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Extracts from a letter from Ruth Chester to Mrs. Thurston

Tsingtao,
July 6, 1937

The dance drama, whose program I think I sent you, was very good and everyone enjoyed it. The ministry of education sent over to take some movies of it in the morning, intending to take just a few scenes, but liked it so well they sent back for more films and took the whole thing. I have not seen it yet and don't know how well they turned out, but at least they liked what we were doing.

Three seniors were baptized just before the end of the term: Sie Yün-ying, Lillian Yang and Ho Yü-djen at an early morning service in the South Studio. Li Tien-lu officiated. Lillian concentrated several important events in her life within two or three weeks, for she was married at the International Club just two days after commencement. It was a very pretty wedding, entirely Christian ceremony and very brief. Most of the seniors stayed for it and a double line of them as bridesmaids in their senior green dresses carried a daisy chain to make an aisle for the bride. Li Wen-ling was also married last week. She, by the way, didn't graduate as she failed in her comprehensive exam. So far there have been no serious repercussions, though evidently there are those who feel it is due to prejudice and unfair treatment. Wen-ling herself seems to have taken it in very good part and has been just as friendly as ever to Catherine and Stella. She probably blames it mostly on Mabel Rhead, though that is not really fair. Anyway Catherine played for her wedding and she gave C. a new dress for the occasion and gave Stella a nice parting gift, etc. So there are no hard feelings on her part at least. What her father thinks about it is another matter.

We are to have a new person in the Chem. dept. next year - a St. Johns man with a year or two in U.S. He sounds pretty good but I haven't seen him yet. He is younger and less experienced than I wish he were, for I am hoping he will stay on and take charge of the dept when I go home next year, but he was better than anyone else in sight so we shall just try him and see. So there will be four of us and I hope for time to get everything in good shape before I go. Horton has agreed to full time work "with reservations" and I hope I can really do a moderate full time job. Wu Mou-i has gone to Wuhu University for part time teaching and part time research. She will come back to us eventually, but felt very strongly she wanted to have a little broader experience first.

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J. HORTON DANIELS, M. D.

~~UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL~~
~~NANKING, CHINA~~

3616 Park Ave.,
Minneapolis,
Minnesota.

Sept 20, 1937

Miss Rebecca Greist
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Miss Greist,

Concerning Miss Ruth Chester
I am more than willing to give medical
approval for the action you have proposed
in your letter of Sept 15th. Although I
had hoped she would be equal to carrying
full time work this fall, the final judge-
ment was to be left to the doctors there-
aw the field (Dr. C.S. Trimmer, I believe).

However, under the present conditions
my personal inclination would be to increase
the pressure from permission to urge even if they
are planning to open classes; and from urge to
strongly urge if the school is not opening.

Miss Chester is an exceedingly valuable person
for Nanking and it is easily possible that ante-
dating her furlough at this time would be just
the thing needed to guarantee her future services
in the difficult days ahead.

Cordially yours

J. Horton Daniels, M.D.

1066

September 23, 1937

Dear Doctor Daniels:

Thank you so much for your letter about Ruth Chester. That is exactly what we wanted--your real opinion on the subject--and we plan to act accordingly. I didn't like to go ahead without knowing what your judgement was, and it substantiates my own feeling. The developments in the last few days make it appear out of the question for Ginling to think of opening, and I feel strongly that the best thing for Ruth would be to come home immediately.

We have had no recent news from Nanking except what everyone has from newspapers and radio reports. Elsie Priest wrote on August 21st that Misses Hynds, Bauer, Anderson and Priest, and Messrs. Thomson, Buck, Willson and Brady were on the Nanking campus. Catherine Sutherland, Minnie Vautrin, Dr. Wu, and eight other Chinese staff and seven students were at Ginling the last we heard.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. J. Horton Daniels
3616 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Ruth Chester
57

99A Jessfield Rd.
September 29, 1937

Dear Dr. Wu and Minnie:-

I will write this to both of you as I know you will both want to hear everything, but I will try to group my questions somewhat so you can each answer the ones that are in your line.

Florence has written you something of what we have been doing since we got here. Considering that we have had practically only two days I think we have done quite a lot and on the whole I should say the prospects are very encouraging. Both institutions seem anxious to do all they can to help us. There will not be time to write you in as much detail as I should like, but here are a few of the high spots of things arranged so far. First we are to have at least temporarily a camping place with the Y.W.C.A. at 999 Bubbling Well, so continue to send business mail there, and personal also until further notice. They are very crowded and for a few days can only give us the use of their tea room, but hope to do better later. It seemed better to take that than a better room at the American School since the latter is much less accessible to students. I plan to be there Friday Saturday Monday and Tuesday from 10-12 and 3-5 and after Tuesday the 5th I shall continue to keep the morning hours at least through next week. Later office hours will depend on how much there seems to be to do. Classes ~~at~~ ^{for the} U. of S. begin Monday the 4th so there will be quite a lot right now.

University of Shanghai and St. Johns University

I have arranged with both institutions that I do the registering of our students and then turn in the card to them. I think I shall also work out some sort of form to keep myself but haven't had time to do it yet. One difficult problem is that St. Johns haven't their course list ready yet and the girls find it hard to decide where to go until they know what both have to offer. I am going to by tomorrow to see if there is some way of holding off final decision until they can get this information. U. of S. will take any number of the three upper classes, but no freshmen. St. Johns will also accept freshmen and three were there today. I have explained that I cannot register any freshmen until I have work form you as I have no way at all of knowing their standing or whether they are bona fide students. The three who were there today are Chen Siang-hu from some school here in Shanghai that I don't recognize, Ouyang Wen-hsia and Koh Shou-dhan. The two latter did not speak to me but just put their names on the list, but as we do not think they are old students we assume they are freshmen. Will you please look up their entrance standing and let me know whether you approve registering them at St. Johns. I should think we ought not to allow any very doubtful ones to go there but if they seem quite good we ought to try to hold them if we can. Then as soon as you can if you could give me a list of freshmen from this area who are good enough to be permitted to do this it would save having to write about others that may turn up later. You had better put in the school also to help in cases of doubtful identity. We have here also 7 entrance tests written in August. I have arranged to have them scored here and will sent you results shortly. I will also send the tests if I find a chance that seems safe and then you can check them if you want to and let me know who passes. Also at the same time be sure to send the addresses of these 7 girls so I can notify them. We do not have their addresses so far as I can make out.

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University
Shanghai
 U. of S. will accept students up till the end of next week. St. Johns will register on 15th and 16th and classes begin the 18th. That means there is time for girls to come from other places if there are any near enough who want to brave the perils of the trip. If you can send out a letter to those in Hangchow and other nearby places telling briefly what we are doing I think it would be fine. If they hesitate because they have no place to live I think that can be handled through a student relief committee that is going to try to make provision for such cases. It would undertake to see that they are met at the station if any of them want it and would let me know beforehand. That might encourage parents to let them come.

I think some feel St. Johns tuition is pretty high. it is \$75 plus \$5 for extra expenses this term. That brought to my mind a question in regard to scholarships. Is our scholarship money a separate fund that is still available in spite of our budget or not? If it is are there any girls in this Shanghai group who are due to receive them? If so let me know. Also about loan fund. If there is anything either for loan or scholarship available but not yet assigned let me know that too and I will refer to you any cases that seem worthy of consideration. I can't make any decisions as I have no records and wouldn't know whether they should have them or not.

Hu Shih-tsang is going to investigate informally through Ling Bao-keng whether there is any prospect of our music majors getting some work at the conservatory and I'll report on that later. At least three are here. Also P.E. I must take up with Li-ming as soon as I can get in touch with her. Dju En-djen could at least do her thesis and perhaps some theory work. Science labs are so far impossible. Neither institution sees any prospect of lab work at present.

Florence mentions what I think may be a problem ahead and that is the provision of a place for study. I wish you would let me know whether you feel it possible to incur any expense for that purpose and if so how much. Perhaps a lump sum for general running expenses here to be used for whatever ~~seems~~ ^{seems} most urgent is the best way to get at it. I think the Y.W.C. will charge us very little if anything so that so far we are not spending anything much. I shall have to get a few office supplies; Mrs. New's paper won't hold out indefinitely. But I don't think anything much will be needed. If any of our faculty do teaching for our students including thesis work, small advanced ~~xxxx~~ classes etc. What about fees? It probable will be possible to make use of class rooms in one or both institutions if we can schedule our work when they are free, but if we do teaching they ought to pay us fees, ~~xxxxxxx~~ I should think, though it will be hard to work that out without increasing the expense too much for some of them. I am hoping to make arrangements for partial fees for partial registrations at both universities but am not sure yet whether it will go ~~xx~~ through or not. I think there are likely to be some who will want some courses in each place and as one has all classes in the morning and the other in the afternoon there would be no schedule complications at all. Tell me what you think about fees for any courses we teach. Also what faculty here do we have the right to call on. Hu Shih-tsang, Hwang Li-ming I feel fairly sure of but do not know about Grace Zia Dju or Lan Chuen-bih. What was decided about Mr. Sung? Are there any others?

But I must tell you first that I have a niece! Barbara Anne and mother fine was the message I received yesterday and I am so thrilled about it especially since I haven't heard a word from Florence since a letter written before the middle of June.

More anon and meantime my love, Ruth

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THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
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 LC = Deferred Cable
 NLT = Cable Night Letter
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Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City

NAV24 26 DL=PHILADELPHIA PENN 30 1031A

1937 SEP 30 AM 11 28

REBECCA GRIEST=

150 FIFTH AVE=

HEARTILY AGREE RUTH CHESTER SHOULD RETURN STOP LET US KNOW IF WE COULD HELP STOP RECEIVED CABLE FROM HER TODAY INDICATING SHE IS TEACHING IN SHANGHAI=

REV W B STIMSON.

Stimson - 3914 Locust St

NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE IS MADE FOR REQUESTING A REPLY BY WESTERN UNION

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October 1, 1937

NLT
RUTH CHESTER
LINK SHANGHAI (China)

GINLING FOUNDERS CABLED WU URGING YOUR FURLOUGH NOW. DANIELS STIMSONS ALSO
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Ruth Chester

150 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
October 11, 1937

My dear Miss MacWhinney:

Thank you for letting us see the letter from Mr. Stimson, which we are returning to you. I wish the Presbyterian Board might be able either to use Miss Chester while she is at home, or to suggest some opening for her.

For your information I will tell you what the situation is as far as we know it. Miss Chester's furlough is due next summer, and she spent this summer at Tsingtao, expecting to resume her work at Ginling this fall. Although, as Mr. Stimson says, her health had not been first class, Dr. Daniels, her physician, had hoped that she could carry a full-time schedule this year. When it became apparent that work at Ginling would be much curtailed even if they were able to open, the Board upon the recommendation of Dr. Daniels, cabled both Dr. Wu and Miss Chester, urging that she take her furlough this year, in order to put herself into good shape for next year. So far we have had no reply to either cable, and the cable which we have received through the state department, and one which Mr. and Mrs. Stimson received from Miss Chester indicate that they are opening a unit of Ginling College in Shanghai and that Miss Chester is teaching in it. We still hope that she will come home this year, but are unable to say more than that. We shall let you know of any word we receive.

Sincerely yours,

RWG:CS

Mrs. R. W. MacWhinney
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

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Letter from Ruth Chester to Mrs. Thurston

321 Avenue Petain, Shanghai
October 23, 1937

It is four weeks ago when we were madly packing to catch the boat from Tsingtao and I am ashamed to say that I haven't written you at all in that time. My excuse is simply that so much time and energy has been used in doing the things you want to hear about that there has been none left to tell about them. I have kept copies of some of the letters that were sent to Nanking and they will give you some picture of how things are going. I intended to send them off to you much sooner but wanted to write a little to go with them.

We got here the afternoon of September 27th and that was just in the nick of time. We saw Mrs. New that afternoon and the next morning mailed notices to over 30 students for a meeting for the afternoon of the 29th. The alumnae also advertised it in the papers and we had about 40 students and a number of alumnae there which we thought very encouraging for such a hastily called meeting. That was Wednesday and University of Shanghai registered Friday and Saturday so there was not any more than enough time to see all the necessary people, get an office set up, and be ready for registrations Friday morning. But we did, and then had a little time to catch breath before the St. Johns registrations came along. We now have 48 registered at the two places, but two of those I think are going to drop out and not study for family reasons. About two thirds of them are at St. Johns. They are having their work in the big Continental Emporium on Nanking Road, where I did refugee work in 1932--quite a change from their own campus. I am planning to go out to the regular campus for work with my three thesis students as they have allowed us to use the biochemistry lab in the medical school building which is the old science building. The new building and most of the equipment is on the other side of the creek and might about as well be on the other side of the world. The bridge is destroyed and barbed wire all over the banks so crossing is very difficult even when they get permission to do so which is not often. Both St. Johns and the University of Shanghai are terribly crowded and working under great difficulties, but doing what they can.

Your good letter came sometime last week and I surely did enjoy it. It seemed such a terribly long time since I had heard anything. I knew just how you would be thinking and feeling and longing for news for I even felt much of that in Tsingtao. That is one advantage in living in Shanghai, you know everything that happens and a good deal that doesn't happen as well. On the whole I think though the news in the North China Daily News has been very good. Of course they print official pronouncements from both sides and those have to be taken with plenty of salt, but the Reuter and other such reports do seem to be quite accurate as far as one can judge. I suppose it is rather unusual in that the reporters of foreign papers are outsiders and having no particular axe to grind the reports are as near the truth as it is humanly possible to get. Especially in the Shanghai arena that is true. It is harder to get at the facts of the situation in the north for reports there are very conflicting and I think there are not so many foreign reporters in touch directly with that situation. My impression is that the Central News reports on the whole are fairly reliable, considering that it is a war situation and very much nearer the truth than Domei, which seems definitely to be a propaganda agency rather than a news one. But much of it is too wild to be good propaganda even. The tragic thing is the complete ignorance and misunderstanding of their own citizens, who would never be giving it the amount support they are doing if they had a fair chance to know what it is really all about.

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OCT 23 1937

Life in Shanghai is a good deal like what it was in '32 except that it is all more serious than it was then in every way. While in general life in the concessions is fairly normal and reasonably safe, it cannot be said to be absolutely safe anywhere for shells do fall occasionally in widely scattered and unpredictable areas. I think where we are living, two or three blocks beyond the American School, is about as safe a place as there is, but last week in the middle of the night an antiaircraft shell came through the roof, three floors and went two feet into the ground in the house next door to the Dunlaps on Route Dufour! It was an 8 inch shell, but fortunately didn't explode and didn't hit anyone on the way down, though it missed the baby's crib by ten centimeters, I am told. They are the things that fly most wild, for they have tremendous power and are aimed high in the air and then come down wherever they happen to. I am glad I saw a few of these aerial demonstrations when I first came and didn't realize the danger, for it is a sight worth seeing. Now we don't seek the rooftops when we hear antiaircraft guns going off. The Chinese are not using them much here and the Japanese are. The result is a curious division of labor by which Japanese bomb all day to their hearts content and you are pretty safe anywhere except the northern areas near the creek. Then after dark they go home to rest and the Chinese planes take advantage of the cover of night to get their licks in and then is when the antiaircraft guns boom forth. There is one story around, which was said to have been confirmed by foreign observers, but I don't vouch for its truth, but it's a good story anyway. One night at dusk a lone Chinese plane was starting out to pester the Japanese a bit and noticed a little way ahead of him a group of a half dozen or so Japanese planes returning to their airfield for the night. They had their lights on so their antiaircraft gunners would recognize them and not trouble them. So the Chinese aviator turned on his lights and joined the rear of their procession. When they got to the field they circled around and one by one landed. He circled lower and lower too, but when the last of them was down and he was quite low over them he dropped a couple of bombs in their midst and shot away before they quite knew what had happened!

Later - Monday morning

Yesterday and last night were bad ones with a lot of bombing and heavy fighting, including the machine gunning of a British post out near the Columbia Country Club--an utterly inexcusable performance as there were no Chinese soldiers or military establishments anywhere near and they flew so low the foreigners along the road could see the pilot. One British Tommy was killed and a number of foreign civilians had very narrow escapes, one man having his horse killed under him! I was in Jessfield Park at the time and was watching them as they dived down and knew they were machine-gunning somebody, but didn't know who the victims were. If it didn't seem unthinkable it would look as if they were trying to involve the British. Probably they have just been very careless in the instructions given to their airpilots who haven't much sense and therefore don't use it.

Our little apartment is very attractive and comfortable and we are very glad we had the good luck to find it. It is very tastefully furnished by a woman whom many of our friends know and I think we got it very reasonably as prices go in Shanghai. Lillian Kirk has moved over to the Country Hospital as she is nursing there so Florence and I have room enough to be very comfortable. We have enjoyed our own cooking very much, but on the whole enjoy eating it better than we do cooking it. Still less do we like the dishwashing, etc. We have written to Minnie to see if Wang Sz-fu can come down and take care of us, for we really haven't the time and strength to do it ourselves and do all the other things we should. More important things are being neglected because we have to eat. We Sao-dz is helping some but we can't have her all the time.

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OCT 23 1937

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I was afraid for a time that I was going to have to take an early furlough, for that would be the only sensible thing to do if there was no work for me at present. I didn't want to do it though, so I am very glad that as things have worked out there is a very definite need of me here. Minnie must stay in Nanking, and there is no one else near here who has had enough curriculum experience to do the kind of thing I am doing. Also with three of my seniors here I hope to get thesis work done for them. My health is none too good, but I think it will hold out for this job if I am careful. It is one of the chief reasons I hope Wang can come, because he will do everything and then I can have all my strength for my job and do it better and be less tired than I get now. I am fairly well if I don't do too much, but tire too easily to be able to carry a normal full load, I am afraid. But if we get the housework taken care of I can do what is needed of me without too heavy a load I think. The tummy is better now that I have full control of my diet again. Good fresh milk and some other things we can get here make it a really enjoyable diet too and that helps.

We are planning some sort of Founders Day celebration for this coming Sunday and will send you an account of it afterwards. I wish Yifang could come down for it, but I think she has decided against it and probably that is wise, for travel is certainly difficult and uncomfortable these days, and often really unsafe. Private cars, especially foreign ones, on roads far distant from actual fighting areas, ought to be safe, but they aren't apparently. I am sure she needs a rest and change, but am not sure Shanghai would give it to her. It looks as if things are getting worse here at the moment.

I must stop and get to work, for this really is play even though it is something that ought to be done. I hope that soon I shall get my life regulated so that there will be some leisure when there is also a little energy left and then I will try to make up for my long neglect of you. I do think of you often and often as you know, and have been sure we were all much on your heart too. I think it - - - - Here an interruption of an hour or more getting my three seniors introduced to Mr. Sung, a new chemistry man who is going to teach them some advanced organic. Then I had to talk with the girls about thesis too. Now I have not the least idea what I was "thinking" when I began that sentence, so I guess you will never know. I am quite sure it was nothing you will miss much.

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321 Avenue Petain,
Shanghai,
China.
Nov. 10-11, 1937.

Dear Friends:-

Partly because I neglected you all entirely last year, and partly because there is so much to say now, I am going to try to get my letter out in time for Christmas this year. Perhaps another reason should also be mentioned, namely that I do not feel like indulging in the expense of Christmas cards in addition to a letter!

It is hard to know where to begin, for there is nearly two years to cover, and yet recent events loom so large that those that happened even a few months ago hardly seem worth writing about now. I will try to give you a few of the "high spots" farther back and then go into more detail on recent and present events.

My last letter was sent out in February 1936. The chief excitement that spring at Ginling was the quite sudden departure of Dr. Wu, our president, for London in response to an urgent cable to attend a meeting of the executive committee of the International Missionary Council which was to plan for the important conference to be held in China in the fall of 1938. She received the cable on a Saturday morning and the following Friday evening she left Nanking for an absence of several months, in the meantime having made a trip to Shanghai for an important meeting here! You can imagine that those were hectic days - first deciding the difficult question of whether she should go or not, and then getting a temporary faculty organization set up which could carry on in her absence. A pretty green committee of three, supported by a larger committee took the responsibility that fell so suddenly on us with the best grace we could, and thanks to the splendid cooperation of all the other faculty and students we passed through those months quite happily. But there was a real sense of relief throughout the whole college when it came time for her to return, as well as a very warm personal welcome for her.

The other thing which stands out in my memory of that summer and fall is repeated packing, moving and unpacking with a variety of living arrangements in between. Mine were all comfortable ones, but even so I prefer not more than one a year at most. Some of the faculty had a very uncomfortable month of makeshift living due to the delay in completion of the new faculty residence. But it finally did get done and provided more attractive and suitable quarters than we have ever had before. It is on a hill at the south edge of the campus and the view is a constant joy. Another faculty house is now under construction near it, but is practically at a standstill because of the war.

I spent a most delightful summer in 1936 at Kuling with the Daniels family, whom some of you know. It was marred only by the fact that I was not quite as well as usual and couldn't do all the longest hikes that I so love. I got in a good many nice ones though, and as the vacation was longer than I would otherwise have taken there were compensations. That vacation carried me very well until nearly Christmas when I got very tired and the stomach trouble which I had been having for some time got worse. So I spent a very lazy winter vacation - hence no letter last winter - and did only half time work for the second semester. That together with various treatments and an extra long summer this year - three months finally, because of the war - has put me in fairly good shape so that I hope with care to come through this year without any more relapses. I seem to have a more or less chronic stomach ulcer so it is hard to predict how long that will continue to cause some trouble, but it is better than it was and I can now eat a sufficient variety of foods to get on very well.

NOV 10 1937

This last summer I spent in Tsingtao, a beautiful coastal city in the north. I slept and swam and basked in the sun, getting the best coat of tan I ever had and markedly improving my swimming ability, and how I did enjoy it. Tsingtao has a rare combination of perfect beaches, rugged rocky points and beautiful wooded hills and low mountains with rich, prosperous farm land tucked in between, so it is an ideal vacation spot and this summer almost made me decide I prefer it to Kuling, which I never thought I would do. Perhaps I am getting too old for the more strenuous pleasures of Kuling.

The latter part of the summer was of course very much disturbed by the increasing seriousness of the Sino-Japanese clashes in the north and later in Shanghai. Many people were pessimistic from the first but I kept hoping that this dark cloud, like others before it, might somehow roll away before the full force of the storm broke. But the pessimists were right this time and I am afraid most of us are joining their ranks at least as far as the immediate future is concerned. I try to continue to hope for some speedy and still reasonably satisfactory end to this awful mess but it is hard to see how it can come. As far as my personal interests are concerned the outbreak of fighting in Shanghai was of course much more serious than that in the north, though from the point of view of the whole problem it probably is not. I was due to return to Nanking the end of August but by that time it was clear that college certainly could not open on time and Florence Kirk and I who were together in Tsingtao were told to remain there till further plans could be made. September was an anxious month for I felt I was wasting time there and it was very hard to see what the next move ought to be. News came through fairly well, much better than in many places, but still we felt badly cut off from Nanking and often heard just enough to increase our anxiety, rather than to allay it. Nanking was constantly threatened with air raids, and had some pretty bad ones and I used to go to bed at night wondering whether they would come through the night safely or not. Dr. Wu and Miss Vautrin and Miss Sutherland were there from the first along with several other Chinese faculty and I longed to be there with them. If I had not been afraid that my presence there would increase their problems more than it would help and if I had been a little surer that my health would stand the strain I think I would have gone back, but I knew that was not the right thing to do under the circumstances so I stayed put as patiently as I could - which was not very patiently some of the time. Tsingtao was glorious in September and we continued to enjoy our swims. I worked on Chinese several hours a day for about three weeks and was beginning to learn a little, but since I left Tsingtao I haven't touched it and have probably forgotten most of what I learned. For a time it looked as if I might get sent home for my furlough is due next summer anyway, but I was very glad when word from Dr. Wu finally came asking us to go to Shanghai to help get some of our students there located in other institutions. We got off on the 26th of September by boat and came direct to Shanghai.

It had become clearly impossible to open school in Nanking so the next best thing seemed to be to try to get several groups of students and faculty together in various places where they could work in connection with other universities. Some of the centers originally planned had to be given up but we have now two good sized groups, one of about 35 students and eight or nine faculty in Wuchang at Central China Union University and the other of about 50 students and a half dozen faculty here. Most of the girls are registered as guest students either at St. Johns University or at the University of Shanghai, both of which have had to evacuate their own campuses and are doing their work under very difficult conditions in temporary and exceedingly crowded downtown quarters. In spite of their own problems they have been most cordial to our students and are doing all that they can for us. The girls live in their own or relatives homes and miss the usual campus life and are very homesick for Ginling and a more normal sort of life - a feeling which I share with them fully. But they are good sports and making the best they can of the situation. We have occasional Sunday afternoon Ginling meetings but so far most of them have either been very poorly attended or have had to be postponed because of local war developments.

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NOV 10 1937

My chief job is to act as a sort of dean for this group and during the first month I was quite busy helping them to register and choose the courses that would best fit in with our Ginling curriculum. One university began on Oct. 1st and the other on the 15th so that work spread out over nearly a month. Now I continue to keep an office in the Y. W. C. A. building but my office hours are mostly free for letters and routine work and my visitors are few. Soon I hope to get caught up on the office work enough to be able to give more time to the other part of my job which is the supervision of the thesis work of three of my seniors who are here. Whether we shall be able to do any laboratory work is still a problem as most laboratories are inaccessible, but we hope we can arrange it before long. Meanwhile they do have access to a good library, so they are getting something done.

October 30th and 31st is our usual Ginling Founders' Day and we planned what would have been a nice program if we had been able to carry out our plans. But unfortunately the war moved from the northern edge of the concession to the western edge between the time we made our plans and the day of the exercises and the place we had chosen was pretty close to the danger area on the west. When it was too late to change I found that a good many of the students were not going to be able to come if we had it there. We decided to go on with the plan and had a good service with about twentyfive alumnae and some faculty and guests, but only four students. During the address the sound of bombing and machine gunning nearby was rather distracting, but no stray shells came our way and we all felt it had been very much worth while in spite of the disappointment in not having students there. In Wuchang they were able to carry out their plans and had a very inspiring time evidently. I should like to quote two telegrams which show the fine spirit of our Ginling group. Dr. Wu sent this message to us here in Shanghai:

"May Ginling Family be worthy of Founders and College ideals by humbly strengthening ourselves and sacrificially sharing in national crisis. Romans 8: 35-37."

And from Wuchang to Dr. Wu came this:

"Dispersed but not disheartened, through one faith, one hope, still one. Long Life Alma Mater."

These make us sure that the courage and faith which has brought Ginling triumphantly through many difficult times in the past will also meet this test and that her daughters will surely find places of real service in this time of their country's need.

And now to try to give you a little picture of life in Shanghai. I suppose there is hardly another place in the world where one could live week after week within anything from a fraction of a mile to five or six miles from a major war and still be in comparative safety. For those of you who are not very familiar with the geography and politics of Shanghai a brief explanation may be of interest. The city is made up of three entirely separate municipalities. The "International Settlement" is governed by a council representing several different nationalities of which British, American and Japanese are the three chief members, with a number of Chinese added to it in recent years. Then there is the French Concession entirely under their control and lastly the large and rapidly growing Chinese city of Greater Shanghai. Supposedly the two concessions are neutral foreign territory except for the very inconvenient fact that the Japanese are members on the same footing with other nations in the International Settlement. They have actually completely occupied and taken over the section where most of their interests are located and that district has been entirely cut off for all Chinese and other foreigners since the beginning of the trouble in August. It is separated from

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the rest of the Settlement by a creek which farther on is also the boundary between the Settlement and Chinese territory, so there have been times when anyone could go to the south bank of the creek and watch fighting just a few yards away on the north bank. I have not availed myself of that opportunity as I prefer to keep little farther away than that, but I have seen and heard a plenty of many different aspects of war in the weeks since I got here. The most spectacular things I have seen are bombing planes power diving and dropping huge bombs which send up clouds of smoke and dust which can be seen for miles, and the display of anti-aircraft shells bursting with bright white flashes in the air, red tracer bullets like great rockets and search lights playing all around in an attempt to locate the plane that they are after. This used to take place nearly every evening when Chinese planes attacked the Japanese boats in the river and they replied with all these fireworks. On one or two occasions without leaving my bed I have seen the shells burst in the sky. Sometimes there are ten or more search lights at one time and the whole thing would be a beautiful sight if you could only forget what it is all about. When we first arrived we went up on the roof to watch some of these demonstrations and I am very glad I did, but gradually we realized that these anti-aircraft shells are rather wayward creatures and being aimed up at the place they think the plane is, where they come down is nobody's concern except that of the fellow that gets hit. Their sound is quite unmistakable so now we keep under cover when we hear them.

For two months the Chinese lines held with very little change and the hottest center of the fighting was the North Station area which is just outside the International Settlement on the north. I've no idea how many tons of bombs were dropped there but I can testify that they bombed that spot day after day, innumerable times so that the total must have been enormous. Finally the pressure became too great in some parts of the line and the Chinese ordered and carried out a general retreat to their next line of defense. This brought the fighting right up to the western edge of the concessions and the lines were so placed that shells fell quite often in the western district and people living out there had to evacuate. Even where I live we occasionally heard shells whistling overhead, but none fell very near us. Probably most of them went on across and out into the country somewhere. Just yesterday a further retreat took place which has again shifted the scene away from the western district to the south boundary of the French Concession, so we are an island entirely surrounded by Japanese except for a small force of Chinese holding out in the southern part of the Chinese City. Last night and early this morning there were several terrific explosions which shook our whole district, probably land mines set by Chinese in their retreat to hamper the progress of the Japanese, and about six this morning I heard rifle and machine gun fire which I think was not more than about a half mile from us. We are closer than that to the boundary at the nearest point, but the fighting is a little farther east than that point.

Another all too common sight has been terrific fires. Especially during the retreat from Chapei two weeks ago there was an area of about 8 square miles of congested city property burning all at once. We watched it from our roof top some miles away and the towering columns of smoke by day and the tremendous red glow at night are beyond my powers to describe. I got a couple of very good pictures of it. It seems to have been started by Chinese to cover their retreat and prevent the Japanese from following them too closely and then added to by Japanese to drive out small remnants of Chinese troops and snipers. Both are good military tactics I suppose, but what an appalling waste! (As I copy this a few days later I can't resist adding that yesterday from our roof we saw fires all the way round the compass, with only small areas free from them. I counted 35 distinct columns of smoke and that must have been very much less than the number of fires for in some places they merged together so it was impossible to count. Ashes settled down all over the city).

And the refugees! I wish I could give you an adequate picture of the

tragedy involved for tens and tens of thousands of honest selfrespecting people, mostly very poor, but some originally comfortably off, who have suffered in just this one district. They came in by tens of thousands at the very beginning of the trouble from the Chinese city and large camps have been established for them, often 3000 to 5000 to a camp where they are given the barest necessities of life. Then during the recent weeks each change in the battle lines has meant new areas endangered and more crowds of frightened and helpless people thronging in to the one haven that offers some chance of safety with their pitiful little bundles of belongings. The last two or three days more thousands have poured in and the streets of both concessions are full as I have never seen them. A woman resting by the side of the road that I saw this morning is a typical example. At one end of her carrying pole were two baskets, the lower one containing about thirty sticks of firewood and the upper one a bundle of clothing. At the other end was a basket of cabbages hastily gathered from their garden to be sold I suppose and provide a small bit of cash. When that is gone what will she do? With cold weather coming on the suffering will be even greater. The mat sheds in which most of the camps are offer precious little shelter and many of these people have no warm clothing or bedding at all. It is an appalling problem which many people are trying their best to cope with but with all that can be done there will still be incalculable suffering. A Ginling Alumnae group here is trying to collect 1000 quilts, and that sounds like a good many to get, but its just a drop in the bucket compared to the need. And then there are heart-breaking stories of broken up families, little children left without a relative or friend in the world so far as they know, and often after having witnessed terrible horrors. There can I fear be no doubt about the truth of some of the terrible stories we hear for too many of them come from eyewitness accounts of foreigners of well known character who could not possibly have any reason to invent or even exaggerate them. Atrocity stories grow like mushrooms in war times of course, and I don't by any means believe that all I hear is true, but it is true that war does terrible things to the men who take part in it especially if they have been subjected, as the Japanese have, to a great deal of propaganda to make them despise the people they are fighting. Granted similar lying propaganda and similar war conditions I presume other soldiers would do very much the same sort of things but that doesn't make it any less horrible that civilians not only suffer the unavoidable and accidental injuries that war entails, but also are over and over again subjected to all kinds of horrors which cannot possibly have any military purpose. If you realize in even a small degree the need which I see all around me you will understand and approve I am sure of my decision not to spend anything for Christmas cards and gifts this year, but put all I can spare into helping a tiny bit. It will be little enough for our own salaries are seriously cut because Ginling is receiving no student fees this year and is operating on about 40% of its usual income. Even with the drastic cuts they have made the emergency budget for the year still shows a probable deficit of \$11,000.

But the fundamental atrocity is the war itself, for war it is, on an ever increasing scale though the Japanese still call it the "China Incident". There is no possible justification for any of it much less for the tremendous extent and intensity of their activities. It is true that some years back there was a good deal of rather hot-headed anti-Japanese propaganda in China, which many of us felt was unwise, but even then there was a great deal of provocation and the fundamental cause lay in the injustice of Japanese treatment rather than in any natural illwill on the part of the Chinese. In more recent years the Chinese have shown greater and greater restraint and patience, wanting to remove as far as possible that excuse for aggression, and I have been amazed at the degree of self-control which has been evident in spite of constantly increasing aggression of various sorts. The situation in the north has been intolerable for two or three years at least and the marvel is not that an occasional street incident has occurred but that there have not been many more of them and more serious ones. Certainly the government has done everything possible to prevent such things and has very largely succeeded. Even such incidents as have occurred have in many cases

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borne very suspicious signs of having been deliberately provoked by Japanese. That applies to the ones which were made the pretext last summer for the rushing in of large bodies of troops. I have very little doubt, for example, that the Hungjao airdrome incident was deliberately brought about and I was much interested in a statement made by some Japanese spokesman answering the objection that that affair did not warrant such large scale operations here that *their troops were already on the way before that happened!* Just why he did not explain. The tragedy of the whole thing lies in the utterly false propaganda which has been spread in Japan and the complete impossibility of getting the truth to them. I feel sure if the people of Japan knew the real facts about China and her people and about what Japan is doing here that it could not long continue, but censorship is so rigid and penalties so severe that it is almost impossible to get word in even to our foreign friends there. I have not weakened any in my conviction that there is a better way than resistance by force, to meet even such aggression as this, the Christian way of using the creative power of suffering willingly accepted and of love that "never faileth" regardless of what is done against it. I feel sure we must come to that if we are not to be totally destroyed in the effort to save ourselves by war. But that method requires a greater faith, a more heroic spirit and a more thorough discipline than any nation has yet achieved and it is idle to expect that China now could meet Japan in that way. China is waging a war of defense if ever there was one, and is doing it in a magnificent way as far as the courage and morale of her people is concerned. It seems to me inexpressibly tragic that such splendid moral and spiritual values have to be put to such horrible uses.

Today is armistice day and we are celebrating it here with one of the worst days of fighting we have yet had. Out where I live the noise is terrific and almost continuous. At the office where I am writing I am not quite so close to it but can look out the window as I write and see planes circling round and round in groups of three, dropping their heavy bombs which reverberate all over the city. I doubt if there has been five minutes free of explosions since dawn and not many single minutes even, and it is now approaching noon. So it is with a heavy heart that I write, for it is impossible to live in the midst of such madness and not be depressed by it. When and how can it end without worse problems ahead?

This letter is much too long and I must stop, yet there is still so much more to say. I should like to tell a little of the things I have heard about conditions in the north where the Japanese are in control, for you may not be getting so much of that in your news. Very little gets to us except now and then when someone comes down or when a letter gets smuggled through so that it can tell the truth. But I must not take time for that and will only say that there is no basis at all for Japanese reports that they are welcomed by the people who rejoice in being freed from the oppression of Nanking, etc. Such demonstrations and flagwavings as there are, are forced on people whose only choice is to comply or risk extreme penalties.

As for my plans and prospects it looks now as if I should be here at least till February when this school term ends. Then if it should be possible by that time to return to Nanking and reopen school there of course that is where I shall be, but if that is not possible I presume I shall be here through the spring also. My furlough is due next summer, so I shall head for home whenever the responsibilities of this school year are over, which is likely to be later than usual as all schools started a month or six weeks late this fall. I will try this year to get off another letter sometime in the winter or spring.

This brings to you all my warm personal regards and my sincere Christmas greetings. May it be a time of renewed consecration for all of us to the way of love and peace which the world so desperately needs, and in the spirit of Him whose birth we celebrate may we be able to say of those whose deeds are so distressing, "Father forgive them for they know not

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what they do". We are certainly called upon for that most difficult of tasks to condemn wrong and injustice unequivocally, without hating those who do it, and to desire not their destruction or even their restraint so deeply as we long for their transformation into worthy members of that Kingdom of Love and Righteousness which Christ came to establish.

This letter may seem to some of you rather too personal and to others not enough so, but I cannot at present write separately to so many friends and I am sure you will all make due allowance for the limitations of such a method of correspondence. The address above will reach me for the present and I hope many of you will make use of it.

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Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Chester.

P. S. Nov. 15. We have had several days of quiet now, for the fighting has withdrawn some distance away from Shanghai. Probably that phase is over. Whether we shall find other problems in our local situation as bad or worse than the fighting remains to be seen, but I hope the fears that many have will prove unfounded.

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院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA.
上海臨時辦事處
靜安寺路九九九號
Temporary Shanghai Office
999, BUBBLING WELL ROAD

Nov. 19, 1937.

Dear Rebecca:-

You must be thinking I am not even courteous, much less friendly not to have written you long ere this. Still I hope you know me well enough to have realized that the reason lies quite elsewhere in a combination of circumstances and temperament - a procrastinating temperament nearly always finds circumstances which aggravate it, I find. I knew Florence Kirk was keeping you well posted about what we are doing, or trying to do, but still I did mean to write you personally long before this.

I trust there was not too long a delay after your cable to me before Dr. Wu's answer, and that you realized that was my answer. I hated to spend money for a separate cable if it was not necessary and I judged from what she wrote that you were duly informed. I presume she has also done better than I in giving you an explanation by letter. I appreciate the interest you all showed in my welfare and understand why it must have seemed that it would be better for me to come along home. In fact at one stage I thought so myself, when there did not seem to be much prospect of my being able to do anything for Ginling. But when I found there was a real place for me here and a need there was no longer any question in my mind about it. There was no one available who had as much experience along curriculum and administrative lines as I have had and also there are three of my seniors here whose theses I hope to finish before I leave. It was especially urgent to have me here to get things started and I knew it was the kind of job it would be worth while for me to do even for a short time, though I hoped to see it through. I am getting on quite all right, taking things quite easily and have no reason to think it will have any bad effect on my health. As I am quite sure part of what ails me will take care of itself in a few months or a year or two, it may be that it will be easier to find out the residue, if any, next year than it would now, and that even from the health point of view the later furlough may be more desirable. I am anxious to be really well when it comes time to send me back again, and I feel surer of achieving that if the issue is postponed a little longer. So please don't let anyone worry about me. If it should appear later that I am not standing it well I will try to arrange either to lighten my load still more, or to quit and come home. But now I am really quite well if I don't do too much.

It is a relief to have the fighting away from our doorsteps, but our hearts are heavy at the price that is being paid and the ominous prospects ahead. I would give a lot for a talk with Minnie or Dr. Wu today and real knowledge of how they are thinking and planning. Letters take a week now, so all the news we have is too old to be satisfying. I hope they will leave before things get too desperate.

It is good to know you are at the other end and that we can count on real support - not just financially but in other ways. It is hard to know what lies ahead, but surely there must be a place for

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such work as ours whatever happens. I hope we shall be spared the destruction that so many other mission institutions have already suffered, but we can only wait and see. Episcopal and Southern Methodist work must have suffered very badly for they have so much in this region.

I have just copied the prayer Dr. Hsia made at our Founders' Day exercises here and will send it on to you. It is typical of the splendid spirit of Chinese Christians.

I am wondering whether you will be swamped with the extra batch of calendars. I fear you will be, but Dr. Wu said definitely to send them on, in fact wrote directly to K. & W. to do so, so I did not feel like interfering, even though the cost of sending them was pretty high, I fear (I have been afraid to ask!) and you may not be able to use them anyway. I am trying to dispose of as many as I can of the 500 retained here, but even that will be difficult, I fear. It is impossible to send them inland at all - I could only send a sample by first class mail, for they are taking no second class at all these days. So I am asking them to send me addressed and I will mail from here if and when possible.

I had dinner recently where Miss Falk was one of the other guests and she reminded me of our meeting in 1927. She said I look better than I did then. I don't know whether she just meant cleaner, or better in some other way, but anyhow its nice to know there is some sort of improvement. I told her I still had most grateful memories of both the bath and the sleep we had there. St. Luke's has moved twice, I believe, and at that time was desperately hunting another place which they had to find in a few days, or close. I have not heard whether they did find a place or not. Every available building is in use for schools, hospitals etc. as so many have had to leave their own premises. Most school buildings are being used in shifts by different schools. I can't think of any school that is not housing at least two institutions and some have more than that.

I shall shortly be sending you a copy of my Christmas letter which is now in the hands of the printer. That is all I am doing this year as I want to give all I can to the poor refugees here that need it so desperately.

I must start for home now, so will stop. My love to you, and all power to you in the noble work you are doing. When it does come time for me to go home I shall look forward to seeing you and having a good visit.

As ever,

Ruth.

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[Dec. 28, 1937]

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GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

A letter from Dr. Ruth Chester, Smith 1914, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry, of Ginling College. Miss Chester is acting as dean for the Ginling unit in the "War-Time University" in Shanghai. Seven of the east China colleges are combining for the 2nd semester of 1937-38 staff and equipment in Shanghai to meet the needs of their students living with families in Shanghai, or living there as refugees. This letter was written at 321 Avenue Petain, Shanghai on December 28, 1937, and on January 1, 1938.

Christmas has come and gone. I did not look forward to it very much at first but it turned out to be a very happy one in many ways, in spite of the sombre background.

Friday evening, Christmas eve, we had a most delightful time. Mrs. New, Ginling, 1919, invited us to her home for their family Christmas party for the children - and family here is used in the Chinese sense for there were thirty some kiddies, all first cousins, who joined in the occasion. Both sides of this family have been Christian for several generations, so it was in many ways like a similar party at home, and yet it was different too. First the children all marched in and each lighted a candle and set it up on a stand, and put a little contribution from his own pocket for the refugee children on the tray provided. Christmas hymns were played as this was going on and when it was finished there was a mass of red candles burning together. Then they had a short program in which quite a number of the children took part, playing the piano, reciting, or singing, some very well and others very amusingly, especially some of the little tots. Then came Santa Claus with a cheery greeting and a sack on his back. First they gave him money for the refugee children so he could get some presents for them, and then he handed each of them a stocking of crackers and candy and fruit etc. Then we sang carols for a while. When Santa (one of the uncles) returned in his normal attire, the crowd around him telling him they recognized him, one pointing to his hair, another to his socks etc. as the things which had identified him. It was such a nice group of kiddies. They went out then for their supper and then when they had finished the grown-ups went out to another

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room and had a simple cafeteria meal together. It was entirely a family party except for us, and when we told Mrs. New how much we appreciated her taking outsiders into such an intimate group she said, "There are no outsiders here tonight. Everyone here belongs to the family". It was a most delightful experience which we shall long remember. The significance of it was increased by the fact that Mrs. New's husband, Dr. Way-sung New and his sister had died last spring, and his brother Dr. Way-ling New just a few weeks ago, so it was not an easy time for many of them. Also the war and all it has brought of sadness and suffering is ever in our minds, and still more I suppose in theirs. But as Mrs. New said, the next generation should not be deprived of the joy and meaning of Christmas so they were having a party for the children just the same. The whole spirit was of a faith triumphant over sorrow and suffering and looking to a better day in the future.

We did our bit of entertaining by having a breakfast party on Christmas morning. After a very light lunch, we went off for a three o'clock Ginling party. About 60 came, students, alumnae and faculty. I was scheduled to give "Ginling news" at the beginning of the program, and you can imagine my delight when the servant put a letter from Dr. Wu into my hands, just before the beginning of the meeting. She is in Hankow and this letter had lots of news about the plans of that section of Ginling for next term, for we shall still have to be in sections. They are moving as many as can go up to Chengtu, way in the west, where there is a Union Christian University which they can attach to. Another group of their faculty are planning to come here if they can get through, which was good news to us. They had a very simple and informal little service, then tea and finished by dividing into groups to choose a Christmas hymn and act it out. Then the rest guessed which one it was and we sang it. The idea was a nice one except that they all have almost the same setting and characters and it was hard to act anything that was distinctive enough. The students had planned the whole thing, with the alumnae, so I enjoyed especially going to something for which I had no responsibility. It was a time of simple good fellowship which we all enjoyed very much. Then we came home and

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dressed ourselves up for Christmas dinner at the Morris home. Alice Morris is home from Tsingtao, to stay, and their home is such a delightful and cordial one. We had a grand dinner. From all this you can see that we did not feel homeless or left out at all during this Shanghai Christmas. Both of us have always been either at home or at Ginling before, but we could not ask for more friendliness and real fellowship than we had this year.

January 1

These are busy days, for both my jobs have taken much more time the last two weeks or so than they were doing. The girls are getting well into their lab work now and I hope I shall not have to spend so much time out there from now on. With plans for next semester beginning to take shape, or rather beginning to require someone to shape them, I should be spending my whole time on that part of my job, but I can't let the girls suffer when they have been waiting all fall for this chance and it may be snatched away any day. There is no certainty how long this place will be available as I think I have already explained, so I want to push them through as fast as is possible.

January 9

The most exciting thing that has happened was the arrival last Sunday of four of our blessed faculty people from Hankow, all safe and sound. We knew they were going to try to come but had no idea when they would make it, if at all. But at breakfast Sunday morning a telegram arrived which had been delayed several days and when we did a little telephoning it developed that the boat they were on from Hongkong was due that very day. We spent a good part of the day meeting it for as usual it came much later than it said it would, but we got them and brought them here late in the afternoon to see a few students and alumnae who had come to our at home, largely because they had heard of these arrivals. It was great fun, and we let them all take baths one by one, supplied gallons of tea to slake a long thirst and fed them a simple supper which apparently seemed quite grand to them after the privations of their long journey. They were five days on the train from Hankow to Hongkong, traveling mostly at night to avoid bombing, and sometimes having to go backwards instead of forwards to get out of a dangerous area. They

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narrowly missed several raids, including a bad one just after they reached Canton, but they escaped all along the way. They took "deck passage" from Hongkong, leaving the same day they arrived there and had five more days of great discomfort, sleeping on the floor, with insufficient bedding and only rice to eat. So they had had ten days of continuous travel and were pretty tired and excited. But their spirits were good and they seemed as glad to be here as were we to have them and that is saying a great deal. They are a tremendous help to us here and arrived just when they were badly needed to help with plans for next term. They have all been put to work and in spite of all they have done I have been just as busy as I could be. I really don't see how I could have managed this week and next without them. We are working hard on plans for next term and hope to have quite a good many of our own classes, probably in close cooperation with the two other refugee institutions, Hangchow and Soochow Universities. So I am spending my time in meetings and conferences both with our own faculty and with these others. Fortunately one of the people who came from Hankow was Hwang Dzun-mei, in my department, and she is practically taking over the supervision of my students for the time being which saves me a lot of time.

Today we have had a most heartening experience. Mrs. New (Ginling 1912) invited the faculty group to her house for lunch and asked us to come at 11 for an informal service first. Everyone was there and two or three alumnae and board members also. Mrs. New gave a splendid talk on our faith and attitude in this crisis and the increased importance of our work, and then about 6 or 8 other quite informally expressed something of what these last months have brought to them. It was a most inspiring time. The quiet faith and undaunted courage and entire absence of hatred and bitterness seemed truly wonderful and it was one of the most spontaneous times of fellowship we have ever had. Everyone is thinking and people seemed glad to have been able to share their thoughts in such a group. One cannot possibly doubt the value of such a group, small though it is and unimportant in the ways of the world. Ginling has a greater mission than ever and will carry on, though it may have to do it under great difficulties. After

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the meeting we had lunch together and all enjoyed so much being again in a @inling group.

I went to the "Good Earth" yesterday and enjoyed it very much. While there are things one can criticize in it I feel it is remarkably well done on the whole and does give a good picture of some of the basic qualities of Chinese life - some of the things that will prove to be her strength in the years to come as well as in her past. The same spirit that made O-lan and Wang Lung endure everything to hold on to their land and get it back to it, is still here and is something the Japanese have not reckoned with sufficiently.

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GINLING COLLEGE
150 Fifth Avenue, Room 903
New York City
January 17, 1938

Dear Ruth:

I am sending a copy of my letter to Mrs. New, to you and another direct to her. If you receive this, will you be good enough to see that she gets it?

Mrs. Thurston was in New York last week and shared with me your letter of December 15th. Your Christmas letter has also reached me. I sent my copy of it to Mrs. Robinson, acting editor of the Smith Alumnae Quarterly, with the hope that they would want to quote something from it. She returned it with thanks and said that your class secretary had already received a copy. They plan to use the cable from Minnie, of January 6th.

I am repeating to you information which we sent last week to Miss Priest and Miss Wu. The fund given for salary relief by the furloughed and former staff amounts to \$2,596.00 in cash and to about \$800.00 more in pledges. This is due, as I think I told you, to Mrs. Thurston's generosity in pledging ten months of this year's allowance. On December 31st, Ginling had been allocated \$6,386.75, of the emergency fund being raised by the Associated Boards. I do not know exactly how much more has come to us, but \$1,000.00, I know has been given to Ginling since that date.

There is great anxiety on the part of Mary Twinem's family about her. If you have any information about her, could you send it to us in your next letter?

950 calendars arrived on January 6th, via Thomas Cook and Son. In the two boxes, there were 300 of the colored cards. We decided that it was so late that they could not be sold in bulk, so that we have succeeded in having the cost of these and postage of four and a half cents a piece underwritten and we are sending them out to our donors and to Smith Clubs. Mrs. Thurston was successful in selling a few last week, and Mrs. Lyman is going to send one to her daughter with the hope that she can use it as a sample for sales at Smith.

We read everything that comes from Shanghai with the greatest interest. We are not unaware that your strain is now of a different type.

If En-lan has arrived, will you please tell her that there has been money raised here for the rest house in Hankow. This was done by Chinese and while it doesn't amount to as much as was originally hoped, there actually is \$600.00 in hand, in fact a little more than that, and arrangements are in process for transmittal to Hankow.

There is so much that one wants to say, that one is inhibited both by the tremendousness of the situation and by caution. Please give

1090

my love to Florence and to En-lan and to the others of the Chinese faculty whom I know there.

I sent with Anna Groff a New York draft for \$1,000.00. I hope that by this time you have seen Anna. It was a gift toward the land payment problem and I do not know now whether that was a wise allocation or not. I have written to Miss Wu and to Elsie by Clipper mail on January 7th, leaving them free to decide what is best to be done with this gift.

With love,

RWG:am

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You in Shanghai safely on March 28. Expect to start back to Specimen early in May. Y. H. Wu

Rec'd [March 28, 1938. Calendar
April 25, 1938

Dear Rebecca:-

While Florence is writing about our news in general I have a few business items to take up with you.

2 [Firstly about the calendars. I took all your letters to K. & W. and found out that the prices Helen wrote you about were for the prints, not for the calendars. The total bill for the prints is what you wrote it was to be, but the calendars themselves were at the rate of 35cents each regardless of the numbers. So there is no error in the bill itself. Mr. Gregory admitted that they had not been able to get them off on Nov. 13 as they promised, because of some interference or red tape that was not their fault. I told him we did not blame them for the delay which was probably not their fault but I did blame him for not letting us know and giving us a chance to say whether they should still be sent or not. I said we would certainly not have paid to send by post as late as Dec. 9 for we would know they were too late. He knew we were trying to get them there for Christmas and admitted they ought to have reported back to us for instructions. He said he would talk with the manager and later reported they were willing to reduce the postage bill from \$128 to \$100 "which is approximately the cost of freight". As freight on the first batch was only \$88 I feel they really ought to come down a little more on that, but it is a small amount to fuss over. I have written Elsie the whole thing so she can decide whether to pay the bill as is or protest further. I don't see any basis for protesting the duty for they were not overvalued, unless they interpreted the valuation as gold instead of C.C. The bill for that has come through to us recently, and I have also written Elsie about that. Your last letter brings a very encouraging report, for I feared that you would not be able to use them at all at such a late date. So perhaps it will all come out not too bad in the end.]

You ask about our financial arrangements. Elsie ^{Print} sends me checks from time to time and I have opened an account under my name for this money and make reports to Elsie. Of course tuition fees are enough to carry us for some time, but do not cover salaries etc. I have plenty here and it takes only a week or ten days to get mail to or from Chengtu so there is no problem on that at all. I am paying all salaries for this group here. Minnie still has signed checks that Elsie left with her when she left - enough to carry her for some time yet, and we can get more to her when needed. As for our emergency expenses here if the A.B.C.C.C. grants the amount requested for joint library and laboratories then our other expenses will come well within our fees, except for salaries and we shall cover part of that item but not all. So we cannot really be said to have any particular emergency needs here if we don't have to chip in and pay for the library and laboratory expenses. Until we know what is available ^{for that need} we don't know where we are at. As far as the Shanghai unit is concerned, for this term, I should say the most useful thing is to concentrate on getting that money for the joint needs. When I have time to figure some items a little more carefully and get one or two uncertain points settled I will send you a copy of my budget for this unit for this term. The last time I figured it we appeared to be running about even, barring salaries which Elsie is sending me money for.

8 [I forgot one important thing about the calendars. They say they shipped 1000 on that freight shipment and insured it as such and Thos. Cook accepted it so here. So if you can prove to his satisfaction in N.Y. that you only received 950 you should be able to collect insurance on the lost ones. They seem to think that they must have been taken out en route somewhere. I hope you will have no trouble with that claim.]

This must be all for the present. Much love, (Ruth.)

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院學理文子女陵金
GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA.
上海臨時辦事處
圓明園路一三三號
TEMPORARY SHANGHAI OFFICE
ROOM 512
133 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD.

fh
April 11, 1938.

Mr. C. A. Evans
Associated Boards for Christians' Colleges in China
150 Fifth Ave.
New York City
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans:-

Mr. Myers of the Associated Mission Treasurers has paid over to me \$39.51 Chinese Currency, being the equivalent of the gold \$ 11.50 which you sent to him for relief work through Ginling College. I have written Miss Vautrin about it but no definite decision has yet been made as to the method of using it. There is much splendid work being done there, however, and you can assure the donor that it will be used in a worth while way. When the decision is reached as to its use I will report to Miss Griest about it. As it is hoped that more constructive work may be done next fall for these people it may be best to use this gift as the beginnings of a fund for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

Ruth M. Chester

Ruth M. Chester.

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GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA
150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.
May 23, 1938.

Dear Ruth:

Your letters of April 21st and May 4th are here, and first of all I want to write of En-lan. This money, \$1,500.00, for En-lan I secured last summer. On July 26th, 1937 I find I wrote Miss Wu * "There has been secured US\$1500 for study for Liu En-lan. This will be available for her at any time either this year or next year or some future year, if she finds that more desirable. There has been expressed the hope that she would go back to Clark, but it is not necessary that she do so if she would rather go somewhere else.

This money can be sent to her on the field or it can be held here. At the moment I am holding it personally and will continue to hold it so until I am assured that it will not be subject to "tax" to the promotional department of the Associated Boards.

I trust that you will discuss this with En-lan at your earliest convenience, although I would not want this in any way to interfere with your vacation."

Mr. Evans wrote her on July 29th, "An anonymous gift of US\$1,500 has been turned over to me as Treasurer of the Ginling Board of Founders, same to be used for your graduate study. We are carrying this in a Suspense Account on our books and subject to your withdrawal at any time. It might be best for you to work out a schedule of costs and budget the money accordingly. We can make payment any time you desire."

She acknowledged this to Mr. Evans on September 6th. "I should hate to leave the College at this junction.

Hoping that it is still all right if I manage to write you of my schedule of costs and budget when this cloudy and stormy atmosphere is a little cleared up. I think the earliest date for me to leave this country would be somewhere in February, but nothing can be certain at present."

Mr. Evans responded on October 18, 1937. "As the US\$1,500. we wrote you about has been made available for your use, we are continuing to hold it subject to your use for the purpose for which it was given. It is true that it may be sometime before you will be in a position to take advantage of it, but even so we will keep it on our books against that time."

On April 5, 1938, I wrote in one of my joint letters to Shanghai and Chengtu. "Please tell En-lan that Dr. Atwood has written that they are going to grant her a \$200.00 tuition fellowship at Clark, although her letter was received after all the regular fellowships and scholarships had been assigned. I am enclosing, if it is possible to do so, a copy of my letter to Dr. Atwood. Dr. Atwood wrote in a very friendly fashion and said that he and Mrs. Atwood would be eager to do whatever they could for En-lan, in order that her work at Clark would be as happy as possible."

On March 28th, En-lan wrote Mr. Evans- "This is to enquire whether the gift of U.S. \$1,500 that was turned over to you last July for my graduate study, is still available or not. At present as conditions are so very uncertain and normal work is practically impossible, I feel may be it is better for me to go on preparing myself for future needs than to face a task that is entirely beyond my reach just now.

After I have intimated my intention of going abroad, a number of my friends in England wanted me to go via Europe and to tell them of what is really going on here in China. For the sake of Ginling College and my country I like the idea very much. I have written to friends asking them for definite plans about meetings with different groups. If it could be so arranged that my time could be well spent I would like very much to start for England by the beginning of July, and stay in England for about five or six weeks, then go on to Clark University, Worcester, Mass. U.S.A. for a year of study. If Clark should be willing to help me out a little, I would like to work for a degree. Of course

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all that is too remote to talk about yet. For the present I will be very ~~ga~~ grateful if you would let me know if that money is still available.

I am very sorry that I cannot work out the schedule of costs and budget yet, because there are a few questions whose answers are not known yet.

1. I do not know how the arrangements in England could come out.
2. I have applied for a scholarship at Clark, but I do not know yet what help may be granted to me.
3. I have made no inquiries about sailings yet because I do not know which way to go yet.

Do you have any advice for me? Any help you can render me will be greatly appreciated." This letter of March 28th from En-lan was received here later than her letter of April 3rd, which read: "A cablegram has just arrived from England informing me that arrangements has been made for me to enter Oxford University this fall. But I would have to need the money you have, if you still have it, for travel and tuition. I wonder if this would meet your approval."

The letter of April 3rd was a "boomerang" here, for when we went over the correspondence, we saw that nothing had ever been said to her about the gift being for study in the U.S. - the statement to Mr. Evans was "Donor prefers Clark University, but that need not be the place. May be used this academic year, or next, or if necessary a later year." The donor's original thought was study in the United States, because it was hoped that En-lan would do for groups here, as her time permitted, just what she describes herself in the letter of March 28, as about to do in Europe and in England, by travelling via Europe to the U. S. China now needs more desperately here than when this gift was made, such a vigorous personality as she had, so that the shock and disappointment was even keener. Also there is embarrassment in relation to President Atwood, but I can "eat my words" again with him.

What is now wanted here is her budget for work in England, and does she have a scholarship for Oxford? If so the donor wants to know how much of her expenses there that will cover? There are many, many good students needing money. Should En-lan have \$1,500 for study in England, if that is more than she really needs.

There has been considerable investigation here of what Oxford can offer - Mary Treudley sent me En-lan's letter of March 29th to her, with a note saying, "Reading between the lines, En-lan is asking whether any arrangements can be made for her to study here next year. I can do nothing about financing such a venture - so I am turning the suggestion over to you." I answered Mary on April 29th, "I was fortunate enough to secure for En-lan last summer a gift of \$1,500.00 for graduate study. The tags on it were that it was to be used in 1937-38 or 1938-39 or a later year, and preferably at Clark. Dr. Atwood has granted her a tuition scholarship for next year of \$200.00. She has just written Mr. Evans, our treasurer, telling him that she has received an opportunity to go to Oxford. She sent this letter before she heard of the arrangements at Clark, although she knew of the money which was here. This presents a rather difficult problem and I am writing you all these facts confidentially.

In the first place, the gift of \$1,500.00 was thought of as being used in America. Some of it can be made available for study in England, but Dr. Atwood has been very, very good about En-lan, and unless the work at Oxford is as good or better than Clark can give, there is a feeling here that at least as far as this larger scholarship is concerned, that it should still be earmarked "preferably for Clark." Of course I understand that the prestige of an Oxford degree and experience means much, and I want to help En-lan do what she wants to do and also what is best for her to do. Would you be able to find out from Miss Parker or some one at Wellesley whether there is a real advantage in her going to England?"

Mary replied promptly, "I talked with Margaret Parker (Geography at Wellesley) about En-lan. She doesn't think much of Oxford - as a place to study geography. Her feeling

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is that the London School of Economics would be the best. Mrs. Ormsby is very good.

She thinks variety of experience is much to be desired. Since En-lan knows Chicago and Clark, ideally she would get more out of England than America. Practically, if it is America or nothing, America would be better. There is a question as to how much new course work Clark could offer. They have a good man on the Far East - a Dutchman whose specialty is the Dutch East Indies - and who may be new since En-lan was there. In that case he might prove a stimulant to her. If she is to spend a good share of her time working on her dissertation Clark would probably be about as good as anywhere else. In addition, they would be more apt to let her work on a subject that would be useful in China - instead of something like Dr. Wu's black flies of Michigan.

I had thought, when I encouraged her to go back to China after two years here, that her next work had better be done in England. The war situation, however, puts a new face on the situation. En-lan doesn't need any more war or war atmosphere. She does need to understand the European situation - but might get a clearer perspective on it from here.

Margaret Parker spent one year in Wales - working with a man who seemed to her worthwhile. He is somewhere in England - Manchester she thinks - but her general impression was that you could probably get more good geography in London than elsewhere. Of course she knows nothing about Oxford - which is her basis for feeling that if it were good, she would know about it."

I asked a friend at Columbia to find out what they know about geography at Oxford. The response was not satisfying nor certain. "I have made several inquiries re Oxford and Geography, but haven't unearthed any information. If Dean Hawks were home, I think he might know, but he is off on a tour." "I've scanned several volumes of the Geographical Journal, organ of the Royal Geographical Society. I failed to spot any authors attached to Oxford. The Journal is not nearly so broad in its interests as the Geographical Review put out by the American Geographical Society. The comparison of the two is much like the English Historical Review and the American Historical Review. English tends to concentrate on England, or at most on the empire. There seems to be only the one periodical in England devoted to geographical material."

"Orchard says he knows nothing at all about geography at Oxford. The British geographers whom he knows or knows about are at the London School of Economics. Orchard does the courses here on the geography of Europe, and knows the literature of the subject well, so he scarcely would miss out on any outstanding person if such were at Oxford. Orchard is a Harvard product and is by far the best geography person at Columbia. He stands high at Geographic councils, etc."

Mrs. Macmillan wrote for me to Mr. George Barbour and to Mr. George Cressey. Mr. Barbour writes, May 6th. "Oxford versus Clark - hard to say without knowing the girl or her intentions as regards future work. The methods of teaching are different. Clark offers greater variety of courses and probably would give her a less arduous course towards a degree. Clark has a wider variety of specialists in different lines and it would to my mind partly depend on whether the girl was preparing to do independent research or expecting to teach. If she has sufficient ability to carve her own way Oxford will in the end give her more; they are less spoon fed there, but more is expected of them in the way of the ability to think for themselves. I know all of the staff there but without knowing how far she has gone in the subject or looking up the requirements for a higher degree I could not safely advise. Oxford would tend normally, first to challenge her qualifications, but I think the department would give her a welcome. At the same time she must remember that at Clark she is one of a few, and therefore treated with the welcome given everywhere in America especially to a stranger from another country. In Oxford such people get no more courtesy than is vouchsafed by one individual to another! She ought to find out whether she can live in college if she goes there with advanced standing. If not I suggest she try to live with Mrs. Fawcett (wife of Lawrence Fawcett formerly at Yenching); I can give her other introductions including ones to Professor Mason (head of department), Sandford, Baker and others in the geography department as well as to others."

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Mr. George Cressey writes, May 3rd: "Last summer I had the opportunity of visiting the geographical work at Oxford, as well as that of the University of London. At Oxford they have a good, but not strong, department in the physical aspects of the subject, chiefly surveying and "geological geography." I feel sure that it is not the kind of work which either Ginling or Miss Liu should have. The best British geographer is Dr. C. B. Fawcett at the University of London; this is the place which I should urge Miss Liu to work if she felt it wise to go to England rather than the United States. I know Fawcett, and Miss Liu may have met him. I could arrange for introductions if desired.

On the whole, I believe that the best geographical work is being done in the United States. Miss Liu should see as much of Europe as possible, for a geographer needs travel without end, but she can do better for a doctorate here. Clark is a particularly friendly place, and having secured one of my doctorates there I can commend it highly. In some ways, however, I consider Michigan as the best American graduate department for geography. Other top ranking schools are Chicago and Wisconsin. Any one of these four would do well, and each has a far Eastern specialist. President Atwood is unusually helpful, but the atmosphere of a larger University such as Michigan is stimulating for the final graduate push. Knowing Miss Liu as I do, I would place Ann Arbor first."

After all Ruth, \$1,500.00 is a good bit of money - at least I find it so when I have the job of raising it. It is too bad however, that the desire to have it used in America was not made clear from the beginning. It was assumed here that it would be ~~no excuse~~ - excuse of course. But since it hadn't been, I think you should admit that we have gone as far here as possible until we get En-lan's budget. The inference in your letter that we were not appreciative of En-lan's splendid work is pretty hard to accept. I do not, however agree with you that all people who have taken M. A. degrees and who also have been as outstanding in their field as En-lan has been, always know where they can get the best advanced study. There are enough examples of mistakes about us to justify asking for information as to budget and plans when as large a sum as this is involved.

Last year when we were trying to secure help for En-lan from Clark for 1936-37, I asked Mrs. Macmillan to talk with Dr. Atwood for me, as she was near Worcester. I do not have this in writing but she left with me the impression that Dr. Atwood personally believes intensely in En-lan, so much so that he was willing to underwrite some expenses from his personal income, but the department there want her to prove by a year's work her Ph. D. quality. If she proves it, adequate funds would then be available for her to continue her work. It was after this that I determined to get her enough to do one year's work without financial worry.

Will you please share all of this letter with En-lan? How I wish this barrier of space that causes so many misunderstandings didn't exist - or at least that the misunderstandings did not exist. All we need here is En-lan's budget and her reasons - plan of study - for going to Oxford. The money is given to En-lan - and also to developing a geographer for China.

RWG:sam

With love to both of you,

Miss Ruth Chester,
Room 512 A,
133 Yuen Ming Yuen Road,
Shanghai, China.

1097

July 21, 1938

Miss Ruth Chester
c/o Canadian Pacific Steamship Co.
Victoria, B.C.
Arriving Empress of Russia, July 25th.

Dear Miss Chester:

We extend our cordial greetings as you arrive once more in Mei-kuo. We look forward to seeing you and learning at first hand of what you have seen and done during the last year.

About twenty of the leaders in our China Colleges group here in America are meeting together for a brief conference at Silver Bay on July 29th to 31st. It is our earnest hope that it might be possible for you to be with us, for at least a short time if you cannot remain for all the sessions. I believe that Miss Griest is also writing, discussing the possibility that you can be with us.

I enclose herewith a tentative outline of our program for the conference. You will note that we are hoping that you can be present at the evening session on Friday, July 29th, and can tell us something of how the Colleges are carrying on today as you have observed them and participated in their work. If you can bring us such a message it can be presented in whatever way you think would be most appropriate. All of our sessions should be quite informal.

Will you not send us a wire, collect, as soon as possible after you land, telling us whether it will be possible for you to be with us?

Very sincerely yours

BAG:CS
Encl.

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150 Fifth Avenue
New York New York
9 November 1938

Dear Ruth,

You already know that you can count on the slides and the small lantern for Hartford. After you have used them in Hartford, I have a notion that you will want to keep this equipment with you. At least, I hope that it will be so satisfactory that it will prove to be a definite help in most of your other meetings. Did New Bedford know that they needed to supply only a surface for the projection, which could be as simple as a sheet? In any one of these cases of a small group meeting, the use of the slides could be arranged even as a last-minute addition, and I am ever so glad that the apparatus is so small that it need not add greatly to your travelling kit. Of course, a larger and more powerful lantern would be necessary in many cases, and you will have to guard against planning to use the slides where the small lantern is inadequate. You will know where you are at in this whole matter after the Hartford experience.

Thank you so much for letting me know about Smith, which sounds as though it had been worth your while to be available for contact with so many groups. This morning's mail brought in a post card from Mrs. Robinson from the Alumnae Quarterly, regretting that she could not use an illustration with the material which is appearing in the next issue. She says that she was present when you spoke at assembly, and "was tremendously impressed by her quiet competence." She could not get to the Students' Building that evening as she hoped to do.

Pittsfield has made no response to my latest inquiry, and we will simply have to tell them that no speaker is available at this late hour, if they now have a change of heart.

My own plans are not yet completely settled for the next month. You can always consider that I am here unless you have word to the contrary.

Affectionately,

EBM:e

Miss Ruth M. Chester
~~11 Barrett Place 29 Whitman Avenue~~
~~Northampton Massachusetts~~

West Hartford Connecticut

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RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

Nov. 19, 1938.

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Dear Mr. Evans:-

Next summer my sister and some friends are planning a trip to England and I should like if possible to go with them and return to China from there. It is too early to make final plans but some reservations need to be made early. Can I make reservations directly with these friends, or does it have to be made through your office? Are there missionary rates on the Atlantic, tourist class? Do you know how early it would be necessary to make reservations from Europe for the middle of the summer? Is \$350 the usual allowance given for people returning that way? I shall appreciate the answers to these questions and any other information that may be useful.

Sincerely,

Ruth M. Chester

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November 22, 1938

Miss Ruth M. Chester
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Chester:

Sorry I could not get to writing you yesterday, but it was just impossible. Your letter of the 19th raises the question regarding travel by way of Europe.

You are at perfect liberty to make reservations with your friends. When we make through reservations to China, travelling across the Atlantic, there are no discounts, except with the possible exception of the Italian and Danish Lines, or occasionally when a through trip ticket is bought for the Orient.

As you are planning to leave Europe for Asia during the middle of the summer, the earlier your reservations are made the better. We have had the embarrassing experience of trying to route some of our teachers by way of Europe a few weeks in advance of sailing only to lose out entirely. War conditions in China, however, may alter the situation, but you can judge the effects of this as well as we can.

It will hardly be possible for you to get through to Chengtu with \$350.00. It is more likely to cost you \$450.00, and we are willing to advance you that amount.

The chances are that it will be necessary for you to travel from Hongkong by the way of Haiphong, French-Indo China up to Yunnanfu by motor bus to Chungking. Under the circumstances, we would be willing to advance you \$450.00, and even then, it is quite possible you will have to communicate with Miss Priest, if further funds are needed.

Please let me know if I can be of further service to you.

Very cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

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150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.
14 December 1938

Dear Ruth:

Miss Moore has already told you something of the recent correspondence with Chen Yü-djen. Have you time and strength to take up this question from this point, keeping Miss Moore informed of every step in the correspondence?

When I was in Northampton the other day, I met Miss Bryson on the street, and learned a little of your conversations with her. I have waited until we should have Rebecca's decision for the immediate present before making general observations to you on certain relations between us who are Ginling workers, and the time has probably come to put on paper something of our mutual understandings.

Ginling needs every minute and every ounce of strength we can give to the American program, and we need to put up all possible safeguards against duplication of effort, and against misunderstandings which will harm Ginling in small or large ways in the minds of the friends of the College. We have in Miss Moore a person whose mind runs in channels of common sense and of deep personal interest, and I believe we can depend upon her to save us from harming the cause to which we are devoted, provided the office over which she now presides is kept completely informed of everything we do. When such information can be given in the form of carbon copies of letters, that is less expensive in time and energy; but when it needs to be in the form of memoranda of verbal interviews, these memoranda should be sent forward to her promptly. I feel sure that you will agree to all this.

When the letter from Minnie came about Chen Yü-djen, I was unaware of the fact that you had been asked officially by Miss Wu to take certain steps in regard to Chinese staff matters. Miss Moore was also ignorant on this point, and therefore she was unable to turn to you immediately, but instead, took the correct official step in asking me to write to Miss Chen. We have now received from Yü-djen a very prompt reply, which you will deal with as you think best.

I doubt whether it is necessary for me to argue in defense of the understanding which I have here outlined briefly, namely, that we clear all of our Ginling activities through the New York office. Personally and officially I am only one of the people involved, but let me record a few of the reasons why it is necessary for me to know everything which you or any other Ginling person does on behalf of the College, or individuals connected with it.

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Miss Chester 12/14/38

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When I go to Northampton, I am almost certain to see Miss Bryson, partly because she is an active individual and partly because she is resident faculty in the dormitory where my niece lived. Miss Bryson expects me to be en courant in all matters of Ginling fellowship applicants, together with their past histories and future prospects. Whenever I meet a member of the former Ginling faculty, as I do every few days throughout the year, I need to be able to talk to them in their own language, giving them news of the developments in the departments to which they are especially devoted. When I meet President Neilson or Miss Woolley or one of the many other college heads with whom I work all the year, (President Atwood of Clark, for instance) I need to be able to answer specific questions about staff movements and graduate study. When I get to Ann Arbor I must have at my tongue's end the latest news from twenty or thirty Ginling women in whose claims is vested the splendid Ginling interest in Michigan. You will remember that for ten years it was I who sent forward recommendations for the Barbour appointments at Michigan, and that Committee always calls me into conference when I am in travel distance. With Miss Moore keeping up to date our alumnae list and the biographical details in regard to Chinese as well as foreigners, I can easily carry with me everything I need to be prepared for intelligent interviews, provided we all agree to keep the New York office informed of all we do.

I brought up this question with Mrs. Thurston when she and I had a fine talk on Monday morning. Her agreement was immediate, and she said, "Of course that's right. I am likely to forget the importance of reporting many of the things I do, but I must be careful about it. For instance, I have just written to the A.A.U.W. Fellowship Committee a note on behalf of Djang Hsiang-lan, and I must report this to New York."

I know you are keeping Miss Moore very carefully informed of your speaking engagements. Can you take time to comment rather fully on those you have already had, particularly with a view to giving Miss Moore the names of individuals - Smith or non-Smith - who may or may not be now on our lists, but whose interest struck you as particularly vital?

Sincerely yours,

TDM/aa

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Miss Ruth Chester,
3914 Locust Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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14 December 1938

My dear Miss Chester:

I am enclosing this note in a letter which Mrs. Leavens sent to us some days ago, and ask that we forward it on to you. As she had asked that we read the letter, Mrs. Macmillan decided to do a little scouting around in the Boston area for a person to take Mrs. Leavens' place. Almost spontaneously the name of Miss Sara Comins came to the mind of both Mrs. Macmillan and Mrs. Lyman. They are to have luncheon with Miss Comins tomorrow and will at that time try to persuade her to accept the position.

In the meantime, any comments you care to make on possible women for this position, will be welcomed. It may be that you have met some women of excellent qualifications for this place. If Miss Comins refuses to accept, we will need other suggestions.

Also, I wish to report that your pictures have now reached me. They are very good we think, and we thank you for them.

Sincerely yours,

AM

Miss Ruth Chester,
3914 Locust Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

Dec. 15, 1938.

Dear Eva:-

Your letter came in this morning and of course I agree on the principle of exchanging information on anything that is being done for Ginning, and I have been very careful to report my activities. The only slip has been that in the confusion attendant on Rebecca's long uncertainty and final withdrawal I have not known to whom some things should be reported. Dr. Wu's letter came only ten days ago, and she did not ask me to take charge of Chinese appointments, but only informally asked me to get in touch with some of the people she is considering, find out their plans, etc. and write her what I learn. I reported this to Miss Hodge, who told me Mrs. Sears is acting as candidate chairman, so I also wrote her about that and about Dr. Wu's request in regard to the music position. I also wrote Rebecca about both, before I knew who was in charge of candidate work. I can see that it would be a good idea to have Miss Moore a clearing house for everything and will see that everything I know gets to her, hereafter, but I did make prompt reports to several people. As to the matter of Chen Yu-dien, nothing that Dr. Wu has said gives any reason for me to go into that, and since Minnie wrote to you, and you and Miss Moore have started with her, it seems as if it might be better for you to see it through. However I am perfectly

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DEC 15 1938

willing to do it if you feel it is better for me to take over all matters relating to Chinese staff. I will hold this material until I hear from you. The next mail for China closes Monday, and I think her letter to Minnie should be sent then. If I don't hear otherwise from you, or get things straight by then I will write Minnie and get it into that mail anyhow. It seems as if there is really nothing more to do about it now for I would certainly not feel she ought to be urged to go to Nanking as long as her health is so poor.

To bring this report up to date what Dr. Wu asked me to do was to get in touch informally with Djang Hsiang-lan, Li Gwan-yuen and Bih Hao-ying to find out when they are planning to return, whether they have any jobs in sight or would be interested in coming to Ginling, what they would be prepared to teach, etc. and then write her. So far I have written Mrs. Thurston to find out what she knows about Djang Hsiang-lan since she has just been seeing her and I thought her advice would help me to know how to approach her. I am hoping I may see Li Gwan-yuen during vacation, so have not written her about it, but if I find I am not going to see her I will write in a few days. Bih Hae-ying is here and I hope to have a talk with her during the vacation, if not before. I have been very busy since I got home and have seen her only once and then not alone. This is all that relates to Chinese staff.

Dr. Wu also wrote about the music vacancy, hoping Miss Rhodes could still be obtained, and I have sent a copy of what she said to Mrs. Sears, so she is working on that. The other commission Dr. Wu gave me was to try to see Helen Loomis personally and talk

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DEC 15 [37]
1938

RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

with her and write back my impressions so that she will have them on her return from Madras if possible. On the basis of my report she will make the decision about Helen's return. This I think should be kept rather confidential. I have written Helen, but have not heard from her yet. I may go down to Washington to see her when I get her answer. I have also told Miss Hodge, Mrs. Sears and Rebecca about both of these things.

In regard to your conversation with Miss Bryson, I am mystified. She evidently got mixed somehow, as her letter to me recently showed. She seemed to think I was asking whether she had received any application from Wu Mou-i, which is entirely wrong. I know Mou-i hasn't made any application there, nor anywhere else, and I have no idea of advising her to go to Smith, for I am sure she could not get the work she wants there. The only conversation I had with Miss Bryson on such matters was when you were there, and you were asking about Chen Lan-ying, and suggested that if she had any applications from Ginling girls she had better talk to me about them while I was there. I think at that time Wu Mou-i was mentioned, and Miss B. probably did not understand that she was not thinking of going to Smith. So there was absolutely nothing that I can remember to report about any conversation I had with her. I have not done anything about Wu Mou-i because I have not heard from her whether she wants to try for something now or not.

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DEC 15 1938

While we are on the subject of sharing information I would like to say something which I have felt several times. It may be unavoidable but it is certainly unfortunate. I can appreciate what you say about needing to have up-to-date information when travelling, for I have been embarrassed by the lack of it several times. I have never seen until yesterday Catharine's account of the trip up the river, from which you quoted the little "poem" in one of those meetings at Smith. Later one of the girls was asking me about it, and wanted me to repeat it in some other group, but of course I couldn't. That is not a matter of any importance, but I did feel sorry that during all that speaking and meeting with people I had absolutely no information about Minnie's work. I know very little had come, but I did get that little, at the end of my trip when I especially asked for it, in your office. You told something about Liu Yu-hsia's work which seemed to have more recent and detailed information than anything I have seen, though it may have come last year before I got home. I realize that it takes a lot of office time to get such things out and I don't mean to be critical, especially in view of the special difficulties this fall. I would not have mentioned it if it were not so closely related to your letter to me and the only things I would suggest would be that when a person has definite speaking dates that are known in the office, some effort be made to send either a resume of important items, or the originals for a quick reading and return, so that when speaking we can be as up-to-date as possible. So far Florence has been sending me a copy of her diary, or Mrs. T., and we have shared it. Eva has also sent me all of her I think. Mrs. T. Sent me one or two of Catharines, but not the one which has just come out in mimeograph.

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DEC 15 (5)

1938

RUTH M. CHESTER
3914 LOCUST STREET
PHILADELPHIA

In this second letter you do not say anything further about the matter of Smith students corresponding with Ginling ones, so I will hold my reply to Alice Lyman a little longer till I hear from you. It is a hard matter to work out, for so often the letters that American girls write are so remote from the interests of Chinese girls that they have no enthusiams for replying. However, I am inclined to think that in the present situation American girls would be more likely to write suitable letters, for their realization of conditions in China might prompt them to something more serious than football and houseparties!

Miss Moore sent me Marjorie Leavens' letter. I don't know Sara Comins well, but from the little I do know I should think she would be good. If she won't or can't do it I don't at the moment have any other suggestion. All the people I have thought of so far are already so busy that I don't think it is any use to consider them. I will keep it in mind and let you know if I have any bright ideas.

I'm glad Mrs. Thurston had such a satisfactory trip and hope the results will be good.

I have had too many more urgent tasks since I got home to have had time to write up my Smith visit as I intend to do, both for the people in China and for the office here. I will try to get at it soon.

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DEC 15 1938

I took on a piece of work for a friend which took longer than I anticipated, and when it was finished I had a lot of accumulated correspondence and other matters to attend to.

I think there is nothing more I need to write about now, in the way of business. I will write directly to Miss Moore whenever there is anything more to report.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth.

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*Miss Moore
Please see
that Miss Thurston
has all information*

Hotel Bellevue
Boston Massachusetts
15 December 1938

Dear Ruth,

Miss Moore will have forwarded to you a letter I dictated while in New York. I now inclose a copy of a message about scholarships in a recent letter from Miss Sutherland. The entire letter you will be seeing, if you have not already, but this matter of scholarships is probably pressing.

Have you already been in touch with the Barbour Scholarship Committee, whose chairman is Professor W. Carl Rufus, University Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan? If you have not, probably you will wish to write at once, asking for the most recent copy of regulations, a sample form of application, and any other detailed information which you need. There is in the back of my mind the importance of January first in connection with Barbour applications. There is so much in my mind at the moment, that I do not trust this impression, which I have not recently checked with the facts, and which may mean that it was on January first that we had to send all of our material from China for Barbour consideration. Will you please let Professor Rufus know from you that the Ginling people in this country (Mrs. Thurston, you, and I, specifically) are working together to make Ginling applications as clear and satisfactory as possible. Mr. Rufus told me last year that the unusual consideration which Chinese girls, and particularly Ginling girls, had received in the past was now being sharply challenged by candidates of other nationalities, particularly those from India. The Committee, therefore, needs to have as strong confidence in the quality of Ginling applications as we can possibly give it.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Ruth Chester
c/o Mrs. William B. Stimson
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

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150 Fifth Avenue
New York New York
31 December 1938

Dear Ruth,

You will be very glad to know that we have received Sara Comins' acceptance of the chairmanship of the Smith Alumnae Committee for Ginling. She has had splendid experience in successful organizational work, is primarily interested in religious youth movements, and has a fine, clear mind in the planning of programs. We are very fortunate indeed to have her. She accepts, of course, on condition that the work can continue to be done in New York; her contribution will be in the making of plans.

I had a good talk last Tuesday with the Misses Cook. They expressed concern that you should not be asked to do more speaking than you should within the next few months, and I assured them that we were making no definite demands upon you in that line. Miss Moore has just sent me engagements for the next month, and it is necessary that we decide what to do with an opening at the Knox School on January 21. Mrs. Houghton, head of the school, and her long-time associate, Mrs. Phinney, are both Smith women, and I believe that this school is capable of meaning more to Ginling than it has in the past. You are probably remembering that Gratia Sharp went there as secretary to Mrs. Phinney after she recovered from her illness last year; Gratia is very eager to have your ^{first} January engagement make a really deep impression on the girls as well as the Heads.

Do your other plans make it possible for you to take the trip to Cooperstown? The school pays the expenses, and I am now in process of discovering whether they have a 16-millimeter projector and screen. They meet their guests at the nearest railway station, the name of which I do not remember at the moment. Will you let me know at the New York office whether this date is at all possible for you?

Sincerely yours,

Miss Ruth Chester
c/o Mrs. William B. Stimson
3914 Locust Street
Philadelphia Pa.

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

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GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

The Ginling College Unit in Shanghai

Letter written by Ruth Chester, March 3, 1938.
Received in New York in June, 1938.

I will try now to give you some picture of the Ginling unit in Shanghai as it is organized for this spring term. We have rented altogether six rooms in the Y.W.C.A. building - a large, modern downtown office building, just two doors from the missions building. Three of these rooms are fitted up as class rooms with furniture borrowed from the Mary Farnham School (Presbyterian High School in Shanghai), which was glad to have a chance to move it from its own building where it was constantly in danger of being stolen. Blackboards are painted on the walls. A very nice corner room is being used as a reading and study room for the students - possibly this might be considered a bit of a luxury, but it is one that the girls much appreciate and which will certainly improve the quality of work done, for most of them have no quiet place to study. This is also furnished with Mary Farnham furniture including a magazine rack which is already full with regular library magazines which are coming here. Part of the mail for the college lands here and part goes via Hongkong and Hankow to Szechuan, so our files are not complete, and very likely some are lost, but at least what we have is available for student and faculty use. I think we now have one or more copies of 30-40 magazines. Those four rooms are on the fourth floor and on the fifth we have a large pleasant faculty office with five large desks, and two small ones. Each desk is used by two people and the room does not offer ideal conditions of quiet for study, but at least gives them a place to keep books and papers and to work an hour or so between classes. There will be some periods when class rooms can be used for conferences so that will help some. Next to the faculty office is a small administrative office where Wang Ming-djen and I have our desks and do a little work occasionally between interruptions. In addition to these rooms, Mrs. New has taken a good sized room on the third floor, partly as an office for herself and partly to give us a little overflow space, so we take refuge there sometimes for committee meetings and for rest and quiet. I think she had Dr. Wu in mind too when she took that room and she will find it a great help when she gets here.

We have thirteen faculty here now and Miss Whitmer will be here in a few days. All of them belong to the regular teaching staff so we have had to "learn by doing" on the administrative side. Wang Ming-djen has made an excellent registrar and general partner in the multitudinous details of administrative work, and I really don't see how the job could possibly have been done without her. Her experience in the curriculum committee and as class schedule officer for some years past meant that she was familiar with all the registration routine. We did not even have a sample copy of any of our registration forms, and altogether had one English and two Chinese catalogues! The rest of the administrative work has been my job, with the help on the more important problems of Mrs. New and Liu En-lan as an administrative committee. Various parts of it have been delegated to other faculty members, but most of them are pretty busy as teaching under these conditions is not as efficient as in normal times. Everyone has helped and they have all been patient with the many irritating inadequacies. Mr. Sung as chairman of the equipment committee has done a great deal to get us properly set up.

Our faculty is good as far as it goes, but it certainly could not be called a well balanced one, from the curriculum point of view. Some departments are very well represented with two or three members, and others are entirely lacking. We could not possibly have done an independent piece of work, but cooperation with other East China Christian Colleges has made work possible. Six colleges are here in some form, but only five have enough courses to affect the curriculum much. So when our students needed courses we could not offer we have sent them to any of these other

institutions and we have a very large number of such cases. All of them have registered with us and paid their tuition to us, and then the college will pay to other colleges at the rate of \$3 per credit for courses elected by our students. It is supposed to be a mutual arrangement, but of course we need them more than some of them need us, especially the two who belong in Shanghai and have somewhere near normal curriculum, so we are sending out more students than we receive, but we do have quite a number of University of Nanking students in our classes, since they are giving only one or two courses themselves. We have been very generous in allowing the girls to choose outside courses, perhaps too much so, but we all feel it is more important to give them a reasonable range of choice than to save a few dollars by forcing them into our courses. We have a few who are not taking any Ginling courses except Physical Education - seniors who are majoring in Sociology and minoring in psychology for instance, for we have nothing here in either of those departments. Cooperation is also helping to solve for us all the very difficult problems of library and laboratory facilities. St. Johns is the only one of the six institutions that has anything in these lines and they have very generously made them available for us all. The joint library has a large reading room in the building where the St. Johns classes are held and reference and reserve books for all courses in all these institutions are on those shelves. Their card catalogue is also there and faculty can order any books they need brought in from their main library out on the campus. So we practically have their whole library available. We all help finance it and each student has an identification card and is entitled also to take out books under usual restrictions. In addition to this the city library and a number of other specialized libraries are available so we shall not do so badly for books I think, only it takes a lot of faculty time to go all over town hunting them. The English department is borrowing books from all our friends and they have been most generous. The Morris family has provided many books for English, Music, and History and is lending records for Hu Shih-tsang's course in Music appreciation. I don't quite see how we could do without their assistance.

The joint laboratories are also housed in the St. Johns building and have been equipped with gas and water and they have moved in their laboratory desks and their apparatus. Work is being scheduled so that the rooms and apparatus are being used all day by different groups, St. Johns, and ours in the afternoon, mostly, and the University of Shanghai and one or two others in the morning. There are going to be many difficulties of administration, due to having so many people use the same outfits, but I guess it will work out somehow and will be better than no laboratories at all. Only science majors are being allowed to take laboratory courses and they won't get all they usually do, but last term they had none, so this is at least some improvement. All laboratory fees are to be paid to St. Johns and it is hoped that most of the additional expense will be covered either by the Council of Higher Education or by a special grant from the Associated Boards. If this is not forthcoming we shall each have to help cover the cost, but I hope that will not be necessary.

For our Physical education work we have the use of the Navy Y.M.C. A. gymnasium which is only a few minutes walk from here, from 8-11 each morning. They are also being very generous in their charges and it is fine that we can have this place so near and so well equipped.

With the approval of the administrative committee I took the liberty of adding one part time person to our staff. For years we have wished for a really good Art Appreciation course and when I saw that Mrs. Ely was giving one at St. Johns I thought it would be fine to have her do it for us. We shall not have to pay much and it is our largest class - 19 I think, and she limited it to 20. Several alumnae and other specials are taking it and their fees alone will cover quite a part of it. I hope it will be really interesting and valuable for the girls. Mrs. Ely seemed glad to do it and is a most enthusiastic teacher.

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Now for a few statistics. We have a total of 54 regular students, 22 seniors of whom 14 will finish in June I think, 13 juniors, 9 sophomores and 9 freshmen. In addition we have about 15 University of Nanking students taking from 1 to 4 courses each, and a few specials taking English or Art or music. About ten of the students I expected transferred to St. Johns, so our total regular enrollment is less than I hoped for. I don't know all the reasons for these transfers but I think family pressure in favor of Shanghai institutions which would not be liable to move out of town had something to do with it in some cases. Outside of faculty salaries I think we are sure of covering by fees taken in the cost of running this unit, but I had hoped it might do a little more than that and help carry part of the salary budget.

This week we had the privilege of meeting Mr. Rabe, the German who has been chairman of the relief committee in Nanking. He began his talk by paying great tributes to his fellowworkers there in Nanking. The first one he mentioned was Minnie Vautrin. He said something like this: "I shall never forget the sight of Miss Vautrin leading a line of girls and young women through the streets, on December 13th to the safety of the Ginling refugee camp, past groups of soldiers out hunting for women - it was a man's job, but she did it!"

Letter from Ruth Chester - Shanghai
April 21, 1938.

The biggest event here since we wrote last is Dr. Yi-fang Wu's arrival, which as she may have told you, was perfectly timed so she could come right in to our assembly which comes only once in two weeks. Probably she has written some about the Shanghai situation and how it affects us. Just about the time she arrived we were beginning to feel more concerned about the many stories of girls and women being kidnapped and carried off to "the other side of town". I don't doubt there are more stories than cases, but I know of one or two that have come pretty straight and that I feel are substantially true and they are enough to make us a little uneasy all the time about our students who have to be on the streets so much. Just last week and this one of our seniors has had some disquieting attentions. First she was followed by three men in a car who took her picture three times. Then day before yesterday, the same men, who, she says, are Japanese, followed her on foot for some distance, waited outside while she ate a hurried lunch in a restaurant, and then followed her further until she took a bus for home. She is sure they were the same men, and saw them get into the same car and drive off. We don't know just what this means - perhaps nothing much, but it has enough possibilities of seriousness to cause us a good bit of anxiety.

Her family is here, fortunately and she is living at home, so we don't have to take responsibility for telling her what to do. Her father is a prominent Christian leader and was in to see me with her yesterday. I can't help wondering just a little whether it is an indirect attempt to put pressure on him and frighten him into silence and inactivity. I hope that is not the case. I was told by quite a responsible Chinese in the educational field here, that they have definitely traced the murder of Herman Liu to Japanese sources and that they had 50 men in wait for him that morning at various places! I cannot check that information, but I don't think he is the sort of person who would repeat such a story without adequate evidence. It all gives one a rather creepy feeling and it is so easy in such a situation to get into an excessively suspicious state of mind and take some things more seriously than they should be. From this point of view I am glad that Dr. Wu will not be here very long.

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On Sunday April 10 the alumnae here had a meeting to welcome Dr. Wu and also to welcome the seniors. Dr. Wu spoke about her experiences in these last months, Dju Gioh-fang described the work various alumnae have done here for relief, etc. Then Li-ming read the list of alumnae whose whereabouts are unknown and found quite a number of them were known to someone present. They also collected that day a small loan fund for alumnae who are out of jobs and in urgent need. It will mean a lot to those who are in need to have the backing and sympathy of other alumnae as well as the financial help, and the idea is that the money will be repaid when they get back on their feet, financially.

Searle Bates was here for about ten days and we all listened with great eagerness to all that he had to say. They are preparing a survey of property and live stock losses in and around Nanking.

It is decided that I should go home this summer. I am both glad and sorry, but on the whole it seems best, for if this unit is to be stopped there will not be any urgent need for me. I have a sailing for July 10 on the Empress of Russia.

Letter from Ruth Chester - Shanghai
May 12, 1938

Mrs. New went with Dr. Wu as far as Hong Kong so I can't very easily share your letter with both her and Minnie, at least not very promptly unless someone copies them. Also as far as Minnie's concerned our communications are rather erratic these days on this sort of thing. Strictly college business, or harmless personal letters can go through readily by post now to Nanking taking about two days. But we don't feel it wise to put into the post anything that might cause any unpleasant reactions on the part of the censors, so that limits us a good deal. I think it would be better in writing to Shanghai if you avoided the use of names of people from here who are speaking, or whose letters or reports are in use.

Yesterday at our "Presidents" meeting plans for the joint commencement and Baccalaureate were discussed. Seven institutions are joining together - we, University of Nanking, Soochow, Hangchow, University of Shanghai, St. Johns and the Women's Medical, for these two functions. Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 19 at 4:30 in the Moore Memorial Church, with Cheng Ching-yi the speaker, we hope. Commencement will be Saturday morning June 25 at 10 in the Grand Theatre which I think is about the largest one. It seats about 2000 I believe. They have given it free and the radio company is giving free use of the amplifying system. They are going to see if it is possible to get the program broadcast, and also will try to get movies if possible, but I don't know what luck they will have on those. W. W. Yen will be the speaker. The seniors are planning some sort of modified class day program on Friday afternoon, June 24. The faculty are having the banquet for seniors immediately after commencement on Saturday noon.

This office will close officially June 30. I will see that mail gets taken care of if it arrives after that time, so I think you had better continue to use this address as long as you write to Shanghai at all. Florence Kirk and I will be leaving our apartment the end of June also. If I can do as I want to I shall be in Nanking for a week or so before I sail. I shall try to arrange a day or two here before sailing anyway to catch up the last loose ends. Wang Ming-chen is going to America towards the end of August but will be here until she sails, staying with her sister. You can address her at 411 Yu Yuen Rd. She is very capable and dependable and has been my right hand man in the office this spring.

I think we shall graduate 16 or 17 seniors here, including two or three who will not be quite finished but very near it. There are 14 really finishing before commencement. You probably know there are 5 more in Chengtu, one in Wuchang and two at Yenching, so our total will be around 25 I think, which ^{is} doing pretty well considering.

Letter from Ruth Chester - Shanghai
May 29, 1938

Miss is bringing you the rest of the movie that took of the Ginling camp activities. I put the explanations and captions Minnie Vautrin wrote out into the box with the film. It is quite interesting, I think, and it is good to find an oasis of constructive work in this awful desert. All the Nanking folk agree that the best piece of work that has been done there is this Ginling work. Not all the credit is due to Ginling, for many others helped in it, especially the Episcopal Mission men, but it was doubtless Minnie's vision and faith which laid its foundations and she was certainly its guiding spirit.

As for Shanghai life has settled down again to a more normal state, after the rather uneasy month of April. I have not for weeks heard any reports or rumors even, of girls being taken or molested in any way. Quite a gang that had been doing systematic traffic in women was arrested and convicted and given fairly heavy sentences and that seems to have had a wholesome effect. Probably the large number of Japanese women who are now available has helped too. There has been a lot of minor bomb-throwing and hand grenades and such and police have been combing certain parts of the city for trouble-makers, but the outlook for our particular little group coming through the term without any misfortunes, looks good.

I think I shall probably go across to Montreal and direct to Sutton Island, Maine till the end of the summer so will not be around N.Y. till sometime early in September.

Letter from Florence Kirk - Shanghai
May 13, 1938

Liu En-lan, who has been in the hospital for a few days with what has been diagnosed as bacillary dysentery, is feeling quite perky. Yesterday the faculty played the students in volley-ball, and each side won a game. The stars were Chen Yu-hwa (Li-ming's husband, brought in, perhaps under false pretences), Ettie Chen, and Hwa Li-ming. The weak spots were Eva Spicer, Alice Chang and Hwang Dzun-mei! Ettie insists that I tell you that everyone did nobly. Today at noon we have our luncheon-discussion group. We have about a dozen members of the group, and we take turns in providing the luncheon. We settle down to about an hour and quarter of discussion and reports

Letter from Florence Kirk - Shanghai
May 29, 1938

Whether we can get any supplies from Nanking before we start for Chengtu is still a question. The more than twenty applicants to return to Nanking were to have known yesterday whether their passes came through or not - and at the military pass office, it seemed very promising. However, it is now to be decided "next week", and so it goes on. Eva and I have applied to go down for not more than a week, beginning June 8, and when we left our applications, it looked hopeful!

The plans for Commencement seem to be coming along favorably. The faculty banquet committee is at work (Harriet, En-lan and Ettie Chin). The seniors are at comprehensives this week, and last week the sophomores took their comprehensives.

From Nanking Gazette (Nanking Kung Pao) March 2, 1938.

Third issue of the first newspaper attempted in Nanking under Japanese occupation. On the following day no paper was published, and thereafter it was resumed under a new name. It is known that Chairman Tao had much difficulty with the Japanese Special Service Organ over various matters, and that he persisted in his resignation.

SELF-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN TAO HSI-SAN SEEKS FOR LOST PROPERTY

Almost complete loss of his Buddhist images and scriptures
To which he had devoted his heart and soul for 16 years
if the original articles can be restored, his heart
and spirit can be reestablished in peace

The Chairman of the Self-Government Committee of this city, Tao Hsi-san, well along in years and eminent in learning, is extremely devoted to the scriptures. Recently because of the outbreak of the Incident, his family property was laid waste. Besides other things in particular the collections of many years, Buddhist images for divination (?) and all classes of scriptures were entirely looted. Indeed this was so distressing as to bring an increase in actual physical illness from which recovery is difficult. He wrote a special letter to the Self-Government, requesting them to act for him in cooperative aid to inquiries and investigations. We have secured his original letter, which is printed below:

Report of January 29. According to information from persons of my household, my residence at No. 27 Municipal Government Road was formerly occupied by soldiers who have now gone. When entered the house for inspection, all the blackwood furniture, and the clothing, trunks, porcelain, and metalware, with all utensils, amounting to about four or five thousand dollars, had been looted clean. I still should not have been completely sorrowful, but for the fact that there were included a Buddhist shrine, revered images of the Buddhist faith, and pictures of my sainted paternal and maternal ancestors, and various Buddhist scriptures to which I have devoted my heart and soul in sixteen years of ethical cultivation, offering a fragrant sacrifice each day. Now the whole lot have been stolen. Upon hearing it, I was wounded in heart, and wept a weeping of miserable tears; as in mourning for my deceased parents, grieved to the point of not desiring life. Just at the time of resigning my duties for quiet recuperation, again I encountered this extraordinary grief, and my illness became increasingly serious.

A few days ago I tearfully begged Chairman Swen and Commissioner Wang (of police) to act for me in combined aid for searching. Thereupon Commissioner Wang deigned to despatch policeman to go with members of the household to every place and matshed in the district, searching and investigating. Nothing was secured. In the past few days we again sent people to every place where books and scrolls were spread out, looking for several days' time, but still got nothing. Formerly there was observed in the house a Japanese post-card left behind by a military occupant, on which was written: Lieutenant Amano of the Noda Unit of the Headquarters of the Nakajima Detachment (given name added). This Mr. Amano was one of the military men who occupied the house. Isn't it possible to pass on a request to the officers of the Japanese military administration, for them to inquire from Mr. Amano whether he has seen these scriptures, images, and treasures of Buddha? Might it be that on the basis of relationship through identity of language and common faith in the sacred Buddha, that he acted on my behalf to preserve them? If it is possible by this connection to restore the original articles, then my heart might be reestablished in calm, and my sick body gain complete recovery.....(formal conclusion with list of Buddhist treasures)

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