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Vautrin, Wilhelmina
1919

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Room 916, 156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

April 26, 1919.

Mrs. Anna K. Atwater,
College of Missions Building,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mrs. Atwater:-

I am exceedingly sorry that you were not able to be at the Ginling meeting the week before last, just as I regretted not being able to attend the meeting at Yonkers. How convenient it would be to be able to be at least in two places at the same time!

At that meeting we saw Mr. Murphy, the architect, who is just back from Nanking. He brought proposed plans which are somewhat different from the ones in the booklet that have been approved by the Faculty and Committee in China, and which we also liked very much.

Miss Goucher was present at the meeting, and said that she had had a talk with Miss Vautrin that led her to believe that one more appeal, put in a little different form and emphasising the fact that the Faculty and Board of Control in China, and Ginling Committee in America were unanimous in urging her to go to take Mrs. Thurston's place during her absence and to continue on the Faculty, would win her over; so Miss Goucher was commissioned to have another talk with her, with the result that Miss Vautrin has consented to go for this year at any rate. We are very happy over this, and I am writing to inform you and ask if we need to present another formal request to your Board, or whether this letter of mine is sufficient? I feel that it will strengthen the work in this country and on the field to have a member of your Board on the Faculty. Mrs. Thurston is expected home on furlough during the summer, and I should think the most satisfactory arrangement in regard to Miss Abbott would be to have a talk with her. I doubt if there is time to write before she sails, but I will if that is possible.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Hodge was obliged to leave the office before this letter was typed.

AM

514 W. 122 St. New York City,
May 5, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth Bender
New York City.

My dear Miss Bender -

I had hoped to see
you last week but find
my schedule becomes
rather complicated these
days.

Miss Bender, my answer
to Miss Garcher was as
follows - If you can
absolutely find no one
else to do the work
in Girling, I will do
it temporarily. I still
feel, Miss Bender that
Miss Garcher is the

logical person to fill
Mrs. Thurston's place,
and that there must
be some one in America
admirably prepared to
do that work in education
which Girling needs.

I have made this
decision without consult-
ing my Board or the
my mission, and was
led to make it only
because I do not want
Girling to suffer if you
do not succeed in
finding any one else.

MAY 5
1919

Sincerely yours,
Minnie Vautrin

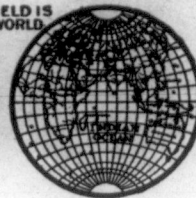
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FOREIGN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

BOX 884

CINCINNATI, OHIO

CABLE ADDRESS, "GO"



July 1st, 1919.

*Ans
Ginling
Hodfr*

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender,
Room 715,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Miss Bender:-

We are just in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Atwater of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, asking that we write you in regard to loaning Miss Vautrin to fill the place of Mrs. Thurston during her furlough next year. I think you know that we have been waiting for several years for a young lady to begin the girls' school work at Nantungchow. Our Mission in China selected Miss Vautrin for this place, and has been planning that she should begin this work upon her return this fall. It is our settled policy to leave the assignment of missionaries to our Mission on the field. We have consistently adhered to this practice. Your request, of course, is a little out of the ordinary, but we do not feel it is one upon which we should take action here.

We will be quite frank in saying, however, that if it were left to us we would feel that because of the many disappointments and delays with reference to workers for Nantungchow, we ought not to call Miss Vautrin away from that work. We have a terribly depleted force throughout our stations in China just now, and our feeling that she could not be spared is in no sense due to a lack of interest in Ginling College.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Doan

RAD/ME

International Convention, Cincinnati, October 13-20

0348

Secor, Illinois

July 2, 1919.

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Ans

Miss Elizabeth Bender
New York City.

Dear Miss Bender,

I'm beginning to wonder
what arrangements have been
made for Girling for next
year. You remember, I
consented to go only in
case you could not find
any one else. I think it
was understood that you
were to continue search-
ing for a person both
for the temporary presidency
and for the department
of education. I'm sure
you have found someone
by this time, haven't you?
My own Board seems

[2]

quite disappointed over
my consenting to go at
all. Personally I've ceased
feeling that there is any
one particular place for
me in China.

If it becomes necessary
for me to go to Girdling,
don't you think I ought
to see Mrs. Thurston
before I leave America?
I shall be leaving Chicago
about August 14 for the
west. Am sailing from
Vancouver on the Mont-
eagle which is scheduled
for August 23.

I imagine you are
in Columbus Ohio
now, working as hard
as ever. These must

(37)

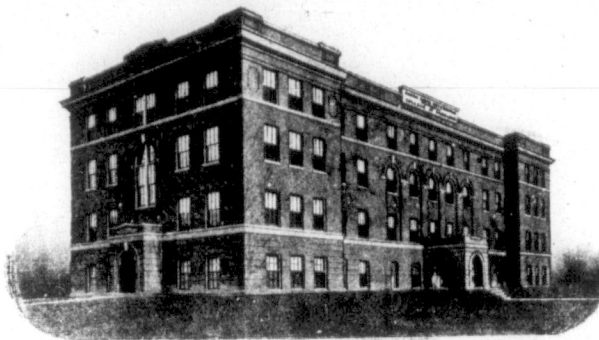
be great days in Columbus.
Your church has surely
finished a herculean
task and is to be
congratulated for it.

Sincerely your friend,

JUL 21 919

Minnie Vautrin

MRS. ANNA R. ATWATER. PRESIDENT
MRS. IDA W. HARRISON. VICE-PRESIDENT
530 ELM TREE LANE, LEXINGTON, KY.
MRS. EFFIE L. CUNNINGHAM. SECRETARY
MRS. JOSEPHINE M. STEARNS. SECRETARY
MISS DAISY JUNE TROUT. SECRETARY



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND COLLEGE OF MISSIONS

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MRS. ESTHER TREUDLEY JOHNSON. SECRETARY
MRS. SUSANNE MOFFETT. TREASURER
W. C. PAYNE. FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Christian Woman's Board of Missions

COLLEGE OF MISSIONS BUILDING

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. July 2, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender,
Room 715, 150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Bender:-

I supposed the Foreign Christian Missionary Society would send you a message about Miss Vautrin and their thought in regard to her work next year. I think I have told you that, up to October first, we are two separate boards. Miss Vautrin is a missionary of their Board. When she returns to China she will be a missionary of the two Boards.

We have a large joint responsibility in the Nantungchow District. They have constantly urged that Miss Vautrin must take the leadership of our school work there. We have not wanted to urge our claims for Ginling. We have hoped all the time that we would get a young woman who would be needed in Ginling. I know we have some in China capable of service there if they fit into the place of need. Of course, none of them have had the experience that Miss Vautrin has had, and so could not take the responsibility the authorities want to place on her next year.

I wrote the Foreign Society reminding them that they should send you final word. I trust, before this time, they have done that.

I hope everything is moving on well with you.

With earnest good wishes,

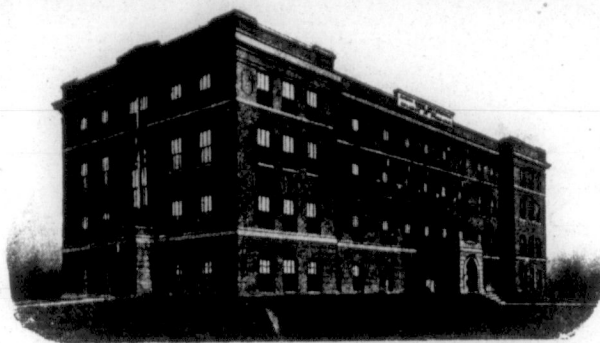
Truly yours,

Anna R. Atwater

ARA/HC

0352

MRS. ANNA R. ATWATER, PRESIDENT
MRS. IDA W. HARRISON, VICE-PRESIDENT
530 ELM TREE LANE, LEXINGTON, KY.
MRS. EFFIE L. CUNNINGHAM, SECRETARY
MRS. JOSEPHINE M. STEARNS, SECRETARY
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W. C. PAYNE, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Christian Woman's Board of Missions

COLLEGE OF MISSIONS BUILDING

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. July 8, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth E. Bender,
Room 715, 150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Bender:-

I have yours of July second. Rev. Mr. Crabtree, of San Diego, California, is one of our very reliable and much loved ministers. I have met him and believe in him. He is of a family of good, staunch, Christian people. I would have confidence in his daughter, though I do not remember having seen her. I do not think her name is listed with us as a candidate for the mission field. I am glad you have written her to get into correspondence with us. We shall be so glad if she proves to be the right one for a place in Ginling College Faculty.

We are making it a rule that all missionaries we send to any of the fields shall have at least one year of training in the College of Missions or in some school equal to it as a training school. Our experience with missionaries who have gone out from this special training seems to justify our taking that attitude, and yet, if Miss Crabtree should be found ready for China and for Ginling College without this training, our Board might make an exception to the rule and be glad to support her in that work. We shall be glad to learn further what you hear from her.

The Birdseye View of Ginling has not yet come to hand. We shall be glad to see it and order more. We welcome the things that interest our young people in the various enterprises on the field.

I am assured by the Foreign Christian Missionary Society that they have sent you final word about Miss Vautrin. I am very sorry for the disappointment, but we cannot wonder that they take this attitude, and it may be best for all concerned.

Faithfully yours,

ARM NG

Anna R. Atwater.

0353

July 8th, 1919.

Miss Minnie Vautrin,
Secor, Ill.

My dear Miss Vautrin:

A few days ago I received a letter from Mrs. Atwater saying that the Board felt they could not release you for work in Ginling, and this morning a letter bringing the same word has been received from Mr. Doan.

A week or ten days ago a cablegram was received from Ginling asking if they could expect you for work in the fall. It was just after Mrs. Atwater's letter had been received, and we were compelled to cable them the disappointing news.

No one has been found as yet to take the Department of Education, nor has anyone been secured to go to Ginling this summer. We have a number of lines out and hope that even at this late date we will be able to appoint one or more candidates.

Even though we are greatly disappointed, we are not inclined to criticize your Board or feel dissatisfied with their decision, for we realize that their first responsibility is to the work of their Board and that they have a perfect right to hold on to you. Your Board appreciates your value very highly and it is not at all surprising that they are unwilling to release you.

I am glad to have had the opportunity of knowing you, shall always think of you with pleasure, and wish you the best things in your work in China.

Sincerely yours,

0354

July 8th, 1919.

Mr. R. A. Doan,
College of Missions Building,
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Doan:

I am in receipt of your letter of July 1st conveying the official information that your Board does not feel that Miss Vautrin should be released for work in Ginling for a year. It is, of course, a very great disappointment to our Committee and will be a greater one to the College, but under the circumstances we recognize your right to judge what will best promote the work in China. Many of us are greatly handicapped from lack of workers. This doubtless is true in your case, making you feel that you cannot afford to release one of your best and experienced workers.

The deep interest which your Woman's Board has always taken in Ginling and their readiness to cooperate in all that promotes the good of the College, has been a great satisfaction and help to us. On behalf of the Committee I wish to express my appreciation of the splendid work of your women and to say that we hope it will not be long before they have a representative on the College staff.

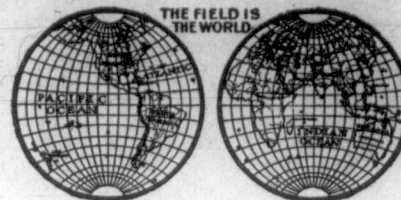
Sincerely yours,

0355

PRESIDENT
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LAYMEN'S SECRETARY
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TREASURER
C. W. PLOPPER

FOREIGN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

BOX 884
CINCINNATI, OHIO
CABLE ADDRESS, "GO"



July 15th, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Bender:-

Your letter of the 8th instant, addressed to me at Indianapolis by mistake, has just been received. We are glad that you appreciate our position with reference to Miss Vautrin. Our scarcity of workers in China may not be any more acute than that of other Missions, but it does seem that we have been deprived of an unusual number during the past year, and we are finding it next to impossible to fill vacancies.

We appreciate your commendation of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions in their readiness to co-operate in all that promotes the good of Ginling College. The women at the head of this organization constitute an exceptionally fine group, and the co-operation of our own Board with them is a constant satisfaction.

We are deeply interested in the work of Ginling College, and we hope if there should be occasion for you to call upon us again, we may be in better shape to help.

Sincerely yours,

RAD/ME

International Convention, Cincinnati, October 13-20

0356

Secor, Illinois ⁽¹⁷⁾
Mrs Thurston July 21, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth R. Bender,
New York City.

Dear Miss Bender —

Your letter to me
was the first intimation
that I had, that my
Board decided I should
go to Nan Tung Chow
and not to Girling.

I do want to say
this to you personally,
Miss Bender, that if
you find no one to
go to Girling during Mrs.
Thurston's furlough, that
I will go. I don't believe

0357

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(2)

our Board sees the urgency
of that need ^{JUL 21} as we do.
They want to start the
girls' school in Nan Tung
Chow and they feel I
must do it. I don't feel
that way at all, in
fact I feel that there
is a woman in our
mission in China who
could do it as well as
I. If then, Miss Bender,
you find no suitable per-
son for Ginling send word
to the F. C. M. S. asking
that I be given an
opportunity to express
my choice between work
in Nantungchow and Ginling.
You understand that
this letter is private and

is a safeguard against^[3]
an undesirable situation
in Girding.

It surely is warm
and dusty in Illinois
these days. I hope for
your sake it is better
in New York. Are you
as busy as ever? I'm
sorry I didn't succeed
in getting a house-mate
for you next year.

I shall be leaving Seers
for Chicago about August
8th. From there I start
west on August 16th. Sail
from Vancouver on August 23.

Sincerely your friend,

JUL 21 1919 Minnie Vautrin

Extract.

July 30, 1919.

My dear Miss Hodge:-

I am sure you will be disappointed to know that I have no definite results to report as the result of my work these two weeks. Perhaps I need make no explanation as I think the enclosed papers will be self-explanatory. I confess I do not know which way to turn next.

I wish Miss Crabtree were available and satisfactory for she would meet two needs,- that of the representative of the Christian Board and of someone to take charge of the Physical Education Department.

Miss Mead was very enthusiastic about Miss Swann and made an opportunity for me to meet her. I am not sure whether it would be wise to send her to take charge of the Physical Education when she is not qualified as a teacher, but I think Mrs. Thurston should decide this, and I am trying to arrange for them to meet.

I hope she will also be able to meet Miss Laura Chessel, for it may be that she is the right one for the Department of Education.

~~Miss Vautrin~~ does not quite agree with her Board in their plans for her work after her return to China, for she feels there is a woman in China who could do that work as well as she. She adds, "If then you find no suitable person for Ginling, send word to the F.C.M.S. asking that I be given an opportunity to express my choice between work in Nantungchow and Ginling. You understand that this letter is private, but is a safeguard against an undesirable situation in Ginling." So you will see that we have a lingering hope here. I think we should have a conference with Mrs. Thurston on this point before acting.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Elizabeth R. Bender.

GINLING COLLEGE COMMITTEE

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FRANK MASON NORTH } University of Nanking
MRS. HENRY W. PEABODY
Woman's American Baptist
Foreign Mission Society
MRS. ANNA R. ATWATER
Christian Woman's Board of Missions
MISS ELIZABETH R. BENDER
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
Methodist Episcopal Church
MISS MABEL K. HOWELL
Board of Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church, South
MISS MARGARET E. HODGE
Board of Foreign Missions
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
MISS ELIZABETH DEERING HANSCOM
Advisory Member
Association for Christian Work, Smith College

GINLING COLLEGE

NANKING, CHINA

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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186 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.
MISS ELIZABETH R. BENDER, SECRETARY
186 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.
RUSSELL CARTER, TREASURER
186 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE
MRS. LAWRENCE THURSTON
NANKING, CHINA

September 4, 1919.

My dear Miss Hodge:-

I have just had a letter from Dr. McLean, of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, referring to Miss Vautrin.

I will quote:

"This office has received a cablegram from China about Miss Vautrin and Ginling. The cablegram is not clear. There are two words in it that are not in the code. We have been trying for several days to get the message repeated, but thus far have not succeeded. But we feel sure our Mission in China has voted that Miss Vautrin should go to Ginling for one year. The cablegram asked us to inform you of this, and to inform Miss Vautrin also, as we are doing. Miss Vautrin sails from Vancouver on the Monteagle of the Canadian Pacific Line on the 15th."

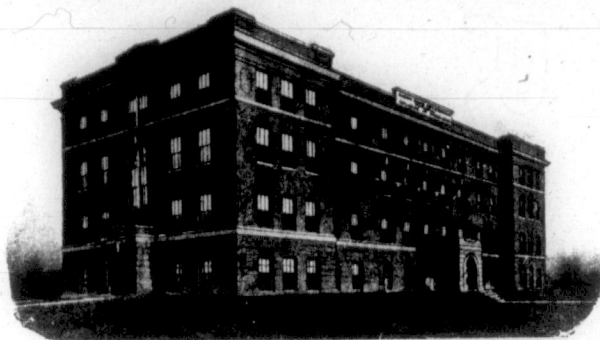
While Dr. McLean does not say that this message decides the matter of the transfer of Miss Vautrin to Ginling, do you not feel that such is the inference? I think Miss Vautrin is quite willing, under the circumstances, to help for a year and I hope that such is the ^{meaning} ~~understanding~~ of the message. I am sending the information to Mrs. Thurston, who will be glad to have it.

I reached the city this morning and find plenty of work to take my attention. I hope that you are having real rest in spite of responsibilities which it is hard to escape.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth R. Bender

NA R. ATWATER, PRESIDENT
M A W. HARRISON, VICE-PRESIDENT
230 ELM TREE LANE, LEXINGTON, KY.
MRS. EFFIE L. CUNNINGHAM, SECRETARY
MRS. JOSEPHINE M. STEARNS, SECRETARY
MISS DAISY JUNE TROUT, SECRETARY



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W. C. PAYNE, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Christian Woman's Board of Missions

COLLEGE OF MISSIONS BUILDING

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

September 5,
1919.

Miss Margaret E. Hodge,
Room 916, 156-5th Avenue,
New York City.

My Dear Miss Hodge:-

I am afraid that some letters you wrote some time back have been passed over without answering.

I was interested in Mrs. Thurston's judgment about Miss Abbott. I knew her specialty is mathematics. We also knew that we could not put anyone into the faculty at Ginling unless they fitted into the need.

I wonder if by this time you have had a letter from the Foreign Christian Missionary Society of Cincinnati. I was with them last week. They were puzzling much over a cable received from China but were quite confident it meant that our mission in China had voted to have Miss Vautrin spend the coming year in Ginling College. They were turning the cable back for interpretation of the latter part. Perhaps by this time they have sent you word about it. They did not think it best to send a partial message but you see I am more bold about it. I could not but be pleased that this decision seems to have been reached and I know all the rest of you will be glad.

In one of your letters you speak of Miss Ethel L. Ireland of Gordon, Nebraska. You ask if we are willing she should be approached for Ginling. You also speak of Helen L. Richey of Boynton, Florida. Miss Richey is to be at the College of Missions here in Indianapolis, this year for special preparation. I do not know about Miss Ireland. I think later you received word that she was not really one of our people.

Faithfully,

Anna R. Atwater.

ARA: LMR

Imagine my surprise on hearing today, since I dictated this letter, that Miss Vautrin is to marry one of our missionaries from China. He is now on furlough. So Ginling will not have Miss Vautrin.

0362

MRS. ANNA R. ATWATER. PRESIDENT
MRS. IDA W. HARRISON. VICE-PRESIDENT
530 ELM TREE LANE, LEXINGTON, KY.
MRS. EFFIE L. CUNNINGHAM. SECRETARY
MRS. JOSEPHINE M. STEARNS. SECRETARY
MISS DAISY JUNE TROUT. SECRETARY



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND COLLEGE OF MISSIONS

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MRS. ESTHER TREUDLEY JOHNSON. SECRETARY
MRS. SUSANNE MOFFETT. TREASURER
W. C. PAYNE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Christian Woman's Board of Missions

COLLEGE OF MISSIONS BUILDING

Please return to

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA. September 15, 1919.

Miss Margaret Hodge,
Room 916, 156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Hodge:-

I am afraid in my little note at the close of my last letter I made a mistake, and so I write to correct it. While it is true that Miss Vautrin is engaged to be married, I have been told by Dr. S. J. Corey, of Cincinnati, that she expects to give herself to the work in Ginling College this coming year. I think the marriage is to be postponed until the close of another year.

I hope my hurried note did not break up plans.

I expect to be in New York this week. I may see you. I attend the meeting of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

Sincerely yours,

Anna R. Atwater.

ARA/HG

Sept. 17th 9.30 P.M.

I have just seen Mrs. Atwater at the Ref. & Counsel meeting. She tells me that the engagement is broken! She is anxious that no mention of the engagement reach China, so please do not mention it to anyone.

M. E. Hodge

0363

Room 916, 156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York.

September 15, 1919.
(Dictated September 12)

Mrs. A. R. Atwater,
College of Missions Building,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mrs. Atwater:-

Thank you for your letter about Miss Vautrin. I was so delighted at the first part of it that I felt as if my anxiety for the College was largely relieved, but the postscript came as a blow. I am wondering, however, if she may possibly mean that she will work for the College this winter and be married after the College year closes. I am still hoping that this may be the interpretation of the cable.

I am glad that Miss Helen Richey of Boynton, Fla., is to be at the College of Missions. You will be able to see if you approve of her for the College. I wrote to her in Florida but the letter came back after having been forwarded to another place, so I am glad that she is not lost. Perhaps you will think it wise to sound her out on the subject or you may have some other place for her. I will not write again until I know of your feeling about her.

I wrote to Miss Ethel Ireland, but have had no reply from her.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman, Candidate Committee.

Miss Hodge was obliged to leave the office before this letter was typed.

0364

17
Nanking, China.
Ginling College.
October 17, 1919.

my dear Miss Bender —

It was lovely of you to take time to send me a steamer letter. You see I know just how busy you are down there on Fifth Avenue.

Do you see by my letter heading where I am? Surely you, and the Ginling College Committee, as well as the faculty here must be tired, tired of seeing and hearing — "Voted — That we ask the Christian Mission to release Miss Vautrin —". Frankly I wondered what was to become of me many

121 times. When I saw how desperately my board wanted me to go to Nan Tung Chow I didn't have the heart to say I preferred to go to Ginling especially when I was so sure I was not the person for Ginling.

It was not until after my arrival in Shanghai that the matter was finally decided. Miss Kelly, Mr. Garrett, chairman of our Advisory Committee, and Mr. Wilson, one of our secretaries held a conference and made the decision.

And I have been delighted with what I have found at Ginling. The spirit that exists among faculty and students is splendid. I feel

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OCT 17 1919

sure that I shall soon
be as enthusiastic over
quitting as even its most
ardent admirers. Of course
there is still a feeling in
my heart that I belong to
the country and not to
the city work.

It does seem strange
not to hear the subway
and elevated trains, but
I am quite willing to re-
sign them for the much
more amenable rickisha.
I can't tell you how good
it does seem to be back
here. My one prayer is
that I may be big enough
and worthy enough to be

service in the great task
of bringing His Kingdom
in.

I often think of you,
Miss Bender. Am sorry
I do not know you better.
Trust you really have a
home this year with a
nice family like I had
last year.

Sincerely your friend,

OCT 17 - Minnie Vautrin.
1919