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COLLEGE FILES
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Nanking
Corres.
Ferguson, John C. 1919-1938
Finley, John H. 1916-1930

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John C. Ferguson

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June 19th, 1919.

Dr. J. C. Ferguson,
Newton Center,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Ferguson:

I have just learned with great pleasure that you are back in the United States and that you are planning to attend the Commencement Exercises of Boston University. You will there learn probably through President Mullens, Dean Warren and Dean Lord especially, of the interest developed in the University in the Business School of Business Administration in the University of Nanking. Very thorough interest seems to have been developed.

I pointed out to them since you are a Trustee and at the same time on the Board of Managers of the University of Nanking you would be the logical man to put the whole situation before Boston University in the most effective way. I hope this arrangement will appeal to you.

I am enclosing herewith a pamphlet received from President Bowen which will be written partly in Chinese which will be the best statement of the situation. The Trustees at their meeting on Tuesday approved of what the Alumni are planning to do and expressed their great appreciation of the new relationship developing with Boston University.

We are to be at Northfield this Summer in the Oneida cottage in the woods near the camp. We thought it would be a good place for the children during the Summer. Mrs. Williams will be there with them and I for as much time as I can get away from the work at the office in New York and Sunday speaking engagements.

For the last two months I have been carrying the correspondence of Dr. Stanley White with his Missions. Dr. White is in Syria on problems of reconstruction for the Board's Mission work there.

Mrs. Williams would unite with me in heartiest regards to Mrs. Ferguson and yourself.

Very sincerely yours,

0364

TRANSFER



August 8, 1919.

Dr. John C. Ferguson, Ph. D.,
91 Arlington Street,
Newton, Mass.

Dear Dr. Ferguson:

Your letter of June 25th was very much appreciated. Summer conferences and frequent demands for speaking engagements away from New York have seriously interrupted all of the correspondence of this office. In addition to carrying on the correspondence with the men of the University of Nanking, the Board Secretaries, here, and Candidates applying for the work, and making arrangements for the sailing of twelve new recruits for the University staff, I have been made responsible for all the correspondence of one of the Board's Secretaries, Dr. Stanley White, with his six missions.

In New York, I find, too, that there still ~~looks~~, in my mental constitution, a good deal of Oriental deliberation and a lack of ready capacity to keep up to the pace to which men have adhered themselves there.

I was delighted to know of your presence at the Commencement and of the interest the Boston University was developing in the University of Nanking.

I am glad to hear of the contemplated visits of Dr. Marshall, Dr. L. Perrin and Prof. Robert E. Bruce, to China. I hope you will urge upon Prof. Bruce spending as much time as he can at Nanking. Dr. Downing greatly enjoyed his teaching in Mathematics and his association with the students.

Your feeling about Mr. Nathanielsz confirmed the position I had already taken that, however fine his qualifications are, I should doubt the wisdom of his being appointed as a regular member of the staff of Nanking. Our problem is complex enough, in all conscience, without imparting additional inter-racial and international elements. Mr. Nathanielsz' papers are perfectly fine. Dean Lord has spoken of him in the very highest terms. You can greatly help me in making the difficulties of the situation clear to Dean Lord. I feel entirely free, in the whole, from any racial prejudice. I do feel the responsibility, however, of adding to the complexity of our present problem of Nanking. I feel certain that Mr. Nathanielsz is a fine gentleman and well disciplined for the work he would undertake. He should, by all means, return to work in India and I should be glad to use my

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Dr. John C. Ferguson,
August 8, 1919.

influence with the Presbyterian Board, or the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions, in securing for him such an opening, if he desired it.

Mrs. Williams and the children are at E. Northfield, in a cottage - "Oneida Lodge". Sam Cochran and the children are there at present, and also Mr. Henry Luce and his family. They are having a fine time. I think you and Mrs. Ferguson would enjoy greatly seeing them all there.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Ferguson and yourself,

Sincerely yours,

JW:CS

0366

From John C. Ferguson.

91 ARLINGTON STREET,
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TRANSFER

October 20, 1919.



Dear Dr. Williams:

On Thursday of last week, the Boston University Nanking Association held a meeting at which I was present. Unfortunately the Association had held two meetings on dates when I was away from Boston and could not be present. I was very glad to be able to attend this meeting as I am about to leave for China and can carry the latest news on to Dr. Bowen concerning the present status of the Association.

I found that the members of the Association were somewhat discouraged over your letter last summer and thought that you did not look favorably upon the formation of this association. I assured them that this was not the case and told them of your busy life at present in the Mission rooms. It was your statement concerning the appointment of the Indian, Mr. Nathaniels, that discouraged them, for he had been so highly recommended by Dean Lord, and was the only available man who could be sent out for the Business Administration School. I had told them last summer and again repeated my opinion that you were entirely right in this matter and that it would be impossible to send a man from India to teach in China with the expectation that he would be efficient. I explained to them the race prejudice of the Orient and stated that under no circumstances would I favor the appointment of Mr. Nathaniels. The difficulty in the matter arose from the fact that Dean Lord had no one else whom he could suggest. I told the Association that it would be necessary to find somebody who was embodied with the missionary spirit or otherwise he would not be willing to accept the position at the rate of salary which they intend to pay.

I will explain matters in full to Dr. Bowen and hope that you will keep in close touch with the leaders of this work at Boston as I am sure it will be of great benefit to the University of Nanking.

I am leaving here on Friday of this week and sail from Vancouver on the Empress of Asia.

Hoping to see you soon in China and with kindest regards to yourself and family,

Yours sincerely,

John C. Ferguson

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DR. J. C. FERGUSON'S ADDRESS IN SAGE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
on
ALUMNI DAY, JUNE 17, 1922.

It will be 34 years in October since I was appointed the first President of the newly founded Nanking University. Some of you who are gathered here today are graduates of that institution, and others of the two colleges which were united with it to form the present University of Nanking. When Nanking University, the earliest root of the present University, was founded, there was so much work to be done, and there were so many problems to be faced that little time was left to me for thinking of the future; but even if I had had plenty of leisure, together with the gift of prophecy, I could not have allowed my imagination to picture this present scene.

Here we have before us, not only the original buildings in which our first attempts at teaching were begun, but also these magnificent buildings which belong to the present era of splendid expansions. All these buildings are Memorials to the faith and benevolence of friends devoted to good works and to the spread of education in China. Praiseworthy as have been all these previous gifts, and unselfish as has been the personal service of administrators and teachers, all pale in insignificance before what greets our eyes today. Here we have students of the first generation of the University, bringing their gifts of love to their Alma Mater. Grateful for the education which they received in her halls, and believing that the same type of instruction should be handed down to their children, they have joined their contributions together into this one gift of an Alumni building.

This building will stand forever as a sign of filial piety toward their mother from her many sons. It is a gift thrice blessed, for it blesses the givers, the present recipients and future generations. I am glad to have lived to see this day, and to have been honored by your invitation to be present.

My thoughts reach out to so many associates and pupils who have already passed on to the other world. They rest from their labors, but this building commemorates their services, and through you they being dead, yet speak. The future will bring many new friends, administrators and teachers, to all of whom this building will be an example of the devotion of its earliest students. As the only surviving link connecting this University with its earliest foundation, I greet you, gentlemen of the Alumni Association, and you, President Bowen, and your staff of teachers; and you, the children of our earliest graduates to whose lives this building will contribute its beneficent influences. The past merges into the present, and the present beckons to the future, but in whatever generation our lot may have been cast, it is certain that the principles on which this institution was founded, ever remain as guiding posts to the best and noblest developments of human character.

(Signed) John C. Ferguson

June 17, 1922.

0368

COPY

Nanking

3 Hsi-Chao Hutung,
Peking,
May 24, 1928.

Dear Dr. Ch'en,

Your letter of May 16th has reached me with the information that I had been appointed a member of the "Committee on Promotion" of the Board of Directors of the University of Nanking. I do not know what the duties of this Committee are, but I shall be glad to serve on it or on any other Committee which is trying to promote the interests of the University. I am afraid that it will be impossible for me to attend any meeting at Shanghai or Nanking during the summer months, but after September I can be present.

I am very much concerned over the financial standing of the University and am of the opinion that the mission boards which were responsible for the development of the University in former years should now continue to give it such financial support as will make it possible to maintain the existing courses of study. I do not think it would be possible for the alumni to raise an annual subsidy of ten or twelve thousand dollars, nor do I think that the money which was donated for the erection of an Alumni Hall should be dissipated in meeting current expenses. The mission boards should increase their contributions sufficiently to cover all current expenses on the understanding that these are kept at the lowest possible figure. It is very generous of the boards to turn over the University to the new Board of Directors of which a majority are Chinese, but in doing so the boards cannot, in my opinion, escape the responsibility of having erected expensive buildings and provided elaborate equipment, both of which are beyond the resources of our alumni to maintain. If the alumni had been consulted at an earlier stage in the development of the University, I do not think that they would have favored many of the expenditures which were made. The University was developed on lines which called for a generous endowment which could only be raised in America, or in the alternative for a generous support by the cooperating missionary societies.

It seems to me that we must face frankly and fully the present situation. It must be recognized that the alumni cannot carry the heavy burden of making up an annual deficit. In the first instance, the missionary societies should be approached with the request that they should make increased appropriations to cover it. If this cannot be done, the Board of Directors must make radical changes. One of the first things to be done would be to close the Middle School which is now being run at a deficit of \$4,280 for mission board personnel. The buildings of the Middle School could then be rented and the rent used for the support of the College. The next step would be to rent the Language School buildings which will probably not be used for their original purpose during the next few years. By eliminating the deficit necessary to maintain the Middle School and by the increase of our income from the rent of the Middle School and Language School buildings and by further economies our College and Agricultural Departments could be maintained; but, unless some such steps are taken, I do not see how we can handle the situation locally. There is, of course, another possibility and that is that we should persuade some wealthy Chinese to furnish us an endowment similar to that which was given to the Amoy University, but it seems to me improbable that any wealthy Chinese would make such a contribution to a missionary institution such as ours. The problem summarizes itself in my mind as follows: Either the missionary societies must

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May 24, 1928

increase their contributions so as to cover the annual deficit or we must re-trench on the lines which I have suggested or on some other lines which you may be able to suggest. It is dangerous for us to go on as we are.

You have my constant sympathy and earnest wishes for success in the very difficult task which you have been good enough to take upon yourself at the request of the Board of Directors. You are young and in good health and I have no doubt that you will be able to work out the problem to a successful solution. I have given much thought to the problem of the University and have concluded that the time has now arrived when I should let you know how the matter shapes itself in my mind.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) John C. Ferguson.

Notes on above by University Treasurer

"Middle School. It is not quite true to say that the Middle School is being run at a deficit of \$4,280 for mission board personnel.' The Middle School budget for next year covers all expenditures including one thousand dollars for overhead expenses within their designated income. We assigned one of the Mission board quota members to them, having in mind that Mr. Speers would return to Nanking and his work would naturally be in the Middle School. However, if Mr. Speers does not return to Nanking, the question will need to be settled as to how many, if any, of the mission boards personnel are allocated to the Middle School. There is something to be said on both sides!

"Language School Property. Evidently Dr. Ferguson has forgotten that this property was rented in July 1927 for \$4,200 Mexican for the year. This money was used for necessary repairs, first on the language school property and the balance has been used for repairs on residences. We did not budget rent from the Language School as available income for current expenses for next year because in the opinion of the Board of Directors it was wiser to allow this money received from rent of property to cover the deficit we have been obliged to carry to repair the various buildings damaged during the trouble. As soon as this deficit is cared for, I believe it will be a source of additional income until such time as we may require the buildings."

0370

Nanking

TRANSFER

sent to
3 Hfi-chiao Hutung
Peiping, China

July 30, 1929

Dr. John C. Ferguson,
C/o Dr. Y. G. Chen,
University of Nanking,
Nanking, China.

My dear Dr. Ferguson:

It is my pleasant privilege to transmit to you the following action passed by the joint meeting of the Nanking Executive, Budget and Audit Committees at their meeting on June 25, 1929:-

"VOTED that the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Founders expresses to Dr. John C. Ferguson its sincere appreciation of his generosity in contributing to the University of Nanking the sum of Mex. \$10,088.11, thus meeting the long standing Boston University deficit for this amount."

The long standing Boston University deficit has for a number of years proven one of the most serious financial problems confronting the University of Nanking. We are all profoundly grateful to you both for your generosity in contributing to the University of Nanking the sum necessary to finally clear this deficit from our books and also for your constant and discerning interest in all matters affecting the well being of the University of Nanking.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG-H

Secretary

0371

COPY

University of Nanking

Twin Pines
Candlin Hill
Peitaiho

June 24, 1931.

TRANSFER

My dear Dr. Speer:

Your good letter of May 22 reached me here. It was kind of you to write me concerning the gift of my collection to the University. Two or three years ago I consulted with Dr. Brown, Dr. Chen and Mr. Woo, Chairman of the Board of Directors. All agreed that it was advisable for me to sell my collection and donate the proceeds to the University for buildings. The sale should have brought at least half a million Gold dollars and all thought that, in view of the heavy losses which the University had sustained, this amount in cash was of primary importance. As a matter of fact I was very reluctant to see this work of a life time scattered and hence the only attempt which I made to effect a sale was to offer the collection en bloc to the Detroit Museum where my friend and pupil Ben March would take good care of it. They could not raise the money and I felt relieved.

A year ago I took the question up again with Dr. Chen whom I invited to come to Peiping to look over what I had. He brought with him Mr. Lawrence Liu, Dean of the College of Arts. They spent ten days with me in our home and we decided that the collection should go to the University as originally planned. Up to this visit Dr. Chen had not realized the great value of the collection to the prestige of the University. As a matter of fact, it is the most important assembly of art material that there is in China outside of the Palace. There was only one other collection -- that of Tuan Fang, that recalled it in modern times, and one would need to go back two hundred years to the reign of the Emperor Yung Cheng to find another such which was owned by Au I-chan. My collection contains (1) the most noted extant painting, (2) the most noted specimen of calligraphy, (3) several important bronzes, (4) unique specimens of Jade and (5) a complete history of the growth of porcelain manufacture.

There are in addition to these a large number of less famous specimens of paintings, writings, rubbings, etc. With this collection the University will become the second most important centre for literary and artistic research in China.

Naturally I have said little about this gift, but since you wrote me as President of the Board of Founders, I have thought that you should know something of its great value. It represents on my part a substitute for a life work in the University which I had expected to give. I left the work when the necessities of a large and still growing family forced upon me the decision as to whether I should educate my own children or turn them over to be educated by the charity of others, while I spent my life in my own chosen work of educating Chinese. I decided that my first duty was to my own children. Fortunately, my work prospered and I have been able during the years to gather this collection which I hope will be of greater value in future years than my personal work would have been. It is a collection which no amount of money at the present time could again bring together.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

John C. Ferguson

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OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY
935 Avenue Road
Shanghai
P. O. Box 1699

January 17, 1938

Dr. John C. Ferguson
5 Hsi-Chiao Hutung
Peiping

Dear Dr. Ferguson:

Your kind letter of Dec. 29, 1937 was received sometime ago. The reason that it has not been answered earlier is that I wanted to call a special meeting of as many members of the Board of Directors staying in Shanghai as possible in order that the questions as raised by you might be discussed and acted upon. On the 13th of this month a group of people met and took some actions as per enclosed copy of minutes of the meeting.

Under the present conditions this is perhaps the best we could do with full realization of the difficulties of the administration and of the importance of the points raised by you who are always in position to help us a great deal by the richness of your experience and soundness of your judgment. However, I don't think it was altogether politics that had prompted Dr. Chen and his staff and the student body to move out to the west. It was largely, I presume, an emergency measure and a matter of expediency. Now with the protection in the actions taken, a copy of which actions will be sent separately to Dr. Chen in Chengtu for his guidance, our anxiety may thus be lessened.

For your information I wish to say that both Hangchow and Soochow have all moved their headquarters to Shanghai and will start class work here as far as possible next semester in as an identical manner, geographically speaking, as our University has moved to Chengtu and is planning to do there temporarily. Nanking has also got a desk in Cressey's office which serves as a sort of clearing house for all Christian institutions. The spirit of cooperation has been most splendid. I don't know how many times I have sat in meetings with other college groups, at least over ten times. To my relief Dr. J. C. Thomson of Nanking has just arrived via Hankow and Hongkong to take care of some of the routine and office details, as through joint registration of faculty and student body of the various groups we have quite a few students and teachers in Shanghai whom we ought to take care of either by starting some classes of our own with our available facilities or by incorporating them in ~~another~~ schools as loaned teachers and guest students. With conditions in Nanking being different from those in Peiping, it will be a long time before we can resume our work there.

Fortunately or unfortunately, business in Shanghai has come almost to a standstill, as otherwise I would find it impossible to give so much time and attention to the affairs of Christian education here. Before Thomson's coming I was the sole representative of Nanking. Now he can take up a lot of work which has been rather strenuous to the state of my health. Jan. 19 - 21 we shall have the annual meeting of the Council of Higher Education. It will be four solid days of meetings. I'll try to be present as far as possible and leave the rest to Thomson.

With my best regards to you and Mrs. Ferguson, I am

Yours respectfully

/s/ T. C. WOO

0373

Emergency Meeting of Members of the Board and
Executive Committee of the University of Nanking
held in Missions Building, Shanghai, January 18,
1938.

MINUTES

Present: T. C. Woo, Chairman
R. Y. Lo
Wei Wen-han
V. Hanson
E. H. Cressy
By invitation - J. O. Thomson

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. Hanson. Mr. Cressy was elected Secretary pro tem. A letter from Dr. Ferguson was presented and the situation of the University was discussed. Dr. Thomson, who had just arrived, made a report. The following actions were taken:

1. Voted, to express approval of the emergency action of the administration in transferring the work of the University to Chengtu and

To state that this is contemplated as a temporary measure due to the emergency, with the prospect that the University will return to Nanking as its permanent base at such time as conditions may make possible.

2. Voted, to appoint Professor M. S. Bates Vice-President of the University of Nanking.

3. Voted, that this be an emergency appointment, and that the term of the appointment be for the duration of the absence of the President from Nanking.

4. Voted, to place on record that the chief consideration in appointing a Vice President at this time is to provide a responsible officer to carry on any negotiations with regard to property with the local government, and to take such emergency measures as may be necessary, or as the Directors may determine upon.

5. Voted, to cooperate with other Christian universities and middle schools establishing emergency units in Shanghai with the object of bringing together faculty and students of the University and middle school who may not be able to proceed to Szechuan, with a view to their returning to the University at such time as it may come back to Nanking, and to request Professor Thomson to remain for the present in Shanghai to take charge of this development.

Adjournment.

E. H. CRESSY

Secretary

0374

From Mr. Lockhart, Counsellor of Embassy, by telephone, Jan. 28, 10 am.

1938

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR JOHNSON: "PLEASE INFORM
FERGUSON THAT CHEN AND PRIEST ARE BOTH IN CHENG TU. HIS MESSAGE WILL BE FORWARDED
BY AIR MAIL TO THEM."

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3 Hsi-Chiao Hutang
Peiping, China

January 25, 1938

Dear Dr. Speer:

You will have heard of the removal of the University of Nanking to West China. When this proposition was first made in a circular letter from Dr. Chen, he also wrote me a private letter in which he stated that in his opinion such a removal would cost too much money and that he did not favor it. For this reason I was much surprised when I heard through a newspaper correspondent that the President and Chinese faculty had left Nanking taking with them part of the equipment of the University. It was only two weeks ago that I first heard this news and immediately I wrote to the Chairman of our Board of Directors, Mr. T. C. Woo, suggesting that whereas some of our faculty and students had gone to West China the majority of both classes still remained in Nanking and that it would be advisable for us to reopen the University at Nanking as soon as order had been restored in the city. In order to make this possible I suggested that Mr. Bates should be requested by the Chairman of the Board to act as Vice-President with authority to collect the faculty and students for the purpose of reopening the University.

On the 21st inst. I received the second circular letter from Dr. Chen written from Hankow and dated December 28th. Enclosed I am handing you a carbon copy of this letter. On the morning of the 22nd I asked the Embassy to forward to the American Ambassador who is now at Hankow a telegram for transmission to Dr. Chen. Enclosed you will find a copy also of this telegram.

As long as it was a question of some of our faculty and students choosing to go to West China to study in the Union University at Chengtu, I saw no reason to enter any objection to the scheme. It is quite a different matter for President Chen in consultation with the Administration Committee to propose to transfer the University as a University to another site and to take with him such a large proportion of the equipment of the University. For myself as a member of the Board of Directors I would not consider that the Directors in a formal meeting would have authority to transfer the University and its equipment to another site without the consent of the Board of Founders, who are the real owners of the property of the University; but much less has the President and the Administration Committee any such authority. I presume that Dr. Chen and his associates considered that in the emergency they were doing the best possible, but at the time it would have been easy for President Chen to have telegraphed to Chairman Woo at Shanghai through the American Embassy and he could also have communicated with me in the same way. I do not know whether or not it would have been possible for him to have communicated with any other member of the Board resident in other places. If Mr. Woo had been informed, he could have consulted with Dr. E. H. Cressy, Mr. Wei and perhaps with some other members who were still in Shanghai at that time. As a matter of fact, if he had telegraphed Chairman Woo it would also have reached me for I was in Shanghai for a week just at the critical time.

It is strange how these things turn out. In 1927 our foreign faculty headed by President Bowen found it necessary to leave after the murder of Dr. Williams. Ten years later President Chen and some of our Chinese faculty left. The only difference between the two incidents is that in the latter one the President and his associates carried away with them part of the equipment of the University.

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It is my firm opinion now as it was in 1927 that the University must continue to carry on in its own buildings while making as good terms as possible with the government in charge of the city. No one could have thought in 1927 that the conditions to which we had to submit in order to reopen the University and carry on our work were satisfactory or what we would have liked them to be, but we accepted them as the best possible, and the record of the last ten years has justified our action. At the present time no one could be found who would say that conditions for reopening are what we would like them to be, but it is my opinion that we must accept them as they are and again go on with our work. It is said in Dr. Chen's circular letter that 151 students had arrived in Hankow, but I do not know whether or not all of these would go on to Chengtu, for when they left Nanking it was with the idea that perhaps the University may settle at Kuling. However, this number of students represents only about one seventh of our enrolment and it seems unjust that we should devote the whole strength of the University to the teaching of this small number while neglecting the other six seventh of our student body. Furthermore, the University was established at Nanking, and at Nanking it must remain for better or for worse. In my opinion it was quite within the power of President Chen and his Administrative Council to obey the order of the Ministry of Education and to close the University, but not to remove it or any of its equipment. It has been a serious blunder and we must do our best to recover from it. I have no doubt that the sympathies of President Chen and his associates are with the National Government, as are my own, but we must not allow these to control our actions in regard to the University which was founded at Nanking for the purpose of giving instruction to the young men of that district. Our clientele has not moved to West China, but remains at Nanking, where, in my opinion, the University must still remain and continue to carry on as best it can. I am writing this letter to you in your official capacity as Chairman of the Board of Founders, and trust that you will lay the matter before that body.

With kindest regards,

/s/ JOHN C. FERGUSON

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January 27th, 1938

Dear Mr. Woo:

Thank you for your letter of January 17th together with a carbon copy of the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of Members of the Board and Executive Committee of the University of Nanking held January 18th. I am very glad that you called this meeting so as to give some regularity to the action of the Administrative Committee. I only regret that President Chen did not communicate with you through the American Embassy before making the decision to remove the University to Chungtu. If he had done so you might have communicated with the Board of Founders asking for their advice in the matter. This course of action was absolutely necessary before such a drastic action as the removal of the University could be contemplated, for we must never forget that we are still operating the University in property and with the use of equipment owned by the Board of Founders. That Board has been very generous in its dealings with our Board of Directors and has given us wide powers, but on such a fundamental question as the removal of the University and its equipment to another site it is my opinion that even our Board of Directors, much less the President and Administrative Council, have no power to act. I fully recognize the loyalty and good intentions of the President and the Administrative Council and also the generosity of your Executive Committee in approving the motion taken by the Administration, but still feel that we are not on a sound basis until we secure the approval of the Board of Founders.

For myself I can only say that I was reassured by the circular letter to the Board of Directors from President Chen dated October 23rd. In this letter under the heading of "Decision of University Council" President Chen said that "upon investigation we found the cost was very great and feel that it is practically prohibitive." The University was reopened on October 4th with 459 students in attendance. This circular letter led me to believe that all plans for removal to Chungtu had been abandoned and therefore in my trip to Shanghai during the last week of November I gave no attention to the affairs of the University. I took it for granted that when the attack of the invading army made classwork impossible the University would close while faculty and students sought refuge in safer places. My confidence in this course of action was confirmed by what I heard in Shanghai at the time of what had been done by the University of Shanghai, St. John's University and Soochow University. It is still my opinion that this would have been the wisest course of action.

In my letter to you of December 28th I suggested the possibility of the course of action taken by the Administration having been based upon political consideration for the reason that I knew that the plans of the National Government were to settle first in Changsha and then to go on to Chungtu if necessary. Along with this wise policy there was also the terrible policy announced by Mr. Wang Ching-wei of leaving the abandoned country as a waste - chiao t'u. Under this latter policy all schools and industrial concerns were to be closed and removed westward. It is not my business to criticize this policy of the government, but I feel quite free to say that it is not a policy which a Christian Institution ought to follow. Our University was opened for the benefit of people living in Nanking and vicinity. Even though this territory is conquered by aliens the Chinese population still remains there and it is for this population that we opened our work. Out of the 459 students

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Mr. C. T. Woo

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reported to be in attendance in the circular letter of October 23rd, only 151 students arrived in Hankow. Considering the fact that the number of our students during the first half of 1937 numbered about 2,000 it would seem that we are proposing to carry on our work for the benefit of about one seventh of our former student body while we abandon the other six seventh without any provision for their education. The case is even more serious than this contrast in numbers indicates for the Administration has taken upon itself to use ~~its~~ practically all of our funds for the purpose of educating one seventh of our students.

I feel sure that those of you who have attended meetings of the Board of Directors for the past ten years will agree that I have been a loyal supporter of President Chen and the Deans of the various Colleges who compose the Administrative Council and I regret deeply to criticize their action especially at a time when there was such a great emergency and they were all in danger of their lives. However I cannot but feel that the removal has been a serious mistake and that it was not justified. I further feel that it should be remedied as quickly as possible and in order to do so the Executive Committee should increase the powers of Vice President Bates so that he could bring as many of the former faculties together as possible and reopen the University for its accustomed work. The Executive Committee should also instruct President Chen to hold at Ichang the 481 boxes of equipment until such time as they could be sent back safely to Nanking. As soon as the University has been reopened President Chen together with the faculty and students who have gone to Chengtu should be invited to return to Nanking. We must not fold our arms and sit down quietly under the defeatist policy of removal.

In your letter you suggested that conditions in Nanking are very different from those in Peiping, and of course I am fully aware of this fact. Indeed as far as I know I am the only member of our Board of Directors who has been in both Peiping and in Shanghai since the opening of hostilities.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

/s/ JOHN C. FERGUSON

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3 Hsi-Chiao Hsiung
Paiping, China

February 3rd, 1938

Dear Dr. Speer:

In continuation of my letter of January 25th I am enclosing:-

- (1) The reply through the Embassy to my message to Dr. Chen.
- (2) Copy of a letter from Mr. T. C. Woo, Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- (3) Copy of the Minutes of an Emergency Meeting.
- (4) Copy of my letter to Mr. Woo in reply to his.

I had hoped to have a reply from Dr. Chen from Chungking before writing you again, but no word has yet come from him.

You will see from my letter to Mr. Woo that I am still not satisfied with what has been done. If it was possible to get together a group of the Members of the Board in Shanghai on January 13th, it would have been still easier to have got them together in November if Dr. Chen had communicated with Chairman Woo through the American Embassy, which was in daily communication with Shanghai at the time by means of the naval radio. I am afraid that throughout the whole of this episode Dr. Chen has overlooked the preponderating American interest in the University and has acted as if it was entirely under the control of the Chinese-organized Board of Directors. This idea dates back to 1927, when a group of teachers headed by Dr. Chen placed themselves in the breach and took charge of the University property after the retirement of President Bowen and the foreign staff. At that time we all praised the loyalty to the University of this brave group though at the time I saw evidence of the impression that by so doing they had established a special claim to the control of the University. In the first issue in Chinese of the Yearbook of the University after 1927, the introductory statement carried with it the implication that the University had made a new commencement by the action of the group who had taken charge. At the time I called the attention of Dr. Chen to these statements in the Yearbook and they were not repeated in subsequent issues.

It is this background which has led me to feel that the removal of the University to Chengtu by the President and Administrative Council is a continuation of the spirit of 1927, and that its consequences cannot be overlooked. I have been in favor from the founding of the University fifty years ago until the present time of turning over the control of the University Administration and property to the Chinese Board of Directors. You will remember that I made my own gift direct to the Board of Directors so that it cannot be suspected that I am not in sympathy with control of the University by Chinese. However this must be done in an orderly way and not by emotional capture during an emergency. It is scarcely a year since I cabled you from Nanking urging that even the title-deeds of our property should be placed in the name of the Board of Directors. I feel therefore that my record in this matter is perfectly clear and that in the present instance I am standing only for orderly conduct of the important business of the University.

It seems to me imperative that we should reopen the University in Nanking as early as possible and that the cases of University equipment which had been

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Dr. R. E. Speer

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shipped as far as Ichang should be held there until it is possible to send them back to Nanking. Only two days ago Ichang, where our equipment is stored, was severely bombarded by Japanese aircraft, and I consider it not at all improbable that we may have serious losses before this equipment is ever used again. I think that President Chen and his associates may have been justified in trying to reach Chengtu so as to carry on their studies, but the attempt to take away University equipment cannot be considered by me as other than a serious blunder, as I said in my previous letter. We must stick to our location even though its overlordship has changed hands. I hope that President Chen will be able soon to return to Nanking, but during his absence Vice President Bates should reopen and carry on as best he can.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

/S/ JOHN C. FERGUSON

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John H. Finley

1916-1930

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Nanking

TRANSFER

October 26, 1916.

President John H. Finley,
State Department of Education,
Albany, New York.

Dear Dr. Finley:

I rejoice upon every remembrance of the delightful time I had with you and Mrs. Finley at the Convocation. It was a great privilege to be present and to feel the sense of fellowship in your great work. I am sure you will be pleased to know that the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation met the propositions I made to them for the support of the University Hospital at Nanking. They will grant us \$9,200 a year, and \$25,000 for equipment on condition of my finding another \$25,000. Dr. Buttrick said their action was unanimous and most hearty in appreciation of the work of the University. I am very pleased to have this relationship established.

If still available, I shall be pleased to have several copies of the program of the Convocation, and should be grateful for the report when published.

With most cordial regards to Mrs. Finley and yourself,

Yours very sincerely,

W/M

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Nanking

February 14, 1930

Dr. John H. Finley,
New York Times,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Finley:

I am sending this note to confirm the invitation we have already extended to you by telephone that you be a guest at a luncheon being given by members of the University of Nanking Board of Founders in honor of Dr. Richard T. Ely on Thursday, February 20. This luncheon will be at 12:30 P.M. in the private dining room on the second floor of the Prince George Hotel, 14 East 28th St.

Your secretary has already informed me that you are planning to attend the meeting unless some unexpected demand should necessitate a last minute change in your arrangements. We sincerely hope that you will find it possible to be present at this meeting for we are anxious to have the benefit of your contribution in our discussion of the relationship between the University of Nanking and the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary

BAG-H

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The New York Times

21 February 1930

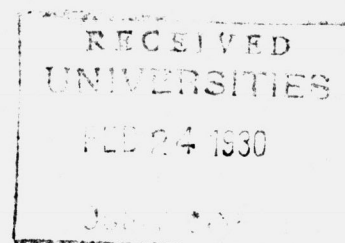
TRANSFER

Dear Mr. Garside:

I am extremely sorry that I couldn't get to your meeting yesterday. I shall be interested to have further word as to how your plans are going forward. I am, of course, greatly interested in what Professor Ely is undertaking in his Institute for Research in Land Economics.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. B. A. Garside
New York Office, University of Nanking
150 Fifth Avenue, New York City



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Nanking

University of Nanking

February 25, 1930

Dr. John H. Finley,
New York Times,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Finley:

Thank you for your note of February 21.

We were sorry that you found it impossible to attend the luncheon we held in honor of Professor Ely. I hope, however, that sometime in the future another luncheon of this kind can be arranged and that you will find it possible to attend.

A group of the Nanking Board of Founders had a very pleasant luncheon with Dr. Ely. I feel that the Nanking Founders who were present came to know a great deal more of the work of the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, and that they formed a warm admiration for Dr. Ely and what he is doing. I hope too that Dr. Ely became somewhat better acquainted with the University and its program and plans for the future. We all hope that out of these preliminary discussions there may grow up a permanent cooperation between the Institute and the University.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG-H

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Nanking
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Foreign Christian Missionary Society
1910-1913
(see also: United Christian Missionary
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