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Tisinger, R. M. 1930
Treadway, Annie. W. 1924
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R. M. Tisinger

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R. M. Tisinger

Department of Rural Education
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Ithaca, N.Y.

TRANSFER

March 26, 1930

Nanking

Mr. J. H. Reisner,
Coachella, Calif.

Dear Mr. Reisner,

Please pardon my delay in replying to your letter of March 14th. Mrs. Tisinger is still in Virginia and I felt that I had to see her before I could give you a reply.

You have asked me a question which I find very difficult to answer, partly because I am not familiar with all the details of the situation in China.

You asked me to tell you what I should like best to do that would be in line with my training and natural interests, in case arrangements could be made for my support in Nanking. In the first place, I want to ask you to please consider this as confidential, to a certain extent, or at least guard against it being used in any way which would tend to cause any misunderstanding within my own mission. We are still very much interested in the project that our mission is undertaking at Yochow; and there is no real reason for our not accepting their request to return there, except that the training I have had for the past two and a half years has led me into a field in which I do not feel there is much opportunity for me to follow at Yochow. As you already know, I have been specializing in rural school work, with my major in school administration. The work that has been set aside for me at Yochow is in Agricultural Education and extension, which is somewhat outside of the line of thought which I have been following in graduate work. Mr. Beck has charge of the rural school work at Yochow and while I have no fear at all that we could not each find plenty to do there, I feel that there should be a field elsewhere, where I could do more good and someone else do a better piece of work at Yochow than I could do in the field of agriculture.

My last desire would be to split off from the Reformed Church Mission and I am hoping that in case provision can be made for our return, that there will still be a close connection with the mission. I do not know if our board would agree to send us to Nanking or not, but since there has been very close cooperation between the two institutions along certain lines in the past few years, I feel that there is some possibility of such an arrangement being made. After talking with Carson, Garsides, Dr. Love, and Harold Smith, it seems that possibly there might be more of an opportunity at Cheeloo in the field in which I am interested, than at Nanking, since the teacher training program is to be developed more extensively at that institution. I doubt if there would be the same chance of having our mission send us to Cheeloo as it would be at Nanking. This is only my personal opinion and I have no way of knowing what my mission or board has in mind in regard to this.

As I have stated previously, I do not see how it would be possible to outline a definite program which I think should be followed at either Nanking or

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or Cheeloo, however, I am inclined to feel that there is a definite need for work in the field of school administration, a large part of which should be in the form of research. We might find that the most pressing problems in this field might be along the line of finance, supervision of instruction, buildings, curriculum construction or any number of such items. I should not attempt to specify any particular project or projects, until I could have an opportunity to observe the work more closely on the field.

I understand that Nanking is not planning an extensive program of teaching training or department of education, however, I feel that there would be several advantages in doing this type of work there rather than at Cheeloo. First you have an organization set up under Mr. Buck's direction which would be invaluable for the research that should be done in this field. In the second place, I do not see how the University of Nanking can give the very best training for rural leadership without at least some work in the field of education. Mr. Garsides, has suggested that the possibility of so coordinating the work of the two schools that either pupils or teachers be exchanged to meet this end.

The research in this field might be one means of making a definite connection with the Yochow station. It might be necessary to limit the field to several specific situations, and I see no reason why Yochow could not be used very effectively. I spoke to Mr. Beck about this possibility and he thought it would be a feasible project. By so coordinating the work it would be possible to maintain my connection with the Yochow station and at the same time secure the benefit that might be secured from the connection with a larger institution such as Nanking.

This might be entirely out of line with recent developments in China, and if so, I wish you would please tell me. I have rambled on and possibly have not touched many of the points which you had hoped to have answered.

There is still one further personal item which I must mention. I had hoped to get my work completed for the Ph.D. degree sometime early in the fall, but I find that it will be impossible. I can finish my course work in summer school this year but the data for my thesis will not be ready to work on for another year. I had to abandon one subject for lack of reliable data, and my second subject is developing very slowly. The subject I am now outlining is one on school transportation costs, and the data are to be gathered on special reports during the session of 1930-31. It cannot be completed until the fall of 1931. In the meantime I must try to straighten out my financial matters. It would be impossible for us to overclear off our debts on a missionary salary, if we were to return under the present conditions. There is a possibility of my getting a job as a principal of the high school at my home in Virginia and live at home for a year. I can't wipe out my debts in that time but should be able to reduce it a little. It will amount to close to \$2500 by the end of summer school.

There is one other factor which would prevent our returning for sometime even though everything else shapes up. Our youngster, now five months old, has a severe case of eczema and in spite of all that can be done by the best baby specialist in our part of Virginia, he does not improve, and we couldn't think of leaving America until he is cured.

These are simply a few of our problems and thoughts which I pass on to you for what they are worth. I am not always so "long winded", but have tried to answer your question the best that I could.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ R. M. Tisinger

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University of Nanking

April 17, 1930

Mr. R. M. Tisinger,
Rural Education Department,
Cornell University,
Ithaca, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Tisinger:

I have been somewhat delayed in reporting progress we have made since my conversation with you on Saturday.

We have written Dr. Bartholomew, replying in some detail to the various question he raised in his letter of April 11. I certainly hope that the Reformed Board will take favorable action on your appointment when they meet next week. Obviously the attitude of your board is the dominant factor in the situation just now. Until your board reaches a decision it will not be possible for us to make much progress in our plans. I sent Mr. Reisner a wire reporting our conversation and asking for his recommendations, but the Western Union informs us that the telegram has not yet been delivered because of Mr. Reisner's absence from Coachella for a few days. I have also sent Mr. Reisner an air mail letter with which I included a copy of Dr. Bartholomew's letter and of the reply I have sent.

I was not able to get in touch with Dr. Condliffe because he was in the city only a short time and sailed on the Aquitania yesterday. However, I got in touch with him by radio after he boarded the steamship and asked for his opinion as to your appointment. He stated that he was doubtful, as a result of his conversation with Professor Pearson, whether you have had an opportunity to go as deeply into the field of statistical research as would be necessary to render a maximum of assistance to Mr. Buck. Dr. Condliffe stated, however, that he is convinced that you would be a most valuable addition to Nanking staff in your own field of education.

This is the status of the case at the moment. It seems to me that the Reformed Board must take the next step at its meeting next week. We will be having a meeting of the Nanking Board of Founders within a week or ten days thereafter, and I am sure that our Nanking Board will very heartily welcome the cooperation of the Reformed Board in your appointment to the Nanking staff if the Reformed Board votes to adopt this procedure.

Please let me know if there is anything we can do in the meantime.

Very cordially yours,

BAG-H

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