

An Informal Report to the Board of Founders, Board of Directors,  
President Wu, Mrs. Thurston and Members of the Staff of Ginling College

Confidential.

Please do not publish.

A REVIEW OF THE FIRST MONTH: DECEMBER 13, 1937-JANUARY 13, 1938

Explanation: My hope for days has been to write a very carefully worded report, but that hope has been given up due to the many interruptions that come each day. Each time I put aside a morning for this work it is finally used for other matters which seem at the moment more important. Have decided that if I am to get any report to you at all it will have to be a very informal and probably disconnected one. Please forgive lack of unity and coherence. M.V.

Background: December 1, 1937-December 13, 1937.

Our President departed from the College on the morning of December 1, although I think that her boat did not finally sail from Hsia Gwan until December 3. It was difficult for her to leave and even more difficult for us to see her go, but we at that time felt it was for the best and certainly conditions since have proved that it was a very wise decision. For the twelve days following her departure we worked at top speed for there were many important things waiting to be done. Before our President left she had appointed an Emergency Committee consisting of Mrs. S. F. Tsen, Mr. Francis Chen and myself, and this small committee has carried the responsibility through these difficult days. It was fortunate that the committee was small for we could make decisions quickly - and we had to do that many times. Meal time - for we all eat at the same table - was often used for meetings and trying to think out the next step. Below I will give some of the many tasks that we performed during those twelve busy days, and something of the conditions in the city during that time.

Putting up flags and proclamations: All day of December 1 we gave to selecting strategic places for the American flags which Gwoh, the tailor had made for us, deciding where the proclamations furnished us by the Defence Commander of the Municipality of Nanking and also those that had been furnished us by the American Embassy should be posted. In the end we had 8 flag poles put up on the outskirts of the campus, and the posters were posted at the gate and on all the outlying buildings such as the South Hill Residence, the laundry, the faculty houses for Chinese men and even up on the little house on the west hill. The large thirty foot American flag was still used in the main Quadrangle to let the aeroplanes know that the property was American owned. Previously Mr. Chen and I had finally found the old college sign boards used in the old Ginling and had them repainted - those boards that said "Great American Ginling College". One of these we hung at the gate and one is in front of the Central Building. These we did not actually use until the Japanese entered the city, but used their reverse sides which merely said "Ginling College".

Putting buildings in condition for refugees: For days and days our faithful staff of servants worked hard carrying all furniture to the attics or storing it in one or two rooms on the first floor. It was a tremendous job but later proved a very wise preparation. Altogether eight buildings were prepared, including the Practice School and the 400 dormitory. These latter two were never occupied because by the time the first six buildings were filled we had



probably ten thousand refugees on the campus and did not have strength enough to manage more than that. Our ideals were very high in the beginning for we got out in poster form a carefully planned set of regulations that would help to make for healthful living, we trained a group of young people to act as scouts or ushers, we made a plan of the buildings and according to regulations furnished us we had room for 2,700 refugees in the eight buildings. On December 8 we received our first group - people who had previously evacuated from Wusih and Shanghai and other places along the battle front and also those who were living just inside and outside of the Nanking city wall, as they were forced to leave by the Chinese military for military purposes and later many of their houses were burned. We could well have used a few more days in getting the buildings in order for after the deluge came we had no time to do any moving of furniture, or to plan regulations for living.

Burning of papers and hiding of valuables: The college vault gave us many anxious moments for if there was a long siege of the city there would surely be thorough looting of valuables and any soldier would know that an institution like Ginling would have a vault. We therefore decided to clear out the vault and leave the doors of both the vault and inner safe open. Many of the things we hid - I shall not tell you where for we may want to use the place again. Our money we divided, keeping part of it on the campus and packing the larger part in a case and sending it with some other valuables over to the American Embassy. We knew later that when the American officials at the Embassy would leave these things would be taken down to the U.S.S. Panay. Our Emergency Committee decided that Mrs. Thurston's wedding silver should be placed in this same case although we knew that Mrs. Thurston would not want her things protected by a gunboat. You can imagine our consternation later when we heard that the Panay was in the bottom of the Yangtze. Everything has been recovered by Russian divers since so we can smile about the matter now but we did not smile then. Of the new Terrace House Building file I made two copies and hid them in different places.

The college incinerator was kept busy during those days of preparation. Mrs. Tsen spent about two days in the President's office clearing out papers that might be misunderstood, and she also spent many hours burning the receipts of the organization of which Dr. Wu had been the treasurer, lest that also be misunderstood. The Municipal New Life Organization which had rented our Neighborhood House for a few months in the autumn left us a rather big piece of work to do for they evacuated quickly and left all their teaching materials for us to destroy. Gwoh, the tailor who lives in our neighborhood also rented a room to them this past autumn and when they left they stored a large number of boxes in his little shop. They looked innocent at the time but as the Japanese army came nearer to the city the tailor became more and more afraid of what might happen to him if these things could not be explained. Just two days before the army entered he came over to see if I would go to his house and look into the boxes. This I did and later I called in Mr. Fitch, who was executive secretary or director of the International Committee for the Safety Zone. The two of us decided that it would be better if he destroyed all of the things. I shall never forget that picture of Gwoh and his good wife on December 13th. All day the two of them and all their relatives carried load after load of books and pamphlets over to our incinerator and there burned them. It was not until late in the night that they finished their task - but he was spared



from possible misunderstanding and the thrust of an angry bayonet. On the night of December 15th we buried late at night what we had considered burying before - the garments that had been made by women in the city for wounded soldiers. We had been loathe to burn them because we felt that the poor of the city would need them during the winter - but on that night that need did not seem so great to us as the need to get rid of them.

Conditions in the City during this period: For weeks and weeks people of the city had been evacuating. The movement began with the wealthy and during that period every truck and car was used and tens of thousands moved up river to Hankow or on further to the westward. Then the middle class began to evacuate and finally the poor and for days and days you could see rickshas going past loaded with boxes and rolls of bedding and people. All who could possibly do so got out of the city, the poor going into the country, especially taking the sons and daughters of the family, leaving the old to take care of the homes. I have often wondered what has happened to these people who evacuated into the country districts for from the reports that we hear these days, the suffering and destruction in the country is even worse than it has been in Nanking if that is possible.

During these twelve days there were constant air raids, and as the Japanese army came closer to Nanking there were no warnings - the planes just came and dropped their bombs - sometimes the whole rack at a time. During the last few days before the entry the shelling of the city was also terrific, in the southern part of the city especially. From my room in the Practice school it seemed to me that there was a fierce pounding on the city gates and the city wall - so fierce that it did not seem possible for the age old wall to resist the onslaught of modern military machinery. It was also during these days that the burning began - first outside of the city as the villages were evacuated and burned for military purposes, and then the houses inside and outside of the city wall were burned - again for military purposes. I often wondered if this method prevented the Japanese army from entering by a mere twenty four hours if it was worth the while and the terrible suffering that it caused, not to speak of the loss especially to the poor. Each night the sky was red with flames as these houses skirting the city wall were burned and it was during that time that our first refugees came. Within the city - it was Sunday, December 12, I believe that the Ministry of Communications was burned - they did that rather than to let the Japanese occupy that beautiful building. There was some looting by the Chinese soldiers, mostly of money from the stores. None of these calamities reached us in our peaceful little valley and we continued our preparations for the refugees.

On November 23, Dr. Wu took me to the reception which saw the formation of the daily Press Conference which took place until Sunday December 12. At these meetings which took place in the headquarters of the Chinese-British Cultural Association on Peiping Road, there were of course western representatives of the various news agencies and papers; representatives of the police department, the defence commissioners office and of the mayor's office. The mayor himself came to many of the meetings. I started going to these very interesting meetings on Sunday evening, November 28, and each night after that found Mrs. Tsen and me present for through the meetings we could keep in touch with events in the city and also have conferences with people whom we wished to see. I should have mentioned that a goodly number of the missionaries of the city also attended and also a fair number from the business community and the various



embassies. It seems to me now as I look back over those meetings that most of them were spent in making announcements either by the military or the chairman, director and secretary of the International Committee for the Safety Zone. The latter committee members kept pushing the Chinese military to get all military organizations out of the Zone as quickly as possible so that the Safety Zone flags could be put in place and cables be sent to Japan and to the world that preparations for such a zone had been completed.

You will have learned from other sources of the formation of the International Committee which in turn proposed, carried out all the plans for the formation of, and later maintained the Safety Zone in Nanking. To this group of men - business men and missionaries, the large group of Chinese in the Safety Zone owe a great debt of gratitude for what measure of safety and protection they have had during these weeks of terrible strain and stress have been due to them. And I find that the thoughtful Chinese are not unmindful of this great benefit and are deeply grateful for it. Mr. John Rabe, a German business man, has been chairman of the committee and has been fearless and untiring and Dr. Lewis Smythe of the United Christian Missionary Society and a member of the faculty of the University of Nanking has been the secretary. I cannot go on to mention all the other members of the committee and their splendid work which has been carried on day and night since early in December.

#### The First Ten Days of Japanese Occupation.      December 13-23

When the first group of Japanese soldiers entered the walled city, we do not yet know exactly. We have heard that as early as December 10 a small group entered the old Tung Dzi Gate, now known as the Gwang Hwa Gate. There was very severe fighting in that section of the city for days and we are told that the Japanese troops entered the city and were repulsed a number of times and that the loss on both sides was very high. A young Japanese official told me that the army actually entered at four o'clock in the morning of December 13. All during the night of the 12th retreating Chinese soldiers passed our gate, some begging for civilian clothes, others casting off their uniforms and firearms into our campus. From the ominous silence we knew that something had happened. About two o'clock in the afternoon of December 13 the servant in charge of our South Hill Faculty Residence came running down the hill to tell me that the J. soldiers could be seen on our west hill - the one outside of our main campus. At about the same time another servant came running to tell me that a soldier had found the Poultry Experiment and was demanding two chickens. By means of sign language I tried to make clear that the chickens were not for sale and the man left. From the back of the campus I could see a number of men back of our campus. They were asking the people in the little huts back there to cook vegetables and chickens for them. No one on the campus slept that night and in my imagination I could easily interpret the sounds of the firearms and the machine guns as the killing of the retreating Chinese soldiers. How many thousands were mown down by guns or bayoneted we shall probably never know for in many cases oil was thrown over their bodies and they were burned-charred bones tell the tale of some of these tragedies. The events of the following ten days are growing dim, but there are certain of them that a life time will not erase from my memory and the memories of those who have been in Nanking through this period. Some of the most vivid of these scenes I will try to reconstruct for you.



For fully ten days if not more from ten to twenty groups of soldiers came into our campus daily; a few coming through the front gate but most of them breaking open side or back gates or jumping over our fence. Some of them were fierce and unreasonable and most of them had their bayonets out ready for use and on not a few of them I could see fresh blood stains. Our loyal staff of servants were on the job and as soon as a group came in they would run for me. My days were spent in running from the gate to the south hill or the back hill or to the poultry experiment or to one of the dormitories. Although an American flag or an American Embassy proclamation did not seem to deter them, yet the presence of a foreigner was of great help and many were the groups that I escorted out of a dormitory filled with refugee women and children or from the south hill residence. It finally took so much energy that we decided that I should use my strength to save lives and not try to save things. During these days they often tried to take our servants saying that they were soldiers, but in every such case I was able to get the men from them excepting the keeper of Mr. Miao's home - the son of the Djang Szi-fu who works in the Biology Department. I was not there when he was taken for I could not leave the campus during those days.

The night of December 17 none of us shall every forget for it is burned into our memories by suffering. Between four and six o'clock, since Mary Twinem had come over to see us, it was possible for me to escort two groups of young women and children over to the main campus of the University of Nanking where they were opening their dormitories for them. We were so crowded and so taxed in strength that it did not seem right for us to take in any more at that time. During my absence, two soldiers came in on bicycles, angrily tore the big American flag from its stakes in the main Quadrangle, and started to carry it off. Finding it too heavy they threw it on the ground in front of the Science Building. Mary was called and as soon as they saw her they ran and hid in the Power House from which place she sent them off the campus very much flushed and embarrassed. When we were just finishing our supper - we had persuaded Mary to stay for the night since it was late - the servant from the Central Building came running to the dining room and said that there were two soldiers at the front door trying to get in. Mr. Li and I went to that door and found the men pulling at the door and demanding that we turn over the soldiers "enemies of Japan". They refused to believe me when I said there were no soldiers, only women and children and they insisted on searching. I did not know but later learned that other groups were searching in other buildings at the same time. Finally by a very clever trick they succeeded in getting almost all of the servants and those of us who were responsible for the refugees out to the front gate and there they carried on what we realized later was a mock trial. They made us feel that they were searching for soldiers, but as a matter of fact they were looking for young women and girls. Fitch, Smythe and Mills appeared unexpectedly on the scene, the latter expecting to spend the night on the campus, and they greatly complicated the mock trial but did not defeat it. A little later they sent off these three men and proceeded in their search for soldiers. Between nine and ten o'clock through a side gate they took off twelve women and girls and the officer at the gate with us took off Mr. Chen. It was not until they were gone that we realized that the trick was to take off girls. I did not expect to see Mr. Chen again for I was sure that he would be shot or bayoneted. That closing scene I shall never, never forget. Mary, Mrs. Tsen and I standing near the gate, the servants kneeling just back of us, Mr. Chen being led out by the officer and a few soldiers,



the rustling of the fallen leaves, the shadows passing out the side gate in the distance - of whom we did not know, the low cries of those passing out. Mr. Chen was released at the intersection of Shanghai and Canton Roads, and six of the girls came back at five the next morning unharmed - both of these we believe were wrought by prayer. I think now I might have saved those girls but at the time it did not seem possible. Those of us at the front gate stayed there in silence until almost eleven for we did not know but what there were guards outside ready to shoot if any moved, and then we left for the back part of the campus. Almost every building on the campus had been entered and there was some looting beside the taking off of the twelve. That night I stayed down at the front gate house and you can imagine that there was no sleep for any of us the rest of that night. When I reached the Practice School before going to the gate house, I found Mr. Chen there and also Miss Lo. Soon the other helpers came in for they with Mrs. Tsen's daughter-in-law and grandchildren had been hiding among the refugees. Never will I forget the little prayer meeting we had that night in that room at the Practice School. From that time on Mary has stayed with us and helped to carry the responsibility - especially of sending off soldiers. In addition to the twelve girls taken that night, 3 others have been raped on the campus and nine others have been prevented from the same fate by the appearance of a foreigner at the psychological time. I would that we could have prevented all such tragedies but compared with the fate in most refugee camps and private houses this is an exceedingly good record.

Another vivid memory was the military inspection on December 15 by an officer and perhaps one hundred men. They too were looking for soldiers and inspected us thoroughly. A machine gun was placed on the main road leading to the quadrangle, and had any soldier been in hiding and tried to escape you can imagine what would have happened to the women and children on the campus. We were told later that there were a number of machine guns and men on the roads surrounding the campus. We had been exceedingly careful not to let any men come on the campus excepting those of a few families whom we know and they are living down in East Court, and therefore we had no difficulty in passing this inspection. It is true that they tried to take several of our servants who had close cropped hair something like a soldiers but in the end after identification they were released. The officer in charge of this inspection left us a letter signed and sealed with his stamp and this was of great use until it was torn in shreds and thrown on the ground by the petty officer who came on the night of the 17th and carried out the tragedy that I described above. This destroyed letter was soon replaced by another which was furnished me by a military attache in the Japanese Embassy and this has been invaluable in getting soldiers out of the buildings and off the campus. If I go off the campus I leave this letter in Mary's possession and if she goes I have it.

Another phase of these ten days and the days that have followed has been the visits of the many civil and military officials. Invariably the former have tried to help us to the extent of their power and at times they have sent us Embassy police to help protect the thousands of refugees and ourselves by night; for two different periods the latter have sent us a guard of soldiers, and these have not always been a safe guard although they have helped. Our first



guard consisted of 25 soldiers whom we placed down in the row of rooms occupied by Mr. Chan the assistant registrar - who had long since vacated them for a safer place. After the period of the Embassy police we had a guard of 4 soldiers each day. Each day when the new group came Mr. Wang and I and sometimes Mary would go down to get acquainted, to get the name of the petty officer in charge and to try to make it clear that if they would guard on the outside of the campus, on the big roads, we would be responsible for the inside of the campus. The method worked very well and only on one night did we have any trouble. During this period, the J. Embassy also furnished us with 30 proclamations in Japanese and these we posted on all of our property and at the gate. These have helped a good deal but have not completely prevented soldiers entering buildings on which they were posted. In fact the many groups who used to love to go into the south hill faculty residence had to go past two American flags, two American Embassy proclamations, three Japanese proclamations in order to get inside. We have kept one night watchman and our two former police now in civilian clothes on duty each night to report in case anything is amiss.

The Period of Registration: The registration of the people living in Nanking began at the University of Nanking on December 26 and lasted through the 27. All the men and women who were refugees on the main campus of the University registered during those days. Our registration started on December 28 and by inference we thought it was to be of the women living on our campus. That was not our fate, however. It lasted for nine long days and men and women came from all sections of the Safety Zone and even from the country. Tens of thousands came in four abreast, listened first to the lecture on good citizenship and then got the preliminary slip which enabled them to go to one of Mr. Chen Chung-fang's residences for the final step at which they were given a stamped and numbered registration blank with their name upon it. For the first few days it was limited to men. They formed in line out on Hankow Road and Ninghai Road as early as two o'clock in the morning and all day long they marched through the campus. It had snowed and you can imagine the amount of mud that these tramping feet brought in. This registration at first took place under the military officers. Two guards of soldiers came each time and each group had to have a blazing bonfire and for the officers we furnished two coal ball fires. At first I thought that it would be better to protest this registration of men on our campus for this meant flinging our front gates wide open, and for the sake of the women we had been so careful to exclude stray men from coming in. However at the end of the first day it seemed best to endure the process for when men were selected out of the marching lines and accused of being soldiers, their women folk were usually present and could plead for them and thus many innocent men were saved. Although in the announcement the men were clearly told that if they would confess to having served as soldiers they would be pardoned and given remunerative work to do, we are not sure that the promise was kept but we rather suspect that their bodies are in the large mounds of unburied bodies outside of Han Chung Gate which we know were brought there about that time. Finally only 28 men were taken from the tens of thousands that registered at Ginling. I shall never forget how anxiously the women watched this process of registration and how bravely they would plead for their husbands and sons. Although the registration of women began on Monday, January 3 yet it did not take place solely for them until Wednesday of that week and closed on Friday. How they feared the rough treatment of the



soldiers, and how they cringed as they passed them to get the preliminary blank. A number of women were suspected of being prostitutes - and it was at that time that they were trying to start up the licensed houses in the city for the Japanese soldiers - but each time when the women could be identified they were released. During the last two days of registration of women it was put under the civil officials and was carried on in a decent and orderly way. All the writing was done by Chinese men and the entire process was carried on in our main quadrangle. I was given permission to bring our group of workers, both staff members and amahs, out in a group and the registration was quickly finished - and thus an ordeal which they had been dreading was passed. Women have found since to their sorrow that the registration blank does not mean protection to them and men have found that it does not prevent them from being seized. Ginling has never had such a large registration in its history.

#### Ginling College as a Refugee Camp for Women and Children.

As I mentioned before we began to take in our first refugees on December 8 and they were of two types, those who had come to Nanking from cities like Wusih, Soochow along the line of the advancing Japanese army and those who had to evacuate their homes due to the orders of the Chinese military. By Saturday, December 11 we had 850 living in the Central Building and one of the dormitories and we thought that our estimate of 2,700 was far too large. Up to that time the people had brought in their food with them and the rice kitchen which we had hoped to have was not yet functioning. By Thursday, December 16 we had more than four thousand and we felt that we were as crowded as we could be - we did not have the staff to look after more and we felt that it would be better for the University to open dormitories and take in our over-flow, and it was on the following day that I took about 1000 over to the University campus. But we did not stop at 4000, for we began to realize the terrible danger to women if they remained in their own homes, for soldiers were wild in their search for young girls, and so we flung our gates open and in they streamed. For the next few days as conditions for them grew worse and worse, they streamed in from daylight on. Never shall I forget the faces of the young girls as they streamed in - most of them parting from their fathers or husbands at the gate. They had disguised themselves in every possible way - many had cut their hair, most of them had blackened their faces, many were wearing men or boy's clothes or those of old women. Mr. Wang, Mr. Hsia, Mary and I spent our days at the gate trying to keep idlers out and let the women come in. At our peak load we must have had ten thousand on the campus. The big attics in the Science and Arts Buildings which we had cleared were favorite places for the younger women. Stairs and halls were so crowded that it was impossible to get through and even the covered ways were packed as well as all of the verandahs. People did not ask for a place inside but were content to sleep outside if only we would let them come in to the campus. We realized that young girls of twelve and that older women of fifty and even sixty were not free from mistreatment. I shall never forget the faces of the fathers and husbands as they watched their women folk enter the campus. Often times the tears were streaming down their cheeks as they begged us to "just give them a place to sleep outside". Women were faced by a terrible dilemma in those days - it might mean that in saving themselves from being raped they were risking the lives of their husbands and sons, who might be taken away and killed. Even during this period of danger we tried to persuade the older women to



remain at home with their husbands and sons, even if it meant mistreatment, and let the younger women come to us for protection. This fearful and beastly treatment of women is still going on and even in the Safety Zone. Two days ago a young girl came running to me just as I was going out of the gate and plead with me to go to her home as there were three soldiers there at the time she ran away and they were looking for girls. Fortunately the girls were good runners and knew a short cut to our campus so by the time I arrived at the home the soldiers had left without having found the girls.

I suspect you wonder how we fed this vast multitude. The Red Cross on the day that the city was turned over started a Rice Kitchen just north of our campus and that is still furnishing two meals of soft rice each day to our large family. For a number of weeks they brought the steaming rice in to the campus where it was served in two different places on the main quadrangle. We had serving frames made and tried to teach the women not to crowd but to learn to take their turn but it was a difficult lesson for them to learn. Recently the method has been to serve it out at the kitchen and that is a much more satisfactory method as it gives the women and girls exercise twice each day and it enables them to get the rice hot at any time they wish it. If they can afford it they pay three coppers a bowl for it; if they really have no money their case is investigated and they are given a red tag which means free rice. Many of the refugee camps have not been as fortunate as we in having a well managed rice kitchen so near at hand. As for hot water, very early we were able to get two men with big hot water stoves to move into our campus - they were glad to do so for it meant personal protection - so our women have had hot water at all times of the day. The cost is low so they can afford it. For those who were without bedding, fortunately we had a supply of comforters on hand, and these have been given to those who are in greatest need. Sanitation has been our biggest problem, especially when we had our peak load. We were non-plussed by this problem for a time for it seemed insurmountable but we are gradually working it out so that the campus does not look as it did in those early days - especially in the mornings. If only we had some lime it would help. Dr. Reeves will be sorry to hear that the fish in the pond back of the Central Building have had a hard time surviving for that is the place where the women wash their toilet buckets. As for laundry, every morning and most of the day you can see the women washing out clothes especially for the children. Every bush and tree and every fence is covered with the washing during most of the day. Many would not recognize the campus if they came at this time.

#### Meetings for Women and Children:

Religion has become a reality to many of us during these days of terror and destruction. Jesus becomes a friend who walks by your side as you go forward to meet a group of fierce men whose shining bayonets are marked with fresh stains of blood. From August on to the present time, every Wednesday evening and Sunday evening we have had a service for the campus and building servants. How they have loved to sing "O save my Country, Lord" and "We love our native land". During the peak of our refugee load and during the time of greatest danger to refugees and to men we did not hold these meetings but soon they were started again. They are now held in the South Studio for the Science Lecture Hall was occupied by women and children for a good many weeks.



It was also in August that we started our Wednesday and Saturday morning prayer group for staff members. These meetings have now become daily meetings excepting for Sunday morning. Words cannot express the value these meetings have had in strengthening and binding us together and giving us power to meet the difficult problems of each day. How real and vital prayer has become. About twelve are now attending the staff meetings. Our regular Sunday afternoon and Thursday afternoon meetings for women have been continued by Miss Lo. This week with the help of speakers from the American Church Mission we have started regular afternoon meetings for women. Each afternoon at two o'clock sees a group of about 170 women - mostly young - gathered in the South Studio. Only those over fifteen are admitted and no babies in arms are brought in. We take the refugee buildings by turn and admission is by ticket which we distribute the previous evening. Never have I attended more earnest meetings. At the same hour we also have a children's meeting over in the Science Lecture Hall which we have now cleared of refugees, by distributing to other buildings. The day school teacher conducts these meetings.

At Christmas although we were in a period of great danger and we did not know what each day would bring forth, we had a number of special Christmas services - one for Mrs. Tsen's grandchildren whom we have learned to love and who have helped to keep us normal; one for the adults who have been helping us carry the burdens of the work and we included their families; one for all the college servants; one for the neighborhood women and still one other for the young people who acted as scouts in those early days. Mary decorated a north facing room on the second floor of the Practice School and made it so beautiful that some say they will never forget it. There was an altar with a Cross, a little Christmas tree with colored lights, a great bouquet of Heavenly bamboo with bright red berries, several large pots of poinsettias, the red Christmas cut-outs and the Christmas scrolls. Fortunately I had a heavy green curtain for the one window, and by putting a thick cloth over the transom we could not be seen either within or without the building. It was not always easy to keep our voices low when we sang the much loved Christmas carols but we were not disturbed in any of our meetings. Later we were loathe to take down the decorations. The staff member in charge of each of the above groups planned the meeting so that no one person carried all the responsibility. We also had light refreshments for the children and young people although such things are not to be purchased these days and there are no stores open in the entire city and all our regular stores have been looted clean and many of them have been burned.

Without the work of a fairly large group of loyal helpers the work that we have been able to do would not have been possible. Mrs. Tsen has not only had charge of the food and general management of dormitory servants but she has been our nurse for the large group of refugees, has distributed the bedding to the poorest, and has been a wise counsellor in meeting intricate and difficult situations; Mr. Francis Chen has had trying experiences because of his youth - in a situation where youth was a handicap - but he has always been willing to do all that he could to help; Mr. Li, his assistant has been willing to help in any way that he can - from supervising the sale of rice tickets to being general sanitary manager of the compound. He too had to remain in the background during the most dangerous days when young men were being taken out of the city. Mr. Wang, my personal teacher, has really acted as my secretary and has been invaluable in going with me to the



Japanese Embassy on many trying visits and also in talking to the guards who have been sent to us from time to time. He also helps when high officials come for inspection or to visit. Just now he is giving most of each morning to writing data given to us by women who have lost either their husbands or sons. To date we have prepared 592 of these slips. You will be interested to know that 432 of these men were taken on December 16. Whether or not the handing in of these requests will be of any avail we do not know, but we can only do our part for these heart broken women. Miss Wang, the only member of the student body of the Seminary who remains in the city, has been an invaluable help in many ways. She has been responsible for investigating the cases of those asking for free rice. Miss Hsueh, the Homecraft School teacher, closed our little school just a few days before the entrance of the J. troops and since that time she too has been a great help in all the investigation work and with the meetings. Miss Lo, the evangelistic worker who used to live west of the campus is now living here and giving all her time and strength to helping and the fact that she knows the neighborhood women so well has been of great assistance. Mary Twinem, whom I mentioned coming on December 17, has been here ever since that time. One of us is always on the campus with the special letter given us by Mr. Fukuda. If in the night we have to go to the front gate she is with me. She and the three women just mentioned live with me down at the Practice School and the little sitting room there with the comfort of the stove is a place of relaxation and retreat. Blanche Wu lived in the Science Building until the noise from the refugees became too much for her and then she too moved down so that makes six of us together. Besides being busy with her poultry project she also helps with refugee work when it is possible. Mr. Hsia who lives at the front gate is very good in talking to the soldiers and he often escorts a party around. Mr. Djao, Eva's teacher, who lives with his large family at East Court is very willing to help whenever we need him. Mr. Chan now lives at East Court and does writing for us when needed, but the sight of a soldier is almost too much for him. These are the members of the staff of workers. In addition there are the servants, who have been working hard through all the time of danger - what we would have done without them I do not know. They have willingly taken on the extra work - and no one not living on the campus can realize how heavy the work has been for them and how trying. We hope to give them an extra month's pay when it is over - if it is ever over. In addition we have had to take on extra servants so that we have two in each dormitory - many of these have been willing to work for their board because they felt they were safe here, but we hope to give them a tip. I might add that Tung Lao-ban the carpenter has also lived on the place as a refugee and has worked freely for us whenever we needed him.

The staff members have eaten together in the dining room of 400 and that has been a source of strengthening too - I mean all those who do not have families here. We have been in a quandary as to food. Before the fall of the city we did not put in too much food for fear everything would be looted and now we wish that we had put in more stores. For a number of days, at least two meals a day consisted of two kinds of beans and a green vegetable. At no time have we been hungry although I shall be glad when we can get nourishing food to add to the diet for all the workers. The Poultry Project has furnished us with a goodly number of geese and a few chickens which have helped out a good deal, and we have killed Dr. Yuen's goat and three others that were entrusted to us by Mr. Riggs. One of our Practice School Ponds furnished us fish for the whole staff once, which was a treat.

Destruction of College and Private Property. There was no looting by Chinese soldiers before they left the city, and so far there has been no looting by the "lao beh sing", the common people. The J. soldiers



entered the South Hill Residence from ten to twenty times and found great joy in the four chests of drawers stored in the large dining room. Again and yet again we have found them there looting and have escorted them out. Dr. Wu, Dr. Chen, Dr. Chang and Alice Morris were the unfortunate owners of the property looted, however I do not think the loss was great as they had packed their best things to take with them. Although they went to the third floor of that house a number of times, yet they did not see the attic doors which had been covered by wardrobes. We are hoping that the things stored there will not be touched. Mr. Miao's house was looted and also Chen Er-chang's but how much the loss I have no way of knowing. These houses are now occupied by refugees. Mrs. Tsen lost some things - her favorite fountain pen among them and some of the rest of us lost pens and gloves. Mr. Li had \$55.00 taken from him while he was on the campus and also Mr. Chan's trunks and Mrs. Tung's trunk were searched and some things taken. These are about all the personal losses - and compared with the loss of many in the city they are very light. The total college loss due to looting by the Japanese soldiers is perhaps less than \$200.00 and consists mostly of smashed doors and windows. Our greatest loss is due to the occupation of the refugees. Ten thousand cannot crowd into six buildings without injury to those houses. Walls will have to be refinished, woodwork repainted, screens replaced, locks and fasteners replaced or repaired. Trees and shrubs and lawns have all been injured largely by the daily display of washing placed upon them. Our foreign friends have often laughed when they entered the campus and compared it with its former neatness. However the mothers with little children have had to do this washing and we have not wanted to prohibit it. Fortunately in this part of China, nature heals such scars very quickly and in a few years we shall not miss the shrubs that have been trampled or broken, although I have felt sad when a shrub that we have nursed carefully for more than ten years has been badly broken. We have also had some loss due to the nine days of registration which took place on the campus. Some chairs were broken and tables injured and shrubs trampled down. I would estimate this loss at about \$100.00 but have not yet found the time to figure it accurately.

Wei Szi-fu, our college messenger boy was taken on December 14, and did not return until December 28. His bicycle was also taken at the same time as he was on his way to the University Hospital with a message to one of the doctors there. At the time he was wearing an arm band furnished for our servants by the American Embassy. We greatly rejoiced when he returned safely. The son of Djang, the head servant of the Biology Department was taken on December 16, and he has never returned although we have made repeated requests for him. He too was wearing one of the arm bands at the time and was in the house which was clearly marked by an American Embassy poster and flying an American flag. The father has been broken hearted for in addition to this loss he does not know where his wife and four other children are as they were down near Wusih. I am fearful that the young man will never return as there were a good many men killed at that time, especially young men.

Surely we have much to be grateful for as we look back over the past months. The fact that we did not open college in Nanking was a great blessing. During these days I have said again and again I was glad that there were no students on the campus and that Dr. Wu had been persuaded to leave the city when she did. I am grateful too that Ginling has been able to shelter and serve the women and children of this great city as she has during these days of intense danger and terror. What the future holds we do not know, but I am confident that if we seek to know God's will for the College, He will guide us into still greater fields of usefulness in the bringing in of his Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Minnie Vautrin



Informal Report:      Confidential.      Not for publication or broadcasting.

AS A REFUGEE CAMP.      The period from January 14-March 31, 1938

A. Conditions in the City and Countryside:

The Self-Government Association which was inaugurated on January 1st in the shadow of the old Drum Tower and which witnessed the resurrection of the old five-colored flag to take its place beside that of Japan, has now been followed by the formation of a second government. It was scheduled for March 15, but was finally consummated on March 28. Tang Shao-I is reported to be the head of the new government, but he was not present at the inauguration. Just what the relation of the new government is to that which has been established in Peiping we are not certain. Some have said it is to supersede that government and be the future central government of China, others tell us that it is to be under the northern government, and still others say that the two governments are to be independent of each other. Dr. Macklin and Dr. Bowen would know the members of the new government far better than we do as many of them date back to the previous generation and are men who have not been active in the New China.

The International Safety Zone was formally abolished some time ago and the committee which controlled it has been changed into an international relief committee the members of which keep exceedingly busy. It has taken on a large staff of Chinese workers which is busy distributing relief to the neediest families in the city. An effort is also being made by some of the members of the committee to encourage the farmers to go back to their farms and the gardeners to go back to their gardens and to get spring crops in and thus prevent a possible famine later on. Even the most uneducated country women have a favorable attitude toward it, and if a project is sponsored by this committee they at once have confidence in it. On Thursday, March 17, there was a very simple reception down at the headquarters when after some very sincere speeches, banners expressing appreciation were presented to the members of the committee. Rev. Hubert Sone has taken Mr. Rabe's place as the chairman of the committee. The former left Nanking about February 24th, after numerous receptions and teas and tiffin parties. All were genuinely sorry to have him leave for he had been a tower of strength during the trying months since November and he had greatly endeared himself to his co-workers both westerners and Chinese. The twenty five refugee camps were gradually reduced to four, and in these remaining ones are mostly the young women who still feel that it is impossible to go back to their homes and also those who have been left without homes. Milk and cod liver oil is distributed in these camps regularly and an effort is being made to provide bedding for those who still come in having been robbed of every possession.

We no longer feel that we live in "the heart of a drum". As you remember, our first contact with the outside world was firmly established when three members of the staff returned to the American Embassy. Their coming made it possible for us to send radiograms to our families and to our organizations and also to send and receive



letters by means of the gunboats. Soon followed the return of members to the British and German Embassies. At this time of writing, we are connected by train, bus and merchant boat with Shanghai and it is said that 600 Japanese civilians including women and children are now here. However no American, excepting Dr. Brady, has been permitted to come to Nanking to reside and to carry on business and missionary work, the reason given is that it is not yet safe for them to do so. A very real and persistent effort has been made to secure permission for the return of doctors and nurses, but so far this effort has not been successful. Within the last few days permission has been granted for the return of Mr. Gale from Wuhu. There is great need for the return of the regular evangelistic workers and for the heads of the various missions and it is hoped that by repeated requests permission may be granted. The post office was supposed to be formally opened on March 25th and within a few days after that time it began to function. I understand that there are seven branch offices now open in various parts of the city. I received my first letter from America on Saturday March 26, it having left there on February 28. Newspapers have just started coming through by train - we have not had them regularly since November 12, if I remember correctly. On February 21, I had my first ride in a ricksha, which was in the fourth ricksha which I had seen on the streets since about December 12th. There are a few carriages left in the city but many were demolished. Trucks and cars are at a great premium, the Embassies and the International Refugee Committee possessing the only ones excepting those used for military purposes. Two days ago I saw one of our former buses. Where all the others have disappeared we do not know. Mary Twinem still has hope that she will be able to secure the return of her little Austin, but I fear it is a vain hope. Recently some have seen a little Austin painted a kakhi color and rather suspect that it may be her car.

Police service which has been at a minimum has been gradually increased but it is not yet sufficient or courageous enough to prevent much lawlessness in the city. Looting by the military still continues but in a different form somewhat. The poorer people are still being deprived of bedding, and money, even coppers being taken now, and houses of the former well-to-do people which were fairly safe in the Safety Zone are now being deprived of rugs and radios and furniture. We do not see the wholesale burning of houses which took place from about December 17th to January 17th - it was on that date that I saw the last fire. The most distressing thing that now exists is the continued looting by the "lao beh sing", the common people. With no law and order in the city the poor and the lawless felt perfectly free to go into any house and take from it anything they wished. Outside of the former Safety Zone, many houses have been robbed of everything, even including doors and windows and floors. Within the last few days I have seen very good doors and windows for sale and that means that the demolishing process is still going on. Naturally our Chinese friends are distressed by this but there is nothing they can do about it. From the middle of January to the middle of February, Shanghai Road underwent an evolution. It developed rapidly into a busy mart and literally scores and scores of little make-shift shops were hastily constructed along both sides of it. There were not only shops which sold every kind of loot, but also tea houses and restaurants. I remember passing one called "The Happy People"



tea house. The street became so busy and crowded that one had difficulty in getting through it when walking. Then the order came that these shops must be taken down at once or they would be torn down, and just as quickly as the street had flourished so it receded into its former state. This development extended down into our neighborhood too. How I wish that I had some pictures of that mushroom development for you to see. During these days and weeks of free looting we longed to go to the homes of friends and salvage some of their possessions for them, but alas we had no truck or car, even if we had had the time and strength.

During this period of lawlessness in the city our campus has been fairly peaceful. At no time have "the people" come to loot or steal. Our soldier guard left us on January 14 and never returned. For many days we were fearful lest something should happen, but nothing beyond our control did happen to us. Three times soldiers came on mischief bent but were persuaded to go on their way. My calendar shows that military callers ranking from high official to soldiers numbered seventeen groups. Most of them came to see the campus and the camp. We usually show them one or two buildings occupied by refugees first and then end the visit by taking them to the Administration-Library Building which now looks quite normal and is open for inspection. They are always pleased to see it and we are glad to show them a clean building.

February 4 was set as the date when all refugees must leave the Safety Zone and go back to their homes. This proclamation was issued by the local autonomous government and was posted quite widely in the city. It brought consternation to the hearts of the young women on our campus and during the week preceding the date I could not go out on the campus without being besieged by a large group asking if we were going to send them away at that time. Invariably we would answer that it was not our order and that our camp was open as long as their homes were unsafe for them. One day Mr. Mills called and his car was so surrounded by kneeling, weeping young women that he finally had to walk to his home and let his driver follow when he could extricate the car. Several weeks later this terrible fear and anxiety had not left the younger women, for when we gave a tea party for Mr. Rabe down at the Practice School, some of them heard about his presence and his plan to go home and they asked Mrs. Tsen to arrange for them to see him just before he got into his car. None of us expected what really did happen. Literally hundreds and hundreds surrounded him in front of the Science building and implored him not to leave the city but to remain on in charge of the International Committee. His assurance reached only a few ears and the crowd grew instead of decreasing. Mary Twinem took him out the back way and I tried to get the crowd of weeping women to go in another direction so that we could also extricate Dr. Rosen and Mr. Ritchie who were also guests at the same tea. It took more than an hour to bring conditions back to normal and in the meantime all three men had to walk to their homes and their cars followed later-much later. On February 4th no force was used to expel people from the Zone or the Camps and the day of tension and terror past uneventfully.

China New Year came on Monday, January 31. Even the long weeks of terror and sadness did not prevent a certain amount of



celebration, and feasting. Some people were bold enough to use firecrackers in their celebration, although it had not been many weeks since the sound of a big cracker would have made us start with fear and say "another civilian killed". In the afternoon Lao Shao, the old gardener, and I went out to look for some "lah mei", twelfth month plum. We wanted to go to the little farm house west of the Guling temple where we bought such lovely branches last year, but when we reached the street just east of the temple and saw that the hills and valleys beyond were a veritable "No Man's Land" we were not courageous enough to make the journey. We had passed five unburied bodies on our journey thus far and we knew that at the temple there would be many more. I also knew but did not tell Lao Shao that over in the little valley to the south of the temple beside two ponds were 143 bodies of civilians and unarmed soldiers - men who more than a month before had been cruelly burned and shot there. We came back home without the "lah mei" glad to get back in a crowd again. Few of us used freely the old greetings that are an innate part of the New Year celebration, somehow those happy carefree greetings would not come to our lips this year. The following evening, Mrs. Tsen prepared a "big meal" for us out of the wonderful basket which our friends and coworkers had sent us from Shanghai. How good it was to have pork once more and the other good dishes of food that accompanied it. I for one was glad to leave our steady diet of beans even for one meal.

On February 2nd I made my first visit into the southern part of the city. Mr. McCallem and Mr. Forster took me down to see the property of the Christian Mission first and then over to see the Episcopal compounds. The city was still lifeless save for the groups of soldiers that could be seen on many of the streets. Such terrible destruction had been meted out on our busy city! I cannot give the exact number, but of the best shops it seemed to me that almost 80% had been looted and then burned. More of the little shops were standing, but all had been looted clean of all goods. At our property, two of our school buildings had been burned and at the Episcopal compound the parish house had been destroyed. We passed a group of army trucks hauling loot, evidently from the northern part of the city for there was nothing left to loot in the section through which we passed. Just two days ago when I was again down in this section it looked very different. Life had returned to it and the older members of the community had returned and some of them were rebuilding little shops out of the remains of the big stores. The development that had taken place on Shanghai Road in January and February had been transferred to the "Street of No Sorrows", excepting that not so many temporary shops had been built - the display was on tables and on the sides of the street. Patiently people are beginning to rebuild. Loot is still being bought and sold - it is the only way that people have of making a living for nothing is being created in the city as far as I know.

Conditions in the surrounding country are not as peaceful as in the city. Beginning late in January women began to steal their way in from the country villages, disguised in every possible way. To get past the soldier guard at the city gates was the dreaded ordeal. Older women came in first, having heard of the refugee camps, they came in first to find out if they were really existing. They begged us to accept their daughters and daughter-in-laws if they could get them into the city saying that for weeks and weeks they had been



hiding them in carefully concealed holes in the ground or between double walls in their homes, but even in these places they were not always safe. During the past two weeks we have received more than five hundred into our camp from the country places and the University has received an equal number. In addition to the scourge of soldiers there has been the scourge of bandits and often when people try to come in they are robbed of everything they possess - money first, then bedding and even part of their clothing. Some of our Chinese friends who evacuated to the country places last autumn are now returning. The men come first to make sure that they can get in, they register with the local government, and then go back to bring in their families. During the last two weeks, Mr. Handel Lee, Mr. Shao Deh-hsing and others have come. Just yesterday Wang Bao-ling's brother came from Sanho south of Luchowfu. They all look as if the past months have been months of strain and deep anxiety for themselves, and we realize that most of it has been worry for the women folk in their families.

#### B. Conditions in the G.C. Refugee Camp

Our camp was one of the four selected to continue its existence by the NIRC. According to the recommendation of the Committee we have organized into four departments or sections, namely, business, supervision, education and health. Having been granted a small allowance by the Committee for 2 assistants, and 4 servants for each one thousand refugees, we have felt justified in taking on extra staff. These have been mostly from our "invited" refugees such as Miss Rachel Wang, Mr. Wang and Mr. Djao, personal teachers of members of the regular faculty, Mr. Chan the assistant registrar and a Mr. Swen who is a neighbor who has been living down at East Court. A new office has been started in the former guest room in the Arts Building and it is a busy place from morning to night. Mrs. Tsen has also invited three refugee women to assist her in distributing milk and cod liver oil. Keeping statistics up-to-date in a shifting refugee camp is no light task. During the first week in February we had a formal registration of all our refugees when the head of each family group was given a white cloth tag bearing her name and the number in her family group. These tags were sewed on by our workers with a special color of thread so that they could not be transferred to others when they wished to leave. According to that registration we numbered 3200. By the middle of March our new staff felt that it was necessary to re-register all, and they prepared a lavender cloth tag which has been given to each member of the refugee group excepting babes in arms. According to this registration our number now is 3310. Mr. Chen who is head of the business department is now with his staff working on the very difficult problem of the free rice group. Naturally many people want free rice who can afford to pay for it, and to separate this group from those who have absolutely nothing with which to pay is a most difficult task. The free rice group were first given red tags; a month later they were rechecked and given yellow tags, and now a third system is being worked out and will be put into operation this coming week. If people were always sincere our work would be infinitely lighter and incidentally our dispositions would be better.

After our refugees had been with us about three months we decided that we simply must work out some system whereby they could



have baths. We had been playing with the idea before but were not able to get coal. We made our plan and presented it to the International Refugee Committee and they agreed to furnish us with coal and the funds for one fireman and two women to look after each house. For two weeks now, under Mrs. Tsen's supervision we have been operating two bath houses where 168 women and children can take baths each day. The price is four coppers for adults, two for babies and children, and nothing for those who are too poor to afford even this small amount. In addition to the joy this privilege gives to the women, it also gives a livelihood to five persons.

Our Camp has also been granted a fund for cash relief and another to loan to individuals. Women who are very poor, whose homes have been burned and whose husbands have been taken are given a sum in cash when they are ready to go back to their homes. This helps them to start again and has been deeply appreciated by all who have received it. The loan fund has given loans to a number of women whose husbands are in other parts of China and are earning a salary. A good many women of this type have been left stranded in Nanking and as yet have had no means of getting funds from their husbands.

Mrs. Tsen who is head of the Health Department of our Camp has carried on very successfully the distribution of milk and cod liver oil for babies and children. Children who are undernourished are given this extra food each day, the three women who have been taken on as assistants in this department distribute the milk and also attend to the mixing of it. Both of these foods are furnished us by the International Relief Committee. Mrs. Twinem and Mrs. Tsen have also been responsible for the distribution in the other refugee camps and have spent many mornings visiting these other camps and getting the distribution organized. Under our Health Department we also have had three vaccination clinics when almost two thousand were vaccinated by Dr. Brady of the Christian Hospital staff. During these long weeks of simple living we have had more than 30 deaths and 40 births on our campus. The disposal of the night soil is still one of our major problems, but we are gradually getting the problem solved. Fortunately we have a large campus so that we have room for the huge trenches which we have dug for this purpose. Dai, the regular college bell ringer, sounds a gong about eight in the morning and again at five in the afternoon and this is the time for the women to empty the toilet buckets and clean them.

#### C. A Project in Religious Education:

For the six weeks from January 17 to February 26 we limited our religious work to two meetings each day, one for the adults and one for the children. As I reported in my previous letter, five pastors from the American Church Mission very generously and faithfully came each afternoon during the week, excepting Saturday, and spoke. In addition the women learned some simple songs. On February 27 we started another project, this time in The Life of Christ, which is to culminate in an early service on Easter morning and in a pageant that afternoon or evening, also in special services being held throughout Holy Week. Miss Rachel Wang is dean of our Educational Department and as such she has organized 23 classes according to educational ability all of them studying the Life of Christ in one form or another. You will be interested in the classes so I will give you the details -



- 2 classes or sections of Junior-Senior Middle School ability
- 2 of 6th grade elementary school ability
- 2 of 5th grade elementary school ability
- 4 of 3rd and 4th grade elementary school ability
- 6 sections of those who have studied in private school a few years.
- These are divided according to age, some are children, some adults.
- 3 sections of adults who have never studied. They are being taught a Gospel Primer.
- 2 sections of illiterates from 18-19 years of age.
- 2 sections of illiterates from 12-17 years of age.

These last two sections meet five times each week and are taught by Mr. Wang and Mr. Djao. Our enrollment is something over a thousand and our attendance each week is perhaps between seven and eight hundred. The older women try to attend regularly but if a baby is ill they have to miss and often they have to go back to their homes during the day or on some other errand. All the classes but the two I mentioned meet three times each week. In addition to lessons in the life of Christ all are learning certain selected Psalms and hymns and other passages from the Bible. Miss Wang has selected the 23rd Psalm, the 121st, the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer. How they love to sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Jesus Lover of My Soul". Just now they are learning Easter hymns, the one for this week being "The Day of Resurrection". The teachers have wanted to share with their students those hymns and scripture passages that have been of greatest comfort to them during these days of suffering. All of our teachers, excepting Miss Hsueh, the day school teacher and myself, are refugees, some of them were invited to come, to be sure, and yet they know what it means to be refugees. Our afternoon preaching service continues but now it is held in the big chapel. The attendance varies from 150 to almost 400 and is usually largest on Sundays. The topics for these meetings have been carefully selected by the five men who come to us from the Episcopal Church and they all are centering on the Life of Christ also. You should hear a group of three hundred refugee women sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". They love it and how they do sing. We take turns in leading the singing and also in inviting to the meetings so that the work does not fall too heavily on any one person. One of the difficulties connected with the class work was our lack of classrooms for as you may realize, every room in the Arts Building where our classrooms are, is occupied by refugees. We have converted the North Studio into a very good classroom, the Grecian statues in that room which were stored there by Central University when they moved last fall, being gracefully draped with a big curtain. The stage of the big auditorium is also used as a classroom and makes a very good one indeed with space for more than forty chairs. Another class meets in the chemistry laboratory which we never used for refugee and many classes meet in the science lecture hall. After Easter we shall have a week's holiday and then begin work again. At that time we shall hope to add different types of classes such as poultry raising; personal, home and community hygiene; child training and perhaps Japanese. We shall also try to teach some industrial work but that will need more of a staff than we have available now. Yesterday several of us went on an expedition to the South city to see if we could find some looms and stocking knitting machines. To our disappointment we found that they all had been looted. But where there is a will there is a way.

#### D. Another Project:

Early in January we became conscious that many of our refugee



women - especially wives and mothers were in deep distress because their husbands or sons who had been taken soon after the entry on December 13, had not returned. Many of these women were left with little children and often one or two old people and they had literally no means of support - nothing they could do but beg and even that is impossible now in a community so poor as ours. Again and again they would come to us asking if there was anything that could be done to secure the return of these men - all of them civilians as far as we were able to ascertain. We finally went to the Japanese Embassy and talked it over with one of the more thoughtful officials there and he suggested that we furnish him with the facts and he would see if he could do anything with the military about it. From January 24 to February 8 we were able to secure 738 civilian records. These we handed in not only to the official with whom we had the first conference but also to a higher official who had come up from Shanghai. As far as we know, nothing has happened for we have not heard of any men returning. In the meantime rumors began to reach us that there was a large group of civilian men imprisoned in the Model Prison over near the Central University. A trip over in that direction confirmed the rumor. The exact number of men we could not determine but we learned that men were there and in a pitiful condition. Soon the older women began to come to our campus saying that they had gone to the front of the prison and had seen the men being taken out each morning in trucks to work. A number of the women have told us that they have actually seen their husbands or sons and some of them have been permitted to talk to them. Again the pleas began to come to aid them in securing the release of these men. Chinese men in local government administration suggested that we have our women prepare a petition to be handed in not only to the head of the local government but also to the Japanese military. From March 18 to 22nd 1245 women came in to sign this petition - most of them were very poor women and could only make a finger print underneath the name which was written in their behalf. Such a pitiful group of women I have never seen before. Most of them were poor, - farmers, gardeners, coolies, little merchants; and most of them had had their only means of support taken from them. One woman had lost four of her sons; another had had five members of her family taken; another had lost three sons. There were a goodly number of young women who had been left with three or four little children and they could not possibly make a living for the children. It seems that the petition has born some fruit for now the women are asked to make another giving more data with regard to the time the men were taken, their occupations, etc. Tonight Mr. Wang is making the announcement in the dormitories and tomorrow six people will begin work on this new petition. It will take from three to five days to complete it as the women will come from miles out in the country. Such news spreads like wild-fire and the poor women come trudging in even if there is but a very faint hope. One of the greatest problems facing the people interested in rehabilitation work for this district, is that of the women who have been left with no support and whose husbands will never return. I long for Ginling to help in the solution of this perhaps more than any thing else.

#### E. Ginling losses:

Since the last report sent to you, we have had time to secure facts with regard to the college and faculty losses. The loss to the college property from the looting of Chinese soldiers was nil; from the looting of Japanese soldiers does not exceed \$300.00. About fourteen



faculty and two servants lost a certain amount through the looting of the Japanese soldiers and this we estimate at about \$1200.00. By far the greatest loss has come from the use of the academic buildings as a refugee camp, for the housing of 10,000 women and children even for a short time means much wear and tear on woodwork and floors. The best estimate that we have been able to secure sets the loss at about seven to eight thousand dollars, and it will probably be higher than that if our refugees continue with us through the coming months. I feel sure that somehow we can raise the money needed to put the buildings back in good repair, but even if we cannot raise the funds it is better for us to face the future with marred and soiled walls than not to have done this humanitarian service for the women and children who have come to us. We could not have closed our doors against them.

This letter is brought to a close with greetings to you from the members of the staff. You must not feel sorry for us thinking that we lack food or social life. We can get the kind of foods now that we need to keep us well. Some of us have even been to two feasts during the past months, one at the Japanese Embassy and another at the Hwei Wen Girl's School. To-morrow, Mrs. Tsen, Mrs. Twinem, Blanche Wu and myself are giving a simple Chinese meal to a group of friends whom we are inviting to the South Hill Faculty Residence. This afternoon we went up and folded up the garments scattered in the living room - since the looting we had never taken the time to do that. The big dining room we shall not disturb, but keep it for the enjoyment and amusement of our friends. Conditions in the city are such that more and more we are able to leave the campus and not feel that our three thousand three hundred will be in danger when we are away. This past week I have had my bicycle brought down from the attic and oiled and I have ridden it when going on an errand down to the South Gate. Mary and I are planning to ride out to the National Park very soon for the thought of the blossoms there is enticing us and it is difficult to resist. We have had some illness among our staff members but all are well now. Blanche was ill with a very severe case of bronchitis and was in the hospital for three weeks. The day she returned Mary went over with the same malady and was also there for three weeks. Mrs. Tsen has had several very severe colds and has been confined to her bed for a number of days at a time. I have had a few days off but otherwise have been feeling very well.

Puh, the shrub man is busy at his work and the campus is beginning to look neat and clean once more. The Practice School campus is at its loveliest now and is a constant delight to those of us who live here. The little children who live at East Court and Mrs. Tsen's grand children are having great fun tending to the student flower garden at the Practice School. Every day they spend many hours there watering the flowers. Life would be so lovely if this terrible war and destruction would cease, and if families could be re-united, and the nation go forward on its plan of reconstruction which has been so bravely started. The scores of heavy bombers which fly over us to the northwest each morning make us realize that the end is not yet and that destruction and terror and suffering continue.

Not many letters have come through from friends but those that have come have been deeply appreciated. If when you write you prefer to send my mail to our Shanghai office at Room 512A, 133 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, I will receive it in good time. I fear that this general report must be accepted in lieu of more personal letters.

Very sincerely yours,

Minnie Vautrin

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