

卫三畏文集

Selected Works of
Samuel Wells Williams

官泽真一 (主)

徐宝锋 (副)

马聪敏 (副)

转写
整理

Journal of S. Wells Williams: Expedition
to Tientsin and Peking (1858-1859)

北上天津北京远征 随行记 (1858-1859)

(卷下)

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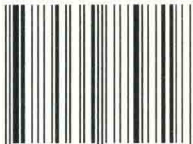
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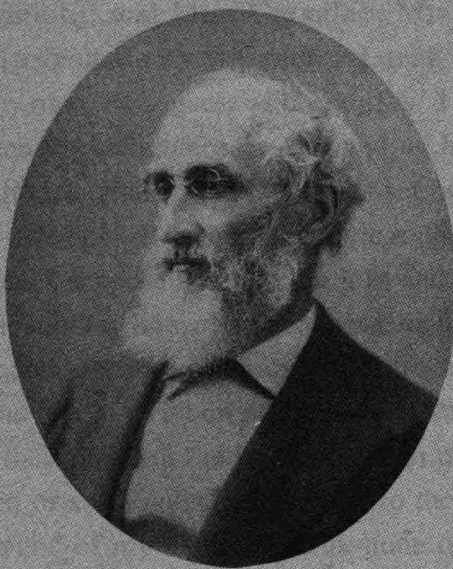
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电话 (0371)63956290

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1859



Jan. 1st, 1859.

I told D^r Kane as I went down to breakfast, the sun shining brightly on the trees and hills out of his window, that I thought you would be soon wishing you could spend new years in Macao, but at any rate, would ask for as bright a day for it. He did not seem very bright in spirits, and the prospect of going to Hongkong is not very pleasant to him, for he has seen enough to know that there he will not be quite so much of a character as here, but what he cares more for, the society there is not so cordial.

My newyear's calls were soon over, for the ladies have diminished to Mrs Endicott [Sara Ann, wife of James Bridges Endicott], Van der Hoeven, Bourboulon [Alphonse de Bourboulon]; and Miss Carvalho, Mrs Dimier and Carlowitz [wife of Herr von Carlowitz], with Miss Lomier, and as many more Portuguese as one knows. I visited where I had the least acquaintance, and wound up by a talk with Mrs Hamilton & Nancy, the latter was set out in her best condition. They talked of their own little round of cares and thoughts, and I suppose find all their joys and employments in that same gloomy house and neat garden plat. The issues of treaties and the managements of politics concern them less than the hue of a ribbon or the price of fuel, while still they have their niche in the living museum of mankind. I got a dozen or so of calls, which I lay to the credit of the tail on the end of my name. I think none of the ladies I saw to-day, except Mrs. Dimier, expect to be in Macao next newyear's day; but who knows. Mrs. Bourboulon [Alphonse de Bourboulon] in her characteristic way led a party off beyond the Barrier on a ramble, so her house was empty.

Jan. 3rd, [1859]

Yesterday there was no service, the minister and most of his congregation having left the colony, so that it was deemed inadvisable to try even to have a meeting. I suppose it will not be resumed till the church is ready for the congregation, and that period may depend somewhat on Beach [Rev. William Roberts Beach] coming over after Mr. Irwin has returned to his chaplaincy.

I am quite surprised to see how many new houses have been run up by the Chinese during the past summer, and buildings are still in progress. The row of shops opposite Mrs. Stewarts back door has given place to a nice dwelling, and two or three large houses are in process of erection near the custom-house, all of them owned by the Chinese. The native trade seems now to be resuming its former importance, irrespective of any disturbance at Canton, and is likely to gradually place the Chinese above the Portuguese in point of wealth and resources. Poor Ioze's Maria is nearly on his last legs I hear, thro' the disturbing achievements of those sons of his, who thought trade brought nothing but rewards. The Baron Cercal's house on the Praya is beginning to be roofed in, eight months since he opened the foundations. I suppose a New York builder would have a fit with such rapid house, one where the young Baron will doubtless spend a good deal of money.

D^r. Kane has been taking leave of his clients, as he calls his patients, and the operation (to speak in his line) has not been a pleasant one, for he feels that he has earned a good reputation here and that people feel grateful & kindly towards him for his assiduity.

At Hongkong, Jan. 5th, [1859]

I came over here yesterday evening, leaving D^r Kane to follow to-day, as he did, reaching his future home in China about nightfall. Mrs. Van der Hoeven is ill, and he did not like to leave her yesterday. I have seen Mrs. Hobson [wife of Benjamin Hobson and daughter of Robert Morrison], now here on her passage to England for the fourth time in her life, and not at all disposed of her own accord to leave China. I think it is sheer discontent with the condition of things that impels Hobson himself to leave, for he is in good health; however, it is a good season to revisit his native land and a residence of ten years has advanced his daughter to an age when she wants more instruction than she can get here. I hope he will come back and resume his useful labors at Canton, where he feels more at home than elsewhere in China.

Sunday, Jan. 9th, [1859]

I have been detained here over to-day from going back to Macao by reason of the sailing of the steamer this morning. I have been busy during the week with a variety of matters, but on this pleasant Sabbath I have endeavored to turn aside from all of them and fix my thoughts on heavenly things, remembering you also and the dear children, that you all may keep a day of thanksgiving for all the goodness of God. We are bound, I think, to remember and speak of the mercies we receive, and as far as we can to look more at them, & not so much at the chastisements of His Hand, keep up a cheerful frame of mind, and thus commend the love of Christ to us. It is a good sign if we can reflect on the

sterner dealings of God with us in a spirit of thanksgiving that he has not dealt with us as we deserve, as we feel he justly might have done. I have not visited much, being too busy with my own duties, which are not likely to leave me so much time for my own writing as when D^r. Parker went away. I find, too, that it is absolutely necessary to make a general index to all the volumes of the Archives, in order to find what is in them. If I should go away, a new comer would be puzzled to ascertain where anything was to be found and while I receive the wages I ought to do the work for the Government.

M^r. Ashmore [William Ashmore/ American Baptist Union] intends to leave this place ere long and move his mission up to Swatau, where he will find more of the people who speak his dialect, and feel more as if he was doing good among a large society, and is in some doubt as to immediate movements because they do not write.

Macao, [January] 11th, [1859]

I came back last evening, and found the house in Chicho's care, and soon got under the lamp with pen in hand. Since I have found that it is rather neuralgia in my eye than defect in the nerve or retina, I am becoming venturesome, and may unluckily bring on more pain by more use than is meet: it is a great relief, however, to have found out that the organ is not so dangerously affected as I once thought.

You will think the old Repository [the monthly magazine, *Chinese Repository*, printed and edited by S. Wells Williams in Canton] is growing in value, and becoming appreciated. I have sold a set which lacked one number and was unbound for \$75, & Ashmore has refused

\$100 for Johnson's copy. If you come across any odd vols. in Utica, they had better be sent out. More than half the Middle Kingdoms [written by S. Wells Williams and published in two volumes] which Dwight [Henry Dwight Williams] sent are sold.

[January] 12th, [1859]

I was much in hopes that the Mail would have been in before this, and I could have answered a letter from you or somebody else at antipodes. I suppose one ought not to get tired of duty, but I am somewhat weary with constant writing, driving a quill hour after hour, until I take it up to talk with you & sister Sophy. Then I have you just before me, smirking, solemn, serious and saucy by turns, ready to say anything that I fancy. Alas, how different may be the reality, and that I can just as easily picture as the other more pleasing tableau.

Now that you are with Wally, I look for some hints as to his mental stature, what books he loves, what pursuits he takes to, what it is that characterizes him? Anything that offers yet a distinctive trait? I should like much to have a list of all the books he has read or studied, and what he talks about after he has read them. Try to talk with him to draw him out, and be careful how you talk about other people before him, for your words are sometimes like needles. You may do him injury without thinking of it, and never know it yourself. I wish his teachers to be thorough with him, and I find that he commits to memory so easily that he is disposed to slight his lessons because they come to him soon. It is a snare if not checked, because it is such boys who are rather favorites with teachers, as they give less trouble and labor than those who learn more tediously; but I think it sooner

slips away in some minds. It did in mine.

Kate I suppose will ere long find a home somewhere. How sadly I reflect on my own position that I cannot enter into all her little plans & hopes, and tell her stories & lessons as I did last year and the summer before. I wonder if she remember any of those stories, for I hope I put some gentle tho^{ts} [*sic* thoughts] into her heart. May God bless and teach her and Wally in my place, and lead their young hearts to trust in Him.

I send you two slips from the newspapers, and two of the notes I have received, the latter are eminently characteristic of the writers. I don't know of a better letter-writer than Macy [William Allen Macy], and I hope he will find much good laid out for him to do in the field whereto God has called him.

D^r. Watson particularly requested to be mentioned to you. He has just received pictures of all his family, Mrs Watson arrayed in one of the most bizarre diversity of colors & ribbands you ever saw her in. The eldest girl Sophia is the prettiest picture in the set. The doctor takes home all his house-hold gods of pictures & paintings, and is as close with them as a miser. But he does not glad leave China, and does not look forward to as happy days in future as he has had in it. At Hongkong, Mrs Beckwith & D^r. & Mrs Kenny also brought you up; that is when I am to be spoken to, for what else shall they ask about?

[January] 14th, [1859]

The mail has delayed its appearance. Akwai, your old amah came in yesterday evening, and I learned that she went to America in-charge, I guess, of one of Mr. Endicott's [Sara Ann, wife of James Bridges Endicott] Anglo-Chinese

children. She remained in N.Y. about 35 days and returned with D^r. & Mrs Kerr [John Glasgow Kerr and his wife, Abby L. Kerr, 1829–1855 reaching Canton on May 12th, 1854 and dying almost one year later]. She wanted to know all about Olyphant's sickness & death, & the tears coursed along as she recalled him & heard my tale. I believe she loved those children. She said she would have gone to see Wally had she known where & how to go. She has a good place now, and spends just as much on her three sons as ever.

I hear Doolittle [Justus Doolittle 蘆公明 / ABCFM] is to be married to Miss Mills at Shanghai, a solemn lady who came with her brother & sister from Buffalo; she will do D. good.

Jan. 18th, [1859]

Last evening I was made happy by getting your letter of the 25th. Oct. written after your return from Auburn, Albion, and New Hartford, fresh after the interviews with old and new acquaintances at those places, as well as in Utica. I read your 16 pages with just that interest that you can understand, and went around with you to all the places, spoke to the people, and enjoyed heir company with you as you narrated the leading events. It was so sisterly in Harriet Wood to take you off on a visiting trip, doubling her own and your satisfaction by the reflection of the other's pleasure. Mrs Martin [wife of wife of E. Throop Martin] & Mrs Brown [wife of Samuel Robbins Brown] had not received the replies I sent them from the north last summer, when you were there. I am very glad to hear such good accounts of them & their families, and to keep up the knowledge of Uncle James and his surroundings. Your letter is all new, for you look upon what Sophia [Sophia

Gardner, married sister of S.W.W.] & Dwight [Henry Dwight Williams, younger brother of S.W.W.] regard as old with the freshness of revived and pleasant recollection, tho' it was but for a short time in 1847. I am pleased to hear of so many familiar persons and names, but how much the people must have changed since then, and so many gone, their places filled up by those who know them not.

Nye was in taking tea when I was reading the letter, and we exchanged news of those dear ones far away, his mail bringing the expected account of the death of Mrs Nye's youngest sister, who had been failing with consumption.

I saw Ann Petty this afternoon, and as usual she wished to know if Kate was well. She looks forlorn in the extreme, and not a day passes that she does not go to the graveyard, to dwindle her time in useless laments, for I can hardly call her conduct the honest exhibition of grief. However, her mind is fatuous in a measure, and she has no internal resources, the more to be pitied.

D^r. Kane is working up into Watson's practice pretty fast, & I have no doubt well get a large income. His finger was shot off by the bullet in the revolver as it went off; it did not burst, as you think, tho' it was John's revolver. He has had no return of the rheumatism, and says he feels well. Watson's health is much weakened, & Kane thinks him not longlived; he rallied a good deal before he left last Saturday, and would get better really, if he would manage his food as a dyspeptic should.

You seem to have gratified yourself and many others with my journal, which reached you safely at last, and I hope the whole series to this very sheet will be all likewise received. I am thinking sometimes of what I wrote, as if there might be a sentence to be regretted, but all remembrance of its contents has faded away, except

the general topics. M^r. Reed [William Bradford Reed] has received a torrent of abuse from the English papers far beyond what I can see any reason for, and without any adequate object. I have no doubt he will set himself right, but this will not repair the mischief and ill will created by the misrepresentations of the Times and other English papers.

You speak of taking the children with you to New York, where I suppose for one reason or another you will remain thro' the winter. I am sorry there is a necessity for your going, and still more for taking them. Going around from one place to another will give them such a desire for novelties as perhaps they will never get over. I do not infer you mean to take Wally, but I would rather, (as I sit here by myself and think it over, knowing not even half the circumstances which urge you this way and drive you that) have Kate go back to St. Albans with her grandmother, while you get thro' the city visiting with Sophy only with you. The children's parties and the passion for display in fine clothes, I am sure you will avoid, but as Kae will probably be left in U.S. on your return, she might remain in Utica or St. Albans. Yet who with, doing what, and to what end? I am sure I can not answer. Do the best you can, but I don't fancy a long visit in New York city for them, a week at one place & a week at another, for the results upon children of their age are sure to be bad.

[January] 19th, [1859]

I was taking tea with Mr. Nye [Gideon Nye] this evening when Aleen, (Purdon's Aleen and no other) returned from America, by a small ship which had a long passage—Aug. 2^d to Jan 18th., and rather poor forage on board too,

according to Aleen. However he was very full of what he had seen and learned & heard, told us about the bridges, boats, & churches in Venice— sampans and josshouses as he described them— the railroads in Germany, the wonders of many sorts in Paris, and then all about Phila^a. [*sic* Philadelphia] of which, as well as Venice & New York he had very good pictures. He seems to have got a very sensible notion of many things, and remembers places & persons far better than most of the servants who return. He had not a little to tell Nye [Gideon Nye] about the people in New Bedford, but like a jug full of water upside down, his news gurgled a good deal as it poured out, for he talked with eyes, hands & body as well as tongue, so animated was he. He was glad to hear from the friends he met, that his old father had survived the troubles, which he did not know, however, had been as bad as they had until reaching China. It was a gratification to him for us to listen with interest to all he had to say, and by our questions lead him on further to tell us what he had gone thro'. He can expect no such interest among his countrymen, for they know nothing of that western world which is rolling its influence and power, over these oriental lands, & thereby hastening on their elevation and salvation. Altogether it was a pleasant visit to Aleen, and he has, I hope, derived some good therefrom.

I have been looking over my accounts for the last year, and find that I have sent to the U.S. to invest, since I became Sec. of Leg. [Secretary of Legation] in Oct. 1855, 39 months ago, \$ 6186 in all, & have given away \$ 1875 besides. The expenses in China during the last year have been trifling since you left in March, but they are likely to be more this year. How much income is received from the stock in New York under the control of the Olyphant's, will appear when their yearly a/c is received. I have not paid the \$ 1000 to