- Nanking. Antiquated romanization of Nanjing, Jiangsu province (江苏省南京市).
- Ningpo. Antiquated romanization of Ningbo, Zhejiang province (浙江省宁波市), where another of the Presbyterian missions was located.
- Peking. Antiquated romanization of Beijing, located in Zhili province (直隶省北京市), the capital city of the Qing Dynasty (清朝).
- Siam. Antiquated name for Thailand. The name Thailand was adopted in 1949.
- Singapore. (新加坡) Port city off the south coast of Malaysia. Came under British control in 1824.
- Swatow. (汕头) Antiquated romanization of Shantou, Guangdong province. Shantou became a trading port in 1860.
- Yeung Kong. (阳江) Antiquated postal romanization of Yangjiang, Guangdong province, a coastal city.
- Yokohama. (横浜市) A major Japanese port south of Tokyo on the Tokyo Bay.

In the United States:

- Seville, Ohio. Seville is a small village in Medina county, Ohio. Seville was founded in 1816, and is where Varnum Noyes decided to settle his family when moving out of New England. Seville is located 15 miles north of Wooster, Ohio, and approximately 45 miles south-southwest of Cleveland, Ohio.
- Wooster, Ohio. Wooster, Ohio is a city in north-central Ohio, approximately 50 miles south of Cleveland, Ohio. Wooster was founded in 1808, and was a center for trade and industry.
  - The University of Wooster. The University of Wooster, now The College of Wooster, founded in 1866 with classes first starting in 1870, is a formerly-Presbyterian liberal arts college. The College cut ties with the Presbyterian church in 1969, however, before this, it served as a hub for Presbyterian missionaries, educating them, preparing them for their travels, and even housing missionaries' children while they were overseas. The College's first woman graduate is Harriet Noyes' sister Emily, who graduated in 1874.

### **Family-- Correspondence [between]--- [from] Noyes, Edward:**

1901 May 28

From: Edward

To: Hattie

Location: Seville, Ohio

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It will not be long before the house in Ohio is full again
- Writes to welcome his sister "to the 'land of the free and the home of the brave'"
- It has rained so much that the farmers are behind in their work, but Edward got the corn planted just in time
- The day after tomorrow is "decoration day"
- Edward has a fine new horse ready for Hattie
- Wishes his sister a safe trip

### **Family-- Correspondence [between]--- [from] Noyes, Harriet:**

1867 November 8

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Thematic Classifications: Travel

(processed) Incomplete

- Harriet spent a week aboard the Arizona steamboat from San Francisco traveling to China. There were eight hundred passengers who Hattie presumes are rather wealthy.
- Hattie says that Californians are younger looking than people in the East.

1868 January 15

From: Harriet

To: All the Dear Ones at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Henry has been very sick recently. He has also been very lonely and anxious about the fate of their steamer. Mr. Fulsom said before he taken sick this time that he was looking healthier after the fever of last summer, and far better than any time since his arrival in China. The feeble way he looks is concerning Hattie because he has never looked “anything but strong & healthy for so many years.” He has been in bed for a month in a great deal of pain in his back. All of the doctors are unsure what to call the disease.
- Taking care of Henry is reminding Hattie of when Edward and Sarah were sick.
- Hattie describes her meeting of Henry. When she first saw him she could not help but shed tears of joy and call him “Dear Henry”.

1868 January 28

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building & Development

- Henry has a back illness that has debilitated him into bed.
- Dr. Wong, who Hattie describes as a skilled Chinaman filling in as doctor for the missionaries, was unaware of what the issue was with Henry’s back. Recently the pain has gone away but Hattie thinks it was some type of both fever and acne at the same time.
- Harriet talks about how the new home she has moved into is built in the Chinese fashion, however the one that Mr. Preston is building for the missionaries is the exact style of houses back home. It even has the same style and type of furniture.
- Hattie asserts that Clara cannot think of this new place as home, and that no country is as dear as America.
- Their home is in front of a canal full of boats and chickens. Says the noise is seemingly unbearable. Especially since this time of year is Chinese New Year’s which came last Saturday.
- Hattie says everyone dresses up for Chinese New Year’s, and that for one day of the year Canton hides its dirt.
- She describes Mr. Preston as having been in Canton for 13 years and is fluent in Chinese. He does a great deal of good according to Hattie.

1868 February 20

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Onboard the KinKiang (?) between Hong Kong and Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton

- Hattie is onboard the KinKiang, a small steamer that travels between Hong Kong and Canton. Her and Henry are going down to Hong Kong for a few days. The doctor thought that the change would be good for Henry, and they chose today because they wanted to see Mr. and Mrs. Jones off for their trip back home to America.
- Hattie recounts a story of a missionary who wanted to return home for a visit. The missionary had been abroad for several years, and wrote to the board to see if they could return home. The secretary responded saying that they “did not want to see their missionaries this side of Jordan.”
- Mr. and Mrs. Preston are also thinking of returning home soon, but not until the Pacific Railway is completed. Mr. Preston currently preaches to several hundred people every day, and one day Hattie visited, he was preaching to nearly 1000 people. Hattie says that he speaks the language best out of all of the missionaries.

1868 February 20

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Hong Kong, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton

- Hattie hopes to hear soon that Edward is again weighing more than 120 pounds. Hattie has also been looking to be weighed since arriving in China. She says that Henry hasn't been able to go and she can't simply go to the Customs House alone.
- Last week they didn't know where they were going to stay. But they found Mr. Turner of the London Mission who was on the steamer crossing the ocean with them. He invited them to stay with him.
- Henry has been sick but is improving slowly. In Canton he has a spring mattress of Dr. Happer's which he finds really comfortable. In Hong Kong he has been sleeping on a regular mattress which has proven very uncomfortable for him. But any danger of anything serious has now passed according to one of the doctors in Hong Kong. Hattie wanted to see him go home, but of course he would not even think of it.
- Hong Kong is the most aristocratic dressy place Hattie says. She says it is weird to find it here in China, and she doesn't like it. Canton is far more simplistic which she appreciates.

1868 March 22, April 13, and April 14

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Henry has gone away to attend a meeting held by a native preacher, so Hattie is all alone.
- The Sabbaths in China are so very different from those back home. All day they hear the clatter of business which Hattie finds so sad.
- Hattie's heart is heavy thinking about this vast multitude growing closer to death in ignorance without ever seeing the light. So few of this generation will receive knowledge of the life and immortality in the gospel.
- Aho brings her sister Yunha on Sabbath days, and Yunha recites her lessons. Hattie says she understands very little of it, but it seems like the studying method is one of memorization rather than question and answer. Afterwards, they sing a few hymns and talk for a while.



- Later in the afternoon Hattie goes to the afternoon service at the chapel in the back of the house for Chinese prayers. Sabbath-evenings are spent listening to the missionaries give practice sermons.
- These of course do not compare to the Sabbaths at home in the dear little church at Guilford. If they allow her name to remain upon the record at home, Hattie would love to think she is still connected with church.
- Today [April 13th] Hattie met a class of girls about the age of their SS class at home. They came to the parlor and sang with Hattie and had a conversation through Aho. They have started a girls school, and these were the first of Hattie's scholars.
- They only have a few scholars for the girls school, partly because the schoolroom is not ready and they study in Henry's study.
- The teacher "SinShang" is the same woman who taught Mrs. Happer's school. Hattie longs to be able to talk with her and with the students.
- Hattie asks Sarah to pray so that she will be filled for "usefulness" while in China.
- [Monday April 14th] Hattie asks Sarah to go over to Mr. Shaw's, and tell that family she is so sorry she was unable to bid them a farewell. She thinks of them very often.

1868 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art

- Today is Em's birthday.
- Hattie spent the evening at the "monthly concert," an event where all the missionaries gather (about 26 of them) on the first Monday of every month. There was an addition to their ranks at this one— Mr. McKelvin and his wife of the UP Mission of Pittsburgh.
- She has been dedicating a lot of time to learning and studying Chinese. She has even been trying to learn some Chinese songs to sing with the schoolgirls.
- Hattie discusses one of the schools, and how much she is opposed to boarding schools.

1868 May 21

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie expects that she will remember her first months in China very well for the rest of her life.
- Hattie received letters last night from a few fellow missionaries. The letter from Mr. Lourvis (?) was especially sad. He is alone in his mission work, and is often discouraged in his work, however Hattie thinks he is one of the best missionaries she has met.
- Dr. Happer also wrote, and Hattie is truly afraid that he will not return.
- Hattie wanted to share with Em what the Chinese say when she shows them "our group." They point to Em and say "ho lai," which can translate to "very beautiful."

1868 May 23

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Travel

- Hattie remembers how troubled they used to be about mother's neck. She is asking her whether it still bothers her at all.
- They found out that apples cannot make a journey of seven months and turn out okay. In general they received a big packet of food from their family.
- Hattie just had a conversation with a Chinese family that dresses and talks like Americans. They lived in New York for a while. It seems to Hattie that it would be nice if all nations adopted American dress patterns. However, Chinese dress is lighter and cooler and not nearly as expensive.
- Hattie is thanking her mother for all of the food that she sent in the mail. She is also updating her mother on the status of how some of the food fared. Most of the missionaries ask for butter to be sent from home, and Hattie says that is what they plan to ask for. They can get almost any type of fruit here except apples, but Hattie insists that they don't worry about sending apples in the future. She says that she can't think of anything that would be nicer than canned applesauce and canned apple butter.
- Hannah is either gone or passed away, because they are missing her back home.
- Hattie also states that she will send home for her hats.
- Hattie says that she doesn't want her mother to think that she lacks things while in China, with the exception of lacking letters.

1868 June 3

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Social/Cultural

Practices: Chinese

- It rained so hard on that day that Hattie gave up attending the Mission Conference which meets every two months. Hattie says that not a lot of women often go, but she tries to attend whenever she can.
- There is no steamer coming to Canton in June, so they will not receive letters for a month. Their English friends get their mail every other Wednesday, while the Americans need to wait every other month.
- England says it doesn't matter because England is second in most things. The ratings from the Paris Exposition state that USA is twice the worth as England.
- Hattie says that their servants are men. But she doesn't want Sarah to presume they are tall men doing the cleaning and dishes. Both of their servants are shorter than Hattie. Their names are Akam and Alsan. Furthermore, she states that Chinese are generally short. They also don't have nice long whiskers Hattie says, but instead long tails (ponytails) that extend to the floor.
- Hattie says that one of her scholars was nervously reciting her lessons to Hattie and she worked off her embarrassment by stuffing her tail into her mouth. The other day the kitten was playing with "Akumo's" cue while he was cooking. Hattie also once leaned back on the servant at Mrs. Anderson's and trapped his cue between her back and the chair.
- Akcam is an old man for a "boy" (what servants are called). He has worked with foreigners for 30 years, particularly with Dr. Happer. He takes care of them, and Hattie feels quite safe putting money into his hands. It saves them time (a great commodity Hattie says) to let Akcam settle their debts and buy the supplies they need. Every Saturday night he brings the account of everything purchased to Hattie and they "settle the account".
- The other one Alsan is younger and comes from a nearby village. He cooks, washes, cleans, carries water etc. The water they use comes from springs a mile or two away. He goes there once

a week and brings enough to last. He has made mistakes and Hattie can never muster enough Chinese to show his disappointment.

- Hattie says that the Chinese have a business mentality and understand economy perfectly. If they were Christian there would be nothing left to teach them.
- In China many people drink tea. They use cups not much larger than the one they use to have from Smyrna (Turkey).

1868 June 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American

(processed) Incomplete

- Hattie describes heat in Canton at 90 degrees.
- She says it is an impossible place for books because of the cockroaches and bugs. But she remembers a small bible that her father gave to her.
- Mr. and Mrs. Preston are spending the evening.

1868 July [10?]

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art

- It has rained incessantly for 5 days.
- Hattie is alone in Canton this week since Henry went to Macau to check on the Folsome family. Hattie is going to Macau this morning to join Henry.
- She fears that her letter is taking the form of a doctor's report talking about how the Folsome's are sick and the Turners are sick.
- She is interested in translating the New Testament into Cantonese. When first translated into Chinese during the time of Walker a long discussion on what word to use for God, Shan vs. Sheng. Hattie's objection to Sheng is that there is an idol that has the same name, says that this has confused the ignorant class of people.
- Hattie describes English as a healthier language, easier to express Christian ideas.

1868 July 28

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Violence, War, and Politics; American Politics

- Hattie recounts their celebration of Independence day—they celebrated in the evening and Henry read aloud the *Declaration of Independence*.
- All of the English ships in the harbor at Hong Kong put up the American flag in honor of the day, Hattie heard, and said, "...it is for their interest to preserve amicable relations with their powerful neighbor 'USA.'"

- Hattie discusses some news from the English Dailies available in Hong Kong— it was quite clear that England wanted to colonize China like it did India, however, Hattie says that France and the US “have something to say here.”
- “It is certainly a very unjust thing to wish to interfere with the government of a people who are so well able to manage their own affairs without any assistance. The Chinese seem to understand something about it, they show a decided preference for Americans, not in everyday life I do not mean, but in a national way and I learned a few days since that at the time the treaty was made which opened the doors of China to the world, it was stipulated that if any difficulty should arise between the “Celestials” and the rest of the world, USA should be the arbiter.”
- An American was chosen to represent China to other world powers, and is given a salary of \$60,000 (if this is in USD, it would equate to just under \$1 million per year in 2015).

1868 August 6

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- They entertained the Canton missionary conference yesterday.

1868 August 14

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie and Henry were hoping to have their home built this summer, but the board is so much in debt that it is likely to be postponed. They had hoped that they would be able to take Mr. Folsom’s home when he leaves, but Mrs. Kerr concluded that she would take it while her own home is being built.
- Currently, the board has authorized the building of four homes, however only 2 have been built.
- Hattie is glad that Sarah is teaching near the family home.
- “Out here they all think I am so very tall, it seems quite strange.”

1868 September 12

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

(processed) Incomplete

- Hattie discusses the death of youngest missionary (English) at the age of 23 on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 months after arriving (Mr. Galdwell?).
- He was killed by a water current in a spot up the river from Canton that the Chinese considered deadly.

1868 October 12

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Hattie discusses their sisters that have since died: Cynthia and Hannah. She laments on their deaths quite a bit, but then says that it isn't that sad at all, because their sisters are living in Heaven.
- Two new missionaries came in last night, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Selly. Mr. Whitehead had been in Macau last year, and took care of Henry while he was sick.
- Hattie recounts Cynthia and Henry's sickness while they were in Macau, and how sad it was for her not to be able to see Cynthia alive once more because she was still at home at the time.
- Miss Radcliffe is not doing very well, and she may be obliged to go home soon. Hattie hopes this does not happen so she won't "be the only single lady in Canton..."
- Mr. Rogers is going to return home very soon due to his health.

1868 October 13

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Since Hattie last wrote, there have been some additions to the mission community.
- Mr. Preston, his wife, and three children from the Wesleyan mission returned after being absent for about two years.
- Mr. Selby, who is assigned with Mr. Whitehead at Fatshan, which is about 13 miles from where they are in Canton.
- Dr. Lowrie wrote saying that he will be sending out a few of his missionaries, and the board may decide that one of them will come to Canton.
- Dr. Happer definitely will not be coming back this year, and Hattie says that it is doubtful that he will come back at all.
- Mr. Lyon may come back next year, but Hattie thinks that he is assigned to Hangchow (Hangzhou).

1868 November 9

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Little Alfie Turner is staying with them again and this time brought another young one. Hattie has been having to watch after them.
- A few days ago they went on a picnic excursion on a large boat.

1868 November 27

From: Harriet

To: "Dear Ones All"

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie recounts her last Thanksgiving at home and how much fun she had.
- Dr. Kerr and his family spent thanksgiving with them at their home this year. Hattie says their Thanksgiving dinner in Canton is relatively similar to that she would have at home. They had: "beef soup, roast beef and chicken (in lieu of turkey), potatoes, rice, tomatoes, canned peas, and tea."

1868 December 11

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics

- Hattie is impressed with Grant and Colfax as running mates for the presidential election. She says it will be great to have two politicians that can be honored.
- According to Hannah, Colfax is of good standing and one of her favorites from the men in Washington.
- Hattie wants Clara to know that she hasn't changed her mind about being a missionary, and is glad that Clara has had the opportunity to meet delegations and soldiers as a lady even though she did not two years ago.
- Hattie is glad that she wasn't in Canton during the war. It would have taken a great deal of patience to listen to the English and southern sympathizers while so far from home. There is a large group in England that wanted the United States divided instead of the powerful rival it is today. Hattie says the British are happy to sheath their claws and pretend it was all a mistake during the war. Another missionary got a book for Hattie titled, Belle Boyd the Rebel Spy, which she describes as being malicious and false. However, she says it was not mean spirited so she read both volumes and has since discussed it with man who gave her the gift.
- Hattie says it is so dreadful to think about the war years, and the months she was in the hospital.
- Hattie has been glad to receive some patriotic music in the mail. It is nice to play these because it is so difficult to play the Chinese notes with the scholars. Says her scholars sound atrocious.

1868 December 11

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Violence, War, and Politics

- The last mail brought them sixty two pages of letters from home. Hattie is elated about it.
- A box arrived from home the other day. Hattie was again very happy. Hattie is impressed that they were able to fit so much into the box, including pictures, letters, a drawing from Em, pickled apples, and music.
- Hattie still has not had the lump on her finger removed. Mrs. Kerr definitely wants it to be removed, however the doctor does not think he should because it may hurt Hattie.

1868 December 14

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- When Harriet received the last letters, six missionaries came with them. Hattie describes Mr. Partridge from NY, and says he gave a good sermon.
- Hattie got a gift of two canary birds and is worried that the cat will kill them (Henry's cat).

1868 December 31

From: Harriet

To: Varnum and Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Harriet is looking back on 1868, her first year in China. She says that she will always remember this year in that way.
- She says winter is something never heard of in Canton, but the winds are penetrating. That morning the thermometer had read 40 degrees.
- Hattie feels bad for some Chinese since they have no fires or warmth.
- She feels that the Chinese students will receive as good an education of Christianity as the children in the United States whose parents “never teach them anything good.”

1869 January 16

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health

- They think that something happened to the last mail since they received no letters from those at home or the Cranes.
- A man who came off the last steamer traveled overland from New York to San Francisco says that several mail bags during his journey were lost. Hattie believes that their mail that they did not receive was in those bags. Hattie is quite discouraged because they will be receiving no further words from home for another month.
- Hattie talks about some missionaries that were due to come over. When the steamer arrived, to Hattie’s surprise, they received a letter from Dr. Lowry stating that the missionaries would be going to Peking instead, disappointing Hattie who had prepared her own room for them to sleep in and made dinner for them.
- “We see by the papers that Wooster University is really going to be something very grand. Hope that we may see it someday.”
- They take their croquet set to Shamian island to play instead of walking for exercise.

1869 February 13

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American;

Missionary Politics

- The mail came very late this week. It was supposed to come on Monday, however it did not reach them until Friday.
- Thursday was Chinese New Year—Hattie and Henry thought they would celebrate by walking the wall that used to go around the city. It is about a nine mile walk. She said that while they were on the northern end of the city, they caught sight of the steamer with the flags up and rushed to get their letters. When they got there, they were dismayed because the letters had not come.
- When they did get their mail on Friday, it consisted of two months of mail, including letters from the November mail that they thought had been lost. Four months of *The Cleveland Herald* also came.
- “...We can always ask, ‘When did your last mail come?’ and ‘Did you have good news?’ and ‘When does the mail leave?’”
- Mr. Rogers is leaving and one person is coming to take his place at the Wesleyan mission.

1869 February 15

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie had a Chinese woman visit her the other day who runs a school of little girls. After they talked for a while, Hattie asked if she would be able to visit the school and teach the students like at her own school, to which the woman was pleased to accept. She will be paid \$11 a month in addition and then she will have to take care of the school.
- Harriet talks about her birds at length, Joan and Darby. She then discusses the animals at home and hopes they are all well.

1869 March 16

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Last week they entertained the Misses Woolsten, who are two Methodist missionaries from Foochow (Fuzhou).
- Mr. and Mrs. Davis are coming up on the next steamer going out to Amoy (Xiamen), and are going to be joining Mr. Rapalje who has been home on a visit.
- Dr. Kerr has had a daughter. She will likely be named after Harriet.
- Aho was wed. The missionaries were the only foreigners present. Harriet stood with them and thus was a bridesmaid to their wedding. Harriet describes Aho's wedding gown—it was scarlet with brass bells all over, saying that “it was so strange.” She also wore a “high cap of brass and beads weighing about four pounds.”
- Another one of their assistants is to be wed tomorrow.

1869 April 15

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie has two teachers: one that likes and one that she dislikes very much. The first, Li Sui Shang, is quite nice and comes in the morning. The other teacher, Seen Sin Shang, is quite disagreeable and is always late. She says he is the most disagreeable person she has ever met anywhere.
- Hattie talks about the Peirces' loss and how sad and difficult it must be. Hattie says her sisters can publish what she wrote about him if they please.
- The box that was sent last spring came and they were all very pleased with its contents.
- Hattie talks about giving up painting while in China.

1869 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China



Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Harriet is writing for Em's birthday.
- Hattie recalls Hubbard's Creek at home and thinks of how clear the water was. Hattie has only seen one creek with clear water since arriving in China, on their trip to Sai Chin Shan.
- Hattie says that their bathtubs are a saving grace in the hot months here in Canton. They're made of stone and are about 5 feet long and 2 or 3 feet deep. The servants will fill them every day in the hot months so they can cool off when they get too hot.
- They are required to have mosquito nets over their beds at all times.

1869 June 17

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie was happy to receive letters for her birthday.
- Hattie will be hosting the Conference next month.
- Hattie is happy they moved into this house, it is so much nicer.
- "The piece that you quote from about the dreadful monotony of life in China is to some extent true. I think we all feel it sometimes. I used to suppose that when missionaries got together to course they did not care to talk about anything but their work. But of course our work is all the same and nothing of interest is happening all the time. It is so different from home. There there is something new every little while a concert or lecture or something to talk about but here we can inquire for each other's health and talk about the last mail and the next one that is expected and the weather and then it seems as if there is nothing else."
- "...This is why we resort to playing games for a change. Croquet has been a great boon to us all."

1869 July 18

From: Harriet

To: Whom it may concern

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is writing a letter accompanying a box full of goods she is sending home.
- Included was some silk, some ivory pins, pearl collar buttons, among other things.

1869 September 9

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie claims that one of the new steamers used in the mail line, the "America," may be one of the largest ever built aside from the "Great Eastern."
- Hattie wishes that Emily could take a steamer and come visit them in China for a few months or years.
- She says they will be receiving reinforcement missionaries at the Canton mission, including Dr. Happer and his wife Lucy, Mr. Marcells and his wife, Mr. McChesney and his wife, and possibly Mr. Condit.
- Hattie is unsure where houses will be found or built for the new missionaries.

- Since Hattie last wrote there has been one addition to the mission circle, Mrs. Whitehead. Hattie says that Mr. Whitehead broke off his first engagement for a silly reason and married his wife. Hattie does not seem to like Mr. Whitehead very much.
- Hattie speaks highly of Dr. Kerr, and moves on to say she hopes that Dr. Happer will visit Em before returning. Hattie is excited to meet Dr. Happer's new wife.
- Hattie talks about a conversation with a woman in Nganpiu (?) that she had earlier. The woman enquired about the Roman Catholics and Hattie writes, "It seems such a pity that they [the Roman Catholic missionaries] should bring their false doctrine here and of course many of the Chinese class us all together as teaching the same religion."

1869 September 30

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics

- Hattie is writing because it is Edward's birthday.
- Hattie says that unlike Ohio's beautiful Septembers, Canton's Septembers are "usually considered one of the most trying months of the year." She says that the winds change in September, and instead of blowing pleasantly moist winds from over the sea to the south, the winds come from over the parched lands of the north, and are quite unbearable.
- Hattie says that the editor of the NY Observer and a reverend are going to be visiting Canton next month.
- Hattie will be looking for election news in the coming fall. "Col. Golding says that if Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York all elect democratic governors, nothing will save us from having a Democratic President."
- Hattie is still studying Chinese. The other day she read the gospel of St. John in four hours, and on Thursday she read Mark in three hours. She still has not learned all of the Chinese characters, but she is well on the way to doing so.

1869 October 15

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Today they are going to Ngankin (Yinganglingzhen, Jiangxi, Nanchang, Jiangxi or Yingan, Sichuan?). Hattie expects that it will be quite warm, but also expects there to be a breeze on the rivers as there normally is.
- Tonight they are invited to spend the evening at Mr. Park's, and last night they spent the evening at Mr. Whitehead's, and the evening before at Dr. Kerr's. Hattie says that the missionaries all take their tea before 7 or 8 in the evening because they are busy all day, and have to keep their visits to the evening as well because of this. Hattie says that if they have guests they normally will take tea between 7 and 9 in the evening.
- At Dr. Kerr's they had the pleasure of meeting Col. Golding who is the new consul in Hong Kong. He was fresh off the steamer from America, and comes from Ohio. Hattie says it is refreshing to have some pure Americanism out here. Mr. Preston says that most people, when they see more and more of the world, become more cosmopolitan and think more of other countries than their own, but Hattie is adamant that it may be true for some, but not all.

- Col. Golding told them about how he was taken prisoner by the Rebels in 1862. The rebel captain who captured him was an Englishman, and Hattie says “he don’t have a very warm side for the mother country.” He says that he will try to keep that in the background of his head since Hong Kong is owned by the English.
- Hattie says that there is the most “snobbism” in the world in Hong Kong. She says that America has been advancing while England has been retrograding, “and if the superiority has been on the side of the latter in the past it will not be in the future.”
- “When Col. Golding was taken prisoner, everything was taken from him, excepting his pantaloons and he was made to march thus under a burning August sun 117 miles an old negro gave him a worn out jacket which he tore up and tied around his feet. Then in Libby as he was the first officer taken after the issuing of an order by Gen. Pope which excited the indignation of the rebels and they wrecked their vengeance on him would not treat him as a prisoner of war but put him in irons. It was horrible, sometimes when I think about the war it all seems like a dreadful nightmare far worse than it did at the time.”

1869 November 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Hattie is discussing the merging of the old Presbyterian Church and the new, and whether its members will move or not.
- They received a visit from the New York Observers. Describes Dr. Prince as someone as nice as Dr. Lowrie.
- They had some visiting Missionaries from Peking. These missionaries gave powerful sermons. They expect them to stay for a few weeks.

[1869?]

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel; Missionary Politics

- The last mail brought much good news. Mattie Crane is doing much better, Dr. Lourves (?) tells them that two new missionaries will be coming in December, Dr. Happer and his family will be coming in January, and Mr. Condit (?) will be coming in February or March.
- “I think it is nice that they are to come in different steamers for if they were all to pop in upon us at once I think our cup of happiness would be more than full or perhaps I had better say our spare rooms.”
- Mr. Preston and his family have finally decided to make their trip home back to the U.S. in February or March.
- Hattie and Henry will be going down to Macau for about two weeks soon. Hattie is excited to try “sea bathing.”

1870 January 10

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- They started looking last Monday for their new and old missionaries. They finally arrived on Saturday. Hattie says she has never felt so glad in her life before, as when she saw the missionaries arrive on the steamer waving their handkerchiefs.
- Hattie describes seeing Dr. Happer as greeting an old friend. Except the Happer children are now so much older than Harriet remembers. Lucy is by far the prettiest looking. Mrs. Shaw is another member of the Happer family that Hattie likes. They came close to meeting many years ago in Ohio while at separate Christian communities. Her character is what Hattie aspires to be like. She similarly looks back on her connection with USCC.
- Hattie describes Mr. McChesney as good looking and uses people from home in Ohio as points of reference. She is excited to live with Mr. and Mrs. McChesney once the Happer's leave.
- Dr. Osgood and his wife are from eastern New Hampshire, not far from Keene. The rest of the missionary group calls them "real Yankees", but this is something that Hattie likes about them.
- They had a reception for everyone in the parlor when they returned. When old Annah came in all of the guests kissed her and cried over her. She took care of Mrs. Happer for a long time, and seems like the matriarch of the group.
- Henry has a good account of his trip up the North River that he is sending with this letter. He is also writing a shorter one for the Foreign Missionary. Hattie is also sending her notes, and wants her mother to send it to the Mansfield SS when she is done reading it.
- They expect a visit in about a week from Mr. Baldwin, the editor of the Recorder.
- Dr. Kerr laughs at Hattie's large family and calls her the grandmother of the mission.

1870 March 9

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Steamer *Poyang*

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- They are on board the steamer with the Prestons who are homeward bound. They are accompanying them to Hong Kong to see them off on the *America*.
- Harriet says that since the railroad was finished, letters seem to be arriving much sooner than before.
- "I learn from a letter from Mr. Hamsher that the Mansfield SS has decided to support my girls school in Canton. I am very glad indeed that they have done so." There are now 24 scholars and more are promised.
- Lucy has a school of eighteen and Lillie has a school of fifteen.
- "I don't know that I have written you since we had a visit from two young ladies on their way to India. Misses Mandeville and Chapin. They are the first single ladies their Board the American Reformed has ever sent out. It does me good to see the Boards one after another 'coming to the point.'"

1870 March 31

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: "Region of the Ninety-Six Villages"

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; American Politics

- Today is Mary's 17th birthday.
- They are traveling through a great fertile plain where much of the city's rice crop is grown. The region is called the "Region of Ninety-Six Villages."

- Every ride they take through this region, which is known for being hostile to foreigners, they hear “fan kwai” yelled at them, which means foreign devil (a common pejorative for foreigners at the time). Hattie says they are not in danger when traveling here, however, rather it is only annoying.
- Hattie describes the landlord system of land distribution in this region. A few landlords own most of the land, and hire laborers to till it. Hattie says the laborers look miserable and forlorn.
- “I have just been reading some in the book that Edward gave me, *Women of the War*. I prize it very much but I often lay it down feeling as though I could not read another word. I think I have shed more tears over that book than all the others I have read. How often I wish that the nine months I spent in the army might have been multiplied by five. It seems so strange sometimes to think about the war as if it could not have been real.”
- A Scottish man, Mr. Duffas, is visiting Canton. Hattie sang a war song for him by request (she normally will not sing American patriotic songs to English or Scots unless requested to). “...he said to another lady that ‘he wouldn’t for anything have the strong national feeling that we American ladies had.’ How little they know of the lesson that the war taught us.” He is a Presbyterian missionary at Swatow.

1870 April 1

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; American Politics; Violence, War, and Politics; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is catching up on some letter writing while on a boat trip.
- “An effort has been made to form a synod in China, the first meeting to be held next fall at Cefoo, but it would not be possible for the Canton missionaries to attend. We are far to the south a long way removed from the nearest stations of our Board.”
- When they went on board the *America* with the Prestons they had the chance to meet Admiral Rowan, the commander of the American naval forces in “these waters.” “He was on his way up to Yokohama to see about the *Oneida* case. I have written and you have no doubt seen in the papers on account of our gunboat *Oneida* being sunk by the English steamer *Bombay* who held on her way leaving 150 men to go down to a watery grave.” The captain of this ship who left the American sailors to die after running into the *Oneida* to travel to Yokohama was tried and convicted, being sentenced only to six months suspension from his post. Harriet is clearly enraged by this case, as she describes what she heard about how the crew of the *Bombay* ignored the *Oneida*’s pleas for help and distress gunshots. “We shall wait with intense interest to hear what Admiral Rowan does about it.
- “I felt so indignant some time since when at a gathering the conversation turned on the *Oneida* Case and the prevailing sentiment expressed by the English was sympathy for the unfortunate

1870 April 11

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Mr. Kevin is going home on one of the steamers. Hattie and Henry are sending a bundle package to Frank via Mr. Kevin.
- A certain Mr. Roberts from Ambala, India, is going home to Britain via the United States. Their ship leaves from Japan. Henry has given this man a letter of instructions for both father and

Consul Gilbert. It is unlikely that Mr. Roberts will ever meet up with them. Their mission in India has been a loss because the heathens there have caused the death of Mr. Myers. Mrs. Myers has decided to stay in India.

- Mr. and Mrs. Chesney, Henry, and Hattie are all going to Nanking today.
- Henry has a new school in Pengla? Hattie would love to open a girl's school there. Her girl's school in Canton now has 28 students. The Mansfield school is supporting Hattie's school. Lucy's school is supported by some of her friends in Baltimore.
- The parents of a different school objected to Hattie visiting last year so she was obliged to stop going to Lucy's school. However, this year the teacher sent Hattie a written invitation to attend. It is fully funded by the Chinese themselves.
- One of Harriet's signing birds died last winter. If it had been her other bird she would not have cared nearly as much.

1870 May 4

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine and Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is Emily's birthday and she is the first thing that Harriet thought of when she woke up.
- Henry has been away for four days in Far-Shan(?) and is coming home today.
- The loss of Amelia has caused a great stir at home, "righteous indignation." It will be taken up at the English Parliament
- Harriet wants Emily to thank the Great Republic for getting their letters to each other
- Harriet is so sorry that Emily's eyes are not getting better faster, Mrs. Happer says that she has a friend that had the same eye problems as Emily, something called. "Lindsay's Blovel Searcher," which Harriet assumes Emily is also using.
- She went to the best oculists in America and they thought that sunlight and fresh air also helped.

1870 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Henry has had a toothache for several days, and has lost considerable sleep. Hattie hopes he feels better in the morning so that he can attend the conference he is supposed to. Dr. Kerr tried to cut it out but did not cut deep enough and left for Hong Kong the next day. Dr. Wong also attempted, cutting even deeper into Henry's gum, but found he did not have the right instruments. The next day Dr. Wong came over with the right instruments and took it out.
- Dr. Wong is a Chinaman who received his education in the United States. He is the physician for almost all the foreign residents of Canton.
- Hattie says that the Chinese don't practice surgery, so a lot of the difficult operations come to Dr. Kerr's hospital.
- Hattie says those with cancer, tumors, diseased bones, the blind, and the deaf all attend Dr. Kerr's hospital. When she goes to the services in the chapel there, she imagines that is what Christ's congregation used to look like. Hattie ends by saying she feels it would be very hard to be a medical missionary.

1870 July 4

From: Harriet  
 To: Emily Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Harriet is writing late at night to tell Em about how they celebrate the holiday in Canton.
- They set off on a boat for a picnic excursion today with Mr. Marcellus and McChesney and their wives early in the morning. They went about ten or twelve miles into the country and stopped in a place that had some hills and trees.
- They returned home a few minutes before seven, right in time to host the monthly concert.
- Harriet says the best part about the day was the fact that it was mail day.

1870 September 9

From: Harriet  
 To: Lois Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie never likes to shop here because she always sees so many things she would like to send home.
- They just recently sent home some cotton underclothes. Henry loves to wear them on occasion, and they hope it will be enjoyed at home too.
- Hattie recently got a letter from Mrs. Baldwin, wife of Rev. S.L. Baldwin, editor of Recorder.

1870 September 30

From: Harriet  
 To: Edward Noyes  
 Location: Hong Kong

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Mentions of Wooster

- They are in Hong Kong for a few days visiting Mrs. Collins. This is the first time that Harriet has been able to visit Hong Kong outside of the rainy season.
- Harriet discusses how she has yet to meet the *Japan*, the last steamer on the line she has yet to be acquainted with. She describes them saying, "They all seem like friends to me."
- "Tell us something about Wooster \_\_\_\_ Dr. Happer thinks it a great mistake electing Dr. Lord as President. I wonder that Mr. Marshall would leave his nice church in Columbus to be Financial Agent."

1870 October 11 & 12

From: Harriet  
 To: Frank Noyes  
 Location: Hong Kong, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel; Locations other than Canton

- Hattie is sorry to hear that Frank is sick from his last letter.
- Traveled to "The Peak" on Sunday in Hong Kong (Victoria Peak). Wishes there was such a place closer to Canton. She felt that her trip to Hong Kong was the first real break she has had since coming to China.

1870 November 10

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Chinese Politics

- They are all sorry to hear that Frank is “so poorly.”
- Dr. Dean and his daughter Fannie just visited Canton. Mrs. Dean sent a note from Hong Kong where she is visiting telling Harriet that Fannie is to be wed in a few days to Rev. Goddard of Ningpo (Ningbo). Mrs. Dean asked if they could have the wedding in Canton, “as there are so many formalities requisite in Hong Kong, an English colony, which are not necessary here.”
- “The Synod of China met and organized. None of the Canton Presbytery were there and as regards the reason why on account of traveling expenses.”

[1870?]

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; Building & Development

- The steamers now leave San Francisco the 1st not the 4th of every month.
- Hattie talks a long time about the hats her mother sent her in the mail. She discusses which ones to give away and which to keep.
- Hattie discusses the return of certain missionaries. She says that Dr. Happer is looking wonderful after returning from home. That seems to have been the proper course of action for him. Hattie says that she thinks so highly of Mrs. Happer. Their daughter Lucy Happer is pretty, and she knows it too. Mrs. Shaw also has Hattie’s deep respect. She is 37 years old. The McChesney’s and Marcellus families are both nice. The McChesney’s will be living with Hattie and Henry once the Prestons leave, and it will be nice to be together “just us young folks.”
- Dr. Happer’s plans to build a house for the female missionaries are underway. Hattie tells her mother to remind her sisters that there will be room for them if they want to join the missionary corp.

1871 January 10

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Harriet keeps meaning to write a long letter to her father, but has been putting it off. Now she is writing him a short letter to let him know she is thinking about him.
- She has not received mail from people in the family this month, though she is sure that they wrote to her.
- She did receive a letter from Mr. Lourris(?), which was unexpected but welcome. He is almost as nice as Dr. Lowrie and Harriet wishes that her father could get to know him.
- Harriet also enjoys the company of Mrs. Dean, Mrs. House of Bangkok, and Mrs. Happer of Canton, she says these names because she does not want her father thinking that she only likes to be around doctors of divinity.
- Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus will be leaving soon due to poor health and Harriet is sorry to see them go.
- Henry bought her a black silk dress for New Year's, and next month Harriet will send some of the skirt home, she does not care very much about clothes, but it is part of a missionary lady’s job.



1871 February 9

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Culture, Language, and Art

- "...If [the teacher] had come would have felt that I must study 3 or 4 hours. Doubtless you think it funny that after I have been here three years I still have to study at the language but that is because you are not acquainted with the Chinese language."
- The December letters still have not come and they postulate that the trains either left late or were snowed in.
- "I suppose the feeling against foreigners was quite as intense at Canton as any place but they probably have rather more fear of them having seen more of their power. We know perfectly well that there was a large class of the people that would like nothing better than to rise and drive out the foreigners but the authorities and better classes were endeavoring to keep the peace. At the time of the outbreak at Tienstin (Tianjin) there were three places designated, Canton, Ngankin, and Tientsin and the latter was by some considered the least likely to be the scene of the outbreak. In each place the French had given the Chinese great provocation and it was in great part prompted by a natural desire for revenge. Our teacher who is not at all unfriendly to foreigners in general says that when the Chinese here get strong enough they will certainly take back the land the French have unjustly taken from them even if they have to wait 100 years and Henry told him he thought it would be right for them to do so. The stories that were circulated at the North were also reported here, two or three times it was said the day was appointed for the murder of the foreigners and that rewards were offered to any who would kill foreigners."

1871 February 9

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Harriet asks if Henry has told father about their new home that is to be built. They have enjoyed drawing up the plans for it. She is going to be drawing up a nice plan for the builders to possibly use.
- "I have almost concluded that if I hadn't been a missionary and couldn't have been a stage driver perhaps I might have been an architect. I have heard the remark made and I believe it is true that while a man will feel no especial pride in doing well anything that comes naturally in his line of business if he happens to do well a job that comes in another man's trade he will feel the greatest delight. Now building houses isn't exactly supposed to be among missionary duties but each one of the good brethren here who has built a home feels as proud as a 'doe with two tails' if you will pardon the very homely comparison."
- "Dr. Happer's old house is a perfect miracle of ugliness and inconvenience inside and out upstairs and down and yet he has always firmly maintained that it was about as near perfection as a house could be in these degenerate days."

1871 February 9

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Harriet addresses Sarah as Sade because Sarah does not like the name Sarah and has signed a previous letter as such.
- Harriet says that when she was baptized she wishes they would have given her Harriet Newell's full name.
- Harriet discusses their Christmas and New Year, which fell on Sabbath days this year. Harriet says, "Santa Claus didn't find the way to our house or else as there are no children here didn't consider it worthwhile to call."
- Henry gave her on New Year's day a lovely gift of a black silk dress, 14 yards of cloth worth, for \$19.50. She in turn gave Henry a pair of black velvet slippers and had some pictures framed for his study.

1871 April 10

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- Harriet is sorry to hear about Emily's scrofula (likely a form of tuberculosis).
- Their new house is fairly underway now. They expect it to be done in August.
- Harriet has some hope to go to Synod next fall at Ningpo (Ningbo). She is delighted by the prospect of going if it will be possible for them to visit friends in Swatow (Shantou), Amoy (Xiamen), and possibly Foochow (Fuzhou). If they go, she hopes that when they return the buildings for the girls' boarding school and the training school will be finished.
- "I have four days of school now. In the village Nganpin I have for two years had such a little school and have at last found out that the reason is because the teacher was not liked so we closed that school, discharged the teacher, and have found two new teachers and opened two schools in different parts of the village and I hope it is going to be more successful. I have only been out once and found 8 in one school and 9 in the other and at one place I should think there were nearly 100 women. We go out again day after tomorrow."
- "We have opened one new school in the city which although small yet I think is in a good neighborhood and I hope will prove successful."

1871 May 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics; Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- Harriet is saying that her English friends use the slang word "golly" very often.
- The Ladies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Philadelphia have adopted Hattie. This practice of adoption of a missionary is common among rich churches in the United States. The congregation pledges to provide assistance to the missionary.
- The Mansfield SS sent \$100 to the mission for one of Hattie's schools.
- A little while ago there was a proclamation sent in the mail thought to be from the authorities in Peking. It demanded that all foreign ladies leave China, and forbade girls to go to school. It turned out to be false. Hattie is positive that they would be extremely glad if they could force the foreigners to leave. However, they also know that it would be useless to attempt this.

- The mission has been trying for some time to get a building for a chapel in Fatshan (Foshan, Guangdong). At one point they thought they had found a good one, but the owner then withdrew his offer as the Chinese often do. Even sometimes when the neighbors are willing to let the mission use a building the neighborhood (kai fang?) will not allow them. The Wesleyan mission are feeling very accomplished in their work in Fatshan. It has been better there than seven months ago when Hattie wrote home about persecutions.
- The government is paying for the rebuilding of the chapel. Before they started the rebuilding however, 100 men hostile to Christianity carried a vast amount of rubbish and deposited it at the site.
- Hattie says that they are anxious to set up stations in the country. It has been a mistake for the mission to stay in Canton so much. When Christ lived those who believed in him were not from Jerusalem but from the villages.
- Henry has been appointed to another place, and Harriet says he may be away more than half the time. However, it is now more than safe to travel anywhere in China.
- Hattie has two schools now in Nyankin. Chinese ideas are making it challenging to manage the semi-scholars. There are crowds of 100 women who come to the school. But Hattie says that the novelty will soon wear off.

1871 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Frank turned thirty-three years old on this date.
- Henry is away in the country and Hattie is fortunate enough to have good company in his absence. Both Mr. Preston and Mr. Selly of the Wesleyan mission have been hanging with Hattie. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Gartett from Chefou have been staying with Hattie in Canton for health reasons.
- Mrs. Gartett has measles and all of her friends have died of the disease. However, she is doing better than when she left Chefou and could not walk at all. They will be in Canton one week longer. They primarily made the journey for the health benefit of the sea air. The physician told Mrs. Gartett to go home, but they decided that the climate at Chefou was much better than that in Pennsylvania.
- The first five years that Mr. Gartett was in China he also had poor health. However, he never gave up and now is in great health. Eight years ago he was the first missionary in Chefou. Now the city has a church with 60 members and the surrounding countryside has also grown in faith.
- Hattie says in many respects Canton is a very discouraging location for their work. However, she does say that Peking is even more behind than Canton. Everyone in Peking has given up their responsibilities and moved to new missions or places.
- Canton has the strongest missionary force in all of China. Their flaw Hattie says is that they have not done enough proselytizing in the countryside.

1871 June 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- The last letter from home brought news of Varnum's sickness.

- Hattie says in their work in China there seems to be so little of the good seed that manages to take root. But God blesses the faithful, not necessarily the successful.

1871 July 1

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classification: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics

- It is the evening of her father's birthday.
- The mail ship arrived in Hong Kong in time to fire a salute for July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Harriet mentions a rumor declaration drawn up by the Heung le ya Moon (Congress of China). This declaration decreed that all foreign ladies should be sent home immediately. It also states that there should be no civil schools allowed. Hattie says that they are trying to curtail the operations of all missionaries in every possible way.
- Hattie discredits this claim by saying no indications of war and no indications of dissatisfaction more than normal.
- She does say that China is ready for great change, and that great change in nations is almost always realized by war.
- Hattie has developed a passion for watch chains and has sent one home to her father.

1871 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Harriet's teacher was sick so she is spending the day writing.
- Dr. Kerr inquired if Harriet knew if there were any ladies that would be able to come to Canton and help them with their work. Harriet did not give any names because she did not want to impose upon anyone.
- Harriet hopes that the ladies societies at home will take interest in the mission and will send out "a lot of nice ladies there is work enough for any number."
- "A little while ago a woman came to ask to be admitted into the church. She says she has been a believer for many years can read and seems to have a very intelligent knowledge of the truths of Christianity so different from most of these poor people different indeed from any that I have met before. We are all so much pleased with her and hope and believe that she will make an excellent Bible reader. Such instances are so cheering only those can know how cheering who have labored long without any signs of success."
- "It does seem here a little as though the work is gaining ground. At Nganpin (?) a few of the last visits we have made we have enjoyed very much. I feel so anxious to get the new schools started next year but we have not yet received permission to put up the buildings.

1871 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Father is doing better and Hattie hopes he is good and strong now.

- The box that they sent cost \$10.00 to ship. Hattie spent four hours trying to pack all of the things into it so they would fit well.
- The salary of a married man as a missionary is set at \$900.00, with \$100.00 additional per child. The salary of an unmarried man is set at \$600.00. The salary of a single lady, “not lowered as requested,” is set at \$400.00.
- “I suppose all will feel pretty well satisfied with the equalization although it may be some will think  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a man’s salary is not a small enough proportion for a lady. I am entirely satisfied for it is plenty and I would much rather feel that I was getting less than is just than more.”
- Henry and Hattie’s salaries amounts to \$1000.00.
- Harriet is hoping to travel up to Ningbo for the Synod. She will be paying all of her own expenses which is feasible now that her salary has not been lowered.
- “I am afraid the Happers may not think it is quite the thing for me to go but I am sure none of the rest of the mission would say anything about it and very likely they would not either.”
- Hattie truly hopes to go to become acquainted with all of the missionaries.

1871 July 11

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Lillie Happer has been appointed a missionary.

1871 July 22

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics

(processed) Incomplete

- She feels lucky that the *Alaska* is going back to America early. Hattie dreams of a time when there will be a monthly mail.
- She wants to describe reality because they will receive accounts in the Newspapers that are worse than it actually is.
- Hattie says there is intense excitement even more than in the war when the militia was gathered to prohibit foreigners from entering the city. But there are so many stories that Hattie isn’t sure where the truth lies.
- She describes the current plot as well devised and cunning. The purpose is to excite the people against foreigners and the native Christians. Some people think the instigators are the “Sou Haf Ur” or the “Old Triad Society” (organized crime organization with origins in the 17th century).
- Hattie says it can’t be the present government because it is their policy to protect the foreigners.
- It began about a week ago with pamphlets about the food. This state of fear has caused many to not eat anything because of fear of poison in their food source. Hattie says they have seen this reddish powder. It began to be circulated in cakes about six weeks ago and apparently many people have died because of it. Hattie is skeptical of whether they are actually dying from the powder however. Says probably most of the powder is harmless.
- The pamphlets have spread at least 100 miles from Canton.
- Someone has been caught everyday and beaten because of the affair. Yesterday someone was beaten to death for throwing something in the well near the chapel. Many of these people have said that foreigners have paid them to poison the food of locals.

- The authorities have sent soldiers to Fatshan to put down the revolt. Says the chapel there that was destroyed and built again last year, and that will be a test of whether power lays in the hands of the government or the mob. If the soldiers can stop them from destroying the chapel Harriet thinks that can be an end to their horrible plots.
- Harriet provides an update on events. Hattie says they have been tearing down chapels.
- The American Embassy is blissfully ignorant saying that the disturbances were common among the “colored” people of the South (in reference to the American South).
- Hattie says that yesterday an English gunboat came up from Hong Kong. She imagines that all of the American gunboats are still in the North because of the Korean battles, but doubts that the consul in Canton would ask for one anyway.
- She reassures her father that they don’t anticipate any personal danger but might be obliged to leave Canton. Says such a state of excitement can’t remain without eventually changing for better or for worse.

1871 August 6

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Today is her mother’s birthday.
- Hattie visited one of her schools for the first time since “the excitement here became so great that the authorities requested us to stop mission work for a time.”
- The school that Hattie visited was the largest in the mission, with over thirty enrolled, however, when she visited today, only four students were present.
- One or two of the chapels in the city have been opened for service and Hattie hopes that the rest will open soon.
- Hattie went to speak with an old woman sister of one of the school teachers who is 84 years old last night. She is hoping to join the church.
- Her mother is ill.

1871 August 10

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development

- Harriet discusses their prayer meeting and how it proceeds. She discusses the hymns that they sing. “I expect Chinese singing would be torture to you.”
- Their new house is almost finished and they are very happy with it. It was a good deal cheaper than any of the other mission houses. Although they do not have much of a yard they have nice things surrounding them on all sides, and one side faces Shameen (Shamian island).
- In three months it will have been four years since Harriet left home.

1871 August 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- There is a church they are connected with in Philadelphia. It is the first Presbyterian Church in the United States. Hattie is surprised but honored that they have selected her.
- The new secretary Dr. Ellinwood wants to visit the different Missionary stations.

1871 September 5

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel

- Hattie is sending this letter with a box of things to mother.

1871 September 10

To: Clara Noyes

From: Harriet Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Building and Development

- Harriet is responding to Clara's July 16th letter, Emily Elliott gave Harriet money to buy the book "Changed Cross" for Henry and Mattie gave her money to buy the companion book, "The Shadow of the Rock."
- Part of the "Changed Cross" that resonated with Harriet reads, "So when by Earth's cross by this perplexed we crave the things that should not be God reading righteous erring next. Gives what we would ask could we see."
- Harriet has been reading from a book entitled, "Tell Jesus" that she is borrowing from Miss Shaw.
- There have been no meetings today because of the storms, last week there was the same problem because they were on the edge of a typhoon.
- Next week Harriet and Henry are moving into their new house, so this is the last week they could have a meeting at their current house.
- The typhoon has been very destructive in Hong Kong.
- Both Harriet and Henry got soaked by the rain when they left the house today. The streets hold a lot of water and are very narrow, making it easy to get wet.
- The teacher of the girls fell and hurt herself badly today, Harriet is very sorry to hear this news.

1871 October 10

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Steamship *Eastern Isles*

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Harriet is on her way to Ningpo (Ningbo).

1871 October 11

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Henry recently gave a very powerful sermon about Job. It made both Harriet and Henry think of Father. Hattie feels she needs no more commentary on the text of Job than her Father's life.
- They sent an article to Deacon Chapin saying that it would do him some good to read it.

- October always gives Hattie memories of her last month at home. In three days time will be the four-year anniversary of the death of their sister Hannah.
- Hattie wonders if the leaves will turn at Ningpo the same way they do at home.

1871 November 6

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: NingPo

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

(processed) Incomplete

- Almost a month has passed since she left Canton on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. The trip should have been made in 5-6 days but instead took a full 18 because they were met by many misfortunes.
- Once they left Hong Kong harbor they encountered rough seas, and Hattie describes being seasick.
- They put into the port of Amoy for a day for repairs and visited the missionaries there.
- The next day they hit a rock while sailing. As a consequence the front of the ship was rapidly filling with water.
- They were appointed to lifeboats. Hattie and Henry rearranged to be in the same boat. Hattie says that if they were going to drown, “they wanted to drown together.”
- However, the pumps were effective enough to dish out the water and allowed for their safe return to Amoy.
- Hattie says the shipwreck had no horrors since it wasn’t in the night. But the greatest danger was from the “pirates’ who patrol those shores.

1871 December 6

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: *S.S. Douglass*

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- They are currently traveling between Foochow (Fuzhou) and Amoy (Xiamen). Harriet used to be resistant to sea sickness but her time on this ship has made her prone to it.
- On this trip they visited Amoy, Shanghai, Ningpo (Ningbo), Hangchow (Hangzhou) and Foochow. They still have visits in Amoy, Swatow (Shantou), and Hong Kong. Harriet says they have met so many people, nearly 100 over the course of their travels.
- She says she has enjoyed every hour of their trip so far, even the seasickness and the shipwreck because she always enjoys new experiences, even if they are “disagreeable” at the time.

1871 December 28

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Building & Development

- Harriet was pleased to get Emily’s letter from Wooster. “We are so glad to think of you as enjoying yourself at ‘school.’ But now do be careful, very very careful of your health. Take good care of your eyes. You mustn’t get too ambitious to get ahead of the ‘boys,’ we do not need any proof to convince us that you could hold your own with any of them if you had a fair chance.”
- Harriet talks at length about their new home.



1871 December 31

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- This is the eighth new year that Harriet has celebrated, the first one she did was during the (Civil) War, when she celebrated 1863 in the storeroom of the Christian Commission.
- Dr. Kerr led the meeting this week, but instead of preaching as he usually does, he made a few remarks and then had others do the sermon.
- Mr. Preston and Mr. Norris(?) spoke of their time home and how blessed they were, Mr. Simmons talked about the preservation of their home when it was struck by lightning, Mr. Van Dyke Srona(?) who came here to find health, spoke.
- Dr. Lem(?) returned and spoke about the dangers of the Eastern Isles.
- Harriet's father gave her the motto of 'do right' and it has been a phrase she carried with her for her whole life.
- She and Henry have been reflecting on the past months and how lucky they are.

[1871?]

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Harriet received a letter for her birthday from Sarah (addressed to Sade, a nickname for Sarah). It was her 27th birthday. Because there is no date on the letter, we can at least assume that this letter was written in 1871 because Harriet was born in 1844 and this is her 27th year. The letter from Sade is dated March 5, so we can also assume that this letter was written in late April or May because of the time it took for letters to be mailed from the U.S. to China.
- Last week, one of Mr. Vrooman's children died. Harriet went right over upon hearing the news and stayed until after the funeral. This was the first time she has ever helped dress someone for "the long sleep." It was the Vrooman's only daughter.
- Harriet wonders if they have seen the Marcellus's—they were certainly not sorry to see them leave. "...The only regret was that they ever came out. It was a most unfortunate mistake on the part of the Board and they did not want to send them after they were appointed but they insisted on coming. I doubt if anyone less fitted to be a missionary was ever sent out by any Board.
- Harriet wants Sade to send out a large roll of music paper so she can write a music book for the Chinese.

1872 January 10

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- They have just returned from the meeting at Mr. Gibsons which is a full 3 miles away. Hattie walked there and back, and now intends to walk to Mr. Preston's for the prayer meeting (another mile).

- Henry insists that Hattie take her daily exercise, but Hattie is resistant. She comments that if it was on horseback it would be far more appealing.
- They had a meeting in their house, the first in a while. They used to host them all the time in the old location, but their new house is not a central location for the missionaries.
- They recently returned from a happy few weeks in the North. It seemed to Hattie that they were almost too Happy when on the trip and that they would return to find devastating news. However, all of their letters were full of good news and everyone was delighted to see them.
- When they returned and opened the door to their house, there was a beautiful marble table, two vases, and thirty dollars waiting for them as a token of appreciation from the Canton missionary community for opening their home for the Saturday evening service. They had sometimes wished for the vases, but had never wanted to spend the money, because they are not among the “necessaries of life.” They spent so much money that fall that they were going to refrain from buying the “bureaus” that they wanted for each bedroom. But now they have the 30 dollars to spend.
- Hattie says this is proof of the good friends that they have in Canton, and that Seville is a little part of a very wide wide world. Mr. Preston told Henry that they wouldn’t have been successful in raising money for anyone, but that the Noyes are so popular.
- Henry has asked mother to send The Independent via mail. However, Hattie says that it is not worth the money, that they will just get the paper sent directly from the U.S.
- Hattie says they are reading The Presbyterian, which seems to be the Number one paper for Presbyterian families.
- Hattie says that if she writes anything for any paper it would be for the “Woman’s Work for Woman,” a Presbyterian periodical showcasing the work of women missionaries.

1872 February 15

From: Hattie

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel

- Hattie says that they have had such a long cold winter in Canton. She says that Clara will laugh that it is only between 40 and 30 degrees.
- Hattie says that the fortnightly mail will begin soon, and that she is going to be dreadfully disappointed if she does not receive a letter from home every mail. The English missionaries get letters from home every two weeks, and Hattie says that she has the better “folks at home” so they better live up to the task.
- Hattie is glad they had a nice thanksgiving. In China they spent it on board the “Peng An”, the steamer that brought them down to Fouchou. It was cold and rainy and they had no fire. The sea was rough and Hattie got seasick.
- They have just heard of the loss of the Summada. It was one of the greatest steamers on the coast of China. It struck on a rock in the Hailan Straits near the same rock that the Eastern Isles grounded. The pirates attacked the Summada as it went down, but luckily the firing of the guns attracted another of their boats, the *Ashuelot*, which came to the rescue of the passengers and valuables.
- The railroad cars are coming to Seville at long last.
- Hattie is sending photos that she hopes Clara will pass on to Em and Sarah with whole car loads of love.

1872 February 15

From: Harriet

To: Father (Varnum Noyes)

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development

- They had a trip recently up to the north, and Hattie hopes that her father knows how much they enjoyed their trip. Hattie says there will never be any person ever who will enjoy a trip as much as they did theirs. Hattie says the rest was much needed, even though she thought she was doing well before, she is doing that much better now. A woman in Hong Kong even said she looks ten years younger than when she started the trip.
- Hattie wishes that her parents could see their nice new home that she is so grateful for.
- The schoolhouse is going up quickly and they hope that it will be finished in two months.

1872 March 11

From: Hattie

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; American Politics

- Mrs. Dr. Hepburn is visiting for two weeks from Japan. Hattie met her four years prior in Yokohama on her way out to China. She is one of the old time missionaries who doesn't seem old, but talks about events that happened 30 years ago. Her husband in the meantime is in Shanghai publishing a revised edition of his Japanese dictionary.
- Finally Hattie has found out that Walter Lourie has blue eyes and red hair.
- Mr. Furham from the Shanghai mission is headed home, and has promised to make a visit to the Noyes family while in Ohio. There is a laundry list of other people that are going to visit the Noyes. For example Hattie describes Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore as just splendid people, even though they are Baptists.
- They also expect a visit of Dr. and Mrs. Scudder of the Indian mission on their way back to America this spring.
- Hattie had a debate with an Englishman the other day. She told him that everyday she is more and more grateful to be an American. She says some English people do not understand that Americans don't regret that they are not from England. Hattie further states that England has now learned that she does not sit at the top of the world order, and that she cannot be condescending to American existence.
- Hattie asks Edward for more information on the "Alabama claims". Hattie also asks who will be president of the U.S. next, and whether there will be peace for the next four years.

1872 March 11

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Travel

- Harriet insists on several pages from Frank often.
- Harriet is wondering if Frank thought of her on her 28<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Visited the village schools last week.
- Yesterday was a good feast day worshiping the god of the doorway or the god of the household (likely the Door God, guardian of the threshold, and the Kitchen God, both central to the Longtaitou (龙抬头), which occurred on that date in the lunar calendar).

1872 April 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary politics

- They hosted the weekly prayer meeting that evening. Since Henry was away, Hattie was chosen to lead the meeting. However, she turned it down because she did not want to get the mission into trouble.
- They had a great trip to the North in January. Hattie says they look back on it with pleasure and are glad that they made it through so much danger. Apparently Varnum had a feeling that something might happen. Hattie says that if something dreadful did happen to anyone back home, she would feel it without needing to receive word.
- Recently, the third steamer sunk since “their” steamer struck. All three were much of higher quality than the steamer *Eastern Isles*. In all three cases, there was enough time to save all of the passengers.
- Harriet can’t wait to be home and to see all of the family. However, they are so busy in China and as the years go by she doesn’t feel the separation from home quite to the same level that she used to. She expresses how glad she is to be there in China.
- Henry preached a sermon that Hattie wishes her father could get a chance to read. Hattie is thankful that God will judge them alone; who knows all of their misgivings and failures.
- Hattie has enclosed with the letter a note from Dr. Ellinward, that they have used the money to build the school for other means. Hattie says that this was a wicked thing to do. However, she is confident they will have the new building by 1880.
- Hattie describes the Missionary conference. Someone from the London mission is reading and they seem to be lacking ability. As a result Hattie thinks that they won’t have a very brilliant paper.

1872 April 10

From: Harriet

To: Frank

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building & Development; American Politics

- Hattie is sad to hear that Frank was sick from his last letter.
- Laments how she is missing the spring bloom back at home, for they do not have such a thing in Canton.
- Discusses how she wishes Frank could see her new home. Also discusses how Mrs. Hepburn (?) says she thinks that all of the mission homes should be designed like theirs.
- The schoolhouse is almost complete, being completed next week. Thinks it is a “marvel of architecture and skill.”
- Had a visit from Mrs. Hepburn (?) that lasted nearly two weeks, as well as a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Helsen (?) from Shanghai. Discussed how the Helsens did not visit her in the hospital in Richmond (VA?) a few years prior, but they are forgiven.
- “On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April just several years from this day that Richmond fell and with it the Southern Confederacy, our Missionary Conference was held and Mrs. Helsen took me out to dinner and as we sat together my thoughts went back several years but I did not remind him of what accursed (?) them.”

1872 April 11

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie is glad to hear that the box she sent reached them.
- Hattie is glad to hear news from Emily in Wooster.
- “If you see the ‘Woman’s Work’ you perhaps notice that I have been made a life member of the ‘W.F.M.S.’ [Women’s Foreign Missionary Society] by the payment of \$25.00 by Rev. H.V. Noyes.”

1872 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Emma Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Travel; Building & Development

- The rain was particularly late this year. The Chinese people were very distressed in anticipation of the hard times and the rice crop failure. They resorted to their idols to bring them rain.
- Hattie says they visited one of the large temples the other day , and they told them that they had commenced praying for rain. They fasted for three days, and ate no meat for three days before they began their prayer.
- Someone went to the temple (dedicated to the god of rain) and finding his entreaties failing he ordered that the idol be put in chains.
- Yesterday they went to Ngain Pin. Hattie got soaked while walking between two of her schools. She was teaching her students about the duty of prayer. They asked her if they should pray for rain. The very day before they went out to Ngain Pin they had a hard shower.
- Hattie felt like the girl from Scotland who carried her umbrella to a meeting to pray for rain on a sunny day. Before she got home, she found that she had occasion to use it.
- Hattie says that she had a horrid boat this week when they went into the country. The “ma-lan-teys” is the name of it. They have to sit on the floor of the boat and ride backwards. The boat is filthy and they share it with vermin. Hattie is excited that they will have a new boat, promised to be finished in about a month.
- The school building is finished. In a few weeks when the paint has dried and the building is furnished it will open to the public. The building is far more pretty than Hattie anticipated. She wishes that the donors of money could see the finished work.

1872 May 7

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- The steamer was delayed five days in San Francisco, so the mail will be arriving late.
- Henry and Hattie are going into the country for a few days. Henry wants to visit some of the country stations. Mrs. Happer and Miss Shaw will also be going.
- “There has been a fearful loss of steamers on this coast the past few months.” The *Rona* coming from Shanghai was run into by the *Ava*, a French steamer, and sank quite quickly. Nearly everyone survived, but a friend of theirs, Dr. Thomson of Swatow, died in the accident. He was on a lifeboat to the *Ava*, and the crew of the *Ava* threw down a single rope for them to climb up.

He climbed up nearly to the top three times before being crushed between the steamer and the boat after his strength faltered. "The officers of the *Ava* are very much blamed."

- The *Douglass* also sank, it was the steamer that brought them from Foochow to Amoy (Fuzhou to Xiamen). Hattie says she does not know whether the officers have been more careless or not, but the number of accidents in the past four months has been unprecedented.

1872 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- Hattie says that her friends in China don't appreciate that she wants to spend every moment getting "done up" so as to enjoy Henry when he is at home.
- Mrs. Leyenlarger? named her child after their brother Henry. Hattie was teasing Henry that the little fellow will clearly be as modest as he. Mrs. Leyenlarger reminds Hattie of "Em", except she is not as good looking, talented or intelligent.
- Mr. Butler tells Hattie that her four years in China have not changed her at all. Hattie remarks "love is blind".
- Mrs. Happer has been very ill since their return from the country. If she could only gain a little strength, Hattie would want to see her go home with the children because she has no chance of recovery while in China. Her task is to educate the children. Hattie says she can do that stateside as well.

1872 June 25

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building and Development; Missionary Politics

- Henry is not in Canton, but is in the country for 10 days, Harriet wants Matt to come so that she is not alone. Matt says that she is tempted to go to China out of compassion for Harriet.
- In three and a half years Henry will have been in China for ten years. The schoolhouse is finished and Harriet led the first prayer in the school. 30 women were present at the first meeting, but if they sat closely, the room could fit 100.
- Harriet is sorry to hear of Sarah Leityitts' (?) poor health, but is unsure if she should write to her or just pray for her.

1872 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie is writing for her father's birthday which was on the first of July.
- Henry returned yesterday from a trip with Mr. McChesney's dead body. They had gone off together in good spirits and were anticipating a good time.
- Today he was laid to rest next to Cynthia in the country.
- They were anchored outside a large village for the night next to a military boat. In the middle of the night there was a cry of thieves. The thieves as they were running from the military shot a volley at the ship which hit Mr. McChesney in the head and killed him almost instantly.

1872 July 25

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie is excited for Mattie's arrival in China.
- Henry has been in the country four days now, and Hattie expects that he will be there another six.
- Hattie alludes to a tragedy that happened recently involving travel in the country, and tells Mattie that she need not be anxious about Henry's safety. Hattie says that there is always a small danger of robbers, however she says that they never care to take a life unless a resistance is made, which missionaries would not attempt. Hattie also says that he is safe because of their own little boat, and that pirates usually only attack the much larger boats, which travel at night and often carry large sums of money.
- Hattie says that Henry's escape from danger was lucky, as the ball that killed Mr. McChesney passed within a few inches of his head. Hattie says that she is not worried about Henry's safety, then and now, because everyone is safe until their appointed time of death, even though the smallest things may make us think otherwise. Hattie also says that there were many other little things that "show so clearly that Mr. McChesney's death was to be just as it was."
- Hattie then dwells on some of the circumstances of the incident. She says that if they had started out at a later time, or if they had docked on the other side of the river, or if they had both stayed inside, the outcome surely would have been different. Hattie words this section like the firing was an accident.
- Hattie says that Mrs. McChesney is unsure whether or not she will return home after the death of her husband. Her husband was buried Wednesday, and Friday their second son was born. He was named William Edgar after his father, and seemed to be very healthy at first, but sadly died after a few days. Dr. Kerr said that his nerves received such a shock that he simply could not live. He was buried in his father's grave, which is right next to Cynthia's grave.

1872 August 6

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; American Politics; Travel

- Hattie says that it is just past nine o'clock in the evening on this side of the world, so she is just in time to wish her mother a happy birthday.
- They are preparing to have the Conference here tomorrow, and Hattie complains that they seem to be fated to always have the August Conference. About thirty-two people will be coming, which is about double of what it used to be before they changed the time into the evening because the ladies are now able to come. "Begging pardon of the brethren," Hattie says that the meetings are much more interesting now that the ladies can come.
- Hattie tried preparing a cake for tomorrow, however she failed. A-kwai made a fruitcake that they will eat instead, and Hattie may try again in the morning.
- Akwai came running up the stairs just a short bit ago (much unlike a Chinaman, says Hattie), to tell her that one of the girls was ill. When they went to her, she seemed to be in a sort of fit, frightening Hattie, and leaving Akwai not knowing what to do. They called for Dr. Happer, but by the time he got there, she seemed to be doing better.

- Dr. Ellinwood wrote in the last mail that a regular allopathic physician, a woman, has applied to be a missionary in China, but adds that they understand she is not needed in China. However, Dr. Happer wrote back urging them to send her because they are in need of a medical lady as soon as possible. Hattie is afraid she would not receive a very warm welcome from Dr. Kerr unless they can get him talked into a better frame of mind. Hattie also expects that their English friends “with their green ideas about women and their spheres would look upon her as a sort of monstrosity.” She also says they would not receive her nicely because she had the presumption to study medicine “like a man.”
- Hattie expects that they will be home to visit four years from now.

1872 August 9

From: Harriet

To: Em

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie appreciates that they are writing twice a month now, even before finding out that there are several steamers to China each month now.
- Hattie wants Em to tell father that she fully expects to spend the 4th of July, 1876 in the U.S.
- Em’s eyes have been troubling her, and Hattie wants to know exactly how so because no one has described it in writing.
- Hattie says it has been so sad in Canton because of what happened with Mr. McChesney. Mrs. McChesney is still unsure whether she will return home or continue doing mission work. Henry and Hattie have sent some writing about Mr. McChesney to the *Presbyterian* which they expect to be published.

1872 September 30

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Hattie is writing to Edward to catch up.
- The members of the mission (?) who he is not acquainted with are Miss Chase from the Ladies’ Mission in Calcutta, Mr. Fitch, an elder in the Presbyterian church who is traveling the world at 74 years old. He is traveling with Profs. Seelye and Hitchcock of Amherst College in New Hampshire. Prof. Seelye is a D.D., and Prof. Hitchcock is an M.D. Dr. Hitchcock is the college doctor and is in charge of the gymnasium.
- Miss Chase reminds Hattie of Mattie.
- Miss Chase has been rather poorly since she has been in Canton, and Hattie worries that she will not be able to spend much time in India.
- Mrs. McChesney returned home.

1872 November 9

From: Hattie

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art

- Hattie was delighted to receive by the last mail a copy of “Anthem Choirs” (?) from Edwards, containing some of his own anthems.



- Both Hattie and Henry are very proud to see Edward's name among "twenty-two of our ablest and most experienced anthem writers."

1872 December 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Harriet says the mail usually arrives from the United States bi-monthly. Currently they are waiting an entire month because one of the steamers is out of commission.
- She read Varnum's account of attending the synod in Canton (OH, China?, unclear).
- Hattie mentions that Canton will host the synod of China in 1877.
- She talks about a Baptist mission in India by Dr. & Mrs. Hard. They have been in India for 20 years. The famous Mr. Brown who wrote the influential piece "My Soul is not at rest" belongs to the same mission as Dr. & Mrs. Hard.
- Hattie says that next Saturday is their communion. She is hoping they will have five new additions to the church.
- The Church recently split in two from a congregation of 40 individuals into what is now the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> church. The new church has 12 members, 4 foreigners and 8 Chinese. The native Christians Hattie says have had their faith well tested.

1873 February 25

From: Harriet

To: Lois and Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Last week Mr. and Mrs. Partridge were visiting. They have just been reassigned from the Bangkok mission to the Swatow (Shantou, Guangdong) mission. They were the first guests of Hattie's when she first began housekeeping in China four years ago and are close friends.
- They had a lovely picnic that rested Hattie well so she can be ready to go back to work.
- The school for girls is nearly full with seventeen. The school for women is not yet full.
- Mrs. Grier (?) writes that they are going to be ready to build their Ladies Home this year.
- The American Methodists will be commencing a mission in Canton this year.

1873 March 31 & April 10

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

March 31:

- Mary turned 20 today. Hattie says that 29 feels a full ten years older than 28 did.
- They are planning their trip back to America. Hattie wants to be home earlier in the year so that she is there for both her and Mary's birthday. Hattie states that if married people are allowed to go home in ten years, then single ladies who come out should be allowed to return home in eight. The Wesleyan mission allows their ladies to go home in six or seven.
- Hattie acknowledges that her case is an exception from most single ladies.

April 10:

- Hattie has limited time to write because she has been putting her house in order, and has spent seven hours today with the Chinese.
- Mr. and Mrs. Sites and their three children stayed with Hattie for four weeks. They were very easy to entertain. They are very sensible Ohio people. Mrs. Sites gave Hattie pins and sleeve buttons as a gift.

1873 April 7

From: Harriet and Henry

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is sending some yards of cloth to mother for a dress.

1873 May 8

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie was sitting listening to one of Dr. Happer's sermons a few weeks ago, and thought that they should have a Sabbath school, which would be the first in Canton.
- Hattie called a meeting later that week, and there was no dissent over the idea, and so they now are starting one for "the feminine gender," as there is no "material for the masculine gender."
- They commenced with thirty-four scholars and six teachers, including herself, Lillie, Verdi, and Mary Happer.
- Hattie hopes Mattie is warmed that the first Sabbath school in Canton commenced on her birthday.
- "I am delighted to think of 'our Em' being the first lady graduate of Wooster and knowing as much as a man."

1873 May 9

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie, in response to the fact that Mattie is indeed coming to Canton, says that she has no doubt that she is being led in the way that is "right" and knows that she will not regret her decision. If Mattie travels anytime in the fall, she can be sure of having good missionary company. She tells Mattie that she shouldn't feel that in leaving America there is no hope of seeing the "dear ones" again.
- Hattie thinks that eight years should be the time frame for missions to China for single people. When Hattie and Henry first came out they never had the intention of going back. But now it is a different era and people have different conceptions of "missions."

1873 May 13

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Medicine & Health

- Hattie says to her father that by the time he receives this letter all of his children will be home for summer vacation, with the exception of his Chinese children (her and Mattie).
- Four months previously the school in Canton had burned.
- Harriet says that Henry had a throat illness but is now feeling better. However, Hattie does not think he will preach at all this year.
- Hattie asks her father to tell Edward and Frank that she would write to them if it weren't so late.

1873 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- Hattie tells her brother it matters little if she is getting old because her heart is changeless still. Hattie is twenty-five when she states this.
- Harriet hopes that Henry comes soon. He has been gone for three weeks. Hattie was convinced that he would arrive today, but he hasn't.
- The rains have caused the river to swell. This could be a reason for Henry's delay. Last time Hattie had a letter from him was two weeks ago. At that time they were stopped because the river had risen 12 feet in 36 hours.
- Hattie has not had the chance to be lonely because she has been so busy instead. She has had two or three meetings in a day in addition to their ordinary work.
- Harriet had a discussion with the mother of one of her students who is from a village two days away. This woman told Hattie that her family has given up idols, and that many of their neighbors are now doing the same. This is evidence to Hattie that they will soon see great change in China.
- They are thinking of building a new meetinghouse for the First Presbyterian Church of Canton. Previously they met in the basement of Dr. Happer's old house. Hattie says that he is very attached to old things, and since he is pastor it seemed unlikely before that they would build a new building.
- They look forward to having their "Ladies Home" at some point. However, Hattie says they will make it out just fine the way it is established now.
- There was an article in the journal Our Monthly combatting sending out single missionary women into the field. The article was written by Mr. McDonald of Siam, because a certain Miss Dickey did not succeed in Siam and was transferred to Hongchow (Hangzhou?) in North China. Dr. Ellinward wrote that they must remember how many male missionaries have proven failures as well. Hattie feels that men who raise their voice in protest to women missionaries represent unmitigated selfishness. It is incorrect she says to assume that only men can have the privilege of working for Christ among the heathen.

1873 June 1 & 11

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Travel

- Hattie chose Mattie's birthday for the dedication of the new schoolhouse. Following suit from Dr. Patterson of the Western Theological Seminary, Hattie went into each room of the new schoolhouse and knelt and asked for God's blessing. Hattie learned afterwards that Henry had

done the same thing some time before. They then had a dedicating service with the women and girls on June 18th, the mission met in it on June 19th, and the school was opened on June 20th.

- Hattie is very excited to have Mattie come and work in the school. Hattie says she will fit right in. She also says that she expects the new chapel to be well underway when she arrives.

1873 August 9

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing a letter for her mother's birthday, which was on the 6th.
- Hattie says that this past year has been quite a long one— taking charge of the boarding school “involves an infinite amount of care and anxiety, and you know teaching school is not my ‘forte.’”
- Hattie was quite surprised to hear that Clara read a sermon at a public meeting and hopes that the next time she reads “it will not be her own discourse.”

1873 August 25

From: Harriet

To: [Sade ?]

Location: Canton, China

Thematic classifications: Travel

- Hattie has been thinking about Mattie leaving home today. Hattie says Henry is excited to have his new family (him, Hattie, Mattie, and a friend).

1873 September 14

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development

- They are sure now that they will have a semi-monthly mail leaving from Canton. It is because the intermediate steamers of the A and A line don't advertise carrying mail, but still they will if pushed. They are receiving a subsidy from the government for carrying letters to America.
- On the steamer that arrives tomorrow they are expecting the McFarlands of the Siam mission on their return to their station. Hattie suspects they will bring some new missionaries when they do come. Mr. Dunlap is expected for a year in Canton on his way to Siam. Hattie guesses he is hoping to find a Mrs. Dunlap. Miss Halbanth is on the same steamer, who will be an addition to Hattie's mission in Canton.
- Five weeks have passed since the school was reopened. The new building is so nice and airy. Hattie says this term everything has gone exceptionally smoothly.

1873 September 25

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Medicine & Health; Travel

- They have been having the house white-washed from top to bottom. For a few days it was dreadful because all of the workers seemed to want to work in all of the rooms at once. The workers still need to paint, construct the dining room floor and the veranda.
- Hattie says her battle with the fleas ended in their complete extermination by having the matting washed and by using coal oil.
- They want their house to look great for Miss Crouch and Matt (Mattie?) come so that their first impressions are wonderful. Hattie has set her heart on making them happy, and nothing will stand in her way.
- Hattie has sent a letter to Miss Crouch asking her to live with them. She hasn't yet gotten a response. If she does not want to live with them then Hattie says she may appeal to the board.
- They have joked in the past about Henry living with all girls, but they think that with the addition of these ladies it will be a pretty nice family. They will have a good regimen of single ladies soon if they can only hold off desertions.

1873 October 21

From: Harriet

To: Mary

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics; Travel

- Hattie wants to thank all who helped raise the funds for purchasing an organ for the school (the girls at the Sabbath School specifically). The organ will reach China by New Years.
- The girls' school is full now, but the women's school is not.
- They are expecting a visit from Bishop Harris soon with three other ministers.
- Some of the other missionaries are planning a trip up the North River, and have been urging Hattie to go. However, Hattie feels that she cannot leave the school at this time.

1873 November 6

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- The next package of letters from Canon will most likely include some from Mattie.
- Hattie had told Mattie that she wouldn't go to Hong Kong to meet her. However, their good friends keep inviting them and the prospect is too good to turn down. Lillie Happer may also be there, and Hattie hopes she will, so that there will be "three Cantonese" to welcome the new Missionaries.
- They have had a nice visit from a company of Methodists. Bishop Harris (from Mansfield) is there with a variety of other ministers to inspect the mission.
- Mattie gave a speech in Cleveland to garner support for the mission. It seems they did not accept her as their missionary (that would make them donors)
- Hattie talks about push back from Mr. Lewis for the increased roles of women. Concludes with Jesus's words on not troubling women.

1873 November 25

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- The last letter Hattie received was from right before Mattie expected to leave for China, so Hattie speculates that she will be with them before this letter reaches home. Hattie says she is so very excited to see Mattie next week.
- Hattie will be going down to Hong Kong with Henry to welcome Mattie, although she originally was going to stay back at the boarding school because she could not leave it. However, the Eilets (?) of Hong Kong urged her to come down.
- “Lillie Happer has been in Hong Kong for a week or two and we hope she will stay down until next week and if Miss Shaw will go down with us we will try and carry out our idea of having the five single ladies of the Canton Pres. Mission photographed in a group.”
- Hattie hopes that the array of fleas that were present last summer do not annoy Mattie.
- Hattie’s Kittie has grown into a nice cat (“for China”), and Hattie says she is a good deal like her dear old Gray Puss.
- All of the girls at the school are very excited for the new missionaries and keep them in their prayers.
- Dr. Happer received a letter from Dr. Nevies (?) at Chifoo (Chifu near Yantai, Shandong?) Mr. Corbett baptized 130 persons in a recent trip to the country.
- One of their missionaries from Hangchow (Hangzhou), Mr. Capp, started home a short time ago with his “invalid wife,” and was taken ill before reaching Japan. They stopped at Yokohama and he died there.

1874 January 8

From: Harriet

To: Em

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie described the domestic picture that is their home right now: Henry, herself, and Lucy are all sitting around the table in the parlor writing, and the cat is purring.
- They received good news from home in the mail today, and Hattie hopes Edward is feeling happier.
- Hattie is glad to hear that Em is enjoying herself in Wooster. Hattie implores Em not to finish her coursework early, and says that she wants to be there for her graduation.
- Hattie says she already has quite an affection for the university, and not just on Em’s account.
- Hattie thanks Em for the hat she sent with Mattie that she made herself. She says it is quite becoming.

1874 January 9

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- By this mail Lucy will be sending 100 pages and Mattie over 70. So if the Noyes in America aren’t feeling enlightened about China and the Chinese, Hattie says she would like to know whose fault that is.
- Hattie says her unanswered letters are a burden on her spirits. If she writes six letters tonight, she will still have a full 25 unanswered to respond to.
- The music books that Mattie brought are very acceptable. Hattie says that Henry, abnormally for a missionary, really likes the one titled “Party-Dances.” Hattie however covers it up with Church music to preserve the respectable appearance of their music stand.

- They have been using the Wesleyan choir book that is marked very differently from their usual book. Consequently, Hattie last night did not notice the difference until they were chopping up some of the long notes at the end.
- Sometimes Sabbath eve is a real struggle; the instrument they have to use is old and cranky. But they are expecting the new organ soon, they believe it to be in Hong Kong. This new organ will probably be placed in the church instead of the school building, where Hattie had her hopes set.

1874 January 9

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art

- Mattie has counted up the total number of written pages they are sending tomorrow in letters, 220.
- When Hattie was away her “family” in China bought a basket made of tortoise shells and an earthenware owl, to give to her as a Christmas gift. The “owl” looks very natural, and Hattie says she has frightened some of her students with it.
- Henry dislikes all of the porcelain ‘dogs’ that Hattie likes. For Christmas Hattie bought and wrapped in different size boxes four porcelain ‘dogs’.

1874 January 9

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Chinese Politics

- Harriet suggests that the family forward them any mail from those who are out of town to them whether it was addressed to them or not, saying that “they would do us just as well as if they had been written on purpose for the ‘China market.’”

1874 January 9

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- It is the Friday eve before the week of prayer.
- They have had meetings every day this week, and Hattie says they have been quite interesting. She is happy about how many missionaries are in Canton. She reports there are now 35 missionaries.
- Hattie says Mattie and Lucy are very happy here.
- Tomorrow is their Communion at the Chinese church. Hattie reports that they hope there will be 12 added to the church tomorrow, and if so, there will be 47 that have been added to the church since the beginning of 1873.
- Four of the applications for baptism came from the village of Nyankin (?), which is the village where Henry and Hattie used to have schools. Since then, Hattie has been obliged to give up the country schools and take up the boarding school.

1874 February 25

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Travel

- Hattie is crippled, for one of her feet is so sore that she can hardly wear a shoe. Either the climate or the stone pavement makes her feet very tender. Fortunately, it is in fashion to wear slippers.
- It has been a few days since the organ was delivered. There was such a commotion that Hattie thought her servants were trying to drive away a beggar who often sleeps in the gateway. The next morning Henry went at the giant box and its contents with a screwdriver, and shortly after the instrument appeared. It has a nice tone and is extremely pretty. Hattie remembers the role that Edward had in getting the organ for them and so it seems almost like a present from him.
- It is currently vacation, and Hattie says the girls will be ecstatic when they return and see the organ. They plan to move the organ to a more “honorable position” in the new church of the school chapel. Hattie hopes that the people that they are indebted to for its existence would not object to this “promotion.”
- Hattie wants to thank everyone involved in paying for the organ. She has sent notes to Edward, and hopes that he will deliver them. Hattie has also written to the Mansfield church. She plans to write to the ladies in Newark who gave \$50 towards the organ.
- Hattie and Henry planned on spending \$200 themselves towards the organ project. But since they have such a nice one they will probably buy a cheaper one for the school and put the money somewhere more useful.
- They are sending about 50 letters this mail from “the shop” (Hattie’s joking name for the factory that is their letter writing station).

1874 February 25

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Harriet enclosing a copy to Frank of plans of new homes on Shamian (沙面島, Guangzhou).
- Harriet describes Shamian being laid out like a city back home, being lined with berry trees.
- Shamian is where they go to exercise.

1874 March 12

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Mattie is writing a letter home and says it is the simplest letter she has ever written. Henry says that she should expect to get “simpler” the longer she stays in China.
- Em is about to graduate from Wooster. However, it seems she did not use the money that they sent her. Maybe she can give the money to Clara for her education.
- There is a possibility that Father will be buying land in Wooster. Hattie’s opinion is that it is better to live out of Seville.
- The schools have all been reopened since the Chinese New Year, but some of the scholars are not yet back.
- Hattie has opened a new day school that has 17 girls and many more promised. They now have 7 day schools in the city and one in the country. They also have the Girls Boarding school and the Training School for Women.



- At the last Sabbath celebration there were 80 women and girls at the service.

1874 April 16

From: Harriet

To: Mother

Location: North River

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster

- They have been gone from Canton for seven days. There has only been one day with nice weather since they left.
- Lillie Happer is going to spend the summer in Japan. She's doing so because she has been rather nervous and worn out, and the doctor believes it will be good for her. If she doesn't get any better after returning from Japan, she will then spend the winter in Canton and go home in the spring with Mary and Verdie (?).
- Dr. and Mrs. Kerr are probably going to return home in 1878, and Hattie does not expect that they will come back because they say they will not return until their children, who are still young, are done with their education.
- Hattie received the pamphlet from the Mission containing new rules and regulations, some specifically about thinking long and hard about returning home unless for health reasons.
- Hattie was so pleased to have the photos of the dear ones at home that were sent out with Mattie.
- Hattie is so proud of all of her sisters back at home. Em, is now a graduate of Wooster University (or will be soon?), they have heard praise of Sarah from several sources, and Clara and Mary all grown up into womanhood.
- Hattie supposes that when Em is finished at Wooster, Clara and Mary will be ready to attend, and Hattie hopes that they are able to help them "in the matter of funds."
- They all sent Em one-tenth of their salary, as every year they try to give away this amount to "benevolent objects," and they felt that helping Em was good. Hattie says if Em does not use it, Clara and Mary can. She also says that if father has "put it in land, never mind, we will send another \$100.00 in its place."

1874 April 18

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Ying Tak (190 miles from Canton?)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- They left Canton a week ago, yesterday. Hattie speculates that they traveled around 150 miles since then, and are anchored across from Ying Tak.
- Tomorrow they will continue on to visit the Cave of the Goddess of Mercy (Guanyin) before turning back to Canton.
- Hattie wants to tell Sarah why they are there. Two weeks ago, one of their girls fell ill and they were worried that she had smallpox, so they called Dr. Kerr to come. He at once pronounced that it was indeed varioloid smallpox. Dr. Kerr then ordered that all of the scholars be sent home, and within 24 hours, everyone was gone. After everyone left, they ordered to have the whole school whitewashed. They were also worried about contracting the illness themselves because they had all been significantly exposed to the girl.
- Hattie learned that when they sent the girl home, she was actually the adopted daughter of a woman who was the twenty-third wife of a very wealthy man who had long since been dead.

- Hattie says the girl who got sick is the best scholar and her favorite, and said that the girl told her that she did not want to get married and wanted to stay with Hattie forever. The girl's name is A-oon(?). Hattie says she will make an excellent teacher.
- Hattie says that they were prisoners in their own domicile making sure that they didn't spread the sickness, and is glad that they took this trip because it passed the three weeks much faster than if they had stayed in Canton.
- Hattie says that the Chinese do not care as much about smallpox as the Americans do.

1874 April 23

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: North River, near Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health, Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Their dear friends, Mr. Parks and his family, left while they were away from Canton to return to England. They could not go to see them before they left after being exposed to smallpox.
- Mr. Preston called to them from the street, and a Mr. Dodge was with him, a professor at the University in Beirut, who is also the son of William (?) Dodge, the man who entertained the Evangelical Alliance.
- Coy Horace Walker and his wife wrote to tell them that a Mr. Breck, who is expecting his eldest daughter to be wed, will be in Canton the day that they depart.
- When she was in the mountains traveling with Henry, she saw the beautiful laurel blooms covering the mountains. There was also Larkspur on the banks of the river, and wild honeysuckle covering the mountains as well.

1874 April 24

From: Harriet

To: Edward

Location: North River (北江)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster

- They are ending their trip, and “‘come down into the world’ again, as the Buddhist monks say.”
- Hattie notes that it rained every day on their two week trip.
- Hattie picks up the letter two weeks later.
- They were very disappointed to find when they returned that the mail still had not arrived. However, Hattie is pleased to hear that they have added some new steamers to the line, that are screw steamers as opposed to side wheel steamers, which are much faster than the latter.
- Hattie tells of one of their teachers, Lai Sui Shang (?), who has seemed almost like family since she has been there. He used to be Dr. Happer's teacher, and when Dr. Happer returned, he refused to return to work with him, and is now going to Hong Kong to work on publishing a Chinese newspaper. The newspaper has been trying to get him for some time, and were finally able to get him with the offer of three times the pay he is currently getting for half of the work. He took the job because he is very anxious to raise the funds to go study in America, and Henry is writing to a professor at Wooster to see if he can help him along.
- Some time since, Liu Sui Shang wrote out a dictionary of 36,000 words to use in learning English.
- Hattie says he is “the nicest Chinaman I ever saw.” She thinks it would be nice if he could go on to Wooster.

1874 May 4

From: Harriet  
 To: Em Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie is deeply sorry that the mail will not be leaving China until May 13th and therefore will not reach Em in time for her graduation day. She is graduating “with Honor” from Wooster. Hattie says that Em’s talk of “Shining by reflected light” is inappropriate and unbecoming of the first female graduate of Wooster. Hattie is telling Em to be less humble.
- Hattie says that it was hard to part with Em, but when she had she felt that she had done so both willingly and gladly. Leaving her was the equivalent of giving up everything.
- Hattie is also deeply apologetic she never wrote to Brainwerd while she was there. Now she says it is too late to correct that wrong.
- There is a Wooster graduate who works as a reporter in Canton, China.
- Hattie imagines that Em will feel sad once she is through with her time. It seems that change even for the better has sad features.
- Hattie says that they are looking forward to meeting Dr. Taylor and Dr. Gregory and all of the rest of the ‘dear Professors’ from Wooster. It is in fashion to give bouquets to graduates. Hattie says they will send her one they collected while up the North River.

1874 May 11

From: Harriet  
 To: Varnum Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; American Politics; Medicine & Health; Building & Development

- Harriet says this is the first collection of letters they have sent in six weeks, and consequently she and Henry are staying up late to write the letters.
- Henry is responding to letters from the foreign mission. Harriet says that children who can hardly write send most of these letters. One is from a “colored” girl in the North.
- Lillie Happer is leaving tomorrow to Hong Kong on her way to Japan where she will be spending the summer. Harriet feels sorry for the Happer children because they were expecting to go home this summer but will instead be spending another year in Canton.
- Harriet mentions “The Ladies Crusade” which has been in the papers. The women, according to Hattie, “have certainly chosen the best and most powerful weapon for their warfare.” It seems to be happening in Seville.
- The boarding school has reopened and most of the students are back.
- Harriet says they had all of the scholars vaccinated before they went home. On many of them this helped protect them from smallpox.
- Their new church is going up gradually. Harriet thinks it will be some months before it is completed.
- Harriet ends by saying here on out the steamers are to run between San Francisco and Hong Kong every two weeks.

1874 June 2 & 8

From: Harriet  
 To: Sarah Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; American Politics

- Hattie is writing for Sarah's birthday.
- Hattie is excited for her return, saying it is "the one only earthly pleasure I have set my heart upon."
- Sarah will be finishing her year's work in Columbus on the ninth; Hattie sends her congratulations.
- Hattie has been trying to impress upon the minds of the new missionaries the "ku neungs," which Hattie says is equivalent of the English word "Miss."
- Lillie Happer has gone to Japan, and Miss Shaw is in the invalid corps. Because Lillie is in Japan, Hattie had to take over her school, and now has over one hundred women and girls under her care for the summer.
- Dr. Ellinwood may be visiting China in the autumn and they are all delighted by the prospect. Hattie says out of the three secretaries [of the Presbyterian board], he is the "woman's friend."
- Hattie speaks of the "Woman's Crusade," and how their English friends hardly know what to think of it. She says that most of them believe in the doctrine that women should stay in the background.

1874 June

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Hattie outlines her day as a means to apologize to Frank for not writing to him on his birthday, which was last Sunday. She admits that she has trouble waking up in the morning.
  - 7-8 am: Spent with the school
  - 8-9 am: Breakfast then prayers
  - 9-10 am: Getting ready for Church, looking over the lessons
  - 10-10:30 am: Sabbath school
  - 10:30 am - 12 pm: Morning service in chapel
  - 12 - 4 pm: Lunch and then go to the day schools getting back to the True Light Seminary by 4
  - 4 pm: Prayer meeting with women and girls
  - 5 pm: Get dressed for dinner and dinner
  - Evening: Evening Church service
  - Then bread and milk before bed
- They have heard from Japan that Lillie is getting better, so Hattie thinks she will return to China soon.
- Since the scholars have returned they have had a serious concern with them getting sick. One of them came down with the measles and gave the illness to two others. Another girl has had a fever for two weeks. Hattie has dozed her daily with guanine and she is better but can't shake it off entirely. There have been toothaches and stomach aches and children hurting themselves. Even the teacher was sick for a week. However, things are looking better. During her daily inspection today, Hattie found all but two scholars in bed. Hattie feels that she is getting to be quite the doctor with considerable practice.
- Dr. Kerr has written home to the Board requesting a doctor to come out to Canton and take his place as he plans to return stateside in 1876. They want to see their children educated in America. Since their daughter "Hattie" is only five years old now, it is likely they will never return to China.
- They hope to meet in the new church on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August

1874 July 1

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Travel

- Hattie again mentions her father's birthday.
- She presumes that Mattie will give them full details of how the stay was spent in China.
- The day before Hattie had organized a "social" that had 47 participants. Hattie asks father to tell Edward (brother?) that they had used the new "cabinet" organ on the occasion. Harriet told the people in the household that the lamps would disturb her music playing and sure enough they did. But overall everyone had a good time.
- Again asks to tell Edward that their organ will probably find its home in the school chapel.
- In terms of the new church, Hattie says they are buying a new organ for \$223. The thing that interests the Chinese most with instruments is power.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> of August is when the Church is supposed to be opened. They are afraid that it will not be finished in time.
- The bell is also on its way, but Hattie believes it will not be here for a while because sailing vessels are slower these days when steamers seem to be the norm.
- With these new steamers one can make the trip from San Francisco to Hong Kong in 21 days. Hattie says this is a big development because students can hear from home and go home in the time period of a month.
- Hattie apologizes for writing this letter without receiving the ones from home.

1874 July 9

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Travel

- Henry hears from Dr. Taylor at Wooster who heard from Dr. Gregory that Em is doing splendidly in her studies, and Hattie is absolutely delighted to hear so.
- When Henry departs for the synod by way of Hong Kong in two weeks, he will be sending \$200 for Clara and Mary to use for their education. Hattie even thinks that they should build a Noyes family home in Wooster.
- Hattie hopes that Clara is not pressured by budgetary fears.
- They are all sad to hear that Frank's health is bad again.

1874 July 24

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Missionary Politics

- The folks in China thought of Em incessantly on her graduation day. They stayed awake after midnight until they imagined that the exercises were properly ended and Em officially graduated from Wooster. Em is the first female graduate from Wooster University. Hattie says that she regrets not writing for the Brainard Society while Em was a student there. Hattie hopes that all of the family members from home will write about commencement day so that they can get a good idea of what the ceremony was like.

- Hattie brags that she was the first one in foreign lands to send greetings to the “Women’s Foreign Missionary Society.”
- Now that Hattie has had this boarding school to look after she has given up doing anything she would want to do, including letter writing. This summer Hattie is not only charge over the day schools but also over 100 scholars. Furthermore, she visits the women in Dr. Kerr’s hospital every week.
- There are only 18 months until Hattie is on leave to visit home.

1874 July 27

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Medicine & Health

- Hattie is pleased to hear that Dr. Talmadge (Thomas DeWitt Talmadge?) and co. had a good stay at the family home, and is impressed they were able to sleep that many people in the family home.
- Hattie was very pleased with the photos that were sent to her of her sisters at home in the prayer circle.
- Hattie says she is glad to see that they are all interested in “the movement” (temperance? ‘Women’s Crusade’?). She says it is difficult at this distance from home to appreciate and realize the amount of excitement that has been felt, but she says she rejoices always in “Woman’s Work” for good and it seems as if those who do not sympathize with it might at last stand out of the way.
- Hattie showed the pictures to Archdeacon Gray, and says he seems very much interested in “the Crusade.”
- Hattie is sorry to hear that Frank is doing poorly, and notes that she feels bad that he and mother suffer so much.
- Hattie and Mattie saw Henry off to the steamer today where he is going to the synod for likely around three months. Hattie says their home will be a true ladies’ home.
- Hattie and Mattie are truly looking forward to hearing about Em’s graduation from Wooster. Hattie is enclosing a draft for \$250 to help the girls. Hattie also hopes that both Clara and Mary can go to Wooster together this year.

1874 August 14

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Asham is there to curl Harriet’s hair. She usually combs the front back making Hattie’s face look like a full moon.
- Tomorrow will mark ten months since Hattie left home. Em told Hattie not to think about the long time they will be separated, but bye and bye she will return home again.
- Hattie says her sister Mattie has found a “good” man. Hattie is asking Em for pattern ideas. It seems that Mattie will go home sometime in the next couple years and introduce him to the family.

1874 September 14

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; Chinese Politics; Locations other than Canton

- They have been in Macau for about a week now, and are hoping to stay at least another week.
- Hattie says that when they vacation in Canton, they really don't get much rest because "All the Chinese think it is such a grand chance to come and visit us when we have plenty of time and then they beset us to return their visits before school opens again. and there is no work harder than receiving and returning Chinese visits."
- Henry has been gone a long time, almost eight weeks. He was just setting out for Peking (Beijing) on August 24th. He may wait to return with Dr. and Mrs. Ellinwood, who came to China not long ago, in November.
- Dr. Ellinwood is planning a trip around the world where he will visit all of the missionary stations in eight months. Hattie thinks it is a great mistake "for an invalid to hurry so that he will find it will use up all the strength he has."
- Bishop Harris has fallen ill since his visit, and they hear he is recovering in Geneva. Hattie notes that the last Methodist Bishop that visited their station, Bishop Kingsley, died before reaching home.
- Hattie says that there are rumors of war between China and Japan, but is unsure if anything will come from it. Hattie says that it is supposed that the Japanese want the island of Formosa (where contemporary Taiwan is located). Hattie also notes that Japan has grown rather conceited as a nation lately, but also says that their military is much better equipped and trained than China's.

1874 September 21

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Frank

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton

- Mattie writes so much that Hattie is worried when she writes that she is simply covering the same material. Hattie thinks that she can talk about things better, instead of just simply writing a list of facts.
- They have only three days left in their visit to Macau. The weather is a nice cool temperature. They are within sight of the sea, and they love watching the waves come in. Macau is built in a semicircle around the harbor; with a high stonewall on the water's edge. Yesterday during the storm waves would leap over the wall. At night the wind was so high that they were worried a typhoon might be on the way.
- Mattie has had a "little touch" of fever since coming down to Macau. Harriet insisted she take some high dosage of medicine, and that reminded Mattie of how Frank used to give her high dosage as well. Still Hattie worked from direction from Dr. Kerr. Hattie says she is getting to be quite a medical practitioner while in China.
- A young doctor from North Carolina is on his way to Ching Mai. He is stopping in Canton for a few weeks to see how the hospital there is operated.
- Two women on their way to Singun? also came on that steamer. One seems homesick and not ready to be a missionary. The other, Ms. Cort, is in Harriet's mind ready for the job. Hattie uses the royal "we" to state that they suspect there is some romance between Ms. Cort and the young doctor.
- Now she must write a letter to the NY first Church in Washington.

1874 October 1

From: Harriet  
 To: Edward Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics

- They returned from Macau on Saturday, and on Monday the scholars began their work again.
- When on vacation they witnessed a typhoon. Hattie always wanted the experience of being in a typhoon, but they are such fearful things that it always seemed improper to wish that level of destruction. From what Hattie hears there has never before been that level of destruction since Europeans have been in China. The loss of life was fearful. Hattie will try to send the newspaper articles by the next mail.
- Of the 600 ships tied in the Macau harbor, only 14 survived. Each ship probably had from 10-50 men onboard. The *White-Cloud*, the steamer which carried them down to Macau, was blown over on its side. Furthermore, the *Alaska*, one of the large steamers that carries mail across the Pacific was blown onto shore.
- Both Mattie and Lucy have left to go look after Mrs. Williams' sick baby.
- They have two ladies staying with them who are on their way to be missionaries in Siam.
- Today is 10 weeks since Henry left, and Hattie is getting anxious to have him home again.

1874 October 19

From: Harriet  
 To: Sarah Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Mentions of Wooster; Chinese Politics

- Henry is prolonging his stay in the North of China, and Hattie and Mattie are disappointed that he will be gone longer, but are happy because he is doing it for his throat.
- A doctor in the north said that he must treat his throat carefully and not preach for five or six months. Hattie speculates that it is the effect of preaching in the open air.
- Clara came out well at the Normal School, and Hattie notes how smart her sisters are.
- A letter from Lucy said that a lawyer in Wooster, Mr. Swaney, said that there was not a man in Wooster who could write as good of a performance as Em's graduation essay.
- Hattie mentions that no one sent a very good description of what happened at Em's graduation.
- Hattie wishes so much that Clara and Mary could get two years at school.
- Hattie implores Sarah to take care of her health, and not be so ambitious. "Henry and I used to be pretty ambitious but I think the Chinese language has pretty much destroyed it."
- Hattie says that they will remember this year as the year of the typhoon. Hattie reports that there are estimates that as many as 20,000 people died in Macau from the storm (later reports say 4-5,000). Hattie also reports that the Sabbath after the typhoon, 1,000 bodies were burned.

1874 November 9

From: Harriet  
 To: Em Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster

- Emma has just graduated from Wooster University. The last mail brought with it a copy of her graduating essay. Now they will not be obliged to think of "Em" as drowning away in a Grammar school.
- It seems that both Clara and Mary will attend Wooster this year.



- Now that Em is going to be at home she has a special duty to conduct the China mail. Part of that responsibility is gathering up the letters from Wooster and Columbus as well.

1874 November 9

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Hattie is expecting an unnamed visitor to accompany Dr. and Mrs. Ellinwood from Hong Kong, and she is looking forward to their visit.
- All of the schools are running well, however some were tardy in starting back up after vacation.
- One woman and two girls were received into the Church the Sabbath before last: A-Tsui, Tsu-Chan, and A-Kin.
- Since the school opened two years ago, they have taken 19 people into the Church. Hattie says that there are some people who she is unsure if they are Christian or not at the school because they “are perverted by the opposition of their friends.”
- Lillie Happer came home from Japan. They have heard indirectly that she is going home next spring.
- Miss Shaw is leaving tomorrow for Japan “in search of health.”
- Hattie hopes that when Dr. Ellinwood comes, he will see the necessity in sending “a new force of single ladies to Canton.”

1874 November 24

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Harriet is sending with this letter another that one of the students at the school wrote to thank Lois for her daughters. Her name is “Ü Szai” and she wanted to thank Lois for having daughters that are her teachers, and that she has been “so fortunate as to be admitted to the school.”
- She prays for Lois and would like to meet her one day.

1874 November 27

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Chinese Politics

- Edward has recently sent photographs of his new machine. Hattie says how great it would be if one of them managed to become rich.
- Clara and Mary are the family’s last chance for “investing in brains,” and Hattie hopes that they have made a good investment at Wooster. Hattie expresses her deep sorrow that they could not be present for graduation.
- Hattie says that they were going to get weighed that morning but forgot to do it. She states that Lucy is not very fat however. Last time they were weighed, Mattie and Lucy weighed in at 110 and Hattie at 111.
- A “Circular” from Japan came to Canton. They requested that Thursday the 26th be observed by the missionaries as a day of prayer. It seems that war between Japan and China is being averted.

- Since the “Circular” was drawn up peace has been declared and that Thursday will serve as observance and request for the spirit to descend on both of their countries.

1875 January 19

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Travel; Mentions of Wooster; Social/Cultural

Practices: Chinese

- Hattie has 19 unanswered letters to go through, and there is only an hour before the mail goes out.
- Hattie feels so lost and unsettled because of the burning of the schoolhouse. Hattie has spent much of her time trying to comfort the women who lost their possessions in the fire, and has been trying to make arrangements for their comfort. They have given away every bit of old clothing that they have around the house.
- The losses from the fire have added up to \$50 or \$60, equivalent to around \$1,300 USD in 2015.
- Hattie says that the thing they miss most that was lost in the fire is the picture of the Angel of Death that Frank and Clara sent.
- Hattie speculates that had it not been for all of the help they received during the fire from foreigners and the “Yanlie (?)” their home surely would also have burnt.
- Hattie is very anxious to begin rebuilding the school because she wants to see it in good running order before they leave for America. Hattie truly hopes that nothing will occur that would prevent them coming home in the beginning of 1876, next year. Hattie has been dreaming of the day of her return for years.
- They are thinking of going home by way of Jerusalem, and Hattie is excited about the prospect of going there.
- Hattie hopes that the two girls at Wooster are doing well, that they aren’t studying too hard and eating too little, and is also worried that Sarah is not getting enough sleep.
- The rainy season commenced a little over a week ago, and Hattie says that it is unusually early this year.
- The schools will be closed for the Lunar New Year beginning the day after tomorrow.
- There have been six callers at the house in the past two hours. Just now, a note came from Mr. Cunningham with \$25 for the girls at the school who lost all their clothing.

1875 January 30

From: Hattie

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health

- Hattie says that there is only one day left in January, and at the end of January 1876, they will be homeward bound. Hattie says that she will see her first twelve girls graduate, and then she will feel her work is finished so she can go home and feel “renorated (?)” and have a new start.
- Mr. James from the USS Yanbic (?) has been visiting almost every evening, staying until eleven or twelve o’clock.
- Dr. Rogers has come up from Hong Kong, and every foreign missionary has been having their teeth checked by him. He says that Henry’s are very strong and that Hattie’s are good. Hattie has been having a hard time with one of her teeth since it has been filled, but they hope that the worst is now over with it.
- Both Dr. Rogers and Mr. James are from New Hampshire.

- The Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching.

1875 January 30

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie is quite unsettled because she can hardly wait for the work on the schoolhouse to commence again. They are supposed to be settling a contract today.
- Hattie says that there is no doubt that the schoolhouse was set on fire, fueled by kerosene (coal oil) which had been spread throughout the rooms. They talked with Mr. Vruman about it, and when they described the beginning of the fire to him, he said it was almost certain that it was set with kerosene. To confirm this, they did some experimentation with kerosene, and from their results, they determined that it was indeed what fueled the fire.
- To add to this, Hattie discussed the conditions during the fire. The fire began with very dark, thick smoke pouring out of the building, very different from wood smoke. She said that after several moments, the smoke began to become lighter, more like wood smoke. Mr. Vruman said that it is because when the kerosene was ignited, it produced the dark, thick smoke, and when all of the kerosene and oil burnt up, the wood was left to burn, emitting the regular lighter wood smoke.
- Hattie says that they plan to leave a space between the new schoolhouse and the houses in the rear so it cannot enter as it did before. They design the new schoolhouse much like the old, only with much better ventilation, as they have found from experience that it is very important. The building will be six feet higher, and the rooms a bit larger, however there will be three fewer rooms.

1875 February 10 & 11

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Building & Development

- Harriet is sitting with Mattie who is writing to their cousin Mary.
- Hattie keeps dreaming of returning home, and is seeing Em in her dreams.
- Henry said to her yesterday that he thought she had resolved to not think about returning home until the end of 1873, but Hattie says that circumstances changed with the burning of the school house.
- Dr. Happer came to talk this morning (the 11th) about those who are leaving next month. Lillie will be joining Mary and Verdie (?) in returning home, leaving Mattie, Hattie, and Lucy to themselves. Miss Shaw's doctor also says that she should not be taking up any mission work at least until next June.
- Hattie says they are currently wondering whether or not the doctor will propose to Miss Shaw.
- Apparently Lillie's departure is very secretive, however Hattie states that "the children expect to leave here in seven weeks. The trouble is 'nervousness.'" Hattie hopes that they send some more single ladies from home to reinforce them soon.
- They are going to have six day schools to look after this year, and seven counting the one in the country.

1875 February 27

From: Harriet

To: Mother

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health; Building & Development

- Henry, by this mail, sent an application to the board for their ability to visit the USA again.
- Hattie says that their “force of single ladies” is growing smaller because Lillie Happer is going home in April, and Miss Shaw is moving back from Japan to marry Dr. Happer.
- This marriage will save Dr. Happer the trouble of going home on another search. It was such a hassle last time. Hattie and Lillie are to be the bridesmaids. The wedding is going to happen in the new church in front of both an English and a Chinese audience.
- If Mattie and Lucy were not in China then there would not have been a chance that Hattie could go home next year. They will be taking over her work while she is gone.
- Henry definitely needs to go home even though he has been feeling better. The doctor says his throat problems are an issue of the nervous system.
- The men are busy tearing down the school home. It’s so sad that it is going down brick by brick and that the building was constructed just a few years ago. Hattie thinks that the bad neighbors are responsible for its burning. They were driven away by the Chinese officials, and the Consul has promised to take the matter into his own hands if they come back.

1875 April 1

From: Harriet

To: “My dear friends” at Seville Sabbath School

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Missionary Politics

- Hattie shares the news about the burning of the schoolhouse. She is sad all of the scholars must be broken up and sent home. However, the builders are working hard on the new schoolhouse, and it is expected to be completed in another two months.
- Hattie also wants to discuss Atai with them. She has not seen Atai for several weeks, and she is now living with her grandmother who seems to be a very pleasant old lady.
- She visited them a few weeks ago, and they all enjoyed her singing and reading to them. They gave her tea, cakes, candy, and fruits, all on tiny little plates.
- Hattie’s letter writing was interrupted by a group of women who came to see Hattie’s house. Hattie says their houses are “quite a curiosity to these Chinese women.” Hattie says the women came with the Bible Woman who has been visiting them for a while. Three of the women with her promised to come to the meeting on next Sabbath because they have been wanting to become Christian for some time now.
- Two men also came with them, wanting to hear about the “True God,” and Henry is now speaking with them.
- On the next Sabbath, they will once again commence the Sabbath School, which they have not done since the school burned. Fifty attended last year, and they hope twice as many attend this year. Hattie wishes they all could see their Sabbath School, but notes that it would sound strange to them because they are reading and singing in Chinese.
- Hattie is going to send little Atai’s report from last year so they can see what a good little scholar she is. She will also send one of Atai’s writing books, so they can see the character writing. Hattie tells them that the characters marked with red ink are the ones written well, and when the scholars receive twenty such marks, they have one credit mark. “...[S]o you see Atai has written well four

thousand six hundred characters. She is a very good writer for such a little girl can write better than most of the larger girls.”

1875 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Travel; Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie is writing because it is Em’s birthday. Hattie hopes that they will be under the same roof for Em’s next birthday.
- Hattie expresses gratitude for everyone’s sympathy with the loss of the schoolhouse. Hattie says she knows it will all be fine and is part of the lord’s plan, but also says that there is still a feeling of loss and she still cannot think of it without shedding a few tears.
- Hattie had worried about reactions from those who helped fund its building because it had been erected three years prior, but had received very supportive messages.
- Hattie says the new building will soon be completed. After the school is completed, while they wait for the “paint to dry,” they will take a trip into the countryside before returning to “call our scattered flock together again.”
- Hattie is pleased because they have been having a cool spring, and there has not been a single day of hot weather this year so far.
- Hattie hopes to hear that the girls are going to spend another year at Wooster.
- Hattie is relieved to hear from Sarah that she is fully recovered and doing well, but discouraged because she has not heard if Father has fully recovered from his fall yet.
- Hattie completed the translation of a small question booklet on the New Testament today that she believes will be of much use in the school.
- Hattie describes a bit of what is going on around her. Apparently there is a woman selling something next to her talking as fast as she possibly can. Hattie also describes Ayan, their table boy, answering the door and giving her a contribution, and Akwai, their “Major General,” bringing in his account books to check the monthly account.

1875 May 7

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art

- Hattie had just been answering a letter that Mr. Atkinson wrote last August, and says, “aren’t I a prompt correspondent?”
- Henry has been spending a lot of time in his study with two Chinese teachers working on translating the Concordance that Father and Mother sent. He hopes to finish his translation of the New Testament this year, and will commence the translation of the Old Testament when they return from the U.S.
- Hattie is working two hours a day with a Chinese teacher on her question book that she wants to have published.

1875 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Hattie says they were under the impression that there was to only be the monthly mail from now on. However, she also mentions that a new line of steamers is opening up and she expects that they can write and receive letters every two weeks.
- They haven't received any news from the board yet, but Hattie is confident they will give their consent. It is clear she is referencing permission for them to return home for a visit. Hattie says that both Henry and herself feel satisfied that they can go home.
- The new schoolhouse is almost finished. It is higher and more "airy", and they can accommodate more scholars in it. They have also tried to rent a house next door, but were unsuccessful.
- They hope to have 23 girls and 13 women scholars. They are also planning an additional 10 from a local day school. Hattie is concerned this will prove too much work for Mattie and Lucy while they are away on travels. Both Lucy and Mattie have taken charge of one of the day schools this past year.
- Next Wednesday is their Conference. A motion will be raised to add female missionaries to the Conference with voting and speaking power. Previously they have only been allowed as listeners. Hattie thinks it will pass because the gentlemen don't want the publicity of voting against it. However, she does not think it will make a difference in women's rights in the Conference.
- They are planning a trip north next week and will be gone for three weeks.

1875 June 18

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Hattie is wondering whether her Father will be able to attend the meeting of the General Assembly.
- It seems that Dr. Elliward, who was in Canton and now traveled home, will be the next Secretary of the General Assembly.
- Mrs. Perkins says they now have \$1300 for the new school building. This will help alleviate the \$300 they were expecting to use from the local fund. This new building will be the ladies' entirely. The building is almost finished with only a little painting to be done.
- The woodwork of the new building is all grained to look like slate marble.
- The rooms are all 12 ft. high.
- After the old building burned down, Hattie wanted to keep her set of keys as a memory. Instead they gave them to the servants and somehow they were stolen or lost. Hattie is not glad because she has given up the practice of hoarding such relics.

1875 July 1

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: "Up the North River" (Bei Jiang, Northwest of Guangzhou 北江在广州的西北面)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie was just writing a birthday letter to Father and she thought she may as well write Edward too.
- They are traveling up the North River with large hills on either side. Hattie says it is a relief to be away from the hot and dusty streets of Canton. They will travel up to the mouth of the Linchan River, where they have not been yet. They left Canton a week ago.
- Yesterday they climbed a mountain two or three miles high and got very sunburnt.

- Hattie says their boat is full of cockroaches, and that they have been very focused on the missionaries.
- There is also quite a bit of smuggled salt aboard, which the boatmen are taking up to Linchan. They have passed several customs houses, and have not yet had the boat examined.
- Hattie and the others agree that the trees on the side of the river are just like those at home. Hattie really misses the old oaks, elms, and maple trees from the U.S.
- Hattie makes this comment after discussing the beauty of bamboo: “But it is a part of my creed never to admit even to myself that anything in China is nicer than America.”

1875 July 3

From: Harriet

To: Em

Location: Linchan River, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- Hattie describes how absolutely beautiful it has been on their trip, and is glad to be out of Canton.
- They sent their servant into a small village to see if he could find them something to eat. Hattie doesn't expect that he will be able to find something good to go well with the celebration tomorrow.
- Their servant, A-Shing did not find much food, but did bring back some pork and eggs.

1875 July 5

From: Hattie

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: LinChan River

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie says that they have all been working on their Chinese while on the boat, but not as much as they should be. Hattie says they do not rush to rise in the morning, and by the time they have everything put away and prepared for the day it is rather late. She also says that they often get distracted from their work while on the boat because of the beautiful scenery that surrounds them so often.
- Yesterday was the Fourth of July, and they were all happy to spend it in a quiet place. Hattie says that it showered several times throughout the day, making it pleasantly cool. She also mentions that they were anchored across from a cute little village with a very large, old, and rugged mountain range rising behind it up to the beautiful sky. The water of the river was also very clear and nice. Hattie says that will be a day that they will all remember for a long time.
- Yesterday, several men came to their boat and Henry talked with them for a while and sent them off with some books. After that, a boat from the village across from where they anchored came up to them and asked Henry to come back with them, where he talked to them for a while. In addition to all of this, a group of women also came to their boat, so the ladies all went with them and talked to a “very motley assemblage of women and men, boys and girls.”
- Hattie says that the countryside they are now passing reminds her much of home. She says it is not as flat and tame as it is in Northern Ohio, however it is like the country of Pennsylvania.
- They all tried some swimming last night, putting on some old dresses, and going between where the boat was anchored and the shore. Henry tried to teach them all to float, however Hattie says they were not very apt pupils.

1875 July 7

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Linchan River, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They left Canton two weeks ago.
- Hattie supposes that these might be the first letters ever sent to America or any land from the Linchan River.
- That morning they found fortifications that the locals used to hide from robbers about twenty years prior. The inside of the fort is now a peaceful cornfield. They talked to an old man who said the fort used to house over a thousand men, women and children. The old man said they had to live in the fort for four to five years. They also found a large entrance to a large cave, blocked by a large stone. They found wild English ivy and wild snowdrops.
- The river is beautiful with rapids, waterfalls and crystal clear water. There are apparently 300 of these waterfalls before they reach Linchan city. The boatmen have to use their expertise and skill to navigate these pitfalls. Hattie says that sometimes a boat will get caught in the whirl and go down stream.
- They just passed a beautiful pagoda of five stories. They will soon reach the district city of Yeung Shan. (Yangshang, Guangdong?)

1875 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Lin-chan, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Hattie is writing up some letters while they are on this boat. This will be her 20th.
- It is the third anniversary of Mrs. McChesney's husband's death.
- They have reached Lin-chan city at the end of their trip, so now they are turning home toward Canton. They reached there last night and are anchored by the Lin-Chan pagoda about two miles south of the city.
- Henry has gone into the city this morning with some books and tracts to preach. Meanwhile Mattie is reading Don Quixote and Lilly and Hattie are writing letters.
- Hattie thinks that they are the first foreign ladies to have come to Lin-chan, and therefore it may not be the smartest decision to go into the city. However, they intend to climb up the hill to the pagoda.
- Henry has come back and reported that he was very successful. Henry says he saw two examples of civilization while in the city. Foreign matches for sale and pictures of foreign steamers.
- The boat ride up they had the best wine and scenery Hattie says. They also passed through a mountain pass. Hattie wants to see the Hudson scenery but does not think it can compare with the scenery there in China.
- Hattie is getting quite fat and sunburnt.

1875 July 30

From: Harriet

To: Ours at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Building & Development

- They are expecting some guests from the London Mission tonight, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmer.



- They have been out every night this week except Wednesday when they had the prayer meeting at their home. All of their friends were glad to see them back after being gone for a month (31 days exactly).
- Henry and Lucy are on a walk on Shamian, and Hattie did not go because she put on a long dress for the evening. She then comments on what a “womanly” reason that is, and how she often feels ashamed for such reasons. She often tells Henry that men ought to be thankful that their clothes aren’t such trouble.
- The schoolhouse is coming along nicely.
- The servants did quite a bit of work while they were away, cleaning and having the yard kept up.
- The girls from Mrs. Perkins said they would give \$250 for the women to rent a house for the Training School, however the house they want is not up for rent, and the owner only wants to sell it for \$3-4000.

1875 August 6 & 13

From: Hattie

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

August 6:

- Hattie is writing to her mother for her birthday.
- They just bought \$24 worth of frames (just over \$500 USD in 2015) for pictures for the school. Hattie has spent a lot of time washing the glass and trimming the photos to size. The pictures are scripture illustrations that Hattie sent to England for.
- They expect to open the school again on the 11th. They will have an “all girls” meeting with the women at the school in the afternoon, and then will come together with all of the mission in the evening for an English service.
- Hattie thinks more and more that the new school is very much like the old school.

August 13:

- They opened the school the day before yesterday, and Hattie said the girls were absolutely delighted by it.
- Hattie is disappointed that they were not able to build a separate school for the women, but she says it is good because it would make it harder on the girls next year when they are away.
- They all went on a picnic excursion today, and it was quite nice.
- The mosquitos have been rather bad recently.

1875 August 30

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development

- The steamers are running every two weeks now, and Hattie hopes that Em will find time to write at least a little bit for each steamer.
- Hattie has been down this evening to help Mr. Preston with some music for a social evening. They are meeting in Hattie’s home, and Hattie says that it is “hardly our turn, but we do not mind doing a little more than our share.”
- The weather has been very hot lately. All of this month, the thermometer has stood at 96°. Hattie says although the thermometer say it is 96°, but that “this still will not give you an idea of how hot it has been.”

- School is back in session, and Hattie says that the girls are all so happy to be back.
- The new schoolhouse is much cooler than the old, and more airy as well. They changed around the layout of the rooms, and Hattie says that it is a great improvement.
- They can also keep the girls' school and the women's school quite separate, and find it so much better than before.
- They have found a nice woman to look after the girls out of the schoolhouse, and Hattie says this will be of much relief to her.
- Hattie also has changed the hour of morning prayer.

1875 September 7

From: Harriet

To: Mary

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health

- Hattie is so glad to hear that Mary and Clara are going back to Wooster, and that Em is not going to try teaching school.
- Hattie says all of the teachers and scholars at her school are so happy to be back, and that their new building is so comfortable.
- Lillie Happer wrote. The doctor she consulted in Pittsburgh said that if he could help her at all he could cure her in six months. Hattie says the voyage home does not seem to have done her any good, which does not surprise her because the doctor here said the change in climate would not make a difference.
- Hattie says they should surely be home in time for Wooster commencement, and is glad that Em is appointed for a performance.

1875 September 14

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Missionary Politics

- This is one of the Chinese feast days. This evening is their annual worship of the moon (Mid-Autumn Festival/中秋节). Last night there was an incessant "firing of crackers."
- A visiting missionary said that of all the stations they visited, Canton was by far the most pleasant. However, it was also the noisiest.
- Hattie says they can now count Sarah in among the missionary workers of the family, even though she is only in Columbus.
- The time seems to fly now that Hattie is expecting to be home rather soon.
- The term has gone smoothly so far and is already almost one-fourth gone.
- They are expecting a new Lady missionary to arrive tomorrow from America, her name is Miss Yallbraith. She is from New Hampshire or Vermont. She comes to join Mr. Nevin's mission and will consequently live with them.

1875 September 29

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic classifications: Travel

- Henry and Mr. Henry are away on a mission trip for a week.

- Hattie says that the schools are doing well.

1875 October 13

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Mentions of Wooster; American Politics

- Sitting down to write a birthday letter to Edward, the last Hattie expects to write from China in the next two years. Only Seventy-nine days left in 1875.
- They hope to leave China by the middle of January.
- Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap, whom Hattie had met in Wooster, were visiting China with the McFarlands.
- Their new consul “Col. Lincoln” moved out a few weeks ago and lives next door. Although from Mississippi he fought for the Union during the war and says he is a “carpetbagger.” He and his wife are good singers and they brought a piano with them.
- This evening they went to Dr. Kerr’s prayer meeting, which was smaller on account of the Prestons, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, and one of the Happer’s being off on a country trip to Linchan.
- The other day they found a box of Chinese books decimated by “White Ants” (termites?). They ruin anything they attack.

1875 October 28

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie is writing because it is the eighth anniversary of her leaving home. She talks a lot about how much she remembers the day she left home.
- Hattie hopes that when she comes home all of the girls will be retrieved—one at home, two in Wooster, one in Columbus, and two in China.
- Henry will be writing to Father and Mother soon to explain to them why they will be going home via Bangkok, and goes on to say that her and Mattie both love Miss Anderson very dearly.

1875 October 28

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Henry and Mattie are at the table with Hattie. Mattie is working on letters, Henry on his Concordance, and Lucy is in her room writing letters.
- Hattie has been writing to some friends back home, telling them to direct their letters back to Seville because she will be coming home so soon.
- Today is the anniversary of Hattie leaving for China, and she hopes that they are already on their way home when the anniversary of her arrival in China rolls around (Jan. 14th).
- Today during prayers the fire alarm went off for the third time this week, and it is only Thursday. Hattie says that since the fire in January she has been very nervous about fires.
- “I wonder if if Father remembers that I have set his house on fire since. He may be sure I will never do it again for I certain I shall always have a wholesome fear of fire.”
- Hattie is also especially worried about the women and girls in regards to fires because they are so easily frightened, and seem so helpless, especially “those with little feet.”

- Some other missionaries went up the Lin Chan River—the same trip they took this summer.

1875 November 12

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Mentions of Wooster; Travel

- Frank is terribly sick and Hattie is upset that the process of waiting for news is so slow.
- However, Hattie writes that everything is ordered in God's loving mercy. It often seems so complex and disjunct that "Our Loving Father" leads us step by step.
- Mary is nicely situated at Wooster.
- Hattie can't imagine that Clara is now grown to maturity. It seems that when they next see each other they will have to get acquainted again. However, Hattie doesn't think this will take more than half a minute. She is sure that when she sits down with them all the eight years will feel like a dream.
- They are sad to hear that Edward didn't get his patent. Hattie says there is a great deal of "wise pulling" with getting patents though.
- Henry's singing voice is getting better ever since their trip to Linchan.

1875 December 17

From: Harriet

To: Ours at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie is writing to everyone at home as a collective because Mattie is doing the same, and she thinks that it is a very economical idea.
- Hattie supposes that the last mail will be the last one they receive while they are still in China, because before the next steamer they hope they will be on their way to Bangkok. They expect to go straight home after stopping in Bangkok, however they may stop once more if they are able to travel through Palestine, and a little while in India. They have concluded that they will not go to Egypt nor Europe, and Hattie is very glad to be going the shorter way. Although they will not be going the longest way, she still does not expect to be home until April, "perhaps in time to see the leaves come out."
- Hattie had a dream a few nights earlier that she returned, and that father, mother, and Sarah came to get them in Medina.
- Hattie wonders if Henry has talked at all about his friend in Bangkok to the rest of the family. She will go with them, and Hattie says they will form a happy trio before she returns to her own home, and they return to the old family homestead.
- Henry is appointed a delegate to the General Assembly, and Hattie supposes that he will wish to attend the meeting in May if they reach home in time.
- "As I believe, ladies are usually invited to stay away from the Assembly."
- The school this year is to have a graduating class of nine and she has been arranging their diplomas today.
- The schoolhouse was photographed yesterday, and they are going to have the photo pasted to a piece of red paper with a few sentences written beneath, and Hattie will bring a copy when she comes home.
- The girls have invited them to have a foreign dinner. Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Henry, and Mary and Sophia Preston were invited. They had another one last week, and Hattie's cook was

the one who cooked it. They had fish, soup, “mutton chicken (?)” Pui (?) vegetables, fruit pie and plum pudding, rice and curry, bread and cheese, fruit and nuts, and Chinese soup.

1875 December 31

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Yesterday Mattie received a Christmas present from her Westminster parish back home. It has beautiful pictures and dolls for the children at the girls’ school here in Canton. They will make magnificent gifts for the children compared to what they are used to receiving.
- Another gift that Mattie received for Christmas, now hanging in their house, are two framed texts. The first reads “Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted” and the second reads “Live in Peace.” They have various other framed texts as well.
- Yesterday they packed up their trunk to go to America. They are sending one trunk ahead of them. The ship they are hoping to sail on the “Madagascar” has been expected in Hong Kong for several days, but has not yet made its appearance. They are leaving on the premise that they are going to Bangkok. Hattie says they will be surprised when they figure out the true state of the case since these things are never quiet.

1876 January 10

From: Harriet

To: Ours at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development

- Hattie is preparing for her season-long break from Canton, in which her home in Seville is a destination. Mattie will not be joining them. Mattie is staying to oversee the opening of the school in a month. Mattie and Lucy will be going with them to Hong Kong for their departure.
- Hattie points out that it is the anniversary of the burning of the schoolhouse, and hopes that the beginning of their journey will be something more pleasant to be remembered on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Discusses the route they are taking home—through Bangkok, rather than the route of the Pacific Mail. They also have the best of servants. The counsel and his wife are next door on the boat, so they are sure they will have “Consular Protection.”
- Hattie hopes to hear from her family in Singapore, one of their stops along the way home.

1876 January 14

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: S.S. Madagascar, China Sea

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They have had some rough seas so far.
- Today has been the first day in which Hattie has been able to eat anything besides oranges. She asked Mattie to thank Mr. Apung for the goods.
- They had an evening prayer meeting on the ship. They watched Lucy and Mattie “sing” them off from the shore at Hong Kong.
- On their way out of the harbor they ran into the steamer, “Canton”. There was a missionary onboard, Williams with his companion Mr. Jerusalem, both of whom waved to her goodbye.

- Hattie has little to report as of right now because she hasn't seen much outside her state room, which Mattie already has been in.
- Hattie starts stereotyping their Chinese steward. She mocks and mimics his voice by saying "Mississy no eat". She goes on to say that he use to be on board the P. M. S. S. "Oregoninan. He thinks American ships are far superior to the English and German ones.
- Captain Sinun seems to be very kind. Hattie says that most of the staff speaks English readily. The rest of the men aboard seem to be either Malays or Chinese.
- Today they have been sailing along the coast of Cachin China. The shore appeared to only be a mile away, but it turned out to be eight miles. Hattie says it is mountainous and barren, like the rest of the Asiatic coast that she has encountered.
- The captain told them a story about one time at St. Helena, he was under the impression that he was right next to the shore. In the morning he realized that he was still a full sixteen miles out to sea.
- Mattie gave Hattie and Henry her looking glass and they use it whenever they get a chance. They may have the chance to send it back when they reach Bangkok.

1876 January 17

From: Harriet

To: Mattie

Location: S.S. Madagascar

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Laments about how she wishes Mattie was with them, especially since she had such a quiet and enjoyable Sabbath the day prior. She even goes on to say, "I felt that it was the day of this part of our voyage that we shall remember best."
- Their captain, Captain Simmon (?) is the only crew member on board who speaks much English, and is quite sociable.

1876 January 20

From: Hattie

To: Mattie

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They will start for Phetchabun soon (a northern province in Thailand). They will stop on the way for a visit with Mrs. Bradley with Dr. and Mrs. Chuk (?), who will be ultimately heading for Ching Mai (Chiang Mai, Thailand?).
- They are currently having a great time with Dr. and Mrs. Dean.
- "This land does not seem as overstocked with humanity as China."

1876 February 12

From: Harriet

To: Clara

Location: Singapore

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than China; Travel

- Hattie was taken on a drive to the public gardens by a friend of Bella's. There, the Band of Her Majesty's Tenth Regiment was playing. Hattie found comfort in all of the finely dressed women present, and all of the lovely horses, which were brought to Singapore from Australia. Hattie much prefers them to the "little native ponies" in Canton.
- Hattie is excited to see Clara grown up.

- They have dinner in Singapore at 7:00PM, which would normally be when they have supper. Breakfast also often comes at 12:00PM.
- For breakfast they have a cup of tea, bread, and fruit. If they have lunch they have tea and bread.

1876 February 12

From: Harriet

To: Emma

Location: Singapore

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Hattie just received Emma's letters from November, and regrets to tell her that Mattie will not be receiving them right away because she is still in Canton.
- Hattie is very sad to hear what happened to "dear Frank."
- They have been waiting in Singapore to continue their journey for over a week, and still have to wait two or three more days.
- They missed the boat they were intending to take to England by just a few hours because the steamer that took them from Bangkok to Singapore was detained in standby (?). They had planned to leave the Consulate directly after the wedding on Saturday. Their steamer was deferred until Monday, two days later.
- The new ship they will be leaving Singapore on is the "Priam," which will set sail on the 15th or 16th.

1876 February 14

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Singapore

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Hattie is sending off about forty other letters this morning.
- They have begrudged every moment they have been in Singapore because they are very anxious to finally be on their way home. They have been especially anxious because they received the letters from home from November bringing news of Frank's poor condition. They are of course very sad, but Hattie says that "it is everything to know that he feels ready to go when the Master calls."
- Henry is going into the city today, but they are nearly two miles out to make inquiries about the steamer. Hattie hopes they will be able to depart tomorrow.
- They hope to stop by Waterford Bella's home on their way back. She has a sister who has studied medicine, "Doctor Sarah Anderson," who expects to go back to Canton with them.
- Hattie is worried about her voice not sounding very good recently. She has dreamed of singing with the family upon her return for years, and worries that she may not be very good when they are reunited.

1876 March 12

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Jerusalem

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They have been fortunate in their travel companions who they met at sidon and have traveled with all the way to Jerusalem. One of them was an older English gentleman, sixty-five years old.

- The other was a twenty-year-old American. They did not know each other before Beirut where they decided to travel together.
- They also met a group of five American ministers and Henry seems to have become attached to them.
- The locals say there are not as many American tourists as usual because of the centennial celebration in the United States.

1876 March 14

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: S.S. Priam, Red Sea

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They entered the Red Sea through the “Gate of Seas,” Bab-el-Mandeb early last Saturday. She describes the beautiful moonlight straight that they passed through, with the island of Perim on one side (with a lighthouse), and both sides have high hills rising from the shore.
- They had an odd encounter with another steamer when entering the Red Sea—it came very close to them and was expected to pass on the left, however it suddenly changed course and passed on their right.
- They expect to reach Suez by Friday the 17th(?). It will take them two or three days to pass through the Suez Canal to reach port Said.
- Saturday they passed about ten other steamers, but have not seen men since.
- They passed the supposed location where the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.

1876 March 20

From: Harriet

To: Mother

Location: Jaffa, Palestine (contemporary Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They are now in Palestine, landing in Port Said. They are going directly to Beirut.
- Hattie is excited to be able to write some letters from a place of such biblical importance. Hattie references some biblical accounts that occurred in Jaffa, and describes the beauty of the city.
- Hattie expects that they will leave Jaffa tonight and travel to Beirut, being there by the next morning.

1876 March 23

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Beirut, Syria

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Harriet is saying that if they had gone directly home, then they would have seen Frank before he died. However, there is no way they could have possibly left China before January.
- In reference to death Hattie is saying that when her time comes, she will be ready to go.
- They are asking for their letters from Cairo to be sent to Alexandria. Hattie is saying that she is thrilled to be going to Alexandria. Furthermore, they will not be going to Cairo. Instead they are traveling from Jaffa to Marseilles via Alexandria.
- Hattie is saying that she does not appreciate the privileges of traveling as much as she should, because her thoughts are constantly thinking about getting home.



1876 March 23

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Beirut, Syria

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They reached Beirut two days earlier. Upon arrival Henry was able to pick up the letters from home from February. The black envelope brought the sad news and Hattie waited until Henry was done with his meetings to read it with him. Frank died sometime in late February and was laid to rest next to their sister.
- Hattie says that since she has left Canton she has dreamed every night of reaching home and meeting with Frank. She says now upon their return home there will be two vacant places, and they will not be reunited until “they gather at the river in an unbroken circle”.
- Every day and week Hattie spends on this side of the world takes away from her time at home. She claims she worked very hard in China and is in no rush to return.

1876 April 12

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Jerusalem

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Tomorrow they leave Jerusalem and ride forty miles to Jaffa on horseback. After Jaffa they will travel to Alexandria.
- Hattie says she has enjoyed her time in the “Holy Land” very much, and despite her wish to get home she wishes she could have stayed in Jerusalem longer.
- On the journey home Hattie hopes that they don’t have to stop anywhere. She adds that they do need to spend a few days in London because Bella wishes to stop there.
- It has been three months since they left Canton.
- They have been in Jerusalem since last Friday (the day is Wednesday).
- Hattie says that for the Christian traveler it is a sad city. The Jerusalem of the present is not the same as the one that Christ walked. The view from the Mountain of Olives presents a beautiful city. Henry and Hattie have been to the Mt. of Olives every day since arriving in Jerusalem.

1876 April 13

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Mattie told Hattie she left to write to her whenever she longed for home. Hattie says she loves China and missionary work, but she longs for home with an intensity that she has never thought possible.
- Nothing seems as much like home like watching the moon rise in the east. It is in darkness that all the “strange” Chinese features are hidden and we can look up at just the sky and the moon.
- Hattie says that she has never for an instant regretted that she came. The trials of a missionary are definitely because they are deprived of any comforts in life.
- Dr. Whitehead was so “kind” to their darling Cynthia when she was in Macau last summer. He has also taken care of Henry through three sets of sickness. Dr. Whitehead is from the Wesleyan Mission.

1877 November 16

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Pacific Ocean, City of Tokio (Tokyo)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- They are 12 days out today and are well on their way across the Pacific. Hattie hopes that they will reach Yokohama next week and Canton the following week.
- There are several young missionaries on board and Hattie says they are having quite a gay time.
- Hattie speaks quite a bit about the other missionaries on board.

1878 January 2

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is anxious that they should feel as near as possible to each other.
- They opened the boxes from home. It was clear that no one managed to get into them, because they were so well boarded up that no one would have dared to attack them. Their servant Akwai was the one to open the boxes, and he broke the chisel in the process.
- Hattie wishes she had found a gift for Akmai when she was home. She is planning on going out and getting a knife in one of the shops in Canton.
- If Em or any of the girls have time to make some spatter work pictures and send them out to China, that would make her very happy.
- Dr. Happer is negotiating for the land in the lot next to where Hattie's mission is.
- It will be a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> since Hattie reached Canton again, and a full two and a half months since she left home. She would want to be at home with her family very much, if it weren't for "the heathen China." Hattie makes a side comment though that the women and girls in her school aren't very heathen like.

1878 January 13

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Harriet says that yesterday was eleven years since Hattie first arrived in Canton. She is now in her twelfth year of missionary work. Back when she began, the missionaries who had been there for ten plus years seemed very old to her.
- They closed the boarding school and the scholars went home. Their new teacher is so fantastic that Hattie feels the workload is so much less for her.
- Harriet describes a very successful school term. They had thirteen students with perfect recitations, and fifteen students with perfect conduct. She says that each of these girls earned the rewards that they bought for them.
- Part of their education is an evening meeting where the students confessed their sins and prayed for one another. Hattie says that she and the other teachers feel that this evening meeting has been wonderfully blessed.
- Harriet wishes that her father could meet the girls. She states that it gives the entire campus community so much happiness to think that her father has such an interest in the school. She says the school owes its success to his prayers.

- Harriet says that they are looking for letters from home on the subject of “the legacy”. If they do not hear soon, Hattie says that Mr. Henry will give them his day school building.
- Harriet says that it seems to her that if they were going to have a new building, it would be nice to have it at once.
- She makes a curious statement that everyday they are more and more grateful they are here instead of on the “other end”.
- Henry is also grateful that they are there. Mrs. Henry told him when they first arrived to not get involved in any “scheme” with them. But he has now told her that he is very glad they are down in Canton with her.

1878 March 24

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Mattie is very sick. Hattie says that she never was very strong, but now she has less strength than ever before.
- Hattie tells her sister that on this side of the world, they do as they please without any fear of Dr. Craven.
- Men and boys of any nationality are strictly excluded from Harriet’s Sabbath school. Henry tried to change this policy, but Dr. Happer prevented it. They have 10 classes in their Sabbath school with 7-8 students in each.
  - Mrs. Happer teaches a class of Christian women.
  - A Bible Woman teaches another class of Christian women.
  - Lillie teaches a class of outside women.
  - Hattie has a class of Bible Women.
  - The teacher of the women’s school has the women from that school.
  - “Aoon” their new boarding school teacher teaches the first class of girls.
  - Le Mui, a graduate of the Hattie’s True Light Seminary, teaches the second class of girls.
  - Lucy teaches the third class of girls.
  - Apeng teaches the fourth class of girls.
  - Akin teaches the fifth class of girls.
- It’s the first time it has been this neatly arranged. Hattie is glad all of the teachers are Christian.

1878 April 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet feels among the missionaries that a blessing may occur soon.
- At the last Missionary Conference they set the next meeting in Canton for June 4<sup>th</sup>. They agreed that the next conference would not have a topic of discussion but instead should be focused on prayer so that the Holy Spirit could aid the work of the missionaries.
- Harriet is asking her fathers and others at home to join in the prayer on June 4<sup>th</sup> that will hopefully bring a blessing to the missionary community.

1878 April 18

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics

- The last mail from home brought the Seville Times with a picture of Edward on the front page. Hattie is asking for a picture of the girls Em and Sarah, possibly at the washer or “bugging” in the backyard. Also a photo of Mary baking pancakes. Currently, Hattie says all of the images are being taken care of by memory and she hopes that they can keep from fading.
- Hattie doesn’t think that eight to ten years could be that long, since half a year has passed already.
- It seems as if Edward is a manufacturer.
- They are hoping to send to Hong Kong some letters on the tornado. Hattie says it will be more entertaining than her writing.
- Hattie gives the same account of the Tornado that she gave to her sister Sarah in the April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1878 letter. Apparently the black cloud, 2 feet in diameter, reached upwards from the sky and had birds and bricks and all types of materials inside. It twisted and broke everything it came across including a lamppost. It was preceded by a set of hail storms.

1878 April 20

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Chinese Politics; Culture, Language, and Art;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They have succeeded in getting copies of some papers concerning the “tornado”.
- It’s providential that all of the missionary homes, chapel, and school building were preserved.
- One of Lucy’s school buildings fell. There were seventeen scholars in the school when the tornado hit. The teacher and another woman gathered all the kids in the middle of the floor and covered them with their arms. When the building fell they were all covered in bricks and tiles. A large “timber” fell on the teacher’s neck. None of the scholars were injured. As soon as the whirlwind passed they were able to get everyone out and get assistance to look after the teacher.
- There are still many bodies buried under ruins. Additionally, the air in some parts of the city is very bad. The dikes have broken so that the lower parts of the city are flooded at high tide. This will probably negatively impact the rice crop.
- A wise “Chinaman” predicted that this year would be one of misfortune several hundred years ago.
- One of the Bible Women stated that it took ten plagues for the Egyptians to repent their ways. In Canton they have had three tempests, fire, and flood. Up north they have famine and pestilence.
- Hattie shares the same story of the “tornado” that she shared with Edward and Emily.
- Hattie bought a dog for the family when she was home. She states that she doesn’t want to name it because she stipulates that the family has to like the name. However, she does suggest the name “Captain”. One that Mattie thinks will go very nicely is “Watch”. Hattie is very connected to the watch she owns so she likes this name.

1878 April 22

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Travel; Building & Development; Chinese Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie is anxious to hear that everything is alright. She is concerned that Democratic rule may have put everything “out of sorts”.
- It is exactly a year now since Hattie made her spring visit home.
- Hattie asks her sister if she heard about the “tornado”. She hopes that it will be telegraphed properly so that her family doesn’t get too anxious about her and Mattie. Hattie came very close to being in a dangerous place, but luckily ended up being safe. She was taking her boat home from a school across the river, but the woman who runs the boats said there was “going to be a great wind” and that they did not want to go out on the river. So Hattie sat in the boat on the shore and heard the whirlwind go by. At first she thought it was only a steamer. Everything that the whirlwind came across, it left in ruins. The canal was filled with the wrecks of boats and debris of every sort. Mattie and the women in the school had been very anxious about her.
- The only loss that the mission had was one of the day schools.
- Multitudes were buried under the ruins or drowned by upset boats. It is thought that the loss of life is probably around 10,000.
- It seemed worse than a typhoon because it came without warning and only lasted a minute or two. However, some several hundred years ago a Chinese man predicted that this would be a year of great misfortune.
- The night after the tornado, fires burned down much of the city. Many weren’t extinguished until the next day.
- Mr. Henry and James Chalmers stayed the night at their place. They were worried that they needed to take the scholars to a place of safety and were consequently glad for the company. Luckily, they did not need to move the girls in the middle of the night.
- One of Lillie’s schools was in the whirlwind and terrified her scholars. But the police and their parents came to escort them home. Buying and selling girls is a big practice in China according to Hattie. Hattie says that their girls would sell for \$ 80-100.
- Hattie implored Dr. Ellinward to allow her to take the girls to the other mission that has larger grounds and is further away from the city. However, to their dismay there were no boats left that would take the scholars across the water. Hattie looks for a parable from the board. She cannot imagine that the board would decide against what she thinks is best.

1878 May 9

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet thanks her family for remembering her 29<sup>th</sup> birthday in a letter.
- She is excited that Matt (Mattie?) is applying to be a missionary. She says it is unfair to ask Father and Mother to give up another of their children. But it will help her parents to know how much she will add to their happiness to have Mattie in Canton.
- She says her father gave her instructions to “Do Right” and that is the key to being happy wherever you are.
- Mr. and Mrs. Liles are planning a visit to the Noyes. Hattie says they can inform her father on all of the activities in Canton.
- She says in only two years time she can come home for a visit. Although, she would be worried about leaving Matt (Mattie?) in Canton when she left.

1878 May 17

From: Harriet

To: Family

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- It is two years to the day since Hattie reached home. Hattie remembers it vividly, reaching Cleveland and finding Sarah and Clara there. She remembers Father, Mother, and Mary waving hello as they reached the train depot and seeing Edward and Em there as well. She also remembers how Ned and Fred and Jennie looked. Hattie wonders if she will ever go home again, and whether or not she will find them all in the “old homestead” in the same manner as she remembers. More than half a year has now passed since Hattie left her family.
- Seville seems to have a good many old people among its residents. Father is hoping that Hattie will live 40 or 50 years.
- Hattie thanks her family for all of the birthday wishes. She remarks on their wish for her happiness that she feels she has had her fair share of happiness in the first 6 years of mission life. It seems like a pity that people should not be happy, since there is so much in the world to make them happy. Especially in China where the people are so miserably poor, Hattie says it is easy to be happy with her position. Hattie says the money is wasted in buying opium and strong drink, and if this money were properly used there would be enough for everyone.
- Harriet says that you can’t always make the world or the people in it over, so they must rather do the best they can as it is.
- Strange comment by Hattie at the end: “Henry can at least think of us and bye and bye we shall be together where she cannot interfere with our happiness.”

1878 May 24

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health

- Dr. Happer has just informed them that the steamer doesn’t leave for another day, so they will have more time to write.
- Hattie says that if lying in the grass was considered work, she could make such a fortune. She tells her sister that she half wishes they had laid in the grass and ridden on the little wagon as much as they had sewed growing up. However, they were sewing for missionaries. If they had ended up riding more as children, Hattie states she probably would have ended up breaking all of their necks and not just Em’s thumb.
- Sarah is sick and needs to go to Columbus for treatment.
- Just heard tonight of the death of Mr. Whiting that shared the journey out to China with Mattie and Lucy. He died of famine fever.

1878 July 13

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Harriet asks her father if Mattie has written to him about their last communion season. They received eight individuals into the church. There were six girls and women from the boarding school.
- Harriet is proud that their students seem anxious to get into missionary work. Harriet, in a letter from her friend Lucy, hears how much worse the school at Ningpo is in comparison to her

boarding school. The boarding school in Canton while being half the age of the one in Ningpo has employed 28 women and girl helpers. Follows up her criticism by saying that Dr. Happer's school needs to be as successful in producing workers.

- Dr. Happer's school attracts a miserable collection of young men who are too lazy to work for a living, and rely on the boarding school's generosity. Hattie says that it should definitely not be called a theological school. After thirty years there is still not a single native minister connected with their mission. All of the students seemed to turn out badly and are consequently not well adapted for a position as a teacher of other students. Hattie pities Dr. Happer saying it must be very sad for him. She supposes that he is mostly trying to do what is right. If the management ever made its way into Henry's hands however, things would change.
- Hattie describes Dr. Happer as having miserable health. His eyes are going, and his nervous system is run down.

1878 August 5

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Harriet is writing for her mother's birthday.

1878 September 9

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie hopes that Edward has already received the photographs of the Tornado. Mattie mailed the postage from Chefou because it is far cheaper than Canton. However, this year they will be able to charge some of it to the Mission, because Dr. Happer has always done so.
- Hattie is adding to Edward's collections of photographs two Chinese illustrations of the Tornado. These were two of several kinds sold on the streets. Edward being unfamiliar with Chinese art may have a hard time, but at least he can make out the dragon. In one of the illustrations the dragon is depicted with a tiger, another superior animal.
- According to Chinese superstitions the storm was caused by a certain Shogun who is the author of typhoons. He comes out in search of a promenade to devour. When he gets his way he spreads himself over the entire country becoming a typhoon. However, when he doesn't get his way and he is pursued by the righteous God of thunder, he tries to get away quickly and doubles back making a tornado.
- The last issue of the *Observer* ran an article with images of the disaster.
- It is nice how quickly Canton is responding to the tornado. The homes on the river have all been replaced and look better than ever. Many of the trees are growing very fast as well.
- Hattie describes one tree that is named "camel's foot". She can't remember the scientific name however.

1878 September 23

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Maddie is traveling somewhere in China and expects to head back towards Canton around the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.
- They are expecting missionaries from Siam in four days on the next steamer. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are coming this way on their way back to Ching Mai. With them are two young ladies who just graduated from Oxford female academy.
- Hattie pities them for going to Ching Mai because she has heard that it is impossible to live in that place of “malarial vapors.” There are only 40,000 people that live there. Hattie says that they can find hundreds of towns just as big within the vicinity of Canton. Hattie thinks it would be better to train others and send them there.
- Ms. Cort writes from Petcharose? that the majority of their scholars at their mission are Laos. This place is a healthy place by the seashore. Dr. Chuck really wanted to go because he did not think he nor his wife could live in Ching Mai, but the board would not allow him.
- Hattie tells a story of an old lady who loved the missionaries when they lived in bark houses and were in danger of being eaten by cannibals. When this mythical community became safer though and they came to live comfortably, the lady lost all of her interest in the missionaries. Similarly, the mission in Ching Mai is near to the heart of the Chinese people.
- Harriet says that the funds of the Board are often unwisely appropriated. Dr. Gregory feels that the system would work better if the board had less authority and the missionaries more.
- However, Hattie says that would be a bad idea for a mission with Dr. Happer in it. If Andrew and John Happer join the mission the family will have six votes. Hattie says that is the same as if Dr. Happer had six votes himself. Hattie says that she is ashamed that only the Canton mission has to deal with the Happer’s. But they will entrust that the work will continue and be accomplished despite Dr. Happer’s presence. The harm that is being done by Dr. Happer is creating such a ‘rotten church’. He is exclusively focused on counting the numbers, and does not listen to any complaint. He does not have the courage to be ‘bold’ if anything is going wrong.

1878 September 30

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- It is Edward’s birthday. Hattie woke up early in order to be able to write him a birthday letter.
- Last night during the evening service the Shanghai steamer arrived. They expected that it would bring the American mail, but were disappointed to realize that it did not. Before the letter she is writing now reaches Edward, an entire year will have passed since Hattie left Edward last.
- Harriet describes a certain Ms. La as a little bit out of her mind. However, ever since Lillie got back from America she has employed Ms. La as a Bible woman. Apparently she was very wealthy a long time ago and was connected to a Chinese teacher. This teacher and her sister lost contact with Ms. La and presumed her dead. Apparently, their servant found Ms. La. When they heard that Ms. La was a Christian, they sent for her and wanted her to teach them this new doctrine. The eldest of the sisters had a dream a while ago in which an angel told her to teach and spread Christianity and use her wealth to that end.
- At this point this other Chinese teacher, Ms. La, and the Chinese teacher’s sister have opened four boarding schools. When Lillie gets back she will obviously go visit the schools around where Ms. La is located.

1879 February 5

From: Harriet



To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art

- Hattie thinks her father may be interested in seeing the correspondence that passed between Dr. H (Henry?) and her about moving down to Canton. This was just after Hattie was poisoned and her face was so swollen that she had a good excuse to write instead of go over and see him.
- Hattie feels like chuckling when she thinks about how quietly it was all managed. Nothing was ever said except to Lillie and Mrs. Happer. They regretted being separated from them so much, and that part was very sad. Mrs. Happer did not have an opinion of whether this decision was right or not for the school, she was simply aware that she did not want them to go. On the contrary, Henry has never said a word about it to Dr. Happer.
- There is one lesson that Harriet Noyes has learned in the mission field. "To go right ahead quietly and do what one wants to do without talking about it and in that way it is easy to do as one pleases and everyone thinks it all right."
- The mission is beginning to look for the answer to their last application to the board. The NY one Church Washington is sending \$400 to the mission. By the last mail Mattie had received \$30 from her Bloomfield ladies. Another lady gave \$12 as a Christmas gift.
- Mattie and Hattie will prize the penknives that Varnum sent from home. Hattie still uses the one Mary gave her, and it brings her to mind when she does.
- When Hattie was in Hong Kong she went aboard the ship the Oceanic, and dreamed that she was going home.
- Varnum Noyes bought a lot in the cemetery. He got the lots adjoining Frank's. Hattie's dream is to have one large monument with all of their names on it. Hattie used to think she wanted to be buried in China. However, now she knows that she wants to be laid to rest in sight of the dear old home.
- Hattie asks her father when he writes to please tell her what his views on the Millennium are. She is asking whether he agrees with the premillennarian views.

1879 March 29

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Although Hattie wrote to Sarah yesterday she feels that she did not write enough and is commencing another letter to her.
- It has been a year and a half since Hattie said goodbye to Sarah in Elyria.
- Hattie talks a lot about missing home.

1879 May 17

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is writing about meeting a General Grant (unclear which General Grant). They got to see him, shake hands with him, spoke with him, looked into his eyes, shared a table with him, and got to listen to him speak. Hattie says they are all glad that he came and also that he has gone.

- Hattie said it was very exciting to have who the Governor of Hong Kong called the most illustrious guest that had ever entertained there.
- There was a grand dinner and reception for the foreign community with him on Thursday.
- He is on a two year journey around the world, Hattie says he likely hasn't been greeted so warmly anywhere else.
- Hattie wonders if he will be the next president of the USA.

1879 April 11

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics

- They still haven't heard about an incoming mail from Yokohama yet, so they are not bothering to wait for an incoming mail to write those at home.
- Their postage has been reduced to the old rate— eight cents per letter to send it around the world.
- Hattie says that Dr. Ellinwood “complains so tritely of the way in which *Woman's Work* seems to be getting ahead of Men's Work, but I suppose he feels no objection to receiving \$20,000 from Miss Green to pay their debts and \$268,000 from Mrs. Lapsley. It is all right for women to pay into the legacy but they object to their having any say about their paying out.”
- “...they seem to think that it is much more important to labor for the conversion of masculine souls than feminine. I am sure I shall be disappointed when I get to heaven if I do not find that all such distinctions have vanished away.”
- Hattie's admiration for Paul (St. Paul) is “unfounded.”
- Hattie finds one of the German missionaries, Mr. Faber, good-looking. “He is a particular friend of Mrs. Kerr's and she tried at one time to arrange a match between him and me. I suppose it must have been talked of considerably among the Germans themselves for his board heard about it and supposed it was all settled and sent out their congratulations, said they did not approve of their missionaries in general marrying English or American ladies but from what they heard of me were quite willing to make an exception.”

1879 June 2

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie hopes that Sarah has a nice birthday. Hattie discusses a dream about being home.
- They also held the missionary meeting.

1879 July 1

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Medicine & Health

- It's been two years since Harriet last went home.
- Harriet says she remembers cutting out a clip from a newspaper about a man who had passed his seventy-fifth birthday. The article states that he wanted to live to be ninety. Hattie hopes that her

father Varnum will be around until he is likewise ninety years old, at which point Hattie would be fifty. An additional fifteen years in China would make Harriet quite ready to leave for a better land. Henry however wants to live there until he is seventy. Hattie says that twenty years from now China will not be the same.

- No other missionaries have the support and interest of their families, the way that Varnum Noyes cares about Hattie and Maddie. It is his love that makes them good missionaries, and Hattie knows that they will never be separated through all of the ages of eternity.
- Hattie had ordered Chinese books and they arrived via Shanghai that morning. Henry was the one to deliver them. She invited him and his family to dinner, but said that it wasn't very nice. A call of his for two minutes while alone is worth more than a hundred evening gatherings with him and his family.

1879 July 15

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie is very pleased that Canton has had a mild summer so far. She says there have been no oppressively hot days yet.
- She discusses their gardener mowing their lawn, saying they were "fine," to have someone to "keep [their] grounds in order." She cites the fact that labor is cheap in Canton. They pay their gardener \$0.50 per month, as does Mr. Henry, their neighbor.
- "How the years do fly one after another. I do not think they can ever go too fast for me unless I get home again, then I am sure I should want them to go slow—That sentence will not do to read at a missionary meeting. Most of the home people like to feel that missionaries are so bound up in their work that they are above all longing for the homeland and the dear ones there."

1879 August 23

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building and Development; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They have yet to receive the estimates as expected so they still do not know about "that school building."
- Mattie left this morning for her vacation. She is going to see friends in Amoy and then going to see Mrs. Ashmore "up there."
- Dr. Kerr had them all over for breakfast a few days since, and Hattie thinks he is a far better home keeper than Mrs. Kerr.

1879 August 25

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- Harriet is having her hair done by A Sam while she tries to write some letters.

1879 September 4

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- The mail came yesterday and did not bring the letter from the board containing the estimates for the coming year.
- They are disappointed about the school building but cannot blame the board.
- “Dr. Ellinwood’s letter awakens our warmest sympathy.” The Board has failed in some way that has resulted in \$55,000 of losses, the debt now totals \$107,000. Because of this, all building everywhere for the year has stopped. Dr. Ellinwood writes that they will put the matter before the churches and they hope the churches will come forward and help clear the debt. If this happens, Harriet has faith that they will be able to continue building this year.
- Harriet believes that it is so sad that large legacies (legacy gifts?) will need to be used to pay off debts. Harriet believes that the churches should have no trouble in ridding the board of this debt because some of the richest churches in big cities are Presbyterian.

1879 September 5

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel

- This is Hattie’s 49th letter she has written while on vacation.

1879 October 21

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Josie has not yet written Dr. and Mrs. Kerr.
- Hattie might buy a sewing machine.
- Hattie talks about the cook’s family and how she has trouble tolerating six children running about in the kitchen.

1879 November 8

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Lois sent Harriet some very nice silver knives.
- Hattie wishes there was a parcel post so they could send little things home on occasion.

1879 November 11

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie talks about their new sewing machine and clothing.

- Miss Hartwell who is on her way to the Siam mission is visiting. She said if the climate does not suit her she will request to go to China.
- Mr. Attenbury has just come out as a medical missionary. They had met him in Palestine. He apparently has “quite a handsome fortune” and has come out to his own expense.
- Sarah Anderson has been moving around quite a bit.

1880 January 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Mattie and Hattie are in a reading circle with Dr. and Mrs. Graves. They are waiting to hear by mail from Mr. Shimmy? who will be taking their place.
- The Graves are hoping to leave by the first of February and go home via Palestine. However, if they don't hear from their replacement they would have to give that dream up.
- Harriet asks her father if she has heard in the papers of a young man named Dr. Allenbury from New York who is a missionary in Peking. He was with Hattie on her trip to Palestine, and made the journey far more entertaining. He is in China on his own expense, and therefore must own a fortune.
- Dr. Happer has his eyes on this Allenbury fellow as his son-in-law. Rumor has it that indeed Mary Happer is to be his bride.
- Mrs. Happer hasn't been home in 10 years, and Hattie pities her because her husband wants to stay in China.
- They have been daily meetings this past week both in English and Chinese. They will dismiss the schools for the New Years celebration.

1880 February 9

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie is glad to hear about the union of the old and new schools, saying that it was a union designed in heaven. She is discussing a meeting of Presbyterians in Pittsburg.
- The journal the “American Presbyterian” advocates the disillusion of the Board of Foreign, but Harriet does not think this could actually happen.
- The missionary Sabbath evening meeting is now held at their house. Says that under their direction the discussion is actually going well. Their Parlor is a long room with double doors opening into the study so that they can use both, and can seat fifty comfortably.
- Hattie is proposing to form a synod in China. First meeting would be held at Chefou. She says that traveling by steamer is so expensive because all of the coal is brought from England, America, or Australia, so none of the Canton missionaries would be able to go.

1880 March 20

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- The plans for the new school building are now in the hands of the contractors, so they should be ready to begin in a few days.
- “A number of ladies are giving now in this tenth year of Woman’s Work a thank offering of 100 dollars each and they are giving to use the first that came in for this object.”

1880 March 20

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Building & Development

- Harriet says things are different in Canton because they have servants to do everything for them. While at home they are more self-reliant.
- She says there was a recent article on missionaries in the February issue of Missionary Farming and it is so pathetic and funny.
- She talks about subscribing to a periodical entitled the Foreign Missionary.
- The plans of the new building are in the hands of contractors. Hattie says she can send a copy home to her father.

1880 March 23

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Harriet may be describing Henry? as a “good little missionary” that can be employed in many successful tasks. However, Henry’s health is failing. She says that last year he was married to another of Harriet’s friends and they have a six-week-old child.

1880 April 21

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie appreciated the letters from home, especially because she knows that those at home “are not particularly fond of letter writing.”
- Hattie goes into great detail about the German Instruments they bought and how they were accidentally sent two lots of the same order. The first instrument cost \$25.50, and the second one cost \$20.50.
- Henry also bought a little instrument for himself, which Hattie says he will be able to take to the country with him.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gibson left two weeks ago, and on the list of items they wanted to sell was a Mason and Hamlin organ listed at “thirty dollars.”
- Hattie went over to look at it because she remembered it being a very nice instrument when Mrs. Collins bought it, and when she saw that it was in nearly new condition Hattie bought it, saying that it has a lovely tone.

1880 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Em

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing Em for her birthday.
- This summer will be Hattie's thirteenth in Canton.

1880 May 21

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Culture, Language, and Art

- Hattie is writing to wish Clara a happy birthday. It has been four years since they were able to celebrate Clara's birthday together. Clara is thirty years old today.
- Hattie is going into the last half of her third year being back in China.
- The workmen are getting on very fast with the building, and are now laying the floors in the second story. Hattie really likes this builder, saying he seems pleasant and willing, and anxious to do well.
- Hattie says she cannot wait for the building of the chapel for the second church because the congregation is getting much too large for the hospital chapel.
- "Today M[attie] and I have been to visit Fung Kin, one of our girls who is soon to marry an assistant who has just returned from California. She did not look at all happy in the anticipation of marrying a man whom she has never seen. She seems such a child, only sixteen, and we felt so sorry for her. We hope she may come back to help teach in the school when the new building is finished. She is a very earnest Christian. We hope it will make a happy match."
- "I don't know but the Chinese marriage as a rule turns out about as well as many of those when people select for themselves. I do not think on the whole however that their way is any improvement on ours."
- Henry will be performing the marriage in the old school's chapel.

1880 June 5

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building & Development

- Hattie is writing this letter for Sarah's birthday even though it has since passed.
- Hattie has been quite miserable, and even though they have Chinese women looking after Mattie, Hattie has been up most nights with her since she fell ill.
- Hattie wishes that she could visit home before the new school opens.
- Hattie says the new school is quite impressive, being 93 feet long and 36 feet high. Hattie reports that it cost 3,500 to build.
- Hattie tells that the little girl Feng Kiu, who wrote Mother and Father a letter, was just married to an assistant who recently came over from California. She will begin to teach the preparatory department even though she is still very young.

1880 June 17

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

## Thematic Classifications: Medicine &amp; Health

- “We have had some sickness here at ‘Kukfan.’ That is the Chinese name of this locality where we now live.”
- Mrs. Kerr was sick and now little Hattie has been stricken with typhoid.
- Mr. Henry came back from the country and was struck with an attack of something like rheumatism. Now he has had severe pain in his eyes, which was diagnosed as ophthalmia.
- Dr. Kerr has been very busy because of all the sickness.
- Mattie thinks she is feeling better and her lungs seem to be in “pretty good order.”

1880 June 22

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Medicine &amp; Health

- She is writing this letter while A-Saun is dying her hair.
- She went to visit the East Gate school today, and the rivers have been so high that she decided to take a palanquin.
- It is cool in Canton, probably as cool as Ohio. Hattie says that they haven’t had any warm weather yet.
- The Chinese are coming into their hospital in great numbers. Dr. Kerr has a calloused hole in the middle of his hand from holding his utensils so intensely and with such frequency.
- Hattie describes Dr. Kerr as one of the greatest men to ever have lived. Mr. Henry will always feel that he owes him a debt of gratitude for saving his eyesight.

1880 June 26

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building &amp; Development

- Harriet sent with this letter the plan of the new school building. The building committee has allowed the building to be exactly as Hattie planned it. The plan was originally exactly symmetrical, but apparently is still pretty much the same.
- The top floor will be all of the sleeping rooms, and there will always be good air up there. Hattie is pleased that there will be room for their scholars who often are crowded in their homes.
- There will be a chapel in the front left hand side of the building. From the chapel they can travel from their second floor to the second floor of the School Building.
- Hattie feels that a blessing has rested upon the building process from the beginning. The master builder is one of the native Christians from the Wesleyan Church. He has such a pleasant manner, and Hattie did not think such a man could be found in China. Everyone laughs at Harriet for being anxious that the builders won’t make enough out of the job (isn’t getting paid enough). For example Dr. Kerr thinks that his hospital building cost too much. Henry is the one who negotiated the price for this building with the builders, and Hattie says he is exceptionally good at bargaining with the Chinese. The entire mission including Dr. Kerr cannot bargain as well as Henry can.
- They are laying the top bricks as to the building and will begin on the roof on Monday.

1880 June 28

From: Harriet



To: Sarah

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie was awakened by Akwai coming to retrieve letters to take to the office. She had been having a dream where she was back at home.
- Mr. Henry's eyes are starting to get better. He came to the meeting last night, but had to sit in the dining room with a shade over his eyes and no lights. Dr. Kerr says that he has to refrain from reading for two weeks.
- Hattie Kerr is at last doing better, and she has only been here for 22 days. Her parents are tired from taking care of a baby, and they tell Hattie that when they come to visit it rests her.
- Hattie reports that the water is "so high there will be so much suffering among the Chinese."

1880 June 30

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Hattie says they have been trying to get to bed by 8 o'clock in hopes that Mattie would go to sleep. This really hasn't worked however.
- The workmen are now on the third story and will soon reach the roof. Hattie guesses that their friends will be appalled with the size. There is definitely no other school building like it in China. They will have room to house one hundred individuals. They have employed 50 men in building it. Hattie says these workers have had such a pleasant time.
- Mr. Henry is returning from travel in Lin Chan. They are all proud that their mission has planted a station there. The missionary in Lin Chan is a certain Luau Lui who had failed to start a mission in his native village.
- Hattie wishes that they could get missionaries in all of the cities of the province, not just Canton.

1880 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art

- It is Varnum Noyes 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- Hattie says she has talked to people who have visited and they say that father and mother seem healthy, not old.
- After another term of service as a missionary, Harriet wants to return home and see her father still in the same dear old house.
- This summer the school building is growing day by day.
- Harriet writes the characters for the Holy Bible and explains to her Father how to pronounce it. The word in Chinese is Shing Shū (圣书, Shèng shū, lit. "Holy book.").

1880 February 22 & 23

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: American

(Incomplete)

- The 23rd is the day that the boarding school is scheduled to open. Some of the scholars managed to make an appearance.
- They sent word to the girls to not return to school, however they are planning on keeping the Women's department open while the building still is "going on."
- They have been invited to go to Lillie H. Cunningham's house that evening. It is difficult to think about going out, but Hattie says Mr. Cunningham will send his covered boat so that they will avoid the rain. Both the Kerrs and Graves will be there, so they will find themselves in an elderly circle.

1880 July 23

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie says at last they have received the long awaited permission to go on with the school building.
- She hopes to have the building finished by the end of summer vacation.
- The mission is currently renting a building. That building is where Mr. Henry's day school is currently located. Last year it was rented to a Chinese family, and Hattie thought that the mission would never get it. Her reasoning is when the Chinese get settled into a location they never move.
- The new building allows Henry's scholars to be closer to the chapel for morning prayer.
- She promises to enclose a blueprint drawing of the two lots.
- Hattie says when things work out the way they do it is showing that the "Heavenly Father" has given them the seal of his approval.

1880 September 30

From: Harriet

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie is writing because it is Edward's birthday.
- Mattie was ill in bed and Dr. Scott said it was due to nervousness. He says she must go home next spring.

1880 October 9

From: Harriet

To: Mary

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is going to dinner down at Mrs. Parkes, and is writing to Mary in the last few moments before she has to leave.
- Hattie speaks of another time she was to go to dinner and how she was late.
- Mattie is getting back next week. Hattie worries that the watchman will keep her awake at night again, and hopes that the same thing doesn't happen all over again.

1880 November 25

To: Lois Noyes

From: Harriet Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building and Development; Social/Cultural Practices: America; Chinese Politics

- It is Thanksgiving day in the United States, and dedication day for the new building in Canton.
- Former scholars returned for the dedication and seemed very happy with the building.
- The viceroy was also invited, he did not come, but he sent “a Mandarin up to the dedication as a deputy.”
- The workmen have been dragging their feet getting the building cleaned up, and there are still a few things left to be done.
- Dr. Happer came out to see the building, but the light hurt his eyes and he could not stay.

1880 December 23

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- According to Hattie, four years have passed since her last Christmas at home. This year they are to have a pleasant evening with Christmas dinner at half-past Six.
- Harriet is worried because Maddie is still single. Hattie says single ladies have no home in China.
- Hattie says that she is thankful to Ms. Cunningham for looking after all of their missions.
- She mentions a family that the Physician says needs to go home.
- Harriet discusses the cost of the Sehart building at \$ 3,33.0.

1880 December 31

From: Harriet

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- It has been four years since Hattie came back to China.
- Mr. Cyrus Field and his wife came to visit the school this afternoon. Hattie was very honored to have the man responsible for the ocean telegraph at her school. They seemed to be very pleased with its appearance.
- Mr. Wynkoop, a former missionary to India, and his eighty-two year old mother also came. They invited Hattie to visit a very wealthy Chinese family and temple, which Hattie accepted, and had a wonderful time.

1881 January 7

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Mattie was accepted into a hospital at home for treatment. Mrs. Happer wanted Harriet to tell Mattie that she wished she was also entering a hospital, not for treatment, but for meditation.
- Mrs. Happer’s brother who was a superintendent at a mining operation in Ohio was killed by a fire in the middle of the night while in his office. Hattie says the poor man was unprepared because he was dissipated (mentally ill).
- Dear Aunt Fay also recently died.

- Hattie heard from Miss Canter of Mattie's recent visit in New Jersey. Miss Canter speaks of Mattie in highest regards saying that she has never met a missionary so talented, intellectual, and spiritual.

1881 January 11

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Harriet is curious to know whether Mr. Stoddard had reached America in time to send Edward a telegram about the dedication of the school building.
- There are new missionaries living in the mission, Mr. Fulton, who lives with Dr. Kerr, is very nice and friendly. He was given away by the community to Mary Happer. At first he did not seem to take any particular interest in Mary, but overtime she has succeeded in wooing him. Hattie says she is unsure whether they will get married, and only time can tell.
- The other new missionaries Mr. and Mrs. White are extremely conceited and from New York. Their goal is to show the "Old Fossils" the proper way to do things. Mrs. White seems kind and pleasant and says she wants to learn the local language, so that she is not too dependent on the servants. He considers himself as a musician, and expects to take over the music department. Hattie says she will be picking the tunes for Saturday Sabbath however.

1881 January 11

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Medicine & Health

- Hattie was making out her yearly account today, drawing from the mission, she expended \$2400.00 besides the \$3000.00 for the building.
- Hattie is glad to hear that Sarah likes it "more or less" in Columbus.
- Hattie is sorry to hear that Scott has been afflicted with an illness.

1881 January 23

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Harriet thanks Em for copying the letter about their Aunt Fay's last days.
- Kittie Talmage wrote to Hattie to tell her that Mattie was not feeling well— Hattie hopes that the doctors in the hospital are able to figure out what is wrong soon. Apparently the doctors differ very much on what they think is wrong with Mattie.
- Hattie feels bad for Kittie, she had hoped that when she returned home she would be able to find glasses to help her sight, but a doctor told her that the only thing that would help her sight is a risky operation, which she chose not to get.
- They will not be dismissing the boarding school this winter, instead they will be giving the students a few days off from studying.
- Henry will be reading a paper at the next conference.
- Lucy Leaman is expecting to return home in the spring. Hattie is happy for her because she has been ill. They think that her illness was caused by being on a boat all last summer.

1881 March 5

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Today is Harriet's 37th birthday.
- Martha will be leaving soon to return home. She may be going by way of Peking (Beijing); the ship leaves May 14 so she will expectedly return home sometime in June. Mr. and Mrs. Butler from Ningpo (Ningbo) will be going on the same steamer to return home.
- Harriet wishes that Martha would be able to get over this cold. The weather has been gloomy lately and Harriet thinks that some sunny weather would be helpful in this.
- They have heard of the death of a missionary in North China, Mr. McIlrairie (?). He was a very devoted missionary, and used the \$5,000 his father left him upon his death to build a chapel and a hospital and gave it to the mission. There is also a rumor that one of the missionaries in Ching Mai has drowned.

1881 March 5

From: Harriet

To: Emma Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Missionary Politics

- Today is Hattie's birthday. Mattie gave her a beautiful lacquered box. She also got a collection of different kinds of wool from Mrs. Parkes. Hattie is thirty-seven today.
- Hattie has been thinking quite a bit about the new president from Ohio, Mr. Garfield. She hopes that Mrs. Garfield will continue the temperance policies of the previous first lady.
- Hattie thinks they have a very nice set of twenty-nine scholars so far. Tomorrow is their communion and Hattie is unsure how many people will visit.
- Hattie says that Mr. & Mrs. White were thinking of moving into their home. Hattie is repulsed by this idea and says this is to be a "home for the single". The mission has asked for two single ladies to be sent out next autumn.
- The mission is also looking for two missionaries and a physician to go commence work in the next province over.

1881 March 21

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie is talking about photographs and the photographs for the new school building. She says that photographs are extremely expensive.
- She says the weather has been horrible and they are saving some money for repairs to the school. Yet is a well-built building, more prepared than the one they live in.

1881 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Emma

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art

- A small card with a small colored illustration of a bouquet in the top right corner. Maybe a card that would accompany a gift or some flowers.
- “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

1881 May 6

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics

- Hattie met a man on the steamer back from Hong Kong, and ended up having tea with him at Mr. Henry's. He told his life story, and about how his wife died fifteen years ago. Hattie appreciates that he has not forgotten her, and that he will probably not remarry.
- The schoolboys are thoroughly frightened about their war.

1881 May 12

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; Medicine & Health

- “[Dr. Ellinwood] has written you a nice letter. It is very pleasant to have the Board so cordial about letting you come home. If you see Dr. Ellinwood I hope you will enjoy meeting him. He is really good and kind and I always feel sorry that he got into such a bad mess with us, not exactly his fault either, though he was by no means blameless. But we all have our faults and I am sure he is sorry that it all was as it was.”
- Hattie is anxious to hear from Martha in Japan.
- Harriet heard word that last night the *Peking* was full and that Dr. Bloodgett and his family were unable to board to return home. They may return by way of Europe. Harriet does not understand why there are so many people traveling across the Pacific right now.
- Mr. Parks is laid up with rheumatism, while Miss Stein is suffering from a stiff neck and neuralgia.

1881 May 13

From: Harriet

To: Emma

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie left Hong Kong by the morning steamer today.
- Em turns thirty six today. Hattie speculates that if they are to ever see each other again they will be both over forty.
- “I shall never be fair, fat, and forty. I have a good prospect, however, of being fat and forty.”
- Hattie hears from Mattie that Emma is gaining the talent of training young men.

1881 May 14

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- It has been five years today since they reached New York on their journey home (1876), and three days afterwards they were at home. Hattie hopes that in five years she will be back in the “dear old home on the hill.”
- Hattie received the hats that Clara sent, she thinks they’re very becoming.
- Mrs. Kerr held their first sale to help support one of the girls at the school for a year.
- Dr. Gükay (?) had a revelation that he ought not to eat. Dr. Kerr was able to go to him last night and persuade him to have something to eat. Hattie supposes that he won’t want to go home, and that they won’t know what to do with him.

1881 May 14

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- The organ keys are sticking, and the organ is practically unusable because of this, all due to the humidity, rendering Hattie unable to use the new music books that Edward sent her.
- Hattie was glad to hear from Mrs. Fulton that the colts were doing well.
- Hattie was also glad to hear from Mrs. Kerr that both her and Father were doing quite well.
- Mr. Crane in Chicago sent Hattie a book by Mrs. Kerr, along with several hundred dollars for mission work.

1881 May 21 & 28

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie is unsure how they will be able to fit all of the hospital patients into the chapel during the service. They are waiting on the decision of the board back home to see if they will have a new hospital chapel or chapel in general.
- Ms. Foster has gone back to Hong Kong. She wanted to stay, but had made a promise to go back and address soldiers. She is also going to Australia to visit two of her brothers, one of whom she has never met before. He had left England before she was born, and has a family of twelve. Ms. Foster had such a fancy for Henry, because she has been able to “empathize” with him through his many trials. Ms. Foster was raised by a single mother with two brothers. Her mother remarried a man who was a horrible husband and who drove away all of her children.
- Ms. Foster has been in China for 5 months but is forbidden from writing letters to her mother. Any letters that do come to her from her children he throws in the fire.

1881 June 4

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie says it is strange that Mattie will be home and will be with Clara to read the letters that Hattie is sending home.
- Hattie hopes that Mattie imparts to their younger siblings the desire to teach school.

- Hattie affirms that it is nice to be in China and to witness all of their work progressing at such a stable rate.
- Hattie tells Clara to tell everyone in Seville that she would gladly write more letters if she had the time.

1881 June 12

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing to Mattie to wish her a happy birthday.
- The Conference met this evening at Mrs. Henry's. About forty people were present, however Mrs. Parks was not able to attend because of an attack of rheumatism, which she has been suffering from for three weeks, but is starting to feel a little bit better.
- Dr. Carror (?) was just appointed as a Consul.
- Hattie enclosed a picture of Mak Shui's (?) wife (not present in the envelope).

1881 June 17

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Today is the anniversary of their wedding so Harriet is writing to them.
- Hattie hopes that Mattie is nearing home.
- Hattie is planning to go visit Lillie tomorrow—she will be taking a sedan chair, "...so I shall go in style."

1881 June 21st

From: Harriet

To: Ours at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie is writing to everyone at home because she is thinking of all of them and hoping they are all happy.
- Mattie has just left Chicago and is returning to "here" on Tuesday.
- Hattie hopes that Sarah is home from Columbus.
- Hattie appreciates that her church writes to her faithfully. She is glad that Emma will be at home this year. She also says Clara will be quite busy with all of her music scholars. She is also glad that father and mother are doing better in the warmer weather.
- Mrs. Lean (?) was very distressed to see all of the cattle that had died and were laying in the fields there in China.
- The next steamer arriving is the same one that Mattie left Hong Kong in.
- Learned that there is a Mrs. Johnson from Cleveland coming to China.

1881 June 27

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China



Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel

- Hattie plans to clean the boarding school a week from tomorrow.
- Hattie misses the quiet of home.
- Hattie is excited for Mattie's impression of everyone at home after eight years of being abroad.
- Remembers the view of the hills from her seat in the choir at home, and laments that she enjoyed those views more than the sermons themselves.

1881 June 27

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie hopes that Sarah is at home resting after her year's work. She really wishes that they all could be together, but speculates that it will only happen in death.

1881 July 16

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- There was a mission letter. The mission in Ningpo asked that their salaries be paid in gold, and the mission decided that all missionaries in China shall be paid in gold, resulting in a raise of about 10%.
- The English Consul gave Mr. Selly a passport, so Hattie expects him to return home soon.
- Dr. Ellinwood has written to his pastor to see if his sister can be appointed a missionary. Hattie thinks this would be nice because he is insufferable.

1881 July 20 & 22

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie received the shawls Mattie sent.
- "“Dr. O'Brien for service rendered to the Roman Catholic Mission in Hong Kong has been appointed by the Pope a knight of the Order of Sr. Gregory the Great of the Civil class with special privileges.”" —an item in the China mail that Hattie thought would interest Mattie.
- Mr. Parks is laid up again with rheumatism. He is trying homeopathic remedies, under the charge of Drs. White and Happer.
- Mrs. White put herself under the care of Dr. Kerr until he learned that she was trying to see what was wrong with herself and treat herself from that.
- Mrs. Kerr is also quite unwell, and is in constant pain all over her body. A Yan has been massaging her for an hour every morning to help with the pain.
- Johnson (?) Happer is looking forward to seeing Mattie at the Wooster Commencement.

1881 July 27

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- It's been three months since Mattie went away. Hattie is waiting for the mail that will tell her that Mattie reached home safely.
- Hattie is describing A-u who has become a very honest Christian. Her husband moved to San Ui to open a medicine shop. However, she has stayed in Canton for an additional term. She has read through the testaments thoroughly. Hattie says she has obtained the knowledge that will bring her into salvation.
- A-u has been volunteering at the hospital because she wants to make a difference. She would like to come back from San Ui and study medicine. Hattie thinks she must desire to be free from her husband who will most likely not let her go.
- Su Lui died the day before yesterday and suffered a great deal those last few days. She realized she was close to death and therefore was anxious. However, Hattie says she was given a room and a maid to take care of her at Dr. Happer's school building.

1881 July 28

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics

- "We feel very anxious to get some news about the President, there have been no telegrams since the 5th of July but I suppose in this case no news is good news. If he is worse it would certainly be telegraphed. What a dreadful thing it was. One of the Chinese told Henry that he heard through a Chinese paper printed in Hong Kong that the President is much worse and that there is only one chance in ten that Mrs. Garfield will recover. She was so ill I should think it must have been a dreadful shock. Did it come a great excitement all through the country?"

1881 July 28

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Harriet says that someone new is coming to live with her. Her name is E. M. Butler. Hattie is discussing the gossip she has received from all of her friends about this new missionary. Implies that she is unique because she comes from Newark, NJ. Hattie entrusts Mattie with meeting her and giving her information. Hattie is worried about room with this new person because Sophie Preston is still harboring the desire to return.
- Mrs. Kerr is very sick, now in constant pain. A new doctor may be coming named Dr. Shetland? However, Hattie's concern is that they can keep him and his sister together.
- Hattie is describing one of her friends down in Bangkok, who single handedly runs a mission there. His wife is in the United States and can't return because of the terrible cholera that is in Bangkok.
- They have not as of yet found a lady doctor for them, but Harriet is hopeful they will soon.

1881 August 29

From: Hattie

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Medicine & Health; Social Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is very grateful for the drawing of the church that Emma sent. She was especially pleased with the beautiful tribute to their father and the remembrance of China Missionaries.
- Mrs. Kerr was also very pleased, however she is now ill with a fever, but getting better.
- Mr. Eichler is planning to be married.

1881 August 29

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Harriet describes how Mattie reached home in time for the Anniversary.
- She is surprised that it is more than 5 years since she and Henry have reached home.
- Hattie mourns the death of Mr. Hamsher, a family friend. However, she is glad that he was buried in their cemetery in Seville, OH. Hattie wants to ensure that she will be buried there.
- Hattie is reading *The Approaching End of the Age* by a certain A Grattan? According to the calculations of their English minister, the apocalypse will come approximately forty years hence. There have been two clear signs that the end of the world is coming. 1) Everyone has been running around. 2) Universal skepticism of the Second Coming and that the country where the Son of Man is born should be clouded in ignorance. It doesn't seem that Hattie is buying into it because she states that it is unlikely that after 6000 thousand years of existence the earth is going to change in the next century.
- Harriet wishes her father congratulations on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their church at home. The congregation gave Varnum a sofa.
- The missionaries will be receiving a new doctor who is married. This doctor in accordance with Mrs. Doctor is campaigning for funds to build a chapel to the second and third Church.

1881 August 30

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Harriet is sorry to hear about Lois's illness.
- Harriet tells of Mr. Sturge's wedding to Annie Turner (?) from Philadelphia. Mr. Sturge is a missionary in Siam. The wedding was held at Harriet's home.

1881 August 30

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Building & Development

- Hattie is speaking about their old horse back home named "Ned". She says that "Ned" probably fears being sold to a large company perpetually (glue factory?).
- Hattie is recounting a time in childhood where her sisters and her painted the old house. Hattie wishes she could get the nice paint and brushes that they have from home and teach the painters here (who are horrible) how to paint the schoolhouse. Dr. Kerr is having the same difficulty with his painters for the new hospital ward.

1881 September 30

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; American Politics

- Hattie explains that she is actually writing this letter on October 1st and that she is not in Canton but several days' journey up the North River. However, given the time difference it is still the 30th of September in Ohio, hence her labeling of the letter. Therefore, she is just in time to present birthday salutations.
- They have four boats in their caravan. Mrs. Kerr, Mr. Henry, the new missionary Mr. White, Mr. Fullin, Miss Whilden and Mrs. Happer are also on the trip. Her boat is apparently the best, in accordance with how their mission treats its single ladies. Their boat has a sitting room, a dining room, and a bedroom.
- The night before Hattie left on Sept. 26th she stayed up all night and listened to a telegram saying where President Garfield was to be buried. To her it was as if a death had occurred in the family. They draped the room in black and had a memorial service.
- Hattie says that Mrs. Kerr felt sorry afterwards that she had spoken as she did about the meeting. It seems her quom was with them having discussed politics and in particular the positive relation between US missionaries and other nations.
- The Queen and her court (Empress of China) have put on mourning for President Garfield.

1881 October 4

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: North River (北江, Northwest of Guangzhou)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is a long way from Canton, enjoying herself camping and her surroundings. The water is clear around them and the bottom of the river is sandy.
- Mrs. Whilder is hoping to go home next year, and Mrs. White is going to talk to Dr. Happer about going too. Mrs. Happer also wants to go, but probably will not without Dr. Happer.
- Hattie, Mrs. Whilder, and Mrs. Happer all had the men leave so they could swim in the river. Mr. White appeared and gave Hattie a lesson in swimming. She hopes father would not be disappointed because she was so near Mr. White, but says that her bathing suit is as proper as possible.
- Hattie wishes there was such a nice and safe place like this near home, but since there is not she will just paddle about "in a respectable, ladylike way."

1881 October 4

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: North River

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Culture, Language, and Art

- It has been a week since they left Canton. They expect to reach the mouth of the Lin Chan River soon.
- Harriet describes their Sabbath at Fen'Lan'Feng. She says that she is sure Matty can describe how charming of a place it is.

- Harriet along with Mrs. Happer and one other hiked to a waterfall early in the morning. From there they watched the sunrise.
- Instead of having the service in one of the boats they hiked up to a nice grassy area and stone steps and performed the Sabbath there. A group of “natives” sat at the bottom of the stairs and looked on with curiosity. Sat in the cool grass by a spring until dinner.
- They were by a monastery that opened the doors for them to pass peacefully through.

1881 October 27

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- Harriet has arrived safely back in Canton after their trip to Lin Chan.
- Harriet describes the trip as being healthy for them all. Mrs. Happer gained five pounds and Hattie thinks they all did equally as well.
- Hattie describes how they had their boats anchored next to each other at night so they could slip from one to the next as if from room to room.
- The new missionaries were equally pleased with Lin Chan (Lin Zhan, Hunan?). They agree with Hattie that it would be the perfect place for a mission.
- A certain Mrs. Mateer wrote to Mattie asking whether Dr. Kerr is likely to go home in the future. They want to stay in Canton on their way to Voper? However, the Board has told them to go straight to their mission.
- Henry has been away on a mission for two weeks. Hattie expects him to be away for another two weeks.
- They were told that their new missionaries set sail on October 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a lot of them and the majority are medical missionaries and their wives. Hattie is glad that at least one of the new missionaries will be going to Nanking where her friend Lucy is located.
- Hattie says it is fourteen years to the day that she spent her last Sabbath at home.
- The summer and weather has been unusually cool.

1881 December 13

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Dr. Kerr is coming tonight to take them to the Shanghai steamer to say goodbye to Dr. Stubbart (?) who is going to Nanking. Mr. Leaman is anxious for him to go to Nanjing because they are still in Shanghai and are anxious to “get away as soon as possible her health is always so miserable...”

1881 December 14

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Mattie and Lucy gave Ms. Butler their Chinaware when they left China.
- Ms. Butler stayed with Sophie and Laura when she was in Oakland, California. Sophie has her heart set on returning to China.

- Hattie says she doesn't yet know whether Ms. Butler will desert her for Mr. Fulton or not. Hattie doesn't understand how Ms. Butler can fancy that man.
- Mr. and Mrs. White have a little daughter named "Lillian Emily".

1881 December 31

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China'

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet is wishing her father a Happy New Year.
- She describes the newly ordained man (Mr. Henry) in their 2<sup>nd</sup> church, whose wife is one of the teachers in the school.

[1881?]

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development; Medicine & Health

- Wants to tell Mattie about communion on the last Sabbath. There were 11 people total, five from the church and the rest from the capital.
- She mentions Lucy's protégé Yan Ai, who has been wishing to apply (to receive communion?) several times, but Hattie dissuaded her again. Another person who did so this time was the girl's mother, who came out from the country some months ago, and has been at the school since.
- The mother is now employed in the school to wash the floors and keep it tidy. Hattie hopes that they both do well.
- Two other little girls, A Peng (?) and A Wei (?), sisters, were received in communion. Their father is a Christian.
- The other woman at the church is named Sheng-ee (?).
- Dr. Williams sent \$1200.00 to which he wants divided for building. A portion will go towards building a ward in the hospital in memory of Mr. Prestin. Dr. Kerr (?) wrote to ask him if they could use some in rebuilding and salvaging the chapel, and he replied that he would be more than happy to do so.
- Hattie has what she hopes is a splendid plan for it.
- They are also excited over some arrangements for a few of the boarding scholars to be taken to the boys school, four of the women in the school and two of the medical students have boys that must be looked after. Miss Butler taught a school of sixty boys in Newark and she would like to take charge of this. Hattie thinks she would make a good helper in any branch of the work, but she has always liked medicine, and it is perhaps best for her to do that.
- Hattie supposes that Mattie has heard of the death of Mrs. Capp. (?), but is glad to hear that she died happily.

1882 January 11

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is sending letters to Rio de Janeiro for some reason.

- Hattie framed the photograph of the president that Clara sent. Across the bottom of the frame she put the lines from the Cleveland paper and a piece of black ribbon.
- Hattie describes the president as a grand man that will be cherished for a long time. Hattie is proud to be from the state of Ohio that gave Garfield to the nation.
- They just had two Methodist preachers from Ohio visit Canton. They have been living in Nevada. They were surprised to see the missionaries living in such comfort and style, since it is very different from their rough western lifestyle.
- The mission is getting a new book from Sabbath evening services, so Hattie will no longer be responsible for picking tunes. This will be better because the services at Dr. Kerr's represent such a diversity of churches from various nations.

1882 March 3

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- In the last few days they have had a lot of missionaries leaving for Shanghai, England, and America.
- They are all so anxious that Ms. Whilden goes home by this next steamer, but she refuses to. There is an annual Baptist Convention on the 9th of May that she will try to make it to. However she won't leave until May 1st, which will not be enough time to take the journey leisurely.
- Mrs. Butler is going to study medicine. She has already started practice with Dr. Kerr. Hattie is certain that someone will come and fill her post. Hattie says she hopes there will be a good class of ladies studying medicine soon.
- Akwai, who was a student when the women's school was in Mr. Henry's day school building, is also going to study medicine. Another woman from nearby, Yan Ning, has also started studying.

1882 [March 13?]

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development

- Hattie went out to visit a village for Miss Butler's birthday. Henry held a Communion service there at the mission they had previously established.
- Harriet expects to go and routinely check on the boys and girls school about once a month, since it is only 10 miles away.
- The mission has succeeded in renting a place in Lin Chan as an offshoot of the one in Canton.

1882 April 11

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Hattie is sending Mattie a few lines that she wrote, along with a ring, with Mrs. Coffman who is returning to the US. This will be the first time that Mrs. Coffman, Mattie, and Lucy Leaman will be in the states at the same time in many years.
- Hattie hopes that everyone at home is pleased with Mrs. Butler studying medicine.
- There are two new medical students at the school this year, and both are young women.

- Hattie has a school in a village north of White Land, but expects to only visit once a month. It is a considerable distance away from them, and she will have to pay \$1.50 to get a sedan chair to take her there.

1882 April 11

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- The mail has been irregular lately because the *Peking*, which brings the regular mail, is laid up for repairs.
- The *Arabic* will likely take this letter, and Hattie says that its matching steamer, the *Coptic* will likely be coming soon as well.
- Henry wrote a letter to be published about the Third Church that was incorrectly credited to Mr. Henry.
- They have had two ladies visiting with them for the past two weeks. One of them is Miss Coffman from Siam who is on her way home.

1882 April 13

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- They had a one day visit from missionaries Joseph Bark and his wife from Boston. Mr. Bark has been stationed in India. They held a reception in the evening for them with all of the missionaries present. He agreed with some reluctance to give a lecture the following day.
- Hattie thinks he is a great man. She describes him as attractive and knows a great deal or at least gives the impression that he does. Also he is strictly Orthodox.
- Henry was their guide to Canton when they visited.

1882 April 22

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Mr. Princy left for home yesterday. A telegram from the board is what summoned him home. He has worked for over 30 years as a missionary in China, and Hattie thinks that whatever he has done should not negate the fact that he has been a hard-working, earnest missionary.
- Mr. Selly was also summoned home by another telegram, however Hattie does not think he will go.
- "I suppose things have gone to such a length that the Board feels that there must be an investigation." Hattie thinks, "It does seem strange how matters are managed by these 'boards.'" She recalls another missionary who was dismissed, Mr. Faber.
- Mr. Princy's absence leaves Dr. Wengam alone at Fatshan (Foshan, Guangdong?).
- After seeing Mr. Princy off, Mrs. Henry suggested to Mrs. Simmons that Mr. Simmons return home to get a revolver and shoot the rest of the Wesleyan missionaries.
- Dr. Carrow is also returning home. He sold his practice to Dr. Wales from Ireland.



1882 April 27

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- The tree that Mr. Henry gave Mattie on her birthday has put out branches this year. Mattie's Calla tree has done fantastic, but sadly the Formosa fern that Mr. Cunningham gave them has died.
- Mr. Faber has taken the position of head gardener at Dr. Kerr's and has a beautiful variety of flowers.
- Mrs. Graves got the lot between her house and Mr. Swimman so that they can build a nice yard.
- The Swimman family, the Happer family, and Henry and his family are leaving tomorrow to go to Su Ui the place where almost all the workmen who built the new schoolhouse come from.
- Mr. and Mrs. Turd are going home, and Hattie was hoping to steal Mrs. Turd's saddle. If she had a saddle she could ride a horse to the village instead of hiring a chair. It would be far cheaper. However, the Chinese would have a "great excitement" about someone riding a horse through the streets, so Hattie doesn't actually think it would be all that pleasant.

1882 April 29

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie was very happy to get her package of birthday letters.
- Hattie feels sorry for Miss Butler because she does not get many letters from home because of her father's rheumatism in his arms.
- Hattie wonders how Miss Fulton is doing with her studies of medicine. Mr. Fulton is alone up in Lin Chan, and Hattie hopes that his sister will come out and take care of him "for like most men he needs someone and I am afraid he will not get a wife very soon."
- Miss Butler has taken charge of the boys' day school.

1882 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Em Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- It is Em's 36th birthday.
- Hattie wrote Em a small sermon.
- Hattie spent her afternoon at her school in Ho Nan across the river. Hattie says that if any people from Cleveland write to them asking about their school, they can tell them that it is doing first rate this year, and is one of Hattie's largest schools.
- Hattie spent some time talking about her trusty watch and a new dress that she is having made.

1882 May 6

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is responding to the birthday letter that Edward sent which she received in the last mail. She is now 38 years old.
- There is a new steamer delivering mail, the Copley, coming from England.
- Hattie says that the mission was exceedingly fortunate in Edward's recruits.

1882 May 8

From: Hattie Noyes

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Mr. Marris has been ill for quite some time now, and has not been recovering quickly. He will be going to Japan as soon as he can.
- Mr. Pearce has spent a good deal of time at Fatshan with Miss Gittins (?). They are to be wed in the next few weeks, and will go to Hong Kong for their wedding.
- Dr. Carror (?) was supposed to return home this month, however the board suggested that he go to Panama instead. He has to stay at the consulate until he gets a substitute, possibly Mr. Nye.
- Dr. Williams is going to give \$1300 to the medical society— \$1000 of his own and is asking for \$300 from the board (?). Hattie hopes that this will allow them to have a chapel large enough for all.

1882 May 18

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Harriet is teasing her Father since his Birthday is approaching.
- She describes a faithful servant (cook) from Africa. Hattie has the perception that he is pure, and wants him to convert to Christianity. She says that he used to attend the services. However, he hasn't been since the old school building burned down. Hattie thinks he dislikes a fuss and thinks his relatives would be alarmed if he did convert. Finally she asks her Father to pray for the possibility of him becoming a Christian.
- Their chapel is crowded with room to seat only 200 comfortably. There isn't enough room for the hospital patients as well; they hope to have the new chapel before the end of the year.
- Hattie makes a snide remark that the builder has begged her to take over the project of building the new chapel. She says she could easily do it as cheaply as they would.

1882 May 19

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- There is a host of individuals who miss Mattie and asks Hattie to send her love. One of them is A Yan. Hattie is going to visit A Yan's school that afternoon.
- This rainy season has been particularly nice because there haven't been any of those misty days which often last for weeks. When it has rained it has been good "hard" showers.

- Dr. and Mrs. Graves are in town. Hattie and Mrs. Graves stayed up until four o'clock in the morning talking. Dr. Graves said that the Noyes family is the ideal of what a Minister's family should be.
- Mrs. Graves seems very attached to Em specifically. Hattie is worried that strangers will fail to see how pure and good Em is.
- Hattie is gossiping about a certain Mrs. Stein, whom she says has limited intellect. Apparently, it would kill Miss Whilden if she had to live with Miss Stein alone. If Mr. Fulton would take a fancy to Mrs. Stein, Hattie is sure that they would try to give her to Hatties mission, but Mr. Fulton has good sense in choosing a wife.
- Mr. Pearce and Ms. Yitters are to be married, and then they will be obliged to leave China. Hattie is worried that Mr. Pearce will not survive the voyage. He wanted to get off early in order to avoid the heat of the Red Sea.
- Mr. Bune says he feels like committing suicide since he is so alone down in Tsang Sha (Changsha, Hunan?).

1882 May 21

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Hattie is writing to Clara for her birthday, which is today.
- The mission will be getting new hymnals next Sunday.
- The service this morning in the Hospital Chapel was so crowded that some women had to sit in the operating room, and one older woman sat on the edge of the pulpit.
- Dr. Kerr expects that construction on the new chapel will begin in September.

1882 May 22

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- They are getting a new counsel around the time the next steamer comes with the mail.
- The boys of the neighborhood set out to make as much of a disturbance as possible every time Hattie visited the boys school, and unlike they normally do, the boys got worse and worse. They pounded on the door and yelled and threw little stones and mud, and shouted "foreign devil woman" ("foreign devil" was a common insult at the time in China, used on people who embraced western ideas, culture, clothing, etc., or westerners themselves). She wrote a note to the counsel about it.
- It has been sixteen years since Henry and Cynthia reached China.
- Hattie hopes that Mattie will be cured and out of the hospital by the time this letter reaches home.
- A Yan (?) is a good little scholar, but had a sort of spasm last Sabbath. When Hattie was notified, A Yan's feet and hands were stiff and out of shape, however she was coming out of it and could talk. Hattie had someone fetch her water and gave A Yan some medicine.

1882 May 23

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster

- The weather has been relatively cool so far this year, without any hot days, and it is already almost the end of May.
- The Wesleyan mission in Canton is doing very poorly. There are only two missionaries left. Hattie says they treated their single lady missionaries very badly. They are thinking of calling Mr. Whitehead back to overlook things because he is an experienced missionary.
- Mr. Pearce of the London mission is to be wed tomorrow in Hong Kong. They will go to Macau for a few days afterwards.
- Mrs. Kerr received a letter from Jesie (?) saying that he wants to reform his ways. She wants him to return to Wooster.

1882 June 2

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- It is Sara's birthday, she is 32. Hattie then recalls her return home in 1876.
- The Conference is happening next Wednesday at Mr. White's.

1882 June 9

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie describes how utterly warm it has been lately, especially on her walk out to the country recently. However, after a rain, it cooled down quite nicely.
- The countryside is quite beautiful at this time of year—all of the rice paddies are green.
- Hattie does not go out much to this school, only about once a month, mostly because the sedan chair ride is so expensive, about \$1.30.
- All of the schools that Hattie has to visit are rather far away, and Miss Butler and Mr. Henry say that Hattie should not be walking such a distance (five or six miles each way).
- Hattie got a sunburn from being out in the sun so long, and tells Mattie that she keeps getting darker and darker. She says she has gone beyond the possibility of looking pale, and hopes no one says she looks like a “colored missionar[y]” when she returns home.

1882 June 17

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Hattie was just thinking how it is the forty-ninth anniversary of her parents' marriage.
- Miss Jackson and Henry King are to be married next week.
- Hattie examined three little girls and had a talk with two or three other women about baptism.
- Hattie mostly talks of how her day went.

1882 July 8

From: Hattie

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Miss Butler went to visit Lillie Cunningham this afternoon.
- They have cucumbers and onions often, and for about the last month they have been having very nice peaches. Hattie says they have no lack of nice fruit in Canton year round.
- Hattie has been rather anxious over one of the girls from the school, Ki Fa. She is the girl who has hemorrhaged once or twice from her lungs. She is now having trouble with her eyes, and Dr. Kerr worries that she will lose sight in both of them. She had some leeches put on at the hospital the other day, and Dr. Kerr called out one of the “doctresses” to do it again. A small group of the medical students came to watch. The woman had a bit of trouble attaching the leeches, and they had a hard time determining what end was the tail and what end was the head. They finally were able to figure it out, and afterwards the woman flung them off of Ki Fa’s face, and Hattie and the others had to scramble to get the leeches back in the jar.

1882 July 24

From: Harriet

To: Clara

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Mrs. Dane from back home has passed.
- Last night one of Mrs. Henry’s servants died, a young boy only seventeen years old. He had been a scholar at the school. He had only been sick a few days. His name was Chin Tat (?).
- “They” sent a magic lantern for the school (Mr. and Mrs. Henry?).
- Hattie recounts the school’s opening on 16 June 1872.

1882 July 27

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- They went to the village north of the city today where they have schools. They’re hoping they will soon have enough converts to form a church there; there are currently nine.
- Mr. Henry is going to take a long trip to the island of Hainan off the coast of China. He proposes that he will walk the entire coast, over 600 miles, during this period. He will be there to help Mr. Jeremiassen who is working there alone. Henry wrote to the board in the last report to send out another missionary to help with Mr. Jeremiassen, who intends to work in connection with the Canton mission.

1882 July 27

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; American Politics; Building & Development

- Hattie said she will be closing the boarding school on August 16th. She originally thought this would be the tenth anniversary of the opening of the school, but she found out that the school was opened on the 16th of June, 1872.
- Hattie says the second building built after the first burnt down was opened in August of 1875. Hattie is also satisfied with the school’s record in its first decade of history.

- They have received news of the death of several acquaintances.
- One of the people that died, Mrs. E.D., Brigger, left \$1,000 each to Mandana (?), etc. Hattie says that one of her brothers asked that the Canton mission relinquish their claim in this to avoid litigation as they claim “she did not have much due her in Ohio (?) and that it is doubtful she was in a proper state of mind when allocating this money. Hattie says in response to this: “Does it not seem too bad that so often if anyone wishes to leave anything to missions the relatives are ready to do anything to prove that they were not competent to decide for themselves. For some years she has sent small sums of money occasionally to us.”

1882 August 10

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Mr. Culville who is the preacher in the Union Church has gone to Japan for nine weeks. His pulpit will be covered by Mr. Masters, Mr. Henry, and Henry Noyes, each for three weeks.
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry were very insistent that Hattie go with them to Japan. Hattie is flattered, but since they will be visiting people, she doesn't want to impose.
- Says Mrs. Butler and her are the same in wanting to stay at home all the time and in all circumstances.
- Little Hattie Kerr always berates Mrs. Butler to play croquet, and Mr. White comes down in the evening to play croquet. Hattie and Mrs. Butler always receive an offer and therefore are forced out.
- Received a letter in the mail that contained \$ 23.00 but not for the Canton mission instead for the ladies at Cheing Mai (Chiang Mai, Thailand?).
- Miss Butler's ladies gave her fifty dollars for her medical books. They are pleased she is studying medicine.

1882 August 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- The new budget number arrived and seemed dismaying to Hattie. She says that they were obliged to grant much less than was asked for. They received no funding for the chapel at the school, or for Henry's chapel in the city.
- She is discussing the budget allocations for Henry's building projects (needs a new chapel he says). Also discussing the budget for the 2<sup>nd</sup> church. Hoping that they will be able to raise money in Hong Kong?
- When discussing plans for this new chapel, Hattie says it will be much higher and larger than Dr. Happer's chapel.
- Hattie says that a Hong Kong architect has drawn up some plans for the new chapel, but Hattie does not fancy them at all she says. He has made them like all of their dwelling homes with a verandah. She wants it to look like a church. Besides says it will cost \$6000, and she thinks she can get it cheaper.
- Hattie has drawn a plan hastily which Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Butler and herself like much more.

- Hattie is describing the weather as very hot. However, she says that it feels hotter than 94 degrees. When the thermometer is reading 99 at home it feels cooler than it does in Canton. What she is describing is humidity without realizing it?
- Planning on having an examination at the end of the school year. Inviting the brethren? to be here.

1882 August 21

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Building & Development; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art

- Hattie is responding to the letter her father wrote her on his birthday.
- Many of the missionaries are currently in Hong Kong, since school closed the day Hattie received the letter from her father.
- Hattie discusses the secret engagement with Dr. Shubert, and is amazed that the Happers have kept it for so long.
- The Board did not grant \$300.00 for the new chapel. Hattie says that no matter what they will find the funds for the new chapel, and that they shouldn't begin building until next spring anyway.
- Henry is planning to return home a year from next January via Europe.
- Dr. Kerr is also planning on returning home for a visit in two years.
- Last week Dr. Kerr had a few "dreadful" operations this past week, and he did not expect many of the patients to recover, however Hattie reports that they are getting along just fine. He was very worried that these patients would die under his care.
- Apparently Dr. Kerr has a spot on his right hand as hard as bone from being so calloused from his chisel that he used to chisel bone.
- The first operation was to take a dreadful tumor off of a woman's face that was as large as her head. The next was to take out half of a man's jaw, and the last was to take a piece of a man's thigh out. Miss Butler was present to observe the first surgery, and Hattie says that her good nerves will help make her a good doctor.
- "The Chinese language really has music in it if it is brought out," in reference to the students chanting of the 14th chapter of John during the closing exercises of the school. She continues, "it does not seem as though it could have sounded so beautifully in English."

1882 August 31

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Dr. Shetbert (?) is in Canton from Nanking (Nanjing) for a few weeks. He will not marry Mary at the present. Dr. Happer is keeping it from happening because of Dr. Shetbert's delicate health and due to the fact that he was engaged to Miss Mateer.

1882 September 11

From: Harriet

To: Mother

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is 96° in Canton today.
- Miss Butler has been afflicted with a rash recently, and has been avoiding company because she is worried what people will think, and is also worried that they will worry that they have been exposed to it. Hattie thinks she got it from Mr. Henry, who had a light case of it earlier.
- A Yan has died. She went to Dr. Thomson last week with a fever, and then went home to her village east of Canton. It is a long walk, and since it has been so hot, Hattie says it is no wonder that she did not get well, dying a few days after her return home. A Yan left behind two daughters and an adopted daughter.
- Hattie and Miss Butler attended the funeral in her village. “It was such a forlorn sight a little bit of a room with a round floor not much larger than the little chamber a pile of straw in one corner and the coffin on a few straws (?) on the floor was everything there was in the room. We sat down on some benches outside and with one of the elders the one armed man had a little service and then the coffin was taken to one cemetery. Her two little girls and an adopted daughter there just about of a daze (?) and with white sack cloth sack (?) in shams over their clothes and a piece of sack cloth over their heads! Looked too forlorn for anything. These little things followed the coffin all the way to the cemetery lamenting all the way as is custom.”
- Once they arrived at the cemetery it began to downpour.
- Hattie hears that A Yan’s father is an opium smoker and is “very worthless.” Hattie hopes A Yan’s parents will be able to take care of the little girls until school starts back up.

1882 September 12

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art

- Harriet is telling her father how disappointed she is that there were no letters in the mail for her. She doesn’t know what the issue could be, since she has never had any trouble getting her mail before once the American delivery arrived in Canton. Is reassuring herself that the letters were actually written, the failure seems to be on this side of Seville.
- Hattie wrote an article for the journal Women’s Work.
- An interesting story: A young man was just received into Mr. Graves church. When he was examined they found that no one in his family had worshiped idols for many years. Twenty years ago his grandmother had come to the same hospital and heard about Christianity. After she went home her family gave up the worship of idols and glorified the “true God” in the best way they know how.
- Harriet says there are many instances in Canton since the bible had been taught for so long. These people just need the Spirit’s influence to bear fruit to eternal life.
- Next Sabbath is going to be their Communion session in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Church. There will be a number of applicants for admission.

1882 November 7

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Saturday night 22 Presbyterians were over, last night was the monthly concert and today the school is opening and scholars are returning. Harriet hopes that the scholars will be prompt in returning as they are sometimes not quick in returning.



- Harriet sent off the missionaries from Siam this morning.
- Miss Miles is home with Henry and Harriet now.
- “Tell Mattie after a great deal of thought Miss Butler concluded to take her turn(?) so Miss Miles has the one we used to have for a great sum.”
- There was a large fire in the city today, but they are far enough away that there was no damage.
- Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Happer, and Dr. Thurson are sick from the trip they took recently. Dr. Kerr was worried about Dr. Thurson, but he is getting better now. Harriet was at first disappointed, but she has realized that not everything comes before mission work.
- Dr. and Mrs. Thurson’s son George Dorian (?) takes up all of her time. Harriet laments, “I never heard of any mother acting so silly about a child as she does.”

1882 November 20

From: Harriet

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Edward was in a dreadful accident. It has rendered him unable to walk due to some kind of injury in one of his legs. It happened two months prior but Hattie is just hearing of it now.

1882 November 20

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie just heard of the bad news at home, but hopes that Edward has nearly recovered since.
- Hattie spent some time with Mrs. Kerr. She got a letter from Josie and he seems to be doing better. He sent a photograph.
- Hattie says that Mrs. Happer has had a fever since returning from the country last week. Hattie says that nearly everyone has been ill this autumn, and the Chinese are also dealing with a great deal of sickness. Hattie supposes that it is because there has been so little rain this year.

1882 November 20

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Harriet says that Henry is in the country for a long period of time. He is organizing another church, the third church that he has organized.
- She says that another two ministers were received/ ordained, making the total number of ministers twenty-one.
- Hattie discusses the journal *Missionaries Work in China* stating that they were all very surprised that the article she wrote had not appeared in the last issue.
- A certain Ms. Lawrence had written an article stating the work in Canton was disappearing. Hattie had been nominated to write a dissenting opinion, but the journal had not published it. She is furious that the magazine is not allowing a first hand account.
- She describes another article she wrote in which they got the names mixed up and published it as Mr. BC Henry.

- Miss Niles is living with them now. She wanted to stay permanently but was sent to Dr. Hoppers or to Nanking.
- Miss Niles is actually a doctor. This surprises Hattie because she seems like such a little girl to her. Hattie says if she is sick or wounded she would prefer to be examined by Dr. Kerr.
- Harriet is sending her father a pink necktie.

1882 November 28

From: Harriet

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Edward's leg is messed up and Edward isn't able to walk.
- Hattie is describing two new bachelors in the mission. A certain Mr. Manyne from England is in charge of four missionary brides, one who he left in Singapore. The other three met their bridegrooms and were married in Hong Kong.

1883 January 2

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Harriet says that on New Year's Eve they listened to a sermon from the new missionary Mr. Pope. He lectured from a text that Mr. Henry has used before. However, their sermons were very different. Henry also preached a good sermon from the text "They that be for us are more than they that be against us."
- On the night of New Year's Eve Harriet was walking to the chapel from the schoolhouse and saw a fire in the distance. It wasn't too near though, so Harriet did not feel she needed to investigate thoroughly.
- The previous day they had the monthly concert. Nearly everyone was in attendance and Harriet is encouraged by the membership.
- Harriet mentions Mr. Thome (?) who is the representative agent of the Bible Society. He spent some time in a neighboring province where there was lots of opposition. The locals treated this man very kindly. Mr. Simminus (?) and Henry visited the same province and were treated rudely because the locals thought they were bringing their families to live.
- A certain Lan Hing died last week. According to Hattie he was one of the greatest men that has ever lived. He has had an illness for the previous seven years that has prohibited him from being the incredible preacher he once was. He couldn't speak towards the end, but he was conscious till the last moment and his mind was at peace. He was almost like a son to Mr. Preston and has always been Mr. Henry's right hand man. To Harriet he always seemed like the disciple John, and she says they have a lot to learn from such a pious and loving individual.

1883 January 3

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; American Politics; Chinese Politics; Building & Development

- Hattie spent New Year's and Christmas in Macau, and enjoyed it far more than if she had been in Canton.

- The counsel had a grand New Year's Eve party, which Hattie just escaped. It was to celebrate the centennial of the establishment of the U.S. consulate in Canton. They hope that despite the change of administration in the United States, Counsel Seymour would be permitted to stay. The gentleman sent a signed document that said in due part to the uprisings in Canton, it would be best to not to make any changes. According to Hattie, it's providential that during this period of turmoil they have had a phenomenal consular unlike many people who have filled the position in the past.
- They hear rumors that the French are coming to attack Canton but it is generally believed that they will concentrate their operations on Formosa and Fanguin.
- They are expecting to open the Boarding School after Chinese New Year's.
- They are observing a week of prayer now.
- Ms. Butler and Ms. Lewis are still in Macau. A certain Ms. Young is with them from the Baptist mission. They are attending meetings all day. They have extended the building process and have built a boy's day school, a girl's school, and a chapel.

1883 February 3

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing out the report for this year and is including a copy for her father. It refers both to her work and Mrs. Butler's.
- They have been in charge of the training school for women, the girls boarding school, ten separate girls day schools, the boys schools and twelve bible readers.
- Training school + Boarding school = 112 scholars, 80 girls, 32 women.
  - 8 girls finished memorization of the new testament
  - 3 women qualified to become teachers
  - 5 scholars have been accepted into the first Presbyterian church
- Generally postpone schools opening until matters are settled.
- Day schools = Tan San Kai, school broken up.
  - Hunan, very prosperous.
  - Po Wa Hong moved to avoid trouble to Lo Lik Hong.
  - Hok Lu Li, teachers scared off to Macau.
  - Village of Yum Ha Leen, school was suspended because of the upheaval.
  - Kum Lay, women applied and were accepted into the church.
  - Liu Po also successful for a time but then the teacher was driven away.
  - Nan King attempted to open a school and was unsuccessful.
  - In countryside around Macau and Canton missionaries work in society.
- A school for boys has been opened in Macau. Prospect of succeeding in the future.
- 23 individuals total have been received into the church in the last year.
- The Church members have raised the pastor's salary. The pastor Ro Wan Loi seems very diligent and earnest.
- Rumors that the French will attack Canton in March, but that seems improbable.

1883 February 6

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Mattie is in Medina, and Hattie hopes she is feeling much better.
- Hattie also hopes that Edward's leg is healed and no longer broken. Dr. Kerr said it must have been difficult to manage with both dislocation and fracture.
- The Methodist mission is planning on giving \$13,000 to open medical work in Nanjing, so the Presbyterian mission will not need to take that up.
- Hattie is having a party tonight with all the girls and women, and there will be about 80 people there.
- The school will be on vacation from studies this week, however no one will be returning home.
- A Yan's school was closed yesterday. Hattie thinks that A Yan may be the best day school teacher she has ever had.

1883 February 19

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Medicine & Health

- One of the women at the school just recently had her feet unbound, and is still unable to walk.
- Several other women in the school have unbound their feet lately. There are now only five out of sixty-five girls who have their feet bound. Hattie says it is much more difficult to have the women unbind their feet, because their feet were bound when they were young, their bones have shifted and changed shape, and unbinding them is a very painful problem. This is not as much of a problem with the girls because their bones are still developing.
- Hattie had vacation at the boarding school last week, however only four of the scholars returned home, and they had to spend a lot of time trying to keep the remaining scholars happy.
- Hattie threw a party for the scholars staying during vacation on Tuesday evening and had a musical program consisting of Johnny Smucher and A Bad Cold, both of which were very much enjoyed.
- Hattie has been trying to learn the accordion without notes, and has succeeded twice in playing Martyn and Bright Jewels. Hattie says it is relatively simple to play. She thinks it will be nice to carry to the day schools.
- Hattie hopes that Edward's leg will again be strong soon, and wonders if it still pains him.

1883 February 27

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Mrs. Rapalje's (?) health is very poor and Harriet would like Mary to tell Martha that she is going to Japan next summer and that everyone wishes she would go home.
- Mrs. Happer is going home on the steamer that leaves Hong Kong April 5th. She will stop in Wooster to see John before going on to the General Assembly in May.

1883 February 27

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Day schools commence again this week. There are over 100 in the boarding school now including teachers and servants. Because of this, Hattie has asked for an additional allowance for the school this year.
- Currently for the girls school she only has the \$600 allotted for the first 20 girls. In total for both schools she has \$1100, while Dr. Happer has \$600 allotted for 20 scholars, which he hardly ever has.
- Miss Butler has concluded to spend most of her time on school work, and not attempt to take a thorough course of medicine. They are all fully satisfied with this because there is no use in her studying medicine because she is not strong enough. Miss Butler says she used to be strong, but that ten years in a city school has caused her to lose strength.
- Hattie finds that it is “very strange to [her] that they have taken up the idea of sending out lady physicians at home and seem to think that is ahead of everything else.” Hattie says that here in south China, “there is no particular need of such work to ‘open up the way’ for the ways is very thoroughly opened far beyond the possibility of filling it apparently.”
- “I am strongly in favor of women in general as I used to be but I am quite ready to admit that men make very much the best doctors, and if I should ever need any doctoring I hope I can have a man to doctor me.”
- Hattie has been drawing out plans for the chapel. They are hoping to use the same builder as the school, and an architect in Hong Kong has drawn up plans for it, but Hattie does not think it will be followed very closely.
- The second church has taken up a boys’ school. Miss Butler had really hoped to manage it, but Hattie thinks it is best that she isn’t.

1883 February 27

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Culture, Language, and Art

- The Mateers and the Henrys are going to be returning home soon, leaving Dr. Happer the only one left who has not gone out since Hattie returned.
- Hattie discusses Mr. Fulton’s “Florence,” who is to meet him in September. Hattie does not think she will be a good addition to their circle in Canton. She is currently in Chiang Mai, and Mr. Fulton will be going to Bangkok to meet her there.
- They are all planning a joint celebration of March birthdays on Mr. Simmons’ birthday, March 10. Hattie and Miss Butler do not want to go, and do not find it practical to pay \$3.00, and as much more for provisions if they do not want to attend.
- Hattie is having some changes made to their home— they are adding a stairway up to the garret and having a floor installed so they can have additional storage.
- Hattie wishes that they could expand the chapel at the school because it is very crowded. There are 100 total in the school.
- Harriet has enclosed a letter to Mattie from A Ping—she has been wed and is having a very hard time. Her mother wed her to this man because he had more money (as was customary for many families at this time).

1883 March 10

From: Harriet  
 To: Varnum Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Harriet hopes that her father enjoys the chair that his class gave him as a gift for New Year's.
- Last Sabbath was Harriet's birthday, and she planned an excursion in the country with Miss Butler. However, they were prevented from going because of the rain.
- Hattie describes a village some ten miles outside the city, which had a particular interest in the gospel. Mr. Henry went out there to perform a communion service. Mr. Henry had been waiting a mile up the road for the women to come, but they didn't show up because of the rain. Hattie feels sorry and as if she may have greatly disappointed him.
- At the meeting in the village there were 110 villagers all together.
- The missionaries have opened a school for boys and a school for girls. On the Sabbath there were 22 in the boys school, and 14 in the girls. However, they expect a larger attendance soon. They weren't sure where to get teachers for their school, but eventually found a man and his mother who would make good instructors. The school is too far away to visit often, but Harriet feels these teachers will prove faithful.
- Harriet says that Mr. and Mrs. White are moving to Lin Chan and have already rented a house with ten rooms.

1883 March 26

From: Harriet  
 To: Mattie Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Mrs. Happer is leaving tomorrow for home via the Sandwich Islands. Mrs. Happer wants to see Mattie very much when she is in the states. She doesn't think she will be stopping in Ohio very much besides Wooster. If she is in the area she will send Mattie a telegram and maybe they can meet up in Massillon.
- A certain Dr. Seelye from Cleveland is in Canton currently. His brother is president of Amherst college, and his daughter was a missionary in India before she died several years ago. Hattie says there is another pair of "Globe Trotters" to Dr. Seelye. Mr. and Mrs. Haines from Buffalo who were staying unwelcome with the Kerr family while Mrs. Kerr was rather sick. They are evidently well off, but they will not go to a hotel.
- Hattie says they are losing their beloved table boy because he is going to Lui Chan with part of the mission to make more money as a cook there. Mrs. Thomson and Mrs. White prepare to go up to Lin Chan and live in boats this summer. Mr. Fulton has been unable to get a residence, and Hattie thinks it will be unsuccessful for two families with all their retinue to live in boats outside the city gates until they can gain access.

1883 March 31

From: Harriet  
 To: Mary Noyes  
 Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is Mary's birthday.

- Hattie describes their “March Club.” Hattie Kerr, Miss Butler, Mr. Thomas, and herself all have birthdays in March. Hattie Kerr the 4th, Mr. Thomas the 7th, Miss Butler’s the 23rd, and hers 5th (?). Mr. Thomas suggested forming this club. There are quite a few more around whose birthday is in March. They will celebrate their birthdays collectively on the first birthday of March, the 1st, Mr. Simmons’ birthday, with a picnic at White Cloud Hills (白云山, 9.3 miles north of downtown Guangzhou). Twelve total will attend, with Mrs. Graves providing provisions. If it happens to rain that day, they will all be meeting at Mrs. Graves’ home in the evening.
- Hattie and Miss Butler did not end up going because it rained earlier in the day, but upon the group’s return in the evening, they stopped by Hattie’s home and visited for a while. Hattie and Miss Butler do not like going out so often.
- Miss Butler has something good planned for April Fools’ day, but since it falls on a Sabbath, Hattie says they will be taking a “strict puritanical observance of the day, and allow nothing of the sort.”

1883 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices:

Chinese; Building & Development

- Hattie is glad to hear that Edward’s leg is gaining strength.
- Hattie hopes that Edward hires someone for the farm work this year because Edward will not be able to do it himself. Hattie then begins to discuss farmers in China. They are of the lowest class, “and they pad about in the rice fields with the water half way up to their knees, and nothing on but a pair of loose cotton trousers rolled up above their knees.”
- She continues, “That is an improvement, however, on being arrayed in coconut oil as Dr. Gulick (?) described the South Sea Islanders.”
- The workmen have been working on the Chapel, and it is now up to the ground. Hattie describes how they lay the foundation. Hattie says it should be done by September, and hopes that it is finished before the scholars return home so that they may attend the dedication.
- Hattie wrote to her church in Philadelphia to ask them for a bell, she hopes that they do it.
- The S.S. in Bloomfield, NJ sent money for Hattie to have her book of hymns printed in time for the opening of the chapel.
- Hattie is hoping that someone will send an organ, and is thinking that the ladies in Newark may do so.

1883 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Mother (Lois Noyes)

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet wants her mother to think of her on the 17th (of June) and she will be thinking of her mother.
- Harriet’s friends in China are interested that this is her mother’s golden wedding anniversary.
- Her mother gave her a motto that said, “I need thee every hour.” It hangs up in Harriet’s parlor
- Dr. Kerr, who used to think that going home to America was foolish, now believes that going home every seven years, as the British missionaries do, is wise.
- Harriet encloses a bookmark to give to her mother for her birthday.

1883 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing to her parents for their anniversary, June 17, 1877. Hattie laments how much she misses home, and recalls its beauty.
- Hattie speculates that Mrs. Happer is home by this time. She also hopes she is enjoying her visit home. Dr. Happer does not seem to want to return home for a visit at all.

1883 May 17

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Today is the anniversary of Hattie and Henry's return home. It has been seven years.
- Hattie reminisces about her return home, and their reunion in Cleveland.

1883 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building and Development; Medicine & Health

- Hattie was out to her village school today, Miss Butler went with her. They each had 3 men carry them (sedan chair?), and Hattie says that they felt the heat very much.
- There are 31 scholars at Harriet's village school this year. Hattie also says that her day schools in the city are not as large this year as they were last.
- Hattie says that several scholars in the boarding school have the measles and one may have leprosy. Hattie says they "will be obliged to send her away if she does not get better some." Hattie also says "The Chinese do not seem as afraid of it as I should think they would be."
- Hattie reports that there is a leper village about two miles out of the city.
- Hattie reports other students afflicted by disease: One girl in school has a cancer on her back which just began to develop, another girl, A Kit, who is humpbacked has a tumor or abscess that Dr. Kerr thinks will be the cause of her death.

1883 May 31

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Today is Frank's birthday.
- Miss Butler recently found out that her father has died. He had been ill for quite some time, so the news was not completely unexpected. He had been living in Tyrone, PA, and was a retired Methodist minister.
- Hattie and Miss Butler visited Hattie's school out in the country, and they spent some time in the hills behind the village.



- Hattie discusses Miss Butler's decision not to study medicine, saying that they were able to convince her because learning both Chinese and medicine would take up too much strength, and she would neither be able to practice medicine or do mission work because of this. Additionally, Hattie argues that she was too old to embark on learning medicine, she is thirty-five, and by the time she would have finished her studies, she would be too late in years to practice.
- There was a bit of a scare last night. Mr. Henry went out on the roof to see which were the virsaitis (?) boats and the old watchman sounded the alarm at the sight of him on the roof. Their servants armed themselves with the carving knife and a long pole to go check out what was going on.
- Hattie slept through most of this, but awoke startled.

1883 June 1

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie is writing for Mattie's birthday.
- Hattie was at A Yan's school today, and A Yan asked Hattie to write to Mattie about her new baby, a month-old boy. "Would you believe me if I tell you that I actually kissed the child." She goes on to say why she kissed the baby, "I saw it looked nice and clean and I thought I could do it and that it would please A Yan. I have had the honor of selecting a name for it. She named him "Kwai-Chien (?)," meaning "belonging to the true."
- Hattie was surprised that A Yan's husband was pleased with the idea of baptizing the baby because he is a Baptist. "I am afraid that Dr. Graves has never explained to him how very wrong infant baptism is."
- A Yan's mother-in-law has continually been giving her trouble at the school, and Hattie is thinking about going to the consul to have protections set for the school.
- Hattie is sending Mattie the address to Fung Lan's address in Chicago. Apparently her baby boy is the first Chinese baby to be born in Chicago.
- Fang Kiu has taken this year off of school to care for her baby.
- A Peng has been married and is having a hard time with her husband's "heathen relatives."

1883 June 17

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie says her day has "had quite a succession of unpleasant experiences." They have a little sick Chinese baby in the home that cried all night last night. It is A Yan's baby. A Yan brought the baby to Miss Butler thinking it was dying and they all thought so too, but Miss Butler brought it back to life and seems to be doing well now.
- Miss Butler herself is very sick with a cold, so sick that Hattie says it seems almost like pneumonia. There are also three women in the school that are sick, so Hattie says that her spare time has been spent administering medicine and making mustard poultice.

1883 June 17

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie describes a dream she had with her father on the slope south of their home. He was cutting roses for her, and the grass was green and the sunshine was so bright. In the midst of this scene she says, “it seemed as though I had forgotten while I was in China how nice it was to be at home.”
- Henry is in the country. She is seeing him rarely because he is only in town on Sabbath days. He calls in on his way home from the chapel.
- Hattie hopes that Varnum sometime can meet his grandsons. They are very pretty boys who seem bright and good. One of them is named “Willie”.
- She had a dream last night that all of her students showed up to the examination on Monday instead of Tuesday when they were expected to be there.
- The school will reopen September 8<sup>th</sup>. The new chapel will be dedicated on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

1883 June 25

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Travel; Missionary Politics

- There is no night steamer tonight to Hong Kong because the regular one caught fire between Canton and Hong Kong a few nights ago and has yet to be repaired.
- They closed the boarding school last week and are going to be reopening it on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- During the past year there have been 118 scholars.
- Miss Niles is to stay in Canton and not go to Nanking.

1883 July 7

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Hattie didn't have much hope that Mattie would come back to Canton that year. Now that she is sick it is best for her to stay and rest until she feels better. Hattie does say that the work in the boarding school has been made easy by how great the teachers are, and is probably easier than Mattie's current work in New York.
- Mrs. Happer will be coming back next autumn.
- Mattie needs to get healthy and come and take charge of the school so that Hattie can go home for a visit. Mrs. Butler is a great worker, but ever since her run in with pneumonia she hasn't been that strong. Hattie is afraid that she is going to have dengue fever annually.
- She is prohibited from exercise, and Hattie says exercise is a prerequisite for being strong. Hattie does not know how she would feel about her writing this. She doesn't want anyone to know she is not strong, because she has always been strong.
- Hattie thinks that Ms. Butler should expect this sickness after teaching fifteen years, the last ten of which were in city schools.

1883 July 9

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Dr. and Mrs. Kerr are in Hong Kong right now. Dr. Kerr went down last week, and Mrs. Kerr followed him recently. They will be down there for another two or three weeks. Hattie is worried about Dr. Kerr's wellbeing.
- Hattie (not this Hattie) is almost as tall as Harriet, and is quite fair and delicate. Harriet thinks that it would be much better for her health to be in America.
- The Fourth of July was the 25th anniversary of their marriage, and they gave them a nice tea set.
- There was also a Fourth of July party at the American consul's. It was selective invitation, so Harriet did not go, but they found out afterwards that the consul's wife and daughter are to return to America soon.
- They will have to go to Lui Chan before the end of their vacation—Miss Miles does not seem to be doing well.

1883 July 18

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie is sending a copy of the report she is sending to Mr. Perkins.
- "Last Sabbath there was a sad affair here, some of the Canton House men were drunk and entirely unprovoked shot at the Chinese killing a boy and wounding a man and woman. The way in which some foreigners treat the Chinese is abominable. The men are being tried now."

1883 July 20

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie tells Clara about the wonderful fresh fruit that they have year round. She also describes their regular breakfast: cracked wheat bread and butter, preserves, coffee, and fruit.
- Hattie made several dresses with her foot-pedal sewing machine. Their woman who normally does the sewing does not know how to use a foot-pedal sewing machine, and Hattie tried putting a handle on for her to use, however, it turns too slowly and is not of much use.
- They are planning a trip to Lui Chan. Miss Butler was ill with a fever a few weeks ago and still does not feel well, and thinks that the beauty of Lui Chan will help her feel better.
- They have another prospect of a new helper: Miss Hattie Lewis of San Jose, CA. Hattie thinks she is originally from Ohio, and hopes so because she believes that Ohioans make good missionaries (along with Presidents and Generals).

1883 July 21

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- The steamer that brought the last mail was not part of the regular line, it came via the Sandwich Islands.
- Hattie and Mr. Hurst went to visit the bride Miss Wishard who came from Siam last Thursday.

- Mr. Hurst has been quite ill all the time in Chiang Mai, and was just able to get away.
- Almost everyone in the party from last November has been ill, excepting Dr. Peoples. All have had fever. Edna Cole has gone home with Dr. Cheek, the last of the “three C’s” to leave (Miss Campbell, Miss Caldwell, and Miss Cole).
- Mr. and Mrs. Laren’s baby died after ten days last month.
- Mr. Hurst has asked to be transferred to this mission, and the mission has also asked for him to be transferred. Mr. Fulton does not want him to transfer here, however. Hattie says it is because he is disgustingly selfish and does not want someone to go to the country with him. Hattie also says that Miss Wishard is far too nice for him.
- Their wedding will be next Thursday.
- Hattie asks Mattie if she heard that Lillie Mateer is to be wed soon, to Mr. Walker, a Southern Baptist.

1883 August 6

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & health; Travel; Missionary Politics

- It is Lois’ birthday today, on this day last year Dr. Graves led a meeting and there were not many people because many of them went to Hong Kong.
- After the meeting, Miss Miles, Miss Butler, and Harriet discussed going to Lin Chan, but they decided against it because Dr. Kerr is in such a bad state.
- Dr. Thomson is supposed to come down from Lin Chan to allow Dr. Kerr to rest. Dr. Kerr is suffering from dyspepsia and it is affecting his heart.
- Mrs. Kerr is in Hong Kong and is very homesick.
- Henry’s varicose veins on his leg have broken, but Harriet hopes that they heal nicely. He usually wears an elastic stocking to help with his leg, but the rain and heat have been preventing him from doing so.
- Last night, Henry and Harriet went upstairs for bed and told the ‘boy’ to put out all of the lights in the house. When Harriet awoke this morning, she went downstairs to select a tablecloth for breakfast and discovered the chandelier fire was moving into the lamp. She called for help, but they could not unfasten the chandelier. “I was afraid every moment that it would explode but it did not.”
- If there were to be a fire here it would be catastrophic, the houses are very close together. Dr. Kerr’s house and the hospital are insured for \$3000.
- Harriet plans to send her mother a tablecloth that she had planned to give to the Kerrs for their silver wedding anniversary, but they decided on a China tea set. The tablecloth was too pretty to send back, so Harriet will give it to her mother as a birthday present.

1883 August 7

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie Kerr left her canary bird for Hattie to take care of when she was traveling. It got out of the cage and flew away however. Hattie sent Akurai (?) to get a replacement bird, and he brought

back two very pretty birds. Mrs. Butler also gave them one, so now they have three. At night they need to protect the birds with mosquito nets and hang them in the corner of the room.

- Hattie has over a hundred letters to answer. She has been busy serving this vacation and hasn't been able to start them.

1883 August 7

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- Hattie laments that her skin keeps growing darker. She is worried that people will say the same thing that they said to Mr. McDonald who worked in Siam, that they “did not know that our Board sent out colored people as missionaries.”
- Dr. Kerr has “gone clear out of his grasp.” Hattie is hoping he can recover. Hattie attributes it to him overworking himself, especially with overseeing the building of the Chapel. His digestion seems to be “seriously impaired.” He does not seem to be properly nourished, however Hattie notes that Mrs. Kerr “is not a very good homekeeper and we do not think he has ever had such food as he should have had to keep up his strength.”

1883 August 7

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Medicine & Health

- Harriet expresses her wish that Uncle Augustus would move to Ohio. To her New England seems like such a difficult place for farming. However, she also says that nowhere in the world is there a place more beautiful than Varnum's childhood home in the New Hampshire hills.
- Hattie has a very nice Bible given to her by Lucy Leaman. In this particular bible she has “worked” the 103<sup>rd</sup> psalm, which has the date June 17<sup>th</sup> 1883.
- Harriet is describing Varnum's grandchildren as nice and pretty boys. Willie seems to be a devout Christian at such a tender age. Hattie says that Henry told him that in order to be good he needed to pray to God. At once he knelt down and sobbed. Hattie says that she has never in her whole life seen a child as devoted to a parent as Willie seems to be towards Henry.
- Henry and Willie are all currently in Hong Kong for a month. They are renting a nice apartment for \$ 100.00 but are splitting the cost with the Baptist mission. Dr. and Mrs. Kerr [Kerr?], Dr. and Mrs. Happer, Mr. Pearce and family, Mr. Masters and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Simmons are all in Hong Kong with Henry.
- Hattie had been planning a trip to Lanchnan?, because everyone is gone for the summer. However, she is so nervous for Dr. Kerr [Kerr?] that she did not want to leave Canton. It seems to Hattie that he is dying and has deteriorated in the past few months.

1883 August 31

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Chinese Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health; Violence, War, and Politics

- This letter won't reach home until October, at which point the dedication ceremony will already have happened.
- The conclusion to building the chapel has been postponed a week, because the "Chinese" workmen are so slow at their work.
- Hattie is describing the building as very handsome. It is the same color as the school building and it has green Venetian windows.
- The school chapel is also being lengthened so that it can sit an additional fifty individuals. Hattie asks her father to tell Martha that the pillar that stood in the way of the entrance has now been removed.
- Recently there was a sad affair. Three men in the custom service got belligerently drunk (15 bottles of some type of liquor according to Hattie) and became annoyed with a Chinese crowd around them. One of them went into his house, got his revolver, and fired into the crowd killing a 12-year-old boy, and wounding a man and a woman. The three men are now in custody and Hattie assumes that they will be tried. It will no doubt be settled by money.
- "The Chinese are a bad set of people so many of them are drunken and immoral to the last degree." In Luin Chow they don't want the foreigners to come because they consider them immoral. Hattie says that she can't expect them to distinguish between foreigners and missionaries, and some of the foreigners are even worse than the heaven living in China.
- Henry is still in Hong Kong, and the month there has done him some positive good. Hattie says that Varnum will probably hear from him directly.
- The mission hopes that Dr. Kerr is feeling better. Last time he was out of bed he was very obstructive with his ideas about the chapel. That is how Hattie knew he was feeling better. There could not be a bigger contrast than between Dr. Thruman and Dr. Kerr. Dr. and Mrs. Thruman are obsessed with their baby.

1883 September 26

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie has enclosed a pamphlet published in Hong Kong that gives a full account of the riots in Canton. Mr. Masters, who visits regularly for the China mail, is the one who wrote it. He was in the back of a Chinese printing shop when the riots occurred, just in the rear of the scene of action in Shamian.
- Hattie had gone up on the veranda of the third story, and the servants were on the roof watching. The wharf was set afire. After they said their prayers, they saw smoke rising from several other places on Shamian.
- Akurai's son came in rather excited and said they set flame to the British Consulate, however this was a mistake as the consulate was not harmed.
- Everyone in the neighborhood decided to meet in Dr. Kerr's office to decide what they should do if the riots turned towards their direction.
- Almost all of the scholars were taken home by their parents.
- Captain Calden, a captain of a Chinese gunboat, came to get them to take them to a steamer where they could wait. They packed their things in baskets and satchels, however, before they embarked, another counsel prevailed and they came back to their home to await further developments.
- The gentlemen thought that it would be best that they stay on a large boat they were able to procure at night in case the attacks came again during the night, and the men stayed back to stand

guard. However, they ended up deciding to stay in their homes unless going to the boat was absolutely necessary.

- The next night word came from Shamian that they should be on guard, but nothing developed.
- The trial of the man who killed the Chinaman which started all of this trouble is now occurring.

1883 September 30

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Violence, War, and Politics; Missionary Politics

- The Chinese count time like the Jews used too by counting the smallest fraction of a year based on when children are born.
- A certain Cuan Loy preached the sermon on that Sabbath. He is the same man that Henry wrote a piece about in the New York Observer. Henry plans to have him ordained and put in charge of the 2nd Church.
- Last week a foreigner killed a Chinaman and wounded another. He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. If he behaves, the sentence will be reduced to four and a half years. The Chinese do not think this is adequate punishment. Hattie says that they don't realize that a European has the power to kill a Chinese and not face redress.
- Hattie says there could be serious trouble as a result of this ruling. They have gotten their trunks ready in case they need to perform a quick getaway.
- Edward is forty-nine years old, and Hattie is thirty-nine years old.

1883 October 22

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Travel; Chinese Politics

- Harriet says that their houses seem like palaces to the poor people of China. The poor cannot conceptualize having plenty to eat.
- She describes how the previous day was a day of prayer. Consequently, if there were to be a rebellion it would be very dangerous for the native Christians.
- Henry went out to the village where they have schools and everything was great. However, the people seem anxious and are unaware of what is going to happen. Hattie says that most of them want all of the foreigners driven away but that is out of the question.
- She says there is a probability of war with France. If so Hattie believes they would need to go away. She feels it is such a pity that such great missionary work would be interrupted "but if that should be God's way it will of course be the best way."

1883 October 31

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- Harriet reassures her father that she is not “getting heterodox” and departing from the Presbyterian Church. Unlike her sister Sarah she is still prepared to leave it to her father to dictate what she believes.
- Hattie states she is in agreement with Varnum that the Second Coming will not occur soon. But she does believe that the end of the age is approaching. She believes this because she is fed up with the evil existent in the world today. There is a book (title unclear) from which she is deriving this doctrine. Whether this change will be gradual or sudden is unclear to Hattie.
- Dr. Ashman says that the evil influences will soon recede, and the good seed of Christianity will be able to continue unhindered. Harriet guesses that this will be the millennium. It seems clear that then will be the judgment of all mankind.
- Whatever the prophecies meant, Harriet is certain that the modern Christians have the correct interpretation instead of the early Christians before them.
- Mr. Butler, of Ningpo (Ningbo, Zhejiang), and his little boy died suddenly of cholera. Harriet says it must be very sad for Mrs. Butler. When she went home a few years ago, she reached her house only two hours after her mother’s death. Hattie is reminiscing that Mr. Butler was a fantastic missionary, and the best of friends. They began their career in China together.

1883 December 28

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mr. and Mrs. Graves are just as persistent as ever in visiting them. The constant visitors and having to visit has worn out Ms. Butler. Hattie says the Graves ought to know that they would be busy the night before the mail goes. Hattie says with Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Butler she is hoping to make some feeble stand against “all the visiting”.
- Mrs. Butler has learned the language very successfully. It would be a pity if her health kept her from doing her work now. Having the Dengue Fever has exhausted her strength.
- Mrs. Rowe’s friend Ms. Hope has been in Canton for several weeks. It seems that Mr. Hangreaves has won her over to be his wife. Hattie thinks that Ms. Hope is too nice for him, but he is a good missionary so it is okay. Mrs. Rowe however will be very annoyed.
- Dr. Happer’s daughter Mary is married and he will be leaving in the near future to settle her in as a missionary in the Sandwich Islands. After that Dr. Happer will probably go home for some time.
- In terms of the “legacy” Hattie will send some funds to Mattie, probably by Mr. Henry. Hattie says that the interest on the “legacy” will probably never be paid. There also is some document which Hattie needs to sign.

1884 January 24

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art

- Harriet mentions three native ministers who were ordained that week. They are the first to be ordained in their mission in Canton.
- One of the newly ordained native ministers, Cuan Lay[?], became famous for writing an article in the *Observer*. He has now been made the pastor of the second church. He is from the country so it is difficult to understand him. Especially since he doesn’t announce very well.



- Harriet says there have been no new deaconesses or elders elected that week.
- Harriet will miss sermons by Mr. Henry but thinks it is good that the new pastors are preaching.
- U-Shik-Han?, the second of the three native ministers, will take over the mission in a city along the East River.
- The third, Lai Tens Po[?], will continue as the preacher at Lan Ur[?]
- Harriet is worried that some of Henry's congregation may be persecuted. She says though that the general of the military sees nothing wrong with their doctrine and will not persecute the Christians.

1884 February 18

From: Harriet

To: Emma Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art

- Hattie is responding to a letter from December 24.
- Hattie suggests that Em get the book *The Approaching End of the Age I* (by Guinness?), Hattie thought it was very interesting, and most convincing. Hattie says it is completely different from the other rubbish that has been written about the second coming of Christ.
- "I am determined to be watching so that if Christ does 'come again' tonight or tomorrow I will not be surprised for I shall be expecting Him."
- Hattie thinks that many of the prophecies are being "wonderfully fulfilled." She says, "In Guinness's book he says it is difficult to tell just what date to take for the commencement but interpreting by the year day one it is very easy to estimate the time given."
- Hattie goes on to explain one of the prophecies: "I think I wrote to you once of what he says of the prophecy of Day (?) 8-14th--- And he said unto me Until 2 thousand and three hundred days (2300 years) then shall the sanctuary be cleansed, counting from the day that Ezra begun to go up to Jerusalem Ezra 7-9 'For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon,' 2300 years expired in March 1844 on the very day that the Turks were obliged by pressure brought to bear upon them by the other European Powers to [appeal] their law that any Mohammedan who became a Christian should be punished by death. So this was the possible beginning of the decline of power."

1884 March 1

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- Hattie says there has been damage to the chapel in the country. The authorities have agreed to pay for it however, and Henry has been the one to receive the money.
- A Bible woman has come in from the country. Hattie says her school has a wealth of new scholars.

1884 March 30

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Violence, War, and Politics

- Mr. and Mrs. Henry wrote and they reached the Suez canal. They have had a pleasant journey so far.
- Dr. and Mrs. Kerr returned from Macau today— Dr. Kerr is seeming better and in better spirits. Hattie says that if he went home and had a good long rest that he would get strong again and be able to have another long term of service. Hattie says that Mrs. Henry does not seem strong at all because she is large and gets tired easily.
- Hattie discusses “the wreck of the Canton mission” when Mr. Henry and Mr. White were in one of the interior cities where they had a station at Shek Lung. They were having a communion service and people gathered around and became turbulent. Hattie says that this city has always had “bitter opposition” to Christianity. Hattie reports that Mr. Henry went to apply for protection leaving Mr. White there to stay as long as he was safe, but the mob began tearing down the doors of the chapel, breaking up the seats, and began throwing stones at him. He was not injured but one of the assistants was and needed to be taken to the hospital. Once the mob was done with the Presbyterian chapel they moved on to the Roman Catholic church and destroyed quite a bit of property. Mr. White and Mr. Henry immediately came back and reported the matter to the authorities, who then went to stop the mob and paid them a “suitable indemnity.” Henry went to collect the Presbyterian share of the sum from the Consul who Hattie says is much better than the English Consul.
- “The ‘war’ is still progressing but we hope it will be over soon. We have ceased to expect that we shall be disturbed here, but how it will eventually be settled remains to be seen.”

1884 March 31

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing to Mary for her birthday.
- Hattie is thinking of playing the trick that Mary played on her when she was home for April fools tomorrow called “cotton cakes.”
- Hattie met a man, Mr. Bennett, from the Monocacy (?) where grandparents have been missionaries in Burmah for fifty five years.

1884 April 16

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics; Building & Development

- Dr. and Mrs. Ashmon (?) and Miss Norwood are in Hong Kong and will be coming to visit in Canton once the *Oceanic* leaves.
- “Mr. White is away in the country with Dr. Graves and Henry has gone down to San Ui. The country seems very quiet now. Mr. Simmons has just returned from a trip and says that the people seem very friendly. We can walk the streets without hearing anyone call out ‘kill the foreign devils’ which shows quite a change. The war question seems to be in a fair way to be settled soon as the Chinese appear to be very desirous to settle the trouble peacefully and it is to be hoped that France will not make any exorbitant demands for indemnity for the expense incurred.”
- “It seems rather hard for the Chinese to be called upon to pay for the expense of the war but I suppose they will have to do it. We shall be glad when the rumors of war have died out and peace reigns again.”

- The boarding school has fifty girls and a dozen women at the moment.

1884 June 30

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Harriet says they are thinking of closing the boarding school because it is too busy.
- It is the end of the school year so they are bringing out the prizes and handing back the examinations.
- Hattie says that it was a difficult school year. Furthermore, she feels that people would write her off as a bad missionary if they knew how excited she was to have school out.
- She says that on the whole it was a prosperous year. In all 80 girls and 32 women. 8 of the girls managed to memorize the entirety of the New Testament.
- There have now only been 3 missionaries in Canton who have been there longer than she has: Dr. Happer, Dr. Graves, and Henry.
- Hattie is thinking of going to Macau to visit friends.

1884 July 1

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Harriet says that she is feeling slightly better after her cold.
- She is describing a school event in which there was a good number in attendance.
- However, fifteen of these individuals stayed for dinner. Hattie thinks next year they should have the closing exercises in the chapel so that they don't have to invite them to dinner.
- Hattie says it is the most inconvenient day of the year, because all these children are present and they "can't be in the same place at the same time."
- Hattie hopes that tomorrow will be a nice summer day. So most of the guests will leave. She wants to have as few left on their hands as possible.
- They are leaving for Macau on Monday for 2-3 weeks.
- At the end of the school year celebration they decorated the schoolroom with flowers. Hattie says the Chinese have a way of making flower baskets in imitation of lanterns. After dinner the scholars took the flower baskets and decorated Hattie's room.

1884 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton

- They are renting a house from the Wesleyan Mission that the Wesleyan Mission has rented for the year but is not currently occupying. Harriet says that they are renting it for \$30.00 per month even though the Wesleyan Mission is only paying \$20.00 per month itself. Harriet says this is strange and not how missionaries usually deal with such matters.
- Dr. and Mrs. Kerr fell into the canal the other day—it was a near catastrophe.

1884 July 10

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China [or rather Macau]

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Harriet says they are safely in Macau and that there is still time to write to the Arabic (name of the ship) that leaves on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- She says they had trouble getting their baggage from the steamer. At first the attendants wanted \$3 but eventually they got them to transport all of it for \$1.83.
- Hattie describes the company saying she feels bad for Mr. Thompson because he had so many people to look after. The Thompson's brought their cook, and a man who is related to the cook. This man is studying in Dr. Happer's school, and Harriet says he will soon be employed there as an assistant. They thought that this trip to Macau might do him some good.
- All together Dr. Thompson had eight and Harriet had eleven.
- The group had set their hearts on going to Lin Chan, and were consequently reluctant to go to Macau. However, Hattie says it is wonderful and so much nicer than Canton.
- Hattie says it is such a surprise to Ms. Lewis that missionaries dress well and have style. Hattie describes Ms. Lewis as very commercial. Harriet wishes that they did not have to mind as much what they wear. It would be different if they lived in the country, but Hattie says in Canton there are too many foreigners.
- Harriet says that she has 150 letters to respond to.

1884 July 19

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural

Practices: American; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie is saying that the Chinese ponies are so spiritless that they are hardly horses. However, the two in Macau are good and hold up their heads.
- The cow's milk in Macau tastes like the milk back home in Ohio, but very different from what they have in Canton. Some foods they cannot get in Macau that they can get in Canton, but still they have no difficulty finding plenty of food to eat.
- Yesterday Ms. Butler and Hattie were prepared to return to Canton and pack up in order to be ready to leave at the slightest notice. However, they have decided to stay in Macau and monitor the situation for danger through letter writing. They are going to try and see if they can rent for a month or two in Macau
- Macau is very beautiful with mountains by the sea.
- Hattie always thinks of Cynthia when she is in Macau, because it was in Macau that Cynthia spent the last few months of her life. She passed away seventeen years ago. Dr. Kerr's wife is also buried in the graveyard with Cynthia.

1884 August 7

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie discusses the work of Dr. Kerr and Dr. Thompson prompted by a photo she is sending home to father.

- She then discusses a photo of the scholars: “The little picture of the scholars was miserably taken they are so black like little negroes whereas many of them are not much darker than I have grown to be.”
- Another picture being sent is of their pastor’s family, Kwan Loi. “He is not easily frightened and has endured a good deal of persecution. He had a price set on his head at that time.”

1884 August 28

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Violence, War, and Politics

- Mrs. McDonald from the Bangkok mission came to visit on her way home with her son. They were at first far from excited about the prospect of entertaining her for the next two weeks because Hattie was sure that Mrs. McDonald was not fond of her.
- With rumors of riots spreading, Hattie advised Mrs. McDonald to return to Mr. Cunningham’s home on Shamian island for it would not be good if they had to leave the premises because of the riots to look after a guest.
- “She came back in the evening but had already arranged to go back to Hong Kong this morning which we were delighted to hear. I was sorry for her disappointment in not finding a place to stay comfortably but we could not want her to be here for two weeks. And Canton just now is not a good place for strangers. Most of our ‘things’ are in Macao, that is, clothing, bedding, table cloths, silver + c— so we are not in a very good time for visitors, besides we are far too lazy and busy to want to take the time to entertain any visitors.”

1884 August 28

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Culture, Language, and Art; Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics

- Hattie is describing Varnum’s birthday, which was on July 10<sup>th</sup>. She says that he is now twice the age that she is. Makes a comment about how she is sure he can remember when he was four times the age. By this rate Hattie feels she will overtake her father in age.
- The Chinese always mention how fortunate they are to have parents who reach an older age. Express the wish that you will one day live to be a hundred years old. It seems to be a popular saying in China.
- One of the Christians said that he hoped Varnum’s days would be as long as the days of Abraham.
- Hattie is speaking of the disciple Paul. She says that she admires him and greatly waits for the day that she will associate with him in heaven.
- Says she no longer goes by Hattie in China. Harriet is far more appropriate for a missionary of her years. Mattie and Hattie are too juvenile for women between forty and fifty.
- Since she was named after Harriet Newell, she feels entitled to the full name “Harriet Newell Noyes.” Especially since it looks pretty written. Thanking her father for giving her that name and asking him to either use Hattie or Harriet as he prefers.
- Changes the subject to war news.
- The French after knocking out the arsenal at Fanching? as well as sinking seven Chinese gunboats and are now going to Nanching (Nanjing, Jiangsu).

- Nanching is where Hattie's friend Mr. Leaman and Lucy are located. Hattie does not expect them to come to Canton.
- She expresses remorse for the Chinese people.
- They have been trying to get a navy. However the event of Fanching? shows that they are incapable of raising an effective defense. Says they are afraid of their own guns and steamers.
- The French vessels were unharmed and they lost a total of seven men.

1884 September 4

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics; Violence, War, and Politics

- Harriet says they are having dark days now because Christians are persecuted.
- There was a proclamation that was published three days ago, which Harriet is extremely concerned about and wants to ensure her father reads. The proclamation offered \$100,000 to anyone who captures a French gunboat. It also offered \$10,000 for the head of the French admiral, and \$100 for the head of a common soldier. The end of the document made a distinction between French men and representatives from other nationalities, but Harriet is worried no one noticed this point.
- They received telegrams from Shanghai stating that the French were on their way to attacking Canton. The government, according to Hattie, is so frightened they for a while have been war-ruled.
- The night before last the city was in great excitement. Since then the consuls have kept all foreigners off the streets.
- Other proclamations have now been issued saying all of the French have left Canton, and asking to not molest other foreigners.
- There is a reward of \$100 for every native Christian seized.
- Harriet says that every moment in the last 3 days has been listening to accounts of the suffering that Christians have been going through.
- At one of Harriet's schools yesterday a mob gathered outside. They threw stones and yelled insults. Their pastor Riu Kwan Loi?, as well as one of the teachers husbands, went to try and quiet the people, but it was a vain attempt and the mob stoned them. They eventually escaped under the cover of chairs. One of the teachers, a little girl from the boarding school, was also pushed out into the street.

1884 September 27

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie is thinking that they will go to Macau next week. "Miss Butler's health is so miserable that it seems as though she must go away somewhere and see if a change will not do her good and she will not go anywhere unless I go with her."
- Hattie reports that it is not expected that the French will come to Canton, and Hattie hopes that in time all will be quiet again.
- "The disturbance in the country still continues but the worst for this time is doubtless over."
- "Some of the Chinese say that on the Sabbath when the first proclamation which has made all the trouble here was put up that if there had been anyone brave enough to take the lead the mission

premises here would certainly have been destroyed. The people thought then that the authorities would be pleased if they could drive away or kill any of the foreigners but they understand very thoroughly now that the French have all left Canton and that if they molest any other foreigners they will only get themselves into difficulty. The mission work however is very much broken up, none of the scholars dare to come to the schools and there is very little preaching in the chapels. In the country many of the chapels have been destroyed and the Christians driven away.”

- “Miss Mary Fulton M.D. will be on the next steamer. Mr Fulton is going down to Hong Kong to meet her. I hope that we shall all like her and that she will not be quite so queer as her brother.”
- It takes a lot of time and energy out here to take care of a baby compared to at home.

1884 November 17

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Violence, War, and Politics; Chinese Politics; Medicine & Health

- Hattie will leave Macau for Canton in a few days.
- Hattie says down in Canton the chapels are open and drawing large crowds. Also some of the girls are returning to school again.
- She says that the negotiations for peace seem to be advancing and one should soon no longer be molested in Canton. However, the bitter feeling will be a hindrance to Hattie’s work.
- Harriet is explaining how difficult it has been to keep the schools in the city open. The ones in the country they have been able to maintain however.
- Dr. Happer has been sick and will be returning home in March. Harriet thinks that he won’t return to China. As a result of Dr. Happer’s illness, Henry is now in charge of the Primary School.
- Harriet wonders if by the time this letter reaches home if Martha will be on her way back to China.
- Dr. Ellinged and Dr. Irving are also sick
- She sends attached with the letter some pictures of her friends.

1884 November 28

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Slu-Kang Peng

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Building & Development; Culture, Language, and Art; Travel

- Hattie has drawn a blueprint of their residence to show to Varnum Noyes. She wants her father to recognize all the gardens they have surrounding them. They have a beautiful view of the mountains and outer harbor. They also have a good view of the sunsets that have been beautiful according to Hattie. Hattie wonders while she looks at the sunsets if they are not some of the signs of the “approaching end of the age.”
- Hattie wants her father to read *Approaching End of the Age*. Hattie is borrowing a copy from Ms. Butler right now. She ordered a copy from Shanghai and if she gets it, she will send it home. The writer H. Gratham was a missionary in Africa. His mission is now in the control of the Baptists. His book teaches to always be diligent watching for the Second Coming.
- They are currently nearing Canton via ship. The performers are winding down, although a few gentlemen are playing piano. The song has now changed to “Yankee Doodle”. The steamer that

they are on is flying an American flag. It originally belonged to the Chinese, but they were afraid that the French would get the fleet, so they sold the steamer to Russel and Co.

1884 December 11

From: Harriet

To: Mother

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie has been alone in her home for the past two weeks, but has had many Chinese visitors because the boarding school has yet to open.
- Hattie visited the day school across from Honam today.
- Hattie says the “excitement” (violence/hostility?) has died down and they can go about the streets as they normally would now.
- Hattie is going to go to Macau for Christmas and New Years.
- Hattie says that if the French do not conclude to come to Canton, they will go about business as usual. Hattie hopes that she saw in the papers that the French were proposing to occupy Canton. Hattie says that it is unlikely because they would need to send out a great force and spend a great deal of money to do so. Hattie said that she and the others, if the French did go through with the occupation, would have plenty of time to prepare and make arrangements when the French forces would be on their way from France.
- Henry and Mr. Fulton are out in Shek Lung this week to install a pastor there.

1884 December 22

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Harriet says that she is going to spend Christmas and New Year’s with her family in Macau. However, she needs to return the day after New Year’s.
- Traveling is quite expensive costing her \$ 6 for a round trip to Macau.
- Harriet says she feels that Macau is restful and quiet. She is convinced that none of them will ever be content in Canton again.
- At the Sabbath meeting the day before, Hattie says a good number of the church members were present. It was nice for all of them to be together after the trouble of the past few months.
- Hattie says that there were 5 new members of the congregation. One of them has a miserable cancer. Now that she has received the gospel she is not afraid to die. Another of the women is the cook’s wife’s mother. The cook’s wife also wants to join the truth but he will not allow it. Hattie is keeping him in her prayers so that he changes his mind.
- One of the men who joined the congregation is a scholar and man of property and the missionaries hope he is useful.
- Henry is to take over charge of the Training School.

1885 January 7

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- The meeting today was located at Mr. Henry’s home which is now occupied by Miss Stein.



- The new Baptist brother, Mr. Hickson, led the meeting. Hattie says that Mrs. Hickson is really quite pretty, but Mr. Hickson is “of the very homeliest men in the world. His face looks as though it had been accidentally flattened in some way.”
- Miss Young, who is at the mission now in Macau with Miss Lewis and Miss Butler, reminds Hattie of Em all the time, and her name is also Em.
- Dr. and Mrs. Graves “want to make a lady of her,” which Hattie finds rather ridiculous because she can scarcely be alone for a minute, which cuts into her mission work.
- Mr. Pointer (?) is here, who Hattie says would have proposed to Lucy if Mr. Leaman had not. Mr. Leaman is a missionary of the Southern Presbyterian board.
- Lucy opened her boarding school on October 15th.
- “I share with you all in the grief and mortification of having a President as Cleveland, I am a “Blaine man” and I have thought all the time that the Prohibitionists were making a great mistake to divide the Republican party so. Still we will hope the Democrats will not wreck the ship of the State. They no doubt think it is high time for them to have their turn.”

1885 January 25

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics; Violence, War, and Politics; Building & Development

- Hattie mentions that the Chinese and the French need to come to some kind of settlement before Hattie can open any new schools or before her school is very full.
- Hattie says that a few months ago there was an opening in a village outside of the city for a new school, however the village now says that they do not want it nor do they want any foreigners disturbing the peace.
- They expect to reopen the boarding school March 4, and expect that there will be a good number of scholars.
- A Yan’s school was broken up, however she has started another after finding a school room. U-Szui (?) and A Tak have gone to Macau to start another.
- In Macau there is now a boys’ school, girls’ school, a room for a chapel, and a “native assistant,” who preaches every day.
- Hattie expresses that the Roman Catholics will make some opposition because they think it is their field.

1885 January 26

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Miss Butler came up from Macau and Hattie says they are having “a nice cozy time.” They are planning to ship down to Macau soon for the Chinese New Year before the boarding school commences on the fourth of March.
- Hattie discusses the men interested in Verdie Happer and the other people she is living with. Hattie hopes that when her father leaves for America that the sailors that have been stationed here for a while will not pay the house too many visits.
- The missionaries drafted a letter congratulating Dr. Happer on forty years of missionary service, however Hattie and Miss Butler do not think it was that good.

1885 January 27

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- They are due two mails now. Harriet says that there is a rumor that the *City of New York* came into Yokohama towing the *San Pablo*.
- Last night Mr. Hayer from Hong Kong and Dr. Matherson called on them. Harriet half expects that Mr. Hayer will ask Miss Butler to marry him but does not think Miss Butler would accept.
- Harriet talks about a long letter that Miss Archibald sent about the illness leading up to and the death of Miss Laughlin.

1885 January 28

From: Harriet

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine and Health; Violence, War, and Politics

- The prayer meeting is at Mr. Fulton's tonight.
- Hattie sent a table linen and a crocheted shawl.
- After the prayer meeting, Mr. Matherson and them went to Dr. Happer's. He is looking very old and feeble since he fell ill. He is talking with difficulty because he is having trouble breathing. They may be leaving on the next steamer, the same one that will carry this letter.
- The Kerrs are also having trouble with health. The two nieces and one nephew that are staying with them back at home studying at the college have all had attacks of typhoid fever.
- The 46th annual meeting of the medical missionary society is being held tonight, the society which supports the hospital in Canton.
- Dr. Thompson had been worrying that contributions to the society would not be as good this year because of the war but Hattie feels like they have come out well. Apparently the Chinese have been giving very liberally to the hospital.
- Hattie says that there have been fewer patients at the hospital because of the political trouble this year.
- The Chinese new year begins on February 13th, a Sunday, and they hope to spend it in Macau.

1885 February 4

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Macau

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than China; Travel; Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie is delighted that they are spending some time in Macau during their holiday for the New Year.
- They now have two schools in Macau. They came down a day early to "surprise the girls," Miss Lewis and Miss Young.
- The Happers expect to be in Wooster about the 10th of May.

1885 February 6

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Macau

Thematic Classifications: Development; Missionary Politics

- Misses Young, Lewis, and Butler are in Macau with Harriet. Hattie expects that they will spend a month together before going back to Canton.
- They closed the day schools. The girls school has about thirty enrolled, which will reopen after the new year. They also expect to have two boys schools.
- They have been tasked with finding a home for a sanitarium for the mission. Hattie hopes that they succeed in doing so “in self defense as they are in danger of breaking the tenth commandment.”
- There was apparently quite a fuss at the meeting about the renting of the house that Hattie is currently staying in to act as the sanitarium.
- There have been some other general disagreements between the missionaries. Some of the old missionary’s homes are wanted to be taken over by new missionaries (e.g., Dr. Happer’s house), and Mr. Fulton has even said that the old missionaries need to leave the field to make room for the scores of new missionaries. Hattie thinks this is a rather singular way of thinking about this, especially because there are so many locations for missionaries to go.
- Hattie says that Mr. White and Mr. Fulton have been appointed to Kwang-Sai, where there are millions of people and no missionaries have yet to travel there.

1885 April 16

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Many people are traveling or planning to travel. Dr. Thurman (?) is going to Macau for the Sabbath to meet his family, Henry is thinking of going to Hainan in May and leaving his family in Macau while he is away, and Mrs. Thurman, Miss Baird, and Miss Lewis are already in Macau.
- Hattie tells Mattie a secret that she must keep even in America: Dr. Lyall is to marry Miss Norwood sooner or later, who is ten or twelve years older than him. Hattie thinks this is a strange match.
- The Ashmons (?) are quite distressed about it and are considering not having single ladies come over at all. Hattie says, however, that Miss Norwood has put in eight good years of service, and there will be people coming back to take her place.
- Miss Whilden (?) hopes to come back next autumn, and Hattie wonders if Mattie would like to come back Dr. and Mrs. Kerr, who are expecting to come in August or September.

1885 April 16

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie calculates that it’s been 7 ½ years since she left home.
- They now have 40 students in the boarding school, but if the people think that peace is officially here the school will fill up.
- The newspapers say that the French are completely vanquished and begging for peace on any terms.
- She says that the head of the Chinese coalition government recently asked for the consul to find some foreign physicians. Hattie is debating with Dr. Thumnon of the English mission whether it is safe for foreign physicians in China.

1885 April 30

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Harriet says it seems strange after so many years of Republicans to have a Democrat for president. She mentions her father's account of Cleveland's inauguration.
- Harriet is a huge supporter of the temperance movement and she fears it will be a long time before a president can be elected that is aware of the temperance question and issue.
- Henry preached a great sermon using the words of the Apostle Paul.
- She describes steam ships that the Chinese paint eyes on as a symbol of good luck and safety, as well as idols placed at the helm. Harriet describes these charms as wicked. These were the ships that she and Henry used to go visit the country and she finds them rather uncomfortable.

1885 May 4

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is writing for Em's birthday.
- They had the monthly concert tonight, in their home as always. Dr. Taylor led it this time. He is a missionary from Japan, his home being "somewhere in Ohio." Hattie then says they talked about "the superiority of Ohio and her children."
- "Henry read a while ago in some paper an article written by an Englishman who attempted to account for the 'fact' that the people of The Western Reserve Ohio were superior to the rest of the world." He says that the people that settled the Western Reserve were superior people, and that they inherited this superiority.
- Dr. Taylor was brought by Dr. Thurman who is staying with them for the summer. With Dr. Taylor came Dr. Luscher. Dr. Taylor had just been on a trip to Korea where he visited Dr. Allen, who has been practicing medicine there.
- Hattie says they talked about an odd custom they have in Korea. Women are typically kept relatively secluded, however every night at 9pm, a bell is rung and all of the men on the streets return home and the women are allowed to roam the streets as they please until 11pm.
- Hattie got two tiger claw pins to send home for Emily and Mary.

1885 May 21 & 25

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie is writing for Clara's birthday.
- Two of Hattie's students were sick today and she spent all day looking after them. She thought that one of them had cholera, but after spending a great deal of time caring for her they were not worried.

- The students made a commotion and said they thought they saw a man come in through the window from the roof. Hattie looked all over to find nothing, and is staying with the sick students to help them from being too frightened.

1885 June 1

From: Harriet

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is writing for Mattie's birthday.
- It has been over four years since Mattie left, and Hattie hopes to spend Mattie's next birthday with her in Canton.
- The Fultons' mother is thinking of coming to Canton to live with the Fultons, and Hattie wonders if she will come out with Mattie.
- Hattie is one of few missionaries that has been in Canton for more than ten years. At the last Conference, which had over forty attend, only four there including Hattie had been there more than ten years.

1885 June 3 & 8

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Hattie actually started writing this letter on the eighth, but since Sara's birthday is June third, she put that date at the top.
- Hattie talks about her day on the third, the conference was held in the evening and there were only two other people present who had been in China for over ten years.

1885 June 6

From: Harriet

To: Mattie Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health

- Hattie says that they are watching impatiently for the steamer from Hong Kong for their home mail. The steamer from Macau came in some time ago, but since the tide is so low and the steamer from Hong Kong is so much larger, she does not doubt that it is likely stuck in the mud somewhere.
- Hattie went to go teach a Sabbath school teacher his lesson, so she restarted writing this letter on Monday the eighth. Since then, the steamer has come with the mail from home dated May 2nd.
- Hattie said that Mrs. Fulton received a letter from her mother talking about how Mattie had written Mrs. Fulton's mother herself saying that she is not well. Hattie says that if this is so she should not come back because of how the climate affected her health when she was here last.
- Hattie says that Miss Butler has also been in poor health. She says that Miss Butler had an attack of pneumonia, that she has had Dengue fever, and that she has been having trouble sleeping. Hattie says that despite all of this, Miss Butler has still been able to keep up with her work and studies just like any of the able-bodied missionaries.

- Hattie says that she has come to the conclusion that a trip up the coast every summer is “about the worst thing possible in every way.” Hattie much prefers the idea of them keeping their house in Macau.

1885 June 8

From: Harriet

To: Em

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- The letter that Em and Clara sent May 2nd, came on Saturday as well as a letter from Mrs. Perkins, who Harriet enjoys very much.
- The founder, Dr. Sherman, has just gone down to Macau to see his wife and will be back this afternoon.
- This seems irregular to have a doctor leaving(?) as he does not usually come at the proper time.
- He sometimes brings with him Dr. Leech, a doctor from the S.S Palos, a gunboat that was stationed in China, Japan and Korea during this time.
- Dr. Leech, Harriet thinks, is quite attractive and he used to be a school friend of Mr. White, though he is much younger than Mr. White.
- Mr. Fulton has just left to go into the country and Henry is still gone in Hariscom(?)
- Harriet is very sorry to hear that “Cousin Maria is walking in darkness.” Miss Lewis had a similar experience that lasted for years.
- Harriet wishes that Dr. Brigham(?) would convert to Christianity and pursue Christian work, “with the energy with which he does everything else.”
- Harriet finds it disappointing that Calvin Elliott does not have many men interested in his church.
- Harriet thinks having a real earnest and faithful minister would be a great comfort to her family.
- Harriet is sorry to hear of Mrs. Lelaudo’s affliction, she wonders if she will ever see her again but she also sends her love.
- Emily is having trouble with her throat and Harriet hopes that the weather will help.
- Miss Brittin had a pair of canaries and she is raising some young ones, but one of the unnatural fathers ate one of the canaries
- Canaries cost very little here, and Hattie wishes she could send one to Em because Birdye, Emily’s canary, just died.

1885 June 8

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Harriet talks of a “revival” in Seville, and about how when she came home how happy she was to see John Hugh in church as a Christian.
- She also talks about how coming home felt like going to heaven.

1885 June 8

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; American Politics

- Hattie and Miss Butler are taking the day to write letters for the mail tomorrow.

- Hattie says that it is a nice day following a storm last night. Hattie thought at first there might be a typhoon because the wind was blowing so violently, but there was thunder and lightning and they knew that there would be no typhoon. Hattie says that one of the girls at the school was so frightened at first but when she heard the thunder she thought it was the voice of Jesus telling her not to be afraid.
- Hattie says that there seems to be a great deal of sickness this year; two or three of the girls are “out of sorts” today.
- There are nine more weeks of school with the school being closed on the 11th of August.
- A few days ago Lt. Commander Nelson of the U.S. Gunboat Palos called and they took him over to the school and he seemed very pleased with it. He said that anyone that runs a school as fine as theirs deserves a good long vacation when the time comes. Hattie told him that she wants to go home in two years at the latest, and he said that he would be going home at the same time and hopes that they share the same steamer.
- Hattie congratulates Mary on her success as a “pedagoguess.”

1885 June 22

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Missionary Politics

- Today they will be receiving the home mail and mail to America will be going out tomorrow. Hattie will be sending Edward two small paintings of Chinese boats with this mail. Hattie has already sent two to father.
- Hattie says that one of the paintings is a Tientsin (Tianjin) junk that is named because they make the journey up to Tianjin in North China (Tianjin is near Beijing). Harriet says, “they are such clumsy unmanageable looking crafts it seems surprising that they could ever have been fit to go out on the ocean but are said to be quite seaworthy.”
- Hattie continues talking about watercraft: “You will see the great eyes painted on the bows of the vessel. They all have them for as the Chinese say, ‘no can see how can walkee (?)’ The foreign steamers running between here and Hong Kong also have an improved representation of the human eye painted on each side, in conformity to Chinese ideas of what is necessary for successful navigation.”
- Hattie talks more about watercraft: “This is of course an immaterial matter but the steamboat company has made another concession which seems very wrong— on each of these magnificent steamers clear at the front is mounted a miserable little wooden idol under where \_\_\_\_ the vessel is supposed to be by the Chinese passengers. It seemed so shocking to me when I first saw it.”
- Hattie then talks about the boat in the other painting that she is sending, a passage boat: “These boats take the place in China of our railroad trains and steamers at home. There are regular lines from Canton to all the large cities in the interior. For Fathsan twelve miles distant I think a boat leaves every hour during the day. They often look as we pass them as though they are crowded to suffocation. Some of the missionaries travel in them occasionally but it is not a very comfortable way of journeying as the cabins are never high enough for anyone to stand in.”

1885 June 22

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Their last mail from home had been lost in the river. The man who usually delivers it to them lost them when his boat capsized on the swollen river coming back from the office.

1885 June 22

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie was just on the roof looking for any signs of the approaching steamer carrying the mail.
- There has been some flooding. The yard has at least three feet of water in it. Luckily, the main part of the house is set four feet above the ground so there is no danger that the main part of the house will flood, however, the kitchen has about a foot of water in it.
- Hattie says she worries for the Chinese because the cost of rice has already gone up, and since it is almost ready to harvest, the flooding has probably ruined the crop.
- Hattie says that when the first rain came, everyone hailed it because it “cleaned the atmosphere and put a stop to the cholera.” However, she continues to say “but this flood will doubtless sow the seeds for a large crop of fevers.”
- Hattie says that last night, Sabbath, that no one attended the service because of the flooding. They didn’t even light the lamps for it. She also says that the current is so swift and the tide so high on the river that most boats have not been on it, but does say that there are still some going up and down it.
- Hattie says she and Miss Butler are alone because Dr. Thompson is in Macau and Miss Stein in Shamian, so she appreciates the flooding because it makes her feel secure from intruders.
- Hattie says that a man that lives near the premises will go and wade to get their mail for them.

1885 July 25

From: “Harriet De La Noye”

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Dr. McCandliss has been boarding with them for a week now.
- Dr. Thomson is currently in Macau, so Dr. McCandliss is heading the hospital, and their “mature family.”
- Mr. Fulton is in Hong Kong and Henry and Mr. White are on one of their relief expeditions.
- There was an article in *The Atlantic Monthly* that is about their name. French came to New England, and among them was Philip De la Noye who came over in the Fortune in 1621.
- Included with the letter was some copied prose.

○ “Master we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing.” —Luke 5-5

○ “All night in the darkness looking And seemingly all in vain, In a land that sits in the shadows, Of sin, and death, and pain.

And our hearts sometimes grow weary, our thoughts are with sadness fraught, For doubt, and discouragement whisper, Ye but spend your strength for naught.

Does the seed all fall by the wayside, Amid thornes, or on stony grand, Will there be no yield of golden grain, Will nothing but tares be found?

Oh! Surely, the Lord of the harvest, Will care for the seed we sow, For His love for the erring, and sinful Is deeper than we can know.



And the eye that never slumbereth, Watching even the sparrow's flight, Sees beyond the  
 midnight darkness, The glow of the morning light.  
 So our faith and hope grow stronger, With thoughts of His boundless love, And the  
 darkness around us brightens, In the light, that shines from above.  
 For the Master will come in the morning, When the long dark hours are past, And the  
 work that has seemed so fruitless, He will crowe with success at last.  
 He knows all our trials and weaknesses, But with Him is infinite power, And His  
 promise, "Fear not I am with thee." Is ours in the darkest hour.  
 And when sowers and reapers together Rejoice o'er the ripened grain, We shall see where  
 the harvest is gathered That no work for the Master was vain."  
 Hattie Noyes

1885 August 20

From: Hattie

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie is hoping that with the next mail she will get word of when Martha will be leaving for China and for when the Henrys and Mrs. Perkins will be leaving for China.
- They closed up the school successfully and Hattie is pleased with her students.
- Hattie says she believes they have very good singers "for Chinese musicians." Her music scholars also play with much energy. Hattie also had the first attempt to have them sing alto.
- Mr. McCandles has been the only man in their mission for most of the time that he has been here.

1885 September 30

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- "The time since I came back does not seem very long. It has been rather broken up. First moving down here and building, then the riot and the war—the poor people who suffered from the floods this year seem in danger of having still harder times. Much of their land is so underwater that it is unreclaimable. As soon as they could after the great flood they put it another crop of rice but the heavy rains and consequent floods destroyed that. Now they have a third crop in but it is so late in the season that it seems almost certain that that will perish for want of rain."
- "The Chinese seem so many of them so wretchedly poor when the times are good that 'hard times' for them is dreadful to contemplate."

1885 October 10

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- Martha is likely to have just left to return to China.
- In five days it will be eight years since Harriet last left home.
- Harriet notes that their work has been frequently interrupted in the past two years.
- Harriet says the summer was too hot for everyone to stay dressed up for company. She says they instead would dress for meals and then immediately go back upstairs to put on their wrappers.

- Dr. Kerr has gone for a trip in the country with the Fultons to try to get a location in the country. “No one excepting themselves has much faith in their success.”
- They are having a verandah built along two thirds of the back of the school. Hattie hopes that it helps break the force of the north wind which can be very cold.

1886 April 1

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie wants to tell Em about how she fell in the river on 26 February.
  - It was on the night that they went to Mrs. White’s tea party.
  - It was very dark and rainy that evening.
  - Only the Consul and Mrs. White were there beside themselves.
  - Mr. Wisner came with them upon their return home, and he cautioned Hattie about walking too close to the edge of the boat.
  - Hattie thought the edge of the boat was further than it actually was, and stepped off the boat and fell into the water.
  - “...if Mr. Wisner could not rescue me that I might as well drown.”
  - Mr. Wisner jumped in the river after her and was able to touch the bottom. A boat across the river poled over and helped them out of the water.
- Hattie always thought that if she fell into the river she would drown, and had Mr. Wisner not been there she believes she likely would have. She feels indebted to him for the rest of her life.
- She postulates that if it had been Dr. Kerr or the Consul or anyone else, she surely would have died. “So I was very thankful that my presence happened to be Mr. Wisner who is young and strong and handsome.”

1886 April 12

From: Harriet

To: Miss Mary Noyes, D.D.

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie wants to congratulate Mary on her promotion from a district school to the deaf and dumb school of Pennsylvania.
- “I did not dream that we would have another D.D. in the family.”
- Hattie says teaching for the deaf and dumb must be so much more like mission work than teaching in one of the district schools.
- Hattie says that Gilbert told her that when the children arrive at the institute they are so heathen, like the Chinese, and are destitute of religious ideas.
- “I am sure if our family is not doing its duty for the rising generation I do not know who could be.”
- Hattie hopes that she enjoys living in Pittsburgh and recounts how much she loved its beauty when she stayed there for the first time.

1886 May 14

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- Hattie is writing for Em's birthday, even though it is a few days late.
- "We have been up this morning to see the Fathers. They have had a hard experience but they seem bright and cheerful notwithstanding and hopeful."
- Hattie hopes they succeed in staying in Kwai Ping because it seems to be such a good location.
- Hattie will be going home in the next few weeks.
- Hattie wants someone at home to write Gilbert to see if he will be in San Francisco when she arrives so they can travel east together.

1886 June 10

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie says, "I can hardly realize that it is possible that I shall so soon be 'homeward bound.'"
- Hattie says she has counted the days for five years in the past, but Hattie says that this time she hasn't had time to think of it.
- Hattie says that Mattie should be writing about her wedding but when Hattie comes home she will provide all of the details. She says Mattie looked very well and that her dress was a perfect success, and was most becoming. Henry married them, and it was just after the prayer meeting. Dr. Graves, Mr. White, and Mr. Henry and Henry each offered a prayer.
- Miss Butler made the cake and it was good.
- There were about forty Americans present and also about forty Chinese.
- Today Dr. and Mrs. Kerr went to Macau. They will probably be returning next Tuesday.

1887 April 14

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Seville, Ohio

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Medicine & Health

- Harriet is at home with Varnum, who is sleeping, Edward who is plowing, and Em who is sitting in the rocking chair.
- "Father seems pretty well this morning is getting so that he can help himself more."
- "Dear little Mother she has been at rest and happy for three weeks. I cannot help feeling glad that we are as far on in the journey of life as we are so that the years will not be so many until we are united again in heaven and our broken circle complete again."

1887 April 29

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Seville, Ohio

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- 'Dear little' Mother died five weeks ago. Hattie says that as a family they need to look forward. Hattie says a book called "Our friends in Heaven" has been a true comfort to her. The ones who went before can watch from heaven and ensure that the ones still in life are continuing the Christian race.
- She says that Mary must feel lonely. But the weeks are quickly passing and she can soon come home.

- The news from China is that Bella (Henry's wife) and their two boys Wallie and R Varnum are already on their way home, having left Canton on the 26th of April. They will stop by Seville on their way home. Hattie hopes that the little nephews will still be there when Mary gets home.
- Father is getting better from his sickness, and Edward has had some trouble with toothache.

1888 October 11

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Violence, War, and Politics

- Hattie is describing how the native Christians suffer, because the Chinese people hate the people who have accepted the foreigner's doctrine.
- She says the papers that evening are full of rumors of negotiations between France and china. But Hattie seems to believe that this is only a rumor.
- Riots are resulting over questions of reparations for property and justice for murder.
- The case in study is a Portuguese sailor employed on an English steamer who had killed three people. The trial determined it was up to the British to pass a verdict. Hattie points to a case where a Chinese official arrested a Chinaman on an English ship. She says now that "the shoe is on the other foot" the British want nothing to do with the Portuguese criminal.
- Hattie tells another story of an English sailor who during a fight in a village killed two locals and was killed himself. The foreigners of Canton demanded "life for life." Without trial two other villagers were given up and beheaded as reprimand. She says when the Chinese want "life for life" the outcome is not the same.
- She tells one more story of many years ago when English vessels sailed up the river, took the city of Hong Kong, and demanded access for foreigners threatening to open fire on the city the next morning.
- 

1888 September 26

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Chinese Politics; Violence, War, and Politics; Missionary Politics

- Hattie says that Mrs. Niles and her are excellent sleepers, but she wishes she could say the same for Mrs. Butler. She has a hard time sleeping because of the dengue fever and colds.
- There is a lot of hostility towards foreigners, because of the events of the last few weeks. Hattie doesn't think it will stop until the settlement. The man who killed a Chinese man is currently on trial. However, his wife is in charge of the persecution and told Miss Niles the other day that most likely the man will be acquitted.
- Two of Canton's highest officials have been degraded by the viceroy and will not be restored to power until they find 300 rebels. 100 already have been arrested, and Hattie is certain they will be beheaded. This excites the people greatly.
- There are also rumors of war with France. The people are upset with the Viceroy for yielding to the foreigner's demands.
- The foreigners are demanding about 8 million dollars? in indemnity. Some say that the amount should be closer to a quarter of a million dollars based on the losses attained. Hattie says the viceroy and the people would not ever pay that amount.

- The boarding school is back up and running for the semester. They currently aren't making trips out to the day schools. According to Hattie they are refraining from going to the day schools "not that we are afraid of any trouble but the Chinese are not feeling very friendly just now."
- They had the "dedication" on the 20<sup>th</sup> and it was well attended.

1889 February 7

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Near Cheyenne, Wyoming

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- It has almost been a week since Harriet left home.
- They passed Cheyenne (Wyoming) early this morning. They are making up lost time because they had to stop this morning in Laramie to replace a wheel that had been bent, causing them to lose nearly an hour.
- Harriet discusses the other passengers that she is traveling with.

1889 February 9

From: Harriet

To: Dear ones at home

Location: San Francisco, CA

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Harriet is staying at the Occidental Hotel. Harriet is staying with five Methodist ladies who are traveling to be missionaries. They are going to be staying in the hotel until next Wednesday.
- They reached San Francisco this morning around 11AM.

1889 February 13

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: San Francisco, CA, USA

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Hattie supposes that this will be her last day in America for years.
- Hattie wanted to write to Mr. Notestein, but was too tired and felt too hurried. Hattie says she will write to him on the steamer if she is not seasick.
- Hattie will be reaching Canton on the 17th of March.
- They spent the day shopping yesterday morning and then went to a missionary meeting of the methodists. They gave small speeches.

1889 February 28

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Harriet discusses everyone being at home together and how next year Henry and his family will be in the home and how the following year Dr. Kerr and Martha will likely be home.
- In discussing how Edward forgot to hire a teacher for Mary Elliott's class: "I hope he will not fail to appreciate his advantages, a married man has only one helpmate (?) while he has three."

1889 February 28

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- It has been five weeks since Harriet departed from Cleveland.
- The *S.S. Priam* was wrecked off the coast of Spain. “Nearly all of the steamers that I have ever traveled on have been wrecked.”

1889 February 28

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Locations other than Canton

- Harriet recalls her last Sabbath at home and her departure from Cleveland.

1889 February 2

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Hattie has been making headway on writing letters and learning hymns in the hymnal.
- It has been very warm in the past month.

1889 February

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones At Home

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie is saying goodbye to everyone once more all together.

1889 March 5

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*, Pacific Ocean

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is writing to the “quartette” at home because it is her birthday. Hattie recalls her birthday in 1881 when father and mother were still there. She also recalls her birthday the previous year, when her father was still alive, and Em made some ice cream.
- Hattie has looked through the hymnal and says she knows 105 hymns. She is quite delighted to find she knows so many.
- They are expected to reach Yokohama tomorrow.
- Hattie finished a letter to Mr. Notestein today that she commenced on Feb. 28.

1889 March 8

To: Clara Noyes

From: Harriet Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Missionary Politics

- Harriet recently stayed in Yokohama, after landing she took a jinsiksha(?) to the Bible House where she met Mr. Louis' (?) nephew of Dr. Louis of San Francisco.
- They invited her for tea because they did not have enough room for her to stay overnight.
- Hattie was interested in a man who was with Mr. Louis but she did not get his name. He is the pastor in the foreigners' church in Yokohama.
- This man asked if she was related to "brother Noyes" and spoke very highly of him.
- Dr. Hepburn says that the Japanese read and understand the questions(?) came between him and the Board.
- The reverend asked if Harriet had ever been to China and she replied "with emphasis, that I had been there twenty years, and he said 'I should not think you were more than twenty.'"

1889 March 8

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Edward Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- Thursday morning Harriet had breakfast at Dr. Hepburn's with two gentlemen
- The captain, who is English, says he has friends in Yokohama that had a 'beastly trip across' to express their disgust.
- After meeting with Dr. Hepburn, she went to the shops to pick up some autrelises for Miss Butler(?)
- While Harriet was shopping, she bought Miss Butter(?) a baker's knife similar to the one she gave to Edward.
- While shopping Harriet ran into Miss Imshoff and Miss Crosby, two of her friends.
- Before dinner there were 136 scholars and Harriet found it quite refreshing to be around them.
- Mr. Lomis(?) helped Harriet get to the wharf and through customs to be able to get a boat to the Oceanic.
- The Parkers arranged for Harriet to get a room on the upper deck of the boat, with a bed nicer than she had felt in years.
- They should only be aboard for 4 more days, the Eng' men say they should get in at 8am Wednesday and the captain says at noon.
- Harriet hopes that Dr. Kerr and Nathan come down to Hong Kong, but they probably will not because it won't be convenient for them.
- Harriet wishes she got to stay in Tokio(Tokyo), but there was not enough time on this trip.

1889 March 11

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Hattie's long voyage is almost over. The captain said that they will be in Hong Kong by 6:00PM Wednesday.
- There has been a conflict between Miss Butler and the Henrys which Hattie hopes is now resolved. Hattie has copied two letters that the Henrys sent to her while she was still in Japan. The Henrys want any conflict between them to be smoothed out before Hattie arrives.
- Hattie says she has nothing against them except that Mr. Henry did not include Henry in his book.

1889 March 11

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic* near China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- This is the fourteenth letter that Harriet has written today.
- “We hope to see the shores of China tomorrow and reach Hong Kong the next morning.”
- It has almost been a whole year since Mother died.

1889 March 12

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: *S.S. Oceanic*

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Culture, Language, and Art;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie has been getting up relatively early for breakfast, around 6:30am, which she normally has been getting up two hours later. She says it is quite hard to rise early on the boat, and requires a lot of exertion just to get dressed.
- Hattie talked with some of the crew about being shipmen. One of them said that his little boy only knows him as the man who comes home on Sunday and whips him. The other men said that one must be a “blooming idiot” to go to sea during one’s youth. One of their wives was ill before he last left and he is quite anxious to return to attend to her.
- “It seems a pity that those who are happy together must live apart and those who are unhappy together must live together.”
- Hattie talked to a stewardess. Before working as a stewardess, she used to have \$20,000 to her name. Then she married a bad man who likely took it all and she now resorts to being a stewardess to support herself (I do not believe she lives with the man whom she wed).

1889 March 14 & 21

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: *S.S. Honam*, Canton River

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- 14
  - Hattie is just ending her long journey now that began on February 1st. They are still eight miles from Canton.
- 21
  - Hattie says she is going to try to continue writing a little bit every day. She is not sure how long she will be able to keep it up.
  - Hattie talks about her deceased parents and how she feels close to them. She is glad that she waited for the monument to be completed.

1889 March 24

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Medicine & Health

- It has been two years since Mother passed. Hattie says she does not feel as close to them in China as she did in the home.



- Hattie continued writing her letter on April 7.
- She says she wishes she could do her mission work in China and then spend the sabbaths at home in Seville.
- She copied a poem she had recently read titled “A Mother’s Story.”
- By the time this letter reaches Clara, the first anniversary of their father’s death will have passed.
- Hattie continued writing her letter on April 8.
- Miss Butler had been sick for the past week but is now feeling better. Hattie thinks that it was an attack of tonsillitis.
- Hattie is grateful that she waited for the monument in the cemetery to be erected instead of returning to China right away.

1889 March 31 & April 1

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- They are spending some time in Macau and it is Mary’s birthday, she is thirty-six now.
- Harriet and Miss Butler have been talking quite a bit.
- They are now having their breakfasts at 7:30 in the morning instead of 8:00.
- They visited the protestant church in Macau today, near the protestant cemetery. Hattie says that in the past it had essentially been in ruins, however it has since been restored and can now accommodate about sixty people.
- Hattie says visiting the church reminds her of Cynthia. In their first summer in Macau, Cynthia would go to that church every week, however the second year she could no longer attend.
- Hattie states that Dr. Morrison, the first missionary to China, is buried in that cemetery, and that Dr. Kerr’s first wife and one of Mrs. Preston’s children are buried there as well.
- Hattie describes that someone asked her if Canton felt “natural” to her, and she replied that of course it feels natural because she has been there for so long, but that she enjoys leaving Canton for Macau every once in a while.
- Hattie says that Miss Butler may go home in a year.

1889 April 8

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Harriet fears she left a book and some photographs at home and wishes for Emily to send them if they are.

1889 April 20

To: Clara Noyes

From: Harriet Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Dr. Bigham was visiting around this time last year, and their father also died this time last year.
- “If I had known that in a few short hours his lifeless form should be carried down by others.”

- Harriet has been upset with Mathew and Dr. Stein(?) earlier in the afternoon, she went with him to see patients and they talked about the illness that killed her father. Dr. Stein had said that based on what he thought was her father's condition, he did not suffer pain and died quickly.
- Harriet writes at great length about the death of her parents and how they are together in Heaven. She also reflects on her time spent with her parents and hopes that she and all her siblings will be together one day in Heaven.

1889 April 23

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- Hattie misses everyone and wishes she could even just spend an hour or two with them on a more regular basis.
- Hattie discusses how she wants to be buried at Mound Hill Cemetery on the family plot instead of being buried in China.
- Hattie is having pictures of father and mother framed.
- Hattie talking about Mattie's marriage: "She takes good care of Dr. Kerr and they seem very happy together which is very nice indeed. His health is so much better now that he has someone to look after him properly."

1889 May 15

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- Mr. and Mrs. Simmons are going to be heading back home soon after spending nine years in China. Everyone was very surprised that Mrs. Simmons was able to last as long as she did after returning from America.
- Dr. Graves will be here within the week on the same ship that will take the Simmons back to America. Hattie discusses whom he may hypothetically marry, discussing two women she describes as "elderly," although they are only in their late thirties.
- Hattie discusses how Baptists seem to find more joy and energy in converting Presbyterians to the Baptist church than they do in converting heathens.
- Henry just returned from a month-long trip to Linchan. They are having trouble finding anyone who would accept to live there. Hattie suggests that they have Sophie and Mr. Wisme go live there, but notes they may be lonely.

1889 May 17

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie wishes that Sophie would get married on May 28th, but supposes that the conference will be held at their home next time.
- "The conference is getting to be quite a formidable affair, the main thing seems to be to see how large an amount it is possible for the Canton missionary community to eat at one sitting."

- Hattie hopes that Mary was successful in, “fooling Edward with your bogus rat (?) he deserved it for persuading Mr. Notestein at the door.”
- Hattie wishes to be buried in Mound Hill Cemetery when she dies (located on East Main Street in Seville, OH).

1889 May 18

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- They are sending this mail by way of Sydney instead of on the normal route with the *Oceanic*.
- Hattie discusses Sophie’s delirium when she was sick. It was quite the ordeal, needing many hands and Dr. Kerr and Dr. Swan. “They burned her so terribly to bring her back to consciousness. I suppose it was all the result of the medical treatment she endured. She was Dr. Fulton’s patient and took so much morphine I think or something else I suppose it must have been that poisoned her and produced the state of unconsciousness from which they used such measures...”

1889 May 20

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet thinks that when Henry is away Mr. Henry is the best preacher there.

1889 May 25

From: Harriet

To: Sarah Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Hattie tried visiting Mr. Happer’s college the other day but there was such a bad storm that she had to turn back.
- Mrs. Happer is now teaching six hours a day but Hattie thinks that she will be struck ill again soon because she is not that strong.
- Hattie says that she will likely only leave home once more to return to China.

1889 May 27

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- The Simmons (?) are leaving to return home today. Hattie postulates what it would be like if the steamer that was to take her home was in Hong Kong today.
- Hattie talks about having A Sin teach one of the blind Bible women who came in from the country. She is one of five women in her village who have converted and they hold a small service every Sunday. She knows two hymns and would like to learn more.
- A Sin learned how to play the accordion all on her own without a teacher, and will use it to help teach the Bible Woman more hymns.

- Hattie talks of Sophie's wonderful voice, and how nice it is for having no formal instruction. She says it is because she has had so much practice.
- Hattie talks about a quote that she would like on the family funerary monument.

1889 June 13

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mr. Cunningham has sent the new schedule, Harriet will try to find a way to send it to Mary, either by copying it down onto paper or by sending her copy to Mary and sharing with Miss Britten.
- Sophie is unsettled on Jeff, but their plans are settled for the third and last time. Her wedding date was set for May 7th, but then changed to the 28th and finally to the 29th of July.
- She is getting married in the church so all the Chinese can come. The church is the Preston Memorial Chapel, Dr. S. Will William donated \$1,000 in memory of Mrs. Preston.
- After the ceremony a reception will be held, Mrs. Britten will bake the cake, two kinds of ice cream will be made and lemonade will be served.
- The death of Harriet's parents does not lessen the homesickness that she feels.
- She does not think any of them will be left alone, or not for very long. She thinks the last one of the family alive will eagerly await going to heaven and "make the circle in heaven complete again."

1889 July 6

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Mentions of Wooster; Missionary Politics

- Mail from two steamers came in today—from the ships *The City of Peking* and the *Arabic*. A new ship is to be added to the line soon, the *China*.
- Dr. Mackle, his wife, and Miss Johnston, all from Wooster, are going to be coming out this fall to go to Luichan.
- "No one knows what is best to be done about the Fultons going up to Ling Chan a thousand miles in the interior. I think no one in the mission favors it really and many feel very decidedly opposed to it."

1889 July [10?]

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- It is Varnum Noyes birthday.
- Harriet loves to look at the missionary school building and says it is a blessing for the Chinese to come visit and learn.
- Mr. Gotville, the minister of Hunghou(?), is leaving. Henry and others are going to fill in for him.
- Hattie describes the new missionary Dr. Sherman as not much of a preacher. Hattie feels sorry for him when it is his turn to preach.

- The mission is planning on closing the boarding school on August 26<sup>th</sup>, which is 10 years to the day that it first opened.

1889 August 2

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie describes in great detail Sophie's wedding dress. She married Frank (?). Hattie also describes the wedding.

1889 August 10

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Miss Butler has gone to the country for a few days to visit one of their scholars who has recently been married and is teaching a school under Dr. Henry's supervision.
- On August 8th it was the 22nd anniversary of Cynthia's death.

1889 August 10

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Harriet talks about her worsening eyesight. So far it has only really affected her organ playing.
- Harriet talks at length about dresses and tailors.

1889 August 11

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Harriet says that after all of the excitement of the past few months, they are now having a quiet time and are enjoying it quite a bit.
- Martha and Dr. Kerr are in Hong Kong right now. Martha has not been well since she was poisoned from eating shrimp.
- Mrs. Gilman of Hainan is very ill and the whole family is coming up to Dr. Swan's, leaving Mr. McCandliss there alone as Mr. Jeremiassen is in the country.

1889 August 11

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster

- Hattie has been looking over the life of Dr. Williams, who she thinks was a lot like father. They even have the same inscription on their monuments.
- Harriet discusses her father's death and death as a subject, comparing it to an alarm clock.

- Last night Harriet dreamed of going to Wooster for some kind of performance.

1889 August 12

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie reports that the *Golden Gate Special*, a locomotive that is faster than most, has been taken off the line. Hattie says that it “did not pay—it was nearly twice as expensive as the ordinary cars which are good enough for anyone.” Although Hattie found it expensive, she also found it “was a beautiful train and seemed to glide along.”
- The railroad will be coming to Seville.

1889 August 12

From: Harriet

To: Sara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie hopes this letter reaches home before Sara returns to Jacksonville.
- Hattie says: “I think you had better get a bicycle and come over to San Francisco and then take the steamer across to Canton. Canton is said to be a good place for rheumatism, that is, a good place not to have it.”
- Hattie says that Miss Lewis told her that everyone seemed to notice how much better Henry was since he was home. Hattie said she is happy about this, especially considering how hard he had been working for the ten years he was out in Canton since last returning home. Despite this, Hattie says that his trip to the homeland may not have given him much pleasure, but hopes that he had at least some pleasure in it.
- Mr. Wisman is coming down with Sophie this afternoon to take a picture of her in her “wedding array.” He said he may also take a photograph of Hattie, although she does not believe that she is a good photograph subject.

1889 August 19

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- Hattie is expecting Dr. and Mrs. McCandless to return to China tonight. She expects them on the evening steamer.
- Hattie received a nice note from “brother Notestein.”
- Hattie shares a bit from the news about former President Andrew Jackson being elected an elder in the Presbyterian Church and how he refused it saying he was not deserving of such a high honor. Hattie then says that she is so glad that Edward is an elder.
- Hattie says that many of the Chinese Christians are not very good about observing the Sabbath.

1889 August 24

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Harriet says that the mail that they just got should have come by the last mail. “I wonder whether Art Gray has lost his place as Postmaster. Someone was saying a day or two since that Pres. Harrison has made a great many changes in this department, so I suppose Mr. Gray would not be likely to escape.”
- Olivia is doing better since she came up from Hainan, having gained eight pounds. Harriet says it is a pretty hard place to do work, as they do not yet have any comfortable houses.
- There have been three epidemics in Hainan this summer, the worst being cholera.

1889 August 24

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie hopes that Mary enjoyed her time at Chautauqua. She also discusses Mrs. Wallace at length.
- Sara applied to a school in Seville. Hattie was not expecting this.

1889 September 4

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet worries that she does not write enough in response to Clara’s letters.
- Harriet says the Noyes family is well represented in Canton. Henry is going to be in charge of the educational department for men and boys, Harriet is in charge of it for women and girls, and Martha’s husband has the medical department.

1889 September 4

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health

- Harriet is very glad that Dr. Kerr and Martha are so happy together.
- Dr. Kerr and Martha were both poisoned from eating shrimp one morning for breakfast.
- Dr. Kerr is sixty-five years old.
- Hattie talks about the few people that were received into the church at the last Sabbath mass.

1889 September 5

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Chinese Politics

- A few weeks ago Hattie and Mattie visited the not-yet completed Mint, and Hattie found it interesting. She says that it is the largest mint in the world “capable of producing two million of cash per day.” She found it very interesting. She believes that they are currently minting \$200,000 in a day. All of the machinery came from England.

- Hattie discusses the process of minting. The coins are made of sixty percent copper and forty percent zinc. The metal is first melted and molded into bars about 18 inches long and 4 or 5 inches wide, and an inch thick. The bars are then moved and taken to another place where they are heated again and pressed four times through a rolling machine. The rolled bars come out about 8 or 10 feet long. Then round cash is cut out of these and the strips of metal are left perforated to be remelted. The cash then is stamped and polished. The mint also has machines for coining silver.
- The viceroy that showed them around is going to be transferred to another position, and the man taking his place is 72 years old.
- Hattie is going to send \$150.00 to Edward so that he may fix his barn next spring. Hattie will not be able to send it until after New Years.

1889 September 7

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Travel

- The home mail is supposed to come on Monday, it is currently Saturday.
- Dr. Swan has just sent Miss Butler over to go take care of little Agnes Gilman. Hattie assumes that she must be doing worse. She says Mrs. Gilman said that “every breath since the baby was hurt has been a prayer.” Hattie then says, “I hope she will not live unless she can entirely recover.”
- Hattie says that Dr. Fulton said that the “disaffected” ones of the Ashland church have left it and formed a new congregation. The board has given the Fultons permission to go home this year.
- Emma Young has arrived safely in America. She received letters in San Francisco telling her that her mother was not doing so well. Her mother has consumption (tuberculosis) and Hattie assumes that she will not live long.
- Hattie discusses the steamer that took Emma Young to Hong Kong upon her return home. She talks about the duty on the cargo in the ship being \$140,000 (\$3.5 million in 2016). Hattie says that this was only the duty, and that one can imagine how valuable the cargo must be. The cargo and duty caused the ship to be delayed several hours.
- Hattie also discusses their earnings in the past month and how much they were able to save.

1889 September 7

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is a little bit in debt from marrying off Sophie and fixing up the house. She hopes to be out of debt by next year so she can help Edward fix the barn. Hattie thinks she can send \$200 that he will hopefully get in February or March.
- It's been almost six months since Hattie returned to Canton.

1889 September 10

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics



- Hattie is thinking of all her friends from Seville but feels that she needs to write her family.
- Martha came over bringing Flora (?) Gilman, who misses her sister and wants to find her. They hope Mr. Gilman will be back tonight.

1889 September 10

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Mrs. Gilman's youngest child fell from the back steps of Dr. Swan's home three or four feet below and began convulsing and did so nearly all night. They found that her left side was completely paralyzed. The child continued to get worse for several days and on Saturday night it became clear that she would not live much longer. They found that she was blind. When the child died, Dr. and Mrs. Gilman, Dr. and Mrs. Swan, Dr. Kerr and Marth, Mr. Henry and Miss Butler were all there. It had spasms and twitches, even the side that had been paralyzed.
- On Monday, after a service on Sunday for the child, Mr. Gilman took the body to Macau to be buried, and Dr. Fulton and Mrs. Swan went with him.

1889 September 15

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- It is the anniversary of the death of Uncle Augustus. Hattie says it is pleasant to think of Father's family all being home in heaven happy together.
- Hattie was calling upon some German friends and asked about Mrs. Dilthy (?), who she learned has since died. She and her husband returned home seven or eight years prior because Mr. Dilthy was very ill from consumption (tuberculosis).

1889 September 25

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Pearl River

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They decided quite suddenly to go down and visit Macau—Miss Lewis and Martha are already down there.
- They visited a village school yesterday, one that Miss Butler is in charge of since Sophie married.
- They are only staying in Macau for two days because Sophie's birthday is on Monday and Miss Butler is going to be cooking for Nellie Hartwell's surprise party.
- Sophie's wedding, which Harriet had a lot to do with the planning, passed satisfactorily last Thursday. "The Consul says if I will only follow suit he will come down and stand upon his head at my wedding. It shows what confidence he has in my inflexibility of purpose to make such a promise which might otherwise seem rash for a man of seventy with enough dignity to fill the Presidential chair."

1889 October 25

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton

- Hattie has been writing many letters while in Macau.
- She discusses at length how she needs to write to various members of their extended family.
- She discusses their cousins in Westmoreland who have been without Uncle for a year now.
- She discusses how Clara may adjust to the home without father and mother, but for her it will always be as it was in her mind.

1889 October 27

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Macau, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- It has been 22 years since Hattie left home for the first time. Hattie recalls the communion sabbath on this day 22 years ago when everyone said their goodbyes following the service. She says that she feels that she already has dealt with the hardest part of dying, saying goodbye to loved ones, three times (the three times she has come to China).
- They visited the protestant chapel today in Macau for service. Hattie says that every time she visits she thinks of Cynthia.
- Dr. Weyan (?) of the Wesleyan mission in Fatshan gave the service today, coming down to deliver it in English. This is the second time in all of his 12 years of being in China delivering a service in English.

1889 October 28

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Macau

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Hattie reminisces about 22 years prior when she was first going to China. While Hattie was at home, Em asked, "Don't you think you will ever come home?" Hattie had replied, "I don't suppose I ever shall."
- She of course has returned since then, and says that it is so much easier to go home now. She says that the cost of travel is more reasonable than when she first came out.

1889 November 4

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel

- Miss Butler and Hattie have been butting heads over preparations for another day at the school. Miss Butler has "the most dreadful hollow cough."
- The doctors say that Miss Butler's lungs are fine, and Hattie thinks that the cough is because of her stomach.
- There is a woman, Mrs. Condict (?) from America, staying with them now. She is the widow of a Presbyterian minister who died a year ago. She is traveling around the world to visit and inspect mission work and missionaries, and her expenses from this are being paid by a wealthy lady in

New York, Mrs. Russell Sage, and when Mrs. Condict is to return home, she is expected to tell what she has seen to enthuse everyone.

- Hattie has been “growing thicker.”

1889 November 21

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- The school now has 75 teachers and students.
- Prof. E. P. Thimg (?), M.D. of Brooklyn, New York is visiting Canton currently. He is going to be visiting China and India. He “has made mental science and anthropology special subjects of investigation and will direct his attention to these lines of study among the races of Eastern and Southern Asia.”

1889 November 21

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Building & Development

- They just had a bad fire.
- “It was Sabbath evening while we were at tea we heard the servants running up the stairs. This always indicates fire for nothing less can start a Chinaman out of his ordinary gait. We went up on the roof and found that there were two large fires one across the river on Honam and one northwest from us and near enough to cause considerable anxiety. We did not go over to the evening service as we feared the girls might get frightened as indeed some of the little ones did and begun to cry. Some of them felt worried lest their houses would be burned even if the fire did not reach here. After the service was over quite a company came over and gathered on the roof and watched the fire for some time. We did not really think it would reach here but still thought it wise to make some slight preparations for flight in case it did.”
- At one point the fire was within 800 feet of them.

1889 November 22

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- “...A good number of women have come in from the country. There will be several applicants for baptism.”

1889 November 28

From: Harriet

To: Mother

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health

- Hattie is sending a cape (?) by this mail. She was worried last mail that the post office would not accept it in America but Miss Butler sent similar ones by last mail and they got through all right.

Hattie wishes there was a parcel post from China to America so they could send things more easily.

- Hattie has had a swollen lip the past few days which has interfered with her speech.
- Dr. Kerr and a few others made a surprise visit and Hattie had to remove the poultice for her lip and greet them unintelligibly because of her lip.
- Mr. White gave Hattie advice on making an easy poultice: chew up some bread to fully masticate it. Then put the chewed up bread on the lip.
- Her lip seems to be infected, and Miss Niles wanted to lance it, but Hattie did not want to go to the doctor. Hattie thinks it is because she had a cold.

1889 December 14

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health

- Harriet says that they will have received the letters that were carried on the *China* very promptly because it made the trip from Yokohama to San Francisco in twelve days—the best time that has been made on that line.
- Miss Butler has been having an attack of dengue fever.
- Harriet discusses Miss Lewis's "adopted son" A Peng at length.

1889 December 16

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Harriet has finished her paper for the Shanghai Conference and is very relieved. It will be read in full at the conference.

1889 December 21

From: Harriet

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- They are getting ready for Christmas.
- Miss Butler has been preparing quite a bit. All of the foreigners will be united and Hattie at first thought that Miss Butler was making a show of their school. There will be a type of show involving the kindergarteners and then several pieces of music.

1889 December

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Harriet is glad to hear that Edward is doing well again. She says that Edward and Emily must keep taking their medicine so they will never have erysipelas (disease caused by bacterial infection) again.

- Harriet has been asked to write a paper on girls' schools for the Shanghai missionary conference. She does not want to do it.
- Harriet was suffering from a cold when they hosted the missionary conference last week. They had anticipated seventy guests but only forty-nine came. Miss Butler was sick as well but got out of bed to help make cake for it.

1890 February 1 & 2; March 17

From: Harriet

To: Ours at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics

- About a year ago today Hattie says they were just arriving in Cleveland.
- It was communion eve and Olivia had their baby baptized.
- Hattie discusses at length her terms of service and furlough.

1890 March 14

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie is writing on the anniversary of the beginning of her third term of service in China. It has been a year since this term began.
- Hattie says it has been a very dreary, dark, dismal day.
- They are all anxious for the arrival of the next mail. Hattie says they have heard that there are a number of cases of influenza, some of whom are their friends. Hattie says there are a great number of cases in Singapore, and says that if it started in China as so many people have said, it has spread quite far throughout the world.
- They had a mission meeting this afternoon where they decided to appropriate \$360.00 to Henry's school and also to send Dr. Kerr and Mr. Henry to Conference in Shanghai.
- Hattie received a letter from their boat party. The rain has been interfering with their plans, because there are no paved roads in the countryside, and there are few places to gather audiences in the countryside. Hattie is expecting that they will be back this week, making their trip a total of six weeks.
- They had to take the kitchen portion of their roof off as they found white ants in it (termites). It has been giving them a lot of trouble leaking, and Hattie says that wherever there is a wet damp place, the white ants are sure to find it. Hattie says that it doesn't matter that they're starting work in a rainy time of year because the Chinese work under a mat shed when it rains. She says that this would be a good idea for construction workers at home, but notes that it may not be as necessary.

1890 March 24

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie notes that there was a sudden change in weather and temperature yesterday when a shower sprung up and the temperature dropped ten degrees.

- Hattie says that she is anxious for those who are sick, saying they all look very miserable and seem to feel badly. Several of them who have had the sickness are beginning to go around again. She says it seems like a mild form of dengue fever (a fever carried by mosquitoes mostly occurring in tropical and subtropical locations like Canton).
- Hattie mentions something that happened three years ago today, likely the death of a family member (mother?). Hattie also mentions something that Mattie wrote then— that they would all be together on the other side within thirty years.
- Dr. Kerr does not seem to be at all well, and is afraid that he will not be here for long if he doesn't get better. Hattie presumes that they will be returning to America soon.
- Hattie says that Mattie has enjoyed having so many visitors at her home, except that it was a burden to have Olivia there.

1890 March 31

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics

- Hattie received an invitation to the British Consulate to meet their Royal Highness the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the seventh child of queen Victoria.

1890 June 2

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is so glad to hear from Mary's letter in Mexico that Mary went to Aunt Mary's funeral. Hattie says that she is at home with Mother and Aunt Fay with all of her weakness and feebleness of mind in the past.
- Hattie discusses at length how much she loved Aunt Mary and her last visit at her home, and how excited she is about Heaven.
- On Mother's side, only Aunt Masen (?) is left, and Hattie says she is old and feeble. She says she has to write to her and Aunt Noyes of Needham.

1890 June 25

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; Travel

- Hattie is late for setting out to a day school.
- Miss Lewis left yesterday. Hattie says she is the most procrastinating of all mortals, and that they "had to set to 'tooth and nail' to get her off."

1890 July 7

From: Harriet

To: Clara and Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Hattie is writing the two of them because she hopes they are together.
- Sophie and Mr. Wisner (?) have been staying with them. Sophie had been quite sick before they returned home today, but she is doing better.
- Hattie compliments Mary's weight at 114 pounds. Hattie says she never weighed more than 115 before she returned home in 1876, and now she weighs 136 ½.
  - “Do you remember when Martha weighed 138 but not to mention it.”

1890 July 18

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- They had Miss Schaeffer here, who came out last fall and is leaving on this steamer.
- Dr. Broswall (?) was also here, and is also leaving on this steamer.
- Tickets for going across the Pacific are going for \$100.00 (approx. \$2600 in 2014), but Miss Schaeffer got hers for \$77.00 (approx. \$2000 in 2014).

1894 December 27

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; Culture, Language, and Art

- Harriet Taught scholars how to say “Happy New Year” so they can surprise Miss Butler and Miss Lewis.
- Miss Lewis was away in the country so Miss Butler and Hattie stayed up very late cooking for Christmas time. According to Hattie, that is the only time she has ever missed the mail in her entire time in China.
- She says they had a very nice Christmas celebration on the eve of Christmas. Hattie says they decorated the Church elaborately.
- She describes two new missionaries Alice and Miss Chenery who are the best two singers they have ever had in Canton.
- Six of the girls in her class told the life of Christ. In addition there were illustrations of scenes from the life of Christ. As a school they sang “When he come to Bethlehem.” At the end of the ceremony they distributed presents.

1900 June 8

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Hattie is thinking of home, and their father's death.
- Martha has been quite miserable for some time now, and has recently suffered from an attack of bronchitis, among other troubles. One night, Dr. Niles and Hattie were over there, and she was so bad that Dr. Kerr thought that they should send up for Henry, which they did. Henry and Bella got up, but by the time they came down she was asleep, and when they rose early the next morning, Martha was still asleep.

- That night, she had such trouble catching her breath that they used “hot applications to such excess in order to relieve her that the heat affected her heart and made her feel much worse.”
- As soon as the Pattons moved away, they proposed for them to come to Hattie’s home, even though it isn’t a quiet place. They carried her to a boat and brought her over. They managed to do everything as well as they could, but they were just having their quarterly communion, with about 70 women from the countryside adding to the total number of people, altogether there were some 220 in school, and Mrs. Barnett of the English Church mission was visiting as well. It also rained nearly all day Saturday, but managed it towards the night.
- In the middle of the night, they were woken by two women from the school who told them that one of the women from the country had fallen ill and was showing definite signs of the plague (the third bubonic plague) that was going around. However, when they went in to see her the next morning, she was able to walk.
- “The Chinese are all so afraid of the plague now that they will naturally enough not allow anyone whom they suspect to come near their home or boat.”
  - When they were carrying Martha down to a boat, all of the boatmen who saw her poled their boats away before they were able to get them to take her on.
- Since the woman was able to walk, they managed to get her home quietly enough so as to not alarm anyone, and since they have heard that she is better and that no one else was taken ill, so Hattie thinks it probably was not the plague.
- For the first few days Martha did not improve, but yesterday and today she is better.
- Hattie wishes that her new home was completed because she believes that it will be the best place for Martha. Hattie says it will be a very nice and fine looking mansion.
- Dr. Kerr is also having a nice home built, right on the river.
- Mr. and Mrs. Patton celebrated their wedding anniversary yesterday, and they invited Hattie and Miss Butler, however Miss Butler had to stay home due to an attack of bronchitis, which she has helped fight off with “the aid of hot scented potatoes (?) applied externally.”
- Tomorrow will be the 14th anniversary of Martha’s wedding.

1903 February 4, 5, 6, 10, & 11

From: Harriet

To: Mary, and Emily, Sarah, and Clara Noyes

Location: Seville, Ohio, Chicago, Jacksonville, the train to San Francisco

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- These multiple sheets are being contained under the same heading and in the same folder as they were found. These letters serve somewhat as a journal of Harriet’s travels. There are six sheets of paper total.
- Hattie is sad to be going. She says that she and Sarah have been trying to focus on the sweet in life and not the bitter, but saying goodbye is nothing but bitter.
- She was happy that they saw some friends of theirs at the depot in the cold.
- Hattie talks about her journey west. When she left the depot from Cleveland she arrived the next day in Chicago. There she needed to buy her ticket to San Francisco but there were some issues with her baggage not yet arriving at the depot she had gone to. She was able to smooth it out. She then went to a different depot to wait for the train to Jacksonville. Hattie said the countryside was beautiful because there had just been an ice storm and everything was covered in it.
- Hattie reached Jacksonville a little after sunset and Sarah was waiting for her there. [End Sheet 1]
- Hattie and Sarah left Jacksonville near sunrise. Hattie says that it was pleasantly cool out and that the cars were warm.



- Hattie encountered a seven year old girl traveling to Chicago on the train alone. She apparently came from an orphanage in Chicago, but had been adopted by a German man and his wife who had adopted several other children who were now grown and married. The girl is traveling to pick up another little girl that the couple want to adopt. Her name is Mina and the girl she is going to pick up is named Jessie.
- They took the six-thirty train. They passed through Cedar Rapids at about 11:30PM. Hattie discusses the scenery on their train ride. [End sheet two].
- Hattie will reach Denver at 8:30, and will not reach Colorado Springs until midnight.
- Hattie recounts seeing herds of cattle being led by men in wagons throwing hay out of them. She said there were hundreds of cattle in the herds, with some of them likely having thousands.
- Hattie was disappointed that they did not pass a ranch that reportedly has the longest barn in the world before midnight, so she was not able to see it.
- The engine of the train broke down right as they began seeing the lights of Denver. One of the axles on the engine broke in half and one of the wheels was hurled sixty feet, causing some damage to the rails themselves. Hattie said they felt no jarring motions, which she thought was odd because they had been going nearly sixty miles per hour. This caused a delay of about two hours, and when they reached the Denver station it was about 11:00PM and her train had already left.
- Hattie got a hotel room at the Oxford, where she said she was much more comfortable and the temperature was much better (she had been quite warm on the train and said that she very well may have been cooked enough to be served at a feast of cannibals).
- When Hattie arrived in Colorado Springs, she was met by a relative of Tom Grogran's (?), who was very talkative. Hattie said she was in the hack business for six years. She used to live in Detroit, and lost \$90,000 after her husband's death in mining in Cripple Creek. Her daughter also went to China as a missionary when she was just fourteen, returning five years later and dying soon after. She told Hattie that her hack driving was the only way she could settle herself medically, physically, and financially. She made \$1,100 last year between May and September.
- After arriving at Mrs. Fitting's (?), Hattie learned that nearly everything the hackwoman had told her was untrue. Apparently her first husband is alive and she was also married to a policeman [End sheet three].
- Hattie had a nice Sabbath with them, going to their methodist church. Hattie said she spoke to their Sabbath school, which had 648 in attendance, and later to the Intermediate C.E. Society. Hattie said Miss Butler's mother is not able to go to church often.
- Hattie says that Colorado Springs is beautiful, and is free now and in the future from liquor traffic: All land within five miles is sold with the clause that no strong drink is to be sold, and if that is violated the land deed is forfeited. Some drug stores sell a small amount, but they report that an intoxicated man is never seen in the streets.
- Hattie got on the train at 10:30. She said the scenery in the mountains was beautiful. After going through the Royal Gorge, which she said the railway there was a feat of engineering, that a piston in the engine blew off disabling their engine. A man went and walked two miles on foot to ask for help, and Hattie said that their pause would not be a short one.
- One of the brakemen reported that the thermometer read 13 degrees below zero, but Hattie said that it did not feel that cold.
- Tuesday, Feb. 10: They passed over the summit of the mountains soon after first light. There was much snow on their way down the mountains.
- Many passengers got off the train at Salt Lake City, but Harriet says that nearly just as many got on. They reached Ogden at about 2pm. [End sheet 4]

- Hattie said that the train followed a street for a while, and she noticed that on many of the houses there were placards that marked the house as being infected with smallpox. Hattie assumed there was an outbreak of it.
- Hattie had hoped to visit Dr. and Mrs. Wishard but found out that they had relocated to Salt Lake City.
- Wednesday, Feb. 11: They continued through the wastes of Nevada. They passed an Indian village along the way and stopped briefly at a station not far from one of Mr. Fitting's mining interests.
- While stopped in Wadsworth, "an Indian with his squaw and papoose came to see the train and pick up any nickels or dimes that might come in sight. The Indian could speak English fairly well. He said of the baby, 'He sabee (?) money all right. He like it you take it away he cry.'"
- Hattie said that they went along a river for a while. "If this country can ever be properly irrigated I suppose there is no doubt that it will be very productive."
- She reports on the droves of wild horses. Hattie recalls hearing in CO that it is against the law to mutilate horses' tails and she hopes that the rest of the states follow in this example. [End sheet 5]
- Hattie said that a woman in her car had some apples in a handbag, and that the bag was placed near the [steam] pipes. After awakening, the woman found that her apples had roasted and burst like if an apple was roasted in an oven. Hattie hopes this expresses how warm it was in the train. This convinced the porter to allow his oven to cool a bit. This is what she hates most about traveling across the country in the winter.
- When they came into California, they were passing through the Sierras and traveled through about 45 miles of snow sheds.
- Hattie got off the train in Oakland, CA, and took a ferry seven miles to San Francisco. Hattie took a carriage to the Mentine (?), and gave her bags to an agent who assured her that her trunks would be put safely on the [S.S.] China. Hattie got some mail from far away the next morning. [End sheet six]

1903 March 11

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Mary Noyes

Location: *S.S. China*

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Travel

- Hattie has been writing short letters to people since she woke up from her nap.
- She is excited because she was able to polish a silver pin. She gave Mary suggestions on polishing silver napkin rings with soap.

1903 March 11

From: Harriet

To: Muggins (family cat?)

Location: *S.S. China*

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton

- Harriet seems to be writing this letter to a family pet, likely a cat.
- Harriet asks if they are feeding Muggins well and tells him about some other cats and a lady she met in Yokohama that has many many pictures of cats.

1904 May 26

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Richard, the youngest of Henry's children, passed away this morning at 4:00.
- They originally thought he was getting better yesterday, but he took a turn for the worst last night and Dr. Swan and Dr. Selden were called in before he passed.
- Hattie and others prepared the casket and brought it over to Henry's at about 11:00AM. He was laid in the casket at 1:00PM.
- Dr. Kerr, Richard, and Cynthia are all laid to rest in the cemetery.

1904 July 12

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China (Yeung Kong?)

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Hattie is following up on letters from June that they sent telling of the death of Richard.
- It seems that Richard died from a non-contagious disease. Hattie does not know how it is transmitted. Hattie says that Richard seemed satisfied when he passed.

1904 August 7

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Yeung Kong, China (Yangjiang, Guangdong, on the coast)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton

- Discussing how Mary was looking at a picture of their cemetery plots as described in a letter to Hattie: "...Mary was looking at the photo of our 'home' in the cemetery. Yes as you say that will be our home until the resurrection and then how gladly we shall rise again... The last resting place of our bodies seems very dear and sacred to me, but I imagine when we are together in Heaven China and America will not seem very far apart."

1904 November 3

From: Harriet

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Shek (?) has been making sure Hattie gets to bed at 9:00PM
- Dr. Graves brought out nine new missionaries. There will be a reception for them tomorrow even though she "[has] not the faintest desire to go anywhere."
- The day before yesterday Dr. Graves' medical college was opened. The girls were invited to sing two songs for it however they were only able to sing one because the photographer interfered.
- Hattie wants to get a concert together this winter, she has wanted to do one for years.
- Hattie said that the girls who were supposed to come from San Francisco did not, but one from Boston will be coming.
- Hattie says that the school is so full that she can't take another pupil in, however there are almost constant applications.

1905 September 9

From: Harriet

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Yeung Kong, China (Yangjiang, Guangdong)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton

- Hattie, Miss Butler, and Mrs. Dobson went with Mr. Patton to a village some miles away where he held a communion service. It was near the town that Dr. and Mrs. Thurman (?) were hired for a while, and where they were mobbed.
- Hattie is sad that Mrs. Dyer passed, but is glad she is buried in the Seville cemetery.
- They thought about returning to Canton today, however are going to wait a week until the next boat comes around.
- One of Hattie's teachers, Hong Sin Shang is well again, as is A Sin.

1908 February 9

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Unknown

Location: Macau

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- This letter is 19 pages long.
- Hattie is talking about quite a "devil-opment," a man from Los Angeles had a dream where the holy spirit came to him and told him to go to "O-moon," (a bad romanization for how Macau is said in Chinese, Aomen), so he went to Hong Kong and then headed to Macau. When there he created "quite an excitement," so much so that the Portuguese objected to his meetings and he was taken before the authorities. Although the meetings are not supposed to be taking place, the people who believe in "the gift of tongues" are still meeting and still meeting in Hong Kong. Hattie says that although there are many people who claim to have this gift, they have not heard a single one of them speak an intelligible word.
- A Sin came back quite impressed with them and implied that she wanted them to host those who go to the meetings, but Harriet said they had no intention to do so. One woman who believed she had been having revelations from the Holy Spirit said that she would do anything that the Spirit directed her to do, so she ended up rolling down two flights of stairs in the supposed direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh came to Canton and started holding meetings. Hattie says most people think he is quite "off." Apparently they wanted to pay special attention to the True Light Seminary which left Harriet rather perplexed. Hattie says that they are of course not going to oppose it because those who believe it may cry religious persecution. Hattie says that many who follow this are those who deeply wish to have the Spirit fill them.
- A Sin's daughter, A Tsin, who has been trying to get a good education for a long time, was told by another girl who had been receiving revelations to stop being so selfish and quit her educational efforts and help preach the gospel, so she is now helping in the Seminary which Hattie appreciates.
- Mr. McIntosh is illiterate, but Hattie says that he says that Christ is coming very soon and those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit as evidenced by their passing of the gift of tongues will rise with Christ, where all others will go through seven years of terrible tribulation, which made the Chinese that were at the meeting (a small number as reported by Hattie) very anxious. A Sin was mostly convinced and wanted Hattie to go to see what she thought.
- They were sitting down for dinner and some people came saying some of their scholars had "received the spirit." Hattie says at first the missionaries were hesitant to condemn it because they did not want to do so to something that may contain a blessing for someone.
- Hattie went to a meeting. When she went there were about twenty people inside a room chatting and praying. There was one former scholar who was shaking her hands and running her tongue

out chattering, looking “wild and ghastly.” The woman then sprang up and hit Hattie and the woman she was with, but then said to Hattie, “The Lord has great blessings for you, you will have a beautiful crown.” Then someone else said to the woman Harriet was with, “Do you see the wonderful works of God,” and the woman said no and left. Harriet then decided to leave as well, describing it as “perfectly dreadful.”

- During or after the first week of school they began to get quite loud at the meetings. Harriet asked them all to leave and one girl did not get up so Harriet picked her up to stand and the others said she pulled her up while she was praying, which Hattie was not surprised because she felt that they thought she was quenching the Spirit but Hattie felt it was a necessary measure. Hattie read from the 14th chapter of Corinthians and said that she did not want to stop something good but wanted to follow the words of Paul and “have everything done ‘decently and in order.’” Hattie then rang the bell and by force of habit they all returned to their rooms excepting one of the teachers.
- Harriet sought advice from Mr. Boggs. Some of the girls had been up until midnight making noise, and Hattie said it didn’t help that the teacher of the advanced class was also taking part.
- Hattie decided to discontinue the meetings the following week. The next Saturday Hattie took her music class. Normally the girls are able to spend some time to go visit home or attend to things on Saturdays, but this day Hattie noticed something else was going on. The teacher and about half of the girls went out of the school for a meeting, and did not return at 2PM for their study hour. Even the teacher did not return. Because of this, Hattie locked the school gate so she would know when they came back. One of the girl’s fathers came to see his daughter but she was one of the ones that disappeared. Hattie had them wait until 4PM to send out someone to find them, one of the bible women. When the bible woman walked into the room that they were holding their meeting in, one of the girls said, “the devil has come.” When Hattie went by herself, the girl said the same thing.
- When the teacher came back that night she announced that she received a revelation from the Holy Spirit. She said they must stop teaching and go preach in the native city. She repeated this at the meeting and said that she would go preach by the end of the week, when Hattie got a flash of what she should do to resolve this problem.
- The next morning they went into the classroom and addressed the scholars. Hattie said that since the teacher was going to preach, they would not be able to continue classes without a teacher. Because of this, Hattie said that the girls should go home for the week while they found a new teacher. The girls were all unwilling to leave, and Hattie kept placing responsibility on the teacher.

1914 February 14

From: Harriet

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They are waiting for letters on Henry’s homegoing. Tomorrow will mark four weeks since he died, and Hattie says they have known three weeks today.
- The last letter she received from home took about five weeks.
- Hattie dreamed about Henry last night but it was not very comforting. He looked very thin and sick.
- Hattie is glad how long he lived, though, about ten years longer than Edward.
- Hattie is trying to get a good picture of him from after he last returned from home.

1915 August 8

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Electa has just prepared a chicken from the hospital for their dinner. They sometimes reuse chickens to sell at the hospital.
- Hattie was apparently in the hospital for six months. Hattie got Mrs. Newman and Maggie Beacon to write affidavits in regard to this, and they were accepted, but only proved five out of her six months of hospitalization. Her sixth month was questioned.
- Hattie wonders if Olivia and Ruth will come to Canton. If so, they will only have five bedrooms for seven people. Hattie does not seem to be pleased with this prospect.
- None of them were sick in the aftermath of the flood, which is quite good. There was no pestilence that followed— "the city seemed to have had a thorough bath."
- Some of the other areas of the city are reported to have quite the foul odor—Hattie says it is no wonder, some people must have been crushed under fallen houses—but no one connected to the mission has been found dead. Some did have narrow escapes, however, climbing on the roofs of homes.
- Hattie sent home some money and insisted that Mary use some of it to get some red cashmere for a wrapper.
- Hattie says Mary has "such a fine family of young heifers." Hattie says that if they do not make money that she should not worry because she thinks "we can gather up money for us all to be comfortable."

1916 November 12

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- The new YMCA building was dedicated last sabbath, and there is a room called the Morrison Memorial, where the service was held.
- Hattie says about the service, "Like everything else it seems so completely changed that we do not care much to go."
- "Sociability is at the front now and the \_\_\_ (?) of the present generation of missionaries is to teach the Chinese to conduct "social functions" in Western ways, some things seem to us as Miss Cort of Siam once said, 'Object lessons of how not to do,' but of course all is in harmony with the present advancement and the progress that has been made."
- "We had a good sermon in the Chinese service today from one of Will's teachers. I almost wrote Henry's—whatever Will may have felt or thought in the past he is devoted to Henry now and keeps his memory green."
- Hattie has Mr. Lee visiting—his children were in the papers some years ago—six of them died in a landslide in the Himalayas while he, his wife, and their newborn stayed in Calcutta. Their children had been sent to stay in the mountains where it was cooler and they could receive schooling, but there had been heavy rains and all but one was buried in the landslide. The other lived a short while to tell of what happened, but died soon after. The newborn that was with them is now living with Mrs. Lee, at the age of seventeen, studying in Oakland, CA. Mr. Lee is returning to work.

1917 November 18

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel

- Harriet just came back from seeing Martha—she came back from Hainan yesterday with a high fever but is doing better today and Harriet hopes she will be back to normal in a day or two.
- They were sad to hear about Mr. Carson, but hope Dr. Alexander is right and that he will be able to preach again soon. They had hoped since Mr. Carson was younger than all of them that he would be able to preach at the home church all the remaining time they are alive.
- Harriet talks about all of the family they have in Canton now. She discusses Mary, Will, and Richard. She also says, “There is only one verdict in Canton about the Noyes boys, that they are “A No. 1.”

1923 August 20

From: Harriet

To: My Dear Friend

Location: Seville, Ohio

Thematic Classifications: Travel

- This is a card attached to one of the envelopes the letters were found in. It addresses whomever may want to read her letters, and reads as follows:

“Dear Friend,

I have come back to my childhood home, no more in foreign lands to roam. I miss the loved ones of long ago, the familiar faces we used to know. But instead of the parents, the children are here and new friends give us a welcome sincere, We thank you all for your words or cheer, We are glad to come back and friends so dear, for well we know wherever we roam, there is no other place like ‘home sweet home.’

H.N.N.”

- On the top margin of the card is: “Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Minton.”

[1880s?] February 19

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Medicine & Health

- Harriet is sending with the letter a report of her progress in the last year.
- The Medical Missionary Society runs the budget for their station. She has been going through budget allocation numbers for chapel and for the Second church.
- The chapel Hattie says will soon be taken down. After it is dismantled Dr. Huns? will be able to commence building the new chapel. While it is being built the Sabbath services will be held in the school building.
- Yesterday they had a call from a Mandarin who was a very high official in the Chinese bureaucracy (a governor of a distant province). Hattie says that Mattie would probably remember him because he called back when the schoolhouse was being built.
- This official had a neck injury and called for Dr. Kerr to see to him. Now that he is better he is very grateful. They’re hoping that he may set up a chapel in his province as a thank you.

[?] April 19 & 27

From: Harriet

To: Family

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese;

Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

(processed) Incomplete

- Hattie recently talked with other missionaries about the past and their loved ones who now are in heaven.
- She discusses two missionaries Cynthia and Hannah who have recently died. Harriet is mourning their loss and says that they are waiting in heaven and the day will soon come when God has ended death.
- She sang with the little Chinese scholars (Children). She sang the English words while they sang the Chinese.
- On the last Sabbath they had a service in the chapel. But, it was not well attended. However, the “natives” asked her and Henry to come sing and Harriet feels the attendance increased and will continue to increase as a result.
- Harriet was put on playing the piano, and at first that made her smile. But then she realized the sad condition of the people watching her eyes filled with tears. She was overwhelmed that so many wouldn’t find the “way of life”. One man stared at her for ten minutes and then walked away. Harriet felt slighted but decided best not to make a scene.
- Last Monday she went with Henry to a village where one of their schools is located. A large crowd of women and children were waiting on the shore to try and talk with Harriet. The next day they went back and had an hour-long conversation. Harriet says that very little was understood. However, she managed to say that she came from America where she had a father and mother, two brothers, and five sisters. They were very interested in her things and hat. The Chinese also laughed when they exchanged the name of things in both Chinese and English.
- She says how strange it is to see the Chinese haircut which is completely shaved except for a spot in the back (referring to the queue).
- One of the missionaries has been there for a month and Harriet is concerned they have dysentery. The doctor however does not feel that they need medicine.

[n.d.] January

From: Harriet

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: San Francisco, USA [?]

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton

- Hattie is writing on the first Sabbath of the month and deeply misses her father. She expresses concerns about being forgotten at home.

[n.d.] Friday Morning

From: Harriet

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: West of Ogden (Utah?)

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton

- Hattie says that they passed Ogden around midnight, and it is around 8am now, and that they are many miles west of Ogden now.
- Hattie says that it was so nice everyone had come to Cleveland one week ago to be together.



[n.d.]

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine and Health

- Hattie was surprised to get letters from home that came over on a steamer from Tacoma. Hattie almost went down to Hong Kong to get the mail but is glad that they came. Now she will be going to Hong Kong later in the week.
- Hattie talks about a book: *Two Years in Three Continents: Experiences, Impressions, Observations* by Mr. Condit quite a bit.
- Harriet then talks about Edward and his idea of a nice evening and how Hattie does not believe they have had any nice winter days. Hattie then says “He was never quite so happy again until the Spring met him on the other side and he knew that all was well.” She then talks about how she is glad she was home during those “sad sad months.”

[n.d.]

From: Harriet Noyes

To: Unknown

Location: Canton [?]

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development

- This correspondence includes floor plans for the school and their home, as well as a map of the land that the school and their home occupy.

[n.d.]

From: Harriet

To: Mary Noyes

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics

- “I send by this mail to you one of those books of copied poetry and an additional lot of pictures. I would like to have you send enough up to our district school for each to have one or more as you think best. Hope it will reach you alright. Goodbye for this time with much love from Hattie. I think I must send some others to you to forward, will send a photo with them and \_\_\_\_ photos is that all right”

[n.d.]

From: Harriet

To: Mary

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art

- “I wished to write you a letter but YeStruk (?) has come already to take the letters to the office. I send a letter for B. if she has gone when this reaches Seville, do not trouble to send it to her. Tell her that Verdiun (?) Happer earning (?) has a little daughter. I have not time to answer your letters of June 22nd. We hope for the mail again tomorrow. Ever your loving Hattie. Miss Butler sends love.”
- Included is a clipping with pictures of dress from a newspaper or catalogue, which Hattie has noted: “Miss Butler’s dress and mine were made like this except the sleeves.”
- Also included are two samples of textiles, likely what was used to make their dresses.

[n.d.]

From: Harriet

To: Emma Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Hattie explains to Em her daily activities:
  - Rise at 6am , stay in room till 7am.
  - 7am morning prayers and breakfast consisting of eggs and white rice.
  - 8am prayers with the Chinese in the chapel, after which Hattie stays and sings with the scholars until about 9 o'clock.
  - at 9 am Hattie starts Study with Le SuiShang. Then 10 am - 1 pm Hattie is studying with Aho.
  - 1pm is dinner time.
  - At 2pm Aho comes back and they study until 4pm.
  - at 4:30pm Hattie takes a bath and dresses for evening.
  - They go out at 6pm and walk for an hour. They have tea after they come back. Then evening prayers, and an hour or so for reading, writing or sewing before bed.
- They are having the parlor and sitting room floors covered and it looks much improved. They would have done it a long time ago, but they had no idea how long they would be in this home.
- The lease on their home is ending and Hattie has from when they first arrived in China wanted to build their own house. The Board of Missionaries has restricted them from building, but Henry is going to submit another application. They currently pay \$200.00 a year so it would make sense to build instead of to rent.
- Em has given up going to Oxford this year, and Hattie seems disappointed.

[n.d.]

From: Harriet

To: Frank Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art; Travel; Building & Development

- Frank has sent Harriet the plan of Hannah's funerary monument. Hattie wishes that she could visit the grave and envisions exactly what it looks like. Hattie tells Frank to put the words that Hattie mentioned on Hannah's stone. It is the words that always come to Hattie when she thinks of her. They have sung that piece here at the school.
- Mr. Rogers left this morning to go home to England.
- Hattie asks for information on her sisters Catherine, Mary and Ella. Hattie has started letters to them but they have not been completed.
- If the railroad enters Seville as expected, Hattie is guessing that the town will grow to a city.
- Recently Frank sold "Gyp", one of the family's favorite horses. Hattie says she hasn't ridden a horse since being in China. However, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Selby are going to keep two ponies when they go to Farshan and they have given Hattie custody when they are away.
- Mr. Whitehead will commence building his home for when his wife arrives from stateside. Mr. Selby will have to wait more than two years for his wife to come.

**Family-- Correspondence [between]--- [from] Noyes, Henry:**

1861 May 6

From: H. V. Noyes (Henry)

To: Hattie

Location: Hudson

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; American Politics; Social/Culture Practices: American

- Henry presumes Hattie has been expecting a letter from him but he has been unable to write
- Arrived in Hudson safely around 6 o'clock
- Father had told him when he got out of the buggy that he had 5 hours to get to Akron and to take it easy and sit down often— Henry did neither
- Did not take his \_\_\_? off of his back until he reached Cuyahoga Falls, and he got there an hour and a half before the train none the worse for wear except for a blister on his little toe
- Henry found his “chum” there
- The students have a “beautiful flag” 24 by 13 feet waves from the pole on the chapel steeple 120 feet from the ground
- “Several from the grammar school have enlisted from college... Sam Williamson whom Edward knew has enlisted also Charles Askinson (?). We have formed a company in college to drill. We don't bind ourselves to serve. There are about 60 of us... Major Sanford from Cleveland drills us. He is one of the celebrated Zouaves and will give us the Zouave drill. He charges nothing for his services except his railroad fare from Cleveland. It is real good fun to drill and splendid exercise. Professor Young is our Captain”
- 225 troops went from Akron to Cleveland the other day
- Last Wednesday a whole regiment from northwestern Pennsylvania went through towards Pittsburgh, and Henry's group had “30 pails of water ready and the ‘Western Reserve Cadets’ went through the cars giving them water. A barrel of ale was also distributed among them.”
- “There were some fine looking fellows among them lawyers, merchants, and I believe ministers. They seemed in good spirits but they were most choked and wanted water badly”
- Henry is also part of the Western Reserve Cadets
- “I should like to know when you write whether there is any prospect of my getting the Academy”

1864 January 26

From: H. V. Noyes (Henry)

To: Hattie

Location: Allegheny City

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Arrived at Wooster the day after they left home, a little after 2:00. Martha remained as the cars were behind time.
- The train cars were so crowded that Henry was forced to sit near a large group of Irish people others would see and avoid in their seating choices. Henry comments that he “had the good sense to go right in and get one [a seat] besides the entertainment of the conversation of the paddies.” There was plenty of room around them, and Henry put his single knapsack on the end of one seat, rested his head upon it, and stretched himself out to the seat opposite him, as he puts it, “making myself as comfortable generally as I could under the circumstances.”
- He got to the city at 11:00PM and has since been boarding in the 4th story of [Beath? Beatty?] Hall.
- Henry viewed the “John B Gough” Lecture on Saturday evening and on Monday. Henry viewed both sessions. Henry was initially disappointed due to his high expectations, but grew to like the speaker and saw him twice. Henry sings his praises. His topics were ‘Peculiar People’ and ‘Eloquence of Orators.’

1864 February 15

From: Henry

To: Dear Sister

Location: Allegheny City

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Henry received her last letter alright, and he tells her she need not apologize for the length, as ‘the longer and oftener the better.’
- He asks that if he doesn’t write enough that he be given a “going over” by mail, and that they will likely see good effect soon. However, he maintains that he wrote her last and then visited her.
- Henry has been unable to answer her last letter sooner because he was asked by [Sister Murial?] to send them a copy of his speech on “The Dignity of Labour,” which is considerable work to copy. The speech takes twenty or thirty minutes. “It’s one of the plagues of making a good speech. Whew! Pardon the egotism if you please ‘I didn’t go to do it.’”
- He just recently finished copying down the speech, and he is corresponding with more people the older he gets, which takes up much of his time.
- Henry does not have to study very hard to get along with seminary exercises
- They don’t have as much to do as they had before vacation. “If I had my exercises for Presbytery I should feel nicely but somehow I can’t get at them and can’t do anything if I do. I guess however I shall try to pitch into them to-morrow.”
- Henry likes that he can cook whatever he likes, once in a while buying a lot of potatoes and some flour or something like it and then eats and grows fat.
- Since vacation he has not spent as much on food as he would have had to pay in one week if he boarded out, the price now from \$2.75 to \$3.00 a week.
- Hannah didn’t have to worry as much about his going to visit her sisters, he didn’t have to wait in Wooster long and left with [Martha?]
- He has been getting his picture taken, he put in with the senior class and got two dozen for \$3.00 where they regularly charge \$4.00 for a dozen.

1865 January 10

From: [Not signed, Henry? incomplete?]

To: Clara

Location: Base Hospital, Point of Rocks

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- The writer (I suspect Henry) sends their regards for the last letter with lots of news, and hopes to express his enjoyment of the last letter through a speedy reply (in the hope that another of Clara’s letters may soon reach him).
- They have been at Point of Rocks two weeks and three days in stockade-tents made of logs split and set end-ways into the ground, edge-to-edge as close as possible, and then plastered with mud to fill the gaps. The room is 18 feet long and 15 feet wide, with a stove at the center and bunks at the sides, a table, and round chairs made of board, as if they used to be made of barrels.
- The roof is a stretched piece of canvas, and leaks under heavy or prolonged rainfall.
- The mud is a brick-red clay which doesn’t stick well to the logs, and begins to fall from the walls and into the building when it rains.
- It rained all of the night before and it continues to precipitate as the writer composes this letter. One of the bunks had a near half bucket of water atop its gum blanket, but remained dry because

of the rubberized cover. The writer remained dry despite a few drips because of their gum blanket.

- The writer had a cough when they left Allegheny, but they had recovered when they got into Virginia. It seemed to them impossible to get sick there, as there is such little cold as there is “up there in America”. One night was cold, but there has been no snow yet.
- While they live comfortably, their clothes are not in the cleanest condition.
- Next to the home there is a dining hall, similar to the house, containing “three white men and one colored one who do our cooking. There are 6 or 7 delegates here usually and then a great many workmen who are employed putting up buildings [etc etc?] besides the teamsters.”
- The commission has many large 4 horse wagons and some smaller wagons “and carry on things on a little more independent footing than when I was here before.”
- “They are building a large chapel here of logs 70 feet by 40. There will be a bell on it when it is finished and it will be quite a meeting house.”
- Signed to the side of the first page is a message: “Tell [Em?] that we are much obliged for her letters. I guess Hattie will answer [as?] soon”

1866 February 2

From: Henry

To: Dear ones at home

Location: National Hotel, New York

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

“We sail tomorrow morning. I fear that I may be busy and not have time to write in the morning and so will write a very few lines to night. If it is late. We ~~are~~ have been getting along very well visiting while waiting here and have passed the time quite pleasantly and were just about through when word came for us to leave. We often think of you all at home (both families) and try to remember you at the throne of grace as we hope to be remembered by you.

[Cynthia?] and May will tell you all about our getting started and so it will not be so necessary for me to write — I found Kathie’s few lines in “our [vue?]” to night and thank her for them “ever so much.” “Our Colors” also made their appearance at the same time.

For fear I should’nt get time in the morning I will say to you all good bye. Cynthia has retired but wishes me to send love and bid good bye for her.

You mustn’t be anxious if you don’t hear from us as soon as you suspect as you know delays so often occur with said vessels. Everything seems to promise a pleasant voyage.

Remember me kindly to all the good people of Seville.

Good Bye — a parting kiss for all from

Your own loving

Henry

We have just the pleasant”

1866 October 13

From: Henry (Compilation of Letters Written by Hannah)

To: My Dear Bro Frank

Location: Seville

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Collection of letters sewn together
- Hannah hopes that she can write an original letter, as she is not certain who has taken what idea and the whole family is writing to the recipients.

- Frank and Hannah have been visiting most of the time since their marriage, last visiting Columbus to visit their friends.
- They are having very cold weather in Ohio, which contrasts to the heat experienced by the recipients of the letter.
- Cyrus Crane, Mattie, Mrs. Elliott, and Mollie Bowers were visiting the night before, but had to get home quickly before it was even later when they would arrive home and they didn't get the chance to spend much time with them.
- Hannah sends thanks for the nice bible sent to them, and would like to know if the recipient has a similar one for themselves.
- Hannah suspects they will go to housekeeping around the first of April, as they are moving into the front part of Mr. English's house. It will be cramped, but "contentment with godliness is great gain' and the source of true happiness."
- Hannah would like to be able to "peep into your house when you are settled at Canton." They form the contents of many of their conversations with Father Noyes, whose upstairs "Boys' room" they are currently occupying.
- Hannah thanks Henry for the "Portmonie" or wallet he gave her at Christmas, stating that it has become a dear keepsake.

#### **May 10th**

- Hannah expects that Henry must have had a dreary time spending 3 months on the water and travelling, but estimates that if the voyage was speedy they should be near their new home now.
- Hannah has been keeping house in Mrs. Bates' house, who has gone to take care of Father Ross, and find the place perfect for a small family. Frank has to be away all day and Hannah is left alone, sometimes from seven to noon and noon to six or later.
- Their parents are enjoying themselves and keeping very busy. Mr. Cook who was at Presbytery last fall is now at Father Noyes'.
- Hannah wishes Henry could call at their house.
- Mary Ross was married that morning to the owner of a provision store named Young. He is a relative of Mrs. [Henry?] Brotts and got to know Mary through her.
- The weather has normally been cool, but today it has been warmer and the smell of the apple blossoms is coming through. "Peaches are killed and we think most of the cherries."
- Rover has frequently come to visit after finding out where they lived, staying all of last night.
- Last sabbath was the first communion since Henry left, Mr. Whiteside was there as well who has since passed away.
- Frank's health is much better than it was earlier in the spring and Hannah hopes it will get better through the warm weather, but she fears another winter and spring.

#### **August 10th**

- The arrival of the journal has made them feel as though they were there with her. She misses them quite a lot. She would have liked for them to visit in Strawberry season.
- They will soon have melons, and are very happy in their house, but not too happy to forget God.
- Frank has been out of the store for a month, and she hopes that will give him time to write in the letter. They would very much like to hear from them about how they are doing in their new home.
- Hannah alerts Cynthia of her brother's death, which she will likely already have learned of. He is the last they would have expected to die when she was leaving. She hopes for good health for them.
- Dr. Happer will soon depart for 'this country' and they expect him to visit once he arrives.
- Rover has been paying them a visit, and often plays with their black kitten they call Jack, who would like to play with Rover's tail. Rover does not permit playing with his tail.

- Hannah hopes that Henry has lots of fruit and vegetables, as she has green corn she is drying for winter use now.
- Hannah dreamt of Henry all night one night last week, awakening, and then returning to sleep to dream of him again.
- Father lives with them now and has just returned from a visit to sister Redinger's in Smithville.
- Hannah often thinks of them at their monthly concert, where she can see Henry and Cynthia smiling back at them from across the water, and during their day of donation for the foreign mission. She sends her prayers, as always.

#### **October 10th**

- They received Henry and Cynthia's letter telling them that Cynthia was better last week, and it has given them some relief to hear that Cynthia is better.
- Frank and Hannah are staying with some of the rest of the children while father is away.
- Frank has been sick with a severe cold which has put him home as it 'settled on his lungs.'
- Edward had just visited to speak to Frank about the cider he expects to make soon, and she wishes she could give them some.
- She worries about seeing Hattie go in the fall, Hattie has some trepidation about leaving and would wait until spring to leave if she was sure of company.
- Hannah has no idea of Edward and Cyrus' marriage prospects, but judging from appearances she should think there was more prospect of them marrying one another than any woman. However, Mrs. Brown has renewed her attentions to Edward, giving concerts two evenings last week and managed to get him to play for her the last evening. She remarks that if perseverance will win, her efforts will succeed.
- Hannah wishes the Chinese would kill the bats before they bring them to market, as the descriptions of them in the last letter haunt her. She wishes they could send them the boatload of them that live in their house and keep them awake at night.
- Hannah noticed a ray of sunshine that moved across the room and seemed to her very cheering. They have had a lot of cloudy, rainy weather lately, which almost makes her feel blue.
- Henry's latest letter seems written so long ago, in mid-July.
- Hannah hopes that Cynthia is in excellent health, and sends her love to both of them.

#### **April 9th, 1867**

- Hannah had intended to write them by last mail, but they weren't able to send off their sheet. She always looks forward to their letters and they can hardly wait until they come.
- She had trouble writing over winter because of poor health, but she feels much better now, so much so that she is able to walk up to Father Noyes'. Frank's health is better than it was a year ago, his lungs have not troubled him as much, but has some throat pain.
- Henry wrote that Cynthia was making cakes and they were happy to hear that she was so much better that she could take on such work.
- Father Noyes just visited Mr. Chapin's house, where they say Beulah is running down very fast, though she is not confined to bed as much as Persis was. They are sad that Mr. Chapin will be left without any daughter.
- Elen's family have removed to Mo.
- Sugar making is over now.
- They are mourning the loss of their dog Rover, but the rest of the family will send him the details of the death because she doesn't want to write of it. She will miss him so much, and he was good company for her, before sugar making he used to come stay all day with her.
- Hannah expresses her sympathy for Cynthia being so sick away from all her family but her husband.

- As they are all adults now and they read all the letters and wanted to know the particulars, she feels it ‘not out of place’ to tell them the child was a fine healthy looking one, and its death was caused by her protracted illness. It had dark hair and maybe eyes, and features like Father Noyes and ‘Will’s little boy that died.’ Frank purchased a lot in the new part of the cemetery, which lies west of the old Indian mound.
  - Spring has been very unpleasant, bitter and cold.
  - Henry had mentioned in his letter that Frank would have the offer of the P.O. in the town if he would change his vote. Frank had asked what she thought of it and Hannah told him if he did that, she would never feel any respect for him again.
  - She doesn’t believe that Henry was well informed about the source of this proposal, Hannah is happy to inform Henry that it was not a democrat who made the proposal, but ‘one who has always belonged to the Republican party, which fully accounts for his want of principle.’
  - He is now ‘half pretending to be a democrat, no doubt from some selfish motive.’ Hannah does not believe that any democrat ever asked him to make such a proposal, and that it originated with himself, but what he expects to accomplish by it she cannot tell. Perhaps to test Frank’s principle.
  - She is glad to know that ‘Cynthia has not altogether forgotten the teachings of her good old father’ and that she hopes Cynthia may be the means of doing her husband some good in a political way.
  - They have had a garden ready but the weather is too cold for things to grow in quickly. They have their flower bed well made with some flowers in bloom, but they are chilled by the cold weather.
  - Hattie is still with them and they are glad to keep her, but are dreading seeing her leave. She wishes all those overseas would be comforted and sustained through their trials and afflictions.
  - Jack jumped up on the windowsill and walked over on the table to rub his face on Hannah’s, and she imagined Jack wanted to send his kind regards to those overseas as well.
- Oct. 13th 1868, Addressed to My Dear Bro Frank,**
- “I have just finished copying your dear Hannah’s letters which has been a pleasure though of course bringing sad memories back; and yet I can’t feel like saying sad - they seem very pleasant and it has bade my mind dwell somewhat more than it is want to do, on that bright world where our treasures are. I know you will read these loving letters with tender intent and may the prayer with which she closes her last letter be abundantly answered in the case of us both. I should like to write you a good long letter but have not time this mail and so will send what I have copied as my contribution this time a far more valuable one too than anything I could write - with much earnest sympathy, Your loving bro, Henry”

1866 August 13

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: Macao

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- The letter begins with Henry’s hopes that his sister is learning well in school to become an expert in mathematics (algebraist) and the social sciences.
- Henry then describes the chairs which he has purchased and is sitting in, one which is equal to his armchair at home, and one reclined seat which can be carried anywhere. They are made of bamboo, and he assures Mary they are comfortable, light, and only cost him \$4.00.
- Henry begins on a description of an average day:
  - They rise at 6:00,
  - Walk a while before it is too hot on the verandah or the terrace,



- Amah, formerly Mrs. Happer's attendant brings them a cup of tea and bread or cake,
  - 7:30 they have worship and then breakfast with Dr. Kerr and his wife,
  - After breakfast Henry studies Chinese and Cynthia lies down, reads or writes "as she feels disposed,"
  - 1:30 they eat dinner,
  - Afterwards, Henry sometimes returns to studying and sometimes falls asleep.
  - 5:00 they get ready to go out for an hour or two away from the town and along the sea shore. Dr. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr sometimes join, depending on the condition of Josie, who has been sick with diarrhea for a long time and needs lots of care.
  - 8:00 after the walk they have supper
  - Worship after supper
  - 9:00 go to bed
- Henry comments that 8:00 might seem late for supper, but it doesn't seem late in China. Henry comments that the fashionable English people eat dinner at 8:00.
  - In Canton they needed muskito (mosquito) curtains to sleep, but in Macao they get along well without them.
  - The day after they came there a Portuguese woman who lived down below in the same house sent Cynthia a little black puppy. It came to be named Shep. However it made so much noise during the night that it had to be brought back to its mother, once by Henry and once by Amah, and it now resides down with its mother and the Portuguese woman once again. Cynthia hopes to get it again at some point.
  - Henry next tells Mary of the [Fah ti] flower gardens, where they sell various flowers. They create wire forms and grow vines into them in the shapes of buffalo, deer, dragons, fish, frogs, and even men. They decorate these, and shape vines into fans, pagodas, boats, and more to accompany them. Plants are sold in pots to visitors. The gardens are only a short boat ride away from their quarters in Canton, where flowers are often carried in the streets to be sold.
  - "The Chinese too are quite fond of keeping birds." Cynthia was sent a canary when she was sick, but it died shortly after. One of the school girls replaced it with a little green bird, and when it seemed sad alone they got a partner for it. When they left Canton they left the birds to the school girls to take care of. "Most every house has a cage with one or two birds in it."
  - Henry recounts the Chinese curiosity-shops, where in Macao they have many both foreign and domestic goods. Henry is very impressed with how nice the shops are compared to what he would consider shops in the United States, and they are kept just as neatly as any stores in the US, and "A good many of them would do not discredit to New York City."
  - "It would make you open your eyes to see how these people take care of their babies. The baby's home is on the back of its mother. They are tied on with a wide piece of cloth with their legs and arms sticking out. Their arms they can put around their mother's neck when they wish to, are always bareheaded in the hot sun and sometimes with the head shaved as smooth as a glass bottle. Frequently we see them strapped on the back of an older brother. Sometimes the one that is carried looks almost as large as the little fellow carrying it. Yesterday I saw a little fellow marching along the street with a baby asleep on his back. The head was about at right angles with its body hanging over the edge of the cloth holding it and bobbing about as though it was coming loose. It looked every few minutes as though it would get a knock against the wall but the little fellow carrying seemed to know just how near he could go without hitting and ran along as though he didn't know there was a baby on his back at-all. The ladies often ride on the backs of servants and children are carried to school so — not very much in Canton but out in the villages where Sedan chairs are not so easily obtained. They are carried in the fashion that we used to call 'pig back' at home."

1866 November 6

From: Henry

To: My dear Father (Varnum)

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry writes to his father to tell him of an article printed in the Hong Kong based China Mail about the English Methodist mission at Tientsin in the North of China.
  - An elderly man arrived in Tientsin searching for Roman Catholics, and was directed to the Methodist mission there. He told of a dream in which he was brought to a wonderful palace of clean and healthy people, and was told to clean up his act. After conferring with others in his home of [Lou Ling?] and having the same dream again, he was told by some Roman Catholics to visit Tientsin and receive instruction from missionaries. He traveled to Tientsin where he sought out the Roman Catholics, but was taken in by the mission. He learned all he could there about Christianity, and after several weeks he returned home with books on Christianity. He drummed up interest in the religion, and they returned to the mission to ask for a priest to come and instruct them. First a native preacher was sent, and after they returned with stories of almost mythical conversion of a large area, the instructing European and American preachers were sent to establish further service. They are surprised by the willingness of their converts, an attitude which is said to only have been seen in India.
- Henry provides his father permission to relay the tale in whatever capacity he will, but postulates that it is likely the story would have reached home already.

1868 May 21

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is 10:00 on Clara's Birthday, May 21st and so he has set out to wish Clara a happy birthday. There have been many birthday letters as of late, and Hattie keeps track of them, sending them out in what seems to be a constant stream. He hopes that the series will slow.
- "I guess you will think I have written enough of this sort of stuff but really Clara you have no idea how 'empty' a missionary often feels when he sits down to write letters. It seems as though every day and every week was so much alike that there was nothing new to tell."
- He sends a verse "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1, saying she has had plenty of use for it in the last year.
- He speculates that she must have had a sad time last winter, and at the same time he was lying on his back in Canton. They know better the sorrow now, though best not to dwell on it.
- Henry's heart goes out to Frank's heavy sorrow. He prays that God will comfort him and show him the path of duty.
- Clara's letters comforted him greatly last month and recently when he heard she was all well again. However, they didn't hear of her sickness until they got the letters saying they were almost well, no steamer came there from San Francisco in March, coming from Panama to San Francisco. He hopes that once the railroad is finished they may have a steamer every fortnight, which would have each letter coming through in about a month.

- The “Great Republic” broke down in April and had to stop at Yokohama, and another came to Hong Kong. One of the ladies who traveled on the “Great Republic” as missionary teachers died at Calcutta April 18th, two months after reaching the field. She suffered from cancer greatly, but never lost her faith.

1869 February 16

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development;

Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- While Henry has written infrequently, he has written to Hattie, and he believes Hattie has kept closely in touch with those at home.
- Mary had spoken in her letters of sister Hannah’s grave, and Frank had sent a drawing. Henry believes the monument will look very pretty, and would like to one day see the site.
- Cynthia’s monument is finished. Henry wishes that the family could see it. It is exactly as Henry had expected and hoped, and as he sat atop he “thought such sweet pleasure of her whose earthly part was sleeping beneath.” Henry would like to send a copying of the inscriptions home so that the family could judge the exact size and scale of the monument.
- Henry remarks everything must seem quite different to how it was last year. He is doing well, and has completely gotten over the trouble he had last winter.
- Henry sympathizes with Ms. Beatty, who suffered “rheumatic or neurologic pains,” although his pains were not as great. He hopes “she will get as thoroughly over hers as I have over mine.”
- The ditch is finished, and Henry is grateful to Edward and Frank for their success on it.
- Edward “has got so well and strong again”
- They have a new puppy at home that Henry wished they would call Rover if he would be worthy of the name. Henry sends his best regards, and hopes they will give him plenty to eat and tell him “He’s a nice dog” and not to rip into the sheep which he will herd, as Rover had.
- Henry wonders after Shep, believing he will be a great dog “with an a.B. or an a.M. stuck to his name.” Henry believes he could be well used as a teacher of Rover, with Cyrus’ permission.
- Henry asks about school, and thinks “it must be nice to sing instead of writing composition.” He hopes she will learn to sing like birds.
- Henry believes he will be clear behind when he returns home and takes up the fiddle. He still occasionally plays, and sings from time to time with Hattie, who has a much better voice for singing than when he left home. His voice is about the same, if not worse, and his ear is poor.
- He sends a specimen of his whiskers enclosed in the letter, which the Chinese think are “ho cheung,” or very long. He does not know if they think they are very pretty. He supposes they do.

1869 May 31

From: Henry

To: Frank

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Chinese Politics; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Frank is 31 years old today. Henry wishes him a happy birthday, and many more successful years.
- It’s been three years and 8 days since Henry arrived in Canton, and time is moving quicker now for him that he has thrown himself into his work.

- Henry has since finished his main work for the moment, writing out the New Testament in Canton Colloquial. It took him just about a year to finish it, and now he hopes to preach some of it, but doesn't believe he will do a good job of preaching.
- Henry wonders what all the people at home are doing, as sugar making season is over and they would likely plant corn and potatoes.
- Henry recounts a time when Frank, Hattie, Old [Fran? Fan?], and he planted the Elder field so quickly the neighbors thought that they had used a machine to plant it. "Poor Hattie's face looked so red and she got very tired. But she had a right to be for it was doing pretty well for a girl of 12 years old to keep up with the furrower dropping corn, to say nothing about your 'covering'"
- Many 'good people' are moving away from Seville, much to Henry and Frank's chagrin. Henry expresses sorrow that Dr. Allen and Mr. Hamsher thought they had to leave, and could no longer teach Sabbath School.
- Henry expresses hope that Gen. Grant, now President Grant, will "do a better job than his predecessor did. I guess there is no danger of his doing worse." Henry believes they have gotten a good President and Vice President this time.
- Henry comments on the outbreaks of violence against foreigners, most prominently at [Jangchau?] and Formosa, expecting them to have been "satisfactorily settled now at both places." Henry supposes the Chinese put up with foreigners as mere necessity rather than desirable travelers, but in the area he is in violence is not common there. "The streets of Canton are just as safe, I am inclined to think more safe than those of many of our cities at home."
- Henry sends his regards to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, and Henry is glad to know they have not forgotten them.

1869 July 1

From: Henry

To: My dear Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Letter written before bed on his father's birthday, and he wishes him a very happy one.
- They attended a prayer meeting that evening, and will continue to attend each Thursday after. When they lived at the other house the missionaries were only holding prayer meetings on the Sabbath, but here they can attend meetings on the Sabbath and on Thursday as well.
- The missionary company is divided into those living in the east and west ends of the city. The new mission buildings are more central, so that they can be reached easily from both sides easily, and are less difficult to travel to than travelling all the way to one side or another.
- They find their new house more comfortable than the last, allowing them to do more in a day and feel less fatigue as a result. They get the southern breeze in the summer, which helps to dissipate the heat at night. After feeling the tropical breezes he feels he can take the breezes at home easily.
- He interpreted his father's 'good letter' to Lan Lin Shang and he was very pleased with the result and would send back a reply.
- Akwan, one of the other assistants who lived with them at the old house, wishes him to send his regards to the father.
- Henry has finished writing out the new testament in canton colloquial, handwriting every character with a "Chinese Pencil," with which he reckons he is as fast as the Chinese themselves.
- He breaks his modesty to "privately confide" in his father that he believes himself to be the only missionary in Canton able to write like this, and boasts in a "confidential manner."
- He wishes his father a happy birthday, as his paper is finished and he must now send the letter.

1869 October 18

From: [Not signed, incomplete? Henry?]

To: My dear Bro Edward

Location: On Board "Spark" between Canton and Macao

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- The writer was unable to send their birthday wishes in the first part, but now wishes them in a shaky hand. The steamer shakes and so they can't make the letters straight, but hopes they are still legible.
- Hattie sent an envelope this morning by the Hong Kong steamer, but a steamer goes from Macau at 8:00AM which will reach Hong Kong before the Japan leaves at 3:00PM
- They had not planned to leave Canton that year, but Mrs. Preston was quite anxious that they should visit her, and so they are going to make it a vacation.
- The long summer is almost over, although it would be extremely long at home, with the thermometer about 85 degrees in the midday and the nights comfortable without need for blankets.
- The writer supposes that Edward has finished with the musical at Ashland and have got quite a book of music made. They hope he will send them an account, and will sing the songs to the best of their ability. The sheets he had for teaching were very nice, and the writer wonders if they should send for some because they too are a music teacher. "I don't suppose I would do very well for white people, but think maybe I'll do for these Chinese."
- The writer plays the melodies at prayer in the hospital every morning and sometimes when they flat very much as they often do, they know it.
- The writer tells of a "chinaman" they saw a few days ago who had a grain of rice, on the side of which were written 85 Chinese characters. They were so small that the writer could barely distinguish them without a magnifying glass, but they had been written with a hair pencil. Hattie saw on Saturday a little book about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch long and half an inch wide, on the inside of which were carved 600 characters.
- Mr. Brooman is doing quite a trade in sewing machines, selling between twenty and thirty, and the other day he saw a plough and cultivator which he had got. Their paper is up and so the writer will stop.

1869 December 17

From: Henry

To: Emily

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Henry writes that he has trouble remembering to whom he wrote his last letter when composing a new one, as he writes letters roughly once a month and sometimes forgets whose turn it is to be written to.
- Henry expresses sorrow at the death of Mr. Mc[Dowell? Sewill?] and sends condolences to his family, as well as his mother.
- If he could, Henry would have sent his warm regards to many of the people whom he has left behind, the neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, children in the Sabbath school, and countless others. He especially remembers Mrs. Leitsell? and her family.

- All are well, and Henry believes that he feels better in China now than he had lately. He requires a lot of sleep and has indulged himself with it, but recently has started waking at 4 or 5 in the morning. He feels good, and expects to for some time.
- Hattie and Henry were refreshed by their trip ‘into the country’ and to Macao during the summer. “It was grand to breathe the fine mountain air and see the clear streams and ramble about in the country after being residents of the city for so long.”
- A photographer who lives near them has taken a picture of their houses, and Henry sought to get a print of one of the photos to send home, but the photographer didn’t have a print yet. Henry remarks that a print may arrive in a later letter.
- The sabbath evening meeting of the Missionaries now happens at Henry’s house, and Henry much prefers it. An organ helps the singing of the missionaries, which they have at the house.
- Last week there was a course of lectures given by different missionaries in the Chapel on scientific subjects, “and for the Chinese there were two a day besides usually some kind of a meeting in the [hearing?] and extending through 4 days.” The meetings were well attended by the Chinese of all missions.
- The lectures were arranged by the Canton Missionary Conference and not the Presbyterian mission alone.

1870 October 8

From: Henry

To: Emily

Location: Hong Kong

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics

- Emily’s eyes have been bad, enough that she had not been able to read, write, or sew.
- Frank’s throat is sore
- Henry is in Hong Kong, where he has been with Hattie for a week at Dr. Collins’ house
- The weather has been rainy but this morning is finally clear and beautiful
- They spent yesterday on “ship-board” in the harbor with Dr. Adams and his family
- Dr. Adams’ son is captain of a ship, and he and his two daughters are taking a trip in it around the world, but have been detained in Hong Kong for 5-6 months because they have no cargo, and have no idea how much longer they will be forced to stay
- The Adams family has a little cabin they live in in the boat and looks very “homelike”
- Henry wanted them to come to Canton but someone convinced Dr. Adams that Canton was not safe so they did not come, and Henry could not convince them otherwise
- “The people in Hong Kong seem much more easily alarmed than we are in Canton”
- There has recently been trouble in Fatshan (Foshan)
- The “native” church members connected with the London Mission Society in Hong Kong and Fatshan have been building a chapel in Fatshan
- The chapel has cost between \$1000 and \$2000, raised by the Chinese and the chapel was just finished and opened on September 21—the same night it was attacked and utterly destroyed by fire
- Fire engines showed up and protected the rest of the adjoining buildings from burning so that only the chapel would burn
- 40 or 50 of the church members were in the nearby house, but they were all able to escape, by going to the roof and climbing down by a ladder
- “There did not seem to be any design on the part of the mob to take life. The whole country is in a rather unsettled slate and will be until there is some definite settlement of the affair at Tientsin. There seems so far to be a deadlock somewhere between the French and Chinese authority”

- “...we have had as yet no apprehension of danger at Canton and have little doubt that we should learn of any threatened danger in time to move away to Macao in case it should be necessary.”

1870 December 9

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Building and Development; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics

- Henry is curious if Mary has curly hair or straight hair now, for as he looks at an old picture of his six sisters he notices that the “little one in the middle” has straight hair, but he heard in a letter from home that her hair came out curly after she got sick
- Henry is so sorry to hear that Frank is unwell
- Henry is pretty sure that they will leave their current house in Canton
- He has also just sent home by this mail an application for funds to start a boy’s boarding school and supposes by next mail they will do the same thing for a girls’ boarding school– if the girls’ boarding school is granted, Henry assumes Hattie will take charge of it
- The building will be put in a vacant lot belonging to the mission near Dr. Happer’s and Henry and his family will move there if this happens
- However, Henry still assumes they will not move for at least another year
- Henry just met “Nettie Pearson” who is now Mrs. C. Crane, and recalls the visit he made to her father’s house in Columbus as well as the sadness and loss he felt when the father passed away
- Henry wishes Cyrus and his wife a happy life together
- “Your reference to ‘our darling Cynthia’ calls back to mind that evening to which you refer on the 12th of October 1865. Yes she did look beautiful then but not so beautiful as that last afternoon of her life in Macao. I have often wished that the dear home ones could have seen her then. And dear Hannah how I should like to visit the spot where she sleeps. They are together in heaven and I love to think they know each other there”
- “When we last wrote there was considerable excitement here by various stories put into circulation in reference to foreigners but this excitement has now passed away. The Authorities are evidently determined on keeping matters quiet and will no doubt succeed. The gentry who have quite as much influence as the Authorities have issued a paper stating that these stories are false and calling upon the people not to make disturbance.”
- “We have just heard here that a telegram announces war between Russia and Turkey and that England and Austria will join with Turkey. I still hope that this only a rumor. How dreadful it would be if all Europe nearly should thus be involved in war...”
- Henry said he is well and weighs 152 ½ pounds.
- “...Hattie thinks she is fat but you will be able to judge of that from the pictures we sent by the last mail”
- “I am still studying away at the Chinese. I am getting to talk it somewhat better than formerly.”
- Henry goes into a chapel in the city almost every day to hear a “native assistant” preach to help with his own Chinese, and Henry sometimes talks when he is there to help his conversation and speaking skills

1871 November 3

From: Henry

To: Mattie

Location: Ningpo

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; American Politics

- Henry sits at a table with Hattie in Mr. Goddard's study at Ningpo as he writes this letter
- Mrs. Goddard was formerly Fannie Dean and married Mr. Goddard from the house in Canton
- Synod closed yesterday at 3pm after a two week session
- Henry was late to the Synod meeting because of an intense monsoon up the coast that delayed travel, for their small steamer *The Eastern Isles* did not have the engine power to make much headway against a strong head sea
- The steamer also had to briefly harbor in the city of Amoy for repairs, including damage to one of the decks caused by a fire
- They resumed travel to Ningpo the next morning
- The steamer then hit a rock which brought the ship to a dead halt and were stuck on the ship for two hours before turning back to Amoy 120 miles away, for a hole had been made in the ship and it began taking on water
- The crew managed to pump the water out of the ship so that they were able to reach Amoy the next morning
- "We were near land when we struck but it would not have been very desirable to have gone ashore there on account of Chinese robbers who might have visited us"
- Their unexpected second visit to Amoy lasted from Friday until Tuesday evening
- Henry went into the countryside of Amoy with another missionary to visit a country church on Saturday where he also spent the Sabbath
- They assumed there was no chance to reach the Synod meeting in time when a steam came into harbor early Tuesday morning that was bound for Shanghai that evening, and were able to reach Shanghai on Friday afternoon and Ningpo Saturday morning
- They were "only" 18 days from Canton at this point but were able to still be at Synod for a considerable amount of time
- The meeting closed yesterday (Thursday) and they expect to go to Hangchow next Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Lyon in "Chinese boats," where it will take about 3 days to get there because it is about 150 miles away
- Henry has subscribed to the *Independent* for 4 years in order to get the picture of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation

1872 May 20

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health

- Hattie and Henry have been traveling to and from a village all day.
- Henry is thankful that the family has been "spared through all the troubles through which at home you have passed." According to the last letters, everyone is healthy.
- Henry enjoys the pictures that have been sent of their mother and father. He compares them with his memory of his parents from six years ago when he saw them last.
- Henry and other members of the community recently returned from a ten-day trip to the country. Mrs. Happer was in poor health, but seemed to enjoy the trip. She had an attack of possibly dysentery when they returned home.
- Dr. Happer was also happy to see the pictures. In addition, Henry mentions the presence of [Western Flint?], who used to teach in Seville but is now Consul at [Hamkore?] which is in proximity to Shanghai. He has written saying that he might visit in the autumn.



1872 July 9

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics

- Henry began this letter on the 9th, but continues it on the 11th.
- He was traveling in the country, but has returned because of the death of Brother McChesney. While they were traveling about 20 miles from Canton, he was shot in the head by a robber boat.
- Henry describes their journey through villages in the country, leading up to their decision to take to the river in a boat in which they slept. During the night, robbers attacked a boat close to theirs and then a fight with the police broke out. As the robbers were fleeing, they fired off random shots and ended up hitting Mr. McChesney. Henry describes how McChesney did not speak after being hit and the bullet lodged in his brain. He died after 10-15 minutes.
- Henry brought his body back to Canton so he could be buried. He notes that this was one of Mr. McChesney's first experiences speaking publicly in China, as well as his last. He leaves behind a wife, who is kind and a good friend to Hattie.
- He concludes that this must be for the best somehow, and this sort of thing does not happen often.

1872 August 9

From: Henry

To: "My Dear Mother" (Lois)

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Building & Development;  
Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry is writing to wish his mother well on the occasion of her birthday. He also writes about how he and Mattie are missing home, something he did not anticipate when he left home.
- Henry's father has asked in a previous letter whether Hattie and Henry will celebrate the 4th of July 1876, but Henry is not sure they will be alive at that time. He writes about Mr. McChesney, who died recently, and his wife, who gave birth to a baby shortly after her husband's death. The baby died as well after only three days of life and was buried with its father. Henry writes that Mrs. McChesney feels very sad and is not sure if she will stay or leave, especially given her other two-year-old child.
- Henry is writing an account of the situation to send to churches and "The Presbyterian" for publication, as well as including a copy with this letter. He hopes that his mother will pass it on to Mr. Grave's folks, who Henry will not be able to write by this mail. He also reminisces on the memory of his deceased wife, who died five years ago.
- Henry hosted the Missionary Conference at his house. Thirty-one people attended, including sixteen men and fifteen women. Hattie set a beautiful table and provided good food, including a cake. Henry believes that it was a good meeting overall, which they were happy to host in their new home. They discussed Mr. McChesney's death.
- Henry and Hattie are looking forward to hearing from Mattie about whether she will be coming to China.
- Henry also received word that the Presbytery of Steubenville Sabbath School children have decided to make him their missionary to support.

1873 January 8

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: [Canton?]

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry thanks Clara for dreaming of him and Hattie so frequently. He wishes he could dream of home more frequently than he does. He hopes that when he returns home he will have more than three hours to speak to his friends and family.
- Henry is sorry for Clara's thumb, and hopes she can get to a point where she can use it for Piano or Melodeon.
- Henry stressed to 'Em' (Emily) that she must graduate, and Henry asks Clara to tell her to graduate 'on our account if not her own.' "I want her to be the first lady graduate now that she can and I think she will be a very good one for that institution to start off with too."
- Henry exclaims at the dreadfulness of the epizootic (equine influenza) facing the horses, hoping that it won't kill off 'all the nice horses.'
- Henry recommends the use of "Chinese Coolies" to replace the labour of horses, commenting that everything is moved by men in Canton, in the country oxen are used for plowing and carts, but in Canton "there is nothing but the Coolie and his pole."
- They are experiencing temperatures as low as 48, which Henry states to be extremely cold, and have been having rain for the past 2 or 3 days.
- They are in the midst of the week of prayer, and Henry preached the sermon on the evening of the sabbath, 'the good brethren' were so pleased with it that they asked to have it printed in 200 copies. He promises that if it is printed he will send a copy. The subject was given by the Evangelical Alliance, the last part of it being "the Universal Extension of the Christian Church."

1873 April 24

From: Henry

To: My dear Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry is writing to his mother on her birthday (as he believes is proper), and expects that some letters will be written to him today as well.
- 37 would have seemed very old to him 20 years ago, but now he is unsure whether he is much more mature than when he left home. Hattie says he is not much older, but he presumes that his mother would recognize some change in his looks and demeanor if he were home.
- Henry expects he is at the middle of his life, and is now going downhill towards the end, where Hattie expects he has not hit his middle peak yet.
- To the shortness of life, Henry states that a merchant went across the river at night for a birthday party and was found the next morning dead at the bottom of the river. It is expected he fell in and couldn't get out because he couldn't get to a boat.
- Henry has made one trip inland since he wrote last, to San Ui, a large city of 250,000 people where they just recently opened a small chapel. "I hope it will prove to be a center of light in a dark place."
- Henry expects another week-long journey in a couple weeks, and then a month-long journey ranging 200 miles or more to new locales. "The country is said to be very fine."
- Mr. Selby of the Wesleyan mission is going with him, and there may be two others joining them.
- Henry expects "preaching to multitudes who have never heard the gospel before."

- Mr. Uhlman, of the British and Foreign Bible Society was in the region last year and found the people “very quiet”.
- Henry is looking forwards to “much pleasure” in the trip, but its drawback is that he must leave Hattie for so long. However, she has “good neighbors at hand” and he doesn’t expect to go away much during the summer.
- Henry expects two missionaries from the Princeton seminary who might arrive this year, from Dr. Ellinwood’s letter. Henry expects them in the fall, and if they are married they will have 2 more ladies.

1873 May 9

From: Henry

To: the dear ones at Home

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry frequently finds himself leaving around mail time. As he can only write a little, he seeks to speak on the big issue of the day, that ‘Good Sister Matt’ (Mattie) has decided to go to China.
- Mattie has sent in her application to the Board. Henry expresses his excitement to have her in China, but is sad that the family at home will not be able to see her.
- Henry hopes that her leaving will have a silver lining, and hopes that the family will be strengthened by God to part with her.
- Henry asks that she give them due notice so that he could meet her in Hong Kong. He has had notice that Mr. Hall and his wife will be coming and a Miss Crouch has applied, and suspects that all four of them might come together which he believes will be pleasant company.
- Henry has shaved his ‘whiskers’ and believes himself to be unrecognizable. He visited a social evening and was introduced as a Mr. Varnum to people, only three of the people he knew recognized him with only his mustache.
- Some said he looked like a Frenchman, and Mr. Chalmers didn’t believe that they had ever met, and the people laughed when he revealed who he was.

1873 October 7

From: Henry

To: My dear Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Father’s last letter is suspected to have been waylaid, visiting Massilon and New York postmarks, before finally arriving to Henry.
- Hattie suggests to put “VIA San Francisco” on the letters to suggest to the postmasters where it ought to go. Henry supposes it’s carelessness on the part of the postmasters.
- Henry is writing this letter early because he is departing for San Ui for a week.
- Henry has had a three month period of being home, hiding from the hot weather, and now that it is a clear, cool fall he has seen fit to travel.
- What Henry means by cool is that it is a little above what is marked “summer heat” on his thermometer, from 75 to 80 degrees.
- No typhoons this year, they have not had a “regular one” in Canton since 1867.
- Mrs. Happer has an incurable “organic disease of the Kidneys” and endures much suffering. Henry feels sorry for her, and states she is a most excellent Christian lady. She is also depressed, the doctor states that her head is affected by the disease as well, and Henry agrees with his prognosis.

1874 February 25

From: Henry

To: My dear Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry compliments the regularity of letter writing of his sisters, while denigrating the inconsistency of his epistolary habits.
- Last Henry wrote he was leaving with Hattie and Miss Shaw for a trip in country after the end of Hattie's school year, they left Friday and Hattie slept most of the time until the next Tuesday.
- Henry was comforted seeing her have time to do as she liked. Running a boarding school confines her to the school for most of the time except vacation.
- Mattie and Lucy will eventually be able to help Hattie, but are currently learning the language.
- Henry believes Miss Shaw has overworked herself, she is not able to do what she once was, and Henry expects her to go to Synod in August. He hopes this will "set her up."
- Dr. Happer and Mr. Preston expect to go, Henry is not sure if he will make the voyage to Chefoo.
- They were happy to hear from the Mission Rooms last mail, authorizing them to build a chapel. It is to be the same size as their home church, 40 by 60 feet, and built similarly except for the Steeple, which will be a regular belfry. The floor will only be a foot higher than the ground, made of red tiles of one square foot. They hope to have it done by next October or soon after.
- The Chinese foot is somewhat longer than the American foot.
- Henry does not expect to travel so "promiscuously" as he had before, with only two stations of his mission to look after, and he hopes to confine himself as long as work goes smoothly with travel. One is 80 miles away and another is maybe 30 miles
- One is a large city of 200,000 with a native preacher and a school teacher, who joined them a month ago. He has been cast out of his clan for his association, but loses 30 dollars a year, "his share of some patrimony or something." His wages are five dollars per month. Henry hopes that if he stays true to them, he hopes that he might be a useful assistant at some point.

1874 March 14

From: Henry

To: My dear Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building and Development; Social/Cultural Practices:

American

- The mail came last night, and as it goes out this morning it is only just in time for a reply. The steam was far behind in coming, and will be 4 days late leaving. They expect another steamer in 8-10 days, and Henry hopes they will send one every fortnight thereafter.
- Henry is happy for news from Clara about their dog Rover.
- They had Chinese New Year and school vacation, but have finally started courses once more. The boarding school for women will be full that year, and Henry has started a boy's day school near their house, in all there are 8 day schools total, 7 girls' and one boys'.
- Henry plans to travel less, travelling only between two out-stations and home so that he can teach in Dr. Happer's school.
- They are losing two missionaries to poor health, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons of the Southern Baptist Mission, Mrs. Simmon having had poor health since arriving.

- Mrs. Leyenberger of Ningpo is also to go by steamer. His parents have some chance to see Mrs. Leyenberger, as she doesn't live so far from Wooster, but she may stop in the West before going home. Her youngest boy is named after Henry, so he feels an interest in him. She has spent a couple days with Henry's family, and so can tell about their situation.
- They have made plans and bargained for the new chapel, and now workers are tearing down the old house to make room for the new building. It was the first house Henry lived in in China. They expect the chapel to be done by next fall.
- Mattie and Lucy are learning the language, and they are going to help Hattie hear and mark some of the scholars this year. They can sit alongside their Chinese teacher and "tell whether the scholar repeats readily or not and mark the grade even when they do not know all the characters." They are a big boost to Hattie in sharing responsibilities and good company for Henry as well.
- They have a daily morning prayer meeting at 6:30 for the students in the training school and the native assistants. Their communion is in two weeks, and Henry guesses there will be some applicants for baptism but does not know how many.
- They had a spat of hot weather earlier, but are now in a cold spell chilly enough to make a fire feel very comfortable. They hadn't needed fire very much that summer.

1874 March 26

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry took a trip, leaving Canton March 16th in a passage boat to Fatshan, which serves as a hub for passage boats going in and out carrying passengers and cargo. These boats carry from 50 to 100 passengers ordinarily, looking nothing like the riverboats from home. The lower deck is not high enough to stand up in, and there are no chains, but passengers sit cross-legged and packed down below. They pack together on the deck as well, putting up umbrellas if it rains. They are powered by men or wind, with sails made of very coarse matting.
- Henry spent the night with Mr. Selby at Fatshan and they started the next day on foot to Kam Chuk, 25 miles away. They started at 7:00AM and reached the place at 2:45PM having stopped at an eating house on the way for dinner. They ate tepid water, tea, duck egg soup, pork, and rice using a little earthen spoon for the liquids and chopsticks for the solids. They paid 12 ½ cents for their hearty meal. "Hotel bills you see are not quite so expensive here as in the United States."
- They met their boat at Kam Chuk which took them to San Ui, their final destination. They were stopped by a earth bank damming the canal three to four miles from their destination, which had been put there so that they could deepen the canal further down.
- Their excavation reminded him of the Irishmen at work on the railroad, only they were taking earth away in baskets suspended from a pole carried on their shoulders.
- Henry had to traverse half a day around the city to enter from the other side, near Mr. Selby's chapel but 2.5 miles from Henry's. They stayed there from Wednesday until Monday. Henry would walk to his chapel twice a day, returning to the boat each time, walking what he estimates as ten miles a day and more than 100 miles during his whole trip.
- It is the rainy season, and it rained every day but one.
- The chapel in San Ui is very small, seating ~30 people. They have an adjoining school, but there are only 6 scholars that year. Henry supposes there will be a few more. There are no church members but the native assistants who preach there and the school teacher.
- Henry's suggestion in the Foreign Missionary for the children to write to him has yielded responses from three children and one sabbath school teacher, one of the children being the

daughter of Mr. Simpson in Mansfield. Her father told her about Cynthia and Henry staying at their house in Hayesville just before leaving for China, but she cannot remember it. Henry will reply next mail.

1874 April 24

From: Henry

To: My dear Mother

Location: Near Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- It is Henry's 38th Birthday, which makes him feel like he is getting old.
- They are away from Canton, there was a case of smallpox or varioloid in school and the scholars were sent home for a month, so they got a large boat and have been away in the country for 15 days. They will soon return to Canton. They had been vaccinated before they left Canton, but he believes none of them needed it as they didn't fall ill.
- Henry preached to a crowd anchored near where Mr. McChesney was killed, right where he was anchored on the night of his death. "The country seems very quiet everywhere now. Just as it did before the Tientsin massacre." They have been treated very civilly everywhere.
- Matt and Lucy found it interesting to live so long without bread, but Henry believes traveling in the mountains high up as they were helps their appetite so it doesn't make much difference what they ate. Matt doesn't like rice, but they have been able to get chicken, pork, and eggs most places. Henry likes and can eat lots of rice. "I am a regular Chinaman in that respect."
- Their boat is big, with two rooms and another small one where the girls sleep. The ship is manned by eight, and they rented the whole thing for \$2.10 a day, except when they had to pay a little more for tougher water and harder work.
- They are anxious to hear if more of the students are sick. Before they left they paid to have the schoolhouse whitewashed and the floors repainted.
- Henry has preached frequently and distributed lots of books during the trip, which he hopes has done good. He worries for his hand's legibility for the shakiness of the ship's rowing.

1874 June 15

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Henry expects that his father will be surprised to hear from him again so soon, as it has only been 6 days since he sent the last letter
- The steamer made a quick passage from San Francisco
- He has not gotten the letters yet but they will come in from Hong Kong today
- The American steamer came into the harbor just as the Canton steamer left Hong Kong on Saturday
- The recent hot weather has taken the energy out of them
- Miss Shaw is sick and Lillie Happer is in Japan, so it puts more work on Hattie
- Their Communion was two weeks ago, and two were baptized then and two more yesterday
- A 17 year old girl and church member died last week
- Miss Shaw knew the family, "They were so utterly shiftless and untidy that we have always called them the 'dirty family'"

- The girl who died was “a very earnest, whole souled girl and very faithful. She seemed the best of the family...faithful in her testimony for the Master notwithstanding”
- Miss Shaw had employed the girl to sew when she got sick and suddenly died after a week
- The girl and her mother sometimes went without food all day “rather than work to get it”
- The girl seemed comfortable with death and even tried to comfort her mother and father about it before she died, “None of us have a doubt that she is now with Jesus himself where they hunger and thirst no more”
- The little girl “Shung” (?) is having a hard time. The girl and her mother will stay in Henry’s house as long as she and her mother want, “Nothing less than an official order from the U.S. Consul shall take her away”

1874 July 3

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Meant to write this letter on Father’s birthday but his light was blew out too quickly
- They thought of his birthday the night before at the “Social Evening” and even had a toast prepared for him
- Has thought considerably about going to Synod, and will hear that day about what the Board decides to do about paying expenses for the people who go
- Henry expects the Board will pay at least partial expenses
- Will go to San-Ui next Tuesday for a week, and the trip in full will probably be 2 ½ months because he wants to visit other stations besides Chefoo
- He wants to visit Peking as well but is unsure if that will happen
- “Mattie will have to be careful. She hasn’t the strength of constitution that Hatties has and if she does too much she gets very tired”
- Dr. Ellinwood is expected in Canton in the fall
- Henry hopes to visit home in 1876
- They are building the belfry on the new chapel and will have it finished in a few weeks, Henry remarks that it will be a great improvement on their old meeting place
- Their Chinese teacher wants to go home with Henry the next time he visits America in order to study for 2 or 3 years
- Henry hopes arrangements can be made for him to spend time in Wooster
- The teacher left 2 months ago to work at the “Foreign news department” of the “Chinese Mail,” which is the only daily paper published in Chinese that Henry is aware of
- The teacher makes \$30 per month at this new job, and he only made \$10 a month working for Henry
- “If he was a Christian, I do not know a Chinaman that it seems would be better gratified to do good”

1874 July 24

From: Henry

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Is planning to leave for Synod in two to three hours
- Hattie wants to go to “Swatow” (Shantou) for her vacation with Miss Shaw, her vacation a little over four weeks away
- Henry is not sure how long he will be gone, he assumes it will not be until the beginning of cooler weather
- His throat has been bothering him and the doctor has advised Henry to not use his voice
- Henry expects speaking in market places has further strained it
- No one else from Mission is going with Henry, but he assumes he will meet other missionaries in Shanghai
- Henry is sorry that he will be away for the opening of their new chapel, for it is almost done
- He was in “San-Ui” (Xinhui) around two weeks ago where he said he held the city’s first ever Communion, the city population being over 200,000
- There were four other missionaries assisting with Communion, including a few from the Wesleyan Mission
- The chapel there was small and “crude” [?] compared to churches at home
- Henry encloses \$250 for his family at home to use for anything they need, but especially hopes it will be used to help pay for the girls’ school
- He hopes Clara will go to Wooster in the coming year, and Henry is happy to help with her expenses whenever possible
- Mentions praise of Clara by Dr. Taylor, “She stands among the very first in her class and Dr. Gregory, her prof in Metaphysics, thinks her equal to any mind under his teaching as indeed do we all”

1874 July 29

From: Henry

To: Mattie

Location: Shanghai

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Henry arrived in Shanghai safe and sound at 1-o-clock
- They left Hong Kong when he anticipated, at around half past 3, which gave him no time to see the *P.M. S.S. Japan* steamer
- Henry believes he recognizes it from when he and Hattie were anchored in the “Eastern Isles,” with Captain Freeman at the bow
- They followed the mail steamer closely for awhile until dark on Saturday night, and the steamer was seen again on Sunday
- Met a Mrs. Douglas on the steamer, the wife of the longtime “Keeper” of the Hong Kong jail who had just recently died
- Henry read a great deal on board, and recalls when he used to go on the high deck after dark and look at the water and night sky
- Henry’s cough has not troubled him much since leaving Hong Kong
- Mr. Lyon plans to go on to Peking along with a few others, and Henry expects he will go with them
- Both Mrs. Kerr and Henry invite the “3rd engineer” on the steamer to come visit them

1874 September 12

From: Henry



To: Hattie

Location: Peking

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Received letters last Wednesday “from all three of you” and would love to answer them all now but does not have time so he will just write one
- Is glad to know that Hattie is able to go to Macao
- Henry has visited the “Ming Tombs,” Nankow Pass, the Great Wall, and the Temple of Heaven while in Peking
- Henry is currently settled at the house of Dr. Williams, where he will stay until he leaves for home on Monday morning
- Expects to stop over one steamer at Chefoo on his way down to Shanghai, then perhaps to Ningpo, then a mission meeting in Hangchow October 15, and go with the Whitings to Soochow [Suzhou], then Shanghai, and then back home
- Henry needs to rest his throat and does not seem to have a much better voice from when he left home, he thought it was getting better at Chefoo but but since Tientsin [Tianjin] it has not been well
- Henry assumes it is dust that affects his voice, “Peking is a fearfully dusty place. It is as difficult to keep clean as Pittsburg I think more so”
- “The cart-riding is very rough but the ladies here do not seem to mind it much”
- Henry recently attended a wedding at the Methodist Mission compound, where two missionaries got married and went away for a trip somewhere, and Henry adds that they plan to settle in Peking
- Is delighted to hear of the chapel opening for Hattie
- “The Chinese Government is a strange one. Yesterday it came out in the *Peking Gazette* that Prince Kung was degraded and his posterity to three generations. Today he is restored again. The Japanese ambassador is here in reference to the difficulties between the two governments. He has had an interview with Chung Hau and it is reported that they had quite an exciting time and both lost their tempers. Somebody, I forget who, said it was probable that the United States would be asked to be arbitrator in the matter but I suppose this is supposition not authoritative”

1874 September 22

From: Henry

To: My dear household

Location: Chefoo

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- Reached Chefoo from Peking the night before
- Met the Ellinwoods, Mr. Ellinwood “has black hair black eyes and looks smart”
- A Dr. Nerius (?) expects to go with Ellinwood to Peking and expects to go back to Shanghai by the 20th of next month, and then be in Canton by the middle of November
- Henry met Professor Young on the way down the river from Peking, where he had to jump on Young’s boat to meet him, “he got ahold of me with both hands and we shook each other very cordially”
- Henry received Hattie’s short note
- He hopes to get home for the social in New York but does not expect to get there any earlier than that

1874 October 19

From: "H" (Henry)

To: Hattie

Location: Chefoo

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Received Hattie's letter about the typhoon when he returned from his long country trip to "Chi-mu" (?), he is glad everyone there is ok
- Henry first heard of the typhoon when he was in "Jungchoo" [Jingzhou?], when Mr. Corbett had to go get his children from the affected area, and then Henry read an account in the Shanghai paper "China Mail"
- "I had a little anxiety but had a good deal of faith in the solid character of the foreign houses in Macao and supposed the damage to buildings was probably mostly in the Chinese part"
- Rode a mule into the country for over two full days at first and then a total of thirteen days for over four hundred miles
- There was cool weather and Henry felt invigorated
- Expects to start for Shanghai with the Ellinwoods on Thursday or Friday and then Canton
- Intends to go to "Soochow"(Suzhou) and "Ningpo" (Ningbo) and possibly "Hangchow" (Hangzhou)
- Henry cannot go with the Ellinwoods from Shanghai because they have a through ticket by the P&O steamers, which will likely be too expensive for Henry
- Henry will take "\_\_\_ & Cos" steamers instead for \$30
- Miss Downing and Miss Dicky, who keep house, each have a salary of \$600
- Henry does not think that the salaries in Canton should be any lower than Chefoo or any other Mission stations in China, and that the missionaries thought that men's salaries were the same all over China
- Henry thought the salary for married missionaries in Canton was \$900 but another missionary said it was actually \$1000 and \$720 for unmarried, single male missionaries and widowers
- Henry plans to find the official paperwork for the true amounts when he goes to Shanghai
- A "Richard A \_\_\_" [possibly a friend or relative] drowned in the Yangtze River after an intended bath
- Henry plans to go home in 1875, but Hattie cannot travel home until 1876

1874 November 24

From: Henry

To: Sarah

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Arrived back in Canton November 10 after being gone since July 23, traveling around 4000 miles in total
- The sea travel was mostly smooth except for the travel from Shanghai to Chefoo, where the headwinds made most of the passengers sick
- Henry spent time in Peking, "the dirtiest, dustiest old city I ever was in and ever want to be," although Henry notes the "finer temples and grounds...more that looks like architecture and some taste in the buildings here than anywhere else I have been in China"
- Rode a donkey outside the city, and visited a section of the Great Wall of China about 50 miles northwest of Peking

- The last 15 miles of the ride cut through mountains, and the pass seemed to have once been a road two or three hundred years ago so the stones are now “topsy-turvy”
- This same mountain pass is where all traffic from Mongolia comes through with camels, pack mules, donkeys, and carts
- Met Dr. and Mrs. Ellinwood in Chefoo where they moved onto Shanghai together
- Henry spent a lot of time with the Ellinwoods, and the Ellinwoods plan to go from there to India to Syria and then back home by the first of April
- Dr. Ellinwood told Henry that the board’s rule was that any missionaries could go home after they has been out for ten years, sick or well
- This rule gives Henry the option to leave shortly after 1876 begins, “if alive and well,” when Henry plans to visit the U.S.
- Henry tells Sarah not to work too hard because he doesn’t want to see her “all broken down when we come home”

1875 January 12

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- They lost all their letters the mail before last because of the burning of the *Japan*
- The ship burned the night before it was expected in Hong Kong at 8am, and the ship was about 100 miles from that destination when it burned
- The fire started at about 11:30pm and they think it came from spontaneous combustion in the coal bunkers
- All tried their best to extinguish the fire but could not, and before 2am all who could escape did so
- 3 or 4 Americans or Europeans on board did not make it and over 300 Chinese were lost
- Their boarding school burned the day before yesterday, only the walls are mostly standing
- Henry wasn’t gone for more than 20 minutes at Sabbath meeting when the building caught on fire, a mass of black smoke that also covered their house next door
- Henry expected the house would burn too, and they tried to clear their house as quickly as possible
- At this point, multiple fire engines showed up and were able to save the house
- A crowd amassed to watch the fire, but Henry said the Chinese police on the scene and “kept very good order so that we did not lose a great many things”
- Henry writes, “The Chinese generally manage to pilfer a good deal during the confusion of a fire and I wonder there are not more things missing than there are”
- Objects taken include a “motto” that hung on their mantle that read “God bless our home,” a vase of Mattie’s from her scholars in Cleveland, two silver napkin rings of Hattie’s, and a black and white striped shawl
- Henry immediately follows this up with the fact that all the women and girls of the school lost everything they had in the fire, “clothing, books, everything in that house was burned,” and are now scattered back to their homes
- “If there was anything that Hattie almost idolized it was her school and now it is all gone”
- Dr. and Mrs. Ellinwood, when they visited, had praised the school for its organization, success, and efficiency, and that it was “the best planned and managed of any they had seen”
- They presume the building was purposefully set on fire but they probably cannot confirm that

- Clara just wrote to him asking if he would write a sermon, but Henry is going to wait until he gets home
- Henry is planning to visit Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, and the road to Bethany with Hattie

1875 February 12

From: Henry

To: My dear Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- Henry is worried that he is becoming a poor correspondent. “The girls” have been setting a good example by writing and sending many letters that day, and his father will likely get some of them.
- It is a cold rainy evening and Henry and Hattie are sitting in front of the Franklin coal stove.
- Lucy is in her own room, and has had a toothache for two or three days as well as a swollen face. Matt had a toothache as well for several days last week. Lucy’s was caused by having it filled by Rogers, a Northern New Hampshire dentist who came up from Canton for a bit, who looked at all of their teeth. He filled 7 for Matt, 2 for Hattie and one for Henry.
- The dentist was acquainted with several men by the name of Noyes, one of whom was under six feet in height, and that all of the Noyes had strong teeth and shared a general resemblance.
- The dentist asked him if he got Chinese easily, Henry replied he worked at it, and the dentist laughed saying he’d “do for a Noyes” and that they were all very self-possessed. “So much for the Noyes connection.”
- They have commenced rebuilding the schoolhouse for a bargain of 1300\$, they are putting up the “mat shed” now (a structure of bamboo poles and palm leaves), which they will build the building underneath. After the roof is on and the outside work is done, the shed is taken down. Bamboo ladders are made for the outside and navigating the structure, and the shed keeps the walls dry, allowing work to go on rain or shine - essential during the rainy season.
- They expect the house to be finished in four months, and once the school is started Henry and Hattie expect to think about getting ready to go home. Henry expects his father to find him changed. He asks his father to tell Edward that if he ever cuts his hair again, he will no longer be troubled by the hair sticking up at the top of his head anymore.
- Everyone is heading home in spring, likely. They hope to be in good health when heading home, Henry’s throat is getting better, and there have not been serious signs of illness. He expects he will not do much preaching in the next year, but will be writing from his study, which suits him.
- Several joined the church last communion. Henry fears that too many are being taken into the church, and there are not enough students to admitting members, but he may be wrong.
- He sends his love to all the dear ones from Henry.

1875 July 1

From: Henry

To: My dear Father

Location: North River

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Wishes his father a happy 71st birthday
- Henry recalls the last time he met his father—nine years ago—and remembers when his father said they would not meet again
- Henry left home a week ago today and will be gone for about a month for a country vacation trip, Mattie, Lucy, and Hattie are also with them

- Yesterday they climbed a hill, and Henry thought of Old Testament Moses on the hill overlooking the promised land, where he died and the Lord buried him
- They sang the hymn “My Heavenly Home is bright and fair” while on top of the mountain
- Henry worried that Mattie was overheating on the way down the hill, her face was so red that thought she was ill
- The only ill effects they have suffered from the trip have been sunburn
- Henry is relieved to get away from congested Canton

1876 March 14, 16

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Steamer Priam

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They are sailing through the Red Sea, hoping to reach Suez in one or two days and after several more days of travel they hope to reach Port Said where they hope to be able to receive and post letters from home.
- They were detained for eleven days in Singapore awaiting a steamer and the steamer stopped 5 days in Colombo, Ceylon to take on cargo.
- Henry rode a train 75 miles inland through mountainous scenery while the ship was at port, his first train voyage since leaving New York ten years ago. The latter half of the journey was mountainous, which Henry found to be “very fine indeed.”
- Henry believes that the people would be “an interesting people to labor among.”
- Mr. [Lebb?], a missionary in Kandy, asked Henry to remain over the Sabbath and preach for him, but Henry had not arrived prepared to do so. Henry states that he would have been glad to have preached once in Ceylon, but that Kandy was “not a very large place.”
- Mr. [Lebb?] said that he usually had a congregation of about 200 partly English and partly Cinghalese who can understand English.
- On board the ship, they held service every sabbath, where the captain read the English service and Henry preached.
- There were 16 passengers and 9 children, in all 25 aboard the ship, who had a very smooth passage. This was most accommodating for Bella, as she would become seasick in rough water. Henry remarks that if they are to visit Palestine, they will do so as quickly as possible in order to get home on Frank’s account. However, Henry is keenly aware that this is the best chance he has to see Jerusalem, and he weighs it heavily with the news he received in the mail at Singapore.
- They have had hot weather ever since they left Canton until they entered the Red Sea, and as they are moving North it is becoming cooler again.
- March 16th: They are just off the range of mountains in which Sinai and Horeb sit, and Henry remarks that it is as if they are viewing the same places in which the ten commandments were written and God appeared to Moses.
- March 16th, Hattie: Hattie, having received permission from Henry to write a few words on his letter, describes the beauty of the mountains and the scenery to her father, and sends best regards for all at home.

1876 April 12

From: Henry

To: My dear Mother

Location: Jerusalem

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton

- Writes letter on paper bought in Jerusalem, which includes images of the Mosque of Omar which stands on Mount Moriah, which is about one eighth of the current city
- Henry mentions the Dome of the Rock, where Abraham offered his son Isaac
- Henry started the letter in Jerusalem and is finishing it on board the French steamer *Labour douvais*, and they left Alexandria in Egypt the day before
- It has been breezy enough on the steamer to make Bella and some of the other passengers sick
- They spent all day Sunday and Monday in Alexandria, and they heard a sermon from a Scotch Minister Dr. Yule
- They got off the boat and visited a Reverend Ewing for a long time in Alexandria, who was a missionary of the United Presbyterian Board
- They saw where the apostle Mark was buried, the church where Athanasius preached, Cleopatra's needles, and Pompey's Pillar

1876 April 12

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Jerusalem

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture; Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton

- Their two-week trip to Jerusalem has ended and they leave for Jaffa tomorrow morning
- They took a 240-mile horseback ride while there
- Henry compares the country of Palestine to New Hampshire with hills and rocks, and marvels that you can stand in places like the hill of Nazareth and see the Mediterranean Sea on one side and the Sea of Galilee on the other
- Henry adds that the Valley of the Jordan and the Dead Sea can also be seen from the Mount of Olives
- Writes extensively about the horse he rode on the trip
- Their tent pole broke in the night giving a flat roof and leaking during a period of rain
- Mentions their "dragoman" named Abraham, "or 'Ibrahim' (as he spells it)" who sent someone to fix the tent
- They also went to a quarry said to have held the stones that were used to build Solomon's temple

1877 October 28

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Los Angeles

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- Is glad Mother and Clara told him about Hattie leaving, and mentions a hymn called "Father whate'er of earthly bliss" that the people of Seville sang to Hattie under the beech trees before she left
- Has heard that Hattie is safely in Oakland at Dr. Kerr's
- The mail comes in every day at 2pm but Henry does not usually get the letters until the evening when he goes up to the school
- Henry travels on his horse and Bella on the street car when he goes to the evening school
- The baby weighs 14 pounds
- Henry's family at home has recently been to Elyria (OH), and remembers the place because he and Hattie stopped there on their way home from Sandusky City
- Uses the silver "things" Mother got them every meal

- Will take care of the baby that afternoon while Bella and her sister make some calls

1877 December 29

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Los Angeles

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mr. Whitney, who used to preach in Seville, sends his regards to the family, and he, his wife, and son Albert (who used to keep the hardware store) were at his previous sermon Henry preached at Vernon
- It has rained a lot, but Henry says people are happy about it because it ensures good crops for the coming year
- “I should think that from what you write that Mr. Elliott was not get any less peculiar in some of his views as he grows older”
- Is waiting to hear from the Board about what he is to do, and will probably be in Los Angeles until the end of January
- Expects to turn over the management of the Mission in mid-January
- By the time the letter reaches home, it will be too late but Henry wishes the family a happy new year

1878 January 2

From: Henry

To: Dear ones at Home

Location: Los Angeles

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Wishes his family a happy new year, and has been on vacation for Christmas until that day when school was started again
- Expects to stay in California for another month and then is not sure where he will go from there
- Wonders if he will be asked to stay at the Presbyterian church there because they have no set pastor
- If Henry is offered to stay and preach, he will accept it, but he plans to stay no later than until fall
- If he is not offered the position to preach, they will go to San Francisco soon after the end of the month and go to China
- “I have no doubt that the path of duty will be made clear as the time comes along”
- They had their Chinese friends over the day before, where they offered refreshments of cake, tea, candy, and oranges
- Henry offered them the oranges when they left, but instead they dropped pieces of silver into the basket “for baby”
- The amount added up to \$4.25

1878 February 2

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Los Angeles

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Building & Development; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Henry writes that he has received the letters from his parents and is glad that all is well.

- Henry received a letter from Mattie and Hattie and hopes that Mattie finds fulfillment in the Mission field.
- Yesterday was Chinese New Year. The Chinese people that Henry knows hosted a party in the chapel and school room, hosting their guests with cake, tea, oranges, etc.
- In regards to the future, Henry writes that the Board is getting closer to a decision over whether to sell the station or not. They will leave it up to Henry, Dr. Kerr, and Mr. [Cordil?], which Henry thinks will mean that they will be on their way soon, within the next month perhaps. The other missionaries, such as Dr. Lourie, are attempting to figure out where to go next.
- Henry also describes his baby's "intelligent interesting little face," as well as his healthy weight. They are all well.

1878 March 28

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Los Angeles

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; American Politics; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- The last letter Henry received was from Em, but he has not received letters from his family or the Seville Times for some time. Apparently, it was because the Steamer "Alaska" is known to be rather slow.
- He has just finished writing Mattie and Hattie, and he is particularly glad that Mattie is feeling better. They are doing a lot of good work right now and are in charge of the Boarding School.
- In reference to Em's earlier mention of a methodist minister, Henry tells a story he recently heard about their friend Frank. It involved him hiding on the back of a buggy in order to "learn how to court."
- Henry is glad that Edward got his money back from Parker; he hopes that Sarah will get her money back as well.
- According to Henry, there has been some sort of issue with the deeds, which means that he and the other missionaries cannot leave California yet. But Henry is not too worried about this and has been enjoying his time there despite the rain.
- Henry discusses some of the political activities taking place in California. For example, he describes the disruptive activities of Denis Kearney and his "Workingman's Party," as well as the temperance meetings taking place in the evenings (which Henry has not been able to attend because he is busy in the evenings). In particular, Henry references the increasingly common blue ribbons that the followers of the Murphy Movement wear.
- Finally, in closing, Henry refers to his baby (William), who is growing big enough to possibly begin walking, and apparently looks like Henry.

1878 July 13

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: Sacramento

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Is sorry to hear that Edward and Father have been having trouble with their backs, for it makes haying and harvesting very difficult
- Expects it will not be a long job if they get a machine for the wheat, and it's a pity that the wheat got beaten down by the rain



- Henry was just looking at a “reaper” in one of the shops that morning, and remarks on how immense it is— expects that it needs to be powered by steam, because there seems to be no place to attach any horses to pull it
- The reaper takes a swath 12 or 14 feet wide, and the cutter at the front has knives with a sickle edge instead of a smooth edge
- Remarks on the giant threshing machines powered by steam
- Recalls seeing two roofed wagons just before he left Los Angeles as he was on the railroad, he had no idea what they were for, but found out they were used by laborers working on large ranches, with one wagon a sleeping apartment and the other a drawing room and kitchen
- Found an “old negress” near where they live who takes care of the baby during the evening so Bella can go to the school
- Usually has between 30 and 40 present at the school in the evenings, and 60 or 70 different ones during the month
- The baby cries if Henry does not acknowledge him when he gets home from the school, “as though he thought himself sadly neglected”
- Doesn’t think the baby will have any problem traveling over the sea because he is so strong and well, Henry sometimes puts him on his knees as though he is riding horseback

1878 August 17

From: Henry

To: Sarah

Location: Sacramento

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry is describing his visit to San Francisco, which involved helping two Chinese women “to escape from the life of bondage which they were leading.” Henry elaborates on the process of helping these women by smuggling them out in a cart. When their “masters” went to the sheriff, who had already been contacted by one of the ministers involved, the sheriff threatened to arrest them if they interfered. Henry does not discuss the conditions they are escaping from, but he does compare the experience to something like the Underground Railroad.

1878 August 24

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Sacramento

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton

- Spent the last Sabbath at Elk Grove, where Henry preached
- Picked peaches on Monday at the fruit farm of an elder of the church named Kerr, where Henry helped Kerr and his hired hand
- Tells Clara to put his clothes in the girls’ box, as he will not need them until he gets to China
- Says the clothes should be sent straight to San Francisco to Dr. Kerr at 800 Stockton St.
- Thinks Clara enjoyed her time at the teacher’s institute from the contents of her last letter
- Met a woman named Anderson with three little children who is going to China
- Looks forward to working in China
- Thinks Bella will feel stronger with the colder weather and with the baby recently weaned
- The baby now has four teeth on the top and four on the bottom, and will take a piece of beef steak in his hands and pull it off with his teeth until it is all gone

- The Happer girls will be going back in the November steamer, and Henry tells Clara to tell them that his family would love to see them
- Expects there will be missionaries on every steamer now
- Mentions a machine he has heard about used in California that “goes through the wheat field, cuts the heads off, threshes them, and leaves the wheat in bags and the straw on the ground. It is drawn by 16 horses and will go over 50 acres in a day. They say they have them made so as to go by steam...I saw a notice of one the other day that threshes 4,400 bushels in one day”
- Still has a good sized school, and is thrilled that some of the boys, at least 4, have applied for baptism at the next Communion
- Mentions a Bible class he teaches with a “native” assistant

1878 August 31

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: Sacramento

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- He just got Edward’s letter from the post office, who is getting his ground ready for wheat
- Assumes Mary had a pleasant time at the meetings of the Teachers’ Institute
- Henry was hoping that the Moline Factory would take up Edward’s planter (Minneapolis-Moline was a large industrial, farm machinery company)
- Expects Henry Ward Beecher will lecture in Sacramento on the 6th and 7th, and possibly preach on the Sabbath as well
- Tomorrow is Communion at their Presbyterian Church, and they expect two Chinese to join
- Henry has been leading a Bible class every night at the Sabbath school which is well attended with 12 to 15 people, 7 of which are interested in joining the church
- The California State Fair is next month which Henry plans on attending
- Bella and baby “are about as usual,” and the baby understands “Pat-a-cake”
- Is so glad to hear that Mattie is getting along so well, and she attributes it partially to Hattie getting to be with her
- Henry mentions that “she” will be going to Chefoo, unknown which sister he means [Hattie]
- Mentions a Colonel Dowd [?], who had just married a woman 60 years old that Mrs. Kerr [Mattie?] knows, both her and Henry are aghast that someone would marry so late in life
- A friend named Dr. Patterson retorted to Mattie, “You know Mrs. Kerr people are differently constituted. Some are socially inclined and are happier to have company”

1878 October 5

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Sacramento

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary

Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Lacking other paper, Henry has written his letter on Sermon Paper using a steel pen. After using other pens for some time Henry finds the steel pen very scratchy.
- Henry went to San Francisco for a week, visiting the Presbytery of Benicia for its Sabbath Services.
- The Presbytery of Benicia held a mission meeting on Sabbath evening addressed by [Guido] Verbeck (Reformed Board) who had just returned from an 18 year mission in Japan. “The night

was dark and rainy which prevented a good many from coming but we had a very pleasant meeting and I hope good was done.”

- During the week Henry attended the meetings of the Synod of the Pacific.
- On Tuesday 30 missionaries set sail aboard the SS City of Peking, bound for China, Siam, and Japan. Amongst the passengers were:
  - Brother Wilson heading for China, whose wife could not join him
  - 3 Young ladies, 2 heading to Chiang Mai and one to remain in Bangkok, two from Oxford Seminary and one from Wheeling, all of whom had met Hattie.
- Mr. [Happer?] and his wife, as well as Miss Rickitts departed with a number of others by sea. Henry and quite a number of Christians went to see them off at the wharf. They sang and rejoiced as the boat departed.

1878 October 18

From: Henry

To: My dear Father

Location: Sacramento

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Henry has “nothing but an old steel pen to write with this morning”
- He just got Edward’s letter a few minutes ago, and usually gets letters Friday mornings at 11am and writes back before 3pm when the mail leaves for the “East” in the afternoon
- There have been issues with Mr. Elliott’s salary and Mrs. Elliott has been taxed for her husband’s support, Henry is not sure what the church will do about it
- Henry mentions an advertisement for the “City of Tonkin” leaving December 3, and Henry expects to leave for San Francisco in 4 weeks in order to go from there to China on that trip
- Henry wishes his family at home could see him and their son Willie, who is “almost out of babyhood”
- He went to San Francisco last Tuesday to take a Chinese woman to take a woman down to the Woman’s Home
- Henry preached for Mr. Rice last Sabbath, and Henry and his family had lived at their house for a long time
- A Presbyterian friend, Charles Preston, told Henry that his parents used to meet once a week to pray for the conversion of the world

1879 February 4

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton

- Was very glad to get Father’s and Edward’s letters yesterday and is so glad his mother is doing so well
- Is sorry to hear that they were having so much trouble in Columbus
- Edward hopes that the box got to San Francisco in time for Dr. Kerr to take it with him, and Henry confirms that it did
- Henry got in Monday forenoon and left Tuesday so he brought the box
- The clothes he received from Mother were just what he wanted
- The house they moved into was all painted inside and out and ready for them to move in
- Henry had bought some “pretty chromos” (a short name for “chromolithograph,” a colored picture printed by lithography)

- Celebrated his 3 year wedding anniversary on June 29th
- Everyone is well except for the baby who is teething
- Mentions his country stations of “San Ui” and Chik Han”
- Expects to make a country trip soon but it will depend on how the baby is feeling
- The weather is beautiful
- Last year Mr. Henry rented a temple for 20 years at \$20 per year, and there is room at the back for a schoolhouse and the Mission has authorized the money to build it
- The schoolhouse will only cost about \$160
- Henry feels so well and energized, unlike how he used to feel
- Expects Bella will learn Chinese quickly and wants to have a school as soon as possible
- Mentions that many of the “California Chinese” came from the region of San Ui

1879 March 29

From: [Henry? Not signed, incomplete?]

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton

- Henry writes that he, his wife Bella, John and Mary Happer, and a few others took a day trip to a place called White Cloud Mountain, a place about 8 miles away
- Left before 6am for San Ui and reached there “at just 12pm the next day, so I had the afternoon there”
- Bargained with a contractor in order that they could begin construction on the new school building
- Speaks of a new rented building that will be used for a chapel, a much bigger building than the old one, which only had 3 rooms
- The new chapel has enough space for a chapel, a smaller room for prayer meetings, a room for the “native preacher,” a room for a missionary to live in, and a building behind has just been built as a schoolhouse, equipped with room for 30 scholars as well as a “cook room” and a room for the schoolteacher.
- Henry is pleased with the location, “the front is on quite a good street leading from San Ui to Kong Mun”
- The dedication of the new chapel that included “preaching was continued until 4pm the next day. There was preaching from 11-4.”

1879 April 24

From: Henry

To: Father and Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Today is Henry’s 46th birthday.
- Henry has a study for his “Chinese work” in the “front of the upper story of the school house.” This room was used by Chinese girls to study in when their school was there.
- He received the letters from home the day before yesterday; all is well.
- Henry wants to hear how the Cincinnati firm is getting along with Edward’s machine, as well as a potential other machine Edward wrote about in a previous letter.
- Henry writes about aging, and thinks to his relatives who are growing old and passing away.
- Mattie was very ill and suffered greatly, but has completely recovered now. She had severe spasms and pain in her lungs and throat.

- Henry worries that Hattie is overworked, commenting that she looked better when she was at home (in Ohio).
- The Noyes' are all getting together tonight- at Mattie's, because she "cannot go out evenings."

1879 July 1

From: [Henry?]

To: Father (Varnum)

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Today is Varnum's 75th birthday; Henry writes kind words about his father, and wishes that just for today, he could "blot out the intervening space" so he could be with his father in 'the house on the hill.'
- Henry, Bella, and Willie enjoyed the first sunny day in a while by going on a long boat ride to find peaches for preserving. Peaches are in season and thus plentiful at the moment. The long rains had, however, flooded the river and surrounding streets. Therefore, Henry took off his shoes, socks, and "Chinese fashion" to wade through the flooded streets uphill until he reached dry ground. There, he bought peaches and made his way back to the boat.
- "Baby had a good time eating [the peaches] until we thought he had eaten enough. He did not think so himself and thought his papa and Mamma were rather hard hearted I expect not to let him have all he could eat." Henry says Willie "eats nice now like a little Chinaman."
- On their way home, they stopped to see Mattie and Hattie in Kuk Fan. Mattie invited Bella and Henry to have tea tonight; Henry writes he wants Varnum to think of this as them all getting together for Varnum's birthday.
- They did not receive any letters from home the last time the mail came.

1879 July 16

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- The last mail from America came last Thursday, for some reason Henry did not get mail the week before so now he has two mails' worth of letters from home
- Mentions that Henry's sister Em said that the thermostat was above 90 degrees in the sitting room in Ohio, Henry said it has not gotten above 87 in their parlor yet
- It has still been hot in Henry's house the past few weeks, ranging from 84 to 86 degrees in the house
- Recalls the "first class cakes" Henry got one morning at home made by Mary on the griddle, Henry thinks of her often
- Henry's fourth of July was quiet, "the only thing to mark it was that the Americans called in the U.S. Consul like good citizens, not in a body, but everyone at his own leisure"
- Em had written about a buggy accident in Wooster, Henry is glad they got "Fred" stopped like they did
- It has been a comfortable summer for Henry, the constant rain throughout June and July kept the air cool
- There has been less rain lately, and Henry writes that it will continue to get hotter if it does not rain

- Henry writes they have been “quite domestic” as they now have a dog named Rover, a cat, a kitten, and some chickens
- Henry had a man make a “henery” to house the chickens, and looks forward to fresh eggs
- Willie is getting better at walking and talking, although he talks almost entirely in Chinese
- Bella has been teaching singing at the boy’s Sabbath school

1879 July 31

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine and Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Last letter from Clara & Father was dated June 23rd, and arrived July 31st.
- Edward had mentioned a Sunday School Convention at Akron in a previous letter, Henry speculates that the group must have had a grand time at Yosemite.
- Andrew Happer, who had spent years teaching sabbath school in Shanghai and had built up a program of 286 scholars, has taken a position with the Customs in Peking
- Henry regrets his departure
- Henry writes, “Good men are constantly needed badly enough in business circles in this part of the world”
- Dr. Happer has had difficulties with his vision, and confined himself to a dark room sequestering himself from his family
- The weather has gotten hotter, affecting everyone but most prominently the baby.
- Henry writes that the baby is cutting his “stomach teeth”
- The baby is not walking yet, but he climbs up and down stairs and speaks frequently in Chinese. Henry hopes to learn more Chinese from the child as he gets older.
- Sarah Anderson is still staying with Henry, but hopes to go North in 3 weeks.
- Henry has not heard from Mrs. Kerr for some time, and believes that Mrs. L would find XXXXXX a much more favorable place for her health than Níngbō

1879 August 6

From: Henry

To: Mother

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Writes to send his mother best wishes on her 69th birthday
- Is grateful that both his parents are still alive and in good health
- Supposes that Sarah is home now, so all the family on that side of the world is together
- It has rained most of the day, but it did stop in time for them to go to the Missionary Conference at 5pm with missionary friends, Mattie, and Hattie
- It has been an unusually cool summer so far
- Willie has a good appetite, but does not walk on his own yet
- Willie knows many Chinese words but little to no English
- Is almost done with the main work of his concordance, has 150 pages left of 2645 pages
- Henry’s teacher has over 1700 pages copied and will get done by the end of the year

1879 August 16

From: Henry

To: Sarah

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Writes that because Sarah has had a tough year with those “unruly boys,” she should take a year off to rest
- Is sorry that the “Cincinnati agency” did not do more for Edward
- There has been very little very hot weather in Canton, and a man who has been there for 46 years, “Mr. Nye(?)” says that he has never known such a cold summer before this one
- Responds to Sarah about selling the horse, “good old honest Ned,” and mentions another horse, Prince
- Henry intends to go on another country trip the following week for 15 days
- Writes that Willie speaks mostly Chinese, can climb stairs, and “eats rice like a Chinaman”
- Martha and Hattie are on vacation, and Mrs. Kerr has made arrangements to leave this fall, and perhaps is already on her way back to San Francisco
- Henry has almost finished his concordance, preaches 4 times a week, and thinks he may just start writing sermons in Chinese
- Writes of the meeting with General Grant, “there is not much change except when some distinguished person like General Grant comes along...he must be about starting for San Francisco if he has not already”

1879 September 9

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry just returned from a 15 day trip; with him was Mo Hing, a Chinese scholar who worked in Los Angeles but is now at Dr. Happer’s school. He completed his education at Dr. Happer’s school and has returned to preach here.
- The purpose of their trip was to do missionary work--preaching and selling books.
- Henry describes several interactions he had with Chinese men at various services he attended while on the trip. One man wanted to be baptized, but was told to “wait for further instruction” since he had only been learning about Christianity for such a short time. At other service, Henry describes an elderly Chinese gentleman who seemed taken with Christianity, but said it would be very hard for a Chinese person to give up their traditions and customs entirely. Another man also described liking Christianity, but said his family would be very opposed to his openly talking about it.
- During one stint of missionary work while traveling, Henry had lost his umbrella; he writes about his search for the umbrella, including how he got the police involved and eventually found it at a pawn shop. The pawnbroker was not willing to sell it back, so Henry bought a “Chinese umbrella” for 12 cents.
- Henry is now back home, and writes that Willie speaks a lot of Chinese.

1879 September 30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Chinese Politics

- Today is Edward's birthday.
- Henry opens with a brief word on the weather (still hot in the mornings, getting more pleasant in the evenings) and mentions his morning routine: waking at 6am, 1.5 hours in his study, then breakfast.
- Henry received word from the last mail (from Clara & Sarah) that Sarah is doing much better. Henry wishes she would stay home for a year to fully regain her strength before returning to school, but presumes she will have already gone back to school before this letter reaches home.
- In that letter, Sarah also mentioned that Edward was making a machine for the Canton Fair, and wishes him luck with it.
- Also in that letter, Clara writes Edward and Varnum are getting some of their music published.
- Martha is staying with Henry; she arrived the night before.
- Mr. and Mrs. Page and their daughter visited Henry recently; they "are members of the church that supports Mattie in Bloomfield N.J." The Pages are with Hattie now. Henry elaborates about the Pages' business affairs and travels. He says they are "very pleasant Christian people."
- It is time for literary examinations: occurring once every 3 years, there are typically 10,000 candidates and only 100 who are accepted to receive degrees. Nevertheless, many of the candidates try time and time again, even if they have reached an old age. Henry elaborates on the details of how the examinations are conducted.
- On a personal note, Willie celebrated his birthday recently, which was a joyous occasion.
- Henry writes that today is the Lunar New Year, and expands on the holiday and its celebrations. He reflects positively on the beautiful lanterns and explains that mooncakes are an essential component of the holiday. Henry takes a moment to describe exactly how to make these mooncakes, but concludes by writing "I suppose they consider them grand eating but I never cared to touch them."
- Tomorrow, Henry is hosting the Missionary Conference (30 people). The missionary community is not as large as it once was, as many people are ill. However, there is a substantially larger "force of native helpers," and thus more mission work is being done.

1879 November 11

From: [Henry? Not signed, incomplete?]

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese;

Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Traveled with Mr. Henry for eleven days to visit "marked villages" where he had been in the past, and appreciated that he could "visit and see the localities and people again."
- He said they were at marked places nine of the eleven days and so he had "good opportunities for preaching and selling books...Each of us preaching from 2 or 4 times each day."
- Hears of Father and Mr. Crane's deafness, and says he saw an advertisement in the newspaper for an invention "by which people could hear through the mouth, on the same principle you hear a watch tick in the mouth."
- Responds to his mother's mention of visiting with Dr. Taylor (College of Wooster President 1873-1883), "he seems to be a first rate man to be at the head of a college."
- Writes that Willie spends a lot of time with Dsing(?), a Chinese boy about his age
- Writes that Willie always goes to "Chinese prayers in the Chinese school morning and evening"
- Bella wants to make sure Henry's mother knows he is a "good American," for she consoled him from crying by mentioning the idea of going and seeing an "American play."



1879 December 3

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural

Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- The weather is “very fine” for trips
- Mr. Henry and Dr. Kerr are planning to go into the country again, and Dr. Kerr welcomes a rare change of scenery from the hospital
- “Baby” has been making use of the little “primer” that Mother sent him
- He knows the letter “O,” and can say the rest of the letters, but does not recognize them to see them
- “Baby” has been mimicking the pictures in the primer, and is healthy and strong, “and eats nice like a Chinaman”
- Henry writes that his son interacts with the Chinese often, and hopes he will “grow up to do them some good”
- The Dunlaps are on their way home from Siam, for Mr. Dunlap’s health has totally failed due to heart problems
- Dr. Kerr expects he can make a full recovery at home, and Henry mentions that Mr. Dunlap was at Emily’s Wooster Commencement and heard her “essay”
- Sara Anderson plans to go home in January “by way of London”

1879 December 20

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Mentions of Wooster

- Responds to Edward’s mention of seeing John Happer, and Henry writes that he hopes Happer will do well at Wooster
- Henry mentions a “machine” of Edward’s, and writes that he believes manufacturers will like it and “pay handsomely” for it, for “it works so satisfactorily.”
- Made a country trip with Bella and “Baby” to San-Ui and Chik-Hun to visit a church
- Wants to get another “station” beyond Chik Hun soon
- The wind was very strong for 2 days when they were traveling but they were “safely anchored in a small canal at San Ui”
- Performed a marriage ceremony for Mr. T.B. Cunningham and Lillie Happer at 7am, for they wanted to catch the steamer at 8am
- Signs the letter “Love from Henry and unborn baby”

1879 December 22

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; American Politics; Mentions of Wooster

- Henry speaks of pictures they received of Cousin Gilbert and his wife and family, saying they look very “natural”
- Is glad that Gilbert “is not going to have a ‘Democratic administration’ to suffer any longer”
- Henry expects that with the Republicans in power, “things will go more smoothly”
- Willie continues to speak mostly in Chinese, only knowing a little bit of English
- Plans to take a trip around the “wall” the day after next, and Henry writes, “It is a good long walk but not as long by considerable as Johnnie’s wall from Wooster”
- “Dr. Sara Anderson” expects to go home in January due to poor health

1880 January 13

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry is unsure when the last mail went out, but assumes it was right before Christmas
- Spent Christmas evening at Mr. Edge’s from the London mission
- Spent New Year’s Day going around making calls to women he knows, which he called the “universal custom here for the man to make New Year’s calls.”
- Has finished his concordance and hopes to get it printed and bound through missionary endorsements, and will bring it up at the “annual meeting before Congress”
- Writes that he is glad to hear of American politics, and is pleased to hear of the “Republicans sweeping the Northern states.”
- Mentions a visit from Civil War Confederate Colonel Mosby, who is now the American consul at Hong Kong
- Colonel Mosby has accused that those before him have pocketed about \$30,000 of government money, and Henry says, “He has been overhauling Consular matters in Hong Kong in such a way as to be anything but pleasant to his predecessors.”
- Mosby wants there to be an investigation into the matter, and then he is going home, for he believes his job in Hong Kong does not provide a high enough salary
- Henry writes that Mosby is a Republican, and says that the North and the South should not stand firm separately from one another, for it will cause more opposition, calling them the “solid South” and the “solid North,” and that the North will dominate in power.
- The “cold weather” in Canton is usually between 50 and 60 degrees, the coldest morning was 40 degrees, and Henry saw frost for the first time in Canton

1880 January 15

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art

- Writes that Bella and her sister have been going through a large box of things they ordered from home, and that Sara Anderson left for Hong Kong by steamer before she could get her share of the things
- Writes of a sermon he preached on Philippians 3:20
- Willie speaks a great deal of Chinese, but says “good morning,” “good night,” “good hope,” and “how do you do” in English

1880 February 5

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry speaks of having a “lame back,” as well as chills and a fever. Others have had fever and chills, and Dr. Kerry said there have been more cases than usual among the Chinese, likely because of the recent damp and cold weather
- The Chinese New Year is coming up, and the Mission Schools have all closed for vacation
- Henry writes that the Chinese are distracted during sermons because of the upcoming Chinese New Year, “It is the holiday of all the year for Chinese and they make a great deal of it.”
- Henry writes that the Chinese are “scraping together” in order to pay off debts and have money for the celebration
- Henry writes, “Their New Year festivities are not limited to one day but go on for some time”
- In honor of the holiday, government offices close for two weeks, and businesses who are able close for that long as well, although many who cannot afford it only close for a few days
- Henry has made one “country trip” since his last letter, and Willie enjoyed it
- Willie has begun to speak English, although Henry writes that he sometimes puts English words in the middle of Chinese ones
- Henry asks Edward to ask Mother if he was a “great fat sturdy-looking boy like Willie” when he was the same age, around two years old.

1880 February 26

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- Henry writes that it has rained every day for 20 days and that there have been no more than 2 or 3 days with sun, “We haven’t seen the moon since Feb. 1 and not the sun more than 2 or 3 times. It would look friendly to see his face once more.”
- Writes that they do not have to worry about mud in Canton like they do at home with all of the rain because the streets “are paved with large granite stones.”
- Henry is happy to hear that Emily (“Em”) enjoys teaching in the Wadsworth school.
- Writes that Josie (Joseph) Kerr’s parents are worried about him, for they do not write letters to him at all, and that he has gotten into trouble and the place he is currently staying “do not wish to keep him!”
- Is pleased Johnnie Happer likes it at Wooster
- Says that he enjoyed “Mark Twain’s response to the toast ‘Babies’ at Chicago” that his family sent him a copy of
- Says he calls Willie a “tow-head” due to his light hair
- Writes that the telephone is a “curious thing.” Henry wishes that he had one working in Canton, and “How strange it must seem to hear the very tones of one’s voice who is miles away”
- Presumes the new school building will be up by the middle of the year

- Writes that Chinese New Year has passed, and notes “there is an unusual amount of noise at that time mostly from firecrackers,” and says that people do not have a break “until New Year’s comes again.”
- Writes that he sent “one of my old Los Angeles boys” Mo Hing to rent a place in and preach at Kong-Mun, where Henry used to have a school
- Henry says that Kong-Mun is about six miles from San-Ui, has a population of 100,000, and that it is difficult to rent chapels there
- Henry recently finished the Mission Report ending on Dec. 31, 1879. There are 369 church members, 65 new members were added during the year; contributions total \$129.05, the number of scholars in the boys schools total 227, female scholars 318. There are 170 scholars in “Bible Class and Sabbath Schools,” and 36,732 books and tracts were donated.
- This is a severe increase from the 1867 numbers, where there were 32 church members, one “native” preacher (now there are 14), 3 boys’ schools (there are now 6), and no girls’ schools (now there are 7).

1880 March 20

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics,

- Speaks of a Dr. Ide’s (?) death that happened back home after communicating with family
- Writes that the entire month of February rained except for two days, but that March is much more pleasant
- Says Edward is making 25 “planters” this winter and goes on to speak of gunpowder burns, even recollecting his own experience playing with explosives as a child
- Writes that he hopes to take a trip three weeks from now
- Says he has a new station six miles from San Ui, and that “one of our Los Angeles boys” Mo Hing is stationed as an assistant there
- Henry says that two new missionaries “Fuller and White” and their wives are to join Henry and his team in Canton
- A new schoolhouse is in the process of being built in Canton, and Henry is waiting for bids from contractors so that the project can be started
- Henry says he has a “nice top school” this year, with many more students “regular in attendance”
- Says Willie is strong and well and that his hair is beginning to darken, but that Mattie has been sick

1880 April [6?]

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Henry did not think that he would have time to write a letter but found some time to do so, especially because he received so many letters from everyone at home recently. They write that they have had a warm winter.
- Henry has not had time to copy a sermon to send them, but he will try to send one soon, probably not by next mail.
- Henry is a part of a group going into the country tomorrow.

- Lately, he has been quite busy lately writing a sermon and helping with the plans to build a new house for the Girl's Boarding School. It is being built by a member of the Wesleyan Church and should be well underway by the time Henry returns from his trip. The next project that Henry wants to work on is the building of a chapel in the center of the city.
- Henry also describes his recent accomplishments as a missionary. He has established two stations in villages in the country and they are run by men he knew in California.
- Henry's family is well. Bella hopes to write the family in the States soon. Willie has been teething and crying because of the pain.
- Henry says goodbye, but he adds in a post script that he hopes they can read this letter because he did not get a chance to look the letter back over.

1880 June 5

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Henry writes that he received a bunch of letters from his family, one of them dated April 6
- Says that he guesses the second floor of the new school building will be laid that day. And that the walls are up to the second floor
- Says that the school will be three stories high, and will house about 100 students
- Writes of his son Willie showing up downstairs in his mother's "Meeting hat," laughing hysterically
- There is not enough dry weather for long enough for their clothes to dry without "moulding"
- Mattie is sick, feeling "bilious"
- Writes of a concert that went on nearby but that Henry did not attend, noting that the tickets were "rather expensive, \$2.00 each."
- Writes in response to his mother's question that Josie (Joseph Kerr) has gone to "Cannonsburg" and that he doubts that Mrs. Kerr will be returning home soon.

1880 August 6

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- It is a very hot day, Henry thinks it is one of the hottest days this summer
- Willie has just had some sort of "fit," Henry calls them "convulsions," Willie has had them twice before when he was teething
- Henry does not know what could have caused the fits this time, and Willie was rigid for a bit
- Henry put two fingers in Willie's mouth to keep his teeth apart according to Willie's doctor, who said lockjaw might happen if his mouth was not
- Bella has just given birth to another boy around 10am that morning, and the baby looks like Willie except that his hair is dark
- Henry begins writing again on August 9, Willie is feeling better and Bella and the baby are doing well, although the continuous hot weather is difficult for them to lay in bed
- They have weighed the new baby, who is 6 ½ pounds
- This is much lighter than Willie, who weighed 10 pounds

- They have not decided on a name for “Son No. 2,” but think it will be Richard Varnum for Henry’s father Varnum– the baby also has Henry’s mother’s birthday
- Mattie went to Hong Kong this morning, where she will spend some time at the “peak” (likely Victoria Peak)
- Henry presumes that Hong Kong is near the foot of this high hill, on top of which there is a signal station
- Henry writes that many people from Hong Kong have built bungalows near the top of the hill, where it is much cooler on hot days
- The new school is nearly complete but Henry has not yet heard from the Board concerning an application for an additional \$500, although Henry expects he will get the money
- Thinks it is most worthwhile to not open the school until next year
- Is glad that the Board closed the year out of debt, “the more the field opens up the more we seem to need”

1880 September 30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- It is Edward’s birthday
- The mail came and brought letters from Father and Sarah, as well as “observers” and “Christians at Work”
- Henry writes that he is sorry “Sarah has to lose so much at Columbus”
- Recalls his background of farming with his family back when Edward says he is ploughing for wheat at home, remembering ploughing with oxen, steers, and horses
- Mentions that planting corn, “furrowed it one way and planted it from 9 am one day to the evening of the next”
- Closes that he is planning to go to Lin Chan in two weeks with missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Simmons

1880 October 25

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Ki Fong [?], “Up the North River”

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry writes from a boat heading to Lin Chan for three weeks with his family and missionary colleagues
- Says he weighs “166  $\frac{2}{3}$  lb, the heaviest I have ever weighed,” and that his wife Bella is “106  $\frac{2}{3}$  lb.”
- Writes of his boys Richard and Willie, and writes that Willie enjoys traveling and that the baby, Richard, “now begins to laugh when he is talked to”
- Speaks of expanding “stations” along the river between Canton and Lin Chan
- Mentions the preacher from Los Angeles from Dr. Harper’s school who is stationed at the new station at Chung Lan that was established last March
- Henry writes that he left Canton on Thursday and has been trying to preach and sell books in the larger towns

- Henry speaks of a Chinese teenage boy he met at the station in Chun Lan who wanted to be baptized, but when the boy's father found out he tried to force him to participate in their religious practices by lighting incense for "idol worship." The boy refused, and was beaten by his father first and then other family members until he was nearly unable to walk, and "shut up." A missionary colleague of Henry's, Mr. Jones, tried to get him back to the chapel but the boy's father said he had to stay at home to "hoe the sweet potatoes." In turn, Mr. Jones and fellow preacher Mo Hing hoed the potatoes themselves, and Henry writes that they hope to get the boy to come back to the chapel.

1880 October 25

From: Henry

To: Mattie and Hattie

Location: Lai Long

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Travelling to Fatshan they had trouble with transportation around the area, Mr. Simmons having to find them a new boat, as the first boat asked that they let the crew carry a bag of salt apiece.
- They passed into Fatshan by night, having roused the sailors at midnight.
- At Tai Tong they preached on the Sabbath, and would stop there to sell books on market day on their way back.
- Henry states that the people have been more civil, and have rarely heard the people calling them foreign devils. Henry believes that any excitement or trouble they might have seen has subsided. Some have even asked them to stop and preach.
- After the salt debacle, Henry found 4 bags of salt concealed on the boat, and told them to remove the bags of salt. He stated that any salt he found after that time would be dropped at the first Customs House he found on the way.

1881 July 29

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry traveled to San Ui and the other stations, but there were no new people received into the church at the other stations. The trip took him 3 weeks.
- He had thought the weather would have been very hot, but after the first 3-4 days it rained, making it comfortable for him the whole time. It rained so much that some of the paths were flooded, and one day he "passed a chinaman under the shade of a bamboo who seemed prostrated by the heat."
- Henry walked to Chung-Lan station, 12 miles from the river, through the pouring rain. 3-4 miles into it, he took a spill and fell into the standing water on the road. His coat was yellow from the mud. He had to wade up to his knees in water on his way back.
- On his return to San Ui, he got news of General (President) Garfield being shot, and wished for his recovery, as he doesn't have much faith in the Vice President.
- The baby is having 'trouble' with his teeth, but Willie is well. Bella has been 'not very well' for the last few days, but Henry is in good health according to his own account.

1881 August 6

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry's mother's birthday is today, and Henry is very busy. He expects the American mail in the course of an hour, wanting to write his mother now, but waiting to write others until the mail arrives.
- Henry finds it hard to believe that his mother is more than 70 years old, expecting that they will have all the kids in the States at home, and hopes to hear of Mattie's arrival by mail, news of which is overdue by one day.
- He has had little news of the shooting of Pres. Garfield from one Telegram, but he hopes to get a better account from the San Francisco Bulletin.
- The weather has been hot, which Henry says does not affect him, but Bella 'feels it considerably' and the baby, as he is still 'cutting teeth'.
- Willie is usually tolerant of the heat, but has heat rash which Henry says many children have during the summer. Henry has it as well.
- Henry only expects the worst of the heat for another month.
- They will leave for Henry's tour of his stations the 22nd of September, and will make a month's trip up the West River immediately following. He will be travelling 200 miles or so upriver and to see some of its branches, he expects, further than he has yet travelled, 80 miles.
- Last sabbath was Communion at Sz-Pai-Lan, where they only had one applicant, a 70 year old opium addict. They told him to leave and get clean of his opium habit before he would be admitted.
- Henry states it was said to be very difficult for people of that age to give up opium.
- Five children were baptized that Sabbath, three of the children being of a man converted last communion.

1881 September 30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Chik [Hun?]

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry is writing to his brother to wish him a happy birthday; it is Edwards's birthday today
- The American Mail leaves Hong Kong today
- He left Canton about 1 week ago; Bella (his wife) and children did not join him. However, when he gets back next week, they will travel up the west River with him.
- In a previously written letter (which is being sent today), Henry write about a group who began traveling up the North River last week
- Henry writes about President Garfield's death; he is sad, writing that "I had so much hoped that he would recover and have a prosperous administration", and thought he would be "greatly beneficial" to the U.S.A. Henry was very upset to hear of his death, and it affected him greatly.
- Henry continues by reminiscing upon the time he saw the late President: it was at the commencement at Hudson, and Henry felt Garfield was a "straightforward noble man through all his political career and a christian too," praising how he was a martyr for "his faithfulness in standing up against political corruption."



- Henry then writes about the assassin, and hopes he receives not only physical death, but political death too. He awaits for more news, as telegraphs have only condensed snippets of news.
- Last Sunday, Henry had communion at the San-Ui Church. He was unhappy as he felt there were several people who were not there that should have been.
- He asked for his mail to be sent to San-Ui, but it did not come in time and Henry was forced to leave without it. However, he heard that it arrived, and will get it when he goes back on Thursday.
- He went to [No-Fre?]. It is almost 20 miles from the river, so Henry walked 3 miles and then “got in a chair for the rest of the way”. Two “native christians” walked the entire way on foot. Henry thinks “the Chinese men do not mind walking 15 or 20 miles” because they are used to it, because chairs are expensive.
- The land through which he walks has hills on both sides, and was inhabited by the Hakka people before; about 15-20 years ago, the Hakka fought the Prenti people, resulting in their possession of this land. Then, the Prenti’s took back the land by way of “immense slaughter”. There are remains of Hakka villages around the valley. The Hakka speak a dialect of Chinese that is different from the one spoken by the Prenti people.
- Henry walked away from the road about 4 miles from No-Fre and found a grouping of buildings that looked like a [garrison?]; some Christians have talked about buying it so they can “live without being constantly rented by their neighbors.” Apparently it is possible to buy it for a cheap price because the non-Christian (“heathen”) Chinese are afraid to live there on account of it being haunted with ghosts. When the Hakka/Prenti situation was ongoing, many Hakkas sought shelter in this location only to be killed. Therefore, the Chinese believe their spirits are still in this place.
- Mo Hing, a preacher, is very sick; there is something wrong with his chest. Hing has a small school of 12 boys who he teaches
- Henry recounts church services: they had a full chapel one evening, and a “very pleasant [though small] communion.” Mo Hing went with Henry to help translate. At 11pm, the school, Henry, and his servant [Ating?] left for the boat. They arrived here at Chik Hun the next afternoon.
- Henry has been preaching on the street today, and has a bible reading with some Chinese people later.

1882 January 3

From: Henry

To: Emily

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Willie is beginning to understand all that they say in English.
- Richard Varnum is beginning to walk and speak.
- Henry is writing a sermon on the text by the Evangelical Alliance “the night is far spent, that day is at hand.” He has not written much, but expects to write more soon.
- Dr. Sulick, of the American Bible Society for China was there last Sabbath, and preached a sermon on “the power of concerted prayer - showing how the establishment and progress of missions had been very much in immediate connection with definite arrangements for concerted prayer.”
- The weather is comfortable in Canton, Henry believes Emily would find it strange not to need a fire.

1882 February 3

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry received news of the death of Aunt Fay two mails ago, and only in the last mail received details from Mary's letter. Henry is glad to have been able to see her when he was home, and remembers her respectfully.
- Richard Varnum has begun to walk around rooms, he doesn't talk much but says some words.
- The winter weather has been warm, but has gotten colder.
- Henry had expected baptism candidates for the communion on the next sabbath, but has not had any applicants. "There has been some opposition during the last month."
- 8-10 inquirers came, and "somebody stirred up the people to make trouble" and the inquirers came no longer. The inquirer who was thinking of baptism wants to wait now.
- Henry believes most of the attendees of the church are 'bannermen' of the military, and supposes that if their officers knew they were attending they could make life difficult for them.
- Hattie McDonald from Bangkok has been in Canton and ill for two months, and is now improving. Henry believes she will likely return to the US when she is well.

1882 March 20

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry hasn't heard much about Em's experience as a teacher, not knowing whether the letter will reach her at home or at school.
- Henry during the writing of the letter saw the flags of the steamer, he couldn't tell exactly but believes that they indicate the arrival of the American mail. If so, he'll receive incoming mail just as he has to send this letter, as it must leave tonight to catch a steamer leaving tomorrow.
- Willie is playing with blocks and getting large, already studying Chinese some. He will sometimes read in the evening from his books in both English and Chinese. He also likes having stories read to him, speaking some English already. He also speaks and asks questions in Chinese.
- The baby is growing quickly, eating solid food, and able to ascend stairs himself as well as speak.
- The baby is developing quicker than Willie did, but has the advantage of having Willie before him. Henry believes he learns from Willie, developing quicker.
- Henry attended a garden party at the English Consulate last week, two or three naval ships were in port and the consul invited officers and people in the city to attend. They organized egg races where they carried an egg on a spoon, and if you dropped the egg you lost. Another was the veteran race, where anyone that participated had to have been in China for more than ten years. Four ran, and Henry won the third prize.

1882 March 20

From: Henry

To: Mattie

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry got word that a steamer would take mail from Hong Kong to San Francisco the next day, and it spurred him to write a letter.
- Henry was told by his mother that Mattie was having 'quite a tedious time' in New York. Henry hopes that she will be home and feeling well.

- Miss Whilden expects to take passage for home, and he doesn't expect Mattie to have a chance to see her from what she's said about the chances of her going north.
- Henry is leaving for San-Ui and his other stations tomorrow, Bella and the children were thinking of going with him, but a Bible woman who was going to Hong Kong has not returned, so Bella will stay home with the children.
- Other missionaries are also leaving soon, thinning out the mission for some time.
- Henry expects rainy weather soon, as there has been little rain so far and he expects it to come soon. It was stormy today, and got very dark.
- Henry has just finished preparing a revision of Matthew Mr. Piercy and Henry have been working on to send to Shanghai, having finished Mark and having completed Luke and a bit more. He hopes to complete the whole new testament in time. Dr. Happer is working on the last part from Romans to Revelation, having "put more of Genesis into colloquial."
- Henry hopes to revise the whole Pentateuch eventually.

1882 May 22

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry is sending Clara his belated-ish birthday wishes, as he believes the 22nd of May on his side of the globe roughly corresponds to the 21st on hers.
- May 22nd, 1866 was the day Henry arrived in Hong Kong, and tomorrow will mark the 16th year since he arrived in Canton.
- Much has changed since his first arrival, and he speculates that the Chinese people must have also slowly changed, as when he first tried finding a kerosene lamp in Canton no one had one, many of the people there now use them and they are well stocked in shops even in the interior.
- According to Henry, you can find condensed milk at some places 200 miles inland, and American clocks of all sorts are sold in great numbers. Foreign goods proliferate the country.
- The Chinese manage their revenue cruisers themselves and have steam launches as guard boats. They are introducing the telegraph "and railroads will come along in due time."
- Henry believes it to be "of commercial advantage" for the US to keep on good terms with China.
- Henry has had word of the passing of a law stopping Chinese immigration into the US and its signing by the President, and finds it unexpected to be passed. He supposes there will be a rush to get into the states for the next two trips, but then immigration will cease.
- Henry expects this bill to dent the frequency of their mail, as the steamers have been taking many Chinese passengers and to stop them would, he expects, reduce their frequency.
- Henry has been poisoning book worms, which eat his books, putting a "corrosive sublimate" on the ends and insides where he sees the worms eating.

1882 May 23

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics

- This day marks the 16th year of Henry being in China.

- The mail has been delayed two or three times, which Henry expects might have been because they are waiting to build up Chinese passengers they could charge a fare to take across to the US.
- Many Chinese have been leaving lately, some from their church.
- Henry describes his last country trip, where they ventured to a place Henry states had rarely seen foreigners, if at all. The trip took two weeks, and Bella, the children, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons, and Mrs. Happer accompanied him.
- Mr. Simmons and Henry sold books and tracts in all the villages, with Henry selling more books than he did in the time before his trip.
- While the men would preach, the women would speak to the people from the boats.
- They visited two towns, Sz-Ui and Kwong-Ning, at Sz-Ui the Baptized Mission has just secured a chapel, while they are trying to get one in Kwong-Ning
- The Kwong-Ning magistrate sent two boats of soldiers to escort their boats through their district. Henry doesn't believe they would have done this to a 'Chinaman' and states officials go to more trouble protecting him than he thinks he needs or wants. They did not have to pay for the escort.
- Kwong-Ning is hilly, the hills covered in bamboo 10-12 feet high which will soon be cut to float down the river in rafts to Canton. Once they are cut, there will be 'another growth' next year.
- Flatter lands yield 20-30 foot high bamboo in one year, which will be cut and grown annually. They are strong stalks, two to three inches in diameter.
- In these large fields, they found Tiger traps, where a fowl was tied at the bottom of a pit, with an arrow or spike arranged so that the Tiger would be killed on trying to retrieve the bird. Tigers had been seen in the hills, and were said to hunt at night.

1882 August 6

From: Henry

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- It is Henry's turn to preach at the missionary meeting that evening.
- Henry stops writing his letter, saying that he will continue tomorrow which will be closer to the actual time of her birthday in America.
- Henry picks up the letter five days later, pressed by the deadline of it having to go down to Hong Kong that afternoon.
- Soon after the family will be taking a trip to Hong Kong, staying there for three weeks. The pastor of the Union Church has left for Japan for nine weeks, and has arranged for Henry, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Masters preach in his stead, each taking three weeks of his trip.
- Mr. Masters took the first shift, arriving back soon, and Mr. Henry, along with his family, left for his shift yesterday. Henry will take the last shift in three weeks.
- Henry also expects to spend a month at San Ui, extending his trip. Afterwards he will likely take a trip up the West river, which will take him almost the whole rest of the year.
- There will be no new funding for a chapel at Sz-Pai-Lan, but he has had six new members to the church there and four to his outlying stations.
- An irregular steamer brought the mail, only bringing papers, but the mail will likely arrive next Monday.

1884 September 30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics

- Henry is writing to his brother to celebrate Edward's fiftieth birthday. He reminisces on the days when they worked on the farm together and how they plowed the fields with their two horses. He also remembers how they attempted to chop wood or shoot together.
- Henry also comments on the fact that the two of them are rather old now. Henry feels especially old when the younger members of his mission ask for his guidance in light of the recent "troubles."
- In a lengthy aside, Henry explains his recent discovery regarding the inventor of the wheat drill: he was also the inventor of the Gatling gun. Henry comments on the irony of these two very different inventions being created by a single person.
- Henry describes a recent incident in Foochow when the French fired a gun (either the Gatling or something similar) on the Chinese from the air. Henry believes that the Chinese might have been astonished by this, although they also have several guns of their own. They were more likely surprised by the French technology that allowed them to fire from a balloon.

1884 October 27

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travels; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics; Chinese Politics; Violence, War, and Politics; Culture, Language, and Art

- The last opportunity to send mail home to America is this morning so Henry is writing "a few lines" to his family in response to Mary's letter about her travels to the East.
- Henry also fulfills a request from his father to report his family's heights and weights, including his wife and two children (Richard Varnum and William Dean). He does this so that his family in the United States can imagine what he and his children look like without seeing them for a long time.
- Dr. Happer has returned from his travels, but a health problem with one of his lungs did not greatly improve, so he will be returning home with his wife before the rainy season.
- Henry describes his children's habits in some more detail. William likes to be read to, especially the Bible. He is even reading the chapter of John by himself. Richard seemed to be more reckless but is now behaving better and wants to be "a good boy."
- Although things have been largely quiet since his last letter, Henry reports on a recent incident in Canton. Two foreigners who were rumored to be bringing "powder" into one of the large temples were surrounded by a protesting group of locals, and soldiers were required to resolve the situation and disperse the crowd. Henry does not think that this will affect the missionaries and their preaching. The chapels are still closed for the practice of daily preaching, but services are held nonetheless.

1885 May 18

From: Henry

To: Hattie

Location: Hoihow

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry left Hong Kong in May 14th after coming from Macao on the 13th, planning to travel for 3 weeks
- Expected to receive letters after seeing the “American flag flying from the San Pabloin harbor,” but found all letters had already been sent to Canton
- Expected to reach “Hoihow” (Haikou) at 11am after leaving Hong Kong at 8:30am, but did not reach it until 8:30pm due to “headwinds and consequent waves,” going on to mention seasickness of his fellow passengers
- Mentions the practice of “taking Tiffin,” a word for a light lunch
- Uses the word “dyspepsia” (indigestion) to refer to the Captain
- Notes that the country around Hoihow is flat, but that a 30-minute walk inland or so the landscape becomes a bit more elevated
- There are said to be only 14 “foreigners” living here, and Henry says there are no “foreign built” houses here, but that homes are rented from the Chinese
- A companion of Henry’s rents his home in Hoihow for \$4.00 a month
- Called on the English Consul “Mr. J. Walters” to ask if Henry could hold a church service at his home, but the the Consul planned to go to the “pagoda” for his only leisure day of the week
- Says the town of Hoihow has about 20,000 inhabitants, and that “3 or 4 miles inland is the main city of the island of Hoihow...a population of 18,000”
- Notes that the Hainanese dialect is totally different from Cantonese, but that many native residents there are said to understand Cantonese

1887 June 20

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry has heard that Edward has been “ordained,” supposedly as a church elder, and Henry does “admire the wisdom of their selection”
- Bella and the children will arrive to where Clara is a little later than expected, for the railroad tickets Mr. Kerr got them were “limited so they had to go straight through”
- Sarah and Mary were “detained in quarantine from Saturday forenoon till Monday evening” while traveling and “kept at the Custom House on Tuesday till one-o’-clock,” so they only had time to catch the afternoon train
- Henry had a Chinese guest from “Foo-Chan” named “Mi Chieng”(?), who has given the Foo-chans \$10,000
- This guest stayed with Henry for a week, and Henry says he was “accustomed to living in the foreign style,” so Henry had dinner prepared in the “foreign” way
- Henry expects that it was the first time that some of the “Chinese preachers of our Mission who were in Canton,” who Henry also invited to the dinner, had ever eaten in that way
- Mr. Henry has returned from “Lien Chan,” where he organized a church with 22 members, and want “Kuan Lay,” a Chinese pastor, to go there
- A celebration of the Queen’s Jubilee is going to take place in Canton hosted by the “British Community,” where there will be “tiffin”(a light meal), and at least 120 people will be attending
- Is happy that Father is “getting around again,” and hopes that “for the children’s sake,” he will live a while longer, and Henry hopes to see him again
- In light of his mother’s death in March, Henry writes, “The house must seem to have a great vacancy without Mother”

- Speaks of his gratitude for Dr. Bigham(?) and John Hugh for their kindness
- “Poor little Helen Henry” is sick and is not improving, and “has to lie still I believe on a kind of bamboo cot,” for her family is still in Macao, China

1887 August 3

From: [Henry? Incomplete, unsigned]

To: Hattie

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Writes that their mother’s death was not sudden, and Henry writes “It seemed to me as though God meant we should be prepared for it,” for Mother had been sick before she passed
- Pleased that Hattie “could get so good a portrait of Mother” in India, and hopes that Father’s portrait is also good
- Is glad to know that Father is doing better, for his life was uncertain for a time, and Henry hopes to see him again
- Bella and the children are visiting home as well as Sarah and Mary, and Henry expects the house will be quite full
- “Poor old Ned” is still being ridden at home by the children, and Henry thinks he will be even more special for the children due to their “Papa” previously riding and driving him
- It has been very hot in Canton for the past two or three weeks, at least 90 degrees every day with sometimes a “westerley wind”
- Henry is continuing school until the middle of August so that he can have a country trip
- The rest of the Mission has been gone all summer in other parts of China, and Dr. Kerr and Henry have been “standing by the stuff”
- Mrs. Cunningham has passed away

1887 August 22

From: Henry

To: Emily

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Henry, Dr. Kerr, Martha, and a few others are currently sailing up the West River
- Henry notes the expediency of travel this time, for the last time he traveled to Ng Chan from Canton 5 years ago it took 14 days, and this time it takes 8 days
- Henry, Dr. Kerr, Martha, and the “Fultons(?)” push on to “Kuai Ping”
- Mentions that the weather has been very hot throughout the summer, but that it has cooled off since they have been on the boat
- Henry dismissed his school the morning they left for this trip
- Notes the “green” landscape and the beauty of the hills and trees, as well as the sighting of bamboo trees
- Mentions that most of the Canton mission is gone, for both Henry’s party and another, heading for Japan, are not in Canton
- Henry is sorry he did not receive another letter from home before he left, for he has not heard from Bella and the children since they arrived “at the old home”
- Recalls the time when Wilie fell out of a boat years prior and almost drowned, and “that night when he had fits and did not know whether he would be with us much longer”

- Believes that God saved Willie's life "and I hope for the purpose of letting him grow up and be useful in the world"
- Says Richard Varnum "is quite an intense little boy," who pulls on Henry's whiskers when he wants his attention
- Henry writes that the last time they went to Ng Chan, they caused "such a stirring," but expects that it will not be that way this time, and notes that the people there fight against a "permanent location" of a chapel

1887 September 30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is both mail day and Edward's 53rd birthday
- Henry writes of old age, "you and I have got past the uphill side of life"
- Henry recently got a pair of spectacles, as did Mattie and Sarah, and Henry expects Hattie will have to use them soon as well, and that they will call themselves "The Spectacle Club"
- Henry got his glasses from a recommendation by the Consul, who got his from a Chinese shop for ten cents
- Henry ended up with three pairs of spectacles, the best pair in "20 focus"
- "The Mutual Improvement Association" has begun in Canton, a club that partakes in "singing declamation lectures," and they had a successful meeting at the Consul's the night before
- Mentions the "outdoor customs staff," a presumably low class of people that Henry says is "not...having anything done for them," and that this new Association has been the result of an "improvement" to this class of people by "a good Christian man" and his wife
- These meetings include Bible readings, prayers, and musical pieces
- Dr. Graves Consel Seymour gave a "quite humorous" speech about the Chinese wanting to study phrenology and physiognomy, and the shaved heads of the Chinese lending themselves perfectly to it (the only Chinese with shaved heads would have been monks, could refer to interaction with Chinese Buddhist communities)
- In his speech, he also mentioned a "Mr. Jackson, the Manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank" that believed that the goodness of a man was reflected and stored in the feet, "cowardice in the heel," "combateness in the big toe," and "conscience in the middle of the foot" (could be a reference to Confucian beliefs of the importance of how one presents themselves and the physicality of that), and that this man would give any many what he wanted if he was told he was "a regular flat-footed man"

1887 November 11

From: [Henry? Incomplete, unsigned]

To: Hattie

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Mentions a seven hour talk and how long it was, "but then women talk more than men and you were not men," Henry wondering if Hattie's opinion on speech length was different because she was a woman
- Mrs. White is in the country, and has said that Helen "was enjoying it much and improving"



- A Mrs. Wisner taught above Golden Corners and that Dr. Wisner preached in Father's old church at Wayne (Golden Corners likely refers to a place in Wooster, and Wayne likely refers to Wayne County)
- Dr. and Mrs. Graves left on the night steamer for Hong Kong, and that Mrs. Graves has been a "great sufferer" and that her disease "is of a nervous nature and I presume they would wish her to get away with as little excitement as possible"
- Bella told Henry that Willie wanted to buy his own postage stamp for the letter he sent to him last mail (a microscope and some kind of barrel are mentioned, but the sentence and letter are not complete)

1887 November 24

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- Spent Thanksgiving dinner at Mrs. "Butter's," where "Miss Louis Sophia Preston" is also
- Held a meeting with the girls' and women's school the day before
- Is pleased that Sophia Preston is "so bright and happy," for Henry was concerned that she "might feel sad on coming to her own house now occupied by others"
- Notes that the mail goes out on the 30th
- Picks up the letter on the morning of the 30th, and writes that news from Hattie and Em has come from Midway and that they have been to Westmoreland
- Mentions that Uncle Augustus has been helping out with his ox-cart, and Henry remembers his "big buffalo overcoat" the few times he saw him
- Henry says he is currently working on a paper for the next conference "on the subject of Mohammedanism,"
- Writes that the papers have spoken of a typhoon in the China sea November 26-27, and hopes that fellow missionaries bound for Siam on the 24 were not caught in it

1887 December 19

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Henry feels "favored" that his father wrote to him, for he knows he does not write a lot of letters
- marvels that his Uncle Augustus at home keeps up his strength
- Henry wonders what the "old home" looks like, recalls the poplar trees and feels like it was just yesterday that he was there
- Was hoping the American mail would arrive this morning but it never came, thinks it will come tonight or tomorrow morning instead
- Henry got a steamer schedule for the first half of 1888, and hopes to take either the March 14 or the April 3 steamers from Hong Kong because they are the "best"
- Henry's work has been interrupted because his teacher suffered a hemorrhage of the lungs that made him stop working for awhile, he is only recently working again
- Martha seems to be getting stronger, it is hard for her to stop working because there is so much to be done

- Henry plans to resign his work the first Mission meeting because he wants to give most of his time to translations
- Had written a sermon of 5 pages but a friend visited and preached for him
- Henry is pleased to know that Seville has a good pastor
- Appreciates that his father finds comfort in his children

1888 January 30

From: Henry

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Is grateful to receive letters from family at home, thanks his father profusely for the beautiful Bible he gave him– notes the 23rd and 91st Psalm
- Wished to be back with family March 24th, but will have to leave February 11th on the steamer in order to get back that soon, and Henry says he has too much work to leave
- Henry instead thinks he won't be able to get away until the 1st of April
- Recently bought land, a few acres, to build on
- There were a lot of issues to get the land because Henry and his friends are not from China
- Mentions that Chinese officials originally objected to the land purchase because they were “foreigners”
- The winter has been warm but the past few days have been very cold and damp

1888 January 31

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton;

- Henry, Dr. Kerr, and Mattie vacation for Christmas in Macau
- Henry cannot return home as his father wishes for March 24th as he would have to set out ten days from January 31st to arrive, around 43 days travel time. He hopes to return home by late April, but his trip shall be short.
- Willie will send “Grandpa” [Richard?] a pug nosed dog, which Henry expects will be a hit.
- Richard Varnum is joining a new class in school and getting a new book, which excites him greatly. Varnum also enjoys the winter weather, sliding down snowy hills with the other children. Bella has arranged for new sleds for the kids.
- Henry helped to acquire new land for the school, which includes a laundry, a creek/water source and a stone walk. In all it cost more than ¥ [?] (unknown currency symbol) 3000.
- Henry reflects on the death of a Mr. Nye [?]: “years he had lived here with the exception of one visit home - I think it must have sometimes seemed rather lonely for him, all the acquaintances of his early years were gone long ago and he lived alone with no relations ... but he is in the hands of a very merciful father who will certainly do what is right”

1888 June 30

From: Henry

To: Sarah

Location: Waterford, New York

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Henry writes in hopes he can start a correspondence with his sister Sarah again
- Has not forgotten how tired she looked when he was in Seville and Cleveland
- Henry is sorry to hear about Sarah's neuralgia and believes it is connected to overwork
- The weather was unusually hot the week before but it is much cooler now
- Everyone in Henry's family is well, the children just finished school the day before
- Henry's son Richard was delighted to have gotten all his arithmetic questions right, also doing well in spelling and reading, telling Henry he was "296 per cent" right
- Henry believes his son Willie also did well, they have not gotten his final grades back yet
- Bella is busy today because it is baking day, and she is also "putting up" some strawberries
- They plan to leave Thursday for Bridgeton, New Jersey for the Missionary Convention
- Mentions a Dr. George C. Noyes of Evanston that he met in Philadelphia who knows their father, wonders if Sarah had also met him

1888 September 29-30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Waterford

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Writes because it will be Edward's 54th birthday, sends along a book from "Carter and Bros"
- Mentions the death and funeral of Uncle Augustus
- Recounts that the Christian Endeavor Society (founded in 1881, still exists) was brought up during morning service
- Willie has advanced multiple grades due to his academic success
- Bella is planning to travel to a missionary meeting near Poughkeepsie the following week and then the Ladies Board of Northern New York semiannual meeting

1888 November 20

From: Henry

To: Em

Location: Waterford

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; American Politics

- Hopes that Emily will have a good winter at the school as a teacher
- "Rejoices" over the result of the victory of President Harrison in the election, "and as good Republicans did not rejoice over the election of Gov. Hill [elected governor of New York] a democrat"
- "The free trade business caused a good many to vote for Harrison who went with the democrats on the state election. I am not ashamed of my voting for Presidents so far the only votes I have cast were for Abraham Lincoln both times and now for Benjamin Harrison"
- Received the news of the election results as soon as he could by telegram, and had paid close attention as he waited for the results
- When he received news that New York had voted majority for Harrison "...I knew he had it. So I went to bed and slept happy."
- Hopes that cousin Addie received his letter about Uncle Augustus' death
- Dr. Mitchell asked him for information on China for the January and February issues of *The Church at Home and Abroad*
- Henry's house has opened for sale in Canton

- Worries that plans for a schoolhouse in Canton were not kept, and thought they would postpone building until Henry returned
- Has not preached or spoken in churches as much as he expected to
- Ice froze half an inch thick the previous week, the weather has been nice off and on
- His son Richard wants to make sure Henry tells his aunts at Seville that his school paper is finished and that he is well

1888 November 28

From: Henry

To: Hattie

Location: Waterford, New York

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry hopes that Hattie has a happy Thanksgiving, and he expects to have a Thanksgiving turkey in his own house
- Hopes Hattie has a safe voyage back to China
- Sends \$5 so that Hattie can get something for herself
- Is going to Troy, New York, and is getting a new suit of clothes
- Writes of a Dr. Mitchell, who speaks very highly of Henry and Hattie's father
- Writes of a dog and pony show he just saw

1894 May 23

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics;

Mentions of Wooster

- Notes that the day he writes the letter is 28 years to the day since he arrived in Canton, laments growing to be 58 years old, and mentions that Bella "is not so strong as she was 5 years ago"
- Is currently dealing with the Mission accounts that that come out every May
- Mentions that "the boys" Richard and William have had very good health, and that he hopes "they will both practice in the gymnasium in Wooster"
- Mentions there is a "black plague" outbreak in Canton that is also prevalent in Hong Kong
- Writes that "doctors are not inclined to think it infectious, or at least not very much so. They attribute it rather to insanitary conditions. The preventive is to keep up general strength & be particular about having everything clean around one's premises. I have not heard that a single foreigner has been attributed, unless possibly one Portuguese."
- Attributes the absence of the disease to his location, "We are fortunate in our broad open air surroundings and I think it prevails in more thickly settled localities"

1897 July 28

From: Henry

To: Hattie

Location: R.M.S. Empress of Japan

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster (?)

- Is aboard the "Empress of Japan" for the last evening before reaching Yokohama from Wusong
- Has a roommate on the ship, a man who has worked for the Customs Service in China for over twenty years

- His roommate was previously in charge of a lighthouse near Port Arthur, “when that place was taken and kept it awhile for the Japanese. He says it is all true about the cruelty of the of the Japanese after Port Arthur was taken”
- Is not sure if his roommate is a Christian, but notes that he has a copy of “Bogatzky’s Golden Treasury” (a Christian devotional collection originally published in 1718)
- His roommate’s parents live in Toronto, and his sister was educated as a nurse at Clifton Springs (located in New York)
- Notes that a Mr. Grant wants to build a row of homes in Canton based on homes he saw in Shanghai for temporary travelers or employees-- Henry encloses a building plan for them for Hattie to edit if she chooses
- Begins writing again on July 29 at 10am, and notes Mount Fuji’s summit in the distance-- says he cannot see snow at its peak but assumes that there is still snow in the gullies, “I do not wonder that the Japs are proud of it”
- Mentions the Japanese cities of Kobe and Nagasaki
- Talked to John Happer in Kobe “...about College matters. He seems pretty well satisfied and I judge thinks the estate will have to pay the \$10,000 bond...Andrew’s position was to do just what the courts shall decide”
- Mentions that a member of the ship’s crew thinks that the *Empress of Japan* will take on about 40 more passengers

1901 September 30

From: Henry

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics

- Is writing to Edward on his 67th birthday, hopes many more are ahead but laments the reality of old age
- Henry’s varicose veins have been bothering him, and he has to be careful that he does not walk too much and cannot load multiple loads of hay in an afternoon as he once could
- Three of the older members of the South China Presbyterian Mission have passed away this past year, Mr. Jeremiassen (a notable missionary on the island of Hainan), Mr. Henry, and most notably Dr. Kerr in August
- Henry and Bella spent a lot of time with him during the last few days of his life
- Henry notes that Dr. Kerr, during his last few days of illness before his death, seemed to know it was his time to “be with the Lord,” and made several comments about how the doctors caring for him were mistaken about his time left, “the doctors do not always know”
- After Dr. Kerr lived through a night the doctors thought he would not, he made a joke, “The doctors were mistaken this time. I am not going to the Lord quite so soon as they thought I was”
- Henry includes comments made by Chinese assistants during the memorial service, “I never saw him angry,” “He never lost an hour,” and “His name was known in every province of China”
- Bella has been translating some of “Dr. Newton’s” books (perhaps Isaac Newton?)
- “The school has done very well this year... the enrollment is 90. The general attendance for the rest of the year now a little over 70”

1904 May 31

From: Henry

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Mentions of Wooster

- Writes of Richard's passing from the "plague" and his last hours of life, and thinks that their cook had likely exposed their family after visiting his friends "on the other side of the river"-- Henry notes that there had been an epidemic of it in local areas
- Richard had worked teaching Chemistry at multiple medical colleges and had also compiled a history of the British and Foreign Bible Society
- They had first thought it was "malarial fever" after a blood test was done, but symptoms of the plague followed and they decided it must be the plague
- Henry and the doctor all believed Richard was recovering, but his fever soon became very high and he became delirious, and began reciting Scripture and songs with his family around him
- Henry mentions that Richard requested in his last moments to be buried in the Canton Cemetery and for his students from Wooster to be written to, "Schroeder and Porter"

1906 July 28

From: Henry

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Kowloon

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- Is currently writing from Kowloon, which he says is 1000 feet above sea level and on the high hills opposite Hong Kong
- Is in Kowloon staying in a house of a colleague from the "English Church Mission" who offered them his stone "bungalow" to rent for a part of the summer, Henry has stayed there for the month of July
- Considers it strange to be away from any Europeans or Americans, but is enjoying a month of rest
- Plans to send a picture home of the "Memorial building" in Canton that had just finished construction
- Notes that the minister of the minister at the Seville church at home has changed, but feels confident about the new Mr. Sheely's beliefs and ability
- Responds to inquiry about the "cloud of witnesses," (referring to a Bible verse in the book of Hebrews)
- Henry and Bella have been reading a biography of William Cowper (an 18th century English poet and hymnodist), "It seems strange that a man who wrote such letters as he did and such beautiful hymns should have had so many years of mental suffering"
- Recalls a tragedy that happened on July 13, where a small steamer "Sainam" on the West River was overtaken by a group of pirates that ultimately stole from the crew and killed Dr. McDonald, a Wesleyan missionary on board, and wounded the Captain, who only escaped murder because he pretended to be dead
- Most of the crew and passengers onboard were severely wounded from the attack
- Mentions a man restrained by a "queue" (a traditional Chinese hairstyle)
- The pirates threw a "stinkpot" to scatter the passengers, which was a 19th century suffocating weapon used during the Qing Dynasty in naval contexts
- The pirates ransacked the ship and then took the goods to five Chinese "junks," traditional sailing vessels with as many as 100 men, Henry writes they were primarily in search of weapons and ammunition bound for "Kwangse" (Guangxi), a neighboring province
- The American consul has changed, "We are much pleased just now to hear that we are to have a good consul. The last two have been Roman Catholics and we decidedly would prefer a Protestant"

- Expects to leave for Canton next Tuesday

1907 May 13

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: Shanghai

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster

- Is trying to make up for his “slight delinquencies” by writing a letter to each one of their sisters in the “Home on the Hill”
- Expects to leave Shanghai at 4:30 the following morning from a Mission Conference for the “Minnesota,” a ship that Bella is currently on
- Says large steamers like the *Minnesota*, at 28,000 tons, have to anchor in the large Yangtze River
- Writes that the *Minnesota* is a “floating palace,” especially compared to the steamer he arrived in China on, which was 650 tons
- Large passenger ships are usually crowded this time of year, and the ship is even more crowded due to the Mission Conference
- Henry plans to reach Seattle by June 6 and Seville, OH in early August, and is glad he made arrangements far in advance, for someone he knows is unable to travel to the U.S. until July
- Had a “very nice place to stay” during the Conference at a merchant’s house, “but they were not of the kind that try to put on style”
- Says his hosts were the Marshalls, the wife had been a U.S. Methodist missionary and had met her husband, an Englishman
- Henry notes that Mr. Marshal divides his time between London and China, and that he is also the president of the YMCA
- Henry spent time with “Dr. Hayes and family,” and thinks Clara might know them because they spent two years in Wooster
- Looks forward to seeing everyone “in the old home not long from now”
- Left “William and Mary well, am glad to leave my work in such good hands”

1908 May 19

From: Henry

To: Hattie

Location: Seville, Ohio

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Expects to leave the “Old Home” for the “West” June 30
- Bella plans to get her teeth “attended to” by a dentist in Tacoma, Washington, “[the dentist] has a large establishment, 8 dental chairs”
- Recently went to Corry, PA to spend the Sabbath around April 30th, but missed a train bound for the city due to a snowstorm, but got on a train “after waiting two hours”
- The night of the snow storm produced 14 inches of snow
- The church he visited in Corry gave him money for the Canton Mission
- Has been resting at home since traveling, and has been taking care of the “dooryard” (a term most commonly used in New England contexts, but usually referring to the part of the yard around the front door), finished “going over it with the lawn mower”
- Mentions an old cat named “Muggins”
- Serious flooding happened the week before, “I heard that one man lost 20 sheep,” and that the ground was too wet to plant corn

- Refers to a Commission that “investigated our Canton affairs,” and that he is glad that “at last ‘peace is declared’”
- “...when the South China Mission, the Medical Missionary Society, and the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Mission unanimously agree on one thing, thanksgiving is in order, but will add that one cannot help noticing how very near the settlement made by the Commission was almost exactly what was proposed by a majority of the Canton Mission 6 years ago”
- Mattie has sprained her foot
- Notes a \$17 Elgin watch that he has just bought that is a “stem winder”

1909 April 24

From: Henry

To: all the dear ones at Home

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Building & Development; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster

- It is Henry’s 73rd birthday, and he has begun to get tired more easily
- Had a birthday party a few days prior with Bella and William, and supposes Martha will arrive home soon
- Bella has morning lessons with the women and children and two day schools, as well as a full Sabbath day’s work with boys from the high school and work with the women and girls
- Has had a number of local cases of “Beri-beri” (A thiamine deficiency illness common in regions that eat large amounts of white rice), “the feet and legs swell and a change in location seems the best remedy,” which is a condition well-known in the area for only the past two or three years
- One of the students died the day before of the bubonic plague, “I suppose he must have [gotten] it over in the city as I have not heard of it being on this side of the river”
- Henry writes that, “Foreigners, as we call ourselves, seem to be able to resist it and recover, at least sometimes, but with the Chinese it is always almost sure to be fatal”
- Has had cloudy weather almost every day since Chinese New Year and a good deal of rainy weather as well
- They have begun building operations and have the foundations almost finished for our dining hall, and a Mr. “Dollar” of San Francisco is going to provide a great deal of lumber for the project
- Has received a letter from Mr. Severance two days prior, who writes that when more buildings are needed he believes “an appeal home will meet with a quick response” (Mr. Severance is likely the same highly prolific businessman and Trustee of the College of Wooster who was heavily involved in missionary work in Asia)

1909 May 3

From: Henry

To: Emily

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Has been a year since he arrived at the “old house at home,” where he spent a few months with Em and others
- Tomorrow is Em’s birthday
- They have not had any more cases of the “plague” in the school, and have not heard of any cases around them in “Fati” (Fangcun, China)
- Thinks that the student nearby who died from the disease contracted it in the city



- William, Mary, and the “baby” are in Hong Kong, and the baby has gained over 2 pounds in the four weeks they have spent time there, and he has gone through the process of being vaccinated as well
- Performed a marriage ceremony at the American Consulate the Saturday before for an officer from the “Rainbow” (perhaps reference to a naval position, possibly a ship’s name) who is temporarily in Hong Kong; and the bride and her mother had just come from Washington, D.C. to meet and marry her husband
- Mentions that in the envelope he received from the groom was a “bright ‘American eagle’”
- Is having cool weather in Canton and still has to wear warm clothing

1909 October 23

From: Henry

To: Clara

Location: “On board the ‘Princess Alice’”

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton

- Henry has been appointed a delegate by the Mission to meet Dr. Brown in Shanghai
- Expected to reach Shanghai from Canton by Friday or Saturday, but did not arrive until Sunday evening due to a significant typhoon
- Henry spent the summer building the dining hall and the kitchen so that they would be ready for school September 15

1909 October 28

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: Shanghai

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development

- After a meeting with the elderly Mr. Faruham while in Shanghai for a Mission conference, Henry and Dr. Machle visited the “Commercial Press,” a Chinese printing company (still a current publishing company, established in 1897)
- Henry writes, “It is wonderful how they [Chinese] are going ahead”
- Henry notes 40 printing presses, lithograph stones, lithograph printing, woodcut technology, and book binding technology
- Notes that the company also sells their products in large numbers, including schoolbooks like math books and “reader geographies”

1911 June 28

From: Henry

To: Mary

Location: “On board the Chimera”

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese;

Mentions of Wooster

- Eating times on the ship number 5 times a day according to a schedule, “so we are not in danger of starving to death”
- Henry is currently between Shantou and Hong Kong, bound ultimately for Canton
- Seas are currently quiet, but a heavy swell due to a typhoon after leaving Shanghai has put the arrival time in Hong Kong 12 hours later than expected

- Notices a lot of small fishing boats from Shantou, and recalls an instance 40 years prior with Hattie when a similar fishing boat fleet headed for shore, ““We are in for a storm. Those fellows never make a mistake and sure enough we did get it”
- Mentions various parades, “coronations,” and “functions” that took place in Shanghai on Thursday, June 22 in honor of the Queen’s sixty-year Jubilee
- “There were services in the cathedral at 11am. Then various parades during the day ending by a torchlight procession and fireworks in the evening...People who saw it spoke of a trolley car with electric lights so as to represent a crown...”
- Attended a 27th birthday party for previous College of Wooster student Alice Fitch in Shanghai

### **Family-- Correspondence [between]--- [from] Noyes, Martha:**

1874 March 5 & March 11

From: Mattie

To: Father (Varnum Noyes)

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: American Politics; Social/Cultural Customs: American; Missionary Politics

- Today is Hattie’s birthday and the girls at the school have been bringing her gifts of fruit and flowers all day. Henry got her some Jack Straws (a board game similar to Pick up Sticks). Mattie talks about how they often keep games at the house if any children come and want to play with them.
- Henry has been gone helping Mr. Vrooman who is having issues getting a petition for his removal from the Consul General. He had come down from Shanghai and Henry is compiling a case against him. Mattie wishes that Christian men were in government positions.
- Mattie dislikes the foreign community and feels that they prevent missionary work from getting done.
- Mail still has not arrived and Mattie is nervous that she will not have time to fully respond to letters before she must send out the mail. She emphasizes the importance of the letters to people abroad.
- Mattie recently engaged with her first instance of missionary work the past Sabbath, she helped Hattie go over Bible lessons with her students on the Sabbath. This usually takes about 1.5 hours for each group; the boarding students and the ones that live at home. Mattie is proud that Henry and Hattie are doing noble work here in China.

1874 October 12

From: Mattie

To: My Dear Em

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel; Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health

- Mattie has been busy visiting with other missionaries since her return to China, they met up at Macau and left this morning. She resents the time spent engaging with guests because it prevents her from learning Chinese at a faster rate.
- Mattie and the other missionaries were happily surprised by the letters from home coming 4 days earlier than they are expected
- It is also the year anniversary of the last Sabbath that Mattie spent at home in Ohio. Em marked passages for Mattie in her Bible and book, *Changed Cross* (Author: Anson D F Randolph,

published: 1865). Mattie goes on to say that looking at these passages reminds her “that our lives were saved that we might do something for these heathens and it is a pleasant thought.”

- Tomorrow the church will be dedicated and Mattie is very sorry that Henry will not be able to be there. Henry will not be returning until the middle of November, Dr. Ellinwood told Mattie that this means that Henry is ill and should not preach for 6 months. The issues that Henry is having are in his throat.
- Lucy is still up all night working, Hattie eagerly awaits the return of her students and Mattie is beginning to read Mark (Gospel of the Christian Bible.)
- Mattie talks about Maggie Beattie who recently lost her job, and multiple other people. Mr Barton has left the Superintendency.
- Mattie congratulates Em on the commencement performance that she does at Wooster and discusses how she was the focus of the performance. Mattie talks about Em’s teaching ambitions and tells her that she should go away from home to do it, but maybe come back to W (Wooster) in the future. Clara went to Harmony class and Mattie talks about how proud she is of her sisters and how ‘I would not trade off the brothers and sisters in the ‘home on the hill’ for any.”

1874 November 9

From: Mattie

To: Sarah

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Mentions of Wooster

- Mentions the warm weather in Canton, and that “Hattie is going about with a thin Victorian lawn white dress on which is just the thing for the state of the weather”
- Hopes that Sarah is “safe at work in the Deaf and Dumb Institution at C” (Columbus, OH)
- Is currently expecting Henry who left Shanghai for Canton
- Miss Shaw is planning to leave for Japan, but she is in very poor health
- Henry has been sending the Harper’s Weekly “and we take considerable pleasure in the pictures if we are missionaries”
- Clara and Mary are going to be in Wooster in “that Grammar School”
- Mattie writes that the girls in her school are currently singing prayers, specifically “Jesus Lover of My Soul”
- “Our communion service occurred on the 1st of November just one year from the day I left San Francisco”

1875 April 13

From: Mattie

To: Sarah

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Mentions of Wooster; Travel

- Tomorrow is mail-day and Mattie is not ready yet for the day to be here.
- They have had Mrs. Dr. House and Mrs. Anderson for the past two weeks, they came up for rest and change. Mattie comments that you [Sarah] would love the Bangkok missionaries. Mrs. House is very attractive and though she has gray hair, she keeps it in curls around the sides of her face. Mrs. Anderson is also a very sweet young woman. Mattie has been watching the weather because it has been really rainy and they are hoping that it dries out so they can enjoy the weather. MRs.

House brought Hattie a gauzy dress for the warm weather and they think that Em would like a dress like it.

- They sent a box of silky fabric to Mary and Clara which Lucy was sending to Wooster. They should get the fabric in time for gowns to be made for commencement. If they do not mention the gowns Mattie tells Sarah not to warn them because it can be a surprise.
- Mrs. More of Columbus is helping to support one of the scholars at the school. Miss Connel's marriage was not a little surprise to Mattie, but she does miss her Columbus friends.
- Mattie wants the girls in Columbus to not forget her, she thinks of them often and prays for them still.
- Mattie refers to "our new bride and groom" being happy and she wishes them eternal happiness.
- The daughters are heading back to America soon and they might stop in Wooster and the family that is there can see them.
- If Mattie has time she might put in a little letter to cousin Adelia.

1875 September 4

From: [Martha]

To: Clara

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health; Travel; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Clara might be in Wooster with Mary.
- Mattie recently found out that one of her sisters has been writing under the nom de plume, "Clytie," including in the Seville Times. Mattie is impressed that she has time in the midst of her studies and will look for her writings in the future.
- The letter picks up again on Sept. 8th.
- Mattie just received a collection of letters from home that had been sent to Dr. Kerr by accident. Mattie was especially interested in a letter she received describing a visit with the Happer girls.
- Henry and Hattie are planning on returning home soon, despite their mother's worry that they will not be able to.
- Clara and Mary are attempting to return to Wooster next year. Mattie wishes that she could have sent more to help.
- Mattie sent Clara and Mary blue skirts which resemble those Mattie and Lucy had when they were younger. Mattie does not use hers often as it tends to soil easily.
- Mattie is especially interested in hearing about people in the United States who might travel to China, specifically Clara's account of their friends Miss Thompson and Willie Charles (who is beginning to learn Chinese).
- Mattie received a letter from the Happer family, mentioning that they are now at their Uncle's in Sem (?). The letter writer was ill and Mattie doubts whether her visit home helped her get better. Mattie instead would have recommended a Shamin merchant to help her heal.
- Mattie must conclude quickly as the letters are being sent now, but not before reflecting one last time on fun memories of being home and how she must mend a situation with Mrs. McCoy by writing a letter to Mrs. George.
- Mattie neglects to sign this letter.

1875 September 14

From: Mattie

To: Edward Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; Locations other than Canton

- Mattie writes how she feels bad for not writing her older brother Edward in August, but things were busy, she did write to her brother's Sabbath School and sent them a new publication and it is 13 cents/ copy. Mattie hopes that they could raise some money for distribution costs, Mattie would be greatly pleased if they could raise funds.
- Hattie and Henry are going somewhere very soon, they are concerned about the violent winds but Mattie is excited for them.
- Henry is interested in trying out farming.
- They are lucky recently because they can send the post out weekly, which Mattie wishes would always be the case.
- Mattie just received an investment from Dr. Yalmage(?) to go to Amoy (Xiamen).

1875 September 29

From: Mattie

To: Sarah

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Chinese Politics

- Mattie writes that Sarah is living a busy life in Columbus, where she has been for 6 or 7 years
- Sarah has seen a doctor in Cleveland concerning her throat
- After being concerned and praying for a while, they were very happy to hear through the mail that Frank is doing better
- Cousin Mary's sister died; Sarah attended the funeral in Massillon [city in Ohio]
- A missionary on the Wesleyan Board is about to leave China due to his failing health- it is doubtful he will make it back to England
- Henry and his "brother", Mr. Henry [possibly a fellow missionary or doctor?] are away for a week with major general Agney; Mattie feels that her protectors are gone, but Hattie "stands ready to fill the breach"
- Mattie thinks Mr. Henry will possibly fill Henry's position in leading the congregations when he returns to the USA
- Many members of the Mission Committee want to go on a month-long trip to Lin Chan in about two weeks
- The Noyes family has been to Lin Chan, and the vacation did them a lot of good. Mattie would much rather visit the country than a city like Hong Kong
- Mattie received mail from Mrs. Leyenberger: she wrote "in the warmest terms" about her visiting the Noyes' family home in Ohio, but Mattie does not see her returning to China due to her poor health. Mr. Leyenberger is considering returning home in the spring.
- Another letter writes that Mrs. Lyons is in poor health, too. Mr. Lyon's sister, Cornelia, "wanted to come to China but the Board declined sending her", likely due to her age.
- Mattie goes on a tangent about the war between China and Great Britain; She says there is trouble in the air and "among the high officials at Peking". A British governmental representative in Peking will not work with the government until "proper concessions are made". This was all brought about from the murder of a Brit. Mattie sees the British powers as superior, writing she "should not think these people would dare venture a war with England"
- Edward's birthday is tomorrow
- She sends her love to various friends and family back home

1875 October 13

From: Mattie

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mattie writes to wish her brother, Edward, a happy birthday. It has been two years since they saw each other last.
- Mattie congratulates Edward on the machine he has been working hard to build, which he will be trying to patent.
- Mattie is missing her family, but is resigned to Henry and Hattie leaving in nine months.
- Mattie has been taking lessons in “taking accounts.”
- Relations between England and China have not been good and almost deteriorated into war, but they have reached a compromise for now. Mattie believed the missionaries might have been driven out of Canton to Hong Kong or Japan. In Mattie’s view, China will do nothing until forced, but England has been trying to start a war. Mattie remarks on the interest of the Chinese in the possible war, but also laments the lack of true information in the poorly circulated newspapers, as well as the possibility that England will fight with the “poor heathen people.” Mattie insists that the missionaries are safe.
- Mattie hopes that Edward’s project to help the Sabbath School’s library get new books was successful.
- Mattie discusses Edward’s last letter and its account of past family visits by cousin George and Cordelia (but not cousin Maria).

1876 February 12

From: Mattie

To: Mother (Lois)

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Locations other than Canton, Travel

- Everyone at the house has just finished Sabbath prayers and hymns, leaving Mattie alone to write this letter to her mother
- In the past Week Mattie has been very busy, they received a letter from Bangkok announcing Henry’s marriage. Dr. Happer brought the letters and had no idea that he had the announcement in the stack of letters.
- Mattie recollects about Frank, thinking about the ways that she can be reminded of him though he is gone. She thinks about the last time they she saw Frank, the day she was packing to come to China. Mattie acknowledges that is must be difficult for her parents, who raised Frank only for him to be “returned” to Heaven. Mattie comforts herself by thinking of Frank in heaven and having “no more pain and sorrow because the last enemy has been overcome.”
- Mattie inquires as to her father and brother’s presence in the room when Frank died, she wonders how her mother is and if she is feeling a bit better.
- Hattie and Henry’s return to Ohio will be a great comfort for their mother and Mattie talks of their great emotional growth and change from this experience. Mattie reflects on her own changes in personality since coming to China and beginning this journey.
- Mattie reminds her mother to take and tells her that she is happy here in Canton.

1876 March 27

From: Mattie

To: Mother

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- In this letter, Mattie writes to comfort her mother after learning of the death of her brother, Frank.
- Mattie talks about how she finds comfort in her Christian faith and the belief that the family will meet in heaven again someday, but she also expresses doubt as to whether her deceased brother was a Christian.
- Mattie refers to the last letter she received from home, including Frank's obituary, which arrived on Wednesday, 14 weeks after Frank died. Apparently, the letter mistakenly went to Mr. Henry.
- Mrs. Happer and Mrs. Graves have comforted Mattie during this difficult time, but Mattie still struggles to speak with others or leave the house alone.
- There seems to be a break in the letter, but Mattie goes on to discuss that Henry and Harriet will be arriving at home soon. The last letter Mattie received from her sister was dated February 29, at Ceylon, and mentioned that she expected to be home in eight weeks. While Mattie expresses happiness at the family and friends her brother and sister will see, she also asks that Henry see a doctor about his throat when the travelers reach Ohio.

[1876?] March 27 & 30

From: Mattie

To: Edward

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- She hasn't written to Edward in a while
- DATE CHANGE to March 30th (continuation of same letter)
- The mail will be sent tomorrow
- A "boy" [presumably Chinese from context] is leaving to California tomorrow and owes a debt of \$100; Mattie thinks it's a shame so many are leaving China because they could be doing good work there, but instead are doing "anything they can find to do to support themselves" in California because the Mission "there" [California?] can't provide jobs to all the emigrants. For example, Mattie writes about a Chinese person who was learning how to preach, and how he left to the U.S.A. a year ago, becoming a barber because he needed a job.
- Majority of the letter is an anecdote about her walk to one of her day schools the other day: She was carrying some books and a much-needed and long-awaited (by another teacher) bottle of Iodine. Before arriving to the school, a group of boys started harassing her, trying to get at the books. This went on for some time, when Mattie dropped the Iodine, which shattered and spilled on the boys, who were terrified and wet themselves. Mattie writes some rather snarky remarks about how the boys' fear amused her: "You should have seen their looks...", "I could but stand and laugh heartily at their expense." She finishes by saying they boys never showed their faces to her again, and that the teacher who needed the Iodine was upset so she came up with a plan involving Dr. Kerr... and then the letter abruptly cuts off mid sentence and an unrelated passage continues on the following page.
- Almost all the instruments are wet from the recent weather
- Mattie heard from Mr. Leslie again

1876 April 12

From: Mattie

To: Father [Varnum Noyes]

Location: Canton, China

## Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- The mail leaves tomorrow; their American mail is in Hong Kong
- Mr. Vrooman [?] is about to visit
- A group of 8 Portuguese men have moved in next door; they have a printing press and Mattie thinks they print a Macau paper. Mattie notes how the men are ‘peeping Toms’, saying how she has closed the windows on the side of the house neighboring the Portuguese because one of them is bound to be watching her if she opens a window, and that she “feels sorry” for the school girls living on the other side of the new neighbors because surely they cannot ever open their windows, either.
- A Missionary Conference took place last week at Mr. Williams’: a paper on ‘how or rather what are the best methods to promote the revival of religion among the Chinese’ was presented. The paper was written by Dr. Graves. Mattie goes on for some time about the presentation. She very much enjoyed it and found it inspiring
- The letter abruptly stops, mid sentence. Mattie writes that the (preceding) sheet of paper is so greasy that she is too embarrassed to send it. The grease came from her “examining the state of bread and butter in the midst of letter writing”.
- She concludes by reminiscing about a nice memory of her and her father together

1876 June 29

From: Martha

To: Henry

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; Chinese Politics;

Missionary Politics

- Mr. Henry recently told Mattie that on his last trip to “Sanwei” he had stopped at a place called “Lun” (perhaps La’an) where they told him “no foreigners have ever been,” where he sold books
- Dr. Happer’s “Sichuan” was arrested and thrown in jail, and it is not known what he is on trial for
- Many assume he was arrested because he was looking into a “gambling saloon” for Dr. Happer, which was opened by the interpreter for the American consulate
- A false letter saying to be written by Dr. Happer wants three specific men to be released from jail that are under the control of the Consul, although Dr. Happer does not know these men
- Dr. Happer attended the trial after at first being refused, but received a false note saying the judge could not make the trial, although the trial actually did take place
- The prisoner was returned to prison, and his friends have been forbidden to see him by the prison guard unless they pay \$100, for it is falsely believed that the prisoner has access to money

1876 December 1

From: Mattie

To: Sarah

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- Mattie feels that she has not written home for awhile
- Sarah is spending part of the year at home as a vacation.
- Mattie wants to write to Becca Howes, a friend who lives in Cleveland, because her baby daughter died recently. The family will also be moving shortly for the husband’s work.



- Mattie has received news that Hattie's friend, Miss Whilden, as her brother has drowned in a boating accident on the Atlantic. Miss Whilden's only other sibling just returned to the United States with her family, so Miss Whilden feels quite alone.
- Mattie reflects on her brother Frank's death, after almost a year has passed, and presents her new understanding of Heaven. While she does present her thoughts on death, she insists that she is not sad or lonely, even though she does miss her family.
- Lucy brought Mattie a piece of Herllitrope, which Mattie teased her with (due to the smell).
- Mattie received a call from Mrs. Chandler, who is now an "earnest Christian," but has suffered great hardship in her life (loss of husband and child). She is now traveling abroad with her family.
- Mattie pauses to eat, leading to her description of how much meat she eats in a day (1 ½ pounds) and how this will help make her strong again after a sickness. She advises Sarah to take care of herself (especially her throat), because she might be at risk of consumption. Mattie admits that she has been ill, which could not be fully prevented; this sickness spread to many others, including Miss Sellers, Mr. Mateer, and Mr. Capp. Mattie warns Clara to be careful of the little colds she has.
- Mattie wants to hear more about Hannah Lertsitt, who Clara has volunteered to keep house for.

[1876?] December 6

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mattie opens by writing about how she wishes she could talk to Clara, and how she misses her family, but how much she likes this mission house more than other mission houses.
- The Missionary Conference is tonight, at Mr. Whitehead's. They met the Whitehead's 3 years ago.
- Mrs. Happer is coming over tonight to keep Mattie company while Lucy is away. Mrs. Happer hasn't seen Mattie in over a week and Mattie misses her a lot, so she's excited for tonight.
- "The Dr" has not "been up" for 3 days, and Mattie doesn't know when she will see him next. He used to see her 2 or 3 times per day. He says Mattie is doing much better- the only thing keeping her from being "her old self" is the pain in her lungs. She wants to sit outside but has not been cleared to do that yet.
- It has been 5 weeks since Mattie received mail from home.
- I think Hattie is back in Ohio- Mattie tells Clara to tell Hattie her "old cat" keeps her company around the clock
- Mattie writes a long anecdote about the cat: Dr. Kerr said he was scared of the cat, but Mattie said 'What a man afraid of a cat', so Dr. Kerr went back in to check Mattie's pulse. However, when we did that, the cat flew at him and wouldn't let Dr. Kerr touch Mattie. Mattie thought this was very funny, and laughed until she cried.
- Mattie writes another anecdote about how she was holding an infant but the cat became jealous and Mattie had to put the baby down in order to give the cat some attention.
- Mr. Nevin went to Hong Kong and has another case of vertigo.
- There was a school prayer meeting yesterday: it was held in Mattie's room, and marked the first time Mattie saw them in 3 months.
- Mattie goes on a tangent about heaven, the sky, clouds, the sunrise and all its' beauty.
- Today, Avon will be getting married. Mattie pities her- she has no arm. Mattie asks Clara to tell Hattie Avon will be living by Na Mung Ki [?], which is good news because they will be able to still keep in touch.

- Atinnng [?] was here recently: “poor child she is seeing rather hard times but we hope she will come back into the fold bye and bye”.
- Ayan and Aqvey [?] want to go home for New Year’s, but Mattie writes she doesn’t know “what provision hey expect to make for us during their absence”.
- Ayan has grown a lot over the past 3 years, and Mattie says his parents will barely be able to recognize him.

1877 January 1

From: Martha

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Martha spent New Year’s at Mr. Prestons’s in [Knk?] Fan and only returned this morning (New Year’s Day); it seems that she went to hear Mr. [Whitehead?] preach on Sabbath before he left for home. She then elaborates on his sermon., and how amazing it was.
- After returning home, she had breakfast with Lucy, picked up her washing, and has spent the rest of her day in the parlor receiving calls.
- This evening, Dr. Happer and John (Dr. Kerr) went to the monthly concert; Mrs. Happer spent the evening with Martha.
- Lucy wasn’t feeling well so they had a prayer meeting of their own inside.
- Last night, on New Year’s Eve, Martha wanted to stay up and ring in the new year, but became tired and thought “Well I have nothing to do- no resolutions to make- if God spares my life I shall be very glad to work longer- if he takes me I have no further preparation to make when he calls I will have grace given to go willingly I trust joyfully”. And with this thought she “turned over and fell asleep.”
- Martha says the weather is wonderful, and wishes she could know how her family spent the day, wishing them a happy new year.
- Martha writes she is eager for a possible new semi-monthly mail system, for it has been a long time without one.
- Two Methodist brethren arrived in Fat Sham two weeks ago, but are expected to move in next to Martha today.
- An old teacher of Henry’s, [Seung?], is hoping to work for one of these new men, but Dr. Happer is sure he won’t be offered the job “because he does not talk plain.”
- Their Sabbath evening meetings will go back to taking place at Henry’s, for the Carrow’s don’t want them at their home any more. She writes about some logistics and details regarding these meetings.
- Mrs. Preston let Martha know her guest room is always available for her should she want it.
- Martha wishes her family well with a heartfelt note to close her letter.

1877 April 21

From: Mattie

To: Hattie

Location: Hong Kong

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Mentions of Wooster; Missionary Politics; Medicine & Health;

Locations other than Canton

- Mattie begins the letter by chastising her sister for staying in bed and writing letters until “2 o’clock.” Mattie assures her she would never do such a thing.

- Mattie is glad that the family could all be in Wooster together and they could take photos on Hattie's birthday.
- Mattie thinks that she will be able to welcome all of the family home, except for Frank and Gilbert, next time she comes home. She was thinking about her family and when they can "put on our attire" and be "Washed white in the blood of the Lord when this weary sin stained nature is laid safely away."
- Mattie wishes that Henry or Father would write on some passages of the Bible that involve being washed clean by the Lord.
- Mattie is sad to hear that Mr. Furgesson has died, the letters that he had written Mattie were always welcome. She remembers him as he was in Wooster last time she was there. She feels bad for Ms. Stoddard, who is alone now that he has died.
- Hattie Myers has left India, Mattie is sad that the mission in India is not doing well, but knows that God has a plan for them.
- Mattie is glad that Hattie has heard from Mattie Orr and Jennie Blocher, because Mattie writes them, but does not hear from them, she thinks that Mollie Bowers has given up writing her entirely.
- Mattie is only now thinking about what she would like brought back from home for her and she thinks that a black dress would be good. She does not want to have to send out to have her dresses made in Hong Kong because it would be very expensive.
- Mattie is ill and went to Dr. O'Brien to see if he knows what is wrong with her, she hopes he will figure out the problem. Mattie feels that he will prolong her life, but he cannot stop her from dying.
- Hattie returns to Canton in 223 days, which Mattie thinks feels longer for her than it does Hattie.

1879 June 7

From: Mattie

To: "My dear precious sister" [Sarah]

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Writes because of her sister's June 2 birthday
- Mentions a female student whose mother will "turn her out of doors if she believes in 'this doctrine'"
- However, Mattie goes on to say "is it not a blessing they cannot help her believing although they do forbid her confessing Christ"
- A mother of another female student "came back and took her home saying she would bring her back in a day or two but but she never returned and we feel sure she is to be kept at home lest she become a Christian"
- Hopes to end the school term in mid-July, for "Chefoo" (possible reference to the Chefoo School, a Christian boarding school also run by missionaries) also closes then
- Mentions a man coming to Canton who is "a single gentleman" and Mattie assumes they will not be housing him due to that fact

1879 August 23

From: Mattie

To: Em

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- After packing a trunk with sweaters, Mattie got the locksmith to get a new lock and key for it, and Mattie is currently waiting for a steamer to come and get it
- Mattie's sewing woman is "expanding her energies with a new gauze dress"
- Mattie received a \$50 check from "my ladies" with the idea that she "get away for a change" and is planning a trip
- It has rained and poured ever since Mattie got there
- Saw Mr. and Mrs. Gould, and mourned the loss of their four year old to typhoid fever
- Aunt Fay has "failed every much since I left," and Mattie fears she will not see her again
- Mr. and Mrs. Friend are also there, and Mrs. Friend has lost sight in one of her eyes and likely the other one
- Mattie had a "rough and unsafe passage," and is thankful she got there safely
- Calls a Mrs. Ashmore an "Angel in the Household"

1879 December 20

From: Martha

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Much of her time is spent entertaining company that stays with her, "It is 9 weeks since I came home and we have not been a day without company"
- Mentions a "Chinaman" that visited and wanted to spend time in the school with his niece to see if she wanted to enroll, but Mattie writes "Well a Chinaman would make a commotion among the girls. No such being ever entered those doors"
- Mattie mentions her response, "funny individual you must be to think you can put your bald head into our dominion"
- The man had been in San Francisco for 5 years, "which accounted for his wild notions"
- The weather is very fine and "no need for fires yet"

1881 March 21

From: Martha

To: My dear Clara and Mary

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics

- Mattie decides that she is going to economize on paper by writing to them in one letter. Her writing is slowed because she keeps getting distracted by Asam. While she is not Christian, she does save Hattie and Mattie a lot of time and they wish she would convert to Christianity.
- One of the women, Yari, who looks like Mother (Lois), is ill and it does not look good.
- Two medical women are working on their practices, "the other day a mandarin's wife sent for Dr. Kerr but when he went - found her suffering from something that required a rather trying operation to relieve." The women doctors were needed because the woman refused his care, the women stepped in to treat her. Mattie is excited to have women practicing medicine.
- They have decided to have pupils bring \$1.00 every month to school, which has worked well, except for those people that claim that the pupils have to actually bring \$1.48(?) per month.
- Mattie switches gears and discusses her new nephew, though she has only seen him twice since his birth. Mattie hopes to see him before she leaves Canton. It has been hard to see their nephew, she has been traveling. He doesn't look much like a Noyes but he is a good looking baby.

- Mattie is excited to go riding next summer, but she cannot imagine the cold weather any longer. Just reading about the cold weather makes her shiver. Mattie hopes there will be enough room for five girls in the home on the hill this summer. The steamer that will take Mattie home leaves from San Francisco in two weeks.

1884 October 18

From: Mattie

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- Mattie is lacking sufficient paper, but she still wants to write. She is writing at her desk, noting that it is in the north-west corner of the room, with the windows open. It is colder outside than it is normally, which is accompanied by rain.
- Soon they are leaving for Konging (Potentially Dongying, located further north than Guangzhou).
- The ‘women’ have been promoted but Mrs. Swan says that they make too much noise during the night.
- Mattie describes the school rooms of the “Hospital School”, which are messy and lack proper necessities and qualified teachers, even though the children there are very bright. Mattie tells about her experiences with the children, such as their interest in photographs.
- Dr. Miles has just come back from a two week trip. Dr. and Mrs. Swan are leaving for a month soon.
- Mattie complains about her hectic schedule and wishes for a “lodge in some vast wilderness” (a reference to a poem by William Cowper), although she also acknowledges that she will be able to rest “bye and bye.” She was so busy the day before (especially with “singing with the boys”), she had to look over her accounts instead of writing letters home like she wanted. She must stop for dinner soon, but reminds her family that God will provide for her despite her busy life.

1887 June 9

From: Mattie

To: Hattie

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel

- Mattie thinks that Hattie must be thinking about them on this date because it is the year anniversary of their vacation going to Kuk-Yan. Mattie reflects on how much has changed for them in a year. Mattie details the different seasons, including the difficult winter, there have been many issues with illness, including typhoid fever.
- She reflects on the death of their mother and only finding out through Mrs. Graves, and then having to wait weeks to find out any news. She details the emotional time that she had between finding out her mother was ill and her passing away.
- She comments that her body is tired, but now that it is summer, there are few expectations of vigorous activity.
- Mattie learned through the letters they received yesterday from May 6th that father is improving and that the doctor feels he will continue as the season wears on. She knows that Cousin Maria and Olivia will stop by over the summer, Olivia will soon be going to Philadelphia.
- The letter breaks off, switching gears from Josie and his wife who wrote to Mrs. Henry’s dinner being brought to her.

- Mattie knows that the letter will get there after they have left, but she wishes the children well and is glad that they visited the house.

1887 June 28

From: Martha

To: Father

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Building & Development; Missionary Politics

- Writes only a few minutes before the mail is going to leave
- Hopes that her father could attend Edward's ordination
- Martha's pastor has been called to Lin Chan but the church refuses to let him go so, "I suppose it will become a matter for the Presbytery to settle"
- The last mail brought a letter of foolscap pages (a British measurement of paper) "or at least something equal to it" Dr. Happer about the construction of a college in Canton
- If the college is to be built, the professors' salary would not exceed the missionaries', and for the missionaries and faculty to be specifically separate from one another
- Henry is trying to get ground for a new school building for his boys
- Thinks of her father as "almost 80," for her father's birthday is the following day

1887 October 10

From: Martha

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; Chinese Politics; Locations other than Canton

- Mattie is sitting at home with Dr. Kerr, who is writing a letter to little Hattie.
- Mattie and Dr. Kerr are joined by a Chinese man named Yamsz (?), who was the owner of a home in Kwai Ping that burned down eight months ago. The mission had originally insured the house in case anything happened to it, but apparently is now unwilling to do anything. The owner has been following Mr. Fulton and Dr. Kerr around to demand his money, with the help of his "veritable scamp" of a son. He presented to them a written statement signed by the two men promising to pay the owner for any damages to his property. The owner did not have the original copy of this statement, which is in Kwai Ping, and Dr. Kerr insisted that he did not recognize the document and would need to see the original. After trying to arrange the movement of the document, it was eventually concluded that it was in fact a forgery. The mission would like the homeowner to appear before the consul to acknowledge that the document is a forgery, before the matter can go any further. However, he is reluctant to do so because of his previous interactions with the consul: the homeowner was so persistent, the consul threatened to send him to the viceroy who will "bamboo" him. According to Mattie, the owner has been paid some amount of money already, and even though the house was worth about \$500 originally, the home owner still wants \$4,000 more. At this point, Mattie does not think he will get anything.
- Mr. Wisner and his sister are visiting Henry at his home. Mr. Henry's family has returned. Helen is not doing well and may be contained to her crutches. Rheumatism and fever still trouble Mrs. Graves after several weeks and she has consequently been up at the Consulate. Mr. Seymour has left for Japan where he will meet his family and proceed to China.
- Mattie describes how a young preacher was meant to give a sermon last Sunday but was unprepared to do so because he thought it would be Mr. Henry's turn again.
- The letter seems to cut off here, as Mattie recommences with talking of Em and Hattie. She hopes they will have a nice time in the East, and also has confidence in Clara and Mary being able to

take care of the home while the other two are gone. They will have an easier time with much of the family gone.

- Mattie wishes she could answer every letter that she gets, but instead writes this letter in answer to everyone.

1887 October 30

From: Mattie

To: Edward

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mattie was thankful for Edward's letter, especially as it carried news from home. Their father has begun attending the church where Edward is an Elder. Edward also likes the minister who is serving there; ill health seems to be confining him to the church at which he serves.
- Mr. Bar, an "able" man living in Jackson, made a quick, and much appreciated, reply to Mattie's letter. Mattie has also received news that Charles Elliot might not be able to return to Wooster because he does not have enough money. Mattie intimates that this might be because of his father, Calvin Elliot.
- Mattie is enjoying her Sunday morning, as the two doctors make their rounds; even though she does lament the poor coffee habitually made by the servants. She hopes her presence in the kitchen might help matters.
- Mattie reminisces about her time at home on previous Sabbaths, leading her to remember her recently passed Mother. She is quite disappointed that Sarah will not remain at home this year. Mattie finds it difficult to understand Sarah's actions, but notes that at least Henry will be home in the "centennial year."
- After having a recent visit from Henry, Mattie also takes a moment to highlight how everyone loves him, and especially his preaching. With all of her family's accomplishments, Mattie overall believes that she belongs to "a pretty good family."

1888 January 23

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- The old watchman has died after being "attacked with atrophy," and was found unconscious and taken to the hospital, where he later died
- "His eyes were closed and his breathing so labored, the rattle in his throat of which you wrote in Mother's case was present but to him all earthly things had passed away. I felt as if I knew exactly how it was when you stood by our dear little Mother during her last hours"
- Mentions a strange event in the recent past before the watchman's death that he had misplaced an item and then forgotten it, "The disease was upon him then..."
- Writes of heaven at length, "I looked at his old worn garments and thought what a change it would be when he should be clothed in the robes of the redeemed"

[1888?]

From: Mattie

To: My dear sister [Emily, based on content of letter]

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;  
Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is Em's 42nd birthday, and Mattie recalls when Em was born, for she was six years old, and remembers saying "...Mother woke up and found you on her arm and somehow or other the angels had put you there"
- Writes that she had a "rush of feeling" when she thought about what it would be like to return home and be reminded that Mother was not there, for she has passed away
- Recounts a vivid dream that she saw Mother in person, who told her in the dream that she "seemed changed" since she got married, and was troubled by this
- Mattie writes, "Her death has shown me more vividly than I ever realized how much we really do love one another and how precious we are to each other"
- Writes that the disease Mother had was the same as a few cases in Mattie's hospital
- Laments that she is far away from home and cannot discuss Mother's death, "I love to think how you can all sit down...and have time to talk it over. But when we get to heaven we shall have time"
- "I have thought we might be able to pay our expenses perhaps but the experience of the past 2 years points to the fact or rather probability that this will not be possible...this is strictly a family secret"
- Only the Noyes family "and our two selves" know, "Indeed I have never said a word to the Dr. about it"
- Is wearing a "blue and white calico moon and star dress" for as long as she can to save washing, "It is such a job to keep things in order for the washerman makes sad havoc of everything"
- Has hired a man to do the sewing and mending on the sewing machine, "Mrs. Henry got him from Hong Kong," and "...gets him at 28 cents a day," and he sews "until sometimes late with only a few moment's rest at noon"
- An average salary among "all the salaries in the compound" is \$6.00, and will pay "\$12 as our share per year" to pay the man to do the sewing
- Writes she may come back home at some point, "Maybe after 2 more birthdays we may be on hand to celebrate one. But do not say anything, even to Henry for I would not want anyone to think I was planning to go home so soon after reaching China"

1889 February 28

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel

- The Dr. is in Hong Kong and has left Mattie and Dr. Wiles in charge of the house.
- The weather is abnormally cold as well, but Mattie knows that it will not last long here. She is wearing her green flannel dress that Clara gave her to keep her warm.
- They were invited to go to Hong Kong to await Hattie's arrival and stay a week. Mattie says they might go on Thursday. They will not go if Mrs. Hepburn, who is in Hong Kong now, comes and stays with them.
- With Hattie coming back Mrs. Yullin plans to take her baby and two children to the Assembly. They will be in Ashland, Mattie expects that Clara will encounter them.
- The school and hospital are now open, the school having 18 pupils, which Mattie thinks is a good number to start with.
- Miss Butler is going and had a new silk dress and bonnet being made for her trip to Hong Kong.



- Communion is next Sabbath and Mattie does not believe that anyone from the hospital wants to join in, but she thinks there may be a few from the schools that would join in the communion.

[1889?] August 12

From: Martha

To: Mary

Location: Hong Kong

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language & Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mattie opens by reminiscing about her parents and how life is short
- She and Dr. Kerr “came down” [to Hong Kong?]
- They went to the German Mission there
- She describes “the most aristocratic house” in which they are staying; it costs “400” at minimum, and hosts people from the “old and new worlds” who aren’t bothered by the price. Martha feels uncomfortable staying there due to the price and “begged” Dr. Kerr to leave, but he said they must stay until tomorrow. Dr. Kerr’s patient is covering their expenses.
- Martha continues to write about the expensive hotel, concluding that money does not buy happiness, and her house is “a thousand times nicer”
- Yesterday, they were invited for Sabbath dinner with a Hong Kong aristocrat- a friend of Dr. Kerr’s whose wife Martha knew in 1877. Martha writes she would have accepted this invitation on another day, but she could not imagine accepting on Sabbath.
- Martha writes about how amazing the Dr. is
- Olivia went to Macau last Wednesday and may have returned to Canton Friday, so Martha suspects she and Dr. Niles are “having it all to themselves”
- The last time the mail came, Martha did not receive any letters, so she hopes to receive both bundles next time.

1889 August 24

From: Mattie

To: My dear ones at home

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Dr. McCandlars has been here since last Monday and is very sick
- Olivia is sick too, which is keeping her from being able to return to Hainan in a fortnight; the Dr feels that he has to go there in 3 weeks and wants to take Olivia , but just announced that he intends to go alone, leaving McCandlars and Olivia here until December- this proposition stunned Mattie, for she does not think it is safe for Dr. Kerr to go to “this cholera district” now “and take on Dr McCandlars practice”.
- Mattie seems to not want to go, writing she will have nothing to do there since she doesn’t speak the language (Hainanese) and she wouldn’t be able to tend to her work up at home. Finally, they wouldn’t be around when Henry and family visited, and Mattie very much wanted to see him
- Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Furgeson from “Bammo Burmah” [Bhamo (city) Burma (now called Myanmar)], but left for Hong Kong at night. Their visit cut into Mattie’s letter-writing time, so she now has no letters to send home. Mrs. Furgeson, formerly Miss [Jewell?], is the daughter of Mrs. Fondas’ sister’s husband in Newark; she looks really different from the last time Mattie saw her.
- Mr. Furgeson’s station is in poor health, and so Mr. and Mrs. Furgeson are leaving the mission life, which Mattie thinks is best. They did not come to China to be missionaries, anyways- Mr.

Furgeson came to translate the bible into “the language of the Kai Chins”, who are a Burmese people

- Mr. Gilman and his family are at Dr. Swan’s. He (Gilman) is very ill with dysentery, and Dr. Kerr says he won’t be well for quite some time
- Henry and Olivia might go to Macau in the weeks to come
- The sanitarium is all booked up for months, so the Hainan people have no place except for private houses
- Mattie’s “[liper?] girl’s” fiance passed away, “and now his friends want to get rid of her and are doing so by forcing her to get married”. They are doing this by “refusing to give her enough to eat”. Mattie feels very bad about this situation, but says there is nothing she can do for her
- Mattie emphasizes how much she misses home and her family in it, which leads to a passage about the close bond her family has
- She wonder about Henry’s whereabouts, writing he will have left for San Francisco by the time this letter reaches the family
- She signs off with more loving words, and finishes by writing “much love from *both* of us” [emphasis added].

1890 February 22

From: Mattie

To: Edward

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mattie has been “giving employment” to a woman for the past week; the woman studied in the school and it is because of her Christianity that she is finding it difficult to find a job. This woman is currently taking over the role of teaching students in the hospital school (since the actual teacher is not working currently due to an accident), and Mattie hopes she can work there one day.
- Dr. Fulton sent a note last night about an article Dr. Miles sent “from the country for the Medical Journal”. This article was written quickly and so she wanted both doctors to edit it. The editing was extensive.
- A woman came by last night with a boy (named Apo) she wanted Mattie to take to the hospital school. Since they don’t accept “boarders”, they took a boat to Henry’s, who said he could go to school there. Then, they went to Kam Li Fau [where the Mission Hospital is]. Mattie writes about the boy’s positive experience traveling by boat, something he had never done before. She seems fond of him.
- The above leads into Mattie musing about previous students.
- Mattie writes about a number of students who have converted to Christianity.
- The letter cuts off mid-sentence and continues on the next page with a sentence about going to Shanghai.
- “The Dr.” is sick, but starting to feel better; Mattie hopes the trip will be good for him.
- She closes the letter with a note on how she will be busy the following day because the Sabbath is a working day.

1891 February 2

From: M Kerr [Mattie]

To: Clara

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practice: American

- Lindey brought the news of the death of Aunt Sharon (?), Mattie thinks that her mother is lucky that she did not have to wait long for her siblings to join her in heaven
- Mattie marvels that Elnnia has daughters that are old enough to be married
- Mattie and Mary both miss cousin Gilbert and his family, Mary especially misses Bessie.
- The service last night was the shortest one they had had since Mattie had returned to Canton.
- Last week Morris Henry, a child, died, he fell ill two weeks prior and died this Wednesday. This father had left for the country on Monday and the funeral took place with the help of Miss Butler, Miss Pattison, and Mattie. Mattie was glad that the Henry's were able to see the people that love and support them during this time

1892 June 11

From: Mattie

To: Dear ones at Home

Location: Melville House, 1104 Market Street

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; American Politics

- Mattie has held off on sending a letter home until she has solidified her travel plans, but as of yet she still is unsure of when she will be leaving China and returning to her family home
- Mattie details the people she has been meeting up with and how they are doing
- "The Dr." is trying to raise money for his Asylum. Mattie seems to see her contribution to the cause is to get money from women [presumably donors' wives] but she has not been fruitful so far because they are gone for the summer
- "The foreigners" were here a month ago; "The Dr. called upon the Chinese Consul yesterday and there is to be a called meeting of the six companies to see what can be done." Mattie continues on for a while about how her husband is a "do-man", praising him for his hard work ethic and enthusiasm. He may have to stay "here" for at least another week, as collecting money is a time-consuming process. Because of all this, they are likely not getting home until two weeks from now.
- Mattie misses Seville dearly; she is "anxious" and "impatient" to see everyone. She writes a shorter letter than usual due to her hopefully being back soon after its arrival. However, she later mentions not receiving mail from home for a while and hopes all are well.
- They greatly enjoyed their time at Mrs. Preston's, and was happy to see they weren't poor
- Mattie goes on about how Mary is very brave for dealing with her loss so well, and how she wants to move back to Tacoma, a feasible option due to her already owning a sizable amount of property there
- Walter is a "fine businessman"- him and Mrs. P own a farm, and he owns their house, which is next to a "building lot" wherein there are members of the church, most of whom do religious work.
- Mattie concludes by writing a quick word on Harrison's nomination to the presidency; she doesn't seem happy that he signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, and writes that he has "no chance to be President".

1901 December 25

From: Unknown [potentially Martha?]

To: Mary

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster; Locations other than Canton; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is Christmas, they have decorated the house with a small Christmas tree that Amanda Wallich had sent up and Hattie placed popcorn on the tree as well as placing festooned tissue paper.
- The food they ate was partially leftovers from the previous day; chicken pie, canned fruit pie, coffee, and potatoes.
- W.M and R.V came up for the holiday and they had a very late breakfast with Edward. They talked of W.M's trip to Auburn and R.V's to Wooster RV now thinks that he might go to Cornell for two years
- At half past 2 they celebrated Christmas in the parlor with the food, gifts and the decorated tree. Hattie received many beautiful things, and the author received an inkstand and a dish mop.

1903 February 28

From: Mattie

To: Dear ones at home

Location: S.S. China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- It is the Sabbath and the last day in February
- Has been reading "Up From Slavery: The Life of Booker T. Washington," and calls it "such a wonderful story"
- Mentions a sermon by a Reverend [unknown] D. Parsons on "the waiting dead," and speaks of "ordinal sin" and death as a Christian
- "It seems as though Edward will be deeply interested in the work in the church which he cared so much for while he was living"
- Mentions a story called "The Other Wise Man" (written by Henry Van Dyke in 1895, a story that follows the story of the Three Wise Men from the Bible)
- The waves are very rough, and Mattie hopes to get to Japan the day after tomorrow, leaving many passengers in Yokohama
- The Canton Mission has largely changed, and Mattie writes, "I can hardly wish for anyone such a fate as to be connected with the Canton Mission as it now is. Perhaps there may be some improvement"
- Had a dream with Martha, Edward and Frank, and writes "well sometime we shall all be together again"

[?] February 17 & 19

From: Martha Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Hong Kong

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Martha writes about the dampness (it is one month into the rainy season) and that she is doing very well.
- They were hoping to go on board the Peking but didn't due to inclement weather.
- Martha really wants to see Miss Anderson--a missionary visiting Canton from her post in India--before she returns to the USA, but she will only be passing through Hong Kong.
- It seems that Hattie and Henry are in the US, as Mattie says they offered to meet her in San Francisco if she comes home.
- Martha weighs the option of going home, but feels there is more she can accomplish in Canon first.
- Date change--now February 19.

- She received letters from home, dated from early January.
- Martha reminisces about 3 years ago when Henry and Hattie first welcomed her to China, and how it seems like such a short while ago.
- She is happy her brother and sister are at home and can spend time with their mother.
- She returns to considering leaving for the US, but once again feels she should do as much work as possible before leaving.
- While talking about working in China versus leaving for the US, Mattie keeps bringing up her strength and how she feels she needs to get as much work in as possible while she still has time.

[?] February 18

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: [Canton?]

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mattie got their January 4th letter
- Medus [?] are anxious about them all. But Mattie emphasises they always want to be told the truth in letters, no matter the news. She hopes to have the next batch of mail in 3-4 days and is hoping to hear “better news”
- Mattie has a cold that won’t go away
- By the time this letter arrives, Hattie should be expected in a month’s time (end of April). Hattie’s last letter (received yesterday) was from Macao and indicate she’s doing better. Mattie says she doesn’t like that Hattie had to leave her, but it was necessary. Nobody there “knows of her plans” (to go home I think, maybe that she went home because of illness) but Mattie thinks this is for the best. “Her being under your brothers care saves a great deal being said”.
- There is something wrong with Hattie’s nervous system, among other things; Dr. Kerr thinks her kidneys are okay. She needs lots of rest.
- Miss Butter is ready (not sure for what- possibly traveling to the U.S.); Mattie guesses that the next time they come up from Macao, they will stay here until leaving for the U.S.A.
- Mattie hopes Clara will get to see Dr. Miles before she returns. She also thinks Miles will bring with her another female doctor, and will ask the mission “to send for one”
- Mattie notes how today is outpatient day, but no women have come on account of the cold; she says lots of women come as the weather warms up, because “the hotter it is the more sickness and more work for the Drs.”
- Mattie thinks it was a big mistake not to tell “Dear little Ladie M/Caughey [?]” the “situation” and “help her to look forward to the Change that is so surely coming”. Mattie writes that it’s hard that Emma can’t be with her (the lady).
- Mattie concludes by writing for them to tell Sadie she has been praying for her, if she’s still alive
- She closes with the following: “I have felt Aunt Mason's death so much.”

[?] March 21

From: Martha Noyes

To: Emily Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Mentions of Wooster; Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Lucy and Martha have instituted that once a week they eat American style food.
- Henry has been in the country since the previous Sunday (currently Saturday evening at the time of this letter being written).

- Miss Shaw had not been able to do missionary work for a few weeks due to a fever and ‘female complaint.’ Lilly is also feeling run down by the missionary work and is trying to take the summer off; if both women were to leave for the summer it would set back their work quite a bit.
- Emily is graduating soon and Mattie wishes to know the exact date so her siblings may think of her on that day.
- Mrs. Leyenberger should be present at the commencement as she will be on her way home from Hong Kong.
- Hattie has been ill with a toothache for a couple of days.
- Their cousin Horace and his wife have sent them a letter saying that their cousin Ellen’s future husband is in the navy and is stationed in China and wishes to visit Canton. Mattie worries about the health of Aunt Jay, who recently moved east and might not live for very much longer.
- Mattie also received a letter from Mrs. Hamsher about marriages and does not want Em to be mad at her for inquiring.
- Last week another missionary from Ohio buried a 9 week-old baby; many of the children that are born here do not live to be very old.

[?] April 2

From: [Mattie]

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Missionary Politics; Building & Development

- Mattie is writing from the upper verandah of her house, looking out onto the street below which borders the Canal. She has finished with her study hours and having company over, so she proceeds to describe the scene in front of her at five in the afternoon.
- Of the many people who pass by the house, Mattie tries to record several that stand out. There is a barefooted man with a basket of flowers to sell to a crowd around him. Mattie interprets their activity as “the way they gabble is a warning.” Next, Mattie observes a slow-moving man with an umbrella, who carries it over his shoulder like a soldier. This prompts Mattie to wish she could “shake a little energy into these people.” Two men follow carrying two baskets on bamboo poles. Mattie feels sympathy for their burden. Mattie then describes a large, well-dressed man (“long blue gown and white stockings”) who Mattie believes to consequently belong to one of the respectable clans.
- Dr. Happer knocks at the door, but Mattie avoids him by hiding behind the shutter.
- Mattie then sees a wedding chair pass by, followed by the wedding presents.
- Hattie arrives at home, but must wait for the boy in charge of answering the bell on the gate to open it for her. There is a bell at the gate, instead of the door, so that no one can enter the premises without permission.
- Hattie has been visiting two women who want to join the Church, but Hattie thinks they need more instruction first.
- Mattie then describes a man in the road wearing his hair in a cue wrapped around his head and carrying a large hat. A group of people are standing out in the road, laughing at Mattie, who thinks she is “not too good to be looked at.” Mattie then spies a woman with a baby on her back. Mattie believes that the woman would probably enjoy resting for a moment in the house, but does not feel moved to invite her in. A Chinese man has just set down his burden for a rest. As he is without a shirt, Mattie notes that his back is covered in large calluses.
- Dr. Kerr sees Mattie and calls up to her to ask for money (50 cash), so he can buy passage on a boat home. When Mattie invites him to go see the boats with them after tea, Dr. Kerr declines.

- Mattie relates the state of a group of children lingering in front of their house. As they spend their time cracking nuts together, Mattie remarks on their ragged clothing that has been patched many times, regardless of matching colors. There is also a young boy bringing water for the house; he walks about nine miles for about seven cents per week.
- Finally, Mattie describes how there is an attentive audience (about 25 people) standing outside her window.
- The letter is not signed.

[?] April 23

From: Mattie

To: Mary

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Building & Development;

Locations other than Canton; American Politics

- Mattie is missing home. She writes “If we really get home in 1891 it will not be so very long but we must none of us set our hearts upon it”
- Mattie is “very anxious” to get the hospital school all settled
- I think the old hospital school was demolished (maybe this was the fire?), because Mattie then writes she was “out to see the old building coming down”
- Mattie comments on the male construction workers, writing “there is a sort of fascination always in watching men at work on houses”, and that she would spend a lot of time watching them if there wasn’t a building between them
- Mattie goes on a tangent about heaven
- Mattie then writes that Hattie says Sarah is next to go to heaven and as such “at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of it can be considered”, and that she is very sorry they could not purchase the other share. (This section is within her long-winded tangent about heaven, and I’m not sure what it is referring to)
- In a past letter, they wrote to Mattie about the new president: Mattie is pleased the POTUS & FLOTUS are both Christians, but isn’t a fan of the Secretary of State
- Continuing to write on politics, Mattie says they anxiously await news on what stand will be taken towards China. She thinks if something isn’t done soon, the Chinese will take action.
- The new railroad in Trien Sin [?] had an accident already, caused by a drunk engineer- Mattie makes sure to mention he was foreign. Many were killed.
- Mattie and Hattie went to visit a former student who is on her deathbed. She taught for the mission for 11 years. She has been Christian for many years, but recently, people are doubting if she is “a true follower of Jesus” Hattie is not aware of this, and Mattie won’t tell her because the girl in question is too close to death to do anything. The woman’s mother was “worldly”- “thought a church member”, Mattie adds. Her husband was very abusive. To this, Mattie writes “Oh the cruelty of heathenism”.
- Mattie thinks God will take control of China at some point, but not within their lifetimes.
- Mattie is very happy to hear from her family about the Monument and hopes to have the chance to see it
- Mattie concludes with a passage about how only the family home and her grave have the power to bring her to America; if it were not for her family in the States, she “would feel ready to live and die in China.”

[?] May 29

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health

- Mattie has just received word of Father's "sudden" death through a telegram from Edward
- Is grateful that her family was surrounding him when he died, and is glad her family writes such vivid descriptions of his last hours
- He had been "so well and enjoyed life" the last year before his death
- "Oh if I could only see that dear precious face once more. No one...can have any idea what a father we had. No one can know how unlike he was to anyone else"
- Says she has no time to grieve, and writes "Oh it sometimes seems as though my life would go out almost in this agony of feeling"
- Reads the letters from her family and prays with Dr. Kerr

[?] July 30

From: Mattie

To: Mary

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese

- It rained all month long.
- Mattie has been spending time with Olivia and her baby, both of whom are doing well.
- Mattie details the wellbeing of several people- Dr. Swan, Mrs. S, Miss Patterson.
- Mattie has nice things to say about Missionary Miss Patterson, who is the sole representative of the 'United Brethren' Mission (in Canton).
- The eldest daughter of an elder, a 20 year old "fine scholar and a Christian" who was a teacher, died last week; her mother died of the same thing last winter. Her father took her to Dr. Henyon [?] at Fatshan Hospital, but to no avail.
- A Wesleyan doctor is coming to dinner tonight; he is usually 300 miles away, only coming down to Canton 2 times a year. The station at which he works has been around for 12 years and is in charge of single men. Mattie says this work is "prosperous" and that their Mission may follow suit in "[sending] single gentlemen out as pioneers".
- Mattie went to see a patient today, a fatally ill mentally disabled child dropped off outside their laundry all night almost a year ago. She cannot care for herself and Mattie seems bothered by her, saying "We can not mourn for her- it will be a satisfaction to know she is out of misery" and can enjoy life in heaven.
- Mattie details another boy brought to the hospital, this one in need of an operation who died after not being able to come back to a stable condition. His parents were poor people from the country, and Mattie comments on their being unable to afford a burial for their son by writing "it shows the poverty and misery of heathenism". She seems to pity their having to work tirelessly for little pay.
- Mattie reflects on how difficult a life of poverty is, writing about her teacher Ayan's being robbed of everything, her infant child dying in their hospital (the third of Ayan's children to die "since [Mattie] came back), and her husband being "unkind" to her. Mattie notes that abusive husbands exist in places outside of China, too.
- They are going to the boy's school today, and eating dinner with the Wisner's later.
- The Wisner's are going to the Kwong Sai province (in the country) for 2 weeks; Dr. Kerr has been invited but Mattie thinks he won't accept due to his being in charge at the hospital during Dr. Swan's time off (Swan is doing better after 4 weeks and should return to his job soon).
- Hattie is very sick with a cold.



- Richard is very sick; Mattie thinks they have the best house in the Mission, and that the school building looks great, too. It should “be ready to be occupied when the Autumn term opens.”
- The Hoppers are doing better. It’s been a while since Mattie has seen them.
- The wife of Mr. Cunningham’s replacement, a Bostonian living in Shamin, is returning home today. Her and her child have been sick for the 18 months they’ve been here.
- Mattie is worried about her family at home in Ohio, telling them not to continue overworking themselves.
- Mattie wants Clara to be informed of a new method of doing laundry she has discovered, which includes a soap and kerosene mixture. She details the process.
- They are going home in about 18 months.

[?] September 3

From: Martha Noyes

To: Lois Noyes

Location: Amoy (Currently known as Xiamen)

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton; Medicine & Health

- Mattie feels more homesick in Amoy than in Canton because the mail does not go out until Wednesday instead of Saturday.
- Mattie has lost many correspondents because of the mail. She is waiting for the next steamer which is the Pacific Mail Line
- She is happy to be in Amoy (Xiamen) and spent the last two weeks of her journey in Hong Kong with Bishop Burdon(?)’s family, and Mrs. Eolge’s on Monday, where she left on the steamer for Amoy at 1 P.M. on Tuesday. On the steamer, Mattie met the only European traveler on the steamer, and he worked in the customs at Canton.
- Mattie and the Captain enjoyed the dimension deck, and the next morning the other European traveler had sea sickness, which Mattie also had a little bit of, but she got over it once she finished dressing.
- The next day they reached Swatow (presently Shantou). On Wednesday morning, Dr. Sauld of the English Presbyterian missionary took Mattie to his home and stayed there overnight. His family, especially his daughter Emily, won over Mattie. She attended a missionary meeting and met many missionaries. The following day she visited the boarding school, but it was vacation so no students were present.
- Mattie would like to see the school with students in it, so she considers returning on her way back from Swatow, which was very pretty also.
- Martha switches to writing to her mother, noting that she hopes she feels better, and she will continue to write about her trip for them.
- To Em she wants to note that the letter that she sent Mattie was very sweet and requests that the enclosed letter be sent to Miss Ann E. Coe in Bloomfield, NJ.

[?] October 2

From: Mattie

To: Hattie

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Mattie begins her letter with a lengthy description of her dental problems: Dr [?] said the nerve in her afflicted tooth was too sensitive for him to fill the cavity, so he gave her medicine instead. She will see him again Friday morning. Mattie then continues along this vein by discussing options for materials to use in the filling of her cavity.

- Mattie then tells Hattie about Dr . Kerr’s plans to “go up tomorrow morn and come down here again Friday morn. Or at latest Friday night. Whether he stays here over Sabbath or not depends upon how his patient is.”
- They are not going to Macau “before Sat. afternoon”, and Mattie writes that Hattie will be in Canton before she arrives there. She is very upset by this, but has come to terms with it. She concludes this section by writing “but dear sister Hattie I am disappointed and that is not wrong”.
- Mattie writes that Ashing has to go up with Hattie if she goes on Saturday and help Arin [?]. Then, “Atsan stay in Macau until we come”.
- Mattie continues about Hattie’s travels: she is very upset about the thought of Hattie traveling by herself, and insists that Atsan buys her lunch.
- Mattie asks Hattie to come down and visit her for a day or two, writing that Dr.Kerr would love it, too. Mattie will even pay for the trip.
- Dr. Kerr told Mattie several times how he was sorry he didn’t bring Hattie back with him. Though Mattie thinks Hattie may prefer going to Macau. Mattie wouldn’t have been “here” (along with Miss Butter and Miss Lewis) if she knew she could have “had” Hattie until Saturday.
- Overall, Mattie is very pleased with her trip.
- Mattie writes her good wishes and farewell, commenting on how she and Hattie should be happy with the time they were able to spend together, and how Dr. Kerr is such an amazing man and husband: “do not know how God ever gave him to me”.

[?] October 27

From: Mattie

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: San Francisco, USA

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mattie received the letter from her family and was surprised how much her family misses her. Sue also received their letters and the two of them cried over how lovely they were.
- Mattie talks about how scared she was to leave home, but that she knew it was her duty and that she was following God’s plan for her in leaving. She also discusses how she knows that women are supposed to be in the home normally but she was called by God to do this.
- Mattie talks about saying goodbye to her siblings and the difficulty of doing so. Her last look at home was seeing her parents waving goodbye at the gate of their house, she thinks that this was the best possible view to see as she leaves.
- Dr. Loomis met them at the platform in Oakland and led them to their hotel. John Stibbs also took them to his house where Mattie and Miss Crouch, Dr. Hepburn also attended to them until they arrived at the steamer and loaded their luggage.
- Mattie plans to attend a ladies prayer group and dinner with Mrs. Conudul at 5.
- Mattie thanks her family again for writing her and plans to send them a journal of her overland trip to San Francisco soon.

[?] November 5

From: Mattie

To: My dear brother & Sister

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Mattie seems down, opening with passages about how she puts a lot of love into her letters even if they seem otherwise like empty “scrawls” unworthy of being answered, and that her busy life “scarcely seems like living sometimes”

- Mrs. Con, a “minister’s widow Pres.” who stayed at Hattie’s with a son at Princeton College, died. She couldn’t stay with Mattie because she was already hosting two guests. Con’s trip was paid for by Russell Sage’s wife of NYC, a woman “unlimited in regard to” finances. Con is here to visit Missions.
- Dr. Peck [?] of the American Board visited from North China a little while back
- Mr. Plumb [?], his family, and Miss Jewell were expected, but will not be coming because he has canceled the trip
- Mr. and Mrs. Throing [?] will be visiting next week
- Mattie’s cook has had an abcess on her hand for the past week; the table boy has tried to take on her work. Mattie hired another boy to help, but he fell ill within 2 days and went to the hospital. Mattie is bothered by the lack of help and had to stop hosting “6 guests at a time”. It has been close to a month with this boy working in the kitchen, and it seems things will stay this way for a while longer
- “The two Drs” are going to Fat Shan tomorrow; Bella invited them for tea there but since the Drs will be away, only Mattie and Dr. Miles would be available to go
- Miss Johnstone is having a clothing sale, for which the proceeds go to her girls boarding school in Hong Kong
- Her nephews visited yesterday; “the plan is for them to move over to Fatu living in the school temporarily”
- The following page cuts to the middle of an unrelated sentence
- Mattie closes her letter by asking her family for much needed prayers toward herself
- Dr. McC will be visiting in 3 weeks’ time

Thanksgiving Day, November 24 & 30

From: Martha

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel; Missionary Politics

- It is Thanksgiving and the Dr. had gone to the hospital, Dr. Niles(?) has to attend to a sick baby and Henry was in Tia and is now on his way back home
- They had dinner with Ms. Lewis, Ms. Butler, and Sophie. Sophie is bringing a lot of good to the house she lives in, and has already started working at the school.
- Henry spoke at a chapel meeting as well as Kruem Foi and Ysui Sunshang(?), Sophie played an instrument for the meeting
- Their mother is having “her first thanksgiving in Heaven”
- DATE CHANGE (Nov. 30) -The mail is going out soon and Mattie cannot not send something she is sorry that she cannot send a letter to “Brother”

[?] July

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: [Canton?]

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Missionary Politics

- Mattie is glad to hear about her brother, Edward’s, appointment to serve the church. She remarks about how the whole family, “on both sides of the world,” serves God.

- Dr. Kerr was quite sick over the weekend, to the extent that Mattie was afraid that God would take him. She describes the steps she had to take to help him heal (including a bath). Dr. Kerr was even afraid.
- The letter includes an addition made on July 8 before Hattie could send her letter, wishing the family well.

[?] Sabbath 22

From: Martha

To: Unknown

Location: Yokohamma (Yokohama)

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton

- They are nearing Yokohamma, Japan, but will not make it close enough to land until 10PM. Mattie is unsure how long they will be docked, but she is excited to see the city and possibly go to Yakio (Yahiko).
- Mattie looks back on the weeks that she was last home and misses Clara and Em's cooking.
- This is the beginning of a journal Mattie describes as, "this poor scratcher of a journal" and does not want to send it home. Mattie would like the journal to also be sent to Sarah after the rest of the family has read it so that she can share this with her as well.

Monday Eve

From: Mattie

To: Hattie

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton

- Hattie is feeling better, but the Dr is still in the midst of a cold due to cold weather
- Mattie writes about a cloth Hattie asked about, saying she asked Ayan about it. Ayan didn't think it was for her grandmother, and so Mattie ended up finding its true owner and returned it.
- Mattie said she included a note and silver dollar with this letter so Hattie could see who it is from. The note was for Dr. Kerr, and Mattie will give the money to Miss Lewis.
- Dr. Thomson left for the country today
- The Dr. is very busy; Mattie does not know when he will have a chance to "get away".
- Mr. Wells [whom I presume to be recovering from an illness] attended church yesterday. "It seemed almost like receiving him back from the dead"; he is thin and weak.
- Dr. Malis [?] is in Hong Kong
- "Kwan Loi has returned, has a very bad cold". It is Communion week, so he will be busy with extra services. The Swans want him to baptize their baby.
- "The Rheumatism girl" is back at the boarding school; Mattie feels bad that the hospital can't take her.
- A group of tourists, Chicagoans, were here yesterday. Professor Butter attended that one in the north. Another group expected tomorrow, from Cook.
- There was a conference in which the Shamin party became very lost, wandering out into the rice fields. Rupert tried to be a guide, but ended up calling into the canal twice. Willie helped Rupert out by providing some clean clothes. Tea and cakes were provided. While going over in the boat, they read Miss Butter's letter "for entertainment", which was actually written for Mrs. Simson [?].

[n.d.]

To: My darling sister Sarah

From: Mattie

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health

- The mail took an extra two weeks to get to them in Canton than normal. Mattie feels like they are starving for information because of the lack of mail, though now they feel better knowing everything.
- Mattie wants to tell her sister about how caring their servants are for them. Their “boy” noticed that Hattie and Mattie were crying while reading some letters and he told the cook, whose wife came upstairs to check on Hattie, Lucy and Mattie. This act of kindness struck Mattie because it shows how much the servants care about Mattie and her family.
- Mattie is going to a lecture the next day about a Mr. Amye that had once made a fortune in the tea trade, but now it is unknown how he survives. The loss of his money and the ways that he now lives make Mattie very upset and sad.
- Mattie is surprised that Dr. Smith has died, she remembers him fondly and will miss his pleasant demeanor.

[n.d]

From: Martha

To: Clara

Location: Unknown (Canton noted in letter itself, but not explicitly stated)

Thematic Classifications: Health & Medicine; Missionary Politics

- The purpose of this letter is to respond to a question asked by Clara March 19th,
- Dr. S could withstand the very hot weather that Canton is experiencing, he referred to Canton as, “the finest climate in the world,” he said this about the weather in November.
- Their lunch included stewed peaches, Lillie joined their dinner near the end of the meal.
- Every Tuesday she has a meeting with “the bible women,” and a prayer meeting at the school.
- Mattie fell asleep and woke up to the sounds of the prayer group singing. Hattie and Lillie had Aoon run the meeting, but her spot was taken by another.
- Hattie and Mattie were invited to Mrs. Cunningham’s house along with the Hopper family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry and the Chalmers. Mattie did not go because she was already exhausted, but she called on Mrs. Piercy. The weather seems to be helping Mrs. Piercy quite a bit.
- B wrote Mattie about letters that were received when she boarded the Oregon

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: [Canton?]

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Received a book from Clara called “Our Friends in Heaven” (also called “The Mutual Recognition of the Redeemed in Glory,” published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication)
- Mattie wants photos sent of her family members, including Father, Mother, Edward, Hattie, Clara, Mary, and Em, “I feel as if I could not stand it much longer without them”
- Mentions a “young people’s social” that Clara is involved with
- “Maime” (?) has lost her eyesight, and Mattie writes “it does seem so hard for Mrs. Bates”
- “How much misery and suffering there is in the world”
- Writes that they should not mourn for the death of Freddie Beach, “for his life would have had one of trial and pain”
- Met a Mr. and Mrs. Russell, who were from Massillon, OH

- This letter was written after Mother died, for Mattie closes with “I have thought of you all so much...and our dear little Mother at rest on the hillside”

[n.d.]

From: Martha Noyes

To: Clara Noyes

Location: Unknown

Thematic classifications: Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton

- Ms. Coleman left for a week-long stay in Macao.
- After saying goodbye to Ms. Coleman Martha visited with Dr. Henry and his family; they have a daughter who is almost 2 months old. The baby is ill and they are leaving that day, though the baby is not very strong. They are organizing a “church al-Sai Yeut,” Mr. Henry and his family are trying to go to Siam Chan with other missionaries in order to help their ill children; Richard and Willie. Martha thinks the change of weather will be good for the boys and it will be good for Mr. Henry to return where he was one of the first missionaries in the area.
- One of the workers in the hospital lost his child, a very young baby. He and the mother are distraught.
- Martha witnesses the aftermath of a child dying and the way that the Chinese deal with death.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Clara

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other Than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mattie is upset to hear how hard Clara had to work and how busy she was about the concert[?], especially since it happened during corn planting. They have been working very hard and late hours, which Mattie says can't be healthy.
- The concert back home went very well
- Time change- it is now Friday morning
- Dr. Broomall from Phil[adelphia] visited early in the morning from the Shames [?]. She was one of Dr. Fulton's professors at Phil[adelphia] Womans Medical College, and came from Shanghai to see Dr. Fulton's work in the hospital. Mattie has good things to say about this woman.
- Miss Shaffner is leaving for America and will not return to China; Mattie believes her to be too “[nervous] and...[unfit] for the field”, and is happy to see her go. Dr. Kerr does not advise for her to go, but Dr. Fulton signed the Medical certificate since Kerr “ is slow about sending Missionaries home”. Both Shaffner and Broomall leave today, as does the mail.
- Yesterday, Dr. Kerr was out with female doctors, but Dr. Swan is in Macau taking sick leave. Mattie answered calls.
- “The Dr.” [Kerr?] was asked to “attend upon” the Tartar General last year; he cured him of his abscess and in turn was given \$140 to help publish medical books. Yesterday, he received another \$210. The profits from these books go to the hospital society, but Mattie assumes the General thinks Kerr keeps these profits.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Mary

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel

- Mattie writes a brief note to her sister, Mary, to express her sadness that their mother has passed away. Mattie regrets not being home, but accepts that she could not be. The funeral has already taken place.
- Mattie frames her response with Christian beliefs about death; for example, she was glad to hear that her mother was repeating hymns and scriptures when she was unconscious before dying. Mattie focuses on particular phrases from popular hymns: “safe at home” and “blessed rest.”
- Mattie is also concerned about her father’s health and waits in suspense for the next letter from home to find out how he is.
- Mary will be at home next year and will be a comfort to Clara.
- Mattie wants to write a message to each of her family members, but for now thanks them for writing to her and connecting her to her mother.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- This is a quick, short letter because the mail leaves in three hours.
- Dr. Kerr went to Hong Kong this morning and will return within a couple of days.
- The Gillman family has been staying with them for almost a week, but leave for Macau in the morning, followed by Hong Kong and then Hoi han [?].
- The Gillman’s 4 month old baby, Agnes, was baptized yesterday and the Mission was invited. Mattie is taken with the ceremony and infant. They “insisted” the baby cut her own cake, but ended up having someone help her due to her age.
- They are beginning to work on opening a hospital school; they are 3 days into the project.
- Ayan is very sick and is experiencing a lot of trouble with her “miserable theatre going relatives.”
- San Luk is going to be promoted “to this side.”
- Mattie’s “table boy” is expecting to go to Mrs. Henry’s tomorrow to be a chef, but Mattie says we must find someone else, because though she supports his being a chef, she “offered” him to Mrs. Henry because she needs the help and Mattie wants him to “go to a Christian family.”
- By the time this letter arrives, Hattie will be leaving [I think she’s visiting the USA]. Mattie is looking forward to hearing about her family from Hattie upon her return.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Emily

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel

- Emily will be traveling with Hattie, but will try to be home for Thanksgiving.
- Mattie is sorry to hear that Orion had a stroke. Cousin Mari is concerned about him and believes that when a person is over 60 years old they are at risk. This remark caused Mattie some concern as she thinks about her possible future with her husband, Dr. Kerr, who will be 63 tomorrow. Mattie hopes that he will live as long as her father, but knows that physicians tend to not live to old age.
- Mattie feels bad for her cousin, Sarah, and her children, because they might have lost their money, but she believes they can still be happy without their “filthy lucre.”

- Mattie shows concern for Emily Sturinant's husband and asks whether or not he is a Christian.
- Cousin Harriet is moving from her work in the city and will be working outside more.
- Uncle Augustus is doing well and Mattie is surprised that he is 40 years older than her.
- Mattie is surprised that Sarah is continuing as she does and thought she would give up soon.
- Mattie describes how she has been ill lately, but powering through her illness. Mattie does not take medicine, but instead "curds," which she also describes how best to prepare. She apparently lived for two weeks on this food alone. She recommends it to heal any illness.
- Mrs. Irving and her son from Brooklyn are visiting Canton. The son has studied too much and must give up reading and writing for now. He might go into work as a Bible agent.
- Mattie has been trying to sew today but has mangled what she is working.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Em

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Mattie describes how their house must be very tightly secured during the night- they even installed Typhoon bars on doors and windows. Last Sunday their home was broken into while they were at church; Miss Patterson had \$7.50 and her clock stolen. The robber was found the following day; his uncle is the Noyes watchman, and the robber's clothes were "parried [?]" by him. Because of this, Miss Patterson ended up losing only \$5 and had her clock returned.
- The robber. [Apat?], visited the house a few weeks back to visit his uncle and ended up helping out with the cooking since the cook was unable to work due to his hand injury.
- Mattie seems dismayed at the fact that while she was doing "various things for him", he was "[studying] the situation", eventually committing the crime while they were off at church.
- Mattie seems impressed by his ability to carry out the crime as a young boy, saying also the community was surprised at how quickly everything was resolved. Apat was "locked up in the hospital for the night". Mattie very much wanted him to get some Christian teaching while he was there, and is very dismayed that he did not.
- They are going to Fa Ti tomorrow to attend examinations
- Henry is doing well, and has been appointed Mission Treasurer, a position previously held by Dr. Swan
- Hattie is in Canton now; she "came up to attend the Mission meetings" [no indication of where she was before]
- Hattie is not feeling well, and Mattie cautions that she may not be writing home much because of it.
- Dr. Kerr has decided Hattie will return home in the spring (April 1st)- going any earlier would be unsafe because of the cold weather. Miss Butter will go with Hattie. Mattie estimates the family should expect her 3 months after receiving this letter. "Hattie's idea is to come back next autumn" [underlines in original letter, included here to show Mattie's emphasis], however Dr. Kerr does not expect she will be able to make the trip back. He even says she should spend this winter in the south.
- In relation to the above 2 points, Mattie says she's very sad about Hattie's poor health. Her nervous system is "much broken down". Mattie emphasized that if Hattie is to go home, she is not to do anything, even write letters.

[n.d.]



From: Martha

To: Clara

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel

- Mail came in this morning. The mail before last, the family from home said they hadn't received any letters. Mattie thinks they didn't make it onto the steamer in Hong Kong "for we have never failed to write".
- Mattie is "so anxious" about Edward [Mattie's underlining retained for show of her emphasis]. He is sick, and Mattie can't stop thinking about him, writing that she hopes God spares him.
- Mattie writes about "Miss \_\_\_\_"- the writing is vague and clearly pertains to a bigger story pertaining to this person that the whole family knows [Mattie even writes that the family knows what she means by her unclear writing about the mystery woman]. Among other things, Mattie says she is not looking forward to seeing her, and dreads the judgement of the Canton Mission that will be passed on her.
- Mattie writes about her father's death: She refers to something he wrote the year after she moved to China, noting how much he loved the family. He lived for another 15 years after that. Dr. Kerr says there was fluid accumulating in Varnum's heart for years, and if he had high blood pressure he would have passed years ago. She then mentions the Memorial for him, saying nothing anyone could contribute to the service would do her father justice. "There is not power enough in the English language to do that". She continues to write about her father with the highest of admiration and praise.
- This praise for her father turns into Mattie writing about how blessed her entire family is, including herself
- Everyone wants to know why Henry and Olivia are not staying here; Dr. Walis [?] was there yesterday and asked Dr. Swan and Olivia "why don't you stay here with your father"
- The letter abruptly changes subject on the following page- Mattie writes about the mail again
- Mattie ends the letter lovingly, adding that Dr. Kerr sends his love.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Dear ones at home

Location: Canton and Steamer Fatsham

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Travel; Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton

- While Mattie has written a more extensive letter, she writes this brief note to let the family know that all is well.
- Dr. Kerr will leave today for Hong Kong, leaving Mattie alone.
- Hattie is traveling to Japan. Dr. Kerr will pick her up next week and Mattie will be so happy to see her again.
- Mattie congratulates Minnie on her new baby boy. She is also happy that Emily can visit home so frequently and that Edward is doing better.
- The annual meeting of missionaries, native preachers, and helpers is going on, but Mattie has not been able to attend as many meetings as she did last year. It is also the school's last night and the singers of the mission gave a concert for the Chinese at Dr. Swans.
- Dr. Miles is in Macaw. Mr. White, his wife, and their baby are staying with Mrs. Swans. Dr. Thomson is coming to visit for a few days. Mr. Erchtter and his family, from the London Mission, left for Germany last week. Mr. Sope (?), possibly from the English Wesleyan Mission, sails from Hong Kong to England. The Fultons want to get away soon. While Miss Wisner is in Japan, Mr.

Wisner is getting better and will hopefully remain where he is. Miss Butler is impatient for Hattie to return.

- Although Mattie expresses her wish that the steamer would wait until tomorrow so she could write more, she nonetheless leaves the letter for Dr. Kerr to finish. Because she has already covered most of the news, he intends to write about her. While Mattie may say that she will be alone in the house, Dr. Kerr claims that she actually may have guests with her and, in fact, she frequently hosts more guests than all of the other missionaries. However, while she may enjoy the company, the servants have not been reliable. Mattie and Dr. Kerr are hosting two boys right now who will hopefully keep Mattie company. Dr. Kerr relates a particular example of a bad guest: a young son of a preacher stayed with them and Dr. Kerr was forced to pay the young man's hotel liquor bill and other expenses. The young man's bill of \$22 would be hundreds of dollars in today's money, perhaps justifying Dr. Kerr's anger with him.

[n.d.]

From: Martha

To: Hattie

Location: [Canton?]

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They have had very hot weather for the last five weeks, especially the last three days
- A friend named Mrs. "Esthers" (?) and her family went to the country for a vacation, but had a watch stolen, believed to be taken by their cook, who is now in prison because of it
- Mrs. Hargreaves waits for the time that she can return home, "and go by way of Australia"
- A "society" has recently been formed by the "customs staff" called "The Mutual Improvement Society," which will have lectures and "amusements," the women responsible for the music
- Dr. Kerr is on the Temperance Committee

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: My dear ones at home

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Has multiple guests currently staying with them, including Bishop "Goodsall" and his wife from Hong Kong, as well as a missionary from Macau and a Mr. Lockwood from India
- The Bishop is visiting the "station of the Methodist Church in Fuchan-Nanking Peking ReRe(?), (reference to the city Nanjing, 'Nanking' is a Romanized version)"
- The Bishop is "a tremendous man weighing over 300 and she larger than 3 which is saying all anyone ought to say. We were afraid for the safety of our guest bed with such weighty individuals upon it but it did not collapse much to our relief"
- "If we took the guests we have and boarded them by the day we should accumulate quite a fortune. Our additional expense for guests this year has already been about \$50 and we are not through February yet...I feel sometimes as though I was in a hotel. But we are the hotel of the mission"
- Writes that as a result she has no "home life" and that she and the Dr. are never alone, and that "The result of never being alone is objectionable in many ways"
- The schools open tomorrow and work resumes

[n.d.]

From: M. N. Kerr (Mattie Noyes Kerr)

To: Hattie

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Travel

- This letter begins by wishing Hattie a happy birthday, and Mattie reflects on Hattie's last birthday, when she was home and could be with everyone. Mattie expects that Hattie will have a very reflective day.
- Mattie talks about the surprising death of their mother, but she is happy that her mother is home now. Mattie thinks about heaven more now that their mother is there.
- Mattie thinks about the missionaries and that they are working for God's plan. This experience has also changed Mattie's understanding of the Chinese people, who she feels closer to than ever before.

[n.d.]

From: Martha and Dr. Kerr

To: "Dear Girls" and "Dear Sisters"

Location: [Canton, China]

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Martha begins by telling her family how Henry will be traveling home (via Honolulu). She also discusses how Dr. McCandless will be traveling with Henry in order to meet with his potential fiancée, Olivia.
- Martha also describes the many different gifts that she is sending to her family at home, including a cane for her father and embroidery squares for her sisters.

[n.d.]

From: Martha

To: Sarah

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Locations Other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American; Travel

- Martha received a telegram informing her of her father's death. She is 'relieved/'happy' to have received the news by telegram, as she cannot possibly imagine hearing about it over the phone.
- Father considered Dr. Kerr his own son, which Dr. Kerr was very pleased to hear
- Martha writes how "it will be a sad homecoming for Henry", implying he is at sea on his way back to the US and does not yet know of his father's passing.
- Martha writes about funeral attendees, specifically about how nice it was of Mr. Gaston and Chester to attend the funeral, and wonders if Father was dressed in his Sabbath suit. Elaborating on Mr. Chester, Martha reminisces of his kindness to her as she left for China the first time.
- She reminisces on the day she left for China, and seeing her father for that last time; she then writes about her earliest memory of her father, as well as Sarah's.
- Dr. Kerr is being supportive through this tough time: "The Dr is continually saying to me you have every consolation you could have and so has all the family." Last night, Martha Martha was overcome with emotion, so she wrapped her arms around the Dr, saying "Dr I love you a little bit." He inhaled deeply and then replied, "Oh I am so glad I have the love and prayers of the dear saint."
- Dr. Kerr wondered if Sarah had a photo of Father, and Martha very much hopes she does.

- Martha then instructs Sarah to “send me a lock of [Father’s] hair. I am sure by the first opportunity”.
- Dr. Kerr thinks if Sarah sent Father’s Sabbath school bible, it would “come through perfectly safe if sent by mail”. Martha can hardly wait to receive it., if Sarah can send it.
- Martha closes by writing of her extreme love and “idolization” of her father, as well as an offer of love and support to Sarah and the rest of the family.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie

To: Mary

Location: [Canton]

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mattie is writing to her sister reacting to news about the death of their father. She encourages Mary to think of him as in Heaven and looking out for his children. She fervently praises her father and reminisces on his virtues. She also discusses the family’s daily spiritual habits and implies that they have the ability to associate with spirits.
- Mattie has recused herself from her duties this morning so she can spend some time with her family and at prayer.
- Throughout her note, she continues to express concern for her sister and family, although she also expresses her own intense feelings of sorrow, saying that “my very heart has been poured out for you all that God would help in this hour of extremest need.”

n.d.

From: Martha

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location [?]

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Martha was very happy to receive letters “from the travelers mailed at Seville,” and was ““on on lok Lok the whole day thereafter”.; they came in the AM, Miss Rowe spent Friday night with Martha. Rowe is very sick.
- Henry and Hattie traveled home to Ohio; Martha writes about how their train ride from Cleveland to Seville must have transpired. She is so happy to think that her family is reunited, and continues to reminisce on family memories and thoughts of them together and home. Nevertheless, Martha is not regretful that she is still in China, for she is happy to take over for Hattie.
- Marta then writes about her late brother Frank, and how he must be looking down on his now-full family home, fully healthy in his angelic state.
- She is , however, worried for her mother, and hopes her symptoms [of pneumonia?] have subsided.
- Martha is delighted that Edward’s baby has arrived
- Martha says she feels much better than at the time that she wrote the previous letter; “so you see I do not look like an invalid.”

[n.d.]

From: Martha

To: Dear Ones at Home

Location: [?]

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- She opens with an update about the past 2 weeks: they “left” Dr. Kerr and Mr. Fulton before [Kwai Ping?] when they were en route to Canton; Kerr and Fulton think they’ll be there for 3 weeks
- They were mobbed twice, but were not at any point in danger of losing their lives
- They had a nice trip “down” with Henry leading
- Mrs. Fulton and Mary are “growing exceedingly nervous” and have abandoned any plans of moving to the country; Mr. Fulton is not the best person to do this kind of work but will continue to do his best.
- Right after they had reached home (at Henry’s), Dr. Kerr and Mrs. Fulton came in. Kerr’s clothes were “in a most dilapidated condition.” What happened is that the two of them had left Kwai Ping soon after Martha and Henry did, stopping in some towns along the way and then just an hour after starting the boat a few days afterwards, it got into a rocky patch. A moment after they noticed the rocks, they struck them. This created a large hole, which filled the boat with water. The two managed to get to the top of the boat, but the water made it that they could only stay standing by running from side to side. Then, Dr. Kerr was somehow thrown into the water- he was in up to his shoulders, but then managed to grab hold of the pole that supports the sail. He held it tightly but was unable to support himself. At this point, several other small boats came their way to help; one helped rescue them and brought them to safety. They were taken to [Yingiin?], and then put on another boat to Canton. Dr. Kerr had to sit in his wet clothes because he did not have a change of clothes with him. Mrs. Fulton was able to collect a mattress and chair from the wreck.
- She is going to rest now; she is supposed to be resting but has not been.
- Miss Butter will take the boys school off Martha’s hands when she comes back; Martha reckons she will have been taking care of it for a year by then.
- She is anxious about Edward and everyone because of the heat; it seems that the garden has suffered due to the weather and they really needed to produce from it given how large the family is.

[n.d.]

From: Mattie Noyes

To: [Not addressed, incomplete]

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Lillie and Miss Shaw have just gone to Shanwei and invited Mattie, but she writes “I begged to be excused to tell the truth”
- Sees a man with “mats, and they prove to be most enormous palm leaf ferns”
- Uses the word “celestials,” a word commonly used at the time to refer to Chinese emigrants to the U.S., Canada, and Australia
- Says “this canal” of water is used for “washing dishes, clothes, hands, babies, any and everything,” even water for their tea sometimes
- Mentions the use of Chinese hand fans to keep oneself cool
- Mattie describes their dress as well, “respectable people always wear a close-fitting skull cap either of blue silk bound with black or back bound with black satin”
- Uses the word “sham”(?) to describe a man’s dress, “made of material like Mother’s satin dress with large sleeves lined with the most beautiful blue satin”
- Mentions seeing a Newfoundland dog and wonders if she will soon see the “mistresses of the mansions” from where she is standing

- Writes that the nearby children are making a “racket...making their tongues run like a windmill. If I could rent one of those tongues it would save me some work”

**Family-- Correspondence [between]--- [from] Noyes, Varnum:**

1876 January 17

From: Varnum Noyes

To: Martha Noyes

Location: Seville, Ohio

Thematic Classifications:

- Varnum is writing Mattie to give her the news of Frank’s death on December 22.
- “He had been wasting away for a long time yet his death came upon us suddenly at last.”
- The night of his passing, Frank was rather restless and in pain.
- Varnum has also come down with “one of [his] old fashioned colds.”

1882 July 1

From: Varnum

To: “My Dear Daughter”

Location: Seville

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Locations other than Canton; American Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Varnum writes on his birthday
- He just received letters from the 20th of May the day before yesterday, and is grateful for the poetry that was sent with them
- Mentions that he’s writing this letter with a goose quill pen and hopes that the recipient [Hattie?] can read it
- It rained yesterday and now there is a nice cool breeze
- Just read the 20th (90th?) Psalm that morning, the same psalm that Henry read the morning he first left Ohio for China
- Varnum wonders how much longer he has left to live
- Just attended a funeral for David Winters, whose parents live in a place in the center of the township
- Learned yesterday that Charles Guiteau was hanged (assassinated President James Garfield), “No more effort will therefore be made to obtain a pardon or reprieve for him. Every possible method has been resorted to, to get him clean, but the law has finally been executed”
- A Judge Hessner has also recently died, and Varnum writes, “I believe he adhered to his infidelity to the last, and infidels were called from Medina to attend his funeral. I was not there, but understand those infidels found some difficulty to find anything to say on the occasion”
- Will finish the letter on July 4
- July 4: It has been such a cool forenoon that they have a fire going in the parlor to keep warm
- There will be no celebration at Seville this year, and had planned to celebrate the 4th of July at the lake
- Varnum thanks his daughter for the gifts sent by his daughter, and plans to use the “precious dollar” to buy something “...(perhaps a book) which may be profitable to me while living and to others when I am gone”
- Varnum received a “fine teacher’s bible” on his birthday from the children at home for use in his bible class

1882 November 6

From: Varnum

To: "My Dear Daughter"

Location: Seville

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Writes of the current state of the homestead: Mary and Clara are doing the washing, Mattie and her mother are taking care of Edward and doing the housework, and Varnum has chopped some wood and put the turnips in the cellar
- Varnum hopes to get the cabbages in by nightfall
- It has been six weeks today since Edward got hurt, and he has not left his bed except once to move to a chair
- Varnum believes it will be a long time before Edward will recover
- Varnum has been able to manage everything still with some hired help
- Hosted a "husking bee" the previous week and got all their corn husked, about two acres' worth
- Says the order for five pounds that was sent makes out to about \$24
- Purchased a book called *Nearing Home*, full of prose and poetry, for \$1.60
- Has also bought some cotton cloth for \$1.27 to make shirts and wrappers, a coat and vest for \$7.00, and pants \$0.72
- Varnum supposes that his daughter [Hattie?] has seen the comet from two or three weeks ago
- Varnum hopes he will be like the biblical Simeon before he dies, "see the salvation of God displayed in a glorious revival of religion"

### Family--Correspondence [between]:

1882 April 27 (Willie)

From: Willie

To: Grandpa and Grandma [Varnum and Lois]

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Willie went with his mother to have a picture taken while his father was in the country, and has sent it with the letter. He hopes to give another copy to his father on his birthday.
- Willie has some doves, given to him by a Chinese preacher when they traveled up the river last year.
- He has learned some verses in the bible.
- Willie forgot to write about his cats when he was writing about his doves, he has two cats, one white, one tortoiseshell.

1914 January 22

From: Unknown (Possibly Martha)

To: Dear dear sisters

Location: Unknown (Probably Canton)

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: American (processed) Incomplete

- Their brother (I assume they mean Henry) has died, leaving "a band of sisters"
- She writes mournfully for a while about his death

- It seems as though he died in China, because the author (maybe Martha) is with him, and she is in China
- She writes that he passed without pain, just growing weaker and weaker; when asked how he was feeling, he replied “Oh very comfortable I have no pain”
- The author said she was “interested in everything about him- everything pertaining to mission work down to the very...”
- When flipping the page, the sentence does not finish/she writes about a new topic
- It then cuts off before the author can sign off on the letter-- incomplete letter.

[n.d.]

From: ‘Aunt Mary’

To: Unknown

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- This letter is incomplete and on a small index card.
- There are two Mary’s on the family tree- first is the sister of Martha, Harriet, etc; second is Henry’s son’s wife.
- Something is wrong, and “he” wants them not to say anything to Hattie about it; “he” will tell her when he sees her.
- They are very anxious that this might happen, but “she” was so positive and didn’t feel anxious about it.
- “She” will likely be in the hospital for about 2 weeks.
- They are all thankful the recipient of this letter came to visit when they did, and that it was “a comfort.”
- Hattie got the recipient of this letter’s letter.
- She closes the letter with warm wishes.

[n.d.]

From: Unknown

To: Martha Noyes (Kerr) & John Kerr

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

- Strangely written; incorrect conjugations, capitalizations, words missing
- They’re writing this letter because they do not want the mission to interfere.
- Something bad might be happening with the Mission: “Sad truth Protestant Christ win the Conquest, and proved Portuguese Catholic and English Consul cannot get it”.
- The mission cannot do anything that the Portuguese Catholic and English Consul say?
- The writer spoke to Martha yesterday about what the judge said to some woman last Thursday...?
- They write “you know this house [is yours]”.
- The writer told Martha yesterday that if they have anything to say, they will talk with the Mission because they are on the side of the Divine Law [?].
- The letter cuts off mid-sentence.

### **Noyes, Harriet—Accounts:**

A Chinese Account of Christianity

[n.d.]



- The Chinese government publishes official descriptions of public buildings, cultural customs, and productions in different districts of the empire.
- The report from the district of Tsing Un? where they have a mission reports on the Roman Catholic church in that region. Harriet is sending her translation of the report so that those at home can witness a “heathen” view of the faith, and understand what the missionaries need to contend with:
  - Jesus was born in the first year of the emperor Qi Lai? of the Han dynasty, a long time after the sages Confucius and Mencius.
  - He was a physician by profession and saved many people’s lives the same as Sungem Wa To [?].
  - He did not turn seven cakes into food for 3000 men. This was a slight-of-hand. Similarly, he was not the creator of all things, heaven and earth. Before Qi Lai’s reign there were “the three kings” and five emperors who covered a period of a thousand generations. The lands of beyond the seas also had kings, laws, and punishments. Therefore everything could not begin to exist with Jesus.
  - Mary had a husband named Joseph. However, Jesus chose not to acknowledge his father instead claiming to have been born from some heavenly spiritual being. The reason he claimed this was so that his clan could be exalted above all others.
  - Those who practice his religion are not permitted to worship their ancestors, or the gods inferior and superior.
  - Jesus acknowledged no heaven, no laws, no father, and no king and had no righteousness, reference or loyalty. He therefore incurred the wrath of Heaven. The king of Judea therefore punished him for his sins by putting him to death on the cross. After hanging there for seven days he died and was buried.
  - His following spread the account that he had risen after three days and flew up to heaven after 40. They did this in order to spread the doctrine of the sect. Similarly, the followers of Sun Yan did the same thing after he threw himself into the sea.
  - If he was the lord of heaven why didn’t he save himself?
  - The premise of being good and good deeds, is simply a stealing of Confucius doctrine.

### **Noyes, Harriet—Clippings [by]:**

Noyes, Harriet

1890 May 16

“Collapse of a Platform: Many Missionaries Injured,” from the *Shanghai Mercenary*

- An article chronicling an accident at the 1890 missionary conference in Shanghai that Harriet hand-copied. A platform meant to hold over 400 people for a photograph collapsed. Hattie copied the entire article.

### **Noyes, Harriet— Correspondence [to]:**

1871 December 20

From: John Chalmers, Charles Preston, John Preston

To: Harriet Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: American; Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics

- This letter seems to be copied by Harriet from the original to send to her family. A response on the same sheet is also included from her and Henry Noyes.
- “The friends accustomed to attend the Sunday evening meeting at Kukfan beg Mr. and Miss Noyes to accept the accompanying articles as a slight acknowledgement of past obligations with kindest regard and best wishes.

The undersigned have much pleasure in thus carrying into effect the instructions of the Canton Missionary Community.

John Chalmers

Charles Preston

John Preston”

- “Rev. John Chalmers  
Rev. Charles Preston  
Rev. John Preston

We wish we could adequately express upon paper our warm appreciation of the kindness of our ‘friends’ and the pleasant feeling awakened in our hearts by the valuable tokens of this kindness which greeted us through the opening doors of our dwelling on our return home making the last of a long series of pleasures the most pleasant of all.

We cannot allow ourselves to consider this in any sense the payment of an ‘obligation’ but as a generous expression of kind feelings, kinder than we deserve but which we very greatly prize. We are certainly doubly fortunate in obtaining such compensation for that which by the pleasure it afforded was its own abundant reward.

Will you kindly convey to those whom you represent our deep sense of their kindness and thus oblige.

H. V. Noyes

Hattie Noyes

Canton

December 25th 1871”

1886 March 12

From: F.F. Ellinwood

To: Harriet Noyes

Location: New York

Thematic Classifications: Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- He received Hattie’s letter about the Christmas offering, and is delighted with the result, and thinks they should make it a world-wide offering.
- He wants Hattie to thank the girls for him and ensure that they understand that the offering is not for himself or for the board, but for Christ.
- He says that Hattie’s school “is taking its place among the best institutions of the kind that we have anywhere.”

1886 March 17

From: F.F. Ellinwood

To: Harriet Noyes

Location: New York

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Locations other than Canton

- He is writing to Hattie because her request for leave of absence has been granted by the board which convened last Monday. “I think that your faithful labors during these nine or ten years have entitled you to it.”
- He is in great interest of Hattie’s school, and wants to congratulate her on her success.

1888 April 27

From: Mary Anderson

To: Harriet Noyes

Location: Waterford, New York

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Mary is writing to express her sympathies for Varnum’s death.
- She is sorry that Henry was not able to make it home in time to bid Varnum farewell.

1888 May 5

From: John [?] Lowrie

To: Harriet Noyes

Location: New York

Thematic Classifications: Medicine & Health; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- They are writing to express their sympathies of the death of Varnum Noyes.

1918 January 14

From: Unknown

To: Harriet Noyes

Location: [Guangdong Province, China?]

Thematic Classifications: Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Chinese Politics; Missionary Politics

- “To Miss Harriet Noyes:  
We present our greetings and congratulations on the Fifieth [sic] Anniversary of your arrival in China, and thank God that He has given us a women [sic] of such great strength and beauty of character. You have been an inspiration to women all over this wide province constantly pointing them to Jesus the True Light. Our prayer is that God will grant you many more years of service among us.  
Signed,”

1923 May 16

From: Eugene Chen, Secretary to Dr. Sun Yat-sen

To: Harriet Noyes and Electa Butler

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Chinese Politics; Culture, Language, and Art; Violence, War, and Politics; Building & Development; Missionary Politics; American Politics

- “Dear Misses Noyes & Butler,  
On the eve of your departure for America, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, on behalf of the Cantonese people, desires to express his appreciation of the exceptional service which you have jointly rendered in the cause of education here. It seems to him that you leave behind an enduring memorial in the 6000 pupils who have been trained at the ‘True Light’ Seminary. He wishes you a pleasant voyage Home.  
Yours very Faithfully,  
Eugene Chen

Secretary to Dr. Sun Yat-sen”

- Typed on official Republic of China Government Headquarters Canton letterhead.

### **Noyes, Harriet— Journals:**

[1871?]

“Up the North River”

- This journal consists of six sheets of paper—all stationary marked with a stamp of “Congress” and an image of the U.S. Capitol building.
- There were six total who traveled up the North River. This included Harriet, Henry Noyes, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. Peirce, and Miss Radcliffe.
- They pushed off at 4pm on the 15th of November, stopping at the Consulate to pick up a passport which is required by the treaty for all foreigners wanting to travel more than a day’s trip from Canton.
- They hired a boat called a Ho Tan with a crew of thirteen men for \$3.00 per day to pole, row, or pull them up the river as far as they wished to go. The boat was about 50 feet long, and had a covering which was divided into different apartments.
- They brought Chinese assistants with them to help in preaching and distributing books.
- They were able to fashion the rooms of the boat with furniture to make it seem homelike so their two or three weeks’ travel would be both comfortable and pleasant.
- Their first stop was in Fatshan (Foshan), a city about half the size of Canton 12 miles from Canton. They arrived around midnight. They only stopped for a short while and the boatmen continued up the river until about 2AM where they stopped at a small village called Sha Han. Sha Han means “Sand Mouth,” because of a sandbar that renders large boats impassible up the river except during high tide.
- They began moving again at about half past four and stopped after breakfast in a village called Sui Tong. Harriet says that the villagers were interested in seeing foreigners as was expected and soon a large crowd had gathered around them with Mr. Whitehead speaking to them for a half hour. They also attracted the attention of a group of women who were working in the rice fields: “...With much interest asking many questions and making various comments on our appearance. The women usually seem kind but are very ignorant as the Chinese consider it quite useless to give any attention to their education.”
- They then stopped in Sai Kan (?) to distribute a few books, but then they reached San Shui (Three Waters, as the town sits at the location where the North and West Rivers join to form the Canton river). They stopped just before sunset so they watched the sunset at a pagoda. After watching the sunset they walked to the city, which was the only location in the area that survived the attacks of the Tai Ping (太平) rebels. They went inside the walls to an open space and again were surrounded by a crowd of men, women, and children: “They said they had never heard of Jesus and it seemed so sad to think that probably many perhaps all of those about us would never learn to know and love the saviour’s name.”
- The next morning they were traveling again—they stopped for a short walk before their breakfast and then stopped at a town called Lo Pan where the gentlemen were able to distribute some books.
- The next day they had a walk and mostly traveled—they stopped for the night at a village called Shek kok.
- The next day they took a long walk because it was nice and cool out. They found that they walked faster than the boat traveled up-river so they sometimes will sit and wait for the boat to catch up

to them. They passed the Pleiades, or Seven Star Hills that are reddish brown and rather bare, “as are most of the hills I have seen in China.”

- At about half past four they started passing through the Tsing Un Pass, after passing the city of the same name 14 miles below earlier in the day. In the pass the river narrowed to 300 feet, and the water was incredibly clear. They stopped for the night near the town of Fa Loi Tsz, where there is a Buddhist Monastery. “The Buddhist priests seem to have found and appropriated to their own use all the prettiest spots in China.”
- In the twilight of that night they climbed the mountain to the first part of the Monastery. “The monks as usual seemed friendly and willing to show us over their premises.”
- The next day the north wind proved too hazardous for the boatmen to continue on so Harriet and Mrs. Whitehead climbed up the mountain nearly to the top and had a very fine view. On their way down the mountain they stopped again at the monastery. “One of the priests seemed inclined to be sociable and Mr. Whitehead talked with him about the way of life and Henry gave him a little tract ‘Come to Jesus.’ We could only hope that he would think of what he had heard and study the little book so earnestly that it might indeed lead him to Jesus.”
- After leaving the monastery they went down the mountain back to their boat and even though the wind was still strong the boatmen continued on. They left the pass and the river became shallower and wider, but was still very clear. They continued on to a small village where they stopped for the night. The next morning was Sabbath and they all took some books out to pass out—Mr. Piercy and Miss Radcliffe to the village where they stopped and Henry and Harriet to an even smaller village. Harriet then spent the afternoon enjoying herself on a hillside while the men crossed the river to distribute more books. While she sat there she saw several teams of men pulling boats up the river on the path. Some of them were very surprised to see foreigners and some made comments on their appearances.
- The next day was very cold. They walked a lot on the path beside the river. They came across many beautiful nooks, and one had a small shrine in it. “Thus it is even in China wherever nature is most beautiful we find her then desecrated and turn (?) where we may be met by these sad tokens of the idolatry and degradation of this people.”
- “The country here is far more thinly settled than farther down the river. Near a little cluster of huts (?) some of the natives came around us to have a good look at the foreigners. One old woman told me that when she was young she had been all the way to Canton with a boat load of wood. To many of them Canton seems like another world and it is astonishing to see how contracted their ideas are.”
- The next day, Tuesday, they went through Blind Boys Pass. Later in the day they saw some men fishing with cormorants—birds with clipped wings so they could not fly off and iron rings around their necks so they cannot swallow the fish that they catch.
- The next day the boatmen had been working for some time when they woke up. They were near Ying Tak. This was originally going to be where they turned around, however, since they were already behind schedule they decided to keep going. They traveled on to Kun Yam Cave.
- The following day they reached Kun Yam Cave. The cave is named after a favorite goddess named Kun Yam, who is the goddess of mercy (Guan Yin).
- They climbed some stairs inside the cave and had a wonderful view. “From the window we looked out on a beautiful landscape the winding river below us and on the opposite bank a plain diversified (?) by high hills rising abruptly and here and there a clump of trees the bright morning sun lighting up the picture. Without a same (?) of beauty within what a sad contrast. A dirty little room tenanted by dirty priests a senseless gilded idol of Kun Yam before which men almost as stupid were placing offerings of fish, fowl, rice, and fruit and burning incense sticks. This was the first cave I had ever visited and I could not help thinking of caves in other lands and former days

that have been the hiding places of men of whom the earth was not worthy and I wondered if these walls would ever echo back the praises of the Almighty God as they have for so many years the senseless mummeries of these deluded creatures. It was with sad feelings that I turned away from this mountain cave and returning to our boat went a little farther up the stream to visit another temple.”

- They visited the other temple up the river which appeared to be abandoned. A group of travelers from Canton had penciled on the wall their names and when they had been there—just four years prior. After doing the same, they headed back to the boat which was now to travel south back towards Canton. They reached Ying Tak around four PM, and the men went ashore to distribute books and had to return several times to refresh their supply. Before dusk the men returned again and invited the women for a walk. When they went for their walk, an enormous crowd had formed on shore in curiosity of the group, and luckily showed no hostility, only occasionally hearing the term “foreign devil.” Harriet says that there was more commotion in the city of Ying Tak than they could have ever wished.
- The next morning they arose to find Ying Tak far behind. They were near the Pik Lok Tunnel. The tunnel was about a mile and a half from the river.
- They then continued on down the river, making much better time than when they had been traveling against the current. They passed through Blind Boy’s pass and another one before anchoring for the night near a village called Wong Shek. When they awoke the next morning they were already traveling and were brought to the Tsing Un Pass, and a little after that they reached the Fa Loi Tsz temple. In the afternoon they reached Tsing Un city, and stopped just long enough to distribute some books and tracts.
- They stopped for the night near a village just after dark. They spent all of the next day, the Sabbath, there, and the men went out to some of the nearby villages to preach and distribute literature. They spent the evening at a pagoda, which was on a very high hill and they could see very far in the distance.
- “This pagoda is very well built, the legend connected with it is that the builder agreed to build it for a certain sum but finding that he could not make it strong and substantial for that expended considerable more thus involving himself in debt and as his employers refused to pay any more than they had at first agreed when the pagoda was finished he mounted to the topmost story and throwing himself from its top was dashed in pieces. Doubtless like most of the Chinese legends there is no foundation whatever for the story in fact.”
- Two days following, after traveling quickly down the river on Monday, they stopped for a couple of hours in Fatshan. After a few more hours they were back in Canton.

### **Noyes, Harriet—Lists:**

1889

[Noyes, Harriet]

“Order of Exercises”

- A list or program of exercises for an unspecified event. Includes choral performance, essay readings, and instrument performances.

### **Noyes, Harriet—Memorials:**

[1923?]

A memorial booklet likely passed out at Harriet's funeral containing biographical information by her sister Martha Noyes Kerr, a fellow missionary J.M.M., and by Lau Sam Sz.

### **Noyes, Harriet—Pamphlets:**

[n.d.]

“Extract from a Pamphlet now being sold in the Streets of Canton”

Titled: “As regards Christians a distinction must be Observed:”

- Since the “treaty” foreigners have been permitted to teach religion in China, and this has been detrimental to peoples minds.
- The church in China has provided a refuge from the law. Because of this trouble arises.
- Despite destruction and burning of churches, they have been unable to forbid these people from preaching. There may be a need for an explicit secular law prohibiting religious missionary practice.
- Here is the proposed measures that should be taken:
  - A separate official register of converts needs to be kept.
  - Require tablets to be fastened above the locations in which converts live.
  - All converts must make some distinction in the way they dress. They must wear their clothes short and cannot wear a long coat.
- These regulations will cause shame in the missionaries and consequently cause them to stop calling on the people to become Christians.
- If the foreign teachers refuse this plan, they will have to coerce them. They have already done enough damage with the amount of converts exist.
- Hard to get a full grasp on who converted because almost all of them vehemently deny it in public. The missionaries would give way to these regulations because then their converts could not pretend to not be Christians. It will also make sure that converts will not dare enter the church lightly as if it does not have repercussions.
- Maybe the minister Yuk Lun will be of opinion that this should be the practice in every province. It is also important for the Imperial decision that commands the Viceroy to issue these mandates.
- Treaty of Sheintsun has explained in detail the Imperial mandates. However, people are just afraid of action because they don't want to cause trouble.

### **Noyes, Harriet— Poetry [by]:**

November 1896

[Noyes, Harriet?]

Why does our Grandpa  
Live so far away?  
Why don't he and Grandma  
Come here to stay?  
When we get the house built  
Down in Huikow (?)  
Then they will visit us  
But not just now  
Do grandpas have birthdays  
Just like little boys?

Do people make them presents  
 And give them toys?  
 Grandpas are grown up folks  
 And don't want to play  
 But when they're sick or can't eat  
 They take a holiday.  
 Has Grandpa seen our baby  
 And does he know  
 That we and everybody  
 Love him so?  
 Does he know his name is Robert  
 That he has blue eyes  
 That he mostly eats and sleeps  
 And hardly ever cries  
 There are lots of babies  
 Here in Hainan  
 Babies keep a coming  
 As fast as they can  
 But none are like Robert  
 For none can be  
 That's what Ruthie thinks  
 And Wallie, so does he  
 In the land of the Tam Chau  
 Thirty po (?) away  
 There I quit a (Lai Cin) (Miss Montgomery) (?)  
 Just the other day  
 A baby claimed her notice (Baby Vandutrop (?))  
 Though not her own  
 You've often seen the lotus  
 In shallow waters sown  
 How each year a lily bears  
 Above the leaf spread water  
 So each year the mother rears  
 A son or else a daughter  
 If we can not Christianize  
 This our Island home  
 At least we can colonize  
 And have done it some  
 Whether it be Robert (our baby)  
 Or Eleanor May (their baby)  
 Let them come quickly  
 And may they all stay.

[n.d.]

[Noyes, Harriet?]

"Tears for our Ruler slain / Death's seal is in thy trow / Long weary days of pain are over  
 / Thy sleep is dreamless now.



“A nation earnest prayers / thy fearless courage bare (?) / Nor human skill nor tenderest care / Could save thee from the grave.

“In deepest sadness now / We bow to heaven’s decree / From shore to shore a nation’s tears / Are falling now for thee.

“Yet to our mourning hearts / With sadness joy is given / We know that evermore for thee / Remains the rest of Heaven.

“There safe within the veil / Secure from every ill / Beyond the need of earthly care / Our love enfolds thee still.”

**Noyes, Harriet— Poetry [copied by]:**

1876 January 25

From: [Harriet?]

To: Sarah Noyes

- This is a poem copied by Harriet for Sarah.

[n.d.]

Coolidge, Susan

[Copied by Noyes, Harriet?]

“Day by Day”

“If I were told that I must die tomorrow / that the next sun / Which sinks should bear me past all fear and sorrow / For anyone, All the fights fought and all the short journey through / what should I do? //

I do not think that I should shrink or falter / But just go on, / Doing my work, nor change nor seek to alter / Ought that is gone / But rise and move and love / and smile and pray / for one more day //

And lying down at night for a last sleeping / say in that ear / Which hearkens ever ‘Lord within thy keeping / How Should I fear? / And when tomorrow brings thee nearer still / Do then thy will? //

I might not sleep for awe but peaceful tender / My soul would lie / All night long; and when the morning splendor / Flash over the sky / I think that I could smile could calmly say / ‘it is his day.’ //

But if a wondrous hand from the blue yonder / Held out a scroll / on which my life was writ and I with wonder / Beheld unroll / To a long century’s end its mystic dew / What should I do //

What could I do O blessed Guide and Master / Other than this / Still go on as now not slower, faster / nor fear to miss / The road although so very long it be / while led by thee //

Step by step feeling thee close beside me / although unseen; / through thornes through flowers whether the tempest hide thee / or heavens serene / Assured thy faithfulness cannot betray / thy love decay //

I may not know my God; no hand revealeth / Thy counsels rise; / Along the path— no deepening shadow stealeth; / No voice replies / To all my questioning thought the time to tell / and it is well. //

Let me keep on abiding and unfearing / Thy will always / Though a long century’s fruition / Or a short day’s; / Then canst (?) not come up soon and I can wait / If then come late”

—Written by Susan Coolidge

## Noyes, Harriet—Reports:

1882

Report of Mission Work under the charge of H. Noyes

- In the past year the school has had 42 women and 68 girls. 110 women in total. Of this number 13 have been received into the Church, 8 women and 5 girls.
- 4 of the women are training as bible readers. Only 1 of them is training in medicine.
- This year marks the first decade since the schools were opened in 1872.
- In the last 10 years 86 of the scholars have been received into either the first or the second church. An additional 42 have been employed as helpers to the missionaries.
- The Ho Nan? School: 40 scholars were enrolled in the Ho Nan School. Some of these students have gone farther than any of Harriet's previous having memorized the New Testament and read through the *Bible Stories* and *Pilgrim's Progress*. The bible woman previously in Canton has been at Ho Nan and finds the work encouraging.
- The In Wa San? School: The school there has 22 scholars. The school has been pretty well attended. However, the women's meeting has been lacking in attendance. The school is near another Mission school and they have decided not to continue it next year.
- East Gate School: The teacher after several years there is well known in the community. Therefore, there have been 33 scholars this year. Additionally the meetings for women have been well attended.
- Wok-Lu Li? School: There have been 23 scholars, but their attendance can be irregular. A bible women lives in the school their and visits regularly with families in the vicinity of both this school and the East Gate School.
- Nan On Li? School: This school was opened exactly a year ago. 25 scholars have been in attendance. This has been the most satisfactory of all of Harriet's day schools. The teacher has been extremely faithful. This school has had a large portion of women at the meetings
- Second Street School: The school here was opened this year. The teacher is a young girl who gradated from their school. Furthermore, she married an assistant from the Baptist mission. At first they had 44 scholars. However, there was some objection and their numbers dwindled. Similarly, for the first six months the meetings were so large there wasn't even standing room.
- Un Ha Lin? School: This school was opened this year in a village 10 miles north of Canton. There are only 18 scholars. Good portions of the scholars have to work so much they can't afford time to their books. Hattie is satisfied with the teacher who used to study at the Training School and in medicine. Since the village is so small she can spend time as a Bible Rader visitor.
- Bible Readers of the Seven Bible: According to Hattie, women who have been under her control and charge have been throughout the city suburb s and villages. They seem to be visiting the patients in the hospital together. They attract huge crowds of people interested in Christianity. They also host a children's Sabbath and that has been fairly successful with 80-100 of them there.

## Noyes, Harriet—Translations:

[n.d.]

"Translation of placards posted at Fatshan"

[Noyes, Harriet?]

- First placard

- “Kwongtung [Guangdong] has in felicity Barbarians with hidden venom Enticing the people into their church.  
Seduce them to join in deeds of shame and now the rulers slaves of foreign devils.  
Receive barbarian mandates like so many dumb beasts.  
Issuing proclamations to harass the people.  
Men are everywhere indignant. The Chapel is again erected but verily it shall be burned.  
Bring fire and destroy it. Lay hands on the Christians. Not slaying the foreigners they the rulers, are recreant to duty.  
Let them early turn back. Let them quickly repent. Put down the foreigners. Establish the country. And save the people from disgrace.  
Long.  
Their bodies wear the official dress. Their heads the official cape. Their seat above the people placed. The bear no light responsibility. How could it be supported that with a day’s capacity they would become the devil’s constables. Four policemen guard the chapel doors.
- Second placard
  - There are men abroad with a kind of powder called “shan sui fan” distributing to people everywhere telling them that by eating this powder they will escape calamity sickness +c +c, But these powders are poison medicine mixed with flour. Eating this unwittingly within one hundred days pain in the bowels and perhaps swelling of the abdomen ensues. This cannot be to continuously guarded against. Now consulting the idol “Wa to” he prescribes the following powder:  
1st- Honey mixed with vermillion (?).  
2nd- White chickens dung  
3rd- Pang k’i fu  
4th- honey.  
Mix with rice flour
- Third placard
  - There are at present certain vagabond men and base women giving about where they have recently formed acquaintances enticing houses and making themselves agreeable with pleasant talk and saying they have Shan sin fan to give the people that it has power to prolong the lives of those who eat it and that they will obtain blessings more than can be enumerated. Many honest people have listened to them and used these powders in mixing cakes and perhaps in other articles of food. But having eaten this men will certainly be attacked with swelling of the legs and women with swelling of the abdomen and after a time will die. Those of strong constitution and from very virtuous families may possibly escape this disease. If any are seized with it there are abominable men and women who proclaim that it can only be cured by foreigners. If at first men disbelieve this they may consult Chinese physicians and take great quantities of medicine without relief. There is then no rescue but to apply to the foreign physician. They take his medicine and are partially healed. But if they apply for medicine to be healed entirely, the wealthy will be required to pay thousands (dollars or taels) and the poor will be required to enter the church. After taking the medicine although they are entirely cured their minds are shiften and they are greatly delighted with the church. If the poisoning is light men cannot preserve their intellects and lives and if severe they are at once cut off. Thus to inure men verily is abominable because many of my relatives have already received injury. I am in very great grief and therefore proclaim to my fellow villagers what my eyes have seen

and what my ears have heard earnestly hoping that upright men will everywhere make it known thus obtaining boundless merit for themselves.

**Noyes, Henry--Correspondence [from]:**

1870 February 10

From: Henry

To: My Dear Bro [Reid]

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Violence, War, and Politics; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Building and Development; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics; Social/Cultural

Practices: American

- Henry received Reid's November 1 letter but he is unsure whether or not he answered it in last month's mail
- "Procrastination is the thief of time"
- Henry mentions that his brother [Edward?] spent a lot of time talking about beans in his last letter, especially a kind they had at "Camp Copeland" [possibly a Civil War camp] that was too salty, and for Edward they "opened up in your heart a fountain of kindly feeling towards 'Yankees' in general which I doubt not is flowing still and may it ever flow on"
- Henry thinks about the "good old times" they had at Camp Copeland and wonders what happened to their friend O.B. Noyes
- "I have got that half of a counterfeit 50 cent postage currency of which I sent the other half to you in my pocket and-- and-- 'Long may it wave'"
- Dr. Prince from the *New York Observer* recently visited Henry and Hattie, and they had the pleasure of entertaining him for two days, expects he is now in Egypt
- "I keep plodding on, having got to speaking in this crooked language in a barbarous sort of way, but think I can make the people understand most of what I say"
- Dr. Happer and his family, including his eldest daughter as a missionary teacher, Miss Shaw, who's from Pittsburg and was also part of the Christian Commission service in Nashville for two years, Reverends Messer [?] and Marcellus, and Mr. McChesney, as well as their wives, will be joining the Mission with Henry
- Henry's house in Canton overlooks the river steamers, and the other day they waved white handkerchiefs to the Prestons because they are leaving for home after 17 years of not being further than Hong Kong or Macao from Canton
- Mrs. Preston's health is poor and they plan to go home for a year or 2 for her to recover along with their 6 children, likely leaving 3 of them at home when they return to Canton
- They have just made their Mission arrangements for the current Chinese year, which began on January 31
- They have 3 full-time native assistants and 5 who are partly studying and partly preaching, where they will preach in the city chapels
- There will be 2 boys' day schools and 2 or 3 girls' schools, as well as the training school
- Dr. Happer has the training school and 1 day school and Henry has the other
- Hattie has one girls' school and Miss Lucy Happer has the other
- There are schools also in two villages, and one of the villages has a girls' school too, which Hattie is in charge of
- Hattie and Henry go out to the largest village twice a month and Henry intends to preach with some regularity there this year
- "I hope I may do a little good. What a joy it would be to see some of those poor heathen anxiously inquiring what they must do to be saved"

- Calls Reid his “fourth floor brother”

1872 January 9

From: [Not signed, incomplete] [Henry?]

To: Reid

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Travel; Medicine & Health; Culture, Language, and Art; Locations other than Canton; Missionary Politics

- Returned from “Syam” (Siam) December 22 and found a large pile of letters that was the accumulation of two and a half months, one of which was this letter
- Reid has given all his “labors” to “Richland Centre,” and Henry wonders how he is going to live on a salary of \$350 a year
- Mentions a book called “Giving’s Baby,” a book Reid has read and recommended
- Has recently attended a “synod” (“a Presbyterian ecclesiastical court above the presbyteries and subject to the General Assembly,” or a meeting of a council).
- Has purchased a ticket for \$0.50 that reads “Noyes Passage Ticket: The Eastern Isles One Berth-First Class Cabin. From Canton to “Tingko”(The only information found on Tingko is that it is a popular tourist beach in the Philippines)
- Has not purchased a “traveling ticket” for five and a half years, “so I [am] resolutely determined to avail myself the privilege”
- The steamer he is traveling on is called the “Eastern Isles,” where he went up to Hong Kong for two days and set out against the monsoons up the Formosa Strait
- The rough weather resulted in intense seasickness, for the “steamer was a small one, some 475 tons,” and “didn’t she pitch and roll and toss about!”
- Dr. Kerr, who was aboard the ship, “had been joking all the way from Canton and HongKong about some medicine he said for seasickness and telling us that the rest of us could have it for \$5 a dose” 1872 June 10

[1872?] March 10

From: Henry

To: “My Dear Bro” [Reid?]

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics; Chinese Politics;

Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry thanks his brother for writing, as well as visiting their parents which has brought them much joy.
- Henry also praises his brother for preaching an excellent sermon that he has not heard anything bad about. Henry also discusses his own sermon-writing practices and the opportunities he has to preach in China. While he has not preached in three months, he is preparing one on Matthew 14:12 for the missionaries and will focus on the theme of “Jesus the intimate personal friend of every believer.”
- Henry also preaches in Chinese at the hospital every Sunday while Mr. Preston is gone. He will lead services several days a week and also pray with the patients.
- In addition to his responsibilities at the hospital, Henry also studies Chinese and superintends four boys day schools.
- He really wants to focus on traveling in the countryside to encourage the building of churches in the neighboring villages. However, they are encountering opposition to this and need prayers for their work to continue.

1872 September 20

From: [Not signed, incomplete] [Henry?]

To: Reid

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Violence, War, and Politics; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry writes of his sympathies of Reid's son's death, and refers to his faith for reconciliation, "When the Lord loveth he chasteneth"
- Notes the death of colleague "Brother McChesney," who was shot and killed by robbers in a village twenty miles or so away from Canton with Henry
- Mentions pamphlets of speeches he received from the Alumni meeting of the Theological Seminary and that he was promised some more from Mr. Park
- Henry mentions "kata" (karate? Although karate is Japanese) and that he has to vote for presidents of it, "and so that responsibility troubles me not at all"
- Uses the word "spider" and then uses the word "skillet," calling it a part of the "Central Ohio vernacular." These are references to the cast-iron skillet commonly used at the time. Henry reminisces about baked beans and writes, "I hope it has done everyone some good."

1873 April 10

From: Henry

To: Reid

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics; Travel; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Henry is writing a letter to an old friend of his, J.M. Reid. Henry does not remember if he replied to Reid's last letter or not, but he is writing one anyway, just in case. In his last letter, Reid wrote about his visit to Ohio and Guilford; he also mentioned that the "good Christians there in Guilford" have not been kind to Henry's father, which Henry agrees with.
- Henry discusses more about his father's life, which has been filled with difficulty. However, Henry notes that his father's troubles will be over in a few years, when he passes away. They already acknowledged to each other that they would not see each other alive again, but in Heaven.
- Henry expresses the hope to return home in three more years. He thinks this will be possible because transportation is becoming so quick and convenient. He also thinks that it is important for a missionary's physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
- In response to a previous remark by Reid, Henry discusses the spirituality of the missionaries in Canton and the state of the missionary effort there. They have made material progress, but not the spiritual progress they would wish (in terms of "saving souls"). The missionaries decided in their latest Conference that they would have a special prayer session on June 4 to pray for the Holy Spirit to help them in their conversion effort.
- Henry's work of studying, writing sermons, and traveling to villages in the country continues as normal.

From: [Not signed, incomplete] [Henry?]

To: "My Dear 4th Floor Bro"

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Missionary Politics

- Henry reminisces about roommates on “that old 4th floor” and horseshoe games with classmates, and goes on to mention a future class reunion
- Henry’s recipient is a minister and Henry mentions his approval of his friend’s sermons on Temperance and “Women’s Rights”
- Henry mentions his difficulty in having to write three sermons annually
- Mentions numerous old classmates including J.M. Reid
- Uses the term “nothing to be sneezed at”

**Noyes, Henry— Memorabilia:**

1868 December 16

- Henry copied the poem, “He doeth All Things Well,” for his father. The poem, seven stanzas of four lines each, is not attributed to an author. It focuses on themes of faith and reassurance, including the idea, for example, that “the God who guards the sparrow’s flight/ will never let us sink so low.”

**Noyes, Henry--Sermons [by]:**

(Incomplete)

[n.d.]

- Henry writes about excerpt ‘Ezra 7:10’: “For Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and judgement” [biblical quote, included in sermon].
- Henry writes about Ezra, Hebrew religious leader & ‘father of Judaism.’
- Much writing about Jewish peoples in a historical & religious context, including Israel and ‘synagogue worship.’
- He then connects his lengthy discussion of Jews to Ezra, writing that they are connected.
- The sermon cuts off abruptly.

**Noyes, Martha— Correspondence [from]:**

1874 August 10

From: Mattie

To: The dear scholars of the Seville [Sabbath School]

Location: Canton

Thematic Classifications: Culture, Language, and Art; Building & Development; Locations other than Canton; Social/Cultural Practices: Chinese; Social/Cultural Practices: American

- Describes the schedule and events of Sabbath morning at the Seville Sabbath School, which begins at 10am with all the “women and girls from the Boarding School”
- Henry does not go with them, for “it would never do to have men in the school with the women and girls, they would think that very improper indeed”
- Mattie writes, “You must not imagine our school is at all like the nice Church you have,” and describes it instead as a room in the house that Dr. Happer used to live in, and notes that the floor is “made of red tiles which look exactly like the large red brick we see in our hearths at home,” where they sit on benches
- A line of what Mattie writes look like “blackboards” divide the room where Dr. Happer preaches, for men and women both come to the church, but “if they [the women] had to sit where they could see each other the women would not come for there is nothing they dislike more than to have men looking at them”

- After Dr. Happer gets done with his sermon, “the women sit down and wait until the men have passed out and then they go out by themselves”
- Hattie is the “Supt.” (Superintendent?) of the school, and they always begin their exercises by singing some pretty hymns, including “Happy Land,” “Jesus Loves Me,” and “many other songs you know only the words are in Chinese”
- Matties does not know “all these strange words yet but we sing those we do learn and slip over the others as well as we can”

### **Noyes, Martha— Correspondence [to]:**

[n.d.]

From: Unknown

To: Martha Noyes (Kerr) & John Kerr

Location: Unknown

Thematic Classifications: Missionary Politics

(processed) Incomplete

- This letter is strangely written, with incorrect conjugations and capitalizations and missing words.
- They’re writing this letter because they do not want the mission to interfere.
- Something bad is happening with the Mission (?): “Sad truth Protestant Christ win the Conquest, and proved Portuguese Catholic and English Consul cannot get it.”
- The mission cannot do anything that the Portuguese Catholic and English Consul say (?).
- The writer spoke to Martha yesterday about what the judge said to some woman last Thursday (?).
- They write “you know this house [is yours].”
- The writer told Martha yesterday that if they have anything to say, they will talk with the Mission because they are on the side of the Divine Law (?).
- The letter cuts off mid-sentence.

### **Noyes, Martha—Itineraries:**

[n.d.]

[Noyes, Martha]

- List of places and dates, perhaps indicating an itinerary for travel. [Notation in pen suggests it is Martha’s “Voyage Out”]
- The list gives helpful details about how long travel would take and how people would travel.

### **Noyes, Martha—Memorials:**

[1111?]

A Memorial Minute written for “Mrs. Joan G. Kerr,” after her death. The memorial pamphlet describes her long life of service, honors her accomplishments, and includes testimonials from a variety of her friends: J. H. Montgomery, J. Allen Hofmaan, and (Dr.) Mary W. Niles.



**Noyes, Varnum— Contracts:**

1840 May 18

- A commission by the Presbyterian Missions for Varnum Noyes appointing him to “preach the Gospel + to dispense its ordinances at Guilford, Ohio.”

Unknown Location: Letters from Maddie [?] to Varnum Noyes

1885 May 14

From: [Maddie?]

To: Varnum Noyes

Location: Canton, China

Thematic Classifications:

- Mrs. Kerr has died and Maddie seems surprised that the illness came so quickly. She described her as one of the best and greatest of friends. She was a fellow missionary in China who had gone home to Ohio and died there.
- Dr. Kerr’s plan seems to be to go back and study medicine with his father. Maddie also mentions that he will help Hattie with her studies.
- “Peace does not seem very peaceful yet in Canton...” Internal conflict within China.