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Helde

Chengtu, February 6, 1926

Dear Jim and the Family:

We enjoyed your last letter written from Baltimore and telling about your various speaking tours. It's too bad you lost out on the job at Madison, for it strikes me that you would have a happy time there. You ought not be too radical for the Wisconsin crowd. I suppose you have fallen into line with the other speakers on China at home, for the great American public seems ready to fall over itself to help out this great republic. Of course we only get scraps of what is being said, but it raises questions in our minds. For instance, I have just read an article reporting a speak of Dr. Kuo's in which he says that 12,000 miles of motor roads have been built in China, but he does not say they were built by the American Red Cross and that they have all gone to pieces. He says that the judicial system of China is the equal of any, but he says nothing about there being no judges to carry it out. He also says that the educational system is superior to that of any other country in the world!!! I also had a folder from the Council of Churches of America, prepared by one Earl Cranston, one statement being that England took Hongkong away from China, but failing to state that what was taken was a pirate ridden island or two, a menace to China as well as the rest of the world. I have been dealing with officials a great deal in the past few years, and believe me, I don't see why the early comers to China did not treat them worse than they did. The officials of China are far from being the dear oppressed people that the average lecturer in China is talking about. They are hard as nails, and as unsrupulous as anybody on top of the earth. Let's give China her due, but for heaven's sake lets not sloop all over about it. You know Chengtu, and know it to be typical of all of China, except the treaty ports where the secretaries of the National Council live. How do you account for the following?

Liu Ten Hsuan, a graduate of the University, and very noisy in his demands for the abolition of everything immediately flees to the Shen Hsi Kai Hospital and takes a position as a school teacher under the despised foreigner when Yang Sen was defeated and Liu was being hunted by the other party.

He with another returned student at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Blind School said that the rice for the boys could be not be stored there, but had better be put in Vandeman Hall.

We have been officially notified by the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of the province, Dr. Ki of the University of Paris, to say nothing about the fact that the Y. M. C. A. land is not owned by a foreign board, nor that the building will be given to the Chinese by the International Committee, as we have just been threatened with confiscation of a large section of our property. He is scaring off the crowd by scaring them up about international complications.

Yang Shao Ch'uan says that China has enough problems without having all the foreigners thrust on to it to handle, and that the situation is much simpler as it now is that it would be by doing away with the treaty rights.

Yang Kuei P'in has been quite active in his discussions of the questions, but immediately a little trouble happened in connection with his bank, he went to live on the University campus with his relative Fang Shu Hsuan.

See March Missionary news

Just have you an the U. U. secretary at home
Break

Two weeks ago, we had a bad row in our corner of the city between two rival military factions, and in the course of the fighting, soldiers from one side went into the Chengtu Kung Shou and in the fracas, four students were killed. The Civil Governor has offered the families \$200. a piece indemnity money. No parades no uprising against the military, nothing but a few words in the newspapers, and a few flowers to the hospital to the wounded.

Of course I am too close to the scene of action in the interior of China to have the broad perspective which comes to one at home, and so these straws which I have given may mean nothing whatever. Here is one more: the secretaries of the National Committee of the Y. M. C. A. have been very active with their propaganda, but when we requested the visit of one or two this spring, we have had the reply that unless they are accompanied by a foreigner, they dare not come.

My solution of the problem for this missions is this: instead of all the pious talk and resolutions, the mission boards turn over their property out right to the Chinese church. In this way, all extraterritorial rights as far as property is concerned are automatically done away with, without affecting business interests, or the persons of the foreigners. It would once and for all put an end to the refugee problem, the officials could not say that the property was foreign owned and hence not subject to their jurisdiction, and the gesture of the missions would mean something instead of being a mere wave of the hand. The only objection I have heard to this plan is that the Chinese Church does not want the property. It seems to me that mission boards are far too active in trying to force those of us who live out here to run the risks they seek to impose, when so far, they are afraid to trust their barren and empty churches to the mercy of this friendly people. Nothing would please me more than to have Cranston come back, and find Shan Hsi Kai church filled with soldiers, just as if it were a Buddhist Temple. Of course he is willing to take the risks, but let him go through the experience of being thrown out of a school property that was loaned to us by Yang Sen when our own school was taken away from us to enable them to put through a new street. We had one days notice to get out, and before the furniture could be moved out, the soldiers were in, using and burning our stuff for firewood. Some of it we have not recovered yet, nor do we ever expect to do so.

I don't think I have ever been accused of being hard on the Chinese in my relationships with them, and I like them, in fact I like them well enough to live among them in the interior, and not in a treaty port; I like them well enough to want to see them get out of their present troubles, before greater responsibilities are put upon them. Do you know the Germans are registering their businesses under American law. They can't operate otherwise. You fellows at home have a mighty heavy responsibility for what you say. Do you remember what you said about Koo and Wang when you read their speeches at the Washington Conference? Much that I am reading at present is just as bad.

Love to all of you.
some speeches too.

I am coming home next year to make

George G. Helde

May 6, 1926

Mr. George G. Helde
Young Men's Christian Association
Chengtu, West China.

Dear George:

The girls are home having arrived April 26th and I must now answer your fine letter of February 6th which we were all mighty glad to get. It is certainly fine to have the girls with us again and I guess they are awfully glad to be home. They both look fine and have developed a lot during the last seven months. They jabber French very freely to each other. How correct it is, of course, I do not know. They have both read a great deal and are continuing their reading and conversation. Priscilla is taking some courses in typing, cooking and sewing in the Watertown High School to patch out the end of the year. Elizabeth has to make up one-half year of college algebra and has already begun tutoring. She can have this particular tutor for only six weeks, so she is working pretty strenuously, and hopes to get it all done in time and then take the examination from one of the Taft masters. This tutor, by-the-way, gets \$2. per hour. How much is that in Szechwan money?

You gave me quite an ear-full on this extraliterary business and I suppose some of your shining sentences were aimed at me! What you say is, of course, true. On the other hand we must all recognize that there is a new spirit abroad in China and for that matter in the whole world, and with that we must reckon. If we cannot carry on without foreign protection, then I think we shall have to get out. But I am perfectly sure that we can be of no real use to China if we insist on the old basis. As I see it, down at the bottom of this whole movement in China is the terrific revolution that is caused by contact with new knowledge and new ideas and that is surging more deeply and more powerfully than any of us can know in the very heart of the whole nation. Do you read Rawlinson in the Recorder?

James M. Yard

Darlington D.C.
2200-16th
June 1926

My dear Dr. Tard;

There is quite
a story about my book "Amusing
of Health" in China -

Mr. Tung Fung, former Chinese
Minister here, sent a hundred or
more copies of it to important
people in China - and someone read
it to the old Empress of China -
She organized a committee of ten or
thirteen Chinese to take the trip
around the world to study whatever

book of value to China - (2
Economic Finance, etc, etc,

I had them here at dinner
gave each one one of the books;
and emphasized the idea that China
could have no great future without
the throating of opium -
Within a few weeks after their
return to China - The Emperor
issued the proclamation for the
exclusion of opium.

I flatter myself that the book
had a little to do with it -
Mr Tung Fang told me that it

been translated into Chinese.

This was many years ago, and would
any ^{farther} use that can be made out of the
book - by translating it into pamphlets
etc. There is no object ~~and~~ or any
thing to ~~prevent~~ their full use of it.

Very truly Yours

Mary J. Henderson