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February 23, 1935.

Professor William G. Sewell,
West China Union University,
Chengt'u, Szechuan,
West China

My dear Mr. Sewell:

We are grateful for your letter of December 30th, with its interesting enclosures and pictures.

I am turning all this material over to Mrs. Macmillan and Mr. Sherwood, who are now busily engaged in building up the publicity resources of the Associated Boards. They will probably be writing to you from time to time with reference to publicity materials. We only wish that we had a few more conscientious publicists like yourself on the other campuses.

I am very sorry indeed that the perplexing problem of military drill at the University may make it necessary for you to give up the splendid work you have been doing on the Publicity Committee. Even though you feel impelled to give up your formal connection with the Committee, we hope that it will still be possible for you, as a matter of personal interest and service to the University, to continue supplying us with the material which we need so badly if we are to accomplish anything in making West China known to our American constituency.

We sympathize deeply with the perplexities which the matter of military training have created at the University. It is very difficult to form any judgment at this great distance as to just where the ultimate solution must lie. We have already begun to recognize here in America that this problem of a growing militarism in China may prove one of the gravest threats to the future of China, and to the peace and happiness of the world. We feel our own sense of responsibility for this situation, for it is from the so-called "Christian nations" of the West that this military spirit had its chief origin. Both Great Britain and the United States have had their full share of responsibility in inspiring the rise of militarism first in Japan, and now in in China. If such a group as the Associated Boards or the British United Committee were to express any vigorous disapproval of the carrying on of military training in our Christian Colleges in China, this would almost certainly be taken

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Prof. William G. Sewell

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Feb. 23, 1935.

as a pretext by many powerful groups in China for raising a great hue and cry that the militaristic nations of the West were adopting a new type of foreign aggression through attempting to destroy the patriotic spirit among students in their colleges. With both Great Britain and America following a policy of strengthening their arms on the land, on the sea, and in the air, it would seem both absurd and hypocritical for us to take the initiative here in trying to solve these problems you are facing in China. Certainly both here and in London we must give these problems very careful study and seek ways and means by which we can be of constructive assistance. But I am afraid that for the present at least, we must look to our colleagues in China, particularly to the Chinese Christian leaders, as the only hope for dealing effectively with these problems.

With warmest regards, I am,

Very cordially yours,

B A GARSIDE

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The Union University,
Chengtu.
West China.

WEST
CHINA

April 28th 1935.

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

My dear Mr Garside,

I have a number of letters to acknowledge: Nov 21st from Mr Evans, January 24th and Feb 23rd. I am sorry that the coming of military training into the university has interrupted our regular communication with each other. There seems however to have been no other course possible than to resign from certain positions while continuing with my teaching. This has the great advantage that it keeps those of us who take this attitude in close contact with the work and keeps our protest fresh before the staff and students. Our annual meeting has recommended that the Friends Service Council should give notice of withdrawal from the University. While I consider that this is the only logical step yet I am confident that the F.S.C. will be very cautious and slow to action so that there will be time for a better day to have dawned before any final step is taken!

Since resigning from various positions I have found myself busier than ever. A good many jobs which nobody seemed to have time to do have come my way. Although I am not officially responsible for publicity work yet naturally if anything comes my way I will send it on. You may find these notes about an improved cow useful in writing up our work. You will also naturally continue to receive our journal letters.

In connection with these letters will you please ask Mrs Macmillan to use her judgement in quoting from them. I write very frankly as I think that is the best way to make them ~~xxxxxxx~~ useful - but much of what is written is unsuitable for printing and would cause harm if it found its way back again here. I find that the F.S.C. in England have been very good in leaving out passages when quoting in print, but I am rather troubled about some of the things that have found their way into the C.U.C. Bulletin - in fact I have had to remove the last number from our library table! If anything is printed from them I should be grateful if I could receive a copy. I have been asked to write another book for the United Council of Missionary Education and will probably draw freely on the material in these letters so will be glad to keep track of anything that has already appeared!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

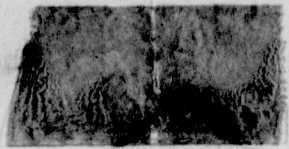
Wm. G. Sewell

Articles on "Sylvan"
to Mrs Mac
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Union University,
Chengde,
West China.



May 11 1935

Handwritten notes:
copy of copy

Mr. E.A. Gerstle,
120 Fifth Avenue,
New York,

My dear Mr. Gerstle,

I have a number of letters to acknowledge: Nov 21st from
Mr. Evans, January 24th and Feb 23rd. I am sorry that the coming
of military training into the university has interrupted our
regular communication with each other. There seems, however, to
have been no other course possible than to resign from certain
positions while continuing with my teaching. This has the great
advantage that it keeps those of us who take this attitude in close
contact with the work and keeps our protest fresh before the staff
and students. Our annual meeting has recommended that the University
Service Council should give notice of withdrawal from the University.
While I consider that this is the only logical step yet I am
confident that the F.S.C. will be very cautious and slow to action
so that there will be time for a better day to have learned before
any final step is taken.

Since resigning from various positions I have found myself
better than ever. A great many jobs which nobody seemed to have
time to do have come to me. Although I am not ordinarily responsible
for public work naturally if anything comes my way I will
send it on. You may have a note about an improved cow house
in which I am working. You will also naturally continue to receive
our journal letters.

In connection with these letters will you please ask
me permission to use her judgment in quoting from them. I write
very frankly as I think that is the best way to make maximum
useful - but much of what is written is unsuitable for printing
and would cause harm if it found its way back again here. I find
that the F.S.C. in England have been very good in leaving out
out some of the things that have found their way into the
journal. I have been asked to remove the last part of the
journal in which I wrote about the F.S.C. I have been asked to
remove a copy. I have been asked to remove a copy of the
journal on the material in these letters.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
MAY 11 1935
JOINT OFFICE

Handwritten notes:
What is the
to be done

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature:
Wm. G. Gerstle

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F R I E N D S S E R V I C E C O U N C I L

Journal Letter No.21 from William G. Sewell

As from The Union University,
Chengtou, Sze.,
West China.

23rd July 1937.

Dear Friends,

During the few months since our last letter the most outstanding event in Szechwan has probably been the drought. As the weeks went by and no rain came we, on the Chengtu plain, enjoyed the bright blue sky and the unusual sunshine. Secure with the constant supply of water brought through the countless irrigation channels, we watched the spring crops greening and ripening, and felt how good it was to be alive. As the weeks turned to months, however, the rumours which we had been hearing of scarcity of food in the places away from our irrigation system became more persistent. Then, because of unusual demands in other parts, the price of rice in Chengtu began to rise, some refugees began to arrive, and we realised that certain districts of the province were in the grip of famine. Several Chinese members of the University staff were gladly loaned to the government as it sought to investigate conditions and administer relief.

As the time for the planting of rice came along everyone grew worried. The papers recorded the slightest cloud. Ants were seen moving their nests; a sure sign of rain - but still the drought continued. The Chinese St. Swithins - which, as is the case of so many things out here, has an opposite significance to ours - came and went without a drop of rain, so that the farmers lost hope, believing that for a long period no rain would fall. The gods were taken from the temples and scorched in the sun, but they did nothing to remedy their unhappy lot. The Water Dragons - men carrying branches of trees - paraded about the streets of the cities, even Chengtu, while people drenched them with water from the wells; but still the rain did not come. The magistrates of Chengtu, like those of other places, ordered a fast from all meat, and for a week or more no animals were killed. But the time for planting rice passed; and except where there were irrigation streams, the seedlings perished, so that the crop was lost. Then at last, but not till then, when it was impossible to save the rice, the rain came; it seemed as though a special curse of heaven hung over the province. After an interval maize was planted, but it was too late for the all-important rice.

From other places came the news of vast numbers perishing through starvation. Some died slowly, living on roots; others died more suddenly after eating the constipating kaolin - the clay of the Goddess of Mercy. There came terrible stories of those who dug up new graves in their attempt to get meat. Advance guards of beggars flocked into Chengtu. Never have I seen so many. Just outside the university gate one ragged man was beating his head on the ground and crying for alms; by his side, stretched in the dust, was the dead body of a small emaciated child.

What could we do? The churches, schools and the university raised what money they could. The students were active in collecting to swell the budgets of the relief organisations, but at best we could touch only the fringe. "A dollar to save a life" was the slogan that was used - but with all the will in the world only a comparatively few people could be fed and tided over until the next harvest was due. The International Famine Relief workers were right in believing that the very best that could be done was to improve communications, paying money for labour on roads, rather than for direct relief. Without motor or rail communications it is impossible to do anything effective. If a rice carrier set off from Chengtu to some of the

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more remote famine districts he would himself eat all the rice he could carry before he arrived.

Along with the drought came disease. Chengtu was swept with scarlet fever, diphtheria, meningitis, measles; we were thankful there was nothing worse. As it was very many died, especially children. Some of you may remember the chemistry teacher whose only son was kidnapped some years ago; the boy was never recovered though ransom money was paid. Much to the parents' joy another son was born. In the scarlet fever epidemic this child, now four years old, succumbed, leaving the mother almost demented. In the ten families of which this teacher's home was a unit, twenty-three people died. With no system of notification or public health, infectious diseases are hard to control. One of my Dyeing Class students came to tell me that he had missed class because he had had scarlet fever; every one in his family had it, and his little sister had died. He himself was ragged with peeling skin, and seemed surprised when he was ordered home!

One blazing hot day in the drought I was walking to class when I saw a whirlwind on the path in front of me. A column of dust and leaves, it moved slowly towards me. I felt no sensation or movement of air as it passed to one side and moved slowly across a field, though I could hear the rustle of the leaves as they were spun round and drawn upwards. An old farmer seeing this eerie thing in his fields dropped the basket he was carrying, and with hands clasped together and with horror on his face he shouted! "Da kwei, da kwei" - Strike the devil. He did not cease until the terrible thing had passed behind a building. Those were days of omens and portents.

Then at last the rain really came. There were a series of down-pours. Now, while we are up at the hills, we have begun to wonder if we shall ever have sunshine. For nearly three weeks it has rained. We hear that the streets of Chengtu are standing in water, and that the university grounds are a lake. Walls are falling and there is some damage to property. Even as far away as Tungchwan there has been loss of life in the floods. Let us hope that this is the last of our troubles for awhile.

I am very glad that the term is now over; it has been an exacting one with a very heavy load of teaching, largely because of the extension course in Dyeing for which I have been responsible. This course has had many compensations, and it has had some exciting moments. Probably the greatest thrill of all was on the day when, before going home to lunch. - I took my usual glance at our second-hand boiler and was horrified to see that the pressure was at 60 lbs instead of the usual 20! Wedged on the safety valve was a large stone. I knocked it off, the steam coming out with a great roar, bringing the plaster off the ceiling and causing everyone to run out of the building expecting that the boiler was blowing up. Then I turned my attention to the boy in charge - the brother of our engineer. "I had to put something on the safety valve", he told me, "otherwise the steam would come out. First I put a wood chopper on, but that wasn't enough. When the guage got to 40 lbs. the steam came out again, so I had to put the stone on!" If I hadn't gone in at that moment what might have happened is best left to the imagination. The sequel was that I so scared the boy that during the afternoon he let the fire out; which was very awkward, as an important deputation of business men came to inspect us.

There were other bad days too; for instance, the time we dyed a number of pieces of cloth for boy scout uniforms for one of the schools in the city and discovered later that their tailor had paid us for them with a bad ten dollar note. Chinese merchants are not as startlingly honest as popular belief would have it. However there are exceptions; and possibly one of the most pleasant incidents in

connection with the whole course involved our carpenter. He agreed to make a certain number of dye vats for a hundred dollars. When they were complete he came to me and said: "The vats will only cost you eighty-three dollars. I told you a higher price as I had never made such things before and did not know what they would cost." This was all the more remarkable and generous, for after our acceptance of his original price we would have quite cheerfully paid him his hundred dollars.

There were amusing incidents too. One of the students is a very beautiful - and clever - young lady. The finishing touch to the ensemble of gay long silk gown, bright red finger nails, red lips, orange (or is it sunburn?) cheeks, with a head covered with small fuzzy curls, making her look, though I should never have liked to mention the fact, just like a Negress. These curls are the latest fashion, and it cost her eight dollars to get her sleek black bobbed hair permanently rolled up in this strange manner. Imagine the lady's consternation when, the deed just done, she and others like her were confronted with an order from the City Fathers which stated that anyone with curled hair would be fined thirty dollars. It had been decided that in view of the famine it was a crime for anyone to spend the equivalent of a coolie's wage for a month on personal adornment. A fortnight's grace was given during which the poor lady feverishly consulted all the text books on the property of hair and wool, and also sought my advice. I fear that all I could suggest was too drastic for her.

The crowning tragedy came, unfortunately, at their graduation. The extension course students - dyeing and agriculture - had a special ceremony of their own. Everything went off quite nicely; there were speeches and bowings, tea and cakes - but there were no guests! When all was over and the doors of the hall had been closed for an hour, the guests began to arrive, dressed in their best clothes, and drawn in their private rickshaws, which were smartly lined with white linen and had copper mudguards all brightly shining. The clerk in the central offices, who had sent out the invitations had put on the wrong time! In a land where guests are so valued can you imagine any situation which is really more terrible? Even now my face gets red with shame at the thought of it. Even the personal letter of apology which the President sent to each of the guests can hardly make amends.

Our first lot of dyeing students has gone out. Some have positions but others have not. They are pioneers and will have to make a way for themselves in a province which is not yet quite willing to adopt new methods of dyeing, though their coming is inevitable. Whether or not we take in another class next year, or leave it for a while, depends on the attitude of the provincial government, for we do not want to turn out more people than the industry can absorb, and without the cooperation of the government we cannot find satisfactory positions for another large class of students.

The general university courses have continued as usual and we can report a very satisfactory year. There have been no interruptions, and the students have shown unusual powers of concentration. There seems to have been a larger number of really good students than in previous years, perhaps because of the increased numbers of those who have come to us from the coast, where middle school training seems better than anything provided as yet in Szechwan. One of these boys, writing his examination paper in English made one of those remarks which help to relieve the life of a teacher. He described the manufacture of "the pseudo paper of the sheepish skin", a happy rendering of the Chinese for imitation parchment paper!

A pleasing interlude was a visit to the Chinese theatre with a group of Friends College students. Hilda was not able to go, but Marjorie Robertson, who is living with us, went. They had reserved

seats for us (by sending some of their number to sit on them) so that we walked straight in, bicycles included. The latter were leaned up against the stage in a place where we could keep our eyes on them and see they were not stolen. Cushions were hired to soften the hard wood seats, and we settled down to enjoy tea and conversation. Nobody seemed to take much notice of the play. Anyhow it was in the Peking dialect so that most of the audience found difficulty in following. Now and again we took special notice as some particularly beautiful costume appeared. There were some magnificent sword dancers. One young lady excelled herself - and no one minded when she paused in the middle to blow her nose on the curtain. Scene shifters mingled with the actors, the band deafened everyone and smoked innumerable cigarettes as it was doing it. There was plenty of downright coarse humour, which was no more out of place than it was in Shakespeare's England. After we had had enough - there was no point in waiting until it was all over - we went to the equivalent of a Fish and Chip Shop, much beloved of our students, where, for a few cents, we had cooked chicken, pigs' stomach and trotters, and spaghetti.

The Graduation ceremony was managed this year more carefully than previously. There were a larger number of graduates than ever, but the ceremony went more easily. We started with the Kuomintang song, the reading of the will of Sun Yat Sen, the three minutes silence and the three bows before the Sun's portrait - each item being called for by the military instructor in his stentorian voice. The representatives of official bodies spoke, and the President gave his address. There was nothing in any of this to indicate that we were a Christian University, though character building was stressed - some of us felt a little disappointed. Bishop Sung, however, speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors made the first mention of the name of Christ. Then came a great surprise. After the degrees are awarded it is the custom for one of the graduates to make a speech. This year a girl who had graduated in pharmacy spoke. She said quite simply that the main thing she had learnt at the University was to follow Jesus, and she hoped that in the years to come the graduates would all continue to follow Him. A few years ago, even a year ago, such a speech by a student would have been impossible. Can we presume that the anti-Christian wave is passing and that a new day is dawning? We hope so.

On the Sunday before Graduation at a special service Chiang Kai-Shek, Christian, was held up to the student body as a special example. I could not help feeling that there was a certain amount of danger in this. We are all of us profoundly thankful that the Generalissimo has found so much personal satisfaction in his Christian experience, and we may have been moved and helped by what he has said and written lately; but to identify Christianity in China with a man who is identified with the New State is dangerous. There is much regimentation in China; and the present national movements are not very far removed from Fascism and are not free from the conception of the Totalitarian State. It is only a small step over the border, and if that should happen, one trembles to think what its effect might be on the Christian Church in China. It was Dr. T.T. Lew, was it not, who pointed out the danger of a revival of a state religion, for example some form of Confucianism?

There is certainly much to be said for the way China is regimenting her people, if we are interested in quick results in this great land. The fifth year medical students (men), and the third year pharmacy students have all been taken, under charge of one of our military instructors, to Nanking. There they are going to live under canvas, get an understanding of national public health work, be trained for use in conjunction with the army, especially in case of war, and in other ways be made into "good citizens." The experience in Nanking will be a wonderful one for these young men; it will broaden their outlook. One cannot help but admire the government that can conceive and arrange such things (however much one may tremble!) There has

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been a conference of leading Middle School Heads at Kuling (where the government is during the summer) and now a similar gathering of Presidents of universities and other leading educators is taking place (our own president has gone). They are being brought under the personal influence of Chiang Kai-Shek, who is putting his programme before them and ensuring their co-operation. No wonder China moves swiftly! Although travel is expensive for most of us, yet there are special cheap rates on buses, ships, and possibly trains (though I have no knowledge of this) for all those who have done military training! Our students who have finished their course wear a special badge.

Although we have been able only to modify but not abolish military training in the university, yet we are thankful for the emphasis on sports which is made in the Friends College. We are much the smallest of the colleges, but we were easy victors in the university athletic sports, some individuals having very good records. Tennis and basket ball are the most popular games, though swimming is gaining ground. There was an interesting sidelight in connection with the sports day. Usually all the marking of tracks, starting, and time keeping has been done by a committee of staff and students. This year it was all done at their special request, by an athletic school in the city. Their students took complete charge as part of their practical work. Men and girls dressed alike in neat grey uniform! They did admirably. We had several of them to lunch. One told me that they were hoping to get positions in schools, replacing military instructors, who, they assured us (and as we knew from practical experience), were mostly ignorant of physical training, scouting and guiding, all of which, we were informed were so much more important than pure military drill. There is plenty of hope for China yet!

Now just a personal word about ourselves. Daphne who was so ill last time we wrote, was proved to have coeliac disease. Once we knew what it was, there was not such a great difficulty getting her better again. However we needed, and were thankful to have the the expert help of Dorothy Behenna. On a strict diet of skimmed milk, junket curds, the breast of a chicken a day, and bananas when we can get them (they have to come by air from Shanghai), Daphne has gradually gained in weight, and is a rougish imp of mischief once more. As long as we keep her diet suited to her means we hope we shall have no serious set backs, and in time we trust she will grow out of her trouble. She and Ruth enjoy playing together and are a lively pair.

The peace of our domestic staff was broken by the disappearance of money on two occasions. The circumstances under which it went were such that suspicion fell almost conclusively upon the sewing woman. We announced our loss to the servants, who at once felt that their honour was at stake. Once, when we were out (rather unfortunately, for we should have been interested to observe the proceedings), they resorted to ordeal by oath. As far as we learnt afterwards they set up incense sticks and before them took an oath of the strike-me-dead-if-I-did-it type. Everyone took part, except the suspected sewing woman, who refused. This was significant as doubtless fear would play a part. Our other servants came to us and told us they would no longer be responsible for our goods, and we were driven to parting with the woman. We discovered that ordeals are fairly common in China; a more severe one being to take a copper coin out from boiling oil! only the guilty hand being burnt.

At the moment we are wondering just what the future holds for China and for us. There are rumours of war with Japan. Though everyone believes that an outbreak is inevitable, we hope it may be delayed and averted. It would be difficult for a big war in the East not to affect all the world.

I am writing from Behludin, a summer resort away in the hills west of Chengtu. There is a constant rumble of blasting in the Valley

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Letter from W.G. Sewell.

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below. A motor road is being made in this remote place leading up to a copper mine. The ore contains very little copper, but war is not impossible and the government is determined to make it available. "Buy Chinese goods" and "Use Chinese products" are vital principles, often expressed by patriots, even in this part of the world. The sound of the blasting is not unlike the distant thunger of guns! We wonder where this country like so many other nations is going.

(Signed)

WILLIAM G. SEWELL.

AM/MBB.
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F R I E N D S . S E R V I C E C O U N C I L

Parts of letter from WILLIAM G. SEWELL, dated
18th September, 1937 and received in London
11th October (by air mail to Hongkong).

West China Union University,
Chengtou, Szechwan.

I think that in view of present events in China I should send you a short report to indicate how we are situated. I do not intend to discuss the general position of China vis-à-vis Japan for you will be much better informed in England than we can hope to be in Szechwan; instead I want to mention some of the effects in this distant province.

Perhaps one of the most important facts is that we are in a distant province, and as part of China one of the main functions of this province will be to keep things going for the rest of the country. This is specially true educationally. Universities and colleges have been destroyed nearer the coast, others are in danger; our main function is to keep the educational pot boiling and we are going to be hard at it.

China has a multitude of soldiers - two million it is said. She has no great need for everyone to rush to the colours, but rather has a need for people to be willing to sacrifice their money and goods, for the result of the war may well depend on the economic condition of the two countries. Students are encouraged to continue their courses: they will be urgently needed to build up the country when this dreadful strife is over.

The University opened crowded as I have never seen before. It took me back to my own college days during the war - when there was hardly a young man of military age to be seen. Our hall here, however, was crowded with young men who would have rushed, or been rushed, to the colours in any other country. I have not heard the official figure but we must already have far more students than ever before. Every dormitory is full to capacity. In the Friends' College we have twenty-four living in, and half a dozen more medicals living in the city. Now the government has ordered that we have another entrance examination and take forty regular students and thirty transfers from other universities, in addition to those we already have. The Government is paying for the extra equipment we shall need. In Friends' College we are to take three more students, and I shall receive \$60 to buy furniture for them. If in the future we have to take still more I have plans for taking a dozen in our basement, but it will need flooring and dividing into partitions as well as providing with furniture.

Many of these students who come to us are men (and women) from other Christian Universities - from Shanghai Baptist College, from St. Johns, from Fukien Christian College, from Soochow, Cheeloo, the University of Nanking. It is going to mean a tremendous thing to us to have all these senior students with experience come among us. Most of these people, I should make plain, are senior students coming to complete interrupted courses. Let me whisper that Szechwanese students are provincial in their outlook - it will call for all their patriotism and forbearance if we are to get through the year without some clashes!

The Government has written a confidential letter to the University urging that it counts on us to keep up classes as usual and to take in as many refugee students as possible. The outlook of the whole country may be influenced by these students as they will be a steady factor - so we are told. As far as possible we are to avoid any hint of war psychology.

Now what are we as Friends going to do? We have thought about the matter a good deal personally and also in Standing Committee. As a first step some Chinese members drew up a letter* for English Friends. They did it all on their own when we were still at the hills

* see below.

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and I think it shows a pretty good spirit! The National Christian Council of China is organising relief - and we can support that with our money - but some of us feel that as Friends we have a special responsibility in time of war. We would like to organise a special Friends' relief unit - particularly for the suffering peasantry and civilians in the places where there is real suffering. So far the seeds have been sown but that is all - we need young Friends, particularly medicals to get worked up over the matter, but so far there is no real concern. If English and American Friends could have a unit I am sure that some of us would be glad to join it - but otherwise "we are too weak," "we have no money", "the Government would not permit individual efforts", and so on and so on. I think it probably true that from this distance all we could do - and it would be a real contribution - would be to co-operate with some National Christian Council scheme. They will have good facilities for planning and for being in touch with the authorities. But for the time being at all events I feel my own job is to keep the educational pot boiling - as I have said - and drop as many words in season as possible: it is probably as well I feel like this for the government will not risk any foreigners in the war area!

To return to the university for a moment. We have received requests from the University of Nanking (Christian) to send 300 students and 100 staff here, and also from the Central National Medical School that their students should come here - we have sent wires of welcome and are now trying to find temples and such places in which to house these refugees. Whether they really come or not I cannot say.

The war has already shut us off from the outside world. The Yangtze is closed. No letters come from Siberia. (I hope you long ago stopped putting 'via Siberia' on your letters). Letters sent by Hongkong are coming - rail to Hankow and then boat. Should this railway be broken you will have to send letters by French Indo-China and Yunnan (specially so marked). Air mail still comes from Shanghai, taking about two weeks. The post office seems to be worrying only over mail of this class. It goes by rail to Nanking and then by boat to Hankow and then by air to Szechwan. No printed matter or parcels! Our quickest cheap way of reaching you is by the method I am using for this letter - air mail to Hongkong and then on by steamer. We can send air all the way to England by Hankow and Hongkong for \$1.05, and you can also send letters all the way by air along the same route for 1/6d.

We are not prisoners in this province, though it would not be very easy to get out. Boat to Hankow, train to Canton and Hongkong runs the risk of bombing. Air to Yunnan and then out by French Indo-China is the safest. For ourselves we would rather stay here. There is good work to be done - and we can do it! Incidentally this province is about as safe as anywhere in the world at present!

We shall probably have some inconveniences. At the moment the first thing to have happened is that the cinemas have closed - no new films! Foreign goods are rising in price. Foreign cloth will soon be finished, also electric light bulbs, kerosene, candles, medicines (there is a two years' supply in the University!) tinned foods, baby's bottles (I write feelingly), electric torches, pencils, screws, gelatine, decent matches, soap (even local soap will stop when caustic alkali supplies run out - the Sewells have enough for a year), camera supplies - just to mention a few things that come into my mind. The Provincial Government is trying to arrange for transport through Indo-China, but I think it will be far too expensive. Dyes and tanning materials are almost finished and I am starting research for the Government on the utilisation of local products to fill the need. (I am very glad to do this as an alternative to research on poison gases, explosives, etc. which might well be demanded of us! To give the people shoe leather is sound pacifism I feel.)

Our chief danger is lack of money - however I think that if the worst came to the worst we could arrange this through the government as we are doing important work, and it is to China's advantage to get money in. We shall never really want as long as there is kerosene in the province as the large oil companies are glad to buy "safe"

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cheques with the money they have received for their oil - it is their best means of getting the money to the coast. When the oil is done we shall have to think of another method. At present no Shanghai cheques are accepted. I have wondered whether we should not open an account in Hongkong - as we could sell Hongkong cheques and will be able to continue to do so as long as the railway to Canton and the air service to Canton continues. However this is a matter on which doubtless the treasurer will be writing to you.

Now I think I have written enough to give you some idea of our situation. Imagine us in this interior province, prisoners in one sense, but living a very free and full life nevertheless. Hilda is busy with her family cares and her friendships with Chinese mothers of young families, Ruth with her playmates of the nursery school, Daphne now fat and happy, rapidly gaining victory over her disease, myself busy with the Chemistry Department, with the Friends' College with the Y.M. - all of us trying (very ineffectively I fear) to live in an atmosphere the very opposite of the kind that makes for war and international bitterness and ill feeling.

With kind regards to you all,
Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM G. SEWELL.

LETTER FROM CHINESE FRIENDS IN CHENGTU TO ENGLISH FRIENDS:

Chengtu, 22nd August, 1937.

Dear Friends,

We feel sure that Friends in Japan share with us our sorrow over the fact that war has again broken out between our two countries. At such a time it is almost impossible for either side to know the true facts. Aside from the question, however, as to which side is right in the present conflict, the mutual destruction of human lives is certainly contrary to the will of God.

We are grieved to hear of the bombing of Nan-kai University, Tientsin. This is a great loss to civilization. It proves that war is wicked and sinful, and it is a strong challenge to our peace testimony. We know that war is not entirely created by the military people. The Christian Church of the whole world is also to blame in that it has not made its peace gospel a reality.

We wish you to join with us in prayer that those forces which are stirring up war may be overcome by the Spirit of God, and that all war may be stopped; also that the Christian churches may be united in making the gospel of love and peace a positive force in society.

We, the undersigned, have prepared this letter during the holiday season. It is not an official communication either from our Yearly Meeting, or its Standing Committee. However, we have tried to embody in the message the views which the larger group would express if it could get together.

Sincerely your friends,

Ruby Chen
Stephen C.H. Yang,
Minnie P'au
C.L. T'eng
S.C.Tsen

M.H.Lü
Stanley Wang
H.C.Lo.
H.P. Chen
Tan Chuin Yin

S.H. Fong
Jane Balderston Dye
S.C.Yang
H.J. Wu, and two other
Chinese Friends.

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F R I E N D S S E R V I C E C O U N C I L

Letter from WILLIAM G. SEWELL, dated Oct. 30th, 1937, and received in London November 23rd, (by air mail via Hongkong.)

PRIVATE - NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

West China Union University,
Chengtu, Szechwan, W. China.

Since last we wrote, China has been caught up in the toils of war. You will no doubt be anxious to know how life here in West China is being affected, so we must try to sum up our impressions. We shall not attempt to describe the incidents which led to the outbreak of war, nor tell of the fighting itself. You will know as much about these things as we do; indeed much of our own information is gathered through our friends who have radios and can listen in to the B.B.C. news bulletins.

The first news of the fighting reached us while we were up at the mountains during the summer; but it was not until we returned to the University that the war became a real factor in our lives. Universities in the war areas were having to close, some had already been bombed, while none were secure. Students were seeking a place to continue their studies, so we offered to help. When term opened a number of these guest-students, as the refugees are termed, had already arrived; but since then they have flocked to us. There are men and women from nearly every Christian University in China, though the largest number have come from Cheeloo. In this crisis, and here in West China on our campus, the underlying unity of the Christian Colleges has become a fact.

Our guests, however, are not only from sister colleges; there are also large numbers from Government or other universities in Shanghai or Nanking, more than twenty-five other institutions being represented. The largest contingent consists of seventy or so students from the National Central Medical and Dental College at Nanking. Although the National Central University has moved officially to Chungking, their senior medical students have come to us. They have brought their own teachers with them, thus fortunately augmenting our depleted medical staff, but, alas, they have no chemistry teacher. My own special contribution at this juncture is that I am adding to my present work by lecturing in Organic Chemistry to these students, who are all picked men.

Our normal registration is about 400, but already we are up in the region of 700. What this means can better be imagined than described. Classrooms are full, laboratories are overfull. Additional lockers for students' apparatus have had to be made to line the corridors. Beds, desks and other furniture (happily paid for by the government authorities) have had to be made and jammed into our hostels. Even the Friends' College which does not lend itself to overcrowding, has 31 students instead of the 18 we had last term.

The influx is all too new for us to write much about what it really means. We hardly know ourselves. The presence of so many people from outside is having something of a revolutionary effect upon us; in fact vast numbers of refugees who are pouring into the province, bringing their thoughts and ideas with them, may well cause a Renaissance in West China. On the campus we bump into big burly northerners, or slender vivacious southerners. Our sophisticated visitors speak English as well as we do, and are impatient of the Szechwanese dialect we use in our classrooms. The women, with their fashionable coats and dresses, their curled hair, and extraordinary apricot tinted faces make the Szechwanese seem country cousins.

So far our students have taken this invasion very well. Let us hope their patriotism will carry them over the many difficulties which surround them. One bunch of middle school students, faced with being turned out of their own hostel to make way for visitors, declared they loved their country, and would do anything - but this was just too much! However, the order has gone forth that they must crowd with their own schoolmates into another hostel, and we are still waiting anxiously to see if they will obey. The government has put a nearby temple at our disposal - but we are pressed for room. Even worse than the short-

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ago of space and equipment is the shortage of staff. With all these opportunities for friendship with these keen young people, we are caught in a machine, powerless to find time for anything but routine teaching and administration. Would that we could suddenly double our staff, or that more teachers from other colleges would come and so make possible those personal contacts which should be the distinguishing feature of a Christian University.

At the Assembly on the first day of term I could not help contrasting our situation with that of Universities in Britain during the war. In England there was an absence of young men of military age; young women dominated the half empty halls and corridors. Here the room was crowded as never before, and mostly with keen young men. The war was something that affected them all, and yet there was no urge that they themselves should go and fight. They continue their studies as the most important thing; while the Government has advised us that the best we can do at this juncture is to carry on as much under normal conditions as possible, avoiding war psychology, and giving our own and our guest-students the opportunity to complete their training, leaving the actual fighting to the soldier class.

We cannot but believe that much of the trouble in Europe is due to the loss during the war of some of the finest men of all nations who would have been the real leaders today. China with wisdom realises that she will need her students when the conflict is over. Her manpower is great, but her leaders are few. Of course the time may come when the students will have to go, but that is not yet. Meanwhile, aware of their destiny, they are working as never before. In previous conflicts there has been difficulty in concentration on work; but now there is nothing but determination.

The spirit of those around us is on the whole remarkable. The issues are frankly faced, but in most cases without bitterness. True, we have had to form an anti-Japanese society within the University, yet there is a feeling of sympathy for the Japanese people who are known to be misled by their military leaders. Chinese pastors pray in church for the Japanese and have no hatred. Yet, nevertheless, the Chinese nation has never before been so united with a common purpose. It is as if overnight it had entered into its full manhood. The situation is well summed up by this sentence from a private letter: "It is commonly said that the war may last for several years: the victories which China is not able to achieve with her greatly inferior military equipment she expects to realise through the operations of economic forces and the indomitable spirit of her awakened people."

War psychology has been fostered by a number of air raid practices. In view of the many raids carried out in various parts of the country it is probably very wise to take precautions. A crowded, and not very well educated population, such as there is in Chengtu, would be panic stricken during a raid if ever one should take place. Even after practices it is doubtful how far there would be order; but at least the people know what they should do. For over a fortnight there were rehearsals first in one section, then in another, culminating with a grand finale affecting the whole city, accompanied by realistic demonstrations by military planes from Chungking.

Each rehearsal was divided into two parts, one in the morning and one at night. After the "buzzer" blew life was paralysed for 1½ hours. No-one was allowed on to the streets, but all must take cover, wherever one might be. At night not even a candle glimmer was allowed, so that most of us found the best thing to do was to go to bed. While shots were fired and imitation bombs of sulphur flamed, soldiers, students, scouts worked hard getting the masses to understand what they must do. Those who did not at once obey orders were soundly rapped over the knuckles!

Naturally the upshot of it all was that fear began to spread. Refugees who had come here from Shanghai, began to move on again to smaller places. Many of the city people moved away, so that there are now houses to rent within the city, though a few weeks ago one could hardly be obtained for love or money. There was a popular demand that more gates should be made in the walls, so that people in the city would not be caught defenceless like rats within a trap, but would have more

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means of escape. The big foreign hospitals lost numbers of their patients who were sure that such big buildings would be excellent targets and the first to be attacked. This man had a friend who knew for certain that next week 22 Japanese planes were coming; that man left hospital because he knew that there would be a raid in five days time. Even Ruth, infected by the servants and the teacher at the kindergarten, enquired anxiously about every plane that came along for fear that it should turn out to be Japanese and rain bombs upon us.

Out of all this fear the spy fever arose. There were special traitors among us who were supposed to be ready to signal with electric torches at night, indicating the spots which should be bombed. There was also rising feeling against those who were in any way peculiar. This girl does not eat food with her mates, actually because she does not like red pepper, but supposedly because she is a spy! That man is not socially inclined and does not play mahjongg - obviously there is something strange about him: he too may be a spy. A new teacher does her hair in an unusual manner - is she also a traitor? A number of our Chinese staff have been suspected and have been forced to produce guarantees and have them published in the papers.

Dugouts and sandbags have come into fashion, although those who are making them find it difficult to get labour. It is not an unusual sight to see students parading through the streets carrying washbowls full of sand from the river to their school. Last Sunday I passed a procession of girls each with two cotton bags slung on their shoulders carrying sand to build their refuge.

Workpeople are hard to get as so many have left to serve and carry for the troops who have gone to one or other of the fronts. It is said that there are no soldiers left in Chengtu apart from the police. A greater measure of responsibility is falling on the students for maintaining the morale of the city. There are frequent parades, when each school, city institution or government bureau carries flags and shouts patriotic slogans. I could not help wondering the other day what a British sergeant-major would have said when a student came to me to be excused from one of the patriotic parades on the ground that it was his birthday!

One day I was coming from the city in a rickshaw, when at a cross road we were suddenly held up. Four soldiers guarded each of the approaches, shouting and struggling with carriers and rickshaw coolies who would keep moving whenever they thought they were not seen. Everyone was shouting and wondering what it was all about. A man with a couple of cows got hopelessly entangled in the mass of rickshaws which kept trying to sneak forward. Rarely have I been in such a mêlée; it was quite alarming. At length a whistle blew, and suddenly all four streams were released and allowed to dash forward, meeting in the centre of the cross road in one mad whirl of rickshaws, pedestrians, bicycles, cows and carts. It was only later that I discovered I had been taking part in a three minutes silence for national dedication! A failure this time? Perhaps; but next time it will be better and eventually it will succeed. Think of the courage of the men who are solidifying China, building up a patriotic spirit.

The war has already affected us in several ways. From a personal point of view we have missed letters very greatly, but now they are coming through with regularity, only a week or so delayed. The Chinese postal administration is a marvel. Direct air services from Chungking to Hongkong link up with air services to the States and Europe, so that we have very easy communication with the outside world by air. It is very difficult, but not impossible, to get things from the coast; and certain things are already running low. Happily most of our hospitals, and the University, have a good supply of drugs and teaching materials, sufficient for at least a year. In our home we have plenty of foreign stores, though we grieve for bananas and prunes! Petrol is not too plentiful, and has already been rationed so as to maintain supplies for military purposes. Buses have to be converted into charcoal burners, while private users have to produce good reasons before they are supplied.

In the University - speaking only for the department in which I work, we have found added opportunity for service in trying to make up

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for the shortage of imported goods. Foreign dyes cannot be procured in quantity and I have three chemists working for me, at the request of the local authorities, to try and utilise local natural products to the full. In similar manner we are investigating the use of local materials for tanning so that the supply of leather will not fail now that foreign tanning materials cannot be imported. Some of my senior students are also busy trying to synthesise a drug needed for special purposes in one of the mission hospitals.

For myself I feel that at present I am of greatest use here in this city, but I cannot help wondering whether, as Friends, we should not be doing more where human suffering is greater. We have special responsibilities in time of war. Signs are not wanting that there is a growing concern among Chinese Friends to give practical assistance in some form of relief work. Of course the National Christian Council and refugee missionaries are working near the coast, while we are doing our best to co-operate with local organisations which are raising money, and making and sending off clothing to the hosts of sufferers both around Shanghai and in the North.

Before I close I must add a word about ourselves. We returned safely from the hills, though rain had caused swollen rivers and held us up two days on the way. The delay, however, made the journey easier both for Hilda and Daphne, who were able to obtain more rest. We had to plough through mud, which in some places on the new roads came almost to the men's knees. In some of the most slippery stretches the only thing to do was to discard our foreign shoes and put on Chinese straw sandals and struggle along as best we might. After the worst was over, at one small village I decided to change back again into warm woollen socks and leather shoes. A great crowd gathered round me as I did it: there must have been nearly fifty. I could not resist asking if they had never seen a man change his socks before. With as much composure as possible I continued, assuring them there was nothing frightfully exciting about a foreigner's feet. However, I was wrong. I had been wearing cheap Chinese cotton socks and my feet were dyed a magnificent blue black! A shout of wonder went up! If the superstition still lingers that foreigners have yellow hair and green eyes, in that village a new fact has been discovered: they have blue feet as well!

The main occurrence after our return was the safe and happily uneventful arrival of our son, Roger Guy. Just a few days previously Dorothy Behenna came from Tungchwan to help us. She was with us afterwards for a month and tided us over what would otherwise have been a very difficult period. Daphne, also, was not very well, a change in her diet having produced a relapse. Although she is not yet her old self again we hope she is once more on the road to progress - though without any new items in her diet, except persimmons which can in some measure replace bananas - a discovery which is perhaps important for others interested in coeliac disease. (Since starting this letter we have discovered that it may be possible to get bananas by air from Yunnan, where they have supplies which come by train from Indo-China.) Both Ruth and Daphne are overjoyed at having a brother; and, of course, from the Chinese point of view nothing could be more desirable than a boy. We have at times been almost overwhelmed at the enthusiasm of our Chinese friends, who rejoice so wholeheartedly for us that a son has arrived after the "misfortune" of three daughters in succession. In fact we are driven to believe that only through Roger's coming have we become a respectable unit in Chinese society - before we were tolerated, but not really within the pale!

In conclusion, fearing that letter writing time will be very scarce, may we wish all our friends a happy Christmas and New Year. Above all we trust that peace will come, not only here, but in all the many places where there is strife.

Signed: WILLIAM G. SEWELL.

AM/MR, 26.11.'37.

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F R I E N D S S E R V I C E C O U N C I L

Letter from WILLIAM G. SEWELL, dated 8th Feb.,
1938, and received in London 22nd February,
(by air mail).

PRIVATE - NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

West China Union University,
Chengtu, Szechwan, W. China.

The war in China is never far from the thoughts of any of us these days. We follow the news with the greatest anxiety, and along with our Chinese friends and colleagues are affected by the new factors which have been introduced into our life here. Since the fighting started the weeks have grown into months and there is still no sign of an ending; indeed on the part of China there is a real determination to see the matter through. "Can China win this war?" asked a students' newspaper in English a short time ago. "China does not expect to win this war," was the reply, "but if she resists long enough and has perseverance she can make the Japanese lose the war." A Chinese leader is reported as having said: "China will lose every battle and yet win the war."

This fixed determination to continue with the struggle is specially strong among the middle classes. A quiet decision has been made by them bringing a nation-wide sense of unity. In many there still lingers the faith that somebody will at last come to China's aid. Even the attitude of the world to Manchuria and Abyssinia does not seem quite to have disillusioned the Chinese. The papers speak of trouble between Japan and Russia, and the hope springs up that Russia will intervene. Hongkong is encompassed about; and Britain appears in the role of saviour. On Christmas Day, 1936 Chiang Kai-shek was liberated. I asked a Chinese friend, just before Christmas, what was going to happen this year. "This year," he replied, "some other nation will declare war on Japan." This attitude is probably a result of the large family system where the individual has someone else to care for him. However China is gradually realising that unless it pays another country to intervene she will have to fight her own battles without assistance.

Indifference to the war may be found only among some of the wealthiest and poorest of the people. Among the former because they care only for themselves and their own position: these are the men from whom Japanese puppets are recruited. Some of the poor have suffered so greatly under the military barons that they do not care who rules them. One such said to me: "The bushel of rice is smaller, the price is higher, there are fewer coppers to the dollar - the sooner the Japanese come the better. They will at least kill those who are oppressing us."

As in the example just quoted there is a great deal of ignorance about the significance of the war. Grandfather Fan, our old nightwatchman, is another case in point. When I read that Chiang Kai-shek says that China will fight to the last man I always imagine he has Fan in mind. One night this old man scratched his turbaned head and said: "I hear you foreigners are fighting us Chinese" - just imagine the implications! - "who is winning, are we or are you?" There was no condemnation, just an enquiry about something which was infinitely remote from his life. These are the kind of befuddled creatures who are being killed by Japanese bombs in crowded cities: what a crime it is!

The spreading of information among the masses is vital for China. Students cover the walls with slogans - but they are of little value for it is the illiterates who must be reached. For these the radio is important. The humblest coolie can hear the great Chiang Kai-shek speaking, as it were, direct to himself, calling forth a response which it would be hard to get in any other way. It is also suggested that arts and education students should be called from their studies and sent out into the country places to tell the people what is happening. As the general view is that so much depends for China on prolonging the war, then the spread of reliable information is necessary for keeping the country united despite increasing hardships.

The attitude of the students themselves to the war is much more difficult to write about. They know what is happening, they know what is involved, and they are resolved that Japan shall not win. Their

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determination, however, is a strangely disinterested one. The call does not come to themselves, for they are the future leaders of China who must be preserved, but peasants should be willing to shed their blood and rich men to give their money. Of course, as with all generalisations there are very many exceptions, and numbers of Chinese students, both men and women, are giving themselves unstintingly in the service of their country at this time. We must also not forget that the Government, perhaps remembering past experiences with students, is now making little call upon them, but encouraging them, where possible, to continue their studies. This most of them are doing.

The refugees who have flocked westward, the students and their teachers who have gathered here on our campus, are people who feel that the war does not demand their personal sacrifice. Never have there been so many Chinese doctors and nurses in Chengtu; and they continue to come into this comparative safety from down-river. Yet from Hankow has gone out an appeal for foreign medical personnel to help with suffering Chinese humanity: once again China looks outward instead of turning to herself.

As I have said, all students are not like this: many have shown readiness to sacrifice themselves. It was this desire to do something which drove a thousand or so students from Chengtu to the newly established communist university in the north, where special short courses open the way for them to undertake immediate service.

One day as I was going to class the students were leaving the Administration Hall amid an outburst of crackers. String after string filled the air with ripples of explosions. Three young men, who had not been in the University very long, had decided to leave and enter the army; they had secured scholarships for four months training in the Military Academy here. After speeches and farewells they were escorted to the South Gate of the city. Our students, flushed with excitement, returned to their classrooms and laboratories still singing snatches of patriotic songs. It would be easy to grow cynical as one contemplates the fact that, five months after the nation had entered this struggle of life and death, out of five hundred men three had decided to train to lead China's peasant armies into battle. I am by no means a recruiting sergeant, but I agree with Stanley Jones that although a positive pacifism may be the best, though most difficult, way of meeting the present situation, yet active participation in the war is to be preferred to indifference or to sheltering behind the sacrifice of others. The attitude of so many Chinese to nationalism and to war would seem to make an ideal setting for Christian pacifism, but that also is too positive to move them. Our little Friends group and the F.O.R. are working steadily in a quiet way, the members trying, more especially, to think out their own position.

Meanwhile refugees continue to flock to us. We have some fine people in our midst, both staff and students of other universities. Naturally most are from other Christian Universities, but there are also those from government institutions. My class of thirty men and women from the National Central Medical School are some of the finest students I have ever taught: and so they should be for this group was selected from many applicants all over China. At the moment the staff of the Nanking Christian University are arriving with their wives and families. Their students - no one quite knows how many hundred - are scattered in Ichang, Wanhsien and Chungking, making their way westward. We are hastily putting up buildings to accommodate them, and have been helped by a grant of \$20,000 from the Provincial Government for the purpose. Some of these refugees have had great difficulties to contend with. One family was robbed of all they had by disorganised Chinese soldiers; a girl was threatened and robbed by wounded soldiers who were travelling on the same train she was on; one and all have stories to tell.

Some who have been used to sumptuous houses, luxuries and every convenience are huddled in tiny rooms with everything of the most primitive - yet never does one hear the slightest grumble. One of the strengths of Chinese character is contentment, no matter in what place nor under what conditions. But though faces wear smiles, hearts beat heavy. Some have heard nothing from their homes; one dare not ask about their families for many do not know whether their parents are alive or

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dead. At the moment there are not very many with financial difficulties, for only those with means could come so far, but as towns are cut off, and property destroyed many may find themselves in poverty. Others dependent on government funds for salaries or scholarships may be left destitute. All find livelihood in this district difficult, for the masses hearing their different dialect regard them, as they regard us, as foreigners to be fleeced. Everything they buy is more expensive, and in many subtle ways they are made to feel not quite at home. It is a function of the Christian Church to try and break down these barriers and here in Chengtu it is doing its best to make life happy for these refugees.

Although the war has eliminated the flow of tourists to Chengtu, yet there are a few visitors we have specially enjoyed. Ronald Rees of the National Christian Council, was with us for a week prospecting to see how they can best help China at the present time. Stanley Jones has also been with us. I found him inspiring and many got help from him, but one student voiced a fairly general feeling by stating: "We do not want Christianity now; we need nationalism not religion."

A similar student comment occurred on Christmas Eve. Students and staff gathered in the dark with lanterns and bamboo torches, to sing carols. Our guests joined with us, a fact which need not surprise us when we remember that many of the staff of Government institutions are Christians, and a number of their students have Christian backgrounds. Into this torn and unhappy China something of the spirit of Christmas was brought by our singing of the birth of Jesus. Then out of the darkness came a voice: "Will your singing bring Japanese aeroplanes to earth?"

These Japanese 'planes are causing a certain amount of mental worry in Szechwan. So far we have been free from them, but we can hardly believe that they will avoid us altogether, especially now that the Japanese have warned foreigners in Szechwan, and have told us to inform their military authorities of the exact position of our property. Though we may be too far for them to bring their heaviest bombs, yet we may expect incendiary bombs and other light weight missiles. Our greatest protection is our cloudy sky. A gentleman in the city told me recently: "Every day I thank God that the sun does not shine!" In many Szechwan towns white walls are being painted grey, but here in Chengtu faith is pinned in dugouts.

I never imagined we should have an interest in a dugout, yet when I discovered our neighbour, S.C. Yang, building one I suggested he should make it large enough for us as well. This dugout is rather a wonderful affair; it is shaped like a "Y" with three entrances, and is a trench well covered with a mound of earth and capable of holding thirty or so people. At the moment it is a paradise, in which children play. When I went to inspect I found the trench so narrow that I got stuck in the middle; I pitied Mrs. Yang who is quite stout. However they have widened one of the entrances so as to get her in! On due consideration, and knowing how crowded it will be, we shall probably try and seek a "better 'ole". Mr. Fong has also got a little dugout in which to put his aged mother - a new example to be added to the ancient tales of filial piety. We are told that the best dugout of all is the president's; but so far we have not seen it.

The Japanese seem to have been fairly good in avoiding mission property; but we also hear that they are very good at missing their objectives. The latter fact rather minimises any comfort from the former as the University's nearest neighbour is the radio station. When it was built I drew attention to the danger, but in those days very few believed that air raids could be possible. No doubt protection will be given to the wireless station, but let us hope it is not believed that we have gun emplacements on our campus for naturally we have none.

One could write of many things connected with the war, but it would not be fair to do so now. After it is over an account of happenings in Chengtu will make interesting reading. One might again, however, mention the good spirit, free from indiscriminate hatred, which is abroad. The family system has helped to make the Chinese a people who will respond to leadership. Their leaders, Generalissimo and

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Madame Chiang have, through their statements, and by their own attitude, set a high standard which is reflected by the people. China is indeed fortunate to have such leaders at this time.

Life is meanwhile going on very much as usual. Except by air mail our contacts with the outside world are quite uncertain. Letters and some papers and printed matter are now finding their way through by way of Hongkong, but previous mails sent to Shanghai seem to be lost. Some of the Chengtu shops have been restocked with foreign goods sent up from Canton and Hankow, so that there seem to be more supplies about than a few months ago. Bulky things, however, cannot come; but there is little hardship as all can live happily on the produce of the land. Luxuries like cheese and coffee we can do without; necessities like special medicines can be secured by air.

A very happy interlude for me was a visit to Suining for Yearly Meeting - though it threw a heavy burden on Hilda who was left alone to cope with the family. For anyone living in flat Chengtu it was a joy to be among hills once more; and, for one brought up by the sea, it was new life to be beside the broad rivers and the busy life upon them. The song of the rowers and trackers with the big ships was not an agony of coolies labouring with heavy loads, but it had in it the joy of vigorous hard work in the open air. It was a sight for tired eyes to see the green wheat and beans shooting from the deep red earth, while cranes ** gathered in the cedars. Along the river beds whole families washed for gold; in the salt districts the drums turned slowly drawing the brine up from the wells; between flooded rice fields women sat gossiping as, with flickering feet they twirled the water wheels - what a change it all was from the dust and bustle of this great city of Chengtu.

We were fortunate in our travelling. We went by Tungchwan: a round-about route which in the old days would have taken five days, though we needed only three. The first day and a half were by bus, then half a day by rickshaw on an incompleated motor road travelling by moonlight well into the night, and then the last day by sedan chair over a stretch where a modern road is not yet started. Rickshaws, apart from their increased pace, are easier on the coolies. The weight is supported by the wheels, instead of on men's shoulders. If one has consideration one walks up steep inclines, then, after getting in, there starts the excitement of a run downhill, when all that one can do is to sit tight and pray that nothing may get in the way. Nothing was more exhilarating than the downward runs in the moonlight, or when the men, singing and laughing, raced along the white gleaming sands beside the shining river.

Of the annual meetings themselves little need be said here. They were attended by fewer representatives than usual, but the good spirit manifested by all made up for lack of numbers. There were some knotty personal problems to be solved, but good results were achieved in a spirit of co-operation and harmony. One of the burning questions was how we can do our share to bring relief to the suffering refugees in the war areas. Plans were put on foot for helping refugees during their flight westward, and for assisting them in Szechwan. It is hoped that money will be forthcoming and that a small team will be organised to carry out this work. We separated from our meetings feeling the better for having been together. I returned to Chengtu in Rose Tebbutt's side-car. We made an easy journey in two days coming by the direct route over a motor road which, when finished, will put Suining within a day's journey from Chengtu. Most of our Chengtu delegation had cycled over this road to Suining. Dorothy Wu, a student at the University, made history by being the first woman Friend to cycle to an annual meeting!

Now we are supposed to be having holidays - but there is no holiday for me. I have classes every day with refugee students. When term proper starts next week I shall resume my duties as head of the Chemistry Department. Although the circumstances which led to my resignation have not greatly changed, yet the departure of a colleague on furlough and the great difficulties of the war time situation have made me feel it right to accept responsibility; I am insisting that I can only be Acting Head until the situation regarding military training is definitely improved. With the coming of Nanking University we have five

** gathered in the rice fields, and herons, like puffs of whitest wool/

American trained Chinese with Ph.D's co-operating in our Chemistry Department. While it will be an inspiration to have them with us, and while we shall appreciate any help they give in teaching, yet the administration becomes much more difficult and there are many delicate problems due to the co-operation of so many different groups which, I fear, will demand more wisdom than I possess. However, as a Chinese colleague frankly said, it is better for me, a foreigner, to attempt the task and make mistakes than for a Chinese to risk the loss of face involved! Westerners still have uses in this land.

We are happy to be able to give a good report of ourselves as a family. Hilda finds that she cannot move far from home, but with small children this is only to be expected. Ruth, now five, has "graduated" from Nursery School and starts in a few days time at a Kindergarten, newly organised for children of the staff. She will be one of three foreign children among twenty-five others - both Szechwanese and refugee children from down river. Daphne is continuing her progress; since summer she has increased five pounds in weight, and we feel that for the time being we can arrange her diet to keep her coeliac disease in check. We are apprehensive lest the coming heat affects her adversely, but we are hoping that her added strength will keep her well. Roger is now well established and is doing all a baby should.

Chinese New Year has come and gone, Spring has started, the gentle rains have come to soften the hard earth, buds are forming on the shrubs and trees, and soon the warm sunshine will draw out a burst of fragrant flowers. As bounteous Nature showers her joyful blessings upon us, how we do long that man would cease from strife with man so that here in China the flowers of peace would blossom once again, their glad perfume driving fear and hatred from the hearts of men.

WILLIAM G. and HILDA SEWELL.

(AM/MR, 2.3.38.)

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F R I E N D S S E R V I C E C O U N C I L

Copy of Journal Letter from WILLIAM G. SEWELL,
dated, 25.7.38.

The Union University,
Chengtú,
West China.

Dear Friends,

From the quiet of the hills we have been looking back over the academic year which has just gone. It has undoubtedly been the most remarkable one in the history of the West China Union University. The war between China and Japan has not only made it necessary for us to reorganise our teaching and our research work in an endeavour to meet the special needs of the times, but into our midst have come from the war areas numbers of picked students and many of their teachers, among whom are some of the foremost educationists of China.

There has always been a tendency, happily lessened in recent years, for Chinese students to move from college to college. The machinery which was evolved to deal with these rolling stones has helped us to cope with the refugee students who have come to us. Some have come as "transfer students". They bring with them their previous records which, provided they are from a reputable university, give them similar standing with us so that they go right on with their studies with the minimum of interruption. Others are "loan students" who come with special letters of introduction from their original universities. They enter as our students, take our classes and examinations, but their "grades" are reported back so that when they graduate they obtain a degree from their original university and not from ours.

When we say that we have links with about thirty war area institutions we mean that most of them are represented by loan or transfer students. These men and women present no problem, apart from their numbers, for they are with us on the same basis as our own students and obey our regulations. An entirely different question arises, however, in the case of one or two universities which have moved as units to the hospitality of our Campus, which are not willing to lose their identity, though they share our classrooms and in some cases our equipment.

It is understandable that a university which, perhaps over a long period of years, has drawn together a body of teachers who work well together, has built up an excellent esprit de corps and has acquired a sound reputation should seek to preserve these valuable assets. All the same, during war time and during the circumstances which confront us at Chengtu, there is much to be said for a real union university. Each unit might preserve its name under the articles of union, yet together we could meet the situation in a much sounder and more satisfactory manner than we can ever hope to do as we struggle along as separate units. However opinion at present, mistakenly I think, is against any such plan.

Under all circumstances it is really remarkable that we are getting along as well as we are. There are innumerable causes for friction. It speaks very well for the spirit in which everybody is trying to meet the situation that harmony reigns.

The down-river people find us backward and provincial. We find some of them lacking in humility and many of them wasteful: they do not realise the need for rigid economy nor the difficulty and expense of getting supplies to this distant province. We are a little envious of the position which our visitors have already won for themselves in coastal cities. We are amazed at the way in which they can extract money from even our provincial government,

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which being human is attracted by the down-river reputations rather than by the familiar as represented by ourselves.

Like refugees all the world over, for example the Belgians in England during the European war, some of the visitors, after being here a little time, have a tendency to take too much for granted, which leaves some of our Chinese friends gasping and others in danger of revolting. It is also a cause for jealousy that Chengtu westerners seem to be specially friendly with these down-river men and women who speak English so fluently and who have most of them had training abroad. Although steps are taken to prevent it, there is a desire among some of our own students to transfer to the more famous refugee universities, though in practice it means moving only from the ground floor to the basement, or from a class at 9 a.m. to another in the same room at 7.30 in the evening! It is to the enduring credit of the really big men and women in the various units that the situation is so well controlled.

The Anglo-Saxon mind cannot help continuing to wonder what so many educated people are doing gathered in the safety of the back places - the "heo fang" - when their country has so much need of them at the front or "chien fang". As was cynically remarked a short time ago "The recognised importance of the heo fang justifies fiery young patriots in concentrating there in ever-increasing numbers." And it is important in Chinese eyes. Students are encouraged to continue their studies so that afterwards they may lead. The belief is strong that by sheer force of numbers China will prevent a Japanese victory. It is true China's man power is unlimited, but while one is thankful that the best brains are being conserved, one cannot but be shocked at the readiness of the elite to allow unlimited numbers of peasants to be mown down so that they themselves may be left to lead China when the war is over!

It was a shock to come from an entertainment where staff and students were enjoying themselves to discover an old peasant woman waiting to tell the tale of woe as some of her men-folk had been carried off to join the army. Another day an old coolie friend stopped me and said: "About this war. You will know that there is a war between China and Japan?" I admitted I knew of it and he went on to tell me how every ten houses had been forced to send a man, and then another man had been required. "And none of them come back," he said; and I knew he was thinking of his son. "Not one of them comes back." I often think of those words which he repeated with such piteous questioning; but why should they come back? China's man power, especially of her coolie class, is unlimited! War is beastly.

Yet one must beware of judging the intellegentsia, as they call themselves, solely by our western nationalistic standards. They have a point of view; and it is true that many are enduring hardships so that they may continue with their studies at this time. Some have walked enormous distances from East to West China - "But for our military training we could never have done it" one confided. All are living under conditions which are much more primitive than those to which they are used. Professors, who have had an adequate salary and a mansion for a home, are living in cubicles with mud floors. Until accommodation could be built for them the students from Nanking who have come to us had to take all their meals from little stalls and foodshops in the street, near the university. Wet or fine they had to wait their turn at these unpleasant little spots.

Some of the refugees have lost parents, brothers, homes, yet they go quietly on with smiling faces; one dare hardly imagine what their hearts must feel. One finds some whose work suffers because their minds are distracted, but most of them have a

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wonderful capacity not to allow personal grief to upset their studies or the life of the community. One of the refugees with whom we have become friendly is an artist, a man who has exhibited in Berlin and Paris and who is well known for the work he has done. He lost everything except his experience and skill; without complaining he has started to work once more. His pictures have helped us to understand China at this time, for Chinese art is never photographic and bears little relationship to actual things, but is an expression of the emotion of the artist. Through enveloping dark clouds we glimpse a lake surrounded by bending willows beaten down with driving rain. It is "The loss of Nanking" and one understands the agony of the Chinese soul at the loss of the city followed by those cruel atrocities. In another picture a lion appears as emblem of "The National Spirit", but it is a lion strikingly different from the British lion. There is nothing aggressive or rampant about it; it sits with quiet strength in benign contemplation. "Leave me alone and I will leave you alone," it says; while the snarl appearing on its lips is one of defence not defiance. The Chinese never speak of the war save in the phrase "war of resistance;" and one and all feel that they are fighting the battle of humanity against the tyranny of militarism.

Apart from a visit to Chungking, Szechwan has been spared the attentions of Japanese aeroplanes: they have been occupied elsewhere. However, if Japan gets a real foothold in Central China she will be able to turn towards the west. Once after an alarm had been given an elderly lady who had got out of Nanking just in time turned to me and said: "I do not mind air raids. They are nothing. They can only kill you. It is the soldiers I am afraid of; they torture" She looked across the lawn at her fifteen year old daughter, and, as if her fears were too much for her, the tears welled into her eyes and ran down her cheeks.

One reads a great deal of discussion in English papers about the rights and wrongs of air raid precautions; but whatever may be the situation in a country at peace there is no doubt about what should be done during war time. There is an opportunity at places where missionaries are trained, such as Kingsmead, to take advantages of facilities now available to learn all there is to be known about air raid precautions. One never knows what country is going to be attacked next, and the poorer people naturally look for advice and protection to the missionary who comes from those "Christian" lands which are the source of aeroplanes, bombs and high explosives!

Encouraged by the progressive spirit of the times Chengtu has become most interested in a model city. The influx of refugees and the lack of suitable accommodation have given a fillip to the scheme. Outside the North Gate, where the railway station will be, it is planned that factories will be built; the present city will become the commercial centre; residential Chengtu will be in the New City by the side of our university which will soon be in the midst of a great suburb. Land in the centre of Chengtu is priced as high as \$150,000 a Chinese acre; but with the powers they have taken the New City authorities are able to buy from the farmers outside the city at the fixed price of \$250 an acre, reselling to their tenants at \$1500 or \$2000 an acre. The increase is justified because of the costs of roads and improvements. However an observer is driven to the conclusion that unless something goes very wrong the promoters cannot help clear at least 100% on their capital in the first year.

A new gate has been opened in the city wall, and a new bridge across the river has been built, incidentally making it very convenient for us to go into the city. Roads, houses, parks and

schools (~~but unfortunately no drains~~) will be started at once. A great riverside drive is planned. It will take off most of our garden and a large part of our servants quarters. The improved value of our remaining land is considered ample compensation for the land we shall lose and also for the cost of building the road on the confiscated land, which we shall also have to bear.

All Chengtu seems to have taken advantage of the bridge-building to come out and sip tea by the river side. Tea houses have sprung up; stalls have appeared; a full sized fair has blossomed overnight. Truly Chengtu is a city of tea drinkers. Tea shops began to compete by installing singers and bands. Soon everything was worked up to a pitch of real "noisy hotness", and we found ourselves living next to an amusement park. Part of the river behind our house was roped off for swimming; crowds come daily to sit on the banks tea drinking and watching the bathers. Enterprising boatmen serve tea under the awnings of their boats. Something new has been discovered in Chengtu - the city has obtained a new and much needed "lung".

Much of the land purchased for the New City was graveland. This had to be levelled and the old graves cleared away. It was most striking how obvious it was that the old superstitious attitude to the dead has changed. In the space of a few years there has been a complete mental revolution. There was no fear of the consequences of disturbing the dead, or of the devils who haunt the graves. People gathered with the greatest interest to see what the coffins might contain. Articles from the graves were freely sold; earthenware crocks which had contained the bones of men and women long since dead were in special demand as containers of rice. When the exhumation proved a trifle premature suitable scraps were offered by the wits to housewives for making soup. It would have been quite unbelievable a few years ago. Ancestor worship has been the strength of China; but now that strength, most significantly has gone.

The New City is to the east of the Friends College grounds; to the west we have a very crooked wall and we were approached by the owners of the graveland there who wanted to sell us land to straighten our boundary. We made the purchase and obtained what deeds there were, only to discover that another man, who also claimed to be owner, had sold the same land to another school! While our rights were admitted the school stole a march upon us by gaining the favour of the mayor, possibly, or so it is rumoured, by offering him free a site for a house. Lin Yu-tang points out that there is no justice in China. If one has favour at court all is well, otherwise one is just out of luck. We, seemingly, are out of luck. Unless a miracle happens, and it may, we shall lose our land and our purchase money as we are not willing to pay an absurd additional sum which the mayor demands - because we are so rich - before he will say the land is ours! There is no end to the extraordinary situations that may arise in China.

An interesting step forward has been the formation of a Rotary Club in Chengtu: I have joined as a charter member. We had a number of refugees who were Rotarians and through their help the new club has come into being. I am glad as it brings me into touch with a new section of Chengtu society. It produces quite a thrill to come across men, not one in military uniform, who are really making their mark in government, in education, in the professions, in commerce. Not the least interesting have been the guests we have met. One night we had with us the laughing young man who led the Chinese aeroplanes over Japan where, with such real good strategy, they dropped not bombs but leaflets protesting goodwill.

An event of some importance in our own circles is the resignation of our friend and neighbour, S.C. Yang, chairman of the Szechwan Yearly Meeting, from the principalship of the Union Middle School which is situated on the University Campus. Mr. Yang is now over sixty and he has had a strenuous life; the details of the Middle School, over which he has presided for 25 years, are rightly the business of a younger man. Mr. Yang will become Principal Emeritus but his ripe experience will be conserved for the University and the Christian movement through his appointment as Honorary Business Manager of the University. Mr. Yang, who started his life in West China as a pioneering postal official and then as a government official, has done great service in helping to build up the Christian Church in Szechwan. More than once through his care disaster has been averted; and at the time of the Boxer risings he was able to save the lives of the foreign community in Chengtu.

We ourselves keep well. The children have all had whooping cough but are now recovered. Roger, the baby, is a fine husky young man in danger of being spoilt by his adoring sisters. Despite a life of rather hard work we find plenty of compensations, particularly in the friendships we have here. There is a joy in watching our students develop and eventually graduate. Several have recently been married, one amid great éclat, more than three hundred guests gathering for the wedding feast in the Friends College. We see our young folk go out into the world and we follow them as they face their difficulties.

We have been amused at the advice which Chinese speakers have given them as they go. "You are like manure" said one to rows of keen young folk. "You are going out to fertilise society and cause it to blossom into lovely flowers and bear rich crops." "Now the motor car is built" said another, "and the gasoline is poured in. Tomorrow (graduation day) you are off. Where are you going?"

Where are they going? We cannot help but ask the question, for much of the responsibility is ours. It was an encouragement to hear a well known refugee, a man with a world-wide reputation, tell us that a private institution like ours had, more than any government university, the power of sending out students well equipped for life. With our continuity of ideas and staff, with our freedom from red tape, with our common focus, we can give young men and women individual help; well adjusted, spiritually and mentally, they may go out from this Christian University to help China at this time of need.

Yours,

WILLIAM G. SEWELL.

AM/MBB.
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57 Humewood Dr.
Toronto .Ontario
August 14, 1938

Dear Mrs. Macmillan ;

I am enclosing several negatives (2) and six enlargements for you to use as you wish . Some information about each picture is enclosed .

I would appreciate having the two negatives returned to me . The out-of-pocket expenses on the six enlargements would run to around ~~\$1.50~~ \$1.50 for the bunch .

I have been wondering if any of the panda picture would be of use to you ? I have several and if you decide that they would, please let me know and I shall forward prints or the negatives, as you prefer .

It seemed to me, when I was in New York , that there was a great paucity of good publicity pictures being sent out from West China . Yet there are many good picture being taken which on enlarging and cutting out the non-essentials would be excellent for publicity . I would be glad to co-operate in any way possible on my return . But in the meantime, I would suggest that the New York office write directly to Lewis Walmsley , at Chengtu , send him five dollars and forward copies of all the varied circulars that your office has prepared and ask him to secure some photographs of the kind needed , either by taking them himself, -- he is an excellent photographer , or buying from our present university photographer who has stacks of pictures on all phases of university activities .

I shall be in the States all during this coming academic year and if at any time there is anything that I can do to promote the interests of our Christian colleges, I shall be more than happy to do so .

Yours Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner
Roy C. Spooner

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*C. E. ...
Hollow ...
and ...*

c/o The Friends Service Council,
Friends House,
Euston Road,
London, N.W.1.
25th January, 1940.

*ack
7/13*

Dr. B.A. Garside,
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, U.S.A.

*Wrote Fisher
Scientific 7/10/40*

My dear Dr. Garside,

I wonder if you will help me? I have, as perhaps you know, been collecting a large assortment of goods for the various universities now in Chengtu. After many most extraordinary difficulties I have got most of the cases away - nearly 130 have left England, though there are ~~still~~ more than 20 cases of deck chemicals still to go. I have given up, however, the thought of buying certain items of glassware in England and wonder if you will place the order for me in the United States, and also do your best to get the goods off without delay so that they can get to Hongkong with the rest of the order and go up to Chengtu together.

Most of this order is for standard cases of Pyrex - I believe, but am not sure, that this is made on the Pacific coast. If this is so it could be ordered over there and sent straight across. Alternatively the whole order could be sent to the Fisher Scientific Co. at Pittsburgh. They have dealt with us and know how things should be done. Please do stress the importance of getting invoices out to China by air without delay so that they can apply for customs permits; also see that they insure through to Chengtu. American firms have a way of saying this cannot be done, and it lands in all sorts of difficulties as it is difficult to insure for the latter parts of the journey in China. Rates are much higher than is the case when the whole insurance is completed at the beginning.

In case any difficulties arise of a technical nature regarding the goods write to Dr. Bruce Collier, Macdonald College, Quebec, Canada. He will be able to help.

Will you please pay for the goods? Perhaps as all these items are for the Chemistry Department it would be simplest to charge against requisition No 279 which covers these and many more items. I have a bunch of these requisitions here, covering a number of orders from various departments and various universities. They have given me a certain amount of cash here - the latest order on you for \$500 I sent to the Friends Service Council yesterday - but there will be a further balance to collect from you. The invoices are not yet all in, but when they do arrive the Friends Service Council will write to you. You may remember that we also have a credit with you - On July 4th Harold Robertson wrote to me: "Instructions have been sent to the New York office to make payment upon your request or that of the F.S.C. for a total of US\$1,836.21. This covers Kilborn's orders." When the F.S.C. writes it will be for payment from this sum. Possibly they will not need all of it, but I cannot say until all our invoices are in at this end. If there should be a balance over would it be simpler to charge this chemistry order against this sum of Kilborn's? We at this end have already paid for part of his things out of other accounts so that it will only be a matter of smoothing out at the final reckoning. I am not sure whether the \$1,836.21 is with you as cash, or merely as a total up to which you can advance money. If it is cash it might be simpler

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to use it all up at this stage. Let me know what you decide.

on air mail copy.
I have marked in pencil on this order I am sending you the approx. prices of the goods. You will see they come to £93.9.0 + \$34 or a total of about \$400.

I am sending this letter to you by air mail and will also send a duplicate by ordinary mail.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. G. Sewell

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to use it all up at this stage. Let me know what you decide.
I have marked in pencil on this order I am sending you the approx-
prices of the goods. You will see they come to \$33.90 + \$34 or a total of
about \$68.00.

I am sending this letter to you by air mail and will also send a
duplicate by ordinary mail.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. G. Sewell

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From
The China Colleges
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

RENAISSANCE IN WEST CHINA

by
William G. Sewell

The public bus, spattered thickly with mud gathered during its two days journey from Chungking to Chengtu, rattled towards the entrance gate under the grey tiled roof. With an exclamation from the driver and a piercing outburst from the brakes it drew up, and out climbed a dozen young men and women, travel stained and weary, anxiously asking the bystanders if this were the West China Union University. With relief they dumped their oddly assorted baggage in the dusty roadway. Then, as the lacquered gate opened wider, they went in to the friendly haven. Another group of refugee students had arrived.

When welcomes were over one of the men described how the university where he had been studying had been bombarded by Japanese warships, another how his Alma Mater had been razed to the ground by aircraft. One of the women told how the train on which several of them had travelled south to the Yangtse valley had been chased by bombers. All had exciting adventures to relate of their flight from the war stricken areas, and the long trek westward by small steamer up through the Yangtse Gorges and into Szechwan.

These students, like the others who have come to us, were from a number of different colleges which have either been destroyed, or

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where work has been made impossible. Nearly a dozen institutions are represented on our campus, though most of the refugees are from sister Christian Universities or from medical colleges, both government and private. The greatest numbers come from Cheeloo University in Shantung, and from the Medical and Dental Schools of the National Central University at Nanking, though it is more than likely that before long even more may come from the Christian University at Nanking.

Previous to the outbreak of hostilities our West China Union University was numerically a small college, the child of a number of British and American Missionary Societies, though flourishing as far as its income would allow, and, we believe, not without influence in fitting men and women of Szechwan, morally as well as intellectually, for the strenuous life of New China. The conflict between China and Japan suddenly changed much of our life. Far from the main scenes of battle and distress, there seemed more safety in Chengtu, and students from the North and the coast came to us intent on finishing their studies. The Chinese Government encouraged its students to complete their education, perhaps fearing lest they engage in political activities, but also because when the war is over much may depend on enlightened leaders. There has, therefore, come to us here in Chengtu the privilege and duty of serving China at this time by continuing our teaching.

Every department is full to capacity and working overtime; the hostels are overflowing. Where previously there were 18 students one small hostel now has 34, whereas in the Women's Dormitory which normally holds 110, there have been added 28 more. The numbers of students in classes are frequently doubled, especially in medicine and science. When 65 students take a class in which the previous maximum was 30, apparatus will not go round and the supply of chemicals is easily exhausted. Last year the university had 439 students, but now there are

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676 associated with us; and still they come.

The Provincial Government has helped us to prepare for our guests, otherwise we could never have afforded the extra furniture and other expenses involved. Through their generosity a nearby temple, recently used as a school, has been vacated to accommodate the students and some of the staff of the National Central Medical College which, while using our classrooms and equipment, is keeping its identity and running as a separate unit.

There are many adjustments that have to be made. Some of our guests from North China who are used to steamed bread find they cannot eat rice; while all find our Szechwan red pepper too strong. So our hostels are having to provide special food. Other down river students find our bare buildings and rooms are too Spartan; they long for running water, central heating and other luxuries of life near the coast. A good spirit, however, is manifested everywhere, and forbearance is being shown, both by our own students as well as our guests. Some of the refugees come from fine Christian homes and we trust that their influence on our local young people may be deep and lasting.

It is not only students who have arrived. Among the refugees there are a number of teachers. They are men with fine minds, whose steadfast character and thought inspire our own staff and students. In spite of their sufferings these men are not bitter; there are no violent agitations or stirring of hatreds. These mature Chinese thinkers may influence us greatly.

Our own staff is greatly overtaxed in trying to cope with the law situation. There are not only unusual demands in actual teaching, in building extra temporary housing, in altering our present fittings and equipment, but there are other problems to be solved. War has cut us off from many of our supplies; this or that must be made by ourselves.

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In the Pharmacy Department we see work being done on the synthesis of a drug which is urgently needed. The Chemistry Department attempts to utilise local materials so that the people of this province may still have leather goods; natural dyes are also being sought to replace the unobtainable synthetic products. The Medical School never knows when its volunteers may be called down river on active medical service.

Only vaguely can we imagine what our work may mean for China; but there is no doubt that for Szechwan, somewhat isolated and provincial in the past, this influx of modern thinkers and students will have far reaching results. It may well mark the renaissance of West China, just as wars in other places and at other times have started great intellectual movements. Although we can see so much more that we in this Christian institution might be doing if we were not so limited in personnel and finance, yet, in humility, we here in China and you in the West, who through your support are sharing in this work, can rejoice with thanksgiving for what we are able to achieve.

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Order for the West China Union University, Chengtu, Szechwan, West China.
 Department of Chemistry.
 (Ref: WCUU Requisition No 279).

*Order sent to
 Fisher Scientific
 2/10/40*

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|---|--|---------|
| 259 | 3 doz. | ✓ | Pyrex Kjeldahl flasks. Round bottom. 300 cc. | |
| 1.13.6 | 6 only | ✓ | Pyrex Soxhlet extraction apparatus, 60 cc. | |
| 110 | 2 only | ✓ | Pyrex Victor Meyers apparatus, outside jackets only | |
| 3.10.0 | 2 sets | ✓ | Pyrex Soxhlet apparatus, complete, ground joints, about 80 cc. | |
| 7.4.0 | 2 doz | ✓ | Glass separating funnels, pear shape, 250 cc. | |
| 7.2.0 | 2 | ✓ | standard cases Pyrex beakers, low form with spout, 150 cc | |
| 8.8.0 | 2 | ✓ | ditto | 250 cc |
| 3.18.9 | 1 | ✓ | ditto | 500 cc |
| 6.10.0 | 2 | ✓ | standard cases Pyrex Erlenmeyer flasks, narrow mouth, 250 cc | |
| 7.12.0 | 1 | ✓ | ditto | 500 cc |
| 1.18.0 | 2 | ✓ | standard cases Pyrex distilling flasks, 100 cc | |
| 2.12.0 | 3 | ✓ | ditto | 250 cc |
| 2.9.0 | 2 | ✓ | ditto | 500 cc |
| 3.0.0 | 1 | ✓ | ditto | 1000 cc |
| 2.17.5 | 1 | ✓ | standard case Pyrex flat bottom flasks 1000 cc | |
| 4.5.0 | 1 | ✓ | ditto | 500 cc |
| 3.10.0 | 1 | ✓ | ditto | 300 cc |
| 4.1.0 | 1 | ✓ | ditto | 150 cc |
| 2.11.9 | 5 gross | ✓ | Pyrex test tubes, 12 x 100 mm | |
| 8.12.6 | 10 gross | ✓ | ditto 16 x 150 | |
| 3.17.3 | 3 gross | ✓ | ditto 20 x 150 | |
| 2.10.0 | 10 doz | ✓ | common glass bottles, narrow mouthed, glass stoppered, 8 oz | |
| 2.2.6 | 5 doz | ✓ | ditto 20 oz | |

As listed in the catalogue of the Fisher Scientific Co., Pittsburgh.

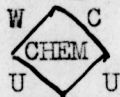
Page 162, No 3-815 1 only burette calibrating morse triple for 50 ml, 3 ml, 2 ml volumes.

page 70, 12-035 1 only, balance, Harvard Trip, single beam, agate bearings.
 page 887, 14-166 2 x 96 feet Fisher red rubber tubing, thin wall, bore 3/8", wall 3/32".

As the goods will have to travel overland to West China they must be well packed. The goods should be consigned to the Agents of the University at Haiphong, Transit R.R. Brochard, 5 Rue Francis-Garnier, Haiphong. (In case of difficulty note that Mr Hellwig the manager of Messrs H.M.Hodges, Asia Life Buildings, Hongkong will assist with the transit of goods through Hongkong, and in some cases has taken delivery for us there instead of having goods sent to Haiphong. In any case it might be wise to inform Mr Hellwig when the goods are en route).

Insure against war risks etc through to Chengtu. Note that insurance should be through to Chengtu - final destination - which is different from the place to which the goods are consigned.

Mark as follows:



U CHENGTU.

As soon as possible send a copy of invoice (on thin paper) by AIR MAIL to the Bursar, the West China Union University, Chengtu, West China, so that the necessary customs exemption passes can be prepared before the arrival of the goods.

As the goods will have to go through Indo-China nothing of German origin must be included. Also on the invoices etc it must be clearly indicated that the goods are not destined for Indo-China but only for transit to China. January 25th, 1940.

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0376

Order for the West China Union University, Chengtu, Szechwan, West China.
 Department of Chemistry.
 (Ref: WOUU Registration No 279).

*Robert
 sent to*

*Thomas
 letter*

*See letter
 fr. G. H. Thomas
 6/15/39*

3 doz.	Pyrex Kjeldahl flasks, Round bottom, 300 cc.
6 only	Pyrex Soxhlet extraction apparatus, 50 cc.
3 only	Pyrex Victor Meyer apparatus, outside jackets only
3 sets	Pyrex Soxhlet apparatus, complete, ground joints, about 80 cc.
3 doz	Glass separating funnels, pear shape, 350 cc.
2 doz	Standard cases, Pyrex beakers, low form with spout, 150 cc
2 doz	ditto
1 doz	ditto
2 doz	Standard cases, Pyrex Erlenmeyer flasks, narrow mouth, 250 cc
1 doz	ditto
3 doz	Standard cases, Pyrex distilling flasks, 100 cc
2 doz	ditto
2 doz	ditto
1 doz	ditto
1 doz	Standard cases, Pyrex first bottom flasks, 1000 cc
1 doz	ditto
1 doz	ditto
1 doz	ditto
8 gross	Pyrex test tubes, 18 x 100 mm
10 gross	ditto
3 gross	ditto
10 doz	Common glass bottles, narrow mouth, glass stoppered, 8 oz
2 doz	ditto

As the goods will have to travel overland to West China they must be well packed.
 The goods should be consigned to the Agents of the University at Hongkong.
 Transit E. R. Brockhard, 3 The Francis-Gardner, Hongkong. (In case of difficulty
 note that Mr. Halliday the manager of Messrs. H. M. Hodges, Asia Life Buildings,
 Hongkong will assist with the transit of goods through Hongkong, and in some
 cases has taken delivery for us there instead of having goods sent to Hongkong.
 In any case it might be wise to inform Mr. Halliday when the goods are en route.)
 Insure against war risks etc. through to Chengtu. Note that insurance
 should be through to Chengtu - final destination - which is different from the
 place to which the goods are consigned.
 Mark as follows:
 W U
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 As soon as possible send a copy of invoice (on thin paper) by AIR MAIL
 to the Bureau, the West China Union University, Chengtu, West China, so that
 the necessary customs exemption passes can be prepared before the arrival of the
 goods.
 As the goods will have to go through Indo-China nothing of German
 origin must be included. Also on the invoices etc it must be clearly indicated
 that the goods are not destined for Indo-China but only for transit to China.
 January 25th, 1940.

290457

7730

over

February 13, 1940

*ACK
3/5/40*

Mr. William G. Sewell
c/o Friends Service Council
Friends House
Euston Road
London, N.W.1, England

Dear Mr. Sewell:

Your letter of January 25th came to hand promptly and the order enclosed has been forwarded to the Fisher Scientific Company, as per copy of letter enclosed. If there are any questions of a technical nature, we will be happy to communicate with Dr. Collier, as you suggest.

We note in a letter from Mr. Robertson under date of June 23, 1939, he lists certain requisitions which have been sent to you for execution, as follows:-

Req. No. 159	estimated cost US\$	553.85
" " 162		504.42
" " 164		152.94
" " 170		375.00
" " 171		250.00
		<u>US\$1836.21</u>

Our office has been authorized to make payment of the invoices covering the above-listed requisitions, amounting to \$1,836.21, but to date no invoices have been received by our office. We are quoting from Mr. Robertson's letter herewith:—"Most likely Mr. Sewell will collect this money through the Friends Service Council. Please be prepared to meet his drafts."

Under date of May 19, 1939, Mr. Robertson listed the requisitions which had been sent to either you or to Mr. Spooner, authorizing our office to make payment of same. In addition to the five requisitions listed above, totalling \$1,836.21, the following are also to be paid for from our office:-

Req. No. 229	estimated cost US\$	200.00
" " 231		400.00
" " 279		1,000.00

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Mr. William G. Sewell

-2-

February 13, 1940

When these invoices come through, we can give a better answer as to the total amount of money available at the present time, and we trust the Friends Service Council will be giving us a statement at an early date.

May we refer to a slight discrepancy in your instructions regarding the shipment of the order from the Fisher Scientific Company.

In the first paragraph of your letter, you state: "do your best to get the goods off without delay so that they can get to Hongkong with the rest of the order and go up to Chengtu together."

However, the instructions given at the bottom of the order state that the goods should be consigned to the agents of the University at Haiphong —.

As the instructions now stand, it is quite sure that the Fisher Scientific Company will consign their shipment through to Haiphong. If all the other shipments are being sent to Hongkong, it would seem unwise to send the Fisher shipment through to Haiphong; and then too, you may be waiting in Hongkong for the Fisher shipment, which will have gone through to Haiphong. However, unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will take it that you desire to have the Fisher shipment consigned to P. R. Brochard, 5 Rue Francis-Garnier, Haiphong.

With sincerest personal regards to you, I remain

Very cordially yours,

C. A. Evans

CAE:RC

Enc. (copy of letter to Fisher Scientific Co. 2/10)

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0379

c/o Friends Service Council,
Friends House,
Euston Road,
London, N.W. 1.
England.

March 5th. 1940.

ack
3/26

Mr. C.A. Evans,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.W.
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you for your letter of February 13th. It is good to hear that you have placed that order with the Fisher Scientific Company. It was really quite straight-forward and I expect that it has been sent off to China without difficulty.

You refer to a discrepancy in my letter. I am sorry I did not make it clear. I really did mean Hongkong and not Haiphong. We understand here that goods consigned to Haiphong are held up at Hongkong until the Indo-China authorities are satisfied that the goods can be shipped through to China. Mr Hellwig, whom I mentioned, will be keeping an eye on the goods from England as they pass through Hongkong, and I thought that he might be able to add to them the goods from the United States if they arrived about the same time.

I was glad to know that Chengtu had informed you about the requisitions which have been sent to me. The order here is complete except for a few cases of deck goods for which we seem unable to get space. As soon as they are away the invoices will be completed and the Friends Service Council will be writing to you. I have filed with them the original requisitions and also the invoices, as it seems better to keep these in England in case of any enquiries.

The Friends Service Council has received in actual orders on you from the WCUU or cheques on behalf of Ginling and the University of Nanking a total of US\$4200. So far they have met bills amounting to £1370, so at about ~~£~~ \$4 to the £1 you will see that they have already overspent. However they will be sending you exact accounts. The estimated cost as detailed in your letter, which I take it is over and above these payments which have been sent direct from Chengtu to us here, will more than pay the balance and also the cost of the goods you have kindly ordered on Requisition 279.

My main worry in connection with this very large order is to know how ever they are going to get the stuff up to Chengtu!

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. G. Sewell.

Haiphong - after all

*copies
of these*

just as I have finished this letter I hear that the last 20 cases have been shipped. Good!

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0380

RECEIVED
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MAR 22 1940
JOINT OFFICE

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0381

March 16, 1940

Rev. W. G. Sewell
Friends Service Council
Friends House
Euston Road
London, N.W.1, England

Dear Mr. Sewell:

In accordance with your letter of January 25th, we have written to the Fisher Scientific Company regarding the execution of the order you enclosed. This has now been taken care of, and for your information we are sending you herewith a copy of the invoice. Our accounting office will make payment of this invoice in due course.

We are quoting herewith from a letter received this morning from the shipping agents, J. E. Bernard & Company:-

"The steamship company has informed us that they will issue a thru bill of lading to Haiphong via Hongkong. In accordance with this information, we are consigning the shipment to Mr. P. R. Brochard, 5 Rue Francis Garnier, Haiphong. We are notifying Mr. Hellwig, manager Messrs. H. M. Hodges, Hongkong, and show the ultimate consignee as the West China Union University, Chengtu. We have also ascertained that Haiphong is the correct port of discharge for shipments destined to Chengtu.

The shipping papers will be sent to our office, and we will forward same to China. We are writing to the field, informing them that Mr. Brochard is clearing the shipment through to Chengtu.

With sincere personal regards to you, we are

Very cordially yours,

ROC

ASSOCIATED BOARDS FOR
CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

N.B. We are sending this letter via Atlantic Clipper, so that it will reach you before the one which we mailed you yesterday regarding this same matter. Please disregard our letter of March 15th, which stated that it had been agreed to consign the goods to Mr. Hellwig. There was a misunderstanding on the part of the shipping agent regarding the instructions, but after conferring with the steamship company, the letter quoted above resulted.

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March 26, 1940

Mr. William G. Sewell
c/o Friends Service Council
Friends House
Euston Road
London, N.W.1, England

Dear Mr. Sewell:

We are acknowledging receipt of your letter of March 5th, which deals principally with the shipment of goods from the Fisher Scientific Company for the West China Union University.

By this time you have received our Clipper letter of March 16th, informing you that the goods have been consigned to Mr. P. R. Brochard, Haiphong, which was decided upon after considerable deliberation. The J. E. Bernard Company, shippers, have sent papers to Haiphong, and a copy of same to Mr. Helwig at Hongkong, and we trust that the goods will reach the University without delay. We have approved an invoice in the amount of \$258.63 for payment, which was rendered by the J. E. Bernard Company for shipment through to Haiphong.

We note that the Friends Service Council has received orders from West China, Ginling and Nanking, to a total of US. \$4,200. Our letter of February 13th listed five requisitions amounting to \$1,836.21, as being the only amounts authorized by the field. We have had no information regarding orders from Ginling or Nanking. Presumably these are en route, although surely they should have been in hand long before this. On a second reading of your letter, it seems that some remittances have been made directly to the Friends Service Council.

Of course we shall be interested greatly in getting these requisitions and orders straightened out, as some of them have been in process since early last June. You certainly have a task on your hands. We are hoping that the goods will get through all right, and wish to thank you for your cooperation in England.

With sincerest personal regards to you, I am

Very cordially yours,

ROC

0383

c/o Friends Service Council,
Friends House,
Euston Road,
London, N.W. 1.

July 31st 1940.

ack.
8/28/40
JSP

Dr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Garside,

You will have understood from the cable which the Friends Service Council sent to you that we are planning to return to China by the States. We have our exit permits and are waiting for a steamer reservation. How long it will be before we leave I do not know. Doubtless when at last we get away a cable will be sent to the American Friends Service Committee, 20, South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia, Pa. I have asked them to let you know.

I will be glad to see you in New York if it is at all possible, renew friendships, and do any work on behalf of the West China Union University which may fall to me. I shall also be glad of your advice as we are perplexed to know what we should do with the children (aged 7, 5 and 3). It seems hardly wise to take them back to China with us, and the Colliers (at Macdonald College, Quebec) have offered to take them. Of course if things are so bad that my wife could not get back to China either, she and the children would probably remain under the care of American Friends.

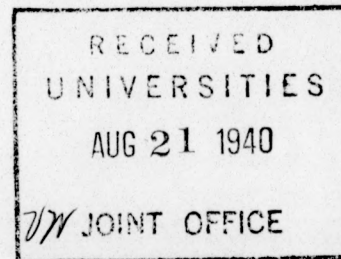
Our furlough has been a difficult one. I have managed to get in about 125 talks to Rotary, College and Church groups, mostly about the WCUU and our marvellous "blanket cooperative." I have also been able to do special work on leather dyeing as requested by the Government education authorities. Now the thing to do is to get back again - and that seems the hardest of the lot.

All our plans are in the hands of American Friends so if you have any bright ideas perhaps you would send them along to Philadelphia. At the moment we are booked to leave Vancouver on Sept 7th - but this is, I fear, running things too close. While we are in the States we might as well have time to meet people.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. G. Sewell



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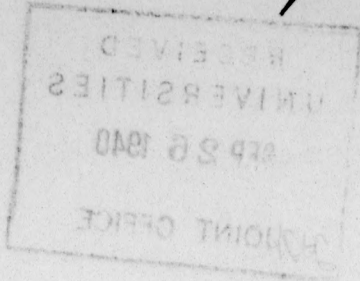
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Dr. Collier,
Macdonald College,
Quebec,
Canada.
Sept 26th 1940



Dear Mr. Garrido,

We have just arrived from England & I would be glad to know whether you have any advice to offer us about getting back to West China. We shall have to decide in a day or two whether to leave the three small children (probably my wife) in California & whether (as we hope) we shall have a good chance of getting to Chengtu.

I am expecting to go to Philadelphia, perhaps at the end of the week, & would really like to come to New York & see you all if I can persuade American friends that it is worth while!!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. J. Swell

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Dr. Collier
Harvard College
Chicago
Sept 26, 1940

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
SEP 26 1940
JOINT OFFICE

Dear Mr. [unclear]
I have just received your [unclear] - I would
be glad to have [unclear] you have any advice
to offer us about [unclear] to [unclear] [unclear]. We
shall have to decide in a day or two whether
to leave the three small children (especially my
wife) in California or whether (as we hope) we
shall have a good chance of getting to Chicago
before our departure to St. [unclear].
I am expecting to go to [unclear] at the end of the week & would really
like to come to New York over for all of
I can possibly manage. I think that it is worth
while!!

With kind regards
Yours truly
Dr. J. [unclear]

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NOTED

JC

11/5/40

Ack
sent not sent

As from: 121 South Friends Ave,
Whittier, Calif
Oct 31st 1940.

My dear Passie,

I am writing this in the train from Los Angeles to Vancouver. I hope to sail for China on Saturday and want to send you a note to say goodbye & to let you know that I have left my wife & children at the above address. They are going to have a very good time in Whittier - which is the one compensation for our separation.

Whittier folk are interested in West China & I know that before long my wife will be speaking to groups about our work there. She needs, however, information. Will you please put her on your mailing list & let her have any West China news that comes in, & also copies of any bulletins you put out about the W.C.V.O. or indeed any of the group who are in Chengtu. Thanks very much.

Letter
to
Mrs.
Sewell
12/3/40

With kindest regards.

Yours ever,
Dr. J. Sewell.

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UNION
DEC 4 1940
JOHN

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text throughout the page]

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0388

November 7, 1940

Sent Nov. 19
(address found)

Mrs. William Sewell
Whittier
California

121 S. Friends Ave.

Dear Mrs. Sewell:

The China Colleges have recently been attempting to build up new interest on American campuses for their work in the Far East. In particular we have been anxious to get Vassar College interested in developing a permanent China College relationship, perhaps something like that between Smith and Ginling. Last Sunday I had a long talk with President MacCracken and he was most encouraging about the proposal.

Naturally, in building up this China interest one of the first things we do is to find what graduates of Vassar are now in China who might help in such a program from that end. Sophia Chen, class of 1919, is probably one of the best known alumnae. Dr. MacCracken has suggested that she and her daughters might be the spark to set off a really active Vassar-China drive. Could you please let me know what Sophia Chen's connections with the Colleges in West China have been in recent years or how close to that group you think she is? Also, how enthusiastic she might be over the proposed project. Do you know if she is now in Chengtu, and, if so, what she and her children are doing? I understand that Mrs. Zen has two or three daughters approaching college age. Dean Thompson of Vassar has long promised Mrs. Zen that her daughters would be welcomed at Vassar and that if scholarship aid were needed it could be secured for them. Do you not think that to have one of these daughters come over to Vassar straight from Chengtu would be a fine beginning to Vassar's China interest?

Would you be good enough to write us quite frankly on this matter and give us your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

Joy Hume

JH:P

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AUG 4 1944
JOINT OFFICE

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0390

121 South Friends Ave.

Whittier

California

~~27. 11. 40.~~

11/27/40

Dear Mrs. Hume.

Thank you very much for your letter of Nov. 7th. I am sorry to say that I cannot be of much help to you in your effort to find out about Sophie Chen or Mrs. Ten. If only my husband were here he would know all about them. Unfortunately during my life in China I have been tied to the house, caring either for small babies or sick ones, and I have been unable to enter into University life or Women's College activities as I could have wished. So that I am sorry to say that I cannot recall to mind either of the two ladies you mention (I probably know them quite well, but having no husband here to jog my memory, I can't ^{fit} the names with the people.) But whoever they are, I am quite sure that they would be delighted to do what they could to help

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11-27-40

P.S. I had a cable today to say that my husband was leaving Shanghai for Hongkong on Dec 5th. I'm trying to change in in mid-Dec. He will be there for Xmas.

to promote friendship between American Chinese Universities. The American returned Chinese women always amaze me with their poise & capacity, with their knowledge of both civiltations & their determination to give the utmost they have in the re-building of China. Miss Wu T-Fang is an outstanding example of course.

I think that any of the Chinese girls now in Chengtu would fit in quite well in America, and a scholarship for the purpose of bringing girls over & training them here would be most acceptable and the sympathy behind the scholarship would be very heart-warming to Chinese students at this time, when they are having such a hard struggle.

As I say, I am sorry to be such a broken reed. And nobody here seems to know anything about China or the Christian Colleges - it is dreadful. I feel as though I am on the moon. I have no publicity material, we left it all in England, and as far as I know there is none in Whittier. I would be most grateful for some information. Perhaps you could ask Mr Casside to send me some. Nobody seems to have heard of Chengtu - and as I have no books, no atlas, no pamphlets, no anything - I find it rather difficult to explain to people, if they are willing to listen. Sincerely, Hilda Sewell.

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11-27-40

to promote friendship between American
 Chinese universities. The American-returned
 Chinese women always engage me with
 their hair, eyes, with their knowledge
 of their civilization, their determination
 to give the utmost they have in the
 thinking of China. Thus the P. Yang is
 an outstanding example of course.
 I think that any of the kind
 in the world would fit in
 quite well in America, and a relationship
 for the purpose of bringing girls over,
 training them here would be most acceptable
 and the sympathy behind the relationship
 would be very heartening to Chinese
 students at this time, when they are
 having such a hard struggle.
 Do you know I am sorry to be
 out a book here, but nobody here
 seems to know anything about China or
 the Chinese colleges - it is beautiful. I feel
 as though I am on the moon. I have
 published material, we left it all in
 a box as I know there is
 a market for it. I would be most
 glad to give you information. Perhaps
 you would like to send me
 some books or I have no books or other
 things - I find it rather
 difficult to explain to people of the
 - what of quality -
 sincerely,
 Alice Jewell.

RESERVE
 DIVISION
 AUG 4 1946
 JOINT OFFICE

Handwritten notes on the right margin, including names like 'Alice Jewell' and other illegible text.

0393

Nov. 30, 1940

Memo to: Mr. Garside

From: J. Hume

Mrs. William Sewell, writing from Whittier, Calif., says:

"...nobody here seems to know about the Christian Colleges. It is dreadful. I feel as though I am on the moon. I have no publicity material; we left it all in England, and as far as I know there is none in Whittier. I would be most grateful for some information. Perhaps you could ask Mr. Garside to send me some. Nobody seems to have heard of Chengtu, and as I have no books, no atlas, no pamphlets, no anything, I find it rather difficult to explain to people..."

I am arranging with Mr. Cameron to have a sheaf of our regular material sent. Perhaps you have something additional you would like to send her.

Letter to Mrs. Sewell
12/3/40

Sent:

Blue Book

Annual Report

2 Nanking bulletins

Autumn C.C. bulletin

New Strength

The Amazing Chinese

Chingling folder

{Nanking Helps Build a New China
University in Exile

11/30/40
JAC

0394

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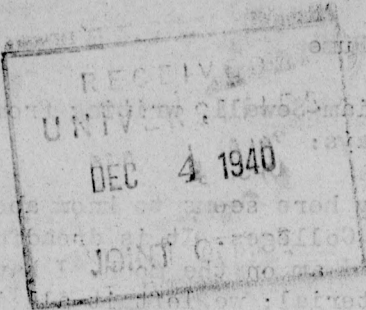
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Nov. 23, 1940

To: Mr. [Name]

From: [Name]



...nobody has seen...
I would be most grateful for some information.
Perhaps you would ask Mr. [Name] to send me
some. Nobody seems to have heard of [Name],
and as I have no books, no atlas, no maps,
no anything, I find it rather difficult to
explain to people...

I am arranging with Mr. [Name] to have a sheet
of our regular material sent. Perhaps you have
something additional you would like to send him.

Letter to Mr. [Name]

11/13/40

Mr. [Name]
The [Name] [Name]
[Name] [Name]
[Name] [Name]
[Name] [Name]

11/20/40

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0395

December 2, 1940

Mrs. William Sewell
121 South Friends Avenue
Whittier, California

Dear Mrs. Sewell:

Thank you so much for your letter of November 27th. It was good of you to write us so promptly on the question of building up interest in West China in the American colleges.

We find that Sophie Chen is now in Kuming and so she may not be able to work directly with us on a West China Woman's College project. For general information about women's education in China, however, I am sure she will cooperate with some lively and interesting letters.

In response to your request I have had a sheaf of our literature sent to you to help in spreading the word of the China Colleges in Whittier. May I give you also the address of our field secretary for the West Coast:

Mr. William Gillanders
c/o J. W. McHair
215 West 7th Street
Los Angeles, California.

I trust that Mr. Gillanders has already been in touch with you, but your may not have his present address.

With good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Jay Hase

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December 3, 1940

Mrs. William G. Sewell
121 South Friends Avenue
Whittier, California

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Dear Mrs. Sewell,

I should have written you before this to assure you of our eagerness to cooperate with you in making the China Colleges and particularly West China better known to the people of Southern California. Thus far very little has been done in Southern California, outside of a few centers, to bring people in touch with the work of the Colleges, either through personal contacts or by letters and printed material. We know that while you are in Whittier, you will be able to do some very excellent "missionary work" along these lines.

Mr. William Gillanders, who is our China Colleges Secretary in the Western part of the United States, is now in Southern California, and is beginning the work of setting up China Colleges committees and building up interest in and support for the Colleges. I am suggesting to him that he seek an opportunity to get in touch with you, both to see how he can be of help to you in activities you may be planning, and also to enlist your cooperation in the work that he is doing on behalf of the Colleges. While Mr. Gillanders is moving about quite a bit, he can usually be reached in care of Mr. J. W. MacHair, Suite 451, 215 West 7th Street, Los Angeles.

In accordance with the suggestion which Mr. Sewell made before he sailed, now enforced by your own comments in your recent letter to Miss Hane, we are at this time sending you under separate cover an assortment of the various types of publicity material gotten out by our China Colleges office. We are sending only one copy of each piece of material, so you will see what is available. Please feel free to call on us for an adequate supply of every type of material that you may find useful. And if you discover that you need something different from anything we have yet published, tell us what you need, and we will be glad to try to produce it for you.

We know that both you and Mr. Sewell feel keenly the separation which the exigencies of war have demanded. These are difficult days for the world, particularly for our friends in England and in China. It seems that the months just ahead may be even darker than those behind us have been. About all any of us can do is to play our parts as best we are

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Mrs. Sewell

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December 3, 1940

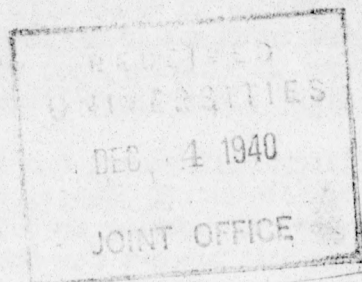
able under these conditions that are so tragically at variance with our Christian ideals, and to keep our faith in the ultimate return of peace and sanity.

With every good wish, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MS

B A GARSIDE



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Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China

One Hundred-fifty Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y.

December 3, 1940

Mrs. William G. Sewell
121 South Friends Avenue
Whittier, California

Dear Mrs. Sewell,

I should have written you before this to assure you of our eagerness to cooperate with you in making the China Colleges and particularly West China better known to the people of Southern California. Thus far very little has been done in Southern California, outside of a few centers, to bring people in touch with the work of the Colleges, either through personal contacts or by letters and printed material. We know that while you are in Whittier, you will be able to do some very excellent "missionary work" along these lines.

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In accordance with the suggestion which Mr. Sewell made before he sailed, now enforced by your own comments in your recent letter to Miss Hume, we are at this time sending you under separate cover an assortment of the various types of publicity material gotten out by our China Colleges office. We are sending only one copy of each piece of material, so you will see what is available. Please feel free to call on us for an adequate supply of every type of material that you may find useful. And if you discover that you need something different from anything we have yet published, tell us what you need, and we will be glad to try to produce it for you.

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Mrs. Sewell

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December 3, 1940

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With every good wish, I am

Very sincerely yours,

B A GARSIDE

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121 S. Friends Ave.
Whittier
California

~~12/14/40~~

12/14/40

Dear Miss Anne,

Thank you for your letter of Dec 2nd, and for the pamphlets you sent me about the China Colleges. I like the Hanking University one best, but I lent the W.C. W.D. medical report to Dr. Bruff (who is sponsoring us here) and he was very pleased to have it.

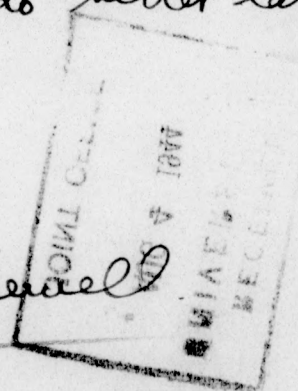
Thanks for Mr. Gillanders address too. I have had a letter from him, but as I tell him, I can do very little personally, as I am so tied to the house. Every body here has a car & a telephone - and as I have neither, the stream of life passes me by. Distances are rather great - a mile on foot is quite a long way, but nothing much if one has a car.

So my work for the China colleges must of necessity be very limited, and any interest in them will be of slow growth. However, I feel I have made a beginning, and hope to do better later as I get to know people.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Hilda Sewell



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121 S. Friends Ave.

Whittier

California 12/14/40

~~11/12/40~~
Ack. 12/27/40

Dear Mr Casside,

Thank you so much for your letter of Dec 3rd. Mr Gillander has also written to me and I shall no doubt meet him eventually. Thank you also for the publicity material, which I am using when I have opportunity. I have not yet met the Whittier College people, except a Miss (or Mrs?) Hazard, who was a Y.W.C.A. secretary in banking in 1927 and who is now a matron of a girls' dormitory. We met & talked 'China' one afternoon. I feel sure that we shall get an interested group together some day. She is freer than I am (I seem to spend my time peeling potatoes & ironing cotton dresses) and she has already ordered a copy of my husband's book for herself and has suggested that the town library (or is it a city?) should do the same, and she will also see the College librarian. I have not yet been to any library here.

I think the banking University publicity material is great. I wish there was something put out by the W.P.U. which gave as bright a picture. I have written to Dan & Jane Oye of Peckle Hill, asking if they have any photographs they could lend me to show my friends. I brought nothing with me and the pamphlets you so kindly sent don't give much idea either.

I was very much cheered today

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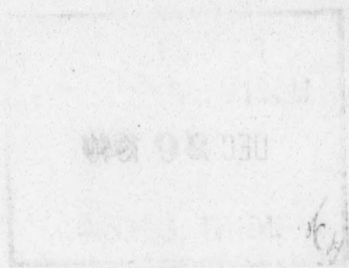
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in receiving a Christmas tree for the children
from the girls of one of the dormitories of
Whittier College. I felt that same day I might
get to know some of the college people -
and another day I went to a meeting of
the local University Women's Association, at
which the speaker (from Redlands) was a former
Cheung missionary. So I don't feel quite
as lost as I did, and have bright hopes
for the future.

I have had three letters from my
husband from Shanghai - round about his
arrival on the 15th or 19th (too). I had a cable
dated Nov 27th, which I think I reported to you
"Proceeding Hangchow 8th flying mid Dec." so by the
time you get this letter he will be in
Cheung! I hope there isn't an air raid to
meet him. He will be pleased to feel back at
his work once more.

Sincerely yours,

Hilda Sewell.



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COPY for Mr. Caldwell

Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China
One Hundred-fifty Fifth Avenue . . . New York, N. Y.

December 27, 1940

Mrs. William G. Sewell
121 South Friends Avenue
Whittier, California

Dear Mrs. Sewell,

Thank you for your letter of December 12. We are delighted to know that you are getting to feel more at home there in Whittier. The people of California are notably hospitable, and I am sure this is especially true of those who live in and around Whittier. So, within a few months at most, you should begin to feel like a native daughter.

I am glad that you have liked the University of Nanking publicity material. Mr. Oliver J. Caldwell, who prepared this material for Nanking, is also looking after the publicity activities for West China Union University in the same way. I have shown him your letter, and I know that he will be very happy to cooperate with you in any way he can in providing publicity material for West China. I am suggesting that he correspond with you direct, if indeed he has not already done so. Within the last few days we have gotten some very excellent photographic material for West China, most of it coming from Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Agnew.

We are all glad that Mr. Sewell had a swift and safe journey across the Pacific, and trust that he has now been in Chengtu for a week or more.

These are indeed sad days for the world, and none of us can feel quite as merry at Christmas as we are accustomed to feel. But at least we hope that the year just ahead may bring us better and happier times, through a restoration of peace and good will throughout the earth.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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COPY FOR: Mr. Garside

December 28, 1940

Mrs. William G. Sewell
121 South Friends Avenue
Whittier, California

Dear Mrs. Sewell:

Your letter to Mr. Garside has been placed in my hands and I should like to thank you for your kind words regarding the University of Nanking pamphlet.

For some time I have been planning something similar for West China, but we have been very much handicapped by a lack of good pictures. Many times I have written to Chengtu requesting that suitable material be sent us, but almost the only pictures which have arrived have been of the buildings. Our friends on the West China campus are eager to cooperate, but they appear not to possess an instinct for publicity. Buildings are not enough; we must have pictures of people in action.

Gordon and Mary Agnew have been in New York twice in recent weeks, and we are now securing nearly 300 prints from his best negatives. Although most of these pictures deal with his own work, a number of them are of a general nature. We are hoping that with this material in hand we will be able not only to prepare a pamphlet, but to publish some good magazine articles.

I am wondering if you would be so good as to write the text for a pamphlet or an article? This text might cover any phase of the lives and activities of our friends in Chengtu. It should be about 2,000 words in length. We might not use all of it, but it would be a great help to us if you could find the time to do this.

I became deeply interested in West China Union University during my six months' visit, and I believe I would rather live there than in any

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Mrs. William G. Sewell

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December 28, 1940

other part of China if I were able to return. I am anxious to do something constructive from this end for West China Union University, and your help will be invaluable.

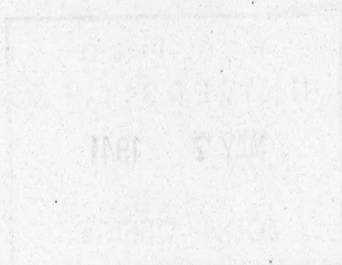
I hope you will have a very pleasant New Year, in spite of the absence of your husband in China, and all of the attendant hardships arising from war conditions.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Oliver J. Caldwell
Field Representative

OJC:P



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