The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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J. P. MORGAN & CO. 2136

CABLE DEPARTMENT

2.10 Pm-- NEW YORK. Jany.5,1920

COPY OF CABLE RECEIVED FROM ~~Harjes, Paris.~~

Morgan, New York

For Mrs. Dorothy Straight. Final clay model completed, stone ordered, workman retained and paid on account. J.O.Davidson.

Harjes

[1-21-20]

414 E. Buffalo St.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Can you forgive my being so late in giving you these few [illegible] about Mr. Straight?

I wrote to two of his Class-mates, thinking that they would remember things that would help. I only recently heard from them, and then they had

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nothing to offer that I did not already have.
I am so sorry!
A Happy New year to you and your dear Children.

Faithfully yours
Olaf M. Brauner

Jan. 21-1920.

[1-21-10]

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Personalities count so much more than incidents, and, as I try to write some memories of Mr. Straight's student life, I find that not many seperate incidents emerge out of the haze of the past; rather do I see the keen forcefull being, the searcher after new impressions and wider experiences, the leader in the activities of student life.

But I can remember so well the first day that Willard Straight came into my class,-a tall upstanding young man, with head set finely on his shoulders, and with eyes that looked keenly and straight into yours, eyes that were, withall, kindly and true.

I set him at the task of drawing a masque of Dante, and saw immediately a promise, for he followed suggestions with avidity and understanding. Even from the first he showed the analytical mind, for, unlike most students whom it seems so difficult to persuade to analyze in mass - to go to detail from mass- to learn that the little should be weighed against the big and not the big against the little, he grasped this important element at once. This was always his strength - to grasp essentials.

From the first, also, the Art side of Architecture appealed to him more than the more mechanical, or that which suggests engineering. Therefore he soon became one of the strongest in drawing, in the strongest group that I have ever had in that subject while since coming to Cornell.

In those days we were at the beginning of a new regime in the College of Architecture. The art side of architecture had been entirely neglected. With our new director, Prof. A.B. Tr owbridge,

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at the helm,this was remedied,and Mr. Straight's class was the first to enter under Prof. Trowbridge's regime. But we had not yet fully established what has since become part and parcell of our College curiculem. For instance, we had no life-class. This the students,themselves,saw the need of, and here was where Mr. Straight not only showed his clear insight, but also his leadership,for he was the head of a group of students who hired a model, asked me to criticize their work, and who met 3 evenings a week and drew(tired after a day's work) and without getting University credit. Willard Straight was treasurer,and conducted all the business. He, with André Smith(since become a well-known etcher) and Mr.Ackerman(now one of our foremost architects) did the best work in this devoted group. And they had such a good time working. We were all one big family. Dean Trowbridge and Prof. Van Pelt(Prof.of design)joined the class with the students, and they worked and sang,and in all and everything Willard Straight was the guiding spirit.

The architects became famous for their spirit all over the University. As I once heard one old graduate ~~xxxx~~ say:"the only College in the University that has a real College spirit is the College of Architecture."

This spirit was established by Willard Straight's class,and in this he was decidedly the leader. Furthermore,all the traditions of the College was started by this class,-traditions of fun, of seriousness.

Before Dean Trowbridge's time,the College had been ruled by the traditions of a grammar school. No conversation was allowed,

no fun. Therefore the students worked only the required minutes, and,as soon as the hour was up,pencil and pen and T square were dropped,and the work abandoned at whatever stage it might be in. And it was not thought of again untill the next day. At 5 P.M. sharp,all work ceased.

Notso when Mr. Trowbridge came; the College became the home,the club, the gathering place. Work was done for work's sake and was kept up untill 10 P.M. and after.

But, to do that,a feeling of liberty, of unrestraint, of a good time, must be introduced; and no class could have been gotten together which could have been more fitted to take hold of this new spirit than Willard Straight's.

Song, good-natured raillery and horse-play, yes even good-natured scraps were indulged in.

But a spirit of guidance must also be felt, otherwise all might turn into an unruly riot. The students preferred to guide themselves. Therefore "Tanking"(since one of the most valued features of self-government) was instituted.

I have no other authority but that of judging from other things, but Willard Straight was probably also the instigator of this custom.

Two large tanks, about 5 ft sq. and 2 ft deep, had been built so that large sheets of drawing paper might be stretched.

Here was a golden means for summary justice.

If a student infringed on any of the College rules, for instance in the use of our valuable library books; if he ran counter to student rules of class conduct, for instance refusing to "nigger" for the upper class-men; if he was overbearing, discourteous,

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or thought himself superior to his fellows; he was taken before a tribunal chosen by his fellows,tried before a jury, and if found guilty,was lifted(in whatever clothes he might have on,be it summer or winter) and heaved into the tank and soused up and down until the punishment was considered sufficient.

I might say, to show the good nature of the proceedings, that it was considered quite legitimate for the victem to pull his executioners in after him.

The effect of tanking was most salutary and beneficial. It had a democratic, levelling influence, for airs have never been tolerated since in the College of Architecture, and infringements of rules are rare because of the wholesome respect for "tanking".

The annual "Boat-ride"was also started by 2 or 3 of this class, and, of course, Willard Straight was one of these. This ride was for the purpose of fostering good fellowship and comradeship between all the students and also with the faculty,for they were also invited to come. In the open, playing games, eating a lunch of "hot dogs"(roasted over a brush-wood fire) cheese, rolls, and hot coffee, what could be more ideal for promoting good fellowship?

Life was also (as Mr.Ackerman writes to me) a great adventure to Willard Straight in the serious as well as the humorous.

Let me relate some of the pranks indulged in. Some of these involved the entire University; others concerned only our own College; but all of them made the College of Architecture stand out among the other Colleges. There is always a rivalry between the different Colleges. So Willard Straight conceived of the idea that if it were allowed to "leak" out that the

Mechanical Engineers intended to have a scrap with the Law students, and also to have it "leak" out that the College of Law meant to have a scrap with Sibley College at a certain time on a certain day, there might be some fun worth watching. Between classes there is an interval of 10 min. to allow for going from one class to another. So the stage was properly set for one of these intervals.

Sure enough, at 11 o'clock one day the students of law were gathered in a compact body at their end of the campus, and the engineers at theirs. One waited for the other, and then the Sibley men started across at a run.

There was a beautiful scrap which was hugely enjoyed by the Architectural students who sat perched up high in the windows of the third floor of Lincoln Hall, cheering lustely and impartially for both sides.

Of course Willard Straight was lauded for his cleverness, and he, equally of course, enjoyed much the fruits of his deep plot. These rushes between Boardman Hall and Sibley became fixed traditions, and continued long after Willard Straight graduated.

Finally, for fear of bitternes creeping in, a truce was arranged, good feeling established, and to show that the tomohawk was buried the Engineers went to a lecture on law, and the Lawyers went to a lecture on engineering. The Professors in each subject never batted an eye, but gravely lectured to uncomprehending ears, and wickedly insisted on the full hour. This was a little more than bargained for, but even professors are sometimes bright. Much would the author have enjoyed the outcome and climax of his plot.

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Willard Straight conceived of the idea that there should be one distiontive College of Architecture Day. St.Patrick Day was chosen, and, to show no partiality, orange and green colored banners were flung to the breezes in equal prominence; sometimes a green shamrock appeared on an orange banner, and sometimes an orange shamrock on a green flag. Long orange and green streamers were festooned all over Lincoln Hall, hung horizotally from window to window.

One year a 12 ft St.Patrick was painted and hung out of the window on the side of the building with a great serpent, 20 ft long, chasing after him. In the afternoon these were taken down, and carried in solemn procession around the campus.

St.Patrick's Day was a regular College affair until the catholics were so offended that Pres.Schurman requested that the feature should be abolished; which was good-naturedly done about 5 years ago.

Willard Straight was one of the editors of the "Cornell Widow." This was made in one year, from an uninteresting and rather stupid affair, into one of the wittiest and most humorous college publications.

The famous "Little Willy" series was conceived of and illustrated by Willard Straight and Andre Smith. They created such a furore that they were quoted and copied in the papers all over the country. Soon "Little Willy" verses were composed as an answer to or continuance of the Cornell Widow series.

I remember one(ill. by Willard Straight) which ran something

like this:

"Little Willy hung his sister;
She was dead be fore they missed 'er.
~~Little~~ Willy 's allus up to tricks.
Aint he cute? he's only six."

There was a famous Professor of English(now long since dead) by the name of Corson, Hiram Corson. He was much of a character at Cornell. It was in the days of the song: "High up in the cocoa-nut tree!" Willard Straight made a drawing of Prof.Corson, with his long beard, (any one would recognize the portraiture) sitting up in a cocoa-nut palm, and underneath was the title: "Hy up in the cocoanut tree."

There was one joke about me, of which I always suspected Willard Straight to be the author:

"Freshman:'What is the picture that Mr.Brauner is painting lately?'
Soph.:'O that represents the Fall of the Angels.'
Fresh.:'Well, it certainly does look like Hell!"

"Spring Day" was also largely conceived in his fertile brain. This is now an annual affair at Cornell. Atheletic affairs was ever in need of money. So a sort of a circus was devised with tents and side-shows; no changes was allowed, and much money was made which was all turned over to the atheletic association.

But life was also a serious adventure. Much was to be learned and sought. The routine of the College of Architecture did not suffice, and thus Willard Straight reached out, and hence his interest in and friendship for Prof.Morse Stephens. Of his relations with him you know probably more than I can tell you. Most of all,though, so it seemed to me,was he actively interested

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in art. He drew always, and made many portrait sketches of the different professors that might interest him. These were done with great skill, and some of them were published in the College publications.

He was one of 3 or 4 who would get up early in the morning and make a sketch before breakfast; afterwards making an 8 o'clock on "The Hill".

In the summers he was forever sketching, and you know to what good account he turned this practice in the exquisite drawings he made in China,

His interest in art led him, in his senior year, to specialize in decoration. He had,indeed, a strong decorative sense.

This he showed even in the portrait he made of me one day in my studio. Mrs.Brauner considers this the best portrait ever made of me.

His interest in art, and his feeling of the great need for it here, was the reason for his giving so cheerfully his check to me for 250 dollars some years ago, so that we might arrange a room for exhibition purposes.

He was a gracious and graceful host. Mrs.Brauner and I remember with pleasure the dinners we had with him in his fraternity house.

But his wonderful loyalty was his greatest feature to me.

He never forgot; and,when he had made his mark, he remembered his old friends, among whom was the writer of this.

A little thing, yes,but to me it meant much to have him remember his old instructor once in a while by sending him a box of delicious cigars, and that when he had so much to think of and with so many things on his mind.

This loyalty he bore to his Alma Mater in the highest degree, and all feel that Cornell lost greatly when she lost Willard Straight.

As for his old instructor in the art he loved so well; he will always consider it a great privilege to have come in contact with,and to have made the friendship of, the great soul of Willard Straight.

This is but a poor tale, indeed, my dear Mrs.Straight,of a big soul and a rich life even in its youthful days. But my introduction is my excuse.

Faithfully yours,

Olaf M. Brauner

Ithaca, N.Y. 1920.

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[2-2-20]

528 Riverside Drive,
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Straight:—

I thank you so much for your letter. You see me two - Carl Parker + I - were always much interested in you & your husband then Professor Stephens. In fact you know, you met my husband - he was the only person they let see Professor Stephens at one time, when he was so ill at your home. I remember well Carl's letter telling of meeting you going up in the elevator, I think it was. Just about a month before Mr. Stephens death he was having Sunday tea with me - just

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the two of us. And he said "You know, the world isn't the same to me any longer. For the two men I loved the most in all the world are gone - Carl Parker & Willard Straight" - and he talked much to me, that afternoon, of your husband.

I hoped so much that I should meet you in New York. You stand for all the things that seem to me worth while, and where it has taken courage to make the stand you have. And to think our wedding day is the same! Odd how a fact like that can mean so much - I don't think I could stand hearing of some one else being married on that day if they hadn't meant a lot to each other. It would seem a sort of desecration. I am glad to share a bit of the wonder that day means with you!

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Since you allow me to decide, I should prefer to take lunch the sixteenth with you at your own home. I

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Shall be there at six o'clock.

Again thank you for your letter.

Very sincerely,
Cornelia S. Parker.

Monday.

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE
BORDENTOWN, NEW JERSEY
COL. THOMAS D. LANDON, INF., O.R.C., U.S.A.
PRINCIPAL AND COMMANDANT

DAVID STYER, C.E.
VICE PRINCIPAL
GEORGE W. LOW, A.B.
HEAD MASTER

6 February 20

Mrs. W.D. Straight,
Old Westbury, L.I., N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I am enclosing herewith copies of the annual letters and announcements I this year sent our old B.M.I. boys. On account of the World War records they are of unusual interest. I am proud of the gallant showing made by our boys and sad in the pride over the great sacrifice made in the case of Major Willard D. Straight and twenty-one others.

You will note with interest our plan for a bronze memorial tablet showing the service given, honor and sacrifice. I am pleased with the response from many, but fear some are reluctant to accept the opportunity to participate in a modest way of very small contribution. I am anxious that all have a share in the honor of the tribute to service and sacrifice recorded by this bronze tablet.

It may be a recognition in general or have in mind your husband as in the particular case of the receipt of a check from Lieutenant Franklin K. Iszard who wrote: "Enclosed please find a small gift toward the memorial tablet in memory of a lost friend and roommate, Gordon Dodge."

Let me add further the idea that if anyone desires to make a personal memorial for an individual it would be a very interesting, fitting and fine thing to do. We are planning a memorial tree planting on Arbor Day, April 9th and are now preparing the Landon and Beldon House properties for same.

I will not speak of features of the school covered by enclosed letters, which, as I said before, I hope will interest you.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

T D Landon

Thomas D. Landon.

TDL/C

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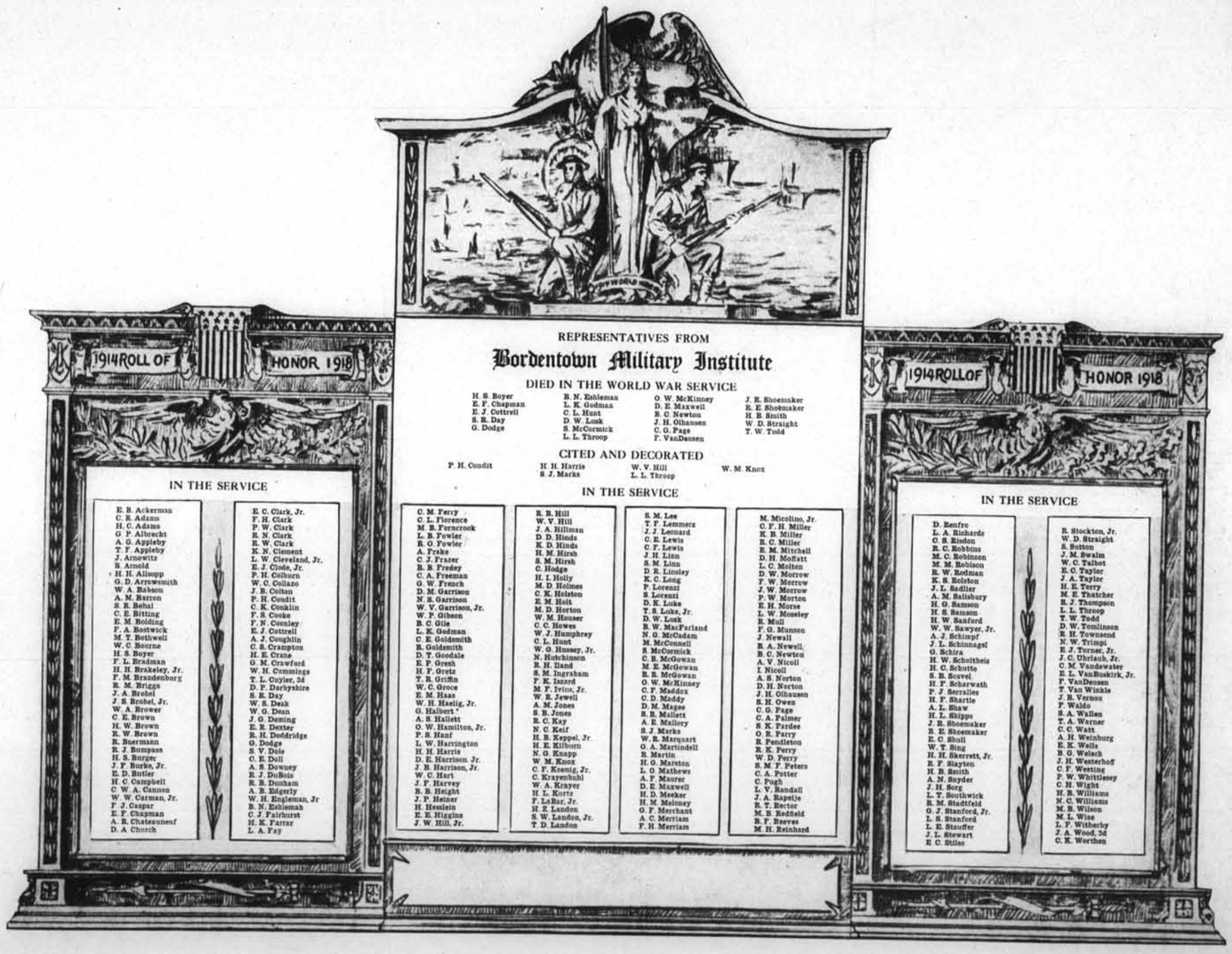

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[2-6-20]

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE
BORDENTOWN, N.J.

December 9, 1919

To Our Friends at Home:

As I wrote you before, on the occasion of the announcement of Headmaster S. W. Landon's death, we lost a rarely remarkable man and teacher. In the selection of a new man for his position there were many difficulties, but good fortune was our lot in that a man we knew by reason of his previous connection with B.M.I. and by reason of having kept in touch with him and his work for the past fourteen years, was open to persuasion and after full consideration secured his release from the principalship of a fine high school in New England.

I believe you will be interested in the expression of one of our ablest of old teachers who knew by reason of association, both men. His admiration and affection for Headmaster Landon was deep and lasting. He wrote:

"There have been a few great school masters and S.W. was one of those. His place cannot be filled because he had made it so peculiarly his own. Another man will take up the work and will develop it in his own way, but it will not be Mr. Landon's way. That belonged to him alone. I believe you have made an excellent choice in Mr. Low. I think his natural ability, his previous connection with B.M.I. and his years of successful contact with educational matters elsewhere fit him for the position. I hope you will persuade him to come."

Mr. Low is here and has taken hold in a way that is inspiring and I am sure you can retain the confidence in B.M.I.'s purpose and accomplishment. Mr. Low is a graduate of Harvard, 1902, magna cum laude. He taught in Danvers High School and Andover High School before coming to B.M.I. in 1905. He was in charge of our Chemistry and Physics that year and made a very lasting impression on all who knew him. Since then he has been principal of the Woburn High School in Massachusetts and the Swampscott High School, Massachusetts, from which he comes to B.M.I. His picture will appear in a forthcoming number of The Skirmisher and I hope he will have the opportunity of meeting you on or before Washington's birthday which is our annual open house day for our friends from the various homes of the boys. In the meantime I mean to give personal attention on every line of inquiry you desire to make and will be glad to answer any questions as promptly as I can get the facts.

The boys are looking forward to the Christmas holidays and reaching home Friday the 19th, nearly a full week before Christmas day. We hope they will have a happy home coming themselves and give you ground for pride and pleasure in the improvement they have made and the promise of further development to follow along many lines.

I am

Very sincerely yours,

T. D. Landon

TDL/C

Principal.

[2-6-

Bordentown Military Institute

Bordentown, N. J.

THE REV. T. H. LANDON, A. M., D. D., PRINCIPAL
COL. T. D. LANDON, 3D N. J. INF. VICE-PRIN. AND COMMANDANT
SEALAND W. LANDON, A. M. HEADMASTER

December 20, 1919

To Old B.M.I. Men Everywhere:

In connection with the letter about the memorial tablet, I enclose a list of the names of B.M.I. representatives in the Service. Before making a permanent record in bronze it is readily seen how essential it is to have the records carefully corrected to date. I urgently request everyone who has any knowledge or information about old B.M.I. boys which differs in any degree with the names and records as we have them shown, to promptly give us the corrected information. Although the names only will be on the tablet, I am very anxious to have the corrections up to date of the highest military rank attained, the last organization with which service was given and all data as to deaths, citations or decorations won individually or through an organization.

I enclose reproduction of the tablet and would say that the twenty-two names of those who died in the Service will be at the center and top of the tablet, immediately below them the six individuals who were decorated, and following them on the three tablets, all names in alphabetical order. A recent decision gives authority for those who served in the S.A.T.C. to be included with the others. On account of recent information about some service and one death not known before, I again urgently request everyone to check up carefully thereon any dates, service, etc., about themselves and in addition the same data for any others they know and without delay send me word so that the final corrections may be made.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Very sincerely yours,

T. D. Landon

TDL/C

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[12-6-20]

BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE
BORDENTOWN, N.J.

December 20, 1919

My dear Friend:

Earlier it seems to me than ever before the Christmas and New Year season is approaching. I penned my last annual letter in France. I reached home in the spring and was delighted to find the school more flourishing than ever before. Particularly was I pleased to find the military department in the finest condition ever. Arrangements were concluded to accept the offer of the Government establishing an R.O.T.C. unit for this year with a Regular Army officer, Major G. T. Mackenzie, 18th Infantry, U.S.A., A.E.F., detailed. He is on duty now and the development of the department on schedule promulgated by the War Department is progressing.

The loss in the death of Headmaster Landon of which I wrote you in September has been partly met by the appointment of Mr. George W. Low, A.B., Harvard, who was instructor of Physics and Chemistry here in 1905, and who since has been a very successful principal of two Massachusetts high schools.

Our football team has had a wonderful season of victories, having scored 200 points against opponents and being scored upon in only one game, Easton High, losing same by ten points. The excuse has been claimed that a very successful dance the night before accounted for the team's reaction.

Another dormitory has been added to our previous group of four, making five dormitories outside of the Main Building. Our dining room is so crowded as to make necessary the enlargement next summer if only to give more comfortable accommodations to the 160 cadets now enrolled.

The annual calendar enclosed is the last word we have of the numerical record of B.M.I.'s service in the World War. In connection with the fact that our total alumni list includes only about 1200 or 1300 names, it is a record to be proud of and each old B.M.I. man may share it. I ask your considerate attention (see enclosed letter) to permanently recognizing the debt of appreciation of those who served. I believe that now is the appropriate time and the different letters are linked together in a way as to be advantageous to you to have all the information before you at one time.

In following the custom of many years standing, next spring I anticipate a big gathering at commencement for the thirty-fifth annual closing exercises, and am particularly anxious to make this an occasion of special reunion for all old B.M.I. boys.

I want to repeat my previous expression of appreciation for the good will and endorsement shown by many old students in sending us the patronage that has made the school's development possible. We are ambitious to merit all you say and give boys who come to us more than they expect. The H.C.L. has necessitated our advance in rates and I am frank to say we have been over considerate or closely calculating in such advance. Our rate is now advanced to $900.00, but even this in comparison with other schools is very modest and like other schools is not any comparison to the increase of costs.

Another time I want to write you about some hopes and dreams for a new and greater B.M.I. In the meantime we are not anticipating it by any relaxation in effort to make the present B.M.I. a splendid foundation of efficiency and integrity for any possible future development. I am anxious that you should share in the feeling of being one of the factors of success that is here and that may be in store in the future.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

Very sincerely yours,

T. D. Landon

TDL/C

[12-6-

COL. THOMAS D. LANDON, Inf., U. S. A.
Principal and Commandant

SEALAND W. LANDON, A. M.
Headmaster—Acting Principal

DAVID STYER, C. E.
Executive Secretary

Bordentown Military Institute

BORDENTOWN, N. J. December 20, 1919

My dear Friend:

On account of the delay in the return of many of the men in the Service I delayed writing about my plan for a memorial until they should all return. I think now approximately all of the emergency men have returned from overseas and are out of the Service. In harmony with what has been done by institutions and corporations throughout the country, I have had the desire to secure a permanent recognition of those representatives of B.M.I. who served during the Great War. Following the lead of the colleges it would be magnificent if we could secure an endowment of two or three millions (Princeton is starting on a campaign for fourteen millions) to transplant and erect a new B.M.I. with the record of the past thirty-four years as a foundation, but, of course, that prospect is remote, although I believe it may come to pass. In the meantime something more modest and possible presents itself in the form very generally used. A bronze tablet containing the names of every B.M.I. representative who served, who was decorated, or who died in the U. S. Service seems most appropriate. I enclose an illustration of a tablet that can be secured now for $730.00 and the price of which later will go up to $900.00. I have therefore ordered the tablet in the belief that old B.M.I. boys will be interested to share in this memorial by each contributing whatever they see fit. I have thought of the possibility of an over subscription, and in that case would be glad to hold the funds subject to suggestion as to some further form of memorial that would contribute to the pleasure or comfort of the students of B.M.I.

As you know, I have never before asked for a subscription from old B.M.I. students. The flag pole and the gates were contributed through a student organization at the end of our thirty years here. I know that the repetition of "drives" has almost driven many to the wall as to giving more, but I believe that if every one of the old B.M.I. representatives will contribute a little, this fund should be very easily and quickly raised and I will give the details later as to the proper ceremonies for the installation or dedication of the memorial tablet. One of the most important features in this plan is to secure absolute and final correct data as to names and service of those who should be included on the tablet. You may imagine we feel very proud of the creditable showing of little old B.M.I. in the great World War, and I am hoping the tablet recording the names of those who met their obligations so fully will serve as an inspiration to the succeeding members of B.M.I.'s Corps of Cadets.

Finally in regard to this subscription, may I not ask you to DO IT NOW, send whatever contribution you wish rather than to mentally say, "This is a good thing; I will attend to it." Those who did not serve certainly can contribute in a spirit of recognition and appreciation of those who did serve. Those who did serve can easily secure a satisfaction in contributing in co-operation with others for the preservation of their own honorable record, and all who are interested in and appreciative of the supreme sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in the Service can esteem it a great privilege to share in the making permanent in an intimate place where they are known and affectionately and loyally remembered, the names of those who gave their lives for their country.

Hoping to hear from you, I am

Sincerely yours,

T. D. Landon

TDL/C

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after her marriage and mine - our ways seemed to separate - as they so often do. but I still had the dear, fine letters from her. and the only time I saw her - after the birth of her two children - the last was away from home with his father -

After your husband's death - I was looking over the few letters from her which I had kept. and came across a

Feby 8 - 20.

My dear Mrs. Straight.

When Mr. Straight's death became known I felt as if I had met with a personal loss - and yet - through the friendship of his mother was one of the dearest things in my younger life - I had never met him -

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picture of your husband and his sister in Japanese costume - and I wonder if it was anything you would care to have - for yourself or for your children. He may possibly have had a copy of the photographs too - but if you care for it I would be glad to send it to you.

An old friend of My daughter's - Miss Mary Rankin - has given me your address.

Very cordially yours
(Mrs) Mary E. Bell

Upland Road
Cayuga Heights
Ithaca N. Y.

44, RUE DU BAC, VII^e

February 16th 1920

My dear Mrs Straight

I have not written you before this as I intended going to New York for a short visit to attend to my exhibition which opens on March Fifteenth at the Reinhardt's Galleries. But have given up my contemplated trip because it would interfere with my work here.

So I am sending my Exhibition as alone. I am also sending you a Bronze of the Skelton of the Dougl. boy which I hope you will accept.

When I first heard the news that the plans for the beautifying of the Simons Cemetery were to be abandoned I was

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[2-16-20]

44, RUE DU BAC. VII:

almost heartbroken, for I have been working day and night and the end become almost an obsession with me.

However one must unfortunately abide by the will of the majority - even if it hurts. As to the "Dough boy" he is progressing, and I mean to put into the stone all the art I possess. My dream is to make it my Chef d'Oeuvre

Do forgive me for not writing I am such a poor hand at it and it is so difficult for me to express myself fully. Facts are easy things to write

[2-16-20]

44, RUE DU BAC. VII:

But when I try to put my thoughts on paper I am absolutely hopeless.

When are you coming over. I should so love to have you see the work in Progress.

With my sincerest regards Believe me.

Ever yours
J. W. Williams

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620 West Fifth St
Santa Ana
Calif.
Feb 22nd, 1920.

My dear Mrs Straight-

I know you will be sorry to hear that my husband passed away here in Santa Ana ten days ago.

We came home because of his ill health three months ago. all of us with high hopes that he would get better. absurantly it was hopeless from the beginning. Oh if we had only stayed

very poor health. - They are financially in a hard position, as the Govt. do not pay the money they agreed upon, when the Manchus [illegible] our up.

Peking is not the old Peking, and yet I long to go back; it is home to me.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely Yours
Helen M. Gatzell.

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among our old tried friends in Peking how much better and easier it would have been! but how little one can know of the future.

I want to thank you at this it is so late for your kind telegram of cheer at Christmas time. We were feeling especially lonely about that time and it reminded us of the old happy days in far off Peking.

I was glad I was able to take Mrs Henry Field to Princess Pu last spring and that we were asked three later to dinner. such a delightful informal affair. with all Chinese dishes. The Princess was very solicitous in her enquiries after you. and wanted to hear about your children. When I left Peking she again wanted me to remember her to you if I should see you. I am afraid she has a very sad life now. and also

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and this matter is anxious to learn what the situation may be.

Sincerely yours

Rich Helms

Mrs. L. P. Straight
New York City

The University Club
Fifth Avenue & 54th Street

February 24th 1920

My dear Mrs Straight:-

I understood from Mr Delano that you were planning to beautify the American cemetery at Suresnes. Deemed it be convinient for you to let me know if any of your plans have matured, for I have a friend buried next to Major Straight

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8 Avenue d'Iéna, Paris,

7 March, 1920.

Mrs Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, U.S.A.

My dear Mrs Straight,

Yesterday afternoon I spent several hours at Suresnes. The place is in very excellent condition - if anything perhaps a bit too excellent compared to what may be expected at some of the outlying cemeteries, for we ought to avoid giving the impression that more particular care is given to burial places situated in or near Paris than to those in less accessible regions. The crosses and headboards are lined up perfectly and are being painted for the second time since December. All of the mounds where burials have been made are well sown or sodded with the exception of one or two small areas where settling has not yet been completed and where filling in has been necessary.

The remainder of the land within the present reservation, but not yet occupied by graves, will be graded during the next week in conformity with the design of the remainder of the cemetery and will be sown immediately afterwards.

The foliage planted soon after our acquisition of the cemetery has grown now to a considerable height and while in no sense distasteful it has given a slightly unbalanced appearance to the plot by reason of being planted mainly in one corner - the first one occupied. These plants and shrubbery are to be transplanted.

Colonel Rethers, Chief of the American Graves Registration Service in Europe, and Colonel West, who has charge of formerly what was the Visitors Bureau here, accompanied me. We went of course to the Major's grave. Mr.Warner, the caretaker, told us that Mr.Phillips had been there not long before and that the spot was much visited. The day was dark but I took some photographs which I shall send to you if there is anything discernible on them.

After our ~~He~~ conversation of February 18, I asked the War Department by telephone to cable Davidson that I would be here about March 1st. On Wednesday night I reached here and on Friday afternoon I visited his studio. He had intended sailing for America on the "Imperator" but for reasons wholly distinct from my cable he had changed his plans.

He is feeling none too well and told me on Friday he would leave Paris on Saturday for a week at Fontainebleau.

I saw of course the model of his decorative scheme and the Doughboy.

I told him as regards the form that the War Department, with the object of adopting such a policy as would consistently protect us from the introduction of unharmonious decorative features ~~into our cemeteries~~, would wish to have the approval of the Fine Arts Commission on any plans for the ornamentation of our cemeteries.

Personally - though I should be reluctant to express my own notion to the artist or to urge it unduly on the Commission - I am very much impressed with the Doughboy, and I am confident that everyone concerned will agree on placing it at Suresnes.

As for the remainder of his plan I should urge that before making any final determination on a plan of decoration we should wait the result of the negotiations for the additional plots of land North and South of the present reservation, which will materially alter the size and shape of the project.

For a week or ten days I shall remain here and shall be reachable through the Military Attaché. For about the same length of time thereafter I shall be away from Paris but my mail base will still be here; then until some time before mid April I shall be dividing my time equally between London and here. My London address is:-

Office of the Military Attaché,
6 Grosvenor Gardens

Faithfully yours,

Ralph Hayes

RH-HJS

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March
10th
1920.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your interest and generosity were so splendid at the beginning of our campaign that I hesitate to ask more of you. I don't mean a contribution.

When we began we set as our goal for New York, $150,000. Within a month I must return to France and Holy Trinity and there are now less than $90,000 of New York subscriptions. Our experience proves that general letters are useless, and that personal letters or a personal word from one who is at the same time very prominent and very generous, is the only thing which succeeds.

I am writing a few such to ask if they will be willing to do this in a few cases. I wish very much that you might help in this way. Please write me if you can and I will send literature for your use. The enclosed is a copy of letter which, with variations, has been sent out. It might serve as a guide. With Church people I think we ought to tell the whole truth, viz. that this greatest American church in Europe and of the War, so honored by the Army and Navy as to be chosen "The Church of Memorials in France" is so financially straitened that it can hardly

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go on with its work in the most modest way, to say nothing of maintaining its high War standard. The most important national and inter-national service challenges it this moment and it is neither manned nor equipped. No choir, no curate, no chaplain to place at St. Luke's in the vitally important work in the American Student Quarter with ten thousand students as a probability in the near future. The above is due to Dr. Morgan's death, the dispersion of the Colony and the cessation of special War time aid.

May I not hear from you at an early moment for as Bishop Brent says, "The opportunity for Holy Trinity is unique and comes only once. It is now or never."

With all best wishes, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Frederick H. Peckham

[See 3-10-120]

My dear ---

The enclosed describes one of the most appealing causes. No American, proud of his country's War record over seas, can afford not to read it.

In supporting it Americans will do two things:

1. Aid in the most fitting of all War memorials in France and the one endorsed by the Commanders-in-Chief, officers and men of the Army and Navy.

2. Repair the shattered resources (now reduced two-thirds) of America's greatest church in Europe and of the War for her still greater service (national and inter-national) of the future, this largely among Americans, thousands of students and others.

Please send subscription (payable within three years) or contribution to this office, or to Captain Elliot Bacon, Treasurer, care of J. P. Morgan & Co., 23 Wall Street, New York City.

Very sincerely yours,

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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ARMY AND NAVY CLUB OF AMERICA
18 GRAMERCY PARK
NEW YORK

March 23, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

You will be interested to learn that friends of the Army and Navy purpose to erect for the old Army and Navy Club of New York City, which will be known as the Army and Navy Club of America, a new club house as a memorial to American officers who have died in service.

It is planned to memorialize individually each officer who fell in the Great War so that his memory shall live as an inspiration to patriotic service.

We need an accurate and complete record of the life and service of each officer such as only those nearest to him can give.

Please let us know whether we can count upon your assistance in compiling such a record of the life and service of Colonel Willard D. Straight.

Sincerely yours,

Bradley A. Fiske

Rear Admiral U.S.N., Ret.
President.

Mrs. Dorothy W. Straight,
Westbury,
New York.

O'MELVENY, MILLIKIN & TULLER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
825 TITLE INSURANCE BUILDING
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STUART O'MELVENY
JOSEPH C. FINCH
WARREN B. PINNEY
HEWLINGS MUMPER
JOHN A. POWELL

APR 1 1920

SUBJECT

March 26, 1920.

ESTATE OF WILLARD D. STRAIGHT:

Messrs. Shearman & Sterling,
55 Wall Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

We beg to thank you for your kind favor of the 20th. Mr. Straight's kindnesses to our dear friend, Professor Stephens, at Berkeley, were such that we feel very happy to have been of this small service to his representatives, and would prefer not to make any charge in the matter.

Yours very truly,

O'MELVENY, MILLIKIN & TULLER

by Sayre Macneil

SM-O

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242 Delaware St.
Buffalo
Easter Even 1920

Dear Mrs Straight

I have been examining the original plans & estimates for the schoolbuilding in Jobs. They are not satisfactory & need revision. I have called Fugali to submit a new draft which ought to reach me in a month.

thinks of the Raffles inversion of one of the Benson family which is inscribed on the base of the lectern in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace — "In the midst of death we are in life."

Yours sincerely
Charles Greene

I am leaving for Millbrae the day after to-morrow

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Just after seeing you a rather
discouraged letter came from Heim.
He knows by now of your gift
& it will give Heim fresh courage.
He is able & devoted. Indeed I
know of no man except Conrad
Carpenter in his class in
Moro knowledge & influence.

I deeply appreciate what
you are doing. My life is uncertain
& it is a great comfort to
know that should anything
happen me this really valuable
work is insured. At the

beginning of the project I saw
your husband about it, somewhat
timidly, but without a moment's
hesitation he agreed to be one
hundred. We miss his keen, eager
mind. How wholeheartedly would
he have thrown himself into
the perplexities of our day, had
he remained with us! But
as Tennyson says of Arthur Hallam
God has some higher work for
his son to do.

At this Easter season one

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AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
5, RUE DE CHAILLOT
PARIS

6th April 1920.

Mrs Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

My dear Mrs Straight,

I attach a copy of a self-explanatory I have written to Davidson this morning. I think we shall have no difficulty about that portion of the Suresnes ornamentation.

Unhappily, the pictures I snapped of the Major's grave were taken too close to the end of a dark day and the prints show so little that I am not forwarding them to you. I am hoping, however, to make another visit as soon as I return from the ten days' trip upon which I start this morning.

Faithfully yours,

Ralph Hayes

RH-HJS
Enclo.

6 April 1920.

Mr.Jo Davidson,
14 Avenue du Maine,
Paris.

My dear Jo,

This morning I am getting away for 8 or 9 days in Germany and Belgium.

I wish you would write me a note telling me the present status of the DOUGHBOY - whether you have got your stone, how long it will take to complete it, etc.

While I shall not wish to interpose any judgment of mine on the War Department or the Fine Arts Commission regarding the general scheme of decoration and ornamentation, everyone I have seen agrees that the DOUGHBOY conception is a real one, and if Mrs Straight desires it placed at Suresnes I shall attempt to arrange the matter at the other end as soon as I reach there, which will be about May 1st.

Faithfully yours,

RH-HJS

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Easter Sunday
1920

9 EAST 63RD STREET

Dearest Dorothy

The beautiful bougainvillea plant takes me back to Eastern days — Do you remember when we lunched in the ancient tumble down Akbar?

You are very lovely & I miss you, dear child — I dreamed

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much true, & though I see you so seldom, my love is deep and enduring -.
Connie enjoyed her evening with you more than I can say, & I loved having you whirling with me at my little party for Sis.

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April 7th 1920

CARLTON HOTEL,
PALL MALL,
LONDON.

My dear Dorothy

Under sparcial cover, and in the diplomatic pouch to Washington from London, I am sending you - at your 5th avenue address - a package containing 1) copy of Willard's letter to me; 2) Canadian memorial, which Fletcher gave me, and 3) my own memorial

the children a fairly accurate impression of their father.

I hope, my dear Dorothy, you will not do more, or less, than this; a volume or two consisting of contributions from the 6 to 10 persons who knew Willard best during the different periods of his life, supplemented by a group of characteristic letters. Only a foreword written preferably by

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I have taken from the letters whatever passages do not appear characteristic, or are too personal a nature to render it advisable that they should be read by anyone except the correspondent to whom they were addressed. If you decide to print Willard's correspondence such of these letters as you may select could be printed without alteration.

The memorial subscription deals with the two years - 1904 to 1906 - in which we were most intimately associated and regard. During my absence in Europe the interests which Willard Straight had in Tokyo also were in charge of the author. Speech of Mr. Peabody or an abstract of his address at the unveiling of the tablet would be very welcome.

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[4-7-20] [2]

yourself - explaining that the book has been prepared for the illumination of the children and of Willard's friends and that the light has been supplied by the man's letters and by the memorials of his intimates each of whom has told a the portion of the story with which he was most acquainted. That is my idea! Aug-

gathering darkness that seems to rest on this ballot this year. Good luck to your friend.

Yours very faithfully
Edwin Pugh

CARLTON HOTEL,
PALL MALL,
LONDON.

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thing more elaborate would be excessive and anything less so would unjust.

I am leaving on Friday, the 9th, for Rio by the S.S. under of the Royal Mail and are due there about the 24th instants. It is my present intention to return to the States to vote in November - as it is evident that

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[enclosed 4-7-20]

Ma chère Dorothy ,

Je suis trop heureux que vous ayez pensé à me demander de contribuer, par mes souvenirs, à la vie de notre cher WILLARD; je dois avoir,dans mes papiers , un certain nombre de lettres de lui sur les affaires ! malheureusement je n'ai rien apporté ici; ce que je puis avoir gardé est en Europe où il faudrait que j'allasse moi-même pour le retrouver mais je ne sais à quand mon retour là-bas. Tout ce que je puisdonc faire c'est de puiser dans ma mémoire .

J'ai un souvenir très précis du jour où je fis sa connaissance. J'étais Chargé d'affaires à Pékin, c'était donc au printemps de I902, à un de ces garden parties que donnait Sir ROBERT HART, chaque mercredi, à la Société. Je vis entrer un jeune homme blond, très grand, très mince et très dégagé, d'une figure gaie et avenante, que rendait plus avenante encore un teint très frais qui tranchait avec celui des gens qui avaient habité la Chine pendant quelque temps et auxquels on reproche toujours de prendre un teint de Chinois. Je note ce détail parce que je me souviens qu'il me frappa . Je me rappelle aussi qu'il était vêtu tout de brun avec un grand sombrero de même couleur. Sir Robert me le présenta "Mr. Willard Straight, mon secrétaire particulier"- Je causai avec ce jeune homme: il me raconta qu'il venait de Nanking, où il avait appris les éléments du chinois, et d'où il

avait été appelé à Pékin pour ses nouvelles fonctions près de son chef.

C'était ~~un grand~~ beaucoup d' honneur que lui faisait Sir Robert Hart que de l'appeler à travailler dans son intimité. Sir Robert Hart était un grand connaisseur d'hommes, un grand organisateur et un grand travailleur. Il ne prenait pour secrétaire particulier que des jeunes gens dont il avait pris bonne opinion,d'après les notes que leur donnaient leurs chefs ,qu'il voulait connaître davantage et qu'il voulait façonner lui-même par une formation personnelle. On pouvait donc dire, dès cette époque, que Willard Straight avait été distingué par son chef.

La seconde fois que je vis Willard, je m' en souviens également: c'était quelques jours plus tard. Les soldats français des troupes d'occupation du Petchili avaient organisé une troupe théatrale et une Revue où défilaient toutes les notoriétés de la Chine. Cette Revue fut donnée au Peking-Club . Pendant un entr'acte, on annonça une surprise : deux ~~grands~~ imposants Ministrels nègres parurent en scène et chantèrent en s'accompagnant du Bunjo. Leur chanson finie, ils descendirent de la scène , et, comme je présidais cette fête française, ils vinrent m'intriguer. C'était Willard et son ami THOMAS HASKINS, un autre jeune américain plein de promesses, alors Elève interprète à la Légation des ~~United States~~ Etats Unis, et qui, trois ans après, remplissant déjà les fonctions de " Chinese Secretary", mourut en quelques heures d'une insolation. Qui aurait pu croire que ces deux magnifiques jeunes gens, si gais, d'un esprit si étourdissant, qu'ils firent tordre toute la salle d'un homérique éclat de rire, finiraient tous deux à la fleur de l'âge d'une mort tragique !

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Ses occupations et les miennes firent que je ne pus suivre très intimement Willard à cette époque. Nous nous voyions souvent, mais sans une grande intimité, causant plus de Sport et d'amusements que d'affaires. Il me frappa pourtant par son intelligence, le charme et l'amabilité qu'il apportait dans les relations et ce caractère, le plus séduisant que j'aie jamais rencontré chez un homme, qui attirait par la profonde honnêteté, la parfaite pureté de ses sentiments et de ses idées.

A cette époque ces qualités remarquables m'avaient déjà frappé: depuis j'ai vécu avec lui comme un frère, je puis dire qu'il est peut-être le seul homme à qui, dans la plus stricte intimité, je n'ai jamais entendu exprimer une idée qui ne fût pas élevée et parfaitement droite et franche.

Il quitta Péking vers 1903, à ce qui me semble, pour aller, je crois, d'abord en Corée comme Deputy Consul General et pour suivre en 1904 la guerre Russo-Japonaise comme correspondant d'un Journal de New-York, ensuite pour devenir le secrétaire particulier de M. Edwin V. Morgan en Corée; enfin, en 1906, je crois, il fut nommé Consul Général des Etats- Unis à Moukden.

En 1906 la France et l'Angleterre ayant résolu de ne plus se faire concurrence dans la construction des chemins de fer chinois avaient favorisé la création, par les Etablissements financiers, d'une Société Franco-Anglaise: le " Chinese Central Railways" qui, par le moyen de deux représentants, un français et un anglais, devaient négocier la construction de certains chemins de fer et les emprunts nécessaires à cette construction. C'était J.O.P. BLAND, qui représentait l'Angleterre et moi qui représentais la France.

Ayant été sollicité par le Gouvernement Chinois d'intéresser la France à la situation en Mandchourie, je me décidais à y aller en septembre ou octobre 1907.

Je savais Willard à Moukden, et lui écrivis pour lui demander l'hospitalité à mon arrivée. Il habitait avec GEORGES MARVIN, ce temple à la porte de la ville, où je crois, ma chère Dorothy, vous avez fait vous-même sa connaissance. J'y trouvais le jeune homme que j'avais connu autrefois, singulièrement mûri. Dans la ville tranquille de Moukden, il se livrait à tous ses goûts artistiques; il illustrait le livre que mon collègue Bland écrivait à ce moment même sur la vie en House-boat, montait à cheval, s'intéressait à tous les sports possible .

Son habitation était le centre de la petite société de Moukden où tout le monde l'aimait. Je me rappelle les belles promenades à cheval que nous fîmes aux tombeaux des premiers empereurs TSING et de nos galopades effrenées dans le parc qui les entoure, et un dîner avec le gros bon évêque épiscopalien de Baltimore, où le pauvre homme semblait vraiment suffoqué de notre gaieté. Mais ce n'était pas seulement une vie de plaisirs: Willard ne les a jamais sacrifiés aux choses sérieuses. C'est véritablement à Moukden qu'il a commencé à prendre part aux grandes affaires auxquelles il a été ensuite intimement mêlé et si j'insiste sur la visite que je lui ai rendue à cette époque, c'est que cette visite a commencé notre intimité et que Willard m'a souvent répété qu'elle avait eu une influence décisive sur sa vie .

Depuis plusieurs années, et comme fonctionnaire en Corée et comme correspondant de guerre, Willard avait été fortement impressionn

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de la main-mise de plus en plus complète imposée par les Japonais et les Russes sur la Mandchourie, malgré les déclarations cent fois répétées par lesquelles leurs deux gouvernements garantissaient l'intégrité de l'Empire Chinois. Willard avait été frappé, dans cet esprit de justice et ce sentimentalisme élevé qui était au fond de son caractère, de l'iniquité commise aux dépens des Chinois, faibles et sans moyens de défense, par les deux Puissances rapaces qui l'entouraient au Nord et à l'Est. De plus, il avait, d'autant plus de tendances à défendre la Chine, que la politique du Gouvernement américain avait été définie par le Secrétaire d'Etat HAY, quelques années auparavant : c'était celle de "l'Open door " et des "equal opportunities".

A Moukden il avait trouvé comme Haut Commissaire du Gouvernement Chinois un des derniers, des meilleurs et des plus sages Conseillers de l'Empire : SHU-SHE-CHANG. A côté de lui se trouvait un Taotai qui est devenu célèbre depuis par ses intrigues et ses trahisons : TANG-SHAO-YI . A ce moment là TANG-SHAO-YI n'avait pas été enivré par trop de succès. C'était un homme extrêmement fin, très cultivé, qui avait fait ses études dans une université américaine, parlait parfaitement anglais et passait pour avoir beaucoup d'expérience des affaires européennes .

Ancien Tao-ta des douanes à Tien-Tsin et confident de Yuan-Che-Kai, Tang-Shao-Yi avait été placé à Moukden pour essayer de défendre la Mandchourie contre les empiètements journaliers des Russes et des Japonais. Willard était tout disposé à l'aider. Une grande intimité se créa entre eux si naturellement que Tang-Sha-Yi, connaissant la sûreté absolue de son caractère, le faisait confident de toutes ses pensées.

Le tact de Willard et le magnétisme qui rayonnait autour de lui en faisaient un auxiliaire particulièrement précieux car le Consul Général du Japon, celui de Russie, étaient sous son charme et vivaient dans les meilleurs termes avec lui. Il n'est pas jusqu'à l'Allemand qu'il ne vit pas familièrement aussi.

Lorsque j'arrivai à Moukden j'étais moi-même, à mon point de vue de Français, dans des dispositions d'esprit et de sentiment très analogues à celles qu'éprouvait Willard vis à vis de la Chine et de ses adversaires. Vous savez que je n'ai jamais eu la moindre confiance ni dans les Russes, ni dans les Japonais. Je pensais de plus que, quelle que fût l'intimité qui existât entre la France et la Russie à cette époque, la France avait en Chine des intérêts matériels considérables forçant à une politique toute spéciale, indépendante de la politique russe, par le fait que notre Colonie d'Indo-Chine possède avec la Chine une frontière commune de plusieurs milliers de kilomètres.

J'étais persuadé, d'autre part, qu'il n'était aucunement dans l'intérêt de la France d'accroître par la conquête ses possessions d'Indo-Chine qui sont parfaitement délimitées, habitées par des races différentes de la race chinoise. D'autre part, je pensais que la civilisation très voisine de nos sujets indochinais devait nous aider à développer considérablement et fructueusement nos relations commerciales avec l'Empire Chinois. Mais pour accroître ces relations pacifiques il fallait prouver à la Chine que nous étions ses amis et non seulement la France ne nourrissait pas

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contre la Chine d'idées de conquêtes, mais que, dans la mesure du possible, nous la défendrions contre les injustices trop flagrantes dont elle était la victime.

Voilà quel était entre Willard et moi le terrain d'entente politique lorsque je l'allai voir à Moukden. Comme nous causions de ces sujets nous en arrivâmes promptement à considérer que le seul moyen pour les amis de la Chine d'arriver à la défendre, c'était de lui persuader qu'elle avait le plus grand intérêt à accepter son internationalisation, c'est à dire à favoriser la création dans l'Empire d'un organisme international qui la défendrait en la développant. Dans cet organisme toutes les grandes nations entreraient, s'engageant à ne pas rechercher d'intérêt particulier, satisfaites de diviser entre elles à l'amiable les profits financiers provenant des contrats de Chemins de fer, base de cette organisation. Quant aux profits commerciaux ils découleraient tout naturellement du développement que les nouveaux chemins de fer donneraient à la Chine ; chaque nation y trouverait son bénéfice selon l'activité qu'elle mettrait à développer son commerce. Après quelques conversations avec Tang Shao Yi, nous songeâmes à profiter de droits que la Chine s'était ménagée en Mandchourie sur les chemins de fer autres que l'Est Chinois, pour essayer de prêter aux autorités chinoises de l'argent dont elles avaient besoin pour la mise en valeur de la province et la construction des chemins de fer réservés à la Chine. Je laissai, sur ce sujet, à Willard une note, qu'il doit avoir dans ses papiers , et où nous proposions de construire au moyen d'un syndicat international les chemins de fer réservés au Gouvernement chinois en Mandchourie. Plus tard, Willard Straight me dit avoir

parlé de ce projet à M. Harriman qui s'y était intéressé, mais que, malheureusement , mourut avant de pouvoir leur donner un commencement d'exécution.

J'ai mentionné que J.O.P. Bland, représentant en Chine de la British and Chinese Corporation et des Chinese Central Railways était un des amis de Mr. Straight et qu'ils collaboraient ensemble à un volume: il sera trop mêlé à toutes les affaires plus tard pour que je n'en parle point ici. C'est un Irlandais, ancien fonctionnaire des Douanes Chinoises, qu'il avait quittées pour devenir le Secrétaire de la concession Internationale de Shanghai.

Mr. Bland avait, lorsqu'il occupait ces fonctions, joui de tant d'influence sur le Conseil Municipal de la Concession, que pratiquement, il la gouvernait en autocrate. Il avait d'ailleurs exercé ce gouvernement avec une rare intelligence et pour le bien général. Ses qualités de travail, de parfaite honnêteté, le rendaient hautement recommandable. Il avait une plume alerte, un esprit vif et pénétrant, infiniment d'esprit, mais un esprit si acerbe, qu'il avait perdu plus d'un ami pour le plaisir de faire un bon mot : extrêmement combatif et obstiné, il ne pardonnait guère à ses ennemis .

M. Bland avait une profonde connaissance de la langue et du personnel chinois. C'était un ami intime de Tang-Shao Yi ; comme ce mandarin, il avait horreur des Japonais, n'aimait guère les Russes et désirait défendre la Chine contre eux. C'était un partisan résolu de la politique de "porte ouverte", défendue par l'Angleterre comme par les Etats-Unis. Mais il n'avait pas confiance, comme M. Straight et moi, dans la politique d'internationalisation

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Bien qu'il eut tout récemment, et pour se conformer à une entente intervenue entre la British Chinese Corporation qu'il représentait et les Banques allemandes, signé le contrat du Chemin de fer de Tinetsin Pouk'ou, d'accord avec les Allemands, il redoutait fott l'expansion de ces derniers et, très indépendant de caractère, prétendait bien garder pour l'Angleterre la part la plus grande possible de toutes les concessions qu'on pourrait tirer de la Chine. Je dois ajouter que Mr. Bland s'est toujours montré vis à vis de moi le collaborateur le plus loyal et qu'il a toujours scrupuleusement observé les engagements existant entre la France et l'Angleterre.

Le plus dangereux des moyens de domination établi par les Russes et les Japonais en Chine était le Chemin de fer de l'Est Chinois, dont la propriété avait été passée, au S. de la Mandchourie, jusqu'à Kouang Chang Tze, aux Japonais et au Nord de ce point, aux Russes . Certains droits d'embranchement avaient été concédés, d'autres réservés à la Chine, mais celle-ci ne pouvait en user, Russes comme Japonais s'entendaient toujours pour mettre obstacle à la Chine lorsqu'elle voulait user de son droit pour construire une ligne subsidiaire. Dans ces conditions, pour porter obstacle à ces chemins de fer et tracer une ligne qui pût arrêter l'expansion japonaise en Mongolie, Tang Shao Yi songea à créer un Chemin de fer de Kingtcheou à Hsin-Tien et à Aigun sur le fleuve Amour .

Ce chemin de fer devait suivre, en Mongolie, une route incontestablement à l'ouest de la sphère d'influence que les Chinois avaient dans leur esprit, assignée aux Japonais; les Chinois considéraient, en effet, que les droits concédés au Japon et à la Russie s'arrêtaient à la frontière des 3 provinces Mandchouriennes :

Moukden, Kirin et Tsitsihar, excluant par conséquent toute la Mongolie.

La nouvelle ligne, parcourant un territoire nettement situé en Mongolie, pouvait donc, dans l'opinion des Chinois, être concédée à une nation étrangère quelconque. Ces concessions étaient d'une nature si compliquée, que je crains, devant m'en fier uniquement à ma méoire, de me tromper sur quelques noms, mais en tous cas, je crois être à peu près certain de l'énchaînement des faits.

En I907, on peut dire que la Finance Américaine était loin de penser à une intervention dans les finances Chinoises . Deux ans seulement auparavant, Mr. John P. Morgan avait revendu au Vice Roi de Hankeou les actions du chemin de fer Haukow Canton qu'il avait acquises autrefois du Roi des Belges, indiquant ainsi qu'il se désintéressait des affaires chinoises. En outre, les sentiments de la Légation des Etats-Unis à Péking n'y étaient pas favorables. A ce moment, cette Légation était dirigée par l'un des Diplomates les plus remarquables qu'aient jamais eus les Etats-Unis : Mr. Henry Woodwill-Rockhill, c'était l'un des hommes qui connaissaient le mieux la Chine, avait été représentant du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis à la Conférence qui avait réglé la situation après l'insurrection des "Boxeurs". Il avait été frappé de l'excès formidable de l'indemnité exigée de la Chine à cette époque. Cette indemnité avait été calculée par les Puissances, et les Etats-Unis eux-mêmes d'une façon qui avait beaucoup dépassé leurs dépenses réelles.

Lorsqu'il fut nommé Ministre en Chine, en I905 je crois, il songea à réparer cette injustice en ce qui concernait les Etats-Unis. En conséquence, il avait fait accepter un arrangement au Gouvernement Chinois, aux termes duquel, au fur et à mesure que les annuités de l'indemnité revenant aux Etats-Unis leur seraient

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payées, ces annuités seraient employées à l'entretien d'une Ecole Chinoise établie à Péking, où l'on préparerait un certain nombre de jeunes étudiants à aller faire leurs études en Amérique. Cette idée a été l'une des plus fecondes pour l'établissement de l'influence américaine en Chine. Mais M. Rockhill confiant dans l'influence morale que les Etats-Unis pouvaient acquérir par ce moyen ne pensait pas qu'il fut de l'intérêt américain d'entrer dans aucun arrangement financier avec les Puissances européennes. Il croyait en effet que tous ces arrangements financiers quels qu'ils fussent auraient pour effet d'éveiller la susceptibilité des Chinois et en fin de compte de porter atteinte à la liberté de la Chine, en augmentant les dettes de cette Puissance et en rendant de plus en plus pesant le joug financier que l'Europe lui avait déjà imposé .

Mr. Straight ne partageait pas ces idées car, quelques généreuses qu'elles fussent, elles laissaient la Chine livrée à elle-même dans l'opération si nécessaire de son relèvement financier. Aussi idéaliste au fond que Mr. Rockhill il avait des idées plus pratiques et réalisait que le concours du capital étranger était absolument nécessaire à la Chine et que, comme ce capital lui serait certainement prêté, il était de l'intérêt évident des Etats-Unis, de coopérer à cette opération et de l'intérêt évident de la Chine que les Etats-Unis y coopérassent parce que, de toutes les Puissances qui s'intéressaient à des opérations de ce genre, les Etats-Unis étaient évidemment la Puissance la plus désintéressée.

Mais, sans encouragement venus de la Légation de Péking, et peu habitués à des opérations de prêt à l'étranger, les financiers américains n'avaient jusqu'à cette époque, formé aucun groupe pour s'occuper des affaires de la Chine. Willard Straight et Tang Shao Yi

dans ces conditions, songèrent à s'adresser à J.O. Bland pour intéresser quelques étrangers à la situation de la Mandchourie et au Chemin de fer que l'on voulait créer. Mr. Bland alla donc à Moukden et reçut des ouvertures pour la construction de ce chemin de fer - non pas, si je m'en souviens bien, pour la concession, qui était donnée à l'Amérique, mais pour la construction seulement. Mr. Bland représentait en effet, comme je l'ai dit, la British and Chinese corporation, qui n'était pas seulement un groupe financier chargé de s'assurer des concessions et de les financer, mais un groupe industriel destiné à opérer comme entrepreneur de constructions.

Cette affaire ne pouvait être faite, en secret et sans l'assentiment de la Russie et du Japon du fait de la situation en Europe. A cette époque , la guerre Russo-Japonaise avait donné à la Russie et au Japon un prestige certainement exagéré pour l'un comme pour l'autre, mais en tout cas, réel. La victoire japonaise, si on l'examine de près, n'était point une victoire glorieuse. Le Japon avec une Marine bien supérieure à la Marine Russe, maître absolu de la mer, après la bataille de Toushina, à 48 heures de sa base de Ravitaillement n'avait pu que difficilement vaincre l'armée russe, mal préparée, mal équipée, mal armée, se battant sans enthousiasme pour une cause qu'elle ne comprenait pas, à six mille milles de la Russie avec laquelle elle n'était unie, au commencement de la guerre, que par un chemin de fer - Et ce chemin de fer était mal construit, la voie était trop légère pour la largeur, qui comportait naturellement un matériel très lourd; cette voie était unique presque partout et en tous cas dans tous les travaux d'art; elle était donc un moyen de communication très fragile et de peu de valeur. Et pourtant la guerre avait été pénible, le Japon s'était épuisé, sa victoire n'était

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qu'incertaine .

On pouvait donc conclure, d'une part que la Russie était faible et de l'autre que le Japon, qui n'avait pu en venir à bout qu'en s'épuisant lui-même, n'était guère fort. Mais pourtant, telles qu'elles étaient, ces deux Puissances étaient par leur position géographique même les deux principaux facteurs en Extrême Orient. Dans ces conditions, aucune puissance Européenne ne se souciait de se brouiller avec l'une ni l'autre. D'ailleurs, le traité qui unissait la France à la Russie et l'Angleterre au Japon, ne permettait pas aux deux pays - géographiquement aussi - les plus intéressés en Extrême Orient, d'y rien faire qui pût contrarier leurs alliés .

Lors donc que la British and Chinese Corporation eut été saisie de la proposition faite par les Chinois à son représentant, elle dût en saisir le Foreign Office qui lui même en parla à Tokyo et à Petersbourg.

La Russie opposa un refus formel, ainsi que le Japon. Néanmoins , une maison anglaise, la maison Pauling & C°, accepta de se charger de cette construction, et son représentant, Lord French, alla à Pétersbourg pour tâcher de négocier avec la Russie. Mais le Gouvernement russe se retranchait sur l'arrangement intervenu entre la Russie et l'Angleterre en I895 (?) et qui assurait à la Russie seule le droit de construire des chemins de fer au Nord de la Grande Muraille.

Les Gouverneurs Russe et Japonais refusèrent également leur consentement à toute opération ayant pour but de financer la Mandchourie , de manière à permettre le développement, par les Chinois ,de l'Agriculture et des richesses minières . Un expert américain en Agriculture

dont M. Willard Straight avait facilité l'engagement par les Chinois, et qui était arrivé à Moukden, n'y obtint aucun résultat. Anxieux de s'opposer à toute entrée d'autres nations dans les affaires de Mandchourie, les Russes et les Japonais soutenaient toujours que, possédant les trois provinces sur des droits spéciaux, eux seuls avaient le droit de fournir des fonds pour leur développement. Pourtant, Willard Straight ne se laissait pas rebuter par ces difficultés et faisait un travail actif pour intéresser à la Chine ses amis d'Amérique. Si, ainsi que je l'ai dit, le Ministre des Etats-Unis en Chine ne partageait pas cette manière de voir, il n'en était pas de même du premier secrétaire de la Légation, Henry P. Fletcher, qui, lui, au contraire, cpmprenait tout le profit que les Etats-Unis comme la Chine, devaient tirer de l'entrée de l'Amérique dans les Consortiums qui se formaient et s'étendaient.

En effet un fait nouveau se produisit au commencement de I909, ce fut l'entrée de l'Allemagne dans la combinaison anglo-française. Voici comment se produisit cet incident, d'une porté capitale puisque, à partir de ce moment, les Etats-Unis restaient la seule grande puissance se tenant en dehors des affaires de Chine.

L'entente anglo-française, dont j'ai parlé plus haut, avait pour principal objet la construction du Chemin de Fer de Hank'on à Canton. Cette ligne avait été jadis accordée par le Gouvernement Chinois à un Consortium Belge à la tête duquel se trouvait le Roi Léopold II. Les Chinois, craignant, en raison de la proximité de Hong-Kong avec Canton, que les Anglais ne missent la main sur la ligne en question, en avaient cédé la concession à une Puissance Neutre. Le Roi Léopold, ayant à un moment donné, besoin d'argent, avait vendu ses actions à M. John P. Morgan et celui-ci, à son tour, les avait offert

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à Tchang Tche Tong, Vice Roi de Hankow, en I905. Mais ce Vice Roi manquant d'argent pour payer le marché, avait dû s'adresser à l'Angleterre et emprunter £ 200.000 au Gouvernement de Hongkong. Ce prêt lui avait été consenti sous la condition que, dans le cas où la Chine voudrait faire une Emprunt pour la Construction de la Ligne en question, elle donnerait, à conditions égales, la préférence à l'Angleterre. Ainsi se produisait le fait que redoutaient jadis les Chinois : les Anglais avaient acquis de nouveaux droits sur la Ligne.

Depuis deux ans, Mr. Bland, comme représentant la British and Chinese Corporation, cherchait à obtenir de la Chine qu'elle se résolut à effectuer l'emprunt pour la construction de ce chemin de fer et je l'aidais de mon mieux, indirectement, puisque c'était à l'Angleterre que la Chine avait promis de s'adresser pour l'Emprunt nécessaire à cette construction. Les négociations, vers le mois de Janvier I909,semblaient assez avancées, lorsque nous apprîmes subitement que Tchang Tche Tung, devenu Grand Secrétaire d'Etat, qui en était chargé, avait signé avec M. Henri Cordès, représentant de la Deutsch Asiatische Bank, un contrat préliminaire.

Ce fut un coup de foudre pour les Anglais qui protestèrent. Les Chinois répondirent que les termes du contrat,que leur avait proposé les Allemands étaient moins sévères que ceux que la British & Chinese Corporation avait déclaré être son dernier mot. Ils avaient le droit de donner l'affaire aux premiers, puisque les Anglais n'avaient un droit de préférence qu'en cas d'égalité de conditions.

Mais la question de la Ligne de Hankow-Canton était si importante pour les Anglais qu'il fallait arriver à un arrangement. Mr. Bland, dont le caractère était devenu trop déplaisant aux Chinois, fut remplacé comme négociateur par G. HILLIER, Directeur de la Hong-Kong & Shanghai Bank Corporation à Peking, et un compromis intervint. Le Gouvernement Chinois accorda à la Hong-Kong & Shanghai Bank la concession du Chemin de Fer de Hankow à Ichang, aux conditions acceptées par les Allemands pour le Hankow-Canton, puis un échange des deux lignes fut fait, entre les Anglais et les Allemands; un seul Emprunt dans lequel entrait le groupe français, couvrait les deux lignes. Tel fut le premier contrat du Hukuang signé en Mai I909.

Pendant ces longues négociations, Willard Straight n'avait pas chômé: d'accord avec H.F. Fletcher il avait usé de toute son influence aux Etats-Unis pour amener les financiers Américains à entrer dans les affaires de Chine, et avait réussi à secouer jusqu'à un certain point, l'inertie de ses compatriotes. En effet, pendant l'hiver de I908-I909 le représentant de l'International Banking Corporation à Shanghai avait été envoyé à Péking pour étudier la situation et m'avait fait une visite au cours de laquelle je lui avais fait entendre qu'en ce qui me concernait personnellement, j'étais tout acquis à l'entrée des Américains dans les combinaisons de Chemin de fer en Chine .

Le contrat du Hukuang permit de réaliser cette entrée. En effet, après les troubles des Boxers des négociations avaient été entamées, par les Légations d'Angleterre et des

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Etats-Unis - et chacune de leur côté - pour l'obtention d'une ligne qui, suivant les gorges du Yantse, rejoindrait Itchang à Tchung -King et opérerait la pénétration du Tse-Tchouer. Le Gouvernement Chinois profitant de ce que les deux Légations se faisaient concurrence pour refuser la Ligne à l'une et à l'autre, il avait été convenu que la Ligne serait partagée entre elles. J'étais alors Chargé d'Affaires à Péking et avais été mis au courant de cette transaction par mes collègues. J'avais donc averti M.M. Hillier et Cardès, au cours de nos récentes négociations, qu'une intervention américaine était possible, étant donné que je savais les Américains disposés à entrer dans les affaires de Chine. Mais les représentants anglais et allemand ne croyant pas à ce changement dans les idées américaines, refusaient de me croire.

Or, le lendemain même de la signature de la Convention du Hukuang, Mr. Rockhill, Ministre à Péking, partait pour Pétersbourg où il était nommé Ambassadeur, il était remplacé par M. Fletcher comme Chargé d'Affaires. Deux jours après, celui-ci protestait auprès du Gouvernement Chinois et de la Légation d'Angleterre, contre la concession de la Ligne faite aux Anglais seuls et notifiait aux signataires - Hillier, Cordès et moi - qu'un groupe américain soutenu par son Gouvernement, était disposé à entrer dans la combinaison qui financerait et fournirait le matériel de la Ligne. Quelques jours après nous apprenions que Willard Straight était nommé représentant de ce groupe, formé de Messrs Morgan & Co, Kuhn, Loeb & Co la Ist National Bank de New-York et la National City Bank of New-York .

Après avoir passé quelques jours à Péking pour prendre

contact avec les représentants anglais, allemands et français, Willard Straight se rendit en Russie pour chercher à arranger la question du Chin-Chow-Aigun. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères russe était alors M. Alexandre Iswolsky, un panslaviste sans intelligence et sans souplesse, violent, rude et grossier , qui détestait l'Amérique et les Américains: il reçut Willard Straight fort mal et opposa un refus formel à toutes ses propositions. Je ne crois pas que la question ait jamais été réglée depuis.

En réalité, ce refus embarrassait M. Willard Straight. En effet, le principal reproche que faisaient les Anglais et les Allemands à l'entrée des Américains dans nos combinaisons, était que, tandis que nous apportions comme entrée de jeu un contrat en bonne forme, les Américains n'apportaient que des droits assez vagues et une participation financière qui consistait surtout à toucher une commission par les Banques émettrices, puisque, jusqu'ici, le marché américain n'absorbait point les valeurs étrangères. Dans ces conditions, Willard Straight avait le plus grand intérêt à apporter, au nom de son groupe, un projet de contrat viable et le refus des Russes de permettre la construction du Ching-Chow-Aigun était un coup très sensible.

Mais il se tourna d'un autre côté. Au commencement de l'année I9I0 le Ministre des Finances de l'Empire Chinois, le Prince Tsai-Tao, vint à l'étranger. Sa visite commença par les Etats-Unis: le Prince étudia la question de réforme monétaire, qui , depuis plusieurs années déjà, avait été l'objet de l'attention spéciale des Américains. Quelque temps auparavant, en effet, l'un des principaux économistes des Etats-Unis, le Professeur Jenks, depuis Président de Cornell, avait rempli une mission en

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Chine, et en avait rapporté un volumineux rapport dans lequel il concluait à l'adoption de l'étalond'or dans l'Empire. Les Chinois qui, depuis qu'ils avaient à payer l'indemnité des Boxers, avaient subi d'énormes pertes sur le change, et qui ne se rendaient aucunement compte ni du prix ni des difficultés réelles du changement d'étalon monétaire mais qui, en outre, étaient séduits par l'idée de devenir un pays à étalon d'or, comme les grandes nations Européennes, avaient accueilli très favorablement les idées du Professeur Jenks. Durant son séjour en Amérique, le Prince Tsai Tao confia donc au groupe américain le contrat pour l'Emprunt nécessaire au financement de cette réforme. C'était précisément ce que désirait Willard Straight, qui, désormais, avait un contrat à présenter, au nom de son groupe, lors de la discussion qui aurait lieu pour l'entrée des Américains dans le Consortium.

En effet, cette entrée, admise en principe par les groupes Européens, n'avait point encore été définitivement réglée. Elle nécessitait, en effet, une modification du contrat du Hu-Kuang, pour établir le montant de la participation américaine.

Cette participation n'avait été établie que très vaguement lorsque l'entrée des Américains dans l'affaire du Hu-Kuang avait été admise en principe. Durant l'hiver I909-I9I0 elle fut négociée en Europe, et réglée définitivement - pour le Chemin de fer du Hu-Kuang et la Réforme monétaire - au printemps I9I0, dans une réunion qui eut lieu à Paris et à laquelle assistèrent, H. P. Davison, Paul Warburg & Willard Straight du côté américain.

Willard Straight partit alors pour Péking où je le rejoignis en Novembre et les négociations commencèrent. C'est là qu'on put apprécier à leur juste valeur les qualités exceptionnelles de diplomate.

Sa position était, en effet, beaucoup plus difficile en réalité qu'en apparence, tant vis à vis de certains de ses collègues Européens que vis à vis des Chinois. En effet, si, personnellement, j'étais satisfait de l'entrée des Américains dans notre combinaison, il n'en était pas de même de mes collègues. En ce qui me concernait j'avais lieu de m'en féliciter comme Français. En effet, dans toutes les affaires, je me trouvais isolé, entre deux partenaires plus puissants. La situation de l'Angleterre vis à vis de la Chine, le prestige qu'elle tirait de la prédominance de son commerce, en faisaient la Puissance la plus influente; L'Allemagne, dont la position économique s'accroissait chaque jour, qui, sous une des formes extérieures bienveillantes pour la Chine, menait en réalité une politique dont on avait peur, depuis l'annexion brutale de Kiao-Tcheou et les réparations exigées après les troubles des Boxers, venait immédiatement après l'Angleterre. Quant à la France, désireuse avant tout de conserver de bonnes relations avec la Chine, se montrant constamment conciliante, malgré les incidents qui se produisaient constamment, soit à cause des missions, soit à la frontière de l'Indo-Chine, elle avait une politique qui paraissait souvent aux Chinois trop faible pour être considérée avec le respect que la condescendance de la France aurait dû nous mériter.

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Ainsi, dans la première convention du Hu-Kuang, le groupe français que je représentais n'était pas entré sur le pied d'égalité avec les deux autres, mais seulement comme "associé du groupe anglais". L'entrée des Américains allait me permettre de faire réviser le contrat et de rétablir l'égalité entre les groupes.

Pour les Anglais et les Allemands il n'en était pas de même; satisfaits de leur position, ils ne tenaient pas à partager avec un nouveau venu, et ils savaient d'ailleurs, que ce nouveau venu, l'Amérique, était un protecteur né de la Chine, qu'il venait sans idées politiques et maintiendrait toujours les affaires dans lesquelles il entrerait sur un terrain purement économique dont toute politique égoïste serait sévèrement écartée.

De plus, l'Amérique arrivait, apportant un contrat, la réforme monétaire, qui ne plaisait guère à M. Guy Hillier & M. Cordès, qui étaient purement des Banquiers. En effet, si la confusion et la difficulté des questions de change résultant de la multiplicité des monnaies en usage en Chine rendaient les affaires industrielles et commerciales très difficiles et souvent dangereuses, ces affaires de change laissaient aux Banques des bénéfices très appréciables et très certains; M.M. Hillier et Cordès, esprits très positifs, peut-être trop conservateurs, craignaient de voir diminuer par une réforme les profits des Banques. A Londres comme à Berlin, on était de l'avis de M.M. Cordes & Hillier: on avait même fait partager de point de vue à Paris. Personnellement, je ne partageais pas cette façon de penser, et j'estimais que la réforme monétaire facilitant les affaires de Chine, en développerait tout

naturellement le volume et amènerait corrélativement le développement des Banques.

Si donc j'étais tout naturellement l'allié de Willard Straight, il n'en était pas de même de mes collègues auxquels il fallait qu'il fit comprendre et accepter que la réforme monétaire - qui était la chose à laquelle tenaient le plus les Chinois devait passer avant le contrat du Hukuang car c'était seulement à ce prix qu'on obtiendrait la révision par les Chinois .

En ce qui touchait les Chinois eux-mêmes, la situation n'était pas facile. Afin de satisfaire au désir légitime des quatre nations en cause d'avoir chacune une part suffisante dans le chemin de fer du Hu Kuang, il fallait obtenir, sinon un contrat ferme pour la prolongation du Chemin de fer jusqu'à Tcheng-Tu, capitale du Sse Tchuen, du moins une promesse de prolongation de la ligne jusqu'à cette capitale . Les Chinois , toujours hésitants quand il s'agit d'engagement à prendre, n'étaient guère disposés à accorder cette prolongation. D'autant plus qu'ils ne voyaient pas sans inquiètude le syndicat alors en formation. Habitués à la politique qui consistait à opposer les nations étrangères les unes aux autres, ils ne comprenaient pas l'intérêt qu'il pouvait y avoir pour eux à les voir unies. Ils ne comprenaient pas que, liées entre elles par un contrat, les Puissances étrangères abandonnaient par là même toute prétention à une politique égoïste. Les Chinois redoutaient au contraire que l'union des Etrangers n'eut d'autre but et d'autre résultat que d'étrangler

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la Chine plus facilement.

C'était évidemment à Willard Straight, qui représentait dans le Consortium la puissance que les Chinois savaient désintéressée, à arriver à leur persuader que l'entente des Puissances était au contraire faite au profit de la Chine et leur fournirait des capitaux considérables à un taux le plus favorable possible.

Enfin, Willard Straight avait à résoudre une autre difficulté, d'un caractère tout personnel. La méfiance que le groupe américain avait rencontré auprès des Banques européennes avait été quelque peu partagée par les Gouverneurs: du moins n'existait-il pas entre les deux représentants français et américain en Chine cette absolue confiance réciproque qui est indispensable pour le bon succès d'affaires conduites en commun. C'était là une difficulté très sérieuse pour Willard Straight et pour moi-même. Elle fut surmontée, car ces deux hommes, également intelligents et droits, étaient faits pour s'entendre. Mais c'est au tact et à la diplomatie de Willard Straight qu'est dû le rapprochement de M. Calhoum, Ministre des E.U. & de M. de Margerie, Ministre de France. Ils ne se connaissaient pas. Willard Straight les réunit d'abord chez lui dans l'intimité. Il fit mieux. Qui, parmi ceux qui en firent partie, pourra jamais oublier le Club des Purple-Cows, fondé par lui à cette époque, et où quelques intimes habitant Péking M. & Mme Calhoum, M. de Margerie, le Major et Mrs. Russell, M. & Mme D. de Menocal, Lord French, Willard Straight et moi-même se réunissaient une fois par semaine, chez chacun des membres à tour de rôle. On y discutait avec passion, comme Pic de la Mirandole, " De omni re scibili et de quibus dam aliis ". Politique, économie politiq

philosophie, histoire, surtout celle des révolutions américaine et française ! Ce club a plus fait pour la bonne entente entre les Etats-Unis et la France dans les affaires de Chine que ne l'auraient pu les traités les plus solennels.

Les qualités déployées constamment par Willard Straight son bon sens, son imagination, sa souplesse, qui trouvait toujours un moyen pour sortir sans brusquerie de la difficulté du moment, ne pouvaient manquer de frapper des hommes de la valeur de G. Millier et de H. Cordès. W. Straight avait assuré au Groupe américain la collaboration du Dr. Gatrell, sinologue éminent, conseiller plein de bon sens, connaissant parfaitement la Chine et très estimé des Chinois. Bientôt, tous deux avaient si complètement gagné la confiance de leurs collègues que ceux - ci leur confiaient la rédaction des Procès verbaux des séances et celle, si délicate, du texte Chinois des projets de contrats.

Ainsi furent signés, au printemps de 1911, d'abord le contrat de la réforme monétaire, ensuite le nouveau contrat du Hukuang, dans des conditions très satisfaisantes pour toutes les parties en cause .

L'été suivant fut un temps de repos: Willard Straight partit pour se marier en Europe. A son retour , la révolution commençait avec des difficultés d'un genre nouveau.

Dans les premiers temps, on put croire que la révolte qui se produisait dans le Sud et la vallée du Yangtse pouvait être facilement réduite. Elle ne différait guère de mouvements du même genre qui n'avaient point ébranlé sérieusement la dynastie. Respectant les Européens, elle n'était assurément point

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aussi menaçante pour elle que les troubles des Boxers en I900. Willard Straight et moi estimions que, si le Régent prenait les mesures appropriées, confiait le pouvoir à un homme d'Etat ferme, la dynastie mandchoue n'était aucunement perdue. Nous pensions également que nous n'avions rien à gagner à une révolution. Depuis quelques mois, les négociations que nous avions à suivre avaient été mises entre les mains de mandarins relativement capables, comme Tsai-Tao et Cheng Kong Pao, elles avaient abouti, il semblait que les Mandchoux fussent définitivement partis dans une voie de progrès; nous étions fermement convaincus que le pays n'était pas mûr pour une République, qui conduirait seulement à l'anarchie, que, dans ces conditions, si les Mandchoux voulaient se décider à confier le gouvernement à un bon premier Ministre, leur maintien était encore la meilleure solution possible .

Le premier Ministre, nous le connaissions, c'était Yuan Che-Kai, l'ancien Vice-Roi du Tcheli, qui avait si vigoureusement administré sa province et qui comprenait qu'il fallait développer les forces de la Chine et que seuls, les étrangers étaient en état d'arriver à ce résultat. Yuan che-Kai était, depuis deux ans, exilé avec sa famille à Chang te fou, dans le Sud de la province du Chi-li, l'opinion publique le désirait. Son parti était formé de tous les Chinois vraiment intelligents, seuls les Mandchoux le détestaient et en avaient peur, bien qu'il eut donné toujours des preuves de dévouement à la dynastie. Nous résolumes, Willard Straight et moi, de faire tous nos efforts pour le

faire arriver au pouvoir. Pour cela, nous avions un moyen : lui fournir de l'argent. Yuan Che Kai lui-même désirait arriver au Ministère et à ce moment là était sûrement capable de sauver les Mandchoux. Il nous envoya son fils aîné pour nous demander notre avis sur la situation. Dans la conversation que nous eûmes avec ce jeune homme, nous lui fîmes comprendre deux choses : I°.- Que nous ne prêterions de l'argent à l'Empire que si le Régent appelait son père au Ministère; 2° Que si le Régent appelait Yuan Che-Kai; nous exercerions toute notre action pour qu'on lui fournit lesfonds nécessaires pour combattre la Révolution.

En même temps, nous primes les mesures nécessaires pour faire savoir au Régent, par les Mandchoux de notre connaissance, les résolutions que nous avions prises. Malheureusement d'autres que nous avaient des desseins complètement opposés. Nous ne tardâmes point à nous en rendre compte. Quelques jours après notre entrevue avec le fils de Yuan che Kai, un Mandchou de mes amis, vint me voir : il se nommait Kuei Tchoun, c'était un membre du clan Impérial, intelligent, qui avait été autrefoi très anti Européen, avait même pris un moment part au mouvement Boxer, mais que les événements avaient corrigé et qui était devenu partisan de la coopération entre Chinois et Européens. Il venait d'être appelé au Département de l'Intérieur et venait me consulter en ami sur la situation. Je lui exprimai très ouvertement mon opinion sur la nécessité de rappeler de suite Yuan che Kai, lui disant que c'était à cette seule condition que la dynastie pourrait compter sur le secours de la finance Européenne pour se maintenir. Il me promit de

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communiquer ce que je lui disais au Régent lui-même.

De mon côté, désireux de savoir quelle était, sur la question dynastique, l'opinion Européenne et particulièrement anglaise, j'allai, au sortir de cette conversation, voir le Dr. Morrison, correspondant du "Times" à Péking. Je trouvai ce dernier très monté contre les Mandchoux. Il me déclara qu'il fallait en finir avec la famille impériale, composée de menteurs, d'imbéciles et de rétrogrades: qu'on ne pouvait avoir la moindre confiance en eux, qu'il fallait donner leur chance aux Chinois.

- Mais que mettrez-vous à la place de l'Empire actuel, lui demandais-je ?

- Une République.

- Mais croyez-vous que la Chine soit mure pour une République ?

- En tout cas, elle ne sera pas pire que le régime actuel. Les Chinois qui viendront au pouvoir sont plus intelligents que les Mandchoux. Ils ont fait leur éducation à l'étranger : ils nommeront des conseillers étrangers et verront vite qu'il faut écouter .

- Mais croyez-vous que les Gouvernements étrangers pensent comme vous?

- En tout cas, le Gouvernement anglais est décidé à ne rien faire pour les Mandchoux. Sir John Jordan a reçu des instructions dans ce sens.

Quand je rendis compte de cette conversation à Willard Straight, il me dit : " Les Mandchoux sont perdus !." En

effet, notre collègue, G. Hillier, qui, jusqu'alors avait paru personnellement assez favorable au maintien de l'Empire, reçut du Ministre d'Angleterre les instructions de ne rien faire. M. Cordes suivit la même ligne de conduite. Nous ne pouvions, M. Willard Straight et moi, agir autrement que nos collègues. Yuan che Kai fut bien appelé au pouvoir. Mais Tang-Shao I, qui fut envoyé alors à Shanghai pour négocier avec les rebelles du Sud, fut gagné à leur cause . L'Empereur abdiqua et la République fut proclamée. Le Dr Morrison fut nommé Conseiller au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères - Le nouveau Wai Chao p'u - Il ne put d'ailleurs faire plus que les Conseillers qui l'avaient précédés : sa mission était purement honorifique, on ne le consultait jamais.

Il était inutile de chercher, au commencement de la République, à traiter aucune affaire avec le nouveau Gouvernement : Les Banques étrangères étaient trop méfiantes pour se lancer dans une opération quelconque avec un Pouvoir dont elles ignoraient le lendemain. Pourtant, Yuan che-Kai avait été nommé Président de laRépublique; il avait pris Tang Shao I comme Premier Ministre, et avait réuni autour de lui, du moins en apparence, et dans le Nord, tout ce qu'on pouvait considérer comme les éléments modérés. Le Sud savait que c'était lui qui, seul , avait chance de trouver de l'argent dont on avait besoin pour licencier les bandes de révoltés qui semaient le pillage partout. Les Chefs du Sud envoyèrent donc à Péking des députés pour négocier avec lui. Yuan avait renforcé la garnison de Péking des troupes - mal disciplinées mais fidèles à sa personne - du vieux général

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Tchang Konei ti. Le 29 février I9I2 ces troupes, pour effrayer les députés du Sud, envahirent à 8 heures du soir le Yamen où ils habitaient; une fois sortis de leurs casernes, ces troupes se mirent à piller et à incendier. Vous vous rappelez la scène et comment vous fûtes, Willard et vous, obligés de sortir la nuit de votre maison et de chercher refuge à La Légation des Etats-Unis.

Le lendemain, Tang Shao-I, qui lui-même s'était enfui dans le quartier des Légations, à l'Hotel des Wagons-Lits, nous fit venir, Willard Straight et moi, dès le matin. Il n'a jamais, pas plus que moi, car nous en avons souvent parlé depuis, oublié l'impression pénible que nous fit cet homme blême, suant la peur, nous suppliant d'une voix brisée de fournir au Gouvernement le moyen de résister à une révolution qui pouvait devenir plus dangereuse que celle des Boxers. Je me rappelle qu'il fit allusion aux T'ai ping. L'attitude de T'ang, ses basses intrigues, son espèce de trahison à Shanghai, son manque de caractère nous dégoutaient profondément. un seul espoir restait pourtant de rétablir l'ordre : soutenir Yuan Che Kai . D'ailleurs, Tang ne tardait point à quitter le Gouvernement, de gré ou de force, et les hommes qui le remplaçaient nous inspiraient plus de confiance. Nous fîmesdonc, d'accord avec nos collègues, tout notre possible pour obtenir le consentement de nos Banques à ce qu'un Emprunt fut consenti au nouveau Gouvernement, qui nous offrait, d'ailleurs, le meilleur gage possible : la gabelle .

Mais pendant ce temps-là un nouvel élément, très important, s'était introduit parmi nous - La Russie et le Japon étaient entrés dans notre consortium - Voici comment s'était produit cet incident où Willard Straight joua un rôle important.

L'accession des Américains au groupe Anglo-Franco-Allemand avait naturellement excité le vif intérêt des Gouvernements Russe et Japonais. Il les avait aussi naturellement effrayés. Jusque là la combinaison était composée de la France alliée de la Russie, de l'Angleterre alliée du Japon et de l'Allemagne, avec qui ces deux Puissances - qui avaient en Chine une politique purement asiatique - étaient en termes excellents. La Russie comme le Japon savaient que ni la France, ni l'Angleterre, ni l'Allemagne ne feraient obstacle à leur politique en Mandchourie et en Mongolie. L'Amérique était un tout autre facteur.à Pétersbourg comme à Tokyo on savait que les Etats-Unis entraient dans la combinaison seulement en vue de protéger la Chine et de maintenir le statu quo. S'ils pouvaient avoir des doutes à ce sujet, la proposition d'internalisation des Chemins de fer de Mandchourie, lancée par le Secrétaire d'Etat P. Knox en I9I0, était là pour les leur enlever. Dans ces conditions, le meilleur moyen, pour eux, de pouvoir défendre ce qu'ils considéraient comme leurs intérêts spéciaux en Extrême Orient était - non pas de chercher à s'opposer à une combinaison existante et à laquelle ils ne pouvaient rien, mais d'y entrer eux-mêmes. C'était le point de vue auquel se plaçait la Légation de Russie à Péking, dont les titulaires successifs furent M. Korostovetz et M. B. Krupiensky, et celui à qui était confi

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la politique financière du Japon en Extrême Orient, M. Odagiri, Administrateur de la Yokohama Specie Bank, son directeur à Péking. Celui-ci était un ancien diplomate, excellent sinologue, ayant fait presque toute sa carrière en Chine, un homme d'une intelligence et d'un tact exceptionnels.

Les Gouverneurs Russe et Japonais avaient donc fait à Paris et à Londres des démarches pour entrer dans nos combinaisons à Péking. Willard Straight et moi avions eu de fréquentes conversations sur de sujet avec le Ministre de Russie et M. Odagiri. Evidemment, ni les Gouvernements Français et Anglais ne pouvaient refuser à leurs alliés respectifs leur demande, étant donné les intérêts considérables qui incitaient ces derniers à la formuler: il n'en était pas de même pour l'Amérique, qui pouvait, étant donné la politique agressive de ces deux nations, la considérer comme suspecte. Mais le jugement si sur de Willard Straight se rendait un compte exact de la situation.

Evidemment, ni les Russes ni les Japonais ne pouvaient soutenir la prétention de participer au financement ni à la construction des Chemins de fer ou même de travaux publics en Chine : en effet, emprunteurs eux-mêmes à l'étranger, la situation de leurs marchés financiers ne leur permettait pas d'y émettre des Emprunts étrangers: leur industrie était loin d'être assez considérable pour les mettre en état d'exporter du matériel de chemin de fer. Mais, au contraire, étant donné l'importance de leurs intérêts politiques en Extrême-Orient, ils étaient justifiés à réclamer une participation dans les Emprunts d'un caractère purement politique.

Dans ces derniers cas , on devrait admettre qu'ils fussent se décharger, sur des marchés étrangers, dans des conditions de commission à régler avec les autres Puissances, de leur participation financière dans les Emprunts accordés à la Chine .

Telles furent les conclusions auxquelles nous arrivâmes tous, après les conversations que nous eûmes sur ce sujet avec M. de Hoyer, envoyé comme représentant financier du groupe russe et de M. Odagiri. Willard Straight s'en fit l'interprête auprès de M. A. Calhoun, Ministre des Etats Unis à Péking, qui les fit admettre par le Département d'Etat.

Lors de la discussion de l'Emprunt de la Réforme monétaire, la Russie et le Japon avaient demandé à y participer, en alléguant que c'était là un Emprunt politique : leur demande avait été écartée par la raison que la Chine avait proposé le contrat de cet Emprunt avant qu'ils n'eussent eux-mêmes prétendu à entrer dans nos Combinaisons financières : mais au contraire l'Emprunt que le nouveau Gouvernement Républicain Chinois sollicitait des Puissances avait un caractère nettement politique: la participation de la Russie et du Japon y fut admise : l'entente des six Puissances était un fait accompli et les négociations commencèrent sur ce terrain.

C'était un objet de vive satisfaction pour Willard Straight qui y voyait cette internationalisation complète des affaires Chinoises qui, depuis six ans, était l'objet de ses désirs et de son patient labeur. Personne plus que

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lui n'avait travaillé à ce résultat, et ce fut pour lui assurément un grand sujet de satisfaction que, cette confiance qui lui avait été témoignée par ses collègues anglais, français et allemand, lui était encore continuée par ses nouveaux collègues Russe et Japonais: lui et le Dr. Gattrell continuèrent à être chargés par nous tous de la rédaction du nouveau projet de contrat.

Cette satisfaction ne devait pas être de longue durée: il fut rappelé en Amérique au printemps de 1912 et remplacé par Frank Mc.KNIGHT . Au moins n'assista-t-il pas à Péking au retrait du groupe Américain qui eut lieu au mois de Décembre suivant lorsque M. William J. Bryan ayant pris possession du Département d'Etat, la politique de participation des Etats-Unis aux Affaires Chinoises fut modifiée, au moins pour un temps.

On voit la part importante qui y avaitété prise par Willard D. Straight: bien que n'y participant plus, il continuait à s'intéresser avec passion à cette politique qu'il avait tant contribué à créer. Comme le groupe Américain ne s'était retiré ni du Hu Kouang, ni de la réforme monétaire, c'était lui qui continuait à correspondre avec moi sur ces deux sujets. Telle était la situation lorsqu'au mois d'Aout 1914, la guerre européenne éclata.

Dès le commencement de la guerre, sachant combien Willard Straight aimait la France et était désireux de l'aider, je lui écrivis, d'accord avec M . de Margerie, une longue lettre dans laquelle je lui demandais de nous aider à trouver en Amérique les chevaux dont nous avions besoin. Il organisa dans ce but

une Compagnie, mais l'affaire n'eut pas de suite .

Avec M. Davison il vint en France en vue d'organiser la coopération de la Maison Morgan avec le Gouvernement Français; puis lorsque je vins moi-même en Amérique et lorsque la Commission Anglo-Française arriva pour contracter un Emprunt il ne cessa de nous prêter par ses avis toujours si sages un concours d'une grande valeur. Il se préoccupait dores et déjà de l'Après-Guerre: avec Homberg il eut à ce sujet de longues conversations qui auraient eu incontestablement leur fruit.

Lorsque l'Amérique entra dans la guerre je me rappelle une conversation que j'eus avec lui et qui prouve combien il voyait clairement et raisonnablement les choses . " Il n'y a une chose parfaitement certaine, me dit-il, c'est que ceux qui n'auront pas pris dans la guerre une part active ne seront plus rien après. Je suis père de famille, je le sais et je sais que je me dois à ma femme et à mes enfants. C'est pour cela que j'ai demandé d'abord à servir dans le Département d'Etat. Mais ma demande n'ayant pas été agrée, maintenant je veux servir dans l'armée. Je ferai ce qu'on me dira. On me demande d'ortaniser en France les assurances militaires, je le fais, bien que, par goût et par désir personnel, je désire aller me battre. "

Il fit les deux, soucieux de son devoir jusqu'au bout; devant ce devoir son âme généreuse n'hésitait jamais. Quelle perte l'Amérique et même le monde ont faite en lui, ceux-là seuls peuvent le comprendre qui l'ont suivi dans ses travaux. Aujourd'hui, où les questions internationales ont pris tant

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d'importance; où les associations entre nations vont évidemment se développer d'une manière que peu d'esprits ont prévues on peut dire qu'il était précisément du petit nombre de ceux qui s'y étaient préparés : sa tournure d'esprit,ses travaux , tout le préparait à y jouer un rôle de premier plan qui, nous ses amis, pouvons le dire, ne sera jamais rempli par un esprit aussi souple, une âme aussi grande, ni un coeur aussi généreux.

Yours devotedly Casenave

[4-7-20]

LONDON,

April 1920.

My dear Dorothy,

In the Autumn of 1898 I passed some weeks in Ithaca for the purpose of consulting certain books in the White Memorial Library, in connection with the preparation of a monograph upon "Slavery in New York State". I lived in the Cascadilla Building, and shared the use of a dining-room with our common friend, Morse Stephens, who was then in the full tide of his Cornell work, a portion of which consisted in stimulating the interest of a group of under-graduates in the poems of Rudyard Kipling, an appreciation of which at that time had just begun in the United States. Several of these undergraduates were neither students of history nor members of his lecture course, and he utilised the informal meetings in his rooms to rouse his young friends to a conception of the necessity for interesting themselves in a larger variety of subjects than were covered by the studies which they pursued in college. He directed their attention especially to the Far East, where important events were foreshadowed. As a former Haileybury schoolboy and a

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Lecturer on Indian History at Balliol. Stephens had a knowledge of and enthusiasm for that portion of the World which gave a special value to his interpretation of the Kipling poems.

Among the boys whom he assembled about him, and of whom he frequently spoke, was Willard Straight, a student in the Architectural School, with which Stephens had no academic connexion, but to whom he had been drawn by the interest which Willard showed in Far Eastern affairs, by his delightful water-colour sketches, and by the charm of his person and manner.

Though Willard came frequently to Stephen's rooms, by a curious chance I never met him, though his name and personality as described by Stephens were very familiar.

Jerry Landfield, who has become intimately associated with Russian matters in the United States, was a friend of Stephens' and Willard's, and Secretary of the Kipling Club. Both Willard and Landfield owe more to Stephens towards starting them in their careers than any of the many undergraduates who came under his influence.

Having been appointed Consul at Dalny, Manchuria, accompanied by "B" Wendell and "Peter" Bowditch, I went to the

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Far East in the spring of 1903 at the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War. While passing through San Francisco, I learned from Stephens that Willard had entered the service of the Chinese Imperial Customs, and after studying the Chinese language at Nanking, had been detailed to Pekin as one of Sir Robert Hart's secretaries. Eager for an opportunity to witness the great events evolved from the Russo-Japanese War, Willard had joined the staff of the Associated Press, which was represented by Collins in the Chinese capital. Stephens deprecated Willard's resignation from the Customs Service, fearing that as he had deserted architecture for the Customs, so, in leaving the latter in order to follow the calling of a correspondent, he had been moved by a sportsman's desire to "get into the game", rather than by a serious intention to pursue to a conclusion a definite line of work and thought. As it was likely that, while waiting for the Russian Government to issue an exsequatur which would permit me to assume my duties at Dalny, I should run across Willard somewhere in Asia, Stephens charged me with affectionate messages for him, and bade me do what I could to facilitate him in whatsoever occupation he might be engaged.

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Willard never intended to remain a newspaper correspondent. Journalism as a permanent profession would have proved as uncongenial to him as the Customs Service, in which, however, on account of Sir Robert's desire to increase the number of American inspectors, he would have achieved rapid promotion. He foresaw, moreover, that the victory of the Japanese, which was already predicated, would produce a new situation in China, and that a field would be opened there for foreign enterprise in which he wished to participate, although as yet he was not aware of the conditions or circumstances under which his participation would occur. Asia supplied the whetstone upon which the Damascus blade of his intellect could be sharpened before it began to cut into life. It was characteristic of Willard to believe that the cut which he would eventually make would be a deep one.

Since the Japanese Army by June, 1904, had already entered Manchuria, and Korea no longer afforded the same scope for news which it had supplied during the previous two months, Willard and I were not long in Seoul together. He left for Japan to join Martin Egan, as assistant correspondent of the Associated Press in Tokio, while I went on to China to make certain investigations for the Department. We saw each other

again, however, in Korea a few weeks later, when Willard accompanied the party of Military Attachés, newspaper correspondents and privileged persons which the Japanese Government sent along the Korean Coast on a tour of inspection on board the "Manchu Maru", a passenger vessel of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, which had been captured at the beginning of the War in Nagasaki Harbour.

Upon being appointed Minister to Korea by President Roosevelt in March, 1905, and mindful of my former suggestion to Willard, then in Tokio, that he should accompany me to Dalney, immediately after confirmation by the Senate, I telegraphed him an invitation to be my private secretary at Seoul. The offer came to him at an opportune moment. The war was over. The Tokio office of the Associated Press, upon the conclusion of the Portsmouth Treaty, would lose much of its interest, and it behoved him to make another connection which would keep him somewhat longer in the Far East. His year in Tokio had proved both agreeable and profitable. Out of the friendships which he formed there grew the burlesque Society of the Pyngwangeans, whose humorous character was expressed in the cry: "Pyngwang for the Pyngwangeans". This group, which was composed of the Richard Harding Davises, Martin Egan, Bobby

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Dunn, Bowditch, Wendell and others, has shown its affection for Willard by erecting a commemorative tablet to his memory at India House, which Cecil Davis designed.

Willard joined me in Yokohama in the late spring of 1905, and we arrived in Seoul in June. Arthur Dixey, of Boston, accompanied us, a man who in many ways resembled Willard - artistic, intelligent and personally attractive. After taking his degree at the Harvard Law School, he wished to acquire larger experience than Boston afforded before beginning the practice of his profession. In the first month of our residence, while paying a visit to a foreign resident, Willard and Arthur drank imprudently of unfiltered water and contracted diphtheria, which cost Arthur his life, after a week's severe illness. Willard also was seriously ill, but threw off his malady and nursed Arthur with much devotion. The untoward disaster of Arthur's death gave Willard a great shock, and on the excuse of employing him in the purchase of Chinese ponies and certain household supplies, I sent him to Shanghai for rest and recuperation. Before Arthur died, and during the first days of our arrival, we commemorated Independence Day by a fête champêtre on the Legation lawn, the programme of which, arranged by Willard, was carried out by the

U.S. Marines who formed the Legation guard. As a mark of respect to Secretary Hay, whose death occurred shortly before July 4th, the nature of the show was somewhat sobered. The Emperor of Korea was our next door neighbour, and spent a considerable amount of time in the building called the Library, though it did not contain books, which was separated from the Legation compound by a low wall. We borrowed from our Imperial neighbour for our party his private band, consisting of twenty performers upon instruments which resembled those employed by the modern Jazz, as well as three dozen Vienna bentwood chairs. The missionaries, the diplomatic body and members of the American and other foreign colonies, formed the audience. If one may judge from certain indications, His Imperial Majesty and his court also witnessed the performance. The balcony of the library building overlooking the lawn was filled that evening with figures, the outlines of which, though hidden by the darkness, were revealed by the lights of cigars and cigarettes.

While Willard was on his return journey from Shanghai, Mr. E.H. Harriman and his family passed a week at the Legation. Willard was with them in Seoul only a few days, but accompanied them as far as Fusan, to assure their comfort while in Korea.

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Mr. Harriman was attracted by his intelligence and knowledge of Eastern affairs, which even at that time, for so young a man, was exceptional. It was partially through the instrumentality of this railway builder that Willard subsequently secured the Consulate at Mukden, and turned his attention to Chinese railways. It was also partially due to Mr. Harriman that he was ultimately transferred to the Far Eastern Division of the Department of State.

Alice Roosevelt was another visitor to Seoul that summer who exerted considerable influence upon Willard's subsequent career. Accompanied by Speaker Gillett, Senator and Mrs. Newlands, Miss Boardman, Mick Longworth and Amy Macmillan, who afterwards married Sir John Harrington, she left the Taft party at Pekin in order to pass a fortnight with us. Willard devoted himself to the pleasure and entertainment of her party in a manner which not only charmed them but laid the foundation of a friendship with the Longworth and Roosevelt families which became productive. His gift for hospitality, and his identification with the interests of those with whom he was even casually thrown, were afterwards demonstrated when he had houses of his own at Mukden and Pekin as well as in the

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larger social life and hospitality of New York. His efficiency and resourcefulness were already as apparent as they were at a later date, and his interest in all good causes, large or small, was clearly visible.

During the period that I was American Minister to Korea, it was the duty of the Legation to watch the increase in Japanese influence and power, but to take no steps to oppose it, since Washington was already aware that Russian influence in Korea was disappearing, and that it would inevitably be succeeded by Japanese. Matters came to a crisis

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A short time before, while dining at the German Legation, an American missionary appealed to us to protect some native converts in a neighbouring village, who alleged that they were being mistreated by Japanese coolies. Willard, with a friend, jumped on horseback and rode to the village, but found that the report had been exaggerated and that the converts were in safety. His action was characteristic of his eagerness to render assistance to oppressed humanity whenever it was necessary.

Subsequent to the declaration of the Japanese protectorate over Korea, and the extinction of that country as a self-governing State, instructions from the Department caused us to close the Legation and to transfer the keeping of the archives and Government property to the Consul-General.

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The Legation buildings, which had been arranged out of a group of native huts situated in a compound enclosed by a brick wall, were then undergoing repair and restoration. Willard's taste and architectural experience were employed in their design, but the alterations had not been completed when I was recalled. After dinner, during the last busy days, it was our custom to spend half an hour in the reconstructed drawing-room, which, with its Chinese windows, panelling, and fireplace, was the subsequent delight of the ladies who composed the Consul-General's family. We named these half hours our "dividend" for the time, thought and money which had been expended.

The Legation at Havana becoming vacant, a few days subsequent to the receipt of the telegram ordering me to withdraw from Korea, I was appointed envoy to Cuba. After

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From that time on our close association was broken, but not our friendship or intimacy. Two nights stand out in my memory - one at Morley's Hotel in Trafalgar Square, on the eve of Willard's departure for Manchuria in the company of Fairchild; and another in Geneva, the night before his marriage, in September, 1910, when all that had occurred during out separation was reviewed, and much of what afterwards transpired was foreshadowed. These were nights of intimate confidence which revealed a character of unusual strength, an intellect of high order, and a heart the depth and sincerity of which few men have possessed.

Affectionately yours
Edwin Morgan

200 West 59th St. New York.
April 13, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:-

Herewith the carbon. I don't altogether understand the insistence on talking about newspapers. It may have some significance to you, but nothing of the kind was in my mind.

The name Michael impresses me more, perhaps, than it can you, as you do not know how extremely difficult names are for me. Apparently he wrote "Mike...Mick...Michael"...but I am not sufficiently sure of that to put it in my record. The first attempts are too illegible.

I meant to read you, before you went away last night, the bit when he asked me to send for you. It was suggested that we might ask you to come in with Miss Harrison and her sisters on Saturday, but he wrote: "I would prefer to have her first alone. It will be difficult at first, at best. Mrs. Lewis, will you ask her to come?" This was the evening of the 4th...Easter, I think.

I'm sorry it hitched yesterday, but unfortunately I can't control the thing. Frederick once said: "Many a man was struck by lightning before electricity was harnessed." Electricity is more or less harnessed now, and we can control it a little, but this other force is still eccentric in action, particularly just now when communication is being resumed after the long pause.

Sincerely,
Margaret Cameron Lewis.

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DAVID H. Mc CONNELL, President. ALEXANDER D. HENDERSON, Treas WILLIAM SCHEELE, Secy.

California Perfume Co.

HOME OFFICE.
31 PARK PLACE.
NEW YORK, N.Y.
LABORATORY.
SUFFERN, N.Y.

BRANCHES:
KANSAS CITY, MO.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
MONTREAL, CANADA.

New York, April 17, 1920.

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Ave.,
N. Y. City.

Dear Mrs. Straight:-

Replying to your letter of the 15" (which does not ask for a personal reply, but in this case you will pardon me if I make it so), I am pleased to enclose my check for $10 for the Playground and Recreation Association.

I do not live in the City, but in my own home in Rockland County we have a similar Association, providing an adequate Playground for the children of our neighborhood.

I think you will pardon me if I just make casual allusion to your late husband, Willard Straight. His Father and Mother both were among my instructors as a boy in the Oswego Normal Schools, and for many years after leaving that School, I always had the kindest recollections of my associations with them. Mr. Straight gave me as he gave others a viewpoint of life that was worthy of him. I had the pleasure of meeting your late husband on several occasions and often referred to this particular kind of acquaintance which I had with his Father and Mother. The recollection of this, perhaps, has more to do in prompting me to send you the check enclosed than anything else.

Sincerely yours,

DHM.CP.
ENC.

D. H. McConnell

THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF SMITH COLLEGE

SMITH COLLEGE FUND

HANNAH DUNLOP ANDREWS 1904, CHAIRMAN
ANNE M. PAUL 1894, TREASURER
DOROTHY DOUGLAS 1913, SECRETARY

Smith College
To Virtue
Knowledge

17 W. 47TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY
TELEPHONE BRYANT 5790
5791

April 28, 1920.

Dear Fellow Worker for Suffrage:

Now that the end for which we have labored so earnestly is at hand and woman's suffrage is practically an accomplished fact you feel, we are sure, as we do, an especially lively sense of gratitude to the women who laid the foundations for the work whose consummation we are celebrating. In memory of those pioneers who, by their broad vision, their tireless labor, their steadfast devotion, won for American women equal representation in the government of their country, the Chair of Government is to be endowed at Smith College in order that her students may be taught to understand and appreciate the privileges and responsibilities of their citizenship.

Sophia Smith, who in 1871 founded an institution for the higher education of women, despite the Presidents of Yale, Harvard, and Amherst who denounced her enterprise as "hazardous, pernicious and unfortunate," surely deserves a high place among the pioneers of women's freedom. The educational freedom which she made possible has been utilized by Smith College in training her students for citizenship. Smith has at present more students studying government than any other woman's college. She has more courses in government than any other college. The occupant of the Endowed Chair of Government, a Memorial to the Pioneers of Women's Political Freedom, will teach American Government, both its theory and actual operation. The government of other countries will be presented in order that the proper perspective and historical background may be obtained.

Thus to carry on their work seems the most fitting method of honoring the pioneers. The Chair of Government will be a memorial to Abigail Adams, to Susan B. Anthony, to Frances Wright, to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, to Lucy Stone, to Julia Ward Howe, to Carrie Chapman Catt, to Rachel Foster Avery, to Anna Howard Shaw and to a host of others whose names will rise instantly to your mind. We know you will wish to have a share in perpetuating their memory and in continuing their work in the fertile field of the largest woman's college in the country where their message will reach thousands of potential voters every year. We will welcome your subscription in any amount you may be inclined to give.

Mrs. Hannah Dunlop Andrews, Chairman

Mrs. Dwight W. Morrow	President William Allan Neilson
Professor Everett Kimball	Mrs. Alice Lord Parsons
Mrs. Charles D. Norton	Mr. George B. McCallum

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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[4-30-20]

ÉGLISE DE LA SAINTE TRINITÉ
23, AV. DE L'ALMA, 23
PARIS

April 30th, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight,

It was a disappointment not to find you at home when I last called, a few days before sailing, as I wished to say "goodbye" and to thank you for your great help and keen interest in our Cause.

Owing to the absolute absorption of our Church in the Nation-wide Campaign, we were denied valuable leadership upon which we counted, for although soldiers, and soldiers' families were willing to assist in work and contributions, they naturally look to the Episcopal Church to lead in local organizations in the various cities.

However, we accomplished a great deal but it was through the slow process of individual effort, and only organized effort could be fully successful.

I am writing particularly to quite a list of subscribers who elected to pay in instalments or at later dates, to make a suggestion. The best banking advices in New York and Paris advise us to be ready at an early date to convert our dollars into francs, because of the present rate of exchange. They say that although the franc may go lower, yet sooner or later, it must move back toward its pre-wartime position, for stabilisation of world affairs must come.

Therefore, I am writing to ask if it is possible for you to arrange payment of your subscription in full or in a considerable part. If so, it will greatly increase its actual value to our Cause and will be deeply appreciated, especially in view of the fact that we only secured a part of what we sought at home. If you can do so I know you will, and will send to our Treasurer, Captain Elliot Bacon, careof J.P.Morgan & Co., 23, Wall Street, New York.

Another matter; it is my great desire, and that of someof our American Committee, to change our system of pew rentals to that of a free church. If we are to be America's War Memorial Church, and continue the spirit and services of the war period when our countrymen of every creed crowded its pews, and were ministered to in a thousand ways during the week, the pew rent system seems incongruous. Our Vestry has therefore voted, as a part of our future plans, to permit the freeing of our pews through endowment, and have set certain prices on the pews, differing according to size and location. There are four already taken, and upon them will appear a little silver plate, which will read something like this:

"This free pew endowed in memory of . . . . who gave his life in France in the Great War". or "a Soldier of the Great War"

As your subscription is larger than the value set by the Vestry on our best pews, wont you write me whether or not you wish such a plate to be placed in memory of your husband, and indicate its wording. I wish that this would meet with your approval, for I think it will help the entire plan. Holy Trinity must be an American centre of wide influence, and not in any way limited, and this means a free pew church. However, to do it we must seek pew endowment.

Memorial Day is approaching. After telephoning you I decided to consult the American Legion, and upon the invitation of the Commander, addressed their Executive Committee in Washington. This was followed by official action, and we are merging our Memorial Day Committee, of which I am President, with the Committee of the Legion, and will have special charge of the Decorations themselves. We are planning to place a wreath on every cross, also a flag and some flowers. I wish that permanent rose bushes, etc., could be planted and grow around the crosses, but under the present rule of the Graves' Registration Bureau we are not allowed to do that and must await Government action, which sooner or later will move in a proper way, as at Arlington and other Military Cemeteries at home.

I shall think of you on Memorial Day, both when at Surdoses and at the Military Service at Holy Trinity.

Do you think that Mrs. Whitney would be interested in planning the design of our 50 tablets (bronze) to be placed along the cloistery? That was one of the things I wished to speak to you about when I called last. Did you forget that you are a member of the Executive Committee of our American Committee? We missed you at the meeting of April 13. Drs. Stires, Slattery, General Andrews, Major Thacher, Mr. Clarke, and I were present, and Captain Bacon being detained at the last moment, sent his report, which I think you have received, together with the minutes of the meeting.

Are you coming over this year? I hope so. If there is anything I can do over here, please command me, and may I not have an early reply? Pardon the typewriter and this old French paper, which was bequeathed to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Frederick H. Beekman

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Tokyo. 1 May, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight,

May I take the liberty of addressing this letter to you? I was a colleague and an intimate friend of your deeply lamented husband in China. During 1903-4 we were in Peking under the late Sir Robert Hart. In fact, we were mess-mates and were together until the summer of 1904 when I was appointed to Newchwang (Manchuria) as Deputy-Commissioner; subsequent upon the occupation of that port during the Russo-Japanese war. In the Autumn of the same year, Mr. Straight, who was anxious to go to the front, came to Newchwang and stayed in my house until we

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We arranged everything with the military authorities. In 1906, I was appointed to Darien (Dalny) as Commissioner and about the same time Mr. Straight came to Manchuria again, this time to my great rejoicing, as the U. S. Consul-General. We soon got in touch each other and worked hard for what we believed to be best and just for China, Japan and all concerned. In 1909, on account of my health, I was transferred to Yochow, a port about 100 miles above Hankow and later to Soochow near Shanghai. I was in the latter part until the last year when I resigned on account of ill-health. During those years in the Yangtze ports we were always in touch with each other. Such being my relation with your late husband, there was perhaps no one - at least no

Johanna

concerned

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strangers to me. I am sure Mr. Straight would be in the East today with them if he was living. But one consolation is that his spirit survives and the work left by him will be gladly and successfully carried on by those who share his views and hold the same ideal with him. Sometime in 1916, in one of his letters Mr. Straight asked me for a copy of the Catalogue which was then in the course of compilation. It is in

Japanese in the East, who was more shocked and aggrieved at the sad news of his unexpected death than myself. Surely his death was a loss not only to America, but also to the East. My meeting recently with so many friends of his, including such distinguished men as Mr. Lamont, Captain Egan, Mr. Vanderlip, Dr. Shurman and others, revives in me old memories and I felt, although I met these gentlemen for the first time, they were not altogether strangers

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in compliance with this
wish and in fulfilment
of the promise I then made
that I am now taking the
liberty of presenting the
Catalogue to you through
the kindness of Captain
Egan. I shall deem it
a great honour and privilege
if you would graciously
accept it. The Catalogue
was presented to Their
Majesties the Emperor and
Empress of Japan and
the
the Princes of the Blood. as
well as, to the National Museum
of Allied Powers last year.
I intended to present to
you personally with a copy
of it last year, as I
was going to visit America
and Europe. But I had
to postpone my visit indefinitely
on account of illness and
since then was waiting
for an opportunity to
take advantage of. I
do not expect that
my

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my collection will be
included or even appreciated
in our present day. Nor
do I know whether you
care for this sort of thing.
But I hope you will
understand and appreciate
the spirit and the circumstances
in which I am making
this presentation to you.

Yours cordially,
R. Kurosawa

Reikichi Kurosawa

2, Kitamachi 8chichome,
Aoyama, Tokyo.

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[encl. 5-5-20]

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

Asked him to telephone Mrs. Straight's secretary Monday

May 5, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am sending you herewith a copy of Professor Williams's note. I have asked him to send his recollections as soon as he can set them down.

Won't you have luncheon with me next Tuesday, May 11, at one o'clock, somewhere in the neighborhood of the office?

Yours sincerely,

LDF:C

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

1410 Scenic Ave., Berkeley, California,

April 27th, 1920.

Louis D. Froelick, Esq.
Editor of ASIA,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Froelick:

Your good letter of April 19th reached me yesterday. I am glad to learn that you are to publish the story of Willard Straight. He was a remarkable young man and deserves such a memoir.

Of course I will contribute my quota of recollections; it will be a pleasure to do so. I am so much older than he would have been that he should have outlived me by a generation, but he has already passed on.

Because of this difference in our ages I was not so closely associated with him as others of our common acquaintances, but our lives touched at many points and I have very happy memories of our relations.

Please remember me to Mrs. Straight.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) E. T. Williams.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

My dear Mrs Straight:

I am enclosing herewith some letters which I have received from Willards Commanding officers and friends in the A.E.F.

There has been some delay in getting them together but I believe that they will be none the less appreciated.

It is my intention to ask General Pershing to add his testimony as to Willards services but he is taken away so much and so busy that I have not had an opportunity.

Hope all is well with you and yours. Wish might join me in best wishes.

Sincerely yours
Mrs. Straight.

5/6/20

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

May 6, 1920.

Mrs. Dorothy Whitney Straight,
Old Westbury,
Long Island, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

When War was declared, The Adjutant General of the Army directed that about forty men who had made good in the larger fields of civilian endeavor be selected for appointment as Majors in The Adjutant General's Department. The selection of these officers was left in my hands, subject to their passing a satisfactory physical and oral examination. The first man I thought of was Straight. Although he had not been markedly identified with military affairs, except in the training camp, his well-known executive ability, large acquaintance, diversified and successful career, all pointed to him as the man to help in a task which gave promise of extending beyond the original instructions. He came to Washington for a conference and shortly afterwards took an examination and was commissioned. Many officers appointed in The Adjutant General's Department, as well as to other positions in the Army, were suggested by him and they all made more than good.

His first duty was at Governor's Island and on September 1st he came to me as Assistant to the Adjutant of the 35th Division at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma. In September I was ordered abroad as an observer and made special application to have Straight sent with me, but the War Department disapproved. On my return, early in December of 1917, we met in Washington where Willard was organizing The Overseas Administration of the War Risk Insurance Bureau, having been specially selected for this important task. The work was not to his liking, but he said anything looked good which would carry him nearer the front. He sailed about December 12th and succeeded in his task so well that in February, 1918, his work was completed and turned over to his successor, and he was ordered as a student officer at the General Staff College at Langre. He graduated late in May, 1918, with such a fine record that he was selected as Assistant to G-3 (Operations) in the newly organized IIIrd Corps Staff with headquarters at Remiremont. I took command of the IIIrd Corps in early June and found Willard hard at work in the Operations Section of the Staff. While at the Staff College, he had specialized in Combat Liaison. His studies and memoranda on

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this subject, of which little was known at that time in our Army, showed research and tactical knowledge far beyond what might be expected in one whose experience was so limited. His recommendations for liaison work were sent to G. H. Q. where many of them were embodied in official instructions on this subject.

During July and August we were much together, dining frequently at various restaurants within motor radius of Headquarters. Straight was always professional at these times. Anxious to get a battalion in a fighting unit and although he was rapidly becoming an accomplished Staff officer, he craved line service. This was natural in a man of his temperament. After many arguments and seeing that he would not be denied, I recommended him for transfer to the Infantry; but his ambition to command in battle was never gratified. He was too valuable on the Staff, although he was transferred from The Adjutant General's Department to the Infantry some time in July, 1918.

In looking over my personal diary of daily events, I find the following recorded at Remiremont:

> "On July 4th we attempted an American celebration. A large crowd assembled in the square. Colonel Whitsett read the Declaration of Independence and I attempted an address in English which was translated, added to, elucidated and elaborated by Straight into an excellent speech in French. I would say a few words and Straight would talk about five minutes. We repeated this performance at my quarters where we had about a dozen cold bottles ready for a few select friends. About a hundred Frenchmen came and many French women, so we ended in opening about three cases."

On July 14th -

> "This is the French Fourth of July. After the athletic games I came home and spent the evening talking to Willard Straight. He thinks that peace is under consideration. I do not know what he bases his ideas on. He says we will have peace by November 15th. He wouldn't give his reasons, but said he had good ones."

This instance has often been brought to my mind. His foresight was almost uncanny.

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At the end of July Straight went to the great battle in the Aisne salient and was gone until August 2nd. "He came back full of interesting information. For a non-professional he seems to be getting hold of things pretty rapidly." He made this trip to study his specialty of tactical liaison. He had no interest in Administrative Liaison which appealed to so many of our French speaking officers. We were all so busy during this period that although I saw Willard daily, we had no chance to exchange experiences. On July 18th -

> "I dined with Willard at Epinal. While in the auto together he got to talking about the uplifting and betterment of the working classes. He was very earnest and wanted to secure legislation by public opinion enforcing generally better living conditions for the masses. At first I thought his views very radical and said so, but he laughingly assured me that I was wrong, but that he knew much could and ought to be done to improve the condition of the poor. He talked very conservatively, not using any of the new terms or ambiguous phrases of the modern economic reformer."

When the IIIrd Corps Staff went to General Bullard in July, he asked to remain with me in the Vth Corps Staff and was so ordered. I made a mistake here. Willard should have gone with the IIIrd Corps Staff. He would have seen more fighting, but I was so pleased at his request to remain with me and wanted him so much, that I selfishly kept him.

The 1st Army Staff was organized in August and his services were required as Assistant to the Assistant Chief of Staff of the Army, so much to my regret we parted, and although we had constant correspondence and an occasional phone talk, we did not come together again until in Paris after the Armistice about two weeks before his death. He appeared in excellent health and spirits. The inclosed letters speak for themselves, but I must add a word or two for I feel that he was my loyal friend and Staff officer in whom I placed much confidence and reliance.

From the first he threw his whole soul into the game, always chafing to be up and doing, intolerant of the slow-moving wheels of military administration, urging and exact-

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ing results. His charming personality, force of character, brilliancy of mind endeared him to all, especially the older and more experienced regular officers. He was a great loss to the service and the country, but he left you and his children a priceless heritage in the fact that he passed away with the full knowledge of duty well done and the great affection and respect of his brother soldiers and all others who knew him.

I could write you much more, but feel that this short account of my association in the Army with my dear friend, Straight, will convey to you how greatly I miss him.

Hoping all is well with you and yours, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. Wright.

WILLIAM M. WRIGHT,
Major General, General Staff,
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff.

Incls.

[encl. 5-6-20]

GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE
ARMY WAR COLLEGE
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

Recently, while going through some old records of the Third Corps, I happened upon Willard Straight's revision of the Liaison Manual of the A.E.F., a work that revealed his complete grasp of the complex requirements of communication in battle. It served to remind me again of his versatility, quick understanding, and inestimable value to the Army in France.

I am sure Major Straight was essentially a soldier in spirit. He arrived in France on work that was quite non-military. Thereafter, he constantly sought to bring himself in closer contact with the fighting troops. He came to the Army General Staff College, of which I was then Director, and where I first knew him. Upon completion of the three months' course I selected him as one of the General Staff officers of the Third Corps, which I had organized in May, 1918, and of which I was Chief of Staff. His work justified the selection beyond a doubt. In July he left the Third Corps Staff to take up another phase of military experience, in the hope that he would earn the privilege of commanding a battalion in battle. His letters to me revealed his disappointment over the delays and obstacles he encountered in this, and revealed that his whole trend was towards action.

The qualities that won the respect and affection of his associates were so well recognized before he came to the Army that it seems quite superfluous to refer to them here. My thought was rather to convey to you a conception of the high military value of his talents, training and personality, and the energy and earnestness with which he aided us.

I received him at the General Staff College when he began his real military career. I marched behind him in Paris, after the Armistice, when his work was done. In that short space of time, and measured by the rather severe standards of some of us old Regular Army people, he had earned a secure place as a soldier.

Very Sincerely

W. W. Bamford

(Late Brigadier General, Chief of Staff, Third Corps.)

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[end. 5-6-20]

115 East 53rd St.,
New York City,
January 10, 1920.

My dear General Wright:

When we first entered the war and the President requested me to organize a force to help and advise the American Peace Plenipotentiaries, I thought at once of Willard Straight. He was eager to get into active military service and so was not available at that time.

When I arrived in Paris at the end of October 1918, he was attached to Marshal Foch's headquarters. From the time that the Armistice terms were handed to the German representatives until the actual signing of the Armistice, sixty-six hours later, Willard Straight was in almost constant communication with our headquarters in Paris, advising us from time to time of the progress of events as reported by Marshal Foch. All through the night of November 10th and the early morning of November 11th, we were in touch with him, and at 5:15 on the morning of the 11th (fifteen minutes after the signing of the Armistice in Marshal Foch's private car), he telephoned my Secretary, Gordon Auchincloss, the news which we had been waiting for and which we promptly flashed to the President over a cable held in readiness for many hours.

A few days later, at my request, General Pershing detailed Major Straight to assist me during the interim between the signing of the Armistice and the arrival of the American Peace

Delegation in France. He immediately entered into the work with his customary enthusiasm and had had accepted a number of plans of the greatest value for the organization and development of the work of the American Delegation. I shall never forget the last day that I spent with him. He arranged on a Sunday to motor Gordon Auchincloss and myself to Chateau Thierry and Rheims. We lunched at a shell torn chateau along the road, and Willard was in excellent spirits and seemed in perfect health. The next morning he came to the office at the usual time but was evidently suffering from a high fever. We urged him to return to his room and to submit to the doctors orders. However, he insisted upon keeping in touch with us through the day by repeated telephone calls. Soon pneumonia set in and his last fight began.

Ever since I first met Willard Straight I was deeply attached to him and I regard his death in the service of his country not only as a great loss to his country but as a deep personal loss to myself.

I am, my dear General Wright,

Faithfully yours,

E M House

General William M. Wright, U.S.A.,
Office of Chief of Staff,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

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ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

May 14, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I know you will be interested to learn that Mr. E. Carleton Baker, American Consul General at Mukden, called at the office yesterday and left several documents - of which I am enclosing copies - of memoirs of Willards Two of these are of particular interest - the list of official documents which Mr. Carleton attached to his note and the set of personal experiences written by H. J. Blix.

Mr. Baker personally went through all the documents at the Mukden office which were written during Willard's administration and said that this list includes all that are essential and valuable for our purposes. All of these are at the State Department, Washington. I do not remember that these were included in the documents which Ira Patchin made copies of at the Department, and it may be that they will not let us get them. But when next we meet I should like to talk over with you ways and means of getting access to these reports.

Mr. Baker expressed his great regret that this material had not been delivered before. He has been much occupied at his office, and in addition the material which had been prepared was lost in his office for two months until he finally found it in a personal hunt.

He and Mrs. Baker are in the city and will

[5-14-20]

probably call upon you. He is much interested in the progress of the story.

We are moving ahead with the story and will be able to show you something very soon. It grows ever more interesting — And with the Consortium now an accomplished fact it makes that part of the story complete.

Yours sincerely,

Louis D Lochner

LDF:MM

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

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[encl. 5-14-20]

Willard Straight's Record as Consul General at Mukden, China.

Mr. Straight's official record at Mukden is unique in the history of the Consular service. He initiated policies of the most far-reaching importance and the political activities with which he was associated will always figure very largely in any comprehensive history of the Far East. Had it not been for the death of the Emperor and the Empress Dowager and for the downfall of the Yuan Shih-kai in 1908, Mr. Straight's plans for developing Manchuria in the interests of Chinese and for financing China in a sound and statesmanlike way would undoubtedly have been realized and China's position in the world today would have been very much higher than it is.

Mr. Straight arrived in Mukden on October 3rd, 1906 and left on August 17, 1908 and during this short period of less than two years he did more for the American and Chinese Governments than many others could have done in a life-time. He undoubtedly did more than any other American to bring the Manchurian situation to the knowledge of the American people and to show the possibilities of industrial and commercial expansion in that region. His constant desire was to bring about more friendly relations between China and the United States and to develop the resources of Manchuria for the benefit of the Chinese themselves, and his high standing among the Chinese officials and his friendship with influencial Americans particularly fitted him for this important task.

Mr. Straight realized that the cordial relations between China and the United States could best be improved by the cultivation of friendly relations between individuals, and he not only encouraged Chinese to go to the United States for their education but he constantly endeavored to maintain the closest relations with Chinese returned students from America. During Mr. Straight's tenure of office in Mukden Tang Shao-yi, a graduate of Columbia University, was Governor of Fengtien. He and Mr. Straight were the best of friends and through their cooperation a large agricultural experimental station was opened at Mukden and a gift of seeds was obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture. Two Americans were appointed to take charge of the work and they were enthusiastically welcomed by the Chinese officials of Mukden. Unfortunately the Chinese Revolution caused the work to be discontinued and a great many of the benefits have been lost.

Mr. Straight was always very anxious to keep the sovereignty of China unimpaired and he furnished the American Government with a vast amount of valuable information which could have been used to great advantage in this direction. Mr. Straight seemed to have not only what might be termed a political instinct but he had the broader qualities in statesmanship as well, and with his keen analytical mind he presented the problems of Manchuria in a remarkably clear and convincing manner and if his advice had been taken by those who were in the best position to use it the situation in Manchuria

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in Manchuria would have been much more favorable to American enterprise than it is today.

Mr. Straight's relations with the American and European community in Mukden were no less cordial than his relations with the Chinese. He was at all times a leading social figure and was devoted to nearly every form of athletics. It is doubtful if there was ever an American consular officer in the Orient as well and as favorably known as Mr. Straight. He was popular with all classes and was particularly interested in benevolent work and did a great deal for the local mission hospital and blind school. Mr. Straight was very much beloved by the members of his staff; he was not only a just and efficient executive but showed a friendliness and consideration towards his subordinates which they never fail to speak of whenever Mr. Straight's name is mentioned.

The most important plan with which Mr. Straight was identified was the Chinchow-Aigun Railway project. While Mr. Straight was Consul General at Mukden he discussed with the Manchurian officials possibility of constructing with American capital a railway to connect a port on the Gulf of Liaotung, near Chinchow, with the city of Aigun on the Amur River. The Chinese were very anxious to develop the territory which this railway was to traverse and the use of American Capital for this purpose would have been of the greatest commercial value to both the United States and China. The history of the negotiations in this connection are remarkably interesting and it was most unfortunate that

tunate that the political influences which opposed this scheme prevented its consummation.

The respect and universal esteem in which Mr. Straight was held are well indicated by the attached letters which were written by those who knew him best, and more detailed information with regard to Mr. Straight's work as consul general is contained in his despatches, listed on the attached sheet, which he sent to the Department of State and which the Department may be willing to allow his biographers to consult. Three interesting photographs, described below, are also transmitted herewith.

E. Carleton Baker,
American Consul General.

Enclosures:

A. Letters from Messrs. Fulton, Gunn, Turley, Blix and Baker.

B. List of despatches above referred to.

C. Photographs showing (1) Mr. Straight with a group of friends at the Consulate General. (2) Mr. Straight and his British Colleague, Mr. Robert Willis. (3) Entrance to Consulate General where Mr. Straight's office and residence were located.

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[end. 5-14-20]

Moukden, Sept. 22, 1919.

Dear Mr. Baker:

Please excuse the delay in answering your request for some notes about Mr. Straight as I have been very busy.

I knew Mr. Straight very intimately and had some share in removing some of his initial difficulties and in securing for him his first Consulate. Though young and without the usual technical training for such a responsible position he impressed me as a man of very remarkable natural gifts and nothing seemed to come amiss to him.

In his intercourse with the Chinese official class he was a favorite: his frank open manner and pleasant smile and the fresh view of things which he gave to men, created confidence which helped to allay suspicion and remove prejudice. Being the first American Consul at Moukden he had a very high sense of the importance of his position and the greatness of his opportunity and was therefore keen to represent his country well. Although there was very little American trade in Manchuria at the time he was always busy collecting information and writing reports on all sorts of subjects which would be of use to his government and to merchants seeking openings for business.

Having already been in China for a short time before coming to Moukden he knew a good deal about the country and the people, their peculiar manners and customs and was anxious therefore not to offend their prejudices. For this and other reasons he was always eager for advice on all sorts of questions from the missionaries who had been long resident in the place. Socially he was always genial and cheery, had fine manners, was ever courteous, especially to ladies and kind, absolutely free from side, generous in thought and act and scorned to say or do a mean thing.

(Signed) Thos. C. Fulton

[end. 5-14-20]

Hugh Gunn.

Dairen 12 Seko-Dai Shokoshi.

Sept. 29, 1919.

E. Carleton Baker, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Moukden, Manchuria.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of the 20th inst. asking for personal recollections or information of interest regarding Mr. Willard D. Straight's life and work in the Far East, I am sending you under separate cover a good photograph of Mr. Straight and Mr. Robert Willis, British Consul, who was at Newchwang, Moukden, Harbin and Tientsin; they were intimate friends. Charles informs me he has handed you an album with a group picture taken at the Moukden Consulate, those in the group were Dr. Oliver, Commissioner of Chinese Customs, Mr. Fulford, British Consul, Mr. O. Metzger, German Consul, Mr. Straight, Dr. Seibert, German Vice Consul, V. Nikitine, Russian Vice Consul, C.J.Arnell, James A. Brown then of the B.A.T. now manager of the Standard Oil Co. at Vladivostock and myself, if this picture shows the Pilo it should be of interest.

Besides the above gentlemen Dr. Christie, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Turley, Rev. Jas. Webster and Mr. Blix knew Mr. Straight well.

I met Mr. Straight in Yokohama at the time he was war correspondent waiting a chance to get over to Manchuria like many others at the time of the Russo-Japanese war. He impressed me as a forceful energetic type of a young American with a most agreeable manner. These impressions were unchanged after knowing him most intimately at Moukden from Jan. 9, 1907 until his departure. At the time of my arrival the Consulate was located in a small six roomed Chinese house in the compound of the Moulin Kwam Hotel not far from the small west Gate of the walled city; the sleeping kangs were left intact covering one third of each room. Mr. Straight was artistic in his tastes so had made his temporary surrounding comfortable and businesslike as possible.

Any work undertaken was always pushed to a finish. He had a lot of

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energy and did not wait but "did it now". He was fond of tennis, rode quite a lot and even played polo on the plains of Peiling on occasion.

During the tenure of Hsu Hsih Chung (present President of China) as Viceroy of Manchuria and Tang Shao Yi, Governor of Feng Tien, Mr. Straight was able to interest them in American agriculture and animal improvement and other matters. As these two officials were very progressive no doubt Mr. Tang Shoa Yi will be asked to contribute an article to the biography.

An amusing fiction among the lower class Chinese at time the flag staff was erected in the present Consulate Compound was that the flag staff was 15 feet taller than any other staff and that this gave precedence to the American Consul. On the first morning of raising the flag Mr. Straight invited the American residents to attend and as Old Glory reached the top and was broken out a salute was fired using Chinese bombs. After this ceremony we were entertained at a breakfast.

Mr. Straight was a most genial and hospitable host. He had many friends and seemed to always have a guest, and the latch string was always out. One Christmas dinner he gave was to 25 of the foreign residents of Moukden, on the occasion of the visit of the Indian Staff Officers (about 30) to the Manchurian Battlefields he entertained them with a smoking concert at which all hands took part and made a most pleasant evening.

I found him at all times ready and willing to do all in his power to help his nationals and further business relations with the United States.

You can send if you wish the two photographs, requesting their return to me after having served their purpose. I have none of Mr. Straight's letters, having traveled so much in the last few years I have had to minimize my effects. This letter is written by my Chinese boy who four years ago only knew the alphabet and has learned in that time to read and write English. Please overlook any mistakes and if you think what I have said about Mr. Straight is of no interest scrap it.

Palen who was a commissioner of Customs at Antung was very friendly

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with Straight, and Faulkner could no doubt write a book. It seems sad that such an all round good man should die in the prime of life.

Yours very truly,

Hugh Gunn.

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[encl. 5-14-20]

BLIND GIRLS' HOME,

MUKDEN, October 28,1919.

E. Carleton Baker, Esq.,
U.S.A. Consul General.

Dear Mr. Carleton Baker:

I am sorry to have delayed so long in replying to your letter of the 2nd inst.

I first came into touch with Mr. Willard Straight almost immediately after the War between Russia and Japan, when he was appointed your first resident representative in this city. He was from the start very kind to us, and one of my first recollections was a note from him enclosing fifty Mex follars for the British and Foreign Bible Society, entirely unsolicited, and he also urged others to add the work of giving God's Word to the Chinese.

He took a very keen and practical interest in the few wee blind girls whom we then had with us, and until his call to the Better Land he always sent us an annual contribution, directing his secretary to keep it up whilst he was away in France. He gave the first order to our girls for some of their work, and was much concerned and amused when he heards that two girls had secretly set up nearly all one night to complete him a pair of socks, as they were convinced that as it was bitterly cold, the poor Consul, being unmarried and away from his mother, would need them. He was kind enough to write from New York, six years afterwards, to tell the girls that he was still wearing their nicely knitted socks.

I casually made the acquaintance of a small lad at the Railway Administration in Harbin, two months afterwards, the lad ran away and turned up at Mr. Straight's asking for me. He was anxious to get to America and gain the land of freedom. I could not help him and, in fact, felt annoyed with the lad. Mr. Straight saw that he was worth saving and arranged for him to be sent to California and given a chance in life. He was always aiding someone.

Some of us were much concerned over a colony of bad women, Westerners, who had settled in this city. Firstly they gave out that they were British and then American but W.S' found out ~~thmjx~~ they were neither, and eventually they were induced to go away. Probably his bank account might reveal the secret, but certain it is he pitied their wretched condition.

When his colleague, Mr. Fairchild, suddenly died by his own hand, Mr. Straight rose to the occasion nobly and did all possible to make things as bright as he could for his family. We, by the way, admired Mr. Fairchild much too and missed him greatly.

Mr. Straight had a long and hard fight to gain the freedom for foreigners to reside inside this city, and to accomplish this he had personally to live in anything but the best surroundings for a long time. It is to him and Mr. Fulford that all foreigners owe

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the privileges of living within the city if they so wish.

He was known as "STRAIGHT BY NAME AND STRAIGHT BY NATURE".

Clean and high souled, strong in mind and body, with a very warm heart and most kindly, though somewhat reserved manner, we feel that in him we and our sightless family have lost a real and splendid friend.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Robert T. Turley.

Sotel Bible to
Mukden

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Postal Commissioner

[encl. 5-14-20]

% Miss C. Pedlar
246 Fifth Ave.

COPY. Mad. 511

Moukden, 1st October, 1919.

To

E. Carleton Baker, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Moukden, China.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter dated the 22nd of September, I beg to assure you that nothing gives me greater pleasure than to contribute my humble share towards a lasting biographic monument of W. D. Straight whom I honoured and looked up to as few while he lived and whose untimely departure from this life I lament as were he a very near and dear relative. I was but a small fry when I first met Straight having only recently joined the Chinese Postal Service as a junior assistant. Is it to be wondered at that all my heart went out to this man who gave me his whole warm-hearted friendship from the very first day?

In order to illustrate Straight's personality as it appeared during the time of my short but memorable intercourse with him I propose to set down a few "glimpses" arranged under headings as follows:

a) Straight as a friend
b) Straight in work
c) Straight as a man
d) Straight socially
e) Our last handshake

I sincerely hope that these little sketches may serve their purpose - in any case, they are written in grateful

memory of a big man with a big heart who did not live in vain.

Thanking you for thus giving me an opportunity to repay but a trifle of what I owed the late Mr. Straight,

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) N. J. BLIX.

1. Enclosure.

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Enclosure.

1. Straight as a friend.

For two long years I had been without promotion. This fact depressed me deeply, not only because a much needed rise in pay was not forthcoming but the more so because I imagined it to be a sign of displeasure with my work on the part of my superiors. I was too sensitive to let my friends see my grievance and tried hard to bear up a smiling face when in their presence. But one afternoon when having tea alone with Straight, he suddenly said:

"Look here old chap, what's up - you could not hide things from me, speak out."

"I am about to resign and will go back to Norway", I said, "things are not coming my way as I had hoped for." "Cheer up", he rejoined, "you have forgotten you have friends."

Nothing further was said on the subject, but the next day I learned that Straight had gone to Peking on business. He had - three days afterwards a despatch brought me a substantial promotion and, besides, one of those highly valued small personal letters from Sir Robert Hart, which could bring a junior's heart to burst with pride. Mine had an extra gallop from gratitude towards Straight.

11; Straight in Work.

Mr. Kao and I lived in the same temple court five minutes from the American Consulate. Mr. Kao was Mr. Straight's clerk. I met Mr. Kao on going to office

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one morning - high snow - 30° below. "Thought I heard noise in the court yard last night about two o'clock" said I. "it was I", said he, "Woke up and remembered I had left my safe keys in the office - could not sleep - went to the office and found my keys and Mr. Straight as usual at his typewriter." "As usual," repeated I. "Yes", said he, "Straight works 16 out of the 24 hours regularly"!

111. Straight as a Man:

Late one evening I received a call over the telephone from Straight. His house was on fire and he urged me to come and help. I was on the spot in a few minutes and found the American Consul General in shirt sleeves and Russian top boots trying to instruct the police men how to tackle the fire in an intelligent manner. He had some success for, although the building in which the fire had broken out was already partially destroyed, the adjoining houses were kept intact by the usual precautions of canvas sails constantly damped by water. I had joined the water gang and Straight himself stood on top of a ladder emptying the buckets as they came along, when all of a sudden, a terrifying cry for help came from a police-man on top of the burning building. He had been sitting across the main beam when all at once the roof at the back and in front of him gave way. He was completely isolated and now on all sides surrounded by flames and smoke. There appeared to be no escape for the poor unfortunate man, when I saw Straight jumping down from his ladder running across the court yard disappearing for a mihute and then again appearing with another

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other ladder which he managed to place from his own to a spot near the poor victim. without hesitation Straight now crawled along the ladder among suffocating smoke, roaring tongues of fire and falling beams, towards the fellow who clung desperately on to the main beam with his last efforts. The moments that followed were the most terrible I have ever experienced, but Straight caught his man in the very nick of time and they both safely reached the ground fearfully burnt on the hands and faces. The next morning I met Straight at the other end of the city riding horseback. He was bandaged all over and looked ill and weak. "Been to the Doctor"? I asked. "Oh no - just been over to see how the poor policeman fared", he answered. I found out afterwards that the policeman lived in a village far outside the city in the opposite direction of the U. S. Consulate - a matter of some 10 miles on horseback in the middle of a Manchurian Winter!

IV. Straight Socially.

Straight's charming and many sided personality was a constant delight to the little circle that formed the Moukden community in the early pioneer days, 1906 - 07, and many were the happy evenings that we spent in Straight's cosy and artistic sitting room at the American Consulate. I recall especially Christmas night 1907, when we had all been invited to his place, as one of the most perfect Christmas festivities I have ever been present at. It had snowed heavily during the day, so that by 7 o'clock in the evening the roads were difficult to travel but it gave the appropriate touch to the

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season and made us think of our far-away homes as we jolted along in out Peking carts to the accompaniment of the mules' bells. At the entrance to his house Straight received us in that peculiarly cheery, half jestful manner which was his own, and then he led us into the sitting room which he had decorated most beautifully for the occasion. I can not describe exactly from memory every detail, but the whole room was transformed into a miniature forest of pine trees and the walls hung with the various nations' flags and emblems. Coloured lanterns provided a soft pleasing light and the floor was strewn with cotton wool and pine needles. Under the trees little animals such as hares, birds, etc. stuck out their heads - they were all made by Straight personally and produced a reality to the scene which was simply marvellous. Within the frames of this decorative landscape was the Christmas table placed and it need hardly be said that this was equally artistically done up with a huge Santa Claus presiding. At each seat a menu was laid which had been painted by Straight and which represented some specific humorous situation of the guest concerned. In addition a piece of poetry also, of course, of Straight's making. It may probably interest your readers to learn the motive which Straight had taken for my menu and poem.

I had been on a tour of inspection up country and was travelling by sledge from Changchun and Kirin. Midway between these two places my horses became so exhausted that further travelling was impossible and as there were no inns

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or villages near by I had to leave my conveyance behind and start out on foot with the post bag on my back. Straight had depicted this incident so humorously and at the same time so true to life that it would have created laughter and admiration had the cartoon with its accompanying little ditty been reproduced in Life or Punch. I kept these treasures for years, but they were unfortunately lost during one of my later travels.

Straight was at his best at this dinner. Never had his quick wits or oratory talents surpassed what he produced on that occasion, and we were kept extremely busy the whole time by having to reply to his numerous replica and speeches. Straight, of course, acted as toast-master himself, and he did not spare anybody with his witty and good humoured interruptions. After dinner we were all presented with souvenirs - all original and artistic as only Straight could produce them. The evening was closed with an improvised concert to the accompaniment of our host's mandolin.

V Our last handshake:

It was two years after, my wife and I were riding in rickshas towards the Summer palace in Peking, when a huge grey motor car overtook us and was just brushing by when a familiar voice shouted out "Hello, old Elixy", and before I knew - Straight jumped out of the car and we were warmly shaking hands. He had not forgotten his friends - the big financier representing one of the most powerful financial groups in the world did not deem it below his dignity to stop his car and exchange a few cordial words with the little Postmaster from

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the interior of China. It was Straight all over - nothing too big to tackle - nothing too small to overlook and, therefore, when the bugle called the boys to the colours in the biggest struggle ever existed. Straight came forth at once - of course he did - he would not have been the Straight I knew if he did not!

Nils Juul Elix.

Moukden, October, 1st, 1919.

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[encl. 5-14-20]
[Baker]

Straight as a "Principal Consular Officer."

Straight's lofty character and towering personality had certain characteristics of a mountain. Viewed from any angle he made a splendid impression, and his many phases require almost as many people to describe them. As a college man, diplomat, financier, friend and "good fellow" he was always foremost, but as a "principal consular officer" - to use a somewhat technical phrase, he showed some of his finest qualities. His general consular work at Mukden is treated separately in another way and the various periods of his life are described by many of his other friends. It is for this reason and because I became acquainted with so many of his subordinate officers that I have chosen the subject referred to.

Every man who had the good fortune to work under Straight was most enthusiastic in his praises, Straight was not only a "chief" to the men in his office but he took an almost fatherly interest in their personal welfare. He Was loyal to them and they were loyal to him. While he always exacted the amount of work which was due, he was at all times reasonable and considerate. If any of his men were in trouble he was always the first to come to their assistance. Several of them related instances which showed the lengths to which he was willing to go in helping them in a personal way. His kindness ranged from trying to help a subordinate dispose of his poetical attempts to giving one of his former office men a two weeks' visit in Peking at the finest hotel there. This officer had served Straight well at Mukden and when Straight went to Peking to represent the American group there he showed his old friend and vice-consul that he had not forgotten. The Chinese who served under him were treated with equal kindness and they too have the happiest recollections of the relations with him which they enjoyed. When Straight passed through Mukden long years after his tenure of office there his old Chinese friends turned out in great

numbers to meet him and to pay their respects.

In meeting Straight's old subordinates I observed many excellent qualities and ideas which their association with him had brought out. His personality had so impressed them all that unconsciously they had taken on some of his characteristics. Each one of them was better for having worked with him, and the good which he did in this way alone will endure for many years, and the waves of his good influence have reached many a distant shore. What was said of someone else many years ago may be truly said of him; to have know him ~~was~~ "was a liberal education."

E. Carleton Baker.

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List of Mr. Straight's despatches to the Department of State which might contain biographical material.

Date	No.	Subject.
Oct. 16, 1906	1.	Arrival at Mukden.
Oct. 31, 1906	5.	Opening of Manchuria.
Nov. 18, 1906	D8 17	Summary of conditions in Manchuria.
Nov. 28, 1906	D 23	Suggestions regarding Manchurian trade.
Jan. 30, 1907	55	South Manchuria Railway.
Feb. 12, 1907	62	Japanese administration in and immigration to Manchuria.
May 4, 1907	109	Establishment of commercial information bureau.
May 22, 1907	D73 112	Conditions in South Manchuria subsequent to the termination of the Japanese organization period.
June 19, 1907	D87 127	The installation of the new Manchurian administration with a review of the political conditions in this region.
June 29, 1907	135	Report on the Province of Shenking.
Aug. 10, 1907	D117 169	Attitude of Chinese officials towards recent events in Korea.
Sept. 12, 1907	189	Commercial conditions in Manchuria.
Sept. 28, 1907	144	General political conditions.
Nov. 9, 1907	161	Political despatch re status quo.
Dec. 9, 1907	172	Vladivostok trip.
Jan. 4, 1908	185	Japanese protest against Shin Mintun-Fakumen R. R.
Jan. 6, 1908	tel.	Director for agricultural college.
Feb. 21, 1908	204	Japanese in Manchuria.

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Date	No.	Subject.
Feb. 22, 1908	207	Residents in railway settlements.
Mar. 5, 1908	217	Kuantung Government and the South Manchuria Railway.
Mar. 9, 1908	219	Japanese railway settlement area.
Apr. 9, 1908	239	Japanese attack Consular premises.

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ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE
RITZOTEL-PARIS

Hôtel Ritz
Place Vendôme
Paris

Paris May 30. 1920.

ved Mrs Straight

We have been in Paris ever since we came over, and will be, until Miss Bishop arrives at the end of June, we expect to sail for home on La France in September, god willing. To day is memorial day, I have thought a great deal about you this day, so many things have passed through my mind of days that were; it was a beautifull day a gentle little wind wafting, and cool, a sort of dreamy day. this forenoon Mrs Bishop took me in the Auto to Suresnes, we each had

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a plant, Mrs Bishop a dear little heather, and I a Marguerite, we put them on each side of the cross, of a resting place of the dear kind Major, all the graves were decorated with wreaths of blood oak leaves interlinned with heather, and with American and French flags crossed, every thing was so beautifull and peacefull looking, in its spring clothing of fresh young green, there is an immense large monument of a Doughboy, it must be twelve feet high,- There is to be an impressive ceremonie this afternoon, I should very much like to be present, but duty prevents me, I inclose a clipping of yesterdays paper.-
Dear, dear Mrs Straight where ever you are, where ever you go may the beautifull Palms of Allah grow, I hope you and the darling angel children are well, may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, abide with you, and guard you and yours, with sincere wishes and grateful love

Respectfully
Louise C. Holden

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[6-3-20]

13 Lange Voorhout
The Hague
Thurs. June 3rd

Dearest Dorothy

Last month I was in Paris for two weeks & be with my mother who was very ill there & thought to be dying, & I went out one beautiful May morning & see Millard's grave at Suresnes. I enclose two little snap shots of it & a rose leaf & little pink blossom from the

4.

gets golf, tennis or riding every day, & short office hours. The season is over & we only see not occasionally with some of the Empires, the Dutch have all departed & the country, or most of them. They look like Americans very much & all speak English perfectly, but they are very stiff & formal, probably they) & it makes intimacies slow & one rather misses the open-hearted informal hospitality of home, but it has many other great

advantages & is a very interesting change for a while. We all keep up

flowers I laid there. It all
looked so beautifully peaceful,
& those straight rows of simple
white crosses under the bright
blue sky & brilliant sunshine,
surrounded by all the fresh
spring green, had something
so sternly heroic about them
that I felt them more impres-
-sive than most of the great
monuments I have seen.
Dearest Dorothy I thought of
you & of Luis as shining

lights in the darkness to all
of us, & I blessed God that such
spirits as yours should be al-
-lowed to live among us.
I hope that you are going to
have a happy out-of-door summer
with those three lovely children
& that we will all be well &
care-free together for a time.
We are feeling at home &
settled here now. Our roomy
old fashioned Dutch house is
comfortable & homelike & we
are all very well. Gilbain

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Prince George Hotel
Fifth Avenue & 28th Street

June 4th, 1920, 7:00 p.m.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I telephoned this morning and this evening but you were at both times. I was told that you would likely be there at ten this evening and it was suggested that I call up at that hour, and I found that I would do so. On second thought, however, I decided to

Mr. Faulkner's relatives leave her insufficient time. I enclose her two letters, which need not be returned. Many thanks for your kindness and generosity in this matter. I am sorry that the affair has given you so much thought and that Mr. Faulkner does not see her way clear to Emme-. I assure you that your very kind hearted disposition is appreciated none the less.

I was detained in Washington much longer than I expected and am now trying to get passage next month instead of this

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send the message by special delivery so that you may receive it upon your return and need not be disturbed by a telephone call so late in the evening.

I thank you most heartily for so kindly communicating with Mr. Sarason. Mr. Fiddler took the matter up with Mr. Sarason's secretary and he has promised to arrange for an interview early next week.

Last evening I had a long conference with Mr. Froelich about the operation of an "Oriental Research Corporation" - mainly along commercial lines - in connection with the "Asia and the Asiatic Association". He is very favorably impressed with the idea and intends shortly to confer with you in this regard.

Mrs. Faulkner again seems to be somewhat shy and diffident about coming on to New York. It may be, as she says, that her preparations for departure and the necessary visits with

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Prince George Hotel
Fifth Avenue & 28th Street

month. I should be very glad therefore of having another opportunity of meeting you before my departure.

Hoping that your forthcoming trip to Chicago will be thoroughly satisfactory in every way, I am,

With high regards,

Very sincerely yours

C. Carleton Barker

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June 4, 1920

Mrs. D. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

My dear Mrs. Straight :

I am very happy to respond to your request for fuller information about the situation here at Cornell. I am sure you appreciate my reason for delaying this report to you, for I have wanted to tell you of an enterprise with some measure of success already achieved, rather than merely a paper plan.

While the Christian Association here has many years of history back of it, it has now become in effect a new enterprise, uniting, as you know, the representatives of five different denominations, Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian- the united aspect of the work of all being the work of the Christian Association. President Schurman expressed very keen appreciation of this plan at a dinner at which all these men, together with Miss Peabody and myself, presented the various phases of the united work for which we are severally responsible. In the course of his remarks he said "We have at Cornell an anomalous situation. In spite of the fact that religion is the greatest single factor underlying education, the University is prohibited from making itself responsible for it. We have, therefore, turned over this responsibility to this group as the one group which can undertake united religious work at Cornell."

In developing this service here, it was necessary for us to map out the plan and secure all but one of the workers for it new. This we have succeeded in doing with the finest sort of harmony and team play. Our staff make themselves responsible for all members of the University community, student and faculty, unless known to be connected with some other denomination, and we attempt to keep track of every one here, being of such help as we are able through comprehensive lists carefully prepared. The direction of this phase of the work is Mr. Fetter's special task.

Miss May Peabody, who did such able work in England during the war, has charge of our Employment Service for men who are working their way through, and in this capacity represents the University. Mr. Moran, as you know, has full charge of our courses in religious studies and has developed a comprehensive plan in connection with the churches of the city where groups of students have met throughout the year, and also in the development of courses for students in Barnes Hall. He is laying the foundations for a genuine school of religion at Cornell, which is being projected on the basis of progressive social and religious thinking, and which we anticipate will soon provide for religious courses for a large percentage of the men students of the University. We have had over five hundred in our groups this year. The Current Events Forum is, as we reported to you, a distinctive feature of our work for both men and women and has met with marked success. Mr. Moran plans its fuller development this coming year.

Mr. Moore has charge of our extension work, which is rapidly spreading out through Central New York, providing deputation experience to Cornell students and some measure of inspiration to the village life of this section. Forty or fifty country boys will be brought together for a summer camp on Cayuga Lake not far from Ithaca, under Mr. Moore's direction. We are also laying the foundations for a Village Ministers' School of Religion at Cornell next summer in conjunction with the Summer Session of the University and with the particular cooperation of the College of Agriculture.

Mr. Worthley has charge of our vocational guidance and life work service through which an increasing number of men are being guided in their life work choice and some drawn into the specifically religious callings. A large Cornell delegation is being arranged for the Silver Bay Student Conference to meet this month. Mr. Harris leads us in the more intimate and personal religious activities, such as prayer and worship.

We are sending you with this letter a booklet which we have especially prepared for you, showing the development of the work and comment which has been made upon it.

One of our greatest handicaps has been the wretched condition of Barnes Hall and the lack of funds to put it into worthy condition. It is wonderfully located and after full consideration, as the accompanying book will show you, we have proceeded to undertake its rehabilitation. The remarkable response from the undergraduate body gave us a great deal of encouragement. The sum asked for was $10,000 from students and faculty ($4,000 for current expenses and $6,000 for rehabilitation). The sum pledged was $11,000. The Cornell Daily Sun commenting upon our work said, "The C.U.C.A. has been

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really organized at last on a broad, constructive basis and includes a staff of able men who are doing a varied and splendid work. Five weeks ago the mere suggestion that the University would subscribe $11,000 for the C.U.C.A. would have aroused a hearty laugh and there would have been few dissenters. That was before the C.U.C.A. proved to the student body that it really meant business and had the men to put Barnes Hall where it really belongs."

The great big need of Cornell is some sort of a democratic social center where men of all colleges, fraternities, and social groups can get together easily. This is particularly true, strange as it may seem, since the saloons downtown were voted out. President Schurman emphasized this need very distinctly in his report of 1917-1918 when he pointed out the value of the democratic dormitory system which the University is inaugurating, supplementing the fraternity house system.

Our Coffee House plan approaches the problem from a different angle and has the full endorsement of President Schurman and all the leaders of Cornell life, both undergraduate and faculty. We have heard no dissenting voice with regard to it. It will furnish just the sort of informal center for the interests of men students which has been so long needed here. Something of the plan of the first floor of the building as remodelled to meet this need, we enclose in the accompanying booklet. In addition to the $6,000 which has been received from undergraduate and faculty, we have secured $7,000 from outside sources. We are already in the process of doing the work upon the building and are most eager to finish it by the time the University opens. The churches which might be expected to aid us in this enterprise have their hands full in providing the salaries of the various members of the staff and the interested alumni are being besieged, as you know, for contributions to the Endowment Fund of the University. We are also asking them to provide the Salary Budget, covering my salary and supplementing some of the salaries of the other secretaries. The truth of the matter is that there are very few friends to whom we may go with this appeal with the hope of a favorable response. The situation is genuinely most urgent. We must somehow succeed in securing now every possible dollar on the following estimates.

Estimated for building reconstruction,	$22,000	
" " refurnishings,	12,000	$34,000
Funds in hand, or pledged,		13,000
Balance necessary to be provided,		$21,000

While not absolutely necessary, we want if possible to increase this to $25,000 in order that the building may be furnished on such a basis of attractiveness and efficiency as

will make its appeal of the highest possible order.

I know that you are really interested in what we have been trying to do here. Frankly, it has been a steady uphill job, but we are putting our lives into it because we see here a wonderful opportunity for service to Cornell and through it to the world. We hope that you will feel like sharing this work with us to the largest possible degree and that you will not only support it financially, but come to Ithaca in the fall as our guest for the rededication of the building and the opening of the Coffee House. I know that when you see this great throng of young people who come and go here year after year you will feel the same joy and inspiration in helping to mould their lives that we feel.

With deep appreciation of the gracious hearing which you gave Mr. Moran and me last Thursday, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

R.H. Edwards.

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Memorandum for Mrs. Straight

At luncheon today at the Bankers' Club, I met Mr. J. Allen Haines of Chicago. Mr. Haines was a class mate of Major Straight's at Cornell, and also, I understand, saw quite a little of him in France.

It occured to me that Mr. Haines would be a very good man, possibly, to write a contribution to the memoir covering Major Straight's college days and I took this up with Mr. Haines. I feel quite sure he would be willing to do this. He is returning to Chicago Monday and stated that he would be very glad to see you there. He suggested that if you would leave a message for him at the University Club, he would be glad to meetyou at any time, and in any place.

Mr. Haines was formerly a partner of Kean, Taylor & Company of Chicago, later head of the Morris Plan Bank there, and now is a member of Hallgarten & Company.

A. W. Fiedler

June 4, 1920.

June 4, 1920

Dear Mrs Straight

One of the things in life that suddenly helps up the traffic of every day and clears a space where one feels the strangleness of the spirit behind it all - happened to me, when your cousin met me with the news of Willard the other day. To share his spirit so intimately in the throes of his living made me feel that for a much greater place than I desired or that I ever thought I deserved or holding it was granted me fearful to measure in spurs a high goal. up - it's a high goal. But one could but share without feeling that in some measure we were on the same broad of the same road. By conduct ever measure up in abilities. There

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a chance life gives though — and that's the fine thing about it — to put it up to oneself to get his spirit in tune with the spirit of the best. I can't tell you how close by I felt his spirit the day I stood by his things. His very self is carrying on and it makes me keen to carry on with it, even in a small share, if I can.

Bennett — whose devotion is fine to see — was much too generous and I have told him that if he finds he has over-done one thing would be as splendid a remembrance to me as many.

It is stimulating to be working on the story and we shall have drafts of several installments ready for you when you return the last of next week. These are to get a working basis. After you have read them, Louis Graves and I would like to have some long talks with you to

[6-4-20] [2]

get new angles and new material for enriching and making more real and vivid — if that be possible — the general picture of what has been done, in right proportion.

His general line is a narrative showing his own world — a story rather than a character study — but naturally revealing character and spirit through it. I'll let you have pieces as I can get them typed.

You have given me a story worthy to be a monument to your friend Willard Straight —

Yours sincerely
Lois Peet

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[6-9-20]

My dear Dorothy

I am very glad to hear from your secretary's acknowledgments and above all from the letter which Cecil Davis brought that you liked the memorials of Willard and that it will serve you for the volume you intend to write. It was as spontaneous as our relationship and flowed as freely from

room at the Subway/ restaurant
right. She opens at
next week in this
which I am randomly
in which she visits
trains and where she
works. She has a
a few days ago
business. She is
at the Central Hotel

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the heart. I am enclosing a photograph of a page of a memorandum book containing a sketch which Richard made in this book in Cuba which was without the assistance of which has a great deal of charm and which is rather different from some of his other sketches - such as the Chinese figures which are better known with you note illustrate the memorial not only for the additional interest given by such illustrations as you can collect but as visual indications of his taste and facility.

Cecil Davis arrived has been hunting a studio which she has not found and is settling in consequence into a large

[6-9-20] [1]

note disappointing me by failing to appreciate the extraordinary natural beauty of Rio. I hope all will go well.

The press telegrams give me the impression that there is great confusion and uncertainty at Chicago when the convention is meeting are you there and what is to be the outcome!

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With love to the children and
very warm regards to yourself
I am, sincerely yours,
Edwin Morgan

American Embassy
Rio de Janeiro
June 9, 1920

[6-9-20]

Private view of a collection of oil portraits by

Mrs. Cecil Clark Davis

at the American Embassy,
Praia Botafogo n.° 290, on Friday and Saturday,
June 18th. and 19th. 1920, from 2 to 5½ p. m.

[encl. 6-9-20]

Exposição particular de retratos a oleo por

Mrs. Cecil Clark Davis

no salão da Embaixada Americana,
á Praia Botafogo n.° 290, nos dias 18 e 19 de Junho
(sexta e sabbado), das 2 ás 5½ horas da tarde.

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BORDENTOWN MILITARY INSTITUTE
BORDENTOWN, NEW JERSEY
COL. THOMAS D. LANDON, INF., O.R.C., U.S.A.
PRINCIPAL AND COMMANDANT

DAVID STYER, C.E.
VICE PRINCIPAL
GEORGE W. LOW, A.B.
HEAD MASTER

24 June 20

Mrs. W. D. Straight
Old Westbury, L. I.
New York

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the photo made of the bronze memorial tablet given by subscription from old B. M. I. boys and friends. It is a more beautiful art production than I anticipated, and in addition, the sentiment of the gift and the inspiration we cannot help receiving from it make it the most precious of the many art objects about the school.

I wish very much that you could have been here at the dedication of the tablet on June 9. It was a most impressive ceremony and one of our finest old graduates, Hon. Oscar W. Jeffery, of New York, made a beautiful speech of dedication. He particularly referred to those who had made the supreme sacrifice and the powerful influence of their example as it would affect present and coming generations of B. M. I. boys.

I earnestly hope that at some time you may be able to visit the school and see the tablet in its place, as well as the tree that was named for Willard D. Straight. Perhaps you would like to have a few extra copies of this photographic reproduction and if you will let me know, I will take pleasure in sending them to you. I am

Very sincerely yours,

T D Landon

Thomas D. Landon.

TDL J

Rio de Janeiro
June 19th 1920,

My dear Dorothy

In my recent letter I mentioned I did I not, a water colored sketch which Willard made in Panama. It differs somewhat from his Santa Cruz sketches and thinking you might like to see it I have had a photograph prepared. In color it is even more charming. But even in black and white it indicates his admirable decorative sense.

The finished Dog of Cecil Davis

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picture does not do it well. To-
day is the record. I enclose a trans-
lation of a notice in the Tours
"Reading" morning newspaper.
With all good wishes
Sincerely, Edwin Morgan

TEL. DEDHAM 2

June 28th 1920.

WESTWOOD,
MASSACHUSETTS.

Dear Mrs Straight-

I am sorry to say I
have failed to write anything
that comes any where near
satisfying me - I don't quite
know why but it is not for
lack of trying - In fact I have
tried & tried again - I wrote one

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account last summer - When
I read it over it was wholly bad
when I did one after another &
they were all stilted - I am both
sorry and ashamed - I had such
a good time with Willard and
I learned so much from him that
it seemed to me I could surely
put into words at least something
that would give an idea of
what I saw & of the views he
held about things that are of real
importance - But not succeeded -
It seems rather like going back
on Willard and I don't like to do
that but I've really tried -
If I ever do succeed in doing
something that I like at all I'll
send it to you tho' then there will be

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too late for what you want -
Hope you won't think my failing in
this make you feel that I don't
care or make you less ready to
let me do anything for you and the
children if the time ever comes
when I can be of any use
very sincerely yours
Thomas W. Lamont

Borrowed by L.S. from Mr Fuller June 18/20
To be returned - Returned June 29/20
Memo. of D. A. de Mendocal

At the close of 1909 the International Consortium, composed of the British, French and German Banks strongly supported by their respective governments, dominated China's financial relationship with the great money markets of the world. The Hukuang Railway proposal had already been brought forcibly to the attention of our government as desirable business for American enterprise ~~x~~ when Straight returned to Peking as the special representative of an American Group of bankers. Their interest in this field had been aroused largely through his own personal efforts and they were now prepared actively to operate in China as a close working arrangement had just been reached with our Secretary of State, Mr. Philander C. Knox, covering the support which could be relied upon from the American Government. Our Legation at Peking was then in charge of Mr. Henry P. Fletcher, since Ambassador, first to Chile, and later to Mexico. When Straight reached Peking, Mr. Fletcher had for some months been pressing the Tripartite or European Group through diplomatic channels to admit the American Group into their syndicate for the financing of the Hukuang Railways; and while Mr. Fletcher continued this policy Straight started an energetic diversion in Manchuria (upon behalf of the American Group) for a large general development loan for that province. At the same time he entered into a plan with Messrs. Pauling & Company of London covering the financing and construction of a railway between Chinchow and Aigun in Manchuria. While these negotiations were apparently conducted with secrecy, it was not long before the Tripartite Group learned what was going on and as Straight progressed they became increasingly disturbed at this prospect of strong and effective American competition which threatened the monopoly they had maintained for so long over Chinese government finance.

This strategy finally gained its objective. The British, French and German Governments responded to the diplomatic pressure exerted from Washington

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and Peking by our own government and the Tripartite banks were equally influenced by Straight's activity in Manchuria where he was already at the point of closing this important loan agreement with the Viceroy. The American Group were accordingly given full participation in the famous Hukuang Railways Loan and the European consortium was thereupon enlarged by the formal admission of the American group of bankers, which were under the management of Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., in New York and ably represented in China by Straight. American finance had finally established itself upon a basis of equality in a foreign field where the European governments and bankers had hitherto enjoyed exclusive rights. During these long and difficult negotiations, Straight always held the confidence of those high officials representing the Chinese government who closely collaborated with him, and the warm personal friendship which existed between him and M. Maurice Casenave then representing the French bank in Peking, did much to facilitate the understanding which was finally reached between the European and American bankers.

The Inter-group agreement, however, covered only the Hukuang Railways Loan but since his return to China, as mentioned above, Straight had established most important rights for his group principally in the Manchurian district. His operations in this zone were of particular interest both to the Chinese and American Governments, as, entirely apart from their purely financial character, which was attractive in itself, a broader political consideration was involved. The Japanese and Russians with the tacit agreement of the British and French Governments respectively, were so ~~xp~~ rapidly consolidating their position in Manchuria that China's sovereign rights and the "Open Door" were threatened by the imminence of a claim by either or both of these governments of special interest in this province, which, once recognized by the other European powers, would not only have gravely endangered equal opportunity for commerce in this vast territory but would at the same time have accelerated the break up of the then Chinese Empire. It was Straight's idea that these principles could be protected by the neutralization of Manchuria and Mr. Knox was of like opinion.

It was his purpose to share with his three new associates the Manchurian loan c contract, which besides a general development scheme covered as well a plan for currency reform. The Chinchow-Aigun Railway agreement, however, always remained as exclusively Anglo-American undertaking, as Messrs. Pauling and Co., were closely allied in London with bankers who were in competition there with the official British Group in China which prevented the inclusion of this Chinchow-Aigun Railway agreement in the international syndicate of which the American Group were now members. During this period Straight was working under terrific pressure and his great gifts of resource, intelligence, tact and grasp of big affairs were heavily drawn upon. Not only were there many difficulties to overcome incidental to the construction of the Hukuang Railway but our admission to the banking syndicate did not realize complete political harmony as the location and mileage to be alloted to the American section had yet to be agreed upon with governments and bankers who still regarded the American Group as unwelcome interlopers. Through these ilvolved negotiations, closely working with Mr. William C. Calhoun, the able ~~Minister~~ American Minister at Peking, Straight conducted himself with extraordinary skill and success.

Strong opposition to the Chinchow-Aigun Railway soon developed from the Russian Government who openly threatened the Chinese Government with reprisals should they permit the American Group to complete this contract, and at the same time the Japanese Government expressed their disapproval to the British Minister at Peking, which prevented Messrs. Pauling & Company of London from receiving any real support from Downing Street. The situation eventually reached so complete an impasse that Straight left Peking for Petrograd with the hope of overcoming the objections of the Russian Government. His memorandum covering his interviews with practically all the members of the Czar's Cabinet was a most interesting and illuminating document. It disclosed the lack of co-ordination existing between the various departments of the old Russian Government and in the light of later events clearly foreshadowed the revolution of 1916 as these several officials with whom he conferred were administering the Government of that

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great country on principles which could eventually end only in disaster. It is not unlikely that this visit to Petrograd was for Straight probably his most interesting political experience in connection with the Far Eastern situation.

Shortly after his return to Peking, after an absence of some eight months, the first Chinese revolution began and for nearly a year Straight was deeply engrossed in negotiations with the Manchu dynasty covering an emergency loan of considerable magnitude. The republican forces, which were at this time conducting an active military campaign against the Imperial Army in the Valley of the Yangtze. The International Group had now been ~~xi~~ enlarged to include the British, French, German, American, Russian and Japanese bankers and their respective Legations gave their full support to the Imperial Chinese Government. During this period the political situation in China was extremely tense and the atmosphere heavily charged by plots and counterplots. When this contemplated loan was practically completed, the Chinese Repbulican forces made such strong representations to the bankers at Peking that the issue of securities abroad was eventually blocked notwithstanding the fact that the bankers had already advanced to the Imperial government considerable sums of money in anticipation. This obligation was, however, assumed by the new government upon the abdication of the Manchu dynasty. During these negotiations Straight was extremely active and his leadership greatly influenced the rapidly changing policies, which had frequently to conform from day to day to a political situation, which was almost kaleidescopic.

It is quite impossible in a short memorandum of this kind to convey any adequate idea of Straight's activities during the three years he spent in Peking, from 1909 to 1911, inclusive, when as the pioneer of American finance in the East, he was struggling to force an entry for his country into a field hitherto monopolized by the Great Powers of Europe and their bankers. He employed every instrument which ingenuity could suggest, he threw into his task a rare courage and persistence, he met opposition asserting itself in divers

ways, with a determination which never failed, and his tremendous faith and enthusiasm overcoming all obstacles, brought him the full measure of success. When he returned to New York from Peking he had made for America a place at the Council Table of Chinese Finance and our voice was heard in the guidance of Far East affairs, speaking with an authority never known before, and what is more, permanence in our position was assured. This great achievement, however, was, through no fault of his, destined not to last in its original form. The Bryan-Wilson diplomacy of ~~1~~ 1912, through some process of wrong-thinking impossible to understand, tore down all that he had built up, but the policy which inspired him to enter upon this work, has since justified itself, and Mr. Wilson is now endeavouring to reverse and repair the damage resulting from his own stupid blunder of eight years ago. During these three years, though some may naturally have from time to time disagreed with Straight, none ever failed to admire his fine attributes of character, his high sense of honor, and his true regard for the rights of others. His natural chivalry, his enthusiasm and great generosity in mind and deed, always won for him friends, both among the Chinese and foreigners. Much that is difficult for others to accomplish was for him easy, as his winning smile and natural charm went far to stimulate prejudice in his favor before he began.

D. A. De Menocal

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who reads N. Willard
+ does Mr. Cochran
Lee. always reminds me
the type of American
manhood. We unfortunately
became. There are
many American like
them. We became they have
proven what an American
can + should be. If
you can help to place
on Willard's ideals +
traditions I know you are
doing a very worthwhile
thing.

Burlington Vt.
July 6th/220.

My dear Mr. Straight:

Cochran has me
How I long him in
New York that I am
now arranging a
volume of letters to
Willard - knew he will
interested in it. For it
is time to be an
inspiration to my one

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How [illegible] to Colonel Sidney Lindsley about his & Willard's experiences & policy in France? He often asks me, & very rarely, have I had one, & the rare & costly time I can summon, & he kept me a whole afternoon between callers & trains not about those stirring days — One story of "the true world" is the most human, whimsical, delightful story there ever was or will be — Could you make me [illegible] it over again, & perhaps Col. Lindsley would — & then he could write it for you — Yes — then the Atlantic & Century then Willard for me for Christmas — Would you care to read it? Bessie — to be printed in the summer for private circulation, but at home. She is so well & long led a public active life once more ago that I am sure you will be so glad to have it too. Very sincerely yours Frank Russell

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H. S. HOWLAND
35 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

PHONE HANOVER ~~6000~~ 1242

July 15, 1920

My dear Mrs Straight.

I returned from France several weeks ago, but was ordered to the Walter Reed Hospital at Washington in view of physical disability due to wounds. I came to New York last Friday accompanied by General and Mrs A.W. Bjornstad - to be here for some time.

General Bjornstad was the director of the Staff College in France when Willard and I were students there and it was he who took Willard with him upon his staff, when he organized the 3rd Corps. He has expressed the greatest desire to meet you. If you do come to the City, won't you let me know, so that I may arrange a lunch for you to meet the General and his wife, who will be here all of next week. With all good wishes,

Sincerely
Harry S. Howland

Mrs Willard D Straight
Wood's Hole, Mass

George Charles Hanson
Consul of the United States of America
Foochow China

135 PARK AVENUE
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

July 18 - 1920.

Dear Mrs Straight -

I trust you will pardon this note -

I am one of Willard's old friends in the Consular Service and met you in Peking 1910 and in Shanghai in 1912 - You have probably forgotten - but my record can be found in the War Dept in America.

I am now home on leave from Foochow, China and would like to call on you & Mrs Howland in person my sympathy in regard to your loss - for Willard's death

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must have been a terrible blow
to you as it was to his friends.

I am here visiting my roommate Howard, who has been ill with tuberculosis which he contracted when a Major in the army. He was also a friend of Willard's. He was one of the old editors of the Cornell fraternity at Cornell. Within a few days I am going to Washington & report & then I shall return to New York where I hope to see you. Please answer this, addressing me care Cornell Club, N.Y. City.

With all best wishes,

yours sincerely
Benj Hanson.

[8-14-20?]

29 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I have just finished reading Mr. Travis' article in Asia. Although his subject was not a difficult one I think he has done wonderfully well in displaying the character of Major Straight. I was particularly pleased with the manner in which he showed Major Straight's courage, sense of humor and, perhaps, his desire to show the chinese how thinly they covered their graft,

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at the Inspector General's entertainment at which he made fun of the "squeeze".

If by any chance you intend to have the Graves articles put in permanent form, will you please do me the honor of letting me have a copy?

Sincerely,

Walter G. Tahy

August 14-1920

J.A. REYNOLDS
KEENE, N.H.

En route
Aug. 17. 1920

Dear Mrs. Straight

A very black night on a train delayed by a "wash-out" has one bright hour in it. I had brought with me ASIA and I read the article about "An American in Asia"; and now I am taking it on to my two boys. I have a sense of distinct loss in the consciousness that this wonderful young man went away from this Earth before I had an opportunity to know him except in the most casual way, - as an ordinary "financier". He would have been a great President for Cornell. ~~and~~ or a great Minister of State.

I hope that a brief life may be written to put into the hands of serious-minded young men —and perhaps of the other sort. Too.

Sincerely yours John Foster

To
Mrs. Willard Straight.

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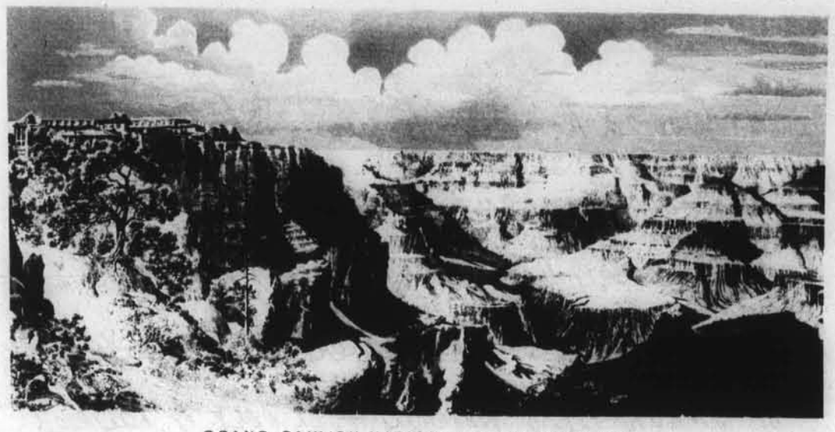

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK ARIZONA.

EL TOVAR
FRED HARVEY.

August 19th 1920

Dear Mrs. Straight.—

We have been having a very varied life within the last week. From Santa Barbara we went to Los Angeles - It was a great contrast - We simply adored Santa Barbara - and hated to leave - It was the most all around beautiful as well as livable place we were in and we both decided that if we ever had to choose another home

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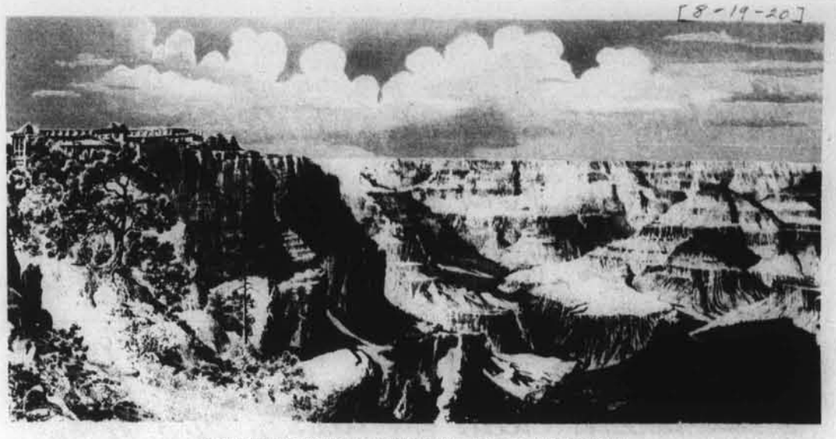
it would be Santa Barbara. Los Angeles on the other hand seemed most unattractive. It was very hot - very dirty and lacking in civic pride - There were great contrasts of wealth and poverty - a sort of "Layseed" City - with its money poorly applied - the people were ungracious as a whole - and it took us back to the realties of life. with a bang - Living in Santa Barbara seemed like a sort of romantic fairy tale.

On Sunday we went to Pasadena and asked Miss Anna Williams to take dinner with us - I wondered whether she knew you because I knew that she had known Mr. Straight's father and mother very well

[8-19-20]



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK ARIZONA.

EL TOVAR
FRED HARVEY.

V

and had taken care of Mr. Straights and his sister when they were little children - She told us that she had just had a letter from Mr. Straights sister & then she told us some stories of Mr. Straight that I thought you would love to know. When he was a tiny little boy his parents read the story of the old Greeks to him and he was so vitally interested in it that it all actually existed for him - After

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The story was finished he would lie down on the floor and draw pictures of the stories, which Miss Williams said were really very good - One time a friend of his parents came for dinner and in relation to something in the conversation she said that something had happened very long ago - The little boy sat all attention - and when the end of the conversation came he turned to the visitor and said "was it very very long ago?" The visitor assured him that it had been very long ago - Then he said "Are you very very old?" She assured him she was - He waited hardly contain himself with excitement and finally jumped on her saying "Then perhaps you

[8-19-20]

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK ARIZONA.

EL TOVAR
FRED HARVEY.

3.

were at the siege of Troy!" (Alice Williams) She was full of stories of this kind and I knew you would love to know about her - Her home has for many years been in Pasadena - She is a great idealist and many of the ideals she has have been a direct result of her friendship with Mr & Mrs. Straight. They must have been very wonderful people.

Then one day, of our stay in Los Angeles we spent in Redlands with friends and went through the many wonderful orange

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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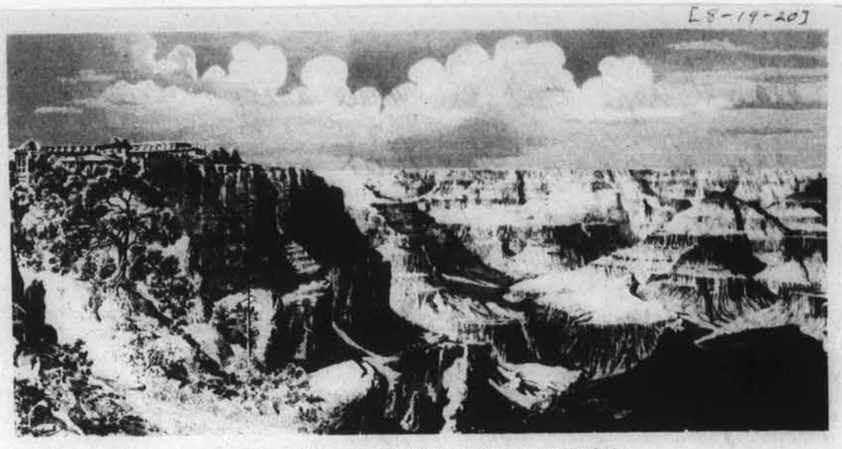
groves and vineyards - It was very interesting.

Yesterday we left for the Canyon - and we arrived here in time for breakfast this morning - after breakfast we found a path which led us along the cliffs and we just sat and watched this marvelous view and the ever changing color, the sky the clouds and marvelled most perhaps at the magnitude and the silence - All morning we looked, all afternoon looked and all ~~afternoon~~ evening we looked and always it was different.

Sometimes I wonder whether I can ever tell you what this trip has done for us — I really don't believe I can even begin to tell you - but it has done so very much that I would like to try and tell you - It seems as tho' all the little worries of everyday life, that had made life hard

[8-19-20]



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK ARIZONA.

EL TOVAR
FRED HARVEY.

4

Knots in our hearts and minds had all suddenly gone away - Life seems so much bigger and more wonderful and more worth while — I don't know just how it all happened - it came gradually I suppose and then all of a sudden there came a wonderful flow of the joy of living that made us almost feel as tho nothing had been left in - never to go away. It is a wonderful feeling to have seen so much, to have been so comfortable and care free.

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How I hope that in some way I will be able to apply all that has come to me this summer to my every day life and to my work — As you know I can just feel that it has given me a new lease on life — And for all this we feel more grateful every day.

I do hope that I can see you soon after you get back. Will you tell me when I may see you — it will be such fun to talk with you about the things we have seen and done.

Affectionately,
Louise Meyer.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005399

WARREN G. OGDEN.
53 STATE STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

August 24, 1920.

Asia Publishing Co.,
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I was much interested in your recent advt. in the daily papers concerning your forthcoming story of Willard Straight - I shall purchase the numbers. He was a classmate of mine at Cornell University and an intimate friend. I imagine that you have learned already that he was relatively poor while an undergraduate. At that time he was artistic editor of the "Cornell Widow" and I was manager of the "Cornell Masque". I held competitions for program covers and for the two years I was Manager Straight's designs in pen and ink always won the two tickets to the performance given as a prize. He was always eager to enter the competitions and I believe he would not have seen the shows had he not been able to earn the tickets. His later rise to affluence was most dramatic. I have two of his original program cover designs at home and will be delighted to loan them to you for reproduction if you believe they would lend interest to your article. Did the compiler of Straight's story learn that while at college he was known by the nick-name "Issy", derived from "Is he Straight."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Warren G. Ogden.

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429 HOMER BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARTIN J. SHUGRUE
222 CHARLES RIVER ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

NEW YORK CITY, 1 September 1920.

Dear Mrs Straight:

I have been thinking some lately over the lectures for the Junior League, and I have prepared a schedule which I am enclosing. This outline is more or less tentative, but may serve as a basis for a more definite formulation, after we have talked it over or you have given me your ideas. I want to give some more concrete material this time and I think I can make them somewhat less formidable. Perhaps four or five illustrated lectures might help some. Also I had thought of bringing in seven or eight lectures from the

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005400

[9-1-20]

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MARTIN J. SHUGRUE
222 CHARLES RIVER ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

NEW YORK CITY,

outside, or possibly more. I have introduced some more social service material in the first half, which if presented by some one engaged in practical ~~work~~ work, ought to bring a practical atmosphere to the course. The general arrangement remains very much the same as that of last year.

I thought it best to make the plans somewhat definite at this time as it would help in laying out the field trips. And it occurred to me you might be able to make use of some such outline, in connection with those who contemplate taking the course but want to know more concerning what it is about. What do you think of the titles? It might be possible to give some more life and vividness to these topics, but there might be a sacrifice of dignity; and if they were made too lively, they would be somewhat deceptive. It does seem to me that they ought to appeal in the sense that they cover a wide range of interesting material. And they certainly concern fundamental issues to-day. Of the whole course might be changed radically, but I thought probably considerable improvement might be made here and there on the original plan. I am afraid it is still above the heads of the very young members of the League.

I hope you have spent a pleasant summer. I have just read with the greatest interest the first instalment in Asia of the

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
005401

life of Willard Straight. It was wonderfully impressive and fascinating. I got a sort of human feel and recognition and an atmosphere of warmth out of the account. It was a facinating and romantic picture.

I have been spending a very satisfactory and enjoyable summer. It's the first summer I have had free in some time. I've had lots of time without interruptions. And I have, more or less in seclusion, done quite a bit of studying and writing – just the things I wanted to do. I am just now winding up on the last lap of the writing I had laid out. There is some satisfaction in finishing on time. And I've been only assured that the stuff I have done was sound. I have been working on my favorite theme of culture and the original nature of man — By the way Herbert Croly had an article some weeks ago in the New Republic which I thought was a

[9-1-20]

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MARTIN J. SHUGRUE
222 CHARLES RIVER ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

NEW YORK CITY,

most satisfactory exposition of some aspects of the human nature problem. — This whole problem is some what large and complex, and does not lend itself to scientific verification with specific data, just now, so do some of the simple hypotheses. However, the work and study I have been doing have been very valuable to me, and together with a little tennis and the movies it has been very enjoyable.

Mrs. Ogburn's health has had its fluctuations but the kids have been going strong.

All good wishes

William F. Ogburn

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005402

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

September 2, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am just writing you a line to tell you that the first story on Willard seems to be attracting a good deal of interested attention. The page advertisement which we ran in the Sunday magazine section of The Times brought in on the first day 142 subscriptions, which is 17 more than any previous ad for the magazine section, has given us. On the newsstands in New York the issue seems to be going very well - incomplete investigation of the stands showing that the magazine has been pretty well sold out down town.

Yesterday at luncheon a friend of mine who reads the magazine and likes it and who has no special interest in the East, told me that he thought the story of Willard was unusually interesting. I do not think he had known of Willard before.

Very best wishes to you,

Yours sincerely,
Louis D Froelick

LDF:MM

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Woods Hole,
Massachusetts.

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ENDORSED BY THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND THE TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
LIFE AND LABOR
Mrs. Raymond Robins, Editor
Miss Sarah C. Rippey, Associate Editor

Present address - c/o Bible Teachers' Training School
541 Lexington Ave.
New York City

September 2, 1920

Dear Mrs. Straight:

You may have a line from Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, who wants to talk over some matters with you. She intends being in Wood's Hole shortly. At present she is at Block Island, R.I. but when I saw her she was not sure where she was going to stay.

May I tell you with what interest I read the current number of Asia. Till then, I did not know that Mr. Straight was one of the young followers of Sir Robert Hart. His name has meant so much to me all my life. I remember out in Australia reading "These from the Land of Sinim" in its yellow covers. If only such ideas as his could prevail. It takes all one's faith in the final power of ideas not to be disheartened. That's why I pin my faith to the education of the rank and file " not forgetting women".

Yours very sincerely
Alice Henry

Mrs. Willard Straight
Wood's Hole
Massachusetts

14 Woodley
12-30 St. Rd

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F.T.R.

September 2nd 1920.

Dearest Dorothy:-

You cant imagine how glad I was to hear from you and of your horribly scientific doings - my letter of August 26th must have crossed en route -

I was tremendously amused at your adventure with the "Literary Set" and have just reread that part of your letter, and it made me laugh so loud that Peter, who sleeps in my bathroom came sleepily in to see what I was laughing about all alone - I hasten to explain that Peter is a dog -

The only day I am going to be in town the week of the wedding is Wednesday the 15th - and if you are in town that day there is nothing in the world I should love more than to have you lunch with me at any time & place convenient for you. I feel guilty suggesting Wednesday because you will reach town Tuesday a.m. from Woods Hole and it is all wrong for you to come dashing in from Westbury on Wednesday and again on Saturday. At all odds I have to be in town Wednesday, will keep luncheon free and if you find you have to come to town any way let me and you will find a delighted F.T.R. ready for you.

I am loudly telling that the 18th is but two weeks off. and find that my principle occupation is going to the Express office in a very brazen, grabby way and wondering what I'll do of a day the 18th will be. for if it rains it will be a mess.

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"What nots out of which your scientist friends seem to make their sandwiches for the picnics — to top up setting! One is enough! —

What I have tried to say and what I have said is probably entirely different and I shall & undoubtedly discover when I read this scrawly little note again that I have said nothing I wanted to say. Now I am too sleepy to know or care. So with the high hopes of seeing you on Wednesday the 15th and surely on Saturday the 18th Much love to you.

James

P.S. Helen Hildreth Clark expects the baby any day next week and Ethel Russell another one some time or rather — all of which you probably know all ready — Goodnight.
J.

I have just been reading the first part of "An American in Asia". and I am so interested by it and loved reading it and building with its help but principally with yours, in my mind a clear picture of the wonderful person your husband is — The sketches are beguiling and I liked best of all the "Buddhist Acolyte" — he has such sleepy, patient eyes — Goodness what a talent it is to be able to sketch one's impressions and catch them permanently in that way — I love some of the longer sketches Mr. Straight did — which are in your room in town I think — I am so interested in the Chinese diplomacy part of the story and how it becomes more and more involved and can hardly wait for the October number of Asia to appear — so I may read more of it and follow Mr. Straight and "Sir Robert" on their gay by social and serious diplomatic way —

Please don't let the "typos" and

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[9-8-20]

Ulysses Bay

J. I.

Jeanne Jordan:—

Your letter was a joy & told me just what I wanted to know.

I am glad you are staying on at Woods Hole though it leaves an awful gap here to have you

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005406

away —

I was delighted with the first natural news of Willard's life in Asia. as was Joe. Most clearly & deftly it seemed to me — gives a really characteristic impression of his personality — and I did not believe that anyone one could write Willard's personality. Of course his

 [9-8-20]

sketches enhance it and modify. They are enchanting to me. both in the way they are done and in the way. They are the enjoyment & appreciation of diverse humanity which Willard speaks — It is a joy to feel them through them — through the life thousands of people are

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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going to share in the appreciation and enjoyment of William. It means a great deal to his friends & to him. Nothing can have this thing done so beautifully done - & as you say, as the children grow older it is a wonderful thing for them & me to have.

Mrs Harriman tells me

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[9-8-20]

that Mr Croly's is also a beautiful piece of work & gives a strong & characteristic impression.

It cannot have been easy for you to have these things done, not to work as you have this Summer, but the benefit is very great. Be sure and live up to this

[7-8-20]

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love all terribly anxious.

Mrs Reginald Brock has asked me to ask if there would be any chance of you having a League of Women Voters meeting at your house on either Sept 21st or 22nd or 28th or 29th, depending on your convenience + that

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Robinson's last book + told them about your high Thoughts. Lee decided That the Robinsons are ale high. very high – Lee came away feeling That stimulated refreshed + Encouraged as always – although Admiral Coales had a second stroke While we were There + They

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005409

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

Sept 9th, 1920

Dear Mrs. Straight,-

I am inclosing a carbon copy of the Thers instalment of the Diary, as it will appear in the November issue. Roughly, I made the corrections on your copy, but all the proper names are not yet verified in spelling (our stenographer may not have copied them all correctly) and there may be a few minor changes, before it is in final shape for the Press. But I thought it best to send it promptly that you might make any suggestions in regard to it, that you fell would improve it.

I want you to know

2

of the Speakers -
The Subject is to be Ten
2 party platforms. The Repp.
to be presented by Rosalie
Sorew Whitney & Tom Lam.
ing Palmer & Schneider
else. I said I would
ask you & you can let me
know then I see you -
Such will be a good day -
Come with so much love
Sept 8th/20 Nellie

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005410

how much I enjoyed my visit with you and the pleasure it gave me to have a little talk with you about the magazine and the Orient. I shall be very glad to try to identify as many of your photographs as I can when you return to the city — and we should love to have some of them to use in the magazine.

I hope your little boy recovered quickly after his dose of castor oil. It seems to be a universal nightmare among children. I dont blame them. Do you?

Most sincerely,

Elsie Weil

Sept. 19 [1920]
[Santa Barbara]

111 WEST VALERIO STREET

My dear - You are so much part of my thinking and feeling life - that I suppose it was not really strange that the instant I touched your letter in my mail the other day "Dorothy Straight" flashed into my intelligence as plainly as though some one had spoken the words - It made a great impression on me - for in general I am too dense to get the subtler

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005411

East and the West. Those are our dreams too — and my sister Beatrice LaNoux, is working constantly towards their realization. Her house is always full of the Chinese in Paris — and she has just published a book about a remarkable Chinese woman — what I am going to send you. I miss your husband and the homey and kindness of his personality and influence more and more — just as I appreciate you, your radiant beautiful person — more each day that I live — and I look to a time when I may have the privilege and joy of being your friend —

I have done everything possible, to find comfortable lodging for them: Lexington and her

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005412

messages and many
of things about us -
I was so glad to hear
from you - and it
means much to me
that you feel as you
do about the loss
of that wonderful
little grandson of
ours - I think
constantly of you,
husband - and his
beautiful dreams
of a better under-
standing and brother-
hood between the

bedrooms - or double
bedroom and sitting
room - one room with
five place - and
everything fresh and
new and attractive
with a glorious view
of the mountains -
thirty dollars a day
is that too much?
El Tirasol (which
we have sold) is
charging $16 a day
a person - so it is less
than that - The
only alternative is

a hotel, for next winter
El Tirasol is en-
tirely full - also
see the other old
hotels - I have been
to every one for you.
There is a beautiful
new hotel, to be
finished January first
Samarkand - and
there I could get
two lovely rooms
and baths - To be
used as two single

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005413

a sort of boarding house - The Rockwood Inn - where I could get a tiny cottage with two bedrooms sitting room and bath for $90 a week — would you telegraph me which to engage as many rooms is being taken now —

Do you remember ordering six blue wicker arm chairs for your hut at Camp Upton ? I have sent the bill several times - but it must have miscarried - so I enclose it again —

I wish you, too, were coming out here this winter — as we are staying on until March —, would you pay us a little visit at East Hampton next Summer - please save a week for us —

My love and deepest admiration and sympathy Yrs. Adele Harte

24 Sept. 1920

REMIREMONT (Vosges)
Téleph. 161

Madame,

Monsieur Bennett m'ayant demandé de votre part de bien vouloir vous adresser quelques lignes concernant votre très regretté mari, je m'empresse de vous envoyer

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[9-24-20]

I

CHARLES BOURGOGNE
REMIREMONT
(VOSGES)

Adresse Télégraphique:
BOURGOGNE · REMIREMONT

TÉLÉPHONE 22

La mort de Monsieur le Major Straight survenue très peu de temps après son séjour à Remiremont m'a causé ainsi qu'à ma famille la plus grande peine; car il était de ces hommes dont le souvenir ne s'éteint qu'avec la vie de ceux qui les ont connus.

Nous avions beaucoup apprecié cette nature si élevée d'intelligence, et de sentiments nobles.

Pendant le temps qu'il a vécu parmi nous, il avait su gagner toutes les admiratives sympathies, et je pourrais citer bien des traits de sa délicatesse ainsi que des témoignages de son amour pour notre pays qu'il était si noblement venu défendre.

Il menait à Remiremont une vie de travail intense; mais quand il pouvait nous donner quelques moments de causerie ce resumé des impressions que nous a laissées le Major Straight.

Permettez-moi Madame de vous renouveler l'expression de mon respectueux hommage.

Charles Bourgogne

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II [9-24-20]

CHARLES BOURGOGNE
REMIREMONT
(VOSGES)

Adresse Télégraphique :
BOURGOGNE · REMIREMONT

TÉLÉPHONE 22

intime, avec quel intérêt profond nous l'écoutions. Quelle joie pour nous de trouver cette similitude de gôuts, d'opinions, de compréhension artistique et littéraire chez un étranger qui dès les premiers jours de son entrée dans notre intérieur était l'ami de la maison, l'ami de la cause, l'ami de la France!

Son grand espoir dans l'avenir victorieux de notre pays redonnait à tous ceux qui l'écoutaient la confiance et la patience que les successifs événements malheureux venaient si souvent ébranler.

Et avec quelle joie profonde il nous parlait de sa famille qu'il désirait tant revoir!

L'on sentait quand il parlait de Madame Straight et de

II [9-24-20]

CHARLES BOURGOGNE
REMIREMONT
(VOSGES)

Adresse Télégraphique :
BOURGOGNE · REMIREMONT

TÉLÉPHONE 22

ses beaux enfants qu'il était constamment près d'eux en pensée malgré le grand éloignement et les occupations si graves qui absorbaient tout son temps.

Il n'a pas été pour moi et ma famille l'étranger qui passe, il a été celui qui a passé en laissant un souvenir inoubliable de grande admiration.

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005416

talked of his kindliness and studiousness. They had met at the Oswego Normal School you know, both teaching; she at one time one of his students, & Celia. Everyone said, she was the better teacher. She herself was not strong, but always doing for others.

I remember keenly the dark, hair, wavy — the deep set dark brown eyes and thin face; the dark brown, soft, loose woolen gown she used to wear. It always delighted me to stick a Brown-eyed-Susan in her buttonhole. You see, I was agonizingly shy and unworldly in those days; she was truly my guardian angel and took the trouble to draw

[Krackowizer]

Sept. 26, 1920

Dear Lu,

Thank you for your good birthday letter. I am so happy the two of you have had such a wonderful summer. I am also glad that you gave Anna Williams the pleasure of that visit. She will feed on it for a long time;

As to stories of Mr. Straight, you know I did not know him well. He was already dying, and Mrs. St. doing his work for him. While substituting for him, she drew his salary; when in her own right, characteristically they gave her $ 600 less. Everyone

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me out. At her Sunday afternoon informal teas, to which a few close friends, like Sarah Butler, Mr. Fitz and others used to come, I sat watching and listening; at first present only because she had come to my room after me. Those were the old dormitory days.

Her offer to take me with her to Japan as Kindergarten and Primary teacher, made me very happy and helped me to self-confidence. Grandmamma's objections nearly broke my heart, but I did not yet.

Her long letters, which she wrote me from Japan, were gems. I never had the courage to destroy them. I fear the cloud burst in Rocky Ford this summer did this for me as for some other treasures.

I used to admire her two beautiful children and quite envy Anna Willetts her care of them, being too shy to make any advances myself.

I hope I will meet Mrs. Straight some day. Just now I feel farther removed from my family and old friends than I have ever been. These reminiscences are very subjective and probably not what you want at all. They have taken me back into one of the happiest and one of the most critical periods in my life. The memory of such friends helps over the hard places in life. I wish I might know that I have been as good a friend to someone.

Drop me a line occasionally. I am foolish enough to be lonely of late. Lovingly,

Aunt Alice.

924 Water St.
Lewiston, Idaho

Sept. 25, 1920.

THE DEANERY
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I am
happy to be able to tell you
that Mr. Thomas W. Lamont
has accepted my invitation
to make the principal address
at the service to be held in
the Cathedral on the afternoon
of October 10th in commemoration
of the ninth anniversary of
the establishment of the
Chinese Republic. I have

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
005418

asked him to speak of the traditional friendship between the United States and China, with especial reference to the Chinese Consortium as an evidence of it, so that this service will in a way mark the consummation of some of the work in which Your husband was so actively interested. We are inviting the Chinese Minister and other members of the Legation in Washington to attend. I also hope that You will find it possible to be present. Mrs. Robbins is still in the country, but when I spoke to her of the service she expressed the hope that You would attend the service with her, occupying the Blair seats.

Faithfully Yours
Howard C. Robbins.

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SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE BELGIQUE

Bruxelles, le 2 Octobre 1920.
Montagne du Parc, 3.

Direction
N° 695

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai bien reçu l'exemplaire du numéro de Septembre de " ASIA " que vous avez bien voulu m'envoyer et qui contient le premier d'une série d'articles sur Willard Straight.

Je vous remercie de l'aimable attention que vous avez eue en m'envoyant cette illustration. Ce fut pour moi un véritable plaisir de voir rendre hommage d'une manière si compréhensive à ce noble et généreux caractère qu'était Straight. J'ai conservé de lui, comme je pense tous ceux qui ont eu l'occasion de l'approcher, un souvenir très profond et sa mémoire m'est particulièrement chère.

Veuillez agréer, cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus dévoués.

Chev. Carton de Tournai

Secrétaire Honoraire du Roi.
Directeur de la Société Générale de Belgique.

A Monsieur L.D. FROELICK.
Editeur de " ASIA ".
627, Lexington Ave., NEW YORK City

The New
REPUBLIC
421 West 21st Street
New York City

October 4/ 1920

Mrs. Willard Straight,
Old Westbury,
Long Island, N.Y

My dear Dorothy:

I enclose a clipping from the Evening Post of Saturday on the action of the members of the Willard Straight Post about Louis F. Post. Charlie Merz is covering the incident in a paragraph.

I hope we shall see you on Wednesday.

Faithfully yours,
H.C.

HC/B
(Enc)

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
005420

[end. 10-4-20]

New York,
Oct. 2, 1920.

Sir:-

The undersigned officers and members of the Willard Straight Post #842 of the American Legion unqualifiedly condemn the resolution adopted by the Legion Executives calling for the dismissal from office of the Hon. Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

We have no sympathy whatever with the aims and beliefs of citizens or aliens who would overturn our American form of government by means of violence or otherwise, to substitute therefor any form of communism. However, we do not believe in the persecution or prosecution of men for the opinions and beliefs which they may hold, repugnant as those beliefs may be to our own.

Mr. Post acted to put a stop to the deportation of aliens who had been arrested and ordered deported by proceedings in flagrant violations of the Spirit of American institutions and the letter of American law, as exposed by the recent report of Dean Pound and others.

This action of the Legion executives is but another manif estation of the reactionary panic characteristic of this as of all post-war periods. We heartily commend Mr. Post for the firm stand taken by him in accordance with the best traditions of American political liberties. We take this means of expressing to Mr. Post our appreciation of his courage in cancelling the deportation warrants in question.

We call upon the members of the Legion whose opinions

[10-1-20]

these executives pretend to represent to protest against this unwarranted and un-American attack upon a public official.

We speak for ourselves as individual members of this Post in default of a meeting of Post ~~and not for~~ the Willard Straight Post as a whole.

Ernest Angell, President;
Sidney Howard, Secretary;
F. H. Partridge, Treasurer;
A. A. Berle,
Edward Hale Bierstadt,
Eustace Seligman,
Chauncey Belknap,
Walter C. Pettit,
Parker McCollester.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
005421

ASIA

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE ON THE ORIENT

627 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK CITY

CABLE ADDRESS, "AMASIAT"

October 6, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I had a talk with Wheeler of the Foreign Press Service about the book. What they propose is, that if a book is to be published using the articles that are appearing in ASIA or along those lines, they would like to handle the placing of its publication with a publisher in this country.

I told Wheeler that as I understood it, the question of the publication of a book along the lines of the ASIA articles was not decided upon and probably would not be until Mr. Croly's book was further along; that the publication of another book than Mr. Croly's was dependant upon his book, and that at the present time Mr. Croly's book was the only one contemplated.

Wheeler's proposal is to do what we ourselves ought to be able to do if you decide upon another book. He understands this and made the suggestion with the idea that they were in the business of placing book publications whereas we, directly, were not.

Louis Graves has written to Mr. Smith of the Century Company telling him practically the same thing. We have lately received a letter from the George H. Doran Company inquiring about the book publication and I shall tell them what we have told the others, if this meets with your approval.

Fiedler kindly is taking the books to you

The Rumford Press has bound up a few samples of the articles in book form which I am sending to you. I think the covers should be better looking than any they have submitted.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Louis D. Froelick

LDF:MM

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York.

ASIA

Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

October 8, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am sending you copies of some of the letters we are receiving. This morning Charles Hanson Towne who has relations with G. P. Putnam's Sons, called me up about the prospect of publishing the ASIA series in book form and said that Putnam would be interested. I told him the situation, advising him to get in touch with Mr. Croly with regard to Mr. Croly's book, and of the uncertainty of whether there would be any other book publication. He suggested that you might write an introduction for any book that might be published.

Yours sincerely,

Louis D. Froelick

LDF:C

Mrs. Willard Straight,
Old Westbury,
L. I.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005422

COPY

Greenville, Del.,

March 26, 1921.

Gentlemen:

Will you tell me whether the diary of Willard Straight, published serially in your magazine, has been or is going to be published in book form? I hope that anything as charmingly interesting as it is will have this additional opportunity of gaining the popularity it deserves.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Gerald J. Pyle

Asia publishing Co.

Salem, September 11, 1920.

My dear Sir:

I have been a subscriber of Asia from the first number. Have bought an extra number of Asia in order to have the picture of Willard Straight framed for my library. Shall I return the copy you have sent me? for which I thank you.

Very truly yours,

Edw. S. Morse

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005423

Display Bank Advertising
E. L. Miller 105 East 5th Street

Nashville Ind. September 18, 1920.

Publisher of ASIA,
627 Lexington Avenue.,
New York.

Dear Sir;-

Yours of Sept. 9 has been forwarded me from Peru, Ind. and is just received.

Thank you very much for remembering me and in thus sending the articles on the life of Willard D. Straight. I shall certainly appreciate them exceedingly.

Kindly make note of the fact thay my address is now Nashville, Indiana.

I trust I shall not miss the first number -- the September issue of the magazine -- that was sent to my old address.

Anxiously awaiting the beginning of the Series,

I am, Gratefully,

Mrs. E. L. Miller

COPY

The First National Bank of Boston

D. A. de Mencal
Vice President

September
Twentieth
1 9 2 0

Louis D. Froelick, Esq,
Publisher of Asia,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Froelick:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of the 8th instant which is greatly appreciated.

We receive here at the bank two copies of "Asia each month, but the numbers containing the series on Willard Straight we would be very glad to have at home where they can be read quietly without interruption. Our address, however, is No. 181 Beacon Street Boston, instead of No 5 Fairmount Street, Brookline, as we have just moved into town.

With renewed thanks, believe me

Yours sincerely,

D. A. de Mencal

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
005424

COPY

Winchester Public Schools
John Handley Foundation

office of the
Superintendent

Winchester, Virginia.
September 10, 1920.

John Feord, Esq., Secretary,
The American Asiatic Association,
627 Lexington Avenue.,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing $3.50, as per the enclosed form, for renewal of membership.

I am especially interested in the articles about Willard Straight, or Bill Straight, as we used to call him. I have been reading about him with considerable interest, since I went to China in 1904 to take his place under Sir Robert Hart. The articles are exceedingly good. It seems like reading letters from him to read the articles you have prepared about him.

About a week ago I was visiting one of Straight's old friends, Major James Garfield McIlroy, and I had with me the first of the articles concerning Bill Straight. The Major was exceedingly interested and we had a very pleasant two days' visit, which largely consisted in reminiscences of the days in Pekin.

Very truly yours,

F. E. Clerk

FEC/L

COPY

Cedarhurst, L. I.

Sept. 29, 1920.

Dear Mr. Froelick:

Your appreciative letter of the 10th was recd. & in due course the Sept. Asia. I have read the Straight articles with insight & many other emotions. Thank ybu. I shall be proud to have my memories of him incorporated in this remarkable story.

Please see that Graves gets the enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

P. J. McCook

Louis D. Froelick, Esq.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005425

Hallgarten & Co.

New York London

Chicago.

Chicago, September 18, 1920.

Mr. Louis D. Froelick,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Froelick:-

I am in receipt of your letter of September 8th and with to thahk you for your courtesy.

However, the magazine which you say you are sending me under separate cover, has not as yet arrived.

Trusting that I will receive the September issue of ASIA in due time, and again thanking you for your courtesy, I am

Very truly yours,

Allen Haines

JAH/MM

Room 701
111 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

September 17, 1920.

Mr. L. D. Froelick,
Asia Magazine,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Froelick:

Mr. Vanderlip has your letter of September 9th and asks me to thank you for sending him a copy of the September issue of Asia.

Sincerely yours,

John Letcher Harrison,

Secretary to Mr. Vanderlip.

jlh/k

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005426

Grayson M.P. Murphy
Fifteen Broad Street
New York September 20, 1920.

L. D. Froelick, Esq.,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In behalf of Mr. G. M.-P. Murphy, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September ninth, and also the September issue of "Asia" containing the first of the articles on Willard Straight.

I am sure Mr. Murphy will be interested in this article and it will be brought to his attention at the earliest opportunity. He is at present abroad.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

M. A. Miller
Secretary

MAM/M

Pacific Development Corporation
Eighty Wall Street
New York September 15, 1920.

Mr. L. D. Froelick,
The Asia Publishing Company,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York.

Dear Froelick:

Thanks for your letter of September 10th calling my attention to the series of articles on Willard Straight in the September issue of ASIA, which I shall be immensely interested to read.

Faithfully yours,

Edward B. Bruce

EBB:G

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005427

60 State Street, Boston 9, Mass.

September 11, 1920.

L. D. Froelick, Esq.,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Froelick:

Many thanks for your letter of September 9th calling my attention to a series of articles on Willard Straight now being published in "Asia". I am a subscriber to "Asia" and shall be interested in reading the articles as they appear.

Yours very truly,

Thomas N. Perkins

September 13, 1920.

Louis D. Froelick, Esquire,
Publisher, ASIA,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York, New York.

My dear Sir:

In Mr. Carr's absence from the city I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the tenth of September, sending to him a copy of the September number of ASIA which contains the first of a series of articles on Willard Straight, and to assure you that Mr. Carr will appreciate your courtesy in this regard.

Very truly yours,

B. M. Griffith
Secretary to the
Eirector of the Consular Service.

DC

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005428

Metropolitan Club
Washington, D. C.
September 21, 1920.

Dear Mr. Froelick:-

Thank you very much for your letter of the 19th instant and for the September issue of "Asia".

I have read the article about Willard Straight with the keenest sympathetic interest.

Very sincerely yours,

G. T. Summerlin

Industrial Finance Corporation
Fifty-two William Street
New York September, 13, 1920.

Mr. L. D. Froelick,
Publisher of "Asia",
The American Magazine on the Orient,
627 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I desire, in the absence of Mr. Morris, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 9th, also the issue of "Asia" which contains the first of a series of articles on Willard Straight and his life work in the Orient. I shall be glad to bring your letter and the magazine to Mr. Morris' attention at the very first opportunity as I am certain that he will be much interested in the articles on Willard Straight. Please accept my thanks, on behalf of Mr. Morris, for your kindness.

Very truly yours,

W. P. Carson
Secretary to Mr. Morris

WPC-K

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005429

The American Legion
National Headquarters
Meridian Life Building
Indianapolis, Ind.

Office of the
National Adjutant

September fifteenth
1 9 2 0

Dear Froelick:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of September ninth and for your thoughtfulness in sending me copy of the September number of "Asia", containing the first article of the series on Major Straight.

I expect to return to New York for good the first of October, and shall hope to see you occasionally from then on.

With very best wishes, believe

Sincerely yours,

George Remmek

Mr. Louis D. Froelick,
c/o "Asia",
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York City.

American Bridge Company of New York
Hudson Terminal - 30 Church Street

Joshua A. Hatifield,
President.

New York September 11, 1920.

My dear Mr. Froelick:

I am glad to have your letter of the ninth instant, and meantime had read with much pleasure the first of the articles on Willard Straight and his work in the Orient.

You must be making a real success out of "Asia", as I hear it spoken of everywhere.

Cordially yours,

Joshua A. Hatifield

L. D. Froelick, Esq.,
Publisher of "Asia",
627 Lexington Ave.,
New York City.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005430

Copy of Letter of C. S. Sheldon, #1 Sheldon Ave.,
Oswego, N. Y.

Asia Publishing Co.,
627 Lexington Ave.,
N. Y. City.

Enclosed find M. O. and coupon for five months subscription to Asia, beginning with Sept. number.

Willard Straight was a former pupil of mine while teaching in the Normal School here, and I knew both father and mother well.

Very truly,

Chas. S. Sheldon (signed)

(Profession - gardener)

ASIA
Journal of
THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION
627 Lexington Avenue
New York City

EDITORIAL ROOMS

October 22, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am sending you herewith letter received from James Bryce. I am also enclosing copies of other letters received in connection with the story. If you should like the originals of these, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Louis D Hollick

LDH:MH

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
Old Westbury,
Long Island.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005431

[end. 10-22-20]
Sht. 30/w

HINDLEAP,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Sir

I thank you for send-
ing me the cuts of "Asia"
relating to the life of my
friend Mr. Willard Straight
and shall be much interested
in reading it when it reaches
me. His work in the Far
East will deserve to be recorded

Yours faithfully
James Bryce

Copy extract from letter

"I consider the articles on Willard Straight among the most splendid ever written and his life an inspiration for the age."

W. W. Fowler
Parksville, S.C.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005432

COPY

Legation of the
United States of America
The Hague, Netherlands,
October 1, 1920

Dear Mr. Froelick:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your note of September 8, advising me that you were sending under separate cover a copy of the September issue of ASIA containing the first of the series of articles on Willard Straight and his life work in the Orient. I am very grateful for your courtesy and as I am a regular subscriber to the ASIA I am looking forward to the other articles as they may appear.

Sincerely yours,

William Phillips

Louis D. Froelick, Esq.,
627 Lexington Ave.,
New York City.

Gainaday Electric Company,
Main Offices
30th Street & Liberty Ave.,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

October
11 th
19 20

"Asia",
The American Magazine on the Orient,
627 Lexington Avenue,
New York.

Gentlemen: ATTENTION:- Mr. L. D. Froelick.

Answering your letter of October 7th, I would be very much interested in knowing where Willard Straight's book may be secured when it does appear in book form.

It happens that my brother and several close friends were class mates of Willard Straight at Cornell and I had in mind using the volume as birthday or Christman gifts.

Yours very truly,

GAINADAY ELECTRIC COMPANY.

W.W. Slocum

Vice President

WWS-FGH

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005433

Copy of Letter of M. T. Rainier, Belvidere, S.D.

Sept. 21, 1920.

Publisher Asia Magazine

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing to you one dollar ($1.00) for your magazine for five months per your Adv. in "New Era". I am doing this from my personal interest in "Willard Straight"

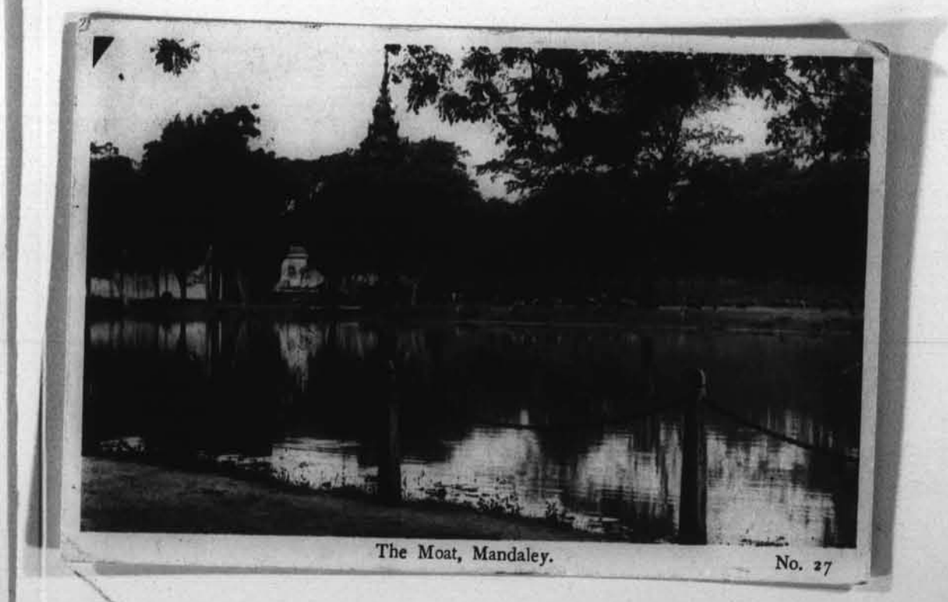
When he was quite a small boy, his parents being dead, he went to live with my sister Dr. E. Rainier of Oswego, N.Y. and through her and Miss Laura Newkirk with whom she lived for many years, I knew very intimately "their boy" Willard up to the time of his unexpected deaÏth.

Once after my sister's dealth through a ministerial friend who knew of my work as a "Fronteer Home Missionary" he learned that my field needed financial help to tide them over one of those disasterous years that comes occasionaly in the "Far West".

Without any solicitation he sent me a personal check, as a gift in memory of my sister's kindness to him that was so much larger than a "Home Missionary" was used to seeing that it nearly "took my breath" and the fragrance of thankfulness has never left my heart or home since, and I shall greatly enjoy that which I have longed to see, the story of that remarkable young life that I was so deeply interested in.

Yours sincerely,

M. T. Rainier (Minister)



The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005434

Mandalay
Oct 10 [1920]

Postage — I always associate Willard & lighting his pipe with "Sit in Smile" "soon!

Will send you a nice picture when I get myself —

POST CARD

S. K. YAMADA & Co., Rangoon.

PRINTED IN JAPAN

Mrs Willard Straight
~~1130~~ 5 - 5th Avenue
1130 New York City
— U. S. A. —

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS, HIGHLAND FALLS
RAILROAD STATION, WEST POINT
TELEPHONE, HIGHLAND FALLS, ONE-O-SEVEN

ONDAORA
HIGHLAND FALLS, N.Y.

Sunday.
Oct. 24th
1920.

Dear Dorothy,

Only today, the September issue of "Asia" came into my hands & I saw Willard's sketches & Louise read me the article. I am looking forward eagerly to getting the October number tomorrow. It has made a happy day for me, because it has brought Willard

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005435

2/ luck so vividly. I miss him just as much as ever, and would love to talk to somebody about him often. May I not see his other sketches? Will you dine with Louise & me in 36th Street & bring them down, or let us come to you? I want to see you for your own self, too.

It has been a long time.

You are very busy & so are we, but please don't drift entirely out of my life, you do mean so much to me.

Love to your father & mother & Willard — three wonderful personalities — and your own, dear self.

We will move to Town just after Election — day & then go immediately down to Saltery, in Maryland for a week & then settle down in New York for the winter.

We let me see you, as always —

Faithfully & affly,

Herbert Satterlee

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005436

October
Twenty-fifth,
Nineteen
Twenty.

Mrs. Willard Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Straight,

As an expression of their appreciation of your great interest in India House and its purposes, as well as of Major Straight's large part in the conception and establishment of the Club, the Governors at their meeting today, unanimously elected you to be an Honorary member.

I am desired by the Governors and officers of India House to advise you of this election with an expression of their hope that you not only accept honorary membership, but make use of the privileges of the Club.

Yours truly,

Robert H. Patchin

AC. Corresponding Secretary.

Oct. 26. 1920

Dear Mrs. Straight

I have waited till I could write to you from here, at Willards shrine, to thank you for your kindness in having me for that charming week-end. I was so glad of the opportunity to realise for my-

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University
005437

myself what everyone has told me of you, that you never forget old friends.

I comes up-
get out of the toils & coils of the Consorsh till Saturday, when I bolted to Boston, was whisked to a Harvard football match & then to quaint abode at Marblehead - & the

next day to Portsmouth:- so I only had a few hours in Boston. I thought it very attractive, & I should like to be staying another month.

If I can ever be of any use to you in China, dear Mrs Straight, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely
Sidney Mayers.

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005438

National Society United States Daughters of 1812

HEADQUARTERS, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT NATIONAL
MRS. CLARENCE F. R. JENNE, HARTFORD, CONN.

HONORARY ORGANIZING PRESIDENT NATIONAL
MRS. WILLIAM GERRY SLADE, NEW YORK

HONORARY PRESIDENT NATIONAL
MRS. ROBERT HALL WILES, ILLINOIS

National Executive Board, May 1, 1920

President, MRS. CLARENCE F. R. JENNE, 47 May St., Hartford, Conn.
First Vice-President, MRS. SAMUEL PRESTON DAVIS, 523 East Capitol Ave., Little Rock, Ark.
Second Vice-President, MRS. W. SAMUEL GOODWYN, Emporia, Va.,
Third Vice-President, MRS. SAMUEL WILLIAMS EARLE, 7000 Paxton Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Fourth Vice-President, MRS. HENRY JAMES CARR, 919 Vine St., Scranton, Pa.
Recording Secretary, MRS. CHARLES R. BANKS, 122 Westervelt Ave., N. Plainfield, N. J.
Corresponding Secretary, MRS. CHARLES F. MESSINGER, 82 Whalley Ave., New Haven, Conn.
Treasurer, MRS. ROBERT J. JOHNSTON, Humboldt, Iowa.
Registrar, MRS. JAMES H. STANSFIELD, 220 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
Historian, MRS. ARTHUR S. ISHAM, 308 Pearl St., Burlington, Vt.
Curator, MRS. GEORGE F. WALKER, 6 Grant St., Portland, Me.
Librarian, MRS. WILLIAM V. JOBES, 730 Weidler St., Portland, Ore.
Auditor, MRS. EDMUND P. MOODY, 1106 Jackson St., Wilmington, Del.
Chairman Charter Trustees, MRS WILLIAM GERRY SLADE, 332 West 87th St., New York City.
Special Secretary and Chairman of Supplies, MRS. ALBION B. WILSON, 208 Kenyon St., Hartford, Conn.

2997 Pacific Ave. San Francisco. Oct. 28th 1920

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I have concluded to send you by registered mail, the sketch of Mrs. Straight and Willard just as I wrote it a year ago, in answer to your request in your letter of aug. 1st mailed from Raquette Lake aug. 2nd

After finishing the sketch, written under out door conditions, I wrote to you that I would have it type-written when I got back among the conveniences of life and asked you for the address for mailing it. My first letter to you, accepting the request, was written aug. 12th 1919
My next, saying it was finished, " Sept. 21st "
Again, I wrote, from Sacramento — Oct 6th "
that it was then awaiting the address. — Nov. 21st "

I wrote yet again — Three of these were addressed to Old Westbury — Then, a letter to the Post Master at " " , who replied that "Mrs. Straight receives mail at this office" — The one of Oct. 6th

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005439

want to your Fifth Ave. address.

No answer ever came to any of these letters. The mystery of it came near to setting me crazy. Then, wisdom suggested - "Forget it!" as the best policy. And that I did. — Recently, however, I chanced to open a magazine in the Library, called "Asia" (new to me) A Imagine my surprise and fancy my joy to see there, as the frontispiece, a picture of your husband, Willard Straight! and an article written by him and embellished with his own illustrations! It is absolutely the first picture of him I have ever seen! It can trace the expression of the boy in the face of the man. My dear Mrs. Straight, if this letter ever gets into your hands, will you not, in all kindness, send me his, and your pictures and those of your children? and, some little sketch done by Willard's hands? I am an old lady, nearly seventy-seven years, - Regent of the D. F. Chapter U. S. D. 1812 - a Real Daughter - and, being also

[10-28-20

National Society United States Daughters of 1812

HEADQUARTERS, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT NATIONAL
MRS. CLARENCE F. R. JENNE, HARTFORD, CONN.

HONORARY ORGANIZING PRESIDENT NATIONAL
MRS. WILLIAM GERRY SLADE, NEW YORK

HONORARY PRESIDENT NATIONAL
MRS. ROBERT HALL WILES, ILLINOIS

National Executive Board, May 1, 1920

President, Mrs. Clarence F. R. Jenne, 47 May St., Hartford, Conn.
First Vice-President, Mrs. Samuel Preston Davis, 523 East Capitol Ave., Little Rock, Ark.
Second Vice-President, Mrs. W. Samuel Goodwyn, Emporia, Va.
Third Vice-President, Mrs. Samuel Williams Earle, 7000 Paxton Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Fourth Vice-President, Mrs. Henry James Carr, 919 Vine St., Scranton, Pa.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Charles R. Banks, 122 Westervelt Ave., N. Plainfield, N. J.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles F. Messinger, 82 Whalley Ave., New Haven, Conn.
Treasurer, Mrs. Robert J. Johnston, Humboldt, Iowa.
Registrar, Mrs. James H. Stansfield, 220 S. Scoville Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
Historian, Mrs. Arthur S. Isham, 308 Pearl St., Burlington, Vt.
Curator, Mrs. George F. Walker, 6 Grant St., Portland, Me.
Librarian, Mrs. William V. Jones, 730 Weidler St., Portland, Ore.
Auditor, Mrs. Edmund P. Moody, 1106 Jackson St., Wilmington, Del.
Chairman Charter Trustees, Mrs. William Gerry Slade, 332 West 87th St., New York City.
Special Secretary and Chairman of Supplies, Mrs. Albion B. Wilson, 208 Kenyon St., Hartford, Conn.

2

of almost no income. The good things and pretty things of life that come only at the call of Mammon rarely come to one. So, the more any longing soul would appreciate this memory gift from you in Willard's name.

I have one letter from him written by his own hand. I keep it in the same envelope with your of Aug. 1st — cherished equally.

I don't know why I am sending you this sketch now — except that it may interest you as covering a period that has no chronicler but myself. I should like to know what Hazel's fortune in life's lottery has been? She was a dear child.

I have no doubt you, too, are a U. S. D. 1812

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005440

If eligible, and not otherwise attached. I invite you to join our Chapter here. — I have made a great "find", viz: that an actual survivor of the War of 1812 still exists! born June 6th 1797. I am trying to get a pension for him. He is a Cherokee Indian — one hundred and twenty-three years old!

Since reading that article in "Asia" written by Willard. he has been so much in my thoughts as to cause me to re-read my year-old sketch and send it on to you.

If it reaches you, I am sure you will send me the acknowledgement, and believe me now and always—

Yours most sincerely—

Josephine Shepler Lisay—

(Mrs Doraville Lisay—)

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

005441

THE NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
105 East Twenty-Second Street
NEW YORK

PORTER R. LEE, Director
WALTER W. PETTIT, Assistant Director
KATHARINE FOWLER, Secretary
CATHARINE MALTBY, Registrar

October 28, 1920

Mrs. Willard Straight
1130 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I know that Mr. Pettit has acknowledged your gift to the School in founding a fellowship for foreign students, but I want to add my own deep appreciation for your generous interest. We have made substantial progress in developing a program of training for the increasingly complex problems of social work. The increase in the number of our regular students indicates to some extent the value of this training. During the last few years, however, the coming of larger numbers of foreign students has given us an even wider opportunity which we have thus far been able to meet, but we already feel a definite strain upon our resources. Most of such students are not able to finance a course in the School and we have had to increase each year the money available for scholarships. Your gift goes much farther than the financing of a year's work for one student as I am sure it will lead to others, and you may be sure also that it has had a most heartening effect upon the Staff of the School.

The recollection of many courtesies which Mr. Straight showed me in college gives me an especial satisfaction in having this fellowship bear his name.

With heartiest thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Porter R. Lee

PL.LT

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[enclosed 10-28-20

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Sketch

Mrs Straight and Willard. Her son-

Dear Mrs. Willard Straight:

It is a very great pleasure to comply with your request to write a brief account of my acquaintance with Mrs Straight, in the last year of her life; and of her son, Willard, in his tenth year. This was in 1889.

Mrs Straight was a woman of such exceptional culture, such intellectual strength and splendid self-control as to have left on my mind and impression still strong and vivid, though thirty years have run their swift course "like a tale that is told"- and vanished as dreams at dawn into the Great Gulf where

"Days gone by,
And Ages lie-
A mighty, hoary band."

Thirty years since I first welcomed Mrs Straight and her children into our summer rendezvous in these mountains, not many miles from where I am now trying to gather my recollections of that visit into concrete form for the perusal of one who never saw her - never came within the radius of her charming personality.

One day in June 1889 I received a letter from a friend in San Francisco, asking if I would receive into my summer home in the mountains, a friend of hers who was just returning from Japan in failing health, with her two children.

This friend was so dear to us that I could not do otherwise than consider her request favorably, although somewhat appalled at the prospect of caring for an invalid and two children, yet, the command was compelling to do for my neighbors as I would that my neighbor might do for me, and I answered my friend accordingly.

Within two or three days Mrs Straight and her children, Willard and Hazel arrived, accompanied by our mutual and negotiating friend, Miss Elliott and Professor Bacon of the University of California.

The trip up from San Francisco to Dutch Flat - one hundred and seventy miles,- through the beautiful Sacramento Valley and the fruitful foothills of the Sierras, into the fragrant, pine - scented mountains with the clear, blue sky above them and the tonic quality of the air inhaled with every breath, had been delightful to every sense. They were thus prepared to feel that "The End of the Trail" would not bring disappointment.

A little white cottage of two rooms, two dressing-rooms and two sleeping porches was ready to receive the tired lady and her children.

The cottage charmed both her eye and her soul in what it was and in what it bespoke - a comforting rest at the end of her long journey from Japan- the hope of health in conditions of simplicity, safety, convenience and friendship, back at last, in her own native land;

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The cottage was embraced by encircling pines, with a cherry tree whose branches were heavy with luscious, red fruit bending low over the porch at one corner.

The children as soon as their wraps were off busied themselves with croquet, the barn, the delights of the orchard and the mysteries of the deep pine woods surrounding it. They were fascinated with the swift-flowing flume, carrying a heavy body of foaming white water from a lake higher up in the mountains to the fruit lands below, with a roar like billows breaking on a lee shore as it plunged through the orchard and fell over a wall of rock like a miniature Niagara, making a fine lake within the grounds. They saw no end of happy days before them.

Prof. Bacon returned to Berkeley the same day. Miss Elliott remained over to see the effect of the change and to provide against the feeling of loneliness and isolation natural at the end of the long journey and being left among strangers.

When Vacation came both friends returned and with them Mrs Bacon. It was during this visit that the request was formally made that Mr. Libby and I should adopt the children, for it was now apparent to ~~me~~ all that it was not possible for any climate or any treatment to restore Mrs Straight to health or to prolong her life at most beyond a few months. Mrs Straight's appearance when I first saw her in the carriage as the party arrived at my door is indeed very distinct. She wore a traveling costume of pongee with a long tisue veil of the same shade covering her wide hat and tied in a full knot under her chin. Her fine eyes expressed pleasure in the beautiful surroundings of her temporary mountain home and the hope of health in conditions apparently so satisfactory. Mrs Straight was of medium height with a normal weight of perhaps one hundred and ~~twenty~~ pounds. The children wore suits of grey linen. Williard was fair, Hazel dark resembling her mother.

Mr. Libby
~~My husband~~, an ardent lover of Nature and believing that the best in nature is denied to those who will not walk, was always planning excursions to some view point or trout stream with a picnic lunch along and coffee and trout to be cooked over a camp fire as the alluring ~~fish~~. Willard delighted in these tramps. His intelligence and enthusiasm were so fine that he soon became a geniune companion for Mr. Libby. On one occassion when the day was hot and the trail ~~was~~ steep and streams far apart, Mr. Libby located and dug out a spring. When Willard had taken a good long drink and bathed his face in the cold water, he looked up and said soearnestly; "I tell you Mr. Libby, that makes a fellow feel like a new man!" It was so genuine and fine that Mr. Libby repeated it on his return. It gave us a hearty laugh then and became an often used expression ~~with us~~ afterward in coincident circumstances.

Willard was a well-built blond lad, in his tenth year, with a fine gait, a splendid poise of the head, and eager, open countenance, a pleasing voice and an easy, well-mannered address. He instinctively understood the immediate demand of any situation. The order of things as they ought to be registered in his mind at once. I can clearly trace his successful career as a diplomat to the natural development of traits so marked in his childhood.

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He seemed born to win his points by polite control and to bear responsibility as if he but played with it. Was it not so in his Career

I never saw Willard after his tenth year. For years and years I wondered what fate had befallen so promising a child, feeling sure always that the Invisible Good would preserve him for a great life.

Mrs Straight was very happy in her mountain cottage and improved steadily until the time approached when it became necessary for me to return to the city. Any change is appalling to an invalid and this one was especially so to her. I came back to San Francisco in October and asked the advice of my own physician in her behalf. He advised that any possible benefit that could come from a winter in the high altitude would be more than offset by the difficulty of getting about in bad weather, the depression of spirits unavoidable in such circumstances and the fear that an emergency might arise with no physician at hand.

The Doctor suggested Berkely as probably the best place for her and accordlingly, I went there and found a location fairly satisfactory to which they came ~~at once~~ and remained till Mrs Straight went to Arizona as a last hope- to recover if possibe or to meet death amid the same scenes- perhaps in the identical environment in which she had watched another precious life pass into the eternal Glory. Here, ~~indeed~~, her own brave spirit left its frail encasement and passed within the "low green tent whose curtains never outward swings", early ~~in the year 1890~~.

When we decided we could not adopt both children, Mrs Straight decided to send them to a friend living in the beautiful lake region of New York. This person was an elderly maiden lady who had stood in some intimate relation to Mrs Straight, possibly her physician. The question of how to get the children to her gave us great concern. Various plans presented themselves, but nothing practical worked out of any of them. We advertised for some one going East who might be willing to take charge of the children for compensation, with agreement to deliver them at their destination. No one answered our advertisement. As a last resort, we applied to the Wells Fargo Express Company to take the children as express packages. While the company was considering the application a wonderful solution of ~~our stone wall difficulty~~ the problem fell, as out of a clear sky.

I received a telegram that caused me to go to Chicago as soon as possible! I telegraphed the good news to Berkeley naming the time fixed for departure. I then went to the general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific (Col. T. H. Goodman) and requested passes for the children. When Col. Goodman heard the plea ~~on which the request was based~~, he ordered the passes to be made out and handed them to me at once, Pullman accomadations included. Every detail for leaving was arranged and my last visit to Berkeley made, when alas! there came a forceful illustration ~~of the~~ ever-impending Providence that enfolds all the plans of men, favoring or frustrating them in multitudinous ways when seemingly based on the firmest foundation. For us, too, in this acute emergency, "there came a frost, a killing frost and gone was all" our planning! Oh happened thus:

For several days Willard had been reported as having a severe

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cold. On the day previous to that fixed for starting, a telegram came from Berkeley; "Journey impossible, Willard profusely broken out with measles."Farewell."

The passes were returned, I never saw any of the family again. How slight a circumstance may change the whole current of Life! I made the journey alone.

When I returned home two months later, Mrs Straight had gone to Yuma accompanied by a devoted friend who came from the East to be with her at the time I came down from the Sierras, and had remained with her in Berkeley.

The children had been left in San Francisco with a family named Milliken. Learning their address, I called to see them but found no person at home. I never knew how the connection with this family came about. They were people from Maine whom we had casually met twenty years before.

Whatever I knew about the last weeks of Mrs Straight's life and the circumstances of her death in the solitary grandeur of the Desert, was learned either from Miss Elliott, or by letter from this friend who received the last glance of her beautiful eyes. I do not remember this friend's name. The information was to the effect that Mrs. Straight's attorney arrived from the East in time to hear her last words, arrange the finalities and escort the children east to their consignment in New York.

Miss Elliott herself died not long afterward in San Diego, very soon after she had resigned as a teacher in San Francisco and gone to San Diego to spend the remainder of her life in happy retirement.

In personal appearnace Mrs Straight was tall, slender, erect and noble in walk and bearing. Her features were of Grecian type, her forehead broad and low and crowned with heavy dark hair worn in a soft low coil. Her eyes were dark brown, large, brilliant, deep set, and widely spaced, with straight brows and long lashes. Their expression bespoke the the chivalric qualities of the strong soul - justice above all things - courage that never failed- calmness in facing difficulties and kindness, as the best coin for constant circulation.

Her voice was low and pleasant, her language embellished with imagination and a play of fancy both mirthful and entertaining. Because one instinctively felt that her life had but a short vista toward the future, her conversation carried conviction like that of a seeress. Never a complaint against Fate escaped her lips or trembled in her voice. Her daily life among us was an open book of sermons from the heart.

I never saw Mrs Straight dressed for formal occasion. A Japanese crepe Kimono was her usual garb, her position one of repose under the pines - "the murmuring pines and the hemlocks" that surrounded ~~as~~ the cottage Here I sat beside her and wrote her letters, uplifted often by her wise interspersed conversation.

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When it became known that she had returned to America, ardent letters from friends in the East began to arrive beseeching her to come back to them where affectinate care awaited her. From a former pupil came one (several indeed) begging permission to come West to take care of her. To these letters Mrs Straight urged the strongest negative. This girl, she said must not come to her because of obligations to her family. In spite of protest, however, she came at la last, and was with her at the end in Arizona.

One telegram, followed by a letter, I remember, gave Mrs Straight unspeakable satisfaction. It came from Prof. Parker in whose school both Mr. and Mrs Straight had taught and against whose advice she went to Japan. His last words to her, when argument had failed to change her decision were; "You are flying from your duty. I will never forgive you. You will never forgive yourself." She had never heard from him since. The telegram read; "Everything forgiven. Come back home at once, your place is with us." The letter amplified the message. After Prof. Straight's death in Arizona where his wife was his companion, she had been honored by promotion to his position. In his class-room, sitting at his desk, using his text-books, teaching his subjects to his students, life became so filled with memories of what she had lost that she gladly embraced the opportunity of foreign service, and went to Japan with her children.

After three years of teaching in Tokio, feeling unusually weary she consulted a physician who advised Niko for two months rest. She returned to Tokio at the beginning of the next term and called upon her physician. She was not prepared for the verdict he pronounced; namely; "Return at once to your native country. I hear you have wonderful climatic conditions there. Seek among them for health. Therein lies your only hope. Go at once!"

Then the dear lady told me of her maddening efforts to convince her household servants that everything must be made ready to leave Japan within three days. They could not understand why such haste and in any case they could not rise to a quick emergency. It was accomplished however, and the next steamer found them passengers for home- Magic word!

Here my narrative connects with my opening sentence and you now know how Mrs Straigh came into acquaintance with me June 1889.

Many, many years have passed since this period and I had ceased to think of these events. Suddenly, I heard a Commercial traveler mention the name of "Willard Straight, Consul General at Mukden." I addressed for information. He did not know Mr. Straight personally but had heard him mentioned as a man much respected.

Again, I saw his name mentioned as the Representative of the International Banking Company in China. At another time I saw a reference to the escape Mr and Mrs Straight had made during the Boxer insurrection.

Once, at a luncheon in Honor of Franklin K Lane, I sat at the table with a lady and gentleman, whose home, as I gathered from

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their conversation, was in China. It occurred to me that I might indeed, be face to face with Mr and Mrs Willard Straight! That was a dramatic moment for me. With apology, I asked the question. The gentleman gave me his name which I do not now remember and said he knew Mr. Straight. A lady seated at my right, hearing the name, presented her card and said she knew of the Straights and gave me the name of the lady who had guarded the children in their childhood! How strange both incidents seemed occuring simultaneously in the banquet hall of the St. Francis Hotel. The name of Mr. Straight known to four out of the five present seated at this one small table!

The next incident in this sucession was to observe Mr Straight's name in connection with that of Sir Cecil Spring-Rice at the time of the attempted assination of Mr Morgan; and the next, that our beloved Prof. Henry Morse Sephens was critically ill in New York at the home of Mr and Mrs Willard Straight. Lastly my conversation with Prof. Stephens at the D.A.R. luncheon, where he had made the address. This was the last time I ever heard the voice and looked into the kindly eyes of our beloved Professor. I am happy in remembering his praise of Willard-"A splendid man" he said, "and fortunate in having a wife worthy of him. Dorothy is a dear!" This, in his heartiest manner, were his very last words to me. He had told me earlier in the conversation that he had been instrumental in Willard's appointment to the Orient, at first
and of their spontaneous adoption of each other as father and son. Also, he said that you had requested him to write a sketch of Willard's life - which he hoped to do and would send me a copy of it. How strange now to recall that snatched conversation in a crowed, noisy, luncheon function in the Palace Hotel, in connection with my present surroundings in the shadows of this magnificent forest with mountains above nine thousand feet over-shadowing the forest, the river, and me- a bit of non-consequential ego - trying to do in a faithful but feeble way what his master mind would have done magnificently as the subject deserves!

How strangely events link themselves together in this complex world! How strange that I appear to be the only person having knowledge of these events, whom the never-ceasing stream of Time has not swept on into the Great Gulf where endless ages buried lie! How strange too, that I should remember as with photographic exactness events that in t their passing seemed of no greater importance than the ordinary happenings of an ordinary day. Not a written word to aid memory! Why should this be so? Because undoubtedly the Providence that covers ever item of our lives " From everlasting even to everlasting" and with whom " a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past," foreordained that you would ask to know what manner of mother garnered and cherished through childhood that precious body of mental and moral nutriment that the world so needed in this period of upheaval.

Schools many and excellent, but none like that where rules the one best teacher a child will ever know- the school kept at the wise mother's knee. Willard's mother as I knew her was a remarkable woman with the indefinable air of distinction that emanates from lofty character and superior mind. I have no doubt that in her healthful young womanhood she was known of her neighbors as a gentlewoman of quiet deportment, esteemed for graces of person as well as of mind and

heart, and loved by her intimates for her good manners, sound sense and cheerful temper.

I should reckon it a loss out of my life not to have known her and her splendid son in the making,

Dear Mrs. Willard Straight:

It has been a sad, but compensating, pleasure for me to write this sketch of your husband's mother and of himself as I knew them in California.

I have written it on scraps of paper, on my knee, with a magazine as a backing. Sitting on a log in a magnificent Valley in the Sierra Nev. Mountains. 6000 ft. above sea level where an old friend has invited me to come and spend a month with her, in her log cabin, built years and years ago. — Just we two women and one old servant are here, alone, without any connection with the outside world except a telephone. This Valley was discovered by Mark Hopkins when he was locating the route for the first transcontinental R.R. From two peaks 9000 ft. elevation, one looks down on Lake Tahoe - the queen of Mountain lakes — Mr. Hopkins thought it was the finest Valley in the world, and returned to it and built a splendid log cottage - of Sewn logs, as perfect now as when he built it Sixty years ago. The Valley

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is full of wonderful mineral Springs - hundreds of them - and the finest timber in the world. No mosquitos. no snakes! Deer. bears. grouse. quail. trout - and hieroglyphic rocks whose history is as great a mystery as the Sphynx itself. No R. R. in it and no Hotel. Come out and buy the Valley. dear Mrs. Straight. and build a Hotel!!

With sincerest regard for Willard's lovely wife - (widow. alas!) believe me

Yours most sincerely.

Josephine D. Libby -

Sept. 19th - 1919.

C. FRAZER HADLEY, M.D.
3320 FEDERAL STREET
CAMDEN, N.J.

Nov 1. 1920.

Asia Publishing Co
627 Lexington Ave
New York. N.Y.
Gentlemen;

I am writing to know if you have received a supply of September number of Asia. I am very anxious to get this number so as to keep my file complete for the stay of Willard Straight.

Willard Straight was an old chum and school-mate of mine in our boyhood days in Oswego, and I am reading his story with great interest and pleasure.

Very truly yours
C F Hadley

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[11-4-20]

414 E. Buffalo St.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Your letter touched me and overwhelmed me at the same time — touched me because of the beautiful and dear way in which it expressed your fine self — overwhelmed me because that you should set such store on my poor and halting effort to express something of the deep feeling that I

packed and ready to come home (I had been down to Glen Cove visiting Mr. & Mrs. F. D. Pratt, and did not have my mail forwarded while there) and it was too late then to send them from the Club. I had to take them back to Ithaca again.

It was so dear of you, also, to express again the wish to have me visit you, and I feel the

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had about your dear husband.

It is so dear of you to give me so much of your valuable time as you did in writing to me so fully, for I know how beset you are by many duties and many activities.

I am so glad you spoke about really wanting the screen, for I feared that I might have pressed it upon you too much. The packers here are so busy that it has taken me until now to get them at it, but today the screen will be shipped by Express. I am so sorry that you did not get it years ago while it was fresh and fine. It had been misused before I got hold of it.

I hope you received the two photographs I sent you of the drawings Mr. Straight gave me. When I received your Secretary's answer to my letter about them in New York, I was already going to combine some business to be attended to in New York with a rest. If, therefore, it should happen to be convenient for you within the next week, or the week after that, to have me pay you a visit, it would give me unbounded delight. My arrangements are elastic, so that I can go down either next week or the week after. It would be a great pleasure and privilege to me to be able to talk matters over with you as you so kindly suggest.

I wish you could know the precious memory I have of my visit to your beautiful home last year. It is one of the memorable occasions of my life and I shall never forget it.

Please give my dearest love to your sweet children.

Mrs. Brannen sends her warmest

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regards, and wishes me to express her pleasure over the privilege of meeting you and over the kind words you wrote about her. We both feel blessed in having come in contact with a spirit like yours.

For all that your letter meant to me I thank you.

Ever faithfully yours

Olaf H. Brauner

Nov. 4-1920.

sincerety of your invitation and also that you were sincere in wishing me to let you know when I would be in New York.

I expect to go down in about a week. As my work has arranged itself I shall be able to stay away several days. I am quite tired out from the summer and a rather strenuous opening of the College, and so I am

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AMERICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
23, AVENUE GEORGE V
PARIS
TÉLÉPHONE: PASSY 23-49

9th November, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Straight,

I wonder if you received my letter written on April 30th. in which I gave you a report of our Campaign at home and of our (at that time) new plan of freeing and endowing our pews In Memoriam, etc. Perhaps the letter went astray as I have not heard from you.

You will be glad to know that contributions over here have been coming in right along and that our fund has mounted to a good figure.

In June we secured the consent of Walter Gay, Ralph Curtis and a few other Americans of well known artistic experience to serve as a Committee of Advice in the matter of Tablets and Sculptures. The summer coming on they were not able to do more than form tentative plans, but now they can go ahead rapidly. Already we have drawings and will push things as rapidly as possible to completion.

Now about the Memorial Pew. Families, parish churches and organizations to the number of fourteen have already taken pews and all but three in memory of soldiers fallen in France. Two of the three were greatly identified with the War - one W. K. Vanderbilt and the other George Kessler, President and Founder of the Permanent Blind Association for allied soldiers. As your subscription is more than enough to entitle you to a pew in memory of your husband, I hope that you will approve of our placing a small silver plate with any inscription you designate on one of the center aisle pews. This plan was approved just before I sailed for France, or I should have talked it over with you. As Holy Trinity was during the War, (and will be even more because of the Tablets and National Services) a Church of distinctive national character, we feel that the pew rent system must give way in order that Holy Trinity may be in the broadest sense a church for all our countrymen. Therefore in giving Memorial Pews we are freeing them. The donor while in France and on notice to the sexton can control the pew; at all other times it is free. I feel that you will approve of making Holy Trinity in a very real way a "People's Church", while the Memorial Pews are quite in harmony with the Tablets, Sculptures and Services.

[11-9-20]

It is possible that our New York Treasurer has not informed me of any payment of your generous subscription which was ~~of~~ "$5000 a year for three years." If so please pardon this suggestion. The dollar to-day in exchange is at its highest point and we have just transferred from New York all our funds which are now in francs, this under the advice of both the Paris and New York Committees, for sooner or later the franc will grow stronger again and in getting our money over now we are greatly adding to its permanent value. Therefore, I hope it is convenient for you to send your first $5000 and if possible the second, for although your subscription blank is not dated I believe it was given last November-Dec. Please mail your check to Elliot C. Bacon, Treasurer, 23 Wall Street.

I think I did not write you after Memorial Day, but the service at Holy Trinity was most impressive; the other American church closed its doors and they with hundreds of Americans crowded our pews. As during the War the Ambassadors, Generals, the American Legion in a body and others were present, and General Allen, commanding American troops in Germany, sent his headquarters band. This service will be the greatest national service we Americans have in Europe.

At Suresnes, where we went in the afternoon, our American Memorial Day Committee decorated as last year all the graves with flowers and flags. Our Ambassador and General Petain spoke. I was asked to take the prayer. There was present a detachment of French and American soldiers, and the service was most touching and impressive. A cast of Davidson's American soldier (of which you know) was put in place, and it was a wonderful afternoon.

I hope that you will write me at your earliest convenience.

With all best wishes,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Frederick H. Beekman

P.S. On All Saints' Day the French women again placed flowers on every grave at Suresnes while our committee placed a large wreath "To Our Fallen Comrades" at the flag staff and two of us spoke briefly.

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Panama.
November 14" 1920.

Dear Dorothy.

Will you help me? I am lost unless help comes. For nearly two years I have been mad. The wrong that I have done has come from dementia, broken hopes, and periods of prolonged depression and utter loneliness. At last delerium and a foretaste of death. I turn back now with only one thought in my heart- that all the years that remain must be spent in working back to what we mean when we say God. It is impossible to tell you of the horror that fills me when the memories of these past two years come crowding over me: I have no peace by night or day except when I pray. My only hope is to begin now to make amends. It is the parting of the ways.

During three weeks in the hospital a mist rolled away from my eyes. There are glimpses now of realities and clean living that possess me. I want to take the other road, with all my heart, the steep upward-climbing road that leads back to the light and joy I once knew. It is not too late.

My last hope lies in these letters. Cables have failed. My brothers have abandoned me with good cause. My life of late has been enough to turn all my friends against me. I cannot excuse what I have done and only ask for forgiveness the way a dying man would do. And I am facing a living death. It will take eleven hundred dollars to satisfy the bank for my dishonored drafts and pay the ancon hospital. If that amount could be cabled either to the International Banking Corporation or to

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the American Minister, Mr. W. J. Price, will prevent criminal action and a penitentiary sentence. The authorities ah Mr. Price's request are giving me three weeks for this long last chance, weeks that I must spend in confinement, counting the endless days and nights alone with my thoughts and vain regrets, unable now to do anything to help myself.

It is not the punishment I dread. I have known every kind of punishment and suffering the human spirit is capable of. It is the lost years: the thought of that crushes me. For I have so few working years to win back in: I cannot lose more and become deadened to life and hope. I doubt if I should ever see my mother again, for this would be the end of her brave trust; and I should lose my chance to become, after years of service, a decent god-father to little Beatrice.

NOV 14/1923 JL

-4-

In my heart it seems a kind of sacrilege to write to you like this. It is sacrilege. But only so can I hope for salvation. I have written to the Wadsworths, to Father, Elliot Goodwin, and Frank Polk, hoping that some heart may be touched, even against its cool judgement. For I know how almost hopelessly against me, my recent record is and how weak mere written words must be to rekindle faith.

But, I beg of you all not to lose faith, — not altogether. Don't give me up. I am just struggling to keep my own re-awakened faith and trusting to this one last chance. Mr. Price will arrange everything — nothing will come to me. — I shall just be re-born.

Dorothy, please forgive me. —

Croyd Marvin.

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[11-28-20]

Sunday,

MORRISTOWN
NEW JERSEY

Carina -

I never can tell you when I see you how much I love you + how I wish I can see how deeply the deepest deepest sympathy in you + all and admiration for your bravery + everything wonderful these last two years. I so often long to be some comfort to you, I wish there was some way to show you what just you being + living means to people as an inspiration + a joy. I think so much of Willard - He will never never be forgotten Dorothy - This just takes

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[11-30-20]

Tuesday 156 East 82nd St.

Dorothy darling—

I have been thinking of you so much these last few days and living over with you what you went through two years ago at this time. That wonderful spirit that you kept up to the end seemed as if you would keep Willard alive! And I feel you have, Dorothy. In two years Willard's wonderful vital personality has never grown dimmer and when I am with you I have the feeling of Willard's closeness to you. I haven't had a chance to talk to you, lately

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but you give me the feeling of being much more at rest mentally and less nervous. And fright.[2] You have of course always put up such a brave front that one could only look at you with a lump in one's throat and wonder how it could be possible! And the loneliness, Dorothy dear, must at times seem almost unbearable, and yet you are able to rise above it all and give one so strong the feeling that you and Willard are together and that nothing can ever separate you. Your friendship, Dorothy, is one of the greatest things in my life & you have no idea how often I turn to you in spirit and how you always help me. My sympathy and love are all I can give you, dear but my heart is full for you and you have all there is.

Edith

Yes my dearest love

Ever

AMERICAN LEGION
WILLARD STRAIGHT POST
NO. 842

NEW YORK CITY December 6,1920

50 Pine Street.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

My friend Walter Pettit has told me that you might be interested to come to the next meeting of the American Legion Post which was named for your husband. Our next meeting is to be at the Civic Club, 14 West 12th St. on Tuesday evening, December 14th, and we should all be very much pleased to have you present.

I wish to take this opportunity to tell you how much I admired and loved your husband and what a distinct loss his death was to me. I went across with him in 1917 as one of the officers of the little party of which he was in command, and remember so well meeting you on the dock with him the morning the Adriatic sailed. I had no very close personal association with him during these few weeks before he left us to go to the Staff College, and after that I saw him but once, while he was still at Langres. He made a very deep impression upon me and was one upon whose advice and friendship I had learned to count.

It seemed highly fitting to us that a Post of the American Legion, formed of men of liberal views, should be named for Willard Straight. We much appreciated your consent that his name be thus used, and we shall be very happy to have you with us on next Tuesday evening, both for dinner, which will be about seven o'clock and for the meeting afterwards.

Yours very truly,

Ernest Angell.

President

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,
1130 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N.Y.

TRUSTEES OF THE
CANTON CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Dec 11/20

My dear Mrs. Straight,

I have been much interested in the articles in "Asia" on Mr. Straight's career in Asia and especially in the November issue telling of his sojourn in Korea. I have been in Korea quite a little myself and have been extremely interested in the dress of the people. Mr. Straights sketches are admirable. It occurs to me that you might be glad to have a set of the costume dolls I had made on my journey homeward and I am presuming to send you a set under separate cover with my compliments. Cordially yours

C. K. Edmunds

The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University

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[12-11-20]

Korean Costume Dolls.

1. Bride
2. Groom
3. Well-to-do woman of Seoul
4. Well-to-do man of Seoul
5. A gentleman from Pingyang.
6. Well-to-do woman of Pingyang.
7. A gentleman in complete mourning.
8. A farmer.
9. A farmer's wife.

(Korea is the Land of the White Gown)

10. A young mother of Seoul.
11. A school boy.
12. A school girl.

[1920-21]

P.S.

My dear Mrs Straight:

Since Mr Fiedler hasn't with him the valise in which he carries documents, we've arranged for him to carry them down next week. I can't use them this week anyway.

Those documents he is to take (list which I have left) are piled all together under the table by your typewriter. The others (near the big desk) are not to go

Sincerely
Imus Graves

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