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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Girling
Cortes.
Chester, Ruth
1927-1936

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Miss Hodge -
Please return - over

RECEIVED

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over

MAR 28 1927



Admiral Oriental Line

S.S. Pres. Grant

Feb. 18 1927.

My dear Miss Dundas:-

I meant to get a note off to you from Victoria, but got so absorbed in writing at length to my family that I didn't get to it. It was very comforting to have your note with the news of Mrs. Thurston's cable, so I could sail without any great question as to whether I was doing the right thing. Even after three days on the boat I still feel as if I'm in a dream - going somewhere obviously, but I can't quite believe it's really going I'm headed for!

It's queer traveling with so few passengers, and not especially exciting. There seem to be no very congenial folks aboard

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or if there are they are among those who have been feeling too miserable to converse. So I'm reading and amusing myself.

I think I'll leave this unfinished and add a note in Japan as you will want to know what word I have there.

Kobe - Feb. 28th.

I was disappointed to find no message at all in Yokohama - except a cable from mother "Cable Shanghai - await advice". That didn't help me much! So I cabled the China Council and asked them to wire advice to Kobe and was much relieved to find a cable here this afternoon saying "Come". Others on board have also

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had reassuring news so it looks as if I am really going to get there! I presume the China Council are thinking I got panicky, but I didn't quite know what to think with no message at all either from them or from Mrs. Thurston.

We've had a very pleasant trip, with only one really stormy day and no fog at all. But I'm not sorry to reach over, for I'm eager to get back to work at Ginkgo.

Please remember me to Miss Hodge if you see her soon and tell her I'm really going through. I want to thank you both for all your sympathy and help in the difficult problem of deciding

2-18-27

[4] what to do. Mother, I fear, is worrying
a lot, but I believe I did right to come
and I hope a cable from Shanghai
will relieve her somewhat.

With sincere good wishes,

Ruth M. Chester.

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Copy to Miss Reid

March 1, 1927

Mrs. Nelson B. Chester
134 West 92nd St.
New York City

Dear Mrs. Chester:

Yesterday the following cablegram was received:
"NANKING VOWUGWANYP CHESTER." The first five letters of the code word mean, "situation gives no cause for concern" and being preceded by "Nanking" we understand that it refers to the situation in that city. The last five letters of the word, decoded, read in the code book as follows: "has - ve -- (you) started." In the book there is no punctuation after the word "started" as seems to be the case with all the decoded phrases, clauses and sentences except in the case of questions, when interrogative marks are used. If we read it as a question, putting the word "Chester" in the blank space, we would understand it to mean, "has Chester started?" However, I think, considering the forms used in the code book, we may interpret it as a statement and read, "Chester has started" or "Have started" the word "Chester" being the signature on the cablegram.

I should have said in the beginning that the cablegram came from Nanking. This fact makes it a little puzzling, but I suppose there were cable communications between Mrs. Thurston and your daughter in Japan in which it was decided to have Mrs. Thurston cable in code to us in New York.

I am sending this letter to confirm the message as I gave it to you over the telephone yesterday afternoon. It is a source of satisfaction to us to know that Miss Chester reached Yokohama safely, also to know what her plans are. I think we may anticipate that she will reach Nanking without difficulty.

Sincerely yours,

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Rush Clarke

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April 1, 1927.

Dear Friends of Ginling:-

Knowing that you will have been anxious about us during the last ten days and that you are eager to hear a first hand report of what really happened, we are sending you this brief statement of the facts.

THE SITUATION AT GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING

After learning on Wednesday afternoon, March 23, that the Southern Army had entered Nanking and the Northeners were retreating we took in neighbors as refugees and kept watch all night for looters. All was quiet in our neighborhood and the first report in the morning was a reassuring one. But some time around nine o'clock came the news of Dr. Williams death and of some holding up of foreigners. Our Chinese faculty and students immediately took charge and told all of the foreign faculty to stay in out of sight. They appointed representatives to stand at the gate and meet any soldiers there and deal with them as well as they could.

The first group of looters was headed by a few Huanese soldiers from the Southern Army and went into one or two of the academic buildings. The accompanying rabble took some bedding that had been used there the night before and four microscopes and a few other things, but stayed only a short time and did little damage. This crowd was subsequently met by someone with enough authority to make them drop what they had collected and part of it at least was piled into rickshas and returned. Then an officer in the Southern Army, a brother of one of our students, came over and talked with some of them and promised protection. But he was soon called away by a group of students from the University of Nanking bringing word that Dr. Bowen had been taken and his life was in danger. While our protector was gone another group of looters came. They took a few more things from one of the academic buildings and were about to demand the opening of the safe when they evidently became fearful that the officer was returning and they vanished. He did return, having been summoned by our servant who went after him on a bicycle, risking his own life as the soldiers were firing. The officer severely reprimanded three or four soldiers who had been bent on loot and after making them kneel and admit their guilt he went away leaving a small guard he had brought with him.

Soon another crowd of civilians began pouring over the hill toward a side gate. The guard fired a few shots into the air and the crowd fled. This reassured us and we thought the danger was over. The next arrivals were not so easily managed-- a small group of soldiers tired and hungry and demanding to be taken to the foreigners. Food and discussion restrained them temporarily but soon they insisted on going through the buildings. The faculty and students took them to other buildings first which they were able to do because our residence is exactly like the student dormitories and does not stand out from the group, but finally felt they could hold them no longer and some of them rushed over to tell us to hide. It seemed impossible to leave the building without being seen so we went to the attic and waited there on the slight chance that two floors or loot might satisfy them. After a few

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moments of suspense news was brought in of a rescue party of Chinese students and faculty from the University of Nanking who convoyed us under the leadership of an officer up to Bailie Hall at the University of Nanking. As we approached this building we heard sounds of trouble within and were kept waiting outside while they went in to drive out a group of looting soldiers who had attacked the group of foreigners already gathered there for protection. This was about one o'clock Thursday afternoon. From then until Friday afternoon we remained there under the protection of Southern soldiers and officers who allowed Chinese friends and servants to come and go and to provide us with some few necessities.

Friday afternoon a Chinese military escort was provided and the group of about 125 foreigners taken to Hsia Kwan and put aboard American and British boats. Up to the time we left for Hsia Kwan our residence had not been entered at all and the faculty and students brought to us a considerable number of things we wanted. Our whole experience was therefore a much less unpleasant one than most people had and we were deeply touched by the courage and loyalty of all our Chinese friends who certainly saved us from something much worse.

Friday night we spent on various gunboats and cruisers anchored off Nanking and Saturday afternoon we were divided into three groups, for the trip down river- Two small freight vessels were sent under convoy of the British Cruiser Dauntless and the rest were taken on the U.S. gunboat Preston, which made a quicker trip. There were no proper passenger accommodations, but everything possible was done for us and such discomfort as we had was unavoidable.

Shanghai is much too full of refugees to be an ideal place to live and later arrivals have had to resort to improvised dormitories in the Navy Y or the Union Church. All of us are located in real beds and rooms and are very comfortable.

After leaving Nanking our greatest worry was for the safety of those we left behind who had done so much for us. For several days we had only rumors and some of them were very disquieting but Thursday the 31st brought very comforting news. They are safe, have taken in some girls from other schools which had been destroyed, and are even carrying on as much class work as the small number of faculty left can manage. A small group of soldiers is guarding the campus but the buildings are not occupied by soldiers, as we had heard. A representative has been up from here to confer with them and on his return we shall know more in detail of conditions there and whether it seems best to try to keep college open now or not.

There the events to date, but as to the future no one can say. Most of us will either go to Manila or Japan or Korea, or remain in Shanghai until we can see a little more clearly what it is going to mean. We are too close to it now to interpret all

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the conflicting elements in the situation. That we are eager to find a way for Ginling to meet the crises and continue to give to Chinese women an essentially Christian education goes without saying. How this can be done is not yet clear and may not be for some little time. But the way on which the Chinese faculty and the alumnae are showing their loyalty is a great encouragement. These are hard days for them and they are constantly in our thoughts.

The Ginling group has much cause to be thankful for we were almost the only foreigners in Nanking who had no direct contact with the soldiers. It is good to know that all of us have a few of our possessions with us and the rest are so far untouched in Nanking, (though things became relatively unimportant at such a time.)

Very sincerely yours,

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OCT 25 1928



P. S. Louguo

Sept. 4 1928

Dear Miss Bender:—

Your very nice note to me, written soon after March 24th has been in my pile of unanswered letters for considerably more than a year, and the fact that it is still there is the only proof I can offer that I really have meant to write you. In all the months of waiting and uncertainty I seemed to have no heart for letters at all, and after we really got back to Hanking life was full and I kept procrastinating on letters. Now I am realizing that another vacation is at hand and I am still not caught up on letters. I'm within about a half hour of Hanking now, I think on my way back from Peking!

First to go way back & really answer your note. It was a good deal of a shock and in some ways a very upsetting experience to return just in time to get into those dreadful days of March 1927. But I hope that none of you who helped me decide to come ever worried about it or regretted it. I have never for one minute wished that I hadn't come, and that is literally true. My not being there would not have saved the trouble and if I had to be I am very thankful that I was able to share it with the rest of Jiming. My feeling, I suppose, is like that of a person who might arrive home just in time to share in some family tragedy and who would be sure to be glad to have arrived in time, no matter how much suffering might be involved. And I feel that all of us who went through that experience together, Chinese & foreign are closer to each other than we could otherwise be. Moreover I know that if I had not come when I did

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I could not have been here this past year, for they certainly would not have sent for me in the uncertainties of a year ago. I might be getting back now, but what a lot I should have missed!

Life has its ups and downs in China these days but for us at Jinking it has certainly been mostly ups. Of course we never feel sure what may happen, for things change very much, even within a few days, but I think all of us feel sure there is no danger of any sort of trouble within our own group. Students & faculty have all been very loyal & it has been a most happy & united group. That is, I think, one of the most encouraging signs for Wu D-fang as she starts in. I feel sure she has the full loyalty & cooperation of the whole group & I hope that will continue to be true. And because I feel that so important I am very glad the decision has been made not to ask for Miss Hanawa's return. It is hard to know whether it is right to say anything about that, but as I have been at Jinking, or in touch with it, ever since her connection with the college you may be glad to know what I think about it. In spite of many good qualities she has, in my opinion, been a dividing and a disturbing influence from her very first year. I talked frankly with her about it before I went home in 1924, but it seems to have done us good. She seems to be temperamentally "agin the government" and expresses herself in ways that seem to me fundamentally disloyal. I was not here for the most serious crisis in 1926 but have heard the story from many different people. I should be very much afraid to have her back for fear she would either try to run Miss Wu or if she found that impossible, as I believe she would, she would make trouble for her. It is hard to feel & speak as if a co-worker but when such drastic action

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J.S.

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has been taken it needs evidence in its support.

I have spent the summer with Mrs. Thurston in her little house at Kuling. It was good to get back there and find it all so normal and it has been a very happy summer indeed. Many old Kuling friends were missed but a few were still there and the place itself looks better than ever.

You will know Mrs. Thurston's plans from her for I am sure she has told you of them. As everyone realizes, this past year and a half have been very hard for her in many ways. There have been things hard for all of us, but her heart is in feeling more than anyone's and she knows better than anyone the problems & difficulties Miss Wu will have to face and realizes how inexperienced she is. But she has great confidence in her and a strong personal affection for her and is very happy that we have so fine a person to step into this need. In spite of a natural hurt at so sudden a change forced from without instead of a natural evolution from within I don't think that is the thing that has been hardest for her. It is rather the lack of trust in herself that has been shown by some people who seem almost to have taken it for granted that she would need to be pushed out forcibly, or to have misunderstood her belief that she was needed until Miss Wu could really get into things. It is a great injustice for it is Kuling's welfare for which she cares and for which she has been willing to be misunderstood. She has been a great help and I feel that her presence for a time this fall is also needed, not only to

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clear up back work, but to turn things over to Miss Warren have time for some conferences with her. I have perhaps known more of her real feelings and motives than most people and I have come to admire her even more for the big way in which she has gone steadily on with her work in a situation which would have made many people give up. I am sure hers has been the finer & more truly Christian way, and I hope the time will come when all her critics will feel so too.

Sept. 30th. We were so near Nanjing that I had to stop and. We hardly had time to catch my breath since though more than three weeks have passed! The opening days are always busy ones and I seemed to be involved in several different tasks this year that just wouldn't get straightened out. But we are having a fine start and with Miss Warren's arrival imminent our teaching program will soon be adjusted satisfactorily. I think 131 students is the official number which just barely meets my prediction of 130-140!

I must not hold this longer for it is still even now & still has a long journey ahead. Please forgive me for being so very negligent of your good letters. It is an old failing of mine and my family gets practically all the letters I write.

I sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Chute.

July 12, 1933

Miss Ruth M. Chester
134 West 92nd Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Chester:

At a recent meeting of Ginling College Committee I was instructed to write to you to congratulate you on the honor which has come to you in receiving the degree of Ph.D. from Columbia University. We know that this is not simply an honorary degree, but that it has required an infinite amount of hard work for you and that you are deeply deserving of this honor.

The Committee further wished ^{me} to expressed to you its appreciation of the splendid service you have rendered Ginling in years past, and the hope that you have many years of service for the College ahead of you.

You will be interested to know that I had a long letter from Dr. Wu, who will arrive with Miss Spicer and Miss Mac Kenzie, in this country in a few days. Miss MacKenzie is not at all well, and the doctor feels that it is better for her to come home until she completely recovers. Dr. Wu does not at all like the idea of a Fall itinerary and is going out to Banff for the Institute of Pacific Relations meeting, so that her letter pretty much shoots up all the plans made for her by the Committee. I have sent a copy of her letter to me and her letter to Miss Hodge to Miss Hodge, Miss Griest and Mrs. McConnell, so between them I am looking for further instructions.

My personal congratulations to you, and my very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Florence G. Tyler, Secretary
Ginling College Committee

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SUTTON ISLAND
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Thanks - M. E. D.

Aug. 2nd 1933.

Dear Miss Tyler,

I'm afraid I've seemed very unappreciative of your nice note of congratulations and good wishes, but as you know I sandwiched in one evening after another so closely that there was not much leisure for letters until I got up here and since then I have frankly been lazy. My examination went nicely and also the operation, I recovered so quickly that I didn't do half the reading and writing I had planned for my convalescence, but instead got packed and up here three days earlier than I had expected to, so I am having two full weeks in this absolutely perfect spot.

Found one nephew sick and my sister got his germs when he was just the worst of it, so I've been a very useful nurse even though a bit green.

I'm afraid this is not a properly formal letter in response to the Gushing Committee congratulations, but I simply can't be formal in this environment. But I do appreciate all

the nice things they said and am very happy ^[27]
indeed that I am able to return on time
with the degree achieved. I wanted it
much more for giving than for myself for
degrees seem to count for a good deal in
China these days. I'm sorry I've not had a
chance to do many other things that ought to
be included in a Furbough, but this was only
possible by concentrating on the one thing and
I am grateful that everyone has helped to
make this possible. Next time I shall
hope to see more of you and the rest of the
committee.

Sincerely,

AUG 2 1933

Paul M. Chester.



ON BOARD
SS. "GENERAL LEE"
EN ROUTE TO

Shanghai.

Sept. 5, 1933.

Dear Miss Tyler,

We were supposed to get to Shanghai today, but the weather man decreed otherwise. Just after we left the Inland Sea we ran into a typhoon and as our proper course would have taken us right through the middle of it we turned off our course & scuttled into the lee of a Japanese Island for shelter. We anchored there early in the morning & were quite snug in spite of howling wind until the wind suddenly shifted & threatened to blow us onto the rocky shores. The captain said later that he was a little troubled for a few minutes for fear we couldn't get under weigh before we got into trouble, but none of us knew it at the time & we were soon headed into the wind & steamed along very slowly for some time. It cleared in the afternoon & the sea quieted down

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surprisingly fast, though there was enough gorgeous splashing over our bows to keep us standing to watch a good share of the day. Today is peaceful and cool, but alas we are a day late!

Our little boat has been very pleasant - she weathered stormy seas very well in spite of her small size. On the whole we have had a good trip, though the weather has not contributed much to our pleasure.

In Japan we three Ginkigers went overland from Tokyo to Kobe, stopping overnight at Kyoto & had a beautiful time. Edith Haight is a very appreciative newcomer & it added to our fun to have her along. We stayed at a Japanese Inn & certainly got two full days of beautiful sights & new experiences.

What a thoughtful person you were to send us such a nice box. The puzzles have all been put together, I think, but partly one yet remains & the magazines are still finding us & some will probably go with us on the train to Nanking. We have all enjoyed them and also appreciated your nice letters.

My two weeks in Maine plus this trip make me feel as if I had had a long vacation & July seems months ago! We are in fine condition & ready & eager for work. It will be good to be back & they can't get there too soon.

I'm sure the other two (Esther just woke up & says yes indeed!) would like to send greetings to you & add their thanks to mine. I hope this will be a good year for Ginkig on both sides of the world and also for you personally. I'm sorry I have seen so little of you this last year.

Sincerely,

SEP 5 1933

Ruth M. Chester.

Push letter

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院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

February 2, 1934.

Dear Friends:-

I really meant to write a Christmas letter but I was too busy at that time to get it done so I have decided to do a mid-winter vacation letter instead and let you know how things are going with Ginling and with me.

As most of you know I put in a very busy year at home on a so-called furlough, doing my research for my doctorate. It was close work but I managed to finish it in time to have my examination during the summer session. The printing of a little more than thirty pages in Shanghai took at least half as long as it did to do the research, but its done at last and I am greatly relieved to have it finished. Because of that job I did not have time to see many people while I was home and that was disappointing but I got in two good summer visits with my sister and her family in Maine, six weeks the first summer and two the second and saw her a number of times during the year, and lived with my father in New York so I got fairly well acquainted with my family at least. Also I kept very well instead of very heavy work so all told it was a very successful furlough.

Aug. 1933

I came back to China in August with one new and one returning member of our faculty and we had a very enjoyable trip with a very interesting two days ashore in Japan and a tussle with a typhoon to add a little spice to it. We were a day late on account of said typhoon so arrived in Nanking the morning of the day classes began. I had to choose between meeting my first class and eating my first breakfast. I leave you to guess which I did!

Ginling seemed very much the same when I got back to it and I settled down and felt at home right away. This time I found it much easier to adjust to America when I went home and to China when I returned than I have before. It has reminded me of Pres. Burton's definition of an educated person which he gave us when I was in college as one who could make difficult transitions easily, or something to that general effect, and I have concluded that at last I must be "educated".

Two new buildings had grown up in my absence. They were chalked out on the ground when I left and well on toward completion when I returned, though the final finishing has dragged on much longer than we expected. They were supposed to be ready for use in September but now it looks very doubtful if we shall even get in in time for the opening of the second semester next week. Practically everything except light fixtures and testing of the heating system is finished, but light and heat are both rather important for library and music building in mid-winter and we don't dare get books and pianos moved until we are sure we can use them in their new quarters. These two buildings flank the

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entrance to the quadrangle and make it more of a quadrangle than before. They are also of Chinese style and done by the same architect, but are quite a little different from the others. I don't think I like them quite as well as the first group, at least not as well as the "Smith Building" but they are very nice and will of course look better when they have had time to wear off a little of the newness. One of them is to have administration and department offices downstairs and the library upstairs. The library is mostly in green and we think it is going to be very attractive and restful. The present quarters of the library are much too small both for books and for seating space so it will be a great comfort to get where there is plenty of room. The other building is to house the music department, which is one of our specialties, and above that will be the chapel and auditorium. That is quite gaily colored with wooden brackets in the ceiling in Peking style and people differ very much about it. I think I am going to like it but it is hard to tell just how it will look until it is furnished and occupied. Moving these things into the new buildings will free more space in the old ones for class rooms, offices, club rooms and various other purposes, most of which have been badly needing more space.

Meanwhile the Practice School which the education department runs has built the dormitory for which funds were given by Mme. Chiang Kai-shek and Mme. Kung in memory of their mother, and Dr. Reeves has built herself a little house on the hill by the reservoir, so I had quite a lot to see when I got back. In spite of all these buildings we face a problem for dormitory space for next fall and that is one of the things Dr. Wu must try to help solve now she is back.

For Dr. Wu really is back after about seven months absence in America. She went first for the meeting of the International Congress of Women in Chicago in July, then went to the conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations at Banff and finally spent several months traveling for the Interdenominational Missionary Campaign. From all the letters we have had we think she must have seen nearly everyone in America and she certainly has made a most happy impression on all she did see. We are very pleased and proud of her and glad to have so many people know what a fine person she is. But we are mighty glad to have her back just the same. I had some business that gave me an excuse to go to Shanghai in time to meet her boat so I saw her first.

We have had a very good term on the whole. The National Athletic Meet was held in Nanking in October and during that ten days we had to have several holidays and the rest of the time might almost as well have been holiday I think for all the work we got done. But it was an interesting event and quite worth while from the point of view of the right kind of national spirit I think, for students were gathered from all over China and even from some of the Chinese settlements abroad. Some of the events were very good and the crowds were very interesting to watch.

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Except for that we have gone peacefully about our business and such disturbances as there have been have been far enough away not to affect us. We have had over 200 students this term including about thirty in a special two year course in physical education. That is our largest enrolment thus far, and together with the fact that the freshman class seems to be unusually good we feel things are very encouraging.

Christmas was, as usual a very happy and a very busy time. Two weeks of special chapel services helped to make us think more of the real meaning of the day and to be prepared for its message. On Saturday evening we had our college party which this year took the form of a presentation of Christmas customs in different countries. In this sort of international community it is fairly easy to get information about some countries at least and we included Old England, France, Germany and Russia. Some were more elaborate than others, but all were quite enjoyable and one of the nice things about it was that it included so many people. There must have been about 55 students and faculty who actually took part in the plays and a good many others who helped in one way or another. At the end of the evening we were led out and around to the edge of the pond where Merob Mossman was sitting under a little mat shelter, making a lovely tableau of the madonna. It was very impressive as we all stood there singing "Silent Night" and looking out across the pond at the lovely sky with Venus at her best just over the water.

It almost seemed as if we had two Christmases this year for Sunday was full of special services and Monday of other sorts of celebrations. The college and university choir sang selections from the Messiah which though far from perfect were remarkably well done considering the length of time they had to prepare for them. The college Y.M. service in the evening was all music, mostly by the glee club and that was very nice. Of a different sort, but perhaps of even greater interest in some ways were the neighborhood Sunday School and women's meeting in the afternoon and the servants program in the evening. I didn't have time to attend either, but heard they were very much worth going to.

We had our usual Christmas morning breakfast with the students and right after it a goodly number came to the chapel for a half hour of carol singing. That is an old Gilling custom as is the singing of the glee club in the night, which I especially love. The rest of the day was spent in various different ways but all the faculty gathered together for supper and an informal party in the evening. The only flaw in all the Christmas doings was that classes began again the morning after, and one day of holiday always seems rather slim at Christmas.

We were fortunate in having with us over Christmas Miss Muriel Lester of Kingsley Hall, London. She is a very interesting and inspiring person and her visit helped to make the Christmas

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season mean more to us all. She spoke at most of the services and also at an open meeting of the Fellowship of Reconciliation Tuesday night. She was one of the original founders of the F.O.R. and her present work in the East End of London is also very much worth while. It was hard to find time to see and hear her as much as some of us wanted to in the busy days she was here, but she was such a very fitting Christmas guest that I think it made up for that.

I have been interested to see since my return how much more the students as a whole seem to be interested in their neighbors and how much more intelligent and better organized that interest is. We are in what is really a rural community, though technically within the city and the sociology department has made case work in the neighborhood and surveys etc. a very definite part of its work. This seems also to have aroused the interest of others so that a good many are now taking part in the work. One or two students or faculty have a family assigned which they make a special effort to get to know and I have certainly found it a very interesting experience to drop in on "my family" now and then and learn more about their problems. And they certainly have them. This particular family is better off than many around us but I am afraid few of us would think life worth living if we had to do it that way. Out of all this there has grown a desire for a neighborhood house where clubs and classes can be held, some simple handwork taught to the children and women and where a bath house and clinic can be more adequately housed than at present. It will also have a reading room and a small auditorium for lectures, plays etc. One of the seniors who is very much enthused over it has given a very substantial gift to start the fund and they are hoping to raise the rest this spring. It is hoped that the men of the neighborhood will contribute at least enough work to give them some feeling that it is partly their own project.

Vacation is nearly over and I have not begun to do all the things I hoped to. It is ever thus but this time the absolutely essential work has taken longer than I expected so that the odd jobs are mostly still not touched. I hope I shall manage to get this letter really mailed, at least. I am sorry I can't write more personal ones, but hope this will seem better than none. I have had you all individually in my mind as I wrote, and it does bring my sincere good wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

Cluth M. Peiler

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Reith class

Ginling College
Nanking, China.
January 31, 1935.

Dear Friends:-

About a year ago I wrote what I thought was a very poor letter, but evidently I have still some friends who would rather have a poor one than none for they seemed to appreciate it and have made me feel it might be worth while to try again. Some of you have even answered that one with very nice letters which I was very happy to receive. I hope you may do so again this year. I know it would be nicer to write to each of you a personal letter, but I also know that I won't get time for that.

Some of you have had college news letters and know something of our life for the past year. Things have gone on smoothly and uneventfully, for which we are always grateful. As a matter of fact it is quite a long time now since we have had any great military or political excitement in this region and we are getting quite accustomed to living at peace.

During spring vacation last April we organized a trip to Tai Shan and Chufou. It has been done twice before and some of you know of earlier trips. This time over seventy went, mostly students, a few alumnae and quite a few faculty. We had a third class railroad car for our use during the four days of the trip, but there were too many of us to be comfortable in one car. We slept on benches, floor and even on baggage racks and were so crowded that very few got much sleep I think. We left here early one Monday morning and got back Thursday evening so we had three nights on this car. We took most of our food with us but got two or three hot meals along the way. Tuesday morning when we got up our car was at Tai An Fu the station for Tai Shan and after a somewhat hasty breakfast we got into our chairs and started up the mountain. It is one of the five sacred mountains of China and has been a place of worship for some five thousand years or so. The emperor used to make pilgrimages here and Confucius also worshipped on this mountain. Besides all these historical associations it is very beautiful and the view from the top is very fine. It took us until about one o'clock to reach the top and then we ate our lunch and had a couple of hours to look around at the temples and other places of interest before starting down again. That night our car was brought back two or three hours to the Chufou station and the next day we went out from there in "Peking carts" to the village where Confucius was born and where his grave now is and the finest Confucian Temple in China. These old carts are exactly like the ones Confucius himself rode in and they are without doubt the most uncomfortable means of conveyance I have yet tried. They move slowly, fortunately, so I walked all the way out, but coming back it was getting dark and we didn't want to delay them at all or run any risk of getting separated, so we rode. The temple is lovely and there a

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are many interesting relics, more or less genuine and the grave of Confucius is to me very impressive in its simple dignity. This time we went to call at the home of the present "duke" of the house of "ung, a boy of about 14 who is the 72nd or 77th lineal descendent of Confucius. We had to wait quite a long time to see him as his tutor was out and the boy is not allowed to see visitors alone. Eventually he appeared - a very shy and rather unhappy looking child and I felt sorry for him. We had our picture taken with him in the center of the group! Another night and day on the train brought us home again, a somewhat tired but happy crowd. It was a very successful trip and is very much worth doing for the expense is so much less this way that many students can go who could not possibly consider it otherwise.

At commencement time we were given a good deal of "face" by having General Chiang Kai-shek himself come to our Baccalaureate service and make a short talk. We were pleased to have that recognition and also very much pleased at the very outspoken way in which he urged on the seniors the importance of religion and especially of the Christian spirit of service and sacrifice. It was a brief but strong message that left no doubt of his sincerity.

I planned to stay here till toward the end of July as there was a lot of work I wanted to do that I could not take with me. But my plans didn't work out. Just at commencement time the weather turned hot and continued to get hotter and hotter until we broke sixty year records and it was all I could do to endure living at all. The amount of work I got done, beyond that which absolutely had to be done was very little and after three weeks of unbroken heat I withdrew to Kuling about the middle of July. It cooled off the next day! But it soon got hot again and altogether it was a frightful summer. While I was here the official shade temperature was 109.4 one day and 106 on our upstairs porch, and for days it was over 100. The nights were terrible too, so it was a pretty bad business.

Kuling was lovely for vacationers this year because it was such a dry season. All through Central China there was serious drought and there is considerable famine now as the result, and it seemed very queer on Kuling to plan hikes and picnics days ahead and feel sure of good weather. Even on the mountain there was very little rain and it was quite warm, though an enormous relief from the heat of the country below. I sang in the Brahms Requiem which the chorus did this year and enjoyed learning it very much. It is a glorious piece of music but very difficult so we had to put more time on it than I expected and I therefore had to leave out some other things I had intended to do. I did quite a lot of hiking, including my old favorite trip to South Mountain, which I have not been physically able to do for more than ten years. So I felt I

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had really renewed my youth when I achieved that. It took a good bit of puffing to get me up the last long pull to the highest point on the range on a very hot day, but I did get there and suffered no ill-effects afterwards, so "there's life in the old girl yet"

One day at Kuling we had a Ginling party on Mrs. Thurston's porch with about forty people present, alumnae, present and former students, one or two future students and some faculty. It is the largest Kuling group we have had and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

When school opened in September we found ourselves decidedly crowded both in student and faculty residences. The dormitories are full to bursting and we are squeezed pretty tight too. There were 211 students registered which is our largest group so far. By next year we must find a way of enlarging and are hoping to do it by building faculty residences and releasing this house we live in for students. It is planned for a student dormitory and is not satisfactory for faculty, and those of us who have lived here "temporarily" for nearly twelve years will welcome a change. We don't know yet just what we shall get instead, but at least it will be different.

At the time of our usual Founders' Day in November we also had special dedication exercises for our two new buildings - the library and the chapel-music building. We moved into them last spring but didn't officially dedicate them and "open" them till this fall. We are enjoying them very much. The library is especially nice and really makes one want to study. The exercises all went off nicely, the only flaw being a perfectly horrid day for the public exercises and the concert in the evening. Quite a lot of people came in spite of the weather so we didn't suffer too much, but it certainly was messy.

Christmas came along too fast for my procrastinating nature and found me all unprepared with cards or notes or a letter to send as greetings. I managed to get off a few calendars and news letters but some of you were already receiving those from the college or from other people here, so I had nothing for you and didn't get anything off at all. I thought of you all and wished you each a merry Christmas and a happy new year, but gave no tangible evidence of such thought. Please forgive me and accept this as belated proof that I have not really forgotten my friends.

Christmas itself was a very happy occasion. We had special services on Sunday that were very nice and then had our all-college party on Christmas eve. This year a very simple "operetta" using Christmas songs and carols mostly, was given jointly by faculty and students and was very enjoyable. Christmas morning we had breakfast over in the dormitories with the students as we do every Christmas and then followed it with a very informal carol service. Then I went to spend most of the day with some

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friends so I had something of a family atmosphere for a part of the day. In the evening we had some movies here, including the new one my sister had sent of her children. One innovation this year which I highly approve of was a holiday the day after Christmas. We have had only one day for several years and it is no fun at all to begin work again at 7:45 the morning after Christmas.

We had a three day holiday at New Year as that is an official government holiday and then a brief spurt of work and final exams. Now we are having our long vacation between semesters. It is a longer one than usual so nearly every one has gone away and the place seems quite deserted. I had to stay by most of the time on account of some seniors who are working on their theses and need me now and then, and I don't seem to feel in the mood to go to all the bother of going anywhere for a short trip. So I think I shall stay right here, but I am doing various nice things such as: walks both short and long including a trip to see the old stone lions which date from the Liang dynasty about 500 A.D, a delightful week-end with a friend here in Nanking, one movie "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch"!! and have several other things of a similar nature in prospect.

I think I wrote last year about the increasing interest the students are showing in neighborhood social work. The money for a sort of neighborhood house was raised and the house built during the summer, so it is now being used for all kinds of clubs, for Sunday services, for reading room etc. The sociology department uses it somewhat as a laboratory, but there is also quite a lot of purely volunteer work done and we hope it will develop to have a real place in the life of our community, which is actually rural in character though technically in the city. They are hoping soon to raise more money and complete the plan by building a health center, bath house etc.

The government seems to have pretty well cleared out the communists in Kiangsi and I think they are really trying to put through a constructive program of rural reconstruction in that area, which is the only way they can hold it permanently and bring it back to anything like a prosperous condition. Here they are doing a lot of good work in roads, public health etc. and Nanking has changed so fast that we can hardly believe what we see. Buses, movies, foreign tea rooms and restaurants, all kinds of new societies and quantities of foreign style houses, mostly very ugly, are among the most obvious things. It makes me feel as if I had lived a century or two'.

This touches the high spots that come to my mind as I think over the past year. The day by day living is very much the same as always, and while for the most part it is a very happy life, there isn't a great deal to say about it in a letter. This does carry real personal messages to each of you in spite of its form, and I hope will inspire you to respond in some way which will tell me about your affairs.

With all good wishes to you all, Sincerely,

Ruth M. S. [unclear]

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Chester 113

Cinling College
Nanking, China.
January 28, 1936.

Dear Friends:-

Winter vacation is here and therefore the time for my annual letter - which really means to be a semi-annual, but has not so far achieved that.

First I will try to give an account of myself in the year that has passed since my last general letter. Last spring was not especially eventful and I don't seem to remember anything that seems worth writing about after this interval. During the early spring in particular we were all quite interested in the excavating that was going on about us in connection with some of the new road building. Nanking is in a perfect fever of road building and many of the new roads have involved an enormous amount of cutting through hills. In one place not far from us they cut away quite a portion of a hill to a depth of something like 70 feet - all done by men with picks and shovels and little baskets they carried off and dumped into the ponds and valleys they were filling in. In that particular spot they uncovered quite a number of rather interesting old bits of bronze and pottery and it got to be quite a game to walk over there and see what you could buy. At first they were very cheap and then as the workmen began to see that for some unknown reason foreigners seemed to want these things, even when broken, gradually the prices rose until they were trying to hold some of their treasures for outlandish prices. But we got quite a number of interesting things and I am the proud possessor of a vase about 15" high, rather coarse stoneware which is probably more than a thousand years old! I also collected quite a lot of broken bits which still clutter my room and the attic, since I don't even know enough about them to decide which ones are worth keeping, much less to classify them properly. Nothing very interesting seems to be turning up this year, and I have not learned enough to make use of what I have so my hobby is resting for the present, but might revive again if it had any encouragement.

I left here the end of the first week in July and went to Shanghai. I have never dreamed of spending a summer there, but when I was there in April, working a day or two in the library of the Lester Institute of Medical Research I had the bright idea of asking whether I could work there for a month or so in the summer. They were very cordial and having found a friend or two to join me and a free apartment to live in I decided to do it. I spent nearly a month there working part of the time in the library and then doing a little exploratory laboratory work on a problem I thought I might want to go on with later with some of my students. The contacts were very worth while and the work itself was also a help to me in a number of ways, though I have not yet used it directly. The only drawback was the hot weather and by the end of July I felt I had had a plenty of both heat and work and early in August I was glad to escape to the grandest vacation spot you can imagine.

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Originally we thought we should have other company, but as it finally worked out Kathleen Bond and I left Shanghai alone for a real adventure. We spent a night in Hangchow and then the next morning took a bus through lovely country for about three hours and a half and then took chairs for a similar length of time up a beautiful mountain road to an old Buddhist Monastery about 1500 feet up. We had written ahead that we wanted to stay there so they were expecting us though the letter telling the exact day of our arrival did not arrive until after we reached there. We learned later that this was so secluded a retreat that mail from Shanghai might take anywhere from two days to nearly two weeks. They evidently saved it up till they had enough to make the journey worth while. We were received with a most cordial welcome and settled ourselves in one of their guest courts for the most absolutely restful two weeks I can ever remember. We were the only foreigners and the only women for miles and were treated like royal guests. They assigned one servant to look after us and he made a full time job of it. He brought us all our food and hot water etc., swept our rooms, slept just across the hall from us so he could look after us nights as well as days and then went with us on all our walks and acted as both guide and carrier. He was a very nice man forunately, since he was to be our constant companion and he certainly took good care of us. The abbot was most friendly and came to call on us at least once a day and seemed to enjoy us as much as we did him. It was very tantalizing to be unable to talk with him as we wanted to do. I could understand only a small part of what he said and could say still less in return so we missed a lot of what would have been a most interesting series of conversations, I am sure. If I ever go back there as I hope to do sometime I want to have someone with me whose Chinese is good enough to talk with him more for he seemed a very able and interesting man. The first part of the time we were there I was not very well and it rained and we both were tired, so we sat or lay on our cots on the little balcony outside our room and read aloud, sewed or knitted, or wrote letters. Then when weather and ~~our~~ health permitted we had some glorious walks, including one to the top point in the mountain, about 4500 ft up I think. The view from there was marvelous and all the scenery everywhere we went was beautiful - bamboo and cryptomeria, some of the latter very old and very large, an exquisite water falls right near the temple and many other sights I still love to recall. The food was all vegetarian and of course Chinese, but there was a surprising amount of variety and it was very nicely flavored so that we continued to enjoy it right to the end. We supplemented some with things we had brought, fruit milk and coffee etc. but could have got on very well with less than we took. Next time I go I want to stay longer.

Ginling opened in September with a record enrollment - decidedly more than we have dormitory space for as a matter of fact, but apparently a period of overcrowding is the only effective argument for procuring money for dormitories. We have 238 in the college of whom about 15 are in a special 2 year course in Physical Education. Usually we drop a little the second term, but it looks as if we should not do so this time as there are more applications for transfers than is usual in the middle of the year, due to disturbed conditions in the north. Schools there have lost quite a lot of time on account of student strikes in protest against the "autonomy" movement and there has been much unrest everywhere. Some schools in Nanking have lost a little time but we have suffered almost none.

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Our students have kept their heads and stayed at work though there have been times when feelings were pretty much stirred and they were certainly not able to give their full attention to their studies. They were not in the mood for festivities, so most of that part of Christmas was omitted, but we had the usual services and the play which help us to feel the meaning of the day. Dr. Wu is wonderful in her ability to see ahead and meet the crisis before it arises and in guiding the students so that their justifiable feelings find some constructive outlet. It has been a hard time for her, but her work has helped enormously.

It is hard to know how to write about the political and international situation in general. It is very distressing and one cannot but have a good deal of sympathy with the students, especially in the north, who feel it their duty to protest and try to force their government to resist. They don't know what they are asking and I am afraid many of them would not be ready to pay their share of the cost of such action if it were possible, but still they are partly right. Up to a point I presume their agitations may strengthen the government a bit, in that they prove that there is public opinion against the "autonomous" movements. But when they interrupt traffic and cause serious policing problems, break up schools, etc. then they become one more source of worry to a government that already has more than enough. I hope the long vacation and the interviews that General Chiang has given to student representatives will quiet them and that academic work can go on normally next term. But what lies ahead no one can see, except that the fundamental problems have certainly not been solved.

Ginling had a "big birthday" as the Chinese say, this year. The 20th anniversary was celebrated with great enthusiasm and we were especially glad to have such a large number of alumnae back. I suppose it is natural that the older ones most appreciate such a birthday and it seemed especially fitting that four of the five who graduated in the first class, were here to celebrate with us. The other one is ill and could not possibly come. It was also the occasion for the celebration of Mrs. Thurston's 60th birthday. The birthday was in May but this time was chosen since there would be so many alumnae here that could not have come in May. That was a very happy time and the alumnae and faculty presented a fund to the college for scholarships, to be given in her name. All who have any interest in Ginling may well be proud of her history and we all look forward to still better things in the future.

I am enjoying my work very much. Chemistry is quite popular these days, so I am having larger and therefore more interesting classes than I used to do. Also all our seniors have to write a thesis as a part of their graduation requirement and that means that with my senior majors each year I have a chance at individual work on simple research problems. It is difficult to supervise this adequately, especially when time is so limited, but it is very interesting. Students are better prepared in science now than they used to be so we can do more with them in college. At present I have 21 chemistry majors in the three upper classes, though some of the sophomores will probably not see it through, judging from present indications.

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Nanking is a busier place socially than you would imagine, and much more so than it used to be in the old days. The woman's club is quite an active international organization, with different sections following different lines of interest. This year I am attending the Social Service Section, the Dramatics Section and the Music Section and there are still others I should like to join if I had time. These with occasional concerts, chorus rehearsals, etc. etc. mean that a good many evenings are taken, and some of the rest have to be used for work, so I find very little time for reading and letter writing. But I suppose that problem is even worse in America than here, so I probably cannot get much sympathy from you all.

I have written what I intended to be a supplement to this letter for the people who have been in Nanking, but now that I read it over I think I will include it for you all. Those of you who have not been here will not understand all of the references to places but perhaps it will give a little picture of what Nanking is like. If it doesn't interest you, skip it! Some of you have been gone only a few months and will already know most of this, but even for you there are some new things. I think so often of people who used to be here, especially when I do some of the things that are so different from the old days, and I would like to try to give you a little picture of the new Nanking.

First roads: Good new motor roads full of buses and taxis and private cars (carriages still exist but are rare, rickshas still common) many of which roads make traveling much simpler and shorten our distances greatly. For example a one dollar taxi fare will now take five or six of us to Ming Deh by a new road that cuts across on a diagonal, in somewhere between five and ten minutes, nearer five I should think. Even a ricksha can do it in less than 15. The other end of the same road takes us to HsiaKwan without going up past the University and the Drum Tower, so we can get to the station easily in 15 minutes. Saturday I was at the Thomson's and we took a car down to Fu Dz Miao to see the New Year festivities and the gorgeous paper lanterns on sale. We parked the car for quite a while and walked around through the lantern market, bought several and stayed as long as we wanted to stay and were back home just an hour from the time we started. But there's more to say about roads for we live in a network of unfinished ones, which were cut last summer and then left without further treatment. They have been a sea of mud most of the time so we have not always felt impressed with the advantages of progress when we wanted to go in some of the directions which these new roads will eventually take us. Also one of the new and still unfinished ones cut a good sized slice off our north border, taking most of Minnie's garden and the persimmon orchard and the hill on which the building stood which some of you know as the building superintendents residence, some of you would call the practice school dormitory and more recent generations would know as the infirmary. Anyway it is gone, pulled down last week and the ground on which it stood has already been graded down several feet. The whole section to the north of us which is to be the fourth residential district has been graded over so that all the top soil and trees where there were any, have been removed. This goes clear over to the first residential district already built up and that nice grove of trees on the hill just this side of that district is entirely gone. That seems such a pity, but I am comforted to see

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that they are not, apparently, going to level it all to one level, but are leaving rolling hills, only grading enough to make usable building lots. The little old road that ~~xxx~~ used to go past our gate and up the hill along our north border, now ends abruptly in a smooth graded hillside, and all the little houses and the little old temple etc. are gone. Very soon I suppose building will begin and before long we shall find a fairly congested residence district right on the edge of us, and even on what really was a part of us a year ago. Fortunately we know a good many of the people who are to live over here and know we shall have nice neighbors, but we would rather have them a little farther away.

Besides roads we have several movies, including two with good talkie equipment and we are getting quite a lot of good pictures. Some of the ones that have been here in the last few months are David Copperfield, One Night of Love, Naughty Marietta, Private Worlds, Midsummer Night's Dream. I am not much of a movie fan so I can only tell of a few that interested me but it gives you some idea of our opportunities in that line. For some of you old timers I might say that one of these movie theaters is within two or three minutes walk of our Presbyterian Hubugai compound and I always feel like Rio via Winkle when I go from one to the other. We also have several good tea rooms, restaurants and bakeries (foreign) the latest addition to this list being a Kiesseling branch. So that offers more ways of spending money if you have it to spend, and chocolates and pastries etc. are no longer a treat from Shanghai. Small department stores have many more kinds of things than formerly, so that there are not many things you have to go to Shanghai for now. There is a Czecho-Slovakian shoe store here now, several nice florist shops, quite a few automobile sales rooms (which I have not personally patronised) and dozens of other kinds of business that would have been unthinkable in Nanking ten years ago. We can go to Huhu by bus or train in about three hours, to Hangchow by bus in about 8 hours and to many other places by bus or motor (if you have the motor or the cash to rent one). The best trains to Shanghai now take about 5 1/2 hours and there are second class sleepers on the night train.

Out at Spirit Valley they have developed a Memorial Cemetery for revolutionary heroes, a part of which was planned by Mr. Murphy. He restored the old "Blossomless hall" and it is very lovely. He has also built a handsome palace and a very lovely sort of memorial hall in good Chinese style. A little up and back of the old temple, which is still there, is Tan Yen Kai's tomb which is very lovely. There is a little gem of a memorial hall, a small Chinese garden and the tomb itself which is very simple and impressive. They have brought down old marbles and bronzes from Paiping and also made new ones in similar style and the whole thing is a joy to see because it is new and well kept and still has the beauty of the old Chinese art and architecture. I get thrilled every time I go out there and I wish I could take you all to see it.

The Central Hospital run by the government is a fine big institution doing excellent work and the National Health Administration just behind it ~~xxx~~ is carrying on various kinds of research and also making materials for public health education etc. They are getting well started on city clinics and a child health program, have wide spread

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vaccination campaigns and are also beginning rural work in centers outside Nanking. The health department is certainly making great strides and the enthusiasm of their workers is fine to see.

Well I am sure there is much more that might be said and probably you are all full of questions by this time, but I can't go on forever, and this letter has already over-run the five pages I thought of as a minimum. We are living in a very different city from that of a very few years ago, in fact the changes just since last year are amazing. It is hard to keep up with it and it makes one a bit dizzy at times. There are some ways of course in which we foreigners in particular miss some of the flavor of the old Nanking and yet nearly all of these changes, even those that are not in themselves important, or perhaps even desirable, are natural accompaniments of the fundamental improvements that anyone who really loves China can only rejoice to see. I think there can hardly be a more interesting city in the world to live in than Nanking at the present time, and I am not above admitting that I rather enjoy knowing these various modern "conveniences" are available even though I don't use them very often. A walk down the sidewalk of Chung Shan Rd. and a stop at the Rose Marie or the Astor for tea is almost as good as a trip to Shanghai and very much cheaper. I do these things very little, but get quite a kick out of it when I do. At present we still have lots of lovely unchanged country and plenty of interesting unchanged city, so we have most of the advantages of both the old and the new. This is an all too inadequate account of Nanking and the only way you can really understand it is to come and see for yourselves.

I have appreciated so much the letters some of you have written in answer to mine of a year ago. I didn't feel very sure it was worth doing until I began to get such nice replies and then I decided it surely is. I wish I could write to each of you, but I never could stand the boredom of rewriting things so many times, even if I had the time, and this is really much more personal than you might think, for as I have been writing one after another of you has come into my mind and I have felt I was writing to you. I like writing it soon after Christmas for then it seems like a chance to answer the many greetings and notes and letters that came then.

I am keeping very well and am sure that no one who has known me only in recent years can find it easy to believe I was ever anything but husky. I hope this also finds you well and happy.

With my love and best wishes to you, one and all,

Sincerely,

Paul M. Chester

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Excerpts, i. duplicates -
earlier letters

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EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS FROM GINLING COLLEGE

(Abbreviated Version)

I. Letter from Miss Ruth M. Chester, January 28, 1936

"During the early spring in particular we were all quite interested in the excavating that was going on about us in connection with some of the new road building. Nanking is in a perfect fever of road building and many of the new roads have involved an enormous amount of cutting through hills. In one place not far from us they cut away quite a portion of a hill to a depth of something like 70 feet - all done by men with picks and shovels and little baskets they carried off and dumped into the ponds and valleys they were filling in. In that particular spot they uncovered quite a number of rather interesting old bits of bronze and pottery and it got to be quite a game to walk over there and see what you could buy. At first they were very cheap and then as the workmen began to see that for some unknown reason foreigners seemed to want these things, even when broken, gradually the prices rose until they were trying to hold some of their treasures for outlandish prices. But we got quite a number of interesting things and I am the proud possessor of a vase about 15" high, rather coarse stoneware which is probably more than a thousand years old.

"Ginling opened in September with a record enrollment - decidedly more than we have dormitory space for as a matter of fact, but apparently a period of overcrowding is the only effective argument for procuring money for dormitories. We have 238 in the college of whom about fifteen are in a special two year course in Physical Education. Usually we drop a little in the second term, but it looks as if we should not do so this time as there are more applications for transfers than is usual in the middle of the year, due to disturbed conditions in the north. Schools there have lost quite a lot of time on account of student strikes in protest against the 'autonomy' movement and there has been much unrest everywhere. Some schools in Nanking have lost a little time but we have suffered almost none.... Dr. Wu is wonderful in her ability to see ahead and meet the crisis before it arises and in guiding the students so that their justifiable feelings find some constructive outlet.

"It is hard to know how to write about the political and international situation in general. It is very distressing and one cannot but have a good deal of sympathy with the students, especially in the north, who feel it their duty to protest and try to force their government to resist. They don't know what they are asking and I am afraid many of them would not be ready to pay their share of the cost of such action if it were possible, but still they are partly right. Up to a point I presume their agitations may strengthen the government a bit, in that they prove that there is public opinion against the 'autonomy' movements. But when they interrupt traffic and cause serious policing problems, break up schools, etc. then they become one more source of worry to a government that already has more than enough. I hope the long vacation and the interviews that General Chiang has given to student representatives will quiet them and that academic work can go on normally next term. But what lies ahead no one can see, except that the fundamental problems have certainly not been solved.

"Ginling had a 'big birthday' as the Chinese say, this year. The twentieth anniversary was celebrated with great enthusiasm and we were especially glad to have such a large number of alumnae back. I suppose it is natural that the older ones most appreciated such a birthday and it seemed especially fitting that four of the five who graduated in the first class were here to celebrate with us. The other one is ill and could not possibly come. It was also the

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occasion for the celebration of Mrs. Thurston's sixtieth birthday. The birthday was in May but this time was chosen since there would be so many alumnae here that could not have come in May. That was a very happy time and the alumnae and faculty presented a fund to the college for scholarships, to be given in her name. All who have any interest in Ginling may well be proud of her history and we all look forward to still better things in the future.

"I am enjoying my work very much. Chemistry is quite popular these days, so I am having larger and therefore more interesting classes than I used to do. Also all our seniors have to write a thesis as a part of their graduation requirement and that means that with my senior majors each year I have a chance at individual work on simple research problems. It is difficult to supervise this adequately, especially when time is so limited, but it is very interesting. Students are better prepared in science now than they used to be so we can do more with them in college. At present I have twenty-one chemistry majors in the three upper classes, though some of the sophomores will probably not see it through, judging from present indications.

"I would like to give you a little picture of the new Nanking. First, Roads: Good new motor roads full of buses and taxis and private cars (carriages still exist but are rare, rickshas still common) many of which roads make traveling much simpler and shorten our distances greatly. For example a one dollar taxi fare will now take five or six of us to Ming Deh by a new road that cuts across on a diagonal, in somewhere between five and ten minutes - nearer five I should think. Even a ricksha can do it in less than fifteen. The other end of the same road takes us to Ksia Kwan without going up past the University and the Drum Tower, so we can get to the station easily in fifteen minutes. Saturday I was at the Thomson's and we took a car down to Fu Dz Miao to see the New Year festivities and the gorgeous paper lanterns on sale. We parked the car for quite a while and walked around through the lantern market, bought several and stayed as long as we wanted to say and were back home just an hour from the time we departed. But there's more to say about roads for we live in a network of unfinished ones, which were cut last summer and then left without further treatment. They have been a sea of mud most of the time so we have not always felt impressed with the advantage of progress when we wanted to go in some of the directions which these new roads will eventually take us. Also one of the new and still unfinished ones cut a good sized slice off our north border, taking most of Minnie's garden and the persimmon orchard and the hill on which the building stood which some of you know as the building superintendent's residence, some of you would call the practice school dormitory, and more recent generations would know as the infirmary. Anyway it is gone, pulled down last week and the ground on which it stood has already been graded down several feet. The whole section to the north of us which is to be the fourth residential district has been graded over so that all the top soil and trees, where there were any, have been removed. This goes clear over to the first residential district already built up and that nice grove of trees on the hill just this side of that district is entirely gone. That seems such a pity, but I am comforted to see that they are not, apparently, going to level it all to one level, but are leaving rolling hills, only grading enough to make usable building lots. The little old road that used to go past our gate and up the hill along our north border, now ends abruptly in a smooth graded hillside, and all the little houses and the little old temple, etc. are gone. Very soon I suppose building will begin and before long we shall find a fairly congested residence district right on the edge of us, and even what really was a part of us a year ago. Fortunately we know a good many of the people who are to live over there and know we shall have nice neighbors, but we would rather have them a little farther away.

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"Besides roads we have several movies, including two with good talkie equipment and we are getting quite a lot of good pictures. Some of the ones that have been here in the last few months are 'David Copperfield,' 'One Night of Love,' 'Naughty Marietta,' 'Private Worlds,' and 'Midsummer Night's Dream.'"

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