Part 3 China

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Part 3 Highlights

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The Caldwells

In relation to the author Peter Bruce:

William Caldwell	4X great grandfather
Elizabeth Watts	4X great grandmother
Daniel Caldwell	3X great grandfather
Mary Manay	3X great grandmother
Daniel Richard Caldwell	2X great grandfather
Ayow Chan	2X great grandmother
Daniel Edmund Caldwell	1X great grandfather
Mary Mitchell	2X great grandmother
Henry Charles Caldwell	2X great uncle
Daniel Augustus Caldwell	grand uncle
Rose Mary Caldwell:	grandmother

Sydney Bruce

Recluse

During much of the 19th century, China was governed by the Qing Dynasty, a traditional society almost entirely closed to trade. Yet there were two things that the Chinese had that the British elite wanted and were willing to pay a great deal of money to get — tea and luxury goods.

The problem for British traders was that China held no interest in British goods and therefore, the British had nothing with which to trade. In addition, the Qing Dynasty was very wary of engaging with the outside world, for fear that outside influences would further weaken their already weak control over the Chinese people.

Thus, laws were passed to limit trade beyond China's borders. Chinese goods could only be purchased with silver and all trade had to be be conducted through the port of Canton where it could be tightly controlled.

For a while, the arrangement of silver for goods was acceptable and an enormous trade in tea and Chinese luxury goods developed as did the wealth of traders such as the American firm Jardine Matheson. However, as British silver reserves ran low, the British explored other means of trading with China, means beyond Chinese law.

Tea

In Britain, tea, because of its cost, was more than a beverage. Like sugar, it symbolized wealth, for only the extremely wealthy could afford it.
It was kept in special containers, in effect, small treasure chests, to be displayed on those rare occasions when the company warranted its presence on the table.

The price of tea was exorbitant because only China grew it. The Chinese had been quick to recognize that the high value of tea depended entirely on the ability of China to maintain exclusive control of the tea plant. If Britain could grow her own tea, the lucrative tea market would be lost. Thus, laws were passed in China forbidding the sale of tea plants to outsiders with severe penalties for violators.

It was not enough. Unscrupulous Chinese traders sold tea plants to unscrupulous British who then propagated the plant en masse on British soil, notably in northern India, Malaysia and other British territories where growing conditions for tea were perfect. Tea became a beverage for the masses and the British elite were obliged to look elsewhere for ways to impress their guests.

Opium

The ‘elsewhere ‘ was exquisitely and exclusively-made Chinese products such as fine furniture, porcelain vases, silk and art work. But the problem of how to pay for it in silver remained. Who came up with the answer is not known, but from the British perspective, it was brilliant; from the Chinese perspective, it was a national disaster. It was opium.

Opium usage in China had been ongoing for centuries but only among small numbers of people who existed on the periphery of society. The British began a calculated campaign of increasing opium usage in China, by selling it cheaply on the black market in exchange for silver.

The silver was then used by traders to purchase the luxury goods demanded by wealthy Brits. In effect, Britain had found a way to employ the Chinese strategy against China itself.

Opium has been used by the Chinese for medicinal purposes since the 7th century. In the 17th century, the practise of smoking opium with tobacco was introduced causing a huge rise in the demand for the drug. In 1729, 200

chests of opium per year were imported. One chest = 63.5 kg of opium (140 pounds). By 1800, the figure had risen to 4500 chests and just before the First Opium War, 40,000 chests of opium were illegally imported each year.

For Britain, the opium strategy was a huge success, so much so that opium sales had shifted the trade imbalance to one in favour of Britain.

For China, it was devastating. Opium addiction became extensive through every class of Chinese society, including the military and the royal court. China had been brought to its knees.

The emperor had had enough. He demanded that his mandarins enforce the law. Chinese authorities swept into the Canton 'factories', warehouses for trade goods, unannounced. Opium was discovered in the British 'factory' and destroyed on the spot.

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Ref: missionaries impact on opium cessation

Smuggling

Into this world of intrigue, power politics and gun-boat diplomacy strode Daniel Richard Caldwell in 1834, just at the peak of opium smuggling against the Chinese prohibition. Daniel was a young man of 18, eager to find high adventure. He had just been tossed out of the family home in Singapore for unruly behaviour. Canton, he knew, was where the action was and that's where he went.

Daniel was a natural linguist. He spoke the five languages used by smugglers and pirates, and consequently, he soon found work smuggling opium into Canton. He had made a favourable connection with Captain James Innes it seems, a well-know Canton trader and smuggler, for Innes hired Daniel to skipper a sloop to smuggle opium into the vast Pearl River delta.

Innes was a rough-hewn wild card of a man who likely saw much of himself in young Daniel.

A year before Daniel arrived in Canton, Innes was catching a nap in his Canton home. Nearby, a man was chopping wood and disturbing Inness's nap. Irritated, Innes rose and approached the man, demanding that he chop wood elsewhere or stop. The man was disinclined and when Inness returned to his nap, the sound of chopping wood

resumed. Inness, now angry and threatening the man, was rebuffed with an iron tool. Infuriated, Inness went to the head man for the district and demanded he make the man stop forthwith. The head man said he would approach the perpetrator
by the British government. Some fancy foot work followed whereby Inness was threatened with the cancellation of his trading license if he didn't behave. He behaved and an international incident was averted. Such was the nature of the man for whom Daniel worked for the five years he remained a smuggler.

We know nothing of Daniel's years as a smuggler, except that he made a great deal of money and spent it on good times.

Daniel, we are told, left smuggling for health reasons, possibly malaria. He worked briefly for the British Expeditionary Force where his linguistic abilities came to the attention of the commander. The commander had just been appointed as Chief Magistrate in Hong Kong and request he stop. Not good enough, said Inness. If the matter has not been dealt with by 7pm that night, then he, Inness, would take the matter into his own hands.

Seven pm came and went without resolution. Inness retrieved his bow and several pitched arrows and climbed to his rooftop. He ignited the arrows and shot them into the customs building, where, without the intervention of passers by, would have set the building and possibly the town ablaze. This was a serious

crime. Under Chinese law, Inness would have been executed, but because he was European, the Chinese authorities deferred to the colonial authority which had always been the East India Company. The EIC, however, had just been relieved of its authority in the Far East
and needed an interpreter for the lower court. Daniel hired on and thus began a new chapter in his life, with happenings he (or the good people of Hong Kong) could not possibly have imagined.

Opium Wars

The British were outraged at the confiscation and demanded reparation for the loss. The Chinese refused and British gunboats were brought in to settle the matter. By 1842, the Chinese were cowed into accepting the first of several unequal peace treaties, the Treaty of Nanking. The treaty ceded the Island of Hong Kong to the British, required China to pay 21 million dollars in reparations and opened five ports as treaty ports for Western traders.

Over the coming years, things got worse for the Chinese. Between 1856 and 1860, a Second Opium War involving several battles between French, American and British forces on the one hand and Chinese forces on the other had a predictable outcome. The Chinese were crushed.

In 1860, the Convention of Peking was signed which required significant additional concessions from China. Eleven more ports were opened to trade, foreigners were granted the freedom to travel within China and trade freely, missionaries were granted travel freedom and part of the Kowloon Peninsula was added to Hong Kong Territory as a British possession.

Similar rights were afforded to the French and Americans, while the Russians negotiated a massive land transfer. It was imperialism at its worst and a colossal defeat and humiliation for the

Chinese, who had acted throughout with the lawful right to defend their borders.

Storming the Fortress of Amoy, 1841

Signing of the Treaty of Nanking

become a global manufacturing powerhouse which both contributed to and benefited from the rise of the British Empire.

Hong Kong

Piracy

For centuries, piracy has been rife throughout Southeast Asia (and for that matter, remains so today). China had three great waves of unsurpassed piracy: the middle of the 16th and 17th centuries and the end of the 18th century. These pirate leagues were of such number that they surpassed that of the Chinese navy. Tens of thousands of men strong, they were in every way, not mere gangs, but societies, with women, children and communities. They had their own laws, formed political alliances with local officials and foreign powers, and maintained business ties to maritime and land-based retailers of goods and services, including, of course, under-the-table arrangements to sell stolen goods at discounted prices.
Pirates were a fundamental part of the economic and political fabric of the region in which they operated.

By the 19th century, enormous pirate communities were a thing of the past, although two pirate groups still numbered in the thousands, those of Shap Ng Tsai and Chui A-poo. More on this to come.

Large pirate groups were powerhouses to be reckoned with

Mah Chow Wong

Daniel had a fast friend. His name was Mah Chow Wong, also known as Wong Akee. We know nothing of how, where or when they met or what events they shared together. What is known, though, is that Mah Chow Wong was a notorious pirate and crime kingpin in the Hong Kong region. He appears to have operated a plethora of illegal businesses — piracy, reselling of stolen goods, prostitution, slave-trading, protection rackets and so on.

This close connection to a major crime lord ought to have been problematic for Daniel who held various key positions in the Hong Kong colonial government including Assistant Superintendent of Police. Yet there is no evidence that this troubled Daniel in the slightest. He was his own man, it seems, impervious to the views of others.

Certainly others were troubled by Daniel's friendship with Mah Chow, in particular, Charles May, the Superintendent of Police and Thomas Anstey, the Attorney General. Whose side of the fence was Daniel on? Was he genuinely serving the best interests of Hong Kong or was he manipulating affairs of government to line his (and Mah Chow's) pocket? No

doubts lingered in the minds of May and Anstey. Daniel was corrupt.

Mah Chow Wong was finally caught in possession of pirated goods and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Daniel then did a curious thing. He frantically pulled out all stops to get his friend 'off the hook,' to no avail.

Daniel's actions, however, clearly demonstrated to some observers the closeness of his friendship, indeed, intense loyalty to Mah Chow Wong. Legend has it that Mah Chow once saved Daniel's life. Could this explain Daniel's loyalty? What was the nature of the life-saving event? Were they engaged in an act of piracy? Certainly, we see such intense friendships as this among soldiers who have fought together under life and death circumstances.

Further, when Daniel and Ayow Chan started a relationship (and later married), Daniel gave his concubine, Awoon, to his friend Mah Chow Wong. By Chinese tradition, that made Daniel Mah Chow's Godson (When Mah Chow left for prison, Awoon returned to the Caldwell residence).

There were other actions of Daniel's which could be interpreted (as Daniel's detractors did) as circumstantial evidence that Daniel worked both sides of the fence to his own advantage. You will read more of this coming up, but consider this:

Daniel was for some time in receipt of two salaries, one for interpreting in the lower court, a second for interpreting in the high court. When London discovered this, they cut one of his salaries.

That immediately placed Daniel in an impossible position. He could no longer support his large family.. He did what he had to do. He quit his job with the government and went into business with Mah Chow Wong. Daniel bought a share ini a steam launch, possibly owned by Mah Chow, with which they offered convoy protection services to vessels coming to and departing from Hong Kong. Far from protection services, argued his detractors, Daniel and Mah Chow were operating a protection racket, collecting a fee to not be attacked by pirates.

A second incident involved an act of piracy aboard a vessel Daniel part owned. Forty-five hundred dollars of his was taken from the vessel. Daniel was apparently enraged. His intelligence network identified the culprit and the village in which he lived. Daniel then approached his high-ranking friends in the Royal Navy, requesting they lend him a hand to get his money back.

They lent him more than a hand; they lent him an armed steam launch. The steam launch bombarded the village until the village head agreed to collect and hand over the money owed. He was paid.

While many applauded Daniel for employing his incomparable intelligence system to hunting down and destroying pirate fleets, others scoffed and said ‘that’s intelligence from Mah Chow Wong who’s feeding it to Daniel who then provides it to the Royal Navy who then venture forth and kill pirates, not any old pirates, Mah Chow Wong’s competitors’. In other words, they argued, Mah Chow was using a naive Daniel to do his bidding or Mah Chow and Daniel worked as partners in illegal operations that could harness the cooperation of the Royal Navy.

The point of relating these events is simply to say that a number of Daniel’s responses to situations were very much the behaviours of pirates — act with force and intimidation and employ the power and influence of friends to get what you want.

All of the above is supposition, which must necessarily remain so. One thing is clear. Most everything about Daniel Richard Caldwell is blurry.

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The Caldwells

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Debtor's Prison

Debt has existed in societies for probably as long as societies have existed, for thousands of years. How societies dealt with debtor's who could not or did not pay back the lender has differed considerably..

As late as the mid-1800s, debtor's prisons were commonly used throughout the British Empire to settle unpaid debts. In the 18th and 19th centuries, 10,000 people a year were imprisoned for debt.

Imprisonment did not release one from the oblivion to repay the lender. Debtor's remained in prison until the debt was paid in full. Thus, many debtor's spent years behind bars. It was horrific circumstance for a family. If the male breadwinner was imprisoned, the spouse and older children had somehow to find the funds to feed themselves, pay for the debtor's' keep in prison and as well, raise the funds to pay back the debt. Undoubtedly, many women of the imprisoned were forced into prostitution to keep food on the family table.

Prison conditions were grim. Some prisons tossed the debtors into the same calls with vicious

criminals. Disease was rampant and starvation and abuse were common. Some prisons allowed a form of parole whereby the debtor became an indentured servant who worked outside the prison until his debt was repaid.

Debt and certainly defaulting on debt, was therefore to be avoided at all costs. Consider the cases of Henry Charles Caldwell, his brother Daniel Richard Caldwell and Daniel Richard's son Daniel Edmund Caldwell next.

Cat With Nine Lives

In 1814, on the tiny Island of Saint Helena, was born a son, the third of four children, to Daniel Caldwell (1788-1828) and Mary Manay (bn 1797). His name was Henry Charles Caldwell. Henry was the older brother of my great great grandfather Daniel Richard Francis Caldwell (1816-1875), who was to become an influential and controversial figure in the early days of Hong Kong. The Caldwell family lived on St Helena from 1770 to sometime in the 1820s, when they moved to Penang and later Singapore. The father Daniel, died in Penang in 1828. How the mother Mary survived with four children is not known. Yet one can surmise that those were difficult years, made more challenging by the unmanageable behaviour of young Daniel.

At 18, Daniel was tossed out of the home whereupon he began a lucrative career as an opium smuggler. Henry, however, remained in Singapore where he found work in the Court Clerk's office. Henry was smart, charming and may have been multilingual, as was his brother.

Henry’s qualities allowed him to move up the career ladder quickly. From 1836 to 1839 he served as a sworn clerk, from 1839 to 1855 he was the senior clerk and from 1855 to 1856 he was the Registrar. Registrar for just a year? Well, Henry, it

seems, had visions of grandeur. He wanted to live in a large home, a home with class which, perhaps he thought, fitted his new station in life as Senior Clerk. In 1840, he commissioned architect George Coleman to design and build his dream house. The home was completed a year later, in 1841. And a marvellous home it was.

Although Henry was earning a reasonably good salary, it apparently was not enough to support construction debt and his growing family. By 1856, Henry was stretched to the limit and beyond. To stay afloat, he had taken to embezzling the court's trust funds, funds
which included those of close friends and associates. Funds were being taken from one trust fund to meet the payout date of another. He knew it was just a matter of time before he got caught.

Henry was in serious trouble. He faced a lengthy prison sentence for non-payment of debt and worse, for embezzling in a position of trust. A lengthy prison term would leave his family destitute and his reputation forever in tatters.

The dreaded day came. Clerks began uncovering missing funds. Because Henry's reputation for integrity was beyond reproach, it was at first assumed that there was a legitimate reason for the empty accounts. However, the problem did not resolve itself and a committee of judges was struck to investigate. Henry was called before the committee to explain the situation and he could not. A warrant was issued for Henry's arrest and officers appeared at his door. Henry and his family were nowhere to be found.

You might think that was the sad end to upwardly mobile Henry Charles Caldwell, that eventually he would be caught, convicted and sentenced to 12 to 15 years in prison on the Island of Bhutan. He might even have become fast friends with Mah Chow Wong, who was just arriving there. Wong was a notorious crime boss and close Hong Kong friend of Henry's brother Daniel. Wong had received a hefty prison sentence for possession of stolen property obtained by piracy. But that's another story.

However, that was not how things ended for the disgraced Registrar. On the 2nd of June, 1859, Henry debarked in Hong Kong from the ship Northfleet. His family had preceded him. Then a remarkable thing happened. Nothing.

Although the Hong Kong police held a warrant for his arrest, Henry was allowed to leave British jurisdiction and proceed to Portuguese Macao that same night. For some inexplicable reason Henry had been labeled as immune from prosecution. A residence for the family and work for Henry at a solicitor's firm had apparently been arranged by Daniel.

Henry and family spent time in England and eventually, returned to Hong Kong where, still immune from prosecution, Henry found work with the office of Messrs Cooper-Turner and Hazeland, solicitors. He then articled with barrister RC Owen . Some nine years after arriving in Hong Kong, Henry was called to the bar — he became an attorney and

solicitor.

Henry was much like his brother. He was competent, charismatic and popular, spoke fluent Cantonese and was well-acquainted with Chines culture. He soon built up a sizeable and lucrative law practise. Henry paid back his creditors and all of the stolen funds owing the Singapore court. In time, he and his family retired to England — wealthy.

The question remains, “How was it possible that Henry avoided prosecution?” The most likely answer is that Daniel pulled strings in the background. There is just no other reasonable explanation.

Yet how would Daniel have had influence over, not only the Hong Kong court, but the Singaporean court with which he had no relationship? Perhaps he had influence over a powerful Hong Kong personage who in turn, was able to influence power-brokers in Singapore. I must conclude that the power-broker in Hong Kong would have to have been Governor John Bowring himself for how could a decision of this magnitude and nature (thwarting the course of justice in a serious criminal matter) not have been known to and authorized by the penultimate decision-maker of the colony?

Henry had been on the run principally for stealing trust funds of the court, although the root of Henry’s problem was debt and the threat of imprisonment for failure to pay his debts.

For his brother Daniel, debt was a constant worry. As his family grew to an immense size (He and his wife Mary Ayow had 12 biological children and adopted over 20 more children), the family expenses must have been horrendous. Worse, Daniel, despite the invaluable services he rendered the colony, was chronically underpaid.

It is not surprising , then, that one year after becoming the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Daniel declared insolvency and promptly escaped to Macao to avoid debtor's prison. However, his presence in the colony was so essential to its day-to-day functioning that he was soon back on the job.

There was a second insolvency wherein Daniel lingered too long before catching the boat to Macao and ended up doing time in the Central Police Station (only in colonial Hong Kong would one find the Assistant Superintendent of police in his own prison). That too, was short-lived. When the colony ground to a halt, an arrangement was made for Daniel to work during the day and return to prison at night.

We know, as well, that Governor Bowring was very partial to Daniel. When the First Commission of Inquiry was struck by Governor Bowring to assuage the rantings of the Attorney-General, Thomas Anstey, Bowring appointed friends of Daniel's to the commission. An outcome in favour of Daniel was ail but certain.

However, when Governor Bowring was replaced by Governor Hercules Robinson, a Second Commission of Inquiry was ordered with a different result. Daniel was found unfit for government service because of his liaisons with criminal elements and was let go.

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Freemasons

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization (men only) which has its roots largely in medieval times, although origin myths of the organization take it back to biblical roots.

Freemasonry was originally a guild for stone masons. The term ‘free’ may be a reference to being independent, not in bondage, or it may refer to when the organization made a fundamental change to allow non-stone mason members.

Freemasonry is characterized by rituals and secrecy, and its objectives are not clear to outsiders. Membership is by referral from a member. During the 1800s, Freemasonry thrived within the British Empire, perhaps because it was a bit of Old England. Its rituals and procedures were identical no matter where you happened to live. Of central importance the success of Freemasonry was its reputation as ‘the place to be.’ Members of the Freemasons were associated with wealth, power and influence. They were the elite of their community.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Daniel Richard Caldwell was a Freemason for most of his adult

life, for cultivating relationships with the influential and powerful was central to his modus operandi.

Freemasonry was a close knit brotherhood wherein brothers helped each other unquestionably when the need arose. Such a time did arise for
Daniel, when, during the Second Commission of Inquiry into Daniel's affairs, evidence which would have linked Daniel to piracy was destroyed by Acting Colonial Secretary, William Bridges, a friend and fellow Freemason. That act precluded further prosecution of a serious charge. Undoubtedly, Daniel's Freemason brothers formed an important part of his intelligence network, so critical to solving crime and piracy in Hong Kong.

Daniel was so highly thought of by his Freemason brothers, he was elected to the position of Grand Master in two Hong Kong Freemason Lodges, a rare accolade. Upon his death in 1875, the Freemasons erected an enormous marble monument to Daniel which stands today in the Happy Valley Cemetery in Hong Kong.

For like reasons, my grandfather Sidney Bruce, was a Freemason in the Yokohama Lodge during his years in Japan.

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Pirate Hunter

Daniel R Caldwell guides the Royal Navy to the pirates' lair

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Christianity & the LMS

The London Missionary Society was formed in England in 1795. It was interdenominational and evangelical with the intention to establish overseas missions to spread the word of Christianity. Missions were ultimately established in Oceania, India, China and Africa.

Among its earliest missionaries in China was Robert Morrison who founded a mission in Canton in 1807. By 1850, the LMS was firmly established in Hong Kong. The focus of LMS work in Hong Kong was medical and educational. A mission press was also established. LMS missionaries built and ran a number of mission hospitals including the Nethersole and Alice Memorial Hospitals which were maintained and often staffed by locally trained Chinese personnel. Notable and successful educational facilities were also established to serve the Chinese population, including the Ying-Wa Girl's School and Ying-Wa College. As well, extensive work on translating and publishing Chinese texts was carried out under the sinologist Dr James Legge.

From the early days of the LMS in Hong Kong, Chinese families of the Caldwells were heavily involved with the LMS in all of these endeavours.

When Mary Ayow Caldwell died in 1895, her estate sold a large piece of land to the LMS at half the fair market value. It was a timely donation which accelerated the development of medical and educational institutions for the Chinese.

The huge Caldwell family were devoted members of the LMS congregation. One observer of the day noted that of all those present on that particular Sunday, 22 were Caldwells.

The numerous children of the Caldwell family (more than 32) were raised as devoted Christians. In all likelihood, their descendants remain so today.

Scandals

This is an internal report made for Wilkinson Grist on the origins of their law firm. It provides a very good account of the malpractice circumstances of Daniel Richardl Caldwell, Henry Charles Caldwell and Daniel Edmund Caldwell. It is reproduced verbatim.

The roots of the firm of Wilkinson and grist is found in the Caldwell family. Two members of that family were solicitors in Hong Kong. Henry Charles Caldwell and his nephew Daniel Edmund Caldwell.

The nephew was articled to his uncle and subsequently was admitted to practice in Hong Kong. Charles David Wilkinson came out to Hong Kong in 1886 to join the practice of Daniel E. Caldwell.

The history of the Caldwell family had its light and dark patches. The first of the family to settle in Hong Kong was Daniel Richard Francis Caldwell, the father of Daniel, Edmund, the solicitor.

There are differing accounts of his background. One source say he was born on the island of St. Elena, during Napoleon's exile there. It has been suggested that his mother may have had an intimate association with the exiled emperor.

But this has the marks of an over romantic imagination.
Another source says he was of mixed blood.

It is known he spent his younger years in Singapore. In this cosmopolitan centre, young Daniel learned Portuguese, Bengali, Malay and Chinese. The knowledge of these languages became an important factor in his later career.

He left Singapore in 1835 at the age of 19, and came to China where he was engaged to operate an opium smuggling vessel for an English merchant, James Innes.

By the time England was at war with China, Daniel was commanding The Thistle, a vessel owned by Chinese traders. In 1843, after the end of hostilities, he was recruited as an interpreter by the Hong Kong government. His service was of great value as he not only knew the language of the Chinese, but also their usages and customs, through close association with the local community.

He lived with a Chinese woman who was the mother of his 12 children. From all accounts she was a woman of some character. She not only reared her own large family but also brought into her household an assorted collection of displaced and homeless Chinese. She was converted to Christianity in 1850 and was a member and benefactor of the Chinese congregation of the London Missionary Society. A marble plaque with her photograph is at the head of the stairs leading to the nave of the

Hop Yat Church of Christ in China on Bonham road.

There was an official inquiry in 1858 into an alleged connection of Daniel Richard Caldwell, with criminal elements in Hong Kong, and charges that he was assisting pirates. Charles May, the superintendent of the Hong Kong Police, testified at the inquiry, that in the early years of his acquaintance with Caldwell, a latter had told him, “that he was an outcast from his family there in Singapore, that he had fled from Singapore to China, that before entering government service, he had commanded a boat manned by Chinese employed in smuggling opium to Whampoa and Canton and that he earned money freely and spent it freely among the women at Canton, so much so that he acquired the name of Shang-kwei, teasing devil.

Daniel Caldwell owned properties in both the European and Chinese parts of town. One of the charges brought against him was that some of the homes in the Chinese section were used as brothels. He became bankrupt in 1847, as his salary was suddenly cut in half, but he fully paid off his creditors by 1852.

He resigned from government service twice and was dismissed once, but his absence from office only emphasized his importance to the government in its management of the Chinese. When he was not in the employ of government, crime and piracy flourished. In 1866, in the Legislative Council debate over a piracy ordinance,

there was almost unanimous agreement that his services were unnecessary, and his honour was still intact in spite of past charges against him.

Mr. Pauncefote, the Attorney General, voiced his appreciation of Caldwell and stated that “he was in a position to affirm that the opinion he had expressed was the opinion of the bar.” After these accolades Caldwell was again appointed to government service.

Daniel Richard Caldwell and his wife Mary AyowCaldwell had 12 Children evenly divided between sons and daughters. Daniel Edmund Caldwell, the solicitor, was the eldest child. He was born about 1845. Daniel Jr. received his legal training in the office of his uncle, Henry Charles Caldwell.

Henry came to Hong Kong in 1856. Before that, he held the office of Registrar of the Court of Judicature of Singapore for some 28 years. An article in the Singapore Free Press shortly after his departure from that place, reported that he had misappropriated funds placed under his care in his official capacity as trustee of monies held by the courts and as administrator of intestate estates he had been covering up his misuse of funds by rendering false accounts.

The article comments that “very little credit was at first given to these reports, as Mr. Caldwell had always borne the highest character for integrity and there would be nothing in his mode of living, et cetera, showing an expenditure be-

yond what was amply covered by his official emoluments."

When called to account for the alleged mismanagement of funds entrusted to him, he was unable to satisfy the authorities to the correctness of his accounts, and was dismissed from his office. It was estimated that Caldwell had fraudulently misappropriated some $100,000. When one of his victims brought a criminal charge against him, the officer who went to his home to take Henry into custody, found him missing.

An extensive search was made but he had either left Singapore or as some thought was being hidden by "some of his native friends." The last statement is interesting because it indicated that like his brother, Daniel Richard Caldwell, he had close connections with the local community in Hong Kong. Henry Charles reestablished such connections, and were important in bringing Chinese clients to his office for advice and help in legal matters.

Henry Charles Caldwell had been a respected member of the European community in Singapore . He was active in church, literary, Masonic and public affairs. The newspaper account of his defalcation remarked that "the shock which this occurrence has inflicted on the community has been great for seldom has anyone enjoyed such universal respect and esteem, as were accorded to this unhappy man."

Unhappy as he may have been at the moment, his reputation shattered and under threat of criminal charges, upon his arrival in Hong Kong, he began to gather up the fragments of his life and establish himself as a respected member of the legal fraternity there. It is, to his credit, that in the course of time he paid back all the funds he had misappropriated.

After fleeing to Hong Kong, he may have made some arrangement with the authorities to avoid being forced to return to Singapore to face criminal action. When the matter was raised in a Hong Kong newspaper, it was suggested that he may have been protected by the influence Daniel Richard Caldwell was able to exert upon the Hong Kong authorities .

In Hong Kong, Henry Charles Caldwell capitalized on the experience he had acquired in his official capacity as an officer of the court in Singapore. He began a new career as a solicitor. To prepare for qualification, he was articled to the firm of Messrs. Cooper Turner and Hazeland.

Upon the death of George Cooper Turner in 1861, he became an assistant in the office of William Thomas Bridges. The Hong Kong historian George B. Endacott described bridges as “a thoroughly able lawyer and a strong, determined but rather unscrupulous character.” Bridges and Daniel Richard Caldwell were friends and Bridges had done Caldwell, a good turn at the time of the inquiry into Caldwell's connection with pirates by burning certain al-

legedly incriminating documents. Bridges was indebted to Caldwell for recommending Chinese clients to him.

Henry Charles Caldwell's association with his brother's friends was short for Mr. Bridges left Hong Kong in 1861, with a large fortune, but little mourned by the respectable elements of Hong Kong society. As a mentor for Caldwell Bridges was succeeded by another barrister Roger Carmichael Owen.

In 1865, nine years after Henry Charles arrival in Hong Kong, he was enrolled to practice in the courts of Hong Kong. He quickly built up a successful practice, particularly among the Chinese. Like his brother, Daniel Richard, he had a good knowledge of the language and customs of the Chinese. Upon Henry Charles Caldwell's departure from Hong Kong for England in 1871, both the Indian community and the Chinese presented him with memorials of appreciation. He left with an ample fortune which assured him of a comfortable retirement at Twickenham in County Middlesex. He died there in 1883. survived by five daughters and one son.

HC Caldwell, in 1871, took into partnership William H. Bremerton, a former articled clerk. After Caldwell's retirement, the firm became Messrs Brereton and Wotton. In 1880, Victor Hobart Deacon came to Hong Kong and joined the office. Thus the name Deacon became a part of the Hong Kong legal scene and through the Caldwell Link has a remote connection with Wilkinson and Grist.

Daniel Edmond Caldwell entered the office of his Uncle Henry Charles about the time it was opened in 1865. After the younger Caldwell qualified to practice in Hong Kong, and set up his own firm, he was joined by David Charles Wilkinson in 1886.

become a global manufacturing powerhouse which both contributed to and benefited from the rise of the British Empire.

Making Sense of DRFC

The Mitchells

Wealth Aplenty

The English economy in 1846 was buoyant, to say the least. Britain had just repealed the Corn Laws, protective tariffs which had restricted trade to the colonies. Tariff-free trade meant British manufacturers could trade with whomever had the cheapest raw materials and paid the highest price for their manufactured goods. And with the passing of the Enclosures Act, the landed gentry were able to replace low profit tenant farmers with high profit mechanized farms. The very fortunate among the landed found coal deposits on their estates or built fee-for-passage canals, creating lucrative new income streams. As well, bankers, the wealthy and syndicates of investors were making overnight fortunes from the immensely profitable, slave driven sugar plantations in the Caribbean. The doors to free trade had been swung wide open, heralding an era of untold wealth for British industrialists, traders and investors. Britain was awash with money. The Industrial Revolution was in full swing. This was wealth which had never before been seen in the western world.

And Then The Poor

Yet a walk through the poor neighbourhoods of virtually every city and town in England told a different story. Here lived the servants, factory workers and labourers, many of them children, who toiled for unspeakably long hours in unbearable working conditions, to provide privileged lives for the 'haves.' There too were the new arrivals — survivors of the Irish potato famine and the displaced from the Scottish enclosures — seeking a better life. They were beyond poor. In these neighbourhoods, people lived in run-down, overcrowded tenements, on narrow lanes where the air was fetid with the smell of sewage and industry, and thick with the particulates of coal-fed fireplaces. Here, the drinking water was contaminated, rats proliferated and disease spread rapidly. Britain had become a place for the exceedingly rich and the exceedingly poor, with few souls in between.

Emigration

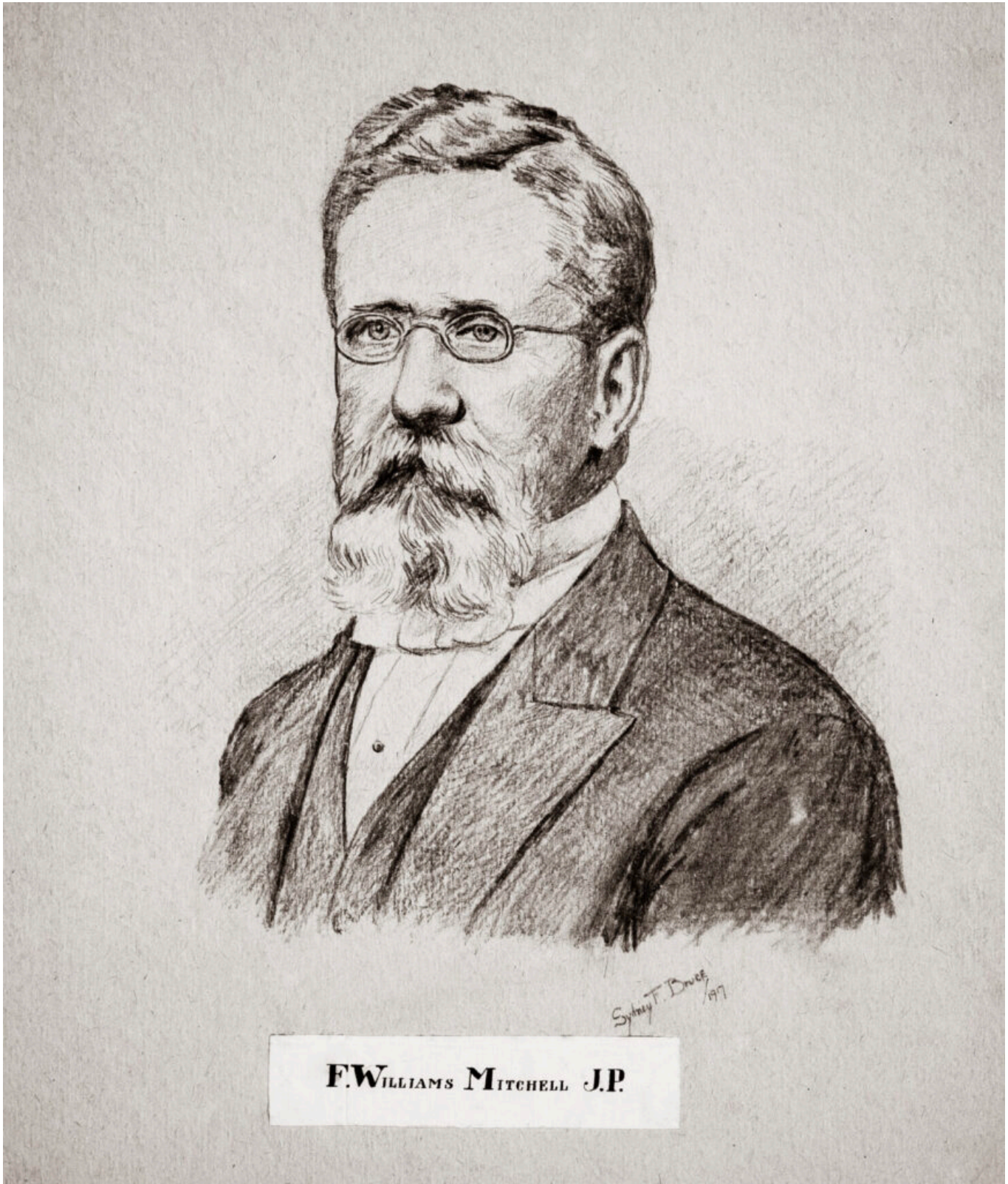
For the great mass of British, then, immigrating to the colonies became an attractive alternative to what they had —very little. The tale 'The Immigrants,' tells the story of the Lawrence family immigrating to Australia. The parents, James Lawrence and Mary née Grimes were my 3X great grandparents. A daughter Mary Lawrence from their family married Francis Williams Mitchell and they became my 2x great grandparents. They emigrated to Hong Kong where they raised their family of four children. — Francis Jr, Mary, Frederick and Rosa.

Protegé of Lord Eldon?

In our family archive is a portrait of a very distinguished Francis Williams Mitchell, PMG. On the back, in my father's handwriting, is this notation: "Francis Williams Mitchell, protegé of Lord Eldon." Protegé of Lord Eldon? It seems extraordinary that the son of a working class builder, who Francis was, came under the tutelage of a Lord, politician and prestigious lawyer? Perhaps the term 'protegé 'is a reference to Francis' work as an articling clerk. That we know from his marriage certificate. And perhaps Francis came to the attention of the law firm because he was exceptionally bright. Or perhaps Francis' or his father knew the right person. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Origins

The Mitchells were from Cornwall, as far back at least as the 1750s when the records fade away. Francis' father, William Henry Mitchell (1787-1847) was born in Falmouth, Cornwall. He married Ann Williams in 1811 and together, they had five children, the eldest of which was Francis Williams Mitchell, born in 1820. At some point, the Mitchell family moved to London where work opportunities were likely better than in their home town of Truro. Truro, in the early 1800s, had regional importance for its iron smelters, potteries and tanneries. Had the family stayed in Truro, the bright young Francis might have lived a life of drudgery, poverty and frustration.



Francis Williams Mitchell JP PMG (1825-1890)

Postmaster General of Hong Kong, appointed 24 Nov, 1862; retired 1875

Portrait by S Frank Bruce, his great grandson

At age 26, Francis married Mary Lawrence (31) at St John's Anglican Church, London. Both their fathers were builders, so perhaps the families were friends. Francis' work as an articling clerk seemed to position him well to become a successful London lawyer. The work would be hard, the hours long, but the rewards would be great — a large home in an upscale neighbourhood, servants, membership for Francis in a prestigious men's club, the best of schools for their children and the opportunities for influential positions which good lawyers frequently secure.

Hong Kong

Then something or someone changed young Francis' mind. He pivoted 180 degrees. Francis quit his job as articling clerk and secured a position with the Imperial Post Office in Hong Kong. The post office? Hong Kong? A place known for its stifling heat and humidity, pirates, mosquitos, tropical diseases and high death rates?

Perhaps it was a sense of adventure that prompted Francis to start a life in such a rough and tumble, faraway place. Perhaps Francis had shrewdly determined that his chances of advancement were far greater in the fledgling colony of Hong Kong which was desperate for the educated and ambitious, than in highly competitive London. Or perhaps Mary wanted to be within reach of her family who were immigrating to Melbourne, Australia.

Whatever the reason, Francis gave up his articling position and he, Mary and their first child, Francis Williams Junior (born 1847 in London), booked passage to Melbourne, where Mary gave birth to their second child, Mary Jr (born 1850). They remained in Melbourne for several months while Mary recuperated from the birth, then continued on to Hong Kong and their new chapter. The Mitchells had two more children, Frederick and Rosa.

Home Life

While Francis pursued his career, Mary was the dutiful wife and mother. Women in that era were seldom visible. They were socially barred from politics and only working class women held jobs. As a result, we know much about Francis and little about Mary. However, a great deal is known about Mary's Lawrence family who immigrated to Australia in 1849 and 1850, thanks to the efforts of J. A. Lawrence-Parnaby, who edited and published a comprehensive book on the topic entitled 'Flett Street to Fleet Street, An Historical and Genealogical Record of a Lawrence Family.' (privately published)

As was the practise with many British families in Hong Kong (and across the British Empire), parents educated their children in English boarding schools, considered the best in the world (for those able to afford the best schools). An English education, apart from the quality of the education itself, served as a ticket to a secure future. Often close friend-

ships formed during the school years in England that became an invaluable 'old boys network' throughout a person's life. Some students returned to colonial homelands to build a career and raise a family; others stayed and created a life for themselves in England. The Mitchells were likely no exception to the English schooling tradition.

A Rising Star

Francis was bright, analytic, well-organized and dedicated to his work. He proved himself quickly at the Imperial Post Office and was assigned more and more challenging responsibilities. In March 1857, he was appointed Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court and in the same year, he became the Chief Clerk of the Imperial Post Office. A year later, aged 33, he was the Acting Postmaster.

Francis' meteoric rise through the ranks of the civil service never stopped. In 1859 he was appointed auditor-general for the colony of Hong Kong and of the Consular and Diplomatic accounts of China and Japan.

When, in 1860, the Imperial Post Office was transferred to the colony, Francis was appointed Assistant Postmaster General. By November of 1862, he was the Postmaster General. He was created a Justice of the Peace in 1864 and filled in as Police Magistrate in 1867 and 1868. Francis carried out investigations, mediated disputes, served as trustee and treasurer for the St John's Cathe-

dral, and analyzed and improved the postal service of both China and the Philippines. The Spanish government was so grateful for his efforts that in 1871 King Amadeus of Spain conferred upon Francis a Knighthood of the Distinguished Order of Carlos III.

This was a man of exceptional character and abilities who played an instrumental role in organizing and directing the affairs of early Hong Kong.

Francis Williams Mitchell was precisely the right man in the right place at the right time. However, not all went so smoothly in his personal life. For more on that, please see Tales, 'The Unsuitable Suitor,' and 'Femme Fatale' here in Part 3 and and 'Reborn, 1886' in Part 4, Australia.

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FW Mitchell was lent out to China and the Philippines to re-organize their postal systems. King Amadeus of Spain was so grateful he conferred upon Francis a Knighthood of the Distinguished Order of Carlos III.

Femme Fatale

Historical Fiction

We pick up the story of Francis Williams Mitchell and his wife Mary in Hobart, Van Diemen's Land, nowTasmania. Francis retired from the Hong Kong Post Office in 1875. The couple then moved to Hobart where Francis took work as the Island's coroner. Early in 1881, Their son, Francis Jr(34), his wife Charlotte(29) and their three children, Francis(5), Amy(2) and Walter(2), pay a visit to the Mitchells in Hobart. The son and his family live in Saigon, Indochina where Francis Jr is a banker. It is 5:00 PM February 1, 1881. Francis, Mary, Francis Jr and Charlotte are sitting round the fire in the drawing room of Vaucluse, the Mitchell's Hobart home, sipping tea (FW Mitchell was a dedicated tea-totter). Francis Jr speaks:

"My dear parents, do you still insist on not joining us at the theatre this evening? I would love to treat. You've been so good to us this trip. Please come, won't you?" I'm sure Mrs. Murphy next door would be happy to look after the children.

"Yes, I'm sure she would but I'm just not feeling up to it. I've been doing a lot of travel lately and I'm not a young man any more. There will be lots of other opportunities. But

thank you. I appreciate the invitation. Mother, what about you."

"No thank you Francis. I'm happy to stay home and relax with your father. We've got a cozy fire going and I've got some knitting to catch up on. You and Charlotte take this time for yourselves. But thank you all the same."

Charlotte speaks. "Francis, are you sure you're up to it. Your fainting spells have increased recently and I'm worried about you. We can easily go to the theatre another time when you're more stable."

"Charlotte, I'm just fine. Really. I feel top notch today. But if it will make you feel better, take along the smelling ammonia in the off chance I have a spell. Come on then, we'd best get ready."

Almost the entire who's who of Hobart are in the theatre's dress circle foyé at intermission. The women, in expensive gowns and the men in formal evening wear. The air in the lobby is thick with the smoke of pipes, cigars and cigarettes. Patrons cluster with old friends and exchange pleasantries. All is as it should be and then…

There is a gasp in the crowd. Someone yells "MAN DOWN. GET A DOCTOR." Francis is lying face up on the floor. Charlotte, on edge about her husbands recent bout of fainting spells, cries out and rushes frantically to where

Hobart Town 1856 by Henry Gritten

the crowd has parted to make room for the unconscious man. Francis is lying face up on the floor. His mouth is hanging open. “Oh dear God,” she cries, “Francis!” Charlotte is visibly agitated, barely able to focus on what she must do next. From her purse she takes a small glass vial and removes the stopper. Her hand is shaking uncontrollably.

Kneeling down, and unthinking, she tucks the vial of ammonia under his nose. In an instant she realizes her mistake. The ammonia pours from the vial and slips into her husband’s mouth and down his throat.
“Oh my God, what have I done? My dear husband, please forgive me.
Please, please, somebody help.”

A doctor is found and attends the stricken man, but there is nothing he can do. The ammonia has done its workFor two days, Francis endures unspeakable pain, then dies.

Post script:

Charlotte never remarried. Perhaps she felt it her penance to live her life alone; perhaps she loved Francis too much to love another. She died in England at fifty-nine. A year after the death of her son, almost to the day, Francis’ mother Mary died. Some say she died of a broken heart.

Test of Mettle

Daniel Edmund Caldwell is a well-established solicitor in Hong Kong and taking a business trip by harbour ferry to Macao. On the way, the steamboat's boiler explodes and Daniel is called to act. A note by S Frank Bruce states, "Fellow passengers later presented him with a gold watch for his help and initiative during the accident." Below is an excerpt of the article that appeared in the Second Supplement to the Hong Kong Daily News, Tuesday, March 4, 1884 describing the accident in Daniel's own words.

"We left Hong Kong about a quarter-past one and proceeded in the direction of Macao by the inner passage. An hour later we sat down to tiffin, which was served in the Chinese saloon aft. The party at table consisted of eleven persons, namely Captain Hoyland, Mr da Costa, Mr. and Mrs. R Fraser-Smith, Messrs. Brewer, Frizell, Scott, Pinker and myself. During tiffin the vessel appeared to me to be going very irregularly as to speed, and there was a great noise of blowing off steam. Mr Pinker rose from the table and went out, I presume to see what was the matter, and shortly afterwards Mr. Brewer followed him. Mr Brewer returned first and made some reassuring remark, and later on Mr. Pinker came back to the table. By that time the noise had ceased.

Night Star Ferry, Hong Kong Harbour

I was sitting with my right hand side towards the engine. Suddenly I experienced a sensation as if a cannon had exploded in my right ear, and felt some irresistible force pushing me. I immediately lost consciousness and when I again came to I found myself at some distance below the water. Being a swimmer I instinctively turned upwards to gain the surface.

At the time I reached the roof of the deck house I looked back to see where the steamer was, and found she was at a distance of close upon a hundred yards from us, from which I concluded I must have been projected through the air at least fifty of sixty yards, for I do not think I had to swim more than forty or fifty yards to reach the deck house.

About a hundred yards away from us and about the same distance from the vessel was one of the ship's boats with a man in it. We shouted to him to come to our help, and he seized a plank with which he endeavoured to propel the boat, but as he drifted further and further away it was evident we could get no help from that quarter.

I saw the remains of the steamer sinking slowly, and when she settled the hurricane deck was under water, and only portions of the deck houses remained dry. The funnel had disappeared entirely. The people who had been in the forward part of the vessel had clambered up on to the forward house.

About two minutes after I had got to my place of safety I saw Mrs. Stewart Fraser-Smith floating by on her side with her face towards me; she was gasping but made no movement,

quantities of debris floating about between us , and I was completely exhausted. I never saw anything of the others who were lost.

Floating within some thirty or forty feet of us was what appeared to me to be the whole of the after port side of the hull; the rounded part of the stern was about the same distance from us and I recollect noticing the name. Seeing a rattan chair floating by I pulled it onto the roof, and Mr. Brewer and myself lifted Mr. da Costa out of the water and placed him in the chair.

Seeing that the man in the boat to whom I have before alluded could not come to us, we shouted out to those on board the forward part of the vessel to lower a boat and come to our help. There were about fifteen of them. They lowered a boat as request and three men pulled off to us in it. I jumped into the boat and helped to lift in Mr. da Costa in his chair. The two injured Chinamen were next passed in and placed carefully in the bottom of the boat. The rest of the survivors also got in, and the boat took us towards the wreck.

On our way there we noticed some Chinese boats coming three sailors who had brought the boat to us remained in her with the two injured Chinese, as it was found impossible in their terrible condition to lift them up on board the junk. We lifted Mr. da Costa aboard on his chair, and passed him down into the hold. In the meantime a small sampan from the junk had gone to the main portion of the wreck and brought off those who remained there.

Subsequently a few members of the crew went

back to the wreck to find dry clothing if possible or anything that would be useful at the time. I made an attempt to get on board the boat as I wanted to save a box of valuable papers I had with me, but the boat shoved off. I shouted out to one of the sailors to search for the box in the forward saloon. I saw him go in and to my disappointment he came out empty-handed but I implored him to make a second attempt and he did so and on this occasion he was successful, as he found the box floating about amongst the debris with which the saloon was filled.

At the same time, two or three small Chinese boats ranged alongside the main portion of the wreck and commenced to plunder her of everything they could lay their hands upon. I ought to have stated that when we were on the roof of the deck house the cold was indescribable, as our clothes were wet and a piercing wind was blowing from the north. So far as I am concerned, I suffered more from the cold than from anything else.

The boat having returned from the wreck, the junk in which we were got under weigh and we headed for the Capshui-mun Pass. The explosion took place at ten minutes past three, and we were then two miles to the southward of the Brothers and one mile from Chulakok.

The other fishing junk to which I have referred, which was the companion boat to the one onboard which we were, took up her position a little to the windward of us, and Mr. Brewer drew my attention to Mrs. R. Fraser-Smith, whom I saw lying on the deck with her head supported by a Portuguese sailor. I was

pleased to remark that one of the boat women was standing immediately to windward of her, humanely holding up a mat in order to keep the cold wind off. I subsequently learned that the sailor with Mrs. Smith was the man whom we had seen alone in the boat, and that he had rescued Mrs. Smith."

The Unsuitable Suitor

Historical Fiction

A man of standing

In the mid 1800s, he was the Postmaster General of Hong Kong and by some accounts, he was bright, accomplished and difficult. His name was Francis William Mitchell and he was my great great grandfather.

Francis was a lawyer by training. He began his articles in London as a young man, then made a fateful decision to immigrate to Hong Kong with his new wife Mary. There, he found a position with the post office and in time, worked his way up to be Postmaster General.

He was exceptionally good at what he did — organizing and managing. So good, in fact, he was lent out to China and the Philippines to reorganize their postal services. King Amadeus of Spain was so grateful he knighted the man.

Yet although he was outstanding at his work, his personal relationships were less than sterling. He seems to have been a ‘my way or the highway’ sort, used to thundering out orders at the office and confused, probably, that friends and family held views that differed from his. Nevertheless, he made a huge contribution in his world of work.

Why don't we drop into Francis' life as flies on the wall and see how he's doing, in particular, let's witness three life-changing events which happened in 1874, 1881 and 1887. First stop is the Mitchell home. They live among the wealthy, power elite in the Peak District of Hong Kong, well above the coastal flat where disease is prevalent and the humidity and riff-raff intolerable. Francis and Mary have two grown children, Mary and Francis Williams Jr. The year is 1874.

The Engagement

It is 9:05 in the morning, August 12, 1874. No need to knock. We are in the drawing room, unseen observers. It is Sunday and Francis is sleeping in. Downstairs young Mary (25) paces the kitchen floor. Her mother Mary is seated at the table, sipping tea and staring absently at nothing in particular. Quiet now….

"When is he going to come down Mother? I can't stand much more of this."

"He won't be much longer, dear. Be patient."

Young Mary is frantic. "I'm about to have a conversation with that obstreperous old bear of a father which he is not going to like about the future course of my life and I'm supposed to be patient?"

“Mary, your father is not the easiest man to deal with, I confess, but he does deserve our respect… and our love. Don’t forget that.”
“Oh I’m sorry Mother. I just need to get this over with and get on with my life with Daniel — away from this house! Oh dear, he’s coming down now.”
“Good morning father.”
“Good morning Mary. Good morning dear. Well now. You two look like you swallowed the canary. Dare I ask?”
“Father, I’ve got some exciting news to tell you.”
“Really, what is it Sweetheart?”
“Daniel and I are going to be married. We are betrothed.”
“What? My God girl, you cannot be serious. You hardly know the man. And he certainly has not approached me for your hand.”

“Father, we’ve been seeing each other for eight months, and he had every intention to speak to you, but I told him that I preferred to tell you the news myself. And I am serious father. Very serious. He’s a wonderful man and I love him dearly.”
“He’s a Caldwell, damn it. His father’s a scoundrel; his uncle’s a scoundrel. No Mary. I cannot allow it. It is absolutely out of the question. I will not have my daughter married to a Caldwell. It would discredit our family, tarnish my reputation irreparably and God knows where you would end up. Absolutely not.”

“I’m afraid I am marrying Daniel, father. I hope you will give us your blessing and wish us well. But if you choose not to, that is your loss.” Mary, in tears, runs from the kitchen.

Young Mary's mother takes up the cause, "Francis, for goodness sake, Mary is a grown woman. She must make her own decisions and yes, live with them." It's not up to us to decide whom she should marry and whom not."

"Mary, I cannot stop our Mary from marrying that man, but I swear to God, he will not step foot in this house. And we will not be attending the marriage."

"You will not, perhaps, but I will. I will not abandon our daughter because you have a bone to pick with the Caldwells."

And that was that. Mary Mitchell and Daniel Edmond Caldwell (my great grandparents) married the following year. Francis was 'unavoidably' absent in China on business.

Young Mary's brother, Francis Junior, served as witness.

Perhaps coincidentally, perhaps not, Francis Senior retired from the Post Office that same year, 1875, and he and Mary left Hong Kong to begin another life in Hobart, Van Diemen's Land, today's Tasmania.

Was Francis so shamed by his unwanted connection to the Caldwells that he could not bear to remain in Hong Kong? Did he fear becoming ostracized by his friends and colleagues? Did Mary and her father speak to each other again? We don't know.

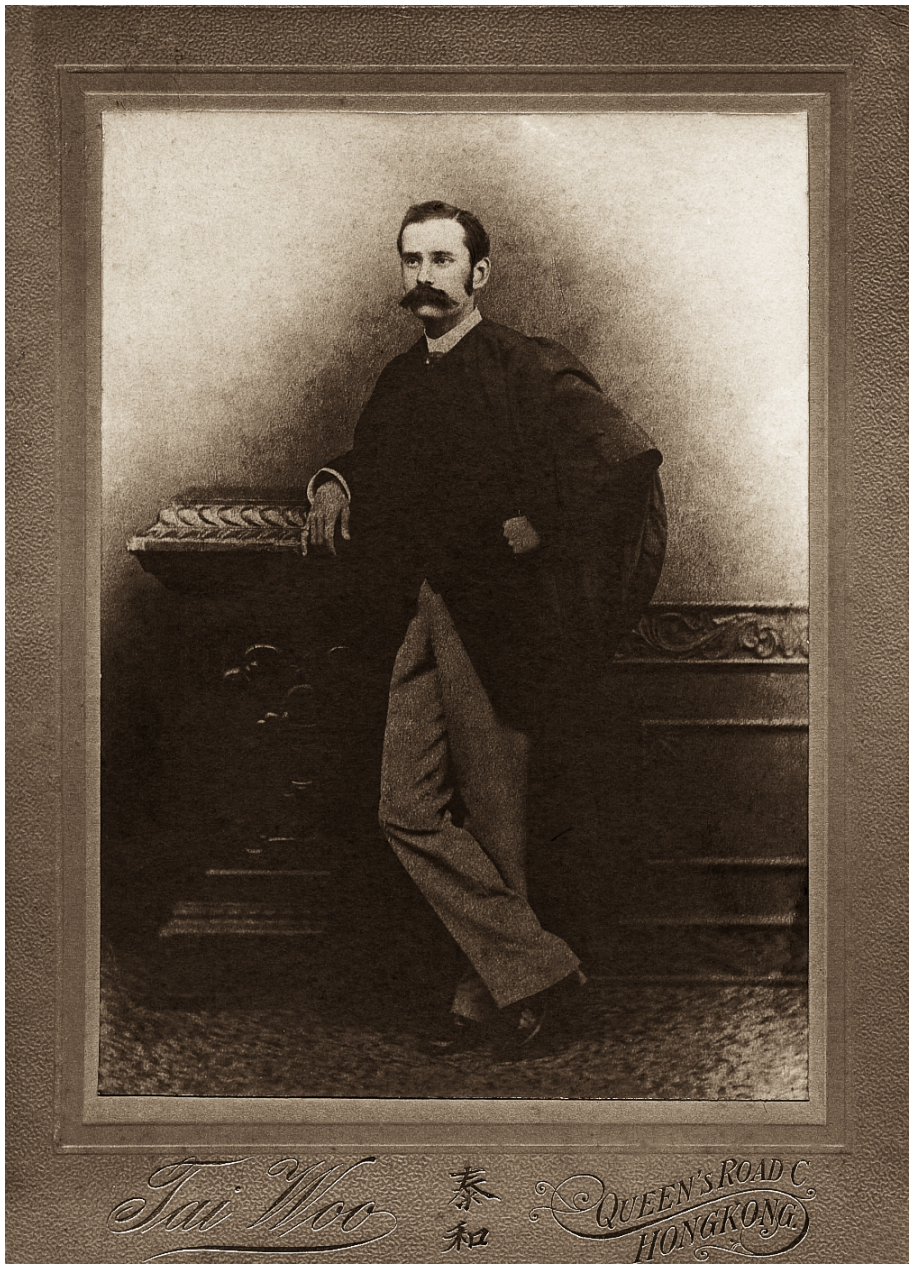
Disappeared

Daniel Edmund Caldwell (1848-1891?) was the first son born to Daniel and Mary's 12 biological children. His uncle, Henry Charles Caldwell, was a Hong Kong lawyer (see Caldwell, Henry Charles for his interesting story). Daniel articled under Henry and practiced law himself. He married the postmaster-general's daughter Mary Mitchell with whom he had three children, my grandmother Rose Mary Caldwell among them. Daniel's wife and children spent much of the year in either England or Australia where the children were educated. Daniel suffered from loneliness and came to dislike his work immensely, as evident in his letters to his wife Mary. As well, financial pressures became, it seems, unbearable. The costs of maintaining two households placed great strain on Daniel.

Then, on the 30th of May, 1891, an unusual thing happened. Daniel failed to appear in court. He was never seen again, nor were the trust funds of his practice. Below is the story told by the law practice which took over where Daniel hurriedly left off, Wilkinson and Grist.

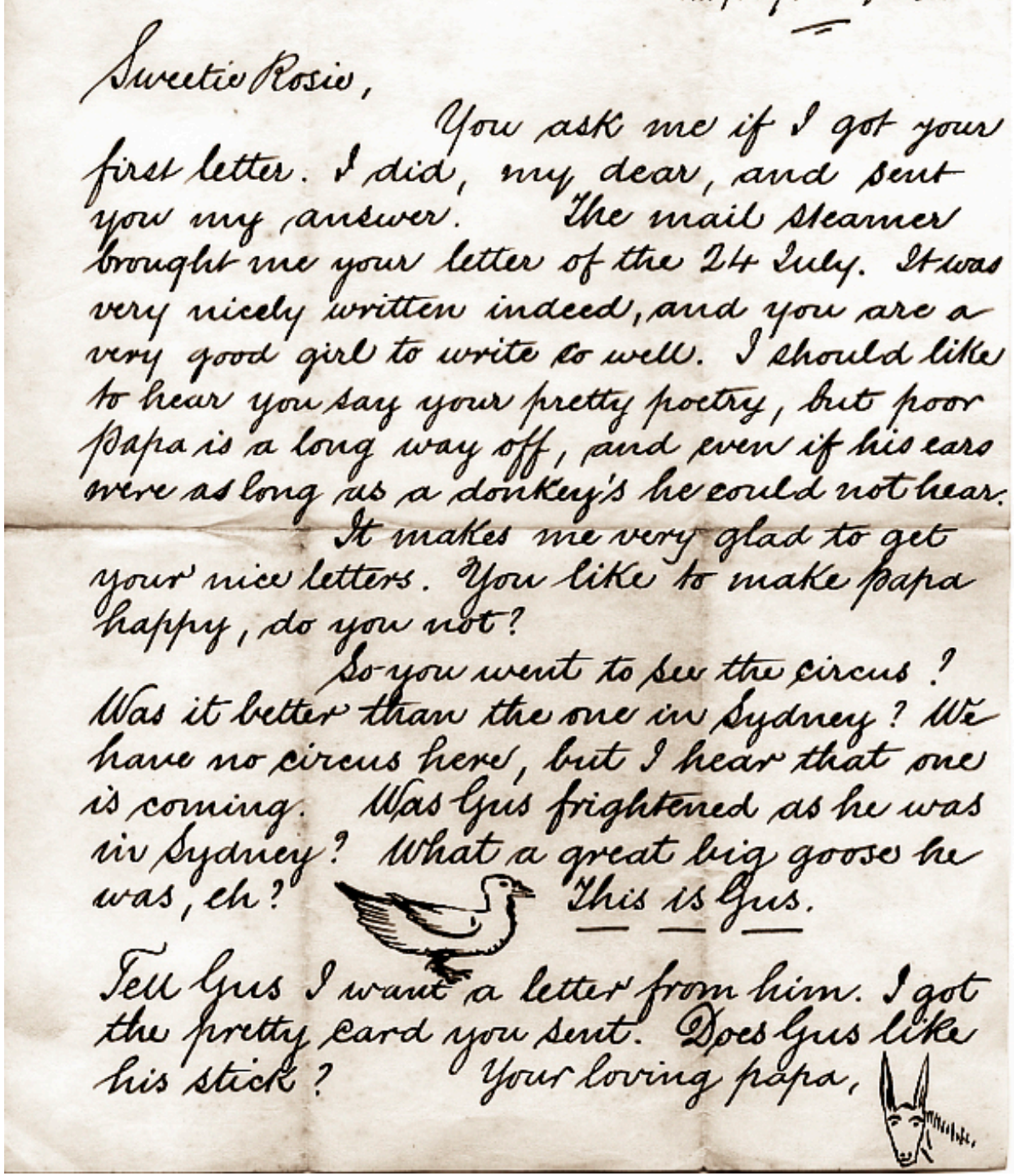
Daniel was only 43 when he disappeared.

Daniel Edmund Caldwell (1848-1891)



Letter from Daniel Edmund Caldwell to his daughter Rose Mary Caldwell, my grandmother, born in 1872.

Where was the family? We know that the children had been to the zoo in Sydney. Probably, they were visiting Mary's mother's family, the Lawrences, in Melbourne who immigrated to Australia in 1849 and 1850 (see Part 4 Australia).



Sweetie Rosie,

You ask me if I got your first letter. I did, my dear, and sent you my answer. The mail steamer brought me your letter of the 24 July. It was very nicely written indeed, and you are a very good girl to write so well. I should like to hear you say your pretty poetry, but poor Papa is a long way off, and even if his ears were as long as a donkey's he could not hear.

It makes me very glad to get your nice letters. You like to make papa happy, do you not?

So you went to see the circus? Was it better than the one in Sydney? We have no circus here, but I hear that one is coming. Was Gus frightened as he was in Sydney? What a great big goose he was, eh?

This is Gus.

Tell Gus I want a letter from him. I got the pretty card you sent. Does Gus like his stick?

Your loving papa,

CALDWELL & WILKINSON,
Solicitors.

50, Queen's Road,

Hongkong, 18th August, 1887

Sweetie Rosie, I am at my desk at office & have to go into Court in less than half an hour & clients are waiting for me in the outer office, but as I have not written for some time I must make time & send you a line or two of scribble. First of all we are all well. I am not too strong, but the Japan trip certainly did me good as my back which was hurt in that horrid explosion, seems much easier since my return. While in Japan though it hurt me greatly, but that was partly because I had to rough it so in travelling. I travelled about 1000 miles. Fancy what a glorious trip I had seeing that distance through the loveliest scenery, sometimes in fine cities, then through hundreds of 2 miles of fertile fields of corn barley oats & rice, sweet little farm houses & pretty villages, then by the borders of lakes, through lanes of flowering shrubs such as camellias & azaleas 20 feet in height, then by the side of a mighty mountain torrent - when you felt that each moment you would be carried away & dashed to pieces, then in boats down Rapids boiling with foam & again up steep mountains, through gorges & over Passes. Such a treat I never had in my life & if I were to live to a thousand years the memory of it will remain fresh! Then the people: they are charming, so clean, nicely dressed, polite & obliging. I hope, dearie, that some day you will experience the same thing yourself. —

Willy's family was added to a day or two ago in the shape of 2 little guinea pigs. She is delighted with them &

3/ is never tired of watching them; nor is "Saiko" our fox terrier either for he thinks they are rats & of course wants to settle them off hand. Poor "Saiko"! he can't understand why we should set him on to some rats, & won't let him touch them.

I came back from Japan so full of scenery that I was hurrying to paint. I have finished a large picture of a mountain gorge through which I passed. I must try to photograph it in order to give you some idea of the picture & the place.

Now I must really cease for there is not another moment.

"Sayonara" (Japanese for "good bye")

Your loving Papa.

I'll write again next week, English mail, when I shall have more time.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT

FEARFUL DISASTER IN CANTON WATERS.

THE STEAMBOAT "YOTSAI" BLOWN UP.

The Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company's steamer *Yotsai*, which had lately undergone rather extensive repairs by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, and went for a preliminary trial trip on Saturday, the 23rd February, left the Kowloon dock shortly before one o'clock pm, on Sunday, stopping at the Company's wharf in Hongkong to pick up passengers, and then steamed for Macao to resume her station on the line between that port and Canton. The vessel was in command of Capt. Hoyland, and had on board as passengers Mr. J. S. Brewer, Government Marine Surveyor, Mr. D. E. Caldwell, solicitor, Mr. and Mrs. R. Fraser-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Fraser-Smith, Mr. P. A. da Costa, Secretary to the Steamboat Company, and Messrs. Mr. G. Frisell, W. L. Scott and G. F. Pinker, of the Dock Company. After the vessel had been under weigh about half-an-hour it was [illegible] the engines were [illegible] after two o'clock, when [illegible] was passed. During the meal [illegible] escape of steam from the steam pipe was remarked, and Messrs. Brewer and Pinker left the table to investigate the cause. They came back shortly afterwards and Mr. Brewer said something reassurior, but a few minutes later Mr. Pinker again left the table for the engine room, and at ten minutes past three a frightful explosion of one of the boilers took place, which blew away the whole of the after part of the vessel, including the after deck house where the captain and passengers were seated, with the result that the whole of them were hurled into the air, and of the number of those named above only Captain Hoyland, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser-Smith, Mr. Brewer, and Mr. [illegible] proved fatal. There was, however, no foundation for this report, for though he was bruised, cut, and strained very considerably, and compelled for a time to keep to his bed, no bones were broken, and no serious injury sustained. We are indebted to him for the following narrative of the disaster :—

We left the dock at 12.45 sharp, bound for Macao, picking up the party of guests who were to make the trip out of a steam launch in the harbour. Everything went smoothly, but there was a strong tide against us, and not much steam on the boilers, and therefore we did not go very fast, and the boilers primed somewhat. After getting through the Capshuiman Pass, a little after two o'clock, we went down to tiffin in the aft saloon, the steamer then travelling about eight or eight and a half knots an hour. While we were at tiffin there was a large escape of steam out of the safety valve, and Mr. Pinker and Mr. Brewer left the table to see what was amiss. The noise ceased, and soon Mr. Brewer came back and said it was all right. Only a few minutes after that, about a quarter past three, there was a heavy report, and I was struck on the nose by the table; then I was sent flying through the air for a considerable [illegible] upon [illegible] way below the surface, [illegible] myself in company with Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Fraser-Smith in the water. We were near the roof of the deckhouse, which was blown clean off without breaking, and was floating, and we got upon it. I saw Mr. da Costa lying on the roof when I got on it, and two Chinese; I do not know how they got there, but I imagine that after being blown up into the air they must have dropped down upon it, and I should think it was that fall which gave Mr. da Costa his fatal injuries. One of the Chinamen there was in a dying state, and the other had his thigh broken, besides a severe cut on his arm, and other injuries. Mr. Brewer was got on the deck house afterwards. Mr. da Costa was insensible, and was groaning heavily, about fifteen of them. They lowered requested and three men pulled off to I jumped into the boat and helped to da Costa in his chair. The two injured were next passed in and placed careful bottom of the boat. The rest of the also got in, and the boat took us to wreck. On our way there we notic Chinese boats coming down before the making for us. Two large fishing junk come down a little to windward wreck hove to, and we pulled to th one and were received on board. T sailors who had brought the boat to us in her with the two injured Chinese, found impossible in their terrible con lift them up on board the junk. We da Costa on board in his chair, an him down into the hold. In the me small sampan from the junk had go main portion of the wreck and brought who remained there. Subsequently a f bers of the crew went back to the wre dry clothing if possible or anything th be useful at the time. I made an at got on board the boat, as I wanted box of valuable papers I had with the boat shoved off, [illegible] forward saloon. I saw him go in, an disappointment, he came out empty han

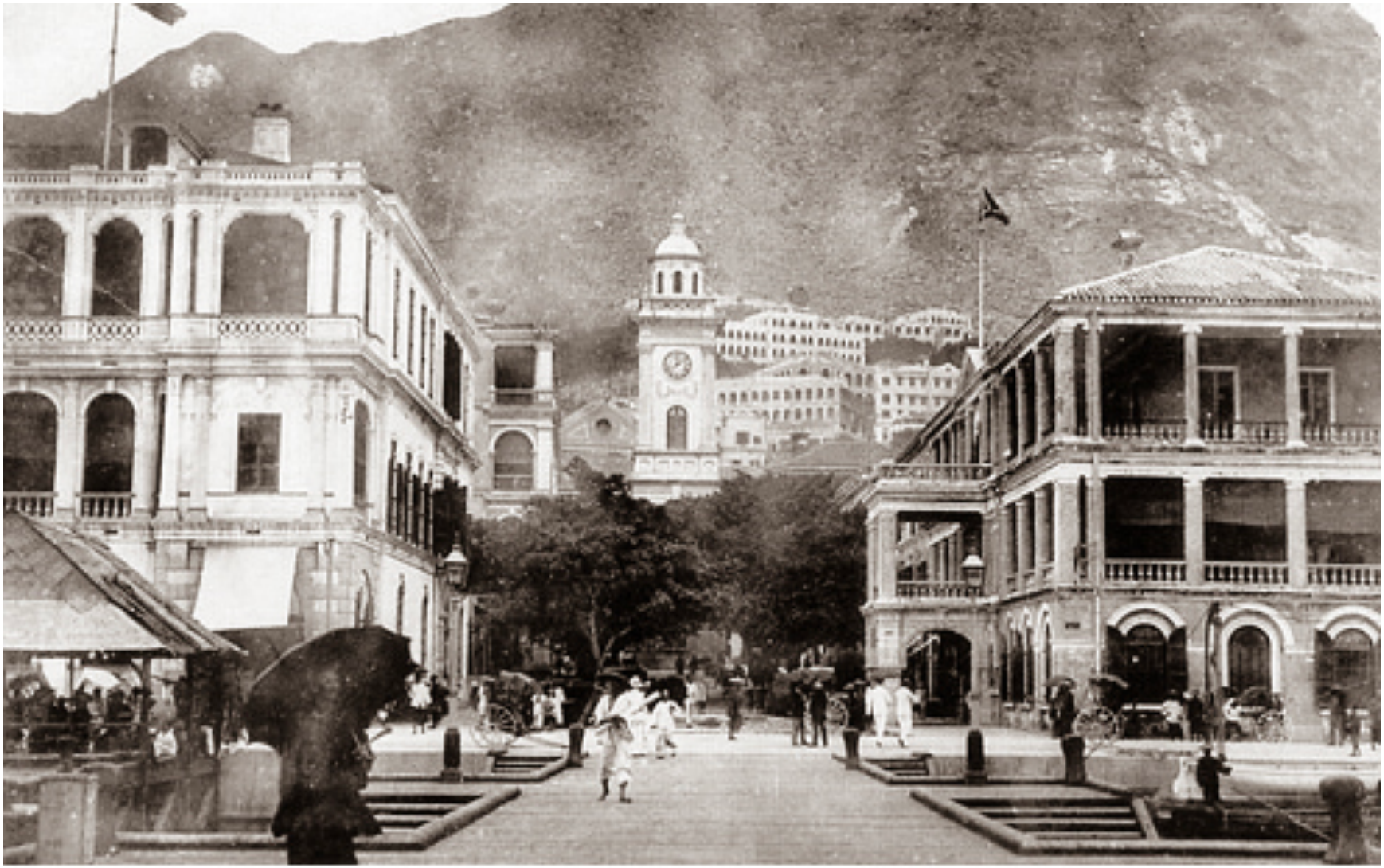
I implored him to make a second atte he did so and on this occasion was succe he found the box floating about amo *débris* with which the saloon was filled. same time two or three small Chines ranged alongside the main portion of t and commenced to plunder her of ev they could lay their hands upon. Amo things saved were some blankets, a bottle of gin, two bottles of beer, boxes of cigars, and these were of in value to us afterwards. I ought stated that when we were on the the deckhouse the cold was [illegible] as our clothes were wet and a

One Family, Two Cultures

Some years ago no, I posted a notice on Gwulo, a website dedicated to gathering and disseminating information about early Hong Kong. The notice asked for information about my Caldwell family. I have received some wonderfully helpful responses, two of which were from descendants of Chinese children adopted by Daniel and Mary Caldwell. That led to introductions to two more Chinese cousins from those families, all of whom live near me! And so, we have formed a small research group exploring our Chinese roots. As early Chinese families were very large (families of 12 to 15 children were common), an enormous new chapter has opened up in the Caldwell family tree. I expect a plethora of tales from that side of the family to materialize.

Scenes of Early Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Central Police Station where Daniel Richard Caldwell was once gaoled for debt



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by Andrew MacLure (Scottish, 1812-1885), painted in 1846, just 5 years after Hong Kong was founded

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