

Letters to England, Daniel E Caldwell

Daniel E Caldwell spent much of the year alone in Hong Kong. His wife and three children lived in England where the children were educated. He disliked his work, he was stressed over unmanageable debt and he was lonely. In May 1891, he disappeared without a trace and was never heard from again. Oh, and Daniel took the company trust funds with him.

Read his letters to my grandmother Rose Mary, then ask yourself, why on earth would Daniel abandon his family?

29. Queen's Road,
Hong Kong,
BREKEND & WATSON,
Solicitors & Notaries
Type to enter text
10th October, 1882.

Sweetie Rosie,
If you will go
with darling Mamma to
the proper place ~~the~~ man
will give you two gold
sovereigns. You and
dear Gus are to have
15 shillings each, and
little Willy 10 shillings.
You must all buy some
= thing for yourselves at

Christmas time. Papa wishes
he could be with you, oh so
much!
Did you get my
letter by last mail?
I will write again
soon.
Yours own Papa.

grey and old looking. His teeth
are falling out fast, and he can
scarcely run at all. He goes
upstairs one step at a time
and puffs like a steam launch.
I don't think the poor old dog
can live much longer, but he
loves me just the same as
ever, and wags his bushy tail
as briskly as before. He does
not bark much though; he
says he is too fat to shake his
sides by barking.

Rosie, dear, give Milly a
kiss for Papa.

Good bye, darlings. In
work time work away; in play
time play lots & run about &
get strong. Your loving,
Papa.

Stonyhony.

2. Aug. 83.

My darling Rosie & Gus,
I am in a
great hurry so cannot write
this letter carefully, but if you
cannot read it, dear mamma
will do so for you.

It is a long time, my
dears, since you wrote to your
loving Papa. I like very much
to hear from you, so if you
want to make your dear Papa
glad you will know that you
can do so by writing to him.

I hope Dandy's likeness
reached you safely. I thought
you would each like one of the
poor old fellow. He is so

50, Queen's Road,

Hongkong, 18th August, 1887

Mattie Rosie, I am at my desk at office & have to go into Court in less than half an hour & Chintan is waiting for me in the outer office, but as I have not written for some time I must make time to 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 to 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 probably because I had to rough it as in travelling. I travelled about 1000 miles. Fancy what a glorious trip I had going 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 frightful 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 mountain, through gorges & over passes. Such a treat 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 fascinating, so clean, nicely dressed, polite & obliging. Oh yes, dearie, that some day you will experience the same thing yourself. —
Willie's family was added to a day or two ago in the shape of 2 little precious pigs. She is delighted with them &

It is never tired of catching them; nor is "Saiko" our fortuner's sister
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, & would let him touch them.

I came back from Japan so full of scenery that I
was bursting 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 an other
moment.

"Sayonara" (Japanese for "good bye")

Your loving Papa.

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

21st Nov. 1880.

Dearest Rosie,
I have only
time for a line, but I must
write in order to enclose this
P.O.O. for £5 for you & Gus
for Xmas. I had intended
writing you a Christmas letter
but unfortunately I had to go
to Little Hongkong with Mr. Robinson,
the Barrister on before yesterday
about a murder case which we
are defending. The sun was very
bad & right on the back of my
head. The consequence was I
was laid up all yesterday. This
morning the first thing I had
to attend to the witnesses, who
are horribly stupid & annoying.

I have just come back from
the Court & their judgment is an
appeal case. It went against
us; such is life!

I have no time for more,
dear, but you may look out for
a longer letter next mail.

Your loving Papa.

day telling him to let you have
half. I was very pleased to
hear from you that the dear boy
had spent the previous money
so well in a microscope & painting.

I have inquired of Auntie
what the embroidery you
want is, & quite understand
the sort of thing. It is to be
obtained in Canton. I shall
most probably go up there tomorrow
about seven o'clock, & will try to get some of that
work for you. Before this reaches
you the holidays will have begun
& I am making arrangements
that you should spend this at
Miss Dana's so as to be near
you.

I am so tired of this perpet-
ual work & worry & responsibility
It gives me neither time nor
strength to attend to many things.

Hongkong, 18th Sept, 84.

Dear Auntie, I have just rushed
up to the Police Court to get a couple
of cases remanded in order that
I might find a few minutes to
send you a line in reply to your recent
dear letters. You address me under
the supposition that Ma was away,
but she is still here. The date
for her departure is not yet decided.
She has been too unwell to leave
& certainly was unfit to face the
discomfort & heat of a voyage through
the tropics at this trying season.
In order that you may know
when Ma leaves I will write Auntie
Wong ("Cantator") a figure; for
instance if I write in September
"18" you will know that Ma leaves
Hongkong on the 18th of September.
I sent you £5 the other

which otherwise I should do.
I can't use the pen so
much that I positively hate
writing & I think the
shortest into a bore. You
cannot imagine what the
feeling is. Suppose you had
to eat fish at every meal
every day & nothing else & that
ill or well you must eat
plenty of it. wouldn't you soon
learn to hate it? It is just so
with writing so far as I am
concerned.

Mamma is quite well again
& goes about just the same
as usual. Milla had a
little fever hanging about her
but it is nothing much. She
& I are great chums. She
is improving & sometimes is
quite well looking. I shall
write again soon. Now off to
the Supreme Court. My loving father

a battle had taken place. I am both glad & sorry to hear it; glad, because you are no longer there, & sorry because you & I had some happy times there together. I cannot bear to go there now that you are gone - I fancy I see you & hear you everywhere, & that is very sad for me. Thanks Darling for yr. letter which I had received I will not reply to it now but by a separate letter to yourself another time.

Trust my dear ones that you will all love each other very much, & be very patient with each other. Without mutual patience people always quarrel.

Was too so troublesome to my leg about his music that I did not think he deserved a bicycle. But I will think about it again.

Right in front of me as I write are your likenesses.

The two little ones in white frames are at the office on the mantel piece in my private office. I was delighted to have them!

Although the weather is good I have not been at all well these past 2 days, & am not well

"Belmont", Hong Kong.

20: Nov. 1889.

Dearest Children,

This is the Xmas mail and by it I send you Papa's dearest love. Before this reaches you I will telegraph some money to Ma which will include £3 for Rosie, £3 for Joe, & £2 for Milly. This Ma will pay you out of the money which the Hong Kong Bank will pay her when I telegraph it.

You see that I date this from "Belmont" - Auntie Etta & I slept here for the first time last night. Uncle George has not moved yet, & Auntie Elsie is at the Peak for a change. She was ordered away by the D^r. but as she got a little better, & the weather being very fine here, she did not go.

Our old house, Milly dear, looks horrible; all the flower pots & some of the furniture have gone & every room looks as if

now. The least work or the least worry makes
me feel dead & ill, & nothing but quiet does
me any good. How I wish I could get away
for a long summer in England!

I saw sea coming out of Mr. Hanlon's
the other day. Muriel Little has fever very bad,
& so has the whole family I am sorry to say. They
have come over from Kintore to this side.

This is a very nice house, but I don't
care a fig about it, & I feel lonely & miserable
because you are all away. But I will not
allow myself to be sad, but trust in God, & look
forward to the future.

I shall write again next mail.

God bless you all,

Papa.

Wm King. 5th Sept. 80.

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,

