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From Florence A. Kirk  
Ginling College, Chengtu

Sunday morning, April 14, 1940

Dear Mrs. Macmillan,

It is a long time since I have written you, and some time ago I suggested to Lillian that I might write the news to give her a change. I hope it will get finished, and as far as I can see it ought to.

Lillian told me of your wish that we should report more of Dr. Wu's addresses given here; I think that is an excellent suggestion. It ought to be easy to send you an occasional outline anyway. We are expecting Dr. Wu back today from the People's Political Council, though exact times of departure and arrival do not belong to this situation. Yesterday at the Border Research Meeting, we had two young Frenchmen as guests,-- scientists going into the north regions. The man introducing them laughingly said, "They expect to arrive back, Monday, May 13, at 5 p.m."-- which aroused an appreciative laughter.

On Thursday afternoon Lillian and I did get started on time--in the truck arranged for by the Language School to go to Kwanhsien to see the Opening of the Waters. It is a real event, of course, and we found we could fit it in with our schedules; it was such a relief to have a means of speedy conveyance,--two hours each way. We started from the campus at 3:30, and reached home the next day about 7:30 p.m. We sat on our bundles of bedding, and were quite comfortable, and though the road was rutted and uneven, the weight of the truck seemed miraculously to make the ruts disappear. There were 27 of us altogether, the Language School group and various other friends and acquaintances. The countryside was green with vivid new leaves, wheat in head, Chinese clover--a mauve pink, tobacco plants just newly transplanted, rape in the pod, and a new kind of crop none of us could identify but which may have been castor bean. Along the road the breaking of stone went on; there were detours where culverts were being remade, and occasional patches of newly surfaced road. One of the students, in a page I enclose, describes something about this road-making which is going on in so many places.

In Kwanhsien, we stayed at the C.I.M., putting down our bedding in empty rooms and on open porches. We went foraging for supper, and for phenomenally little got a good supper in a tiny roadside restaurant -- mien, bao-dze, tea. The next morning we went to the Second King Temple to see the ceremony of the killing of the pig, and the offerings, but we were misinformed, and after seeing the gorgeous temple (such wonderful detail in gold-leaf work, carving of wood, colored porcelain on top of roofs, the satisfying up-turned corners, and an abundance of tiny figures, comic and otherwise, on roofs) we went down the gorge, walked along the rope bridge made out of many strands of bamboo twisted together, along the dike which was later on to be broken to let the water through. As one looked at the stream bed, the one half was flowing fast, and the other half practically dry. The dike was to be broken and part of the water diverted into the empty half, to be released and to go along the fields of Szechuan plain, even to fill our ditches on this campus, and to flood the rice fields in a few weeks' time.

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We got a good place on the bank and sat down to wait till noon. There was quite a distance along the dike where the stone baskets were not piled up to strengthen it, and around the tripod poles which made the dike at this part was a bamboo rope going to our side of the shore, which was to be used later on by 27 men to pull down, one by one, the whole section of dike. There was a good deal of good-natured laughter at the expense of some boys and men who scrambled across the dry stones in front of the bed where the waters were to be let in, the teasing saying, "Watch out, or you'll be swept away by the current." The laughter made the hardy ones run but no one was caught. We were fascinated by the crowds, ant-like processions along the middle of the river on the raised bank lined with baskets of stones, and on our side of the river half a mile away, issuing out of a nice gate on the very horizon where the city wall meandered in majesty. I will not hazard a guess at the number of people, but there must have been many thousands. Behind us on the hill was another blue-clothed throng which reminded me of the Bible pictures which showed a multitude listening to Jesus. At the very top of the hill was an old fortification, a watch tower half broken down; this formed the apex of the picture, and in a cone spread out the waiting people. Round us on the higher edge of the bank was another crowd, boy scouts, bound-footed women, children, coolies, and occasionally a coolie with a badge showing he was one of the men needed for the work.

Towards noon a good deal of hacking went on near the first part of the section which was to be pulled away, and about 12:30 the pistol cracked from the gay pavilion which sheltered the notables, Lin Sen, etc. The bamboo rope joining the first tripod was cut away, the cable grew taut, and down went the first tripod, and a small stream of water poured over the dry bed. A shout went up, and all the people round us threw stones into the water to get good luck. The rope tightened and the second tripod went down, and a torrent of water rushed down. The loosened poles were rescued and brought back. The bamboo rope tying the poles was gathered up gleefully. There was a tense moment when two men near the heavy current were caught in the rush of water, but they managed to keep their feet and scrambled up onto the stones. And for more than 2,000 years this same ceremony has been enacted, just in this primitive way--no sign of an engine, of mechanization, but it works infallibly! That was in my mind as I watched the ingenious method of releasing the water.

Back we went in the jolly crowd which dared anyone to hurry through it beyond the usual leisurely pace of the crowd itself. The pavilion emptied at once, the band disappeared, the throngs of boy scouts were not to be seen. As we went back we had excellent views of the whole gorge and the waters pouring along both beds. In olden days the official who presided over the rites tried, in order to get a good year's luck for the province, to beat the waters back to Chengtu--eight hours by sedan chair, if the carriers were changed--and he usually did.

Easter Day, the climax of a fine week of special morning worship services, was as lovely as ever. All week we had special speakers, and the big poster on the door between the living-room (where chapel is held) and dining-room announced the subject each day. The girls enjoyed them very much. Thursday night in the chapel of the Woman's College we had the communion service led by Miss Spicer, and addressed by Frank Price. On

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Sunday morning we were able to have the 7 o'clock service out of doors (though the week had been dull and rainy, and it was first thought it would have to be indoors) on the lawn at the Parfits just behind the Biology building. From ten to seven a stream of girls and faculty went in that direction, each carrying a dining-room stool for her chair. The first rosebuds were just showing pink, but mei-hwa and the songs of birds cheered us. On the quiet morning air, the organ notes burst in awe-inspiring ways, and the songs of Easter morning were full of meaning. Eva spoke, and the choir sang; Stella was at the organ. One Freshman girl joined the church at the 9 o'clock Vandeman service.

We have all been interested in hearing Dr. Leighton Stuart when he visited Chengtu recently. I heard him twice; once was on Sunday afternoon when he spoke to the Nanking Fellowship Group and the Ginling faculty were invited to tea at Esther Slocum's and to his informal talk afterwards. I think we have a better view of China now than before. Yenching has had its own troubles, but seems to have weathered a good many crises without much damage. He gave the highest tribute to his staff, none of whom left! He was concerned, he said, that the cause of this country should not be damaged by the old evils of government that for centuries had sapped its strength and were still a danger.

The new unit for our faculty at the Woman's College was finally completed three weeks ago, drain and all. It was a long grind for Miss Streeter to keep at the men and the contractor, or builder rather, to finish it up. He guaranteed occupancy February 15! The people living there had a house-warming for us one Thursday night, and we were all delighted with the freshness and quiet of the house. The faculty living there are: Dr. Reeves, Wu Mei-ling, Mrs. Tung (librarian), Miss Yen, Dzo Yu-lin, Hu Shij-tsang. Their man-servant brings over their breakfast from the dormitory, and they come here for the other meals. So far, Dr. Reeves has been eating Chinese food, but she will likely take some foreign food soon, for as warm weather comes on it isn't so good for a steady diet. Most of us were too lazy to move, but we felt a little envious at their attractive quarters; the rooms are small, but the furniture has been made to fit into a small room, and the result is that the rooms look much more spacious than ours in the dormitory. The furniture bought by Woman's College is modernistic, and so attractive.

We feel that we have been quite a nuisance to various households in this matter of getting foreign food the last two years, especially a bother to Woman's College. Therefore, the plan to use the house of the Dye's seems like a good way out for the next year. Last night some of us met to discuss ways and means, and consider the information gathered by Ruth (number of bedrooms, ways of heating, furniture left for our use, cook who might be housed there, etc.) We would like to have some Chinese, but if those who want foreign food are to be there, that may take all the space. We think five or six could live there, and we may be able to get a room next door at the Slocum's where one person could stay. Some problems are supplies, and we wondered, Mrs. Macmillan, if you might tell the new people coming out that we would appreciate it if they could pack in any odd spaces in their luggage the following things, in order of importance. (It seems such a job to order from Shanghai and ask others to see it through customs, etc.):

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1. baking powder (or the ingredients.--We can get bean flour here cheaply for the filler--at home we would use cornstarch)
2. coffee
3. cocoa
4. bar chocolate
5. one or two tins of mustard

We don't say what quantities, for we wouldn't advise bringing a whole separate order, but thought if three or four were coming, a few in each person's luggage might see us through all right.

The discussion groups meeting each Sunday night after the evening service are creating a good deal of interest. The first was, "Why do I want to live?" and the two ten-minute speeches were given by Mr. Willmott (Can. Mission) and Djang Hsiang-lan. Last week the topic was, "Is there a God?" The speakers were Chen Djung-fang of the Chinese department, and Y. G. Chen of the NCC. Their speeches were excellent, but too long to allow any time for discussion. W. Y. Chen knows how to get the students' attention; he is a dramatic and challenging speaker, and the turnout for last Sunday was quite big. Tonight the subject is, "Is woman's work--outside of the physical--of the same nature and end as man's?"

On Friday started the discussion group for the faculty, to meet on three successive Fridays, 7 - 8 p.m., on the following subjects:

- Problems on New Constitutions - led by a Cheloo professor, Djang Beh-hwa.
- Problems on Border Region - Mr. Ko Hsiang Chu
- International Problems - Frank Price or Andrew Roy

This is one concrete result of the Faculty Retreat. Another is that the students, who need special food can now have it prepared in the kitchen, after a doctor's certificate gives the specific diet required. There are interesting plans for faculty recreation, as another concrete result: one faculty meeting had an hour's fun and simple refreshments; a volley-ball game with the students has twice been scheduled, but had to be postponed on account of rain.

Miss Highbaugh was in Chengtu for a couple of weeks about the time of the NCC meetings. She was at Ginling a good deal for she wanted to interview Ginling girls to see who would be interested in going out to Jenschow for six weeks this summer for a special project. I think she secured ten very fine students, but needs a Physical Education person yet and a music student. She had personal interviews, and thought this was the best way, though it did take a lot of time and planning to see students. She has high hopes for a summer's work. She had had a bad throat, but looked much better after being here a week. There are numerous problems to meet, of course, but they seem to be doing a fine piece of work.

The Music Department has announced a song contest and another contest to compose suitable music for the songs. Soon begins the frequent events of the final weeks of the year: Physical Education field meet; English Club programme (two plays and several numbers of poetry chorus); student recitals; student party for the seniors (early in May); sophomore party for the

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seniors (early in June). The theses are getting into final form. Eva spoke about what a time she was having correcting the first draft of one of her theses: the thesis was written on the cheap paper we use, and it was so thin she couldn't erase, and it wouldn't take ink, so the corrections had to be done on separate paper! Here are some of the thesis topics:

English: Two Problems Treated in Modern Thesis Plays (industrialization, and woman's independence)  
Philosophy: A Study of Different Christian Attitudes Towards Communism  
A Study of the Works of John MacMurray  
Physical Education: Recreation in Chinese Homes  
Sociology: Survey of the Women Workers in China Industrial Coöperatives  
Popular Reading in China Today  
Chemistry: Students' Attitudes to the Family

Thursday: this shows what comes of good resolutions!

On Sunday afternoon Lillian and I went to the Y.M.C.A. to see the exhibition of painting of a Mr. Liang, one of three artistic brothers. He has painted 200 pictures to show the effect of the war on China, and hopes to take his collection to America, Australia, etc.--not to get fame for himself, but to help China's cause abroad. One series is in oils--all aeroplane pictures, historical paintings of actual dog-fights in this war: this plane went down in flames over Nanking on--(and he gives the day); this fight took place over Lanchow, this over Sian, this over Hankow. They are planes as they look from the air--quite a novel form, and I am wondering how aviators will regard them. He spent some time at the air-field here, learning types of machines, etc.

But the interesting ones are those done with the Chinese brush, scenes of battle or civilian life interrupted by war: some Buddhist nuns using Singer sewing machines for making hospital supplies; a deserted city, showing a city gate, with the only sign of life a flock of goats outside (by the way, he's an expert on sheep and goats); a peaceful Chinese family, and approaching them two soldiers on horseback, their horses plowing through the rice-fields, terror painted on the family's face; a line of amels in the north bringing in supplies; the panic at a city gate as three aeroplanes appear in the sky; China Industrial Coöperatives (weaving, spinning, etc.); refugees on the march; an aviator coming home; a woman and her two children outside a ruined home; a Chinese woman soldier in the north; a farmer and his son using unaccustomed guns from ambush; an aviator mending his clothes; men filling the tanks; girl scouts soliciting funds in Chungking; women's comfort corps in hospitals; Dr. Sun's mausoleum looking quiet and peaceful with an autumn-leafed tree in the foreground; barbed-wire entanglements; soldiers in the snow; men sweeping a landing field clear of snow, etc., etc.

You would enjoy it so much, and I hope you can see it when it goes west. More intensely significant are the pictures when one can read the Chinese poems that seem to fit the conditions now. The crowd that day was most interested.

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On Saturday this week the new Student Center on this campus is to be dedicated; and there are to be pictures and talkies taken by the Des Moines radio man. This morning Ettie went to Li Dze-djen's spinning exhibition-- 1,000 men in CIC spinning, a display for the same photographer. I hope she got some good pictures. From 4 - 6 the same afternoon was the Indoor Meet of the Physical Education Department, and the end of the Posture Competition-- our living-room has some very frightening pictures of what happens to the spine and the vital organs when we do not stand straight! Mrs. Macmillan, she received your telegram yesterday and wondered why you had not gotten the films already, for she thought they had been sent you about a month ago.

Yesterday in the weekly assembly period (5 - 6 on Wednesday) the faculty played against the students in volley-ball, and got a bad beating. Eva and I were attending a weekly meeting and did not get to it. On Monday in memorial service, we listened to Mother Chao, the Mother of the Guerrillas. I only wish I had had a movie camera to capture the intense interest shown on the faces of the girls as they listened to this energetic, 60-year-old woman, a commanding figure whom they wanted passionately to hear. Our room could have been filled two or three times with students of other colleges here who wanted to hear her also. She more than fills any room where she speaks.

I understand Dr. Wu isn't coming back today but will be here soon.

With the best of good wishes to you, Mrs. Macmillan,

Sincerely yours,

s/ Florence A. Kirk

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Part of a letter written by Florence Kirk to her family.

September 29th, 1940. - *Chengtu, China*

Here in our new home, No. 20, a house in Baptist Row, we have a Sabbath peace of mind, instead of the varied noises of a crowded dormitory, and are grateful - enough mindful of the faculty members who are still in the midst of the noise. Stella serves and Alice Bettlemeyer are practising English in the living-room, using a baby organ loaned to us for the year by Margaret and Alf Day. The unexpected gift of the organ is an indication of the generosity of many of our Chengtu friends. One big problem of our new abode was curtains, but from Mrs. Crawford's "chest" came yellow curtains for one study, lace curtains for the living-room (much joined, patched, etc. but possible for use); my bamboo splashed curtains adorn the dining-room; a pair of white Chinese ones belong to Lillian and used upstairs; Stella serves her white and green linen ones loaned of Miss Leonard. Mrs. Crawford's dinner table one night, and after seeing the chicken bones to be hung up on a smallish plate, she sent over a good-sized plate, and she said, "even was apologizing for having no tea-strainer, but I found a better one" an extra tea-strainer!" The difficult problem of plates seems gradually to be settling itself: five dinner plates from Mrs. Leonard (with a crack); eight from Mrs. ... five of that style, the others beautiful with the clever lines of ... tea-plates; from Mrs. ... five cups and saucers that match; various bowls, and plates; ... of us who live here and have bought from a ... we ... <sup>than yours</sup> ... life is getting pretty difficult for ... well-to-do people, ... are having to dispose of their nice things. ... we would try our best to give you a ... but we may not succeed. The silverware is ... Lillian bought a set of six, and ... spoons. ... on the street, table ... Lillian and myself.

Our family does not ... all the furniture, ... kitchen ware, kitchen stove (a great addition), some brass carpets. ... prices, and our uncertain future, we are ... to have to invest in furniture. Mr. Price thinks we may be back in ... the fall of 1941! So we ... that, and try not to invest too deeply in heavy furniture <sup>and other things</sup>. ... interested to hear about prices. The University of ... department of ... Economics sends ... various stores once a month a ... preliminary ... asks prices here and there. In the spring of 1937, prices are taken as 100, and here are the present month's index: workers 103; merchants 449; official and educational groups 457; general index 141. We are now going to try paying servants according to the index, which means that to-morrow when Ruth settles with the servants, she will be paying them a good deal more than usual. In the past months, the wages haven't risen much, but each month "rice help" was given, according to the month's average rice price. That meant some alleviation of conditions, but didn't help a servant buy a new gown, or shoes, or meat or vegetables.

You may be amused at one quandary we have ... and hope we have satisfactorily settled. We had a temporary ... and when we liked him and thought of making him permanent, we asked for letters of recommendation from former employers. He said he had worked at the Canadian School, but

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When the war broke out and the school moved to Jenchow, he went to the country. We wrote to Mr. Walmsley, and he said he had had two men by this name; one was deaf, and a good worker, the other was badly pocked marked and a rascal. But which we had, he had no idea. The quandary came, because although we had difficulty making him understand, we thought it might be mere dialect difficulty; and he was somewhat pock-marked. Rascal or not? Yesterday when I called him, and he did not hear me, I asked the boy why he could not hear, and he said, "Oh, his ears are very bad." He looks so genuinely honest, and he's deaf, so we are keeping him. Servants are at a premium, and we hated the thought of hunting a new one, and then training him. The name of the errand boy at our gate house is "Little Melon." He's a bright boy, and knows the campus well.

This compound shows the Dyells' love of beauty, for we have a nice lawn, and inner row of pretty shrub bamboos, and now chrysanthemums are about to bloom. We have one tree loaded with lemons - almost a gold mine here, two less valuable, and two persimmon trees, with strangely shaped fruit, square below, with a sort of shelf on top. We're very fond of persimmons, and have sampled these already. The tree behind the kitchen loaded with pomelos is a loss, for the fruit is not worth eating.

Ruth is in charge of the cook, and has supervised some preserving: melon jam, hairy plum jam (this mountain fruit is a strange species; it is said to resemble in taste <sup>some of the</sup> ~~any one of the following~~ fruits: strawberry, gooseberry, banana!) pear and ginger jam; tomato juice, grape juice; grape jelly that didn't jell. Here again we have fortune with us, for most beginners at housekeeping haven't any fruit jars, but they appeared miraculously in a limited quantity.

It seems as if one might make the slogan, "Buy now; for tomorrow the price will be higher." For instance, rice on Friday was \$14.50 a bushel; Saturday morning \$15; Saturday afternoon \$18, and it will go to \$20, it is said. We got 200 bundles of wood the other day, and were sorry we had delayed in buying that, but glad we hadn't delayed any longer. The whole price scale seems crazy; it can be seen especially in coal, for coal is produced in large quantities in this province. It is transported by water - and yet is an enormous price. I think profiteering, and great demand are two big factors, and in the case of rice, there is only a 50% crop this season. The Chengtu plain has a good yield, but off the plain it is poor.

We now have more than 190 students enrolled. You can imagine now this stretches to capacity our small dormitory. We faculty thought our 10 rooms were tiny for one person, but most of our former rooms now have <sup>two</sup> double-decker beds, that is, beds for four people. The housing situation is serious, for the Ginling overflow was to go into the new hospital which will not be used as a hospital this year. Now the West China faculty are here; since their new dormitory is unfinished, they cannot leave. The buildings have been held up because of the rice situation; men sometimes could not secure rice at any price, and when they could, the price was exorbitant. Their wages were insufficient, and they demanded immediate raises in wages. Their strike meant that much of the building on the campus was delayed.

<sup>Our quarters</sup>  
~~In our house, we have put six people in what is considered a small house, where there were formerly two, but we think the rooms are spacious.~~ <sup>faculty members, housed in a house built for</sup>  
It is all a question of relative values. Ruth and I share the large room, stairs, and have a joint office downstairs; there was some thought of making this office into a bedroom, but we found it just had to be a general room, for it was needed as a passageway from dining-room to living-room.

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hence the doubling up. Stella has the next largest room, under the gable, and she may share for a while with Catharine when she comes. Downstairs, two rooms have been converted into bedrooms; one for Miss Rhodes, and the other now used for Chen Pin-dji as part of the dormitory overflow. Over in the house next door, Alice Settlemyer has a room, and she eats and lives with us. She may be sharing her room at any time with Alice Chang. Dr. Reeves is at Mrs. Small's where she was last year; Lillian is with the Meuser's though she would like to be here, if there were room. When we have more than eight to a meal, we desert our tiny dining-room which is conveniently near the kitchen, and have a larger table in the big living-room which is such a joy to us all. The Faculty Retreat will likely be held this next Sunday in this room. ~~It is by far the best entertainment room Ginling has had in Chengtu.~~ *For hospitality*

The dormitory looks fresh. ~~The~~ walls were calomined, the floors stained ~~during~~ the summer vacation. Miss Ozo Lu-lin was saying that some time ago when she was ordering the furniture for the new faculty rooms, she thought it wouldn't be finished in time; now she is afraid it will be finished immediately - and there's no place to store it! The hallway upstairs these days looks very refugee-like - the narrow hall is lined on one side with dressers, and wash stands, and tables, and desks from faculty ~~in~~ rooms. When faculty double up in the tiny rooms, there isn't room for all their furniture. They are remarkably good-natured about it all.

*I.* Here are a few flashes from our daily life. Alice Settlemyer coming home jubilant. She had made a trip into town on the newly acquired second-hand bicycle, and had neither fallen off, or run into anyone, nor been run into!

*II.* Mrs. Wang ~~going to the store~~ *going to the store to get the next and Sunday rice* getting out the day's supply of rice from the store-room. It must have been a dark evening when the dormitory had no rice for the next day, but they did not go hungry for Dr. Wu was able to borrow a "tan" of rice from a friend! *There was even a "tan" of rice from a friend!*

*III.* Dr. Reeves giving me a lesson in ~~how to control~~ *the* mosquito larvae in our back yard. The delayed ~~West China~~ *West China* faculty dormitory meant that ~~our sewage disposal~~ *our sewage disposal* was interfered with, and the mosquitos ~~thrived~~ *have*. I'm afraid I wasn't a very apt pupil, but the coolie with a little instruction has done the work, and we are better now. The bird bath had to be disposed of for the time being.

*IV.* ~~making~~ *arranging* schedules. It was a bad enough task in the old days in Nanking, but here, when the schedules of other universities cannot be secured until after our registration, ~~it is a Herculean labor.~~ *late* After classes were set going, Ruth spent practically ten days on the business, and odd times after that.

*V.* A new experiment by the English department, night classes for ~~the~~ *members* faculty, one in Reading and Conversation, and another in Composition. The University of Nanking takes one and we the other.

*VI.* ~~English Department~~ *English Department* Liu En-lan jubilant because "tomorrow" she can sit up for an hour, sit up in a chair the day after tomorrow, and teach the day after. We realize it was hard to have a bout of dysentery so soon after arriving.

*VII.* One morning last week, three faculty members arrived, all ready to lead chapel! We cannot forget such enthusiasm! The Committee have ~~not divulged~~ *made* the reason for this phenomenon.

Florence A. Kirk

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Ginling College,  
Chengtu, Szechwan, Nov. 17, 1940

Dear Friend,

Greetings on this glorious Autumn morning! The sun is brightening our too-often grey skies, and making the house interiors gay. The special flower of China at this season- the chrysanthemum - is vivid, but one cold night made these hardy flowers droop. Shy violets sprinkled on the lawn remind me how inside out this climate is. We have just transplanted lettuce and celery out-of-doors, and last Saturday I had a new experience -helping to pick our lemon crop (123 lemons!) There were still lemon blossoms on the trees. We miss the autumn colors; even yet most trees are green. The jungle trees are a golden glory.

This year six of our foreign staff have a mission house on Baptist Row while the family is on furlough in the United States. Our "Paradise on West China campus"- as one Chinese visitor called it when he saw it in the moonlight - is one half a duplex(plus the big central living-room) a story and a half plaster construction building. The grounds are most satisfying: lawn, double row of strange varieties of bamboos, zinnias, chrysanthemums, rose bushes, etc. Lillian is happily situated just round the corner with the Meuser-Day household, but I often she were here with me. It is a great joy to have a place of our own. The big living-room is in demand for Faculty Retreat, class gatherings, parties of tutors and "tutees", committee meetings, etc. The faculty came to tea on regular days, alternating with the two other dormitories.

Housekeeping is never dull in China. We have the uncomfortable certainty that we are being "squeezed" generously. At any rate, it is good to have servants who never complain about guests, and entertaining, for a good deal goes on. Some of us are beginning to "catch up" on our social obligations of the past two years. Our Chinese language is limited, and we get some surprising results. For instance, when Ruth kept insisting that we have "sweet potatoes", we were given "sweetened" Irish potatoes, so well camouflaged with beef gravy, that we thought we were getting the real thing. The cook didn't understand her term for sweet potatoes! Our cook who scrubs floors, carries water, coal, ashes, tends ~~fires~~ stoves, peels vegetables, etc. has a very sweet smile, but he's deaf, and we are never sure how our orders are going to be carried out. For instance, when I sent him to Mrs. Meuser's for a basket of "hairy plums" she had brought us from the mountains, he made a mistake, went to Mrs. Hibbard's, demanded the plums, and brought home some. About two weeks later, when I was trying to find the owner of the basket, I found out the error. Mrs. Hibbard <sup>and</sup> often have a good laugh about those plums.

*based on conversation*  
The cooks have an intimate understanding about prices, borrowing ~~from~~ each other, etc. I was astonished several times to find a cook from nearby in our kitchen pulling pans of cookies out of the oven, and fresh biscuits at breakfast time. It turned out that his stove wasn't very good, so this was an easy makewhiff! Of course <sup>our</sup> household benefits too, for cups have miraculously appeared when more than seven <sup>appeared</sup> ~~appeared~~ for tea (~~our total number was seven, and some of those~~ <sup>we only</sup> were beautifully rivetted), we had individual custards when we owned no custard cups, we had salad dressing when our vinegar wasn't yet brewed, etc. We have a rule now, that we shall know what borrowing takes place.

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Quite a little drama was enacted in our back-yard on Thursday afternoon from 1 to 2. We were getting in five tons of coal. We had been told that the coolies who bring the coal had 39 different tricks to get the best of the patron (hiding pieces of coal in the empty baskets, hiding pieces in their long garments that they took off as they became too hot at work, false scales, etc. The racket is recognized, and whatever they can get away with they are paid for by the coal-merchant. We were determined that at least they should be watched! So four amateurs gathered in the back yard with the coal baskets all around, and the weighing was started. We had been canny enough to borrow a neighbor's scales. Ruth and Catherine had pencils and paper to record the weights; a guest saw to the scales, and I was just a pair of eyes at work. It was important to see that no basket was weighed a second time, no pieces of coal transferred from a weighed basket to one still unweighed, etc. One difficulty was that there were so many coolies that we knew we were no match for their organization. Well, we discovered five tricks: the two queer-looking individuals who did the weighing lifted the baskets up from the ground, but they pushed their elbows against the scales, put their ~~and~~ <sup>arms</sup> down from above, shoved against the basket with their knees, stepped on a piece of rope conveniently hanging from below the baskets. One time I saw the knee movement clearly - though it was difficult to perceive it, for the man wore a long gown - and I insisted that the basket be re-weighed. The next time, it was five pounds lighter. The fifth trick was that as I was locking the coal-house door, a coolie carried out a long piece of lumber. I didn't know whether it was ours or not, so I said, "Is that lumber yours?" Another man answered quickly, "No, it's not ours." A minute later and it would have been theirs beyond a doubt. That our eyes became more alert was proved by the fact that the baskets got consistently lighter. Also one mystery was that though before we started weighing both Catherine and I counted 32 baskets, there were finally 33! And there were 33 empty baskets to prove it.

We are fortunate in having an excellent cook. His brown and white bread disappears so fast that it must seem discouraging. His days are busy enough, for he refines sugar, makes home-made postum, refines salt, makes vinegar, in addition to the regular jams, marmalades, and pickles. The table-boy has a daily chore before breakfast - to make the butter from cream skimmed off the pan of boiled milk. He puts the cream in a bowl, and beats it with a spoon. We get enough for breakfast, but generally we use peanut butter for other meals... an excellent grade of peanut butter made by our Sociology Department in a project for needy women. We felt recently that the milk was getting poorer and poorer. When we tested it with a lactometer, we found it had 62% water added! The protest has been showing results, but we never know how long the cream content will be up to standard. A story is told here about a missionary who thought lots of water was going into his milk. He took an ordinary clinical thermometer out to the kitchen, plunged it into the milk, and said, "And it's rain water too!" Whereupon the cook protested, "No, it's quite clean water."

On the campus this year are 1,800 students, belonging to five institutions. I feel the faculties are really getting acquainted and learning to co-operate. The Five Universities' Faculty Christian Fellowship which meets on one Saturday afternoon each month has brought the teachers together in quite a wonderful way. Last summer we had joint Baccalaureate and Commencement services - an achievement in co-operation, involving careful planning and thought. The students are learning to know their

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brothers and sisters from other parts of China, but there are jealousies and misunderstandings still. The Student Centre opened last spring fills a great need, and a visit there after supper shows filled rooms with students playing all kinds of games, reading, chatting, while typewriting classes and committee meetings are going on in small rooms. Now the student bodies of the institutions are busy giving programmes for relief; for the students in Kunming who lost everything in recent bombings, for winter garments for soldiers, for famine areas in the north, etc. There is no auditorium on the campus which begins to hold any crowd that gathers for a concert. One night there was a movie outside, and the loud speaker blared all over the campus. Church services are much better attended and choirs and glee clubs attaining higher standards. ~~Now~~ "The Messiah" is in preparing for Christmas week, and soon we shall be hearing carols.

There is more and more exchange of students, particularly for advanced courses. One good example of co-operation is that in the Sociology department, Dr. Lewis Smythe of the University of Nanking is giving two courses just for Ginling students, no student of that university having elected them. Dr. Liu En-lan gives geography courses for West China, and so it goes. In religious groups there is a fine mixing of students. Also in the International Relations Club, and English Club, various universities unite. There are various wall-newspapers on bulletin boards here and there: Mathematics Club; Science Journal; English Club, etc. Now that the price of paper has soared, this is an efficient and interesting way of broadcasting. Board has risen sharply, and many students would have to leave school if it were not for special grants given to them. To give nutritious food within a possible figure is not easy; the students say they are always hungry. Most of them have little money these days to go to the "Tip Top" restaurant just off the campus, or to go out to buy oranges, eggs (27 cents each), candy, cookies, which used to fill out their sparse diets. In some places in this province there is a noticeable increase of beri-beri among students. The faculties-especially the lower-salaried clerks and office-staffs of middle schools, and some universities, have struck in protest at unchanged salaries in the face of the sharp rise of rice and other commodities. The Government is subsidizing for rice, and trying to meet the situation. ~~If the price index is set at 100 in the~~ spring, 1937, prices <sup>have</sup> jumped to 400 in August, and are now more than 700. Some families pay 90% of their salary just to buy rice! This means that they have little <sup>for</sup> vegetables and no meat, and almost never any new clothes. The sad fact is that they are undernourished and ill-clad.

Yesterday afternoon we had the keen enjoyment of hearing a young French explorer (geographer and geologist) speak at a meeting of the Border Regions Society. He and his friend last May were visitors at the society's meeting, and started off north gaily. They wanted to chart the course of a river previously unexplored. They reached a part where anarchy reigned, where tribal chieftains had control, and there his friend was murdered by a party that attacked the ~~group of~~ five men on a narrow mountain pass. All their equipment, maps and instruments were lost. Recently this one man returned to Tachienly, after five months away from newspapers, and found he was a man without a country, and without a job. As far as any news is concerned, he is without a family too. He paid a tribute to his gallant friend who had died for an ideal, without wealth, without honor. This chap is trying to arrange to join France's Free army in Africa. His simply told account of the catastrophe was moving, revealing the fundamental heroism of pioneers, and of the stark realism of regions where no good government is in

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control.

China is more and more conscious of her border peoples. The governors of these provinces are co-operating with the Central Government, and it is a literal fact that there has never before in China's history been such unity. When I think of China's weaknesses, I remember the enormity of the task of controlling this continent of a nation. There were 70 millions in this one province before it was divided two years ago! So many of her problems are aggravated because of the very extent, the sharp variations in customs and language, etc. This summer from this campus a group of 80-90 college students spent their vacation among the Gerung tribe in the northern part of Szechwan, and what enthusiastic reports they brought back of their own people (Chinese, though originally from quite different stock), their friends made this summer, their fascinating tribal songs and dances, their independent character and friendliness. The students walked for several days to their working centres, did health, political, and educational propaganda, and were more helped than the people they went to serve. They gave a programme when they returned. How I wish you could have been there to watch modern Chinese students on the platform, and to see a Chinese audience thrilled by what they say of some of their own country. China is being discovered - by her own people. Perhaps some of you will read "China Rediscovered Her West", the new mission study book. It is a great book.

November 25

No doubt you will have heard of China's troubles with Communism. In recent months there was, in the north, clashes between Government and Red armies. You can understand the natural misunderstandings inevitable between two groups so differently constituted, but it seems as though the main troubles were smoothed out, and that in certain areas the Communists may have some part in making the new China. There are often rumours of peace, too, but the Central Government will have none of them - short of Japan taking every soldier off the soil of China. There are counter-factions, of course, profiteers, traitors, but what country does not have the same diseases in wartime? Reconstruction goes on. The co-operatives thrill all who see them at work, and the land settlement schemes of refugees is a romantic tale. What joy there was at the news that the Burma Road has been re-opened. It is becoming the new object of attack, but supplies roll in over that same wonderful road. The evacuation schemes in the case of possible armed conflict between America and Japan, is causing disturbance in eastern China, but the movements do not seem to apply to this interior province. Rumour is the new epidemic which spreads worse than any plague, but we try to discredit wild tales. The students are remarkably calm and sensible. They streamed out to the country during the four raids on Chengtu in October, but have been able to settle down to work this month. Their good balance and sense of humour are great qualities in this time of stress.

One doesn't like to dwell long on the European situation and the ordeal by fire that England is undergoing. I hate to think of France, the Netherlands, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the other countries daily coming under the iron heel of Nazism. It is sad to think that the country that gave us the Christmas tree and many good carols should now have so completely forgotten the angels' song. I wonder what Canada and United States can do to make the lot of military dictators more difficult.

To you who believe in Christmas, I send the seasons' greetings, and  
 W1 good wishes for a good 1940. I hope to go on furlough in June 1941,  
 to study some more in the States.

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APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

1. Name in full: Florence Ada Kirk.
2. Home address: c/o my eldest brother, M. Roy Kirk, MacLennan, Ont., Canada.
3. Present address: Ginling College, Chengtu, Szechwan, China (until June 20, 1941).
4. Place of birth: Kirkton, Ont., Canada.
5. Date of birth: April 15, 1902.
6. Nationality: British.
7. Summary of education:
  - 1920 - graduated from High School, Regina, Sask.
  - 1920-21 - one year's training in education at Saskatoon Normal School, Saskatoon, Sask.
  - 1922-5 - Undergraduate work at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.  
Major: English; Minor: French.
  - 1925 - B.A. with High Honors.
  - 1927-9 - Half time at M.A. degree work, and half time as Reader to the English Department.
  - 1929 - M.A. degree in English and French.
8. Summary of professional work:
  - ~~1922-3~~ - Teaching in a small town school, Salvador, Sask.
  - 1925-7 - Teaching chiefly languages in a combination Public and High School, Bounty, Sask.
  - 1927-9 - Half-time Reader to the English Department, the University of Saskatchewan.
  - 1929-30 - Teacher of languages at Yellow Grass, Sask.
  - 1930-2 - Teacher of English at Regina College (Junior College), Regina, Sask.
  - 1932-40 - Teacher of English at Ginling College, Nanking, and later at Chengtu, China. Since 1938, Head of the English Department.
9. Languages:
  - French: This was a favorite subject in High School, and my Minor during undergraduate and graduate work.
  - Latin: I have studied this throughout High School.
  - Greek: I have had Junior Matriculation Greek (three years of High School Greek).
  - German: One year's study with private tutor (a reading knowledge).
10. My proposed field of study is in the field of Comparative Literature. I should like to become a candidate for the Ph.D. degree.
11. Date of probable entrance: September, 1941.
12. Academic Record: I have written to the Registrar, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, asking him to send an official transcript of my undergraduate and graduate marks, directly to you.
13. Letters of Recommendation: I have asked the Heads of the English and French Departments, University of Saskatchewan, to write directly to you. Also I have requested Dr. Stapleford, former president of Regina College, and Dr. Wu Yi-fang, president of Ginling College, to write concerning my work in these two institutions.

Signed:

Florence A. Kirk

December 16, 1940  
Chengtu, Sze.

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Chengtu, Sunday, February 9, 1941

Dear Mrs. MacMillan, and Minnie,

I want to tell you about my holiday trip to Jenshow where I saw the Ginling Rural Station in action. It is a piece of courageous, inspired work, a new thing in that community, and indeed, a rare thing in the interior. Those in charge must find it a great responsibility, for they are charting out new fields; on the other hand, they see more clearly than in long established work the results of their efforts—which is a most satisfying thing. How I wish that you might see it, for when I was there I thought to myself, "Well, I have heard a great deal about Jenshow, but I did not know it would be like this." And so I know that our reports are so imperfect in passing on the reality.

Five of us went to Jenshow, three of these Ginling faculty: Ruth Chester, Alice Settlemyer and I. We got away just in time to reach there on New Year's Eve, and this meant that our travel was more expensive than usual. However, it was an experience to travel in the country around the New Year Season. So we had two days' leisurely travel through beautiful countryside. The weather was dull, and chilly. We were told to put on all the warm clothes we had; for "You cannot be too warm". I had several layers on, cushions in the rickshaw, a steamer rug, a hot water bottle. You can picture our household getting started one Saturday morning at dawn (near seven o'clock), bedding rolls, washbasins, camp cots, baskets of sandwiches, hot water bottles, rugs, small suitcases! One might think we were off for a Polar expedition. Half an hour to the East Gate, and then we got the long distance rickshaws, and were off.

There is no more leisurely and interesting mode of travel than by rickshaw (though if you have no luggage, a "hwa kan" is more comfortable). Already the spell of the New Year season had descended upon the country: no one was in the fields at work; the graves were newly decorated with white paper streamers punched in patterns; at every earth shrine along the road someone was burning a couple sticks of incense; the houses of the towns we passed through had their red paper New Year strips above and at each side of the doorways; people were homeward bound for the festivities; wayside restaurants no longer catered for customers; it was difficult for the rickshaw coolies to get other coolies to change off; a festive atmosphere was in the air; men on the road were carrying home larger pieces of fresh pork than usual; green vegetables were drying on the thatched roofs; new gowns appeared here and there, and hair was now cut.

We exclaimed over the beauty of the scenery: the green patches—wheat fields, peas, beans with purple black and white flowers, fresh peas with white and pink blossoms. We passed from the level plain at the end of the first half day, and branched off at the same time from the river; in vegetation we went through first the region of the typical Chengtu bamboo and willow trees and "lan-mu" into the pine region, and later into the spruce, fir, pistachio, pride of India, and "tung" oil trees. The farther we went, the more low fields we saw filled with water. This surprised us for we had heard a good deal of the drought that threatened famine unless rains came to give moisture. Last year the farmers had the same threat and this year they have been building higher walls around the fields, and conserving every drop of water they could. We saw several farmers on our return trip busy at the higher-wall construction. The

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result was that we had mirrors all along the way, and in them we saw the overhanging tung oil trees, the lines of blue figures on their way to market, the blue-grey hills off the plain, the picturesque wheelbarrow plaques.

The hilly country did something to our souls... gave us a sense of exhilaration after the dead level of this plain. At the same time we began to experience the thrill of the speedy descent as the rickshaw coolies raced down the hills, a toe touching the ground now and then. When the thought came, "What if he should stumble now?" we put it resolutely aside, and heaved a breath of relief when we reached the levels once more. The second day we got into the mountain region with real hair-pin curves and longer steeper hills. The rickshaw went careering down the slopes wildly. Some of us preferred to walk across and down the curves and find the ricksaws waiting for us at the foot. We had a glorious hour's walk over the mountain with views of either hand one might go a long distance to see. The general custom is for the coolies to get others to take the rickshaws over the mountain. I got a woman as puller - a new experience for me. She was young and inexperienced, and though I pitied the hard life that drives her to do such work, I was glad to see my original coolie again. She had help from behind, a woman and a boy shoving up the hills.

Alice had the only accident of the trip - when going down a steep hill, the coolie suddenly appeared up in the air hanging on to the shafts, and the rickshaw suddenly overturned, putting Alice on the road, and the coolie in the ditch. The coolie was a bit shaken and dazed, but Alice had only a few scratches on her wrist and some stiffness the next day.

The farther away from Chengtu we went, the more colorful the country appeared, for the rape was just coming into bloom. Here and there were the bright yellow patches, fresh and springlike. Occasional flowering plum near a thatched farm house brightened our eyes.

The staying half way at an inn was the usual interesting experience. Dark had descended on us before our cots were put up and beds made by the aid of an oil lamp with the tiny round wick that is gotten from the inside sheath of a wild grass. We had supper in a restaurant, good hot Chinese food, and finished off at the inn with cookies and oranges.

At dark the second day we saw in front of us a four-tiered pagoda and realized that Jenchow was near. Just underneath is the Ginling College Service station - perhaps a fitting symbol of the old looking on at the new in China. It is an airy, graceful structure, pitifully marked by neglect. We found a warm welcome from Miss Highbaugh and her workers and the dozen Ginling students who had gone out for service in the holidays. Here, I felt, was another Ginling, a Ginling in a rural community.

The week's activities that followed were hectic enough, but I retired for two days because of a heavy cold, so saw only part of what went on. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, the ~~square~~ square open courtyard swarmed with country people. It made little difference to say to the farmers, their wives and children, and to the Jenchow townspeople, "The Exhibit doesn't open till ten o'clock. It is only 8:30 now.."

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The people answered "Yes," and kept on with their observation of all the preparations going on, but did not think of leaving and coming back. In the ~~dining-room~~ dining-room, several Ginling girls were using Chinese brush for many posters; in one room the display of children's clothing was being hung up, and roped off to keep the crowd back; in another the exhibit of children's toys and playthings was prepared, in another the food and vegetables display, in another the embroidery exhibits, etc. Alice busied herself in helping a girl prepare the model bedroom (bed, attractive handworked cover, mosquito net, local brass basin, open window, inexpensive curtains, etc.) and thereafter she stayed in that room to guard the display, saying that she was much more of an exhibit than the room itself. We scarcely knew her in Irma's Chinese style clothes. Another room was a model attractive living-room with newspapers around, wicker furniture, pretty curtains, tea-table, etc. I helped a little with setting up the platform chairs and table, and the table and chairs for the more than thirty important guests who had to be served with tea. It was a scene of merry confusion, and the work was not helped by the incoming expectant crowds.

Installed at the gate was a table and student to register those who visited. The first day more than eight thousand came! The next two days five and four thousand came. We needed the several University of Nanking Two-year course boys who acted as policemen and kept the crowds from filling every room so that nothing could be seen or heard. The county magistrate opened the exhibit with quite a nice ceremony, Feng Gia-wen explained the meaning of it to the crowd and welcomed them, and then the crowd surged round. I wasn't of much use, but stayed a good deal of that first day in the children's clothing room to see that the exhibit did not disappear. Picture a room twelve by fifteen, with two boys at the door and a bamboo pole stretched across to keep the crowd back. The pole would drop and twenty or thirty would almost fall over the footboard across the threshold, then the pole would bar the doorway once more. The children almost looked upon it as a game, and gleefully teased the guards when they managed to creep through in spite of the bar. Once inside the crowd was started at one corner and Feng Gia-wen explained to them the meaning of the garments hanging round the room: that this hand-woven cotton, pretty as it was, was too narrow for practical purposes, and they should make it two inches wider; that this child's gown was too tight, and did not allow the child enough freedom of movement; that instead of the split trousers, it would be better to have closed style like this; that this minutely handworked cross-stitch apron for a child was impractical, for it took too many days' work to do, and just as pretty effects could be achieved with less work; that children were too often dressed in dark black and blue clothes; this was a pretty pattern for a sun-suit in hot weather, etc.

I liked to observe the crowd. Often there wasn't much comprehension on their faces, and when someone said the handworked aprons were too elaborate, they continued to say, "Pretty." There were some, however, who asked questions, who were ready to learn, who were thinking. They were passed on to the toy room, one that aroused great interest. In China the children and adults haven't learned to play, and as if to give practical demonstration of the value of play, outside in an open space were groups games going on, supervised by one or two of the students. There were hundreds watching the games, the children learning quickly.

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The angora rabbits excited attention. The embroideries- their own exhibits- always drew a crowd; The banner for the family getting the most prizes went to the family named Liu, and they proudly displayed fifteen li away in the country their red satin banner in their ancestral hall.

Every morning and afternoon there were interesting items of programme: a fashion show, displaying proper women's clothing for school, athletics, dress-up, etc. The girls gave some of the tribal songs and dances learned this last summer in north Szechwan; Alice played the cello, the Canadian School children sang, and brought their instruments. There were short talks, and group singing. No girl was idle, but everyone kept a remarkably calm, happy poise throughout the busy hours. At four, from the platform an announcement was made that the day's programme was over, and the people streamed away home.

At night there were prayers, plans for the morrow, discussion of the value of the type of exhibits, etc.

Then towards the end of the week, I had a day each in two country centres where the group of students had gone for four days' service. In each case, their central place of operations is the ancestral hall of the chief clan of the district. On Friday we walked the eight li to the Wang clan valley, our spirits lightened by the loveliness of the fields, hills and trees; When we arrived, three girls were busy getting dinner ready; they had been visiting some of the 39 Wang families in the clan, and came home with newly bought vegetables for the meal. We climbed to the top of a hill and saw there the Heavenly Light, a lamp put on the top of a long pole, lit every night at twilight, and said to keep disease and disagreements away from the community. The various families contribute to the oil to keep the light lit the two weeks from the end of the old year to the fifteenth day of the first month, Lantern Festival Day. From that hilltop we had a glorious view of the countryside, the black barked pistachio trees dark landmarks. We met some of the visiting girls coming from their morning's work, returned with them to the ancestral hall, watched the dinner cooked in the single iron "ke", had the delicious feed, and then rested. Three of us found resting places in a tall pistachio tree, with gnarled roots providing seats, and read.

It was Health Day with the Wang clan. About 3 the people began to assemble, blue-clad, white turbaned. They stood looking at the open-air-theatre of the inside court, or sat on benches or on the stone steps. There were songs which the children joined in, a health play telling about general health rules. We left about 4:30 as the crowd were leaving for their homes. This clan, with 1,500 years history, originated in Shantung, and moved successively to Anhwei, Hupeh, Szechwan.

At the Liu Clan ancestral Hall on Saturday, it was Citizens' Day. This newly-opened centre had already enthusiasm among the people, partly perhaps because the clan had asked for a centre for several months. It is a wealthy clan consisting of 100 families, and they trace their history back 500 years, as the tablets in the hall told us. The previous day, the prosperous-looking Liu men asked if they might give a play. This was exciting news to our two permanent workers, and the students. To think that already the men offered to supply the programme was surprising and thrilling. Mr. Veals, from Jenchow, helped them prepare it - a war play covering life the last three years.

We arrived after our 15-li walk about 11 o'clock. I had a chance to go visiting with a group of girls who stopped in at the hall. For an

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hour and a half five of us visited nearby families, some of the wealthiest of the whole district. We travelled entirely on the narrow paths between the water-filled rice fields. One of the young boys of the clan was our guide, telling us the names of the families, and acting as guard against the villainous dogs that growled, barked, crept up inquiringly with no good intent. I was amazed at the welcome the girls received, and I as a foreigner excited no special interest. I learned that in the spring Miss Dze, the nurse and midwife, had come through that area giving small-pox vaccinations and typhoid inoculations, and she had won over the people. She was followed by two Chelee fifth-year medical students, and the whole district had accepted the new scientific treatment eagerly. Miss Dze is a wonder in her way of getting to know the women; she joked with them, urged them to come to the meetings, scolded them for not doing as she had told about some illness, etc. It was a wonderful tour of visiting.

In the courtyards, radishes were sliced and drying. From the rafters of the overhanging roofs were dried rice and peas (for seed, I suppose), large woven baskets for drying grain were piked up, the unused fanning-mills were there, the tables and chairs for eating out-of-doors, the inevitable spinning-wheel, and in one wealthy home, big vats for making their "Kaoliang" wine. It was interesting in the afternoon to see most of these women at the centre.

The afternoon's performance was out-of-doors, with a platform made by the leading-men, a banner above announcing the meeting, and displayed prominently their banner for prizes at the Jenschow exhibit. The crowd of seven or eight hundred people found it amusing to see their own friends and relatives on the platform in the patriotic play. The programme lasted about 4; then the Mothers' and Girls' Club met. The nurse, Miss Dze, was one of the main actors in a halath play that was most dramatic and realistic. She played the double role of the old-fashioned, and the modern scientifically trained midwife. The crowd enjoyed it immensely. This new centre should do well. Wei Dzen-dze, 1939, and Hsiung Ya-na, who has just finished in the middle of the year, are the team there; they have a fine chance to put Christianity into practice. At the Wang centre, Feng Gia-wen is alone, except for a district helper. She would be much more powerful if she had a trained comrade with her.

And so a busy week went by, and we were once more on the road. The nearer we got to Chengtu, the more crowded the roads began to be, and we realized that the New Year was past, and life was going on as usual. In the villages at evening, the children dragged around their bunny lanterns, but fewer people just sat and talked. Men were at work digging up their fields for new crops; pigs, tobacco, wood, cakes of unrefined sugar, loads of paper were carried along the winding, up and down hill roads. Pink incense sticks sunned in the bright air; markets were thranged (I remember seeing young chicks for sale, and white rabbits). Loads of sugar-cane were every day consumed by children and grown-ups. The prevalence of eye trouble everywhere made us think, "Oh, to be a medical missionary, and to begin now!"

Now we are back at school; the students walked one day back (Alice with them). Life may seem to go on as usual, but we may be able from this glimpse of life in the country be able to direct students to work in this needy field.

*With all good wishes,  
Sincerely,  
Florence Knapp*

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Dear Mrs. Macmillan,  
Many thanks for your nice letter to William and me. I hope to send some snap soon from the Kwachan trip - not taken with my camera.  
Lorraine

Chengtu, Sunday, February 23, 1941

Dear Mrs. Macmillan, and other Ginling friends,

Last Sunday we had a Faculty Retreat in our No. 25 Baptist Row House. The large living-room is ideal for such a gathering; it is said to be the largest living-room on the campus. This time, it was shorter, finishing with lunch together. We were happy to have two of the men faculty with us. Many of us felt that the shorter time was an improvement. The subject was: "Victorious Christian Living."

More than thirty faculty attended, and I felt that there was a splendid spirit of understanding and fellowship. The last two retreats we have discussed the problems facing us here, and I thoroughly enjoyed going back to original motives and attitudes in living; it seems to me that if there were more victory in our living, some of the problems would disappear. The Committee, Dr. Reeves, Miss Sutherland, Miss Dzo Yu-lin had done careful thoughtful planning which brought results.

Dr. Reeves opened the retreat with one of the finest informal talks I have ever heard; she pointed out some of the great things in life - the love and worship of beauty, the attainment of peace, the harmony of living together in which petty jealousies, envyings, etc. were forgotten in the greater emphasis on love. She pointed out that people grew by sharing with others their own experiences, that the spiritual things are to be sought above all else. She had been reading Lord Tweedsmuir's Memoirs, and had been impressed by his fine sympathy for loveliness and beauty.

There followed a quarter of an hour silence for us to listen to God and talk with Him. It brought a blessing to us all. Afterwards some spoke of examples of vital Christian living, either times when they themselves had realized freshly what it meant, or how it vivified the lives of their friends. Catherine told us simply of her experimenting with some of the commands of God as given by Christ: Love your enemies, etc. She pointed out her idea that we are not expected to quickly attain Christian character, but we must grow by a process of trial and error.

Since we are teachers, the Committee arranged for a review of the life of a famous teacher, so I told about the life and work of Dr. Thomas Arnold of Rugby. Catherine had remembered a review I gave of him in Nanking, so urged that it be done again. I wished for Stanley's life of Arnold that is on a shelf in Ginling, but had to makeshift with the little available here.

As a sort of recess, we moved around to look at a display of religious books which were available for loan, or chatted with other faculty members for half an hour. Then Mr. Lutley, of the C.M.S. gave the final part of the retreat programme. He began with a

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period of meditation and worship based on 1Cor. 13. When he began his talk he said that when we spoke of a Christian Retreat it was like a canal boat in a lock: the boat had to spend time to rise to higher levels before going on. I have never heard a better illustration for this time of quiet, for it makes the Retreat idea more constructive than appears on the surface.

He gave four points of Victorious Christian Living: the necessity of surrender, and of frequent surrender; the necessity of "maintaining the spiritual glow" (or "Keep your consecration up to the light of each succeeding day"); the importance of an unshakable conviction of the love of God (which came upon him anew when in his own life his eldest son was suddenly taken from them); the necessity of witnessing for God. To illustrate this last point he told about a minister speaking about a humble member of his congregation in the man's presence: "His business is making shoes." The man himself said, "No, my business is to glorify God; I earn my bread by making shoes."

Then came the combination Chinese-foreign lunch provided by the generosity of Dr. Reeves and Catherine, and managed by Dzo Yu-lin. We had plenty of baked sweet potatoes, cinnamon rolls, rice, bamboo sprouts, chicken velvet (really a modified form of this delectable dish), abundance of hot meat and vegetable soup, and for dessert a sweet bean dish, oranges and candy. It was delicious.

*quote under notes in brief.*  
The Christian Faculty Fellowship of the five universities had its monthly meeting yesterday afternoon. There were not so many there as usual (perhaps 50), but the programme was most interesting: Dr. Ray Kepler's talk on the tin mines south of Kunming, and the awful conditions under which 100,000 young boys, averaging 14-15 years of age, work. These mines are under private ownership, and are a marked contrast to the well-organized and run government mines. The Church of Christ in China is initiating a campaign for better laws and enforcement to cover such privately-run mines, and for Christian medical and other work. This was followed by a short account of some aspects of life in the Northwest, told by Mr. Lauten <sup>schlager</sup> who has just returned. You know Mr. Lauten has for most people shorted his name, leaving off the -schlager that we use. He is a popular speaker, and does a great deal for the large number of students in this campus. A simple tea of cookies and tea concluded the meeting.

*2/23/41*  
Last night we had the first rain of any account since October. Liu En-lan says that she and her geography students began their weather records (the instruments are in our yard, so we see her <sup>or her</sup> majors <sup>or her</sup> come four times a day) on November 12, and they have never recorded rainfall! And we are accustomed to think of this as a wet climate! The country beyond the irrigated Chengtu plain is in dire need of lots of rain; the threatened famine gives another reason for rice to jump <sup>in price</sup> - though it is now \$37. a "to". To-day the air is gloriously clear; it is likely that the Snow Mountains of Tibet were visible this morning, but I forgot to look. Sincerely,  
*Lawrence A. King*

0575

*Florence Kirk*

March 9, 1941

Dear Mrs. Cronkhite:

President Wu Yi-fang writes that she has already sent to Miss Constock the name of Florence Kirk, Professor of English at Ginling, who is to be continuing graduate study in America next year. I enclose herewith further information which has just arrived by Clipper post, and shall be glad to have your comment on this point at your convenience. In a long-hand note attached to the papers, Dr. Wu says that she is not inclined to feel that Radcliffe is first choice for Miss Kirk. You will know that this remark does not indicate that Dr. Wu has any lack of appreciation for Radcliffe's pre-eminent position as a center of graduate study. Dr. Wu's exact words are:

"Personally, I am inclined to think that it is better for Miss Kirk to go to some one of the other universities than Radcliffe. She is rather all-round and even, but not particularly brilliant in her academic work."

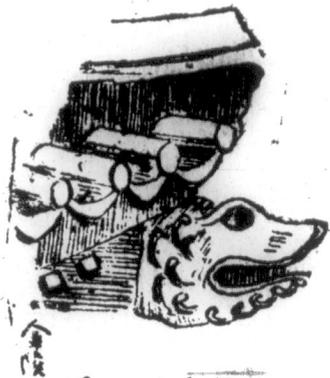
Sincerely yours,

Mrs. T. D. Mcmillan

EEM/h  
Enclosure

Dean Bernice Cronkhite  
Fay House, Radcliffe College  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

0576



Easter Sunday  
1941

Dear Minnie,

The best good wishes for joy  
on this nice Easter Day - though  
they will reach you months late.  
Our flowers have been gorgeous:  
roses, "seven li perfume", calendula,  
misteria. Now the violets are  
beginning, and the azaleas are  
at their best. We are so blessed to  
have this nice retreat.

The Easter services were full  
of hope. You will remember the  
girls who were baptized this  
morning: Yang Sing-chung, and  
Diao Liu-chin. The cala lilies  
reminded us of home.

Much love, Minnie dear,

Lawrence

24 May 1941

Dean of Graduate School  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of application for admission from Miss Florence Ada Kirk, now a teacher at Ginling College, Chengtu, Szechuan, China.

Dr. Wu Yi-fang, President of Ginling College, has sent a covering letter which sets forth the qualifications of Miss Kirk. In view of the limited resources of both Ginling and Miss Kirk, some sort of assistance is earnestly sought in connection with her application. We hope there is available for Miss Kirk a fellowship which will give her the academic experience she is seeking, and at the same time make it financially possible.

If further information is needed in connection with her application, kindly let me know.

Thanking you for giving consideration to this matter, I  
am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Charles H. Corbett  
Acting Secretary

MC/mt

0578

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
IOWA CITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINER AND REGISTRAR

May 29, 1941

Mrs. Charles H. Corbett  
Acting Secretary  
Ginling College  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Corbett:

The Dean of our Graduate College has passed on to this office your letter of May 24 and official records of the work completed by Miss Florence Ada Kirk in the University of Saskatchewan.

I enclose herewith three copies of a statement which Miss Kirk may find useful in gaining admission to the United States. We shall be very happy to have her register in our Graduate College.

If you find further ways in which this office may serve her please let us know.

Very truly yours,

Harry G. Barnes

by Marythelma Keelley  
Assistant University Examiner

MK:MS  
Encl

0579

DEC 16 1940 [17]

APPLICATION for a FELLOWSHIP to COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

1. Name in full: Florence Ada Kirk.
2. Home address; c/o my eldest brother, M. Roy Kirk, Mac Lennan, Ont., Canada.
3. Present address: Ginling College, Chengtu, Szechwan, China (until June 20, 1941).
4. Place of birth: Kirkton, Ont., Canada.
5. Date of birth: April 15, 1902.
- Nationality: British.
7. Degrees:

B.A. University of Saskatchewan, 1925. (English; French).  
M.A. University of Saskatchewan, 1929. (English; French).

8. Evidences of scholarship:

1920 on graduation from High School, I received a three years' tuition scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan, and prizes in English, French, Latin, Mathematics, and Religious Education. As an undergraduate I received the Bateman Memorial Essay prize. At graduation with B.A. degree I received High Honors in English and French.

9. Languages:

French: This was my Minor both in undergraduate and graduate work.  
Latin: I studied this throughout High School.  
German: Reading knowledge.  
Greek: Junior Matriculation Greek.

10. Proposed field of study: Comparative Literature.
11. Previous work in this field: No systematic work.
12. Degree which work is to prepare for: Ph.D.
13. Record of academic work: I have requested the Registrar, University of Saskatchewan, to send direct an official transcript of my undergraduate and graduate record.
14. Recommendations: I trust that you will receive letters from the heads of the English and French departments, the

0580

DEC 16 1940

page two

University of Saskatchewan; from Professor J.M. Lothian of the English Department; Dr. E.N. Stapleford, former president of Regina College; Dr. Wu Yi-fang, president of Ginling College.

15. Financial condition: I have available for study during 1941-42 about \$800. furlough salary (and possibly a special study grant of \$200.). Therefore, I should greatly appreciate a substantial financial grant toward study. I should, of course, live as inexpensively as is consistent with proper conditions of study.
16. I should do my best to keep to any regulations governing a fellowship.

Signed:

December 16, 1940,  
Ginling College,  
Chengtou, Sze.

Florence A. Kirk

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**Columbia University**  
**in the City of New York**

SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY

April 8, 1941

*ack 4/10/41*

Mr. C. A. Evans, Treasurer  
American Office of Ginling College  
150 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Evans

I beg to acknowledge your letter of  
April 1st and enclosure concerning Miss Florence A.  
Kirk.

I regret to report that Miss Kirk's  
application for a fellowship in Columbia University  
had already received the consideration of the Com-  
mittees of Award which had found it impossible, in  
view of the large number of applicants, to make the  
appointment for which she applied.

Very truly yours

*Philip M. Hayden*  
Secretary

LD

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April 15, 1941

Dr. Philip M. Hayden  
Columbia University  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Hayden:

I regret to learn from your letter of April 8th that  
the application for a fellowship forwarded by Miss Florence Kirk  
was refused.

Thanking you, however, for the consideration, I am

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/S

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C O P Y

The State University of Iowa  
Iowa City

April 21, 1941

Miss Florence Kirk  
Ginling College  
Chengtu, Sze., China

Dear Miss Kirk:

I regret to say that it is not possible to grant you a scholarship or assistantship at this time.

You will understand of course that the funds available for this purpose are distinctly limited and that many graduate students are doing excellent work here on a full-time academic basis. The tuition fee for graduate students is sufficiently low (\$50 per semester)\* to make it feasible for well qualified graduate students to register here without special financial assistance.

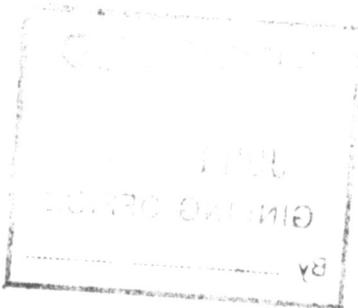
Very sincerely yours,

George D. Stoddard  
Dean

GDS:R

\*By a recent action, the tuition fee for 1941-42 has been raised to \$55 per semester.

G.D.S.



copy

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The State University of Iowa  
Iowa City

April 21, 1941

Miss Florence Kirk  
Ginling College  
Chengtu, Szechuan, China

Dear Miss Kirk:

I regret to say that it is not possible to grant you a scholarship or assistantship at this time.

You will understand of course that the funds available for this purpose are distinctly limited and that many graduate students are doing excellent work here on a full-time academic basis. The tuition fee for graduate students is sufficiently low (\$50 per semester) to make it feasible for well-qualified graduate students to register here without special financial assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

George D. Stoddard  
Dean

GDS:R

\*By a recent action, the tuition fee for 1941-42 has been raised to \$55 per semester.

G.D.S.

RECEIVED  
JUN 18 1941  
GINLING OFFICE  
By *HE*

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

C  
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On Board S. S. PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

July 1, 1941.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Perhaps some comments on life in Chengtu in recent months may be of some use in New York. I know how you want news and reports constantly. There may be nothing new in what I shall say, but it may be stated in a different way.

We are learning to live in a war refugee situation with more grace, I think. The completion of the beautiful Chemistry Building has solved many serious problems of overcrowding in laboratory classes. Dr. Liu En-lan has a lab of her own, and the youthful Home Economics Department has been grateful for the dark underground laboratory formerly utilized by the Ginling Chemistry Department.

In many ways the incoming refugees startled the peace of the lovely campus. In some cases we actually created space where there was none. In Vandeman, Ginling got permission to close the side entrance on the north, and to wall in the two hallways -- and there were two classrooms, often in use for small classes, conferences, meetings of the Curriculum and Entrance Committees, etc.

Ginling functions on various parts of the campus, the Dormitory, classes in Vandeman, Biology and Chemistry Buildings, the Music Buildings and Gymnasium, and in two Faculty Houses. Dr. Wu is everywhere respected and admired. Someone has called her "The Second Lady of the Land." Her fairness, sound judgment, humor and Christian viewpoint make her a real power. Many along the way have asked how she is. I think she keeps fairly well, but never takes a real holiday, and never has the time to look after herself. She gives everything to Ginling and to China, and puts us to shame for her devotion.

Some activities go on that you may find of interest. The Student Centre is a hive of activity. It draws students from all universities, and gives those who lived in crowded conditions a chance to play, to meet other students, and provides rooms for committees. Andy Ray is the guiding spirit, and puts great energy, thought and spirituality into his work with the students. They adore him. The two main rooms after 6:30 P. M. each evening (many dormitories eat at 5:30) are busy. In one are table games; crocinol, Chinese Chess, etc., and in the other are magazines, papers, and here students sit to talk. For 2,000 students it is a pitifully small building, but it is a beginning in this co-operative Christian venture of serving the students.

The Home Economics display late in May was a new thing for the campus. In the second semester we had two teachers, Miss Young and Miss Swen. There are quite a number of majors, and all are keenly alive. The display was arranged one Saturday in the large chapel in Hart College. Hundreds of people attended. There were tables showing what a cheap balanced diet must include, a table displaying the various products obtainable from the soy bean, a table with many foods made from blood, a table with hundred calorie portions, another showing the special values of various food constituents, (iron, calcium, etc.) Charts showed how flies and mosquitoes could be controlled, care of children, and the like. The sewing demonstrated what

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JUL 1  
1941

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attractive curtains, cushion covers, table runners could be made from native materials. (By the way, the curtains and lampshades were put in the dormitory living-room to replace the faded ones, it seemed to me this was a very practical achievement). As one left the exhibit, there was candy and cake for sale, all made by the students.

July 2nd.

Exhibits are a real part of campus life now. Dr. Liu En-lan's wonderful exhibit earlier in the semester would have done credit to any student group anywhere, but it was amazing when one considered it was the work of half a dozen major students. A campus committee interested in art arranges fine exhibits of this Chinese artist or that, usually on Saturday and Sunday in Vandeman. The last I saw was by an artist at the Nanking Theological Seminary; there was one room of religious paintings, one of secular. Such things are in the right direction.

The Ginling girls have started a co-operative store for themselves. This has grown out of the high price situation which has made food so very high that diet is a serious problem. I remember when the question came up in Executive Committee: "Shall we try to keep the quality of food up to the standard we believe necessary to maintain health and efficiency, or shall we lower it?" Of course we decided on the former, and as a result the food in the Ginling dormitory is better than in several other dormitories. (The financial implications were, however, to be faced. If we charged what the food cost, many students could not pay.) However, more and more the students found themselves hungry; there was recourse to the peanut, and some girls ate so many that stomach trouble developed. The peanuts, candy, rolls, cakes, were generally purchased at the gatehouse, because it was too much trouble to go to the city to buy. The gate-man charged high prices, and when by the girls' calculations he profited \$300 - \$400 a month, the girls decided something must be done. Fifteen or twenty girls became the business committee, and in a 10' x 10' room in the dormitory, the store began stocking peanuts, candy, cakes, towels, soap, ink, paper, etc. The Committee have worked out a plan whereby the store is opened certain hours a day, around meal-times, 4 to 6, and 9 to 10 at night.

The Peanut Butter Project of the Sociology Department has done well. Miss Djo Yu-lin was in charge, and she was able to provide work one day a week for three of her women clients. The peanuts were bought freshly roasted on Tuesday, ground in the old-fashioned stone mill (two round blocks fitting one on top of the other, and turned by hand), and on Wednesday, servants of the different households brought containers for their order. It was very popular, for the butter was much finer in quality and had more oil than what was produced in the kitchen. The rising price of milk also made peanut butter an everyday article on most tables. I have watched the women at work; one stone grinder was worked by one woman, and the peanuts dropped in by hand, one at a time. In the larger, that was managed by two women, two or three peanuts went into the hole, and a chopstick shoved them down. Miss Djo has given fine community service in this project.

In the early spring, to meet the almost certain interruptions of classes due to bombing, the campus adopted a new schedule: 7-11 A. M. and 2-6 P. M. It took a little adjustment, but most people preferred it, for the long noon hour gave a real rest time. Until I left - June 3rd - we had lost class time only a few days, and even then, we lost much less time than formerly since the warnings usually come about 11 o'clock. We had one or two bombings, out at airfields with few casualties.

0588

JUL 1  
1941

- 3 -

The new Senior Class start out into a very chaotic world. There is no lack of positions, for there are two or three positions awaiting each girl, but the old security is gone. I think I have not seen a class more loath to go, and more sad at leaving. I was very sorry to miss the final events: Class Day, Senior Banquet, Baccalaureate and Commencement.

Miss Rhodes and I have had a good trip. We missed the terrible bombings in Chungking, and reached Hongkong safely, but had many hours wait on the airfields both in Chengtu and Chungking. We have made a quick trip, leaving Hongkong July 16th, and not calling at Japan at all. I hear that this ship is no longer the "Coolidge" but since Honolulu is the U. S. A. Army Transport.

We've had exceptionally smooth seas, and good company, but we shall be glad to reach land tomorrow morning.

With all good wishes, Mr. Evans, I must close.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Florence A. Kirk

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July 10, 1941

Dear Mr. Evans,

Miss Rhodes and I arrived quite safely in San Francisco just a week ago after having a very pleasant and uneventful trip. Miss Rhodes will be home before this, I think. I have been visiting Louise Shoup (at Berkeley 1936-37) at her Altos, and this morning I reach Denver where I am visiting my aunt. In a few days I shall be in Saskatchewan and "at home".

We found no Charge Certificates waiting for us in San Francisco as we expected. I had a letter of

Burlington • Rio Grande • Western Pacific

0590

[ 2 ] JUL 10 1941

identification from Miss Priest,  
and that was sufficient to  
secure Clery rates. Could the  
Canada and America  
Certificates be sent to me as  
soon as convenient?

rec'd  
of. Mr. C. J. Kirk  
3154 Angus St., Regina, Sask.  
Many thanks. In San Francisco  
Miss Rhodes called both at  
President's office and American  
Express, but there was nothing.

Knowing that I should be  
travelling here and there during  
this summer, I have given in  
some cases my general address  
the New York Sealing office. Could  
any mail be readdressed?

- Until Aug. 15 to my mother  
in Regina

← - Aug. 15 - Aug. 20 to M. Roy Kirk

0591

{-3} JUL 10 1941

Macleanon, Ont.

At Stanford I discussed  
with several people various  
post-graduate schools. Being  
have just two years' leave, I should  
like to make an attempt to finish  
in that time. It seems possible at  
Northwestern University, and many  
speak highly of that institution. I  
must decide soon and get  
application in for residence, etc. I  
shall try to waak off the language  
requirement this summer.

America is an amazing country.  
What I have seen is delightful.  
Louise, and her mother arranged that  
I see a good deal of the beautiful  
country near Palo Alto, and of the  
city of San Francisco.

With all good wishes to you,

0592

(47)

JUL 10 1941

Mr. Evans, and many thanks  
for the services you are  
continually rendering me.

Sincerely,  
Herence A. Kirk

RECEIVED  
UNIVERSITY  
JUL 12 1941

K.A.

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*Answer by Miss Kirk  
24 July 1941  
(See A. B. C. file)*

18 July 1941

Dear Miss Kirk:

This is in relation to your study for this next year.

We received material from Ginling early in the year and a transcript of your application for admission was filed with Yale, Columbia, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Duke, and Iowa State College. Very urgent appeals were made for scholarships and rather elaborate statements were drawn, setting forth the need of the College as well as your ability to carry through successfully. A very important factor which was not in your favor was your birth in Canada which, coupled together with the fact that the applications were not in hand sufficiently early for consideration before March 1st, made it practically impossible to secure a scholarship. As a matter of fact, we have not been able to obtain a scholarship for you. We therefore have resolved it to a position of gaining admission, and in that respect the State University of Iowa has accepted you. Along with their acceptance came two letters of certification for your use. I am sending these letters to you for your personal use, and it might be advisable for you to get in touch with Miss Myrtle Keeley as soon as possible. On April 21st the Dean of the University wrote you regarding the impossibility of providing a scholarship and quoting the price per semester as being \$55. This is exceedingly reasonable and I am sure that you would enjoy the work at Iowa very much indeed.

Iowa State University is not located near a metropolis such as is Columbia; neither does it have the prestige linked with Yale. It does, however, have a fine standing, and was the University from which William Fenn secured his Doctor's degree. Mr. Fenn has thought sufficiently well of the institution to recommend on different occasions our sending two people there for post-graduate work. This may or may not influence your thinking, but I pass it on as a bit of connecting information. A

Awaiting your decision with interest, I am

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE:mjt  
Miss Florence A. Kirk  
c/o Dr. C. J. Kirk  
3154 Angus Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Canada

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Turned over to Gilling Files (1)  
by Mrs. Sears: Dec 12, 1941 E. Y.

1919 Orrington Ave.,  
Evanston, Ill.,  
October 18, 1941

Miss Sally Lou MacKinnon,  
Chairman, Ginling College Board,  
150 Fifth Ave., New York City:

Dear Miss MacKinnon,

In July I returned from China, and should have written you long before this. It has been a real joy to be back, to experience again life in the West, see my family, and settle down to study here. My family are well, with the exception of one sister-in-law who has a serious heart condition; my nieces and nephews have in the last five years become quite different people from the ones I knew. Canada at war is another phenomenon, for in the First World War I was at high school in the country and saw little of the way war affected the larger centres; my youngest brother is now a major in the Medical corps, and he made me see a little of the medical organization in time of war. Just about a year<sup>ago</sup> he was ordered overseas, but that order was countermanded, and he is still in Regina at headquarters. Now I have a chance to observe American life, from this lovely campus at Northwestern.

I want to tell you something of my plans for furlough, and ask for consideration of them by the Board, and their approval of them if they seem good.

A year ago when the question of my furlough came up on the field, I asked for permission to have it at the regular time (to avoid going at the same time Alice Chang should go), and because it seemed likely that with the evacuation of women missionaries from Shanghai (as Bishop Roberts ordered in his mission) there would be someone available who might replace me. I asked for an extension of one year, hoping to make a serious attempt at my PH.D. degree in two years. I made no financial requests beyond the one year's furlough salary and any study allowance that might be granted in connection with that. The Board of Directors there approved this plan.

As it developed, Miss Mary Lamberton from St. John's University in Shanghai came to Chengtu in February this year, and was with the University of Nanking until June. She took over my responsibilities as Head of the English Department when I left. I became quite well acquainted with Miss Lamberton, and had several conferences with her about the general outline of work in the department, arrangement of courses, problems to be faced, etc. I have confidence in her ability and experience, and think she will be most co-operative and sympathetic.

Perhaps you would be interested in a brief account of the work of our English Department in Chengtu. Last year we had a staff of four: Alice Chang who has shown herself invaluable in these trying four years, and I hope she will return after her furlough; Alice

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OCT 18 - 1941

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Settlemyer who went out just last fall; Miss Li who is being loaned for literary work to the New Life Movement for a year, and who may feel like returning to Ginling at the end of that time - I hope she will, for she is an unusually keen and spirited teacher; myself. At present this number can nicely handle the work. As you know, for the advanced major work, we co-operate very closely with the University of Nanking, and there are most cordial relationships between the two departments; this means that there is no duplication of advanced courses in the two institutions, and just as I was leaving, West China Union University was coming in with our scheme. However, with the lowering of the English standard due to war conditions, we have had to give more and more time to sub-freshman work, in an attempt to keep the standard of our work something approaching what it has been in the past. For instance, we had about half the incoming freshman class of ~~about~~ eighty in sub-freshman classes last year; some of these students were able at the end of one semester's intensive study to do regular Freshman work with no loss of credit; others took one year without credit, and the poorest will have to do two years' work without credit! (that is, in English class courses). This is a serious situation, for with poor English a girl is handicapped in doing reference work in many other courses. The standard of our students in English is at least as good as in other institutions on the West China campus, and perhaps a little better. It is one of the many problems emerging in education because of the war. However, the eagerness of the students to improve means that the teachers of sub-freshman work may not consider it mere drudgery. Last year I had the better section of these poor students, and quite enjoyed it.

Another thing which requires a good deal of thought and work is the preparation of materials. Even in normal times in Nanking, there never was sufficient good material at hand, because it just has not been worked out. This situation is made more serious because of the difficulty of getting book orders delivered. Last semester, the two institutions worked intensively on materials, having frequent conferences, and working together on various projects. Here are some of the things we were busy at in the spring semester:

- (a) Preparation and printing of Material for a complete Freshman Course in English; for instance, Mrs. Tang and I prepared a Grammar Manual, and Vocabulary lists and exercises, and others did other things.
- (b) Revision of the Major Courses, with a slightly different emphasis than in the past.
- (c) Comprehensive test to be given prospective English majors at the end of their Freshman year. This was a completely new thing, made necessary by the new curriculum issued by the government and which the present seniors are on. Instead of the former 32 credits of work in a major field, and a minor, there is now no talk of a minor, and about 81 credits of English are required. It is, therefore, important to be fairly sure whether a student can major in English; she starts an intensive study of English in her sophomore year.

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OCT 18 1941

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- (d) Comprehensive tests for seniors.
- (e) Entrance tests.
- (f) We worked at a sub-freshman course, but did not get very far; at one time we had hopes that Mr. Endicott's high-school course was to be reprinted in a modified form, and this would have answered our needs, but the money was not forthcoming as was at first expected. Since Ginling does not have huge numbers to provide for, we are in no great difficulty here. Any paper supplies, printing, etc. are exorbitant, however, and ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> a serious problem.

This was all stimulating and interesting, and will, we hope, lead to excellent materials later on. Dr. Fenn is very alert, and he has helped us a great deal.

It was difficult to decide where to do my study in the United States because of the long delays in correspondence. However, I came to the conclusion that Northwestern would suit my needs best. I am just finishing the end of four weeks' work, and have been most interested in the work and possibilities here. I am carrying the regular graduate load of 12 credits with permission to audit free another course. If everything goes with despatch, there is a chance that I may finish my degree in two years, but that is only a guess. It would have been an easier thing to do if I had not been so long away from formal study. My plan is to work as seriously as I can, and see what develops. I am impressed with the calibre of the work here; there is good teaching, and an abundance of required reading. Also, the individual interests of a student are considered. Dr. Bryan, the chairman of the Department, has helped work out my course; I have had every courtesy and consideration shown me.

My room is just a block and a half from the campus. I have found congenial friends, and feel that I am happily situated. It was pleasant to find in the First Presbyterian Church here Dr. Luccock whom we enjoyed so much in Community Church, Shanghai, in the first year of the war.

The Ginling Board has generously granted me \$300. study allowance. Mr. Evans has promptly answered my many requests, and served me in a variety of ways. I had my medical examination in Regina, and am now following the instructions and suggestions issued by Dr. Vaughan as a result of the examination. I have excellent health.

I am looking forward to being in New York sometime during my stay. If I go to Florida to visit my American brother at Christmas, I may be in New York about that time. I shall be glad to make personal connections once more with the Ginling people.

With all good wishes to you, Miss MacKinnon, and the hope that you are having a good year's work, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Flora A. Kirk*

0597

FLORENCE A. KIRK  
1919 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

517  
ove

April 2nd, 1942

Dear Miss MacLinnon,

I suppose spring is coming with a rush to your part of the country. We have such signs to-day as boys playing "catch", kites flying, daffodils appearing, and grass turning green. Yesterday a woodpecker made us think a miniature machine-gun was popping away at us from above. The stores are pretty with their emphasis on flowers, and spring lambs, and green leaves. We are now having vacation - so far I have been reading, and doing domestic duties that generally get left behind in the rush of the ordinary days. But Friday I am meeting Mrs. Khead in Chicago and going off with her to Ann Arbor for the week-end.

I am writing especially to ask your personal opinion about how best to proceed with regard to finances next year. Yesterday the word came that I didn't get a fellowship at Northwestern, which disappointed me; there are apparently a very limited number I am eligible for, but they tell me my "record and recommendations have made a very favorable impression". In the three courses which finished last semester I got straight A's and I know that in the middle of the semester my name was proposed for a

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APR 2

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1942

vacancy but a man got it! So it is a man's world still!

I wonder what you thought personally that I might ask from the Ginling Board. I remember you saying that sometimes the Methodist Board might continue a person on salary in a situation similar to mine, and that my reply was that I didn't think I should ask such a thing as that. Do you think the Board would consider giving me whole or half salary, for instance? I know you will not be able to say "Yes" or "No", but you will have a good idea of finances in general, and how this war is hitting Ginling's financial situation. Would it be more to the point to ask for a generous study allotment? Would even that be given, do you think? I do not want to seem self-seeking, or presumptuous, but feel I shall need financial assistance.

In 1945 I have a life insurance policy maturing for \$1,000. and if no direct grant would be made to me, perhaps it might be possible to arrange for some sort of transaction whereby Ginling might advance me money on that.

I should very much appreciate your frank consideration and discussion of the whole situation. I am enjoying my work immensely; and am very happily situated here, both as regards work, and living conditions. As you know, the war is not making living any cheaper.

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APR 2 1942

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This semester, I think I am fitting into this environment with less stress; I have excellent health, and lots of energy, but am kept very busy with my work. I do not mind that, for the work is most stimulating, and I have some inspiring teachers who are giving me invaluable help in preparation for better teaching. I have always enjoyed being a student, and this is a particularly happy situation for me. Naturally I am making more friends, too, so life is becoming more normal.

How the war may affect me directly, I do not know. Canada is mobilizing women for war work, but I imagine her machinery is not oiled well enough yet to take great numbers. I am wondering what use they would make of me if I were to be called back! I am not sure how much of an asset I should be in some kinds of work!-

It was so good to get the direct message from Lillian early in March - from Chungking. She hoped for a real diagnosis of her case soon, so that means she has been in bed since August! I noticed that Dr. Wu's January letter had been typed by Ettie Chen. Lillian feels so badly to see her work go undone, or see other busy people having to do double time to help out. I was glad to hear that word of Mrs. Thurston had gotten through to Chengtu, and to have that cheery message

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APR 2

1942

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sent on by Ruth Chester; the heroism of masses of people these days makes us thankful while we regret the necessity for such forms of heroism.

I can imagine how busy your days are. Does any mail get through to China, or China mail here? Of course Dr. Wu's letter did; I wondered what story that particular letter might have to tell!

With all good Easter wishes to you, and with regret at troubling you, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Howard A. Krieb

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BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION  
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

150 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

WOMAN'S DIVISION OF  
CHRISTIAN SERVICE

April 15, 1942

Dear Miss Kirk,

It is good to have your letter of April 2, which came during my absence from the office. I am disappointed with you that you were unable to get the Northwestern fellowship, and I hope that Ginling will be able to do something to help in the financial situation so that it will not be necessary for you to borrow on your life insurance policy. I am bringing the matter to the attention of Mrs. Sears, chairman of the personnel committee.

Yes, some mail does get through to China. I judge that virtually all gets to West China if it is sent by air. It should be marked, as you no doubt know, Via Africa Clipper. The postage is 70¢ each half ounce.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Saellie Lou MacKinnon*

SLM BL

Cc to Mrs. Sears

Signed in Miss MacKinnon's absence.

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FLORENCE A. KIRK  
1919 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

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over

April 27, 1942

Dear Miss McKinnon,

I have now been informed that a fellowship award has been made me for 1942-43. This came as a great surprise (though I knew there might be some change if some award was not accepted); it is a regular Fellowship of \$850. (\$600. cash, and \$250. tuition fees). So this will take care of the essential expenses. I think now I should like to apply for a study grant from Ginling, for living is expensive here, and summer school session will demand a considerable outlay. Could you then, pass this word on to Mrs. Sears, the chairman of personnel committee. Or would you rather that I write direct to her?

It was good to have a weekend with Mrs. Rhead at Ann Arbor at Easter. The weather was glorious. Mrs. Rhead seemed fairly well after her rest cure in Arizona. Spring has come to Evanston, so that it is good to be alive.

On April 15 I had another radio message from my sister in Chengtu - with the first good news about a convalescence. She said

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APR 27 1942 (27)

she was now up out of bed for lunch each day.

With all good wishes, Miss MacKinnon,

Sincerely yours,

*Lawrence A. Kirk*

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Oct 7

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1745 Crrington Ave., Evanston,  
Oct. 6, 1942

Dear Mrs. Mills,

I have been most remiss not to have written before this to tell you how happy I am that you ~~that~~ are in the New York Office these months. I hope you are enjoying the work there. What do you hear from Mr. Mills? I presume that he is still in China, but that may be outmoded news. It was good to have letters from Mrs. Thurston and Miss Whitmer. I wished I could have been in New York when that heroic group landed, and heard firsthand some of their experiences.

Letters come through fairly regularly from my sister; the one which came today was dated August 15. She was making so little progress in the matter of good health that she was seriously considering coming home, and promised to let us know if she did start out. The chief reason why her doctor hesitated to let her start was because of the possible long waits en route. Some idea of the prices at Chengtu can be gotten from the fact that her summer board was to be \$35-\$40, a day!

Mrs. Mills could you send me the diary I wrote en route to West China? I'm wanting to do some writing here for the college paper, and thought my letters would give me practical details that

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OCT 6 1942

I have forgotten. The diary extended from mid-July 1938 until September the same year. I shall return it to the New York office when I have finished with it. I should appreciate it if this might be sent airmail as soon as is convenient since I want the material for next Tuesday. Many thanks.

School is once more in session, and most people are busy. To-day is a golden day. It feels good just to be alive, and out in the sunshine. At five went walking along the lakeshore.

All good wishes to Harriet and Angie. I wonder if they remember me.

Affectionately yours,

*Lawrence A. Kirk*

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October 27, 1942

Miss Florence Kirk  
1745 Orrington Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Miss Kirk:

Through some oversight you have never been informed of an action taken by the Board of Founders at the annual meeting in May. The minute reads:

"Miss Florence Kirk, who has had one year on salary and a study allowance, is unable to return to the field on account of war conditions. She wishes to complete the work for her doctor's degree. It was

BF 291 VOTED that the Board make a further study grant of \$300 for the year's study to Miss Kirk."

We apologize for not having gotten this word to you long ago. In your letter of April 27th to Miss MacKinnon, you said that you would like to apply for a study grant, and the Board gladly made the appropriation when the request was presented to the annual meeting.

Mr. Evans is inquiring when and how you would like to have this money paid to you. We are glad to learn, from the letter referred to, that you have a fellowship of \$850 for this year, and hope that, with the addition of this \$300, you will have enough for your needs.

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Miss Florence Kirk

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October 27, 1942

I hope you have had good word from your sister in Chengtu. We are always grateful for any bits of news that you have to share with us.

With all best wishes,

Cordially yours,

W. Plumer Mills

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

CSM:ef

W. Plumer Mills  
Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

W. Plumer Mills

W. Plumer Mills  
Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

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FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

*file 12-4-42*

Nov. 28, 1942

*ack 1/10*

Dear Mr. Evans,

It is quite exciting news to learn that Madame Chiang is in this country.

Mrs. Mills wrote me recently, apologizing for the fact that the New York office had not told me that a study grant had been awarded me. I do not remember exactly how I was informed, but certainly Mrs. Roys wrote me of it, and I think you did too. At any rate I knew of it some months ago, and was very grateful for the action of the committee. I remember thanking Mrs. Roys at least - though it appears now that I did not do the same with your office - for which I ask pardon.

I have not written about the disposal of it, for up to the present I have not needed it. I think it might be left there in New York to be used in any way needed until I shall need it - which will likely be late spring or thereabouts. I wanted to ask you if it would be all right to deduct the year's insurance policy from it. If so, please do so.

Also, Mr. Evans, can you give me any information about what income tax I am subject to?

*67s Georgia*

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11/28/42

I recently went to consult the office of Income Revenue here in Evanston about it, and he said mine was such an unusual case that I should consult the head office in Chicago. Before going there, I wondered if you knew the general policy of missionaries on furlough. Of course, that I am a Canadian may make a difference. I understand that my fellowship is not taxable, and I suppose the study grant is not either. The big problem comes about the income of 1941-42, since arriving in this country; I fully expect I shall have to pay on this, and have not been able to understand why I was not notified of my indebtedness in this regard.

My sister sent a radiogram from Chungking on November 15 - she was then at Chungking, on her way home. What her route is to be she didn't say, except that I might write her in care of the American Express, Bombay. She is travelling with two other missionaries, I understand. She did not say, either, how she felt, but it is chiefly because her disease hasn't been adequately diagnosed that she felt it was imperative she get home for treatment here. I am overjoyed to know she is on the way, for we have been anxious about her this last year. We know the doctors there did all they could; it likely means she has some queer combination of ailments that it is difficult to decide upon.

With all good wishes to you, Mr. Evans,

Sincerely,

*Harold A. Kirk*

Rec'd  
11-30-42  
AK

0610

10 Maple Road  
Auburndale, Mass.  
January 7, 1943

Dear Ruth:

The uncertainty as to Constance's plans makes me feel like addressing you but I shall think of this as reply to both of you. I should have written sooner but I kept thinking I would get some reply to the two letters I wrote and mailed en route, in which I had written more freely of things as they were when I left the college home in June; that, and the feeling that I had nothing important to say and that I have found it easy to be lazy. We were all supposed to rest for three months and even though one was not consciously tired it seemed wise to relax and let the days pass quietly by. After so long a separation from recent books and magazines, to say nothing of being nearly a year behind with knowledge of current events, reading seemed to be indicated. And I can read indefinitely when I get a chance. I begin to feel caught up, but every now and then I hear that someone died in May (Miss Bender), that Presidents Hickok and Small of The Western and Lake Erie had retired, and other such events of which I would have known if Helen's letters and clippings from the Times had come to me in due course. The only letter that got through to me was the one you typed and sent to me. Just two days ago a message I sent on June 1 through M. Frame and Swiss Red Cross reached Helen. I thought it might carry faster than I travelled and let her know I was coming home!

People who saw me when I first reached home thought I looked very wan and worn. I was underweight (only 140 pounds!) When I got home in 1936 I weighed 185 and when I went back in 1939 I weighed 160. All of us lost weight during the internment. In my case it must have been due to general strain and stress of the uncertainty rather than to deficient diet, for I feel that I was not undernourished. We had the garden. Our friends saw to it that we never lacked eggs. Fruit also was given us far beyond the means of some of the givers. I suppose we were cut on sugar and fats because of scarcity and cost, and milk was used more sparingly, with bean milk as a substitute to some extent. But all these deprivations are everyday events, with you. Have you lost weight? I have managed to gain five pounds, but friends who saw me in New York in November or in December thought I looked rested and much better. You may have had some report of me from Mrs. Chester whom I saw in Hartford in November, and you will have had some news of me from the Board correspondence. I went down in November for a Board meeting. In December, it was a kind of enlarged meeting of the China Colleges Committee on Christian Character, Staff and Curriculum - such a confused name, but they seem to think nothing can be left out. I enjoyed, both times, the renewing of the goodly fellowship we have in the China connections. Margaret and Lilliath were down in November. Claude and Searle I saw in December and a host of others, too many to mention here. You may see the list of those present when the report gets through to you.

New York comes nearer to being the "center of my universe" than Boston. I am glad to be here, with the pleasant connections I make through Helen with American Board folk. Lillian Williams and Dorothy Roberts, Mary Treudley and Mary Thayer are near. The Huntingtons are in Wellesley, but we have not yet connected. The cut in gasoline makes distances seem greater. No pleasure driving is done by those who are conscientious, and the ration is now only 3 gallons a week. I am making connection with United China Relief and plan to go in one day a week to help them. One meets some very interesting friends of China there. Lawrence Mead and Eleanor are in Cambridge and Mou-i and Ming-djen are there, but we do not see each other often. With the car it was nothing to run across the Charles, but going in and out through Boston is another matter. One person I am seeing in United China Relief is Mrs. W.T. Gardiner, Constance's hostess when she was here for the Tercentenary. Another is Mrs. Hart, friend of Ya-lan's. You might mention this to these two. Mrs. Hart would like to hear from Ya-lan. So would Miss Eliot. I met a friend of Eva's in Boston, Mrs. Spalding of Oxford, who asked me to "come to tea", which I hope to do some day. They are in Cambridge, she and the Professor, who is writing a book. I found they were friends of the Robert E. Humes (Union Seminary) with whom I stayed when I was in New York in December. Helen Loomis and Abigail have an apartment on Riverside and had me for a Sunday night supper. But if I try to report on all the New York connections, the letter will be overweight. It is so good to have Cornelia in the office. The whole atmosphere is more genial.

0611

January 7, 1943

I hope you will see the report I wrote on the Gripsholm telling the story of the year and the end of the work in June. The last word from Constance in her recent letter is pretty disheartening. I am still in the dark as to what "organization" is in possession, turning the dormitory rooms into "offices". The "weighing of books" was pretty bad news. There was nothing else to do with the books but to leave them in the library. There was "no hiding place down there". All the advice I could get favored letting them take the chance there. I still hope that much will survive, and after all most of our books are replaceable, and trees will grow again. I have often wondered about the chrysanthemums. I imagine that Tung has seen to it that some of them were transplanted. I wonder often how Lao Shao has fared, and Hu Lao-bau, with his big family. They will need some kind of laundry service whoever "they" are. Sometimes I feel as if all my emotions were frozen. I try definitely not to keep turning back to what I can no longer help, and there's no use in thinking "If I had done this or that, would it have been better?" I prayed always for guidance, day by day. I prayed then, and I continue to pray "O Lord, hold their hands from destruction and hinder them in their undertaking!" Elsie will share part of her letter and you will see there my reference to the second verse of "God Save the King" - which I can agree to now!

With postage so high, one tries not to repeat. But there is always a chance that one letter may get through and the other may not, so I'll repeat what I wrote about my name going on the Retired list from January 1. I suppose that may still leave me President Emeritus but of course my connection with Ginling is through the Presbyterian Board. My pension is reckoned on the 30 years service under that Board, which is also the length of my connection with Ginling. Because of the other 13 years of missionary service before 1913, I am given the "Honorably Retired" degree, and will so appear in the next Prayer Book. I wish they would put you in my place in the regular list. In addition to the \$732 pension, I have the income from the life insurance paid me in 1904 - which I have had all these years, and I have income from my share in father's estate, and Isabel's estate, so I have no reason to be anxious about my support. Living here with Helen and dividing overhead, I feel able to do what I please - "my wants are few". I hope I may be able to share my surplus with those not so well provided for.

I am working on a 1942 letter for my circle of friends, some of whom do not yet know that I came home on the Gripsholm. That's a story all by itself. And I am getting up steam to continue the Ginling story which I have brought down to 1927. I got away with a good deal of the material I need for this writing. I'm glad I took the risk.

Constance's letter of November 17 to Cornelia came in to me this morning. I am glad letters are coming in more regularly and in less time. And I hope we can speed up all communications with you and do all we can to help China. This carries New Year Greetings to the Ginling family,

Tilda

0612

Evansston,  
1745 Devonington Ave.  
Jan. 26, 1943

of acct. 00/1/27/42  
\$300 Paid m/15/76

Dear Mr. Evans,

May I have my scholarship fund as soon as possible, or at least \$100.00 of it? I should appreciate this very much. I am sorry to ask for it now after saying I should not need it till summer.

I get almost regular news from my sister; in December 16 she was still in Bombay, with no certainty of a boat in the near future. She has gained some weight and is feeling much better but still has it much energy.

With all good wishes,  
Louisa A. Kier

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UNIVERSITIES  
JAN 27 1948  
JOINT OFFICE

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FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Feb 5 1948

Dear Mrs. Mills,

Many thanks for your good letter in answer to my note at Christmas. I'm hoping I shall be in Newport some time, and see you then. I suppose Harriet and Angie are both very changed from the way I knew them in Nanking. Give them my best wishes, please.

I am enclosing a report that Mr. Wu asked me to pass on to you.

The last word from my sister - dated December 13, Bombay, said

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there was no definite word of a boat, but there were hopes of one in January. She has gained some weight and feels much better; she says to have butter at every meal is a treat. She will not be able to let me know the name of her boat, the route, or the point of arrival; however, she will likely land at Newport. If I can I shall go to meet her - or see her, at least.

My written exams are now behind me, so I shall live more "normally" until the next exams, the "orals" in May. We go from one "hurdle" to another, but enjoy it all very much.

Many thanks for your kindly interest in Wilbur and myself.  
Affectionately, Lawrence King

17

1745 Orrington Ave.,  
Evanston, Ill., March 4. 1943

Dear Mrs. Mills,

It was good to hear from you so recently. You will be interested to know that I have seen Mrs. W.S. New when she was visiting the Ginling alumna, Mrs. Dju Gih-fang Ma; she spoke so appreciatively of your work for Ginling. One of Harriet's classmates was there too, a Miss Haines. (I wonder now if I have the right name! That morning she had seen Dorothea Smith and her husband as they passed through. Mr. and Mrs. Leavens (formerly of Yale in China) were among the guests too. Of course most of our talk was of China, and the friends connected with our life there. Gih-fang served such delicious Chinese food!

The last letter from my sister was dated December 13, Bombay. There was a radio-gram sent about Christmas to one of my brothers saying that she was about ready to start then. However, when I heard of this from still another brother, there was a little doubt about dates, etc. so I am not very sure. However, the fact that no mail from her has reached me since mid-January makes me think that she is on the sea. If she got started about the New Year, I should think she would be landing presumably at New York any time now. She had said in an earlier letter that she would not be able to send word of the date of departure, name of ship, route, or even port of arrival, but somehow she would try to get word to me...which I took to mean that she would try to radio as she neared the coast of America. Just now we are coming into a busy two weeks as the quarter ends, but if she came after that, I should like to go to New York..even though I were not there to greet her when she landed.

Mrs. Mills, I wonder if there is anything that has already been done in the New York office or can be done before her arrival about these two matters she has mentioned; she did not ask me to speak of them, but I thought there might be a chance that they could be worked at before she arrived:

- 1) Clergy certificates
- 2) Application for permission to stay longer than the ten days allowed for travellers in transit in this country.
- 3) My sister has not said anything about where she would like to get medical checking up, but I would be much happier if she had advice about where her type of trouble might best be diagnosed at least. Perhaps the Ginling medical officer, Dr. Vaughan would know all about that.

I am sure that the Ginling group in New York will do whatever can be done in this way of advising her about health etc. I shall especially appreciate anything you can do for her.

Yes, I had word from Dr. Wu urging my return at the earliest possible moment, and I have written her again asking that an official letter be sent stating the need for me; it seems to me that would be one of the

0617

MAR 4 1943

most telling things with the Canadian government. I should very much like to know what you think is the best procedure in approaching the Canadian government? Should I write them stating the parts of Dr. Wu's letter about the need, giving ~~the~~ approximate date when I should be ready to return, and asking them to consider giving me a visa? Or how should such a request be stated?

I am planning to be finished by the end of summerschool..that is, the end of September. However, I should very much appreciate a month in which to visit my family in Canada before starting off again to the East. It may well be that the visa will not be forthcoming even then, so that there would be sufficient time to do some visiting. When does Wu Mao-i think she will be ready to go back? Also does Wang Mingdjen think of returning at the first possible moment? It would be a joy to have one or both of them as travelling companions. I feel it is time now to be approaching the Canadian government, so any information you can give will be most helpful. For instance, would letters from the New York Board stating the needs out in West China, giving the certified statement about my term of service in China, position on the Ginling staff, etc. be of use? You can see from my questions that I am very inexperienced in this whole matter.

I trust that word comes from Mr. Mills. There are rumours of a second Gripsholm; if that materializes I do hope Mr. Mills gets a chance for that transportation. Did I tell you that Harriet Whitmer had visited me here for a couple days recently? She looked well, and had regained some weight.

My work goes well; the chief trouble is that there are not enough hours in the day.

Would you give Mr. Evans a message for me? When he sent me the study grant, I took it for granted he would deduct the annual insurance premium which we had spoken of, but he sent me the whole \$300. Please tell him I shall make the adjustment.

We are going to see Mistress at the Inn given at the University theatre tonight. I am sure you must see some good plays in New York. I go occasionally to Chicago; last Saturday I saw Eve of St Marks.

With all good wishes to you, Mrs. Mills,

Very sincerely,

*Harriet Whitmer*

0618

FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Sunday, Mar. 28  
1943

Dear Mrs. Bull,

Please forgive the shortness of sending you part of a general news letter. This will supply the latest word from Helbin. The news of West China folk did it happen to anyone - Thanking people.

I met Miss Booz recently when I spoke to her recently about some things the women of China are doing. She spoke very appreciatively of her connection with you and Harriet.

Affectionately,

Florence Kirk

0620

1745 Orrington Ave., Evanston,  
March 28, 1945

Dear Family,

To-morrow is the last day of our ten days' holiday between quarters; so this is the brief letter I promised myself I would write to you giving the news. Spring seems to have some days, but the wind off Lake Michigan is fresh and vigorous yet, and I found my fur coat just right this evening. This has been an unusually cold winter for this area, and most snow there has been in many years. It seemed as though we have had icy or wet sidewalks alternately for months. The sidewalks are in many cases level with the lawns, or even below, so there is often moisture gathered there. I enjoy the blue skies so much, and the surroundings around the university are delightful; now that the snow is gone, the grass is surprisingly green, and the trees are always a delight. The lake has its daily moods, too, changing from bright blue to angry breakers on dull days.

What have I done with the holiday? I didn't go away, but liked the chance to settle down in the library to do some reading in Elizabethan plays; I spent one evening going to hear Mme Chiang at the Chicago Stadium, which was quite a novel experience: the crowd was interesting and her speech wonderful; she has America at her feet, and we like so much her attitudes of after-war planning, that there must be no hatred, that the nations must cooperate in a bigger way than ever before. She has greatly helped the cause of China. I went to a movie, played bridge twice, was invited out to supper twice...so you see it has been a varied, and interesting week. I am so glad I didn't go away, for now I have accomplished a good deal, and feel rested too. I mustn't forget to say that I tidied my room...quite a job for one of my untidy habits.

Three messages have come recently from Lillian. One dated Jan. 16 was an air-graph to Roy: "I had hoped to be putting in an appearance somewhere on the American continent but instead have had to content myself with staying here (Bombay). There is no immediate hope of getting off, I fear, although something may turn up quickly. One boat left recently with just a few passengers but unattached women were taboo. Some of the group found this rather hard to take for it was the first time they had been refused anything because they were unmarried. I am feeling much better and if the climate were a bit more invigorating I think I would be looking for something to do. Hot weather comes about March and we hope to get off before that....I am having an interesting time going to museums, parks, Indian ballet, dhobi ghats (a laundryman's quarters) social service centres, etc. We plan to see "The Pied Piper" this week - my second movie since arriving two and a half months ago."

Then in one day arrived two closely written postcards written Feb. 4 and 14. She is still in Bombay at those dates. "How I wish I could tell you we would be sailing soon! I do think things look a little more hopeful though. Being single, keeps us from going on anything but a large boat. Our hostess suggests we arrange marriage just for the trip, but we somehow do not feel inclined to try it out. Some have gone to Africa, and if they are successful in getting away from there we may try it out....Weather is cooler and more comfortable. Rationing here begins April first. Many things are hard to get. We haven't had cakes for some time, but we aren't suffering at all. I'm gaining weight and feeling better." February 14: "Two or three times recently we had high hopes of getting away fairly soon but when we followed them up there was always

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some snag. Being single is still a serious drawback! We hope that this regulation will be changed soon. A list of names of those wishing to go is to be sent to the powers that be this week. We only hope that the list will be large enough to warrant the providing of a boat of some sort. Perhaps you had better tell me when you write next when your school closes and whether you have any longish holidays in April or May when you might be away. I'll not likely be able to let you know when we are due to arrive but will get in touch with you immediately. If we should go via South America I might possibly go to see Gordon first. Perhaps you could come down there..... Sugar in Chengtu is \$25. a pound (it was \$5. last summer!) and milk \$3. a cup (60 cents when I left). Wheat is the most scarce article here. No cakes, pastry allowed nor anything requiring flour. We have never been without bread although we had one or two scares. Bread is made from an inferior grade of flour. ...Have my ups and downs in the matter of health, but am better than when I was in China. It certainly was grand to get your January letter." The dotted lines indicate news of people in China whom you don't know. Campus life seems to go along there as usual, but the inflation produces all kinds of difficulties.

So Lillian may still be in Bombay. I am glad to know she feels so much better; even to think of getting work is a great change from being an invalid for a year. It really is quite an interesting experience she is having, a fine opportunity to see something of a very different kind of country.

This week I wrote the Canadian government asking for a visa back in the fall when I finish here. I hope to have a month at least to visit in Canada before getting off; it likely will turn out that their visa or passage may be delayed so I hope to have good visits with you all.

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FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

April 13, 1943

Dear Mrs. Mills,

I must send my regrets that I feel I cannot accept the invitation of the Senior College Board to the annual board meeting. It all sounds very exciting and I'm very sorry that I must refuse. My "sails" come May 27 and therefore I am more than busy, in preparation. I appreciate the invitation greatly.

A cable from my sister, April 2nd, said "Arrived Australia." So at last she is on her way.

Most sincerely,

Florence Kirk

0623

April 19, 1943

Miss Florence A. Kirk  
1745 Orrington Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Florence:

I was sorry indeed to get your letter of April 13th, saying that it would not be possible for you to attend the Annual Ginling Meeting. Dr. Wu is now on her way to America and will be at that meeting, so I am particularly sorry that you feel you cannot come. I know what examinations do for you, however, so I can understand that you do not feel able to give the time for a trip to New York. If you change your mind, let us know. We should be very happy to see you.

I am glad to know that your sister has gotten as far as Australia. I hope that she gets to America soon.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

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FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

May 1, 1943

Dear Dr. Wu,

Welcome to America! It is such good news to know you are either in this country or will be almost at once. I hope you can stay long enough to get a real rest, and that the actual travel was not too much of an agony. How I should like to see you and ask the many questions that don't get into letters but which come to me from day to day about life out there on the campus, and the conditions in China generally. I am hoping that you may be coming this direction or if you stay some time, perhaps I can go East to see you.

A cable from Lillian April 2nd, that she had arrived in Australia, but no further word. She had been feeling a good deal better.

I am more than sorry that my work hinders me going to New York for the meeting of the Board. It would have been a joy to have seen you, Mrs. Thurston, and all the people I have not seen since coming back. I am glad Harriet is to go, and I suppose Dr. Reeves will go too. A couple weeks ago I had a wonderful evening with Edith Haight in Chicago.

You will be interested to know that I had a

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MAY 1 1943

letter from the Canadian government saying that "under the circumstances" they would grant me a visa when I was ready to go back. I was surprised they granted it so readily. So just as soon as I have a little clearer idea of when I shall finish my work here, I can ask Mr. Evans about getting reservations for me - as he so kindly offered to do for me. I have not written Wu Mao-i either to see when she will be ready to start. I feel I must visit my family before starting back again. It gives me real pleasure to know that I can go back... it will be good to be there again and to do some teaching after being a student so intensely for two years.

Please remember me to Mrs. Thurston whose recent letter I enjoyed so much, and to Miss MacKinnon and the others on the Board I know. Much love to you, and best wishes for a really successful Board Meeting; I can imagine how delighted the Board are to have you at hand.

Affectionately,

*Lawrence*

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Maysall, 1943

Miss Florence Kirk  
1745 Orrington Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Florence:

As you can easily imagine, Dr. Wu has been exceedingly busy since she got to New York. She is ~~int~~ even here now, having gone to Washington yesterday afternoon. She has had practically no time to write letters and has therefore asked me to write to you in answer to yours of May 1st. She greatly appreciates your letter and the warm welcome that it expressed and she wished me to say to you that she definitely plans to visit Ann Arbor and will let you know when she will be there. She hopes that you may go there to see her. It would also be an opportunity to see Dr. Reeves and Mrs. Rhead.

I am sorry that you could not be with us last week for the Ginling Board meeting. Of course, it was an unusual meeting because Dr. Wu was here, and her presence meant much to all of us. She spoke most exceptionally well at the luncheon and made a great contribution in all of the meetings that she attended. She was also the speaker at the Annual Banquet on Monday night when a record crowd was out to hear her. You will be glad to know that she seems fairly well, though the doctor says that her blood count is low and that she must have rest and an opportunity to build herself up. We are hoping to arrange for short periods of complete rest during the months of her stay, with perhaps one longer time in the summer. We are not yet sure how long she will be here, but are hoping for more time than she had at first planned.

~~I am glad to~~ know that Lillian has gotten as far as Australia, ~~and I hope~~ that she will soon be in America. It is good to know that she was feeling better. Perhaps it was the change that she needed to put her on her feet again.

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Miss Florence Kirk

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May 11, 1943

We are all glad to know that the Canadian Government is willing to grant you a visa and make it possible for you to get back to China. Dr. Wu is anxious to have you go as soon as possible. She also wants Wu Mao-i to start as soon as she can.

With all best wishes for a successful completion of your work,

Cordially yours,

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*BURKE*

FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

*William*  
May 17. - 1943 *car*

Dear Mr. Evans,

In a letter I received recently from my sister - dated March 25, as she approached Australia - she asked me to request the New York office if it would pay a life insurance premium for her, and she would settle with you on her arrival here. It is to

Mr. George Woolhouse  
The Mutual Life Assurance Co. of Canada  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

*Wrote to Mr. Woolhouse 5/20/42*

She didn't have with her the number of the policy but thought that it wouldn't matter. The amount of the premium is \$72. (Canadian currency, I presume). Thank you in advance for doing this.

I'm sure the Annual Board Meetings must have been most interesting, particularly since Dr. Wu was with you and could give such firsthand information of life on the field, and also inspire with her presence. Is it true that she is married? A copy of the Christian Science Monitor last week had a picture of four Chinese come to U.S.A. to study post-war problems. One is Dr. Wu, and she is sitting beside Dr. Wu Ching-cheo, "her husband and secretary of the Chinese Ministry of Economics." I was quite startled

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and wondered if the report were true or not.

Also can you give me the address of Peter and Ruth Bannon, of the staff of the University of Nanking? I meant to get in touch with them long ago. Do you know if Peter is feeling well? When he left China, I think there was some suspicion of T.B.

With all good wishes, Mr. Evans,

Very sincerely,

*Lawrence A. Kirk*

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May 24, 1943

Miss Florence A. Kirk  
1745 Orrington Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Miss Kirk:

Your letter of May 17th requests us to make payment on your sister's life insurance policy. We have communicated with the Company with the hope of getting the exact data and follow through on your suggestions.

We were most delighted to have Dr. Wu with us during our Annual Meetings. She attended all of the Board meetings and gave a lift which was most thrilling. She had many experiences on her trip which are similar to the one you mention, wherein she is depicted as the wife of Dr. Wu. However, she is still single and apparently has no thoughts of matrimonial matters.

Our last address for Peter and Ruth Bannon is as follows:

130 South Clinton Street  
Iowa City, Iowa

I have heard no further developments regarding his physical well-being and think he is progressing satisfactorily.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

June 3rd 1943

Dear Dr. Wu,

Your telegram came yesterday. I am so sorry again to say "No," for I am busy getting ready for final exams in my regular courses; they come next Wednesday. I can picture you with Mrs. Rhead, and seeing Dr. Reeves and all the people you must know in Ann Arbor. I shall be with you in spirit.

My "orals" went off well, so I feel that the biggest "hurdle" is over. The "orals" exam. was two and a half hours (usually three, but the professors had another short exam. that morning, so mine was shortened) with nine professors to question me about the whole range of English literature. When I left the examination room, Dr. Bryan, the chairman, said to me, "unofficially," "You did a beautiful job, but we all knew you would." When he had discussed the examination with the other men, he said that they gave an enthusiastic recommendation for admission to Ph.D. degree. This is for your private ear. They have been wonderful to me here, and I feel I have gotten a very great deal from the work I have put in. After these exams. are over next week, I have my thesis to do; I have spent half time all year on it, but there is still a

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lot to be done.

A telegram from Lillian, May 17, with no place given as address, and the message, ALL'S WELL. I'm expecting to have word any day that she has arrived at some port.

Dr. Wu, what about the possibility of getting books taken in when I enter China?

I was so sorry to hear of the death of Grace Many in May, from typhoid fever and pneumonia, I think. I visited Mrs. Esther Lewis the other day and we chatted away about China and news of friends. She let me read recent circular letters from Olin Stockwell and Mr. Rappe. The inflation is really alarming, and I wonder how the students and faculty manage to eat at all adequately. It must be very trying to have that financial trouble added to the general tension of a long-drawn-out-war. Stella's general letter came recently.

If Lillian does not arrive in the next few days, I hope to visit either Harriet or Edith Haight, or both in between quarters for a few days. I still haven't decided.

When are you going to begin getting a rest? I trust that three months at least are left free for a vacation for you. You must need it badly. The people in New York spoke so appreciatively of what you added to the Annual Board Meeting.

Affectionately,

*Dorance A. Kirk*

0634

*Wick*

FLORENCE ADA KIRK  
1745 ORRINGTON AVENUE  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

June 29, 1943

*Ark 11/12*

Dear Mr. Evans,

I have very good news: Lillian has arrived here in Chicago, looking remarkably well after her nine months of travel and waiting. She arrived at noon to-day, having reached Los Angeles last Friday in the afternoon. The last part of the journey was made on a navy boat; she trans-shipped in New Zealand because her boat was having difficulties with their engines, and it might have taken months longer to have completed the journey. Please tell Dr. Wu this news, and tell her Lillian will write in a few days to her.

*OK car*

*Paid 7/1/43  
201624*

Lillian asked me to write you to ask if you could loan her \$200. She thought there would be a balance to her account there in New York, but she will go into the details of travel, etc. later. She needs some clothes, and has some travel yet to do before reaching her destination. She would appreciate it if you could let her have this at an early date.

Dr. Jean Millar and Miss Buchanan arrived with Lillian; they stay a few days here before proceeding to Toronto. Lillian found a good

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many friends on the New Zealand boat, and enjoyed the trip, but conditions were war-time restrictive ones with very few of the comforts we usually associate with sea travel. But Lillian will be writing you the details herself before long.

It is such a relief to know she is here safely; my recent letter from her was dated May 16, New Zealand, so I had given up expecting her at any particular date. It is wonderful to have her back again safely.

Mr. Evans, did I report to the New York office that Northwestern had extended my fellowship for the summer quarter? They have been so very good to me ever since I came; altogether my time here has been most stimulating and profitable.

With all good wishes to you, and to Dr. Wu Mrs. Mills, and the rest,

Sincerely,

Robert Kiser

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July 1, 1943.

My dear Florence:

I am so happy to hear from Mrs. Mills that your sister Lillian has arrived safely. I have been waiting anxiously from day to day hoping for this news to come.

I want very much to know if she is planning to come to New York or will she go straight to Canada? I certainly want to see her if it is at all possible. Just now I am most uncertain about my own plans. Perhaps I shall have to start homeward early in September. As soon as I know more about it, I shall write you further.

I shall be particularly interested to have Lillian write me about both her health and her financial condition. Please ask her to write me at her earliest convenience. I shall be happy to hear from her.

With my very best regards to you both, I am

Sincerely yours,

Yi-fang Wu.

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1745 Orrington Ave.  
Evanston, Ill., July 6, 1943

Dear Dr. Wu,

I want to discuss with you this question of my proposed return to China.

Of course I have been asking Lillian, Dr. Jean Millar, and Miss Buchanan( these two travelled to Chicago with Lillian and were here two days before proceeding to Canada) about conditions of travel, etc. They were surprised that I was seriously considering returning just now, not so much because of the tedious and uncertain journey as because of the ~~best~~ living conditions in Chengtu at the present time. Jean told me that two and a half months ago it required \$90. a day Mex. just for western food, and prices were steadily rising. She says the present policy of the United Church of Canada is the withdrawal of those on the field who are within a year of their normal furlough time, and none at home are being allowed to return.

I can guess what problems have been created at Ginling since I left on account of inflation alone, and how you have tried to subsidize needy faculty and students alike. For myself, I feel I should have some assurance that I could make ends meet, before starting out; yet, I cannot see how finances can be forthcoming to ensure that to all those who are already there. One big difficulty for those now going out is the trouble about getting in supplies, for, of course, if that were easily possible, I could take a supply of clothes, drugs, soaps, etc. The books and school supplies is another problem, too, but Helen Loomis wrote me that some provision might be secured for transport of those.

I would appreciate your discussion of the whole situation. My interests are closely tied up with those of China, and I have been looking forward to going out this fall. However, I don't want to undertake something I cannot see through; I want to be reasonably sure that I can make a living, and do efficient work.

Lillian is getting a lot of rest, and is very apologetic about the hours she sleeps both at night and during the day; I think she is fortunate to be able to relax so completely. She has thirty letters to write for soldiers on the freighter who wanted her to give their families definite word of them. She is starting in on that job today.

I am sorry if you have to go home so soon as September; that makes me think that you will not be getting the much needed rest that has been due you for years. However, perhaps you will not have to go then.

With all affectionate regards to yourself,

Sincerely,  
Florence

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Mike

July 16, 1943.

My dear Florence:

I am very glad that you wrote me and told me frankly in regard to the questions that have been raised by the arrival of Dr. Miller and Miss Buchanan. It is true that because of the high cost of living some missions have asked their Boards not to send out additional missionaries and some are even withdrawing some who are already in China.

The College Board has faced the situation and so has tried to make increases in the western salaries in order to meet the situation. The last motion taken at the annual meeting on May 7th is as follows: "Voted that the Board of Founders make an additional grant of at least fifty percent on the basic salary of the foreign staff and more if that is required and is in line with actions taken by other Boards to begin as of January 1, 1943."

This means that the minimum total salary is U.S.\$144 a month together with an exchange rate granted by the Ministry of Finance which makes the amount in Chinese currency, \$4320 per month. As worded in the action, the Board set this increase as the minimum and if the other supporting boards should have made larger increases, then the field treasurer, that is Miss Priest, will have the authority to make corresponding increases in the foreign salaries at Ginling. As you know, our salary has been always the average of the single missionary salaries of the supporting boards.

The cost of living is changing, I know, all the time, so I do not want to say arbitrarily that the figure of Chinese \$4320 is adequate to guarantee you a reasonable living, but the two things I want to point out are these. First, is that our Board will give continued attention to this question and will try the best they can to enable the missionaries to live. Second, a group living as we do in Ginling ought to be able to get along on an economic basis. Perhaps I ought to qualify the phrase "to get along" because it does indicate a basic minimum. Up to the time I left Chengtu our groups, both the Chinese and the western, had been able to get along. Miss Graves and Miss Lambertson's group had omitted their luncheon and were boarding with the Chinese faculty for the noon meal. But that was on the basic salary of U.S.\$108 and exchange at only twenty to one.

In regard to personal supplies, if there is the necessity of addition in your case,

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page 2 - Miss Kirk

I should think that the College Board would be ready to make grants. On the boat I am sure you will be able to take enough on the amount allowed and the question to tackle is only that short journey from Calcutta to Chengtu. If for the immediate future you should not be able to take all you want to Chengtu, you may leave things in India for possible later transportation.

I hope I have answered your questions on the purely financial side. If you should have other points that you want to know more about, please do not hesitate to write me.

Now I come to the important question of our desperate need for you to return. English has been the second largest major in the number of students. It is next only to Sociology. We need you to give direction to all these girls. In the program of cooperation with other Universities, we certainly ought to be prepared to offer our share of advanced courses. In addition to these two needs for the development of our English Department, our group in Chengtu were looking forward to your return as the addition of one energetic person on the faculty. The majority of those there were tired and there were so many calls outside pure teaching that we just had not enough senior members of the faculty to go around. I know that when you raised the questions it was not because you did not wish to return but was because you wanted to know of the financial provision. I do hope after you have heard of the present condition, you will feel satisfied to make a definite decision to return next fall.

Dr. Higdon of the Christian Missionary Society has mentioned that Mrs. Gish, Miss Lawrence and quite a few others are ready to start when they secure passage. I am sure that as the situation in the Pacific improves the facilities for travel will also improve. I hope by the time you have finished your visit with your family it will be much easier to travel than now.

Two weeks ago I had a big problem to consider. The Secretary-General of the P.F.C. cabled me to join a Mission to be sent to England in October. After careful consideration with people in New York and Washington, the conclusion was that I could not leave America in October because I had hardly done the thing I came here to do. So we cabled that if I could be permitted to fly direct to England and back here again after the work was done, I might join the Mission. However, as I thought, they would want the whole group to arrive in England together and return to China again bringing back messages from England. The cable reply has just come that I can be excused from joining the group. At the same time a cable came from Ruth that the Board Executive Committee in Chengtu had approved extending my leave to February. This means that I will have half a year more in the States.

I have urged Mr. Evans and Mrs. Mills to start the procedure for applying for your passage. So I would like to hear from you definitely about your plans and I do hope very very much that your decision will be a clear affirmative one. I remember we suggested November first as the earliest date that you might be prepared to sail. If this should not be correct, please let me know.

With all good wishes to you and looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Yi-fang Wu.

Miss Florence A. Kirk,  
1745 Orrington Avenue,  
Evanston, Illinois.

July 16, 1943

My dear Lillian:

When I first heard of your arrival I was going away somewhere, so I asked Helen Loomis to write to Florence. After that I talked with Mr. Evans and found out for sure that he had asked you to send him a statement of your travel expenses. When I wrote to you from Chungking, it was already too late to catch you. Miss Priest and I were getting worried about your financial needs because of the long wait you had in India. Your living expenses there and your travel should certainly be taken care of by the College, because it was all due to circumstances not within our control.

I am glad that Florence thinks you are getting rest from sleeping, but she did not mention actually how your health condition is. I am very eager to know if the old trouble is being cured. I also want to know if you have seen a doctor in Chicago and what advice he gives to you. I do hope that now that you have finally got to America your internal workings may be really improved enough for you to build up yourself.

If you have anything you would like to take up with me, please do not hesitate to write me. I shall be in New York through July except for short trips in this locality. I have spent most of my time attending meetings of Committees or informal conferences, and I already have a rather full program for the fall months.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Yi-fang Wu.

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731 - 4th Avenue (c/o Albert A. Kirk)  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada  
August 9, 1943

Dear Friends:

How nice to be saying "Hello" to my friends from this continent! Delays on the trip home were so lengthy and so numerous that I wondered sometimes if I wouldn't have to settle down more or less permanently in one of the countries on the other side of the Pacific. Eight and a half months for the trip home from China is a record as far as I know (Florence made it in a month in 1941), and not being able to work for more than a year previous to my starting out it seems as though I hadn't done anything useful for quite a long time. I am glad to say I gained strength - and a great deal of weight - on my "ocean cruise" and am feeling much better than a year ago.

My memories of the eleven-hour plane trip from Chungking to Calcutta are anything but pleasant except for the magnificent view (from 18,000 feet) of the Himalayas at sunrise with range after range of snow-clad peaks glinting in the sunshine. I believe this was the very "highest" highlight of the whole trip although the ocean in a storm can almost come up to it. Even though it was early November, Calcutta was sweltering and we saw numerous buffalo collapsed in the street. After the rain and cold of Chungking, it seemed pretty awful to us and of course the way we were clad did not help. You no doubt have heard of the layers of clothes people wear on the plane in order to get things in or out of China. I did not have on nineteen layers as one lady I know of did but I did wear a woolen suit and a light coat and carried another coat. Calcutta claimed us for two weeks while visas and passports were attended to but I did not feel equal to doing anything in the way of sightseeing. I must tell you one amusing thing which happened to us while there. When we were settling up at the swank hotel we stopped at until we found a mission which kindly took us in, we discovered that the servant who half-heartedly looked after our needs was a "personal" servant and of course was not satisfied with the ordinary tip we were going to give him. He claimed he told us when we arrived but I have a feeling that not even the heat or exhaustion of going through customs would make us slip up on a thing like that. With the prospect of getting a boat in Bombay the beginning of December, three of us started out by train for Agra, Delhi, and Central India.

I know I am expected to say that the Taj Mahal set in a garden of cypress trees with its screens and panels of pierced marble and inlay of precious stones was the most beautiful thing of the trip but it seemed to me too elaborate, too perfect. I saw it by moonlight too when it is supposed to be most beautiful. The large central dome is encased in bamboo and some protective covering "for the duration". Some people seemed to think me a bit queer when I told them I preferred the old fort. With its red sandstone walls seventy feet high, ramparts one and a half miles long, maze of courtyards, elephant stables, jasmine tower, pearl mosque and rosewater baths, it was a fascinating and intensely interesting place. On the plains of Delhi where seven cities have risen and been destroyed now stands a splendid city with some beautiful modern sections. Much of the country between Delhi and Central India is semi-desert. It was here we saw caravans of camels, thirty or more with heads tied to the tail of the one in front. We were told the reason for the supercilious appearance of the camel. The Indian has ninety-nine names for Mohammed; the camel knows one hundred. No part of India

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has the swept-clean look of China and the people did not seem as thrifty, as cheerful or as patient as the Chinese. We saw a bit of rural India at Ratlam where I visited a few days with Mildred Cates and Florence Gruchy, both University of Saskatchewan graduates. Then on to Bombay where we waited - and waited - and from where we did not like to move for fear a boat should turn up suddenly.

It is difficult to give my impressions of India even after a stay of four months there. Along with its superstitions and caste problems, there seems to be a mental lethargy and certainly progress is slow and there is much unrest. Independence for their country is the thought uppermost in the minds of many Indians and some are quite frank in saying they could not see a workable plan for the future because none of the groups are willing to compromise.

Bombay is a fascinating place with its amazing variety of costumes and headdress. Some of the things which stand out in my memory are the richly-clad Parsees (the women always in silk), the veiled Mohammedan women, the splendid looking Sikhs, the Hindus with their earrings and painted emblems on foreheads, the travelling beggar orchestras in uniform, the sacred cows wandering at will helping themselves to bananas or cabbages or whatever they fancied in the food stalls and only turned away with a gentle slap if they became too demanding (some are led about by women of the sweeper class carrying a handful of grass and to gain special recognition from the gods one buys a wisp of hay and feeds it to the animal), sleek bullocks with gilded horns and hooves and painted spots over their bodies trotting along like ponies with their loaded carts, laundrymen beating their clothes on stone slabs, educated Indians with their beautiful, precise English, tailors squatting cross-legged in front of legless sewing machines, Gandhi's followers recognizable by their coarse white cotton caps, and the cartloads of bananas. I could go on indefinitely but I guess this is a good place to stop. Visits to the Haffkine Institute where the special attraction was seeing snake venom being extracted, an exhibition of Indian dancing, the Towers of Silence - great circular walled places where the Parsees place their dead so the vultures may eat the flesh, and the ritual of a Hindu baby getting its bath were all most interesting.

Mealtimes in India were very peculiar and each place we visited had a different schedule. I will tell you of just one. We had "little breakfast" served on a tray in our bedrooms at seven o'clock consisting of fresh fruit (usually a banana and a custard apple), toast, jam and tea. At ten-thirty we had "big breakfast" with porridge, an egg or fish dish, toast, jam, coffee and fresh fruit. Tea came at four o'clock when we had the usual afternoon tea things along with a salad or stewed fruit and cottage cheese. The last meal of the day was dinner at eight when we had everything from soup to nuts. The bananas, buffalo milk, fish, chicken, coffee, pineapple and other delicacies tasted so good after being so long without them. We had a Christmas afternoon picnic at the beach with the American Methodist group who were so very good to us during our stay in Bombay.

In between shopping and sight-seeing tours we called on shipping companies and most of them told us that freighters were not allowed to take single women and that there was no passenger boat in sight. Some contemplated temporary marriages with men going home and some who had permanents were accused of "setting their caps". Towards the end of February, a Saturday morning about eleven o'clock, word came that one

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Canadian could leave the next morning at eight. Imagine waiting four months and then not having longer than that to do the final packing! I was the fortunate one in getting off on this boat but as it turned out those who started a month later were home one week before me. Our ship had engine trouble. It seemed to be the only one in those waters with women on it and when other ships came near enough the sailors would wave frantically, sometimes using their blankets, and we used anything we could get our hands on to wave back. Passengers numbered ten, four women and six men. The men passengers were all members of the army or navy. The ship was a sort of "International House" with thirteen nationalities, chiefly European. Our captain was an unusual man, a Norwegian born in Greece, educated in Spain, nine months a prisoner in Germany and he wants to become an American citizen. The officers' dining-room where we ate had four tables for four, two chesterfields back to back down the centre and it also served as smoking-room, reading and card room. Fifty times round the deck made a mile. On two sides we had to walk single file and at two corners duck under stairways. When it rained there was not a dry spot anywhere but I made a practice of going out for an hour no matter how bad the storm. Food was plentiful and good. Besides three meals at eight, twelve and five we could have morning and afternoon coffee and we regularly raided the ice-box at night.

In Australia the captain went ashore to arrange for the taking on of supplies and came back about three hours later with word that the ship would have to pull into dock because it was too stormy to bring out eggs. When the surveyors (engineering) got talking matters over, they decided to do some repairs and we stayed three weeks. The Australians told us that being "way down under" they did not see many travelers. Off again and south into cold, stormy weather. We never tired watching the albatross, some with a wing-spread of seventeen feet. Their effortless flight was like a poem and they seemed tireless although we did see them sitting on the water occasionally, having conferences, we said. We just crossed the international date line when our engines stopped completely for several hours. How many of you have had the experience of having two Good Fridays and no Easter Sunday? You perhaps have already guessed that we turned back and you are quite right - to New Zealand where a cookie is a "biscuit" and movies are "flicks" and where the people are so friendly and so healthy-looking. I fell quite in love with the country and can quite understand why so many of the marines want to go back there to live. They have a splendid social security scheme with pensions, free medicines and hospital treatment, a forty-hour week, state designing and building of houses, etc. There are practically no illiterates and it is possible to go from kindergarten through university without paying a penny in fees. Social invitations during our three-week stay became so numerous that we had to be firm and refuse many of them. At last the ship was ready to make a fresh start and we got just across the date line again when our engines stopped. Some thought the bump was too much for the ship! This time we had two Thursdays and no Saturday. Back again to New Zealand and when the captain found we might be held up for some time he suggested that we make arrangements to trans-ship. Four of us, two women and two men, got passage on a naval ship. What a difference in the two ships! We now had to carry life belts with us all day and have them handy at night. There was no leaving them under the bed to be brought out for the occasional Sunday morning drill. We ate cafeteria style from metal trays divided into compartments. What work was done in bedrooms was done by the occupants. Regulations were strict with punishments listed for those who

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1943

disobeyed. It was interesting to have traveled on the two types of ships and the naval ship got us home in a hurry even though it did not always keep to a straight course.

Home at last after spending four months on boats. I think now that I will be content to spend the rest of my life on land. I am enjoying the lovely grass and trees of Evanston, the pretty things in the stores, the new ways of packaging food stuffs and the new materials. So far I have no plans other than visiting my family. When I am ready for work perhaps something will turn up. I have been getting such nice replies from letters I wrote to families of the crew on the freighter. Some had not heard from their sons for more than a year. I hope this letter will make up in part for the way I have neglected you, and please do write. With good wishes to you,

*Lillian J. Kirk*

Dear Friends, much-neglected:

It is good to have Lillian here, looking remarkably well after her adventurous six years in China and on the high seas. She has spurred me on to add a little to her account of the journey home. For my infrequent letters to you, I have only the old excuse - work.

I am finishing up what have been for me two delightful years of concentrated study, summers included, at Northwestern. One big hurdle - the "orals" - is over: the three-hour oral examination with nine professors to find out what one does not know. My last examination will be on my dissertation in early October. Now I am spending full time trying to get it in order. It has been a most interesting piece of research, a critical edition of The Faithful Shepherdess by John Fletcher (about 1610). If my thesis is accepted, I shall be finished, and my doctorate degree awarded next June. The English Department here has been all that is helpful and inspiring. The fellowships granted for last year and this summer have helped to balance the ever-troublesome budget.

After my dissertation exam., I shall go to Canada for a month - and I hope longer - before starting back to China. The Canadian government has promised me a visa, and our Ginling College Board in New York are working at the problem of getting me a passage, not an easy thing these days. We have cheery accounts of life in Chengtu where I shall be returning, but inflation makes life increasingly difficult. The general price level in May was 62 times normal; that means that a man's suit would cost \$200 in U. S. Currency, and shoes \$45. Our salaries have been adjusted to meet the situation, but there must be many Chinese who cannot get any such adjustment. It is fortunate that Chengtu is on a very fertile plain where most vegetables and fruits are available, but they say everything is very expensive, even if grown at one's door.

Today we expect Gordon from Florida to visit us. He is coming north for a holiday, and to save Lillian a hard trip south to hot damp weather. His Range Experimental Station is making real progress.

With all good wishes,

*Rowena A. Kirk*

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1745 Orrington Ave.,  
Evanston, Ill.,  
September 17, 1943

Dear Mr. Evans,

Have you managed to get any holiday this summer? I hope you have. Did Dr. Wu's August holiday materialize? I wish she could have had three months free from business, but I suppose that is impossible.

My sister has left for Canada to-night. She has spent a good deal of time the last two months at the clinic, and they find that she has several varieties of amoeba. She is now starting on a second course of treatment, and hopes that soon she can get rid of them, and gain in strength. She looks much better than when she arrived, but tires very easily.

The thesis nears completion, but goes more slowly than I had anticipated. I get expert advice on it, though, and that makes it a pleasure. I hope to have it finished and the final exam. on it done by October 15. It has kept me very very busy, and it will be good to have it completed.

There are several matters I should like to have your opinion about:

1. Miss Loomis wrote in the early summer that there was a possibility of getting books and supplies taken from India to China by some route. What do you know about this? If there is such a route open, what number of books should I plan to take? I have two or three dozen books here that would be invaluable for work there, and I should like to purchase a couple dozen books for use by classes, but will not do this if there is little chance of getting them into China. Of course, I shall cut down on the number if necessary, but it would help if I could have some idea of the probabilities.

2. Someone thought that drugs could now be sent in by air-mail to China from India. Do you have any information concerning this?

3. I do not know what to do about my insurance policies. With the steady rise of prices in China, I think that even adjusted salaries must be all consumed in buying food, and it would, of course, be impossible to save. After paying on these policies for so many years, I should not like to let them drop. They amount to \$200 a year, not counting the pensions insurance scheme with Ginling.

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4. I have been in communication with the Canadian Government about the necessary endorsement of my passport. Since I am going into Canada, I am advised to get the endorsement in Canada, in order to save complications.

5. Is there any hint of a possible sailing date, or port of departure? It seems rather a pity to take things into Canada just to bring them back to U.S.A. in a few weeks, but if the sailing date is indefinite, that would be the better way. Is there any information about a date before which there would not be a passage? I can quite understand that such chances may open up suddenly and no information can be secured long in advance. As we read the papers, we think and wonder what developments in different areas means as regards civilian travel. I realize that the travel accommodations of one civilian is a very small matter in the sum total of world events these days.

6. It was very good of Dr. Wu to suggest that the Ginling Board might spare me \$100. for outfitting allowance. I should greatly appreciate that.

7. If my departure is delayed, I should be only too happy to go on a reduced furlough salary, were it not for my life insurance liabilities. I can imagine the financial stress these days when inflation in China daily makes even gold of less and less value. Recently Miss Bertha Hensman told us that she had a report from Chengtu that the price index is 10,700; that is almost incredible, and must work untold hardship, particularly on Chinese people. O, how I wish that somehow prices could be controlled! This country is very wise to foresee the dangers of inflation, and guard against such a situation.

I do not know if I have told you that my brother from Florida was here for a ten days' visit, since it seemed difficult for my sister to go south just now. I have been very fortunate in having two members of my family here; they both like Evanston very much.

8. Is there any use of trying to take films into China? For instance, can the films of Ettie Chin's good camera (I mean the Ginling camera she usually operates) can be sent out to be finished? Perhaps it was just the color films that had to be sent to America. I realize the importance of getting publicity material to this country at such a critical time as this.

I must close now. Whatever information you can give, will be most welcome.

With all good wishes to you, to Dr. Wu of course, and the rest of the Ginling people,

Sincerely,

*Helen K. K.*

*Paid 9/20/43  
No 1703*

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8. Is there any use of trying to take films into China? For instance, can the films of Little Chin's good camera (I mean the Ginning camera she usually operates) can be sent out to be finished? Perhaps it was just the color films that had to be sent to America. I realize the importance of getting publicity material to this country at such a critical time as this.

I must close now. Whatever information you can give, will be most welcome.

With all good wishes to you, to Dr. Wu of course, and the rest of the Ginning people,

Sincerely,

*Theresa Hensman*

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will be most welcome

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*pick*

September 20, 1943

Miss Florence Kirk  
1745 Orrington Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Miss Kirk:

Your letter of September 17th came to hand this morning and I am answering immediately:

1. At the present time there is little chance of getting books from India into China. Several Chinese who are returning at the present time are taking their books as far as India with the hope that they can be held there until conditions change. Of course, that is always a possibility.
2. The only drugs that are going in at the present time are under priorities granted by the Government, of which a copy must be given to the individual carrying the drugs. This does not apply, of course, to any individual supply which you may wish to take for personal use.
3. There have been adjustments in salaries of all staff members and presumably the allowance for insurance has been taken care of. We are not familiar with the exact amount being paid, but it was reported last week that a request had been received from mission board-supported staff for allowances up to \$300.00 per month. I would not advise against canceling the insurance until you find out the actual conditions.
4. We are glad to know that the passport question is being solved satisfactorily.
5. There is no information regarding sailing date or port of departure. As a matter of fact, in the final analysis it will mean living on a twenty-four hour leeway as in some instances passages are made available over night. One couple going to China got off about three weeks ago and Saturday a cabled message from India indicated they had arrived there. Confidentially, this would mean that they went through the Mediterranean Sea.

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Miss Kirk

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September 20, 1943

The best we can do is to keep you informed of progress of others that have been listed, and there are about fifty ahead of you.

6. Agreeable to Dr. Wu's suggestion, we are enclosing check for \$100.00 for re-fitting allowance. We presume you wish to take advantage of any purchasing between now and the sailing date.
7. We do not think it advisable to make any change in your furlough salary. While it is true the index has gone ahead with leaps and bounds, yet the merchants, farmers and laborers are well take care of. It is the white collared class which is suffering.
8. I do not think that there is much chance of getting films into China and believe that they can be secured there to better advantage. We have tried it in two instances and have failed both times, and have considerable quantity on our hands at the present time.

I am wondering what progress is being made with inoculations and if you have checked with your Government on all of the necessary steps for sailing to China.

With best wishes from all of us, I am

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAB/B



0650

1745 Orrington Ave.,  
Evanston, Ill., Oct. 15.

Dear Mr. Evans,

I had recently a letter from the Department of External Affairs in Canada regarding the procedure necessary to go through previous to leaving ~~for~~ China. There are two things I must do - if I leave from a Canadian port, i.e. secure exit permit from the Acting Director of Immigration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, and secure permission to leave the country from the Foreign Exchange Control Board in Ottawa. (Also, I must interview the National Selective Service authorities regarding my departure, no matter what port I sail from.) I wondered if I should get this permission, ~~in case I should~~ leave from a Canadian port, or whether there is any certainty that I shall not leave from a Canadian port, thus making this procedure unnecessary.

I am so glad you suggested my writing to get full details of the procedure necessary for leaving the country; I had understood from the previous communications with the Canadian government that the visa was all that was necessary.

With all good wishes,

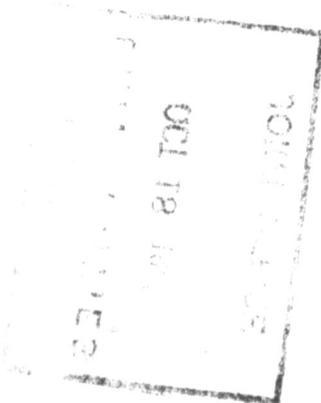
Sincerely,

*Lawrence A. Kirk*

*40 Dr. C. J. Kirk*

*3154 Angus St.*

*Régina, Québec*



0651

1745 Orrington Ave.,  
Evanston, Ill., Oct. 15.

Dear Mr. Evans,

I had recently a letter from the Department of External Affairs in Canada regarding the procedure necessary to go through previous to leaving for China. There are two things I must do - if I leave from a Canadian port, i.e. secure exit permit from the Acting Director of Immigration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, and secure permission to leave the country from the Foreign Exchange Control Board in Ottawa. (Also, I must interview the National Selective Service authorities regarding my departure, no matter what port I sail from.) I wondered if I should get this permission, ~~inasmuch as~~ I should leave from a Canadian port, or whether there is any certainty that I shall not leave from a Canadian port, thus making this procedure unnecessary.

I am so glad you suggested my writing to get full details of the procedure necessary for leaving the country; I had understood from the previous communications with the Canadian government that the visa was all that was necessary.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,



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November 2, 1943.

Miss Florence Kirk  
C/O Dr. J. C. Kirk  
3154 Angus Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Canada

Dear Florence,

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ginling Board a few days ago Dr. Wu reported that she had had a letter from you saying that you have successfully completed all the work for your degree. This is good news indeed, and there was a spontaneous expression of pleasure on the part of all those present. I was instructed to write to you offering the heartiest congratulations of the Board, and their deep satisfaction that you have made further progress in your preparations to return to China by having completed all your inoculations. May I add my personal word of congratulations also?

I think Dr. Wu has written suggesting that you come to New York for awhile before you sail. I have no copy of her letter, so do not know exactly what she said, but I do know that we would all be most happy to see you, and hope that it will be possible for you to come. Of course we do not want to interfere with a really satisfactory visit with your family before leaving, but you may be sure of a hearty welcome here whenever you can arrange to come.

Mr. Evans will be writing you about arrangements for passage. It was the unanimous feeling of the Executive Committee that we wanted to arrange for you to sail at the earliest possible date, as Dr. Wu stressed again the great need in Chengtu. You will bring new life and strength to them.

Looking forward to seeing you before long,

Affectionately yours,

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

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Saskatoon, Sask.,  
731 Fourth Ave. N.,  
November 8, 1943

Dear Dr. Wu,

I greatly appreciated your letter and Mrs. New's which arrived before I got to Saskatoon. Yes, it is good to have a long grind finished; I enjoyed it thoroughly until the last two or three weeks when it got too hectic to be any fun.

This is just a note to tell you how my plans are progressing. There is no trouble about passport or getting permission from the Finance Board to leave Canada. When on the advice of the National Selective Service Ottawa in a letter arriving this morning I interviewed the office here in Saskatoon this afternoon, the man said there was a possibility that Canada would not let me go, but he thought they would. He is hurrying up my application by sending it air-mail and asking them to wire a reply, but he thought it would take two or three weeks to get a reply. I shall let you know the decision at once, and should be ready to leave for New York as soon as word comes. He thought it would be a good thing to write a letter to accompany the application, giving information about my work in China. I have written that letter, and have told them you were in U.S.A. and given the address where you could be reached. The man in the office thought Canada wished to keep every citizen here to work, and that general principle might even be applied in my case. I myself think there will be no trouble.

Tomorrow Lillian and I start off to Lawrence's - only 200 miles, but an out-of-the-way place, so that it takes 1½ days to get there by very slow trains, and staying over night, etc. The weather is still good and we hope to make the visit before winter sets in. It is a joy to be home and to breathe this invigorating air.

You are all most gracious in your letters of congratulation. To-day I got Mrs. Mills' nice letter. It was good of Mrs. New to be so generous about her suite, and I shall be writing her before long.

Yes, I can guess at the difficulties that arise as the war continues and life gets more and more difficult. I am sure they miss you in trying to

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meet such situations.

Ruth wanted <sup>me</sup> to ask you if you could take some Parke Davis Thyroid Emplets for her. She wants 500 of the 2-grain size. What you cannot take, I shall try to get in to her.

Lillian sends her good wishes along with mine. She received your letter when she arrived. She is feeling much better and will start on her course of treatments to get rid of the amoebae when she returns from Lawrence's.

Affectionately,

Lawrence Kirt

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November 16, 1943

Miss Florence A. Kirk  
731 Fourth Avenue North  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
Canada

Dear Florence:

Dr. Wu has asked me to acknowledge your letter of November 8th. She was very happy indeed to hear from you and to know that you are feeling confident of securing your passport without difficulty. However, she has asked you to send her the name of the person who is attending to this application for you, as Dr. Wu wishes to supplement your statements with an official statement from the College.

Dr. Wu has asked me to say that she will be very glad to take the thyroid emblems for Ruth. Is it your idea to have Dr. Wu secure these tablets, or are you planning to get all of them and send them to Dr. Wu?

As you probably know, Dr. Wu had not expected to start back until about the end of January. However, she has had letters and cables from China that have made her decide to change her plans and return earlier. She now expects to leave by the end of December or the first of January. Naturally, we are very reluctant to see her cancel engagements made here, and also are sorry that she will not have a chance for longer rest before returning. However, I know that conditions in the College weigh so heavily upon her that perhaps she will really be happier to start back sooner than she had expected.

I hope that it will be possible for you to spend some time with us in New York before you sail. With all best wishes to you and your sister,

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

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Mr. Evans, please  
note the Saskatoon  
address.

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noted AR.  
731-4th Ave. N.  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
Nov. 18, 1943

Dear Mr. Evans,

Today I received my "Labour Exit Permit" to leave Canada. You remember in my mid-October letter I asked you if there was any certainty that I should leave from a U.S. port, because if I left from a Canadian port I needed an Exit Permit. The Immigration Office communication which arrived yesterday, however, said that I needed ~~an~~ "Exit Permit" before the necessary visas could be secured. I wrote for this permit immediately by air-mail, for I understand that these <sup>are</sup> two Exit Permits and not different names for one permit. I asked for an early consideration of my application, and hope it may come with despatch. There will be a little time needed to get the non-immigrant visa <sup>to U.S.</sup>, for my passport is still in Ottawa, awaiting the Exit Permit. So it becomes a little invaluable a process to

Nov. 18, 1943.

got started.

In connection with visas, can you advise me in regard to what countries I shall need visas for? I explained that in war time routes were unpredictable, and suggested that visas might be necessary for China, India, Australia, New Zealand and U.S.A., but asked if there was not some way of dealing with such a situation. In your recent letter you mention Portugal and South Africa. Please advise me in this matter. The reply from Ottawa did not mention any "blanket" visa which might cover any country.

Please send me by air-mail an Eastern Clergy <sup>certificate</sup> application form, for I have neglected getting a book for that part of U.S.A.

To cover the requirements by the Finance Board of Canada, I shall need an American currency cheque with which to pay my rail-ticket from the U.S.A. border on. It does not need to be the exact amount, for the bank here will give me an American cheque for the remainder.

I'm sure you have been very busy securing a passage, and I appreciate this. In accord with Dr. Wu's request I shall go to New York as soon as the requirements of the Canadian Government are met. Very sincerely,  
Stanley A. King

0658

preke

731 - 4th Ave. N.

Saskatoon, Sask.

Nov. 19 [1943]

Dear Councilia,

Your letter of Nov. 16 has just arrived. As I have written Mr. Evans I have secured the Labour Exit Permit - so Mr. Wu does not need to write in support of my application. I have applied for the "Exit Permit" - presumably a different permit - and when that comes I shall then be able to get the visas on my passport and the non-immigrant visa for U.S.A.

If Mr. Wu can take all 500 Duke Davis Thyroid Emphlets, 2 grain size, for Ruth, that would be splendid; if not, I can take what she cannot. I suggest they be bought in New York at any rate.

I am sorry Mr. Wu feels she needs to return earlier than according to the original plan, but, as you say, she may be happier to start back at the earlier date.

When I read about the Guspicholm, I think of you and how happy you are that Mr. Mills is a participant on it.

0659

Nov. 19, '44

I rejoice with you and the girls, and all the other families who will be reunited.

Many thanks for your most gracious letter of congratulation. You are all very appreciative and understanding.

It is a pleasure to be seeing old friends again. We have had a visit with the various members of the family now and exchanged news.

Yes, I hope to spend some time in New York before sailing. It seems a very long time since I have seen you in Hanking.

With all good wishes,

Affectionately,

Lawrence Kent

P.S. Lillian is just starting at her health problems again; she is still far from well.

731 Fourth Ave. N.  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
November 24, 1943

*act 12/20/43*

Dear Mr. Evans,

There are two matters I want to discuss with you. The first is in connection with entrance into the United States. It seems that the simplest method of entrance is to obtain a transit certificate. Concerning this I shall quote from the letter sent me by the American Consulate in Regina:

"You might enter the United States with a transit certificate but before this may properly be issued it would be necessary for you to have assurance that transportation will be provided and at least approximate dates. No exit permit will be required if you enter with a transit certificate unless there is an important departure from your itinerary. This itinerary must be prepared in advance and supplied in three copies to the United States Immigration authorities at the port where you enter."

"For a transit certificate it will be necessary to present proofs that your passage has been provided in addition to the requirements for a nonimmigrant visa."

It seemed to me that a letter from the Ginling College Board stating that passage was being secured, and that the Board was taking the responsibility for securing this, would be all that the American Government would require in proof of transportation. What do you think? As to itinerary, my plans are to stay a couple days at Sault Ste. Marie, and a few days at Evanston on my way to New York. If you think that it would be better to have the itinerary on the letter you write, might these facts be put in, but blanks left for dates, to be filled in when I see what would be suitable after securing the final permission to leave Canada from Ottawa? Perhaps you have had similar situations to handle. I thought once that a Visitors' Visa or Nonimmigrant Visa would be the thing to get, but the difficulty with this is that an Exit Permit from the United States would then be required, and this apparently usually takes 30 days to secure after arriving in the United States, and any passage secured before this was applied for would not be available!

The second matter is in connection with a typewriter. Lillian would very much like to secure one, and she wondered if we might arrange for the Ginling College Board to purchase one for us at the reduced rate (An Underwood Portable) and I would take it from New York with me to China, leaving mine which you secured for me two years ago for Lillian. I realize that typewriters are difficult to secure, and this may now not be possible. In that event, I shall take my present machine with me, and she will do what she can to get one here, but of course, without any discount.

*With all good wishes,*

*Sincerely,  
James Stewart*

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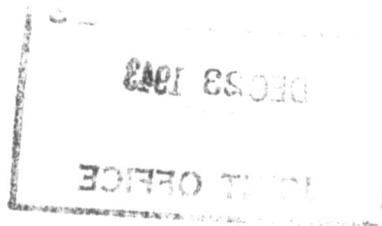
November 24 1943

Dear Mr. Evans,

I forgot the matter which was to be the subject of my next letter to you, so shall add it as an extended postscript. The Great West Life Assurance Company tells me that my premium which came due in October has been paid by the Irving Trust Company of New York. I am at a loss to understand this, and wonder if by any chance the Ginling College Board has paid this premium for me.

Sincerely,

*Howard A. Kirk*



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November 24 1943

Dear Mr. Evans,

I forgot the matter which was to be the subject of my next letter to you, so shall add it as an extended postscript. The Great West Life Assurance Company tells me that my premium which came due in October has been paid by the Irving Trust Company of New York. I am at a loss to understand this, and wonder if by any chance the Gilling College Board has paid this premium for me.

Sincerely,

*James A. Gilling*

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OFFICE

731 Fourth Ave. North  
Saskatoon, Sask., November 26, 1943

*[Handwritten signature]*

Dear Mr. Evans,

I am enclosing the completed Application for Clergy Certificate and my last year's book. Many thanks for seeing to this for me.

*✓ OK call  
Paid 11/29/43  
701745  
2.00*

Mr. Evans, I think there will be no trouble about getting Ottawa to add a visa for Portugal, as the chief concern seems to be visas for countries beyond the Western Hemisphere. At any rate I am writing the Immigration department asking them to add this if possible. You say I shall need an "immigrant visa" to the United States. In the light of what I wrote you a few days ago, do you not think that the "transit visa" is better? Lillian had that, and when she needed to stay longer than the time provided she had no trouble in securing extensions. I do hope that the Mediterranean route is possible; it sounds much speedier.

I do not know that there has been any understanding about maintenance for me this year. As you know I was on regular salary from the time I arrived until the end of August 1942 (I think that was the time) and the Ginling Board granted me a special study allowance of \$300, and just this fall an allowance of \$100. for outfitting prior to returning to China. That, I think, is the summary of the financial transactions so far as I know, except that I have not settled with you for my insurance in the Ginling scheme since returning to this continent. I was granted a Fellowship by Northwestern for the ten-months school year, and this was extended through this last summer school session. Living in Evanston is high, and the thesis and graduation fees amounted to \$175. This summer I found it necessary to cash in on an insurance policy, and that has kept me going until now. I am in need of funds now because an insurance premium of \$175. is due early in December. In one or two letters we have discussed furlough salary and you have written that you thought it should be the regular furlough salary, but there has been no mention of when furlough salary should begin.

For travel I think that \$60 will be sufficient.

*OK call Paid 11/29/43  
701744*

When you mention that Dr. Wu should have something of a rest before starting back for China, do you mean that she may not have time to do any work in which I could be of assistance? I'm sure she needs any rest that is possible, if she could be induced to take it. I am quite willing to go as soon as the permits come through, but if Dr. Wu thinks she will not have time to put me to work, I should like to wait longer here - that is, if there is no immediate chance of a sailing. So please let me know any decision on the matter. I shall plan to go as soon as the permits come if I do not hear anything to the contrary. And though she might not want me to work but it seems best to be in New York to wait, that would be all right too. With libraries at hand I can always keep busy.

With all good wishes to you, Mr. Evans, and to Dr. Wu and Mrs. Mills and the others,

Sincerely,

*Lawrence A. Kirk*

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77 Fourth Ave. North  
Saskatoon, Sask., November 28, 1946

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*Handwritten notes:*  
11/28/46  
11/29/46  
11/30/46

Dear Mr. Evans,

I am enclosing the completed Application for Clergy Certification and my last year's book. Many thanks for seeing to this for me.

Mr. Evans, I think there will be no trouble about getting Ottawa to add a visa for Portugal, as the chief concern seems to be visas for countries beyond the Western Hemisphere. At any rate I am writing the Immigration Department asking them to add this if possible. You say I shall need an "immigrant visa" to the United States. In the light of what I wrote you a few days ago, do you not think that the "transit visa" is better? William had that, and when she needed to stay longer than the time provided she had no trouble in securing extensions. I do hope that the Bahamian route is possible; it sounds much simpler.

I do not know that there has been any understanding about maintenance for me this year. As you know I was on regular salary from the time I arrived until the end of August 1942 (I think that was the time) and the Training Board granted me a special study allowance of \$300, and just this fall an allowance of \$100 for outfitting prior to returning to China. That, I think, is the summary of the financial transactions so far as I know, except that I have not settled with you for my insurance in the United States since returning to this continent. I was granted a Fellowship by the University for the ten-month school year, and this was extended through this last summer school session. My living in Saskatoon is \$100, and the special education fees amount to \$150. This summer I found it necessary to cash in on an insurance policy and that I kept me going until now. I am in need of funds now because my insurance premium of \$175 is due early in December. In one or two letters we have discussed your salary and you have written that you thought it should be the regular faculty salary, but there has been no mention of when your salary should begin.

*Handwritten notes:*  
11/28/46  
11/29/46

For travel I think that \$200 will be sufficient.

When you mention that Dr. Wu should have something of a rest before starting back for China, do you mean that she may not have time to do any work in which I could be of assistance? I'm sure she needs any rest that is possible, it she could be induced to take it. I am quite willing to go as soon as the permits come through, but if Dr. Wu thinks she will not have time to get me to work, I should like to wait longer here - that is, if there is no immediate chance of a sailing. So please let me know any decision on the matter. I shall plan to go as soon as the permits come if I do not hear anything to the contrary. And though she might not want me to work but it seems best to be in New York to wait, that would be all right too. With libraries at hand I can always keep busy.

With all good wishes to you, Mr. Evans, and to Dr. Wu and Mrs. Mills and the others,

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature:* James A. ...

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Handwritten numbers on the right margin: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.



CANADA

COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION

Department of Mines and Resources  
IMMIGRATION BRANCH

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO  
NO. 757623.

OTTAWA, November 29, 1943.

Dear Madam,-

Enc.

In reply to your letter of November 17th, I am attaching hereto an application form which I would ask you to have completed in connection with your desire to obtain an Exit Permit. When returning the form will you kindly have the head of the organization with which you are serving abroad forward to this office a letter outlining the need for your services. We will then be in a position to reach a decision in respect to your application for an Exit Permit.

Yours truly,

Miss Florence A. Kirk,  
731 - 4th Avenue, North,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

C.E.S. Smith,  
Acting Commissioner.

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731- Fourth Ave. N  
Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 3

Dear Mr. Evans,

When the letter came this morning from the Department of Mines and Resources I thought that my final permit had arrived, but it was only the application form - and this after two weeks of waiting! I am enclosing the form which has to be forwarded to the Department of Mines.... with a letter outlining the need for my return. I am so sorry the thing is being held up in this way.

I am also enclosing a note requesting this office to inform the Passport Office in Ottawa of their decision - and so avoid any undue delay in sending word to Saskatoon and back to Ottawa again. If you feel that this is not wise, please feel free to take this request out of the letter.

We are following with interest the items appearing in the newspaper about the arrival of the Gripsholm. It is wonderful that the boat has arrived safely. Mrs. Mills must be joyful.

I received the medical report yesterday and shall do the further things suggested by Dr. Vaughan.

With all good wishes, Sincerely,

*Lawrence A. Kirk*

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731-Fourth Ave. N.  
Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 6  
1943.

Dear Mr. Evans,

*Paid  
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American*

In accordance with your request in your letter of December 1, I am hereby enclosing the announcement of the premium due on life insurance. Thank you very much for seeing to this for me.

Thank you also for the travel allowance cheque.

Just as soon as the Exit Permit arrives I shall proceed to New York. Seeing that the Immigration Office this last week sent me merely the application form - as I have written you - I doubt whether I shall be able to be in New York by December 15. Could you send some sort of letter which would vouch for my passage in case I cannot get off for this particular boat? This would mean that the transit visa would be granted without difficulty.

Very sincerely,

*Lawrence A. King*

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