

As from 99 D. Jessfield Road,
Shanghai,
April 2nd, 1938.

The Rev. J.C. McKim,
c/o Dr. John W. Wood,
281 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. McKim:

It has been brought to my attention that you have been writing letters to the Times saying that the stories of Japanese atrocities in Nanking were false. Perhaps by this time you will have learned that they were ^{very} too true. If I had not seen with my own eyes the things that I have seen I could not have believed that such things could have happened in the modern world. It reminded one of an ancient Assyrian rape. We were not expecting such horrors and it was a terrible shock to us all when they began to happen.

The head of the Chinese Benevolent Association that has done the major part of the burying told me that between January 23rd, when they began work, to March 19th, they had buried 32104 bodies and that they ^{also} estimated that a similar number remained yet to be buried. Some other organizations did some burying as well, while many were buried by friends and relatives. For instance, the caretaker of our Church Cemetery about a mile outside one of the gates, told me that between 2000 and 3000 people had been killed outside that gate and that they had been buried by the local people. (I might say that his own wife had been shot out there only a few weeks ago by a Japanese soldier. The bullet has now been extracted and she has left the hospital) It will be a long time before we know how many of our own people, including catechumens and inquirers, have been killed, as so many fled to the country and the more well-to-do moved further into the interior. On December 16th 14 men were taken from a place in the Refugee Zone where we were caring for two poor congregations. The group carried off at that time included at least two boys, one of whom was the son of the Chinese priest, a boy of 16 (Chinese reckoning or 14-15 years old) One of this group ^{was} escaped miraculously when the rest were being mowed down by machine guns on the bank of the river. He fell over with the others, feigning death although not hurt, and covered himself with the bodies of those about him. In the darkness he was able to ~~escape~~ escape and came back to tell us of what had happened. Later on I saw hundreds of bodies piled up on the river bank. Another member of that congregation volunteered to try to get some fuel and was shot in the streets not far away. His father was one of a group in a Bible class which the priest was holding several weeks later when a Japanese soldier came in. The whole ~~group~~ group arose and this Mr. T'ung opened his Bible to show him what they were studying. The soldier picked up a long heavy brass ^{Tubacca} pipe lying near at hand and hit this Mr. T'ung a vicious blow on the head. Some one ran to me as I was a fugee in a German friend's house near at hand. When I arrived I found T'ung with his face covered with blood and blood on the floor and took him to the hospital. I went another time to a house where 11 people had been killed, all of them women and children except three men, one of whom was a 76 year old man. Of the children I remember that one was less than a year old. Only one person was spared, a child of five (Chinese count) while a girl of nine was bayoneted in the back and side but recovered. This child's mother was raped and then had a bottle rammed

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up her vagina. Two daughters of this woman, aged 14 and 16, were stripped, raped several times apiece and then killed, the older girl having a stick rammed up into in the same barbarous manner as the mother had been treated. Before they were killed their grandparents, aged 76 and 74, who had tried to protect them, had been shot dead. If this awful tragedy had been an isolated event one might say that it was the work of sadists but there have been many authentic stories of such horrors, although this was the worst tragedy that I have personally been brought into contact with. I took another little girl of fifteen years ~~old~~ to the hospital who told me her story. Her older brother, brother's wife, older sister and father and mother were all killed with the bayonet before her face and then she was carried off to some barracks where there were some 200 to 300 soldiers. She was kept in a room and her clothes taken away and there raped a number of times daily for about a month and a half when she took sick and they were afraid to use her. She told me that there were a number of other girls held there in the same way as herself. I have talked to an old lady of 76 who was raped twice. Her daughter, a widow was raped between 18 and 19 times, she is not sure which. This is the oldest case I personally know about but a Bible woman told me of a woman of 81 with whom she was living and who was told to open her clothes. She said she was too old and the man shot her dead. I have taken carload after carload of women in our Mission Ford to the hospital to be treated after rape, the youngest being a girl of ten or eleven years. Mr. Forster, my fellow-priest here, and myself spent much of our time guarding two houses, in fact more than that, where our people were living. In the daytime during the worst period one or the other of us stood in the street where we could watch several houses and we would then run to one house or the other when soldiers were attempting to get in. On New Years Day when things seemed to be a little quieter we thought we would both accept an invitation to dinner and left for a brief period. We had just finished dinner when two of our men came running to say that Japanese soldiers were after our girls, so we hurried back in a car only to find that two girls had been raped. Another girl had escaped by a ruse, and an elderly woman who had knelt and begged that the girl might be spared had been beaten over the head by a bayonet. I could go on for many pages telling you of such things as these but I think I have written enough to let you know that the stories of atrocities were not exaggerated. Things have greatly improved but murder and rape still continue, only on a smaller scale here in Nanking.

When you said, as I understand you wrote to the Times, that these outrages were not perpetrated by Japanese but by Chinese soldiers you were misinformed so far as Nanking was concerned. There was a small amount of looting of some shops by Chinese just before the Japanese entered. It is true that the homes of many people immediately outside the city walls were burnt down by the soldiers for defensive purposes, and this was certainly an outrage, but it was done with the mistaken idea that it would help in the defense of the city which did not prove to be the case. It is true that Chang Hsueh Liang's troops which showed up so miserably in the fighting looted between here and Shanghai but they were executed by the hundreds. It is certainly unjust to have publicly accused the Chinese of such horrible things that happened here. I think I have written enough to let you know what horrors have happened. If you want to know further you could ask Dr. John W. Wood to let you see a copy of a kind of diary letter that I wrote to my wife.

The only reason why I am writing this letter is that I believe that all friends of Japan should know the truth. It is the part

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of real friendship for the Japanese to let them know what is actually happening in China. I believe that a great many people in Japan would be horrified if they knew what was happening over wide areas of this land, just as we who have seen it have been, and their horror might be used to break the power of the military in Japan which has been the real cause of this conflict.

I hope you will in the cause of justice and truth correct any misinformation you may have unknowingly given to the papers. I would ask you also to be careful about using my name in any publicity. I do not fear the personal consequences but rather that I might be run out of the city or that the relief work that we foreigners here have been carrying on for the benefit of the people of the city might be further curtailed than it has been. If we had not been here and established the Safety Zone and all of us been busy trying to protect the people the tragedy would have been worse as every Chinese in the city knows.

I have visited Japan a number of times and once had the pleasure of living with my family alongside of your sister at Mayabashi. It is a beautiful country and I thought the people charming. How to reconcile the Japan that I have seen and the savagery that I have seen here is a problem that I have not solved yet.

Sincerely yours,