

Dec 12 86 '96

GRAND HOTEL LTD

Nos 19 & 20 BUND

LOUIS EFFINGER, MANAGER

YOKOHAMA Jan 15th 1896

Dearest Father

We are off in our Schooner tomorrow, guns, bags, and baggage bound for the Loo Choo Islands. Everything is ready now but our chronometer which is being rated and if the winds prove fair we will get there in about five days. Thence we go to Hong Kong and Singapore where we expect to arrive in about six weeks. I wish you could see our little boat; she is really a beauty, and staunch as a rock but won't we get a pitching about in rough weather. It has cost a pretty penny but we expect to get more than

half back when we sell her.

You may not hear from us
for many days now but I
telegram from Hong Kong and
Singapore.

Ever yours

Billy

Brid 24 March '96

Haze
Ooshima Island
Retriever. Luchu Group

Dearest Father

After a somewhat tempestuous voyage as you will see from the pages of my journal we have dropped anchor in this out of the way little island. We are told by the prefect of Police that the Retriever is the first boat flying a European flag that has ever been in this harbor. We have as yet seen very little of the island as we got here only last evening and had time for only a short stroll through the town. We found a German plant collector here, seeming to be a pretty decent fellow but naturally he is reticent about what kind of plants he gets here. I think he is chiefly after tree ferns and cycads which are very plentiful.

The mail steamer for Nagasaki has just come in so that is why we are delaying a few minutes to get our mail off before we go on shore for a walk through the woods. The Japanese Government has so far treated us finely, they wrote down to the Kincho (police) here telling that we were coming and to do all they could for us, so we are practically given the freedom of the island and are to have a detail of police to act as guides for us over the island. The language is peculiar here, it is a sort of mongrel Japanese mixed up with Luchuan. Jim W. Alder and I with our slight knowledge of both languages can get along after a fashion. From here we go to Okinawa the larger island where we expect to stay about a week; then to Hong Kong and Singapore. ~~See~~ Your cablegram about Grandpa's death reached me in Yokohama just

before we sailed. I am sincerely sorry that I shall never see him again but grief cannot enter into such a case. It is only the completion of a perfect life. I long for the home letters which we expect to get at Hong Kong. I have had no word but the cablegrams since Nov 10th Paddy's letter. You may not hear from me again for some time. We are all well as can be; and every thing is going smoothly, now that we have really started. The Luchuan have been assembling ever now that all day examining every thing. Sayonara, love to all

Yours Billy

Feb 23 '96