TRANSFER

April 23, 1927

Professor Horace G. Robson ~~of~~ Charleston, W.Va., who was at the University of Nanking, China during the events of March 24 and 25, arrived in New York April 23 to report to the Trustees of the University at the request of President Arthur J.Bowen. Professor Robson is the first member of the staff to reach New York. On being interviewed, Professor Robson made the following statement:

On Wednesday afternoon, March 23, the Nationalist armies defeated the northern forces to the south of Nanking after a week of fierce fighting. The northern forces hurriedly retreated through the city to Pukow on the north side of the Yangtze River, completing their retreat before day light on Thursday, the 24th. Thursday morning found the city completely under the control of the Nationalist forces. The foreign community felt that this meant the end of the war so far as Nanking was concerned and that soon all would be peaceful again, but events soon revealed a different situation. Almost simultaneously in all parts of the city the Nationalist soldiers began to loot, harrass, and in some cases, kill the foreighers of all nationalities. This turn in events came as a complete surprise to both foreigners and Chinese who were relying upon the promises of the Hankow government that foreigners were perfectly safe in Nationalist territory. How account then for what happened in Nanking! Did the Hankow government suddenly change its policy and place its approval upon the uncivilized acts of its soldiery? Of this we have no proof one way or the other but it is perfectly clear that there was a division within the army itself as to the treatment of the foreigners in Nanking. It was reported to me from reliable sources that of the three armies entering the city one army was set upon the complete extermination of all foreigners in the city. Another was indifferent to the question, while a third was definitely opposed to the molestation of foreigners or their property. It seems quite clear that a compromise was reached between these armies which permitted the foreigner to be looted and harrassed but that they were not to be killed. It was undoubtedly this opposition of the moderate wing of

the army, represented in the leadership of General Chiang Kai-shek, which saved the lives of the foreigners inthe city. It should be made perfectly clear that the Nationalist army as a whole did not approve of what was done in Nanking but that the looting and maltreatment of foreigners was due to the extreme radical wing of the Nationalist forces.

A significant fact connected with the events in Nanking was the friendship shown the foreign population by the Chinese people on numberous occasions during the day of the looting. Chinese staff and students of the University and others did their best to protect the foreigners from the madness of the soldiers even though it imperilled their own lives. When I was believed to be a white Russian soldier trying to escape in Chinese disguise, and the soldiers insisted upon shooting me, a student in the University saved my life by stepping in between me and the guns saying; "if you must shoot someone, shoot me." Many other foreigners passed through similar experiences. A prominent Chinese Christian leader in the city raised, within a few hours, $10,000. among the Chinese business people as a ransom for our release if it were found necessary to use it. On Friday, when it was possible for the Chinese to move freely on the streets hundred streamed in and out of the University Science Hall where we were gathered and with tears in their eyes expressed their deepest sympathy and regret for what had happened, and offered every aid within their power to assist us. At no time were the hostile soldiers able to arouse the antagonism of the people against us, and although the rabble completely looted our homes when the soldiers gave them the opportunity, the masses of the people including even the rabble showed no deep antagonism toward the foreigner as such. When we left the University grounds Friday afternoon for Hsia Kwan, the port of Nanking, the crowd of friends and onlookers gave the impression of viewing a funeral procession of some friend rather than that of glad rejoicing at the exit of the foreigner from their city. Special mention should be made of the loyalty and heroism of the teachers and students in Christian institutions. It was they who kept a few of our institutions from being looted and possibly destroyed. It was they who, on innumerable occasions stood between

the foreigner and the enraged soldiers who were constantly threatening the lives of their foreign friends, and it should be remembered that these same students and teachers are, since our evacuation, suffering persecution for their loyalty. It was due to the friendship of the Chinese teachers and students that not more damage was done to the college buildings at the University and at the Ginling College for women. The college girls were in every way as courageous and loyal as the boys. The looting was confined to the residences and to the Language School and Middle School and the hospital. The main buildings and their equipment have been practically undisturbed.

~~occasions stood between the foreigner and the enraged soldiers who were constantly threatening the lives of their foreign friends, and it should be remembered that these same students and teachers are, since our evacuation, suffering persecution for their loyalty.~~

From reports, it seems as though the so called bombardment of Nanking has been grossly misrepresented. In the first place, the "bombardment", so far as the American navy was concerned, consisted of a barrage placed around the Standard Oil residence in which Consul Davis and forty odd other Americans were taking refuge, and leading over to the city wall across an area which was not occupied by Chinese dwellings. This barrage made possible the escape of this party over the wall. Some other shells were dropped near the British Consulate, according to reports which came to me, but from careful questioning of a large number of Chinese on the day following the bombardment and of Chinese friends who came to Shanghai several days after the bombardment, I did not find a single instance where anyone was clear in his own mind that a single civilian had been killed by the firing of the foreign gunboats. In some cases they had heard that one to three civilians had been killed but in no case were they sure that this was true. In addition to the shells which fell near the two places named, I was told that some shells were dropped on unoccupied ground to the north and south of the city. The assertion that hundreds or thousands of civilian Chinese were killed by this firing is, so far as my investigation on it is concerned, utterly without foundation. The continued friendship of the Chinese people in the city following the firing by the ~~gunboat~~ foreign guns is also convincing evidence that there was no indiscriminate firing upon the civilian population.

1509 Quarrier St
Charleston, W. Va.
May 7, 1927

TRANSFER

Dr. Eric M. North, Secty
The University of Nanking
150 - 5th Ave
New York City

Nanking

Dear Dr. North,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a check for $500.00 as a provisional measure to give us immediate assistance in re-outfitting. It is most thoughtful of you to make this provision.

It is impossible for Mrs. Robson's parents to come east at this time so I am leaving for Columbia, Mo. next Monday the 9th. but will return to Charleston with my family by about May 20th.

Cordially yours
Horace G. Robson

Dr.Eric M.North
150-5th Avenue
New York City

1509 Quarrier St
Charleston,West Va
May 27,1927

CLL
Excuse my delay in paying after checking w Miss Brett. Eric

TRANSFER

Dear Dr.North,

I submit herewith my expense account covering our trip from Shanghai to Charleston,West Va.,and my trip from Columbia,Mo to New York City and return via Charleston,W.Va,

the other way - he owes me -

I have used the regular form of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church but presume this is as satisfactory as any since it gives the desired data.If you prefer I will forward the $108.49 balance to you at once, or you may take it out of my next month8s salary unless you wish this to remain in my hands until we have reached our final destination.

Very sincerely yours,

Horace G. Robson

E.M.N.
Would suggest Mr. Robson be asked to hold this amount until they complete their journey to N.Y. or Boston this autumn - unless you prefer to have it closed up in this fiscal year - in which case take it out of June salary.
EMN

1509 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Va
July 30, 1927

Mr B.A.Garside, Secretary,
University of Nanking
150-5th Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr.Garside,

I am in receipt of my salary check for July for which I thank you.

Regarding my travel account I am not quite clear from your letter whether or not this was received by you. As I remember it was mailed the New York office about June 1st. It is true that the balance of $108.49 was not sent in but I asked if you preferred this sent in at once or if I should wait until we had arrived at our final destination which will be about the first week in September. No reply was received to this inquiry. I used a form supplied by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church and it is possible that my account was not received. In case this is true I will forward a duplicate copy.

What have been the returns on the emergency fund campaign? Did Miss Priest return to China? I shall be glad for answers to these questions or any other information regarding the University.

Sincerely yours,
Horace G. Robson
Horace G.Robson

University of Nanking

August 27, 1927

Mr. H. G. Robson,
1509 Quarrier St.,
Charleston, W.Va.

My dear Mr.Robson:

Herewith we are enclosing a statement of your account with the University of Nanking from the time of your departure for America to the present. Records received from Mr.Owen's office this month have indicated that you did not receive before leaving China any advance on your re-outfit allowance. Since the Trustees voted to allow you the sum of $750. and only $500. has been paid you by the New York office, there still is due you a balance of $250. on this emergency re-outfit account. This amount we are adding to your salary check for August, making a total of$433.33, and check for that amount is enclosed herewith. In regard to your travel account, we have credited you with the statement rendered on May 27th showing a total expenditure of $317.94, or a net expenditure of $241.51 when your Pullman refund is deducted. There thus remains a balance of$108.49 of your travel advance to be accounted for when you finally complete your travel.

If there are any inaccuracies in this statement of your account please call them to our attention and we will be glad to consider the necessary readjustments.

Very sincerely yours,
B A GARSIDE

Secretary
University of Nanking

BAG-H

Enc.2

44-note address

53 Arnold Road
Atlantic, Mass
Sept 12, 1927

Mr. B. A. Garside
150 - 5th Ave
New York City

TRANSFER Nanking

Dear Mr. Garside,

I am enclosing a statement of my travel expense from Charleston W Va to Atlantic, Mass, via Boston, the point of my final destination for the period of my furlough.

The statement of my account as rendered by you under date of August 26th covering all items since my return to the United States was correct.

I am grateful for the additional $250 re-outfit allowance. There are

plenty of places for it to be used.

Our present address is 53 Arnold Rd, Atlantic, Mass. It is my plan to do graduate study in Boston and Harvard this Winter while awaiting developments in China. If you have been informed by cable of conditions at the opening of Fall Semester I wish you would write me. Also if you have the addresses of any of our students who have come to America for study this Fall I wish you would send these to me.

Sincerely yours
Horace G. Robson

Nanking

TRANSFER

University of Nanking

September 20, 1927

Mr. H. G. Robson,
53 Arnold Road,
Atlantic, Mass.

My dear Mr.Robson:

We have received your letter of September 12th with its attached expense account covering the final portion of your travel. We have accepted it as rendered and are crediting your account with the $11.20 due you.

We are sending you herewith a check for $194.53 computed as follows:

Balance due you on travel account	$11.20
September salary	183.33
	194.53

Our latest information from China indicated that the University was planning to open for the fall semester at about this time. We have had no recent cables and our latest letters were written just about the time Chiang Kai-shek's withdrawal left the Nanking situation in a most depressing state. I hope that things have improved in Nanking somewhat since those letters were written.

The Board of Managers have, as you probably know, worked out a thorough plan of reorganization. This was presented to the Board of Trustees at a meeting on September 14th. Those present at the meeting approved the plan in general but submitted it to the cooperating boards and to the Trustees who were not present for their final vote of approval. I hope we will be able to cable the result of the Board action to the field during the next few days.

The only member of your Nanking student body or Chinese staff whom I have met recently is Mr.C.Y.Gwoh who is now staying at Union Theological Seminary, 600 West 122nd St., New York City. If I hear of others I will try to remember to let you know.

With best wishes for a pleasant year in Boston, I am

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE
Secretary
University of Nanking

BAG-H
Enc.1

53 Arnold Rd
Atlantic, Mass
Sept 21, 1927

TRANSFER

Mr. G. A. Garside, Secty
China Union Universities
150 - 5th Ave.
New York City

Dear Mr. Garside,

During the summer myself and family lived in my father's house in Charleston W Va and it was not necessary to draw on the allowance for house rent. But beginning with Sept. 1st. it has been necessary to pay rent. I am having to pay $55.00 per month. I am not exactly clear as to the amount the University allows toward this but whatever it

I wish you would add the amount to my Sept. pay check.

Also I have had a dental bill for myself and Mrs. Robson amounting to $75.00 a receipted statement of which I am enclosing. My understanding is that one half of this is allowed by the University.

Very sincerely yours —

Horace G. Robson

Mr. B. A. Garside, Secty.,
The University of Nanking,
150 - 5th. Avenue
New York City.

23 Brackett St
East Milton, Mass.
Nov. 22, 1927.

Dear Mr. Garside,

We have moved since last writing you from 53 Amory Rd, Atlantic, Mass., to 23 Brackett St., East Milton, Mass. Kindly change your records accordingly and I hope that this will be our last move for at least a few years.

I have accepted the pastorate of a Congregational Church here which is willing to pay me a "living wage" and at the same time grant me the privilege of studying as much as I wish. This means that I will be able to do along with my church at least a half, if not more, of full graduate study in Boston U. and Harvard. Since I have almost a year's credits in Boston U. Graduate school for work done before going to China I ought to be able to complete my resident work for Ph.D. within two years even on my reduced schedule. I feel that I cannot return to China without a much fuller academic preparation for my work.

Having accepted this pastorate does not mean - on my part - that I have severed my relations with the

University of Nanking and the Missionary Enterprise except financially for the time being. In other words this is not a resignation and I hoped to be retained in my same relationship without pay. Should I later give up hopes of ever returning to China I will immediately notify you. For the present, however, we hope to return after I have done such studying as I feel necessary should the conditions at that time seem to justify my going, and, of course, provided the Chinese desire our return.

I have accepted this Church now because I did not wish to find myself without income next June altho I should have preferred to be entirely free for study this school year. This means that I have received six months furlough salary, May to Oct. inclusive. I would like to make this request, however, that should my return to China later be definitely decided that the additional six months furlough due me might be granted one half year before my return should I at that time feel the need of giving intensive and undivided attention to my studies. I of course do not know that I shall desire such a privilege, but on the other hand I may find it to be of great advantage.

I began my service with this Church on Nov. 1st. so my November salary and rent need not be sent.

Sincerely yours Horace G. Robson

over

Nanking

TRANSFER

University of Nanking

November 23, 1927

Mr. Horace G.Robson,
23 Brackett St.,
East Milton, Mass.

My dear Mr.Robson:

We have your letter of November 22nd and are happy to know that you have now settled down in a place where you feel you can really be at home for a few years. I know you must have found the moving about last year very trying. We earnestly hope that the pastoral work you are undertaking will be as satisfying to you as I know it will be to the members of your congregation. We are glad to know that your arrangements are such that you can continue your graduate study at Boston University and at Harvard. This added preparation, together with your pastoral experience will be of great value in those days which I am perfectly sure are coming soon, when there will be an urgent call for the return of all members of the Nanking staff to their work in China.

Pending formal action by the Nanking Trustees, we will consider your relationship with Nanking as maintaining a status quo. The Trustees have not yet taken any action on the important question of what should be the relationship of all the Nanking staff who are forced to remain for the present in America. I know that most of them are looking forward with eagerness to the time when they can get back to China even though for the immediate future they must turn their energies in another direction. I am sure the Trustees will be glad to devise some measures which will prevent the severing of these relationships even for the time being. I will bring to them your suggestion that for the present your salary cease after six months furlough allowances have been paid and that later on, when the prospect of your return to China becomes brighter, your furlough salary begin again half a year before you are scheduled to return to the field.

There is one important service for Nanking which you may be able to render in connection with your work at Boston University. You probably know more or less of the history of Nanking's relationship with the Boston University Nanking Association. Under the terms of their agreement, the Boston University undertook to send Mr.and Mrs.Akerstrom out to China in 1920 and to pay their salary, travel and other expenses for a three year term at the University. The story of this relationship as revealed in our office correspondence is a long and doleful one in which the expenses involved proved to be somewhat heavier than was at first estimated while, on the other hand, the amount that the Boston University Nanking Association was able to raise did not equal their expectations. As a result, when the three year period was ended, there remained a deficit on this account of over Mex.$10,000.

Our University of Nanking accounts have been forced to continue this deficit from year to year and at present it still remains as one of our gravest financial problems. If you think there is any possibility of reviving interest in this matter at Boston University and gaining their assistance in at least partially wiping off this heavy deficit I will be glad to send you all the information we have available here in the office. Some of the people with whom the major part of our correspondence was conducted were Professor L.A.Brigham and Dean William M. Warren, together with several student officers of this Association who have undoubtedly long since graduated and left. I have not yet had an opportunity to obtain from Dr.North the details of how the matter was finally left, but I will consult with him and write you more fully if you consider there is any possibility of our reviving interest in the proposition.

With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

BAG-H

B A GARSIDE

Nanking

TRANSFER

University of Nanking

November 27, 1928

Mr. Horace G. Robson,
23 Brackett Street,
East Milton, Mass.

My dear Mr.Robson:

In a recent letter President Chen writes as follows:

"We are anxious to have Mr.Robson return to the Department (of Religion) as soon as he has completed his study, and I presume you are keeping in touch with him. He would naturally return under the Methodist Board quota."

We would be happy to hear from you as to your present work and plans for the future. We certainly hope it will be possible for you to return to Nanking next year. As soon as I have more definite details as to your plans I will talk with some of the secretaries in the Methodist Board as to the matter of your support.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG-H

B A GARSIDE

East Congregational Church

East Milton, Massachusetts

nking

23 Brackett Street
December 10,1928

ack. 12/12/28

Mr.B.A.Garside,Secretary,
China Union Universities,
New York City

TRANSFER

Dear Mr.Garside,

Your recent letter calling my attention to President Chen's request thatI return for service in the University of Nanking has been received. My delay in answering has been due to my desire to give the most thorough consideration to the matter before arriving at a final decision.

12/10/28

You will find inclosed a copy of my reply to Dr. Chen which fully explains my position.This was really written on Nov.10th-a few days before your letter arrived-but was put aside for further consideration and then re-written to-day.

I appreciate your willingness to bring the question of my return before the Methodist Board.From many points of view I could wish that it were possible for me to request you to do so.

With the Season's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Horace G. Robson

University of Nanking December 12, 1928.

Dr. Horace G. Robson,
23 Brackett Street,
East Milton, Mass.

Ny dear Dr. Robson:

We are happy to have your letter of December 10th and to note that you are looking forward to return to Nanking even though your return may be somewhat delayed by your desire to complete the work for your doctorate.

While we know that the University desires your return at the earliest possible date, and while we are sure that there is an urgent need for you in Nanking, yet we can quite appreciate your feeling that it is very desirable that you complete your work for a Ph.D. now that you have embarked upon this course. With the rapidly rising educational standards in China, a Ph.D. will certainly prove of great worth to you and should also increase the value of your services to the University of Nanking in future years.

We will await with interest Dr. Chen's reply to your letter of December 10th.

With the seasnn's greetings, and with the warmest of good wishes for your success, both in your church duties and in your studies, I am,

BAG:C

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

EAST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MILTON
EAST MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TRANSFER

Nanking

23 Brackett Street
July 6,1932

ack 7-7-32

Mr.B.A.Garside,Secretary,
China Union Universities,
150-5th.Avenue,
New York City.

My dear MR.Garside,

You will perhaps recall our previous correspondence. I returned from China in the Spring of 1927 and have since been engaged in graduate study in Boston and Harvard Universities, together with a pastorate in a Congregational church. I hope to complete my studies by January 1st.next or at latest the Spring of 1933. I went to China under the Methodist Episcopal Board and am still a member of the Central China Conference of the M.E.Church,but was financed by the University of Nanking during the last three years of my stay in China. In your opinion is there any possibility of eit er the Methodist Board or the University of Nanking being able under present financial conditions to send us(myself,wife and three children) out again for work in the University of Nanking as a teacher either in the department of philosophy or the department of religion? If it is altogether improbable that either organization can do this by the Fall of 1933 then I shall feel compelled to make plans to remain permanently in America as I am now at the age(41 yrs.) when I must be g tting settled somewhere. I shall greatly appreciate your letting me know what the prospects are for returning at the time indicated.

My return is qualified on my own part only by the condition that I am still wanted by the responsible Chinese leadership in the University,and also in the Mission should I be sent under the Mission. If it were possible I should also like to be given some assurance that I would be able to spend the rest of my life in the service of Christ in China,but I realize that the present financial state of missions makes it impossible for any group to speak with anything like certainty on this point.

Sincerely yours,

Horace G. Robson

Copy to President Chen
Mr Cartwright

TRANSFER

Nanking

University of Nanking

July 7, 1932.

Rev. Horace G. Robson,
23 Brackett Street,
East Milton, Mass.

My dear Dr. Robson:

I am very happy to learn from your letter of July 6th that you are once more turning your eyes toward China.

I know that the University of Nanking would be happy to welcome you back to the campus if the necessary arrangements could be made. I am afraid however, that, in view of the very serious financial problems confronting both the University and the Methodist Board, there is very little prospect of any appointment either under University support or as a missionary of the Methodist Board, for an indefinite period of time. However, I am sending copies of your letter both to President Chen and to the Methodist Board, and am asking them for frank statements as to the prospects of sending you out, either in 1933, or even a little later. As soon as I have had replies I will correspond with you further.

With all good wishes for the continued success of the work you are doing here in America, I am,

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:PW
cc: President Chen
Mr. Cartwright

23 Brackett St
Nov. 15, 1932
ack 11-18-32

Mr. B. A. Garside, Secty.,
China Union Universities,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,

Nanking

My dear Mr. Garside,

I wrote you on July 6th. last relative to our possible return to China for the Fall of 1933. In reply you said that you would communicate with the University of Nanking and the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions. Since that time I have heard nothing from either of these institutions and I am wondering if you have. So far as I can see the financial state of missions in general makes the outlook for our return quite dubious. If you have heard anything bearing upon my case I should be pleased to have you pass it on to me.

Sincerely yours,
Horace G. Robson

TRANSFER

Nanking

University of Nanking

November 18, 1932.

Rev. Horace G. Robson,
23 Brackett Street,
East Milton, Mass.

My dear Dr. Robson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 15th.

I am sorry to say that as yet we have no encouraging news as to any prospects for your return to China in 1933.

When I communicated with Mr. F. T. Cartwright of the Methodist Board, he replied as follows:-

> "Thank you for the letters to and from Dr. Robson. I am afraid that there are no comments to be made other than what you accurately expressed, the unlikelihood of any missionaries going out in the near future under the Methodist Board. We are hoping for an upward turn in the giving but there are no tangible signs that that hope is to be realized."

I have had no direct word from President Chen, but since the University is struggling with an extremely difficult financial situation this year, and the prospects for 1933-34 do not seem much brighter, it is obvious that his reply would necessarily be discouraging.

We are going forward in the faith that the Christian service of our China colleges will go on, and that sooner or later we will get past the present economic crisis. But meantime, we have no other alternative than to exercise every possible economy in order to maintain the work already being undertaken, and to support the personnel already on the field. We hope that it will be possible for you to keep the way open for return to China at some future date, even though we can have no assurance at this time that such a return will eventuate.

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

BAG:PW