Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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To/from Alice and Ben Baker (1922, 1925)

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Aug. 15
Chau Chon Fu.

Dear A:

I know you want me to write so I want you to know my heart life. It is so hot here. I have been working so hard today I am taking it easier even if it means getting a rest. I can even write awhile and then work again, the change in the situation, the heat is still mixed in.

It is very hot. I am afraid it means we shall have a storm again if not a typhoon. So it is very trying, and getting things started is slow. The system of labor is simply wrong, everything being or getting abnormal materials are very expensive. They have their all in labor and scarce and dear, for most people have things to do for themselves. They ask a dollar a day for ordinary labor, and I have told that skilled labor, carpenters, etc., are getting $2.50 in the city for every reason. It seems that we must rush to get the permanent repairs done. It will simply mean as big a disaster again. I am to get 50 sections of bamboo screens tomorrow, and have ordered 50 more; they are in great demand. With these we can make this roof fairly proof against ordinary rain, if no storm comes. Then we can have some cleaning up done, and get our course planned right.

I have three men now clearing up. Debris was six to eight inches deep all over our front yard; that and the room on the dining room were being cleaned. Just gathering together remains of usable material and cleaning will take hours and hours of time. We can do

Eng. K him did stand by during the storm mostly. I can’t help thinking of three nurses who had other patients and refused to go to the aid of these patients, while these two, each alone in these houses, stood by and did wonders to preserve things, doors bolted, windows, and one man could not close them—all till the wind set closed. But they tried, then Eng. K him had the sense to open the backside many things blew open on the rear, so the storm might have been and not blow out the yard well.
Beams from the house blew down to the ground. That pride of India tree near the kitchen door was torn out with the whole of the wall and flung down the hill. Banana tree north of kitchen left a few roots to tell when it stood. The big one in the garden is down, with big hole around it. How strong wind whipped and twisted it yet if put. One and a part of each tree left. Of some 100 flower pots perhaps a dozen can be found. And in the midst of the turmoil it seems queer things happened. Those who pretty fast me fast at the flambeau lit on the verandah and refused with debris hit first, as both impact with the plates, and the little one. The little fireball of the car on the telephone pole also appeared entirely while the pretty watch bottle splattered all over with mud, came this without hurt injury. I can't understand such things.
From Mr. Baker.

Choochowpu.

Aug. 17.

Dear A-,

So far as clean, I want you to know just how it is here. Clean never tell it all nor make you see it, in fact if you do not see it, so much the better.

Than gotten hold of few ordinary workmen and they are cleaning out. We have cleared both verandahs and inside the houses. Then we have had to go to my roof and clear off the debris from on top of the ceilings. It was inches deep and lots of it large enough pieces to fell thin and knock a man weak. That had to be done before we could attempt to put on any kind of roof, however temporary. The ceiling has all been drenched, of course, and as that loosen the hold of the mortar, it may fall at any time. We have cleared about half of ours off. Kilndini's has little in this line, for while his roof is badly torn up, as well from several large holes, the tiles and mortar are all there. Ours was all torn up, and what did not blow off fell thin on to the ceiling. That is what drenches the ceiling down in our south east corner room, next to the sleeping porch and all that falling crushed the bed and the trunk with my clothes, it is a marvel to me that by my clothes were not all wrinkled, ruined!

Now that everything is wet, white ants have appeared both up stairs and down.

See Atlantic Monthly

It is some hot. Not having lived here during August for so long I do not know whether it is unusual or not. But, believe me, it is very warm, if you get where the sun can get at you. Had men working above the ceiling this morning. But I went out a moment ago and called them down and just them to carrying off debris in the shade. It is too hot up there for the men being to endure, it seems to me that when been up, but realize that ninety three it would mean my end, so gave up roof work except very early and very late.
Please send all enclosures to Rockford as soon as you are thru as they have not seen them.

Hollister
Rockford
Bloomfield
Bridgewater

R. Sturgill
Port of our garden fence were taken away, and the whole hill top is covered with debris. The old steam launch was blown down in front of Marion's (Miss Rose's) door. You know those thick young pines were on the hill opposite us about the childrens swimming hole? Well, all are blown flat, lying in all directions so all there or up in Ben Rock Mountain, that is the thing in grief. But I haven't told you how it looks and seems. I can't. I can't tell it, it just feels it. It is terrible.

On Mildred's side.
Two walls blown away of the great bath-room. All the verandah roof is gone, beams and all, of about half of it, and all but the beams and tiles - stumps of the rafters.
Some forty feet of the east wall blown in, compound wall. And his roof is so badly injured that it leaks nearly everywhere. Shutters gone, in some instances, broken in others, windows broken. Door in north east corner room first floor smashed in. There is not a room but sheets badly. Yard littered with debris, and so much on the verandahs of both houses that we can't open the doors.

It is impossible to give the whole thing. The whole ceiling is torn to pieces in our south east corner room, letting the sunshine and rain in, when it comes, without hindrance. All the ceiling has been soaked with days of rain since the awful night and will come down everywhere no doubt, as they hang in places. There are holes in all ceiling now that room. yours just mentioned is a terrible sight. The bed is smashed, and other things are covered with debris.

This is part of what I have to write, but it gives you the idea. The plain fact is that now there is not a room in either house that will protect from the rain if it comes hard. Have made my bed for tonight in Mildred's dining room, where I also eat. I fear to sleep upstairs, for the ceiling fall. So it is not yet any place for you and the children.
I have not considered the personal damage we have met, for I simply cannot tell so quickly. My plan right off the bat is to get bamboo poles, sufficient to cover enough of the roofs to secure a roof on so in each house. There will have to be nailed to the roof, and if no high winds come, and not too heavy rains, that should be proof. Then I should try to assemble the possessions under that roof.

On first impression, it is absurd for me to think of getting away for weeks, three or more at best, and then everything will still be exposed; for it will not be possible to get the whole house fixed for a long time, fixed enough for normal occupancy I mean, not really all done as before.

There are many reports of damage all around. In heard man say this morning that in Ton Taw, the Pucky train had lost 450 members. Other reports thousands lost; some places where there were a thousand in the village, only ten would be left. From what I see all about us, I can believe it is if we were here 25 miles from the present. Kim saw school (Big government school) is gone, and houses in sight from here in many places. The loss of boats must have been awful. The exekag will line the other shore. And as bare of limbs, and of leaves, and in many instances of themselves, are many of the trees that in every direction you seem to be looking into the heart of things to have gotten beyond the wil.

Kie kay (the village at the foot of our hill) lost over ten people, men working on the river boat. There have been two deaths of children I know of personally already, where extreme fright appeared to be the starting cause. Also (Mrs. Bashi, young worker woman) has lost her little girl, and the Gehrings on is non

A number of houses at this end of the village had fallen down, and the school has two of three families living in it.

She railroad is in a big commission, and no definite information yet.

Lew Rien (village close two) has lost its bamboos and some of the larger trees, the one just we go down to the foot being one of them. The boat which we use to cross the river was destroyed.
But enough for to-night, if not for you, at least for me. It is very hot, and I have to keep going. I'll send more as I get time. I want to get as much as possible done before you get back. It is heart breaking just to see it all. I fear will still be enough to see even later that will make you almost weep. I have felt like it to-day, but haven't had the time.

The servants have done pretty well. I wonder at Eng. Khim's (Pocottie) nerve as he worked to save our things. They have brought piles of debris back which blew away all down to the pond. Eng. Khim says that if one had gone out in front first at the height of the storm, it would have been blown away.

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Pen L. Baker
Polyphe - Use as see fit but send as soon as you are through it. Ask Rockport where the folks have not yet seen it.

Rockport please send to all members of family also show Shellburne please.

Be sure that George and John are.

Worcester
Rockport
Stoneham
Bridgewater
Hingham
Dear Baker,

Your good note etc yesterday etc. Shad

Heard that your situation there had been less serious, and am sorry that it cannot be confirmed. I am interested to note the way the damaged houses and the damaged country affect you as you come to them for the first time, for I wonder if the feeling I had had and especially at the first, was something due to having gone through it.

Now as I look back to that night, I can hardly imagine that it was real. It seems as though it was some sort of bad dream or perhaps a very vivid story that I have read. As you may know - I have just been out on a tour of investigation for the Relief Organization here in Swatow - I refer to the one headed by the Mayor and the head of the Chamber of Commerce etc. My investigations led me up to the Tien - pheng district, and in going up there I passed through Hsin - Tsu and Tsan - Chia - Chiu and other badly damaged villages up there. It all still seems to me like a nightmare. Many of the houses on the sea - front whose walls were fully above the average of pounded walls as indicated by the broken posts - fully up to prop portions on leste - yet these walls lay flat. I looked purposely to see whether I could see a space where a person had happened to be in when they went down, it would have been possible to hide near a portion of the wall still standing and so escape being buried. But it could not be such a place in most of the houses minds. Then I remembered that even if that had been possible, the water, the water marks indicated on the sea - front that the water must have been up more of twenty feet deep and must have been driven in with great violence. Then in it all, I could not seem to hear again that awful roar and feel that awful power of the ungodly - made water that night as we had felt it here in this house, and I could almost feel the relief of the poor people in the house that had felt when the walls finally went down and the end came.
Great junks were picked up and carried inland two or three miles and kept high and dry on the hill-sides. Other junks did not get so far but had dashed against villages and battered down houses. One or two junks had been left—caught right in the act so to speak—standing there beside the ruins of the houses they were battering down. The deck of the junk towing up in the court or attic and—but it is too awful to the flight of the helpless inmates, as this awful thing came crashing into them already battered and ruined houses.

In the village which I visited, the lives came heaviest in the way of houses on the rich people, but in some ways it does not matter, for their entire families are gone, and none remain to claim the houses. In some cases, and at worst, usually only one or two have escaped—some because the old village was built they were not at home and some perhaps on wreckage. The reason is because the old village was built farther back from the sea front.

The loss in boats all along the coast is great and that affects the means of transportation and greatly adds to the cost. The fishing villages etc. are crippled. The shell industry at Wei-an (for making lime) is injured for their boats are gone. Constructed they would probably try to remedy these more radical losses and let the people earn their living; it would rebuild dykes, etc.
On arriving at this hill-top I don't think it was so much half-impressed. I was rather aghast, for a while I was just lost. From our letters I expected to see our sleeping porch in pretty bad shape, the roof damaged to some extent, and was in doubt about that medical room in the corner of the yard. The coolie's letters had even raised my spirits instead of giving a bad impression, and I had thought that it wasn't very bad. But when I arrived I was aghast and seem now to be writing in a dream.

When I really got to my senses, my first feeling was that of gratitude that it all won't be so bad after all. But when I arrived, I was aghast and seem now to be writing in a dream.

First as to the storm. If the centre was at Swatow, then we were as near the centre as one could want to be. The violence of the wind is everywhere. What we had at Thaing was not a Circumstance. And nowhere on the road here, not even just across the river was it subdued as it must have been on this hill-top. I noted indications from Chau-Tung (where we left the boat this morning) to walk over here to the city) that the storm seemed to have won over the nearer in got to the city. The last part of the trip we came up the river, and it was a sight to see all along, walls down, roofs off, trees torn to pieces and uprooted. So in discomfort I had to be prepared for something bad, for the evidence that we had had a much worse blow than we had been given to understand was everywhere. The first evidence from this place itself was the strange look it had from across the river. The medical room was flat, the roof looked...
strange, and the whole aspect of surroundings was queer. The whole hillside appeared uncanny. And so it is.

The storm was simply violent. As I came up the hill, pieces of tile as far down as the ford told the story. As I came to the top, the scene beggars description. The wall from Kilbath's Chetwater (where Ex Landulph lived) had our picture snatched in the fall (Oct. 1921) - to beyond our gate, including gate and pillars - lies scattered over the hill.

Side beams, various parts of roof, tiles, parts of walls are scattered all over the yard on every side of the house. The tiles lie gone from our entire roof, just the wooden struts left on the huddled roof pieces together, with a few bits of lime work in places, and two ridge poles only. I mean the heavy ridges of long wood, not wooden poles.

The northwest verandah roof has the beams and struts to lay tiles on kith, so have the two sections of front verandah toward the next end. The section over our sleeping porch room has nothing but sky above it, not even the large beams supporting the roof. They lie down at the foot of the ceiling in front, the bunnies' room. Even Marjorie's (Miss Koch) bath room roof and all the next end verandah roof are gone - one half of one pillar there. So you can understand when I say there is no place the live on the second story.

Our entire roof will have to be relaid.

Both closed-in-ends of the front verandah are gone except west end railing, glass woodwork, and all. Upper half of the wooden partition and door forming west end of sleeping room gone. Lime work railings on both sides of roof and the kitchen are wanting. The three doors to kitchen and pantry on into the dining room are torn up as by a giant. In some places, shutter are gone, some windows not a pane of glass left. Medical room complete stuck flat as it could fall, and everything in it still under the rubbish, entire roof gone off the cowhouse, and nearly the left of the place. Some of the fruit trees were just taken of bodily, and all the paper treed smashed.
Chaochowfu, Nov. 8, 1925,

Dear Ben—

To make clear just what has happened in the Tie âng khu, I will give a brief resume of the whole situation. On Aug. 19 or 20 the Tie and representatives at K.C., including Le Kiu Su, agreed to have a meeting of the Tie and khu on Sept 15, to determine whether we should stick to Sua Kak or not. You were present at this meeting.

The next meeting was deliberately set, so some charge, on a date when you would be sure to be out of the way, viz Oct. 7. It is only fair to say that there is no proof of it, and the date is not an unreasonable one for the considerations alleged. This meeting was reported to you in full. It did nothing conclusive in the afternoon, and in the evening broke up with strife.

Shortly after the representatives of six chapels met at Khim Seng shop and formed an Amitung organization. Pang Khoi was not in on this, as its men had all gone home in disgust at the action of the city folks in insisting on voting at a meeting where they had no standing. This point is of course well taken; but there is something to be said on the other side, about a meeting in which the city was so inadequately represented, coming in to settle the city affairs.

Anyway, the organization was formed, and apparently its chief purpose was to tell the world that they would no longer in the Kung-tso and its actions. They sent Khow, Jimmy Hun, Eng Thiam and Khue Seng, over to see me bright and early the next morning, and the session took the best part of the morning. They hadn't very much constructive to say, but said a good deal denouncing the low class of the city people. Their great effort was to get me to endorse their side, but I avoided doing so. I told them that I had already sent word to the Nia Tang Comm. that this was their pity and I was expecting them to come up and settle it. The next day Kiu Su, a Si Gou Seng Li came to see me, with about the same result. Their denunciation was more specific. A Si said that Khow was preparing to be another Tang Jin Sua and when I said that I had never heard of Khow violating the seventh commandment, he told me not to be sure of anything like that. Khow was li hai. He persistently referred to Khow as hu tio thang, and wanted to have it decreed that Khow was never again to be admitted to the K.T.T. premises.

On the 8th, I think, Liu S.S. Nie and Lo Chee ni went down to Sw to see Fu and Lo, and came back reporting that these two were absolutely agreed with the city contention that the money was to be used for city work only, and that the outsiders had no right to touch a cent of it. Indeed, as quoted by Chee ni, they went so far as to say that not one cash could be spent outside the city without the consent of the city people. These men also sent word that they would be up on Saturday Oct. 17, for the week end, and they sent out letters to each chapel asking it to appoint two representatives to meet with them and work things out. They duly came up on the evening train, and we all met them. I pause to say that I was in Swatow Friday and brought up an old acquaintance a Canadian kou nis from Canton. We came up on the night train, and I had a load of baggage and overlooked by bike which I left leaning against the fence inside Sw. sta. I telephoned down for it, and it came up on the evening train so I was meeting it as well as the two Chinese. At Capen's suggestion, I had Fu over at the hill so he could be quiet, and he ate three meals with this British subject, and Lo had one, without any firework.
Saturday night they had an address by Fu, and some health slides which they had brought up from Sw. Sunday they made nice speeches at the morning service, and spent the rest of the day getting the city point of view. In the evening they had a sort of long siu hue meeting, followed by speeches by A Lok, Song Li, et al. setting forth what they felt should be interpreted as the city point of view, which I felt was somewhat put on for the occasion, best foot foremost, etc.

Khou had just arrived that afternoon, and they spent the early part of the evening at Khim Song, talking with him. As they had not given him much of a chance they agreed to meet him at my house the next morning. I went to see my guest off on the first train, and then went to the K.T.T. where we impatiently waited till after twelve, for a ten o'clock meeting. In the meantime, Khou was keeping Fu and Lo over at my house trying to get them to see things his way, and they were trying to work out with him a basis of mutual agreement. This was a very praiseworthy effort; but it had a very unfavorable effect on the attitude of the city people toward Fu and Lo. They charged, during the afternoon, that these men had siu, Khou S.S. Kai un tong. Un tong, ought to mean nothing more than propaganda, and they ought to realize that they had given Fu and Lo a heavy dose of propaganda themselves. Unfortunately, theuntong for making Taau Kun president, consisted largely of bribery, and the word had so come to have that connotation, sometimes. That is the way Fu interpreted the charge, and he indignantly demanded proof that he had accepted a cent from Khou; but that is getting too far ahead.

The meeting was officially set for ten. On Sunday afternoon someone had expressed the opinion that the meeting probably would not actually convene till afternoon, and Fu and Lo took this for official whereas it was entirely an individual opinion, and in my opinion an incorrect one. So they were more willing to stay and talk things over with Khou, hoping to get a modus vivendi. I think they made a mistake in doing so.

When the meeting finally did take place on Monday afternoon, the two had a program which they attempted to put into effect. They first said that each side was to buy the hatchet, and had everyone stand up to indicate the fact, while I made a prayer over the grave. I made the best prayer I could, without notice, but it does not seem to have been successful. Or else what they buried was the axe, and each had a little hunter's portable hatchet in his pocket. The second point was for them to announce the convention policy of ju ka. The third point was that the money which was to be set aside for the 5 kou should be neither 5, nor 10 nor 15, but a new figure, seven, the sacred number, which they hoped all could agree on it. The K.T.T. people were willing to agree on it. But U piah hui, the head teacher at Tang long grammar school, made a rather impolite speech in which he held that this was the business of the Tie Eng Khu, and Fu and Lo had no business meddling with it. This view seemed to get some support, and so Lo asked whether they wanted to omit this point. It is not clear what happened then. They voted by a large majority to leave the point. The K.T.T. people interpreted this as meaning that action on it was to be deferred till a later date when the mediators would be absent, and the country people could come in with a majority, and rob the city at will. In protest against this they indignantly withdrew from the meeting, and could not be induced to return for a long while.

I had not understood the meaning of lau, and as soon as the vote was passed I asked U piah hui, who happened to be in front of
me, what the vote meant, and I understood that it meant the 7% was endorsed. As soon as I found out what the K.T.T. people were mad about, I went up again and inquired and got the same answer. But the K.T.T. people think I misunderstood at first, and that the later answer was intended to placate them and to undo the damage they had done by voting to delay action. Frankly, I don't know whether the delegates meant to lay till a later date, or to retain the item on the blackboard instead of eliminating it from the agenda. I do know that Fu and Lo and I took turns trying to get the K.T.T. people to come back, with very poor success; that Chee ni and A Si took a strong attitude that they would not approve of giving up a cent, and they were the K.T.T. delegates to the meeting; they resigned their jobs, but were reappointed with the understanding that they could state what their own personal attitude was, but that the rest of the people were willing to accept the 7% cut if they could be assured that this would end the matter. It was during this period that Fu and Lo found themselves at a disadvantage in trying to persuade the K.T.T. people who looked upon them as having espoused Khoo's side.

When they came back, I forget whether the 7% was the first problem attacked; oh, I guess it must have been, but I don't remember whether they came to a vote on it or not. Presently they came to point 4 which provided for a sort of constitutional convention to determine a plan for managing the Tie ang khou. This was to consist of 7 from the Tang, one from each of the K.T.T.; 3 from the Nia Tang Executive, and myself for the 15th. In that case, if the K.T.T. came appealed to us outsiders as reasonable, we eight could outvote the 7 from the country; but it would take the whole of us to do it. The K.T.T. people were not satisfied that this was safe, and wanted 7 from the city. This was too cumbersome, and so someone suggested two from the city, two from the county; two from the county, two from Nia Tang, and me. This found no favor with the country people, who (so the city folks say) wanted to keep the advantage of their majority, or (as they would probably say) didn't see that it was fair that one chapel should have as many votes as seven (this reminds me of some discussions about the large number of British votes in the League of Nations). Anyway none of the plans found acceptance, and finally Lo said that it was no use in trying any longer, so they did something else.

He then gave the account of your statement to the Nia Tang Comm, and what I had done, gave a gist of your letter, endorsed by me and said that before coming up here he and Fu had talked it over with all the members of the executive that they could get hold of, including advisers, and that they all agreed that it was impossible to produce harmony at this time the best was for the Nia Tang to take it on as you had asked them to do, and in the meantime to ask me to continue temporarily in charge of the school and the city work. This appealed to all as quite correct. The country folks are willing to give up their claim to a right to control this as an affair of the whole field, in exchange for the fact that it is officially recognized that it does not belong to the city folks. Vice versa for the city folks. As it is expressed in Chinese, so su la. Inasmuch as I was already in charge of the work for the remaining months of 1935, by vote of the Reference Committee, and perhaps for other reasons, I was a little surprised to find myself asked by Nia Tang to carry on for these few months as their representative; but as it means that they are accepting even more responsibility than we were asking them to, I had no objection.

So Fu and Lo went down to Swatow the next day, and on Saturday Oct. 24 they called a meeting of the Nia Tang exec. and invited the
three representatives (Kia Su, I ti and Lok, three lo’s) and also invited me to attend. After quite adequate discussion they voted to kong jin that the tui gua pu tau, and the Chin Kuang were the business of the Nia T’ang, and that they would accept the responsibility; that at their next meeting, a month later, at the time of Conference, they would phai hau chiang and chii a pu tau wan. They also voted to set aside, not a percentage, but $100, for the 5 kou a sligh crease over 7½, assessing it against the three funds proportionately.

A day or so before, I had talked with the Pung Khoi preacher and a few of the brethren, and thought there was chance that Pung Khoi and Che Thau would join the K.T.T. in voting in favor of continuing in the Sua K’ak khu. If it should happen that these three tak were well represented at Phau Thai, and the others were not, we might be able to get a vote to cancel the action at the meeting which you were present. But I did not want to expose myself to the charge of having worked a secret propaganda for this end; whatever can be said against that first meeting, it was certainly done openly, and everyone had his eyes more or less open.

To avoid such a charge, I wrote a letter to each chapel, asking them to instruct their delegates on this point, and in so doing helped to make the split absolutely tia tich. I had hoped for a good representation from Pung Khoi and C.T. and a light representation from the others. What I got was this. P.K. and C.T. planned to get there the second day and encountered military difficulties; one got there after the question was settled, the other a day later, after we had worked out our course of action and Khou et a1 had gone home.

Khou and U Piah Hui came on bicycles. There was some inclusive conference in the few minutes that were available before the hour when the powers that be had decreed that on the stroke of the clock this question should be settled. At ll the business session opened. Khou firmly walked up and claimed to represent the seven chapels. No one challenged his claim. I had not feel justified in doing so on the strength of what I knew about P.K. and C.T., and they did not have any representatives there. He gave a very clever series of eye wash, and when Kia Su arose to speak for the other side, It Tahad was presiding, told him to sit down, and he would not have had a chance to speak it all, if waters had not arisen and asked if the meeting did not want to hear the other side. So the It Tahad gave Kia Su permission to speak, but admonished him to make it brief, in addition to that he was once interrupted in his speech, which was only a fraction as long as Khou’s had been, and told to cut that out, and get there quickly. When he had finished, he was asked a question that I could not have answered with ut consulting the delegates, and pressed for an immediate answer. He gave what was in my opinion an incorrect answer, that the the K.T.T. wanted to stick to the Tie Ang Khu in what Khou had said was the tie ang khu desire to have our meeting with Sua K’ak but the business separate. The chair immediately asked whether the 8k people would allow us to remain on those terms and the men got up promptly and said they thought not, the matter was put to the vote, and settled by kicking us out, all safely within the time limit which had been fixed for the settling of this question, one half hour. I must admit that I was thoroughly indignant; at It Tahad accepting Khou at par when I knew he isn’t worth more than 7%: at his accepting Kia Su as thown kwnh tho piou for the K.T.T. when there were others there who really belong to the church, and using his words to our disadvantage, without giving the rest a chance to be heard; at the attitude that they wanted to get the rubbish carried away as fas as they could as it was in their way. Perhaps there were other things but I don’t think of them at present. I did however ki tai keu for Lo It Tahad. As a matter of fact, although it seems to me to have been a
very bad way to settle the question, the fact of its having been settled, and settled in a way so that there is no chance of its being reversed, seemed to clear the air, and the feeling, for instance between Khoo and Kia see seemed considerably improved. Speicher warned me that it probably is dress parade, and they have daggers in their hip pockets, and I recognize the possibility. But I hope the other interpretation is the correct one; viz that there is nothing to dispute about now. It is settled that the city money is not subject to raids from the country, nor is it under the control of the city congregation. If they want to put in Thong Ngii as principal there is no objection in trying to control the Tie-ang organization, for it will having nothing to say about the matter; Tie-ang is now officially taken, and might as well do the best we can at it; and perhaps Khoo realizes that his nearly reaches the end of his rope, and he had better be cautious or he will get a bad bump.

We had a Tie-ang meeting the next morning, and agreed to have a thoi picou hue ngi at Phu Ie on Nov. 11 K.T.T. and Tang Lim are kah and appoint 4 representatives. PEK PHU Ie Che thu and Kip are it and have three. Kim C and Tanglong are pics and have 2. It is agreed that this is to deal with association affairs only, and have nothing to do with Chiu Kwang and Tui Gaia. But as Sia ting is one of the 'tong, it is to be represented there justlike Tang, Lim and Phu Ie, which also will not ask for Gy subsidy. It is agreed that the $100 set off by Sia Tang, will stand. And I hope that there will be no squabbles. Lo is pessimistic. He says that Khoo's claim to represent Tie-ang was recognized at Phu Thai, but will be challenged here at home, and he thinks that some of the churches will not recognize his action in surrendering their claim to control the K.T.T. It does not seem to me likely, as it was clearly stated on Oct. 19th, and unanimously agreed to. I think Lo is not unduly pessimistic about this as he is unduly optimistic about these new military not being Anti-Christians. At any rate we shall know in a few days. I am sorry to have kept you waiting so long for a report on this above. It was kau taa when we adjourned at Phu Thai, but since then we have had military troubles, and while I have had time to write, I haven't had exactly the right attitude of mind.

what I have hinted about Lo it Tahai's attitude seemed to me to be a persistent refusal to be bothered with anything except the primary kinds of business. Thenghai girls' school has been run by the Sua Kak eec vomm for several years. We had a little business in connection with it, and he appeared to resent being bothered with a girl's school matter; it wasn't our function to run girls' schools; that belonged to the women's board. Likewise with an effort that I made to get them to take on Chhit Hah. All the effort and money that has been put in there is (at least now) going to waste because Miss Saliman keeps a woman there, and the situation calls for a man. Miss Saliman had money to send a woman there, but what is the use. These folks have money, but there were not willing to touch Chhit Hah, and suggested that perhaps Miss Traver would furnish the money to send a man there, or some kind of scheme, and then proceeded to abrogate all the money, and forget Chhit Hah. This was not done in a mean way, and I am not saying that their decision was not correct. I am only making the point that they didn't seem to want to be bothered with these things which are slightly irregular. The Tie-ang affair was very irregular, and in the same frame of mind they didn't want to be bothered with it. It would be far easier for them to run the Sua Kak Khu of Tie-ang were out of it; therefore out with it. But this intolerance toward an irregular affair involves something of not
caring what happened to Thaephyi ng-oh or Cnht Mah of Tie Ang khu
and this is what I didn’t like. It would undoubtedly be easier for
them to run their khu without these things. But ease in running is
not the only desideratim.

It seemed strange for Lo It Tah’i to recognize Khou as representa-
tive of the whole field, and one might suspect that he and Lo
the two had it all cut and dried as a means of getting Tie and Khu
out, Lo wanting to throw it out and Khou to pull it out, each for his
own reasons. But apart from the fact that there was hardly time to
work up such a deal, and it could hardly be done secretly as there
was no time and place to meet secretly whereas no one has changed
any such deal, apart from all these considered one it seems to me unlikely
in itself. It seems much more likely that Speicher (or was it Water
is right in thinking that Lo had made up his mind that the logic of
the situation called for Tie Ang to separate, and he wanted to get it
done with as little fuss as possible, and that is why he didn’t want
Kim Su to speak.

Perhaps later, I can write you more about Asso. I had hoped to
visit amleng the following Sunday, but the military situation seemed
a bit doubtful. Defeated soldiers had appeared at Kuan pou, apparently
ever from Kim Su. Others had come overland from Cofu to go to the
front at Hpa. Launch service was disorganized. I decided that I
would stay at Phoukhi and go overland by bicycle to Namleng Sat. and
Sun. And if the military situation had got bad by Monday, I could go
overland by bike. But fortunately I had a blowout Fri. P. M. and
that caused a revision. Twelve miles a day two days in succession
was rather a bore; I was crippled about getting home in a hurry; I
felt that it was important for me to be at the K.T.T. when the
delegates reported. So Saturday I rent by boat to Cofu Lak Ke,
missed the noon train, and instead took it to Swatow to get money to
pay salaries on Monday, also to get bicycle repaired. The Alternative
would have been to go down on Monday. Sw. Sun Mf. was normal, and
so was Cofu Sun noon, but by 4 P.M. the word was that the defeated
soldiers would be here that evening or the next morning. And I was
glad I wasn’t planning to go to Sw. on Mon. I think I never saw so
sudden a collapse. Sat. P.M. Lau Chi Lak was making a speech that
he was victorious on all fronts, and also folk’s knew that pai pia
had appeared at Kuan pou, it was not so bad that he was obviously
making a ridiculous statement. But by Monday it was evident that he
had been defeated on all fronts, and that the only way to escape
was by Joou Pheng (or Tangland, which a limited number took from Sw.
Down the river, and up the railroad and presumably overland from Phau
thai; a steady stream tho the city all day Monday; a lesser lot
on Tuesday. On Wed. the first of Khou’s men had arrived, and Lim
Chek Teck who had been at Su since Siou Tahan’s resignation (wasn’t
he lucky to get out in time) had been accepted by both sides as kae
tou at Su, but I don’t know whether he is still in now or not.
Douglas writes that the head of the Su ien hue has been made mayor of
Sw. and the late head of the kau-nian’s union has been made chief of
police. Garman writes that the strike-boycott is reviving, but Douglas
hears that the Canton govt. has officially approached the HK govt to
negotiate about ending this. I don’t know. These people are not
cadets and talk nice words, now China has no sua to hang and they are
going to try to see that it does get some, are going to protect, are
not going to bother the church, etc. So is optimistic, but I am
skeptical. However these men do not lian ti ta but hire them, and
when they came in all baggage was carried by soldiers or hired coolies
and that is a most unusual condition. Khou may have reformed; we
shall wait and see.