

Sung Chou Chiu,
July 22, 1878.

My dear Mrs. Wilkes,

Your kind letter of May 13th reached me by last mail. I am pleased to make your acquaintance though it be only by letter.

In Feb., soon after the Chinese New Year, I opened a boarding school for girls, beginning with five pupils. The number increased until there were fourteen. They have studied diligently & made rapid progress. The school closed a few days since for the summer vacation of three weeks. Four of the girls whose homes are some distance in the country remain during the vacation. Their food costs about

a dollar a week for the four.
So you see it is not very expensive
keeping them. Lois, who is supported
by the Eastersville Bapt. Sunday
school is not at home, but will
return when I open school again.
She is a nice little girl & has
studied diligently. She lives on
the opposite side of the street
from me, & I dare say I shall see
her frequently during vacation. The
last day of school, she notified me
modestly that she was ready to be
examined on the catechism. The
result of the examination was the
bestowal of a large colored engra-
ving as a prize & she left the
room with a happy heart. I
teach them thoroughly every day, & when
any one pushes ahead of the class
& needs an examination, she has

a lecture as a large & ...
moted to a higher class. In this
way, they are stimulated to study
harder than they otherwise would.
On the whole, I have never had pupils
that gave me more satisfaction by
diligent study than these Chinese
girls. I hope to increase the number
to twenty, which is about as many
as my school quarters will accom-
modate. Among them there are three
large-footed girls. The oldest of the
three, now about seventeen, is to
be married in the winter. Her
betrothed is very much annoyed
about her large feet. She wrote me
a letter last winter saying that
her feet must be bound or she must
go home. I said in reply that her
feet should not be bound, nor
should she go home. I thought I

... the authority of the
young man's father, who had said
that he left it to the girl to
unbind her feet if she wished, & she
had unbound them. Last week the
father was here & he says he
gave permission to have the feet
unbound because he thought so large
a girl would have more sense
than to unbind her feet! I was
very much disgusted with his
duplicitous & weakness; I knew
his wife & son had talked him
over to their side of the case,
& I took very positive ground.
Without giving him time to argue
the case, or more than hint his
wishes, I said shortly, "If the girl's
feet are bound, you take her away
tomorrow, & then I gave him a
talk in no measured terms about

the inhumanity of the practice. I told
him I should fight it all my life,
that it was utterly inconsistent
with the gospel of Jesus. He
buckled down completely, said I
would not have it to fight al-
ways, that the practice would go
out &c. &c. I don't think he was
convinced, but I carried my point.
I was determined that no such
suffering should be inflicted
a girl under my roof & that
I would not be a witness of such
suffering. I suppose they will bind
her feet when she marries, but
that I can't help. In general, on
the matter of foot-binding, I throw
my influence on the side of
large feet, but always say that
heaven must decide the
question themselves. But it would

be a refinement of smelly to bind
the foot of a - young girl, & could
not permit it. I thought too, all
along, that I was acting ~~in~~ the
authority of the young man's father
who had placed the girl with me.
I suspect they'll make her have
a hard time about it yet, only
there's this comfort that as she
will have all the work to do after
~~she's~~ married, I don't see how they
can bind them very tight. Now, as
it is a Christian family the girl
is marrying into, you see how
discouraging the whole thing is.

The famine out west continues.
Thousands have died of starvation. One
hundred thousand are receiving aid from
foreigners. Money has come in large sums
from England. Our wheat crop here was good,
but the millet - the most important crop, has
been attacked by worms & is ruined. Other
crops would be good, if only we could have
rain. Love to all the ladies. Affly. L. Mon.