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Please return to R. V. G.

Lot 174b, Kuling
August 3, 1936

Dear Dr. Reeves or Elsie:

A letter has just come from Rebecca saying that on August 10th, Miss Helen Dingman and Mrs. John C. Campbell are arriving in Shanghai from Manila. You probably have heard of both of these women as they are both outstanding in the folk school movement in America. Helen Dingman has charge of this type of work in Berea College, and Mrs. Campbell has a folk school in Brasstown or Brasscamp, North Carolina. The former is the sister of Mary Dingman. The book written by Mrs. Campbell on "The Folk Schools of Denmark" is one of the most interesting books on this subject that has been written. Rebecca is very anxious that both of these women see Ginling and that they come to know some of the Ginling alumnae who are interested in and working along the line of rural and social reconstruction.

I have just written to Liu Yu-hsia, suggesting that if possible she plan for them to meet Tsu Yu-dji and Tsai Siu-feng who will probably be in Shanghai about that time attending the Y.W. Leaders' Conference. I also suggested that she help them to meet Mrs. W.S. New and Dju Yu-bao. Yu-hsia will write to you the exact date of their arrival in Nanking. While in Nanking I am sure that you will show them Ginling, interest them in your poultry project, show them the Neighborhood Center and if possible Miss Lo's little model cottage. You can also help them to get in touch with the agricultural leaders over at the University. Personally I think there is no finer man for them to come to know than Chow Ming-I.

What are your plans for the rest of the summer? Are you planning to go north to the Science Conference? The many showers which we have in Kuling, make me feel that you have at least periods of coolness in Nanking. Ruth is somewhat better since she has gone on the ulcer diet. She hopes that the trouble is responding to this treatment and that no more drastic treatment will be needed.

Geoffrey Allen, now of the Union Theological Seminary in Canton, also author of "Tell John", "He That Cometh" and several other books gave most of the talks at the Kuling Conference this year. He was most excellent and helpful and I am sure that many have been helped by him. At least I know that I have been, and am grateful that I was here.

With love to one, or both of you,

M. V.

0520

Please return to RVG

Lot 174b, Kuling
August 3, 1936

Dear Yu-hsia:

A letter has just come from Miss Rebecca Griest in Lancaster, Pa. saying that Miss Helen Dingman, the person who is in charge of the "folk school" in Berea, Kentucky, and Mrs. John C. Campbell who has a folk school in North Carolina are arriving in China about August 10th. You probably have read Mrs. Campbell's book on the folk schools of Denmark-in fact I feel sure that I talked to you about it before you went to America.

Miss Griest is very anxious for both of these women to meet Ginling graduates who are interested in and doing work for rural women in China. I can think of no better person for her to meet than yourself. But perhaps in addition you can plan for them to have a visit with Tsu Yu-dji and Tsai Siu-feng, both of whom may be in your Y.W. Workers' Conference about the time that she arrives. I wish that they could come to know our Mrs. W.S. New and all the fine things that she is doing; also Dju Yu-bao and some of the social projects which she is carrying out. In cooperation with Mrs. W.S. New you might be able to plan for them to see the work out at "Horse Bridge" which is carried on by another Mrs. New. But more than just seeing work, it would be well for them just to come to know some of you Ginling graduates who are doing work along the line of rural and social reconstruction. You can find out through the Y.W. the time that they are arriving in Shanghai on their way back from Manila.

When you know the time that they are planning to go to Nanking will you please write to Dr. Reeves at the College telling her the date of their arriving in Nanking. I am writing to her today and hope that she will be in Nanking at that time. Please address your letter to Dr. Reeves or Miss Elsie Priest. I hope that the Y.W. will plan to show them the work being carried on out at Sungshu. I hope that they will have time enough to visit Ginling while in Nanking, see the poultry project being started at Ginling, the Neighborhood Center, and if possible, Miss Lo's model home which is just west of the Ginling campus. Unfortunately there will be no person living in the "500" Faculty House, in fact the house will be in the process of being changed from a faculty to a student residence, but if Dr. Reeves is there she will be glad to entertain them.

I rather suspect that you are the person who in cooperation with Miss Brown, has already been asked to plan for the visit of these two American women. Even if that be true, this letter may not be amiss.

Always with best wishes to you, I am

Sincerely your friend,

M.V.

Lot 174 B, Kuling
August 4, 1936

PRIVATE PROLOGUE.

Dear Rebecca:

You cannot know the feeling of relief and gratitude which came to us when we learned that your untiring hand had taken over the candidate work. In a land of an over-supply of well-trained college teachers, it was most discouraging to receive the following cable the end of May-

" Physical Education found. Searching for English and Music."

We did not know what to do for there ~~were~~ candidates for both the English and the music in China. Not permanent people, to be sure, but people who could carry the work if need be. On the other hand we did not want to discourage any attempt in America to secure permanent people for these positions.

Personally I hope, Rebecca, that you will really feel "called" to head up our candidate work in America and that you and Dr. Wu together will gradually work out some method whereby you can cut down the size of the Candidate Committee so that you will not be bound by correspondence with a large number of individuals. Personally I would be quite satisfied to have just you and Miss Hodge be the committee, with perhaps one other to aid you at times, but certainly not more than three members. You are near New York and the candidate files of the Associated Boards, and you are not far from any of the Womens' Colleges where they usually have a long list of acceptable candidates and most necessary of all, you know the kind of people we need. The man who used to be national secretary of the "Association of University Professors" supplied me with some excellent candidate information the year I was at home. But enough, for you must know how much we need you-just the feeling that you are there in Lancaster steadily working away for a "finer Ginling" gives courage and confidence.

Perhaps you know that Ruth has not been very well recently. Doctors fear stomach ulcer, and are trying her out on a diet before they decide to do anything more drastic. She thinks that she feels somewhat better and that the trouble is responding, but not enough time has elapsed to really be sure.

Searle and Morton are here in Kuling for about two weeks. Lilliath and Bobby are probably going to Tsingtao. They had decided to stay down in Nanking during the summer, but finally friends persuaded them to get a change. Searle has worked fearfully hard this past year and has done a magnificent piece of work, aside from his teaching. I will now turn this letter into a more formal business one.

Lovingly
Minnie

0522

174 B, Kuling
August 4, 1936

Dear Rebecca:

Your letter of July 6th giving information with regard to the visit of Miss Helen Dingman and Mrs. John Campbell was forwarded to me here in Kuling. I immediately wrote to Liu Yu-hsia (1929) who is one of the National Y.W.C.A. secretaries in the Rural Department. I suggested that she get in touch with our graduates who are in Shanghai who are working in rural or social reconstruction work. Just to know Yu-hsia will be valuable for these two women. I also wrote to Dr. Reeves whom I think is still in Ginling and told her of your suggestions and I feel sure she will do all she can to have these guests see what they should see of rural work and of Ginling's interest. I was tempted to go down myself because I saw Miss Dingman's work when I was in Berea and I also had some correspondence with Mrs. Campbell about folk schools. Am sorry to miss them.

Your letter of July 3rd reached me just after the one of July 6th, and it explained the earlier cables more fully. The cables reached me before I left Nanking and I immediately got a letter off to Miss Shoup about the courses being offered in the English Department next semester. At the same time I wrote to Miss Tappert, who was then in Korea, and suggested that she write Miss Shoup at Yokohama giving her more details than I was able to give. When the first cable came with regard to Miss Shoup, Miss Tappert was disappointed in the fact that she was a one year appointment. I have now written her a longer letter telling her why she has signed up for the one year, and I am sure she will feel encouraged. Both of the candidates sound very good to me and I believe they will meet the special needs in the two departments very well. Fortunately we had not scheduled the new person for any Practice School English, in fact Miss Chang is the only college teacher teaching in the Practice School and she is taking Senior III. If I have time I will write later about our needs in the P.S.

Recent letters from New York showing how the Board of Founders are getting back of our financial needs, have been most encouraging. Whoever is responsible for this change in attitude should be sincerely thanked for it will mean everything to Dr. Wu not to mention the rest of us. Certainly the College should supply the Promotional Committee with what it needs for this work. I am sending your request in your July 6th letter to be kept informed of important visitors, on to Helen Loomis. She will be interested and do what she can I am sure. Names that have occurred to me are-

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William Paton, Editor of the International Review of Missions
John R. Mott, who visited the college and knows Dr. Wu well
Nelson Johnson, American Ambassador.
Dr. Wallace, Chancellor of ? , Toronto
Mr. Lobenstine
Mrs. Hobart, sister of Mary Norse, was our guest for some days.
Mrs. Ayscough, was our guest for some days also.
Mrs. Pearl Buck Walsh, ? ? (Better ask Dr. Wu)
Madame Chiang Kai-Chek, ? ? (Better ask Dr. Wu)
Mrs. Donald MacGillivray. Her name is well known in Canada.

I wonder if your Promotional Committee or Dr. Wu should now approach the following groups for more support: (1) The Episcopal Church will have three foreign teachers on our staff this autumn; and a large group of students, as usual, in the student body. Surely they ought not to expect the other Missions to continue to educate their girls. Alice Morris has been secured to be in charge of the Ginling Library and she is the daughter of one of their missionaries in Shanghai; Louise Shoup is a member of the Episcopal Church and so is Edith Haight. (2) When Mrs. Donald MacGillivray visited me this past June she said "You know, I am quite sure that the women of Canada could support Miss Kirk just as well as not". Mrs. MacGillivray is to be in Canada this autumn and is attending the 50th Anniversary of Queen's of Victoria University (I can't remember the name of that institution) where Dr. Wallace is, and if Dr. Wu could attend that same celebration they might work out ^{the} problem of interesting Canadian women ~~together~~. See what Dr. Wu thinks about this.

Do you suppose that you could get Anne Morrow Lindbergh to dedicate her next book to Ginling College? When her "North to the Orient" came out I thought how wonderful it would have been if she had dedicated the book- and the royalty- to Ginling. It would mean fine publicity as well as a certain amount of income. This is merely a day dream and may be entirely unworthy.

Has some person written you about Mrs. W.S. New's deep interest in raising funds in China? Just this spring she got the alumnae in Shanghai together and at one meeting they raised about \$3,000.00. Miss Gao Ren-ying (1929) began her work as Alumnae Secretary on July 1st. Her salary is being paid by Mrs. New for a three year period. This I think she would not want told. Mrs. New has great plans for this work and I think will accomplish much. Mary Chen, (1921) of Singapore is urging that Mrs. New and Miss Gao go to Singapore to raise funds. She will furnish them with names but cannot help them outwardly while there. She knows one Chinese man there who likes to give buildings and she hopes that he will be persuaded to give a dormitory. (This is all private and merely a dream as yet)

There is one other idea in which there may be some slight hope of a future interest. A year ago, Dr. Helen Davis of the Colorado State College of Education spent an afternoon and evening at Ginling and became interested in our Practice School.

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and our teacher training program. I talked to her a little about some of our older alumnae who are principals of schools and who have little or no chance of ever passing a Boxer Indemnity examination for advanced study abroad. Dr. Davis went back to her institution and had enough enthusiasm to interest groups there to the extent that they have undertaken to pay all the expenses-excepting travel and clothes- for three alumnae. As a result of this, on August 11th, Djang Hsiang-lan (1929) who has been principal of Ming Deh for many years, Chiu Li-ying (1927) who has been principal of Virginia for several years, and Chen Yu-djen (1928) who has been the dean of the Practice School for five years, are all sailing for Greeley, Colorado. They are going 3rd class on the President Hoover and are arriving in San Francisco on August 26th. They are planning to visit schools in and around San Francisco for about 8 days, and then spend about 10 days visiting schools in the vicinity of Los Angeles before they go to Greeley. I personally hope that this is a growing interest and that others can go later. I believe that the University Women's Association in Denver is paying for the expenses of one person. I wish that Dr. Wu could visit Greeley on her way back to China and that perhaps the Ginling Movie could be sent there some time during the coming year. I do not think that we can push this interest very fast, but it is just possible that later the children in the Practice School there could give something to the support of our Practice School. This is a state and not a private Christian institution so it may be that they would not be interested.

I am so glad Mrs. Thurston wrote you about Miss Haight when she did. I was the only one of the committee of three in favor of sending you a cable to let you know that Miss Haight was available if needed. The other members felt that it might hinder you at home from getting a permanent person just when you were in the last transactions. By this time you will know that "a friend" has volunteered to pay the travel of Miss Haight's mother to China- which was the condition on which Miss Haight could stay for another year. We are so glad that it turned out the way it did, for Hwang Li-ming has been able to go to the Olympics, which will do her and Ginling much good. I believe that five or six of the nine women delegates are either Ginling graduates or have been on the Ginling staff of physical education.

And last and least let me speak about the English need of the Practice School. The Board of Directors feel that the Practice School should be practically self-supporting. With space for only about 30 students, and with no desire to have a large school, it is very difficult to make the school self-supporting if we have the kind of faculty which is needed in a "model" school. This coming year we are depending on Chinese teachers entirely for the English teaching. What we really need is a person who is an expert in the teaching of English as a foreign language. I have often wondered if we could get a person for the English who is willing to give her services, or who might be sent out by a society or school particularly interested in carrying on of

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experiments in the teaching of English as a foreign language. I would like to talk to Faucett to see what he thinks the possibility are of securing such help. The first type of person would be like Grace Taylor, Lily Abbott, or Evelyn Walmsley-providing they did not have to have a salary. Four full-time teachers of English on the Ginling staff does not provide for the teaching of English in the Practice School, especially with an increasing freshman class and a group each year in special physical education.

Doubtless you know that the Ginling faculty are moving again this summer. The majority of the women felt that because of the need of the students for more space, it was only right that we should get out of "500". At the present time one new faculty house is being built up on the south hill and we hope this will be finished by September 1st. We are also taking over temporarily, one or two of the houses which were built for the married men but have been rented to outside people this past semester. Those who eat foreign food will be in these latter houses temporarily until additional houses can be erected. Even so, students will still be very much crowded, there being three in all the second floor rooms in all four of the dormitories. I hope the time comes soon when we will find it necessary to put only two in a room so that we can expect the girls to keep their room attractive and neat. It is impossible for them to do so when three are crowded in each room.

More took our entrance examinations in May than in any previous year for which we are grateful. Since 1926 we really have not ~~had~~ had a large enough number of entrance candidates. This is not strange since all the men's institutions have become co-educational. I hear that this autumn even St. John's is planning to accept women from St. Mary's.

You are already tired of reading this letter-and I am not blaming you. I will therefore close, although there are many other things that I could still tell you.

Always with love and gratitude,

Minnie Sauter

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174 B, Kuling
August 19, 1936

Dear Ginling Friends:

Having been too busy-or perhaps too lazy-to write you steamer letters as I had hoped to, I thought after you had all gone that I would make a real effort to keep a diary for you, but even that I have not succeeded in doing very well. Such as I have kept I will send on to you and bring you up-to-date on at least part of the Ginling family. Since you didn't all leave at one time, some of this will be ~~old~~ old news to some of you, but the end will be new to all. So here goes-

of
June 20-21. All/you missed what I considered the most thrilling part of our commencement season, namely the graduation of the five young girls over at our neighborhood homecraft school. I do not know when I have attended exercises that gave me more of a ~~real~~ thrill. The smaller girls had redecorated the Neighborhood House for the occasion with red gladiolas and bamboo and it was all very gay and festive. The five neighborhood girls who finished the two year course were dressed in blue dresses which they had all made by hand, and they were wearing shoes which they had also made, even to the soles. Mr. Chow Ming-I of the University made a very appropriate address and the girls of the different classes sang. One of the graduates made a little talk in the form of a farewell message in which she told some of the things that the two years had meant to her. A number of the college students attended the exercises and also Madame Ma was there in addition to a number of parents. Next year I think we must make more of an effort to get all of the parents out. On Sunday morning, of the day following the graduation exercises we had a very simple baccalaureate service, or a "Hsun Tsi Li Bai" just for the pupils and the graduating class. Mrs. D. Y. Lin made a very good talk to them, Miss Lo was present and led in prayer and again the graduates sang their class song. They looked quite grave sitting there in the front row. This service was held in their school room which was also made attractive with the red gladiolas. After the service the younger pupils went home and then there were left only the five girls and the two teachers, the principal and the vice-principal and myself. From eleven o'clock to twelve we simply sat and visited together and the question came up as to how often they would come back to visit their mother school and how they would keep in touch with it. One of the little girls said she intended to come back every week. As an outgrowth of this conversation a little alumnae association was formed which is to meet the first Saturday of each month-in the afternoon-and they are to report on the articles which they read in the little magazine which was given to them as a commencement gift. They have elected a president and a secretary-treasurer and they decided to pay three pennies each month as dues. After this we had a simple farewell meal together and then had a number of pictures taken before the girls reluctantly went home. It was all very simple yet you could not help feeling how much the two years had meant to the girls. One of them said that she wished she had the two years to live over again - and it was she we urged to come back in the autumn and speak to the school at one of the chapel meetings. I somehow feel that the little homecraft school is really started now and that it is beginning to find a place in the neighborhood. This past semester we had an enrollment of about forty. But enough of this event.

June 21, 22, 23.

Most of you know about the college baccalaureate, class day and commencement. Thirty four actually finished their work and received their degrees. On July 9th Dziang Ho-djen, who you know had been a member of the class, died in the Red Cross Hospital in Shanghai. She had left college about the end of May having had a mental breakdown, and later she developed what they thought to be typhoid. She was very, very ill for weeks. Ruth and I went to see her on Tuesday, July 7th and knew

* Supported by Building Students & faculty - Ginling Students conduct the class

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then that she had very little hope for recovery. Her sister, Sin-bao, seemed very sad and discouraged at that time.

The appointment or placement work for this class has been harder than ever before. I tried very hard but failed to find places for two biology majors - Giang Siuefang and Dju Chiao-djen. More schools are retaining their old teachers and there are more college graduates available than before, I think. I hope that by this time Siuefang has a position for she was very much disappointed that I had not succeeded, although I truly did try.

June 21-July 2. I need not and I should not describe the leave-taking of all of you. Some of you left us as efficiently and leisurely as if you were going to Shanghai for a week-end - and some of you did not do quite so well. It was rather funny to watch you. I must in all honesty say that I never saw Mrs. Thurston get off so easily. She really made an "A" take-off, one that would put some of you younger people to shame. Ruth and Ann Moffett went to Pukow with her and found that she had thought of everything but the bread for her train trip - and that was not really her fault but Wang Szi-fu's, who in his excitement forgot it. I hope that all of you have had pleasant journeys to your destinations.

July 4. It is cold and rainy today. Last night I slept under a heavy steamer rug and then was not warm enough. Just compare that with July 4th, 1934! The Americans in Nanking had planned to have a picnic supper out on Lotus Lake but the weather was just too bad. Esther, Ruth and I went over to "The Capitol" instead to see "The Tale of Two Cities" which was very good.

July 5-8. Ruth and I have been in Shanghai during these days, partly to see doctors and dentists and partly to see Kathleen off. Ruth had to have one of her front teeth taken out, but in less than 24 hours she had a substitute put in which looks just as good as the original. One noon I had dinner with Dju Yu-bao and Dju Mei-yu. Yu-bao, Miss Hinder says, is doing a very exceptional piece of work in the social service department of the Municipal Council. The foreign men on the Council have great respect for her judgment. She is beginning to look like a "lao-ban" - I mean she looks plump and prosperous. On the strength of her good work the Lester Institute has called her sister to their staff. They live together in a little apartment out on Bubbling Well Road. Ruth returned to Nanking on Tuesday night train and I on the Wednesday night.

July 12. Sunday. By this evening I shall be alone in the old Faculty House. Ruth went to Kuling for a rest cure last Thursday morning, and Edith goes to Shanghai tonight from whence she and Catherine leave for Tsingtao. Edith has been fighting a cold and sinus trouble and Catherine looks tired out. Dr. Barrie has ordered her to get a complete rest and he has put Ruth on a stomach-ulcer diet with the hope that that would clear up her trouble or reveal that something more drastic had to be done. This morning we had our last service for neighborhood women for this summer. More than twenty women and children were present. In spite of many short-comings, the service was a very reverent one and the women seemed sorry that we would not have a meeting the following Sunday.

July 15. What funny and irregular days these are. You plan to do one thing and find that when evening comes you have done nothing that was planned. Today I ordered the new dining room furniture for the South Hill Faculty House, Tung, the carpenter, having made several patterns beforehand. This evening Dr. Reeves and I took the Bates family out to Lotus Lake for a picnic supper. I have never seen the flowers so lovely and so luxuriant. Although it was cloudy when we went, there was a beautiful sunset to close the day. Mrs. Tsen left for Tsingtao today where she hopes to get a real rest for four weeks. She was very tired when she left for she has not

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had a real rest for three summers.

July 16. This evening I had a very happy dinner party at which I had K.C. Tsu, Dr. Lung, Mary Chen and Tang Ming-sin. This afternoon Florence Wang, her sister and her two children were over for tea and a visit. The weather is still cool and last night I again used my steamer rug as a covering out on the north verandah.

July 17 - 7:30 p.m. I am sitting alone in our living room on this the last night before it is dismantled. Tomorrow the boy will sun the rugs and cushions and put them away and take down the pictures for the workmen come in the day after I leave. If I were a man I would light my pipe and put my feet up on the table and dream dreams. This has been our home for thirteen years but after tonight it will be only a memory. The life together in this student dormitory has been a happy one in spite of its congestion and communistic-like sharing in bathrooms. This living room has seen many a jolly Christmas party and many a lively faculty meeting too in addition to come dull ones. As I left the room I looked long and lovingly at the familiar scene - yes and with sadness too. It was my destiny to also bid the "Old Ginling" the last farewell.

July 18. Saturday. Yesterday and today the moving has been going on. Four men, under my direction moved all the trunks and boxes in the attic to the south end and stored them there. Today bathrooms, and the living and dining room have been moved and also the store-room and pantry. All the linens, silver (?) and boxes of bedding have been put in the amah's room in the attic and locked. The "Old Faculty House" is no more and I am sure we shall all miss it. Mr. Tang is trying hard to get at least the two top floors of the South Hill Dormitory done by September 1st. I am sure he will do so unless rains prevent. If he doesn't succeed then we shall have to accept the invitations of our friends for a few weeks in September - but let us hope that he does succeed, yea, even more than succeed.

July 18. Today has been a queer day. Fortunately I had postponed the final packing of the storeroom stuff and the kitchen and pantry things until afternoon when Miss Lo said that she would help me. At about 11 o'clock one of my old Luchowfu students came with two other friends and I felt that I had to ask them to stay for tiffin. The nice old cook rose to the occasion and prepared quite a nice meal and we had a happy dinner party, but how we did work in the afternoon. My own personal packing for Kuling-I am leaving tomorrow morning-seems but a minor part of the things that must be done. By four o'clock we were pretty well finished and I had time to take a bath which revived me. By five I started to the Elite to have a shampoo, which I realized afterwards was a fatal mistake. I had just gotten to our front gate when nice Hwang Tai Tai came over to see me. She too was sad when she saw the dismantled living room. She told glowing stories of Li-ming's trip and of her happy and gay hours in Hongkong. At six o'clock I started out again and this time succeeded in getting the shampoo and over to Florence Wang's for a seven thirty supper. It was a pleasant evening but again a very unwise one, for by the time I got home it was too late to pack and I decided to finish on Sunday morning, expecting the boat would start about nine o'clock. Alas the next morning I overslept and soon after I got up the servant came over to tell me that the boat was in Hsia Gwan and would be leaving at 7:30 a.m. Well, with the help of four servants, I succeeded in finishing the packing and getting to Hsia Gwan by 8 o'clock-about a half hour before the boat left for Kiukiang. Pride always goes before a fall-and mine was completely gone by such a shameful get-off. It really was almost as shameful as nice little Abigail's-but then Abigail is younger than I am, and should have more energy and ability.

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July 20 - August 19. It has been a lovely holiday in Kuling. Ruth and I have been room mates at Helen Daniel's home. Ruth is a good room mate for she likes to be liesurely even when it is not the doctor's order and when it is then it is even easier to spend twelve hours in sleep. We have done a few fairly long trips - one to the Incense Mills and one to Paradise Pools. Next Saturday we are planning to go to South Mountain. Geoffrey Allen who has written "Tell John", "He That Cometh" and other books was the main speaker at the Kuling Conference and was unusually good. It is a comfort to know that a man of his spirit is in a theological school in China. Yesterday I went to board meeting for the Li Chuan Project and heard some of the plans for the coming year. Very high words of praise were spoken of Tsu Yu-dji for her two years of service there and a letter of appreciation will be written to her and to Ginling College. We have seen a good deal of Phoebe Hoh during the last few weeks. She is her old self again, I really believe, and has a happy, confident outlook for her work. I am glad that she is staying on for another year at least. You will be interested, Mrs. Thurston, to hear that Miss Djeng, my old student from Luchowfu who has been studying in Cheeloo for the past two years, may go to be Phoebe's secretary. I believe they will like each other for they are both genuine, if plain.

I have not said anything about the political situation. It looks hopeful one day and then dark the next. General Chiang is now in Canton and I believe that things are turning out to the good for the Central Government and that they have won a very real victory for centralization.

This letter bears my love, deep love, to each of you.

Minnie

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#8 Dung Gwa Shi
Ginling College
Nanking
September 6, '36
Sunday p.m.

A Personal Letter from Miss Vautrin to two
of the Former Faculty Members:

It had been my ambition to write to each of you during my holiday but alack, that was one of the many things I did not do. Rebecca's letter to Ruth, which she shared with me last evening, is an added incentive for writing before work begins in earnest.

I am enclosing a carbon copy of a letter I wrote for those going home on furlough this past summer. If you have time to read it it will bring you up-to-date to the 19th of August when I wrote it.

What a lot has happened since then! On August 26th I reached Ginling from Kuling. Mrs. Tsen was literally pushing us out of the old faculty house, "500" for she is turning it into a student dormitory. On August 27th, the business manager Eva Spicer and I began to move in earnest. We sent enough furniture over to #8 Dung Gwa Shi - just south of our Day School, to furnish two residences. Here the group of five or six who eat foreign food will live until other residences go up on the campus. We will also have a guest room here. I am living here for a few days more and then I move over to a vacant room in the Practice School. The rest of the furniture from "500" we stored temporarily in some vacant rooms in the carpenter shop - a building made out of our former gate houses which we took down the end of June, they being in the 4th Residential district. The new carpenter shop is near the electric plant. It improves that section of the campus. The new South Hill Faculty House which should have been finished by September 1st - cannot be ready before the 21st of September - if then. It really will be quite attractive and certainly has a superb view. It has 16 bedrooms and 2 guestrooms. Only Chinese food will be served in it. Mrs. Tsen is sending up the food from the college kitchen. In July I ordered, or rather planned and ordered, a very attractive dining room set of furniture in Chinese design, but I have not yet done anything about the furniture for the living room. Wish Mrs. Thurston or Harriet had done it before they left.

You will be glad to know that Miss Helen Dingman and Mrs. Campbell came on Thursday September 3d, but instead of coming from the south, they changed their plans and came from the north. They arrived in Nanking at 10:30 one evening and left at 5:20 the following afternoon. However they were able to come to us for a luncheon at which I had Siao-sung, En-lan, Lilliath (Searle was in Shanghai) the Fenns, whom Miss Dingman knew in Berea, and Dr. Reeves. After luncheon we took them over to the Neighborhood Center, and they enjoyed the short visit immensely. When they left Ginling we arranged for them to go to the University to meet several of the agricultural men there - Chinese - and then they went to the 5:20 train.

Louise Shoup came to Nanking last Friday evening. Esther Tappert and Chang Beh-wei and Kathryn Boeye of Hwei wen met her. This is now Sunday evening, two days after her arrival, and I can truly say all of us like her very much. She seems most adaptable and thoughtful. During the past two days we have had the hottest days of the entire summer. Poor child, she has simply dripped for she has no clothes that are cool enough. She said everybody urged her to take warm clothes but no one prepared her for this heat. It has been fearful. Tomorrow we are getting a tailor to make her some wash clothes. Mrs. Rhead comes on Tuesday. She, Louise and Ruth will be in this house, while Stella Graves, Florence Kirk and Alice Morris will be in the north one.

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The letter to Ruth telling of the new organization of our Board of Founders and the promotional plans certainly brings new courage. It will mean everything to Yi-fang, whom I know felt the ball was tossed back and forth across the Pacific and nothing further done about it. Gao Ren-ying, the new Alumnae Secretary is busy every day now. She goes to Shanghai soon for a promotional meeting there. Can it be we are moving forward?

It is now thundering and lightning - which means that the terrible heat has broken for a while at least.

Much, much love to both of you,

Minnie

0532

Please share with
Abigail H. ✓
Rachel M.
Carol Carl ✓

Ginling College
Sunday Evening, November 22, 1936

Dear Members of the Ginling Family:

"Christmas time has come again" and I am not prepared for it. Every year it seems to catch me unawares and make me realize that I am a procrastinator, and that I leave until the last minute the things I should have done in the summer holiday. However I want you to know that we will be thinking of you, and missing you, and longing for some of the old "togetherness" of former days. May each of you have a very blessed Christmastide, with plenty of leisure for the enjoyment of the friendship and fellowship of life which really makes life worthwhile, after all. From your letters I know that some of you are anxious for Ginling news, and so as my Christmas gift to you I will give you some "leaves from my haphazard diary". Here they are-

August 26- I arrived at Nanking today after my five weeks in Kuling. In spite of much rain Kuling was lovely; I think more lovely than I have ever seen it. I was sorry to leave it and come down into the heat of the plains. Eva had arrived in Nanking a few days previous to my arrival and took me into her home. Mrs. Tsen was literally pushing us out of the old "500" in order to get it ready for students. I was sorry that I was not able to attend a tea this afternoon given by Searle Bates - his wife was in Shanghai - for Elizabeth Goucher Chapman and her husband who are on their way up to Chengtu. An interview with Mr. Tang the supervisor of the South Hill Faculty House reveals the fact that it will not be ready for occupancy before September 21st. I think he is an optimist for it certainly does not look as if he can finish it by that time.

August 27-31. During these days Eva and I and Francis Chen and the servants have finished the main moving over to #8 Dung Gwa Shi where the foreign food is to be served. The dining room and of course the kitchen are to be in the south house, while the living room is to be in the north house. Mrs. Rhead, Louis Shoup and Ruth are to be in the south house while Stella Graves, Florence Kirk and a guest room are to be in the north. Every night we were tired enough to roll into bed at a rather early hour. The furniture that was not taken over was stored in the new carpenter shop, where fortunately there were several empty rooms.

September 3. Miss Mary Dingman and Mrs. Campbell of America were guests today at #8 for luncheon. I have been living over there since yesterday in order to get the servants started in on their work and also to get things in final order. The Bates and the Fenns, both of whom knew the guests were also our luncheon guests. The guests were most interested in the college and the neighborhood house.

September 4. Louise Shoup, the new teacher of English arrived this evening. Katherine Boey, Chang Deh-wei and Esther Tappert met her at Hsia Gwan and brought her up to #8. She seems like a very nice person and I quite like her.

Use foreign mistakes -
too many to correct

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Freshman Week program begins tonight. The young Chinese faculty members are doing most of the work for it although several of the Western faculty are helping.

September 5. The heat is terrible. Papers are saying that yesterday was the hottest day of the summer. People who have just come from America are certainly not prepared for weather such as this. Poor Louise has nothing but natty looking silk and wool suits. We are calling the tailor for her at once so that she can get some simple wash dresses made. I felt sorry for her last night when I saw her walking around in some nice white rabbit fur slippers. Unfortunately I could not lend her anything for I am still living out of my suitcase. Ruth Chester and Stella Graves arrived this noon, the worse for the heat. How we wish that we could have stayed up in Kuling until this was past.

September 6. The Senior Retreat began today. Mr. Bruce of the Student Christian Movement is giving a number of talks and he is very, very helpful. Eva Spicer is the adviser for the seniors and has helped the girls to plan a very helpful program. Not quite all of the seniors are present, but the large majority are here.

The heat still continues although it is not quite so bad. You see, according to the Chinese calendar, it is only the 20th of the 7th month, and therefore it is just the right time for the "big heat".

Those of you who know how the Ginling neighborhood is changing will want to know about our roads and residential district. On our old tennis court to the north of the Recitation Hall, a big residence is practically completed. It is extremely foreign in appearance, and sad to say it has just been painted a cold grayish blue. Where the twin photinia trees used to be is a queer looking house-looks more like a double house. Has a flat roof and is very large. Three or four other buildings are going up to the north of us and roads are being cut to make the houses accessible to the bigger streets. Hankow Road to the north of us and Ninghai Road to the east have not yet been paved. The dust is terrible on these newly made but unfinished roads.

September 8. Registration today. Li Dz-djen, the new personnel officer is scheduling the freshmen. Fine to have a person who can give her whole time and energy to student advising. Nice Wu Mou-i is acting as the registrar and what promise she gives of being a good one. How I wish she would continue in that office and use her fine mind to improve it.

September 10. Classes began today. Mrs. Rhead, from the School of Music of the University of Michigan arrived yesterday. Dr. Djang Siao-sung presided at our first assembly since Dr. Wu is not yet back.

September 11. Nice Florence Kirk came in this evening without letting any person know that she was coming. She is a lovely, cheery person and so good to have around. She says that her chosen vocation is "Being a Missionary on furlough." That certainly is not mine for I always come back to China to rest.

September 14. Tonight we had our first faculty meeting of the year 1936-37. We began the gathering by having a simple supper together over in the "400" dormitory. There were seven tables of us. At the faculty meeting it was announced that there were 259 students enrolled for the college and 79 for the Practice School. There are more than 80 freshmen and this year's senior class will be the largest in our history, numbering in all 44. In addition there will be about 8 who will finish the special physical education course. Rejoice with me

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that a second person has at last come to join me in the Education Department, namely, Dr. Yuen Peh-tsiao who for many years was principal of the Wuhu Academy. He has just returned from America where he has finished his doctorate in secondary education. I hope he will not be discontented because we have only a minor in Education. This semester I will be able to give a good share of my time to the supervision of the practice teachers which I enjoy doing very much.

Friday, September 18. It is a beautiful autumn day. The campus is lovely and green after a very heavy rain. Had a conference with Mr. Tang the supervisor of the new south hill residence. He begs me to persuade the faculty to wait until October 1st to move in. Mrs. Chen and I have decided to go down to Shanghai to buy some nice wicker furniture for the new residence. The faculty are scattered. Eva Spicer has taken in some and some are living in the new infirmary, although Dr. Gale is not very happy about it for she wanted to get it furnished and in order. The old "500" is now full of students.

September 26. Tonight is the reception for the new students and faculty. A play was given in the early evening over in the auditorium. Djang Deh-wei wrote it and it was called "The Ginling Toy Shop". It was very clever. The dolls represented different classes. The freshmen were very cleverly represented by two green youngsters from the country. To my very great surprise the last doll was one just 50 years old, and which had been at Ginling since 1919. You see my fiftieth birthday is tomorrow and they had discovered it in spite of all my efforts to keep it quiet. At noon today, down at the Practice School where I am living this year, the students had had a birthday dinner of ~~man~~ or noodles and of course they had firecrackers and the great red scrolls and the character for longevity. Several days ago when I flatly refused to have any celebration they looked so disappointed that I finally relented and said that if they kept it very simple and told no one they might have something. How they love a birthday celebration.

September 27. After the "Toy Shop" last night we went over to the large guest hall and there again, to my surprise, they again had the firecrackers and the red banners and the great candles. They presented me with a statue of the god of longevity. Again it was a lot of fun and since they kept it simple I did not feel so badly about it. This afternoon the little day school kiddies also had their turn with firecrackers and a nice little birthday song. And this noon the foreign faculty had a birthday dinner for me. And one of the nicest things of all was that this afternoon nice Hwang Tai Tai came over to see me and to wish me a "Happy Birthday".

It is true, I am fifty years old. It has been publicly announced again and again and I cannot forget it. The celebration was not elaborate and it had with it a spirit of fun and many well wishes. I think it has made a difference in me in my feelings, for I realize that I am now a "lao szi" or old teacher and there are some occasions on which I have to go first and take the high seat in spite of protests.

October 14. Today is Mountain Day. Students and faculty divided into three groups, one group going to Chuchow, one to the Great Stone Tablet, and still another to Tsai Shih Gi-the home of Li Po, the poet. These last two places have been made available by recent motor roads.

October 31. How I wish you were in Nanking today. It is a great demonstration of a new and growing spirit of loyalty to a person and a government- it is General Chiang Kai-shek's 50th birthday. About one hundred airplanes have been presented to him as gifts by different cities and provinces, and in turn presented by him to the National government. Many of these planes circled over the city this morning. Foreigners were not allowed to attend the great

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not allowed to attend the celebration-they say that it was because they did not want any Japanese to be present. Certainly one is conscious of a new spirit of loyalty to government which has been lacking before. This constant pressure from Japan will not be without value if it unites this "plate of sand" ~~has~~ Sun Yat Sun described the people. Of course it may develop into blind acceptance of all national dictates which is also bad, because it is more filled with danger.

November 6. On November 3rd, Dr. Wu arrived in Shanghai. She came up to Nanking this morning. When her car arrived all was in readiness- the students all out in front of the Central Building, the Practice School pupils near the Science Building, and the string of fire crackers in the center of the Quadrangle. A special song had been composed and practiced for the occasion. How good it is to have her back with us again. She looks rested in spite of her strenuous days in America.

November 7-8. The Founders' Day celebrations have taken place during these two days. Mrs. New spoke as well as an outside speaker, at the formal celebration on Saturday. On Sunday at the religious service, Dr. Leighton Stewart spoke. The new infirmary was fittingly dedicated and inspected. It really did look lovely when it was all ready for inspection. Two of the Yen sister, the donors, were present at one time or another during the celebration. The chrysanthemums have made the campus and buildings particularly lovely these days.

November 12. Moving day has come again. On October 1st, seven of the faculty moved up into the new residence, and still there were vacant rooms there. Those who had moved over to Number 8 looked with longing eyes at the vacant rooms, especially when the dust was so bad, and then again when the mud was worse, and still again when the first touch of cold came. It was finally decided that it would be better to move them up to the new residence than to try to make them comfortable with stoves over at #8. So they moved today. The new residence is not yet finished, and I am not sure that it ever will be, but life must go on in spite of carpenters and painters and electricians- and somehow it does go on. I have been spared much of the annoyances of moving by having a room down at the Practice School where I live and take all of my meals. I have bought a nice little stove and will put it up as soon as I really need it. It is lovely down there- more lovely than I realized and I like the intimate contact with the girls and the staff.

November 19-20. During these two days I have been attending the University of Nanking Executive and Board of Trustees meeting. You will be interested to know that their library building has been started and also a science and plant pathology annex. They have received as much as \$176,000. Chinese currency in gifts during the past year. They have three deans, all of whom are ambitious for the development of their particular schools, that is science, arts, or agriculture, and it certainly does result in interesting projects.

December 12. Consternation fell upon Nanking late this afternoon when the news of General Chiang's capture in Sian began to leak out. At first we simply could not believe it to be true and then gradually the distressing and humiliating affair became known. Students and faculty on our campus are crushed by it and fear for the future of the nation is evident on every hand. One does not laugh or play in the same spirit for always there is this sadness and disappointment in our minds. The preparations for Christmas programs are being given up- there is no spirit to prepare for anything. Hopeful news comes through and then the next day it is dashed to nothingness. The airplane is doing much to help carry mediators to and fro. If only he could be released before Christmas.

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December 25. All or most of our Christmas celebrations were given up. The Glee Club did go out to sing at the various houses on the campus, but on Christmas eve, the play was given up and a very lovely religious service held instead. On Sunday evening, December 20, the various Glee Clubs and chorus on the campus gave a most beautiful concert of Christmas music, and Helen Loomis arranged for a lovely human picture on the large stage-the angels, the shepherds, the wisemen and the Mother and Child were all there as the concert proceeded. It was truly a lovely picture which will linger long in our minds.

This evening the faculty-or 34 of us gathered up at the new residence for a Christmas meal together. We did not realize what a truly joyous occasion it was going to be. Late in the afternoon the news of General Chiang's release began to leak through. A little before seven just as we were getting ready to go into the dining room, Dr. Wu brought us authentic news of the release. Never have I heard a group sing "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow" with more feeling and true meaning. Tears trickled down our cheeks and we were almost foolish in our releases from the anxiety of the past days. After dinner we went out on the verandah and from there we could see sky rockets and hear fire crackers from every direction. About 8:30 Liu En-lan came in from the middle of the city where she had just taken her brothers and sisters for a Christmas meal together. She reported that the city was wild with joy, strangers greeting strangers with the news. Army trucks had been sent out trailing long strings of fire crackers. En-lan remarked, "Who said that the Chinese are slow and cannot be hustled?"

New Year's Eve. A great lantern procession has been marching up and down the long streets of Nanking tonight. Dragons and all sorts of animals are represented. Bands and firecrackers are doing all they can to add to the noise. I went out with a party to a dinner party, and we could scarcely get through the crowds. The sleeping dragon is sleeping no longer.

January 17-February 6. Our mid-year holiday has been taking place during this interval. Mrs. Rhead and Catherine Sutherland have gone to Peiping where the former gave a concert-two in fact. Ruth Chester has gone to the hospital to give the doctors a better chance to find out what is really the matter, to determine whether or not it is stomach ulcer from which she had been suffering for the past eight months. Dr. Wu and I went to Shanghai this past week where we attended the Council of Higher Education by day-and where I visited in the homes of alumnae in the evenings. Each night but one I was in some alumna home and met husband and children. It really was most enjoyable even if it was not very restful.

Confession. All of you know by this time that I did not finish this letter on November 22nd when I started, and that I have not succeeded in getting it home to you for a "Merry Christmas" message. The truth is I finished the first page and then it remained on my type-writer desk chiding me for the next two months. I will not begin the new semester with it haunting me and therefore on this the first day of the new semester I am determined to finish it and send it on. The first part will be ancient history to most of you, but perhaps not to all. I fear it is not worth the postage it will cost, but nevertheless I am going to send it on just to make myself finish a task that was perhaps all too unwisely started. I wish that I had time to write to each of you-but alas I have not. To those of you who sent me such nice Christmas greetings, I thank you, and to those of you who forgot me, I will do as General Chiang did, and say that it was all my fault for being such a poor friend. I never did thank Emily for the nice little packet sent by Florence, but I do so now. Love and best wishes to all of you.

Minnie Vautrin

0537

Sunday Evening
February 7, 1936

[17]
or
5.30 p.m.

Dear Rebecca —

Your recent letter concerning Miss Fike of Detroit (I believe that was her name. Your letter is now in my office and I am down in my room.) has come. I was very much interested in it but have not yet had time to talk it over with Dr. Wu. Will do so as soon as she returns from Shanghai and then will let you know. My own opinion is this —

She is just the kind of person I am interested in for the Practical School English, for I want experience rather than too much training there. Unfortunately the College insists that we balance this P. S. budget, and if we do that we simply cannot afford foreign salaries. This past two years we have had to be content with our own and Shanghai College graduates for the English.

FEB 7

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by doing that we can just about⁽²⁷⁾ balance the budget. It is not ideal but we have to be content with it. If the British Boxer Indemnity Fund grants us the wherewithal to build a model school, then we can start a junior middle school and our funds would be slightly increased. I have been on the look out for a good teacher^{of English} who has retired from work in America or England and would be willing to come for living expenses. We have thought of writing the Foreign Language Association to see if they would not like to use our P.S. as a laboratory for experimental work in teaching English. I have put these facts before you to let you know the situation. Will write you more definitely later. Miss Fike sounds like an exceptionally fine person, and I sympathize with your desire to interest her and her Detroit friends.

Rebecca dear, you are certainly

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an unusual person to be willing³¹ to leave Lancaster and to go to N. Y. to do promotional work for Ginling. The stars will glitter in your crown on that final day. I cannot tell you the encouragement it gives to us out here to know that you and Mrs. McMillan are working and planning there. I think you will be interested in my recent trip to Shanghai.

On Friday evening, January 29th, I went to Shanghai on the "Flyer" a new train which makes the trip in four hours and fifty minutes. On Saturday evening I attended the monthly G. C. Alumnae meeting at the home of Mrs. New. There were more than 30 alumnae present. Dr. New ate supper with us. He does look as if he has suffered terrifically during the last few years. Djang Djan's husband spoke on the recent Sian affair. He was in the northwest at the time. Kwang Wen-ying was present too. She is now head of a bank and looks like a real business woman. It was a fine group - many of them

are in responsible positions. You will
FEB also be interested in the supper ⁸⁴⁷
193 parties (feasts) I attended the following
week -

Monday night - Hwang Siao-tung's home. She
is a graduate of the P.S. and is married
to Wang Kwok-sin's brother. Mrs. Quincy Wang
was also present - she being an aunt.

Tuesday night - Djang Taven-jing's home. She
graduated in 1931; is the sister of Siao-tung,
and both are daughters of the national
advocate of industrial education. Hwang Yen-pai

Wednesday night. Djang Djan's home. She
had invited Lin Yung-szi, Lin Ai-djen,
Wu Ming-ying and Wang Kwok-sin. Djang
Djan's husband and little girl were present.
We had a lovely time. Reminiscenced a great
deal. They had brought their Fellowship
hymnals and we sang the songs we used
to sing in chapel. They remembered my
favorite, Mrs. Thurston's etc. Yung-szi
and Ming-ying are both principals. Ai-
djen has two lovely, well-trained children.

Thursday night. At Chen Shih's home where
Tsai Kwei is also staying. The latter told
us much of her study in America and
trip through Europe.

I enjoy these visits to the full and
only wish I had more time to give
to them. Dr. Rees went up to Kumbiang
and Nanchang during the holiday. She
visited with Phoebe Hoh who is working in
rural reconstruction in Kiangsi. Affectionately
Minnie

File under Voucher

Isn't it wonderful to have airmail across the Pacific. Perhaps next year we will be telephoning to you in Lancaster!

Ginling College

May 29, 1937

Arrived Lancaster, Pa -

June 12, 1937.

Dear Rebecca:

Two days ago Dr. Wu handed me the letter of May 6 written by Miss Mary L. Shannon of 1253 Parkside Drive, Seattle. I take it that Miss Shannon has been in touch with you about coming out to China.

Frankly the situation is this. We need very much to have a teacher of English in our Practice School next year-and in the coming years, but we should have some person who is trained for that work and who is an experienced teacher of English. If we could get a person who is trained in teaching English as a modern foreign language it would be ideal. This coming year we will have the following classes-

Senior I English-	5 periods per week
Senior II "	5 " " "
Senior III "	5 " " "
Senior III English Elective	3 periods per week.
English Literary Society.	

As you know, we would like the English teaching in the Practice School to be of such a quality that college seniors can observe it and those who are majoring in English can do apprentice work with the teacher until they take over their own class for practice teaching under supervision. If the regular teacher is capable of supervising the practice teachers who do practice teaching in English it would be so much better. You can see from this description that a person needs to be a good teacher of English to be able to do this work acceptably.

On May 26, I sent an air mail letter to Miss E. Don Cathro c/o Central Collegiate, Regina, Canada who has been very highly recommended by Florence Kirk as a teacher of English. Miss Cathro has been an outstanding teacher of English for many years and is now retired though still very active, Florence says. We thought that since Miss Kirk's sister is coming to be Dr. Wu's secretary that Miss Cathro might like to come along for a year in China. Florence had no doubt about her fitting into our group. If Miss Cathro does not come we might consider Miss Shannon. I liked the description of that person from near Detroit about whom you wrote to me for she too has had teaching experience. If Miss Shannon has had no teaching experience and is just coming to China for experience and to get data, I am not sure she can do what we need to have done in the Practice School. Will you get in touch with Miss Cathro and then later with Miss Shannon? I do not know enough about Miss Shannon to know whether or not she can do what we need to have done. We can pay only living expenses- for we have in the past had a Chinese do this work, and will get a Chinese for next year if necessary. With much love,

Minnie

0542

To the Chairman of the Candidate Committee.

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

Vaughan file
not answered

August 10, 1937

Dear Rebecca:

I am not sure that I will have the time or energy to finish this letter if I start it, but since it has been much on my mind I will try to get it off.

First of all let me say that we are not normal people now either on our campus or in Nanking for everyone is expecting that Japan may do something - they know not what. For the past ten days if you were here on our campus following us you would find we are packing our most expensive apparatus, storing it in the basements where we are expecting to cover it with sand bags. And we are getting important college records and documents and packing them in suitcases preparatory to sending them to Shanghai. Poor Dr. Wu is busy almost everyday with long meetings of a new organization called the Chinese Women's National Defense League. The hours that we would be glad to use in study and reading we are giving to "precautionary measures" against air raids and bombing. What a crazy world we live in anyway. The large majority of people do not want war and yet we let a vociferous minority push us into it. But enough. I will be getting out a mimeographed letter in a day or two which I will send you and which will give the details. I hope with all my heart that by the time this letter reaches you that all may be quiet and that college can open as usual, although it looks now as if our enrollment will be greatly affected.

Rebecca the real reason for writing this letter is to let you know that during the year I hope that you will find us a fine person to teach English in the Practice School and one who will be interested in the life of the school - especially the Christian aspect of it. My reason is that I have tried in vain to get a person and have failed. If school opens in three weeks I do not yet have any person. The best I can do is to have one of our graduates teach one of the classes and a Shanghai University graduate teach the two upper classes - but neither of these are certain. Miss Cathro's letter came saying that she could not come and then a Miss Felton whom I hoped to get said that she has been invited by Hillcrest and still another Miss Wiley from Seattle who was a possibility decided not to remain in the Orient. Yesterday I considered a Yenching graduate but she was not really prepared for the work. From my previous letter you know the type of person that we need. We do want a permanent person if we can get one, and we need a person who is a trained teacher so she can help the practice teachers and supervise them.

Dr. Wu approved of my writing this letter to you but she said, "Now you know Minnie that it is not easy, for Rebecca would not only have to get the person but would have to raise additional funds for her salary for you know that your budget can stand for only the salary for a graduate of a college in China".

Practice
School
English

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AUG 10 1937

I myself think that it is too difficult to get a person who would come out at her own expense and receive only living expenses while here and yet that is all that the Practice School can afford if we have to balance our budget. Do you suppose it would be possible to do one of the following in an effort to increase college income-

1. Try to persuade the United Church of Canada to support a member of the faculty. Two persons have mentioned this possibility to me and I am not sure that we have tried to do anything about it. Mrs. Donald MacGillivray who is a Canadian and the sister-in-law of Mrs. John MacGillivray of the Canadian Board said that she thought that the women of Canada could and would be glad to do this. This past summer another person said the same thing to me. Florence Kirk said that she did a good deal of speaking for Ginling when she was home and she felt that it was a possibility. Mr. E. W. Wallace whom you know would be a good person to approach in this matter.
2. Could we get the Wellesley Physical Education alumnae interested in our Physical Education Department to the extent that they would help finance it or at least support a faculty member? I know Wellesley has connection with Yenching but I thought that this special department might be interested in our special department. Miss Elliot would be a good person to talk to about the matter.
3. I have often wondered if it would not be possible to get the women's missionary societies of union or community churches interested financially in Ginling. Is there an organization of such union or community churches in America? Would it be advisable to talk to ~~to talk~~ to the head of such an organization? I talked to several members of such churches around Chicago and they said that it was always a difficult thing for the members of such a community church to interest their people in Missions because the women were never quite interested enough in the work of any one denomination. It has seemed to me that a union mission enterprise might interest them much more.
4. Another source of income that I have often thought about was some of the preparatory schools for girls that are scattered throughout the east. There are several wealthy ones in and around Washington. It might be that they would be interested in the Practice School rather than the College.

I suggest the above as possible-but perhaps not probable sources of current income. I have racked my brain at times to think of ways that we could get more of an income for the Practice School. The only schools I have thought of that might be at all interested would be the normal schools and teachers' colleges but unfortunately they are always state supported and I think would not be interested in a Mission institution. It might be that their Y. W. Associations might be but I have never explored that possibility.

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

AUG 10 1937

But probably more promising than any of the means that I have suggested for financing a full time English teacher for the Practice School is your suggestion in your letter of June 14th concerning Miss Fikes. I will certainly write her in a short time and hope that we can interest her in the Practice School. I would be sorry to be home on furlough the year she came. I like what you people say about her and also I have liked her letters that have been shared with me. She sounds like a very fine sort of person. In answer to your P.S. on that letter I would say that I think the Practice School could afford to pay \$80.00 (yuan) per month- that is what we paid this past year to the Chinese teachers who taught the English for us.

From Miss Fikes letter I would take it that she means to stay in China but one year and that she feels that her ultimate work is in her present school. If that be true it would be quite worthwhile to have her come out for the year and then to be on the lookout for a permanent person. When you have a chance will you talk it over with Miss Mackinnon to see if she knows of any person who used to be in their Mission and is an experienced teacher of English. I have often thought of the Miss Brown who used to be in the Baldwin School in Nanchang. I did not know her very well but always heard fine things about her. I am not even sure that she was a teacher of English but I rather think so. A person with training in the teaching of English as a foreign language would be excellent-providing that person were in addition deeply interested in the ideals of a Christian school and willing to build herself into it.

I started this letter to you yesterday but want to finish it today. Have just been over to Dr. Wu's office to talk to her about a letter she has just drafted to send out to all the students telling them that we are hoping to open college as usual. Dr. Wu looks so tired and yet she cannot stop. She has just gone out to another long meeting which I hope she will not have to chair. She with me rather fears that the radical elements in China will be difficult to hold back, and if they are not held back at any moment things may happen which will precipitate China into a war. My constant prayer is for General and Madame Chiang for I think the former knows better than any other person, China's military strength. But can he control the radical forces that do not know and seemingly do not care?

I hope that you have had a good holiday and that you are ready for another year of effort in Ginling's behalf. How I hope that all goes well with your campaign for funds. Dr. Wu has asked me to write you what I think are the needs of Ginling and the order of their importance-but weather like this is not the time for such a letter.

Most affectionately and appreciatively

Minnie

P.S. am sorry to report that we did not receive the grant from the Boxer Indemnity Fund for the building of our Practice School. It is sad!

0545

Ginling College

August 12, 1937.

Dear Friends:

It seems increasingly impossible for me to keep up with letters that I really long to find time to answer-even the annual Christmas letter has been neglected for the past two years. Just now I am going to make a tremendous effort to get a mimeographed one done before the summer holiday passes and the regular work of the school year begins. If you receive this you will know that I have succeeded in spite of the heat, rumors of war and all kinds of extra tasks as a result of those rumors. I'll resort to the diary form again because my mind seems to work that way-probably a result of increasing age.

June 20-22. Baccalaureate and commencement and class day exercises seem to have a habit of coming and going on college campuses. At Ginling our 19th one came on June 20-22 when 42 young women finished their college courses. More than 60% of these graduates will go into high school work, 25 of them will be teachers and 2 will be deans. However more avenues are opening for the trained woman in China than formerly. Two of the class will go into nursing, two will continue their medical course, one will become a national secretary for the New Life Movement, one will go into medical-social case work, two into religious-social work and one into rural work. One member of the class was married two days after commencement and about twenty of her class participated in her wedding ceremony which took place down at the new International Club. Sixteen girls graduated from our Practice High School and we have heard since that they all passed the government examination which hangs like a heavy weight above them all during their senior year.

Again this year we had a most interesting commencement over at our Neighborhood House when 8 girls between the ages of 14 and 19 graduated from the Homecraft School which our college students support for the poor girls of our neighborhood. We were very bold and invited the wife of the mayor of Nanking to give the chief address at the commencement exercises. She accepted the invitation, made a very practical and helpful speech to the eight girls which I suspect they will never forget, and moreover she was so impressed by the work of the little school that she gave a gift of \$40.00 when she left. As some of you know, one requirement for graduation is that each girl be able to make her own graduation dress and shoes, and this they had done very well indeed this year. Increasingly the college girls are becoming interested in the work of this school. This last year more than twelve of them taught classes over there regularly. It was very difficult to get this new type of school started for the poor homes need their older girls to help make a living and to take care of the younger children, but gradually they are seeing that the school does something worthwhile for their daughters.

0546

June 21. On the morning of June 21st I received a telegram from my brother telling of the death of my father. Such news is always a shock and for days and nights my thoughts followed the last sad journey back to the old home in Illinois. Letters which have reached me since have greatly comforted me for they have told how quickly father passed on into the great beyond and was spared long weeks of suffering which he always dreaded. He was 63 years old and was active up to within a few days of his death. I owe more than I can ever repay to my brother and sister-in-law for taking such good care of father during the last years of his life and thus making it possible for me to continue the work here in China which I could not well leave.

July 2-18 For these sixteen days I have been having a holiday with friends in the seaside summer resort of Tsingtao - the city which belonged to the Germans before the Great War, then was given to Japan, and finally because of the Washington Agreement was returned to China. I lived out at Iltus Huk a peninsula which juts out into the blue and cool Pacific. The sea bathing was great - the present heat in Nanking makes me wish that I had gone in oftener than once a day. I am only a mediocre swimmer but how I did love it! My brother always told me I got the speed of a row boat out of the force of a steamer - but any way I improved even at the age of fifty. We took one half day trip to a mountain in the country and were impressed by the prosperity of the farmers, the cleanness and neatness of their field, their ability to use every square foot of space - even banks were planted with melon vines - and the number of fine looking schools scattered through the country. We were told that the Municipality of Tsingtao has started more than 50 such model country schools. Ruth Chester and Florence Kirk of our Ginling Faculty and Wenona Wilkinson of my Mission are my summer companions - and there are none finer.

Word came through to us in Tsingtao that on July 7th trouble started a few miles south of Peiping when a Japanese soldier disappeared - how? nobody really knows, and why? again nobody really know. Since then fighting has increased and what the end of it will be we dare not say. Of the Great War, Milne said, "Two people were killed in Sarajevo in 1914 and the best Europe could do about it was to kill eleven million more." And Milne did not include in this summary all the personal loss and anguish, the deaths from disease, the economic dislocation and the increased and deepened hatreds. China does not want war and knows that she is not prepared for it. I believe that the Japanese people do not want war but Japan cannot control her military machine.

July 19-20. Yesterday morning I left Tsingrao and this afternoon arrived in Nanking coming through by train. During that journey I passed five troop trains - just open cars they were, filled with soldiers and horses and equipment of war. The soldiers looked so miserable in the terrific heat and some of them were mere lads.

Today's English paper has in it the speech of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek which he delivered to leaders at

a conference in Kuling on July 19th. I hope that it appeared in American papers and that you were able to read it for it seemed to me to be sane and reasonable. He gave a minimum of four points which China cannot yield and retain her national integrity. He seemed to be giving a reply to Japan's unreasonable demands and at the same time he was explaining to his own people what the final sacrifice for them might be. He said: "Weak nation as we are we cannot neglect to uphold the integrity of our nation. It is impossible for us not to safeguard to our utmost the heritage of our forefathers, a duty which we must fulfil to the utmost. Let us realize, however, that once war has begun there is no looking backward, we must fight to the better end".

July 21. One reason I have come back to Nanking at this time into the heat is to check up on the new faculty houses which are being built this summer. More than a year ago it was decided to put up a row of five apartments and in addition a bungalow - the latter I was hoping to enjoy during the remainder of my years in China. Unfortunately because building costs have increased more than 25% recently, we have had to turn the funds for the bungalow into that for the apartment houses. During the last few weeks we have even had to turn over also the modest sum of \$2000.00 Chinese currency which had been set aside for the furnishing of the apartments. For all we know now, by November if all goes well, we may be moving into empty faculty houses. My disappointment over the bungalow was keen, but perhaps not fatal.

Another reason for coming back was to make final decision about going to Japan to attend the Seventh Meeting of the World Federation of Education Associations which is scheduled to meet in Tokyo from August 2-7. Before the trouble started in the north, twelve of our Ginling alumnae who are principals or deans of middle schools, had planned to go with me to Japan. We had all our plans made to live in a school conducted by the wife of a Japanese pastor, and after attending the conference we were hoping to stay on and visit Kagawa's work, girls' secondary schools and also come to know some Japanese Christians. I was eager to take the group over for from the standpoint of international friendship it would have been valuable. Then the Chinese official delegates from Manchukwo. It was not wise for me to take my group but as for myself I still felt that it might be worthwhile for me to go. Since returning to Nanking and learning how affairs are developing in the north I have decided not to go.

July 22. Tonight after the lights went out on our campus, for more than two hours I listened to the tramp, tramp, tramp of soldiers and horses and the clanking of guns on the road outside. By day all is calm, but at night war preparations are moving forward. Can anything stop these two nations? Truly we seem like sheep without a shepherd when the passion for war is let loose, and yet we know that in every country there are enough people opposed to war to really put a stop to it. I cannot forget the tramping of those men!

July 28.

I was invited to a Chinese feast in the home of a friend tonight. Everyone was filled with joy for word had been coming through all day by wireless that the Chinese troops were gaining back the territory that had been lost during the past week. Such enthusiasm everywhere - even the ricksha men seemed to have heard about it. There was a sinking feeling in my own heart for I know that a military machine will slap back quickly and relentlessly.

July 29-31

Japan's reaction has come more quickly than I imagined. Word is coming through that not only has she taken the cities momentarily lost but she is driving all Chinese troops out of Tientsin and Peiping. It seems that nothing has been destroyed in Peiping, but Tientsin has been bombarded by an airforce, and much destruction has taken place. Nankai University has been totally destroyed we are told, because Japanese felt that it was a center of propoganda. Naturally the Chinese people are furious and even the calmest say that China must fight even though she be defeated. Some even say that China must herself destroy her great coastal cities and retreat to the mountain regions and from there carry on gorilla warfare until Japan is exhausted economically.

August 2.

Tonight a committee of five faculty met to discuss precautionary measures for taking care of the college campus. We planned to pack valuable apparatus and store it in the basements, to purchase fire extinguishers, to send records to Shanghai, etc. Yesterday it was said that an announcement was made to officials to get their families out of the city. The reason was to lessen the number in Nanking and to free officials of family responsibility - but the result has been to frighten the people terribly. Trains and boats are packed and tickets have been sold for days in advance. Thousands are leaving.

August 6.

Several days ago orders were sent out to Nanking residents to paint all roofs black or gray. There are only a few red roofs left now. Although some of the official buildings have painted their red columns gray, we have not yet done anything about ours. Our campus is rather separated so we do not feel we are in much danger. We are also near the American Embassy which makes this region safer. The poor old Drum Tower looks sad in its coat of gray.

August 9

And now the problem of the opening of college in the autumn is being discussed. This evening we had a special meeting of three faculty members to discuss what should be done. Students are already writing in for transfers - they hope to enter schools in Shanghai or Canton. We have decided to send out word to all that we expect to open at our usual time, that we believe it is better to keep schools open and running normally. If within a few days of the opening it seems unwise we will put a notice in the Shen Pao, a paper that has a wide circulation in China.

August 10

Dr. Wu, our president, is very tired. She has

not had any rest this summer and at the present time is on an executive committee of an organization which has been formed by Madame Chiang to furnish first aid to the national army. The committee has meetings almost every day that lasts for hours. She has to be chairman of many of the meetings

August 11 What have I done today? I left my room in the Practice School at eight o'clock. Mr. Chen, the Business Manager, and I made the rounds to see that the necessary work of preparation is going on. First we went to the three basements to see that they are being cleared so that in case of air raids students and faculty and college servants can go there for shelter. Then we checked up on the making of sand bags which we are preparing to use for the protection of apparatus. Still later we had a conference on what we are to do with the chemicals that must be gotten out of the Science Building, etc. It seems to me this morning that Nanking is somewhat quieter and that people are settling down to the routine of life again. Of course rumors are still flying. Personally I am hoping, and constantly praying that the war clouds will pass away and that China will again be free to push her program of national reconstruction which she has been carrying on so valiently the past few years in spite of all handicaps. Would that somehow the moral forces of the world could be mobilized against war, against the military machine in all countries and people could give their time and strength to the art of peace and friendly co-operation to rid the world of poverty and ignorance and disease.

I send this letter on to you with the feeling that it is hardly worth the time it will take you to read it. It will at least let you know that I have not forgotten you and that I have appreciated the letters that most of you have written to me - and that all of you have intended to write. If all goes well I shall be coming home next summer for my furlough year. Where I shall be during the winter of that year I have not quite decided but I shall want to spend part of it in study. Let us hope that by the times this letter reaches you all will be quiet in your hemisphere and in mine.

Sincerely your friend,

Minnie

Please return to

Mr. Keeney

VIII

R. W. Greest - Guling

August 29, 1937

Dear Rebecca:

I am not quite sure that this letter is worth the time it takes you to read it, the time it has taken me to write it and the cost of the stamps to send it-but I will send it on. I have kept it mainly for Mrs. Thurston for I know she would like to know the full details. I have made ~~ten~~ copies in all, the one I keep for myself and the other nine I am sending on to groups in the U.S.A.

When you have read this will you send it on by turn to Mrs. McMillan, Miss Hodge, the Stanley Smiths and Miss Tyler. If after you have read it you think that any of these would not be interested in such details just omit sending it to them.

I have been with Guling through many dark days but I feel that none have been so dark as these. Is there a future for Guling in Nanking, or Nanking -we do not know. We say that we are hoping to open on September 20th but we say that to keep up courage for it is only by a miracle that Nanking will be peaceful by that time. Daily-yes constantly I pray for a peace maker or peace makers who can bring a cessation to the mad preparations. I think that General Chiang knew what it would mean if this was started, but unfortunately not many others did. I think that when he said that China would have to suffer patiently to the bitter end he saw what that end might be.

If only Washington had Stimson as secretary of state or some strong person who would call a halt to Japan's aggression-but it seems that we are only diplomatic.

I will close this now and send it on before the siren screams out its warning of another raid.

Always with much love,

Minnie J.

0551

Miss Vantrien

Her other letter was sent to Miss
Corder by me at Miss V's request, 10/23/37

Ginling College,
Nanking, China
September 6, 1937

Recd Oct. 18, 1937

To the Members of the Ginling Faculty.

Dear Co-workers:

After having received further instructions from the Ministry of Education to again postpone the opening of college in Nanking, we have decided that until we can ascertain more clearly what the future holds for China and for Nanking, that we make temporary arrangements for the present semester. After much consultation and earnest thought the following decision have been made-

1. That freshmen and sophomores may become guest students in any institution which is conveniently located for them and of which their parents approve. Dr. Wu is writing to them, telling the sophomores especially, to choose courses which will not duplicate those that they have had at Ginling. It is our hope that they will be able to enter institutions of good standing so that there will be no question about the quality of work done.
2. For seniors especially, and for juniors, we are recommending centers where we hope that they can continue all or part of their major work under their major professors. We have given much time to the selection of these centers and our judgment has been based upon the location of the students, the faculty and the availability of equipment. If the heads of departments were in Nanking this task of determining centers would be much simpler. It is our hope that the seniors can complete their theses this semester. The location of centers is given on the attached sheet.
3. Permission to concentrate on the major field for one semester has been granted if a satisfactory plan can be formulated. For instance, the Sociology Department is planning one semester of concentration on the major field and hopes to be able to arrange for a center where the students can give half time to theoretical work and half time to practical field work. Dr. Long is now assembling the books needed for such a project and will probably decide upon a center in Hunan or Kiangsi. It may be that a few other departments will desire to follow a similar plan.
4. Each member of the faculty and each junior and senior will have to use her own judgment about following the plan. Only a prophet can tell what place is safe, and we who are working out this plan are not prophets. Please send us your correct address and your frank reactions at once.
5. The head office of Ginling is still Nanking, although special committees will be set up in each of the centers as soon as possible. On the attached sheet you are given the name and address of one person in each center to whom you can write. It is

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SEP 6 1937

the earnest hope that this work can be started by October 1st. If the situation unexpectedly clears and the way opens for us to return to our own campus by the middle of the semester, then we will hope that most faculty and students will do so.

There are only two students and about twelve members of the staff on or near the campus. We are all busy every day with a multitude of unexpected tasks-but we seem to be safe, and most of the time, very peaceful. The servants on the campus have shown a wonderful spirit and not one has become frightened or asked to go home to the country. They too have been busy with extra tasks as digging trenches, moving books out of the library attic, moving pianos and going through fire drills. I am sure that we all believe that there is still a future for China, for Nanking and for Ginling-if we have vision, are faithful and courageous.

Sincerely your friend,

Minnie Vautrin

This letter is written for Dr. Wu, who would have written it herself were she not so busy. Today she is sending out letters to all students explaining our plan.

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(37)

PROPOSED CENTERS FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF GINLING COLLEGE.

For the first semester of the academic year 1937-38.

Work to begin October 1, if possible.

<u>Biology:</u>	7 seniors; 2 juniors; 3 sophomores; 1 uncl. Wuchang or some institution in Hunan, as Changsha.
<u>Chemistry:</u>	8 seniors; 1 junior; 9 sophomores; 1 uncl. Some institution or research laboratory in Shanghai.
<u>Chinese:</u>	3 seniors; 6 juniors; 1 sophomore; 1 uncl. Nanking, Wuchang or Changsha. (Professors Miao and Chen are now living in Nanking.)
<u>English:</u>	3 seniors; 5 juniors; 6 sophomores. Shanghai or wuchang.
<u>Geography:</u>	7 seniors; 1 junior; 3 sophomores. Some center in Hanan, Kiangsi, Hupeh or Szechuan
<u>History:</u>	1 senior; 1 junior; 2 sophomores. Shanghai.
<u>Music:</u>	1 senior; 5 juniors; 8 sophomores. Shanghai.
<u>Philosophy:</u>	- seniors; 1 junior; 1 sophomore. Wuchang.
<u>Mathematics:</u>	1 senior; 1 junior; 5 sophomores. Shanghai.
<u>Phys. Educ.:</u>	4 seniors; 1 junior; 3 sophomores; 1 uncl. 6 sophomore specials.
<u>Sociology:</u>	9 seniors; 13 juniors; 14 sophomores; 4 uncl. A center in Hunan, Kiangsi, Hupeh. As cooperation with James Yes's work in Hunan. Or cooperation with a presbyterian or Episcopal center.
<u>Psychology:</u>	Wuchang
<u>Education:</u>	Wuchang

Ginling faculty member with whom you can correspond in each center:

Dr. Chang Siao-sung, Y.W.C.A. Hsow
Miss Eva Spicer, London Missionary Society, Hankow
Miss Dzo Yu-lin, Y.W.C.A. Changsha, Hunan
Miss Wang Ming-djen, Shanghai Y.W.C.A.
999 Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai

0554

Original sent this
morning by Clipper
to Mrs. Thurston.

September 30, 1937

Dear Tilda:

A letter from Jerry Fitch in Tsingtao two days ago put an idea in my head which I want to write on to you for consideration and action. She evidently has been sharing the diary which I have sent on to Ruth and Florence called "FROM DAY TO DAY AT GINLING" and as she is about to start for American and is anxious to do something for China, she asked if she could have the permission of revising the diary and trying to get a magazine to accept it-the proceeds to be used for War Relief. I immediately wrote her that I would be glad for her to use the ideas in it and the facts for any talks that she wanted to make but that I would rather not have it published for I have not written with that idea in mind and there are many things in it that should not be published. I still feel that I would rather not have a non-Ginling person make decision on what should be used in it and what should not be used.

However, this morning it occurred to me, that if you approved of the idea that you might get in touch with Pearl Buck and the two of you together see if there is any material in it that can be used. You are free to put it in a magazine or in book form or in both. The proceeds could be given entirely to the Relief and Rehabilitation of War Refugees. This problem is going to be a terrible one as the cold weather comes on. Naturally wherever a bomb is dropped in a residence district, homes are destroyed and people are desperate. Lin Yu-wen already came to me to see if I can do anything about children that are now in the Municipal Hospital-carried there after a raid. Both parents were killed. The children have no clothes and no place to go. We are trying to organize the Christians who are left in the city and help them to make constructive plans for meeting these great needs. You probably have already heard that the University Hospital is now taking care of the Central Hospital patients-but unfortunately all first and second class patients have left the city so only the very poor can come-and that brings no income. Miss Hynds told me the other day that the receipts of the hospital had dropped by one half and yet they must carry on with an increasing number of poor and destitute. She also telephoned me yesterday to ask if I could do anything to find homes for three little girl babies who are there. I am beginning to wonder if the Christian groups will have to start an orphanage as a temporary measure.

So far I have sent you three installments of my diary as follows
August 12-24 sent about August 26th
August 25-September 8 sent about September 12th
September 9-21st sent about September 27th.

I now have another section ready to be typed-if I can find the time to type it. The difficulty is that all our mail is now being carried as far as Japan in Japanese ships-which gives plenty of time for opening. Let me know if you are not getting these. Much love

Minnie

0555

Miss Minnie Clipper

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

Rec'd - Oct 13 1937

September 30, 1937

Dear Rebecca:

Your good letter of September 24th sent by Clipper to Dr. Wu came in this morning and was shared with me. Our difficulty is that all Shanghai mail is now being sent by Japanese ships to Japan and there transferred to American ships. Of course that gives plenty of time for censure and destruction-whether that is done or not we do not know. So far I have sent you four letters with much Ginling news, since August 12th. I hope that they have all reached you, but for fear they have not, I am sending you my personal copies of these letters from my own file. I would be glad to have them returned or kept for me since they are all that I have. I am also sending you copies of letters sent out by Dr. Wu to the faculty and to the members of the Board of Directors. I have sent you copies of these previously but am not sure that you have received them.

With regard to the diary, I just wrote a letter to Mrs. Thurston about it this morning and sent it by the Clipper. Am inclosing the carbon of that message so will not repeat here. Use anything that I have written in any way for China-for I trust the judgment of you and Mrs. Thurston in this matter. You will know what should be and should not be published. Remember that the diary was written in the beginning for members of the Ginling faculty. I had Mrs. Thurston and yourself especially in mind. I make ten copies each time and of that number eight are sent to America-one goes to a group in China ending with Dr. Reeves in Chengtu.

We are glad that you are thinking so untiringly about all the problems out here and are helping to make plans. Within the last week Yi-fang and we have had conference after conference about Miss Shipmen and we do not yet know what is best. En-lan would like to have her help very much, but is it safe to bring her in and if she comes will we be able to get the geography majors together. We thought first of taking her to Chengtu but that travel would be too great for her and for the students. From the beginning I was in favor of Tsingtao but Dr. Wu was never enthusiastic about that. We have been trying to get a position for Alice Chang, first in Huachung and then in Chengtu. We have not heard results. Hwang Li-ming is ill in Shanghai so we really do not know how to plan for P.E. and Ettie Chin.

It has been raining for the past two days and nights so we have had a chance to relax and get rest. It has been much better the last few days for us-but we fear that other places are suffering.

There are two tables of us that now eat over in the "400" dormitory. The fellowship in the group is very precious as we face work and dangers together. A letter just came from Shanghai this morning that Ruth, Florence and Lillian Kirk are there. They will be forming a group there within these two weeks. We sent Wang Ling-djen down there about three weeks ago to do that but she was too young and inexperienced and did not know that you had to have infinite patience in such a situation.

Please let me know if there is anything more I can do.

Affectionately, *Minnie*

To day we are making more sand bags to put above the vault.
Personally I feel we are comparatively safe here unless the J. plans deliberately pick us out.

0556

P.S. Pictures also appreciated.

Ginling College
October 9, 1937

Ginling "Promise of things to be" in Chengtu, c/o Dr. Reeves
Ginling Unit in Shanghai, c/o Miss Chester
Ginling Unit in Wuchang, c/o Miss Chang Siao-sung
Executive secretary of Ginling Alumnae Association, c/o Miss Gao Ren-ying

Dear friends:

This past week the following cablegram came from Miss Rebecca Griest, chairman of the Promotional Committee in America which has been appointed by the Board of Founders:

" Important receive October fifth whether Ginling opening, number students, details staff, Emergency campaign demands frequent cables and letters showing morale. Expenditure justified."

Through the American Embassy we sent Miss Griest a long cable giving her the facts with regard to the opening which we have made. By air mail we have also sent her two long letters, one written by Dr. Wu and one by myself. But you see that we are no longer Ginling, but only the shell, the skeleton as it were, and Ginling is scattered in many places but especially in Wuchang and in Shanghai. You and the group of students gathered around you are the Ginling in which the friends of the college in America and England will be interested. Your thoughts, your reactions, your experiences and your activities will be of interest to them.

Dr. Wu and I have discussed the matter of publicity and we feel that if the Wuchang and Shanghai group would appoint a regular correspondent who would feel it her duty to write up interesting activities or experiences each week or at least every two weeks and send them directly to Miss Griest it would help her out greatly. If you can have them typed on thin paper and have several copies made it will be advisable. Sent one copy by air mail to Miss Griest, keeping an account of what you use in this way. Also if there are alumnae in your vicinity who are doing interesting and outstanding things, write those up also or have the alumnae do so. If you will send one carbon to us here at Ginling we would also appreciate it. As soon as I can find a person going to Tientsin I shall send word directly to Ren-ying so that she can be collecting activities and experiences for alumnae in the North. Miss Griest's address is

Suite 903, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

All is quiet in Nanking. It has been raining now for three days so we have had no visitors. The days and nights have been very restful and much appreciated. My, how we do sleep. We are anxiously waiting for Mr. Li, assistant business manager, whom we sent to Shanghai last Tuesday morning with some entrance tests. You know the group there are trying to start a small freshman class in cooperation with St. John's. Chen Mei-yu (1920) came yesterday and Du Lung-yuen (1931) came today. It is good to see the alumnae, but what experiences they have had. Lung-yuen has lost all her notes of four college years and six years of teaching.

Sincerely your friend,

Minnie Sauter

0557

GINLING COLLEGE, NANKING CHINA

By Minnie Vautrin
October 26, 1937

College registration was scheduled for September 4 following the Freshman Week Program and Senior Retreat, both of which had been carefully planned in June, but on August 12 a notice came from the Ministry of Education suggesting that all schools and colleges in the war area postpone their opening dates to September 20. On August 30 a second notice came requesting all educational institutions in Nanking to postpone opening indefinitely. From that time the wisdom of attempting to open the college in Nanking was seriously questioned. It was most difficult to see clearly or to make a wise decision since so many uncertain factors were involved. Certainly parents not in the war area would want to keep their daughters near home in such dangerous times and most families living in cities like Nanking had already evacuated to safer places; travel was not only difficult and uncertain but very dangerous on account of air raids and the attempt to destroy all communications; the foreign members of the faculty who had scattered for their vacations would have great difficulty in returning to Nanking in view of the repeated advice from the American Embassy. Perhaps the strongest argument against opening in Nanking was Nanking itself. As the capital and headquarters for military planning, it would continually be subjected to severe and persistent air raids and might even be the objective of a land campaign by the Japanese army. If the latter serious situation should arise the evacuation of women students and faculty would be most difficult in view of the decrease in river boats available and the demand that would be made upon them for the moving of government offices. Also with the frequent air raids the responsibility on the college administration would be tremendous. Taking all these factors into considera-

OCT 26 1937

- 2 -

tion it was reluctantly decided not to open regular college work on the Ginling campus.

From the study of a questionnaire that had been sent out to all our students in August, and also from an analysis of the location of students and faculty, gradually the plan was evolved of opening several centers or units, dividing insofar as possible on the basis of departments.

In September, the first unit was opened in Wuchang in cooperation with Hua Chung College. Nine faculty members and 35 students are now in this unit. In October the second unit was started in Shanghai in cooperation with the University of Shanghai and St. John's University. Six faculty members and 48 students are in this second unit. In both centers seniors are able to continue work on their theses under the direction of their major advisers, and in some cases specialized courses are given for our seniors by their own professors. All three institutions extended to our faculty and students a cordial welcome and in turn our faculty members have been able, in part, to return this hospitality by teaching needed courses. In Chengtu in cooperation with West China Union University there is an "embryo" unit as one faculty member and three students are there at work. In these three units 33% of our student body are at work. Because of their location other students, not counted in the above, are "guest students" in Amoy, Fukien Christian University, Lingnan and Yenching. In the initial stages of the planning it was hoped that still another unit could be started in Siangtang and that our Sociology and Geography Departments could be opened in the buildings of the Presbyterian Mission, but for various causes this plan did not materialize.

Excepting for the absence of students the Ginling campus looks much as usual. Eleven members of the administrative staff - six women and five men - and four members of the teaching faculty are kept busily at work - excepting

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during air raids. To date we have had 79 raids, some severe and some light, but all time consuming. President Wu Yi-fang is doubly busy, not only carrying the burden and strain of emergency administration for the college, but also giving her thought and strength unsparingly to the work of the National Chinese Women's Organization for War Relief, in which organization she is a member of the executive committee and treasurer. Other members of the staff who are not at the college or needed in the various units have accepted temporary positions in other institutions or are helping in some form of war relief. A number of women on the campus give many hours each day to the cutting and making of garments for the wounded soldiers.

On October 30, many of this large family of Ginling students, alumnae and faculty, though scattered far and wide, will be united in spirit and in thought as they remember together in gratefulness the vision and faith and courage of their Founders for on that day in a very simple way they will celebrate the twenty second annual Founders' Day of the College.

0560

Ginling College
November 4, 1937

Dear Rebecca:

Since Dr. Wu has not yet come down from the South Hill Faculty residence following her after-tiffin rest, I will begin this business letter to you and hope that she will be able to add something about the Founders' Day celebrations in the various centers. We have already received a report from Wuchang, Shanghai and Chengtu-the latter air mail came through in just four days, reaching here before any of the other reports. In a conference this morning Dr. Wu and I decided that it was best to send you another thousand calendars and to keep only 500 for sale in China for we feel that is about as many as we can dispose of. The suggestions and plans are as follows-

Today we are sending an express letter to Kelley and Walsh and asking them to immediately make 1000 envelopes having them ready to send on the Nagasaki Maru which sails on November 13 and which connects with the Coolidge in Kobe on November 18. The latter arrives in U.S.A. on December 1. We are asking Florence Kirk to get in touch with them in order to determine the best way of sending them to you.

Our suggestion is that you try to dispose of them in the following way- Send immediately 200 to Mrs. Thurston and Miss Calder; 100 to Miss Thayer; 100 to Miss Cook; 200 to Smith College; 100 to Kalamazoo; 150 to Helen Loomis and 50 to Mrs. Rhead in Michigan and 100 to Merib Mossman. We are hoping that these people will be able through regular Church or college pre-Christmas sales dispose of them. If we keep the 1500 in China we know that we will lose heavily on them which is a pity at any time, but especially at this time when the college is so hard up financially. You will remember that this is merely a suggestion and you may have already had these people in mind for some of your own order. It has just occurred to me that the headquarters of our various cooperating boards might like to have some to dispose of also.

As to the price that you should set on them we are leaving that to your judgment. The bare cost of the calendar is 35 cents Chinese currency and that does not cover the cost of the envelope or the transportation to you. It would be well to set the price so that it would cover both of these items.

Since it will be already somewhat late when this letter reaches you and especially when this second shipment of calendars reaches you, Dr. Wu thought that you might send to these groups from your original shipments and use the later shipment for publicity purpose as she thought that you might have that in mind for at least some of yours.

We are keeping 500 for use in China and will probably send them to groups as follows asking them to dispose of them at 40 cents each- 50 to Mrs. Thomson and Dr. Gale in Kuling; 100 to the Wuchang group; 50 to Hongkong alumnae; 50 to Changsha alumnae; 150 to be left in Shanghai for the group there and we are sending an air mail letter to Dr. Reeves and Miss Tappert telling them to send names and addresses to Miss Kirk for foreign mailing; and we are having 100 sent to us in Nanking. With the salary cut this year our own faculty will not be able to purchase as many as usual and our students will feel that the cost is rather more than they will want to pay.

Hoping that this suggestion will be acceptable to you and that it will not cause you too much extra work. Affectionately yours,

Minnie Santin

0561

Letter from Minnie Vautrin, Nanking, China, received December 7, 1937

Please share with Mrs. Thurston
and others

Ginling College
November 11, 1937

Dear Rebecca:

Yesterday morning I wrote out a resume of the Founders' Day celebrations in the eight cities where they were held. The subject was worthy of a poet or philosopher but I fear that I was too cold and pushed for time to do even my poor best. In the main I copied from the letters that have come to us during the past week or ten days. All letters are now in and we shall keep them here in our office instead of sending them on to you. We are not sending a separate copy on to Mrs. Thurston as we will ask you to share with her. I made ten copies in all and am sending one copy to each of the cities which had some form of gathering.

Today is cold and dreary. We have not yet put up stoves but are beginning to think of it and plan for it. This winter we shall not use any of the furnaces, even if we had the money we would not want to do so, for it would not seem right to us and certainly not to others. We shall move into the south facing rooms in the Arts Building and by combining offices we think that we can get along all right.

Tomorrow afternoon Yi-fang, Elsie and I are having an "At Home" for the foreign community--mostly men--and a few carefully selected Chinese guests. We have a display of chrysanthemums in the big guest hall in the Central Building. How I wish that Mrs. Thurston especially could see them for she loved them so. They are particularly lovely this year for the gardener was most faithful in spite of all the rumors and evacuations. I am going to call in a photographer and have some pictures taken, especially of the gardener for I think this is the last year we shall try to have him raise them.

Yi-fang is in her office just now and has the head of the Women's section of the New Life Movement with her. They are discussing the work of the National Chinese Women's Organization for War Relief. Since she has written to you recently she has no special message to be included in this letter.

The situation is becoming tense. The fact that the Japanese troops are landing at Hangchow Bay and making their way through there puts a new light on the military situation. It looks as if they are planning a new route to Nanking--the old one through Quinshan was very well fortified and defended but the new route not so well. It means a good deal of shifting if the Chinese troops are to hold them back. Rumors are wild in the city. Yesterday evening at the supper table Elsie said that she heard there was to be a four days continuous bombing of the capital. Then Mrs. Tsen came out with what she heard a few days previous but did not want to tell the group. And then finally I told what my Chinese teacher had told me--that he had heard that beginning with Friday there was to be 24 hours of continuous bombing. We try to stop these rumors, and to make light of them.

For months now I have had on my mind the writing of a letter to you about the future of Ginling but somehow when the present seems so uncertain it seems foolish to plan for a future, and yet we know there is one. I will try to get it done this week if possible. We are still hoping for positive results from the Nine Power Conference. Certainly we cannot let a group of military minded men in Japan get away with anything so dastardly as they are now carrying out in China. There are too many sane people in the world for that. Military might must not conquer. I close this letter with much love to your.

Affectionately,

Minnie

0562

Hodge

Phila. Dec. 13

Letter from Minnie Vautrin, Received in New York
December 7, 1937, Via China Clipper

Ginling College, Nanking, China
November 24, 1937

To the Ginling Faculty Members in
Ginling "Potential" Unit in Chengtu
Ginling Unit in Shanghai
Ginling Unit in Wuchang
Ginling-in-America.

Dear Friends:

Knowing that you will be deeply interested in a telegram which came yesterday from New York, we want to share it with you. It reads:

"Still standing by. Defeat never comes unless spirit breaks. Keep sending material. Using everything. Revised budget here. Our love, prayers, confidence."

We also know that you are worried about us in Nanking and that you want to hear about the conditions in Nanking and at Ginling. People in the city have been moving out by the tens of thousands -- first the officials and the offices, then the middle class and now it has reached down to the poor and they cannot afford to go nor can they afford to stay on when they see everyone else go. For the last few days we have seen hundreds of rickshas going -- literally in every direction, some south and some north. The poor do not know where to go. It makes one very sad to go on the street now for it is beginning to look deserted save for the military.

Institutions that opened school in Nanking are having a most difficult time to decide where to go and how to go. The Seminary opened and had a student body of almost thirty. Yesterday they decided to suspend classes for they could not get any transportation to take them as a group up to Hunan where they planned to go. Each student and faculty member must look out for himself. The University of Nanking Middle School we hear has moved to Kuling but I have not verified this report recently. The University of Nanking, which had a student body of about 240 has spent many anxious days discussing what should be done. They finally decided to move up river, probably to Chengtu if they can get in there. The first consignment of students and women, wives of the faculty members, were to have gone this past Monday as far as Kiukiang, but they are still here, now hoping to go tomorrow. They have packed their most valuable books and equipment and are going to try to get the things off. Last week they thought they had a space for 70 boxes on a boat, took them down to Hsia Gwan only to find that the space was taken by some official organization and they had to bring the boxes all back -- and that is no easy task when it is almost impossible to get trucks or any kind of conveyance.

As for Ginling, over and over again we have been grateful for the decision which we made that first week in September. It was a difficult decision to make and when conditions cleared after we made it we felt that perhaps we were over-cautious, but now we are increasingly thankful to God for His guidance. If you were here today you would find many people busy packing books. Miss Wu has selected the most important books from each department and we are packing them. If we can get a good opportunity to get them off, we shall do so, if not

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we shall store them in basements for they will be safer if packed, and if later we wish to send them to you it will be much easier. At least you will know that the campus is a very busy place.

We are making all kinds of preparation for taking care of our campus during the crisis, or shall I say crises, for there will really be four different kinds of dangers which we must prepare for. First is the actual fighting when we may be subjected to heavy bombing from planes and shelling from gunboats and warships; secondly, the time of retreat of the Chinese forces which may come soon or late or not at all. We are praying most earnestly that by some miracle the fighting will stop soon before all east China is a barren waste. Thirdly, the time when one force has gone out and the other has not yet come in -- the time when lawless people take advantage of the helpless condition of people. Fourthly, when the Japanese troops enter. We really do not know what the exact situation will be in any of these stages but we have faith to believe that Ginling will be all right and that we will have opportunity to serve the women and children of the neighborhood in their hour of danger. Just today we have received 15 official seals from the American Embassy which we will put up at the psychological moment; we also are having five flags made which we will put up on the outskirts of the campus, such as between the men faculty residences and the two south hill residences, at the Practice School and west hill, and one at the gate house. Dr. Wu is trying also to get in touch with the Commissioner of Police and the Garrison Commander in order to get special letters from them. Do not worry about us for our buildings are strong and they are fire proof and we have two strong basements. Mrs. Tsen has put in enough food for three months so we shall also not starve. Personally I am not expecting a long siege for I think the Japanese strategy will be to approach the city from three directions, which would make it unsafe for a large army to stay here.

A very good committee with international representation has been working very hard day after day in trying to get through the idea or plan of a "Safety Zone" for those who cannot evacuate. This has the approval of the Chinese authorities but must yet get the approval of Japan. It will be a great blessing if this can be provided for it will save many lives especially of the poor. Messrs. Mills, Bates and Smythe and Han Lih-wu are among those who have been working night and day on the project.

*The left
dec. 3rd*
We are trying our best to persuade Dr. Wu to make preparations to go up river this week. We want her to go on up to Szechuan first and to investigate possibilities there for Ginling in case we cannot come back to Nanking soon, and certainly the second semester does not look possible now -- unless there is a miracle soon. She is reluctant to go but I think all of us feel that she ought not to stay here longer for her leadership is now needed for the College in the units outside of Nanking. Personally I would like to see her fly to Chengtu but I suspect that she would not be willing to do that. She has worked terrifically hard ever since the end of July and you know that she had no summer holiday at all. She bore tremendous responsibility for the National Women's Association for War Relief. She looks thin and pale and is greatly discouraged by the turn of affairs militarily. Pray for her that she may be given strength for the tasks that are hers. Difficulties test foundations, whether they are of sand or solid rock. Our president is solid rock through and through -- this I have seen as I have watched her work during these long hard weeks.

I send this letter on hurriedly for I know you are anxious for news. Again let me say do not worry for I feel we are comparatively safe.

0564

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[duplicate]

Letter from Minnie Vautrin, Received in New York
December 7, 1937, Via China Clipper

Ginling College, Nanking, China
November 24, 1937

To the Ginling Faculty Members in
Ginling "Potential" Unit in Chengtu
Ginling Unit in Shanghai
Ginling Unit in Wuchang
Ginling-in-America.

Dear Friends:

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I send this letter on hurriedly for I know you are anxious for news. Again let me say do not worry for I feel we are comparatively safe.

0567

Nanking, China
December-2, 1937
Received New York - 12/21/37

Dear Mrs. Thurston and Rebecca:

For fear that this is the last letter that I shall be able to get to you for some weeks, it is important that I report certain things to you and trust that they get through. Only one sending post office is now open, the one in Hsia Gwan, and that one is ready to move at any time now on to a boat which Mr. Richey has chartered.

Dr. Wu and Miss Priest left the college campus yesterday morning for Hsia Gwan. They are still there as far as we know for the Butterfield and Swire boat on which they are travelling is still loading cargo. We felt very strongly that she should go yesterday for no person can tell what may happen during the coming days. The Japanese gunboats are expected within a few days although of course no person knows exactly when they will break through the barriers. Also we do not know when the city may have the visit of a large squadron of aeroplanes which would treat us as they treated poor Soochow. Mrs. Tsen and I were greatly relieved when she was persuaded to go. The fact that Miss Priest thought it was best to go early helped us out in the matter. She will go to Wuchang for a visit, I hope a short one, and then probably go on up to Chengtu and Chungking to study the situation there. She is very tired - exhausted both physically and spiritually, it seems to me, and there is little wonder for she had no summer holiday and has worked terrifically hard for the National Women's Organization as well as for the college.

An Emergency Committee of three will carry the responsibility on the campus - Mrs. Tsen, Mr. Francis Chen and myself. We are quite confident that we will weather the storm for we are taking every precaution that we can think of, and the fact that we are only three makes it much easier to manage things. Mrs. Tsen as you know is an excellent general in a situation like this and the two of us get along very well together. We are now only one table of people, eating in the 400 dormitory. Mrs. Tsen, Francis Chen and his assistant Mr. Li, a fine young lad, Miss Hsueh the day school teacher, a Miss Wang Shui-djih who is the remaining student from the Seminary, Blanche Wu and myself. We still have our regular semi-weekly prayer meetings together which have become very vital. Religion is made for times like these. Words of Jesus that had little depth of meaning before now come to have reality. I might add that we are keeping very little money on the campus and will leave the safe open. Yesterday I took our money over to the Embassy together with your wedding silver, Mrs. Thurston and they will take the things down to the boat. (A gunboat!) I would not take my own things down to the boat, but I felt that I should do so for the property of other people and of the college. Looting is the thing that people fear although there again I think we are going to get through all right. Our two policemen have said they want to stay with us when the Japanese army enters, - they will simply change their uniforms. Mr. Li is also drilling six of our own men as a kind of campus police to help keep order in case of trouble.

About all we know for the second semester is that the Shanghai Unit will continue where it is and that the Wuchang Unit may have to go farther up the river. It is very difficult to know what is best when conditions change so rapidly. Plummer Mills and Edwin Marx feel that we shall have to finally make the same decision as Yenching was forced to make. Mrs. Tsen I think agrees with them also.

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Yi-fang at the present time feels that she could not come back to Nanking if the Japanese people are in charge. Says that she is too unbending and forthright to be able to stand it - and it would be a terrible strain for her. I personally feel that we should make no permanent decision until we know the outcome of the present crisis, and that any decision that we make for the second semester or for next year should be more or less temporary, and experimental. We see now that our decision for the first semester was a wise one and I believe that God will continue to guide us if we fully trust Him and work in His spirit.

Nanking is a deserted and defeated city already. Practically all shops are closed; no banks are open, but instead there are three exchange shops where a person can change as much as five dollars. As I said there is but one sending post-office which is in Hsia Gwan. We are entirely cut off from Shanghai, a letter which I wish to send to Ruth this morning I shall send by way of Hankow and Canton. Madame Chiang presented us with her victrola and piano several days ago but I doubt if she has left the city yet.

The International Committee of which Searle, Lewis, Plummer and George Fitch are members have been working like slaves on getting this Safety Zone across. Although the Japanese have not yet sent their reply they are going ahead with the idea and now have four commissions at work on preparations - Finance, Food, Housing and Sanitation. The Zone will be marked out with white flags very soon. Before it was assured even thus far, Miss Lo has done a good deal of neighborhood calling and she thinks that there are about 200 of our neighbors who will want to come to us for shelter in the time of danger. We already have the Central Building cleaned and empty so that we can put people there. Last Sunday more than ninety women and children came out to our Sunday meeting - not for loaves and fishes - but to ask if they could come on the campus when conditions in the city are dangerous. The fact that Miss Lo and I know our neighbors so well is a tremendous help in such a situation. The day school teacher has been asked to form her committee of Fu Wu Twan out of her pupils and several other children on the campus. They will help the group of refugees to know where to find things, and also help to keep things orderly.

At present, Mrs. Tsen is burning all materials that we feel it is unwise to have in our offices lest they be misunderstood. All the materials left in the Neighborhood House by the organization that previously occupied it we have also burned. At eleven o'clock the two of us are taking papers out of the safe, wrapping them and hiding them in safeplaces.

You would both be interested in the daily Press conferences which are held down at the Sino-British Cultural Building. Mary Twinn comes after Mrs. Tsen and me and we quite enjoy being there - although we do not know that the men enjoy having us. The Chinese men do not mind and if the foreign ones do they do not indicate it. Many newspaper men come, also heads of Missions and Business organizations. The mayor always comes and the garrison commander has a representative there and it is an excellent clearing house for all kinds of problems and questions.

The curtain will drop at almost any time now, and just what will happen to the actors and the scenes we do not know but we have faith to believe that in the end all will be well.

Love to both of you,

Minnie

Rec'd. 12/21/37

December 2, 1937

Dear Mrs. Thurston and Rebecca:

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to farther up the river. It is very difficult to know what is best when conditions change so rapidly. Plummer Mills and Edwin Marx feel that we shall have to finally make the same decision as Yenching was forced to make. Mrs. Tsen I think agrees with them also. Yi-fang at the present time feels that she could not come back to Nanking if the J. people are in charge. Says that she is too unbending and forthright to be able to stand it-and it would be a terrible strain for her. I personally feel that we should make no permanent decision until we know the outcome of the present crisis, and that any decision that we make for the second semester for for next year should be more or less temporary, and experimental. We see now that our decision for the first semester was a wise one and I believe that God will continue to guide us if we fully trust Him and work in His spirit.

Nanking is a deserted and defeated city already. Practically all shops are closed; no banks are open, but instead that are three exchange shops where a person can change as much as five dollars. As I said there is but one sending postoffice which is in Hsia Gwan. We are entirely cut off from Shanghai, a letter which I wish to send to Ruth this morning I shall send by way of Hankow and Canton. Madame Chiang presented us with her victrola and piano several days ago but I doubt if she has left the city yet.

The International Committee of which Searle, Lewis, Plummer and George Fitch are members have been working like slaves on getting this Safety Zone across. Although the Japanese have not yet sent their reply they are going ahead with the idea and now have four commissions at work on preparations- Finance, Food, Housing and Sanitation. The Zone will be marked out with white flags very soon. Before it was assured even thus far, Miss Lo has done a good deal of neighborhood calling and she thinks that there are about 200 of our neighbors who will want to come to us for shelter in the time of danger. We already have the Central Building cleaned and empty so that we can put people there. Last Sunday more than ninety women and children came out to our Sunday meeting- not for loaves and fishes-but to ask if they could come on the campus when conditions in the city are dangerous. The fact that Miss Lo and I know our neighbors so well is a tremendous help in such a situation. The day school teacher has been asked to form her committee of Fu Wu T'wan out of her pupils and several other children on the campus. They will help the group of refugees to know where to find things, and also help to keep things orderly.

At present Mrs. Tsen is burning all materials that we feel it is unwise to have in our offices lest they be misunderstood. All the materials left in the Neighborhood House by the organization that previously occupied it we have also burned. At eleven o'clock the two of us are taking papers out of the safe, wrapping them and hiding them in safeplaces.

You would both be interested in the daily Press conferences which are held down at the Sino-British Cultural Building. Mary Twinem comes after Mrs. Tsen and me and we quite enjoy being there-although we do not know that the men enjoy having us. The Chinese men do not mind and if the foreign ones do they do not indicate it. Many newspaper men come, also heads of Missions and Business organizations. The mayor always comes and the garrison commander has a representative there and it is an excellent clearing house for all kinds of problems and questions.

The curtain will drop at almost any time now, and just what will happen to the actors and the scenes we do not know but we have faith to believe that in the end all will be well.

Loveto both of you,

Mumie

0571

[December 6, 1937]

The Twenty Second Annual Founders' Day
Ginling College

'Tis sad when birdlings must needs leave their nest and
Children leave their beloved home.

It was on October 11th that your President first mentioned Founders' Day, but she had probably been thinking of it with sadness long before. On that same day the date of October 30th was decided upon and letters were sent at once to the Ginling Units in Wuchang and Shanghai, suggesting that they plan some simple but meaningful remembrance of the day. During the next ten days air mail letters were sent to Changsha, Hongkong, Chengtu and Chungking, while ordinary letters were also sent to groups in Kuling and Hwai Yuen. A deep desire made us long to get in touch with the group in Tientsin and in Peiping, but second thought made it seem unwise to write to them lest we in some way might endanger them. Soon return letters made us know that committees were being appointed and plans were under way for at least two centers. A request for Ginling songs from one faculty member made us realize that other groups would be wanting them also, and such as we could find were sent on at once. It was not until later that Djou Szi-fu, over in the music building, found the regular mimeographed books of college songs.

During the last week in October, Dr. Wu tried in vain to write a personal message to each of the centers where she knew members of the widely scattered Ginling family would be gathering. She mentioned it again and again, but always the pressure of more immediate work would crowd out the letter. I am not sure but that was the week when she had nine meetings for the National Chinese Women's Association for War Relief. Three of these were with the Executive Committee of that organization and lasted from eight o'clock in the morning until noon, and often she was chairman. I mention this to let you know why she did not write to you. Finally telegrams were the only means of reaching you.

On Friday afternoon, October 20th, the following one was worded and sent off to the groups whom we knew would be gathering in Changsha and Wuchang:

"Our national struggle challenges Ginling family to actively seek and sacrificially share the Abundant Life. Romans 8: 35, 37."

Dr. Wu was not quite satisfied with this and must have given much more thought to it early in the morning of Saturday, for at noon a slightly different one was sent to Shanghai and Hongkong, for we knew definitely that groups would be meeting there either on Saturday or Sunday:

"May the Ginling family be worthy of the Founders and College ideals by humbly strengthening ourselves and sacrificially sharing in the national crisis. Romans 8: 35, 37. Alma Mater."

Saturday evening and Sunday our thoughts were often with the members of our Ginling family, especially at the times when we knew they would be meeting together in remembrance and thanksgiving. The telegram which came to us on Saturday from the Wuchang group expressed our thoughts so well that we will quote it:

"Dispersed but not dispirited. Through one faith, one hope still one.
Long life to Alma Mater."

0572

Letters have been coming in during the last week describing the celebrations held, telling us the names of students, alumnae and faculty who were present, ye s and friends of the college too, and helping us to build up a very vivid impression of the seven Ginling Founders' Day that were held from the east to the far west, from the north to the south of China. And whose report do you suppose came in first? You probably could not guess. The Ginling group in Chengtu got their report to us first, it came in on the morning of November 4th. Who can say that Chengtu is far away when this can happen? These letters we have shared with members of the faculty family living on the campus and will continue to share them, and they have been so interesting that we want the rest of you to know something of their contents. I will take them up in alphabetical order and give you the gist, although it would be fine if you could share the entire contents.

CHANGSHA: Sie Wen-sih (1937) writes, "We did have a very successful Founders' Day. I have sent an invitation and a copy of the program along with this letter so that you can have a better view of them. We had over thirty present but some had to be late and others had to leave before the end of the meeting. As a whole the meeting was very enthusiastic and lively. The telegram from our Alma Mater and the college songs which you sent brightened up the rainy afternoon. I am sure that in our minds we can see the bright sunshine of Ginling. Long Life to G.C. our Alma Mater. Other items which were not included in the program were speeches by Mrs. Leo Tsiang (1929), and Mr. Pong, an alumni of the University of Nanking now on the faculty of Fuh Siang Girls' School. They all emphasized the work and spirit of Ginling and offered greetings on the occasion. (I notice that it was Mr. Leon Tsiang, husband of Wu Hsich-ching (1929) who made the speech instead of Mrs. Tsiang.) Despite the rainy weather we took a picture of the group and the secretary will send it to you later. Mr. Chu, the main speaker, spoke very frankly and sincerely and we were encouraged to do better by his words. His main idea is that we should create countless Ginklins all over our country to reform and rebuild in every way just like the Whangpu Military Academy, which has produced all the greatest generals and military leaders in China today.

"We want to express our regret in not sending a telegram of greeting. That was due to our dumbness, because we cannot think of any suitable words to wire under the special condition. Still our hearts were with Ginling all the time, which is better than wireless."

The program which was held at the Fuh Siang Girls' School was as follows:

Opening of the Exercises	Fan Gwan (1928) Chairman
Hymn	
Prayer	Mr. Liu, Clergyman of the Episcopal Church
Talk	Miss Loh Zong-nyi (Not able to be present)
College Song	Alumnae
Address	Mr. King Chu, Head of Bureau of Education
Picture taking	
Tea and Ginling Songs	
O Ring Out Three Cheers	
G-I-N-L-I-N-G, Ginling College	
We are from Ginling	
Tilli-ay	

CHENG TU: Djang Tsuen-ping (1931) now Mrs. C. C. Chang, wrote a letter to Dr. Wu telling her not only about the celebration of Founders' Day but also told something of her trip to Chengtu. She went to Chengtu by way of Sian where she visited a time with Yu Ho-lwan (1933). From Sian she flew to Chengtu. She is now living at her brother's home. Soon after her arrival she was greatly rejoiced to meet Dr. Reeves. Her classmate Cheng En-tsi (1931) is in Chengtu. Hu Dji-djen (1934) is also there.

At the Founders' Day celebration more than twenty were present, including

students, alumnae, faculty, former faculty, and friends of Ginling. They met together on Saturday evening, October 30th. They worded a telegram for their Alma Mater, but when they found it was too late to send it that evening they decided to send a message by air mail. They greatly respect Dr. Wu and the faculty who are staying on with her and the only way they can thank them is doing their best to serve in Szechuan. There were six students present including one who had expected to take the second entrance test at Ginling, three alumnae, one faculty member, Dr. Reeves, and four students from the University of Nanking. There were eight guests including Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Chapman; Mrs. Chapman was a member of the first Ginling faculty in 1915. Bishop and Mrs. Ward, Dr. and Mrs. Chen Wei-ping, the father and mother of Yang Tsing-sing (1928) and Miss Fosnot, dean of women in West China Union University, were also present. The program was:

Toast Mistress	Mrs. James K. Shen
Blessing	Miss Fosnot
The Pruner	Mrs. Chapman (History of G.C.)
Song	Ginling Girls (Two Ginling songs)
The Fruit	Mrs. C. C. Chang
Song	University of Nanking
The Flower	Miss M. J. Chow
A Toast	Mrs. C. T. Chen
The Gardener	Dr. Reeves
Song	

(And you should all see the beautiful hand painted program with the emblem and motto upon it. Down below the emblem you can also see Purple Mountain and one of the Ginling Buildings.)

CHUNGKING: Dj ang Chiung-ying (1934) wrote for one group of seven who met with Miss Tappert at Chungking University. She told of its being a very happy occasion. Several in Chungking could not be present such as Mrs. Franklin Ho (Yu Shwen-dji, a former librarian of the college). Ho Wu-hsia (1934) was able to be present and expressed her great delight in being with a Ginling group again. She is the principal of a school of 600 elementary pupils. Her little daughter went with her to the meeting and in wee voice repeated after her mother "Long Life to Ginling." Chiung-ying told of the fine work that the women of Chungking are doing for soldiers. They have already sent 1340 garments down to the Y.W. in Hankow for this purpose and are now working on 2000 more. She is the secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in Chungking. We hope they will continue their G.C. meetings.

HONGKONG: Ong Hwei-lan (1935) wrote of the meeting which they held on Sunday afternoon at the St. Paul's Girls' College. Ten were present at the meeting, eight alumnae and two new faculty. Those of our alumnae who were teaching at True Light in Canton are now in Hongkong since the school has moved there.

They received the Ginling telegram, read it at the meeting and were greatly affected by it. They are encouraged by the unselfish and enthusiastic service of Dr. Wu in this time of National emergency. They spent most of their time together in trying to think out ways in which Ginling alumnae can best serve China at this time. They decided to have a regular meeting each month and expect to put a notice in the paper to see if they can get in touch with more of the alumnae who are in Hongkong at this time. The Hongkong group sent their greetings to all faculty and alumnae.

SHANGHAI: Ma Dzun (1935) wrote in behalf of the group there. Their gathering was held at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, October 31st, out at the McTyler Girls' School and after the formal exercises they were guests for tea of the McTyler Alumnae group. No group met under the difficulties which faced this group. Ma dzun says that although there was a light rain falling, yet the bombing and shooting were very clear. They could hear the aeroplanes circling above their heads during the prayer and the hymns, and the anti-aircraft guns and machine guns

seemed to be shooting just above their heads. Perhaps it was this element of very real danger that made the service seem so impressive to her. It did affect the attendance and only four students were permitted by their parents to be present. However there were 20 guests and 23 alumnae and faculty who braved the danger for the sake of that fellowship. Their religious program looks almost like our regular one at Ginling. It was as follows:

Prelude	
Hymn 279	
Responsive Reading	Leader Miss Chester
Prayer	Dr. C. L. Hsia
Announcements	Mrs. W. S. New
Anthem	Ginling College Glee Club Members
Address	Bishop W. P. Roberts
Founders' Day Song	
Message from Dr. Wu	Mrs. W. S. New
Hymn 274	
Benediction	

We have heard since that Miss Chester had to sing the anthem alone and that Mrs. New was called upon to play the Founders' Day hymn which she had not done for almost twenty years. Ma Dzun said that the fact that a group could meet in a time like that and remember the founding of the college was a never to be forgotten experience. They received the telegram sent to them and understood and appreciated the teaching in it. It was as if Dr. Wu were present with them.

WUCHANG: A number of very interesting letters have come from Wuchang describing their celebration, all of which have been most interesting. They receive the prize for the largest attendance, a total of 66. There were 27 alumnae, all the classes from 1925 to 1937 having one or more representatives with the exception of four. Thirty students were present and eight faculty besides those in the alumnae group. And there was one son-in-law, the husband of Wang Hung-dju (1935). They had their gathering out at St. Hilda's at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. The weather was perfect--the sky being overcast and a fine rain was falling. At 11 a.m. they had a religious service in the lovely St. Hilda's chapel, which was led by Miss Spicer. She spoke with regard to relationship with Ginling and relationship with God. After the service they had dinner together, being the guests of the Wuhan alumnae. They went into the dining room by classes, Miss Liu En-lan (1925) leading. After the meal they enjoyed the following program:

"Birds Have Nests"

The Hsi Chieh speaks	Dr. Chang Siao-sung, Toast Mistress
Hark to the Birds Singing	
Birds in Flight	Hsia Dji-yung
Chatter from the Birdlings	
Birds of a Feather Flock Together	Liu Chung-sin (1929)
Chatter from the Birds that Have Flown	
When Swallows Homeward Fly	Liu En-lan (1925)
Orchestra: Nanking to Wuhan; College Songs	
Messages from Carrier Pigeons	

The room was decorated with banners hastily made. They said that white words pasted on purple cloth looks very dignified and as grand as a real banner. Some of the classes brought their class banners. The alumnae sang better than in former years--one alumna said, and if it had not been for a mistake made at the end it would have been a perfect performance. They appreciated the message from Ginling very much. They were homesick for Ginling but they do not like to express it plainly for fear that Wuhan may feel that they do not like it there. Anyhow the celebration was a great success. Shanghai sent them a greeting which they also appreciated greatly. Their song may be of interest to all, in fact I am sure that it will be so it is being enclosed:

1. When a bird doth meet a bird
A'coming from Ginling
Then a bird doth greet a bird,
And they begin to sing--
"How we love our Alma Mater,
Her we hold most dear,
When far we roam, she is our home,
Though parted from her here.
2. Nanking birds greet Wuhan birds
A'coming from Ginling
Thankful hearts and gratitude
To sisters here we bring;
Wuchang sisters with their misters,
Our sad hearts have blest
Their help and kindness to us all
Have cheered our crowded nest.

Chorus: May the bond which has begun
Grow every year more strong
We'll not forget nor e'er regret
Our sisters in Wuchang.

N ANKING: On Saturday afternoon, October 30th, at 5 o'clock the local alumnae had a meeting in the faculty dining room in the Central Building. Naturally their discussion centered on what Ginling alumnae can do in the present crisis in order to serve their nation most effectively. At six o'clock, or a little after, 36 of us sat down to a very simple supper served in the south half of the large guest hall. There were 12 alumnae, 7 being from off campus, and there were four alumnae husbands at the supper and two joined us later. The thing that made our gathering different from any other Founders' Day banquet was that there was not a single student present--not one, and how lonely it seemed without them. We had no class songs either. It also seemed strange to see that there were as many men present as women. After the supper we went to the north half of the large room and there we gathered in a circle and has a simple program which at times made us very sad and at other times made us laugh. The program was:

Ginling Facing the Present Crisis	President Wu
Ginling Facing Crises in the Past	Miss Vautrin
A Message of Courage and Faith for the Future	Rev. John Magee
Let us not Forget to Laugh; Reminiscences.	
An Experience of Student Days	Chen Djuh-gun, 1923
An Absent Minded Professor	Wu DzingOhsien, 1923
Difficulties of Getting a Wife from the Ginling Faculty	Dr. Bates
Difficulties of Getting a Wife from the Student Body	Volunteers
Ginling Song	

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1937

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RETELEGRAM FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY NANKING DECEMBER FOURTH TRANSMITS
 FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOU QUOTE PRESIDENT WU LEFT FOR WUCHANG DECEMBER
 THIRD LATER PROCEEDS CHENG TU FOR INVESTIGATION PURPOSES EMERGENCY
 COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF BUSINESS MANAGER SUPERINTENDENT OF
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DEC 6

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BUILDING FOR BEIGHBORHOOD WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND REFUGEES REMAINDER
THAT NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS VAUTRIM END QUOTE
CORDELL HULL SECRETARY OF STATE.

747P

Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

0578

GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

A letter from Miss Vautrin written Thursday morning December 9th, 1937 in Nanking. The envelope is stamped "American Embassy, Hankow, January 31, 1938"; "Honolulu, February 16". It was received in New York February 21, 1938 via air mail.

Although the post office will no longer receive letters I have heard of a person at the Metropolitan Hotel who is trying to get up to Hankow and I will see if he will take these letters out, for I know that you are all anxious to hear from us as long as it is possible.

Yesterday we could hear occasional gun or cannon shots at a distance, but this morning it seems much nearer. To Mrs. Tsen and me it seems to the southwest of the city. We also know that the Japanese army is no very far to the east of the city as well. I am still hoping that if the Japanese army approaches from two sides and if the gunboats come up the river - they have not yet gotten past the barrier down at Giangyin - that the Chinese army will retreat rather than to make a stand here and run the risk of sacrificing a large group of men by having all means of escape cut off. We have a number of air raids each day now but only the urgent warning is given for there is no chance to give the first warning since the planes are upon us too quickly. There has as yet been no bombing of the city by planes as was done in Soochow and we are hoping that we will not have to go through such an ordeal of destruction.

The International Committee for the Safety Zone has been working like galley slaves on trying to put the safety zone into effect. Yesterday the flags were put up - the red cross in the red circle. This zone is now crowded with people. Most pitiful stories were told us yesterday by people living near the south gate, the Confucian Temple district and the East Gate district, who were forced to leave their homes on a few hours notice. I imagine the police had to be ruthless or the people would not have left their homes. Many of the houses in the above regions have been burned because they interfered with military plans. The Committee has had a very, very difficult time in getting the orders of the higher military officers to penetrate down to the lower officers and as a result fortifications continually are placed within the safety area and shelters are still being built in the region although to be really a safety zone all of these will have to be removed, even to military hospitals.

Ever since Dr. Wu left those of us on the campus, including the servants, have been working like Trojans getting ready for the refugees. Yesterday we completed preparing the dormitories. All the furniture has been moved to the big attics - one value of big attics that we did not think of before - and the rooms have been thoroughly cleaned. In the four regular college dormitories we will house 1320 refugees, putting nine in a room. In the Central Building we can house 436 and in the Arts Building 550. In the Science Building 266 and in the Practice School 180. We are not planning at the present time, at least to put them in the South Hill Residence, Eva Spicer's house, the Library or Music Buildings. The Neighborhood House is already full to overflowing with families. On the main campus we are expecting to take only women and children, the boys being not over twelve. The total that we have figured on taking is 2750. That seems a good many to you but the committee wanted us to take in about ten thousand. There will be a soup kitchen managed by the Red Cross on the vacant land just to the northwest of our gate.

Last night we took in a few and this morning they are coming in. Our organization is well planned so that Mrs. Tsen and I do not need to be on the job all of the time but can be free to meet special problems. Six servants have been organized into a guard and have special arm bands. They help at the gate and also direct people to the right building. We have prepared a special plan of the campus showing the number of persons who can be assigned to each room - allowing 16 square feet per person, including children. We have also prepared cards and as each group comes in it is assigned and given a stamped card. Mr. Li does the former and Mr. Hsia writes the card. Mr. Chen is outside of the gate with Yang Szi-fu trying to get them into families and explain to them. At the buildings - and we only open one at a time, is Miss

DEC 9 1937

Hsueh, the day school teacher with a group of her pupils and also some of the older children living on the campus, and they escort them up to the room to which they have been assigned. These youngsters have special arm bands and have a special room where they gather and they feel quite important. "Big Wang" is living down at East Court and his three children are helping, and also Mrs. Tsen's second grandson who is invaluable. He certainly will make a fine business manager someday. As I write the aeroplanes are carrying on a vigorous raid in the south section of the city. Miss Wang a student in the seminary and Miss Lo are both living down at the Practice School and are giving us great help. Mr. Wang goes to the office of the International Committee everyday and helps them there. You can see that we are a busy, useful family on the campus, even if we are not joyful or carefree.

Each day at six o'clock, Mrs. Tsen and I have been attending Press Conference which is held down at the headquarters of the Sino-British Cultural Society. Mary Twinem has come for us each time and taken us in her car. After the meeting she comes home with us for supper. Although none of the men have told us that we were heartily welcome, yet they have not told us we were unwelcome and so we continue to attend. It has enabled us to get in touch with people of importance and to keep up to date on the progress especially of the Safety Zone.

I am so sad every time I go out on the street that I seldom go out now. Nanking is but a shadow - a sad and dejected shadow - of what it was a year ago, when there was so much enthusiasm and progress. The roads are in terrible condition, of course. The houses in this area are fast filling but the rest of the city is deserted. How much destruction there has been down in the south city I do not know. At the Press Conference every effort has been made to persuade the military and the mayor to cause as little destruction in the city as possible - for after all it will be the poor of the Chinese population who will continue to live here when the city is turned over. They have promised not to follow the "scorched earth" policy but it remains to be seen whether or not the promise is kept.

Fortunately for the poor, the weather is still good although cold at nights. In the day time we have sunshine which is a great blessing. If there were snow or rain people would be most pitiful.

A letter came from the American Embassy yesterday afternoon in which they say, "Simultaneously with the departure of other foreign diplomatic officers, the remaining officers of the American Embassy will this evening board the U.S.S. Panay and establish temporary offices there. It is expected that the officers of the Embassy will return to the premises on shore during the day time. Full functions on shore will be resumed by the Embassy at the earliest date practicable. When information is received that the Hsia Gwan gate (Yi Chiang Gate) is closed the Panay will move from its present anchorage to one off of San Chia Ho. The Embassy is attempting to make efforts with the authorities to keep open the telephone to the U.S. Naval Club on the Bund (32814) and to the Asiatic Petroleum Company Installation at San Chia Ho (32906). Ropes for assistance in evacuating over the city walls are being given into the custody of M.S. Bates, etc." I give you this information so that if any of you wish to try to get in touch with us you may do so. How long we may be cut off from the outside world we do not know - but we hope it will not be for long time.

I must go out to the front gate and see what the condition is there. Remember that no news is good news and that the chances are very large that we shall come through the ordeal safely, I am sure that you are daily praying for us that we may be continually led by the spirit of love and understanding. I am sorry that I was not able to get a Christmas message to each of you - but there has been no time for it. No time to copy diary. Will do so later.

0580

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December 20, 1937

To Members of the
 Board of Founders and
 Relatives of Staff

Dear Friends:

The following telegram has just come to us from
 Washington:-

"TELEGRAM FROM AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HANKOW DECEMBER 16
 TRANSMITS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM ELSIE M. PRIEST
 UNIVERSITY OF NANKING HANKOW. QUOTE IVA HYND, GRACE
 BAUER, SEARLE BATES, LEWIS SMYTHE, CHARLES RIGGS, CLIFFORD
 TRIMMER, ROBERT WILSON OF UNIVERSITY STAFF AND MINNIE
 VAUTRIN OF GINLING STAFF ARE SAFE IN NANKING. NOTIFY
 FAMILIES. NO REPORT YET REGARDING PROPERTY, HILDA
 ANDERSON, OLIVER CALDWELL, PETER BANNON, ELSIE PRIEST IN
 HANKOW, CLAUDE THOMSON, RICHARD BRADY IN KULING, LOSSING
 BUCK IN HONG KONG, MAJORITY STAFF ENROUTE TO CHENG TU
 REMAINDER LEAVE IN TEN DAYS UNQUOTE

CORDELL HULL SECY STATE"

Very sincerely yours,

B. A. Garside
 Secretary

BAG:MP

0581

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WESTERN UNION

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SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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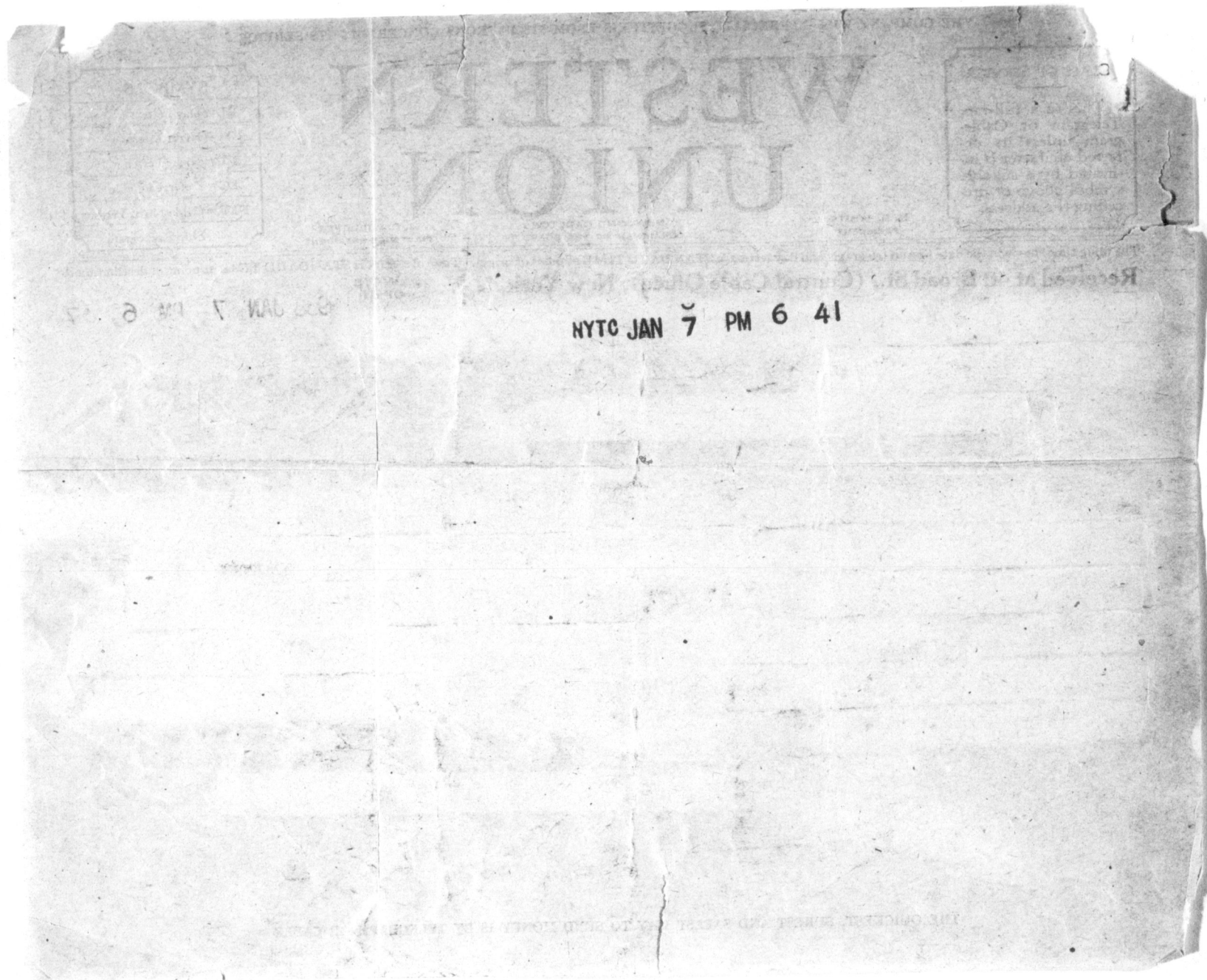
JAN 7 1938

TELEGRAM FROM NANKING JANUARY 6 TRANSMITS FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM MISS VAUTRIN FOR YOU. QUOTE./INFORM FOUNDERS AND
THURSTON AND MY FAMILY/STAFF ALL SAFE. ONE SERVANT STILL
MISSING. ACADEMIC BUILDINGS NOT INJURED. ARE NOW SHELTERING
APPROXIMATELY 10,000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN. MANY REASONS FOR
DEEP THANKSGIVING UNQUOTE.

CORDELL HULL SECRETARY STATE=

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

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GINLING COLLEGE
Nanking, China

Letters from Miss Minnie Vautrin of Ginling College. Miss Vautrin has been in charge of the Ginling College campus and its thousands of refugees since the fall of Nanking on December 13th, 1938. These letters were written on January 10th and 11th, 1938 and received in New York February 18, 1938.

Monday, January 10, 1938, Nanking, China.

There is another chance to send mail to Shanghai this afternoon if I take it over to the American Embassy before 4 o'clock.

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

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

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

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

This morning at Nanghai (office of International Committee), I discussed the

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

Do remember me most lovingly to Mrs. New and tell her that I wish she were here to help us, but of course I know that you could not spare her from the work in Shanghai. I am eager to know your plans for the second semester. Also remember me lovingly to Li-Ming (Mrs. Chen of the Physical Education Department), and her mother. I am sorry that she has had so many difficulties in health since she left Nanking. Tell her too that I know she was glad when Yu-Hwa, (Mr. Chen) and Mary (her sister-in-law) left Nanking but if I have wished for them once I have wished for them a score of times. And do remember me to all other Ginlingers when you see them. Tell them I have been glad a thousand times that I remained here for it has been so abundantly worthwhile.

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

Tuesday, January 11, 1938, Nanking, China.

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

From 9 to 12 this morning Mr. Chen and I were in a meeting down at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Safety Zone. It is the first meeting that has been held of the heads of the Refugee Camps. I believe there are about 20 places where refugees are housed, and at the meeting this morning there were more than thirty present. Herr Rabe, the Chairman of the Committee, made a speech of welcome and then he left to go to his own work. George Fitch then made a speech of welcome and appreciation, and the rest of the time was spent in discussion of problems of the camp - which I can assure you are legion, perhaps ours at Ginling being the least difficult for we have only women and children. Poor Searle Bates has had such difficult ones, and of every description.

Our guard of five military police at the gate are proving more successful than we had dared hope. Unfortunately, the guard is changed every day so that each evening Mr. Wang and Mary Twinen and I have to go down to the gate and as tactfully

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as we know how we try to let the men know that we will be responsible for order and peace on the inside of the camp if they will patrol Hankow and Ninghai Road for us. Those awful days and nights when we were in great fear for the safety of the young women in our charge are beginning to grow dim in our memories now - even that unforgettable night of December 17th when 12 women were taken from our camp. As soon as I can I shall write "A Review of the First Month" and will let you know something of the experiences that I cannot write at this time.

Will you please tell Alice Morris that her chest of drawers was looted. It was down in the Chinese dining-room and that if she wishes to put in a claim for the things that were in it she is free to do so. The other day a representative from the Embassy came over and asked me if we wished to file a claim for college and individual losses. The college has lost so little that I said that we would not present a claim for I do not think it would be much over \$200.00 mainly to cover the doors that have been smashed. Chang Siao-sung's, Dr. Wu Yi-fang's and Chen Pin-dji's chests of drawers were all looted many times but of course the Japanese are not interested in making good such losses. Neither could I file any claim for the losses over in Mr. Miao's house or Chen Er-chang's house.

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

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

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

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

Summary of a letter written by Miss Vautrin on January 7, 1938. This letter was received in Shanghai January 14th. The summary reached New York February 18, 1938.

On the evening of the fourteenth came another letter from Minnie written on the 7th. She had gotten a batch of mail from us written on the 19th of December so no longer felt cut off from the world. Their peak of 10,000 refugees on the campus had decreased to 5,000 in the six buildings. At the highest point, refugees were packed like sardines along the covered ways and in the porches. When she wrote, - the 7th - she said it was the last day of registration for all men and women. "During these

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days of registration we have been able to serve rice only once a day but beginning tomorrow we shall serve it twice as formerly." Her rather ambiguous mentioning of the Chinese dining room meant, it seems, that there was frequent looting from the wardrobes and other containers packed in that room. She said that room "was as nectar to bees. The four chests of drawers there... were most fascinating. If I found the bees there once I found them fifteen times."

Cable received from Miss Vautrin February 19th, 1938
Sent from Nanking February 18th by courtesy of the U.S.
Embassy.

All going well on campus no cause for worry. Numbers diminished to approximately three thousand young refugees. Appreciate Stella's offer but strongly urge completion of regular furlough. Her early return to Nanking unnecessary and probably impossible.

(* Stella refers to Miss Graves of the Music Department, who offered because of her knowledge of the Japanese language, to return at once to help with language problems.)

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