

**AMY OXLEY:  
LETTERS FROM CHINA  
An Australian Missionary Nurse of the  
Church Missionary Association of New South Wales,  
Fujian Province, China  
1895-c1920**

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## INTRODUCTION

The letters in this book were written by Amy Oxley Wilkinson, a missionary of the Anglican Church Missionary Association (later Church Missionary Society) of New South Wales. Amy took the photographs of China using a camera sent by her cousin, Isabel Hope of Victoria.

Amy Oxley was born at 'Kirkham', a property near Camden, New South Wales, in 1868. She trained as a nurse at the Children's Hospital, Glebe Point, Sydney. She was the granddaughter of John Oxley, Surveyor-General of the Colony of New South Wales. Her father was John Norton Oxley and her mother was Harriett Hassall. John Oxley established a property, 'Kirkham', near Camden, New South Wales.

Harriet's father was the Rev. Thomas Hassall of 'Denbigh', Cobbity, New South Wales. Cobbity is in the same general part of New South Wales as Camden, i.e. southwest of Sydney. Thomas Hassall is believed to have been the prime mover behind the introduction of the Sunday School movement to Australia. His father was Roland Hassall, one of the first missionaries of the London Missionary Society who sent to Tahiti on the vessel *Duff* in 1776. Harriett Hassall-Oxley's mother was Ann Marsden, daughter of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, one of the most famous clergymen in the early history of the Colony of New South Wales.

The letters in this book are from several sources. Amy wrote the majority from China to her cousin, Isabel Hope (1859-1939) and her aunt, Mrs. Marianne Hope (nee Hassall), Harriet's sister. The Hopes lived at 'Darriwill' a property near Moorabool, Victoria. The two cousins were very close friends. Amy refers to Isabel often as 'Captain' and some letters are signed 'Second Mate.'

The Archives of the Church Missionary Society of England, held in the Special Collections of the University of Birmingham Library, England, provided the letters from Amy to Mrs Margaret Griffiths, daughter of the first Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend William Saumarez Smith. Mrs Griffiths gave the letters to the Society for archiving in 1915. The East Asia Archives of the Church Missionary Society of England are now available on microfilms in the National Library of Australia and in some Australian university libraries.

Little is known of Amy's life after the last letter of 1903. She married Dr. George Wilkinson, of the Church Missionary Society, in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China on 1 October 1902. Amy and George had two children, Isabel Oxley Wilkinson, born 1905 and a son, Marsden Oxley Wilkinson. The last item in this collection is an anonymous report of a ceremony, sometime after 1912, when the new Republic of China awarded Amy the prestigious Order of the Golden Grain, rarely awarded to foreigners. The insignia included a sash, red with white borders, and a star with an enamelled centre disk showing a sheaf of rice. The whereabouts of the sash and star, and a plaque honouring Amy's work for the blind children of Fuzhou, is unknown.

Despite many extended family reunions, little more is known about Amy and her family. The last known place of residence was Eastern Beach, Geelong, Victoria, in the early 1920 following which it is thought the family settled in England.

Ellen Hope  
'Darriwill North', Victoria.

Ian Welch  
Australian National University, Canberra

The year 1893 is noteworthy as that in which the first two ladies sent out by the Church Missionary Associations in Australia (which were formed as an outcome of the visit of the Rev. R W Stewart and Mr. Eugene Stock to the Colonies in 1892) reached the Mission. They were followed in 1895 by Miss Amy Isabel Oxley, a great grand-daughter of Samuel Marsden, 'the Apostle of New Zealand,' and the first to enter the Marsden Training Centre at Sydney, who was sent out by the New South Wales Church Missionary Association. Since then the Australian Associations have sent our further reinforcements.

Church Missionary Society, (1904), *For Christ in Fukien, The Story of the Fuh Kien Mission of the Church Missionary Society*, London, Church Missionary Society, pp 33-34



Photo by Amy Oxley,  
Courtesy Mr. Alistair Hope, Victoria

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915

**Author:** Rev. Robert Stewart

**Recipient:** Secretary of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society.<sup>1</sup>

**Subject:** Placement of Amy Oxley

**Notes:**

- (i) Status of single women missionaries.
- (ii) Conflict with Archdeacon John R Wolfe, senior CMS missionary, Fujian Mission over women missionaries wearing Chinese dress.
- (iii) Arrangement to 'lend' or second Australian CMS single women missionaries to CEZMS.
- (iv) Kucheng is known in modern China as Gutian.

**Others Mentioned:** Eugene Stock, Editorial Secretary, CMS London.  
Dublin University Fukien Mission. (now DU Far East Mission).  
Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS Missionary, Fujian Province.

Kucheng

23 August 1894

I feel that Mr. Stock is troubled how to manage about a Miss Oxley, and other ladies from Australia, who want to come to Fuh-Kien and yet belong to the CMA.<sup>2</sup> So I have written telling him very much what I said to you recently as to the misfortune it would be sending CMS ladies to Hok Chiang, that this would absolutely certainly lead, within a short space of time, to the other Districts having them, and then your 'raison d'être' for being in the Province would be gone.<sup>3</sup> But God will not allow this. Those good men at Salisbury Square would not force this great wrong on the ZMS.

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- 1 The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society (founded 1880 by absorbing the Indian Female Normal School and Instruction Society – founded 1868), at the urging of Rev. Robert and Mrs. Louisa Stewart, sent single women missionaries to Fukien Province to work closely with the Church Missionary Society. Stewart was the Corresponding Secretary and effectively the overseer of the CEZMS in Fukien Province. The senior CMS missionary in Fukien Province, Archdeacon John R Wolfe, based in Fuzhou, who was the superintending missionary for the Hok Chiang District, was strongly opposed to the division of Anglican work between the societies, and also had strong objections to the adoption of Chinese dress by the ladies of the CEZMS. The Australian women, strongly influenced by the strong Australian Anglican participation in the interdenominational China Inland Mission, as well as what they knew of the CEZMS, were unanimous in their preference for Chinese costume. The preference of the first two Australian women, the Saunders Sisters, is discussed in Welch, Ian, ed, (2005), Harriet Eleanor Saunders: Letters from China, Church Missionary Association of Victoria, Gutian, Fujian Province, China, 1895-1895.(forthcoming in the ANU Missionary History Project ebook series).
  - 2 CMA — Church Missionary Associations, the CMA of Victoria and the CMS of New South Wales were established in 1892 as auxiliary committees to the Parent Committee of the Church Missionary Society, London. In 1916 the Church Missionary Society of Australia was established as an independent society working in close cooperation with the original CMS in London.
  - 3 Although the CMS and CEZMS worked closely together, the CEZMS had a policy of allowing its women missionaries to wear Chinese costume, a practice deeply frowned upon by the majority of CMS ladies and especially by the senior CMS missionary and senior Anglican clergyman, Archdeacon John Richard Wolfe, of Shanghai. The native dress policy was adopted by the Australian auxiliaries of the CMS, the Church Missionary Associations of New South Wales and Victoria, established in 1892. The convention was adopted to second the Australians to the CEZMS while

Mr. Stock in Australia invited Miss Oxley to come to Ku Cheng (Gutian) and this was almost promised her. Now I tell him that unless she is lent, while in the field, to the ZMS this cannot be done, and I quote the rules of the Ladies Branch of the DUFM<sup>4</sup> under which, you know, they will send ladies out here to work under your direction, though of course sending letters and reports to their own CMA. And suggesting that the Colonies would adopt this method (i.e. Chinese dress), and thus those CMA's could have absolute freedom to send their ladies to the ZMS fields as well as CMS.

I assume, of course, that you would heartily approve of this. If not, the matter ends. Do the Societies ever lend workers to one another in this way in India?<sup>5</sup>

Even though it could not be done from England, where everything is on so large a scale, it might easily be done in the Colonies and these would gladly agree, I believe, if the Parent Committee approved.

I feel that if the CMS have ladies in Hok Chiang, as a matter of course whatever they may say to the contrary now they will be in Foo Chow and Lieng Kong (also under the Archdeacon) and almost at once, also in Hing Hwa and Lo Nguong; and in a rod all Fuh Kien except Ku Cheng will be open to them. When Lloyd<sup>6</sup> (or someone) goes round holding meetings, ladies come forward, 'May I go to Fuh-Kien?', 'Yes, all except Ku Cheng, apply to CMS'. What a blow this will be to her younger and weaker sister society. Think of the effect in Ireland!

Those devoted women there working so hard, their plea, that (practically) Fuh Kien depended on the ZMS for its ladies work, now robbed from them. Lloyd goes over there and proclaims that the CMS is doing this work. We shall be looked upon as deceivers, subscriptions will begin to fall off, and yet there will be scarcely any gain to the CMS.

And then the misery and heart-burning and friction out here! The (CMS) Missionary of the District encouraging this Society and slighting that, the poor ladies struggling to sin his approval! Cruel!

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retaining them on the official list of CMS missionaries. This exacerbated existing difficulties with Archdeacon Wolfe over the issue of 'dual' control of Anglican single women missionaries in Fujian Province.

4 Dublin University Fukien Mission, a source of graduate male and ordained missionaries to the CMS Mission in Fujian Province and through the Ladies Committee, a source of single women missionaries through the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society.

5 The original focus of the CEZMS was on India. The first Australian women missionary of the Australian CMA's was Miss Helen Phillips who worked with CEZMS in India. Prior to Miss Phillips, several Australians served directly through the CEZMS office in London. An Australian branch of the CEZMS was formed in Melbourne in 1890. It was absorbed by the Church Missionary Association of Victoria in August 1896.

6 Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS missionary in Fujian Province. A friend of Stewart, Lloyd was a strong supporter of the CEZMS and became Corresponding Secretary in Fujian after Stewart's death in the Huashan Massacre, 1 August 1895.

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915.

**Author:** Major-General C G Robinson, Hon Secretary, CEZMS.

**Recipient:** Higgins, Church Missionary Society.<sup>7</sup>

**Subject:** Placement of Australian single women missionaries.

**Notes:**

- (i) Status of single women missionaries.
- (ii) Conflict with Archdeacon John R Wolfe, senior CMS missionary, Fujian Mission over women missionaries wearing Chinese dress.
- (iii) Arrangement to 'lend' or second Australian CMS single women missionaries to CEZMS.

Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, 9 Salisbury Square, London, EC.

1 January 1895

My dear Mr. Higgins

Would you kindly let us know whether the ladies going out from Australia to China will be sent to the Fuhning Prefecture of the Fuh Kien Province, working in the CMS sphere of ladies work?

I ask this as our Secretary, Mr. Stewart, is very anxious should they be sent to any other parts of Fuh Kien that they be attached to CEZMS and we would like to press this before the CMS Committee.

Yours sincerely

C G Robinson

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<sup>7</sup> The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, at the urging of Rev. Robert and Mrs. Louisa Stewart, sent single women missionaries to Fukien Province to work closely with the Church Missionary Society. Stewart was the Corresponding Secretary and effectively the overseer of the CEZMS in Fukien Province. The senior CMS missionary in Fukien Province, Archdeacon John R Wolfe, based in Fuzhou, who was the superintending missionary for the Hok Chiang District, was strongly opposed to the division of Anglican work between the societies, and also had strong objections to the adoption of Chinese dress by the ladies of the CEZMS. The Australian women, strongly influenced by the strong Australian Anglican participation in the interdenominational China Inland Mission, as well as what they knew of the CEZMS, were unanimous in their preference for Chinese costume. The preference of the first two Australian women, the Saunders Sisters, is discussed in Welch, Ian, ed, (2005), Harriet Eleanor Saunders: Letters from China, Church Missionary Association of Victoria, Gutian, Fujian Province, China, 1895-1895.(forthcoming in the ANU Missionary History Project ebook series).

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915.  
**Author:** Major-General C G Robinson, Hon. Secretary, CEZMS  
**Recipient:** Rev. Frederick E Wigram, Secretary, Church Missionary Society.<sup>8</sup>  
**Subject:** Placement of Australian single women missionaries.  
**Notes:** (i) Status of single women missionaries.  
(ii) Conflict with Archdeacon John R Wolfe, senior CMS missionary, Fujian Mission over women missionaries wearing Chinese dress.  
(iii) Arrangement to 'lend' or second Australian CMS single women missionaries to CEZMS.  
**Others Mentioned:** Rev. Robert Stewart

Church of England Zenana Missionary Society Office, Salisbury Square

1 January 1895

My dear Mr. Wigram

As the Committee of the CEZMS will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. It will be impossible for any of the CEZ Secretaries to be present at the CMS Committee of Correspondence when para. 7 of the Agenda will be brought up. We ask that the consideration of the question of allowing ladies appointed to the Fuh Kien Province from Sydney, Australia, to proceed thither, may be deferred to another meeting when we could be present but in case this would be inconvenient, we would ask that this letter may be read at the Committee and the accompanying extracts from letters from Revd. R W Stewart our Corresponding Secretary in China.

We would plead that the following rule may be established with reference to ladies appointed from the Colonies for Mission Service:

'When Lady Missionaries from the Colonies are appointment to serve in spheres occupied by the CMS for women's work, they shall be attached to the CMS but when working in spheres occupied by the CEZ that they shall be attached to the CEZMS.'

Our Corresponding Secretary, Revd. R W Stewart, CMS, earnestly presses that the above rule shall be adopted. He points out that there are various differences of working which would make it inconvenient to mix the Ladies of the two Societies in the same sphere.

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8 The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, at the urging of Rev. Robert and Mrs. Louisa Stewart, sent single women missionaries to Fukien Province to work closely with the Church Missionary Society. Stewart was the Corresponding Secretary and effectively the overseer of the CEZMS in Fukien Province. The senior CMS missionary in Fukien Province, Archdeacon John R Wolfe, based in Fuzhou, who was the superintending missionary for the Hok Chiang District, was strongly opposed to the division of Anglican work between the societies, and also had strong objections to the adoption of Chinese dress by the ladies of the CEZMS. The Australian women, strongly influenced by the strong Australian Anglican participation in the interdenominational China Inland Mission, as well as what they knew of the CEZMS, were unanimous in their preference for Chinese costume. The preference of the first two Australian women, the Saunders Sisters, is discussed in Welch, Ian, ed, (2005), Harriet Eleanor Saunders: Letters from China, Church Missionary Association of Victoria, Gutian, Fujian Province, China, 1895-1895.(forthcoming in the ANU Missionary History Project ebook series).

Our proposal is based on the plea that the two Societies are both working in cooperation, and we should agree to any rules which are for the best interests of either Society. The CEZMS originally occupied the Fuh Kien Province at the invitation of the CMS and it seems vital to us as a Society, now the CMS are accepting Ladies in such large numbers, to be able to show that we have certain distinct spheres such as the one in the Fuh Kien Province.

Our principles being identical with that of the CMS, our foreign work being directed by the Missionaries of the CMS, our income being derived from the same evangelical body as the CMS, the *raison d'être* of the Society in the eyes of our supporters would be certainly lost if Ladies belonging to the CMS occupy the same Districts in which for many years the Ladies of the CEZMS have been employed, we therefore trust that the Ladies appointed to the Fuh Kien Province from Australia may not be directed to that part in it which is now occupied by the CEZMS

I remain, Yours sincerely,

C G Robinson

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915.  
**Author:** Major-General C G Robinson, Hon Secretary, CEZMS.  
**Recipient:** Eugene Stock, Editorial Secretary, Church Missionary Society.  
**Subject:** Placement of Australian single women missionaries.  
**Notes:** (i) Status of single women missionaries.  
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(iii) Arrangement to 'lend' or second Australian CMS single women missionaries to CEZMS.  
**Others Mentioned:** Rev. Robert Stewart.

Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, 9 Salisbury Square, Lond, EC.

8 January 1895

My dear Mr. Stock

I send our hearty thanks to you for the kind way in which you have met our difficulty of having a CMS lady posted to our Station at Ku cheng where we have so large a band of ladies already.

Mr. Stewart must evidently have changed his mind since his visit to Australia as his letters to us certainly show, his desire has been very strongly expressed that Ladies coming from the Colonies into ZMS spheres shall be . . . on the Roles of the ZMS; he wrote to us on this subject very strongly before we had mentioned it to him ourselves.

It is our great regret that we have ever to appear to oppose any of the arrangements of the CMS Secretaries, but is only done under a clear sense of duty to our Society, and it is our happiness to feel that we will always be met by the CMS Secretaries with every consideration to help.

With kind regards

C G Robinson

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915.

**Author:** Rev. George Tonge, Clerical Secretary, CEZMS.

**Recipient:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, Secretary, Church Missionary Society.

**Subject:** Placement of Australian single women missionaries.

**Notes:**

- (i) Status of single women missionaries.
- (ii) Conflict with Archdeacon John R Wolfe, senior CMS missionary, Fujian Mission over women missionaries wearing Chinese dress.
- (iii) Arrangement to 'lend' or second Australian CMS single women missionaries to CEZMS.

**Others mentioned:** Eugene Stock, Editorial Secretary, CMS London.  
Rev. Robert Stewart.  
Rev. J S Collins, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
Rev. H S Phillips, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
Rev. C Shaw, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.

#### Church of England Zenana Missionary Society

4 July 1895

My dear Mr. Bating-Gould

Your important letter came into my hands yesterday after our Committee had dispersed, and my colleagues just on the move after a very close day's discussion on the important question affecting the relations between the two Societies.

We could hardly settle so weighty a question officially without conference with our Committee who do not meet again till July 24, and we Secretaries feel (as I told Mr. Stock this morning when he called) that Mr. Stewart is entitled to be consulted with in a matter which cannot fail to affect him. We do wish above all things to consult the highest interests of the work, the harmony which is so essential to real blessing on it, and therefore we do not wish to press unduly the consideration that that we have just, by yielding to the wish of the CMS that Hok Chiang and Ning Taik should be regarded as fields open to CMS workers, secured as we hoped for a definite period a recognized sphere for the CEZMS in Fuh-Kien.

In consultation with our Secretaries it has occurred to us to mention that as far as CEZMS is concerned it is not likely that we should wish to send any of our Ladies into districts which are not now by agreement assigned to CMS work.

The real difficulty lies in the case of CMS Ladies who prefer what may be called CEZMS methods. There are no CMS missionaries who would care to have in their districts those ladies who prefer CEZMS methods.. The CMS Missionaries who would welcome them are in the CEZMS spheres. Mr. Stewart, Mr. Collins and Mr. Phillips. I believe in Hing Hwa they work happily with Mr. Shaw by means of a compromise in regard to dress.

Actually at the present time the difficulty affects 3 ladies from Australia.<sup>9</sup> Is it likely that from England CMS would send to Fuh-Kien ladies who would insist on CEZMS methods? Would they not have enough to do for some time to come to supply the demand of Hok Chiang and other CMS districts where CMS methods prevail.

Could the case of the present Australian ladies be met not by insisting on a transfer absolute and entire to the CEZMS (about which there might be a difficulty) but by letting the Ladies while remaining on CMS list be lent to CEZMS, or dealt with as exceptional cases.

This of course, would not meet future cases which would mainly come, I expect, from Victoria or New South Wales, but if these cases of special urgency were thus dealt with we would get time to consider some workable scheme to apply generally.<sup>10</sup>

This suggestion has not of course official authority but it occurred to us in conversation this morning.

I have been fully occupied all day or would have written sooner,

With kind regards, yours very sincerely

George Tonge

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<sup>9</sup> Tonge is referring to Nellie and Topsy Saunders, already working with Stewart in Gutian (Kucheng) and Amy Oxley, about to finish at New South Wales CMA Marsden Training Home.

<sup>10</sup> The idea of 'lending' Australian CMS missionaries to CEZMS was first raised by Rev. Robert Stewart in an earlier letter to CEZMS.

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915.

**Author:** Rev. George Tonge, Secretary, CEZMS

**Recipient:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, Secretary, Church Missionary Society.<sup>11</sup>

**Subject:** Placement of Australian single women missionaries.

**Notes:** (i) Status of single women missionaries.  
(ii) Conflict with Archdeacon John R Wolfe, senior CMS missionary, Fujian Mission over women missionaries wearing Chinese dress.  
(iii) Arrangement to 'lend' or second Australian CMS single women missionaries to CEZMS.

**Others mentioned:** Rev. Robert Stewart

### Church of England Zenana Missionary Society

5 July 1895

My dear Mr. Baring-Gould

Thank you for your kind note just received. I am glad to think that the suggestions we ventured to make appear likely to offer a solution at any rate for the present of the difficulty in locating CMS Ladies from Australia in Fuh-Kien where they can work on lines which they have learned to prefer.<sup>12</sup>

Forgive me for taking for granted that you knew what I ought to have officially informed you of that there is no objection made on the part of Rev. R W Stewart to our suggestions that, subject to his concurrence, our Society should agree to the CMS retaining Ning Taik. His concurrence was reported to our Committee on Wednesday last.

With kindest regards and hoping you will be able to get a complete and refreshing change. Believe me, yours very sincerely

**George Tonge,**  
**Clerical Secretary CEZMS.**

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11 The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, at the urging of Rev. Robert and Mrs. Louisa Stewart, sent single women missionaries to Fukien Province to work closely with the Church Missionary Society. Stewart was the Corresponding Secretary and effectively the overseer of the CEZMS in Fukien Province. The senior CMS missionary in Fukien Province, Archdeacon John R Wolfe, based in Fuzhou, who was the superintending missionary for the Hok Chiang District, was strongly opposed to the division of Anglican work between the societies, and also had strong objections to the adoption of Chinese dress by the ladies of the CEZMS. The Australian women, strongly influenced by the strong Australian Anglican participation in the interdenominational China Inland Mission, as well as what they knew of the CEZMS, were unanimous in their preference for Chinese costume. The preference of the first two Australian women, the Saunders Sisters, is discussed in Welch, Ian, ed, (2005), Harriet Eleanor Saunders: Letters from China, Church Missionary Association of Victoria, Gutian, Fujian Province, China, 1895-1895.(forthcoming in the ANU Missionary History Project ebook series).

12 There is an implication that the Saunders Sisters views on Chinese dress were formed in the 18 months spent with the Stewarts in Gutian. There are several references in their letters to their mother about their strong preference for Chinese costume but they make no specific references to any potential problems with CMS male missionaries.



**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915

**Author:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, CMS Secretary, London.

**Recipient:** Rev. Robert Stewart, Kucheng (Gutian), Fujian Province, China.

**Notes:** Nellie Saunders future location. This letter would not have reached Robert Stewart before his death.

**Others mentioned;**

- (i) Rev. Gerorge Tonge, Clerical Secretary, CEZMS, London.
- (ii) Misses Saunders (Nellie and Topsy Saunders, Church Missionary Association of Victoria.
- (iii) Miss Amy Oxley, Church Missionary Association of New South Wales.

16 July 1895

My dear Mr. Stewart

Mr. Tonge tells me that you have kindly withdrawn your objections to CMS ladies continuing to work in Ning Taik. At this I greatly rejoice as helping greatly to remove causes of possible strain in the future.

Knowing of your strong feeling on the subject I especially appreciate your kindness and gratefully thank you.

After taking counsel of our friends at the office of the CEZMS we are . . . the Victorian administrator of the CEZMS to allow the Misses Saunders , while remaining on the list of CMS missionaries, and receiving their allowances as heretofore, to lend their services to the CEZMS and thus come under the administration of the CEZMS. Similarly the CMS proposes that Miss Oxley with the consent of the New South Wales Association remain on our CMS list, receive an allowance through Secretary. Mr. Bennett . . . will add their services to the CEZMS and work under their administration.

This is a very happy suggestion as it seems to us. It was made by the Secretaries to the CEZMS and approved by the Committees of both Societies. . . .

Your very devoted band of ladies have been much in our thoughts and prayers during the season of anxiety through which you have recently passed.

With kindest regards,

B Baring-Gould, Secretary CMS.

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915  
**Author:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, CMS Secretary, London.  
**Recipient:** Miss Amy Oxley.  
**Notes:** General Instructions to Missionaries.  
**Others mentioned:** Bennett, CMS East Asia Mission Secretary, Hong Kong.

**Church Missionary Society. Salisbury Square EC, London**

October 12, 1895

My dear Miss Oxley<sup>13</sup>

We received a cablegram with the words "Oxley Foochow" from which we gather that it is still your earnest wish to consecrate your life to the Master's Service in that province that has so recently been consecrated by the martyrdom of our beloved friends. Heartily do we rejoice that God has specially laid the demise of these people on you: and earnestly to we pray that, if it is His will, you may long be spared to labour in this portion of His vineyard.

You will, we assume, ere long be on your way to Hong Kong. There our Secretary, Mr. Bennett, will meet you, and I can assure you of a warm welcome there from both Mr. and Mrs. Bennett. They will arrange for all hospitality to be afforded you until the way opens for your going on to Foochow. We are at present retaining at home the lady missionaries who were proceeding to Fuh Kien for the first time. When we receive from Foochow satisfactory reports as to the condition of things there, sufficient to justify our sending on this party, we will communicate with you at Hong Kong, and you will, I hope, be able to accompany them for the remainder of the voyage.

Herewith I am forwarding you a copy of the General Instructions which were placed in the bands of some of our China missionaries are our recent Dismissories. They will, I feel sure, interest you and in a measure I trust prove suggestive and helpful. I personally regret that I have not the advantage of knowing you personally, but you will, I hope, not less on this account regard me as one who desires to the extent of my power to help you in your blessed work for the Master, and to sympathize with you to the full in all its difficulties and trials. We do indeed praise God for the enabling grace which has been so markedly vouchsafed to Mrs. Saunders in her time of sore bereavement. And we cannot but believe that a rich harvest must spring in God's own time from the precious seed which lies in the mysterious dispensation from Him in Kucheng.

May the Master Himself take you into His powerful, peaceful and holy keeping. May His Holy Spirit fill you with all joy and peace and life and mightily with you among your colleagues, the foreign community, the native Christians, and the Heathen. . . . sow with individuals, perseveringly, faithfully, humbly, prayerfully, lovingly and expectingly, "for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain for the Lord." As a . . . to that may I have you Deut xxxvi:12, i.e., Relying upon the Blood and Righteousness of Christ, Receiving the assured presence of the Spirit of Christ, Rejoicing in the exceeding great and precious promises of Christ. Then will you be numbered among "Blessed of the Lord"

Ever Believe me to remain. Very sincerely yours,  
B Baring-Gould, Secretary, CMS

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915

**Author:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, CMS Secretary, London.

**Recipient:** Miss Amy Oxley.

**Notes:** Administrative arrangements in Fujian Province.

**Others mentioned:** Archdeacon John R Wolfe, CMS missionary, Foochow (Fuzhou), Fujian Province, China.

**Church Missionary Society, Salisbury Square EC, London**

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1895

Dear Miss Oxley

The Parent Committee of the Church Missionary Society, while expressing deep thankfulness at hearing of your acceptance as a Missionary by the New South Wales Association, and their earnest prayer that God's richest blessing may rest upon you in your work, would desire to inform you of the following matters of importance for your guidance as a Missionary sent out and supported by the New South Wales Association and appointed by the Parent Committee to the Society's South China Mission.

As connected with the NSW Association you are by its Constitution, while engaged in a CMS Mission, under the direction of the Parent Committee, and instructed to place yourself under the direction of the local governing body of the Mission, representing and appointed by the Parent Committee.

You must consider the Fuh Kien Sub-Conference as the representative of the Parent Committee. Our communications to you on all matters of business will be made through the Fuh Kien Sub-Conference, or its organiser, at present the Ven. Archdeacon Wolfe, and you will address yours to us through the same channel. Without this arrangement it would be impracticable for the Fuh Kien Sub-Conference to possess that full information which is necessary in order to enable them to discharge their important functions. You will, however, consider yourself at liberty to address us direct any private or confidential communication which you may think requisite: but when the interests of another are concerned such communications should be made only under very exceptional circumstances, and the use to be made of all confidential communications as well as the propriety of communicating them to any person affected must be left to our discretion.

The Committee wish you to write with the same freedom and unreserve as if your communications were addressed to the Parent Committee direct, as the Conference forward to them every communication received from the Missionaries. Should a difference of judgment unhappily arise between you and the Conference which cannot be adjusted on the spot you will be at liberty to refer the matter to the Parent Committee, only they expect that you will follow the directions of the Conference pending any such reference home.

Your position on arriving at the Mission Station to which you are appointed is to be regarded as Probationary. The study of the language of the country will be your first employment, and it is a rule of the Society that no Missionary should enter upon any responsible charge until he or she has passed an examination in the Vernacular. Any work

that she may undertake in the meantime must be carried on in subordination to the other Missionaries on the spot, unless sit be otherwise overruled by the Conference.

The Committee attach much importance to your sending at the close of the year an Annual Letter containing a digest of your labours and proceedings through the whole year, and to your keeping an exact account of any public money that may be expended by you or under your directions. They will be glad to hear from time to time and as soon as possible after your arrival in the Mission.

We forward to you by Bookpost a copy of the 'Regulations explanatory of the relations between the Society and the Missionaries'. A number of the Regulations in this book, as for instance, that relate to financial arrangements, will of course not apply to you as a Missionary supported by the New South Wales Association; but the Regulations as a whole will indicate the general lines of the Society's relationship to Missionaries connected with it. We also forward for your information and guidance pamphlets entitled "Instructions to Missionaries" and "Education."

With earnest prayers for your future welfare and usefulness,  
We remain, dear Miss Oxley,  
Truly and affectionately yours  
B Baring-Gould General Secretary

Miss A Oxley

(Reuters)

Telegram 254 Received London 1.59 pm

From Sydney 5 December 1895

Oxley passage taken for Hong Kong tenth intending Foochow would you delay, urgent.<sup>14</sup>

### **Response to above from CMS London**

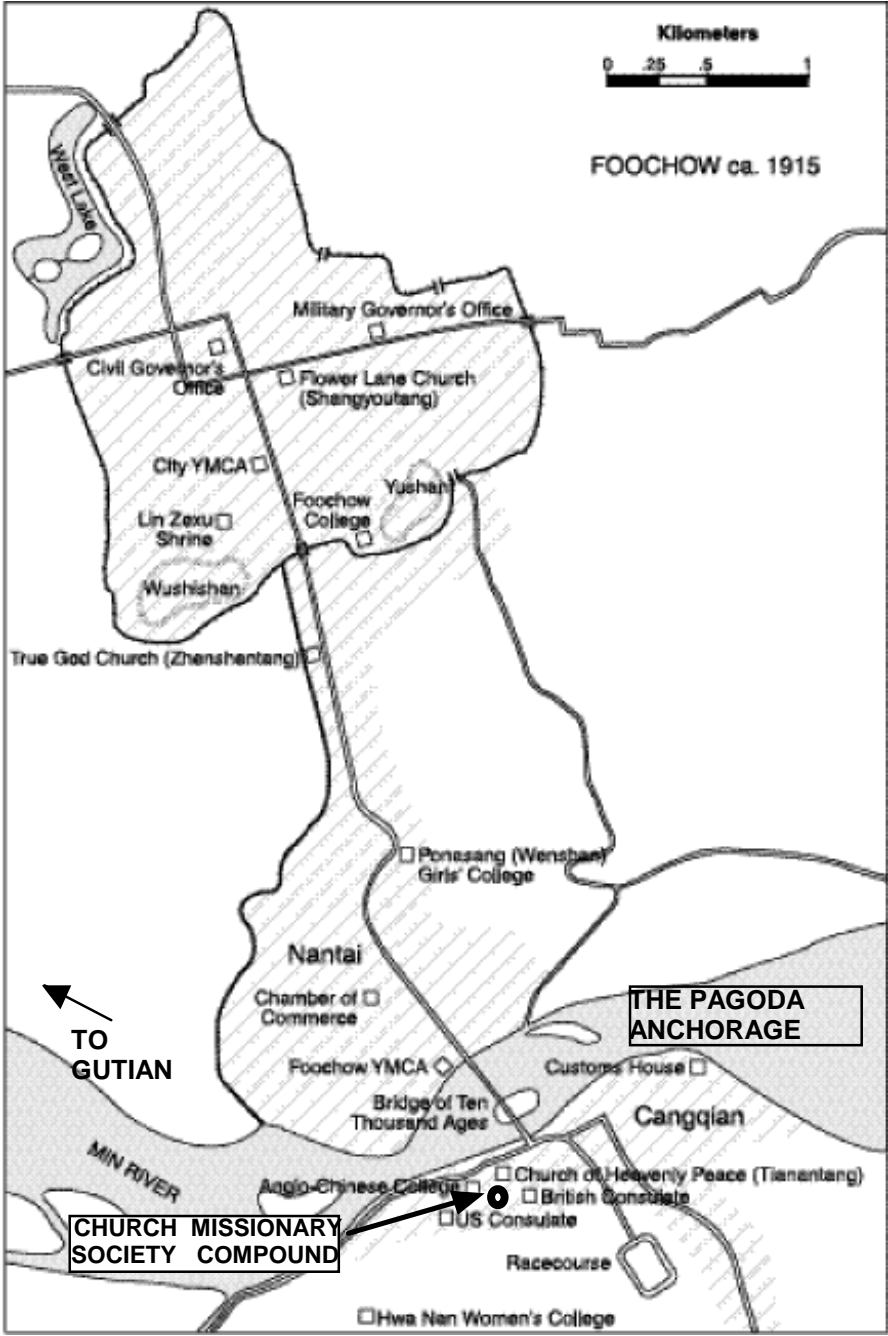
**Dec 5 1895**

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14 CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915, Reel 245. This message was sent by the Church Missionary Association of New South Wales to the Church Missionary Society London. The meaning is probably relates to a debate at Fuzhou over the risks of locating women away from Fuzhou, which was already overcrowded with CMS women missionaries unable to return to their posts. The British Consul had issued instructions that women were not to return inland until February 1896.

Gospel Sydney, Oxley proceed..

For many years international telegrams (cables) used codes, partly to  
Ensure a minimum level of privacy, and always to try to reduce costs.  
CMS London always used 'Testimony' as its address.



**Provenance:**

***The Age, Melbourne, 7 August 1895***

There is at present in Sydney a Miss Amy Oxley, who has been appointed by the Missionary Society in England to go to Ku Cheng with the Stewarts. On Wednesday a letter reached her from Mrs. Stewart, bearing date of 8<sup>th</sup> July [1895], written from Hua Sang Hill Station, to which the missionaries in the Ku Cheng province repair when their health becomes affected by malaria.

You have heard, Mrs. Stewart says, "of all the troubles we have had from the Vegetarians this spring, and our hasty journey to Foo Chow. We are now more or less settled in our summer quarters in the hills above Ku Cheong in a little village, Hua Sing. The need for workers to evangelise the untouched parts of the province is greatest in inland parts. There are whole countries where neither man or woman has ever yet preached Christ to the people lying waiting, and we signs that God's time for giving them the gospel is coming.

Since the war between China and Japan ceased we have been enjoying more peaceful times. The Vegetarians have been obliged to keep fairly quiet, as their masters have now time to attend to them. However they are by no means quelled, and occasionally we hear of some trouble here and there, but it is really more against the heathen who do not belong to their band than against the Christians. Already we see tokens of the good that God is going to bring out of all this evil. There has been so much prayer among the native Christians that it has taught us one lesson at least. That is to rely on prayer. In many places real interest is springing up. Men and women both are anxious to hear about the Saviour. One of our dear sisters, Elsie Marshall, is having such a good time in her district that she cannot tear herself away to have much needed rest this hot weather. Just think she has all to herself a region covering over 300 square miles densely populated with people who have hardly had the smallest chance of hearing of the Saviour.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** Voyage to China

December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1895

My own Dear Captain

I never write letters on Sunday but as I will have the opportunity of posting this to you at Port Darwin I will alter my rule for once. I hopped up on my bunk, put my hand in my mailbag and drew out a letter from you. Thank you so very much for it and for the enclosed verses which I will keep in my Bible. My bag contained 65 letters and a packet for Christmas so I am well off. It is a real joy getting these letters every day — some sweet message comes in then each day. If the dear ones who have written only knew the joy and pleasure it gives me they would be glad.

So far we have had a beautiful passage and I have not even had a headache. I feel sure God is answering prayer. At first on board there wasn't one soul who cared for Missions but now Praise the Lord things are different. I find the second officer was on board the *Haitan* and was one of the officers who gave the Saunders<sup>15</sup> the 'kitten.'<sup>16</sup> I have lent him their letters<sup>17</sup> to read and he is very interested. I must say every bit of it was of interest to me; I do thank you so much for it. I have found Jesus sufficient for everything. All the pain of saying goodbye and everything. On board this ship my Cup has been flowing over for He is Precious, He is with me, He is faithful to His promise, *so I am with you.*

There are only three men, two ladies and two boys as passengers. Four of them did not get on till we reached Thursday Island. I think I will like them. At first the young lady, Miss Swann, scorned me but we are quite good friends now, although she is not willing to give up the world and take Jesus Himself. The officers are exceedingly kind to me. Captain Innes travelled with Willie<sup>18</sup> in the *Tainan*, I don't know how to spell it. It has been 90 all the time in my Cabin, now I find it difficult to write for my hand clings to the paper. With all my

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15 Nellie and Topsy Saunders were the first Anglican missionaries sent by the newly formed Church Missionary Association of Victoria formed. They were martyred in 1895 a few months before Amy set out for China. See footnote 56 and several earlier footnotes. See Berry, Digby Marsh. (1895), *The sister martyrs of Ku Cheng Memoir and letters of Eleanor and Elizabeth Saunders*, Melbourne. Melville, Mullen and Slade. Cole, Keith, (1988), *Letters from China, 1893-1895*, Kew (Vic), St Hilary's Anglican Church. Cole, Keith, (1971), *A History of the Church Missionary Society of Australia*, Melbourne, Church Missionary Society. The kitten was found on the ship taking them to China in December 1893 and adopted by Topsy Saunders. It disappeared late in the voyage.

16 Topsy Saunders, in

17 The copy Amy mentions is probably the first edition printed in Melbourne. Any citations in this text are from Berry, D M, (1895), *The Sister Martyrs of Kucheng, Memoir and letters of Eleanor and Elizabeth Saunders*, London, James Nisbet and Co, p 25. (This was a London reprint of the Melbourne first edition).

We have got such a dear little kitten from the *Haitan*; Mr. Douglas sent it up this morning; it is to go up with us, and will be so useful to catch the mice. His name is Grim; at present he is rolled up on my bed asleep. He came up in the launch this morning, and a coolie brought him up in basket; we had to sing the delivery sheet for 'one cat.'

18 Dr William Waugh Hope, Amy's cousin.

heart's love to your and dear Auntie and I will write a letter of news when I reach my new home.

I am your loving II mate.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, Secretary, CMS London.  
**Notes:** Acknowledges letter from Baring-Gould.  
**Voyage to China and welcome from missionaries.**  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Bennett, CMS East Asia Mission Secretary, Hong Kong.  
(ii) Rev. William Banister, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iii) Mrs. Mary (Maclehose) Wolfe (wife of Archdeacon John Wolfe.)  
(iv) Rev. Robert and Mrs. Louisa Stewart.

"The Olives', Foochow,  
17 January 1896

Dear Mr. Baring-Gould,<sup>19</sup>

I cannot tell you what a pleasure and privilege it was to receive a letter from you. I do thank you for it also for the Motto text. I like to read in the Psalms, 'The Lord covereth him all the days long and he dwelleth between the shadows.' I have so realised the Presence of the Lord during my journey on the steamer for at first I could not find any one in sympathy with Missionary work but instead found open opposition, indifference and coldness but the Lord god Himself was with me and He worked in the hearts of people.

I arrived at Hongkong on the end of January and stayed there one week. Mr and Mrs Barnett [Bennett/] were exceedingly kind and gave me every opportunity of seeing the work. On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. I left Hongkong arriving in Foochow on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. Mrs. Wolfe's Chinese servant came on board to meet me at the Anchorage and about eight CMS and

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19 Amy Oxley to Rev. B Baring-Gould, East Asia Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, London, 17 January 1896. CMS East Asia Archives, Microfilm 1915, National Library of Australia, Reel 245. Amy's letter needs to be read in the context of a long-standing dispute between Archdeacon John R Wolfe, the senior CMS missionary in Fujian (Fukien)\_Province, over the wearing of Chinese dress by women missionaries. Wolfe had been offended by the refusal of the two previous Australians, Nellie and Topsy Saunders, to conform to his wishes. Wolfe wished to impose an obligation on Amy to wear only European costume when appointed to Leong Kong. The Rev. William Banister who, along with the other missionaries and the CMS itself, felt that the decision about whether or not to wear Chinese or European dress was a matter for each individual woman to take for herself rejected this.

In addition to the tension over costume, there had been a long discussion within Fujian and with CMS London over Wolfe's wish to open a CMS Hospital in Foochow (Fuzhou). As a trained nurse, Amy was ideally qualified to be, as indeed she became, the nurse in charge of the CMS Foochow Hospital.

CEZ ladies and Mr. Banister met me at the 'Bund' and gave me such a loving welcome to Foochow. There was one I missed, dear Mr. Stewarts, but Jesus Himself stood on the shore and gave me grace just to look away from earth up to Him.

It was arranged for me to come to the 'Olives' until there is a house for the CMS ladies, and I am so happy here with the others, some old tried workers, others still studying for their first [Chinese language] examination. At a . . . Service held on the afternoon of my arrival it was decided for me to work at Leong Kong, the most needy district. I can truly say I rejoice to go there because I believe it is the place God has chosen for me, Ku Cheng is so dear to me but I would rather work in the place He has chosen, and you have said you will pray. I do know that God answers prayers and so I am sure He will do great things in Leong Kong. I had my first lesson in Chinese on the 16<sup>th</sup>, yesterday. It will indeed need grace and patience to learn to speak; one does so long to speak at once to the people.

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the General Instructions, also for the Books of Rules and Regulations. I trust I may be a faithful worker in this part of the Mission Field that the Master has called me to work in, to be faithful and will need, like Mary, to sit at the feet of Jesus, looking up to Him, realising that we can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

I have written to you as you asked me, as to a friend. Thank you for allowing me to do so.

Believe me to remain

Yours very sincerely

Amy Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** Arrival at Foochow (Fuzhou)  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Mrs Marianne Hope (aunt), 'Darriwill' Victoria.  
(ii) Miss Eliza Hassall, Lady Superintendent, Marsden Training Home (CMS), Sydney.  
(iii) Nellie and Topsy Saunders.  
(iv) Mrs. Mary (Maclehose) Wolfe, wife of Archdeacon John Wolfe.  
(v) Miss Margaret Boileau, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(vi) Misses Clark (2).  
(vii) Miss Minna Searle, Australia.  
(viii) Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ix) Miss Lizzie Betts.

'The Godown', Foo Chow,

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1896.<sup>20</sup>

My own dear Captain

I am continually thinking of you and dear Auntie<sup>21</sup> but have not been able to write before. I feel sure Lizzie<sup>22</sup> has told you some news about me but I will briefly tell you of my movements and work since the 14 Jan.

Early on the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan we arrived at the river Min and steamed up to the Anchorage.<sup>23</sup> It was a dull cold morning but I stood on the deck looking at everything, the high mountains on either side with terraces all the way up, cultivated in spring when they must look very beautiful, as it was the mountains are very grand. Here and there on the riverbank were villages and I wondered which ones dear Nellie and Topsy<sup>24</sup> had visited that time they went to Sharp's Peak.<sup>25</sup> We passed dozens of junks and sampans on the river and very picturesque they looked.

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<sup>20</sup> The term 'godown' is a near equivalent to the English term 'warehouse' or storage building for goods.

<sup>21</sup> Mrs. Marianne Hope (nee Hassall) of 'Darriwill', a farming property at Moorabool near Geelong, Victoria.

<sup>22</sup> Miss Eliza Hassall of Sydney. Lady Superintendent of CMANSW Training Home for Lady Missionaries, Sydney. See Picture following this letter.

<sup>23</sup> Pagoda Anchorage was as far as ocean-going vessels could proceed up the Min River. The Anchorage is 30 kilometres from the sea. Fuzhou (Foochow) is a further 19 kilometres upstream from the Anchorage.

<sup>24</sup> Nellie and Topsy Saunders, CMS Victoria, martyred with Robert Stewart and other CMS missionaries at Huasang, a hill station near Gutian (Kucheng), Fujian Province, China, on 1 August 1895.

<sup>25</sup> A CMS 'sanatorium' or hill station to which missionaries went during the hot summer months of July-August, or when health or recreation required a rest. Topsy Saunders described the place in a letter to her mother in August 1894. Berry, D M, (1895), *The Sister Martyrs of Kucheng, Memoir and letters of Eleanor and Elizabeth Saunders*, London, James Nisbet and Co, p 140:

On arriving at the Anchorage a Chinese servant came on board with a letter from Mrs. Wolfe<sup>26</sup> welcoming me to Foo Chow and saying some ladies would meet me up at the landing place, which they did and a very warm welcome they gave me. I went to the 'Olives' where the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society ladies live and stayed there for about 2 weeks. They . . . some CEZMS ladies were coming back home from Japan and would want their rooms so we four CMS's, Miss M D Boileau and two Miss Clark's came to a place called the 'Godown' three rooms over a place used to store extra boxes etc. We remained there nearly a month and then the consul issued the passports<sup>27</sup> and so we at once packed up, the Clarkes<sup>28</sup> going to Fuk Ning, Miss Boileau to Songwong, and I came to Archdeacon Wolfe's and expect to remain here until I go to Leong Kong.

On the afternoon of my arrival a conference of ladies was held and I was appointed to work in the Long Kong district.<sup>29</sup> It is a very large place, a city and many villages. Although there is a native pastor there and work being carried pm there has been no resident missionary. (??) Itinerated there last year, and so it is one of the needy places. I hardly expect to go there till I have passed my first exam<sup>30</sup> in about a year. Minna Searle is appointed to work with me and I am very disappointed that she will not be out until the end of the year.<sup>31</sup> I cannot think why she is not coming. Leong Kong is a day's journey from Foochow and the Foochow dialect is spoken there. Do pray for the people and that I may very soon learn this most difficult language, for the women will have to wait and *the time is short*.<sup>32</sup>

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Sharp Peak is nearly a day's journey down the river from Foochow. It is a rocky island about three miles round, just at the mouth of the Min, where it flows into the sea. We see the steamers coming and going in and going out. One of the tea steamers left for home the other day. The three missions, two American and one English, have houses here, and besides that there is the telegraph and cable house for Foochow and right up inland to Peking, and those are all the foreign habitations on the island.

26 Formerly Miss Mary Macle hose, of Sydney.

27 All British missionaries (Australians were then British), required a passport issued by the British Consul that advised Chinese officials of their status and rights under the Treaties signed between Britain and China.

28 Miss Janet Cumming Clarke and Miss Jemima Eliza Clarke [CEZMS].

29 A Chinese administrative district (hsien) is roughly equivalent to a municipal district. The hsien is the foundation element of the Chinese governmental system, with its own magistrates, police, etc. There was a district city where the official lived and which contained the key administrative resources. There were literally hundreds of subordinate towns and villages in each district with a population usually numbering in the millions. The CMS and CEZMS usually placed one male missionary in each district city, with the women missionaries being located in major towns and itinerating constantly into the surrounding villages. There were no roads etc. in a modern sense. Movement was by narrow footways between fields. Most foreigners used sedan chairs carried by coolies but often found the jolting and swaying so unpleasant that it was often easier to walk. The single women missionaries often lived alone or with one European companion. As Amy's letters suggest, she usually had two other ladies with her but they were often away itinerating. When travelling, the women usually had a Chinese male servant and hired coolies to carry luggage and themselves. There is no instance in the letters of Amy Oxley or the other single women missionaries whose letters are held in the Missionary Archives Project (i.e. the Australians Nellie and Topsy Saunders, Annie Gordon or the English CEZMS worker, Elsie Marshall, of any sense of risk while travelling alone with only Chinese employees. Some American sources make similar claims.

30 All missionaries undertook language study that usually took at least a year. The first examination certified a basic understanding of the Chinese written language and the second certified their capacity to undertake oral communication in the local dialect. The written forms of the local dialect, especially Bible translations, were commonly in romanised form.

31 Miss Minna Searle, Church Missionary Association of Victoria, from Tasmania, financially supported by Missionary Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association, Hobart, Tasmania. Deng Doi near Foochow. Resigned 1921. Died Tas 1945.

32 A commonly used phrase in missionary discourse that usually refers to the expected Second Coming of Jesus Christ to rule the earth. It was widely accepted as part of the millenarian thinking of evangelical Protestants for much of the second half of the nineteenth century.

Everything here is a great deal better than I expected and God has indeed given me the hundred fold. I cannot tell you how loving the missionaries are to me, all of them just shower affection on me *what shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits? I will take the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord.*

The Climate: It has been cold enough for thick dresses (my Geelong tweed is most comfortable)<sup>33</sup> hot bottle in bed, two blankets and an eiderdown. One day we had snow but every day it has been dull and cold, most days raining.

Houses: Large rooms, high with French windows, verandas with shutters all round.

Food: Almost the same as at home only buffalo milk and butter which is pure white in colour and something like very nice lard. Vegetables in season, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, potatoes. Fruit: oranges and tasteless bananas. Most of the missionaries send home for groceries and I will do the same. Things are too dear out here.

Conveyances: Chairs carried by two or three coolies. Just cane armchairs made any size you like, with a cover to fit on something like a cage with windows at the side. Bamboo poles are fastened on the side of the chair. Walks mostly on the hills among the gravestones. All the hills here are covered with graves and pretty little ferns grow on the ledges of the old stone ones. Then there are a very few narrow roads made by the English residents, and there are also narrow paths across the 'paddy fields', viz, vegetable gardens.

Church: There is a Church of England service conducted by the Rev. L. Lloyd<sup>34</sup> of our mission, also Chinese service at the College, the Rev. Sinke is the pastor, a really splendid man.

Language: It is difficult and I do need the grace of God to learn it. I have a teacher, Ding Sing Ang, and I study between four and five hours a day. No one does more without in the end breaking down. It makes me feel very tired and not inclined for letter writing.

When you write, which I trust will be very soon, just ask me any questions and I will try and answer them. I hope you will come and stay with me when I go to Leong Kong. If only you just come to this heathen land and see for yourself, you would go home and just love working for the cause.

Oh Bell, if you could only just see some of these people in their homeless helpless misery, and then see some who by the grace of God have turned from their idols to serve the Living and True God, you would realise what a privilege it is to have a share in the work. I am so glad I am here, every day I feel more glad. *The fields are indeed white unto harvest* and we don't know what to do for labourers. God is answering prayer for China for hundreds and hundreds are entering their names as enquirers and they will need teaching and building up. I have quantities to tell you but have not the time. I cannot send enough love to you and dear Auntie. I just want to really have you. I would like to sit down by the fireside with you both and just have a real yarn, but I am glad to be here. It is the place God has chosen for me and we have a Glorious Eternity before us. This is the time to work and watch and pray, then it will be always rejoicing in the presence of the King of Kings.

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33 Geelong was and remains a major centre for the Australian wool industry. Spinning mills were a major industrial and commercial activity at the time the letter was written. Amy Oxley's relatives owned a sheep station at Moorabool, near Geelong.

34 Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS. Arrived Fukien 1876. Corresponding Secretary for the CEZMS in Fukien Province.

Your own loving

II Mate.

The missionaries have gone back to Kucheng.<sup>35</sup> If Lizzie Betts is with you please give her my love. I will write as soon as I can.

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35 Kucheng, Gutian, Gutian, Kutien – the scene of the Huasang Massacre of the Saunders Sisters, Annie Gordon, Robert and Louisa Stewart, etc,

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Margaret Griffiths, England. Daughter of Bishop of Sydney.  
**Notes:** General news.  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Miss Power, CMS/CEZMS missionary. Fiancee of Rev. Hipwell, CMS missionary, Hong Kong.  
(ii) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iv) Miss Cooper, CMS/CEZMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(v) Rev. Cooke, blind missionary, Amoy (Xiamen), Fujian Province, China.  
(vi) Miss M E Molloy, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Deng Doi,  
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1896

My dear Margaret,<sup>36</sup>

I was so delighted to hear from you again. I had not written for some time thinking you had left England for Australia. You are there now and I hope well and happy. You say you do not know what your work will be there. I say whatever it is God will give you all sufficient grace just as the need arises. I must say I hope you will take up work among the children who do not go to Sunday School. They seem to me to be so neglected as so many of them are taken to Church on Sunday Morning because it looks well but no man seems to really care for their souls. When next you write be sure and tell me that I may be able to pray for you.

I think I need the prayers of those at Home more than ever. Since my last letter to you there have been many changes. Miss Power who was senior Missionary in this District left us on Christmas Day to go to Hong Kong and has since been married to Mr. Hipwell to whom she had been engaged seven years. As he is appointed to work there of course she will not return to us. As I had passed my final examination [Chinese language] I had to take up Miss Power's work.

In January we moved to our new house in Deng Doi, which is a Village of 2000 families six miles from Lieng Kong City. Miss Newton<sup>37</sup> was appointed by Conference<sup>38</sup> to the District and so we three, Miss Searle, Miss Newton and I live together and very happy we are. Our nearest Missionary neighbour is 30 miles away, the Missionary in charge of the District 35

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<sup>36</sup> Mrs. Margaret Griffiths, 1951. Daughter of Archbishop William Saumarez Smith.

<sup>37</sup> Newton, Miss S S, CMA, New South Wales.

<sup>38</sup> The Women's Conference of the Church Missionary Society and Church of England Zenana Missionary Society in Fujian Province. It was a subordinate body to the CMS Fujian Sub-Conference of the CMS East Asian Mission. Even though the CEZMS was an independent mission it was very closely linked to the CMS and it was the accepted practice for male CMS missionaries, usually ordained ministers of the Anglican Church, to exercise oversight of the Zenana Mission members. The Corresponding Secretary of the Zenana Missionary Society was the Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, who succeeded the first Secretary, the Rev. Robert Stewart, martyred at Gutian, 1 August 1895.

miles away. I have charge of all the Women's Work and Girls' Day Schools in this District and it at present rather difficult as I have to find the Women and the Schools, and the Head Pastor and Catechists having been left to themselves for the past 25 or 30 years do all sorts of things that really in my work.

For instance, I visit Miss Cooper at Uong Buang and hear that two women from this District have been recommended to go to her school for three months. I find the Women and soon see that one cannot possibly go and the other has a boy of 12 years and there is no one to take care of him—later on she finds she can find a home for him. I read her recommendation paper and find that the Head Pastor says she is to go to Foo Chow School. On enquiry I find that she is not baptized and therefore cannot go to Foo Chow School.

This is the kind of thing they do also baptize women who know nothing. In future no woman is to be baptized unless I have recommended her. It will mean a lot of work but it is too sad to see baptized women working in the Fields on the Sabbath Day and when questioned do not know that salvation is, probably could not tell you who Jesus is.

This is a large District about 40 miles from one end to the other and 35 miles across, high mountains to cross, rivers to travel up and a long coastline. Today I have been to a large Fishing Village of 2000 families only 3 miles from here.

Last year Miss Power was there for 1 hour, the only Englishwoman they have seen so hundreds crowded round to see me. The Schoolmaster preached to them until he was hoarse. I went really to see a woman who had been possessed with a Devil. Her husband, a believer, had prayed for her and the devil left her and so she wished to worship God. I had the joy of seeing them take down their idols. They are nothing more to them now. Praise God.

A mile and a half from Ba Ceng is another fishing village called Sen O. There are 2000 families here. I stayed at the Preaching Hall for several days. Lately when I went into the streets so many people followed that I had to turn back. There are very few Christians but a number of Roman Catholics.

This year I hope to open a School for the Blind, during the Chinese New Year. I went to Chin Chu in Amoy and while there with the help of Mr. Cooke the blind missionary, put our Foo Chow Romanised into the Braille System, so now I am just waiting for God to send the money and then I will begin work. It will cost £4/10/- a year a keep a child. In every village I come across poor blind children.

The CMS have not sent us any money for a Women's School. We are very disappointed. We really do need a school. We also want a Hospital and a Doctor, two days a week. We see sick people and we have at least 160 a week, some we have to turn away it is so sad. Fancy on Sunday week a man came in with his lip all torn, another man had bitten him! Miss Molloy<sup>39</sup> who was here stitched it up and yesterday it was nearly well, he went to Church and will, I believe, worship God.

We are so thankful that some women here are beginning to see the sin of footbinding, two have unbound their feet and some more are making shoes. I could talk to you for a long time but time forbids. I have so many letters to write and so little time for writing.

You will I know continue to pray for me. I want daily to Abide in Christ and bring forth the Fruits of the Spirit. The temptation is to work, and to think of the work, how much there

is to do, and how few to do it, but it cannot be done by the soul that is not Abiding in Christ.  
The words spoken by oneself are useless. 'Severed from Me ye can do nothing.'  
With warm love,  
I remain,  
Yours in the truest bonds,  
Amy I Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** Discussion of 'second blessing.'  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Rev. Robert Stewart.  
(ii) Miss Violet Latham (see footnote 42).

CMS Foochow, China,  
April 14 1896

My dear old Captain

I see I wrote to you on the 4<sup>th</sup> March but I cannot in the least remember what I said but I feel sure I did not answer your question about the "Second Blessing." – 40

I wish I had you here and we could really talk about it because although I quite agree with Mrs. Rattray when she says it does more harm talking about it, when before some people I say, still I think we can with much benefit talk it over with others – it is a subject I have thought of since I was a child. Perhaps that surprises you but I did it in this way. I used to have the highest ideals of what could be and ought to be. I cannot say I ever lived with anyone who came so near my ideal as Robert Stewart.<sup>41</sup> Violet Latham also lives out what she knows.<sup>42</sup> As far as I understand the Second Blessing is being buried with Christ and then living the Resurrection life. There are so many commands in God's Word, "Be Holy". "Be Perfect" Matt v 48. And we know that God's biddings are His enablings. He would not tell us to 'be perfect' if it was impossible for us to be, but we must never run away with the thought that we can be sinless, the old Adam will always be in us but there is not need for him to get the victory. The more we know Christ the more temptations come but every victory makes it easier. *Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.* For the second blessing, I think in most lives, a time comes when you just ask the Lord to take you, and to come into your heart and reign as King. Well, the thing then is to just

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5 The concept that I Thessalonians 5:23 speaks of "entire sanctification," a gift which can be received from God as a one-time post-salvation blessing was first suggested in one of John Wesley's tracts in 1766 and was a constant theme in the Methodist tradition from that point.' About this time, the charismatic/pentecostal movement began in Australia, marked by 'speaking in tongues' and this also became known as evidence of the 'second blessing.' Speaking in tongues was, and generally is, rejected by evangelical Anglicans. There is no evidence that any of the CMS missionaries in China were involved in this issue.

41 The Rev. Robert Stewart visited Australia and New Zealand and later Canada, as a deputationist for the Church Missionary Society of England. He spent some time as guest of the Hope family at 'Darriwill'. He had been a missionary in China from 1876, with several lengthy breaks through ill health. Following his return from Australia, he and his wife Louisa travelled to China via Canada. They had been in England for five years and left three of their boys at school in England. In late 1893, accompanied by the Saunders Sisters (see later footnote) the Stewarts arrived in Foochow and in December 1893 Stewart became head of the CMS Mission at Gutian, about 100 miles inland from Foochow. On 1 August, Chinese rebels murdered Stewart, his wife, two of his children, the children's nurse, three Australian women, including the Saunders Sisters, an Irishwoman and two Englishwomen. A short summary of the event and its aftermath will be found in Wehrle, Edmund S, (1966), *Britain, China, and the Antimissionary Riots, 1891-1900*, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, pp 86-95. A brief account of the Saunders Sisters is given in Welch, Ian, (2004), 'Nellie, Topsy and Annie: Australian Anglican Martyrs, Fujian Province, China, 1 August 1895,' Paper presented to the First TransTasman Conference on Australian and New Zealand Missionaries, At Home and Abroad, Australian National University, Canberra, 8-10 October 2004.

42 This may be a reference to a person named Violet Latham who was a late 19<sup>th</sup> century American writer of devotional literature.

believe He has taken you and if He has then He has the right to control our lives in every thing, this means death to the Flesh, for the carnal and spiritual mind cannot agree, we have to reckon ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us be still before God about this matter asking Him to come and tell us about it. We do not wait upon God enough for Him to speak to us, we do not sit down with our dearest friend and talk about our affairs and then get up and leave them taking to interest in the affairs. I just hate myself when I realise how little time I give "My Beloved" to really speak to me. When He has spoken to us and knows that we are willing for Him to have the pre-eminence then let us now talk it out but live it out. Daily I realise that one must just live gaining victory after victory silently, no one but God knowing about it. In the morning when one feels tired, perhaps the weather is trying and the servants are trying and everything is trying, then is the time to "Look up" the Second Blessing, reckoning that such things do not touch or hurt us because we are dead, and our life is had with Christ in God. There is no need to sin, no need to fall but there is the tendency, once out of touch, and we fail break the electric wire and the light goes out. Keep it in connection with the machinery and the magnets, and the big light burns brightly. The Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin and God can and will use the soul cleansed and purified in the Precious Blood of Jesus, cleaned from self, from fear of man, from all that is unholy. The danger of talking about this blessing is this. The life of holiness and the possibility of the Christian is made the subject of addresses and many get to know the whole subject in Theory but alas in the home life, in the practical daily things, know nothing of it, and so many people say "he talks about the perfect life but see how unpleasant he is in his home, how unjust in matters of justice, untrue in the matters of business," and so harm is the result. I felt more and more convinced, Bell darling, that God just wants us to live Moment by Moment kept in His love, moment by moment life from above, not talking here there and everywhere about what a perfect life ours is, but just in God's sight dying daily, keeping strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus, abiding in Christ, delighting to be anything, do anything, say anything, to go anywhere if it is His will. The joy that comes into the life where Jesus reigns, the rest, the peace, and others cannot help being attracted because they see in the life CHRIST.

For myself, I have only just begun to see what a possibility there is of no abiding alone, but dying, thereby bringing forth much fruit. Life more abundant. I also begin to know this, that temptations will beset us on every side, temptations to spiritual pride also thinking we are something when we are nothing. Temptation to despair because after telling Jesus that we want Him to have the pre-eminence and then the first thing we find is our own will trying to take it. Let us lay hold of James 1.12. *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is being tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised them that love Him.*

Oh, I do pray that you and I may make the heart of Jesus Christ glad, that He may see in us the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Pray for me daily. I am in Satan's kingdom and the temptations do come, of all kinds. *Thanks be unto God who giveth us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Write to me when you have time, your letters also were precious but one does look for letters out here. I hope some day you and Mary Walsh can arrange to come together and see the work here and then go and interest others. If it be His will.

Yours lovingly, Amy Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** Mrs. Florence Lloyd, wife of Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS missionary.  
Miss Nita Wdderspoon, CMS/CEZMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
Mrs. Mary Walsh, wife of CMANSW Secretary, Mr. C A Walsh.  
Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS Missionary, Fujian Province, China  
Miss Poser, CMS/CEZMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
Miss Minna Seale, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
Miss Weller, CMS/CEZMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.

November 19, 1896

My own dear Captain

I want to write and wish you and dear Auntie a very Peaceful Christmas and a Bright New Year. The Lord has said: *I will do unto thee that at the beginning*. May He fill your souls with Himself day by day and supply your every need. I am just on the way back to Foo Chow. Yesterday one of our missionaries, Flo Lloyd 43 who has been up for the Annual Conference was returning to Hing Hua and as she has four days journey by herself. Two of us, Nita Wedderspoon and myself, came down in the houseboat to Dang Ki about 12 hours from Foo Chow, so that the way would not seem so long. We watched her off just after sunrise this morning – three chair-bearers, the load heavers and her servant. She will sleep at Changill tonight, Hing Hua City tomorrow night and Sieng U the next night. I have been asking about the way because you and Mary Walsh may like to visit Hing Hua district when you come to China.

The general opinion is that this is the best Conference that has been held, both business and devotional meetings. It was a wonderful sight last Sunday to see the chapel crowded and nine Chinese pastors walking in their clean white surplices. I think everyone in the building repeated the Lord's Prayer and it sounded like guns going off. The singing was splendid and I have never heard such heartiness. The Missionaries tell me the men have spoken beautifully but although I know a great many words I cannot think quickly enough to get the sentences.

The Rev. Mr. Lloyd<sup>44</sup> preached on Sunday morning and His subject was the continuing love of Christ.

I hope to go to my district about February. I am not at all sure Miss Poser will come out but Miss (Minna) Searle who is leaving Tasmania in December is to be my fellow worker and I hope one of the girls from Marsden Home. I will be very glad to go to the District but I am very happy indeed in Foo Chow. In the last few weeks I have had about a hundred patients to doctor. This has been a sad time for the Chinese. With the long continued hot weather and no rain there have been hundreds ill with fever, boils, and some have died of the plague, but now we have had a good shower of rain and the weather is cooler. I had enlarged liver and thin liver for a few days but I am well again now. I hope to pass my first exam in January. Will you remember this in prayer and if I do pass I am going with Miss Weller to Ku ching (Kucheng) for a few days. In a letter from Mother last mail she talks of staying at Darriwill. I wonder if she went? Goodbye my dear old Bell. I will give you such a welcome when you come. Remember me to my friends down there, especial love to Helen and Maggie.<sup>45</sup>  
I am your loving cousin, Amy.

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44 Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS. Arrived Fukien 1876 with Rev. Robert Stewart. Corresponding Secretary for the CEZMS in Fukien Province.

45 Maids employed at Darriwill.

**Provenance:** C Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Mrs Eliza Saunders, CMAV, CMS housekeeper, Foochow (Fuzhou)  
(ii) Miss Ellen Mort, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iii) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iv) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.

27 February 1898

My own dear Capt.

I have been expecting a letter from you and was very delighted to receive your long one today. I have wanted to write to you for some time but really have not had time. My fellow workers have been away for a month for Chinese New Year and during that time of course everything to be done and everyone to be seen fell to me and Mrs Saunders 46 and E {Ellen} Mort 47 were here to be looked after and translated for.

It has happened to be a very busy time as my Blind School teacher was away for 2 weeks and so I had to be pretty constantly at the school, and then I have had some serious cases of sickness and abscess' to open, such bad ones. Praise God very especially for one case that of a native doctor and fortune teller (I have written fully to Auntie and am sorry I cannot to you). He has given up his idols and I believe truly believes God sent him a dream.

This week I went to Sien O with Mrs. Saunders. We had a grand day. The Devil tried to hinder by upsetting the coolies along the road and it ended in me walking the 3 miles and then later on the chair pole broke and we had great work to tie it up. At Sien hundreds heard the Gospel, over 15 children gave their names as willing to attend day school. Over 20 sick people were treated and a family publicly burned their idols. Our hearts were thankful. The showers are beginning to fall. We have a new Catechist, one who has been Mr. {Miss?} Searle's teacher for two years and he will be a real help to us and the people. The new church is begun also the Women's School. There are six boys in the Blind School, all getting on well. Your little Ning Kai, who has written you a letter and made you a pair of cuffs, is the best boy. I do thank God for him, I am now teaching him to play the organ.

Poor Cissie's [S Newton] head is still so bad that she is still to have perfect rest at Nig Hok. It is such a disappointment to us all and will mean extra work for me and Minna. But it is just

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46 Mrs. Eliza Saunders, CMS volunteer, Melbourne, Australia. Mrs. Saunders two daughters, Nellie and Topsy, were murdered at Huasang on 1 August 1895. After their deaths Mrs., Saunders went to China and became the CMS housekeeper at Foochow. She served from 1896 to 1899 when she died and was buried in the same (British/Protestant) cemetery as her two daughters.

47 Miss Ellen Mort, CMS, Victoria, Australia. Provenance CMS Archives, Blackburn, Victoria. Born 1 August 1864, St Kilda. Father James Mort of Vautier St, Elwood, formerly of Deniliquin, NSW. Parish: St Clement's Elsternwick. Resigned 1923.

lovely the way God gives one grace sufficient for the day. I have had such intense rest and joy in my soul this last month in spite of the press of work.

Did I tell you of a little book I read some time ago on the Cross – Isaiah 53?

The Pathway of the Cross foretold I-4 R.V.

No form, nor comeliness, no beauty, despised etc

The Substitution of the Cross foretold 4-6 R.V.

Our griefs, our sorrows, our transgressions, laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Sufferings of the Cross foretold, 7-9.

Oppressed, afflicted, for the transgression of my people . . .

The Fruit of the Cross foretold 10-12.

He shall ---

He shall --- be satisfied

He shall ---

Write to me as often as you can and will you just sometimes send me a newspaper. The world goes on and one knows so little about it. Mrs. Saunders has been telling me of the news and France and all sorts of events. I am so very thankful Lizzie seems so strong now. I wonder if Freda will go to her or come here. With much love to yourself and dear Auntie from your true and very loving II mate,

Amy Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Rev. and Mrs. W Light, CMS missionaries, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Deng Doi, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1898

Dearest Isabel

I want to tell you about the service last Sunday when 11 women, some men, and children were baptised. The women have been believers for the past year or two – the Biblewoman<sup>48</sup> had taught them to repeat the Lord's Prayer, Creed and Ten Commandments. I asked them to come up and see me on Tuesday afternoon and I soon found out how little they knew. Poor dear stupid women, how I have grown to love them.<sup>49</sup> I would ask a question for instance, who is Jesus Christ? Or question them on the belief, which made Heaven and Earth? They would look from one to the other probably answer wide of the mark and then say, 'we have never been taught, teach us Kuniong.'<sup>50</sup> I have given them Bible names as Mary, Ruth, Toda, they are so pleased. Before I called them, 'the quiet little woman', 'the woman with the nose', poor little thing she hasn't any, 'the nervous woman' and so on but now they have new names, and I believe each name is written in the Book of Life.

Mr. and Mrs. Light<sup>51</sup> came from Longuon on Saturday and on Sunday morning it poured with rain. I wondered if the women would ever get to church and I think it shewed how much in earnest they were for everyone came. Then when we went down to the church soon after 9 o'clock the place was crowded. We sang, 'Oh Happy Day, that fixed my choice,' and 'Jesus loves me.' In the afternoon as they came up as usual I asked one named Mary if she had peace, and she said, 'Yes, God's great grace has come into my heart.' God gives us the hundredfold. Sisters, oh how I do love these Chinese. If you could just come and see how they love to learn, and what marvellous patience they have. One woman, Naomi, is 72 years old and she is so diligent.

We have a Chinese text hanging up in the guest room, '*Come unto Me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*' I can hear them repeating the words over and over again. *Huang neng lo-ku dang daent, etc*, and the thought it expresses to them is weary as one is from

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48 Biblewomen were usually married woman who had attended a station-class (at least three months residential study) at a mission station staffed by women missionaries. After completion, they acted as evangelists and literature distributors among the people of their home and nearby villages. They were heavily relied on by the missionaries as interpreters, both in regard to language and social customs. The station-classes were a significant educational vehicle for Chinese women.

49 Almost all Chinese women in Fujian Province (and elsewhere) were illiterate. Few had any education. Their memories were not geared to retaining information beyond immediate domestic and family issues. Similar remarks about their learning prowess, or lack of it, were made in Berry, Digby Marsh. (1895), *The sister martyrs of Ku Cheng Memoir and letters of Eleanor and Elizabeth Saunders*, Melbourne. Melville, Mullen and Slade and Marshall, Elsie, (c 1903), '*For His Sake*', *A Record of a Life consecrated to God and devoted to China*, London, The Religious Tract Society.

50 Kuniong is the Chinese word for a single woman. It was universally used to refer to single woman missionaries in Fujian Province.

51 Rev. W. Light, CMS England.

carrying a heavy load like the dang-dang man (coolie carriers) his load is daeng heavy. Poor things, they toil along with 80 to 100 lbs on the shoulders, and when the chests of tea are being brought down to Foo Chow they carry over 100 lbs and some just die from exhaustion.

We are hearing of wars and rumours of wars and you I expect hear from day to day of the doings and sayings of the Rulers of the Kingdoms. What I want to say about it is this – whatever you hear about China be not terrified on our account, read the 21<sup>st</sup> Psalm and pray for us that we may really  *dwell in the secret place of the Most High*  and then rest about us, anything that touches us must touch Him first. The Coming of the Lord draweth near and we are safe. Last week two [foreign] community gentlemen came in to call. They were sailing about and seeing our house came in. One said to me: ‘Don’t you feel very lonely here?’ ‘No.’ ‘Are you not afraid to travel about by yourself?’ And when I told him that the coolies as a rule were most kind and thoughtful and never said a bad word to me he was surprised and said, ‘Well, they are much better than our own English people, because it would not be safe for you to travel alone with them.’<sup>52</sup> He does not know the security of *dwelling in the secret place of the Most High*, covered with His feathers, His angels keeping us in all our way.

I have just received an invitation to go to a wedding and will finish this letter. I went to the feast with S Newton<sup>53</sup> but we had some dinner immediately before we started. The house we went to is not very grand. Just inside the front door there is a room with an earth floor and various tubs, fishing nets, etc, all about. The next room is like it but today had two square tables spread ready for the feast, that is there were about eight saucers full of things, in two dried fish, in two watermelon seeds. We were invited to sit down and the bride was brought out of the bedroom for us to look at. Poor thing, she was not allowed to speak and she did look miserable, her hair was covered with ornaments and she had on a red dress. After standing for us to gaze at she was turned to face the wall and left standing in that position. The eating soon began and it was not really bad, we were not pressed to eat, the Bride sat at the other (inferior) table and was not given anything to eat. After about an hour and a half it was over. I was glad because it is tiring sitting so long not talking, and four dirty hungry dogs under the table all the time is not pleasant. We came to this feast because they are all Christians except the bride, three members were baptised lately. We were invited into the bride’s bedroom and then contrary to custom talked. The Bride had a sore foot and asked for medicine and so I sent up for some at once. I do pray that he friendship begun today may grow into love in the Lord.

Peace, perfect Peace, our future all unknown  
Jesus we know, and He is on the Throne.  
Peace, perfect Peace, with loved ones far away  
In Jesus keeping we are safe, and they.

Amy S Oxley

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52 China was an extraordinarily safe place for travellers during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Exactly the same comments were made in Marshall, Elsie, (c 1903), *For His Sake, A Record of a Life consecrated to God and devoted to China*, London, The Religious Tract Society, p 129. See also *The Chinese Recorder*, January 1896, p 10, cited in Chin, Carole C, (2003), ‘Beneficent Imperialists: American Women Missionaries in China at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,’ pp 327-354 in *Diplomatic History*, Vol 27 Issue 3, June 2003, p 347.

53 Miss Sophia Newton CMS, New South Wales, Australia

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Marianne Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.

May 11<sup>th</sup> 1898 Deng Doi.

No letter by 'Chingtu'  
Not one from anyone except  
a packet from a Sower.<sup>54</sup>

My dearest Auntie

I wanted to write a long letter by this mail but we only returned to Deng Doi on Thursday and have been so busy since. All day I have been down at the Blind School, getting it cleaned and moving in the furniture. There is only room for four boys and the teacher.

On Wednesday I expect three boys. Oh Auntie, it is so very wonderful, the way the Lord has given me this work to do and how gently He has lead me on from step to step, not with a great bound that would frighten me. The next step I am in the dark about, bow to manage every day housekeeping on so much per month, each boy ought only to cost a certain amount. Dorcas, one of the women who was baptised this year and who has regularly attended the classes is to be cook. I do hope she will be a success.

It is such a comfort that Cissie [Sophia S Newton] has passed her exam but her head is very tired, too tired. This Chinese does try one, the characters are so puzzling. Minna [Searle] hopes to go up for her exam next week and then when she has passed she will work half this great district, of that I will be most thankful. Cissie will have the Women's School, when we have one. "Every moment brings us some benediction. Even the rough hand of trial holds in its clasp for us some treasure of love."

With much love from,  
Your loving niece  
Amy Oxley

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54 A Sower is a reference to one of the support groups of the Church Missionary Society in Australia. A Sower's Band comprised mostly young people who arranged to send literature and other items requested by missionaries. The reference is to sowing 'good seed' in the hope that it will bring forth fruit.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Miss Power, CMS/CEZMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Mrs. Alex Llyle, wife of English Presbyterian missionary, Swatow.

Deng Doi,  
16 November 1898  
My own dear Isabel

If ever I wanted you it is now. I just long for you to see the Blind boy and the School cook that you are supporting. Today the boy whose present name is Ning Kai Sien, came from Ceng Song. Oh, he is a dear boy about 14 years old and not very tall. He has a very sweet face. It just shines with the Peace of God, for he is a true little Christian. His mother died when he was about four years old. He went blind at five and his father died when he was seven. I do not know what his life was like then but last year he went to a place called Ceng Song and there an uncle has been feeding him and a woman once a Biblewoman but now too old for active work, has been teaching him. He can repeat a question and answer book and 50 texts of the 100 Irish Church Mission texts. I went to Ceng Song in the summer and gave the Biblewoman 100 texts. It was such a pleasure to see him before eating his rice fold his hands together and thank God for it.

I shewed him round the place and after he had eaten he came into the schoolroom and I said now take me round, so he led me off to his room, shewed me his bed and cupboard, the teacher's room and the kitchen.

Dorcas the cook you are also supporting. She had a very sore face two years ago and Miss Power<sup>55</sup> gave her medicine and healed her. She has worshipped God ever since and was baptised this year. She attended my classes very regularly and seemed such a nice woman and poor, so I am going to try how she will do as a cook, giving her food as wages.

I expected today a Teacher supported by two servant girls. Also two boys, but it is so wet they have not come. I was teaching the teacher and two of the boys in Foo Chow while I was there and they were making good progress. Oh it is so wonderful the way God leads us on from one thing to another. I never thought I should have anything to do with the Blind, and here I am really teaching them and loving to do it.

The house I have rented is very small but it is the only one to be had. Things must have a beginning and it is better not to begin with great things and end up badly.

The workmen are still at this house and we are tired of having them, every place is untidy. Last night there was such a wind we were very much afraid another typhoon was coming, my bed kept shaking as if there was an earthquake.

Do you remember reading 'Earth's earliest ages' by Pember?<sup>56</sup> When in Foo Chow lately I read it and was very interested. I wish these two girls were fond of reading. It is not good to have one's thoughts continually in Chinese and this District.<sup>57</sup> We have much indeed to Praise God for. I am especially rejoicing over an old woman of 78 years of age who was very much opposed to the Gospel. I did pray for her and just before I went to Foo Chow she sent for me and said she wanted to worship God. We had a blessed time. Her relations are very happy about her, as they are sure she is saved. We are invited to attend her funeral on Saturday. I will send you the invitation as it may interest some of your people. It gives her age, day, hour when she was born, her ancestor's occupations, the date of the Emperor and his name, and dates of the days the feasts are to be eaten, I suppose in respect to her. We are invited to the one on the day of the funeral.

I also send you, as a little birthday remembrance, an afternoon tea cloth worked by Chinese women in Swatow. Mrs Llyle has taught them and has made a good deal of money by selling them to support her husband's hospital and it supports the women who do the work.<sup>58</sup>

I am so glad Louie Bryer stayed at 'Darriwill', she does love you. And so do I and I want to go and sit over the fire with you and Auntie. But I am glad to be here and I am overwhelmed with the Love of God, it is so great, so wonderful.

With much love to you and dear Auntie and Christmas wishes for Ellen and Maggie.

Your loving II mate

Amy Isabel Oxley

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56 Pember, G H, (1885), *Earth's Earliest Ages, And Their Connection with Modern Spiritualism and Theosophy*, New York, A C Armstrong and Son, It had gone through twelve editions by 1893. Examined the biblical evidence for a post-creation catastrophe and destruction of the earth and a subsequent recreation. Still in print because of the continuing debate over creationism and conservative Christianity.

57 Apart from the loneliness that Amy expresses from time to time, this remark reflects the sense of isolation their own culture-world experienced by many missionaries. See subscript to Amy's letter of 27 February 1899, 9 October 1899.

58 Correct name is Mrs. Lyall. Wife of Dr Alex Lyall, English Presbyterian Mission, Swatow, 1879-1926. See Band, Edward, (1948), *Working His Purpose Out*, London. Information from Ms Rosemary Seton, School of Asian and African Studies, (SOAS) London.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Pokan,  
11 January 1899  
My dear Auntie

Sounds of stealthy footsteps creeping up to the door and window and as I turn to look I can see through the holes in the door and wall bright eyes peeping through – to me one of the trials of itinerating. I do love to shut myself up in an eyetight [no gaps] room when meal time, bedtime, getting up time comes. I could not help smiling once when I opened the door there was a general scatter and some one was so scared. They dropped their *Lui Leng* (lighted fire basket) 59 in their hurry and there lay the old basket and on the ground was scattered the bright red-hot pieces of charcoal. M [Minna] Searle and I are at la Ka. Last night we were at Po Kan and the coolies there promised us they would carry us day by day for 25 cents the day. Morning came and we were up early but it looked rainy and the coolies would not start. We had a great talk as to what to do and finally suggested we should go up in the boat to a village named Ma Bo and try to get coolies there. That boat is such a comfort and help to us. We reached Ma Bo and got coolies and in about an hour had started for La Ka.

Wednesday Walked over to Ku Sang Ga to examine a day school. The children did not answer very well, four passing. Then we went on to Guong Leuk but before reaching there the Christian woman of the place came to meet us and she looked sad and out of touch with the Lord and so we invited her over to Deng Doi to stay a week or two. We have a room now in Deng Doi for Chinese visitors. The first was a woman from Pung Gie. She stayed about 3 weeks and during that time was taught and she unbound her feet. We hope next year she will go to Foo Chow to school.<sup>60</sup>

In the afternoon we sent to Ma Pe 3 miles distant and there I examined the school and all viz 19 passed. In the evening we had such a nice meeting at Ma Pe. The Christian men came in every evening to Prayers. Nearly 30 came and M [Minna Searle] gave them such a nice Bible reading and taught them to sing some hymns. The next morning (Thursday) we got up early and M. wished me Many Happy Returns of the Day and gave me some cards and letters that had come by the last messenger. {It turned out afterwards that we had mistaken the date

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59 These were small charcoal burning braziers that Chinese women placed under the outer clothing to provide warmth during the cold months of the year. They were universal in China. They were carried from house to house and even into church during services.

60 The practice of bringing in married women for instruction in 'station classes' was a common practice. Although these references suggest weeks and days, it was not at all unusual for married women to attend for months at a time. Their husband's permission was always obtained. As most Chinese households had numerous wives and sisters it was not difficult for women to be absent for extended periods. It was from the women who attend mission station classes that the majority of Biblewoman were recruited.

and it was not my birthday). Then we had breakfast and waited just 2 hours for the tide as we intended to go by boat to Kang Dong. Oh this waiting is trying. At last we got to the boat, the one first engaged was too small, the second one was just an open fishing boat. Very wet. We sat in our 'chairs' and so could not see each other. It was wet and very cold. At first the men rowed the boat then the wind arose and it was rough, very uncomfortable. At last after about 3 hours we reached Kang Dong and it was not an easy matter to get out of the boat but we did without falling and reached the chapel to find the catechist away and his wife with a tiny baby girl only one week old. I cannot say we had a very happy time for it was too wet to go out visiting as I had done during my last visit, and the few women who came in very stupid and very inquisitive. In the evening M. and I went to prayers. A few Christian men came in but the young day teacher who took prayers did not impress us favourably at all.

We were very anxious to visit Wong Ngio, a village at the end of our district on the coast, the only chapel I have not yet visited but the coolies would not take us as they said they could work at hand as it was a Feasting Day. Afterwards we thanked God that we had not gone so far.

Friday Left at 9 am for Muai Dea, and it is such a pretty 6 miles they call it — 9 at least I should say and under the circumstances it seemed like 90. I was so ill, had caught a chill on my liver coming across in the boat. Twice I had to stop the chair and almost lay down on the roadside and wished like seasick people to stay there. We reached Muai Dea and I tore into the Sing Sang Mongs room and threw myself on her bed. It felt so comfortable; at another time I would not have appreciated it. Women and children came in and stared and I didn't care a bit. At last the 'Attic' that I once before described was ready and I went up to my own bed. I heard some groaning downstairs and found our coolie had a pain and could do nothing for me. H. preached and taught and I did nothing, it was really my birthday. Presently I heard terrible groans and it was the poor old Catechist. An attack of ague had come and he had intense pain in his back and legs. It lasted for hours.

Next morning we started for home and God sent me splendid coolies who carried me up the steep hillside without an effort. When we were in sight of the house we turned off the road to go to the ferry. When we were about five minutes walk from the boat we found there was a kind of flood in the river and we could not get near the boat. After talking and talking we said well we must go on to the next ferry a mile higher up the river, but now we found the water had come up and we could not get back onto the path. At last the coolies ventured and we got to Po Kan, too late for my chair to go in the boat. M [Minna Searle] managed to get on board but had a great fall. I waited more than half an hour for the boat to return. About 2 pm I reached home and what a surprise there was for me, new matting on the floor, new pretty window curtains, a bright fire and a vase of lovely roses — birthday gifts from M. and C. Newton. I sat down on the little chair by the fire and cried. It was so sweet of them, one of the ways in which God gives us the Hundred Fold.

On Sunday I stayed in bed and I did enjoy a quiet day and enjoyed reading the Bishop of Exeter's sermon on 'for My sake and the Gospel' and Mr. Peck's diary from Far Back Lead Island, etc. The Biblewoman took my class of women in the afternoon and afterwards they came in to have a peep at me, dear old things, they spoke very quietly and thought I looked very ill. Inquiries as to my state of health are still going on although today is Friday. The day before yesterday I went to Ba Ceng with the Biblewoman. We had a splendid time there and I saw 16 patients. Some time ago I began a little class here. Today the schoolmaster came over

and says after I left some of the people said unkind and untrue things about me. It is a privilege to be spoken against for His sake. A blind boy from there wants to come to school but he is terrified as the R.C. [Roman Catholics] have told him we will hurt him if he comes. God is working in that village as the opposition shows. Pray for it.

Yours lovingly  
Amy Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Margaret Griffiths, daughter of Bishop of Sydney.  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Deng Doi  
January 18th 1899

**[The first section of this letter is missing]**

Our God is a God Who hears and answers prayer — The words of that beautiful hymn, 'Father, I know that all my life is portioned out for me', (C's Faith No 146) have been in my mind since yesterday and I pass on the 7<sup>th</sup> verse.

(Section omitted)

This year my work will be a little different to last. My fellow-workers have both passed their second [Chinese language] examination and so they will take up more work. Miss Searle<sup>61</sup> will itinerate over part of the District having under her special care 6 villages in which there is a Catechist, and she will visit in the villages under that catechist. Miss Newton has taken Lieng Kong City and Villages, also the villages near Deng Doi and she hopes when the Women's School is built to take charge of that. I have four Catechists and all the villages on the two rivers and up the Coast. A good deal of new work to open up, also I am glad to say I have opened the Blind School. Of course we all work in Deng Doi and see patients and Visitors.

Just at present we are having a time of great blessing. The women who were baptised last year are really beginning to see the sin of foot binding and really it is beautiful the way they are unbinding in spite of the pain and the ridicule of the neighbours. Then we have had two cases lately and God used the means, and both women were saved from death and we trust they will accept the Gospel.

The Blind School in really opened and there are five blind boys. One can now read the Scripture for himself. I am more than pleased with the success of the Braille. Some of the boys are learning to knit. I am thinking of sending a little packet of writing etc to the Loan

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61 Miss Minna Searle, CMA Victoria, from Tasmania,

Exhibition as it will make the work better known and we do need prayer and funds. Perhaps some of your Sunday School members will help in this work by prayer and by giving money. Wool would be very acceptable as the boys are learning to knit. Later on some of them will earn money this way. The Master, who is supported by two maid-servants at North Shore, they are giving £4 per annum, is really a splendid young fellow, and never loses an opportunity of speaking of Jesus. He is so patient and painstaking. Twice a week in the afternoon he goes to Village to preach and often one of the boys goes with him.

Today some Aboriginal women brought wood to sell us so I at once made friends with them and invited them up to look at our house. We had a splendid time with them and they listened so intelligently to the Gospel. I have been longing to get near these people but have never yet found one of their villages. I hope these women will visit again.

This afternoon I went to a Village 3 miles distant called Ba Cong, over 8000 people there and very few Christians. Last year I went there to visit a woman who had been possessed by a devil and they gave up their idols and have since worshipped God. Crowds of people came to stare at me today. It was a grand opportunity to preach. I saw 16 patients and had to refuse others as my medicines ran out. I hope to visit this Village once a month and have begun a class there for women. But Oh dear, there is much one wants, yea, longs to do but there is work enough to keep dozens employed. We never have time to spend the evening together. Often I have to remind myself that the work must not take all the time. God First. Without Him what can we do? I shall be so glad to hear from you again. In two more years I expect I will be leaving for Sydney, how very quickly the time passes.

I do pray that the Loan Exhibition may be a success in the highest sense of the term.

With very loving Birthday Wishes,

Believe me,

Yours Affectionately,

Amy Oxley.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** (i) Rt. Rev. John Burden, Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong.  
(II) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(III) Rev. W Light, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China

Deng Doi,  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 1899  
My dear Old Captain

I have had a pair of Cuffs knitted by Ning Kai ready to send you but now I really must send them off and with them a little purse I have had made. I have used one like it for a year or two. It is handy to carry in your pocket; at least I have found it so. I expect you have small one if so give this one away. I had the silk, he So Ho charges about 2<sup>1/2</sup><sup>d</sup> to make them.

Ning Kai is getting on splendidly. He reads and writes fluently, and his latest work is matting making and playing the organ. He will play very nicely. He is being prepared for baptism which I do not think will take place until September. Do pray very much for him, especially that he may be kept humble. He was the best boy, but I think one named Seng Guong is quite equal to him in every way except looks and poor boy he certainly is not good looking. There are nine boys now and my tiny place is crowded out. I will be very sorry to say good-bye to them for the summer holidays but oh so glad to have a rest. It seems to have been one rush since our return after the typhoon seven months ago.

Saturday and Sundays the same as other days. Now C. Newton is back and although not in full work does help. Before June, the end of it, I hope to visit my part of the district. Dang Jong and villages 15 miles away, Ga Sai, up the coast, to Guang Tan on the Min River. The 'Messenger of Peace' [river boat] is so very useful. I really do not know what we should do without her. She has been up in Lo Nguong Bay for a month taking the Bishop, Mr. Light and Miss Searle to places.

Our beautiful new church is nearly finished and the school for women will be finished in August. Oh there is such a wonderful difference in this place compared to this time last year. Then it seemed nothing but misunderstanding and trials, nearly empty church, etc. Now full old church and real love within people. We had the Bishop here for a Sunday. He confirmed 52 men and women. Some of them were from other villages. 84 partook of the Lord's Supper [Holy Communion, Eucharist]. Several families lately have given up their idols, it seems as if God has let me see Him working, it is wonderful.

O Bell, I do long to be more full of God's Holy Spirit, and there is such a lot of daily sin to be confessed. One thing I often fall in and that is hasty words, often indignations that I have no right under any circumstances to speak hastily. These sick people often make me completely out of patience with them. Perhaps I have and with much care and trouble succeeded in washing clean a wound, an abscess that has been filled with earth, and in four

days it is really beginning to improve, to find the patient does not turn up. 10<sup>th</sup> he comes again hand filled with mud!!! And expects me to go through everything again. Then my nerves seem to tingle and I tell him what a goose he is. And then I wish I hadn't. Then the coolness of these people making use of our things without asking or by your leave. Just fancy; a family here had diphtheria. Father and daughter died. Very quickly other people who went in to have a look have died. Then a little boy got it and just as he was dying his mother carried him to the Blind School and laid him on one of the beds. The boys were at dinner and a knock came to the door. Ning Kai opened it and could not see who came in but the cook etc hearing a cough went to see and found this boy. All were terrified as they think it is the plague. The brother was made to take the boy away, he died almost at once, and up they came for me. Of course they were comforted and the matting he was laid on was burnt and the bed washed, but I cannot help being a little anxious as it is so malignant and boys spit in the house. But these boys are in the Heavenly Father's keeping and I must not worry.

I am longing for a letter from you. The last news I hear is of Willie's62 engagement and Auntie up in Sydney. When will I see you my own dear Captain? Oh I want to. That little book you sent me is very sweet. I had such a nice time over the 23 Ps, with our teacher, showing him the pictures.

Very much love from your loving Amy.

The following item appears to be related to the above. The provenance is unknown but is probably from an Australian publication of the Church Missionary Association of New South Wales.

A Short Account of the visit of the new Bishop of Victoria [Hong Kong] and the Rev. W. Light (missionary in charge of Lieng Kong district) to the city of Lieng Kong and the village of Deng Doi may prove of interest to our readers. We have taken an extract from a missionary's letter.

The Bishop and Mr. Light arrived on Saturday, April 15th at Deng Doi. It was a beautiful afternoon, and the Christians went out 'en masse' to receive them with crackers and guns, and they had decorations, so they got a hearty welcome. The Visitors had all their meals at the Lady Missionaries' house, but would not sleep there. They slept at the Church; dreadfully unpleasant and uncomfortable for them! God did answer prayer for the services on Sunday.

Miss Oxley said, 'It was a perfect congregation, both men and women behaved faultlessly.' She had all the arrangements to make for the Confirmation, and the music, and keeping all the women in order. The Bishop was delighted with the service and just praised God in his prayer afterwards for the great quiet and reverence of the congregations both morning and afternoon. 54 were confirmed: 46 men and 8 women. The Chinese were delighted with the Bishop. They said they were much struck with 'the great love written in his face.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** Rev. W Light, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China  
**Miss Minna Searle,** CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
Mrs. E Walsh, Sydney.  
Miss Margaret Boileau, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.

May 15<sup>th</sup> 1899

My own dear Captain

Your welcome letter reached me on the 13<sup>th</sup>. I had just written to you so this will not be a long letter. You say that the last you heard of me I was ill. That was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January ages ago. Since then I wrote to you telling you all about Ning Kai. I think it was about two months ago. You wonder what I do with him, who looks after him, etc. Well my one boy is now one of nine and they have a house and a teacher and dear old woman cook. All day long they are as busy as possible, knitting, reading, writing, singing, making matting and straw shoes and Ming Kai I am teaching to play the organ, and really he is beginning to play so very nicely. He is such a patient boy and goes over and as long as I like to keep him at it.

I quite expect Mr. Light will take some photos as soon as our new Church and School are finished and then I will send you one of the Boys. Oh Bel, I do love them. I have just come up from the school and it is raining fast. I said to Long Hie, one of the small boys, what shall I do, can I stay the night here. He thought for a time and then said, 'I don't know which bed you would sleep on.' Nor I, for the place is packed and two boys are sleeping in another house which I do not like. More boys want to come and I am looking out for another house — none near at hand to let. One rambling house for sale at 700 dollars = £70, but I hope later on to build. God has begun this work. He sees and knows our need and He will surely supply it in His own time. You ask me to get some tablecloths and pretty things. I am afraid the last will not be an easy matter. Shopping in China is such a difficulty. I will have to wait till Kuliang to get the cloths. You see we live in a village a day or more distant from Foo Chow and we never go there except for Summer or Conference so here we buy nothing but in July I will be delighted to get what I can. And thank you very much for the 10/-. At home one always felt so grateful for a gift but out here a little remembrance of any sort seems doubly precious.

I have just received a Box containing some things I needed. In it was a little book from Miss Clayton, some biscuits, prunes, and raisins from E. Walsh.<sup>63</sup> So kind of them I think. I may say 'Every joy He sends me comes a sweet and glad surprise.' You tell me very little about the engagement. Are you glad? Bee and Nell did go to Geelong but I think just in the steamer there and back. I am sure Bee loves you, but wait a bit until I get to Geelong, Hurrah! Won't I just be glad to go on to you my own darling. I do sometimes long to have a talk with to you. Are you I wonder coming out to see me? I only you were coming now you could go on Japan

with Miss Boileau. She is going this summer and wants someone to go with, and then you could come to Kuliang for August and we could yarn everyday.

I really must not write more news now as there are many letters I must write. If dear Auntie has returned give her my love and with very much for yourself  
From your loving Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News  
**Others mentioned:** Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Deng Doi,

May 17 1899

Dear Isabel

5 A.M. Fine, sun rising, hot. 8 a.m. very hot but we must start. Miss Searle and I are off to Muai Dea. First thing I find two of the coolies are poor miserable opium smokers. They assure us they can carry and I ensure them that this hot day I cannot walk. We start and have come to the first stop just outside the village wall. There are 13 very sparsely dressed boys around my chair, when we do stop we sometimes long for fresh air. I often have to pray about this matter; sometimes a feeling comes over me that I cannot bear to be stared at. There they stand and look at you over from head to foot and look and look. It is an opportunity to 'Tell the Story' but alas sometimes one is so weary, and alas sometimes one feels as if no words would come.

We had an uneventful trip across in the ferryboat and now we are again resting, this time no crowds as it is more in the country. In front of me are some nice green hills – we had a very steep hill to ascend. I really thought we would never reach the top. Of course we had to walk and were nearly melted. Poor old coolies! At the top there was a great stone place, I suppose long ago used as a water tower. The view was glorious, sea mountain range and valley with numerous villages. Walking down the long hill was not pleasant, the hard stones very hot and slippery.

We received such a warm welcome from the few Christians at Muai Dea. Very soon we were led up the loft steps to the loft, such a funny little room with a very low window and low tile roof with many airy holes in it. Off our room were two tiny dark places, one full of brushwood for lighting their fires. We had dinner and then went below into the preaching and M.S. [Minna Searle] played the accordion. Very soon a crowd came and the Catechist preached. Then I examined five girls who had learnt a little. In the evening a good number of people came in and listened fairly well.

17 May 1899. We got the Victory and kept our promise. I found the woman bright and intelligent and really anxious to learn. It seemed as if things would go wrong. The coolies did not know the road. Some crossed the paddy [rice fields] one way and mine went another road. I looked round once and saw the other side in a fine state. The coolies were up to their knees in the mud. We reached a village called Ceng Song about 2 o'clock and had dinner there. Afterwards I examined some women who had been taught by an old ... [rest of letter lost].

Ps 15:1-18. The Lord hath been, yea is mindful of us, ver. 12; of our wants, (Phil 4:19); burdens (Ps 55:22); sorrows (Ex 3:7); cares (P Pet 5:7); Let this encourage us to trust Him at all times, (Isa 49:15).

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria  
**Notes:** General News

Lieng Kong,  
May 26<sup>th</sup> 1899

My own dear Captain

I hoped to write you a long letter but am in bed with a little fever and thoroughly tired after nine days itinerating. But I will end this note because I expect we will be very busy until the end of next month when we leave for Kuliang.<sup>64</sup> I am also sending by same post a bit on my diary. I have lots to say but after seem to write so uninterestingly. It is written when the body feels more inclined to rest. We do praise God for the wonderful openings in this place and the willingness of the people to come to us — about 1500 sick ones. Some of these are as far as we can judge true believers now.

Many thanks for your most welcome letter received a few mails ago. I do hope you are well.

Very much love and kisses to yourself and Auntie.

I am your loving 2<sup>nd</sup> mate

Amy

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64 Kuliang was a hill-station outside Foochow where both the CMS and the CEZMS had rest houses for their missionaries. Others were at Sharp's Peak below Foochow at the mouth of the Min River and another was the infamous pair of houses (CMS/CEZMS) at Huasang where the massacre of 1 August 1895 took place. Most foreigners in China went to the hill-stations to take advantage of cooler climates at higher altitudes. The usual break was July-August. In the case of missionaries, it needs to be kept in mind that when on station they were on-call seven days a week for months on end. A report of a recent visit to Kuliang by Americans will be found at <http://www.han-yuan.com/shudian/near/near41.htm>

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia,  
Microfilm 1915

**Author:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, CMS Secretary, London.  
F Baylis, CMS Secretary, London.

**Recipient:** Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS Missionary, Fujian Province, China.

**Notes:** Appointment of Dr. G Wilkinson to CMS Hospital, Foochow  
(Fuzhou).

**Church Missionary Society, London**

18<sup>th</sup> June 1899

Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd

(Part 1 concerns Rev. J B Carpenter).

It is with strong satisfaction that we write to inform you that at length the Committee have appointed a medical man to open up a Medical Mission in the city of Foochow. Dr. Wilkinson, an M.A. and M.B. of Cambridge, who has had some ten years in medical practice, and some experience of Medical Missions in England, will we hope, sail for Foochow with Mr. Carpenter, on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. And we trust that a long and useful career of Medical Mission work lies before him in that city. We recognise how hearty will be the welcome offered to him by all the brethren inasmuch as this has been a project which has been for years in the hearts of so many. In due course we will forward to you full and particular details as to the character of the Instructions given to Dr. Wilkinson, meanwhile, we would ask you and the other brethren to join with us in earnest prayer that this new development may be abundantly used of God to the extension of His kingdom, not only in Foochow but throughout the Province.

We remain, dear Mr. Lloyd,

Yours very faithfully and affectionately,

B. Baring-Gould      Secretaries, CMS.

F Baylis

**Provenance:** CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia,  
Microfilm 1915

**Author:** Rev. Baring Baring-Gould, CMS Secretary, London.  
F Baylis, CMS Secretary, London.

**Recipient:** Dr George Wilkinson, CMS Missionary, Fujian Province, China.

**Notes:** Appointment of Dr. G Wilkinson to CMS Hospital, Foochow  
(Fuzhou).

### Church Missionary Society, London

Instructions of the Committee delivered on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1899, to Dr. Wilkinson, proceeding to the South China Mission.

It is with much thankfulness to God that the Committee invite you, Dr. Wilkinson, to take up medical missionary work in the great city of Foochow. For many years the brethren in Fuh-kien have urged the importance of establishing an efficient Medical Mission in that city, with its teeming population, and it is with much satisfaction that the Committee at length see their way to respond to that appeal. An admirable site has already been procured, and rough draft plans of a Hospital have been drawn. A spiritual wave of blessing seems to be passing over the city, rendering it particularly ripe for this special effort, and the Committee were only waiting for a medical missionary to take up his residence in Foochow, actively to take in hand this important development of their work. You will of course gratefully avail yourself specially of the experience of your brethren who are medical missionaries in the Province, and it will be expedient for you in the first instance to open a Dispensary, and subsequently, as God makes his way plain, the Hospital. It will be desirable for you to take an early opportunity of visiting Fuh-ning and Hingwa cities in order that you may gain practical experience as to the best plans and methods to adopt in a Chinese environment. The Committee quite hope that in due course a colleague will be associated with you in the work which, with the Divine blessing, they anticipate will develop into an instrument of untold physical assistance and spiritual profit to the inhabitants of Foochow. They are thankful to know that in Miss Massey you will find a fully trained nurse who will rejoice to give you her professional services, and whom God has there already greatly used in His work. To you, dear Brother, may the Holy Spirit of wisdom, faithfulness, and love, be abundantly vouchsafed.

There are just two points which the Committee would desire affectionately to emphasise.

First with regard to the acquirement of the language. Experience has taught them that Medical Missionaries need to exercise special self-control if they are to find time for the colloquial. It will be exceedingly easy for you to become so absorbed in your surgical and medical cases as to leave but a scanty margin for that which ought to occupy the first claim upon your time during the earlier portion of your missionary career. It is the wish of the Committee that you set apart a definite portion of each day for the study of the language, and allow no call except that which is absolutely imperative to cause you to break in upon your hours of study. Your future usefulness, under God, depends upon your acquirement of the language, and unless the language is acquired by you during your first eighteen months of

residence in China, it would be most difficult for you to acquire it at all. Study it therefore perseveringly in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Second. The Committee are most solicitous that you should never cease to bear in mind that you go forth to China pre-eminently as a spiritual agent. You go because you are conscious that you have a message from God to the souls of these people, upon which their personal salvation depends. You go indeed as a specially qualified medical man, and you will earnestly crave that all professional work shall be marked by the highest skill and care which you can command, but you will ever regard all such professional work as simply and only a means to an end. Realise, the Committee would entreat you, that if God had urged you to bring temporal blessing to any individual patient you are the one to whom that patient will naturally most quickly respond when the endeavour is made to bring that sin-sick soul to a saving knowledge of the Great Physician.

The Committee are jealous for you that you on no account delegate this privilege to others. It is your high and glorious privilege: use it in humility, faithfulness, love and in dependence on the Holy Spirit, who will use your feeble efforts, in answer to prayer, to bring healing to sin-sick souls.

The Committee would draw your attention to the Regulations which they have recently issued regarding the mutual relationship between the Medical and Clerical missionaries.

Throughout your Missionary career may God give you His grace that your home life shall ever be a blessed object lesson alike to the heathen and to the native Christians. May He touch your lips and enable you to speak out of a heart filled with love to Christ and love to those for whom Christ died, and then, whether your career be longer or shorter, it will be marked by joy to yourself and glory to your Master.

By Order of the Committee,

B. Baring-Gould

G B Durrant      Secretaries, CMS.

Dr. Wilkinson.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley, from Sharp Peak Sanitarium, near Fuzhou.  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** General News while on local leave.  
Report of typhoons.  
**Others Mentioned:** Katie Hassall

Sharp Peak,  
Aug 28<sup>th</sup> 1899

My own dear Captain

At last I am going to send the Drawn Thread work etc. to Katie. The delay has been unavoidable as it is difficult to get the work and I had to wait until I got to Kuliang. I wonder if I have bought more than you wished and if you will like the lacquer. As I say this part of China is not the best for buying curios. This has been a holiday of many events. At the very beginning we heard of the Northwest troubles, then at Kuliang we have had two typhoons, one doing great damage, not leaving one house uninjured, some complete ruins. Thank God no one was injured but several ill from the effects. I for one got another chill by sleeping in the wet rooms, one roof was blown off and the only dry spot we had was a small bathroom. As I had been more or less ill all the time the doctor said I had better come to Sharp Peak, so I am here, but on Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> I go to Foo Chow to get your box off, and the following Monday I return to work. Our mails have gone wrong somehow. I have only had one in 9 weeks and I am starving for letters. I wonder when you wrote last. The last I received was re buying the things received May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Do you think you will come out and see the work? Leave the end of September and get to Foo Chow in time for Conference. The weather is delightful here in November and December. Not so very long now and I will be thinking of the homeward voyage the end of next year. Do pray very much for me that not one little piece of work God may have for me to do will be left undone. Tell me all you are doing when you write. I do hope you are well. Very much love to yourself and dear Auntie.

From your loving Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** General News.  
**Others Mentioned:** Miss Bryer, CEZMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Deng Doi,  
Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, 1899

My dear 'old Captain'

I always am so glad to see your handwriting. I hope by today you have received the things I sent to Katie. I was delighted to get the things, my difficulty is that Foo Chow is so far away and when there it takes a long time to buy everything. Of course, down here we scarcely get anything pretty.

You asked me to remind you about supporting Ming Kai. The last money I received for him from you was May last year. I did not write to remind you but do so now. He was baptised during his holidays and called 'Ling Kai' — 'Soul Open.' He is a clever boy and a diligent boy and being a true Christian the Holy Spirit must influence his soul as you pray for him. I hope before long to send you his photograph. You ask what you could send the boys for Christmas. Well, it is a little late for Christmas but I do not think anything would please them better than some flannelette to make them a warm jacket. It gets very cold here in January and February snow last year. I cannot tell you how many yards to send but perhaps there is a remnant not so good, and I will have it made into jackets as far as it will go. If some are without I will buy some in Foo Chow if I can but of course it is dear, if there is any.

I found that gelatine pad very useful [early form of duplicating device for multiple copies] but it took a long time to copy a journal as each page had to be washed, but unfortunately now it won't work, climate I am afraid. I have rewarmed it to a liquid but not successfully. If the new one you thing you is not too dear I should really like one and I will always send you a diary when I write one. At present I only send one copy to Aunt Lizzie.<sup>65</sup> And I want something else. If you are sending a packet to the boys do put in it a bit of your 'taffy [toffee] for we three girls. We are real babies and revel in a lollie when it comes. Don't think me 'tang sing' viz 'covetous heart' but I suddenly had a vision of old days coconut ice and taffy. Minna Searle has just had a box from home. Her people send her Jam and we are gainers. Unfortunately some of the bottles got broken although they looked very carefully packed.

About you some day coming to Japan. I think now you had better come to China for Christmas. The weather is simply delightful then and go to Japan in January. Of course, very cold up there but bring warm clothes. Don't come this January because I could not save up enough to go then but perhaps the end of 1900 come and bring me home. Just think, I have been nearly four years in China, such very happy years I can never, never tell how happy. You say, 'I wonder sometimes how you have the heart to go on with your work.' Well, it isn't very often I feel like that, but tonight I feel very sad about a Catechist up one end of our district who is not only neglecting his sheep but causing them to leave the right way. Of the catechists and we do need English men workers. They ought constantly to go from place and

place and stay and see the natives work. But on the other hand we are full of joy, the Women's School really opened with 14 women and more to come, and at present 9 blind boys and more to come; is not this something to be thankful for. Yesterday we were crowded out almost in our old church with women. The men are on the whole very poor Christians and we grieve over them but of course they don't have the teaching the women do.

Really, I have not time for more. My message at Chinese prayers tonight was taken from 2 John 2:13-14 — overcoming the wicked one. Thanks be to God that we can overcome the wicked one through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Do pray often for me. The conflict is often so difficult. The enemy is so fearfully strong and he tried to hinder the work in every possible way, always some trouble or another.

The Northwest sisters expect to return in November, do pray for them. Miss Bryer [CEZMS] is coming to stay here for a month. She does love you and we always talk about you. Oh you darling, how I would love to be with you again. I would like to tuck my arm in hers and go for a nice little stroll together or go and see the garden.

Much love from your loving 2 Mate  
Amy Oxley

Do you take in the Australasian paper? If so would you send me a copy sometimes? I do like to read of what is going on and I do have odd moments to read.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** General News.  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Miss Emilie Stevens, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iv) Miss Alice Homan

Deng Doi,  
Feb 16, 190066  
My dear old Captain

I wrote to you a very short time ago but will write again at once to thank you very much for the Postal Order received for the support of Ling Kai, and also for the 'Australasian.' I think it is so kind of you to do as you have about it. I only meant if you could send me one sometimes. Of course now the War [South African-Boer War] is going on we long to hear all we can about it. I do not have much time for reading but odd half hours I do like to know what is going on in the world. And another thing I think often missionaries nerves give way so that they never think of anything but their especial little corner and little worries. As it is I know only too well that I have nerves. The Climate, yes, and the Devil, for great is his power out here, tends to make on irritable, and this I simply cannot bear to be and I have to pray much about it. Then I am delighted to hear that a Box is coming. I wonder if the 'Taffee' is really in it. Now we have something especial to look forward to every time the messenger goes up to Foo Chow.

Then I am very glad to hear at last about the things I sent in August, six months ago. Auntie told me she had received her birthday present and that the box had come, but I had no line from Katie and did not know if I had sent things she liked or wanted. If you want more let me know and I can get them during the summer holidays, or I could bring them home when I come, which ought to be this time next year. The lacquer man is making different kinds of things, boxes for photos, letter weights, coal scuttles, beautiful folding afternoon tea tables and lovely trays, nothing over 12/-.

This letter you do not mention the photos of the Blind. If you do not receive it let me know and I will send you another copy. I find King Kai's name is really Ling Kai – open soul. The 'N' and 'L' in this part of the district are very difficult to distinguish. He and three other boys are preparing for confirmation. Will you pray very much for them? The boys, 12 now, all did so well at their examinations. Miss Stevens<sup>67</sup> from Foo Chow examined them. Ling Kai is

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66 All names mentioned and not otherwise identified are old friends of Isabel at Darriwill.

67 Stevens, Miss Emilie, Tasmania, Victoria. Provenance CMS Archives, Blackburn, Victoria. From Richmond, Tasmania. Supported by YWCA Tasmania. Arrived in China 1891 with CEZMS. Complete 'nervous' breakdown 1911. On leave London. Resigned 1913. Died in Tasmania 14 September 1931. Emily Stevens was a daughter of William Stevens, who was a schoolmaster at Richmond during the 1880's and 1890's. He and his sister (Mrs. Bedgood) ran a private school at Oak Lodge, Bridge Street. This property is now

really a very clever boy. He can now play 27 hymns beautifully. He has written the whole of St. Luke's and part of St. John's Gospel, the New Testament Picture Bible and many other things. He is now knitting stockings quite nicely. I will send you a pair for Joe — and a pair of cuffs for dear old Ellen and Maggie made by two other boys. Ling Kai has one great sin, and that is pride. He is naturally very upright and often judges others wrongfully without really finding out the whole story. But he knows his fault and is I believe really praying about it and you will help him by prayer. It is good to know that we will see each other some day. He is a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, of that I have no doubt.

I am expecting 3 more boys and now this house is full I do not know what God is going to do for us. I am alone, often so lately. Miss Searle is ill, has been in hospital for three weeks, and I am afraid she will never be strong in China. Miss Newton is up at the City [Foochow]. It is so beautiful the way God takes away all fear. There was a thief at the Blind School last night, stole a few clothes and a neighbour's fowl. Fortunately someone awoke and found the thief but could not catch him. Our Women's School opens next week. It will be nice having the women back again but it means lots more work.

I am very interested to hear of Alice Homan's venture, I hope it will be a success. I cannot imagine Lou Scott having to work, of course she can but think of the way she could stay at the Hotels and spend her money. Dear old Sara R. I would like to see her. Did you hear that B.P. [Baden-Powell?]<sup>68</sup> had gone as War Correspondent and is at Ladysmith. You do not mention Maud, I must try to write to her. Aunt Lizzie seems to be very well; she did not go to Darriwill after all. I do want to talk on to my dear old Captain. Oh how very glad I will be to see you again.

I have just been taking Chinese prayers. The subject was Ps 16 and in connection with v.9. P.S.V. *He is on my right hand therefore I shall not fall.* I took the *He is able*, 2 Tim 1:12 – Eph 3:20 – 2 Cor 9:8 – Heb 2:18 – Heb 7:25 – Jude 24. He is able — are we willing? So often I find myself falling when I know perfectly well that He can keep me. I do long for the time when Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Oh, he is so terrible, he is so subtle, he does worry and torment one so much. This is his seat, he is worshipped here, he really gets into people and possesses them. Oh he is cruel. But thanks be to God we can have Victory through Jesus Christ.

Much love to Auntie and your dear self from,  
Amy.

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owned by the National Trust and is open to the public. Emily died 14th September 1931 and was buried in St. Luke's Cemetery, Richmond. The Stevens/Searle monument has the initials C.E.Z.M.S. after Emily's name. Her father died 1st August 1903 aged 80 years. Personal Communication from Ms Alex Green.

See also letter from Emilie in *The Missionary, At Home and Abroad*, Vol XXII, NO 21, October 1895, pp 369-371.

68 Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** General News.  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Rt Rev. John Burdon, Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong.

Deng Doi,  
April 30<sup>th</sup> 1900  
My dearest Captain

At last the 'Box' has arrived and I can tell you I was pleased to get it. Aunt Lizzie had filled up the box with some things. A beautiful copy of the *Quiver* 69 came and a bottle of scent with no sender's name. I am delighted to have both. The *Quiver* will be such a nice book to have in the house. I was so pressed for time on Saturday that I only just had time to try the copying pad a very little. I am sure it will be very useful indeed. The 'Toffee' is delicious, we did enjoy it and are keeping it till next week when Mr, [Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd CMS] and the Bishop will be here. We know they will like it. We will all enjoy it together. I will write to Hope and Auntie. Thank you so much for everything. You cannot possibly imagine what pleasure it is to us to receive anything from Home.

On Saturday afternoon the pastor examined the women for Confirmation – 17 of them and all passed. I have been preparing them for some time. We expect the Bishop in about ten days.

Last week I had great trouble about the Blind School. A young fellow and some women came in the evening and knocked on the door. Ning Kai opened it as was dragged out and hit in the side with a bamboo. There was a tremendous row and it took such a time enquiring into it. Then the thing was supposed to be settled and I went off for the day to a village to settle some troublesome business. While I was away the boys went off the Lan Dia and asked him to beat the boy. Oh dear, it was such work to settle it all again.

Two more of the boys want to be baptised and one of them has given me great joy. I think he is truly converted. Seventeen boys now, we do need your prayers.

Forgive a short letter but I was ill yesterday. Fever and very bad headache and do not feel up to much yet but I do want to thank you so much for myself and for the boys. They will have nice coats.

Your very loving  
Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Mrs Margaret Saumarez Griffiths  
**Notes:** General News.  
Australian Participation in the South African (Boer) War  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.

Deng Doi  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1900

My dear Margaret,

You are much better than I am. You did not let my Birthday pass by without writing. I intended writing but alas that was two months ago and I have not yet written to you. The 13<sup>th</sup> of Jan. was the happiest day I think I have spent in China. I was away itinerating, examining Day Schools for Miss Searle. She was with me and gave marks for the answers as I asked the questions. It was the yearly exam and therefore we had to be very particular. It was very cold weather, the snow covering the tops of the high hills and mountains. As we crossed over one hill the snow was very deep in some places, an unusual thing for this part of the Province.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> we were at a Village named Kang Wong. Immediately after breakfast we started for a Village named Buang Sang, and reached there about 12 p.m. The women came out to meet us and gave us such a hearty welcome; some months ago Miss Searle had stayed in the village for 3 weeks and 18 women were baptised.

I wonder what you would have thought of our one room. I will try and tell you what it is like. Mount a perpendicular ladder, bend your body and creep through the doorway, now stand up, but be very careful, as there is only a small place to stand in, about 8 ft long and two feet broad. The other six feet of roof is slanting and you will constantly forget and bump your head against the tiles through which the bitterly cold snowy wind is blowing. We put the boards on the tressles (sic), our inch thick mattresses on top of them. To protect us a little from the wind I tied a sheet to the rafters. A narrow table was placed next the bed, the other side two stools and you may say there was no more room. We had dinner there and enjoyed it we were so hungry. Afterwards I made some paper flowers, and arranged a 'Fish Pond.' Miss Searle had promised to give the Women a Christmas treat. Oh, we had a happy afternoon. The Women were so nice and so pleasant. I just felt full of joy. In the evening Miss Searle took prayers.

On Sunday the Tiang Dong<sup>70</sup> was full of people. They have service every Sunday although there are only two young men who can read the Service. One leads, the other repeats the responses. To hear the lad beginning to read the Service in a very loud voice and only this one man repeating was about too much for us. Sometimes in China it is very difficult to refrain from laughing.

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70 Tiang dong or tieng dong. The reception room at the front of all but the poorest Chinese houses.

On Monday we tried to go to a Village but the wind was furious and we could not walk against it. We ran out of bread and had to eat very coarse rice, the best we could buy in such a small, out of the way Village. On Tuesday we left for Sien Liang. I enjoyed the journey of several hours very much, the path winding along the hillside and the sea stretching away on the left. My little boat was waiting for us and we were welcomed by the crew. After a late lunch we walked to Dwai Liang and had a very good time indeed, the people listened so well. The Boat rolled a good deal in the night and so in the morning Miss Searle left me, returned to Deng Doi.

I went on to a Village named Ding Hai where I had such a good time a year ago. The whole day long the Bible Woman and I were preaching to crowds. The next morning I returned to one of the houses and a woman publicly burned her idol.

On the way down the coast I spent a few hours at Ga Sai exhorting the Christians there.

God is working in a most wonderful way here just now. The Women's School is full with 26 women. The Blind School full with 15 boys. The part set apart for Women in the large new Church is full; and at the Choir practise on Wednesday over forty children attend, and a large number of Miss Newton's Sunday School Classes. We attend about 60 patients a week just now. Last week on making up the Books I find we have registered the names of 1195 patients and received 9709 cash in money for the year. Of course we have also seen numbers of odd patients.

We find Satan trying to hinder us in every possible way. When I return I hope to have a long talk with you. I ask you in the meanwhile to pray for us. We can almost see our Enemy, he is so near. But there is Victory Through Jesus Christ.

I am intensely interested in the war [Boer War, South Africa]. Two of the officers who have gone are my cousins. Mr. Rose from Strathfield is also my cousin. Mr. Paterson I knew long ago. Nurse Nixon and Macready are friends, and I have nursed many cases for the Drs who have gone.

Very much love from yours affectionately

Amy Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Mrs Margaret Saumarez Griffiths, Sydney  
**Notes:** General News.  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Miss Minna Searle, CMAV missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(ii) Rt. Rev. John Burdon, Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong.  
(iii) Miss S S Newton, CMANSW missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(iv) Rev. Llewellyn Lloyd, CMS missionary, Fujian Province, China.  
(v) Miss Lambert and Miss Bushell, Female Education Society, Foochow.  
(vi) Archdeacon John Wolfe, CMS missionary, Foochow, Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China.  
(vii) Rev. Charles Hartwell of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions (American Congregational Church).  
(viii) Dr. Myron C Wilcox, American Methodist Episcopal Church

Deng Doi,

May 16<sup>th</sup> 1900

My dear Isabel

You will want to know what has been settled regarding the future working of the Blind School. It is decided that on my return from Furlough I take up this work among the Blind and devote all my time to it. A school large enough to accommodate 100 boys and a dwelling house for myself and fellow-worker, if one offers for this work, are to be erected in Foo Chow and one of the married men missionaries will help us in any way we need. An account of the work is to be written and sent to friends asking them to help in collecting money for the building and supporting the boys. In the meantime we ask you to pray definitely that God will guide us in all our plans for the future, and that every detail may be done in a way that will glorify Him.

At present there are 17 boys in the school. In a few weeks they will return to their homes! ! They will need our prayers. *I will bring the blind by a way they knew not, I will not forsake them.*

At last the long looked for day arrived, viz., the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1900. About noon Miss Searle came over from Pan Kau and told us the Bishop was there and would soon come over, so then everyone was excited and on the lookout as the Christians wished to go and welcome him. I was over at the school giving the 23 women who were to be confirmed final reminders of what they were to do and say. Although they had been learning and Catechism and Service for weeks past they were not at all well up in it. A messenger came to tell us the glad news, 'the Bishop has come,' so then I went over to our house and we had afternoon tea and discussed plans, etc. Then the Bishop went over to the Women's House and spoke very nicely

to them, they were so very pleased. At 7.30 p.m. we had the Confirmation Service, it was beautiful. I do wish you had been there to have seen first the men and then the 23 women, one by one go up to the rails and kneel there receiving we believe a blessing from God Himself. It was so beautifully quiet and orderly and I am sure very real to those who were confirmed. After the service we sang, 'Oh Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end.'

The next morning we partook of the Lord's Supper, over 70 altogether. It was a very solemn time, so many of them obeying our Saviour's last wish to *Do this in remembrance till I come.*'

We need to pray very definitely for the native Christians. Some of those women will soon be returning to their villages and will not perhaps have the opportunity of again partaking for months or years. May their love and their desire to serve Him not grow cold.

The Bishop gave us a very helpful Bible reading on 2 Cor 5. The part that came to us was about 'The reconciliation.' We are ambassadors for Christ – glorious privilege – and we have to plead with these people, beseech them, pray them – we in Christ's stead pray you to be reconciled with God. Not only just to deliver the message but also to beseech: –

About 3.30 p.m. the Bishop and Mr. Lloyd left for the City. Our house you know is built on a rocky hill and outside our gate were standing a number of Christian men and the catechist, who let off crackers, the came about 30 day school children, then about 60 women and down the steps were the blind boys and then more Christians. It was such a nice sight and I am sure those people really did this not from custom but because they can see that the Bishop is a 'good man' in the true sense of the word.

The next day I went up to Foo Chow reaching there in the evening. On Sunday the Bishop preached in the English Church. An especial Jubilee Sermon as the first CMS missionary came to Foo Chow 50 years ago.

On Monday afternoon there was a service for the Chinese at which Mr. Hartwell of the American Board Mission<sup>71</sup> who has worked here for 47 years gave us an address, also Dr. Willcocks<sup>72</sup> of the Methodist Mission who has worked here 17 years. – *God has done great things for us whereof we are glad.* In the evening a meeting was held at the CMS Ladies House.

On Tuesday the Chapel at Miss Lambert's and Miss Bushell's Girls' School was dedicated.<sup>73</sup> It is a most beautiful building, beautiful in its simplicity. It was decorated with white lilies and ferns. More than half the seats were filled with the school girls, over 200, all dressed in white Chinese jackets with light blue band around the neck and front and sleeves and red 'coes'. Their hair black and glossy and with beautiful flowers and head ornaments.

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71 American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Originally joint Presbyterian-Congregational it became exclusively congregational. Modelled in part on the English London Missionary Society. See Dunch, Ryan, (2001), *Fuzhou Protestants and the Making of a Modern China*, New Haven, Yale University Press.

72 Dr. Myron C Wilcox, Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States. Arrived 1882. See Macgillivray, Donald, (1907), *A Century of Protestant Missions in China, (1807-1907)*, Shanghai, American Presbyterian Mission Press. Also mentioned in Dunch, Ryan, (2001), *Fuzhou Protestants and the Making of a Modern China*, New Haven, Yale University Press..Dr Wilcox preceded Dr. James J Gregory at the American Methodist Mission at Kucheng (Gutian).

73 Miss Jessie Bushell, and Miss Lambert were missionaries of the Female Education Society. **Rosemary Keen**, "The Society for Promoting Female Education in China, India and the East was interdenominational, it was staffed by women and it employed only women agents. Its object was the establishment and superintendence of schools in China, India and the countries adjacent. " See CMS East Asia Archives, National Library of Australia, Microfilm 1915, Section 11, Part 1. In 1899 the two women transferred to the CMS when CMS took responsibility for funding the school. See Baring-Gould to Llewellyn Lloyd, 30 March 1899.

They did look nice. The other seats were filled with missionaries, English residents and Chinese friends. The clergy walked up the aisle in procession, eight of them and the Archdeacon<sup>74</sup> and Bishop. The service commenced by singing a hymn, followed by Ps XXIV which was very well sung indeed by the school girls. Then the Bishop gave an address in English and the Archdeacon interpreted for him, after which the usual prayers for the dedication of a church were read. Then we had afternoon tea after which we went to see the girls drilling. They did it very well, first 30 girls marched into the room and stood in lines and bounced balls to music, first bouncing one, then two at a time, and keeping two going in the air was very pretty. Then a number came in with long poles very prettily decorated and after various exercises they formed a number of arches, by the girls putting the tips of their poles together, and then a number of the children came in and marched underneath. After that they had dumbbell exercises and finally a wonderful marching round and round of about 200 girls, really very well done indeed. I would like those who disbelieve in missionary work to visit this school. We thank God for several girls in this District who were trained there and are now married and teachers of our village day schools. One is the teacher in Miss Newton's Women's School.

Today is the 24<sup>th</sup> May and we have given our girls and boys a half-holiday. This morning we had service — it is Ascension Day. There is now a thunderstorm raging and it is pouring with rain. The thermometer in this room is nearly 90° and we are so very hot and damp.

Presently there will be crackers let off in honour of our Most Gracious Queen. God richly bless her today.

For the Coming of the King we are waiting.

Yours affectionately, Amy Oxley

HANDWRITTEN ON THE BACK.

My dear old Captain.

Just a line with the enclosed not very interesting letter but it is getting so hot and I have not been very well and am feeling tired. In about 5 weeks I go to Kuliang. Miss Searle and Miss Newton are going to Japan. I wonder when you and I will go? I hear Will and Minnie<sup>75</sup> are married and as Auntie does not mention Aunt Marianne I suppose she did not go up to Sydney. It seems so strange God giving me this work to do among the blind. He does seem to be opening up the way to extend the work but it will be hard to give up all my other work. I will be so glad to see you, and perhaps it will be next year. Very much love now to Auntie and your dear self from

Your loving Little Mate.

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74 Archdeacon John Richard Wolfe, Ireland, CMS. Arrived Foochow 1862.

75 Dr William W Hope married Mary Isabella Waugh in New South Wales.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Move to CMS Hospital and Blind School, Foochow (Fuzhou), the provincial capital of Fujian (Fukien) Province.  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Dr. George Wilkinson, CMS.  
(ii) Miss Annie Wolfe, daughter of Archdeacon John R Wolfe.  
(iii) Miss Brooks, CMS  
(iv) Miss Baldwin, CMS, nurse  
(v) Miss Emily Kingsmill, CMAV. Tasmania, CEZMSA, Victoria. Supported by YWCA Tasmania Educational work, Foochow.  
(vi) Miss Dopping-Hepinstall, CMS.

Char Chang,  
December 27, 1901  
My darling Bell,

Thank you so very much for your letter received on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Yes, I would love a good talk but this hand won't write much. I am really coming to live in Foo Chow City and am here now looking out for a house for the Blind School. Today I have been very busy with out and in patients at the Hospital and this evening have been busy with a baby of 7 months who has bronchitis. I really do not know how I am going to do school and hospital work. Of course Dr. Wilkinson will come and see any serious cases but then I have to carry out all his orders. In this house there will be Miss Annie Wolfe<sup>76</sup> who is very nice. Miss Brooks<sup>77</sup> who will be, I am afraid, a trial, and Nurse Baldwin who has just come out. Thos is a nice house, later on I will take some photos and send you. (The doctors new house is being built next door and the Hospital will be next to that, about 1<sup>1/2</sup> miles from here is the CEZMS compound, next year Miss Kingsmill<sup>78</sup> and Miss Dopping-Hepinstall [?] and a lady doctor will be there.

God has opened my eyes to see the best of everything here and I really like it better than Deng Doi already. I do not like passing through the miles of streets when I go over to Nang Tai, the Foreign Settlement [on the other side of the Min River]. I see such dreadful things, lepers, beggars, etc. I spent Christmas at the Hospital with Martie Barr.<sup>79</sup> On Christmas Eve a woman was brought in, she had cut off her tongue in a temper, oh, it was a horrible sight and the mother-in-law brought the tongue hoping it could be sewn on again. On Christmas Day I had tiffin with the Mullers<sup>80</sup> and dinner at the Odells. In the afternoon I helped give presents to 250 schoolgirls at Miss Bushell's school. On Boxing Day I helped with a fish pond at the hospital and then came in here as Miss Massie (Massey) and Miss Wolfe were ill and stayed on the island. The boys simply loved their pocket-knives, and the woollen gifts you gave me I

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76 Miss Annie Muriel Wolfe, CMS England, daughter of Ven. J R Wolfe and Mrs Mary Wolfe (nee Mary Maclehose of Sydney).

77 Miss Edith Marion K Brooks, CMS, England.

78 Miss E P Kingsmill, Tasmania, Victoria, CMA Victoria. Educational work, Foochow. Died Tasmania, 8 November 1921.

79 Miss Marta Barr, CEZMS, England.

80 Mr. W Muller, CMS, England.

gave to the others who were in need. Miss Mears<sup>81</sup> was most grateful and she said to thank those who had made the things especially for the little pair of stockings and mittens as they just did beautifully for a special child of hers, one she rescued some years ago. Oh, Jim Stewart<sup>82</sup> told me about the Board he wanted it very much but through it was your only one, had no idea you got it for him and I said I would write and tell you and I always forgot. He thought it awfully kind of you to have got it for him and I said I was sure if you knew this you would send it to him. I do wonder if he went to Darriwill for Christmas, he did enjoy himself so very much. My pillow is the greatest comfort. I can't tell you how I like it. I am reading *The Holiest of all*, by A (Andrew) Murray and it is beautiful. Have you got it? I must say goodbye now.

Very much love to yourself and dear Auntie,  
Amy

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81 Sister of Dr. W P Mears, CMS, England.

82 Probably James Robert Stewart, second son of Rev. Robert Stewart. James was born 7 January 1881. He was at school in England at the time of the 1895 massacre of his family at Huasang. He studied at Sydney University and Moore Theological College, Sydney, which probably explains the references to the family in Amy's letter. After being ordained and serving with the CMS in Hong Kong, the Rev. Jim Stewart was killed in France, World War I, apparently while serving with the Chinese Labour Corps.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** CMS Blind School, Foochow (Fuzhou).  
**Others Mentioned:** Reference to Berrima, NSW, and Hassall family.

Char Chang,

January 18 1902

My dearest Margaret,

Your photograph is before me and your name in my D.L.<sup>83</sup>

I have been thinking of you and praying for you on this your Birthday. I know not what your special need is but the One who sees us both knows what it is and out of His Fullness will supply it.

I have been tremendously busy this week moving into the Blind School and taking over the work at the Dispensary. To make things more difficult I poisoned the little finger of my right hand which has been very painful and made it difficult to write. But each day has come and gone and I have been able to say 'Surely goodness and mercy have followed me,' and 'His Grace has been sufficient.' My need and His greatfulness meet and I have all in Him.

I have wondered how you are spending today. I do trust you have had a very happy time. Are you at Berrima?<sup>84</sup> I wonder.

As the Boys come one by one, 16 now, I thank God that he has given me this work to do; but it is very pathetic to see some of these boys. One new one is, I think, out of his mind with fear. I think they have told him they [the missionaries] would kill him, he seems terrified.

20<sup>th</sup>. I can only add a few more lines as I am really too tired to write and this ought to go. I find that the Medical work takes up a great deal of time, the time I used to call my own is now continuously interrupted and sick people cannot wait.

Why God has given me this work to do I know not, the very last kind of work that I would choose but I am perfectly certain He has given it to me to do and I really do want to do it joyfully. I hope very soon to send you some photos of the Boys. 19 today, my family is increasing. The youngest 3 years old. Much love my very dear friend, love also for your sisters.

From your loving friend,

Amy Oxley

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83 This may be a reference to a small book of Biblical verses: Bagster, Jonathan, *Daily Light on the Daily Path*, London, Samuel Bagster and Sons. Still in print.

84 Berrima is a town in southern New South Wales on the Hume Highway. It is approximately halfway between Sydney and Canberra.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** CMS Blind School, Foochow (Fuzhou).  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Dr. George Wilkinson, CMS.  
(ii) Miss Margaret Boileau, CMS.  
(iii) Miss Massie, CMS.  
(iv) Miss Wolfe, CMS.  
(v) Miss Baldwin, CMS.

Char Chang,  
February 7 1902  
My own dear Bell

This month has well begun and I have not really had a spare moment but I think you will rather have a few lines than none at all. I have 22 boys now and it has been difficult buying in everything and getting them really started to work but I have really started now. Miss Massie<sup>85</sup> has really left and I am in full charge of the Hospital. We had over 80 outpatients and 8 inpatients last week. Miss Boileau does the dressings and is a great help but not being able to speak a word has to be helped in that way. We have also had some patients very ill in three homes and that takes time. I do often feel tired and I would love just one real quiet day. The Hospital means being always at work giving medicines or something but I have never been so happy in my life before. 'My need and His great fullness meet and I have all in Him.' I have not the least idea what the future will bring forth. At present there is no thought of house-building and plans at present I have not time to think of. How often I wish for you, so many things to talk over. But the time is short and we will have time one day. I think of you and Jim and I wonder if you had a very happy time. I feel sure he would, he did love the thought of going. I think that new little room for Auntie must be very nice, you are always thinking of something. I had some good times in that room. Miss Massie has left here and leaves for England in a few days. Miss Wolfe<sup>86</sup> is at her own home nursing her sister and Miss Baldwin<sup>87</sup> and I are alone. I find everything you gave me so useful and continually reminded of your loving kindness and thoughtfulness. I am wondering about dear Auntie during the hot wether if she still finds the pain in her side.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. After writing to you I was just getting into bed when the teacher came up and said Ling Kai had taken opium. I just felt sick to think of it. I wrote a hasty note over to the doctor and in a few minutes we were down at the school. It was an awful time, the doctor injected something and very soon he was retching. He was like one possessed of the Devil for the time being, oh so hard and naughty but I felt he was saved; and God would not let the Devil pluck him out of His hand. He has not been himself since my return and the climax was him being naughty about the place he had in the school and head boy and he had to go to the bottom of the class which was too much for his pride and after two days he went out and got this opium. Oh Bell, what it was to go through. He is quite repentant and not going to get

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85 Miss Ellen Elizabeth Massey, CMS, England.

86 Miss Mary Elizabeth Wolfe, CMS, England, daughter of Ven. J R Wolfe and Mrs Mary Wolfe (nee Mary Maclehorse of Sydney).

87 Miss Margaret Ellen Baldwin, CMS, England.

dismissed. Do pray for him that he may have a humble heart. I am fearfully tired after all these days.

Very much love to yourself and dear Auntie  
from your own Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** CMS Blind School, Foochow (Fuzhou).  
Family News.  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Miss Eliza Hassall, Sydney.  
(ii) Ewan Cameron, Sydney.  
(iii) Marianne Hassall Sydney.  
(iv) Dr. George Wilkinson. CMS. Foochow

Chai Chang,  
March 5th, 1902  
My dearest Bell

Last letter from Auntie brought me news of Ewan Cameron.<sup>88</sup> What a terrible thing it was. I do sympathize with you all. Does it not seem strange how much sorrow Marianne has in her life? Surely she must be a very precious stone to be so often polished and cut and tried. For you and the others who went to Apollo Bay<sup>89</sup> I have the greatest sympathy. I can't help thinking and thinking how awfully sad it must have been for you.

Thank you so much for your last letter. It is good to know I will get one about every month. I find it very difficult to get letters written with 9 paid people in connection with the Hospital and Blind School. One of them is always wanting something and just when I think I will write an interruption comes and I do get so very tired in the evening.

One of my boys, Ling Ming, has been very ill with a bad throat and mouth. Oh, the disgusting smell. I had to pray hard to attend to him cheerfully. I could perhaps tell you what I have been through with him, but it is very difficult to write. He is slowly getting better.

The Hospital keeps us going from 10.30 to 12.30 or later and we had two operations last week, one to the eyes and one to the nose.

Ling Kai is keeping very bright but still continue to pray for him.

I am very happy indeed here, happier than I have ever been in spite of having so much to do. I will enclose a copy of Dr. Wilkinson's house and you will see how the bow windows and roof look. It is very much like the plan we planned.

Today have not had a moment all day and now it is after 9 pm. oh dear, I do wish I could write more. I do want you to make me a cover (if you have time) for my sweet cushion. It is 8 inches long and 8 inches broad. A washing cover please. I can't tell you how much I love that cushion.

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88 Ewan Cameron was married to Marion Hope, daughter of Dr. R C Hope, and a cousin of Amy Oxley and Isabel Hope.  
89 A beachside holiday town on the Great Ocean Road southwest of Geelong. It faces south across Bass Strait between Victoria and the island state of Tasmania, Australia.

Very much love to dear Auntie and yourself and my Sutherlands Creek friends.<sup>90</sup>  
Your very loving, Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** CMS Blind School, Foochow (Fuzhou).  
**Others Mentioned:** Miss Mary Harmer, CMS.

Chai Chang,  
March 30, 1902

My own dear Bell

Your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> February has reached me today and I am going to answer it not by a long letter because for one thing I have not time and another I hope you will get my diary about the same time as this.

I have a fire in my room I am so cold and I do wish you were here. I feel rather low and awfully tired after three deaths last week and an opium case, besides 75 outpatients, 10 inpatients, and 26 blind boys. I really do not know how the days go. Last night I had these four dreadful cases on my mind and kept waking up and so I am going to ask you just sometimes to post me a sixpenny book. I cannot have a talk and I would like to read for half an hour and so quite take my mind off the sad things.

Don't think my dear one that I am not happy. I am awfully happy and my fellow workers are so nice. It is only the over press of work sometimes gets on to one somehow.

Today, Easter Monday, they have had a gathering of schools. About 1000 men and women to sing. 13 of my boys went and four played the accordion and the others sang. It is their first appearance and I was very much afraid they would break down but they did not and I think a good many of the missionaries were surprised, as they have had nothing to do with the Blind before.

Ling Kai is so good now quite different to what he was.

A good many of my special friends have gone home on furlough. Miss Harmar<sup>91</sup> Mead, the Lloyds, etc. I do miss them so much. I am longing to hear how helpful Mrs. Southey's addresses were and I am so glad you liked his boys. I would have felt so sorry if you had not done so. I wonder if you have been to Sydney at last. Auntie tells me that the new house is so very nice.

Very much love to Auntie and your own dear self from  
Your loving Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Engagement to Dr. George Wilkinson  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Marianne Hope.  
(ii) Miss Eliza Hassall.

Chai Chang,  
May 3 1902  
My own dear Bell

I wonder if you are writing to me tonight. Oh how I long for you. I do want a talk with you so very much. I had letters last week telling me that they expected you up for M. Hope's wedding. That is over long ago and possibly you are back at Darriwill. I have had a busy time since my last letter, a poor young woman had a baby and for three weeks we went every day to her and then she died. It is one of those things so difficult to understand. We can hear Him say, 'What I do thou knowest not but thou shalt know one day.' I have taken in two more blind boys making 29 now, quite a large family and how I long for you to see them. Ling Kai has been such a different boy since that terrible downfall. God has to bring us along strange paths before we learn our lessons. I was so delighted to hear of the result of Mr. Southey's visit, and we can have the infilling of the same spirit.

I now have something of great importance to tell you and my dear Auntie. I am engaged to be married to Dr. George Wilkinson, a man whom I have met at all times of the day and night in connection with the medical work for six months and as the days have gone on I have found out what a true and good man he is. A most consistent Christian, a thorough missionary and a clever doctor. I can see how wonderfully God has been working out His Plan and Purpose. I will only have to move next door. I think I sent you a photo of the house to show you the bow window not thinking that I would ever live there. He will help me with the Blind School and I trust I may be of some help to him in his medical work. Oh I am so very happy about it and I feel sure mother and Aunt Lizzie will be very glad about it. He is not an honorary missionary nor has he private means. His Father is dead. Mother and sisters and several brothers in England but none of them in sympathy with him. Do pray for him when you pray for me. I hope some day you will know him. He gives us such helpful Bible readings every fortnight and he would help on your C.E.s.<sup>92</sup> I want to write heaps but there are so many I must write to about this.

Very much love to yourself and Auntie,  
From your loving Amy.

8<sup>th</sup>. I think the wedding will be the middle of October. There is nothing to wait for longer as it only seems like just going next door. We have been working together all the months and we hope to go on doing so. You will probably want to know what I am going to do about a Trousseau etc. I am not going to have one, but am writing to Auntie Lizzie about a few things I must have. One is a wedding dress. I think White Persian Lawn like we had at Mary's wedding 17 years this month. And you have been my real chum ever since. I am to be

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92 C.E.'s is probably a reference to Christian Endeavour, a very widely spread evangelical interdenominational Christian children's organisation.

married from Archdeacon Wolfe. They say I must ask all my Missionary friends but I don't want anything grand. Oh darling, I wish you were to have a talk. He is so good and true.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** General News.  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Miss Nellie Marshall.  
(ii) Miss Wolfe.  
(iii) Dr. George Wilkinson.  
(iv) Miss Minna Searle

Kuliang,

July 1, 1902.

My own dear Isabel

Many thanks for your last letter written from Hunter's Hill and also many thanks for the little books which are most acceptable. I have just finished 'Rudder Grange'93 and it is very good indeed and I have lent it to N Marshall<sup>94</sup> and I suppose it will be kept on the go while it is at Kuliang. Miss Wolfe is reading the other one and 'How the children raised the wind'95 has already been read by several.

You asked me how I liked the 'Southern Cross?'96 I have not had it and supposed you had forgotten to order it.

I am simply longing to hear what you think of my engagement. I know you will say it must make a difference in our friendship. So far I only feel that I long more for you and there is one thing, your letters to me will not be opened and read except by myself. The more I know George the more I see how fortunate I am. He has already been awfully nice and thoughtful about my friends out here and he looks upon friendship as a very sacred thing and will never in any way come between me and my particular friends. Of course, later on in furlough it may be difficult to have so much time together but we will see about that later on. For the present, my dear faithful old cousin, you are to remember that I need you, your letters, and your sympathy and your love and your prayers just as much as I have in the past.

No, George has not a large banking account nor a long line of Ancestors but he is true and good and God is binding us together in the bounds of His own love and I want him to learn to know you so that when you meet you will help each other.

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93 See Stockton, Frank Richard, (c 1899-1904), *The novels and stories of Frank R. Stockton*. New York, Scribner.

94 Miss Nellie Osborne Marshall, CMS, Nowra, New South Wales. Trained at Sydney Children's Hospital as nurse. Married Dr. E G Fische of the Dublin University Fukien Mission in 1925. Worked in China until the Communist Revolution ended foreign missionary presence in 1951. The Fishes moved to Australia where they worked among Aboriginal children. Cole, Keith, (1971), *A History of the Church Missionary Society of Australia*, Melbourne, Church Missionary Society, p 145.

95 Lyall, Edna, (1896), *How the Children Raised the Wind*, London, James Clarke & Co. Regarded as a children's title.

96 An official periodical publication of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.

I am up at Kuliang but only staying in this house for a week and then go to Minna Searle. I have not seen George for a week and he was to have come up this morning, but a letter came instead saying he felt he could not with a clear conscience leave the work until Thursday and so we must be patient. I would far rather put God and the work first and I am glad he would for I know he is simply longing to come up.

I have had great trouble with my Blind School Teachers. One has told me the other was leading a bad life. Although not proved it is I am afraid true, and so Ching De will have to leave as well as the new one, Wong. It is very hard and I will have to find teachers, teach them the Braille, and teach them how to teach the boys, etc.

We had in our medical work for the half year 1,900 outpatients, over 60 inpatients and paid over 60 visits to outpatients. We have the 12 beds supported now and are building a new operation room.

Goodbye my dear old girl.

Much love to yourself and Auntie from your loving Amy.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Margaret Griffiths  
**Notes:** Engagement to Dr. George Wilkinson  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Marianne Hope.  
(ii) Miss Eliza Hassall.

Kuliang,  
August 3, 1902

My very dear Margaret,

Thank you so very much for your good wishes for our happiness. I feel that you can understand so well what it means to be loved by a good man, and you can enter into one's feelings of joy, but as you say, it is also a great responsibility. I know I spent weeks in Prayer about the matter but I am fully convinced that it is of the Lord.

It was so wonderful the way in which He took me into Foo Chow City, and right to the very spot where I should see so much of Dr. Wilkinson. At Kuliang (Appendix 6) as a rule engagements take place and really those in the past who have become engaged can have seen very little of the each other, and I never would have grown to care for Dr. Wilkinson if I had not seen him day by day so faithfully doing his work, and so truly caring to win the people for Christ.

The photo I sent is a very bad one, it is difficult to get a good one out here and now. He has shaved off his beard, he looks very much younger, he is just 36 years old, and I am nearly 35 so that it is just right. He has been spending some days in the City trying to save the life of my Hospital Woman who had Plague but God willed to take her to Himself. She and her husband had a very real trust in Christ. Dr Wilkinson said it was beautiful to see their trust at such a time. The Plague in the city is as bad as last year, when they said as many as 1300 coffins were carried out of the city gates in one day. I just have to trust my loved one to God's keeping when he goes down to the city.

Do write me as soon as your future plans are settled. If you do live in England I will now be able to go and visit you, as at least half our furlough will be spent there. I do wish you could go to England via China, Japan and America and visit mission stations on the way. I will indeed give you a warm welcome.

I will send you a Photo of the Boys as soon as I can. I have 30 boys now.

Much love from yours lovingly

Amy I Oxley

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Engagement to Dr. George Wilkinson  
**Others Mentioned:** Friendships and marriage.  
Archdeacon John Wolfe.  
Rev. John Martin.

Kuliang,  
August 3, 1902

My own dear Isabel

Thank you so very much for your letter written in the 'middle of the month.' Thank you so much for your good wishes, but dear old girl, I read between the lines and I know it is hard in one way to be glad. I know you feel I will never be the same to you. Well, I don't know but I think I am a bit different from some people and I do not believe that any other one or any other love can alter my love for you; and George is such an awfully good true nice man that he does not want me to give up any of my friends. He has a very high ideal of true friendship and love and so rest in the fact that he will look upon your letters to me as sacred, and I may write to whom I please for he trusts me absolutely.

Now when I sent you the photo of his house I did not want to live there. To be willing to say 'Yes' cost me many hours of prayer. But now the joy is coming and day-by-day I find more and more to love in him.

Aug 27. Our wedding day is fixed for the 1<sup>st</sup> of October at about 11 am. Archdeacon Wolfe and the Rev. J Martin are to perform the ceremony. Wedding Breakfast at the Wolfes. Afternoon leave in House Boat for Kucheng. No time to write more.

Very much love my own dear one from your loving,  
Amy Isabel Oxley.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Engagement to Dr. George Wilkinson and Wedding arrangements  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Mrs Wolfe  
(ii) Miss Eliza Hassall  
(iii) Miss Minna Searle (Bridesmaid)  
(iv) Miss Marta Barr (Bridesmaid – possibly American)

CMS Foo Chow,  
September 10, 1902.  
My own dear Bell

I will not wait till the 1<sup>st</sup> week of next month to write to you as I shall be (D.V.)<sup>97</sup> be on my honeymoon trip, but I will write at once and thank you for the Bank Draft for Ling Kai. He really is a different boy since he took opium. I think it was the only way God could teach him the lesson of humility.

D and V (?) open School on the 1<sup>st</sup> May and the Hospital a few days later.

It is three weeks today to the wedding day and the days are flying by. I am on the Island at present seeing about the making of the Wedding Dress. I suppose I am very foolish but I cannot help thinking of the weddings of the girls and their trousseaus when Father was alive. The few things I have got of course I have had to get myself and my dear boat, the proceeds of the sale of it is going to pay for what Aunt L Bought in Sydney, did she tell you about it?

Private I was really disappointed. She went off to buy in a fearful hurry the day before leaving for Melbourne and got M. Walsh to help her. She is a dear old thing but no taste. The Orange Blossom was one common spray, the black dress a thick flounced canvas which would suit Mother. In Foo Chow the missionaries sometimes ask each other out to Dinner in the evening and at Xmas and times a number meet and one can wear a suitable frock. I wanted a thin . . . and intended to have some colour at the neck, but alas a thick old-fashioned canvas!

Then the dressing gown. I asked for a flannel and she sent one something like hers with dreadful red sateen inside and very coarse lace on the neck. Oh dear, and the price of the things £11 for just those and nun's veiling and vests, etc. I . . . everything so expensive.

You see old girl I am letting myself go to you. It is a relief and I can't to anyone else and oh, I seem so lonely at such a time and so far away. I thought I didn't care a pin about a Trousseau but I would like to have had a few new underclothes. We will be pretty cramped in a Boat going up river and it will be funny for a man to see my things; but he is such a dear fellow and so awfully nice about everything and he understands.

Mrs Wolfe is so kind and going to ask the Missionaries and give them tea and cake afterwards. There will be over eighty of course. Most of our own Missionaries are up country

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97 D.V. — Deo Volante, 'God Willing'. A common expression in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Christian It indicates submission to the overriding purpose of God. A reflection of a belief in the absolute sovereignty of God over human affairs.

but I am friends with all the Americans and they seemed to make up their minds to come, invite or no.

The two bridesmaids Minna Searle and Marta Barr are to wear white, and buttercup ribbons.

I had a most delightful week at Sharp Peak with George but for two weeks he has been at Kuliang. One of the missionaries has a baby girl and he has been attending them. I long for him to come down. We will (D.V.) meet in the city tomorrow. Fancy Auntie and the photo, by this time she will have got a large one George has taken. I will not be able ever to send you a good photo of him because they can't touch up at all here and you know how different people look with some of the hard lines softened, but I do hope one day you will see him and like him. Your letter today was not quite like the old ones; don't let him make any difference. If you do not hear from me quite so soon next time, it is just because I really am busy, so much to do and think of and all arrangements for opening of School and Hospital, directly I return from Kucheng.

Aunt Lizzie only wrote me twice from Darriwill, very short letters, and not one bit of your doings. You will have to write me a long one and tell me. How are all the C.E.s? Remember me to them and tell Miss Smith I will have to change my name but not myself, and I will still think of them all as my friends.

I am reading the 119 Ps. Notice the law - (God's Word) is viewed under the various aspects indicated by the ten different words used again and again to describe it. Ps 119, v. 1, - Law - testimonies, ways, statutes, precepts, commandments, judgements, etc. 33 v. Teach me, make me, quicken me. 58-62 - I entreated, I thought, I made, I will rise, etc.

Now I really cannot write more but I do so want you and I would love a good old yarn. Please give my love to dear Auntie. I hope she keeps well.

Very much love from Your Loving II Mate.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Margaret Griffiths.  
**Notes:** Engagement to Dr. George Wilkinson and Wedding arrangements  
**Others Mentioned:** CMS Blind School

Cha Cang, Foo Chow City  
December 1, 1902.  
My dearest Margaret

I cannot tell you how very pleased I was to receive your Gift and also your letter. It was good of you and I do thank you.

You will wonder why I did not write at once and thank you, but I know you will understand when I tell you the Box from Sydney arrived the day after we reached Home after our Honeymoon and I felt bound to write to my Mother and Auntie first.

That week I opened the Blind School and Hospital which means no end of work, the following week we had to go to the Island to attend our Annual Conference. We were there two weeks. I came into the City for an hour or so just to see how things were going on. Since our return about 12 days ago we have had a good deal of time taken up with getting out the Contract for Painting and doing up the House I have just bought for a Blind School. Tonight I really ought to go to bed for I have had a very busy day and am suffering from a heavy cold and sore throat. But I have put off writing so long and I wonder if you will have left for England before this reaches you. I am longing to hear that you really are in England and the date of your wedding fixed. You try and find time just to send me a P. Card telling me this, won't you? I have certainly not less to do since my marriage but more, for added on to my former work there is housekeeping etc. but with the work there is a rest. It is very good to have someone to talk over things with, one who is thoroughly in sympathy.

My Husband opens his small Hospital next week. He will only be able to accommodate 6 inpatients but he hopes to have a good number of outpatients. No money had come in yet for the new hospital and Archdeacon Wolfe has been praying about this for over 30 years. The Doctor is here and now there is no hospital.<sup>98</sup> I have 30 Blind Boys this term and I must say every new one finds there is room in my heart for him. I really must not write more tonight, but I do love you and I thank you so much for your loving thought and loving wishes. Will you give my love to your sisters. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year.

I remain yours very lovingly, Amy I Wilkinson

We have to go. Have you been taking any photos lately? I have for the Work. The little camera is a great pleasure and will be a profit. Very much love to dear Auntie and your own dear self from your loving II Mate.

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98 The Archives of the Church Missionary Society East Asia Mission held at the University of Birmingham Library (microfilm copies held at National Library of Australia) discuss the problem of obtaining medical doctors and the need for a CMS hospital continuously through the 1890s. The CMS in London, aware of other hospitals run by American missions, was reluctant to authorize the expenditure on an 'English' hospital.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Engagement to Dr. George Wilkinson and Wedding arrangements  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and children (Canadians).  
(ii) Miss Lamb  
(iii) Miss Barr

Foo Chow City  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 1903,  
My own dear Captain,

I am afraid last month has gone and no letter to you but I have been so very busy and so often when I just want to write to friends I have to write local notes or about the Blind. Now I have some good news for you. Your Ling Kai is going as a missionary. Praise the Lord! He is going up to Kien Ning, the northwest of this Province [Fukien, Fujian] to begin work among the blind there. He will have to learn a new dialect and all will be strangers to him, but he is willing to go and counts it an honour that God has called him to this work. Towards the close of this year I felt another struggle was going on in the boy's soul and I prayed very much about him – then it came to my mind to send him and another boy up to Sant Tong where there is a great work going on and the leader, Dwing Sing Sang is a spirit-filled man. So I arranged that the two ladies up there and the boys went for three weeks and Ling Kai said, 'I was ashamed before God, I saw how false I had often been.' Well, they have come back so different and Ling Kai asked me that he might now be confirmed as he wished to partake of the Lord's Supper. He said, 'Before when you asked me I was not clear about it, but now I know it is our Lord's desire that I should remember His death.'

Of Isabel, if you only knew the joy it is to me to hear these boys just speaking in the power of the Holy Ghost and I am so glad he is your boy and you have a share in this. After next June I will not have to support him but I want to know if you will take up another boy now and Pray him into the Light. Will you take a boy named Sa Sa Die (pronounced Sair Sair Dear)? He is such a dear boy of about 14 with a will of his own. He has lately lost his Father of whom he was very fond and now has only a widowed Mother. I will take a photograph of him. He is not baptised yet.

I have 35 boys now, such a crowd, and I do wish you could see them. I am sending you some snaps of the beginning of the new School. It is now nearly finished but I have no boundary wall, no well, etc. It is a beautiful large piece of ground and my helpers, the teachers, and cook suggest I keep some pigs and fowls.

Saturday evening. I am very tired but must get this finished for the Mail. Had two operations this week. One had to have his eye taken out and a woman had to have her breast taken off, it weighed 5<sup>1/2</sup> pounds. George is a very good all round doctor I am thankful to say.

It seems a long time since I heard from you; I wonder what you did at Christmas time? Today I had Mr. and Mrs. Boyd and two children to Dinner.<sup>99</sup> They are going home to Canada on furlough, also Miss Lamb and Miss (?) who are down for exams. As soon as they had gone Miss Barr and a community lady came. Such a number for one day and one gets so tired when talking and shewing. The entree dishes are not useful and look so nice. The Black Silk I have had made up and G. [George] says I look very nice in it.

It is so very strange not having my own money. I have earned it since I was eighteen and now I have to ask; he's awfully good about it but it is funny consulting if we must buy something and can we do without till next quarter. We have had to rent a house at Kuliang, £10 for the season. The CMS do not provide us with a room and yet . . .

I find I did not send Emmanuel to you and cannot remember what I did send. This post am sending Emmanuel. Hang it up and remember God is with us.

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99 Rev. John Shields Boyd, CMS, Canada. Boyd was a graduate of the evangelical Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Canada. His father was a prominent Toronto judge and married to the daughter of the Bishop of Huron, Canada. Boyd was stationed in Gutian. Austin, Alvin, 1986), *Saving China: Canadian Missionaries in the Middle Kingdom, 1888-1959*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, p 128.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Consequences of missionary marriage  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Rev. William C White, (Canada), later Anglican Bishop of Honan.  
(ii) Rev. and Mrs. J Southey, Anglican, Queensland, with China Inland Mission.

Foo Chow City,

April 2, 1903

My dearest Captain

The letters I sent you mean *Emmanuel*, God with us. I always like to look up to one I have on the wall and whatever friend I think of I know God is with them.

About the clothes I did without and got fearful colds the first two months I was married. Since then I got some warm vests. Oh it is awfully funny not getting one's own money<sup>100</sup> and we have had to be pretty careful these first two quarters as duty on his boxes from home came to £7 about, and we have to go away from the heat in summer and have a rent a house and the cheapest we can get it is £10 and that has to be paid [in advance?] so we have been very careful. We get £160 a year. A few years ago that was quite sufficient but now everything is dearer and 5 percent duty on everything that comes in<sup>101</sup> so that groceries are very expensive and chair and coolie hire twice what it was. I think George has about £200 invested in England and with the interest he gets a few things from Home. (Don't pass on all t his it is only for you my old faithful dear old Captain friend). We have a most comfortable home and I am thankful that although I do not like housekeeping I can do it and know that if I buy mutton instead of beef there will be a good difference in the Bills at the end of the month.

There is one thing G.<sup>102</sup> is most strictly honest and particular in all his dealings and that is a great comfort, for some men, even missionaries, are not so. The House we have taken at Kuliang belongs to Mr. White who with his wife has to go to Canada on furlough<sup>103</sup>. He could have got £15 a season for it, but preferred to let it to G. at £10.

I wrote to you last time about Ling Kai. There is no doubt about his sanctification; really the whole boy is changed. They are awfully glad at Kien Ning that he is to go and so am I although I will miss him fearfully. I have 36 boys now, all crammed into half the building, as

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100 When a woman missionary married, it was a requirement that they resign from the CMA NSW. In some cases, although not this one, they were asked to repay their passage money to the Association. As a missionary wife, despite her obvious almost full-time commitment to the Hospital and the Blind Boys School, Amy was unpaid. She also lost any entitlement to gratuity or pension rights.

101 The Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs was controlled by the British and was the principal source of income by which the Chinese Government managed imports by foreign shippers. The Customs was headed by many years by Sir Robert Hart.

102 Dr George Wilkinson, Amy's husband.

103 Rev. W C White. Born Devonshire, England, educated Ontario, Canada, Arrived Fujian 1897. Stationed Kien Ning then Longuon near Foochow. 1908 consecrated Bishop in Honan, the first overseas Canadian bishop. Austin, Alvin, (1986), *Saving China: Canadian Missionaries in the Middle Kingdom, 1888-1959*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, pp 129-132. Walmsley, Lewis G., (1974), *Bishop in Honan: Mission and Museum in the Life of William C. White*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press.

the other half is not yet finished. Today I have had to send two boys away, they have itch and I am afraid the other boys will get it. I feel the need very much of an Isolation Ward. Little Long Do' had to die in my study. If a boy gets anything infectious I have nowhere to put him.

Plague has begun again and there is nothing to stop it. Last year on one day as many as 1300 coffins passed out of the City Gates in one day. There is a cash tax on coffins so they know how many there are. Nine people died last year next door to us, of Plague, and fever, and our own Hospital Woman died in the Hospital of Plague.

At present we have pouring rain and thunderstorms day after day. The blue Sweet Pea is out in flower and we like it very much. I think in another month I will have lots of flowers out. I do often think of the times you and I have stood in the dining room arranging the flowers. I seem to see the different kinds and I can almost smell the primroses and violets.

Don't think I am not the same and no good now I am married. You are exactly the same to me and my letters to you and yours to me are just as private. George loves me to talk about my friends but he never thinks of reading my letters. I think you would like George, he is so true and so thorough in all that he does and he has a very well marked Bible. He is always up about six-ten and will be up earlier now the spring has come.

I am glad you like the Southeys.<sup>104</sup> I felt that Muriel has a lot in her. Aunt Lizzie seems awfully comfortable and happy and has taken a new lease of life. She tells me Hope has not heard from me re her wedding present. Isn't it tiresome so many letters go astray. I wrote November 29 and to Emily Hope on the 14 December. I hope she got hers.

Very much love to your own dear self and dear Auntie.

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104 Loane, M L, (1965), *The Story of the China Inland Mission in Australia and New Zealand*, Sydney, China Inland Mission Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Rev. J R and Mrs. Southey went as missionaries with the Australian CIM in March 1891. The Southeys returned to Victoria through ill health and in late 1896 Mr. Southey briefly opened a training course for China-bound missionaries. In 1898 he became an Australasian Council Member of the China Inland Mission. In 1908 he was appointed Home Director. He contracted tuberculosis and by 1914 his active work was over. He retired to New Zealand where he died at Queenstown on 6 January 1922.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Margaret Griffiths.  
**Notes:** Consequences of missionary marriage  
**Others Mentioned:** Happily married, miscarriage,

CMS Hospital, Foo Chow

June 5<sup>th</sup> 1903

My very dear Margaret

I really do think it good of you to have written again to me, not having received one line from me. But you know I have thought daily of you and prayed for you and talked about you and tried to find out your address.

I knew you formerly stayed in Brighton but could remember name of your road or number of house.

Now my dear friend I do wish you were here with me this evening. There is much I would like to talk to you about. It is so difficult to express one's desires and wishes on paper. As you know I believe just one clasp of our hands would make us understand all we wish for one another more than a number of notes on paper. I will indeed think much of you on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July and I know something of what it will all mean to you. I thought I loved my husband much on that day – my Wedding day – but after eight months of married life I can say that I had no idea at all of what the coming months would bring.. Oh I have such a good husband and I am sure Mr. Griffiths has proved his faithfulness during this long waiting time and you will be so happy.

Now I must answer your questions. How am I? Well I am getting stronger but am feeling the heat, which has been rather greater than usual. Unfortunately I had a fall some weeks ago and that brought on a miscarriage but I am thankful to say I have really made a very good recovery, and I think the rest at Kuliang will quite set me up again.

The Blind School Building is finished and was informally opened a few weeks ago. I have 36 boys and one of them is just leaving to begin work among the Blind at Kien Ning. Mss M Darby, niece of Sir F Darby is really interested in the Blind there, and now is really going to begin work. This Boy, whom God has called to this work, is a very earnest Christian and a good all round Boy and I am full of Praise that God has chosen one of my Boys for this work.

My Husband is very well indeed and busy with Hospital work and builders. In *Mercy and Truth* 105 for May or June [1903] you will see some little photographs I have taken of the small Hospital.

In 1888 my husband was at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and he remembers a Mr. Saumarez Smith who was there at the same time.<sup>106</sup>

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105 The CMS specialist medical publication later renamed the Medical Mission Quarterly. The relevant CMS archives are held in the Microforms Section of the University of Melbourne's Baillieu Library, UniM Baill MIC 266.3 CHUR.

106 From Ms Jnnet Morris, Emmanuel College, Cambridge. 23 February 2005.

It is so warm my hand sticks to the paper at every word. I am afraid you will not receive this by the 9<sup>th</sup>. Am sending a small remembrance if has been packed up for five weeks. Foo Chow work.

Your always lovingly

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I've now made a further search for information about George Wilkinson. In our admissions register his father's place of residence is given as Sturton-le-Steeple, not as stated in Venn. There are no details of what subject he read, but he obtained the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1907. There is no obituary for him in the College magazine and no reference to him in the indexes covering magazine and archives. His original application form has survived. On this his date of birth is given as 24 February 1866, but no place of birth is given. He was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Gainsborough, Lincs. He applied to read mathematical honours. His referees were Rev. J.R. Elliott, MA, Rev. J. Brownbill, BA, Rev. W.E. Harrison, MA, Vicarage, Sturton.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Consequences of missionary marriage  
**Others Mentioned:** (i) Miss Langton, Sydney: CMANSW candidate for Fujian.  
(ii) Miss A J Pownall, CMANSW.  
(iii) Miss Alice Seabrook, CMAV, from Tasmania  
(iv) Miss Mary Darley (CEZMS).  
(v) Rev. J S Phillips, CMS.

Amy I Wilkinson

Foo Chow City,

June 7 1903

My dear old Captain

Your letter of April 26<sup>th</sup> only reached me 3 days ago so that it was a long time coming. I know you will be looking for an answer so will send you one by first messenger who goes out of the city on Tuesday. I want a talk but oh it is difficult to write. Can you imagine Sydney moist heat at 96<sup>0</sup>? That is what it is in my bedroom this afternoon and yet the breeze is blowing strongly. In church this morning I really felt quick sick and yet some things made me smile. There were over 100 women at church and there they sat fanning in all sorts of attitudes. One good lady came into the seat in front of me, fanned it vigorously, and then lifted up her jacket and sat down. Presently I heard a small girl behind me saying excitedly, 'What is it?' and making a grab for something! ! on my dress.

Now about Miss Langdon. Rather a difficult thing for me when you have given me so few particulars. What is she like? Excitable or calm? Over 40 or under? A Grumbler or cheerful? Able to adapt herself or narrowed down to hospital ways of nursing her own countrymen or really feeling she is more needed in China?

Of course there is need for workers, but just in this Foo Chow hospital as at the end of the year Miss Massey will have returned. I wonder if she would come out as Miss Pownall<sup>107</sup> has gone to West China, to nurse sick missionaries Often it would be a great comfort if we had such a person or if there is sickness in any of the large girls' boarding schools would she go and help there? When not at work she might live at the CMS Ladies House on Nang Tai [Nantai] Island and learn the language. I will bring her name before the Committee if possible this week for of course I can do nothing like this on my own responsibility.

Miss Seabrook<sup>108</sup> has just come from Hobart and the CEZ<sup>109</sup> are going to allow her to live at the 'Olives'. She is going to do 'upcountry work' – send things to up to the country missionaries and do things for them.

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<sup>107</sup> Miss A J Pownall. New South Wales, Australia, arrived Fukien Province 1912.

<sup>108</sup> Miss Alice Emma Seabrook, Tasmania, CMA Victoria. Blind school, Foochow. Resigned 1924.

[Returns to discussion of Miss Langdon] But I am afraid she will have some little time to wait, while things are being decided. Will you please write and tell her what I have said and I will write to her after the Committee have met.

Now to answer your questions. At Kien Ning Ling Kai will be supported by Miss Darley, Cesy, 110 who is going to begin work among the Blind. There is no school at present. Mr. Phillips<sup>111</sup> CMS missionary up there, will probably direct and help Miss Darley. I have set Ling Kai up well as I thought you would like me to do and I told him the things were from you. I also bought him an accordion. I think he might like a purse, one big enough to put half crowns in as he will be beginning to earn his living up there and will have a few dollars. I do not know anything else, perhaps a few handkerchiefs, he always uses them. He is a dear boy. I hope you will like his photo. He has the whole of the New Testament with the exception of Revelation which he will soon get written.

You ask me if there is anything I particularly want. Yes! I want you very much indeed, and there are other things I want but I might empty your purse. It's hot enough for anything today but last winter it was absolutely perishing riding in the Chair.<sup>112</sup> Many times I thought what a goose I was not to have brought out that old beaver kind of cape Auntie used to lend me and asked me if it would be of any use. I did not bring it but I suppose I am growing old and feel the cold more and can't buy capes out here. If the one you used to wear is too old-fashioned for you it would do well for me, or I would like a warm cape of some kind very much.

About the photos. I am glad you liked them. I have found the Camera most useful and I think you must have forgotten that I had sent you some before more than once although possibly some went astray as some of my letters have. I sent you a photo of this house before I was engaged or just after and Aunt Lizzie I think took it and I sent you a small photo of George with a beard soon after we were engaged. I am taking photos now to really help the work. Mr. Harper has had 20 slides made of the Boys and in next months *Mercy and Truth* there will be some photos of our Hospital. I have no dark room and a most miserable red lantern, no proper hypo dishes but it is wonderful how well the little Camera takes them.

Really cannot write more. You dear Old Captain. Read – *The Holiest of All* by A. Murray, if you have not.

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109 The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society (in Australia merged with CMS in early 1900s). The name 'The Olives' was widely used for CEZMS ladies homes. The CEZMS, originally the Society for the Promotion of the Education of Ladies in the East (1834) was founded to provide for the evangelisation of women by women. In Asian tradition, male missionaries were not allowed access to the family home or family members. The CMS and CEZMS operated as one mission for all practical purposes in Fujian Province. All the early Australian missionaries in Fujian were members of the CEZMS and were recruited through the Rev. H B Macartney (jr), the Anglican minister of St Mary's Church, Glen Eira Road, Caulfield, Victoria. No history of the CEZMS in Australia (or Britain) has been published.

110 Miss Mary Darley Cesy is Amy's abbreviation of Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. The 'sy' seems to be the American phonetic spelling of Z. The nearest thing to a history of the CEZMS in Fujian Province in Darley, Mary E. (1903), *The Light of the Morning: The Story of the C.E.Z.M.S. work . . .* London, Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. She wrote other books aimed at children.

111 Rev. Hugh Stowell Phillips, CMS, England. Phillips was renting a house near the CMS/CEZMS houses at Huasang. On the morning of 1 August 1895 Phillips was awakened by a gunshot, which was the signal for the Huasang Massacre to commence. He could do nothing to save the British missionaries, including the Australians, Nellie and Topsy Saunders of Melbourne and Annie Gordon of Ipswich. His statement after the massacre will be found in *North China Herald Supplement*, August 9, 1895, p v. There is a very brief biography in *The Weekly Times*, Melbourne, 10 August 1895.

112 Sedan Chair.

Your loving 2. Mate.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.  
**Notes:** Financial consequences of missionary to missionary marriage.  
**Others Mentioned:** Miss Eugenie Little, CMANSW

July 23, 1903

My dearest Captain

Somehow I do not seem to be able to picture you up in Sydney, I don't like it. While you are at Darriwill I can quite imagine what you are doing. Aunt L. says you won a golf match at Bondi so I suppose you go out in that direction sometimes. Do write me a really nice long letter and have a yarn.

I am so very disappointed you cannot think of the trip out here. I have built quite a number of castles in the air of your visit; alas the fall has been great. I was indeed grieved to hear of the death of Louise. How I do hope we shall see again some day. How strange that she should have taken up all those ideas and worse still have passed them on to others.

I expect Miss Little<sup>113</sup> has arrived in Sydney and I hope you will see her and she can tell you all the Foo Chow news. It seems so strange to think of her here and few weeks ago and home now.

I am very glad you did not cable about Miss Langdon. By this time you will have read two letters from me about her, and she will have received one from the London Missionary Society, Hong Kong. There are many things to consider before really deciding to ask any one like that to come. Auntie said she could 'pay her own way.' I would only have to find a home for her. Well, I couldn't do that. CMS may send out a doctor tomorrow to help G [George] and he would have to live with us. Then if two women live in a house with one man they [the Chinese] look upon the second woman as his 'concubine'. I also heard privately from someone who knows her and is competent to judge that she is a splendid nurse but as a missionary would need more training spiritually.

Sa Sa Die came out top of his class and won a prize of 50 cents. He certainly worked well during the term. I have heard of Ling Kai's safe arrival at Kien Ning after four weeks on the

journey. They were so pleased with his bright face and he has made himself quite at home. In his letter to me he asked me to read Luke . . . just fancy choosing such verses. They came as a message and help to me.

It is very nice up at Kuliang but I feel so dreadfully lazy. I suppose it is after 8 months constant work. I don't want ever to write a letter. This house we have rented is certainly one of the best on the mountain, such a glorious view from it. I hope we will not have a typhoon.

Very much love to you, Your very loving, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mate.

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| <b>Provenance:</b> | <b>Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>     | <b>Amy Oxley</b>                                  |
| <b>Recipient:</b>  | <b>Isabel Hope, 'Darriwill', Victoria.</b>        |
| <b>Notes:</b>      | <b>Consequences of missionary marriage</b>        |

CMS Foo Chow

January 18<sup>th</sup> 1904

My dearest Margaret

I have made up my mind to write at least a few words to you on this day so that you may know that I have not forgotten you. The first thing this morning I prayed for you and all the day long I have remembered you and have wondered how you are and what you are now doing.

Thank you so much for your letter received about two weeks ago. I was so very glad to hear from you. I also heard from Helen and Kitty. It was good of them to write to me. I was so sorry to hear that a thief had stolen Helen's jewellery and some things she valued so much.

My Husband and I have just returned from an itinerating trip. We were away ten days and had a very good time. Indeed, I hope to write an account of our doings and will send you a copy.

On our return I was very glad to find that every one at the School was well, nothing of importance had happened. I have now forty-one boys, rather a large family. Oh I do wish you could see these boys some are such dear little fellows. Eleven are being prepared for baptism and I feel sure they are truly in earnest. I never ask the Boys to be baptised but wait for them to come to me about it. Nine boys had come to me so I formed a class. Just the day we began two came looking very shy and they said, 'we also wish to be baptised,' so I said, 'Why do you?' and they said, 'we very much want to be Jesus' disciples, we do love Jesus.' They are

about 12 years old and I have noticed a great difference in one boy since he has been prayed for by a missionary who is paying for his support. God does answer prayer.

Since writing the above I have been ill in bed with a very bad cold and now the messenger is going and I think I had better send this letter. Am enclosing a few photos, they may interest you. I took the group on Christmas morning just after they had received their presents.

I do hope you will write. I do like to feel we are just the same for each other although we are married. I am so happy. God daily loadeth me with benefits.

Very much love and all good wishes for the coming year.

Yours very affectionately

Amy I Wilkinson

If you know anyone who will help these boys I will be so thankful.

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| <b>Provenance:</b> | <b>Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>     | <b>Amy Oxley</b>                                  |
| <b>Recipient:</b>  | <b>Mrs. Margaret Griffiths.</b>                   |
| <b>Notes:</b>      | <b>Consequences of missionary marriage</b>        |

Foo Chow

June 15<sup>th</sup> 1904

My dearest Margaret

I cannot tell you how very glad I am to hear that God has given you a son. May he be all that you wish – good, true, holy. Will you thank Mr. Griffiths for letting me hear the good news so soon. I was thinking of you constantly during April. I have your photo in my room and many times a day think of you.

The Foundation of the new Hospital are begun and there is enough money in hand to build the main block, but not the outpatient department. My Husband will be so thankful to have more accommodation he so often has to turn patients away and he has to operate in the tiny room where he dispenses medicine and sees the outpatients.

It is just the end of a long term. We returned last year from Kuliang in the middle of August, and we had no rest at Chinese New Year so that we will be very glad to go to Kuliang, although my Husband is constantly seeing sick missionaries up there and will be coming to Foo Chow once a week. Still the nights up there are cool and refreshing.

The boys will be examined on Monday and Tuesday and return to their homes on Wednesday. There are 8 boys who have no homes and so this year I am trying to rent a house in the Manchu quarter of the City and try to give some of them an opportunity of hearing the Gospel.

Three of the boys are learning Mandarin and they are very keen on preaching there. We have prayed very much about going there and a lady who knew nothing of the plan gave me £10 to use for the Boys in any way I wished. This was just the amount we would require for renting a house there, and for food, etc. and so we believe God has a plan for reaching those people and we pray that He may work out His plan through us.

What a number of really earnest Christian there are who could so very easily from time to time send us £10. You know it is good for me but I have to plead with God to supply our needs. I really require £20 a month to keep the School going. Food, clothing, and education for forty-three boys. Today I have been reminding God that we have not enough in the Bank to carry us through the month.

Were so interested reading about the work among the Seamen on the Midway. For several months in the . . .

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| <b>Provenance:</b>       | <b>Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Amy Oxley</b>                                  |
| <b>Recipient:</b>        | <b>Mrs. Margaret Griffiths.</b>                   |
| <b>Notes:</b>            | <b>Consequences of missionary marriage</b>        |
| <b>Others Mentioned:</b> | <b>Miss Harper, CMANSW.</b>                       |

Foo Chow

February 26<sup>th</sup> 1910

My dearest Margaret

Thank you so much for your loving birthday wishes. I was so glad to hear from you and I am very pleased indeed to hear that you are going to West Fairleigh.<sup>114</sup> It will be nice to have a larger houses, especially now that your Sisters are in England you can have them to stay with you sometimes. Again it will be very happy work finding out your parishioners and

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114 See village website at <http://www.westfarleigh.org.uk/index.htm>

seeing the work grow as it is sure to do, with such a Vicar and such a Vicar's wife. I will love to come and see you and perhaps there will be room for me for a few days to stay with you. Of course it will be a C.M.S. parish.<sup>115</sup>

Apr 28<sup>th</sup> My derest, I have just found this letter in a drawer, what must you think of me? Do forgive me. I have to thank you too for £2 received from C.M.S. for Lik Du. He has been on the sick list for some time and I did not think he would live. I sent three days journey to his relation and he said, 'let him die, Mrs. Wilkinson can bury him' and he would not come down. I want at least to make him pay for the messenger if I can.

I am very busy with children, home and school. My Husband is away helping men to give up opium and on Monday he goes off to another village for two weeks. A NangKing Mandarin has asked that five Blind Boys may go to the Exhibition and work there so that the Chinese may see that the Blind can work. I hope it will be the means of opening up work among the Blind all over China.

Marsden is now a really fine boy, will be one year old on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. He is such a contented, happy baby. Isabel is far from strong and a short time ago had a 'fit' which last and hour and a half. It was caused by eating the quarters of a mandarin orange. I am glad to hear that at last C.M.A has a good Secretary. Miss Harper is far from strong and she has had far too much to do.

Fancy Bishops court sold and the Archbishop and Family in The Deanery. Truly 'Change is our portion here.' Last time I was in Sydney I found so many changes.

Is Katherine going to be a missionary? Much love from yours always lovingly,  
Amy I Wilkinson

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115 It is a custom for parish churches in the Anglican Church to 'adopt' a missionary society. For parishes with a strong evangelical history, it is convention to support the Church Missionary Society. Parishes of other points of view support other societies, such as the Australian Board of Missions. In addition to raising money for a society in general ways, many parishes also financially contribute directly to their 'Own Missionary'.

**Provenance:** Amy Oxley Letters (Ellen Hope Collection).  
**Author:** Amy Oxley  
**Recipient:** Mrs. Margaret Griffiths.  
**Notes:** Consequences of missionary marriage  
**Others Mentioned:** Family visit to England

Cha Cang, Foo Chow City,  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1913

My dearest Margaret

Your letter has been in front of me all this long time but I am only able to write a little at a time and there were such numbers of other letters in front of me that *had* to be answered. Thank you so much for yours and thank you also for the 'parcel' that is on the way. We have taken our tickets and expect to be in England the middle of February. Oh how I long to see Mabel.

She has improved very greatly in health and seems quite well now. Marsden is four years old and growing fast. He keeps fairly well. The Hospital is overfull and my Husband is busy morning, noon and night. There are 78 boys in the School this term and now I have turn poor little fellows away. Ding Ching, your boy, is such a little scamp, up to all kinds of play and mischief. I saw him pick up a handful of dust and throw it into a boys face so he had to be taken to the Matron's room and well talked to. He said, 'I have quite decide to repent! I say that I am sorry.'

I wonder if you received the little booklet I have written about the work. I will anyway send a copy.

I think daily of you and yours, dear Margaret, and now it will be just lovely to see you again.

I am so glad you have those nice people there, and what about the musical young man? Do you ever see him?

Much love from your ever loving friend

Amy Wilkinson.

**Provenance:** Unknown.  
**Author:** Unknown. 116  
**Recipient:** Unknown.  
**Notes:** Amy Wilkinson honoured by Chinese Government.

I do not need to tell you that Mrs. Wilkinson is a very wonderful lady. But you will be very pleased to hear that everyone in Foochow has just begun to realize it, and we are so struck by the Blind School and all it means, that they have clubbed together to honor her.

The Officials and Gentry and important schoolmasters sent a petition to the Governor-General, and through him to the President of China<sup>117</sup> asking that she be rewarded by the illustrious 'Order of the Golden Grain' which is only presented to two or three people in a hundred years or more, so today's function was to celebrate the occasion, and she was not only presented with this order, but also with a lovely gold medal from the Governor-General and with framed addresses of all descriptions from all the important people in Foochow.<sup>118</sup>

I went to her house this morning at about 10.30 and the first thing I noticed was that flags were flying all down the main streets. This was in her honor!! When I got to the house I found everything looking perfectly beautiful. The big gate was festooned with a thick arch of evergreen and flowers. Union Jacks and Stars and Stripes and the Chinese five coloured flag were flying in conspicuous places. A great platform had been erected in the garden with a large white awning over it to keep out the sun.

Later. You know the tennis lawn. Well the platform was at the shady end under the trees, just below the little Summerhouse. Then up in terraces of the steep bank were chairs and forms, and at the bottom of the lawn were seats for the Chinese ladies. The foreigners sat on the terraces. There were about 1000 people present. All the rooms in the house were prepared for the visitors to sit down and chat for a while when they arrived.

The drawing room was for the officials and 'big' men – the dining room for the less important men and the study for the ladies. So you see there was nowhere to have lunch at all. Where do you think we had it? Out in the garden under the trees, such a grand lunch too, though Mrs. Wilkinson had kept on saying that we weren't going to have anything worth calling lunch at all. Cold corned beef and potatoes and salad and rhubarb blancmange, just as if the cook had had nothing else to do but provide for us when we knew that he was really frightfully busy with cakes and things for the afternoon.

There was actually quite a party of us. Miss Hind<sup>119</sup> and Mr. Norton<sup>120</sup> and I besides Miss Mathews<sup>121</sup>, a regular picnic wasn't it? Mrs. Wilkinson looked awfully nice in a green

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116 Dunch, Ryan, (2001), Fuzhou Protestants and the Making of a Modern China, New Haven, Yale University Press p 154 reports that in 1915 'Governor Xu Shiyong presented an honorific plaque to the CMS School for the Blind.' This may have been the same occasions as that discussed here.

117 The reference to the President of China dates this after 1911 when the Republic of China was established. The order was established in 1912 and abolished in 1929.

118 This award was also given to Emily Susan Hartwell of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions pioneered the development of industrial schools and orphanages in China. Emily Hartwell was awarded the Order of the Golden Grain by the President of the Republic of China in 1918.  
<http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/StudentLife/StudentActivities/AwardDescriptions.html>

119 Miss Ada Hind. Sister of Rev. John Hind, Dublin University Fukien Mission, later Bishop of Fukien. McFarlan, Diana M. (1993), *Whosever Plants . . . .* Dublin, Dublin University Far Eastern Mission (Sequel to T.C.D. in China), p 12.

silk costume with a lovely lace collar. She was quite nervous because she was to be centre of attraction of the afternoon but all the same she seemed perfectly calm and had planned every little detail quite splendidly.

The Doctor donned a cream suit for the occasion and was in great form. The day was simply beautiful; it could not possibly have been better. Lovely bright sunshine and not too hot. It made us all in a very smiling mood to start the afternoon.

I was in the ladies room receiving visitors from about 1 o'clock onwards. They came in a continuous stream until nearly 3 o'clock. Of course I wasn't the only one receiving. There was Miss Hind and Miss Wolfe<sup>122</sup> and quite a number of Chinese girls and we all wore a red silk ribbon with our 'office' written on it in black Chinese characters. The other folk were showing the ladies from the house to the garden and into their seats out there. Of course the men guests had their special receiving hosts too, quite a little army altogether was necessary.

Mrs Wilkinson's duty was to sit still and do nothing and a very hard one she found it but I can truthfully report that for the most part she performed it very well and graciously. The house became deserted. I needn't go through all the program, although it was A1. I'll just tell you all the important parts, and the most interesting and funny parts of the last there was only two.

1. The playing of the General's Band. You remember that Mrs. Wilkinson taught them for a little while more than a year ago. Well, their instruments had gone out of tune again badly and they had forgotten their music, so that their rendering of the British and American Anthems was enough to make a cat laugh and we stood, only in deference to what was printed on the programme. 2. The arrival of Teddy (Baby Norton aged about 1 year) who created a dreadful disturbance at the wrong time. Everyone near him crowding round to talk and laugh quite regardless of what was going on the platform. The most interesting parts were chiefly four:

1. The little blind girls drill. They came in from Nantai, 8 wee tots and did all sorts of pretty kindergarten games. At first they were shy and I thought their performance would collapse altogether, but they warmed up to it and forgot and audience and evoked rounds of applause.
2. The Blind Boys Kindergarten drill which was very well done indeed and very pretty with colored handkerchiefs. The little fellows wee all dressed in coats and long trousers to match made of dark blue cloth covered with a white flower pattern.
3. The flag drill by the bigger blind boys, each with 2 flags, one Chinese, and one special blind school flag. They lined up at the end of their drill and sang the Chinese National Anthem.
4. The English song and the band pieces by the Blind Boys Choir which were splendid, as good as any Queen's Hall concert.<sup>123</sup>

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120 Rev. Edward M Norton, Dublin University Fukien Mission. Teacher at Blind Boys School and later at CMS Trinity College. . McFarlan, Diana M. (1993), *Whosever Plants . . . .* Dublin, Dublin University Far Eastern Mission (Sequel to T.C.D. in China), p 14.

121 Miss E A Matthews, CMA, New South Wales, Foochow, 1918. Resigned 1925.

122 One of the daughters of the Venerable John Richard Wolfe, CMS, Ireland. Mrs Wolfe was formerly Miss Mary Maclehose, of Sydney, New South Wales.

123 This reference suggests an Australian from Victoria. Queen's Hall in the Victorian Parliament House was a regular forum for concerts in Melbourne, The first 'broadcast' in Victoria was made by a Chinese-Australian from Sydney, Mei Quong Tart, who sang Scottish songs that were telephoned to Ballarat over a landline.

The important events were: —

1. The Presentation of Medals and Boards to Mrs. Wilkinson accompanied by elaborate speeches in Chinese and English (the British Consul spoke).
2. The speech of the afternoon, your Mother's!<sup>124</sup> It was splendid, just exactly the right thing, but I can't attempt to give it to you word for word. It was translated into Chinese Mandarin, for of course it had to be given in English because that was the proper thing to do on such a grand occasion. The Foochow dialect only being for less illustrious uses.

After the programme was over came tea for everybody. They seemed to get heaps too without any fuss and as soon as they were finished they were all drafted over to the Blind Boys School to see over it and from there they departed. I'm sorry to say that I didn't stay to help clear up and so can't report about that. It must have been a big job. Teddy and I went as soon as we'd had our tea. I caught a glimpse of your mother before I went — simply beaming.

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<sup>124</sup> The speaker was apparently Amy Wilkinson. The reference to 'your Mother's' points to this letter being written to one or both of the Wilkinson children, either Isabel or Marsden but mostly, for age reasons, Isabel who was born in 1905. Marsden Wilkinson was born on 9 May 1909. It seems likely, as this letter is in the collection of the Hope Family of Victoria, that the children were staying with their mother's cousin and best friend from childhood, Miss Isabel Hope.

## AMY OXLEY AND THE BLIND

Church Missionary Society, (1904), *For Christ in Fukien, The Story of the Fuh Kien Mission of the Church Missionary Society*, London, Church Missionary Society, P 57

Two years later the Misses K. Power (now Mrs. Hipwell, of Hong Kong), A. I. Oxley (now Mrs. Wilkinson) and M. Searle took up their abode in a small house in the church compound in Lieng-kong city as the first resident European missionaries. In the following December they removed to Deng-doi, a large walled village of over 4,000 inhabitants, six miles distant from Lieng-kong city, where a house had been built for their accommodation. Their work soon began to tell.

They gained a reputation as doctors, so that the sick came to them in large numbers. A commencement was also made with work among the blind. A small house was rented and a few blind boys were taught to read, Miss Oxley having adapted the Braille system to the Fuh-chow dialect as written in Roman letters. Within a couple of years she had the joy of seeing four of these boys baptized; six women were also baptized at the same time, one being the cook at the blind school. A women's school was also built, and was opened in October, 1899, with sixteen women. Besides carrying on the station work the ladies made several tours, itinerating through the district, and many of the villages gave tokens of blessing. At *Buang-sang* sixteen women and over a dozen children were baptized. At *Sieu-o* Miss Oxley noticed, while on a visit there, a strange woman among the Christians, and asked her whether she worshipped God. She answered, "Yes." "Have you given up your idols?" to which she replied "No," but said she was willing to do so. She and her husband then took down their idols and in the presence of a large number of people burnt them. At *Ma-pe* the Christians subscribed five hundred dollars to buy a large native house, to be renovated and converted into a church; and at another village, *Tong-ngie*, where, notwithstanding persecution, there were no less than 300 adherents, a similar amount was raised. From

## ELIZA MARSDEN HASSALL (1834-1917)

From family history volume: *The Hassall Family*

Eliza was born on 2 November 1834 at 'Denbigh', Cobbitty, New South Wales, and remained at home caring for her parents. Her father once wrote how much she helped him and commented how 'she takes up things so earnestly.' Eliza did not marry.

When Thomas died *Denbigh* was sold to the McIntosh family. Eliza and her mother moved to Sydney, where she continued to care for her increasingly difficult and demanding mother until her mother's death in 1885. Eliza was then 50 years old.

Revealing comments about Anne (Marsden) Hassall are contained in a letter from one daughter to another and reveal how difficult life must have been for Eliza (Lizzie). The letter, dated 1864 (just four years before Thomas died) is by Harriet Oxley from her house *Kirkham* to her sister Marianne Hope, at *Darriwill*.

'Mama was so cross all the time Aunt Mary was at Denbigh, it quite spoiled her visit. I believe she was offended with Papa about some trifling thing. Aunt Mary is in a great way about Lizzie. She says it must be so wretched for her living there, she does not know what she would do without Papa, he is so very kind and patient. Aunt thinks she (Annie) is getting worse now she is older but I think it is only because Aunt has not been with Mama when she has cross for such a long time. I do not see any difference, only that she has not so many of us to be cross with, so that Papa and Lizzie have more to bear. Do not let a word of this go back to Denbigh on any account. Papa seemed in great distress about it when he was here one day. I trust it will be a lesson to us to guard against the least rising of temper we may feel.'

In 1880 Eliza started the New South Wales branch of the Young People's Scripture Union, distributing membership cards with daily Bible readings. Membership grew to 1200 by 1899, with Eliza continuing an active role as Secretary for this work.

A delegation from the Christian [Church] Missionary Society 125 in England visited Sydney in 1892 to encourage the colony's Anglicans in missionary activity.<sup>126</sup> Eliza offered

<sup>125</sup> The deputation was the lay Editorial Secretary, Mr. Eugene Stock, and the Rev. Robert Warren Stewart, an Irishman, who went to China in 1867. Stewart was one of the Huasang Martyrs of 1895. Rev. ROBERT WARREN STEWART, C.M.S. (Ireland); Mrs. LOUISA K. STEWART, C.M.S. (Ireland); HERBERT STEWART, (England – five years old); HILDA SYLVIA STEWART. (England – baby); HELENA YELLOP (Ireland) nurse of Stewart children; ELSIE MARSHALL, C.E.Z.M.S. (England); HESSIE NEWCOMBE, C.E.Z.M.S. (Ireland); FLORA LUCY STEWART, C.E.Z.M.S. (England); MARY ANN CHRISTINA (Annie) GORDON, C.E.Z.M.S. (Ipswich, Queensland, Australia); HARRIETTE ELINOR (Nellie) SAUNDERS, C.M.S. (Kew, Victoria, Australia); ELIZABETH MAUD (Topsy) SAUNDERS, C.M.S. (Kew, Victoria, Australia). See Welch, Ian, (2004), Nellie, 'Topsy and Annie, Australian Anglican Martyrs, Fujian Province, China, 1 August 1895', A Paper presented to the First TransTasman Missionary Conference on Australian and New Zealand Missionaries, At Home and Abroad, Australian National University Canberra, Australia, 8-10 October 2004. The mother of Nellie and Topsy Saunders, Mrs. Eliza Saunders, is mentioned in Amy's letters.

<sup>126</sup> It followed a visit by the Rev. Dr. James Hudson Taylor, founder of the interdenominational and international China Inland Mission, the largest Protestant mission in China. An Anglican clergyman, the Rev. Montague Beauchamp, who

her home at Ashfield (Sydney) as the first Sydney (and Australian) centre to train women candidates for the newly founded Church Missionaries Association. Her house became known as the Marsden Training Home.<sup>127</sup>

Eliza, whose background was ideal for this work, was the Principal and she gave studies in Acts, Revelation and Missionary Geography. She added two more rooms to the house to accommodate more girls before leasing larger premises in 1898.

Eliza was one of the examiners of missionary candidates, the first of which was her niece, Amy Oxley, who went to China in 1896 and established a home for blind boys.

When Eliza retired in 1903, the Marsden Training Home was closed. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 70 percent of CMS missionaries were women and Eliza Hassall's outstanding contribution to their training was recognised when CMS made her a life member.<sup>128</sup>

Eliza formed warm personal attachments to the women and one of her 'old girls', Alice Phillips, sat on her deathbed and sang to her. She died on Boxing Day (December 26), 1917, the result of a stroke, and was buried at Cobbitty with her parents.

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was also later martyred in China, accompanied Hudson-Taylor. From 1890 to 1900 more than 100 Australians joined the CIM in China.

127 The following extract is from: Johnstone, S M, (1925), *A History of the Church Missionary Society in Australia and New Zealand*, Sydney, Church Missionary Society, p 251.

For the training of women candidates the Association was fortunate from the beginning. In 1892 Miss E M Hassall, a daughter of the Rev. Thomas Hassall, the founder of Sunday Schools in Australia, and granddaughter of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, placed her own home, "Cluden" in (Frederic St) Ashfield, at the disposal of the Association, as a Training Home for women candidates. The Committee "The Marsden Training Home appropriately named the Home" and Miss Hassall herself became, in an honorary capacity, its first Superintendent. The first four trainees were Miss Amy Oxley (now Mrs. G Wilkinson), Miss Amy Wilkes (now Mrs. Zwemer), Miss Ada Price, and Miss Alice Phillips, three of whom (not Wilkes) became missionaries. In 1903, owing to advancing years rendering it impossible for Miss Hassall to continue the Superintendency of the Home, it was closed, and arrangements were made whereby the women candidates were trained in the Diocesan Deaconesses Institute in Newtown.

128 MARSDEN TRAINING HOME 1892-1902. 'Cluden', Frederic Street, Ashfield. Provided by Miss E M Hassall, (CMA NSW Report, 69<sup>th</sup> Year, 1893). Among those who were trained were: Miss Latham New Zealand; Miss Rose Bachlor; Miss Mary Harrison; Miss Amy Oxley; Miss Amy Wilkes; Miss Ada Price; Miss Alice Phillips. Mrs George Fagg of Hobart, Tasmania, a former missionary in China, responsible for sending a number of women from Tasmania to China through the missions committee of the Tasmanian YWCA, was a guest speaker

**Marsden Training Home<sup>129</sup>  
Lady Superintendent  
Miss Hassall**

**Under the direction of the Church Missionary Association of New South Wales  
Established February 14<sup>th</sup> 1892**

To provide a Home where young ladies wishing to fit themselves for missionary work in the Foreign Field may reside, and avail themselves of the Course of Studies and Lectures provided free of charge by the Association. These are given during the Residence of the Candidates according to arrangements and the length of time that they remain in the Home.

Lectures by Clergymen and others are given on:

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Old and New Testament | Home Studies      |
| Church History        | Mission Geography |
| Christian Evidences   | Bible Readings    |
| Prayer Book           | Object Lessons    |
| Mission Fields        | Bible Studies     |
| Music                 |                   |

Papers by Candidates on Missions once a month at a Gleaners Union Meeting held in the Home.

Addresses at Public Meetings of Gleaners towards close of Residence.

If required and when attainable a Three Months Course of Medical Lectures on Obstetric Nursing. Fees to the Doctor: £3.3.0  
Examination by Four Doctors for Diploma.

Ambulance Lectures  
Lectures on Elementary Dispensing  
Visits to Prince Alfred "Casualty Ward."

Fees payable for Board quarterly in advance to Lady Superintendent according to Private Arrangement. Not exceeding 15/- a week but in some cases without any charges.

Pew rent, £1.1.0 a year.

Plain cooking and washing and household duties taught. Grey uniform worn by candidates.

Two Terms during the year. One to commence on August 1<sup>st</sup> to the Second Friday in December, with an interval of a week at Michaelmas. The other term to commence on

the first Saturday in February and close on June 30<sup>th</sup> with an interval of ten days at Easter.

Mrs Richard Griffiths

38, Liverpool Road, Kingston Hill,  
Surrey

22 July 1915

Dear Mr. Higgs

I expect you know that Amy I Oxley was a granddaughter of Bishop Marsden who went to New Zealand in the early days.<sup>130</sup> She had her missionary training in Sydney; her aunt Miss Hassall gave her house as a training home for missionary candidates. My father was at that time Archbishop of Sydney, and we always went to CMS meetings, and that was when we first became friends.

I forget which year it was that she brought 8 of her blind boys to England with their musical instruments, and went about giving concerts to raise money for the School. In 1920 the Chinese government gave her a gold order of the Golden Grain, and the Fuhkien Viceroy's medal for 20 years work on behalf of Chinese blind.

There is a good deal of private matter in the letters but it seems a pity to throw away all the information about such a worthwhile piece of work, and I shall be very pleased if it may be of use.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Saumarez Griffiths, nee Saumarez Smith.

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<sup>130</sup> Rev. Samuel Marsden of Sydney, New South Wales was never an Anglican bishop. See entry in Dickey, Brian, (ed), (1994), *The Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography*, Sydney, Evangelical History Association.