

June 2, 1904 - con.

I am writing to have Mr. Gale's latest book, "The Vanguard" sent to you with our love. I know you and Will will enjoy it and maybe some of the others of our folks would like to read it, so when you have read it you might pass it on. Mr. Gale is a clever writer. After I have read the book I will tell you who some of his characters represent. Mrs. Underwood also has a book out, "Fifteen years among the top-knots", which is said to be very good.

I received your good letter of May....and was so glad to hear from you. I always am. I must write immediately to Addie; I'm so glad she has a baby. I haven't received the Cook Book yet and am anxious to get it so we can have some good new things to eat. Once you spoke about sending me Ralph Connor's book, -I am not certain which one. Perhaps you think I received it, but I never did. Maybe it went where the other package did; I felt sorry about that package for it is such a delight to us all to get things from home. (return now to page 5)

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Pyeng Yang, Korea - July 4, 1904

My dear Jennie,

It seems that I never can get at writing letters, the days are so full, and when night comes I am too tired to write or do anything else, so I usually go to bed soon after the children. My eyes trouble me a lot, especially when I do not feel quite well, and I cannot read well by lamp-light. Dr. Whiting will soon examine my eyes and get me some "specks". Think of it! my hair almost all gone and what there is is turning grey; teeth all decayed and now my eyes are giving out. However, I am so much better, and am feeling better and look better than I did. I sent hair-combings and had a switch made by a Korean for 15 ¢, so I can now put up my hair and it looks quite fine.

All the children are very well. Esther and Mary are quite well just now, but I have to feed Esther like a baby. Mary is thriving on Mellon's Food and St. Charles cream. I long to feed them both cows milk but the cows are too uncertain and especially at this season of the year when we never know what day the cattle plague will begin. So I concluded it was best to wait until these two months were past. So many children are sick with bowel trouble and it is little wonder. We have never known a season that the weather was quite so irregular and unhealthy, -hot days and cold nights, and the rainy season has already begun. The farmers are cheered with the prospect of good crops everything is growing so fast and the weeds faster than anything else. We have a fair garden considering what seeds we had to plant in the Spring. At last our order from America arrived and the seeds came in time for the late vegetables. We have about 75 young chickens, a brood of 9 big enough to fry. We have enjoyed the nice fresh eggs so much. Will has built a weasel-proof house for the chickens and we are going to raise our own and have made a pretty good start, we think. The children have 4 pet rabbits which afford them much pleasure. This morning Will sent the boy to the store to buy fire-crackers, so the children are celebrating the 4th. Usually our community is very patriotic and we have a fine time celebrating, but as yet I haven't heard of any gathering or anything going on today.

The gentlemen of our station are holding a committee meeting this morning. The Theological and Helpers classes closed Saturday. I heard Will say that he has 3 months of solid work in his study, getting ready to print a commentary on I and II Corinthians and several other books

and tracts in Korean. We are expecting several new missionaries. Mr. Blair's brother Herbert is coming, and Rev and Mrs. Geo. McCune for educational work; Miss Carsons for Taegu station, and Dr. Hirst for Severance Hospital in Seoul. Day after tomorrow Mr. Fred Miller and Miss Doty are to be married. You remember I told you about the death of Mrs. Miller. She died early last summer, leaving 3 children. Mr. Miller is certainly fortunate to be able to keep his children with him and to get such a good wife and mother for them. Miss Doty came out in 1890 and is as good as gold, we think. Poor Dr. Vinton keeps his little flock together and carries on his work. The baby is puny but very well, they say; Fred Jr. who is 12 is a little gentleman caring for his younger sisters. Mrs. Kearns just came from Seoul on her way back to Syen Chun; Mr. Kearns met her here and they left early this morning. They took dinner with us yesterday so I got the Seoul news. We are anxiously waiting for war news, but none comes. I expect you get more than we do. The Japanese are employing lots of Korean coolies to make good wagon roads to We Ju, and they are also beginning the railroad. They have staked off the ground for the road and the railroad station here at Pyeng Yang. The poor Koreans are so distressed that they are losing their land and homes. We understand that the Japanese are only paying half price and really not that for the houses. It is always something! ...last summer the people were squeezed by the officials to build the palace here in Pyeng Yang. That was stopped; now they are having their homes taken in this way. The many pitiful stories Will has poured into his ears....

The church in the O Sang, that is the river valley, has come within the lines for the railroad. Will has charge of that work, so he is into it! They have offered about half-price for the house. Will is in a dilemma to know just what to do. Just now he came in saying he is going to see about buying another house. As convenient as the railroad will be, we would much prefer not to have it. All these worldly things interfere more or less with our work. There are great opportunities for work just now. The people in their distress listen with open ears to the Gospel message. There is no comfort any place else. The official class oppress them; now the Japanese are here to reap a harvest from this land. What will become of the Koreans? If they only had back-bone and grit enough to stand up for their rights, - but they haven't.

Mr. Moffett bought a piece of land in the O Sang. The official called the man who sold it, and said, "Why did you sell that land to a foreigner? The man replied, "Because he gave me more money than the Japanese would". The official told him to go immediately and get the deed back. So, sure enough, the poor man came back, but Dr. Moffett said, "No, indeed. We have a right here and to buy land, too." Very likely the poor man will get a beating. The pitiful tales we have to hear is enough to make one's blood boil. The lazy officials spend their time scheming how they can squeeze the people. They have servants, or runners, whose business it is to hunt up any case where they can oppress or squeeze someone; for instance, a woman just outside the South Gate was found dead in her house. The night before she and her husband had quarreled....whether she had killed herself or he had killed her no one knows. The runners heard of it and went out to make a case of it. They wouldn't let anyone bury her, trying to get evidence as to the murderer, they said. All this time they were demanding money from the people in the neighborhood. Sometimes they keep on until practically all the neighborhood moves away....the only thing they can do.

Parade - June - July 927
O. P. Moffett.

The month has been very largely spent in work connected with the Theological Class in which I finished the Eccegitical study of Luke's Gospel and the Summer Training Class with its Conference and the Examinations in the helpers' Course of study.

In the City Central Church there were 35 Children baptized and added to the Covenant Roll.

A visit to the Tong Tai Wou group across the river this month was the occasion for the Baptism of 7 and the Reception of 3 Catechumens. A Leader was also appointed.

Personalization