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COLLEGE FILES
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Nanking
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Severance, John L. 1919-1936

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1919

January 13, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:

I am sending you copy of the Minutes of the last meeting, with which you would be familiar from your presence at the meeting; also copy of a dictated resumé of the remarks made by Mr. Wang. This will have the greater interest since his appointment as Peace Envoy to Paris. It is interesting that he was appointed by the Peking Government, out of deference doubtless to the force of public opinion in China.

The fact that he so fully represents the South and is appointed by the northern Government in Peking puts him in a position at the Peace Table of greater influence probably than any other man from China. He sailed, with his wife, January 1st.

I am to speak in Buffalo on the 26th, in the Lafayette Avenue and the First Church, and I should like to plan to go out to Cleveland between the 22nd and Sunday, and wonder whether you will be there at that time.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

W:R

Encl.

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JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

January 16 1919

Dr. J. E. Williams,
University of Nanking,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Williams:

Your note of the 13th at hand inclosing minutes of meeting of Board of Trustees on December 6th. I was very glad of the opportunity of hearing Mr. Wang at our Board meeting. He struck me as a man of very clear vision and with a remarkably happy way of expressing his ideas. It is fortunate for China that she will have such a representative at the Peace Conference at Paris.

I am sorry I shall not be able to see you next week, as suggested by your letter. It had been my original plan to leave for California on the 23, but this is now interfered with by the fact that I will have to undergo a slight operation that will make it impossible to either go or see anyone for a short time. I hope to go to California as soon as I am able to do so.

I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

John L. Severance

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COPY

156 Fifth Avenue, New York.
April 15, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
Grey Oaks, Oak Grove Avenue,
Pasadena, Calif.
My dear Mr. Severance:

We have wished very much that you were here for counsel just at this time with reference to communications which have come from President Bowen and Mr. Small of Nanking. I enclose herewith a copy of President Bowen's letter of March 6th to Dr. Williams with the accompanying recommendation of the Building and Property Committee, and Mr. Small's two letters of March 6th to President Bowen. From these you will see that it is the clear conviction of the people on the field that we simply must go forward with the erection of the Administration Building at least in part. On the basis of these letters, Dr. North, Dr. Williams, Mr. Carter, Mr. Scott, Mr. Day and I have conferred and have cabled to Dr. Bowen to proceed. I trust that this will approve itself to your judgment. If not, and you feel it will be wiser to defer the beginning of the building, will you not frankly let me know.

The Committee of the Ginling College, which is, as you know, the woman's college in Nanking - had a most interesting meeting last week with Mr. Murphy of Murphy & Dana, the Architects who built the Yale college at Changsha, who are building the Chosen College and who have a very large and increasing ~~work~~ business in the Orient. Mr. Murphy has just come back from China and was reporting on the building plans of the Ginling College. He says that the cost of material which must be brought from America has already dropped because of the reduced freights and that, after weighing all the factors, a number of the business firms and others for whom they are doing work have decided to go right on with the building. Exchange is now about \$.80 and the bankers, as far as they will express any opinion, think that we cannot hope for very much better rates.

Mr. Small's careful statement gives all the figures for the construction that is now proposed as well as the completed building. As you will see, the maximum estimated cost of the finished and furnished building is Mex. 81,401 - with present rates of exchange about \$65,000. Any improvement in the rates or any savings in the cost would, of course, reduce this amount. The authorization which we have given is well within the generous amount already provided by you and Mrs. Prentice.

According to the plan proposed by Mr. Small and President Bowen, the completion of the building can wait a little while, while the portion finished can be used at once. Would this postponement of the completion of the building make it possible for you and Mrs. Prentice to consider later some increase of your gift that would provide for the completion of the building in the future, still keeping it a purely personal memorial to your father, which it has been? I

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Mr. John L. Severance, 2

trust that you will not think me over bold in suggesting this, and I know that you will not hesitate to answer with perfect frankness.

I am sorry to have to report the death of Mr. H. S. Reed, one of the teachers you were supporting in the school in Fatehgarh, India. Mr. Reed appears to have been one of the best men we have sent out. I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Collins in regard to his death and also some pages from a little magazine, published by our Mission partly in English and partly in Urdu, in which there is mention of Mr. Reed and also giving an account of a cooperative society which our Missions are promoting among the village people.

We had a delightful dinner last week with the members of the Boards of the union institutions in China. Dr. Merrill presided and there was a unanimous vote of appreciation of your hospitality which Mr. North was to report to you. It was a very helpful, profitable meeting.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of a little book entitled "The New Opportunity of the Church", which I hope may be of interest to you and Mrs. Severance.

We have heard from Dr. White of his arrival in Constantinople.

Mr. Day has not made his final report yet, but he thinks our deficit for the year will be about ~~the~~ \$750,000. I enclose a copy of the Appropriation Letter for the new year which will give you some of the figures.

With kind regards,

Very faithfully yours,

Robert E. Speer.

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Nanking

GRAYOAKS
Oak Grove Avenue
Pasadena, California.

TRANSFER

April 30, 1919.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Your letter of the 15th has been received, having been forwarded from my office in Cleveland. This is in reference to the erection of the Administration Building at Nanking University.

I have taken the matter up with my sister, Mrs. Prentiss and we stand ready to furnish you with the balance of our original pledge. We will send you \$20,000.00 about the fifteenth of May, when I expect to be back in Cleveland, and will send you the further sum of \$20,000.00 shortly after the first of July. This will complete our original pledge. Mrs. Prentiss and I will also agree to furnish \$15,000.00 additional, but payable during 1920, or at least after January 1st, 1920, which will permit you to erect the building complete, as I understand that you at present estimate this to amount to \$65,000.00 I wish it were possible for us to forward all of this amount during this year, but I already have a good many commitments and in the face of decreased earnings and of greatly increased taxes, it is pretty hard to do all that we would like to do; yet both Mrs. Prentiss and I appreciate the need to the University of the Administration Bldg. and in its completed form rather than partially so.

I presume it will take some time in building and so deferring the balance of \$15,000.00 will not be any handicap.

Yours very truly,

(Signed). Jno. L. Severance.

I should have added in the above that our additional contribution of \$15,000.00 is made upon the condition that the total cost of the completed building is not to exceed \$65,000.00.

J. L.S.

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Extract from letter of Mr. John L. Severance
to Mr. Speer, dated April 30th, 1919.

Re Pledge for Administration Bldg.

"I have taken the matter up with my sister, Mrs. Prentiss and we stand ready to furnish you with the balance of our original pledge. We will send you \$20,000.00 about the fifteenth of May, when I expect to be back in Cleveland, and will send you the further sum of \$20,000.00 shortly after the first of July. This will complete our original pledge. Mrs. Prentiss and I will also agree to furnish \$15,000.00 additional, but payable during 1920, or at least after January 1st, 1920, which will permit you to erect the building complete, as I understand that you at present estimate this to amount to \$65,000.00. I wish it were possible for us to forward all of this amount during this year, but I already have a good many commitments and in the fact of decreased earnings and of greatly increased taxes, it is pretty hard to do all that we would like to do; yet both Mrs. Prentiss and I appreciate the need to the University of the Administration Building and in its completed form rather than partially so."

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MAY 27 1919
TREAS. DEPT.

Ranking Copy

May 26th, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance:

Mr. Speer has just handed me the two checks for \$10,000 each, payable to my order as Treasurer, to be applied upon your pledge for the Administration Building of Nanking University.

It has been a great joy to us all to learn of your generous response to the appeal that comes from Nanking, that the building of the Administration Building be no longer delayed, in view of their acute need and the probability that they will not be able in the future to build to any better advantage than at this time. Mr. Small, building superintendent, certainly has made good in his oversight of all the building operations at Nanking. Everyone speaks most highly of him, and as he was planning to sail for the United States the first of July, if there was not any building to be done this coming Summer, your prompt action has made it possible to hold him there and to make sure that the building would be pushed thru to completion as rapidly as possible.

I have also read this morning your very generous response to Dr. Avison's necessities, and I am very glad that you have found it agreeable to meet these expenditures which Dr. Avison has made counting upon your support. You have always been very careful in these matters and I think for your sake, for our office, and for Mr. Genco on the field, that copies of the understandings which you and Dr. Avison have should be recorded all around.

Thanking you in behalf of the Board, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

RC:M

Treasurer

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May 27, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:

I was greatly pleased to know of your return to Cleveland after your vacation at Pasadena. I hope that Mrs. Severance and yourself are rested and refreshed by your experiences there.

I can hardly express to you and to Mrs. Prentiss how deeply grateful I feel for your generous undertaking to make possible the carrying out of the Central Building, as originally planned, notwithstanding the heavy increase of cost. It will mean so much to have the building carried out on these lines; the need for it now is so urgent. We are having to conduct classes in the Swazey Building up to nine o'clock in the evening, in order to cover the work with the limited class-room space.

It will mean so much to the whole enterprise to have Small continue on with the work, for he has been simply invaluable to us for construction work. We are still having the best building done for the money in any part of China.

We have been very much encouraged by the reports that have come from President Bowen of the interest and enthusiasm of the Alumni, still limited in number, for the work of the University. He started out to enlist their co-operation in securing 10,000 Mexican, in order to purchase a strip of about twenty acres, lying adjacent to our property, and which, in part, was necessary to complete the scheme of buildings, the other part being required for experimentation and agriculture. The Alumni were deeply interested in the Business Course in the University and think they can finance the enterprise. They have already secured pledges of over 30,000 Mexican, and are planning to raise if to 50,000, over a three-year period. Their hope is to be able to house the work of a Business Training Course to pay for the instruction. As this grows out of their judgment one of the deepest needs of China and they are willing to back their conviction by the support required, it seemed better to President Bowen to fall in with their purpose and enthusiasm, ^{and} to try and arrange for the land in another way. The strip of land was purchased and the title deed secured. Twenty acres of land in the heart of Nanking, at a sum of about \$8,000 Gold, is as wise an investment as we could make, particularly,

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Mr. John L. Severance,
May 27, 1919.

as we require some of the land to carry out our building scheme, and the remainder is ~~desperately~~ desperately needed for the extension of the Agricultural work.

The Executive Committee of the Women's Board have recommended that \$25,000 Gold, from the Sage Fund, be appropriated to the University for the Chapel, as they put it. It was my hope that the appropriation could be made for completing the Chapel and for completing the third unit of dormitories. In order that the Chapel could be associated with Mr. and Mrs. Day's name, he made the first pledge of \$15,000 toward the building scheme of the University for the Chapel. You will have seen the action taken by the Board at its last meeting, on May 12th. Mr. and Mrs. Day were very ready to do anything that would advance the interest of the University and to have the Chapel remain as a Sage Memorial and have their \$15,000 used in any other way that would help the University.

The Methodist Centennary is going over the top and I hope some of the one-half millions of "askings" made for the University can be realized early in the Campaign.

The positive "askings" for Relief on Exchange on the residences was very effective with the Methodist Board, for they promptly paid in on 1917 exchange and the \$9,000 for residences. The Foreign Christian Mission Society have found it more difficult to provide the deficit in exchange and for the residence. They first reported that they could only meet part of the exchange and could not undertake the sum asked for residence. In view of letters from Dr. Speer and myself, they have been willing to take up the matter again for re-consideration, and I hope they will meet the call on the house, too.

Owing to the serious illness of dear Dr. Garritt, who is now in the Presbyterian Hospital, the Board requisitioned me to try to undertake the correspondence of Dr. White's office with his Missions. I feel keenly my lack in knowledge and experience of these Missions and knowledge of problems. It has been a real privilege, however, to meet with the Council.

I am hoping to see you at the Board Meeting on Monday, to learn of your dates and whether we can arrange for a meeting of the Trustees on the 12th, 13th or 17th of June.

With cordial regards,

JW:CS

P. S. Through my friend, Mr. John R. Freeman, of Providence, I have had a very pleasant time with Mr. Arthur B. Davis, of the American

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Mr. John L. Severance,
May 27, 1919.

Aluminum Company. My old friend, Mr. H. C. Hwang, who was a guest at our home three years ago and I were asked to lunch with Mr. Davis and he took a good deal of the afternoon in talking over the situation in China.

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JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO June 3rd, 1919.



TRANSFER

Dr. J. E. Williams,
University of Nanking,
156-5th Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Williams:-

Your kind note of the 22nd ultimo was duly received and I was very glad to hear from you. I had expected to answer your letter in person this week as it had been my intention to be in New York on Monday morning with the hope that I would be able to attend the Board meeting that afternoon.

Mrs. Severance who has been ill in California all winter has had a bad relapse and I did not feel safe to leave her Sunday as contemplated, but she is better than she was last week and hope she is on the upward trend, but the present heat is very trying for one who has little strength to stand it.

I am glad to note you had a pleasant visit with Mr. Davis, one of the trustees of the Hall Estate.

Sometime ago I had a talk with Homer Johnson, a classmate of mine at college, who is as you know another trustee, in reference to some of our educational projects in the far east. Mr. Johnson is at present in Paris trying to sell off the remnants of Government War Stocks. As soon as he returns I hope to take up with him again the needs of Nanking and the college at Seoul. I hope both of these institutions may get something from the Hall fund.

On account of Mrs. Severance's ill health and the fact that I have a college trustee meeting next week and also the following week, it is uncertain when I will be in New York. I might possibly be able to attend the meeting on the 13th or the 20th, but the 17th is impossible as I have a trustee meeting at Oberlin on June 16th and could not reach New York in time for the meeting on the 17th, but please appoint the meeting for the convenience of the others and I will adjust myself thereto. With best wishes I am,

Yours Very Truly,

John Severance
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TRANSFER

June 26, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:

We were very sorry, in the meeting of the Trustees, that your previous engagement at Oberlin precluded your being present.

The meeting was very encouraging to me for the spirit in which the men faced the problems of the University. I am enclosing a copy of the Minutes. You will see that there was a large and full representation from the Foreign Christian Mission Society. The Methodist Board was represented by Dr. North and his son, Eric. Mr. Horne was prevented by business from being present.

The Trustees were very much pleased and grateful for the generous increase which you and Mrs. Prentiss made to the original gift for the Administration Building. My letters to Nanking, to President Bowen and to Mr. Alexander Small, have been of the most positive character in cautioning against any expenditure beyond this large increase that has been authorized.

We felt considerably concerned lest Mr. and Mrs. Small should take their furlough, over-due, before the Administration Building and the other Dormitories were completed. President Bowen reported that the building is proceeding very rapidly and that Mr. Small is delighted with the opportunity to go on with it. The birth of a little daughter on the 30th of April was also a great source of joy to them, as the birth involved a Caesarian operation, their ground of rejoicing was much greater than the usual joy in the birth of the first child.

I just received, this morning, a letter from Dr. Sloan, saying that they were coming home for their furlough, sailing on the "Empress of Russia", leaving Shanghai July 12th. I am enclosing a copy of Dr. Sloan's letter, which will give you some later news from the hospital.

Other actions of the Trustees will be clear. Miss Bauer, Dr. McLean and Roger Greene are regarded as a great find for the hospital.

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Mr. John L. Severance,
June 26, 1919.

All inquiries in regard to the Dentist, Dr. Fellows, have been most satisfactory and he will be prepared to sail for Nanking by the 4th of September.

Mr. Twinem, the man for Mathematics, is sailing the 26th of July. Dr. Daniels and Dr. Judson can help us greatly in meeting immediate demands of the Hospital till the other vacancies are filled. Dr. Sloan, when here, of course, can get under the problem of securing any other men needed for the hospital.

The response and the co-operation of the Alumni has been very encouraging and satisfactory. I received a letter, only to-day, from Dr. J. C. Ferguson. He was at the Commencement of Boston University and reports that the University is very deeply interested in their co-operation with the work of Nanking.

That You will note, on Page 4, the action taken in regard to President Bowen's appeal for an additional man from each of the co-operating Boards for the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry. The response of the members present, as Dr. Franklin, Dr. North, Dr. McLean and the strong emphasis placed by Mr. Speer indicate that we can hope for early action of the Boards in compliance with this request. The Presbyterian Mission have already sent in their request ~~Reisner~~ *Reisner* be taken ~~as~~ as a fifth man for the University Staff.

The letter received from the F.C.M.S. in regard to the residence reported that their Society was meeting the 2 for 1 of April 1, 1917, and would continue to do so, but they were not prepared to take on \$9,000 Gold for residence, but offered 5,000 Mex. toward that object. At this meeting, however, Mr. A. E. Corey, Mr. Doan and the Laymen's Secretary of their Board were present and there was a fine spirit. I think we shall secure considerable relief on current through the additional charges in tuition. The last letters from President Bowen are very optimistic as to our future outlook.

You will note that the further consideration of the Seminary and the Joint Secretaryship referred ~~to~~ *to* a small committee to be called by Mr. Speer for fuller consideration and report.

Letters coming now indicate that the men are rallying heartily from the shock of Dr. Garritt's serious illness and Dr. J.L. Stuart's call to Peking. Dr. Garritt left the Presbyterian Hospital on Saturday after nearly two months there. He is still very weak, but had made exceptional gain a week or two preceding.

I feel very greatly your interest as to the outlook ^{*Bowen work*} for the University. I wish we might arrange a meeting of the Committee at a time when you would be in New York, where we could have conference over the Theological Seminary, as well as the askings to be submitted

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Mr. John L. Severance,
June 25th, 1919.

to the Interchurch World Movement Secretaryship for Joint Boards.

We were sorry to learn of Mrs. Severance's illness in California. I hope that she has been able to adjust to the changes at Cleveland.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Severance and yourself,

Sincerely yours,

JW:CS-Encl.

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Mrs. F. F. Prentiss

W. Williams



TRANSFER

June 26, 1919.

Mrs. F. F. Prentiss,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Prentiss:

Your letter of January 24th, written just before leaving for California, was very deeply appreciated by Mrs. Williams and myself. Feeling that your going away was to be a perfect rest from business and even communications of friendship, we refrained from writing you then.

I cannot easily express to you and your brother the deep appreciation I feel for the large and generous additions you have made to your original gift for the Central Administration Building. Letters coming in from President Bowen report that the buildings are proceeding very rapidly. Their idea was to occupy the first floors by the early part of September. Now that it is possible to complete the building, it is our hope that all can be finished by Christmas time.

We are just now breaking up at Montclair, packing to go to Northfield for the summer. Faith completed the High School course at Montclair, with credit. Mary and Dorothy completed the third and second years, respectively. Faith is looking forward to Oberlin, next year, with great enthusiasm. Mrs. Williams and I are packed so that we can return to China on about forty-eight hours notice. ^{urgency} Owing to the very disturbed political conditions in the Orient, particularly, the acute relations just now between China and Japan, owing to the need of our securing additional men on the Faculty, as called for, President Bowen has written that we remain some time longer in the fall.

I am enclosing a copy of the Minutes at the last meeting of the Trustees. They were greatly cheered and enheartened by what you and your brother have done.

Through the additional grants from the co-operating Boards, amounting to about \$18,000 on current and \$14,000 toward property, all indebtedness of the University on the

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Mrs. F. F. Prentiss
June 26, 1919.

field has been cleared off.

Owing to the illness of Dr. Garritt, I have been called to look after Dr. Stanley White's correspondence with his Missions, and have been meeting regularly with the Foreign Board and Council.

I shall be in New York City most of the summer, in the office, and supplying the West End Church.

With warmest regards, in which Mrs. Williams joins me,

Cordially yours,

JW:CS

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TRANSFER

Nanking

July 11th, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:

The enclosed two pictures received in a letter from President Bowen the other day, will indicate to you the rapid progress being made on the Central Administration Building. The building faces the South. Over one corner of the building you can see the top of the Japanese Consulate and at the left, two corners of the two McCormick dormitories. The other one taken on the South Side of the building gives a fuller view of the Japanese Consulate. The wall of the Consulate is the boundary of our land. You will see that the base line of the building is being built in with the white kai tsi marble. It is brought from a distance of 35 miles. All of the marble work for the whole building had already been prepared on the ground before I left China. All of the big city wall bricks required were also laid down. The tiles for the roof had already been prepared so that the building can be rushed through very rapidly.

With our last letters they had not yet received the authorization to complete the building and interpreted the cable "PROCEED" to mean that they were to complete the first story as suggested by Mr. Small. They can easily, I believe, complete the whole building before the Christmas holidays. The New York Woman's Board in making a grant of \$25,000 from the Sage fund for the chapel as the Sage Memorial, requests the Presbyterian Board to advance the money so that the building could be begun at once. Mr. Day's \$15,000 will be available for other buildings of the University. With the completion of the main Central Building and the chapel and another dormitory, we shall have a good working unit.

A letter received from President Bowen today reports that the situation among the students and merchants throughout China is very acute against the officials in Peking who sold out to Japanese. Practically all the schools in Peking, Tientsin, Nanking and Shanghai as well as other large centers have suspended. The main schools took the lead and the students in the Mission schools and colleges went out in sympathy. Everything is perfectly orderly and quiet. Doubtless the Japanese would feel that missionary colleges should require their students to remain in school and to express no sympathy with the others, that however, could not be done by the missionaries in charge. In this letter President Bowen reported

Mr. Severance.....p2

additional receipts from the Forestry Fund in Shanghai amounting to \$9,590 Mex. We had before this received \$18,000 Mex. from the same source.

Mr. and Mrs. Reisner were appointed under our Board at the meeting of the Council Wednesday the 9th and a letter from Mr. Doan of the F. C. M. S. reports that they will also appoint a missionary teacher in the Agricultural Department. Probably all the Boards co-operating will undertake to support their representatives in this department.

I am hoping that with the settlement of Peace and the return of more normal conditions, much can be accomplished for the University.

Very cordially yours,

JEW:M.
Encl.

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John L. Severance

~~FILED IN~~
AUG 15 1919
~~TREAS DEPT~~

Payments from Mr. John L. Severance and Mrs. Prentiss for Administration Bldg.

1917 - May 21st	\$10,000.	
1919 May 26th	20,000.	
" Aug. 5th	<u>20,000</u>	\$50,000.

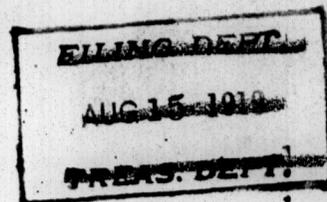
Invoices paid to Perkins, Fellows & Hamilton by University:

Apr. 24, 1917,	For plans and specifications for proposed Chapel of University	\$ 750.
" " "	For proposed Administration Bldg.	<u>1750.</u>
		\$2500.

\$15000. to come from Mr. Severance in 1920 making total of \$65000. Minutes of June 17th 1919

2243799

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO



Mr. Russell Carter, Treasurer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Herewith please find two checks, one from Mr. John L. Severance for \$10,000 and the other from Mrs. Elizabeth S. Prentiss for like amount, making a total of \$20,000. This remittance is in payment in full of their pledge for the College at Nanking, and is also referred to in Mr. Severance's letter of May twenty-fourth to Dr. Robert Speer.

Kindly acknowledge receipt, and oblige

Very truly yours,

W. J. Brodie
Secretary.

August the second,

Nineteen hundred

Nineteen.

*acknowledged
by Dr. Williams Aug. 7/19
J.W.*

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John L. Severance



TRANSFER

August 7th, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:

Mr. Russell Carter is away for a brief time on vacation, so I am writing in acknowledgment of the two checks of \$10,000 each of yourself and Mrs. Prentiss from your secretary, Mr. Brodie.

These will be remitted directly to the field. They are pressing forward with the building very rapidly now. This was made possible because they already had all of the marble stone for trimmings laid down on the ground as well as some tens of thousands of city wall brick. They had also early contracted when the rate was lowest for the tiles for the roof, which had to be specially made. Reports from the field indicate that they hope to complete the building early in the fall. I anticipate this building when completed will add so much to the beauty and sense of completeness of the unit, for it will dominate the whole group. We are deeply grateful to you for these gifts at this time.

I hope you and Mrs. Severance are enjoying a quiet and restful summer.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W:M

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2243799

August 7th, 1919.

Mr. W. J. Brodie,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Brodie:

Your letter of August 2nd, enclosing checks from Mr. Severance and Mrs. Prentiss for \$10,000 each, came to the office during Mr. Carter's absence for a vacation.

I have written notes in acknowledgment both to Mr. Severance and to Mrs. Prentiss.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

W:M

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August 7th, 1919.

Mrs. F. F. Prentiss,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Prentiss:

In the absence of Mr. Russell Carter, our Treasurer, I am writing to acknowledge the receipt thru your secretary, Mr. Brodie, of your share of the \$20,000.00 sent in to Mr. Carter toward the central building of the University, these gifts making a total of \$50,000.00 already paid in to the Treasurer of the University.

You will be pleased, I think, with the rapid progress they are making in the construction of the central building. This was possible because our engineer, Mr. Small, had all of the marble laid on the ground, together with all the city wall brick required, and the tiles for the roof, before construction was begun. They should be able to complete the building in the early fall. Its construction will mean so much for the University, for it will dominate the whole group, besides affording the rooms so desperately needed. It will add more than any other building to the beauty and sense of completeness of the whole unit.

I hope you are enjoying a pleasant and restful summer.

Very cordially yours,

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Rev. Stanley White

September 18, 1919.

Rev. Stanley White, D. D.,
Prouts Neck,
Maine.

Dear Dr. White:

Mr. Bayard Dodge has just been in conference with me over the 'phone and is very eager that there be an opportunity of a conference of Dr. William Jessup, Mr. Erdman, Prof. Batch and himself and any others from Syria, with you, before Dr. Jessup returns to the field, in order that he might carry back to the mission directly the latest word of development.

The enclosed card was presented by an attractive young fellow, who was calling here to see you this morning.

It will be a great pleasure to see you on your return and to hear the interesting experiences you have met. There are many calls for you to speak, as per one enclosed, from Mr. Russell Bennett. Since you are coming back next week, we will put them all together and you can reply on your return.

Most cordially yours,

JW:CS
Encl.

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Rev. Stanley White

September 24th, 1919.

Rev. Stanley White, D. D.,
1125 Madison Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. White:

Further conversation with Bayard Dodge confirmed the hour of 11 A.M. on Saturday and the place at Dr. MacCallum's office, #1 Madison Avenue. He also wished to have you know that if you would let him know where to meet you he would call for you with his auto and drive you out to their home for dinner Friday evening. I think he may have written you of this and also about arrangements about returning to New York.

I think there will be opportunity to confer at the office over several matters that should be handled at the next Council meeting, first, Mr. Haymaker's reaction to the Guatemala Mission, - Messrs. McDougall and Pierson would like to have him put on as a regular missionary but before recommending any action, I thought the question should go before you and all its aspects. There is also an immediate question of the Althaus' return to Hunan. They have had their time extended on account of his suffering from T.B. He can now return. The only question in my mind is whether you might not have too many people afflicted in that way in relation to the Hunan Mission and whether it would be wise to raise the question of his transfer in China to a more healthful climate.

Several other questions we can go over when you come in the office.

Most cordially yours,

JEW:M.

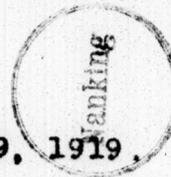
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Dr. John L. Severance

from Dr. Williams

TRANSFER



October 29, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance,

While at Pittsburg I had an opportunity of further conference with Mr. Arthur V. Davis in which he told me that Mr. Johnson was expected to return on the Mauretania, sailing from France the 11th of November and that he would at that time take up immediately with him the propositions for the University and Canton College.

It happened as I was leaving Pittsburg Friday evening of last week came into the same sleeper and asked me if I would not step in his compartment and visit. Aside from getting better acquainted in every way I had an opportunity of answering many questions in regard to China and the work. Mr. Davis remarked that he felt bad that they had not done anything during the year on the trust fund, so I thought this information might be of interest to you in meeting Mr. Johnson.

The last mail brought me a letter from Dr. Rowe, Acting President of the Theological Seminary in the absence of Dr. Garritt. I am enclosing you a complete copy of the letter as it touches upon so many points of interest in connection with the Seminary. I am sure you will note the very large expectations created by Bishop Lewis' report of the glowing success of the Centenary. A good corrective for the Bishop's over-enthusiasm is Dr. North's conservatism. I am enclosing a copy of one of the last letters from Dr. North bearing on the matter of the \$100,000 for endowment. In a letter from Dr. Bowen under date of September 18th he writes in regard to the Seminary as follows:

"I hope they have gone ahead with the theological developments. There is no need of delaying them unless there are very serious causes at that end, as everything has been done at this end to push forward the program for their Board of Managers and our trustees have approved of them.

"You will be interested in knowing that six college grade men have come to enter the Theological School this term from Tungchow. They have finished three years of the college work and because of the feelings up there have been sent here. I think they have now altogether twenty men in the Theological School from North Shantung, Chihli and Shansi which goes to show that in spite of what they have said in the north

0027

students can be induced to come south.

"The Seminary is in a very hard way this term with Dr. Price and Dr. Garritt away and also Chang Yung-Hsin. Mr. Richardson is here and is going to prove a very fine man, I am sure."

The carrying through in an effective way of the Graduate Theological Department is technically of supreme importance for the development of an adequate leadership for all the missions and Chinese churches. The cooperating boards have agreed to the policy of advance. The Christian Board has secured a very fine man in Mr. Bradshaw who is associated with William Adams Brown, as a teacher in Union Seminary. If, with the greater emphasis upon the training of medical men and the greater stress upon the training of teachers and men in technical and applied science by the Chinese government schools and the constantly increasing stream of returned students of higher training the churches and missions should fail to make adequate provisions for the better training of men for the ministry along the more modern and efficient lines it would be a thousand pities. An extraordinary opportunity is afforded the church in China at this time and the trend of the last fifteen years away from training and theological schools in America for the ministry, which is one of the factors probably that accounted for the net decrease of 28,000 last year of the Presbyterian Church membership in America is the parallel by conditions in China. The Church is there entering upon the great rising tide.

And now is the time for it to take advantage of the flood tide and carry its victory to the utmost.

You will see how deeply Dr. Garritt will be missed in the Theological School as well as in the work of the missions, and how much they are counting upon Mr. Lew's return to help them out.

It was a very great pleasure to be in your home and to see Mrs. Severance again and have a longer visit with Mrs. Prentiss.

With cordial regards

Sincerely,

JEW:S
Enclosures:

Mr. J. L. Severance

TRANSFER

Nanking

W-C

November 15th, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480, The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:-

In line with our conversation at the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees I am writing you with regard to the support of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Lew in the Theological Seminary. They are planning to return in a month or two to Nanking. The salary the Seminary will provide will be Mexican \$150.00 a month. Unfortunately, the present rate of exchange is disadvantageous to us, being at the rate of one for one. I do appreciate deeply the willingness of Mrs. Prentiss and yourself to aid us in returning Mr. Lew to the work of the Seminary. For the development of Christian effort in union through a united Christian Church I know of no investment that will tell more directly than the placing of a man with Mr. Lew's qualifications in this work. He is an able scholar, a gentleman, a man with great courage, and I anticipate he will have great influence with his people.

I am writing this formally, although I anticipate the pleasure of seeing you in Cleveland. I am leaving this afternoon, having to stop in Cleveland over Sunday and a part of Monday en route west.

With most cordial regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

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W-C

November 15th, 1919.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480, The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Severance:-

In line with our conversation at the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees I am writing you with regard to the support of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Lew in the Theological Seminary. They are planning to return in a month or two to Nanking. The salary the Seminary will provide will be Mexican \$150.00 a month. Unfortunately, the present rate of exchange is disadvantageous to us, being at the rate of one for one. I do appreciate deeply the willingness of Mrs. Prentiss and yourself to aid us in returning Mr. Lew to the work of the Seminary. For the development of Christian effort in union through a united Christian Church I know of no investment that will tell more directly than the placing of a man with Mr. Lew's qualifications in this work. He is an able scholar, a gentleman, a man with great courage, and I anticipate he will have great influence with his people.

I am writing this formally, although I anticipate the pleasure of seeing you in Cleveland. I am leaving this afternoon, having to stop in Cleveland over Sunday and a part of Monday en route west.

With most cordial regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. E. Williams



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1920

15,000. for Administration Building

August 2nd, 1920.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance:

You very generously increased your pledge to the Administration Building by adding \$15,000.00 with the understanding that this last \$15,000.00 should be paid during 1920, or at least after January 1st, 1920. We have not written you regarding the last \$15,000.00 for we thought they would be advising us from the field when they had need of it. I have just received the following word from the Treasurer on the field.

"I would like to ask if you have received further remittances on the Administration Building? I trust you have, and that they may be on the way to us. Up to date the Administration Building account has a debit balance of over Mex. \$20,000. and we shall be very much in need of it soon."

Exchange has been very much more favorable of late, as you know, and \$15,000.00 gold today will produce the Mex. \$20,000. to which he refers.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

HC:M

Treasurer

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John L. Severance

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Aug. 4, 1920.

\$ 15,000 for Administration Building

Russell Carter, Treasurer,
Nanking University,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Carter:

Your note of the 2nd at hand, and I herewith hand you my check for \$7,500 to complete my pledge for the Administration Building of Nanking University. Mrs. Prustice's draft for like amount is also enclosed in payment of her pledge.

I have recently received a letter from Dr. Williams urging that some of us visit China this Fall in order that they may have the formal dedication of the new buildings in November, but I have written him that this was impossible so far as Mrs. Severance and I are concerned. I also received some very attractive photographs of the campus and the new buildings, and we were all very much pleased with the appearance of the Memorial Building.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

John L. Severance
J. L.

Enclosures
M.L.

0032

2243799

15,000 for Administration Building
August 9th, 1920.
pledge completed

Mr. John L. Severance,
460 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance:

Many thanks for your fine note of August 4th enclosing a total of \$15,000, one-half this amount being from your good self and one-half from Mrs. Prentiss. This money completes the pledges, as we understand it, for the splendid Administration Building at Nanking University.

I wish indeed it were going to be possible for you and Mrs. Severance to visit Nanking, but I can well understand how it is that you find it impossible to do so this fall.

Faithfully yours,

D:M

Treasurer

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J. W. Severance
CABLE ADDRESS · PLAZA · NEW YORK

TELEPHONE 1740 PLAZA

1922



THE PLAZA

FIFTH AVENUE 58TH TO 59TH STREETS
AT CENTRAL PARK

THE GREENBRIER
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. VA.

NEW YORK

January 22, 1922.

Write 1/30/21

Mr. George T Scott,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

My dear Mr. Scott:

I haven't at hand the letter from Doctor Williams of which I spoke to you this morning but am glad to take this opportunity to advise you that Mrs. Prentiss and I will assume the additional expense involved over our former pledges for the construction of the Administration Building at Nanking University.

I believe Dr. Williams reports this excess as ~~Y~~n 16,624, approximately \$8,312 gold. Mrs. Prentiss and I will pay this sometime before the 31st of March.

Yours truly,

J. W. Severance

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John L. Severance

January 24th, 1922.

Memo for the University of Nanking Files

VERBAL PLEDGE BY MR. JOHN L. SEVERANCE RE BALANCE
ON SEVERANCE HALL, NANKING UNIVERSITY.

On Monday, January 23rd, 1922, Mr. John L. Severance, in an interview with Mr. George T. Scott, Assistant Treasurer of the Nanking University Trustees, stated that he had received a letter from the Vice-President of the University, Dr. J. E. Williams, speaking of the situation on the field, which was evidently one that called for financial relief, although he intimated that Dr. Williams had not directly asked for any funds from him. Mr. Severance and Mr. Scott spoke briefly of the situation and referred to the deficit of \$16,324. Mex. on the construction of Severance Hall, and of the Trustees' unwillingness to approach Mr. Severance for this sum, in view of the previous understanding that any such deficit should not be referred to him. Mr. Severance, however, stated that he felt that he and Mrs. Prentiss would like to help the institution in its present financial need, that both he and Mrs. Prentiss could not make any immediate payment, but that within the next three or four months they hoped jointly to care for the entire overdraft of \$16,324 Mex. on the building of Severance Hall. Mr. Scott stated that if the rates of exchange continued at approximately present levels, this amount of local currency would cost from \$8300. to \$8500. gold.

Mr. Severance did not leave any written and signed memorandum of this pledge and this present statement is dictated by Mr. Scott as a memorandum of the interview. Mr. Severance is planning to write to Mr. Scott concerning other undertakings of his and it is possible that he may also write concerning the one mentioned above.

George T. Scott

0035

2243799

Copy for Dr. Eric M. North

UNIVERSITY OF
NANKING
TRUSTEES

MASTER

26

January 30th, 1922.

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance: Re Overdraft Severance Hall, Nanking University.

In accordance with your personal request on Friday noon, I am writing you a memorandum regarding the date of payment of the overdraft on Severance Hall, Nanking University, which payment you and Mrs. Prentiss have so generously undertaken to make "sometime before the 31st of March."

You will recall that I ventured to intimate that, in view of the very unexpected and embarrassing financial situation in which Nanking University found itself just at this moment, you might possibly consider payment of this particular pledge of yours at an early date, deferring, if more convenient for you, certain other items, payment of which is not so immediately pressing. I explained to you that the Finance Committee of the Trustees was compelled to advance credit by cable of \$20,000 Mexicans, temporarily securing themselves, much to their own disapproval, by endowment funds. The draft covering this has just been presented today for payment and we are temporarily meeting it out of funds otherwise designated.

I notice that in your letter you speak of this Severance Hall overdraft of \$16,624 Mex. as amounting to "approximately \$8,312 gold." The prevailing rate of exchange in New York during the past week for Mexican dollars at Shanghai has varied from 53.75 to 55. Estimating the rate at 54 cents the overdraft of \$16,624 Mex. equals \$8,976.96 gold. If we think of your contribution as largely meeting the above draft of \$20,000 Mexicans, which could be considered as defraying the Severance Hall overdraft, then this rate of exchange of 54 is a trifle less than the rate (1.85 to 1.86) at which the gold was sold to purchase the Mexican dollars in Shanghai on January 4th, 1922.

Have you had an opportunity to take up with Mr. Homer Johnson the question of a possible interview which he could grant to Mr. John H. Reisner in regard to cooperation from the Hall Estate?

Inasmuch as my attendance at the funeral service of Mr. Scott Foster on Saturday prevented my writing you on that day, I am sending this under special delivery stamp to make up partly for the delay.

With best wishes for a pleasant trip to Southern California, and a happy and health-giving visit, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Guang T. Scott

Assistant Treasurer

GTS:M

0036

UNIVERSITY OF
NANKING
TREASURER

Copy for Dr. Eric M. North

January 30th, 1933

Mr. John L. Beverance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Beverance:
Re Overdraft Governance Hall, Nanking University.

In accordance with your personal request on Friday noon, I am writing you a memorandum regarding the date of payment of the overdraft on Governance Hall, Nanking University, which payment you and Mrs. Promiss have so generously undertaken to make "provisionally before the 31st of March."

You will recall that I returned to estimate that, in view of the very unexpected and embarrassing financial situation in which Nanking University found itself just at this moment, you might possibly consider payment of this particular debt of yours at an early date, before, if more convenient for you, certain other items, payment of which is not so immediately pressing. I explained to you that the Finance Committee of the Trustees was compelled to advance credit by cable of \$30,000 Mexican, temporarily securing themselves, much to their own disapproval, by endorsement funds. The draft covering this has just been presented today for payment and we are temporarily meeting it out of funds otherwise designated.

I notice that in your letter you speak of the Governance Hall overdraft of \$18,824 Mex. as amounting to "approximately \$2,312 gold." The prevailing rate of exchange in New York during the past week for Mexican dollars at Shanghai has varied from 83.75 to 85. Estimating the rate at 84 cents the overdraft of \$18,824 Mex. equals \$2,069.96 gold. If we think of your contribution as largely meeting the above draft of \$30,000 Mexican, which could be considered as delaying the Governance Hall overdraft, then this rate of exchange of 84 is a trifle less than the rate (1.85 to 1.86) at which the gold was sold to purchase the Mexican dollars in Shanghai on January 24th, 1933.

Have you had an opportunity to talk up with Mr. Homer Johnson the question of a possible interview which he could grant to Mr. John H. Johnson in regard to cooperation from the Hall Estates?

Inasmuch as my attendance at the funeral service of Mr. Scott Foster on Saturday prevented my writing you on that day, I am sending this note by delivery stamp to make up partly for the delay.

With best wishes for a pleasant trip to Southern California and a happy and health-giving visit, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Handwritten notes and stamps, including a date stamp "JAN 31 1933" and a signature.

Assistant Treasurer

GTS:M

LE00

SCOTT REC'D

FEB 8 1922

Ans'd

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO
January 31, 1922

Geo. T. Scott, Asst. Treasurer,
University of Nanking,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Scott:

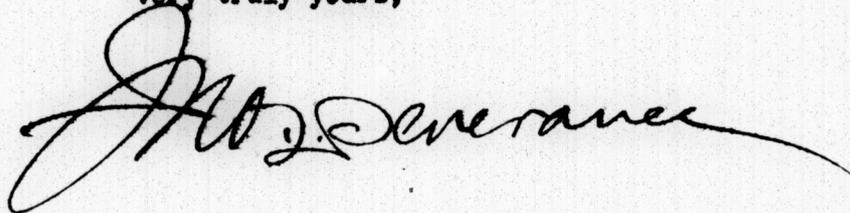
Your letter of January 30 is at hand this morning, and I am enclosing herewith my check on Seaboard National Bank of New York for \$4,488.50; also check from Mrs. Prentiss for the same amount, making a total of \$8,977, your estimate of \$16,224 Mex., the excess cost of Severance Hall over and above our previous contributions.

I did not understand that I was to see Mr. Homer Johnson again in reference to the conference with Mr. John H. Reisner re. the Hall Estate, as I understood the gentlemen had met in New York in December; but the first opportunity I have of meeting Mr. Johnson, I will call the matter to his attention. I think he is in the city at present, although he spends most of the winter at Pinehurst.

I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

Encl.
JLS:Mc



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2243799

TRANSFER

Copy for Dr. Eric M. North

February 6th, 1922.

Mr. John L. Severance
and
Mrs. Francis F. Prentiss

My dear Mr. Severance and Mrs. Prentiss:

On behalf of the Trustees of Hanking University allow me to acknowledge and thank you most cordially for your very generous contributions of \$4,480.00 each, checks for which reached the office the end of last week. This total aggregate contribution of \$8,977.00 meets in full the overdraft (which amounted to \$16,624 Mex. and at the rate of 54¢ equals an amount slightly less than \$8,977.00 gold) on the construction of Severance Hall, the beautiful and extremely useful Central and Administration Building of the University of Hanking.

This contribution is most timely and relieves the University of the most pressing part of its present indebtedness which was partly caused by the largely increased cost of supplies and equipment for laboratory and other features of the University work.

With renewed expression of gratitude for your fully appreciated and substantial co-operation in this eminently worthy institution, I beg leave to remain, on behalf of the Trustees,

Very sincerely yours,

George T. Scott

Assistant Treasurer

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C-C

December 7th, 1922.

Mr. John L. Severance,
Hotel Plaza,
59th Street & Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Severance:-

We are hoping that you can stop in a little while in the morning before going down town for a meeting of the Finance Committee of Nanking University. I appreciate that this is very short notice, but some matters have come up that really ought to be dealt with by the Finance Committee prior to the meeting of the Board of Trustees on Saturday. We are, therefore, venturing to call this meeting for 9:30 tomorrow, Friday morning, in my office.

Sincerely trusting that it may be possible for you to give us a little while, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Treasurer.

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2243799

ROLLING DEPT
JUL 6 1923
TREAS. DEPT

C-C

June 28th, 1923.

To the Members of the
Finance Committee of the
University of Wanking.

Mr. John L. Severance

Mr. A. E. Cory

Mr. W. J. Stitt

Rev. J. H. Franklin, D. D.,

Rev. E. M. North, D. D.

Gentlemen:-

Mr. E. R. Brown, classmate and friend of Dr. Williams, has turned over to Dr. Williams, who has deposited them with me, two Certificates for 100 shares each of the Lone Star Gas Company Stock, the par value of which is \$25.00, which, at par, would thus produce \$5,000.00. I made inquiry yesterday and the market was 23 bid, 24 asked. It touched 25 not very long ago. This Stock is now paying on a basis of 8%, payable quarterly, so that, as Mr. Brown says, if the University does not need the funds it is temporarily well invested. This Stock was given in lieu of the \$5,000.00 which Mr. Brown promised Dr. Williams he would give the University of Wanking if he was able to sell this Stock at \$28.00 a share, and the Stock has been transferred to Dr. Williams as trustee for the benefit of Wanking University and Dr. Williams endorsed the Certificates in blank.

In a letter from Mr. Brown, who asks that this gift be treated as a confidential matter as far as possible, he at our request has advised that no one can tell absolutely the best time to sell the Stock. He writes:

"I should say, when the stock reaches \$25.- which is par- it might be a good plan to dispose of it. You could leave a selling order of that kind, if you so desire. I have done considerable business with Emanuel-Parker & Company, 120 Broadway, and know they are entirely reliable. You could leave a selling order at \$25. net to you; when the stock reached that point it would be sold."

May we have your judgment as to what is best to do in the matter. I understand that there are no conditions attached to the gift and that it can be used to reduce the University's indebtedness. Dr. Williams and I have been inclined to follow Mr. Brown's suggestion.

Very sincerely yours,

Treasurer.

Copy sent to Mr. Moss

0041

TRANSFER

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

May 14, 1925

1925
Nanking

Russell Carter, Associate Treas.,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 8th came while
I was absent from the city the first part of the
week, and I have only returned this morning. In
reply to same I beg to hand you my check for
\$2,500 covering my pledge through Dr. J. E. Wil-
liams for the Science Building at Nanking Univer-
sity.

Very truly yours,

Encl.
JLS:Mc

John L. Severance

ck. for \$2,500 enc

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1922

May 14, 1922

General Carter, Associate Trustee,
Board of Foreign Missions,
120 West 42nd Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th came while
I was absent from the city the first part of the
week, and I have only returned this morning. In
reply to same I beg to send you my check for
\$2,000 covering my share through Dr. J. B. Wil-
kinson of the Bureau Building at Newark univer-

sity.

Very truly yours,

W. B. E. H.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
MAY 19 1922
JOINT OFFICE

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0043



TRANSFER

UNIVERSITY OF NANKING.

June 17, 1925.

Mr. J. L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance:

I am enclosing herewith the minutes of the last meeting of the Trustees of the University of Nanking and also the minutes of the Board of Managers of March 16, 1925. I also enclose the budget for 1925-1926. I am sure it is the most thoroughly organized budget that we have had in this office from any of the colleges and represents, you will note, inclusive of the Hospital, a proposed expenditure of Mexican \$534,000. The details of the budget together with its total are indications of the careful and extensive work which the University is carrying on.

You will also note from the minutes of the Managers that there are two buildings under construction. The Science Building which will house the College of Agriculture & Forestry is to be known as Bailie Hall, in honor of Mr. Joseph Bailie who first undertook the development of agriculture and forestry work in connection with our China colleges. The second building is the Recitation Building for the Language School which is to be known as Keen Hall, in memory of Mr. Charles S. Keen, who was the recent Dean of the School.

Matters to which the Trustees must give attention in the near future are the provisions for the electric light plant and additional dormitories, as well as a library and a gymnasium.

I am writing this to the Trustees who were unable to be present at the recent meeting with the thought that they would be glad to have me call their attention to the outstanding points in connection with recent developments.

We have had no indications that the recent disturbances in China have to any appreciable degree interfered with the work of the University.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary,
University of Nanking.

EMM/EJL

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TRANSFER

June 30, 1927.

*See Lfr. Russell Carter
6/30/27 re conditions*

Mr. John L. Severance,
480, The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance:

We are very grateful to you for your check for two thousand dollars for our emergency funds which Mr. Carter has given to us today. This will be a great assistance to us in meeting the many extraordinary expenses connected with our University supported staff because of the Nanking trouble. We are not attempting to restore any of our buildings at the present time.

Dr. Bowen left two days ago for Minneapolis, and I am advising him immediately of this very generous gift. I am sure he will wish to write to you directly.

Again thanking you for your much appreciated help,

Cordially yours,

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TRANSFER
DEERWOOD
UPPER SARANAC, NEW YORK
September 24th,
1 9 2 7.

1927

Nanking

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

INDEXED

My dear Mr. Garside:

Your letter of the 16th has finally reached me here, through my office in Cleveland.

I regret I did not have word of the meeting of the Board, called for September 14th, though I doubt whether I should have been able to be present. I might have felt inclined to have expressed an opinion on the reports which you sent me earlier in the month, and which also reached me after a while here. I am enclosing my approval to the action taken on September 14th, largely, because it apparently was the unanimous opinion of those who were present, after a careful discussion of the whole problem presented to them. However, I am not in accord with some of the items referred to in your abstract of the minutes of the meeting.

I do not assent to item four. In other words, I do not approve of the proposed relationship between the new Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees as proposed by the present Board of Managers. I realize, however, that in the action of the Board of Trustees on this point, there is only a qualifying assent.

I am not in sympathy with the recommendations to the various Mission Boards to continue their cash grants under present conditions. Personally, I will not put any more money into China under the existing state of affairs there.

Referring to paragraph eight, I would have preferred that the proposed arrangement be made for a shorter period than five years. It seems to me, two or three years at the most would have been sufficient, and, if the arrangement had proved satisfactory, to all parties interested, that the lease could have been extended for a further period.

However, under the circumstances as referred to in the early part of my letter, I finally enclose my assent to the action taken.

Beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

W. J. Overman
Over

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P.S. Since dictating this letter I have rec'd
yours of the 20th inst enclosing copy of
Report of Rev. A.R. Kepler which I have
read with great interest. It confirms
my own feeling of extreme pessimism
in regard to Maunslow University's future.



0047

over



TRANSPORT

University of Nanking

October 26, 1927

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Severance,

The letter accompanying your vote on the proposed re-organization plan for Nanking University was received some time ago, and I have communicated your views to a number of the leading members of the Board of Trustees.

You know already that the Board of Trustees feel very much as you do in regard to the proposals now under discussion. Dr. Speer, who drafted the action of the Board in the form I submitted it to you, has felt all along that the best solutions we can discover at this time are far from ideal, and are sure to contain much which we would gladly change if we could find any better course to substitute.

Many of the best friends of the mission enterprise in China are sharing with you feelings of extreme pessimism as regards the future of our Christian institutions there. Certainly the prospects are that for a good many years to come the disturbances in China which have brought so much suffering and destruction to the Chinese people themselves will continue to endanger Christian lives and property as well as non-Christian. There are available certain just and proper safeguards which will help, but probably cannot entirely eliminate the dangers involved.

Faced by these facts many who have given most generously toward the building up of Christian work in China are concluding that for the present at least they will no longer contribute funds to China. Many who have given the best years of their life to China are returning to America and announcing that they will no longer attempt to serve there.

The amazing thing has been that in the midst of all this confusion and uncertainty we have discovered that what we considered the weakest part of our Chinese Christian enterprise has now proven the strongest. From all over China have been coming admiring, and sometimes half-surprised, tributes to the way our Chinese Christian leaders have stood the crisis. Many of them have suffered loss of property or even life itself, and uncounted numbers have been bitterly reviled by their own people. Often they have been torn between what seemed to be conflicting duties, and have not been sure whether in being loyal to their Christian friends and ideals

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October 26, 1927

they might not be betraying their own people and nation. Yet with but the rarest exceptions these Chinese Christians have come through the crisis in a way which has won the respect and admiration of both their foreign friends and of their own people.

From week to week during these last seven months our New York office has been receiving evidences of the courage and faithfulness and shrewd common sense of the Chinese staff who have been left to carry on the University of Nanking. They have had a constant struggle with military commanders of all sorts, and an even more annoying conflict with undisciplined bands of soldiers, all of them seeking to occupy the buildings and over-run the campus. They have been handicapped by the absence of the foreign members of staff and have been forced to struggle with innumerable administrative and instructional problems new to them. They have been forced to meet emergency expenses and employ additional members of staff under conditions where funds were insufficient for even the usual running expenses. Yet if there has been any wavering or loss of courage, it has never been apparent. Our Chinese staff has carried on in a way which has put our vaunted Christian faith and conviction that the cause of Christ must triumph. As I have watched the way in which our Christian Chinese leaders in Nanking and elsewhere meet the crisis which has confronted them in recent months, I have found it impossible to grow pessimistic about the future of our Christian institutions in China. It would be folly to contend that everything is as it should be in China, or to say that there are not difficulties and dangers and even mistakes being made by those trying to formulate a course of procedure for our Christian work there; but it would be an even greater folly to grow faint hearted and discouraged. Christ's cause has often made its greatest forward strides amid dangers and discouragements.

The work in Nanking has successfully passed through one tragedy. It would be a second and still graver tragedy for us to give up now.

ixkaxs

The things I have said in the above paragraphs you of course already have had in mind. But I have ventured to write them because I feel that we here in the office have not been able to pass along to the Trustees as fully as we would like the more encouraging aspects of the situation as we catch them now and then from letters and reports that come to us.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary
University of Nanking

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October 26, 1927

they might not be betraying their own people and nation. Yet with the rarest exceptions these Chinese Christian leaders have come through the crisis in a way which has won the respect and admiration both of their foreign friends and of their own people.

During these last seven months our New York office has been receiving constant evidences of the courage and faithfulness and shrewd common sense of the Chinese staff who have been left to carry on the University of Nanking. They have had a hard struggle with military commanders, and even more with undisciplined bands of soldiers, all seeking to occupy the buildings and over-run the campus. The absence of foreign members of staff has compelled them to grapple with perplexing administrative and instructional problems entirely new to them. They have had to meet emergency expenses and employ additional members of staff where funds were insufficient for even the usual running expenses. Yet they have carried on in a way which has put to shame our vaunted Christian faith and our oft-asserted conviction that the cause of Christ can know no defeat.

As I have watched the way in which our Chinese Christian leaders in Nanking and elsewhere have met the crisis which has confronted them, I have found it impossible to grow pessimistic about the future of our Christian institutions in China. It would be folly to contend that all is as it should be there, or to deny that there are difficulties and dangers and even mistakes being made by those trying to formulate policies for our work there. But it would be an even greater folly to grow faint hearted and discouraged. The work in Nanking has risen successfully above one tragedy. It would be a second and still graver tragedy for us to give up now the work we have begun, or to refuse to uphold the hands of those whose faith and courage will sooner or later win through to victory.

These things you of course already have in mind. I have ventured to write them because I feel that we here in the office have not been able to pass along to the Trustees as fully as we would like the more encouraging glimpses of the situation which we catch now and then from letters and reports that come to us.

Faithfully yours,

BAG/G

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1934



JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

November 1, 1934

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C. A. Evans, Associate Treasurer,
Associated Boards for Christian
Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Ave.,
N. Y. City.

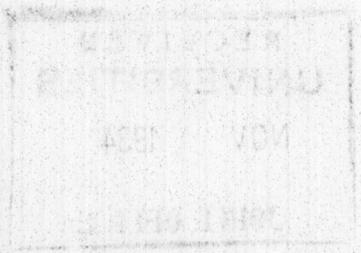
Dear Sir:

Mr. Severance has been confined to his home
the past ten days, and I am therefore taking the liberty of
returning to you the papers and statement enclosed with your
letter of October 22, inasmuch as you wish to pass them on to
other members of the committee.

Very truly yours,

B. M. Cowman

Encl.
BMC:Mc



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1934

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO
November 1, 1934



Mr. J. A. Evans, Associated Board for Christian
Colleges in China,
113 Fifth Ave.,
N. Y. City.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Severance has been confined to his home
the past ten days, and I am therefore taking the liberty of
returning to you the report and statement enclosed with your
letter of October 23, inasmuch as you wish to pass them on to
other members of the committee.

Very truly yours,

W. B. Carr

Enc.
EMC:mc

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JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

November 20, 1934



C. A. Evans, Assoc. Secy.,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Evans:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of November 15, and regret that I find it
impossible to be in New York on November 28 to attend
the meeting of the committee called for that day.
Will you kindly express my regrets to the Chairman
and oblige

Very truly yours,

John L. Severance

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1935

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

June 7, 1935



C. A. Evans, Exec. Secy.,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

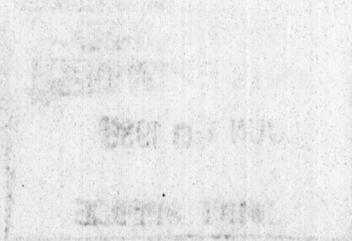
Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June fourth calling a meeting of the Board of Directors of Nanking University on June eleventh, and regret that I shall be unable to attend this meeting as it comes on the same day as a meeting here of the trustees of Western Reserve University.

Very truly yours,

John L. Severance

JLS:Mc



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1933

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
490 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND OHIO
June 7, 1933



Wm. E. ...
123 ...
The ...

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of
June fourth calling a meeting of the Board of Directors of
Western University on June eleventh, and regret that I shall
be unable to attend this meeting as it comes on the same day
as a meeting here of the trustees of Western Reserve Univer-

Very truly yours,

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JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

October 8, 1935

file



C. A. Evans, Exec. Secy.,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Severance has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October fourth, advising of a meeting of the Committee on Finance, Property and Investment of University of Nanking on Thursday of this week. He regrets that he is unable to attend this meeting, as he has engagements here both Thursday and Friday.

Very truly yours,

E. McEpool

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R. E. Speer

JOHN L. SEVERANCE
480 THE ARCADE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

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OCT 14 1935

October 10, 1935

Ans. _____

Nanking

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
President Board of Founders,
University of Nanking,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I recently received a notice of meeting of the Committee on Finance, Property and Investment of the University of Nanking. It was impossible for me to attend this meeting because it conflicted with other engagements I had here.

For the last two years I have found it impossible to attend meetings of the Board of the University of Nanking, and I therefore think it wise and proper for me to resign and give way to someone who can serve the University and also represent the Board of Foreign Missions more adequately than I am able to do; so may I ask you to present my resignation at an early date convenient to your appointments? It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a member of this organization in the past, although in recent years I have not been able to give adequate service.

With most cordial regards and best wishes,

I am

Yours sincerely,

John L. Severance

JLS:Mc

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THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

Mailing

October 15, 1935

Cub 10/28

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

INDEXED

Dear Mr. Garside:

I enclose herewith a letter from Mr. Severance, with a copy of my reply. Will you see that it is put on the Docket for the next meeting of the Board of Founders? Perhaps we might ask him, if we think best, to continue on the Board, but release him of membership on any of the committees. On the other hand, it certainly would be well if we could have a more active layman representing the Presbyterian Church.

Faithfully yours,

Robert E. Speers.

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THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

October 15, 1935

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Mr. E. A. Garrison,
180 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Garrison:

I enclose herewith a letter from Mr. Governor, with a copy
of my reply. Will you see that it is put on the Board for the next
meeting of the Board of Trustees? Perhaps we might ask him, if we
think best, to continue on the Board, but release him of membership
on any of the committees. On the other hand, it certainly would be
well if we could have a more active layman representing the Presbyterian
Church.

Faithfully yours,

Robert S. ...

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October 15, 1935

Mr. John L. Severance,
480 The Arcade,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Severance:

It was a pleasure to hear from you in your kind letter of October 10th. We have missed very much the happy meetings with you of the past years both in our Board of Foreign Missions and in the Board of Founders of the University of Nanking.

I will report your letter to Mr. Garside, secretary of the Board for presentation at the next meeting of the Board.

I trust that you are well and with warm regard, I am,

Very cordially yours,

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Nanking

Nanking

October 28, 1935

Dr. Robert E. Spear
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Spears

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 15th, concerning Mr. Severance's resignation as a member of our Nanking Board of Founders.

Since Mr. Severance is a representative of the Presbyterian Board final action on the matter must, of course, be taken by that Board rather than by the Nanking Founders. I quite agree, however, that the matter should be brought to the next meeting of our Nanking Founders or of the Executive Committee, to secure their judgment in the matter.

On the one hand, we regret the thought of losing Mr. Severance from regular membership on the Nanking Board. On the other hand, it has been so difficult for him to take an active part in the business of the Board during recent years that much would be gained if we could secure a more active representative to succeed him. If the Presbyterian Board could secure a young and vigorous layman who could give a substantial amount of time and thought to Nanking affairs as a part of his contribution to the Christian enterprise in China, that would be a most happy solution all around.

Even though it may be wise to release Mr. Severance from regular membership on the Nanking Board, I do wish we could keep him with us in at least some kind of advisory capacity. While our charter and constitution do not provide for advisory members, it might be possible for us to work out something along that line.

Very sincerely yours,

RAG:MP

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**J. L. SEVERANCE DIES;
FINANCIER WAS 72**

*President of Cleveland Museum
of Art and the Musical
Arts Association.*

1936

CLEVELAND, Jan. 16 (AP).—John L. Severance, Cleveland capitalist and patron of arts, died tonight at his Cleveland Heights home of a heart attack. He was 72 years old.

He made possible the construction of Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Orchestra. He was president of the Musical Arts Association, which maintains the orchestra, and president of the Cleveland Museum of Art.

He also served as trustee of Oberlin College and Western Reserve University.

A widower, he is survived by his sister, Mrs. F. F. Prentiss.

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