Ginling
Corres.
Thurston, Matilda Calder 1943

10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.
6 January 1943

Dear Elsie:

Yours of November 9 reached me this morning. You may like the record of time en route. My latest news direct from your city was in August - from Ruth and Constance - but later letters from both have come in through the college office - latest dated November 1 is from Ruth. Anna sent me some bits from yours to her - latest date Oct. 4 in which you promised me a letter. I am always glad to hear from you, even when you deal only in matters of finance.

Now let me clear a few points as to salary status. Mr. Evans cleared my travel a/c down to Sept. 1, 1942, and has paid me on furlough salary basis $100 per month through December. And that is the last month in which my salary figures in the G.C. account for I am retired from January 1 and draw pension $732 a year from the Board. In November, Mr. Evans paid me $300 and held 100 to clear the personal payments on pension which were due the Board.

I reported to him in September that I had no salary in China after October 1, 1941, and he paid me for 9 months, at field rate of 72, also paying my travel expense and the $2.00 a day which covered July and August. I received no money through the Swiss agency. Fortunately I did receive before December 8 the 200 U.S. which my brother sent and with that and the 2,000 C.C. in Relief Loan Fund which I was able to pay myself, and with some personal funds from sale of rugs and furniture, I was at no time in financial straits, and I did not have to use school money. I wish you had sent me Ellen's June statement, or the trial balance which she could not "balance". That with her may mean only a slight cash difference. She worries if she is short and rejoices when she has more cash than the book requires, and a "balance" may mean that. I wish you would send me a copy of her June statement and I can enter it in my Ledger and do a June 30 Trial Balance. I think I sent you a copy of my June 1 Balance from Lourenco. I have it, and the Ledger here and I can give you any missing details you might need to clear the Nanking a/c.

I received only one wan through your agent. It was brought to me by C.T. on April 16, nothing later by that route. C.T. was evidently afraid even then, of the traffic by that route and Albert warned me that nothing more could be counted on. If anything got through after June 11 you will get some acknowledgment of it in due time.

As to Harriet's salary I have no record. I think her Board is carrying her through a year of furlough, which she was planning to take in 1942 anyway. As to her return to Ginling, or to other work in China, no decision is made here. It should be considered there and careful statement made to the office here. I know that a year and more ago she was not needed in her department up there. Perhaps marriage of Ping-dji changes the situation. It is for Constance to see that the Board here knows. I will write her on the subject later. Harriet, like myself, had no salary from Oct. 1, 1941 from you. Her bishop advanced funds for living expenses and there will be some clearing to be done between the College and her Board, but it can be done here. I will always appreciate financial statement, etc., direct from you.

I have been in New York twice since I left for home on September 4. On November 16 the Board met and you will doubtless get minutes of that meeting. As to Report on the last six months of my stay, I wrote some 7 + pages, double space type, which was mimeographed and has been circulated. I also have what I call my indiscreet diary kept from Dec. 6 to May 10 when I summed up March and April. This document runs to 24½ pages double space. For me it is valuable. I also have diaries for the three years 1940, 1941, and 1942. Most of my fellows were afraid to keep diaries, but I not only risked that but got them out with me, along with quite a considerable amount of file material, especially what I need to complete the writing of college history. And I left, rather than destroying it, a lot of stuff which may survive the occupation. Who will ever put it in order? In my diary on March 14 I wrote "Collected some papers wanted for G. story and brought up 1927 material. Who will care for it all when I'm not here and who willknow where to find anything?" On the 29th I wrote "Hard to decide to destroy and not time to select. If they survive their value will increase." I got comfort during my days of isolation reading the novel by Helen C. White "Not Built with Hands", based on records of the Eleventh Century which survived those dark days when Pope and Emperor were making a mess of Italy. Countess Matilda of Tuscany is the heroine and Hildebrand the hero and Henry the Fourth of Germany plays the part of Hitler. I still pray, as I did all

through the six months, "O Lord hinder them! Hold them back from destruction!" Did I write to anyone that I had come to the place where I approved of the second verse of "God Save the King". Read it and see if you understand why I can approve. Certainly I can pray "And make them fail!" And we saw signs even while we were in our old home that their politics were confounded.

Share this with Ruth and Eva, the parts that are not business. I am writing soon to Ruth and she will share with you. Postage rates favor brevity and discourage repetition. I think of you all so often and oftener still, my thoughts return to those I left in June. Every word of news from them is appreciated.

Love to you,

Matilda C. Thurston

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Love to you,

Matilda C. Thurston

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 durrent 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.

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

MLK

10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass
January 9, 1943

Dear Cornelia,

I am sending you a lot of precious writing, all of it subject to your inspection. The letters addressed to Elsie and to Ruth I should like to have typed and sent by air. Postage to be charged to me, and I would also be glad to pay for the typing. I feel it is worth while to keep copies of such letters and I am such a poor slow typist! I send you Elsie's letter and its enclosures. Mr. Evans may have received the Financial Statement for 1941-1942. If not he will want to make a copy, and he may be glad to see what Elsie has written about salary &c, and my reply to her. You will return to me in due time the material that is mine to keep.

You will see my suggestion for editing Mr Wu's letter to me, if you are wishing to give it wider circulation. I am interested to see the Sinking Funds in the recent Bulletin of China Colleges — which Helen received. Evidently my name is not on that list yet. (Of course) you need her copy but for my file I'd like to have such material.

Let me report on my movements between January 15 & 25. I shall be in Hartford Jan 15–18, staying at Mackenzie Hall, Sherman Street c/o Mrs. Marcia J. Lowell, and with my brother Wm P. Calder, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, Conn. over the week end January 21 or 22 — 25. Between these two I would like to look in on Middletown & Northfaven

1-9-43

Lillian urges me to come to them and I think I'll settle on the 20th or 21st for New Haven. My Hartford friend was late in sending definite word of the speaking date so I could not arrange my itinerary in advance. With the two addresses I have given you you can reach me during that period of ten days. Then I return to Ambrondale and have no plans except to settle down to work here.

When I send you the copy for my 1942 Letter I will send instructions about mailing list. I am inclined to keep the list here & send out letters myself from here, so the mimeographing of the letter will be all I ask from the Office. These letters to Changtu have had priority because I feel that they should get a letter. If you have any way of doing my Report 1941-1942 on thin paper it should go through to Sh. Wa- or to Ruth, for they will want the details it gives, which else say should be valuable in their record there.

Affectionately yours
Matilda C. Thurston

Bristol, Conn [17]

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS over

23 January 1943

Dear Cornelia,

Your note asking about Lin Mei-li reached me here, where I shall be till Monday morning or early afternoon: after that at Auburndale.

Mei-li was with us to the end. She came down to Shanghai and was the last person I saw from Nanking about the situation there. She is not the world's most accurate reporter and she had left Kuiling before the 19th so she could not answer a number of the questions we asked as to which of the various "gi-guans" had moved in. She was planning to stay in Nanking

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and teach in one of the city schools, having found a place for herself and the small niece she had with her the last year. There was a chance that she might decide to come to Shanghai and try to do something for a doctor brother who was going to the bad - his wife had left him and Mi-li seemed to think she might help him to behave better."

I suppose Mrs. Hagman may have heard from Mi-li in the spring of 1940 when she was unhappy in her relations with Mr. Tsen and was threatening to leave Kuiling. That was one of Nunnie's biggest problems. But things got adjusted on a basis of tolerance and altho the Homecraft

1/23/43 (37

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS on

Course was discontinued Mr. Li stayed in the school as teacher and caseworker, giving a good deal of time to Relief work in Day School, in the Cooperative store in South City.

I am glad to have the definite word about Plummer. I hope his going was after due warning and in as orderly a fashion as ours. She has a thousand questions as to how he left things in home and church and school. I hope some word from him will bring you further news. In Shanghai he ought to find work to do & congenial company.

Love to you

Matilda C. Thurston

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

CJ
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12 February 1943

Dear Cornelia,

There is much in this letter from Ruth that will be of interest to you. I have confidence in your judgement as to what might be of more general interest.

I was interested in the glimpse of what she calls the Cheelo mess. Doubtless you have heard of it from office correspondence. And I am very glad to get Ruth's opinion on on Bill Finn's appointment – and on Mr. Cressey. I feel that Ruth has a very clear mind – even when she doesn't agree with me as fully as she does about Mr. Cresby.

It's hard luck having her perfect registrar get sick – and in such a distressing way. Of course one cannot reason about such delirium but the old proverb "What's in when you're sober comes out when you're drunk."

may apply here. So many Chinese have the old heritage of belief in devils and even with years of teaching of a modern type the old fundamentalism lurks in the corners of the mind. I feel it is one reason for Chen Yü-djen (the Hsian Yuan girl Mummie was so disappointed in who fell into the hands of the Moody Institute group in Chicago.) They're afraid not to believe some of it.

I held the letter to read bits from it at the Boston Small College Club last Tuesday. I enjoyed that meeting very much. Small Clubs are intelligent about Sending and eager for recent news. I ran into some of the feeling here about the way Eva Macmillan has dealt with by the Board and by the Clinia Colleges Office. She

2/12/43 [37]

is what interests these people over
and some of the paler Bolshe-
vist notions. For missionaries
they have no particular use.
Doubtless they agree with Adams
that we are "mediocre" (James Truslow)
I haven't yet found out what
U.C.R. in Boston is really doing.
They have, rent-free, a very good
location on Boylston Street near
Arlington and run some sort
of sales room of Chinese curios,
serving a Chinese lunch every
Wednesday (at $1.00) There is a
lending library of books on China
and occasional talks - one on
Chinese women in the War by
Walthy Hosinger Fisher which I
was down in Hartford. Only a
few people came. So there was
plan for China speaking or publicity
in this area worked out either

had done such careful work in the Boston area to develope a supporting group and nothing seems to be left of it but vague doubts as to why such things are done in a Christian organization. Mrs. Lyman - a fine person of my generation, and Dean Franklin of B.U. both feel this way, I judge. Ena had her faults, but she had many good points. I cannot find that any group in Boston cares what happens to China College. A group of Socialites seem to be running the United China Relief to suit themselves and I hear tales of their snubbing less aristocratic friends of China who would be glad to help. I am to pour at a tea next Tuesday for a private showing of Mr. Wilkies pictures. The arts side of China

by China Colleges or UCR? It seems too bad not to be doing something - in clubs, college alumnae groups, schools - to educate people on China.

Will you write Ruth about Ming-dyen since you know the case from the beginning. I haven't seen her to know whether she got the job for which I wrote a reference. Now - i is busy to death. You can write more officially about her plans than I can. What is Bao Sui-dyin doing?

Anna sent on to me - the sketch of Sunburg which - the Board has been using and which Miss Babcock of the Board had sent on to her. It is ten years old and should be revised. My feeling is

2/12/43 [67]

that you could do it in a way to produce something useful for the Board and also for the China College publicity better than I could. Do you know Miss Babcock & could you confer with her about it to get the Board clear on their need for off-the-date stuff on Kuling — which this isn't at all. You have all the statistics at your office. Here I am still in a state of confusion of mind and in my files, and I do not seem to get into a working mood! I'll be glad to help in checking on anything — like the use of Dean as my title! If an outline of paragraphs were sent me I might try my hand at working, but I honestly think you can do what is wanted better than I can. I haven't the same feel for

2/12/40 [7]

home side publicity that I had in the days when I was responsible for that. Even then I didn't always satisfy the Boards!

Be sure to let me know of the Scripsholm is going or if you have any recent news from Plume or from China Council in Shanghai.

Always lovingly yours
Matilda C. Thurston.

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10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

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15 February 1943

Dear Cornelia

You may be interested to know some Spring dates - one in particular because of the May meetings. If I am included in the Sinking group then I would be coming to New York early in May. The Northern Smith College Club wants me to be their guest speaker at a Sinking Luncheon on 8 May and I have accepted.

On March 6 I am meeting a group of Sinking Representatives of Smith College Clubs within fifty miles of Boston at the Boston College Club & spoke there

to the Boston Club last week. Two people at that meeting are teachers and want me to speak to school groups and on Wednesday I am going in to speak to a Junior College private school in Boston, where Mary Davidson is teaching. Interest in China is increasing.

It is very exciting to know that Mme Chiang is getting out after her two months "retreat". I hope she is really rested. If she is she ought to do much to make China real and her need & help urgent. When she comes to Boston and to Wellesley I hope I may hear her – even meet her. Do you know whether the ban is down against messages getting through to her? I was on the point of writing her when your showed

me. The note from the Embassy saying that she was not being allowed to receive messages. They must be excited at Wellesley about the near prospect of the long hoped for visit. I hope the thermometer rises so they can get their buildings warm. Here hasn't gone above zero all day and now it's falling. We sit by a nice woodfire and are very comfortable and Helen got and adjustment in her fuel oil allowance so that we are not likely to be kept below our need. Fortunately we both prefer not to be too hot. And my last winter was good training!

Will you look into something for me? I have received two pension payments from the Pension Fund, but so far nothing from the Board. What I want to clear up is why?

2-15-43 (4)

I hope they are not charging this to Sinking. If they are not then I'll write a note to Frances Graham and let her find out what has happened to this part of the total voted by the Board. Perhaps they pay it quarterly. I do not want to fuss about it and you only need to ask Mr. Graves if he is being charged anything for pension for me since January 1. Has the Sinking Board made any note of my retirement? I'm not just sure of my status there, since my place was by appointment of the Presbyterian Board where I am now "retired." I suppose I would still be President Emeritus of Sinking for that really implies retirement

I have gained back the lost ten pounds and now weigh 150

I do not care to add more. That was my weight from May 1939 till I began to lose in my retirement, sometime before April 1942. I feel well and keep busy,— sometimes I wonder why I am so busy. We rise late to be sure the house has had time to warm up, so the morning seems short.

Mabel Jones reports her move into Huntingdon County for two weeks of one-night stands, then out to Pittsburg. I am sorry she will not be at the March Conference but Mabel doesn't enjoy conferences as much as I do. Evidently the list does not include retireds. Will Anna be there? I hate to miss seeing her if she comes east.

Much love to you

Matilda C. Thurston

February 16, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

Thank you for your letter and for sharing Ruth's with me. I have great confidence in Ruth and value her judgment. Her comments on Bill Fenn's new job and on Mr. Cressy are, therefore, more than usually interesting to me. I find myself in complete agreement with her.

The Cheeloo affair makes everyone most unhappy. I don't know enough about Edgar Tang to have an opinion one way or the other, but I do know that Dr. Liu has not brought credit upon himself or his institution by his conduct through the whole affair.

I am very much interested in your impression of the Boston attitude toward the Colleges and of the U.C.R. work being done there. It is somewhat difficult for us now to plan for speaking and publicity on China and the Colleges in that area. You have seen something of the U.C.R. work, and, of course, you know that the Colleges cannot launch an independent campaign, educational or otherwise, since we are tied up with U.C.R. However, I think that it might be possible to approach some of the people who were on the Boston Committee for the Colleges and see if we could arrange a quiet bit of educational work through clubs, schools, and alumnae groups. The enclosed is a list of the former Boston Committee. I imagine you know most, if not all, of them. Would it be possible, through your connections with them, to arrange programs that would present the work of the Colleges in a purely informative way, without making any financial appeal? Gifts from this area that go to U.C.R.

can always be designated for the Colleges, and if people are sufficiently informed and interested, they may so designate their gifts. I agree with you that we ought to try to keep people interested in the work of the China Colleges, entirely apart from the relief aspect. It is a pity to lose good will that we once had. I will see if anything can be started from here. I am glad that you are in that area to present our cause when opportunity offers.

I will write to Ruth all I know of Wu Mao-i and Wang Ming-djen. Mrs. New brought me good news of Miss Wang, but feels a little concerned about Miss Wu's health and her very hard work.

I agree with you that the Ginling publicity sheet you sent me is definitely out of date and badly needs rewriting. I am not just sure where to begin on it with Miss Babcock, since I do not know her. Did she send it to Anna for revision or did Anna just happen to see it and decide that it should be brought up to date? I will gladly do what I can for it and will probably call on you for help. We try to keep all the Boards connected with Ginling informed, and I frankly see no excuse for the Presbyterian Board's continuing to use such out-of-date material. We have given them hundreds of newer leaflets and a thousand Primers, and, of course, they get regular current information. But if they want a brief up-to-date statement - Ginling in a capsule - I'll see what I can do about it.

This morning I got two cards from Plumer, one dated December 13, 1941, and the other, December 19, 1941. Last week I got a handful of cards, dated from February 1942 on through May 11, 1942. I could not tell you where they have been all these months. I think I have already told you that Plumer is now in Shanghai, having been sent there "by order of the local authorities". The last issue of the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, New York Edition, was a little more hopeful about the Gripsholm than it had been previously. I must confess, however, that hope is still very faint. In the meanwhile, the Gripsholm is still here, and I personally have gotten to the point of being thankful that it is at least here and not on its way back to Sweden. I have seen no recent news from China Council. I saw Byrd Rice last night, and she did not have anything new. Mrs. New had a letter from her nephew that said rice is now $1780 a picul in Shanghai. If other prices are in proportion, I don't see how anybody has enough to eat.

Affectionately yours,

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills

CSM:ef

Enclosures: Return of Miss Chester's letter
List of former Boston Committee

February 23, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

I have just had two letters from Anna Moffet about the sketch of Ginling that Miss Babcock had sent to Anna, and which finally found its way to my desk. I believe Anna has already written you her suggestion about this, but just to make sure, I am passing it on.

At Miss Babcock's request, Anna has rewritten the sketch that the Presbyterian Board is using of the Nanking Station work, and there is a special section on the Four Union institutions in Nanking. Of course Ginling is one of these. Anna feels that she has done a perfectly adequate job on this and that there should be no necessity for a special article on Ginling, especially as none is requested for either the Seminary or the University of Nanking. Anna has written to Miss Babcock that such is her judgment and Miss Babcock has agreed. I am, therefore, making no attempt, at present, to rewrite this sketch. I definitely hope that the Presbyterian Board withdraws it entirely, since it is so out of date and so poor to begin with. Anna suggests that the "very good pamphlets which the U. of Nanking and Ginling publish" are all that are necessary for the Presbyterian Board's publicity work.

As I wrote you, Anna will be in New York for the Conference March 11-13. The letter I had from her today says that she plans to go on from New York to Auburndale and Boston, so you will be seeing her soon.

We are just getting out the invitations to the luncheon that Miss Tomlinson is arranging in Boston for March 6th. I am happy indeed that you are going to meet this group of women on that occasion.

With all best wishes,

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

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over

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

27 February 1943

Dear Cornelia

The question of the issue of a new edition of the Sketch on Sinking seems to be settled for the present as a result of our exchange of views. When I was doing the Annual Report of Sinking for the mission I used to feel that a special edition for each of the cooperating Boards would be a good idea. Much of the material was common but special mention of the share each separate Board had in the enterprise – in faculty, student body, support &c – might help each to feel that the College was <u>their</u> project. One trouble about

Union work is that it is often treated as a step-child. The Presbyterian share in Ginling has always been considerable, but because of the way salaries are included in the lump sum given to the College I do feel that I have lost out in many ways in not being regarded as "one of our missionaries". I have had no home connection with any church or any Presbytery for a long time and Ginling is really as much a Presbyterian project as Hwa Dzh

What a good time you will have with Anna! But I am happy to know that she is going to visit this place too. A goodly group of her friends are looking forward to her coming. We are going to plan

so that she sees them all somehow but I hope she will sleep under my roof. I am holding that week free for her visit. Here in Auburndale are Lillian Welch & wife, the Cochrans, Dorothy Roberts & my self. In Wellesley Mary B. Crendley, in West Roxbury Mary V. Thayer. In Boston some of her Hancock Episcopal friends. It looks now as if Dorothy Sewall may be off visiting the Rodke family in Montana that week. The Forster family I have not connected with yet but they are close by & the Huntingtons are in Wellesley.

Speaking of Wellesley you will be glad to know that I am to have an invitation to attend the Convocation at Wellesley at which Mme Chiang will speak, until

2/27/43 (4)

"to afterwards at Town Court".
Marian Robertson called the
attention of her friends in
the President's office to my
existence in the neighborhood
and my claims ex officio to
a place in the select group
of outsiders who are to be invited
(of course I am delighted to be
assumed of this without myself
begging for a place. It is to be
on Sunday March 7. There is
to be no public meeting in Boston
as I now understand the plans
Some of the United China Relief
backers will be disappointed but
I am sure the lady ought not
to do too many big public meetings
Wasn't she splendid in her talk
to Congress? It was perfect.

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS over

The Smith College Club group is planned, as you know, for the 6th. I am speaking at an Assembly at Lasell Junior College on the 12th. While I am not seeking a full schedule of speaking engagements it still seems to me that there might be some very good openings made through the China Colleges Office by letters sent to the near by schools - colleges giving information as to my being here and being capable of presenting China, past & present and China Colleges. I never make begging talks, asking for money. But the general public, which now is interested in China, needs a lot of educating as to what is needed & what is being done to bring East & West together. Tomorrow

2/27/43. (67

night I am taking a group of college age young people over in Cambridge First Church with the interesting topic suggested to me "The Christian Contributions to a Free China" - questions and discussion to follow.

I want to mail this Sunday morning so I'll write no more now. It has been a very full week because Helen and I have helped in the Auburndale school on the ration book work - I gave three days to that and one to United China Relief in Boston. There is no danger of having time hang heavy on my hands now of course retired -

Love to you

Matilda C. Thurston

RADCLIFFE COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 4, 1943

Dear Mrs. Mills:

Thank you very much indeed for letting me have Miss Minnie Vautrin's diary. I have read most of it with great interest and have let it be seen by a member of our English Department who wishes to inform himself about conditions in China in these recent years.

The very end of the diary I have not yet read, but I hope to cover it in the next two days; and the manuscript will be shipped to you by American Express on Saturday.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your entrusting this precious document to my care. It seems to me to have historical value, in addition to that which attaches to it as a record of Miss Vautrin's life and of an unforgettable period in the history of Ginling College.

Sincerely yours,

Ada L. Comstock

Mrs. W. Plumer Mills
Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

ALC:VS

[17]
ok

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

5 March 1943

Dear Cornelia

I talked with Mrs. Gleason on the phone this morning, having your letter here when I got home about eight o'clock from Boston. Helen and I were in and decided to take in Randolph Harvard. I am free on the 29th and told Mrs. Gleason I would be glad to go over to Cambridge for that evening. Tomorrow is the lunch at the College Club with the Smith-Sinking group. Sunday everything will center around Mme Chiang's appearance. The hour set - I must claim my box seat before 1:10 - makes the noonday meal something of a conundrum - when and where and how to eat? Probably I'll

3-5-43 [2]

take a sandwich to church with me. It is Communion Sunday at the Wellesley Hills church. I am taking my letter from Madison Avenue for the Easter tide Communion here. It seems the logical thing to do under all the present circumstances. I have liked the feeling of belonging to the Presbyterians & to that church since I took my letter there in 1920 from Hartford.

One point in your letter about Mr. Hagedorn's hesitation I have not answered. I have to admit that I think his question is reasonable. A suicide death always makes a biography difficult, partly because it does, in some measure, indicate a flaw in the personality. I think the books on the subject of psychoses would justify

that reservation in Minnie's case, even though one accepts it as a form of illness and sees the relatively high motives she had in eliminating herself. Had she been willing to accept others' judgment, and admit her need of special care, and then worn out in a cure, she might have been an even finer person than she was. Perhaps it is just as well to leave the working of her life story to those of us who knew her and loved her in spite of the limitations. I must see what Mrs. Hamilton is doing about it. I rather waited for her to write me and she may be waiting to hear from me. Have you referred the question raised by Mr. Hoggdorn to Searle Bates? One thing that

seemed to emerge at the time of Minnie's breakdown was that to members of her mission she was not as lovable as she was to <u>some</u> of us at Siuling.

I'll not try to take up anything else in this note. I shall be thinking of you next week in the conference on Far Eastern planning. When will the door open again? What will Nanking be like when it does? Will it again be the capital of China? Which wing of the Party will be in control? Some day we shall have answers to such questions. We must still go on not knowing. Life is like that.

Ever lovingly yours
Matilda C. Thurston

March 9, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

I am glad the meeting for March 29th in Cambridge is satisfactorily arranged. I am most eager to hear how the luncheon went on Saturday, and how many were present. I hope you had better weather in Boston than we had in New York. It snowed and rained and blew mightily here.

Harriet and I listened to Madame Chiang's speech at Wellesley Sunday and thought of you. Harriet wants to know all about the whole affair, so I hope you will write me about it when you have time. It must have been a big day on the campus.

Not long ago, Mrs. Hamilton wrote to Mrs. Ross that she felt she could not undertake the writing of any part of Minnie's life, as she is too much involved with home and church duties. She suggested Miss Wenona Wilkinson. Mrs. Ross talked to Miss Wilkinson about it when the latter was here a few days ago, but Miss Wilkinson does not feel that she can do it. She at first suggested someone else, a Mrs. Baird, but later withdrew the suggestion. So we don't seem to have made a great deal of progress on the small booklet. I am coming to the conclusion that unless the Disciples want to publish it, we had better drop it for a while. It would not take the place of more current news publicity for Ginling, and we haven't much money for anything extra. Mrs. Ross is writing further to Mrs. Hamilton, and I enclose a copy of her letter. I'll let you know if we hear anything from this.

In reply to the question Mr. Hagedorn raises, I think my own opinion is that he is right - that there is not enough interest or variety in Minnie's life to warrant its being told in the series he is planning. I think I am going to say just about that to him. He already has so many reservations about writing this series, that I do not feel I can put any pressure to bear on him to include someone about whom he has such serious doubts. So there we are. What suggestions have you?

I look forward to seeing Anna tomorrow, and I know you are anxious to see her, too. She writes that she wishes each day had twice as many hours and that there were twice as many days for her trip East. I wish you could be one of the Nanking group that will be with me for tea on Sunday afternoon.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

Enclosure: Copy of Mrs. Ross's letter to Mrs. Hamilton

c.c. To Mrs. Ross

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

3 April 1943

Dear Cornelia.

Our correspondence seems to have lagged, as it sometimes does when letters cross which answer each other, as our last on the subject of Minnie's biography seemed to do. I am sorry Mrs. Hamilton does not feel like doing what she was asked to do. If she would help to collect the material on Minnie's pre-Geneva years I think it might be as well for one person to do the final editing and writing to give it literary unity. I have a feeling that her Board may want one thing, and Geneva

something other but Minnie belonged to both. I am willing to do what I can to tell the story of her life and work. It is worthy of record, surely, altho it may not be in the class Mr. Hagedorn is working on. All of us have limitations but Minnie was not measured by hers.

I am planning for my next visit to New York for the week May 1 – May 8. I shall come on from Norwich, Conn. where I speak on April 30, and leave for New Haven where I speak at the Smith-Sterling luncheon. I am spending that week end with Lilliath and looking forward to seeing some New Haven

friends on Monday. Tuesday I
go to Bridgeport to be with an
old college friend who has
been expecting me to visit
her each time I have gone
down to New York. Then I
go up to Bristol to see my
brother's family over the week-
end of May 16. After that I
have no engagements till
October when a very forehanded
college friends wants me on
a Womans Guild program in
Willimantic, Conn. After the
experience of recent years, and
especially the last months,
it seems almost presumptous
to plan so far ahead!

I have no notice of the
May meetings. Can I take for

4-3-43 (4)

granted that I am expected to attend the meetings of the A B C C on Monday & Tuesday, and a Building Board meeting on Friday. Helen has notices as a member of the Yenching Board so I have seen the schedule for the week.

I'm not sure that I shall stay with Cousin Lina this time. I have written asking her how she feels about it. In December she had a rather serious attack from which her doctor, for several days, did not expect her to recover. But she did, and I thought she'd rather have me take her at her word and let her know that I was coming down

I did enjoy the four days

Anna was here and I think she enjoyed the things we did in Boston & Wellesley - which she had not visited. We had lunch with Mary Trendley. One night Dorothy Roberts had the Huntingtons & the Forsters and us for dinner - a real China reunion. And Lillian had us over for tea one day and for baked bean supper Saturday night.

Have you any news of Frederica Mead Hilton? I had a note from Margaret saying she had gone to a hospital with a lame back. I wrote Frederica but have had no reply. Also may I know Pearl Buck's schedule for

the week in May. I would rather like to connect with her this time. She has made no move in my direction since I came home but I realize how busy she is. I'd like to keep in touch with her and assume that she still cares for her Nanking friends. I wonder if she is really happy and finds satisfactions in the life she is living. Did she see Mme. Chiang when she was in New York in any personal way? Who did? At Wellesley she entered into the college life and was most informal with her class mates the first night she was here. I had a box seat & saw & heard her

in the Convocation meeting on.
I had lunch at Tower Court with Grace Zia Chen & her husband, and Miss Helen Hull. The Kings were due to eat at this table but they went off - or went later - after food more to their liking. They were not behaving too well as guests, from what I gathered Jeanette was on the platform dressed in Chinese boys clothes. I talked with her brother at the tea but he didn't rise to any of the references I made to my long time acquaintance with his father (since 1903, when he was a student at Oberlin). The young are like that, some times.

4-3-43 (87)

This should get mailed and there is nothing very important to add. Let me know if you want me to do anything in particular in preparation for the May meeting. And let me know what your latest word is about Plumer. In Boston I heard a rumor that all Shanghai Americans were to be shifted to Mukden to release houses for Japanese who were fleeing from air raid threatened Japan! (Believe it or not.) didn't.

Much love to you
Matilda C. Thurston

April 6, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

Yesterday we got the exciting news that Dr. Wu is on her way to America, by air, and will probably arrive about the middle of April. She expects to be here approximately four months. The cable said that she would plan to attend the Annual Meetings of the Associated Boards and of the Ginling Founders. Of course, we are all very much excited and highly pleased at the thought of having her here so soon. She can tell us so much about conditions on the Changtu campus, and life in China in general, that we want to know and that will be most hedpful to us as we plan the work of the Colleges.

I hope very much that you will plan to be at the meetings of the Associated Boards the first week in May. The shhedule has been mailed to the members of the Boards. There are a number of others who will be invited of course, but these invitations have not yet been sent out. You would naturally be included in the special invitation list, and will be receiving an invitation soon. If I can be of any assistance to you in making arrangements for your stay here, please let me know.

I really don't know where we are just now on Minnie's life. Mr. Hagedorn has gracefully declined the honor of including her in his series, and I must confess that my judgment coincides with his. I also agree with you that the story of her life and work is worthy of record, and I therefore hope that we can see it through. Mrs. Ross was the chairman of this committee, and I am not sure whether she has taken it up with anyone since Mrs. Hamilton declined to do it. I suppose I had better get on to that again.

I have had no news of Frederica since a card came from Margaret in February, I think, saying that Freddie was in the hospital with a lame back. I replied to the card and included a message to Freddie, but have had no answer. I hope that she is at least out of the hospital by now. I imagine that she is back in Seattle.

I am not quite sure how I can get Pearl Buck's schedule for you. I do know that she is in New York every Wednesday, and is in the country the rest of the week. That is a fairly regular program with her, and I imagine this would hold for the first week in May, as usual. Perhaps the most natural way for you to make contact with her would be to write her a personal note addressed to her country home. I know that she does value her Nanking friends and has kept close to many of them. Marion Craighill and her family, for instance, are spending five days in the country with Pearl about the middle of April. You asked whether she saw Madame Chiang in a personal way. I know that she paid Madame Chiang a visit while she was still in the hospital, and I imagine that it was a fairly personal visit, although I have never heard any report of it. The First Lady kept herself very much to herself and for a selected few while she was in New York. The United China Relief powers were not a little miffed at the fact that they could not get close to her. I don't know the explanation, but I can make a guess.

I suppose you had word from the Presbyterian Board about the internment of Mrs. Wells and Margaret Frame and Lois Lyon and a number of the men, including Plumer. I have had no direct word from Plumer since November. The last letter I had was dated the 14th of November, and at that time he was living in the American School in Shanghai and was quite comfortable and fairly free to go about the city and see the friends there. I know nothing about conditions in any of the Shanghai camps, and I do not know which one Plumer is in. I have not heard the rumor that you refer to of the Americans being shipped to Mukden. It may be true and it may be only a rumor, but it doesn't make me very happy either way. In fact, there isn't anything about that situation that gives cause for rejoicing.

Looking forward to seeing you the first of May, I am

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

15 April 1943

Dear Cornelia

It is good to know that Yi-fang is coming. You will let me know when more definite word reaches you as to her landing and her itinerary before May 1. I plan to be in the city from that date and until May 8. Again I am to be staying with Cousin Lina. She wants me and I really think it means something to her to feel that I like to come. I have another offer of family hospitality from my nephew (in-law) out in Ridgewood and I shall spend one night there during the week. My sister in law from Hanover is planning to visit Ridgewood early in May. Let me know as soon as possible if any definite times when I should be expected to

attend Ginling sessions. I hope I am included in the China Colleges list for the banquet especially since Dr. Wu is likely to be a guest of honor on that occasion. I have had no notice from China Colleges to indicate that I am on their list. Helen being a member of the ~~Ginling~~ Yenching Board is receiving due notice of her dates during the week. Of course I put Ginling first, and am at her service.

I enclose a check which represents two separate gifts of $50. each. One should be credited to

Mr & Mrs. Frank Gamewell
per Mrs. L. Thurston

It is the $50 which they tried to send me for Ginling in Nanking & which Elsie recently returned through Mr. Evans. The other fifty is my contribution – largely from

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

receipts in speaking fees during the last six months. There has been no considerable expense for travel yet and I'd like to feel that the money helped to carry Sinling through. I would like a receipt sent to Mr Bancroft so they will know that their gift is finally received by Sinling. I think it might be counted toward the Nanking salary expense. You will please refer this part of the letter to Mr. Evans.

This noon I am going into a luncheon at the Copley Plaza to hear Mr. George, now British consul in Boston speak on Shanghai under the Japanese Invader. Dorothy Roberts will be with me and at the same table Mrs. Dewar whose husband is also there. The luncheon was under

Later

4-15-43. (47)

auspices of United China Relief and there were some 500 people present and eating a very good turkey dinner - not very much sign of Boston privation! A lot of old China hands were present, hoping that some balance would go to the fund for China. The purpose was education rather than mere money. Lawrence & Eleanor Mead were guests at a near-by table. They say Frederica is still in Plainfield. Let her know about Th. Was coming. I wish she could stay to be at the China Colleges & Seminary meetings. It's time to get supper so I'll close

Affectionately yours
Matilda C. Thurston

Easter Sunday (17

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Cornelia

After all I am going to stay with Cousin Lina so that sets the background for my nights in New York. Lina is very good about letting me feel very free about the days and she only wants to know when to expect me home at night. I have wondered about the possibility of extra sessions with Mr. Wu between the days of the ABCCC and the Sculptor day. I have been thinking I'd

like to spend Wednesday night out in Ridgewood with my nephew-in-law, whose mother (Lawrence's sister) may be visiting him that week. Her husband died last autumn and she hasn't been well enough this winter to feel that she could entertain anyone. Besides Hanover, N.H. is a pretty cold place in winter when fuel is scarce. I shall visit her this summer but I'd like to see her while I'm down in New York. I'm letting you know so that you will be able to make any appointments you like. I should be glad to help in any way I can while I'm down

I had taken the trip's coming to be the result of her independent decision to come now to avail herself of the opportunity the Barbour Fellowship offered for a rest & renewal of spirit. Now I hear indirectly that she comes on some government mission. I do hope she's not going to be put through any mill of publicity before she gets a chance to rest. I'll be glad to know what it is right for me to know about it all. I leave here Friday morning for Norwich where I spend that night.

(4)

I expect to reach New York o.o. 5.35 on a Shore Line train and be with Cousin Lina in time for dinner Saturday night. I must leave the following Saturday morning for New Haven. I shall be in Connecticut - Bridgeport & Bristol till after May 16.

I look forward to seeing you and sharing in the Kuling news. Please see that my name is on the dinner list for the dinner at the Aldine Club - altho I haven't yet had any notice of it. And let me know when Yi-fang is safely landed.

Lovingly
Matilda C. Thurston

April 28, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

We know very little about Dr. Wu's plans, nothing in fact, beyond the information contained in her cable. I gave you this information in my letter of April 6th. The only other facts I have came to me through Mrs. New who sent me a letter that Dr. Sze Ming-sze had written her on the subject. I quote, "For your confidential information, Dr. Soong has invited her (Dr. Wu), with some other persons, to come here and assist in certain post-war economic planning." You can easily see that this necessarily sets the pattern for her stay in America. I have no idea how much time she will be able to give us. We had counted on her being in New York for the week of the Annual Meetings, since she had definitely said this in her cable. On the strength of this, I sent out the invitations to the luncheon for her on May 7th.

She is not yet in this country, however, and Washington tells us that they do not know when she will arrive, and will not know until she is actually here. The Associated Boards has therefore withheld its invitations to the Monday night dinner until they could say definitely that Dr. Wu would be the speaker. The time has come, however, when the invitations can no longer be withheld, so they go out today.

I am telling you all this because I want you to know exactly what the situation is. You can see that we are in a somewhat difficult position about the whole affair. We know that the party left Chungking on March 30th and that they should be here by now. They may arrive any day, and I personally think that Dr. Wu will be here for our meetings.

I am therefore going right ahead with the plans for the luncheon on Friday, May 7th, when we want Dr. Wu to address the Ginling Board of Founders. A special request that I bring to you this morning is that you introduce her on that occasion. Miss MacKinnon will be present, of course, but we hope that you will be the toastmistress and introduce Dr. Wu.

I'll keep you posted on any news that I get.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Lovingly,

CSM:ef

25 May 1943 [17]

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Cornelia

Anna left her umbrella here and I left mine with you! I'm using hers here - at least I have used it once. Helen did not get the umbrella before she left - on Saturday about five. She has told Mabel Emerson of the American Board about it's being down in New York, suggesting that she count on having it there for a chance on a rainy day when she rest goes down and bring it back when she returns. Mabel is likely to stay at the Prince George. She attends meetings at 156 Fifth so perhaps you had better get it from the hotel and either leave it

with Byrd Rice or keep it in the Building Office to be called for. I am sorry to add a straw to the camel's back. I hope you have been able to catch your breath since the week of rush. Those days must be pretty hectic for people who have to attend a lot of different meetings.

The trouble about the ABECC is that it gets everybody there but leaves no time for seeing the people you may wish to see for conference. I think of my desire to talk over some questions about Keiling history and get clear just what I am expected to do about work on Minnie's story. I did have a chance to talk with Mrs. Ross about it but she seems to see no way of getting at the record

which must be in the files of their Board in Indianapolis. Someone who could take notes therefrom the papers Minnie submitted for her appointment, and from the letters she wrote from Lucharfen. If I had such material I could put it into some shape to combine with what I have here or could get from Sinking files. I have some of Minnie's diary here - a 1927 diary and her 1937 record.

A question I wanted to raise was the cost of secretarial service for typing. I would like to get what I have written in long hand with the quotations I want to make from Reports + other records of the passing years, and see how it looks and how it reads before I

continue to write. The person who typed Minnie's Diary in 1938 when Ruth brought it home has moved to Concord, N.H. because of family conditions but she wants work sent her there and I would go up and make a start on getting something in shape - spend a day or two working with her and leaving work with her. She is deeply interested in doing such work and would put her heart into it.

I have never raised the question of travel expense with Mr. Brown. What does the office do about it? I have made three trips down and back - in November December & May. The December trip was for an ABCCC committee on Christian Character, Staff & Curriculum. Of course I'm glad to come even if it does spoil ten dollars,

and then some for the remainder trip. In November my speaking in Hartford more than covered the trip. The New Haven Smith Club ought to make some contribution after having it for in with the New York trip made it come without special expense. The Norwich engagement was also en route. The check I turned in included travel. I am writing you just to get the matter clear as to the regular procedure. What about Harriet Slutzer's travel? I feel that it should be clear with Mr. Wm that her expenses are to be taken care of when she's on Guiding business. It is much easier to collect when the office asks for an expense account. I've always paid personally a good deal that might have been charged to travel etc on the

college account, including medical expense incurred on furlough because I hated to bill Sinling. When I do pay what may be legitimate cost of travel & I'd rather have it show as expense cancelled by gift, and I have turned in money received as speaking fees where travel cost was low.

I hope Yu-fang will come up here during the summer. It would be quiet enough but it can be pretty hot. I wish she could be away from bustle & stir and in congenial company long enough to get real relaxation and refreshment of soul & body. Do you think Mrs. Nee rests her? or do they talk shop too much? They have so much to talk over. Yu-fang never has found the escape

I make through reading - and I feel she needs to read more that is not professional. Will she find books at Clifton Springs? I wonder if she knows what she wants to read? I miss my books even though I have access to all sorts of books here and in Boston.

Saturday I had lunch with Mary Freedley & went with her to a Greek play - Agamemnon - given for benefit of Greek Relief. Mary has such a nice library all her own. It makes me sick to think of Lis books, and mine, & Dennie's being carried off. Scarlet figures that University books have gone out, one-third to Japan, and one-third for old paper, the remaining third

5-25-43 (87

kept for me by the puppets
University. But it's time to mail
this Always affectionately yours
Matilda C. Thurston

June 4, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

I am sorry about your umbrella. About one o'clock on Saturday, May 8th, I took it around to the hotel, as you had requested, and left it at the desk in Miss Calder's name with the request that it be delivered to her. I naturally assumed that she would get it, and I did not know until your letter came a few days ago that you had not received it. Now it is back in my office again and will stay here until someone calls for it. After four trips to the hotel and a number of telephone calls, I finally succeeded in getting possession of it, and it is at last back where you left it. I will deliver it to Miss Emerson when she calls for it. I will also give her a mechanical pencil which Dr. Wu gave me with no other explanation than that it belongs to you.

On the matter of travel expenses to attend Board meetings, the Ginling Board has the following rule:

> "Voted that provision be made, at the expense of the College budget, for the attendance of at least one meeting of the Founders of each member of the Board of Directors and the faculty body during furlough residence in America."

In accordance with this, Miss Whitmer and Miss Kirk were both invited to the May meeting. Miss Kirk was not able to attend, but Miss Whitmer's expenses were all met by the College. Your own November trip should come under the same ruling. Inasmuch as the meeting in May was a very special one, because of Dr. Wu's presence and the action on your retirement, the Board is very happy to meet your expenses for this trip also. The meeting of the Committee on Christian Staff and Curriculum in December also was a very special affair and the Associated Boards will be glad to meet your expenses. If you will send me a statement covering these three trips, I will see that you get a check.

In this connection, may I say that the individual colleges and the Associated Boards often invite people to attend meetings without assuming any responsibility for their expenses. There is always a chance that a trip to New York is on the person's schedule anyway and that the date could be made to conform with the date of the meeting. Of course, there are special occasions when expenses are met, but in general I suppose the safest rule is to assume that they will not be paid unless it is definitely so stated.

It is a little difficult for me to answer the questions you raise about the story of Minnie's life. If Mrs. Ross, who is the chairman of that Committee and a member of the Disciples Society, cannot get at the material in their Board files, I don't know where to try next. Mr. Higdon might be able to make a construction suggestion. The only reason I hesitate to raise it with him or Mrs. Doan (also in the U.C.M.S. and a member of the Ginling Board) is that they have suggested that Pearl Sarvis do the writing. I don't need to explain to you why we are not enthusiastic about this suggestion. I'll scout around a bit more and see what I can do. I know that Ginling is not prepared to put a great deal of money into a publication of Minnie's life, and I doubt if the Disciples Board is thinking in terms of more than $200, for which they would expect 3,000 or 4,000 pamphlets which they could use for their own publicity purposes.

I am afraid that neither the Ginling Board as a whole, nor the Finance Committee, has discussed the expenses in connection with the writing of the History of Ginling. I grant you that it should have been done and a definite policy outlined, but the fact remains that such is not the case. I therefore cannot say at present how much money will be available for typing expenses. We can have the matter put on the docket for the next Finance Committee meeting, and in the meantime, perhaps you could continue to write as the muse dictates.

Dr. Wu is at present in Ann Arbor having gone there after her speech to the Presbyterian General Assembly in Detroit on Monday night. She plans to return to Washington from Michigan, and I am not sure about her plans after June 8th, though I do know that she hopes to have the whole month of August for the complete rest she has not yet been able to get.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

June 1, 1943 [17 on

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mr. Fang.

When you have a schedule with dates and places I'd be glad to have it so that I can place you on any given day. I think of you often and hope you are getting some rest and renewing. I am sorry you had to rush off after Smith Commencement when you were relatively near us. Remember that our home is open whenever you can come. It is a quiet place and you could rest here I am sure. I would promise not to keep you talking all the time about the thousand and one things I would like to hear - what you think about this and that here and there.

It was a very pleasant surprise to have that beautiful piece of Szechuan silver filagree on my birthday when

I opened the packages they had kept for me for my special day I was at my brothers in Bristol over that week end. Thank you very much for this reminder of you and of China.

I haven't congratulated you on your new degree from Smith. I am glad for them as well as for you, to have this new link between Ginling and Smith. We have a very loyal group of good friends among the Smith alumnae. I have spoken at several Smith College clubs - at Springfield, Boston, Cambridge, Lexington, New Haven and this week on Saturday I go down to New Bedford. Probably there will be no other such engagements before October. I have a date for that month down in Connecticut. During the summer I expect to be

here except for a week or two or three days in July when I shall be up in Hanover, New Hampshire visiting my sister-in-law (older half-sister of Lawrence & Isabel)

I had a very pleasant weekend in New Haven while you were in Plainfield and in Washington. I stayed with the Bates in the Church House they are keeping for students in Yale Divinity School. Searle is kept very busy, between New Haven and New York. Lillian is busy too, in more domestic lines. She is still not fully restored to the calmness of spirit one would wish for her. She worries about the boys and about Searle. He does not feel free, things being as they are with her, to plan for return to China in the immediate future. He is useful to China here, if he must stay.

When you can write me in a general way as to your service I will be glad to know what kind of program it is to be. I hope the place & time for rest is arranged. I think all of you who have been under such strain, even if you do not feel it consciously, need to take life at a slower pace and let time and rest do the work they can do for our minds and bodies. I hope you will find, or make, time for reading. For me that is the best escape from our worries of every sort, and the source of inspiration and new hope and courage. When one is travelling around it is not easy to plan for special reading but one finds books everywhere that are worth reading. You have been so cut off from recent books, as we were in Nanking. It has taken me all these months to begin to feel caught up with the books I have wanted to read. I can get almost

anything I want in either Newton (Auburndale is part of Newton) or in Boston. Since I have probably lost my personal library a second time (the first was in the San Francisco earthquake fire in 1906) I begin to feel I can buy a book every now and then when I want to. And when things open up again my friends in China will be glad to get books they haven't been able to get. Let me know if there is any special book you would like

I want to mail this tonight so I'll stop here.

Yours always lovingly
Matilda C. Thurston

June 12, 1943.

My dear Mrs. Thurston:

Your letter of June first was brought to me by Helen Loomis, and it is very good to have it. However, if I had received it sooner I could not have given you more information about my program until after the conferences we had Thursday afternoon, June 10th.

I am able now to write only a short note to you as I should be working on my speech for Monday evening at Constitution Hall. I do want to write you briefly about my plans. For the rest of June and July I shall be running back and forth between New York and Washington, with short trips to interview people in the educational field or seeing friends. You may be sure that you are at the top of my list, for I do want to have a long visit with you. For August I want to have a complete month of hiding. For the fall my time will be divided between the Study Group for Post War and the college. I mean that now we can go ahead and arrange some meetings for the college and the mission boards, but I may be called by the Study Group to do speaking occasionally. You will be interested to know that the name we agreed upon for the group is a very simple one--Chinese Study Group on Post-War Problems. I can already see that I shall need time to do a bit of studying!

After my trip to Smith, I returned to Washington on Friday. On Saturday May 29th, I went to Detroit. I did not know at all how long a time I would have for a trip to Ann Arbor but the matter was promptly settled for me just before I left Washington. I was asked to join with Dr. James Yen to present the program for China at Constitution Hall on the evening of June 14th. I returned from Ann Arbor on Tuesday morning and had planned to do some reading in preparation for the speech. However, before I could start I had to write up my short talk at the Presbyterian General Assembly. Then I met with the group and have had dinner and luncheon engagements. Now I have come to the last possible time to get my speech ready, and I am very thankful that between Mrs. New and me we decided to call in Helen Loomis to help. I have dictated a few letters to her to write while I gather my thoughts for the speech.

You will be interested in some of the things I did on the trip to Ann Arbor. Most important was my visit to Minnie's home in Shepard. Dr. Reeves, Miss Whitmer and Mrs. Rhead went with me. I was thankful to be able to take care of this visit so early after my arrival. In Ann Arbor I was able to see many friends. Dr. and Mrs. Rufus gave a reception for the administrative people at the University and for the Barbour Committee. The Dean of Women gave another reception. Several professors invited me for dinner. I spoke to the Chinese Students Club and was a guest at a luncheon given by the Chinese girls' sorority. I did not do all that I wished, but I hope I shall be able to go back in the fall or winter, if I am still in America.

I am asking Helen to give you more information about my immediate program.

With love and best wishes to you and Miss Calder, I am

Sincerely yours,

Yi-fang Wu.

June 12, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

I am having a wonderful time trying to help Dr. Wu out for a few weeks, and only hoping that nothing will develop in the line of a job for me which will keep me from completing the job!

Since we added the paragraph to Dr. Wu's letter to you about her Ann Arbor trip and the visit to Minnie's grave, there is really not so much more to tell you. I am enclosing a copy of her schedule which will let you know the sort of thing she will be doing next week. After the meeting on the 14th she will take the night train and go to New York. I will stay here that day to take care of some personal business and then I will go up to meet her and do what I can to help her out of her difficulties.

She will attend meetings of the Board of the Nanking Theological Seminary and the Program Committee of United China Relief. She plans to spend the week-end with Mrs. Choate and will then attend a meeting of the Girl Scouts. On Monday the 21st, I think it is, she will do a broadcast with the Martha Deane program over W.O.R. at 2:00 to 2:30 P.M.

Dr. Wu and Mrs. New found a nice old place here on the outskirts of Washington at the end of the Wisconsin Avenue car line, just over into Maryland. We think we have a lovely home, but there is ground enough around this one to make six of ours! It is old fashioned but very comfortable, and the walk up the road to Wisconsin avenue reminds one of a college campus or the country. I feel she is getting a lot of rest here, and she needs that badly. I come over by cross-town bus and if I am lucky can get here in fifteen minutes--however, with the gasoline shortage and the new bus schedule I have taken as long as an hour and a half to get here! That will never happen again however--I know how to walk now.

Mrs. New was here on Thursday to attend the meeting with T. V. Soong and both Dr. Wu and Mrs. New had dinner at the Embassy that evening.

I hope that you will becoming to New York before too long. We would love to see you again.

With my best regards both for you and your sister, I am

Sincerely yours,

6/21/43

Dear Cornelia

Many thanks for your last letter. I have a note from Li Ping giving me her schedule for the summer. I do hope she gets at least a month of real rest. Running between New York & Washington in June & July isn't my idea of a good start.

I am enclosing a check for Gulung representing one day speaking in Winchester & Boston. Ten dollars from the "Friends of China" that curious non-descript group that follows Dr. Hsieh & Dr. Chamberlain cannot figure them out in any real connection with China.

As to travel expense let the past be forgotten except that I'd

be glad to have $20 charged to travel & credited to gifts by M.C.T. The first bill has more than covered by the Hartford Seminary speakers fee of $25.00. I am glad to know the principle on which the expense accounts are being reckoned.

I expect to be here except for a week or ten days in July when I go to Hanover N.H. to visit my sister-in-law. That's a nice place to be in the summer. In the way of I'm going to stay off in Concord N.H. & plan for some typing of manuscript, about which I'll write you later.

What are your summer plans? I hope you will escape the city

6-21-43 537

and work long enough for a real rest. Let me know if you come near to Boston, and let me know what you hear from Turner. I think of him often and hope he finds some compensations for the delay and discomforts of his present period of waiting.

Affectionately yours
Matilda C. Thurston

June 21, 1943

June 30, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

I had a talk with Mrs. Ross the other day and raised with her again the question of how best to get the information about Minnie Vautrin that must be in their Board files. Mrs. Ross said that she had understood that Mrs. Doan had agreed to do something about this. I wonder if you have heard from Mrs. Doan since you talked to her at the time of the Board meeting. She seems to be our best point of contact now.

Enclosed I am sending you receipts for your gifts to Ginling. I am not very happy about this. Of course, I know how you feel about Ginling and I don't need to tell you that there is a special sort of appreciation for your gifts. But you have already been far too generous, and I feel that it would be well for you to think a little more about yourself.

I hope it hasn't been as hot in Auburndale as it has been here for the last few days. I am indeed glad that you plan to be in New Hampshire for a while next month. It sounds cool anyway. I have not made any plans for the summer as yet. I looked at the crowds at Grand Central yesterday when Angie started back to Northfield, for work at the summer conferences, and I decided that it was hardly worth while to try to go anywhere, so I may just stay at home.

They say the Gripsholm will really go soon and that the lists of those to return will be out in a few days. Needless to say, I am almost afraid to see them, for while I really expect Plumer, he may not be included. I shall

I shall be at Wellesley, helping Angie to get settled when College opens August 25th. I hope to see you then.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

Enclosure: Two receipts

over

July 2, 1943.

My dear Mrs. Thurston:

Dr. Wu has just been working through her schedule trying to find a good time to see you. Now her time is gone and she has asked me to write to you for her so that you may know her plans just as soon as possible.

Dr. Wu has to be in New York for a meeting of the U.C.R. Program Committee on Wednesday, July 21st. So she is planning now to take the night train on Friday July 16th coming up to see you. She wants to go to Vassar College to visit the Summer Institute where Mrs. New is spending the month and plans to do that on Tuesday the 20th. So on her week end to Boston she plans to see you, andif possible call on President Comstock. Because travel is so uncertain these days, I am making reservations for her immediately. I do hope that you plan to be at home. Will you please let us know whether or not these dates are satisfactory for you. I wish I could see you and Miss Calder, too, but I know that you will have so many things to talk over with Dr. Wu that there would be no time for me!

Dr. Wu asked me to write you a little about the complicated situation she has found herself in during these past days--in fact her concern for this situation is largely responsible for her not getting to writing letters herself! You knew of course that the Founders cabled asking for an extension of time for her here in the United States. About awweek ago a cable came from Dr. Wang Shih-chieh, Secretary General of the People's Political Council. A meeting had already been called of the P.P.C. for September and Dr. Wu had received a cable notice of that. The cable from Dr. Wang urged her to return to China to join a P.P.C. Mission to England. It seems that England had sent a Parliamentary Mission and China wished to return the favor! Before Dr. Wu left China, the Generalissimo had talked with her twice and told her that he wanted her to go to England. She had replied that with her contacts here she felt she could do more for China here than in England. Apparently he understood the arrangement (and probably she did too) to be that she would go to America first and then to England. It has been difficult for her to know what she should do, because she knows she is needed here for the Planning Committee for the colleges. After much consultation by letter, wire and conference, her mind is finally at rest. She has decided that if they will let her fly direct from the United States to England and then after the Mission return to the United States, she will go on the Mission. Otherwise she will remain here.

4/2/43

A cable has gone to Ruth Chester asking for their opinion. A cable in Chinese has gone to the Embassy to be sent to Dr. Wang.

Now Dr. Wu is trying to make sure that she does all the most important things on her list so that if she does have to go to England she can go with an easy mind. If she goes to England she will be gone for October and a part of November but would want to come back here for three months. Dr. Wu is planning for absolute rest and opportunity for study in August. I am just now trying to find the place. She wants to be where it is dry and where she will know noone, so she can devote her full time to rest and reading.

We plan to spend the last week of July just before the vacation in Washington. I probably will then go back to my own work on THE FAR EASTERNER. I have been pretty upset since my work ended in January with United China Relief. At that time I discovered I had a negative forty thyroid, and I have had to keep on the job to correct that situation. THE FAR EASTERNER has been slow in developing because Jimmie Young was called to Hollywood to make a film from his book, so altogether my life has not been too well arranged! I was glad when Dr. Wu arrived that it was this way, for I was able to give her practically all my attention. She is used to me, and while my abilities as a stenographer have decreased rapidly during the past six years, I am still able to understand what she wants and to do things in her way! It has been a lot of fun--and as I told Dr. Wu it is well worth the work just to have that much time in her company!

I hope I have told you all the news Dr. Wu wanted you to have--the important thing is the England matter, and she wanted you to know of the complications. Dr. Wu has kept almost too busy with appointments, seeing all sorts of people and meetings with numerous committees. The other day she met with the Smith Alumnae Committee, and she seemed quite happy ofer that conference. Today she is going to Mrs. Leifford's home in Englewood for a week-end. Mrs. Leifford invited her to spend a week at her summer camp, but Dr. Wu does not think she should break into her study during August.

I am sending this special delivery so that you may have more time to anticipate Dr. Wu's visit. Please let us hear from you at your convenience.

With best wishes to Miss Calder and you from both Dr. Wu and me, I am

Sincerely yours,

Helen M. Loomis.

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

July 4, 1943

Dear Helen.

Your "Express" letter was here when I got home from church and I am replying promptly to give as much time as possible to adjust the two schedules and the program you are planning for Mr. We. I have assumed that July was included, for her, in the period that was to be spent shuttling between New York and Washington, so I felt free to plan for my visit to Hanover N. H. in the middle of the month. Everything is settled for me to leave here on Wednesday, the 7th, spend a day in Concord N. H. working with a friend who is going to help me to get the Gulving history material into a first edition - the story of the first two generations is written

Then I am going to Hanover to visit my sister-in-law (Lawrence's older half sister) whom I have not visited since I came home because of the circumstances of her family situation. She wanted me to stay "at least ten days". That is where the conflict comes in, for if I stayed that time I would not be here by the 16th. But I cannot my visit short and be here if you have no way of rearranging things

Another question raised by your proposal is the "call on President Comstock". She is no longer President Comstock and I doubt if she is any longer in Cambridge. She married a Yale professor and will be "at home" in New Haven, not at Radcliffe. I'm not sure of the date set for

the end of the honeymoon. I can't at the moment remember her new name. He's in the History Dept at Yale. They are of about the same age - which is about the same as mine! "Better late than never" would apply, as to a recent wedding my sister attended in Boston where the bride was just under 60.

Could the trip be planned in reverse - first to Vassar, then via Albany to Boston, bringing him here a day later? She could go to New York the night of the 20th and be in New York on the 21st. Could she come up here after the 21st & not be so hurried. We live very quietly here, I assure you, and I would plan for no program of "appointments, seeing all sorts of people and meetings with various committees" - to quote your letter.

A quiet week here could be as restful as she would choose to have it. I wouldn't talk shop with her. We have a quiet guest room and a comfortable bed. What she would wish for in the way of sight seeing - Boston, Cambridge, Wellesley - we could arrange for. I'd like to know what people she wants to see. What about Mr. Mori & Wang Ming-dyen & Chinese in Cambridge?

I've seen down the notice of Miss Comstock's wedding - on June 14. The last paragraph says "The couple will leave for a three-week wedding trip. They will reside in New Haven after October 1". But the headline says she "will retire Sept. 1" so it may be that she will be on the job in Cambridge in July, after she returns from the honeymoon tomorrow.

Her new name is Mrs. Wallace Notestein Jr.

I am writing you frankly on the subject of my plans but of course I can adjust and come away from Hamden earlier. I have tried to plan for travel "in the middle of the week" as we are urged to do. I had really planned to stay with Margaret till Monday, the 19th and she will be disappointed if I cut off the three days. If there is any way of Yi-fang's coming up here to stay longer it would be better than a hurried two days - for to be at Vassar on the 20th she'd have to leave here on the 19th. I'd like her visit here to count as part of her rest - not a hurried trip for a two days "conference" with Miss Comstock, Mount i. et al. I can wait to see her if I can be sure of a real visit.

7/4/43 567

I am glad to know the way the English visit is working out. Yu-Jung told me of the problem when I had supper with her on May 1. It would be too much to have her return to China & then go to England. The plan she proposes is <u>much</u> better and I hope it will work out that way. And I am so glad for her and for you that you are free to help her to plan & to get letters off. &c &c. Your being at home both in New York and in Washington makes it an ideal arrangement.

Address me in Hanover, N.H. c/o Mrs. Gilman D. Frost. I leave here early Wednesday morning.

Love to Yu-Jung & to Abigail.

Affectionately yours
Matilda C. Thurston

over

July 19, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

I must write and tell you about the cable messages I received from China. You will be glad to know that I do not have to go to England and that the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has approved of extending my leave to February. Ruth put it:

FACULTY BOARD EXECUTIVE APPROVE EXTENDED LEAVE PROVIDED REST THREE MONTHS RETURN END OF FEBRUARY DR. WANG SHIH CHIEH WILL CABLE ABOUT FLYING DIRECT STOP NOVEMBER MOST IMPORTANT ENGLAND LEAVE DECISION TO YOU.

I take it to mean that I should be back in College by then because I left Chengtu on March 6. However, not until the letter comes can I be sure. Dr. Wang Shih-chieh sent his reply to Ambassador Wei something as follows: RECEIVED YOUR CABLE AND MISS WU'S AFTER REPORTING TO THE GENERALISSIMO IT IS DECIDED THAT MISS WU DOES NOT HAVE TO JOIN THE MISSION TO ENGLAND.

It was very difficult during those days for me to know what was really the best thing to do. For the work that I saw in America to be done, I of course wanted to stay here longer. However, when I left Chungking both the Generalissimo and Dr. Wang did imply that I was coming to America first and later would join the Mission to England. In view of this, I felt I should not send a simple refusal to accept the call. I consulted Dr. Lobenstine and Miss MacKinnon and Mr. Evans, and since all of them wanted me to come back if I should go to England, I had finally to cable to Chengtu in regard to these proposals. However, I knew from the conversations last March that such a Mission was expected to go together from China and to return together bringing back messages from England. When Dr. Wang Shih-chien suggested that I join the Mission in Africa, it was already a concession, so in my Chinese cable replying to Dr. Wang, I politely declined the invitation and explained that the fall and winter months were just the time I should do the work I was expected to do in America. Mrs. New thought I was so diplomatic, but as it turned out it does show that I have understanding of the situation there which is clearer than that of the people here. I knew I had to choose between the two alternatives, that is either stay here or join and return to China from England. Of the two, the first is certainly much better for me personally, for the College and for the Associated Boards.

I do appreciate very much your invitation for me to come to Auburndale for a quiet time. However, I am not able to arrange it during July at all, and for August I have promised the doctor to be entirely away from people who may talk shop with me.

7-19-43

So I have to look to the fall for a stop-over with you. So far as I know from September 1 to 4 I am expected at the Conference of the Chinese Christian Students in New York and from the 8 to 18 I must go to Washington. Then on the 20 and 21 I should meet with the Baptist Women's Board. If there should be no other important meetings coming in then, perhaps I can arrange to come to Boston for the weekend of the 25th. Miss Tomlinson, Chairman of the Smith in Ginling Committee has invited me to speak to the Smith Clubs in Worcester and Springfield on the 28th. On October 2, I am going to Cleveland to be at the Triennial Conference of the Episcopal Auxiliary. For the last week of July I had planned to go to Washington, but now I have to change my schedule again because of two meetings in this region. One is the meeting of the Shotwell Commission on the Organization of Peace on July 25 and the other is a Conference called by the Program Committee of United China Relief on Relief and Rehabilitation in Princeton on July 29 and 30.

Mrs. New is attending the Summer Institute of Euthenics at Vassar and she is enjoying the lectures by specialists on personality developmentduring the different stages from childhood on. She has come home on two Wednesdays to have treatments from the doctor, but now she will not be back until the Institute is over. It was fortunate that Dr. Vaughn referred her to a specialist, Dr. Burbank, who discovered internal toxins which are the cause of her stiff knees and the pains in her elbows. The doctor thinks that such a tendency toward arthritis is in the beginning stages and can be checked with his series of ten treatments. She has not quite decided upon her vacation plans but she has to work that out with Peter particularly in mind.

Hoping you had a delightful visit with your sister-in-law, and that you and Miss Calder are enjoying a quiet summer at home, I am

Affectionately yours,

Yi-fang Wu.

8-19-43 [1]

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs Mills to answer

Dear Mr. Evans,

Your letter about the Boston program came to me and Mrs. Simmons, the Secretary in United China Relief Office telephoned to me. We had been in conference the day before about the best way to fit in the various events. I felt that it would be better for Mr. Wu to have a longer unbroken time of rest in her week end with me and that another night & day out here in this quiet place would make her ready for what was to follow. I do want her visit to me to count as rest. I hope she can get her Saturday morning - if she comes on

as at first planned by sleeper on the night train from New York. I see she is in conference all day on Friday, September 24.

As it stands now a dinner is planned for Tuesday night in Boston and the Smith College Club luncheon is Wednesday noon. She can stay in Boston Tuesday night if she prefers. Wednesday night she will be in Worcester. The Smith people will see that she is escorted and met and taken care of in other ways.

I hope her month of rest is restoring energy and relaxing tired nerves. Life must have been a terrible strain since the summer of 1937 - six long hard years! Could I know where she is spending August? I want to write

her a personal note - not on business of any sort. Also can you let me know where Mrs Nev is and what her September plans are? I want to write her also.

I have been in retirement for the last ten days except for visits to the dentist. I hope to be out again after tomorrow. When is Mrs. Mills due back? Can I reach her in Greenville S.C. now.

Yours sincerely
Matilda C. Thurston

August 19, 1943

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

25 August 1943

Dear Cornelia,

A year ago this morning we were up early to see the Statue of Liberty. This morning I wrote my letter of release to Plumer and the others on the Gripsholm who belong to our Presbyterian family. When I got the list yesterday afternoon I rejoiced for you that the long time of waiting in uncertainty is ended and that you may now begin to count the days. I do hope there are no further postponements. It looks as if Stanley and Dorothy were not coming. Have you any further word about them? What is known about Leighton Stuart & Henry Houghton? Leighton is

in our Year Book but he may not be on our Board list. And what about John Hayes? His father & mother seem to be coming home, in spite of themselves.

I have seen the American Board list but not Methodist or Episcopalian or Disciples lists. What about Shanghai Southern Methodists? Has any list, completed or fragmentary, of repatriates appeared in the New York Times? I see the Times except on Sunday but so far no list has caught my eye.

A very nice letter from Yufang reached me yesterday and it gave me her address in retreat. I do not know the Poconos but from all accounts they must be a good mountain resort

A-25-43 (37)

I hope the dear lady has been able to really rest. Even strangers do not always let a person like Ju-jang alone. I am looking forward to her visit here over the week end September 25-28. The winter that she wants to visit Wellesley and to see Mrs. Mon-i, both of which I can arrange for, I hope to hear her in Boston. The Smith Club are including me in their luncheon list and if the United China Relief dinner is arranged I can go to that by buying a ticket whatever it may come to. Thank you for giving me Mrs. Nee's address.

Helen and I have lived quietly in our own little house. Helen thinks it has

been a very hot summer but three summers in Nanking set a high standard for me and Auburndale doesn't come up to that! Besides I never mind heat as Helen does. I have a better thermostat and adjust to outside temperatures. Also I have a slower tempo and don't get "hot up" by my own speed. I had a pleasant two weeks - less a day - in New Hampshire, all but one of the days in Hanover with my sister-in-law Margaret Thurston Frost. We enjoy each other and Hanover, full of navy & marine boys filling the Dartmouth dormitories, gave me a little idea of what it means to be in a war. The lads filled the church the two Sundays I was there and heard two fine

serious. It was disappointing to have such a slim attendance at the Vesper Service which Dr. Van Dusen came up to speak at. There must have been some conflict of schedules or poor publicity.

Speaking of Dr. Van Dusen leads me to say something I feel I can say frankly to you and then if anything can be done about it I leave it to you. On the Dr's schedule I note October 19-21 taken up by a meeting of the Planning Committee of the China Colleges. Could I know the members of that Committee? Would there be any chance of my setting in on some of their sessions? It happens that

I am down in Connecticut between October 14 & October 29 having two speaking engagements on those two dates, the latter in Hartford. I shall visit my brother in Bristol for some days but I could come down to New York, and would be glad to come at my own expense if there were any chance of my setting in on this planning. My heart is still in China and what happens there, even when I'm here will always matter vitally. Find out in some indirect way what the chances are of my being in on an auditors basis.

Remember that we have a guest room if you are coming this way. You spoke of that possibility in an earlier

letter. He's both love to you. Affectionately yours, Stuart

8-25-43 (7)

P.S. We have a friend with us August 27 - Sept. 1 but even so we could find a bed for you here. Be sure to let me know if you come on to Wellesley to see Angie. Let me know if there is anything we could do for her.

M.C.T.

August 26, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
10 Maple Road
Auburndale, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

Thank you for your letter of August 25th and for your welcome to Plumer. It is indeed a happy time for us. I only wish that all of those left out in occupied China could be coming home now. I missed Stanley's and Dorothy's names at once and have not been able to get any reason for their not coming. Marguerite Rouse is not on the list either. Leighton Stuart, Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen are definitely not on the list. I don't know about John Hayes.

I have a list sent out by the Foreign Missions Conference, giving the names of all missionaries who are to be repatriated. There are a number of Methodists listed, but no distinction made between Northern and Southern. Albert Steward is not coming, nor is Ralph Ward. Mr. Gale is not on the list wither. Lois Ely and Edwin Marx are included. I did not see any other names of Disciples. As far as I know, no list has been published in any of the papers. I have heard that the final and official one comes from the State Department today and perhaps it will be published.

In answer to your question about the Planning Committee, I unearthed this information for you. The members and their College Board and Mission Board relationships are shown on the enclosed sheets. As far as I can discover, the sessions are closed, but if there are any open meetings which people like yourself, Bishop Gowdy, Chancellor Beech, Dr. Lair,

Dr. Edmunds and Mr. Cox could attend, I will let you know. I'll see that you get copies of the minutes.

I got Angie off to Wellesley yesterday. She went alone, by choice. I am naturally most anxious to hear from her and expect to pay her a visit some time during the school year. I look forward to seeing both you and Miss Calder when I am at Wellesley. I greatly appreciate your kind invitation to visit you and shall be most happy to accept when I find it possible to get up that way.

With all best wishes to both of you,

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

18 September 1943

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

[17]

Dear Cornelia

Can you let me know by telegram when Mr. Tru will arrive in Boston. United China Relief wants to know in order to arrange for a press interview in advance of the reception planned for Tuesday afternoon. I also wish to know so that I may plan for Saturday. I hope she is coming to Boston on the Friday night train and that we may have her all day Saturday. Let me report plans of which you may not have had definite information.

If you write me that there were two things she wanted to do while here: (1) to see Mrs Roosevelt (2) to visit Wellesley. She wrote to

9-18-43 (27)

Mon. i and I have talked with her over the telephone. She and Wang Ming-chen are coming over here Saturday afternoon. That is settled unless I have word from you or from Y-fang of some change.

The plan for Wellesley is to go over Sunday afternoon after church for dinner, and by good fortune Miss McAfee is there for that week end and will be with us at dinner at Horton House. Rest after dinner is on the schedule but it may not be a very long rest. They want some students & faculty to meet her at an informal tea reception in the Recreation Building at four. We are to have supper with Mary Trendley - not a party and we can come home early. Hope

that will not seem too much for one day. They hope the Prince will talk informally to the group at the afternoon reception.

I have planned nothing for Monday - a quiet day here, or something the way I want to do in Boston. Tuesday we go in to Boston for lunch with my friends - not a luncheon. Instead of a dinner United China Relief is inviting a select company to meet him at the Chilton Club from four to six and he is announced to speak at five. I have not been in on any of these plans. Tuesday night Yu-fang has the choice of coming home

with me for another quiet night, or going home with Mrs. Hartt, the Director of the Woman's Center for United China Relief. Mrs. Hartt has a lovely home in Brookline and will take good care of her. Wednesday noon the Smith College Club luncheon is at the College Club.

If Yi-fang comes in early Saturday morning she will be met and taken to breakfast & then to United China Relief center where the press representatives will want to interview her. It is the way they prefer and I hope she will feel equal to it. I will be working somewhere in the background to take her off

3 8-18-43 (5)

and bring her out here as soon as she is free. Let me know the train she will arrive on in any case and I will see that she is met. I am looking forward most eagerly to seeing her and sharing again the joy of being with her.

Yours affectionately
Mathilda C. Thurston.

Yours will know where she is & there what this letter reports as to plans with Yi-fang, please
M.C.T.

10 Oktober 1943

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Cornelia

You may want to know where I am when I am not in Auburndale and for the days October 14 – 30 I shall be away. I am speaking in Willimantic on the 14th spending two nights in Andover, Conn. the 14th + 15th. I plan to be in New Haven with Lillian & Searle and Katherine Schutze over the Sunday October 17. Then I am coming down to New York, on the 18th or 19th to see Anna. She writes me that she is coming to New York on the 13th and expects to be there for some time. I have a gaspy feeling about these comrades leaving me here but

10-10-43 (2)

I know they are right in going. I'd be going if I were ten years younger, I'm sure. Please let me know where Anna is to be staying. She gave me no New York address. I am writing to a friend who lives downtown - on 16th St. - 115-W Wa 9-6799 asking if I may come to her for the days I am in New York this time. She is within walking distance of 150 & 156 where I would spend a good deal of my time. Will you send me a line c/o Lilliath at 336 Cannon Street where I'll be next Sunday & probably Monday. In Andover you could reach me c/o Mrs. A. H. Benton - just Andover, Ct.

2 10-10-43 (31 om)

I have a speaking engagement in Bridgeport on the 23rd & must get there sometime on the 22nd, or on the 21st for this friend wants a visit as well as a speech (Mount Holyoke Club) From Bridgeport I go to Bristol, Ct to spend the Sunday, Oct. 24 & some days following, getting to know my new grand niece, Joy Marette, and her older sister Sally Anne. I speak in Hartford (Center Church Women) on the 29th and must hurry back to Auburndale the next day. My November schedule has speaking engagements on the 1st, 5th, 7th, 8th & 9th, the last four in Portland & Auburn, Me.

10-10-43 <47

Is the Zoning Board sit for November 12 as originally planned? When are you expecting the Sapsholm? A letter from 156 puts it as late as December 10. You must be having thrills as the days shorten and you and Plumer will again be united. Are you planning to stay where you now are? Are you continuing to give your time to the Clinic College? I suppose you will have to wait & plan with Plumer when you see how the months have dealt with him in health matters.

I have gained all my lost

Thanks - N.Y. Journ
Clinic is all the rage
hatching the scales to keep down
I have will be very busy Nov.
Mind love
Edd

[17]

10 MAPLE ROAD AUBURNDALE 66, MASSACHUSETTS

12 October 1943

Dear Cornelia,

Anna writes me that she is postponed & will not be in New York till the 21st. So I have changed the order of my going. My present schedule is as follows:

October
14 Willimantic, Ct
14-16 Andover, c/o Mrs. Arthur H. Benton
16-20 Bristol, Ct 35 Bellevue Avenue
c/o Mr. W. P. Calder
21-23 Bridgeport, Ct West Parkway
c/o Miss Leva Sheldon
23- ? New York - subject to further news from Anna

10-12-43 [2]

It is interesting to find how we are all involved in the international situation. Now we hold our breaths till after Friday when we can hope the Gripsholm will have taken our returning friends on board and be sailing away from Goa. Plumer ought to stand a fair chance of a good berth lacking the crowd of diplomats that had priority on our trip. I am following him and those who are with him on the ship and hope to be down to welcome them in December. After that

10-12-43 (3)

I'll not be tempted to travel down on by anything of personal import. When are you really expecting the Gropshobes? The Board letter put it into December, giving the 10th as date of possible conference. You will let me know about the Guiding Board date in November. I could wish it a little later and I would plan to do side trips to Philadelphia, Princeton & parts nearby in between. A month seems a little too long to linger unless I could be of some use to Guiding or the Board. I do

10-12-43 (47)

want some time to study the Guiding file in 150 and see what it has for the history of years after 1931. That material in my personal file is not so full as the earlier years. And I'd like to have a chance to confer with that Advisory Comm. about what is written and the general plan for the completed work.

Shoten Yu-Jang has a good time at Smith this week and doesn't get too tired. New England trees are at the peak - or perhaps just past it - and the eye is

delighted at every turn. I look on forward to the glimpse of Eastern Connecticut I shall get later in the week. In Andover I shall be in lovely country on a farm with a friend of my girlhood before High School in Hartford. I am to have lunch on Saturday with the Brownell Gages in Bolton.

I was glad to have a glimpse of your attractive daughter the Sunday we were at Wellesley. She & Janet Hayes and the Creighton girl found me off on the edge of the crowd & I was glad to talk with them. Poor Janet mourns the fact that her family is <u>not</u> coming on the

10-12-43 (6)

Gretchen.

And now good bye - until I see you, or don't, in New York

Affectionately yours

Matilda C. Thurston

(Mrs. Lawrence)

[17

October 14, 1943

Mrs. Lawrence Thurston
c/o Mrs. Arthur H. Benton
Andover, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

Thank you for sending me your schedule for the next few weeks. I do want to know how to reach you when you aren't in Auburndale, and I greatly appreciate your writing me the details of your plans. It is nice to know that you will be in New York soon.

I am afraid I can't tell you anything about Anna. In fact, you seem to have had more recent word from her than I have had. I did not know when she expected to be in New York or when she was sailing. When Miriam left, she said that Anna would probably be in the next group to go, about the end of October, but I know nothing more definite than that. I imagine she will stay with Frances Graham or at Kennedy House while she is here. She was with me the last time she was in New York, but I am afraid she found the distance rather inconvenient.

The Ginling Board meeting will be on November 12th, as originally planned. We plan to have only a morning session and so have set the hour at 9:30.

Of course, there is as yet no definite date for the arrival of the Gripsholm, though I did hear that the Presbyterian Board had said December 2nd. I don't know where they got their information. Most people are content with saying "about the first of December", and some optimistic souls occasionally add "or a little earlier". I am glad that you plan to be here to meet the boat. I know Plumer and your other friends will be very happy to see you.

If they do get here by the first of December, perhaps you could make one trip do for the Board meeting and the Gripsholm conferences. There would not be so very much time between the Ginling Board and the arrival of the Gripsholm for visits in Philadelphia, Princeton, and nearby places. And of course you have a number of friends in New York who would welcome a chance to see something of you.

Angie wrote me very happily of seeing you and Dr. Wu the Sunday you were at Wellesley. She naturally feels a very close tie with anyone from Nanking and felt much honored to be invited to the party.

As you know, Dr. Wu is at Smith this week and goes to Holyoke today. She had a satisfactory trip to Cleveland, Columbus, and Indianapolis, and did not seem tired when she got back. I am sure she will enjoy her visit at Smith.

I look forward to seeing you about the end of next week or whenever Anna arrives.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

COPY

December 1937

A New Life Movement in China

The New Life Movement, promoted by Madame Chiang Kai-shek, is a symthesis of some of the fine old ideals of China's past with the new dynamic of Christian ethics - sacrificial service, value of the individual, humanitarian ideals.

"New Life" is a Christian idea. Conserving old good has always been a part of it, but the ends are new and ever beyond the grasp - "The City of God". "Abundant Life" is the motto of Ginling College and for women in China there has been an enlarged and enriched life from the Christian Colleges, which are the flowering of the Christian Movement in China. Like the flower they also produce the seed of continuing life.

On the practical side, students and alumnae of the colleges are helping to build new cities where cleanliness and sanitation are in marked contrast to the old. Sacrificial living is helping to restore the old wastes of war and desolate places of life in the country districts.

Simpler living and restored discipline were needed after the violence of revolution, as in Europe in the Dark Ages.

The opportunity for Christian services is tremendous. It is Christianity or nothing as far as China is concerned, for the old religions have lost their power as in Greece and Rome. The Fourth Century, with the Conversion of Constantine, is a parallel to the modern era in China with the turning of Chiang Kai-shek to Christianity. Speaking to students at Ginling at a Baccalaureate Service, he tells them they must be ready to give their lives in sacrificial service to create a new China.

COPY

December 1937

Behind the Scene in China

The press picture of life in China is as far from the whole truth as the headlines of our local papers. Only the sensation breaks through our indifference to the great movements which for the last quarter century have been stirring in the life of China. They are parallel in many respects to those of the Fourth Century B.C. and the Fourth Century A.D. The spread of the Greek ideas after Alexander and the influence of modern science in China are part of the forward movement of secular civilization. The Conversion of Constantine and the turning to Christianity of Chiang Kai-shek mark the advance of the Christian way of life among the nations. The New Life Movement is a synthesis of the fine old ideals of the Chinese past with the dynamic motives of the Christian ethic - service and sacrifice, value of the individual and humanitarian ideals.

Living in China since 1902 has been like living in one lifetime through historic centuries. The life pattern was Early Roman in 1902. Today it is Late American. Mediaeval conditions of sanitation are being changed by national health campaigns. Progress in education in the last ten years "has far surpassed what even the optimists could have expected and has utterly confounded the groups of pessimists who were convinced that China could do nothing for herself". Progress in road building, air travel, and all communications, in spite of floods, famines, loss of Manchuria, trouble in North China, financial depression, a nd agrarian distress, has been astounding. Even the present tragic interruption of reconstruction is working for greater unity of spirit and wider spread of new ideas. Trained men and modern industry, forced to leave the seacoast, are leavening the interior regions with new ideas and hastening rural reconstruction.

Women have had an important part and their own changed position is one of the very modern phases of the movement. Madame Chiang Kai-shek is unique in her relation to national life. President Wu Yi-fang of Ginling College, as Chairman of the National Christian Council, is unique in the Christian world. Christian schools and colleges have had a far-reaching influence in the whole forward movement and Christian leadership is outstanding in all the constructive programs.

Mrs. Mills

Extracts from a letter from Dr. Ruth M. Chester
to Mrs. Lawrence Thurston, dated November 7, 1943

"We had the usual wartime Founders' Day supper which is very different from the old banquet, both in food and in atmosphere. We had to be in two rooms, and were very crowded, so there was no possibility of any toasts or any sort of program at the supper, but alumnae and Board members joined with us and ate a very simple meal, only a little better than the ordinary everyday food.....Then after supper, we went to a small auditorium where there is a good stage and had our program. This year, there were no separate and unrelated stunts, and it was all centered around you and Ginling's history. Short scenes from your early life, in which a good deal of imagination was used, but which was based on facts at least, and then various scenes of college history.....it was a very successful program. There was a good deal of fun and amusement in it, and yet a good bit of college history got across, and I am sure all the present students now feel you are something more than a name. It was an unusually well-organized program with many different people responsible for small parts. That distributed the work well and yet it all fitted together and the machinery went very smoothly indeed. Catharine was chairman of the committee and her usual quiet and unobtrusive efficiency pervaded it all.

"The service this morning was also very good. En-lan told of your part in the building of Ginling and did it very well indeed and very appreciatively. Then Peter Shih preached the sermon on "The Faith of a Great Leader". He drew many parallels between Moses and your life and work and stressed that in both cases it was Faith that made the great work possible, and that we too may do great things if we have great faith. The text was Hebrews 11:24,27. Hsiang-lan read the scripture, Chen Yu-gwan made the prayer and Luther Shao pronounced the Benediction, so it was all done by Chinese who know you well. Peter Shih is always good and he was especially so today. His health is so very bad that.....we hesitated to ask him, but he responded very enthusiastically and said he was 'more than glad' to do it. It is good for the College morale to stop and look back, and to see where our roots are and how we have grown. And it is good personally to look back more consciously and with more concentration than the usual absorption in the daily round makes possible. I have been thinking so much as we have prepared and enjoyed this program of all the years we lived and worked together and of all you meant to me and still mean even though there has been a long period of separation."

* * * * * * * *

"Yesterday at the alumnae meeting they raised a fund of $10,000 for a scholarship in your honor. Although these are days of big figures and that doesn't sound as big as it would have a few years ago, they are also days of very small margins financially for most of our group, so that it is really a very fine thing. I have not heard the details of their plan, but I presume it is the beginning of an endowment for a permanent scholarship.

"We like living in the Canadian School much better than I expected, at least I do. The place is certainly an improvement over our previous quarters, and we enjoy especially the garden and flowers, and the space and privacy. We are really very lucky to have this place."

Mrs. Mills

Letter from Dr. Liu En-lan to Mrs. Lawrence Thurston

Ginling College
Chengtu, China,
November 9, 1943

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

By the time this letter reaches you the date will be a long distance apart from now, the time I am writing it. But, anyhow, could you recollect? Were your ears burning around the end of October and the first part of November? Because according to Chinese superstition, when people are talking a lot about a person, that person's ears will burn.

Yes, we have been talking about you, and dramatizing about you, around Founders' Day, so that not only all the Ginling girls know so much about you that they must feel they have known you for life, but even students and faculty from other institutions, too, seem to have picked up enough information about you so that they, also, feel that they have known you as an old friend. Just yesterday I met a group of men from West China University, Nanking University, the Theological Seminary and a few other institutions, and they told me that they had just had a fellowship meeting, and in their meeting they talked about you, "because", they said, "we are so inspired by such a great and noble personality".

Long before Founders' Day, many of us had been thinking a lot of the days of old. Though some people would say that it is a sign of age to think back and take pleasure in what has been long past, I disagree. I feel, in looking back to past experiences, one sees the meaning of life in a better perspective, and certain events and qualities of value stand out in a more profound way than when they actually occurred. Certain other things that were of great importance at the time, now seem to fade out of existence, or look ridiculous, while there are still others which seem to be events in fairy tales and not of real life.

It would amuse you to see how I giggled by myself while I was reading over the old college magazines, laughing over things which I might easily have lost my temper with at the time. But, there are also things that I had not paid any attention to at the time and now I discover that they were events or acts of great value and significance. If only one could have the eyes of the future, surely most of us would live quite differently. That is why, when a person has lived to old age and has spent life upon something really worth while, it is truly an occasion to be celebrated and the person is to be congratulated. Because there are so many by-ways, short cuts and crossroads, we might have easily gotten off the narrow road which is the only correct path to the goal. That is why we all feel this occasion of your retirement is an occasion to be celebrated, because you have spent your best years in laying a foundation for Chinese women's education, while Chinese women were at the critical moment struggling for emancipation. Just think! Twenty-eight years ago there was not a single Chinese woman professor in China, but now among the Ginling graduates there are not only professors, but also a college president, doctors, nurses, principals, social workers and others in special research fields. Therefore, even though the material Ginling you have built might be destroyed, the spirit of Ginling can never be destroyed. Ginling was founded by faith, and she will always grow and flourish and bloom and bear fruit through faith. As far as Ginling is concerned, your name will always be found, together with the words faith, hope, and love.

This year we had an unusually large group coming back for Founders' Day and the commemoration of your retirement. It has broken the records of many preceding years. There were over sixty present at the alumnae meeting on Saturday, November 6th, in the afternoon. All classes were represented except the classes of 1919, 1924, and 1930. Members present were:

Class of 1920	Phoebe Ho
Class of 1921	Liu Yu-djen (Mrs. Tang)
	Yu Chang-fen
Class of 1922	Bei Fu-ru
Class of 1923	Mary Chen
Class of 1925	Bao Fu-nien (Mrs. Luther Shao)
	Liu En-lan
Class of 1926	Cora Deng
	Tsu Do-gia (Mrs. Djang Dju-wen)
Class of 1927	Tsai Kuei
Class of 1928	Djang Hsiang-lan
	Koo Wei-tseng
	Tang Ming-sin (Mrs. Hsieh)
Class of 1929	Chen Hsing-mei
	Kao Ren-ying
	Ling Fu-mei (Mrs. Li)
	Shen Dzu-ying
	Yang I-hsei
Class of 1931	Sie Wen-mei
Class of 1932	Chung Li-dwan
Class of 1933	Hu Siu-ying
Class of 1934	Djang Chiung-ying
	Hu Si-tsang
	Tsu Yu-dji
Class of 1935	Chen Lan-ying
	Hsu Djao-piao
	Wang Yin-an
Class of 1936	Chen Shi-tsung
	Dzo Yu-lin
	Lo Mei-dji
	Lu Gin-ai
Class of 1937	[illegible] Ming-dju
Class of 1938	4 members
Class of 1939	4 members
Class of 1940	4 or 5 members
Class of 1941	6 or 7 members
Class of 1942	6 or 7 members
and some former students	

Within half an hour of the meeting a scholarship fund of $10,000 was already raised for a Thurston scholarship. The money, of course, is a very small amount. But the beauty of it lies in the keen appreication of Mrs. Thurston's work, and the eagerness of spirit; that is the most significant part.

In the evening of the same day we had the usual Founders' Day banquet; only this is a war banquet. That means the money spent is over ten times more than pre-war days, but the food obtained is only about one tenth that of pre-war days. We have been very strict in inviting guests to the banquet, though we were very hospitable about the program following. No husbands nor children were invited. Even so, there were fully 45 tables. The dormitory dining room was so crowded that one could hardly move about to greet one's friends if they did not happen to be at the same table.

After the banquet the celebration program was held in the auditorium of the West China Educational building. Again there was a full house. As usual the Freshmen sang their class song for the first time, nervously. The other classes also sang their class songs. Some did better than others! As usual, the alumnae did the worst with their song. But they practiced just as hard as the others. They had done it pretty well beforehand, but when the important moment came, they were all out of tune and time. It was simply hopeless.

The most brilliant piece of this year's program was the play. The program committee, composed of Miss Sutherland, Shen Dzu-ying, and Dju En-djen, wrote it, and Eva played the heroine. The theme of the play was the life of a tree planter, and she was a woman. There were three acts, each with several scenes. When the curtain rose for the first scene of the first act, we saw a young girl in the costume of about 50 years ago and in cap and gown, holding a diploma in her hand. It was announced by the clear voice, in well-spoken Peiping dialect of Wei Ging-shu, a Junior, that the one we saw had just gone through the graduation exercise of Mt. Holyoke College. Then her sister Helen came in and they conversed and finally they were off to camp with a Miss Thurston.

The second scene gave us the story of how the heroine became engaged, but since she did not want to break a promise at the beginning of her missionary career, she went off to Turkey, as planned.

The third scene took place in the language school in Peiping. Miss Graves, Miss Causer, Eva Spicer, and Dr. and Mrs. Whittington were the students, and Chen Djin-yung, a student, acted as the language teacher. The costumes and the Chinese they spoke were simply "wonderful". It caused thunders of laughter.

The first scene of the second act opened with the Board meeting, composed of Miss Pyle (Miss Chester), Miss Lyon (Mrs. Whittington), Miss Kelly (Miss Lamberton), Miss Nourse (Miss Causer), and Dr. Bowen (Lewis Smythe). Again their costumes and the budget they discussed were most amusing in the eyes of today. The second scene gave the picture of the first college Glee Club, with most of the older graduates acting. It showed the courage, faith and patience of the president. The curtain went down and rose again and this time gave a scene of the president with her secretary in her office. A letter came in from the father of a student asking permission for a young man from St. John's to visit his daughter. Through the conversation of the president with the girl, and the girl with the young man, there was revealed much information about the relation between the president and the students, and also about college life of that time. Bao Fu-nien acted as the girl, and Mr. Luther Shao as the young man. It was a masterpiece.

The last scene of the second act was the inauguration of Dr. Wu. The last act was a modern dance around the Ginling tree. Every scene was preceded with explanations.

From time immemorial, the students have loved to see the faculty act, and this time nearly the whole faculty appeared on the platform in one way or another. The students certainly laughed to their heart's content and the house was continuously ringing with outbursts of laughter. It was amusing, but at the same time informational. It was an act of great worthwhileness. Then besides, Tsai Kwei (General Secretary of Y.W.C.A.) gave a summary of her impressions of the tree planter from her own experience. Her speech was a real testimony to the greatness of the planter, as she was from a government school and was baptized while she was studying in Ginling.

Sunday morning, November 7th, a Founders' Day service was held in the West China Gymnasium. I think there must have been a crowd of about 600 people or more, because all the seats were filled, including those up in the back gallery. Peter

Shih spoke of the faith of the men of old in connection with the founders of Ginling. It was really a very inspiring talk. Then there was also a short commentary* on the contribution of the first president. The whole service took a little over an hour - short but effective. The echoes of the two days' program in commemoration of Founders' Day and the retirement of Mrs. Thurston are still going. Now Founders' Day has come and gone. But what has been learned or heard will always have some effect upon one's life and that influence can never cease. That is one of the wonders of life.

For myself, recently, I have been thinking a lot of the older builders of Ginling and the contributions that each has made. I wish through some means those people and their work could be made known to the younger generations. I feel the meeting of the Board members in the Founders' Day play is a very good idea, because it calls the attention of the students to the fact that no work is dropped down from heaven without people laboring for it. They should realize the hard fact that no accomplishment is made ready for order. I think in the present-day world, under the hard yoke of war and economic pressure, certain people have been hard hit, indeed, but there are still others who have received too much help and they rather feel the whole world is created just to serve them. They get too self-centered. I feel the work of the New York office and the financial campaign in America and England should be demonstrated by a play, too. People need to be reminded of many things once in a while. Don't they?

I am writing this letter while I am in charge of a laboratory on the geography of China. I hope it sounds consistent and that I am not repeating myself owing to the constant interruptions from students. Perhaps I should say I am interrupting them by writing this letter. But I want to get it done before November 12th, which is a holiday, and there will be the athletic meet of the different universities and also the dedication of the new hall erected on the campus for the Three Principles Youth Corps of the Kuo-min party. On Saturday, November 13th, I am asked to go out camping with an inter-collegiate group, and I have to rush back on Sunday to deliver a lecture at the Y.M.C.A. on the borderlands in connection with our trip this summer. As I am anxious to get this letter off and I am to impose on the good nature of Mrs. Whittington to type it for me, I must give her time to do so.

This term I am teaching three courses myself and I am looking after the laboratories, too. That means nine laboratory hours and six lecture hours per week and the notebooks to correct besides. Then the courses on Geography of China and Economic Geography are both new courses for me because I have been in charge of the physical geography before. Therefore I am constantly feeling the pressure of time. I wish there were more hours in a day for I have so many other interests and work which needs to be done. For example, my report of the summer's trip has not been done yet. In connection with the course on the geography of China I want to write a series of articles on China. But that work has lagged far behind, too. One does not want to shut oneself in, just for the sake of writing, and refuse all student requests. Yet when one tries to do both, it is simply impossible. One feels head over ears all the time, and it puts one into an awful state of mind. Yes, I know that the New York office is anxious for publicity materials, and there are plenty to write about if one has the time to do it.

Of course new circumstances create new problems and new problems call for new actions. There you are, things keep on the move, and history goes on; one goes on learning and exploring in the maze of life. Of course there are many interesting things to write or talk about provided one is given the time.

*By Liu En-lan and very good - R.M.Chester.

755 Park Avenue
New York
27 November 1917

Dear Cornelia

The enclosed letter from Katherine Hodge acknowledges the message and the flowers sent from the Guiding Board. It is also a reply to my personal note and I would be glad to have it back. I shall be in the office Monday after I come in from White Plains.

Thank you for letting me know of the advance in date of the arrival of the Greipstholm. I hope Plumer is in the first thousand and that you have him with you on Wednesday. I keep thinking of that line in the hymn "Ten thousand times ten thousand . . . where the

joy of the heavenly reunion is set forth - "knitting severed friendships". It will be a kind of foretaste of heaven for you and for so many broken families

I spent yesterday afternoon with the Hume family. Lilla was keeping the two younger girls and we sat & talked while they took a long nap. Then we met Joy and her baby Gail with Gene, Ted's oldest daughter proudly in charge of her little cousin, and we walked down to Joy's home on 115th St. Her husband is in Washington and now in Army Medical Service. Ed. came home and we had our supper and more talk. It was like old times to be in that home, and an inspiration to see the brave way they face this great bereavement. The loss of an

11-27 (37

only son to a man like Ed is a staggering blow. The little namesake grandson will be a great comfort.

I take the 2.55 train. Monday night I shall sleep here. Tuesday & Wednesday nights I shall be with Kate Eddy - then again here. I must find out where Stanley & Dorothy are to be staying, and what their plans are.

Until Monday I sign off but I am

Always affectionately yours

Matilda C. T.