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Please return to Moffet
Nanking, January 10, 1938.

Dear Ruth and Florence:

There is another chance to send mail to Shanghai this afternoon if I take it over to the American Embassy before 4 o'clock, so I cannot refrain from dropping a note to the two of you just in case you have not yet rec'd my previous letters.

All is well on the Ginling campus today. As I write here in the office I can see groups of refugees scattered out on the campus taking advantage of the sunshine and warmth. Within the building there is the low hum of voices from the many refugees. As I said in a previous letter, we feel almost deserted, for we do not think that we have more than 5,000 people left on the campus. Last night after our prayer service, Mrs. Tsen and Miss Wang counted those in the Science Building and found there were still 937 there - and in that building we have opened only six rooms including the attic. I really think that we have almost seven thousand with us, but one does not like to exaggerate. We have had about 18 births and more than 10 deaths. A child of 8 died of diphtheria this morning as Mrs. Tsen was having him taken to the University Hospital.

If you came to my office and sniffed the air, you would find it full of cigarette smoke, for 4 military police have just come to call on me. They were unusually friendly and through the means of Chinese characters and with Mr. Hsia's help we carried on quite a conversation. The head told me that he is a small official near Tokyo. He showed me the picture of his wife and baby and wanted my picture to send to her - I gave him a small picture. While Mary Twinem was keeping my office this morning another group called - they were the higher officials. I was out at the time - went to Ninghai Road to see if I could get some rice for our staff, for Mrs. Tsen's supply is growing small and we do not know what the months ahead hold in store for us.

You will rejoice with us over the news that there are nine foreign official representatives in the city - 3 Americans came first, and then 3 British, and today 3 Germans. All are most welcome to us, as you can well imagine. While our difficulties on the Ginling campus have been legion, yet they have never been as difficult as ~~Seale's~~ ^{Seale's} at the University, for they have taken in families and the men have been much harder to handle. Mrs. Tsen has been wonderful through it all and most brave in spite of her sadness. The business manager has been too young to be of real help in such a crisis. My personal teacher has been splendid, too, and appreciates greatly the fact that he was permitted to live here - but certainly the appreciation has been mutual. He comes regularly to our prayer group, which we now have every day, and which has meant so much to all of us. It seems to me that the difficulties through which we have been have somehow made us understand God as we never could in times of peace and plenty. It was Geo. Fox who said that "The light that shows us our faults is also the light that heals." I think that is also true of pain and tribulation.

Speaking of business transactions, I think I have already forwarded to you seven or eight installments of materials beginning with the first shipment of last August. I am wondering if it is safe for me to prepare another installment for you, and after it is prepared will it be safe to forward it to you? I am in no position to make a decision with regard to it, and covet your opinion in the matter. I wonder how I could get it to my consumers in America and elsewhere.

This morning at Ninghai I discussed with Lewis the question of when

we can urge the refugees to go to their homes. It is not wise yet even in the Safety Zone, although conditions are very much more peaceful. He said that they were petitioning that the section of the city to the south of us, that would mean West of Mo Tsou Lu and including Ming Deh compound, be made free of soldiers first. If that can be done, then people can return there first, as there was much less destruction there than in other parts of the city. Of course, there will be the great problem of those whose homes have been burned and of those whose men folk have been killed and who have no means of support. Those problems we will have to work out gradually, and I hope that we can do it constructively.

Do remember me most lovingly to Mrs. New and tell her that I wish she were here to help us, but, of course, I know that you could not spare her from the work in Shanghai. I am eager to hear your plans for the second semester. Also remember me very lovingly to Li-ming and her mother. I am sorry that she had so many difficulties in health since she left Nanking. Tell her, too, that I know she was glad when Yu-hwa and Mary left Nanking, but if I have wished for them once, I have wished for them a score of times, for being natives of Nanking they could have given us invaluable help during these days. I longed for Mary to come over to Ginling and live with me just to help in a situation like the present, but I did not like to urge her when I realized that her own family thought she should go. Mary herself, I think, wanted to remain here. And do remember me to all other Gihlingers when you see them. Tell them that I have been glad a thousand times that I remained here, for it has been so abundantly worth while.

The International Committee members have done valiant work. They will not be able to settle down to ordinary living later, if that time of peace ever comes. The fact that a German was at the head of the committee has been a very wise idea. And how they have all worked - day and night for a time.

I close with love to all - much, much love.

Minnie Vautrin

January 11, 1938.

Dear Ruth and Florence:

What a feast we had last night when your big fat envelope was delivered to us containing a letter from each of you, from Yi-fang, Mrs. Rhead and Abigail, and Florence's letter to Rebecca. If we had indigestion in the night it was because we ate supper in such a hurry that we could get at the letters. After supper we gathered around the round table in the 400 living-room (the furniture from the Faculty Dining Room in the Central Building was moved over to the 400 living room when we were clearing out that building for refugees, and that accounts for the round table mentioned above). And we read and read. There were Mrs. Tsen, Mr. Chen, Mr. Li, Mary Twinem, the day school teacher, Miss Lo, and Miss Wang, a student from the Seminary, in my audience. There was so much of news in the letters that we now feel quite up to date on Ginling affairs and have had our dozens and dozens of questions answered. After I went down to my room at the Practice School, I again read the letters, for I have been aching for the news of all of you. That is the second letter I have now had from you two, and they came in on two successive days. I wrote you a letter

yesterday, but being told this morning that the boat had not yet gone to Shanghai, I decided that I would send you another note today letting you know that I received your letter of January 5th.

From 9 to 12 this morning Mr. Chen and I were in a meeting down at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Safety Zone. It is the first meeting that has been held of the heads of the Refugee Camps. I believe there are about 20 places where refugees are housed and at the meeting this morning there were more than 30 present. Rabe, the chairman of the Committee, made a speech of welcome, and then he left to go to his own work. George Fitch then made a speech of welcome and appreciation, and the rest of the time was spent in discussing problems of the camps, which I can assure you are legion, perhaps ours at Ginling being the least difficult, for we have only women and children. Poor Searle has had such difficult ones, and of every description. When you get opium fiends and gamblers and bad men of every description into a camp, you can imagine the difficulty of the problems that come up every day.

Our guard of 5 military police at the gate are proving more successful than we had dared hope. Unfortunately, the guard is changed every day so that each evening Mr. Wang and Mary and I have to go down to the gate and as tactfully as we know how, we try to let the men know that we will be responsible for order and peace on the inside of the camp, if they will patrol Hankow and Ninghai roads for us. Those awful days and nights when we were in great fear for the safety of the young women in our charge are beginning to grow dim in our memories now, even that unforgettable night of December 17th, when the 12 women were taken from our camp. As soon as I can, I shall write a "Review of the First Month" and will let you know something of the experiences that I cannot write at this time.

Will you please tell Alice that her chest of drawers was looted, which was down in the Chinese dining-room, and that if she wishes to put in a claim for the things that were in it, she is free to do so. The other day a representative from the Embassy came over and asked me if we wished to file a claim for college and individual losses. The college has lost so little that I said that we would not present a claim, for I do not think it would be much over \$200, mainly to cover the doors that have been smashed. Siao-sung's, Yi-fang's and Pin-dji's chests of drawers were all looted many times, but of course the Japanese are not interested in making good such losses. Neither could I file any claim for the losses over in Mr. Miao's house or Chen Er-cheng's house.

I think that I have not told you that Wei was taken on Dec. 14th and did not return until Dec. 28th. He is now just in condition to do light work. Chang Szi-fu's son, who was caretaker over in Mr. Miao's house, was taken on Dec. 16th and has never returned, and I feel that he was one of the hundreds of young men who were cruelly and ruthlessly shot or bayoneted during these first days. I have made several efforts to get the boy, but have failed. The father is heart-broken about it.

Do tell En-lan and Ming-djen and Dzun-mei and Miss Yen how glad I am that they are in Shanghai. It is very comforting to know that you may be able to start a real freshman class down there the second semester, and that your faculty has grown. It is good to learn that you may have a hostel, too. I shall be anxious to hear about the plans for the group that go to Chengtu. Keep me informed of any news that you get from them, for I think that we shall be entirely cut off from them for a long time. We know practically nothing of what is going on in the world outside.

Please tell Joy Smith and Miriam Null that I think the chances for

starting an industrial school of some kind for the many women whose only support has been taken from them. We will need to teach such women to do something that will enable them to support their children. One sad woman who walked by my side recently said that she is left with five small children with no means of support whatever. And there are many such. I long for Miriam and Joy and Etha Nagler. I will try to write them of definite plans just as soon as we can think them out. As for the middle school, the day Dr. Wu's suggestion came, Mrs. Tsen and I were wondering if it would be safe to try to encourage the starting of a primary school. Just now the middle school for girls does not seem at all possible, but we cannot foresee the future these days.

With deep love to all and appreciation for your prayers. They have sustained us.

(Signed) Minnie Vautrin.