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Fulton, Robert Brank
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ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1939

Rockford Pastor's Son Will Fill University Post At Peiping, China

The Rev. Brank Fulton is visiting his parents, Dr. and Mrs. William Holmes Fulton, 621 North Court street, before sailing for China where he has accepted a year's appointment to the faculty of Yenching university at Peiping. He leaves Rockford Monday and will sail from San Francisco on the President Cleveland on July 28 for the orient. He will begin his new work on Sept. 1.

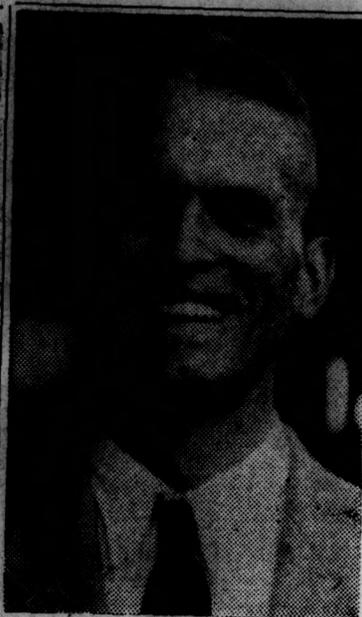
It will not be the young minister's first visit to China, for from 1933 to 1935 he was on the faculty of Yale-in-China which was then at Changsha in Hunan province, central China.

The Rev. Mr. Fulton, whose father is pastor of First Presbyterian church, Rockford, will teach Old and New Testament and Christian ethics at Yenching, his duties being partly in the college and partly in the school of religion.

When he returns to this country next year he will come home by way of India and stop for a visit at Vengurla with his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Stewart Fulton, and their young daughter. Dr. Stewart Fulton is a medical missionary.

Behind Yenching university is a background of more than 60 years of educational development in China. In its present form it represents the union of four colleges and its staff includes both Chinese and Americans. It has increased its enrollment in spite of the "undeclared war."

The past year the young Rev. Mr. Fulton has been in New York. He has been associated with a project of St. George's church there, Rainsford house, a place where young men who have completed their college studies have opportunity to do volunteer work and study social problems. He has also done part



REV. BRANK FULTON

time work for the student Christian movement.

He was ordained to the ministry at his father's church here last year following his graduation from Union Theological seminary. He was graduated in 1932 from Yale university.

0379

see 3/7/40 fr Lucius Porter

學大京燕

YENCHING UNIVERSITY

PEIPING, CHINA

American Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

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July 11, 1939

Dear Mr. Fulton:

This letter is written to set down in concrete form our understanding as to the conditions of your appointment as a member of the staff of Yenching University.

1. Your appointment is for one year, with the rank of lecturer.
2. Your salary will be paid at the rate of \$205 Chinese currency per month, one-fourth of which may be drawn in United States dollars at the exchange rate of two to one. The balance will be paid in Chinese currency.
3. Your salary will begin on the normal date of your sailing from America by direct route in time to arrive on the Yenching campus by September 1st, 1939. Since you are taking a somewhat earlier steamer to permit of stopovers en route, we suggest that the date of August 5th, 1939, (when the Empress of Japan sails from Van Couver) be considered the date for beginning your salary.
4. Under the special arrangements agreed to by Yenching University, you will receive the cost of your travel from New York to Peking, and also from Peking back to New York at the expiration of this term of service. The University normally allows a maximum of \$350 for travel each way. In view, however, of the special circumstances under which the University is making more than the usual provision for travel expenses, any saving you can effect within this maximum allowance will be gratefully appreciated by the University.
5. The University will provide living accommodations while you are on the campus, the free services of the University physician, and half of dental fees if incurred with the prior approval of the University physician.
6. The cost of your medical examination, preliminary^{to} appointment, is borne by the University but not the cost of inoculation and vaccination.
7. During the period of your appointment you are not to engage in additional remunerative employment, except for special arrangement with the University authorities.
8. While no commitment is made either by the University or yourself beyond the period of one year, it is understood that if at the end of this period it is mutually agreeable both to the University and to yourself, this arrangement might be extended for such an additional period as may then be agreed upon in conference between the University authorities and yourself.

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Mr. Fulton

-3-

July 11, 1939

If at any point the above arrangements are not in accordance with your understanding, please let us know and we will discuss the matter with you. If these arrangements are satisfactory, will you please sign the two enclosed duplicate copies of this letter and return them to us.

Very sincerely yours,

B. A. Gavish

Mr. R. Brank Fulton
208 East 16 th Street
New York, N. Y.

BAG:MP

I agree to the terms of my appointment as set forth above.

R. Brank Fulton

0381

July 20, 1939

Mr. R. Frank Fulton
c/o SS. PRESIDENT CLEVELAND
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fulton:

We are enclosing herewith copy of medical report which came to hand this morning. Apparently you are in pretty good condition and with a little more tennis or the like you should be in tip-top shape.

I wonder if you filled out one of these cards? I found an extra one on my desk and it is my impression that it belongs to you.

In addition to what I have previously said, may I extend very best wishes to you for a year filled with the consciousness of performing a service greatly needed and whose fulfillment is inspired by God.

Best sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/s
ENC.

0382

July 21, 1959

Mr. Robert Brank Fulton
American President Lines
311 California Street
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fulton:

Mr. Garalde has asked me to send to you the enclosed copy of the plan of the McBrier Foundation. This would have been sent to you before you left New York except for the fact that extra copies had to be made from the only one which we have in the file.

We sincerely hope that you will have a pleasant and safe journey to Peking.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

JIP:D
Encl.

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**ACTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES OF YENCHING UNIVERSITY
June 19, 1929, accepting the
"MCBRIER FOUNDATION FOR BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND CHRISTIAN WORK"**

"E - 2623 VOTED that the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Yenching University, records the profound gratitude of the University for the generous and wisely planned gift of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. McBrier to be known as the "McBrier Foundation for Biblical Instruction and Christian Work"; and hereby approved the following resolution:

"(a) "The Trustees of Peking University (Yenching University) agree to accept this gift of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) on the understanding that same is to be known as the "MCBRIER FOUNDATION FOR BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND CHRISTIAN WORK", the principal sum to be maintained intact as a permanent fund, and the income therefrom to be used as indicated in the manner herein-after described. The Trustees may, if they so desire, consolidate the investment of this fund with the investment of other endowment funds similarly to be held in perpetuity, but the accounting of this fund is to be kept administered separately from the income from other funds."

"(b) "We understand that the purpose of the donors in creating this Fund is to provide an annual income which is to be used outside of the regular budget items of the University to promote and carry on such types of Christian work and Bible study among the students as will be instrumental in leading them into a personal experience of faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord; that the object to be attained by the use of the income from this Fund is to make the University more decidedly a Christian Institution by increasing the distinctly Christian Work among the students; that no part of said income is to be used for salaries or expenses of the regular teaching staff or the regular curriculum work in any department, but is to be used exclusively for supplementary and special types of distinctly Christian work which the regular teaching staff may not find it possible to undertake; all this in order to enlarge and emphasize the distinctly Christian Christian character of the University."

"In accepting this gift the Trustees do hereby obligate themselves to insure that the income accruing therefrom be continuously and entirely devoted to the purposes designated by the donors and that definitely Christian work be carried on among the students in the form of evangelistic or other public meetings, lectures, personal evangelism, personal interviews, Bible study, and other activities, all of which shall have as their object the relating of individual students to the Lord Jesus Christ and leading them to adopt His program of life; this work to be done by men and women selected because of their special fitness and equipment for this type of service; and that this work shall be conducted in conformity with those beliefs which in the history of the Christian Church have always been recognized as Evangelical, and with the express intention of leading to or strengthening faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world. It is understood that this action does not commit the University to the defense of any particular school of Bible criticism or of theological thought, but it does provide for the preaching of the gospel and teaching of the Bible upon this Foundation as the abiding source and stimulus of vital Christianity."

"(c) "The Trustees agree, that in the event that future conditions should be such, that work could not be conducted in the Peking University (Yenching

University), then the principal of this foundation and any unused income therefrom shall be paid over to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, incorporated by the legislature of the State of New York, or its successors, on the condition that the Board will assume the responsibility of teaching the Bible and conducting such work as is herein described, in any of the fields in which it works, and will conduct such teachings according to the principles and conditions mentioned in this resolution."

"(d) "The Trustees further agree to provide a committee of three of their members upon whom shall devolve the responsibility of seeing that the terms and conditions of this trust shall be fulfilled."

Mr. McBrier spoke of his earnest desire that the conditions set forth in the above resolutions be carefully observed at all times.

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AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

New York California Orient Round the World

on board

ack
SJK July 29, 1939

Dear Mr. Farside:

just a line to report
that I'm on my way.

The letter you spoke
of wanting me to take to
Dr. Stulart didn't arrive.
In case you sent it, I thought
you would want to know
so as to make other
arrangements.

The developments of
the last week (re the 1918
commercial treaty with Japan)
are very exciting, aren't they?

shipment of ⁽²⁾ war supplies
may be cut off yet.

I suppose, however, that
there may be repercussions
on a trading, and I
shall not be surprised if
my destination turns out
to be Yankou or Szechwan
instead of Peking.

In case you should
want to reach me by wire before
I get to Peking, my address
in Japan for about the 1st
to the 30th will be
Luther Tucker
Nat'l. Cl. Y.M.C.A.
2 Shobun Nishikawa,
Kanda, Tokyo

Wm. Fulton 8/14
cc Florence Groh

(31)

I found my folks
much more opposed to my
leaving the country than
I had suspected ^{from Rockford} so
the departure was not
exactly cheerful. But
I am glad to have
the opportunity to go
for the year and hope
I will be able to gear
in in a useful manner.

I would appreciate
it if you would send
any material that you
think would be interesting
to my folks (from time to
time) —

D. & Mrs. W. H. Fulton
621 N. Court St.
Rockford, Ill.

Put
on
Yerby
list

Write Personal letter

W. H. Fulton
Dr V

(4)

Please give my regards
to the McBrier committee
and to others in the
office.

It has been a great
pleasure to come to know
you and I look forward
to seeing you again on
my return.

Sincerely yours,
Frank Fulton

P.S. The enclosure is for
your rogue's gallery.
It shows how hard-up
for news the home-town
paper is!

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES

AUG 10 1939

JOINT OFFICE

0389

File 2

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

New York · California · Orient · Round the World

on board

July 29,

Dear Mr. Ewan:

Thank you so much for your kind letter with the enclosed medical report. I can't get in much regular tennis for a while but am doing the next best thing — deck tennis every day.

I filled out pod if turned the information card before leaving.

Thank you again for your great help. And I look forward to seeing you again on my return.

Sincerely,

Frank Fulton

my regards to others in the office, please.

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AUG 10 1939
JOINT OFFICE

0391

file

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

New York · California · Orient · Round the World

on board
S.S. Pres. Cleveland
Aug. 1, 1939.

My dear Mr. Evans:

I think you are the only man who has ever sent me four steamer letters for the same trip! I'll try to answer them all in one, however.

First thank you very much for the check. I may not need it but it is much pleasanter to have it and not feel afraid of running short.

You are right in thinking I would not be especially disappointed that the organ and the photographic things didn't arrive, for I had plenty to cope with as it was. My cabin was nearly full of parcels for both Nanking and Chengtu. If they all get to Hongkong it will be just as good for the recipients and simpler for me. I hope they do make it there, for it is so hard to get things in without someone accompanying them that I would rather have the trouble than disappoint the people who need them. I presume the smaller quantities of chemicals will go a good way, for she probably uses them in very minute amounts. I doubt if she has done much purchasing of this sort and doesn't realize how fast the prices mount up on rather unusual chemicals. You can probably get her enough to give her something to go on for the present and perhaps she can scrape up some more money later.

I shall probably be staying with Mrs. Mye: in Kunming and will inquire about the organ. She will at least know whether it got as far as that and whether it started on from there.

I will inquire at the American Express in Hongkong for whatever they have for me and

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do the best I can with it all.

I have met Mr. Fulton and enjoyed talking with him. We have a pleasant and congenial group of people aboard and it looks as if it would be a very good trip.

I trust there will not be any more loose ends of mine turning up after I am gone. I tried to clear everything and think I did but there was a good deal to do at the end and I might have missed something.

Thankyou for your good wishes. I'm sure things will go well and I am very happy to be on my way back again. I hope the increasing irritations toward Americans and British are not going to prevent me from getting up to Nanking. It is impossible to judge at all from the little scraps of radio news we get, so I can only wait and see.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Chester.

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UNIVERSITIES
AUG 10 1939
JOINT OFFICE

0394

August 14, 1939

Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Fulton
621 N. Court Street
Rockford, Illinois

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Fulton:

Your son has kindly given us your address, with the suggestion that we send you interesting material we receive from Yenching during the year.

We enclose herewith a copy of President Stuart's letter to his Board of Trustees dated July 3rd. In this he gives confidential information as to what is taking place in North China. Dr. Stuart sends these communications at intervals of about a month. We will be glad to send you future letters from him, together with any other material that may be of interest.

We can appreciate the trepidation which both of you must feel as your son starts to Peking. The world situation is full of so many threats of violence that no one knows just when and where serious explosions may occur. We all recognize that the coming year in China may be even more difficult for our Christian Colleges, and for all the other aspects of the Christian enterprise, than have been the past two years. But we are confident that this work will continue to go on, and are grateful for the loyalty and courage of all the members of the staff who are remaining at their posts and going forward with their duties. There has never been a time in the history of the Christian enterprise in China when the presence and services of our educators, doctors and evangelists have meant so much to the Chinese people as they do today.

We are confident that Mr. Fulton will render a very important service at Yenching during the coming year, and we earnestly hope and pray that his months in China will be safe and pleasant ones.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:RC
Enc.

cc: Florence Greh

0395

August 14, 1939

ack'd 10/23/39

Mr. R. Brank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Fulton:

Thanks for your letter of July 29th, written aboard the "President Coolidge". I hope you have had a safe and pleasant trip across the Pacific, and that by the time this reaches you, you will be happily established on the Yenching campus.

Sorry I failed to get into your hands the letter which you kindly agreed to take to Dr. Stuart. I got so involved in a variety of jobs that I failed to complete it in time to catch you. However, I will see that it gets out in some other way within the near future.

Thank you for giving us the address of your father and mother. We are adding their names to the list of friends who receive copies of the interesting material which we get from Yenching.

The world situation grows more and more tense, both in Europe and the Far East. But we trust that the present crises will pass without any serious explosions; and we earnestly hope that the work at Yenching will continue to go on prosperously, and fairly peacefully, this year.

With all good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

BAG:RC

0396

Confidential

F

燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
Peiping West, China.

8 copies
Fisher weight
Give originals
Time word

October 14, 1939

The Board of Trustees, Yenching University
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Friends:

With the thought that you might be interested in the first impressions of a newcomer, I have been asked to write to tell you about a few of the high spots of my first month at Yenching. I will not attempt anything like an analysis or a carefully planned report; for not only would I be unable to do an adequate piece of work of this sort, but I am sure you are receiving full and scholarly accounts from Dr. Stuart and others. What I write, let me say again, will consist entirely of my own impressions.

By way of introduction, perhaps a few words should be said about the trip out. A good deal might be written about a most interesting day's visit to the San Francisco Exposition (in the pleasant company of a Chinese girl I met on the train--on her way to Hongkong), the delightful stop-over in Honolulu, and people met on the "President Cleveland" en route to Japan; but all that I will pass over for lack of space, and come directly to the Orient.

The eight days in Japan were most decidedly worthwhile because of the opportunities they afforded for getting acquainted with some of the Christian leaders and learning first-hand what they are thinking in regard to the "incident". As we steamed into Yokohama harbor, a letter was delivered to me from Luther Tucker of the World's Student Christian Federation staff, suggesting that I come directly to Nojiri, where most of the Americans I wanted to see were spending their vacations, and where in a few days there was to be a meeting of Japanese Christians and missionaries to both Japan and China. Passing over individual conversations both there and in Tokyo and elsewhere (regretfully, for some of them were most revealing), let me say just a word about the meeting itself. For a full day we met, in a little hotel across from the American summer community--without, strange as it may seem, the presence of government agents. Leaders of the National Christian Council and the Student Christian Movement were there, as well as several pastors and one member of Parliament (an elder in one of the Tokyo churches). Also five or six American missionaries to Japan were present and four to China, who had come over to Nojiri just for the summer. The meeting had been arranged by the Japanese in order to take advantage of the presence of the China missionaries to learn from them the real state of affairs in this country. After a good deal of polite deferring by the Japanese to the foreigners and vice versa, one of the Japanese pastors said, in effect: "Let's forget all about courtesy and get down to the real purpose of the meeting."

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We Japanese want to hear from our friends from China just what is in their minds and on their hearts. Don't worry about our feelings, but tell us the truth." Such an invitation was all that was needed, and the rest of the time was spent in straight-forward dealing with facts--Dr. Searle Bates from Nanking and Dr. William Fenn from Free China and others telling just what has been happening in occupied areas and in the attacks on free territory. There was no dilution of the truth whatsoever, but it was "spoken in love" and made a most profound impression on all--especially on those hearing it for the first time, which included almost all the Japanese. There were no resolutions made or plans of action worked out--that was impossible under the circumstances--but there was no question as to the value of the meeting; for the truth had broken through government propaganda at least once, and with great effect on those present; and probably through them it will have a much wider influence.

But on to China! Two days on the 'Empress of Japan' were enough to cover the Kobe-Shanghai run, and on the twenty-second we entered the Whangpoo. Imagine my surprise and delight (surprise because I thought I was arriving unannounced) to see Lyman Hoover, of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A., waiting for me on the dock. Once again I was indebted to Luther Tucker, who had thoughtfully cabled that I was on the way. With the ability of a veteran Shanghailanders, Hoover had me off the ship and into the International Settlement in about five minutes, all my baggage having been left in the hands of an express man to turn up unexamined (!) in my room at the Y a few hours later; and the cost was about U.S.40¢! Mr. Dwight Edwards of the Y was planning to leave for Chin Wang Tao on the 24th on one of the Kailan Mining Administration boats, and I made arrangements to go with him on learning that this was probably the best way to get to Peiping; but at the last minute the ship was called by wireless to Tientsin for refugee service, so we were booked on the next one, which was to leave on the 27th. This gave me five days instead of two in Shanghai, and they were full to the brim, including: a meeting of the YMCA staff to hear a fascinating report by Mr. S.C. Leung, the General Secretary, on his recent trip to the West and North-West; a tiffin gathering to hear a keen interpretation of the international situation by Mr. J.B. Powell of the North China Daily News; another luncheon meeting to hear Miss Joy Homer speak on her trip to the North West; a session of the Far Eastern Student Service Fund committee; a Christian youth meeting and a Sunday service at the Community Church; and a drive through the terribly devastated areas outside the Settlement, including a visit to one of the Jewish refugee camps. Educational the Shanghai visit certainly was, and also most enjoyable--especially when you add a lawn party at St. John's University, a symphony concert at Jessfield Memorial Park, a visit to the headquarters of the four associated colleges (a most interesting experiment), and to the Chinese Y, tea with the national staff of the YWCA, and several delightful dinner parties including one at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Y.T. Wu where I met, among others, Dr. T.T. Liu.

Came the 27th and we (Mr. Edwards, three Englishmen, two Chinese and I) boarded the "Isabel Moller", bound for Chin Wang Tao. A trip scheduled to take about 60 hours, it took us 138--most of which were spent in trying to dodge, with only partial success, a rather ferocious typhoon (referred to with some venom as "he"

and "him" by our 28-year-old captain); we encountered only the fringes, where the wind velocity was a mere 55 miles an hour! The ship being quite small and without cargo it was not exactly smooth sailing. At Chin Wang Tao we learned that the Tientsin flood was still holding up all trains; so with very little persuasion required I accompanied Mr. Edwards to Pei Tai Ho, arriving in the last flurry of a whole week of rain. To my delight I discovered that not only were some Changsha friends still there (Mrs. Phillips Greene and her children) but a goodly portion of the Yenching faculty--the Tsais, De Vargases, Smiths, Wiantz, Wolferz, and Miss Hague. Some were winding up their holidays according to schedule, while others (chiefly the Tsais) were restlessly waiting for the chance to return to Peiping, having been delayed almost two weeks by the flood. Sunday brought two gifts from the gods--clear weather, which revealed the beauties of the spot, and word that travel connections of a sort had been restored with Peiping. The underlining you will understand when I explain that the normal 8-10 hours' run took us 22, some 18 of which were spent without benefit of beds or chairs. Our party, including most of the Yenching group mentioned above, left at eleven in the evening for Tangku, all going "fourth class"--i.e., third class tickets with no hope of securing seats. The night was spent with varying degrees of success in the effort to get at least a little sleep (about three in the morning I was quite mercilessly thrown out of the baggage car where I had discovered, and occupied, a couple of fine soft rolls of bedding). And then, after arriving at Tangku, we stood in line for two or three hours before boarding the over-sized launch which was to take us to Tientsin. Some 500 were stuffed into space suitable for about 150--half in a dark and smelly hold and the rest above, precariously perched on the remainders of a floor which had been well torn up for the purpose of giving some air to those below--and off we went. Such discomforts as we experienced were as nothing, however, compared with the suffering of the inhabitants of the flooded communities through which we passed. On mounds, roofs, rafts--anything above water--human beings, cows, pigs, chickens waited, waited, waited.... Dead bodies--not all of them of animals--floated by; and we knew that their number would be increased in the coming days and weeks. Appalling tragedy! Three and a half hours then of the luxurious experience of sitting down in good third-class seats, and we reached Peiping--about 9 P.M. on the 4th of September. Word had gotten through of our coming, and there on the platform--to the delight of all--we saw Dr. Stuart, cane in hand, waiting to receive us. Our party by this time was large enough, since a number of students had come up on the same train from Tientsin, to fill the two college buses and the President's car; and after securing the baggage that had arrived, we sped along the almost deserted streets of the city, through the immense gates, out along the country roads, to a glorious night's sleep at Yenching.

Yenching! The loveliest campus I have ever seen! Has my travel experience been too limited, or is it the loveliest in the world? I had been here for brief visits twice before, but as I wandered around the better part of the next day, the amazing beauty of the place--as a whole, and in its every detail--struck me with all the vividness of a first impression. However, I had better leave the painting of a word-picture to someone with poetic gifts and proceed with the narrative. In the following pages

I will try to give first a brief description of the various opening events of the first month, and then a few impressions of a more general nature.

Tuesday, September 5, was the next to the last day of Freshman Week. Typhoon and flood had prevented my arriving in time for the earlier events--the University Reception for new students on Saturday, the opening Sunday Service and the Yenta Christian Fellowship Reception for freshmen on Sunday evening, and others. But I was able to attend the Sport Afternoon on Tuesday. You probably have seen the account in the Yenching News of September 8, so I will not list the various features--opening speeches, flag-raising, etc. I was especially interested in the highly successful mass-drill led by Mr. Chao, and joined in finally by the President and Deans, who at first were simply spectators. Writes the News: "Their participation was welcomed with long applause by both the participants on the field and the other spectators." The final event was the traditional "flag-rush", in which some 50 men took part, struggling vigorously to climb up over each other's shoulders to reach the pegs which led to the top and victory. However, "after ten full minutes of sanguinary hand-to-hand fighting" (again the News) the final whistle was blown with the flag still floating aloft--untouched.

The reception that evening at the President's house for the freshmen of the College of Arts and Letters (held simultaneously with like meetings of the other colleges) was a grand mixture of business and pleasure. The various heads of departments were given five minutes each to present their wares, a violent beating of the gong by Dr. Sailer, in Major Bowes style, effectively preventing any extension of the time. And the evening ended with a series of stunts and games--and of course, tea.

Thursday evening, September 7, there was a meeting held in the President's house to hear reports of the summer service activities carried on by a good many of the students under the auspices of the Fellowship. Chinese was spoken, but with the help of Dr. Stuart and Dr. Li, I was able to get the main outlines of the talks; and they were most interesting. One student had run a school for little children and another some adult discussion groups on psychology, health, science and religion; one had worked in an orphan asylum, and another had helped in a school for the children of workmen here on the campus; and so the evening progressed, some fifteen reporting for a much larger group of summer workers. This was the first Fellowship function I had been able to attend, and it was an admirable introduction--showing as it did the healthy endeavor to keep faith and practical service in close relationship.

Sunday, Dr. Stuart preached, but unfortunately for me, in Chinese. I was greatly impressed, however, with the simple dignity of the whole service (the choral procession adding considerably) and the excellent music. In the afternoon, the Fellowship held its annual Workers' Retreat for the officers and most active members (students and faculty). The place of meeting was a lovely garden, Wu Chia Hua Yuan, west of the campus about half a mile. After a brief service in which effective use was made of recorded music, reports and recommendations were given by the chairmen of the various committees; and after that (and before tea) the committees met separately to work out plans for the year.

Monday, the 11th, was the date for the beginning of classes and also for the first faculty meeting, the President's house again being used. I had misread the announcement so that instead of a "Preseasonal Meeting" I expected a "processional" one, and was prepared to plead poverty and late arrival if I was taken to task for not having an academic gown. But the attire was quite informal, as was the meeting, after the principal addresses by Dr. Stuart and Dr. C. W. Luh. As there is a full report in the September 15th issue of the News, I will not endeavor to give a summary, but simply say that the review of the history of the University and ^{the} statement as to its fundamental ideals and purpose ~~was~~ of great value, especially to those of us who were newcomers.

On Tuesday evening, the 13th, the School of Religion met together for the first time. A simple communion service lead by the Dean was held in the little chapel; and afterwards there was a get-acquainted session in the social room, in which each was called upon to introduce himself and entertain the assembly with a song, story, or game. A variety of talents were discovered, including (if it can be called a talent!) the ability of one student to croon in a manner that would have made Rudy Vallee green with envy.

On Thursday afternoon, the first University Assembly was held, in Bashford Auditorium--Dr. Stuart speaking in English about the international situation and our relation to it. (See the News of Sept. 15.) A quiet but stirring invitation to hard thinking and high living, with genuine concern for the problems of all mankind, it must have indeed made a deep impression on old and new students, as it certainly did on me.

That evening the "Messiah" Chorus met for its first rehearsal. And though questioning revealed that a good percentage had not only never sung the "Messiah" before but had never done any choral work whatsoever, under the baton of the patient but **exacting** Mr. Wiant, we were actually singing (and not too badly!) the great "Hallelujah Chorus" before the hour was over. And ever since more than 200 have been turning out regularly each Thursday, in preparation for the Christmas concert.

The next Sunday marked the beginning of Sunday School for children of the Yenching community--as cunning tots as I've ever seen! The first English Vespers Service was also held, with both Chinese and foreigners attending. The Chaplain, Dr. Porter, conducted the service, and Dr. Stuart preached on the significance and power of Christ's life and teachings for us and for our troubled world. Daily chapel services had started the first of the week both in Ninde and Sage Chapels, the leaders (Drs. Li and Porter respectively) shifting locations the second week--the regular procedure. One leader speaks in Chinese and the other in English--Dr. Porter's theme for the first period being the relationship of worship "in spirit and in truth" to life based on the double commandment to love God and man. Each Friday the program consists entirely of music, and these services have been especially well attended.

On Wednesday, the 20th, the faculty of the School of Religion held its first monthly meeting at the home of the Dean, Dr. Li--

a delicious Chinese dinner (my first since leaving Shanghai) being the opening item on the agenda, which was otherwise given over largely to matters of business. And the following Tuesday witnessed the first assembly of the English Department in Miss Boynton's lovely garden outside the south gate.

Saturday, the 23rd, was an official holiday for the "Summer Palace Outing", designed primarily to give new students a chance to begin to get acquainted with the world-famous environs of the campus. Needless to say, the college grounds were practically deserted, students and faculty virtually taking over the Palace for the day.

On Tuesday, the 26th, the Faculty Discussion Group held its first session in Dr. Stuart's house, with three summer travelers to Free China (two of them members of the faculty) giving their impressions--all of them most encouraging as regards the morale of the people and the general outlook for China's future. The guest the following week, who had just come from a rather extended visit to Szechuan, spoke in just the same vein, as did Miss Joy Homer who spoke last night.

On Friday, the 29th, the Fellowship held a Social Meeting which packed the auditorium in Sage. And on the 3th of October, they held an all-day **Retreat** at Wo Fo Ssu (a lovely old temple grounds on the way to the Western Hills) which was attended by nearly 200 students and faculty members. Our theme was "The World Student Christian Movement and Our Fellowship", the endeavor being to think and plan for the year with reference to our membership in the World Christian Community--so desperately important in these days when the forces of destruction are threatening to wipe out everything of value in civilization.

The "Double Tenth", another holiday, was the occasion for trips by various groups to points of interest in the Western Hills, practically every bicycle on the campus being called into service either by its owner or a borrower.

On the 12th of October, the first student debate was held on the question of whether or not examinations should be abolished. As the negative won, no immediate changes of this nature would seem to be required.

And so one might go on; but the letter must be mailed, and sufficient has been written, certainly, to make it clear that the year's program is well under way. And what a year it promises to be!

Now for a few general impressions.

As for the plant--the campus and the buildings--it is of course magnificent, and it is being used to the full. And certainly all members of the university community appreciate and enjoy the beauty and cleanliness that surround us. I am curious, though, to find out what it does to students. Does it always make them "divinely discontent" with anything less fine, so that they will be all the more inspired to work for the uplift of their country. Or is the result sometimes a discontent

that unfits them for happy, useful work elsewhere? I hope, and hear on all sides, that it is the former, at least for the vast majority--witness the large number of Yenching graduates working in West China, with often the minimum of physical comforts. And certainly every effort is made by the administration and faculty to make this the experience of all. I do wish, however, that it were possible for the students, while in college, to have more of the sort of experience that bridges the gap between intellectual and manual workers--the kind of experience, for example, that is given at Berea College in Kentucky, or for that matter, in some of the colleges recently moved to Free China. But maybe that will come. (One reason for raising this question--and I am sure it is not a new one--is so that you will not think I am capable only of praise in the superlative degree!)

If those I have come to know of the faculty are not untypical, it would be hard to imagine a finer staff. Immense variety there is, of course, both in ability and interest and point of view; but one senses from the outset a remarkable "esprit de corps" which is quite contagious.

As you know, the student body is both larger and more carefully picked than ever before--due to the tremendous increase in the number of applicants for admission. The logical result of such a situation would be an increase in the appreciation of the privilege of studying here and of the determination to make the most of it. And I am told that that is just what is happening. Certainly one is impressed with the ability and the serious purpose of almost all of the students he meets. I don't mean to imply that there is any lack of gaiety and joy. Quite the contrary. And one of the greatest incidental services the university is rendering in this time of crisis is, in my judgment, that of providing a place of study where it is possible to have genuine laughter and play as well as work during the critical student years. But that there is the deepest concern for the success and welfare of the nation, there is not the slightest doubt. Every bit of news from Free China is eagerly received and passed on--not in public meetings, but just as effectively in individual and small group conversations. Spiritually the strain must be far greater on the students who have remained than on those who made the long trek, heroic as is their attitude and conduct. When you have to submit (to use just one out of many possible examples) to having to get out of a public or school bus and be searched every time you go through the gate leading to the city--the ancient capital of your own country--well, it takes something real to grin and bear it, not abjectly but bravely. And marvel of marvels, what I had heard before is definitely true, that the students as a whole (and I understand other groups as well) have kept strong and acute the ability to discriminate between the average Japanese citizen and the military leaders, and to refrain from hating Japan or the Japanese as such. The quiet but seemingly genuine friendliness with which the Torii have been received is striking evidence of this fact. Not only professing Christians, but the students as a whole, seem undauntedly to have laid hold on real faith and hope--and love--and on a foundation of not only national but world consciousness. Exceptions there are, of course, but unless I err badly as an observer, they are exceptions.

Finally, let me say a word about the Yenta Christian Fellowship. As far as I can judge, it's the real thing--a genuine fellowship seeking to understand and to practice Christianity and so taking seriously the YenShing motto with its relating of love of freedom and truth to the will to serve, and serve effectively. And the response is almost embarrassing--in the sense that the very rapid expansion during the past two years has presented program and organization problems which are quite difficult, if all the more challenging. You know, no doubt, of the more than twenty small groups (some of them not so small) which meet every week; and their membership (including over half the university) ranges from mature, thoughtful, active Christians to students for whom the purely social aspects of the meetings are the chief drawing cards. It is certainly fair to say, however, that all are open-minded as regards Christianity, and most are active inquirers, at various stages of their quest for life's true meaning. Some of the groups have worked out admirable programs which deserve to be emulated rather than supplemented; but that is not true of all, and the problem is that of how best to build on what foundation exists. Fortunately, the University has in Mr. Wei Yung-ching a most capable and enthusiastic Fellowship Secretary, and working with him as an executive committee are a keenly interested and able group of students and faculty. Some study materials have already been prepared and issued, and others will follow--all adapted as far as possible to the specific interests and needs of the groups. The representative of the Fellowship and the University at the World Youth Conference in Amsterdam has just returned and will undoubtedly help to strengthen the recognition of the importance of responsible relationships in the World's Student Christian Federation and through it in the Christian World Community. She, Miss Tang Wen Shun, is, in fact, speaking at a special Federation service in Ninde Chapel tomorrow morning.

This letter is already too long, and yet I find that I have not made any reference to the self-help work in cross-stitch, "appliqué", etc., sponsored by various faculty wives for the women of the surrounding community, nor to the experimental work in ceramics and in farming, nor to such enjoyable extra-curricular activities for both students and faculty as Saturday trips to places like Pi Yün Ssu and T'ien T'ai Ssu in the Western Hills, nor to the whole athletic life of the community--including such events as yesterday afternoon's experiment in mass folk-dancing. But I am consoled by the thought that I am not writing to give information, for of that you have already in mind much more than I could possibly convey. But as I read the letter over I am fearful that you^{will} feel that I am incapable of adverse criticism. I can only assure you that that has never been my reputation heretofore and that here too I have tried to be honestly realistic!

Sincerely yours

R. Frank Fuller

P.S. A word might be added, perhaps, about my own relationships. My main job is to help in any way I can with the work of the Fellowship, chiefly at this stage in the preparation of study and worship materials. In addition I have a seminar in Christian Ethics and a course in Sophomore English. And I am of course studying Chinese.

It has been a rare privilege to live as I have this first month at the President's house, both for the opportunity it has given of coming to know Dr. Stuart more intimately than might otherwise have been the case and of viewing Yenching from the very center. Due to lack of dormitory space I am to live in the Lang Yun Yuan but will take most of my meals in one of the student dining halls. It promises to be a really great year, and I am most grateful for the opportunity of sharing in the life of the University.

燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
Peiping West, China.

October 23, 1939

Ack. 12/21/39

Mr. B. A. Garside
Assoc. Boards of China Colleges
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Garside:

Just a word of personal greeting and of appreciation for your letter of August 14. Anything further after the 8-page epistle of last week would be unkind, I fear!

Two requests I would like to make, however, concerning the letter to the Trustees:

Three

1) ~~XXX~~ slight changes, for the sake of strict accuracy:

- a.) p. 7, 4th line from the bottom, the 6th word, "undauntedly" might better read "to a remarkable degree"
- b.) p. 7, 5-6 lines from bottom, the phrase "the students as a whole" might better read "other students as well".
- c.) p. 8, 11th line from top, the 5th word "over" should be changed to ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "nearly"

2) In case you make use of parts of the letter for mailing purposes--and in case you have any extra copies--that you send copies with my regards to:

- 1 a. Dr. Van Dusen at Union Seminary. (together with Dr. Coffin)
- 3 b. The Yale-in-China office at Yale. (together with Dwight Hall)
- c. The ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Clerk of the N.Y.C. Presbytery.
- 26 d. Stud. Xn. Movement office at 347 Madison Ave ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
(Mr. A. R. Elliott and Miss Helen Morton)
- 4 e. Mr. Sam Franklin, Delta Coop. Farm, Rochdale, Miss.
- 20 f. Mr. Eugene Barnett, YLM.E.A.--347 Mad. Ave.
- 20 g. Mr. Toru Matsumoto, Friendly Rels. Comm.--347 Mad. Ave.
(His name might be put on the one to Mr. Elliott
of the one to Mr. Barnett--(letter sent jointly as a & b))

And thank you so much.

Please remember me most cordially to Mr. McBrief and the other members of the committee, and to Mr. Evans and other friends in your office.

Sincerely yours,
R. Frank Fulton

P.S. I am sure you will understand my request for underlining the word "undauntedly" particularly with reference to the material on the 7th & 8th pages.

0405

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
 RECEIVED
 NOV 27 1933
 JOINT OFFICE

October 23, 1933
 HK 12/1/33

Mr. B. A. Garais
 Assoc. Board of China Colleges
 150 Fifth Avenue
 New York City

Dear Mr. Garais:

Just a word of personal greeting and of appreciation for your letter of August 14. Anything further after the 8-page epistle of last week would be unkind, I fear! Two requests I would like to make, however, concerning the letter to the Trustees:

1) ~~There~~ might changes, for the sake of strict accuracy:

- a.) p. 7, 4th line from the bottom, the 6th word, "undoubtedly" might better read "to a remarkable degree"
- b.) p. 7, 5-6 lines from bottom, the phrase "the students as a whole" might better read "other students as well"
- c.) p. 8, 11th line from top, the 5th word "over" should be changed to "nearly"

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 - b. The Yale-in-China office at Yale. (together with Dwight Hall)
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 (Mr. A. R. Elliott and Miss Helen Norton)
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 - g. Mr. Tom Matsumoto, Friendly Rela. Comm.--347 Mad. Ave.
- (His name might be put on the one to Mr. Elliott of the one to Mr. Barnett--(letter sent jointly as a & b))

And thank you so much.

Please remember me most cordially to Mr. McBride and the other members of the committee, and to Mr. Evans and other friends

in your office.

*Yours truly,
 [Signature]*

Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin, including the characters "Y.C.C." and other illegible text.

November 28, 1939

Rev. R. Brank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, China

Ack
11/3/40

Dear Fulton,

Thank you for your letter of October 14 which Dr. Stuart has forwarded to us and also for your covering note of October 23.

We are having the letter mimeographed for distribution to the Trustees, to the individuals whom you list, and to other friends who will be interested. We will observe the precautions you indicate. The slight changes indicated in your note of October 23 are being made in the original text.

This is a most interesting and valuable description of your trip to Peking, and of your first weeks on the campus. We trust that the entire year will be very pleasant and productive for you.

Do continue to send us from time to time other letters like this one, giving your observations, experiences, and newly discovered facts.

All the group here in the office would wish to join me in sending you greetings and good wishes for the holiday season.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:ms

0407

December 21, 1939

Mr. R. Brank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Fulton,

Thank you for your letter of October 23, and for the letter to the Yenching Board of Trustees which you enclose.

We have had copies of the letter made for sending to a select group of Yenching Trustees, to the members of the McBrier Foundation Committee, to some of the other friends whom you list in your letter.

This is a most interesting account, and I am sure that all of these friends will read it with considerable interest.

We are glad to have such encouraging reports of the progress of the work at Yenching this year. Whatever else may be said of the year 1939, at least it removes any danger that we might all die of boredom.

All the group here in the office would wish to join me in sending you greetings and good wishes for the New Year.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:ms

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Yenching University
Peiping West
January 1, 1940

Dear Friends:

My first New Year's resolution is to get off another journal-epistle, so here goes. It may be thought of as a supplement to the one written on October 14, and it brings my very best wishes for the months which lie ahead.

Sunday, the 15th of October, was an unusually busy one, for I had two responsibilities for the evening. The first was to preach at the English Vespers Service--a really terrifying experience. For there before you sit a goodly proportion of the faculty and their families, with a smattering of students--watching and listening in dignified silence as you stumble through what you have planned to say, with the typical lack of facial response of a critical university audience. The second was a meeting of one of the older groups of the Yenta Christian Fellowship, in which we sat around in a friendly circle and talked about some of the fundamental principles and problems of Christian ethics--with many keen and searching questions and comments coming from the more thoughtful students present.

Tuesday brought the first meeting of the joint Philosophy and Psychology Club which meets every now and then, this time to hear an able review by Dr. Porter of one of John Dewey's latest books, "Logic: A Theory of Inquiry". Wednesday I went with one of the faculty ladies to see a Yenching Craftwork "kung-shan", where forty or fifty neighborhood girls and women work certain hours during the day at cross-stitch and embroidery to supplement their family incomes. One of three or four supervised by faculty wives as a community service, the products--for the most part beautifully turned out--find a ready market both in China and abroad. This particular one is carried on in connection with the H'ai-tien church (H'ai-tien is a village just outside Yenching's compound), which also runs a good-sized primary school in addition to its regular Sunday activities. The pastor, Mr. Ch'i, is a graduate of Yenching's School of Religion. And then on Thursday I attended (along with about 150 others from Yenching and Peiping) an "at-home" at the American Embassy, where the charming and democratic Mrs. Johnson was hostess-in-chief.

The most interesting events during the rest of the month were a trip to the Western Hills with three of the Fellowship groups (especially enjoyable because the fall colors were just at their height), and several interesting dinner gatherings which considerably enlarged my circle of acquaintances among the faculty. Among the most impressive of those I came to know (at least slightly) was the former Chancellor, (Mr. Wu Lei-chuan)--one of few remaining scholars of the highest rank (Han-lin) under the Ch'ing Dynasty; a great student of the Classics, particularly of the works of Mo Tzu, and a devout and joyous Christian, he is indeed one of the choice

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spirits of the community. Bishop Ralph Ward of the Methodist Church addressed several gatherings, speaking largely of his experiences both in America and in various parts of China, and contributed greatly to the understanding of those who heard him---as did Dr. Loehr of the faculty in his University Lecture on "Italy in the Present World Situation".

Among the noteworthy events of the early part of November were: 1) several talks by Miss Tang Wen-shun on the World Conference of Christian Youth at Amsterdam last summer; 2) a most illuminating address by Mr. Sheldon Ridge, the former editor of the Peiping Chronicle, (while it was still free from control) on "Trends Leading England Into the War"; and 3) student leadership in the chapel services of November 12-17 as our participation in "World Prayer Week". Also should be mentioned the visit of a group of middle-school students and their teachers (many of the former prospective Yenchinians) as guests of the Fellowship, and the fact that ~~EVER~~ weekly extra-curricular activities, such as choral singing (in preparation for the Christmas "Messiah" concert) and faculty and student folk-dancing, were in full swing and most popular.

With the reading of President Roosevelt's proclamation on Sunday the 19th began the ~~KIE~~ celebration of Thanksgiving by the Americans and some Chinese and Britishers. The Day itself was technically not a holiday, but it had all the earmarks of one for most of us, except for the fact that classes were not dismissed. Miss Speer and Miss Wagner (Dean of the Women's College and Prof. of Economics, respectively) had planned a "family reunion"--they acting as "Aunts" ("Mamie" and "Gussie") to several of us family-less individuals, and we were all supposed to dress and talk accordingly. I was a missionary nephew "Solomon", on furlough from China with a wife and six children--both American and Chinese (the latter adopted). Another "nephew" was an Englishman with his Russian wife (who brought pictures of Stalin and Marx to whom she referred as her "dear first husband and father". Except for the fact that my "children"--among whom were Faith, Hope, and Charity (the latter a Chinese girl dressed in Scotch plaid and pig-tails)--were quite unmanageable, it was a most successful reunion. And in the evening I was admitted to a "Princeton Dinner" at Dr. Stuart's house, which was marked, among other things, by hearty renditions of Yenching versions of some of the songs of Old Nassau.

On the 26th a group of us hiked across country for a few miles to visit the famous Great Bell Temple (Ta Chung Ssu) in which hangs what I am told is the second largest bell in the world (the largest, I believe, being in Moscow), cast nearly 5½ centuries ago. Of it I quote the following description from "In Search of Old Peking", lest you think I have allowed my imagination to run riot:

"The huge bell in this temple was cast by the Taoist magician, Yao Kuang-hsiao, who persuaded the Prince of Yen to ascend the throne as the Emperor Yung Lo in 1402...The famous bell is fifteen Chinese feet (about the same as ours) in height, fourteen feet across at the lower rim, thirty feet at its greatest circumferences, and eight inches thick. It is inscribed on the inner and outer face with Buddhist sutras written by Shen Tu...Its actual weight is 87,000 catties, or 116,000 pounds.(!)"

It is a most impressive sight, I assure you, and its deep resonant tone one does not soon forget.

And the month was brought to a close by a scholarly but popular (and understandable!) lecture on "Relativity" by Professor Band.

On the first, the enjoyable and popular faculty-student play-day programs (weekly occasions for joint playing of all kinds of games) were brought to a conclusion for the season. And on the following Tuesday, ~~the faculty~~ just back from an extended trip into the interior, gave a report of his journey and general impressions as to conditions and morale--all most interesting and encouraging.

On Friday the eighth there was a really notable, and well-deserved celebration of Dr. and Mrs. Galt's fortieth anniversary of their arrival in China. The faculty turned out en masse for dinner and an appropriate program--in which wit and a bit of slap-stick were not lacking. After the speeches in the dining hall, Mrs. Galt was carried in a lovely red bridal chair, with gaily dressed and belled attendants, to the gaily decorated auditorium in Sage Hall, while Dr. Galt rode a donkey in triumphal style. The program was a really clever dramatization of some of the more spectacular events in the forty years' experience--all in all a most enjoyable evening.

and Mrs.

On Wednesday the thirteenth Ambassador Johnson and the American members of the faculty were entertained for tea at the President's House--an occasion which included ~~XXXX~~ a most interesting ~~XXX~~ and enlightening talk, of a thoroughly informal nature, by Mr. Johnson, who was just back from Chungking. A more friendly and democratic diplomat one could hardly imagine; he has a good deal of a Will-Rogers variety of wit, combined with a genuine dignity of an admirable type. He and his wife are thoroughly liked and respected by all who know them.

The celebration of Christmas commenced with a musical program at the University Assembly on Thursday--with a student harmonica band performing and all present joining in the singing of familiar carols. A rummage sale to provide funds for a Christmas celebration at the refugee camp followed on the next day. And then on Sunday evening the long-prepared-for "Messiah" concert was given in Bahford Auditorium (the largest assembly hall). It went fairly well on the whole--a real tribute to the ability of Prof. Wiant in being able to take a relatively untrained group of would-be singers and in a few months have them present a difficult program in other than their mother-tongue. His purpose is two-fold--~~XXXX~~ to educate both in aesthetics and the Christian faith--and a genuine contribution it certainly is both to the students who take part and to the Yenching and Peiping communities. For the concert was given a second time the following Tuesday in the auditorium of the "Grand Hôtel de Pékin". The four solists--three Chinese students and Mrs. Wiant--proved themselves on both occasions to be genuine artists.

As always, among the nicest features of the Christmas season were the numerous programs put on by, and primarily for, the children of the community (as many as possible of which I observed--sneaking into some, I confess, to which I was not invited). The Teachers' College brand of education--with its emphasis on child-initiative--has had great influence at Yenching; so there was plenty of opportunity for--and display of!--originality, and some of the results were delightful.

On the 21st--at the suggestions of some of the students--the whole university ate meat-less and rice-less meals, the saving (totaling nearly \$300.00) to be added to funds for relief work in the community.

The special chapel services for the week--consisting of the singing of Christmas music and reading of Christmas poetry--were also notable features. On Thursday evening there was a School of Religion Christmas party, with games and ten-cent presents for all--this merely one of other similar gatherings. On Friday there was a pageant interpreting the meaning for mankind of the coming of the Christ-child--put on by members of the Yenta Christian Fellowship. And on Christmas Eve I was the guest of one of the Fellowship groups, the members of which decorated my little house in the most festive fashion and served a really delicious and some-what elaborate meal--entirely prepared by themselves.

On Sunday there was an impressive morning service at which some twenty-five students (and several faculty children) were baptized--the culmination of several weeks of preparatory study; and they came together for a final quiet meeting that afternoon ~~at~~ X as Dr. Stuart's guests. The President, in addition to receiving the students into the church, preached a most thoughtful sermon on the meaning of Christmas in this desperately troubled world of 1939--an address which we plan to print as one of a series of publications under the auspices of the Fellowship.

Also on Sunday, in the early afternoon, the children of the village Sunday School (run by members of the Fellowship) had their special program. And at 4:45 the University Choir presented a lovely candle-light carol service. Then in the evening those who wished to (some sixty or more) observed the charming old custom of going from house to house caroling and wishing all a Merry Christmas. A somewhat novel touch was given by the presence of a donkey cart at the head of the procession, bearing the Hammond organ with Mr. Wiant as musician, keeping all who sang on key--a most valuable addition!

Inasmuch as it was also Founders' Day, Christmas was a University holiday, and it dawned clear and bright, and almost balmy--a continuation of the wonderful weather we have been having for some time. I was taken into the Adolph family for breakfast (together with a couple of other poor bachelors); and for mid-day dinner I was invited again to the home of "Aunts Gussie and Mamie" for another large family-for-the-day celebration. In the evening some twenty faculty houses were "open to students"--several combining to act as joint hosts in each home. I was to receive with Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Li and Mr. Wei Yung-ching at the Lis' home in the East Compound, and after supper together we piled as many cookies and sweet potatoes, ~~and~~ pieces of cake and candy, and cups for tea as we could on the diningroom table, and ~~waited~~ waited for guests--but not for long! At about 7:30 they began to come, and between then and 9:45 over 400 arrived, and with the exception of a few breathing spells there was a continuous jam of students in the two relatively small reception rooms--some going and some coming, and all consuming food (about \$30 worth). There were a few minutes scattered throughout the evening when it was possible to sit down and visit with a few people, but for the most part it was a matter of "Good evening," "Merry Christmas," and "Goodbye". And so it was in almost all the houses--some students visiting ten to fifteen in the course of the evening. It didn't prove very much, but the students seemed to be having a good time, and that was the main purpose. I personally preferred, however, the caroling visits of the evening before.

Classes were held again the next day, but there were various other parties and entertainments during the week, including the presentation on Friday of a group of short English and Chinese plays.

(5)

~~presentation on Friday of a group of short English and Chinese plays.~~

On Thursday the 28th the last public lecture for the term was given (we have a great many and on a large variety of subjects--one the previous week having been on ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "Native Methods of Raising Chicks"). It was on the results of a Yenching archeological expedition to Inner Mongolia, led by Prof Torii of the faculty, and including two members of his family (all are experts in ~~the~~ some aspect of the work) and two young Chinese instructors. It was a most interesting account--illustrated--of the excavation of a recently discovered cave-temple dating from the Wei Dynasty (about 200 A.D.).

On Friday, a girl who is graduating this month from our music department, Miss Liu Chin Ting, gave a really first-rate graduation recital--including selections from Bach, Beethoven, Liszt, Shumann, MacDowell, Debussy, Respighi, Falla, and a composition of her own based on a familiar workers' song.

The week-end brought callers from both Korea and Japan. On Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon and their two daughters from Taiku, Korea, came for a visit, which included a sight-seeing tour of the University and the Summer Palace--especially enjoyable because of the eager enthusiasm and interest in everything we saw on the part of the two girls, who have just begun their high school work. Then on Sunday arrived a friend from Doshisha University and his young son. He, Mr. Kurokawa, is genuinely interested in the finest kind of intercultural relationships between China, Japan and America--really a splendid person. His son hopes eventually to come to Yenching (as does the older of the Lyon girls)--so ~~potent~~ potent is its drawing power on all come within its sphere of influence!

On New Year's day (now yesterday), after breakfast with the Wolferz family, I went to the President's House, together with ~~all~~ ^{most} all the rest of the faculty for a "T'uan-pei". After quaffing a cup of broth or two, we all ~~sat~~ stood in a circle in the large reception room, and after a brief welcome by one of the administration staff, we all bowed to one ~~another~~ ^{another} three times at the counts of "i, ehr, san", and so we had all ~~paid~~ mutually paid our respects and saved a terrific amount of calling from house to house--a mighty good custom. Mr. Wolferz and I then caught the bus for the city and called on the various ladies who were officially "at home" (a Peiping New Year's custom)--at the manse of the Union Church, the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational Missions and the American Embassy. Like the students on Christmas night, we consumed a goodly number of cookies, cakes, candies and peanuts (and also some good hot ~~Cantonese~~ Cantonese ginger), drank innumerable cups of tea and coffee, and made our way home rejoicing. Unlike most of the students, however, we did have a chance to chat a bit at each place both with the hostesses and other callers--several times, with the Ambassador and Mrs. Johnson, for we met them by chance at three different places besides the Embassy.

And so the journal ends for the time-being. A word of appreciation if you have worded through the preceding mass of verbiage!

Sincerely,

Frank Fulton

~~XXXX~~

0413

30 Jan. 1, 1940

By Fulton, Brack
8 copies

Being, as it is, the equivalent of a University Church and also the central, coordinating body for various ~~small~~ small group activities, the YCF is playing an increasingly important role in the life of the community. Its membership, plus a few (43) others, who are active in the small groups but not members of the YCF, is 512--considerably over half the entire student enrollment (982)

The small groups, of which there are now 33, with an average membership of a little over 14, meet once a week in various places around the campus. Called, generally, "small fellowship groups", they are just that--groups that have formed chiefly around the idea of fellowship in the fullest sense, including (in varying proportions) study, discussion, and social activities. Most of the groups have (of their own desire) a faculty member ~~officially~~ known as "advisor", but the students in almost all cases quite definitely "run their own show"--the faculty member being free of course to participate. The YCF executive committee (consisting largely of students) is a central planning body, keeping as closely in touch as possible with all ~~groups~~ the groups by means of monthly meetings of representatives of all the groups as well as through their own membership in various ones. A full-time secretary, Mr. Wei Yung-ching--a very able chap--helps to coordinate activities and follow through on various plans--arranging inter-group meetings from time to time, getting out study materials, and the like. My job is to be of any help I can to Wei Yung-ching and the executive committee and representatives, and to work on English study and discussion materials (others of course handling the Chinese). (In addition I have a seminar in Christian Ethics and a Sophomore English course, and am of course studying Chinese a few hours a week). So far there have been three English discussion outlines issued--"A Guide to Understanding the Bible", "What is Success", and "An Introduction to the Life and Teachings of Jesus" (the topics being chosen by the student planning committee)--and two booklets prepared by Dr. Hung and Dr. Stuart (re-prints of an article and a sermon respectively). ~~It~~ It is planned to bring out four or five study and discussion outlines next semester, together with about an equal number of booklets going more fully and systematically into certain subjects having to do with the relationship of religion to life in its deepest and broadest dimensions. Use of the materials is of course quite voluntary, as are all Fellowship activities, so that experiment, consultation, and cooperation all along the line are absolutely essential.

The rapid increase in the number of groups is a phenomenon of the last two years, and is undoubtedly related to some extent to the whole situation around us (certain other forms of student expression being at present inadvisable, etc.); however, there is no question about there being plenty of vitality and purpose.

A word might be added about another experiment in which I have been especially interested. In my college, the Christian Association had a cottage a few miles outside New Haven known as "The Old Mill". Responsible groups could secure permission to use it for social and discussion meetings on condition that they would take care of it. We did everything for ourselves--chopping firewood, preparing our own meals, washing the dishes, and sweeping the floor--and enjoyed it all the more on that account.

Well, when it became clear that due to great increase in number of students it would be impossible for me to live in one of the dormitories (the original plan) it had to be decided where I would stay--the wing of the President's house which I occupied the first two months being the headquarters of an absent member of the faculty who was expected to return in the near future. Making inquiries I discovered that there was a little house in the Lang Jun Yuan (the lovely garden just north of the Yenching campus, leased by the University for residence purposes) which was still unoccupied. Formerly the headquarters of the gate-keeper of the Manchu Prince who owned and occupied the garden, it had been fixed up a bit some years ago for one of the bachelor members of the faculty; when he left last year it was occupied temporarily by a small family, who moved out, however, as soon as more adequate quarters became available. It has four rooms--a parlor (10'X15'), a small kitchen, a bedroom and a bath; and it occurred to me that, small as it is, it was big enough for most of the groups to use for occasional supper meetings, along "Old Mill" lines. The administration very generously assigned the house to me and loaned some furniture which was not in use, I fitted out the house with what else was necessary (with the help of two of the faculty ladies)--dishes, cooking utensils, kitchen tables, curtains, etc.--and the preparations were complete. Both Wei Yung-ching (whom I had of course previously consulted) and I have keys, and either may give permission for the use of the house--a use-chart being posted on the Fellowship bulletin board for clearing purposes.

Now for the results. To date it has been used 21 times since October 27--the 22nd group having signed for the end of the examination period next week. And they have all fitted into the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "do it yourself" plan not only without objection but with enthusiasm. One boy who has been over several times said that all he had talked to agreed that it was a lot more fun than if there ~~was~~ someone else to cook and clean up. Most of the time the chief item on the menu is "chao-tze", small meat pies which are relatively easy to prepare. But one or two of the groups have prepared complete meals with several courses, under the guidance of members majoring in domestic science. The utensils are of course Chinese-style, so that any experience gained in the process will not be without some value for the future. I keep the fire going in the stove and the students bring their own ingredients and "fall to"--usually spending a good part of the afternoon and evening. And I can vouch for their skill, for I have become a sort of official sampler of the products of their cookery--a most enjoyable function, I assure you. They get themselves and the place in quite a mess in the process, but always they have cleaned up in good fashion before leaving. The gate-keeper's wife next door comes in during the day occasionally to keep the fire going, and every few days to dust a bit, but everything else (except my washing and ironing) we who use the place take care of ourselves.

There is a two-fold purpose as far as the student use is concerned--to add to the healthy fun-life of the small fellowship groups in such a way that they will be drawn together more closely by cooperative activity, and to try to break down the idea (without saying anything about it)--an idea which is all too prevalent, in my opinion, both in America and in China--that there are certain tasks, (such as washing dishes, sweeping the floor, and the like) which, however necessary, are too "menial" for "people of Education and 'good family'" to perform. Whether the second purpose (I believe it's called a "concomitant learning", is it not?) is accomplished in all cases, I am not sure, but there is no question about the first.

(building for
real democracy)

This coming term special emphasis will be put on preparation for the summer service activities, in addition to the regular program. Last summer, as you may recall from reading my earlier letter, a considerable number of students spent their vacation in some form of practical service--in connection with schools, churches, orphan asylums, adult education programs, and the like. And it is expected that this coming summer there will be more than a hundred who will want to engage in similar activities. Wei Yung-ching and I plan to visit a good many possible places of work during the mid-term vacation and make the necessary preliminary arrangements with those in charge. Then next term those interested will be gathered together from time to time to talk over the plans--problems, techniques, resources, etc--with guidance by various members of the community who are expert in subjects related to the summer projects. This informal preparatory course, as it might be called, will be based on the experience of last summer and the conditions of next summer's activities insofar as they can be foreseen, and will help, we hope, to make the projects of the greatest value both to the students concerned and the organizations served. Group projects, like those undertaken in the past at Ting-hsien or the American summer work-camps, are impossible under the present circumstances, but all seem to agree that the individual type of service is also important. Several of the faculty are genuinely interested, and Wei Yung-ching is admirably fitted, through personal experience in various types of rural and village reconstruction, to ~~XXXXXXXX~~ act as general director.

The effort therefore will be to continue to emphasize both the depth and the breadth of Christianity's meaning for individual and social life--of increasing importance in our distracted world as the eternal "good news".

RECEIVED
 UNIVERSITY
 FEB 7 1940

It is now January 5th, and the weather has turned suddenly cold, with a light snow, so we may possibly have a spell of real winter; I do hope it won't be for long, for the poverty in this area is increasingly acute as prices continue to soar--and coal simply can't be included in most people's budget without proportional skimping on food. One of the most heart-rending sights is that of scores of women and children spending hours on the road just outside the back gate of the compound sorting over cinders periodically dumped there (to improve the surface) by the university power-house--looking for small bits that have not been completely burned out! It isn't just a question of inequitable distribution of purchasing power--though there is certainly that--but also there is an actual shortage of many necessities, chiefly items of food, due both to the flood of last summer and the fact that quantities of stuffs formerly consumed here are now exported or diverted to military use. The only item which is noticeably on the increase is opium! And of course it is the poorest who are hit the hardest, both by the rise in prices and the ~~inflation~~ of narcotics, which probably seem to many the only means of escape. Is there any solution but one a just peace? I know of no other way, and do hope that America will be able to aid in its attainment,--in the first place by discontinuing her participation in aggression!

(fine as it is for skating)

But I must ~~close~~ cease. Till next time, then--Adieu.

Classes will be over tomorrow - then exams - and then

This coming term special emphasis will be put on preparation for the summer service activities, in addition to the regular program. Last summer, as you may recall from reading my earlier letter, a considerable number of students spent their vacation in some form of practical service--in connection with schools, churches, orphan asylums, adult education programs, and the like. And it is expected that this coming summer there will be more than a hundred who will want to engage in similar activities. Wei Yung-ching and I plan to visit a good many possible places of work during the mid-term vacation and make the necessary preliminary arrangements with those in charge. Then next term those interested will be gathered together from time to time to talk over the plans--problems, techniques, resources, etc.--with guidance by various members of the community who are expert in subjects related to the summer projects. This informal preparatory course, as it might be called, will be based on the experience of last summer and the conditions of next summer's activities insofar as they can be foreseen, and will help, we hope, to make the projects of the greatest value both to the students concerned and the organizations served. Group projects, like those undertaken in the past at Ting-hai or the American summer work-camps, are impossible under the present circumstances, but all seem to agree that the individual type of service is also important. Several of the faculty are genuinely interested, and Wei Yung-ching is admirably fitted, through personal experience in various types of rural and village reconstruction, to ~~act as~~ ~~general~~ ~~director~~. The effort therefore will be to continue to emphasize both the depth and the breadth of Christianity's meaning for individual and social life--of increasing importance in our distracted world as the eternal "good news".

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
FEB 7 1940

It is now January 5th, and the weather has turned suddenly winter. ~~to hope it won't be for long.~~ For the poverty in this area is increasingly acute as prices continue to soar--and coal simply can't be included in most people's budget without proportional skimping on food. One of the most heart-rending sights is that of scores of women and children spending hours on the road just outside the back gate of the compound sorting over cinders periodically dumped there (to improve the surface) by the university power-house--looking for small bits that have not been completely burned out! It isn't just a question of inadequate distribution of purchasing power--though there is certainly that--but also there is an actual shortage of many necessities, chiefly items of food, due both to the flood of last summer and the fact that quantities of stuffs formerly consumed here are now exported or diverted to military use. The only item which is noticeably on the increase is opium! And of course it is the poorest who are hit the hardest, both by the rise in prices and the inflation of narcotics, which probably seem to many the only means of escape. Is there any solution but one a just peace? I know of no other way, and do hope that America will be able to aid in its attainment--in the first place by discontinuing her participation in aggression! But I must close. Till next time, then--Adieu.

(Time as usual)
for starting

Clayton will be over tomorrow - then you - and then

Yenching University
Peiping West
January 5, 1940
Ack. 2/24/40

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

Dear Mr. Garside:

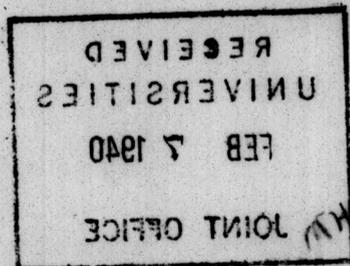
Thank you for your letter of November 28 which arrived last week. I am glad the material was of some interest.

I am enclosing a copy of a second installment, ^(as per your suggestion) written this time primarily for personal friends rather than as a report-epistle to the august Board of Trustees. It may, ^{however} ~~perhaps~~, have some interest for you and any other friends to whom you may care to show it (such as the Prices, if you will be so kind)--there in the office or elsewhere. The last three pages are a bit more akin to a report than that which precedes them.

You are of course ~~free~~ free to make any use you care to of any of the material.

My regards, please, to all in the office, and to the members of the McBrier Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Frank Fulton

P.S. Under separate cover I am sending copies of various materials issued by the Fellowship this fall.

0418

January 30, 1940

Mr. Robert Frank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Fulton:

There was returned to us today a letter which we wrote you and sent to San Francisco with the intention of having it delivered to you on the steamer. For some reason this did not reach you and after being sent to Hong Kong, was returned to us. You can see by the date of the letter, July 21, 1939, that it has spent a long time in wandering around before returning to us.

The letter may not be of any value to you, but I send it on to you in case you may wish to make some reference to it.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary

JIP:VB
Enc.

*Via S.S. "Pres. Monroe"
from San Francisco, Cal.*

0419

February 24, 1940

Mr. R. Brank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, China

Ack
4/24/40

Dear Mr. Fulton,

Thank you for your letter of January 5, together with your interesting general letter of January 1.

I have read this material with genuine interest, and will make use of different parts of it in various ways. The section dealing with the Yenta Christian Fellowship will be of special interest to the members of the McBrier Foundation committee.

It is good to know that you are having such a pleasant and productive year, even though you are necessarily facing a good many problems and limitations. Perhaps, after all, the problems and limitations help to make for greater opportunities of service and usefulness.

Some time ago I received the enclosed letter. I have been wondering just what we could do to carry out the request of the writer. I am passing it along to you with the thought that there is just a possibility you may be able to follow through Mrs. Spafford's request, or possibly to have some of the students do so. If nothing can be done about the matter without too much trouble, please dismiss it from your thoughts altogether.

Activities go on much the same here in the New York office. Of course our problems of providing support for the Colleges are multiplying. for the war in Europe has distracted people's attention, the Finnish Relief campaign has gained popular attention, and unfortunately the number of agencies seeking funds for China is far too numerous for efficiency. But we keep plugging along, and hope that we will manage to secure enough to keep all the Colleges going forward in their work.

With all good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

BAG:ms
Enc.

0420

燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
Peiping West, China.

April 24, 1940

Ack. 6/11/40

Dr. B. A. Garside
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Garside:

For several weeks I have been putting off writing from day to day with the expectation that I could accompany the letter with another installment of my newsletter. But I must delay no longer.

First let me thank you for your letter of Feb. 24 and also ask that you express my appreciation to Mr. Parker for his two-letters-in-one enclosing the McBrier Foundation statement of purpose, which I was very glad to receive.

After receiving your word about Mr. Tsai, Dr. J.F. Li and I called on him in his home and had a pleasant visit, in the course of which he showed us some of his painting which we both found very interesting. He rather expected, I think, as a result of a letter he had received from Mrs. Spafford, that we could help him sell some of his work. But, as I am sure you will understand, Peiping is not the place for marketing such pieces at anything like the prices he can get from sales in America (especially at the present exchange rate); there is simply too much really first-rate stuff readily available in this old center of culture. However, I am suggesting that he come out sometime, or send some of his work, which we can show to various faculty members in case they have any tourist friends coming along who think in terms of American rather than Chinese dollars. But at any rate we enjoyed meeting Mr. Tsai, and of course gave him Mrs. Spafford's and your regards; and he seemed to appreciate the call.

In the second place let me speak briefly of what I understand Dr. Porter has already written you about--plans for me to carry on into next year, made in accordance with the arrangement outlined in paragraph 8 of your letter of July 11:

"While no commitment is made either by the University or yourself beyond the period of one year, it is understood that if at the end of this period it is mutually agreeable both to the University and to yourself, this arrangement might be extended for such an additional period as may then be agreed upon in conference between the University authorities and yourself."

Before Dr. Stuart left for the West, he and the other members of the McBrier Committee invited me to carry on into next year, and I was very glad to accept, especially since it was felt that I was needed to try to give something of a carry-over from this year's program to the next in the absence (probable) of Mr. Wei

0421

Yung-ching, the Executive-Secretary of the Fellowship, in America.

The plan, therefore, is that I stay here the major part of the summer working on a series of Bible-study outlines--which I hope, after this year's contact with the Fellowship, to be able to prepare in a form that will be useful and interesting--and then to help in any way I can with the general work of the Fellowship during the fall and early winter. I will continue, probably, to give a course in Christian Ethics in the School of Religion and the College, to lead at least one Bible-study group (as during this year) and to keep as closely in touch as possible with various other groups in the YCF, giving such help as I can.

At the end of the first term--when the the Fellowship program will have gotten well under way, with such study materials as are desired worked out, for the spring term--my job will really be done; and I plan to leave for the South and West, visiting such colleges and other schools as I can get to and endeavoring to see something of the cooperative movement, and incidentally being of any help I can as a messenger for the Stud. Xn. Movement and the World's Stud. Xn. Fed., as well as Yenching if so desired. If I can be of any assistance in any phase of the work of the Associated Boards I hope you will let me know.

I trust this plan has been duly brought to your attention and meets with your approval and that of the other members of the McBrier Committee there in New York.

Fellowship activities have been especially numerous--and I think significant during the last few weeks, both before and since the Easter season. I shall go more into detail in the newsletter, but let me simply say here that both the thought and worship and the service sides have been considerably strengthened. A "Religious Knowledge Week", with lectures and discussions, was participated in by a great many; and all the groups are sharing in the special "Yenching Life Week" program this week--following through on some of Dr. Stuart's suggestions in his last Assembly talk before leaving; and chapel attendance has been consistently higher during the past month. Besides, as you may have heard, we have started a new school in a nearby village with an all-student ~~XXXX~~ faculty (except for one old-style Chinese teacher who lives in the temple where the school is located) and about seventy students who attend regularly. The course includes mathematics, Chinese, ethics, music and hygiene. A Sunday School is being opened this week in the same place, and various pre-~~med~~ nursing school students are beginning to get into the children's homes to try to improve general health standards. The village policeman and elders ~~XXXXXX~~ are enthusiastic backers of the project and have contributed time, money and labor to its support. And work is now getting under way in connection with preparations for Summer Service activities (much fact-finding and planning having of course already been done).

And so one might go on, but I fear the letter is already too long.

My regards please to your office and McBrier Comm. colleague^s

Sincerely,

A. B. Fulton

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY
JUN 3 1940
OFFICE

Yang-ching, the Executive of the Fellowship, in America. The plan, therefore, is that I will go to the summer working on a Bible study outline--which I hope, after the year's course with the Fellowship, to be able to prepare in a form that will be useful and interesting--and then to help in any way I can in the general work of the Fellowship during the fall and early winter. I will continue, probably, to give a course in Christian Ethics in the School of Religion and the College, to lead at least one Bible-study group (as during this year) and to keep as closely as possible in touch with various other groups in the YCC, giving such help as I can.

At the end of the first term--when the Fellowship program will have gotten well under way, with such study materials as are being worked out for the spring term--my job will really be done; and I plan to leave for the South and West, visiting such colleges and other schools as I can get to and endeavoring to see something of the cooperative movement, and incidentally doing of any help I can as a messenger for the S. M. Movement and the World's Student, K. R. Fed., as well as preaching if desired. If I can be of any assistance in any phase of the work of the Associated Boards I hope you will let me know. I trust this plan has been fully brought to your attention and needs with your approval and that of the other members of the Mobilizer Committee here in New York.

Fellowship activities have been especially successful--and I think significant--during the last few weeks, both before and since the Easter season. I shall go more into detail in the newsletter, but let me simply say here that both the thought and worship and the service sides have been considerably strengthened. A "Religious Knowledge" week, with lectures and discussions, was participated in by a great many; and all the groups are starting in the special "Yearning for Zion" program this week--following through on some of Dr. Stuntz's suggestions in his last Assembly talk before leaving; and chapel attendance has been considerably higher during the past month. Besides, as you may have heard, we have started a new school in a nearby village with an all-graduate faculty (except for one old-style Chinese teacher who lives in the temple where the school is located) and about seventy students attend regularly. The course includes mathematics, Chinese, ethics, music and hygiene. A Sunday School is being opened this week in the same place, and various pre-arranged school students are beginning to get into the village homes to try to improve general health standards. The village policeman and others are enthusiastic backers of the project and have contributed time, money and labor to its support. And work is now getting under way in connection with preparations for summer service activities (much fact-finding and planning having of course already been done). And so one might go on, but I fear the letter is already too long.

My regards please to your office and Mobilizer Comm. officials

Sincerely,
[Signature]

0423

June 11, 1940

Mr. R. Brank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, CHINA

Ack
8/13/40

My dear Fulton,

Thank you for your good letter of April 24.

It was certainly kind of you and Dr. Li to call on Mr. Tsai, as was requested by Mrs. Spafford. I will pass along to her the report of your visit. This is an illustration of the kind of "friend pigeon" that doesn't belong in any one's schedule, and that has no place in the program of any one who prides himself on efficiency. Yet where one can somehow find time for a kindly act of this sort, it is worth a lot.

We are delighted that your plans are shaping up so that you can remain at Yenching through the first term of the academic year, 1940-41. Between the lines of the letters you have been writing during the past year, we can see that you have been making a much larger contribution to Yenching than your modesty would allow you to admit. Dr. Porter and others have written in the highest terms of your services, and of the edification the University feels at the prospect of having you there until mid-winter next year. The McBrier Committee has given its formal approval to the extension of this appointment, and Mr. Parker is communicating that information officially to Dr. Stuart.

We will keep in mind the plans you are making for a trip south and west during the coming winter. If any special points at which you can be of help appear during the coming months, we will communicate with you. In any event, we hope that you will have an opportunity to visit many of the other Christian Colleges, to discover what they are doing, and to give them the benefit of your own experiences at Yenching. We will eagerly look forward to the opportunity of getting a first-hand report from you, after you return to America.

Every one here in the office joins in sending greetings and good wishes.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:MS

0424

Yenching University
Peiping West, China
July 28, 1940

5 copies
made

Dear Mr. *Garrison*:

You may recall two earlier installments of my China journal, the last having been sent during the earlier part of January. With nearly seven months to cover in this third attempt it will be necessary--fortunately for any who take the time to read it--to do a good bit more telescoping than usual. A brief month by month record of events that I have been related to will be followed, as before, by a few general impressions which I hope will prove to be of some interest.

January

New Year's Morning breakfast was interrupted by several window-shaking explosions which we learned later were caused by the blowing up of a big munitions' dump at a nearby railroad junction--an appropriate ushering in of what has proved to be a year so tragically full of war.

Our two-day holiday was barely sufficient to allow us all to take a few deep breaths before plunging into the serious business of ~~making~~ ~~out~~ and correcting--or taking, as the case might be--the mid-term examinations. And then the term came officially to an end with the "Convocation" on the 13th for the granting of diplomas to several students who had been delayed on account of war dislocations of one kind or another from graduating at the regular time in June; it was a simple but impressive occasion marked among other things by the presence of Ambassador and Mrs. Johnson (a nice bit of diplomacy!) and an effective address by Dr. Stuart. I spoke that evening at a special mid-week service at the Union Church in the city (dealing especially with the work of the Delta Coop. Farm in Mississippi as one of the newer projects in which "home-missions" are interested--the audience being chiefly American), and then was off early the next morning with my colleague [redacted] for a visit to a little church in a nearby village to see if there would be a suitable opportunity for student summer service activities. After a short train ride and a three mile walk we arrived at the little walled city of Ch'ang P'ing Hsien, in time for the last few minutes of the Sunday morning service in a ~~small~~ unheated room with only a cross to indicate its use as a chapel; I couldn't get much of the sermon but I could--and did--appreciate the singing! The arrangements were all made by [redacted], of course, while I passed the time in looking around the town--made especially colorful by the many-hued paper images of the house-hold deities hanging on almost every door in anticipation of the traditional New Year's festivities which were rapidly drawing near. The famous Ming Tombs being only a few li (a "li" is about 1/3 of a mile) distant, we walked out in the afternoon. We got as far as the first "p'ai lou" (arch-gateway)--a most impressive structure of carved marble)--but as everyone we asked said it was very dangerous to go further because of bandits we let prudence overcome our spirit of adventure and turned back (there had been fighting there the day before, also, between guerrilla forces and the Japanese).

On the train going back we had a vivid example of the absolutely senseless rudeness and harshness that so often characterized a small-souled person who has been given physical power. [redacted] and I sat down in an empty pair of seats, supposing that they had just been vacated by someone leaving the train. Suddenly, a soldier appeared behind Y.C. (I was opposite) and gave him a hard blow on the back of the neck

0425

with the butt of his gun!--punishment for having dared to sit in a seat reserved for His Majesty's soldiers, nobody, of course, having told us that it was so reserved! Y.C., by no means a lamb, controlled himself admirably--simply getting up and moving. I'm afraid I'd have hit first and thought--and probably repented in jail--afterward if I'd been Min his place; as it was I was so angry at the whole business that I was speechless for a moment (page Mr. Ripley!), and then blazed out in not too elegant English. But as the soldier understood no English or Chinese I finally realized I was accomplishing nothing, and so went back to join Y.C. But such stupid strategy for a group trying to rule another people!--not to speak of the rottenness of the action judged by a higher standard. A few weeks later Y.C. had to witness on another train the indecent treatment of a young woman by a group of armed soldiers (theoretically carrying out a search for contraband articles)--involving the complete removal of her clothing in the public car and eventually her removal from the train in the middle of the night at a station other than her destination! And so one might go on.

Back at Yenching for a couple of days, and then off with two Chinese friends and two Americans for Chahar and Shansi. I sat for a while in a seat directly across from several soldiers, one of whom played for quite some time in a most kindly fashion with a cute little boy--his face and eyes light up again and again in response to the boy's eager enthusiasm. Tragic that such a fine chap--seemingly--should be forced to engage in such a beastly business; and the little fellow's book was full of pictures glorifying fighting in the most colorful manner--another illustration of what war does to people. Passed through the historic ~~XXXX~~ Hankow pass--where one gets a great view of the Great Wall, ~~XXX~~ (I didn't stop this time, having been there several years ago) and then stepped between trains at the little town of Hsia Hua Yuan to see a cave recently excavated by a group of archeologists connected with Yenching; but unfortunately it was mostly under water at the time and we could only look in through a high window (the water being frozen over) at some of the figures carved high on the wall and on the ceiling. They were remarkably well preserved considering the fact that they were carved out some 1400 years ago in the Wei Dynasty period.

At Kalgan, which we reached about 11 P.M. we were met at the station by a White Russian chap connected with the police, who apparently had been notified that we were on the train. He took us to the station headquarters and put us through quite a grilling--in almost understandable English--quite obviously with the purpose of impressing his military master who sat quietly looking on; and to cap the climax he refused to return our passports--not without strong but ineffectual protests on our part. The net result was that we had to spend a good bit of the next day at the office of the secret police before we got back our passports. ~~XXXX~~ Apparently our sin was that we had only civilian passes. One young Japanese official (we saw nary a native official in this supposedly autonomous state of Kunggan), who spoke quite good English asked us to sit down and chat a bit, and then proceeded to launch into an attempt at a justification of J's actions in China; he spoke of how backward the Chinese are and how progressive the Japanese, and finally counseled us against wasting our time learning the Chinese language since in the future the only important language in Asia would be that of Japan. "Japan", he said, has nothing now to learn from the Chinese or the West, but vice versa. "In the West there are only two philosophies", he finally wound up, "good and bad; in Japan there are three--good, bad, and (I was hoping he'd say 'indifferent') neutral. Very interesting; very mysterious!" And so the military mind--of any nationality--proceeds, a marvel to behold. ~~And then with that~~ left of the day we got out to see one of the oldest sections of ~~the~~

Great Wall, going back to about 500 B.C. It was not in very good repair, but could at least be identified as a wall. Then toward dusk we climbed up a hill near the Swedish Mission compound where we were staying to see what turned out to be a perfectly lovely little temple of a combined Buddhist and Taoist variety. In good repair it was, the roofs being especially fine, rising one above the other in exquisite harmony of line and color. The whole structure--small temples, grottoes and living quarters--seemed to grow right out of the cliff. And there was a magnificent view of the Kalgan plain with other hills in the background--all made especially lovely by the colors of the sunset. It was the sort of place one would like to visit for quite a while--with a sandwich, cup of tea and a book! And how I wished I had come earlier and brought a camera.

We were up before dawn the next morning to catch the train for Ta'ung, which we ~~reached~~ reached about 2, after a ride made especially interesting by frequent glimpses of the Wall making its way up and down hills like a great serpent. After depositing our belongings in a little inn we made our way into the walled city which was one of the Wei capitals. Two large temples date back to that period (though they were in part restored during the Ming period) and show marked Tatar (Tartar) influence. And another Wei structure still to be seen is a giant "screen"--really a wall covered with porcelain ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ of many colors, and decorated with the nine writhing dragons. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Missionaries whom we visited (in time for tea) told us that their work had been made much more difficult during the past few years, and that the growing and use of opium was greatly on the increase (which seems to be the case throughout this whole region). (I might add, in case this is viewed by a censor, that there was a conference going on with people from many districts--and these who made the above remarks are not stationed in Ta'ung). There is considerable fighting in the area--both Yen Shi-shan's men and portions of the 8th Route Army being around.

We had planned to spend the whole of the next day at the famous Yun Kang caves outside the city--taking the bus leaving early in the morning and returning by the last one in the late afternoon. But to our disgust we had to make four instead of two bus-trips, using up a lot of precious time. Here was the situation: We took the earliest bus out, which was scheduled to return at noon, leave for the caves again at two, and return finally at 5. It was a pretty cold trip, so we spent some time ~~on~~ ^{after} arriving in a little tea shop getting warmed and looking over some pictures that were on display, and then after a while made our way up to the first cave. Happening to see the J. driver at the mouth, ^{we} he said through a Chinese interpreter--"You'd better hurry as we start back at 12". "Oh," we replied, "we're not going back till 5." But he replied that he wouldn't come back in the afternoon unless there were people wanting to come out. We asked how many had to want to come for him to be able to make the trip--"Oh, two or three". "Very well, we'll guarantee the three tickets." No, that wouldn't do. He finally offered to buy three extra tickets right then, and eventually to give him \$15 extra, explaining that we had come all the way from Peiping and could stay but one day. ~~But~~ ^{but} all to no avail. So, as we couldn't run the risk of being left to spend the night with no bedding, we had to go back to the city at 12--come out again at 2, and return at 5! Such is the ~~beastly~~ ^{beastly} mind, I take it.

But even though we had to rush more than we would have liked, we were able to get a quick view of all the caves. The outstanding relics of the Wei Dynasty (already mentioned) they are impressive beyond words. A whole hillside is peopled with beautifully carved figures ranging from a few inches in height to over 70 feet, and from stylized ~~figures~~ images of the Buddha in repose to the most utterly life-like little cherubs

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you could possibly imagine. Much of the color has faded almost completely, yet enough still remains in spots to give an idea of what the original effect must have been. And one of the temples (formerly there was one in front of each of the 14 caves) is still standing, with its original roof tiles of levelly peacock blue. But you must yourself visit the caves to ~~XXXX~~ understand what the general effect is like--not to speak of appreciating the delicate beauty of the individual figures; or at least you must have some picture before you while an account is being given--so I shall postpone further description till I return. *nc*

having finished the business part of his trip--making arrangements for summer volunteer activities in the area for Yenching students--he decided to go back to Peiping; the student had already left; so we three Americans headed south for Taiku and Taiyuan--the principal cities in central Shansi. Most of the day we rode through fairly flat country though there were a few hills which grew into mountains as the evening came on. We passed right through the southern branch of the Great Wall and by numerous heavily fortified stations, each with guards armed to the teeth peering up and down the platforms--a sign of strength or weakness? We spent the night--the train travels only in the day-time--at a little inn outside the walled city of Ningwa--the dirtiest I had visited since ~~XXXX~~ 1935--a filthy open toilet in the court yard, opium-smoking, etc., etc. But it was too late to go elsewhere, and we are fortunately able to secure a room to ourselves. As it was very cold we were glad to see that the stove connected with the "k'ang" (the stone, mat-covered bed) so that the heat went underneath--an ingenious device which one frequently finds. Our host in Kalgan had told of us of having been too hot on a similar k'ang in pretty cold weather, but we had not taken his warnings seriously enough to heart, so put some more coal on the fire, spread out our bedding and turned in. I was the nearest to the stove, and within an hour I awoke so hot that I simply couldn't endure it, and had to get up and open the door and put cold water on the fire! The train started just a bit after dawn (we just barely made it) and continued to climb for several hours--wending its way through a spectacular mountain-range. It was the coldest part of the trip, for the fire unfortunately went out in the stove in the old-fashioned box car in which we were riding, and was not kindled again till well along in the afternoon after which we well-nigh toasted. Down again to the great Taiyuan plain, reaching the capital city after dark (I wouldn't let this sentence get by on a student theme!). We were very thoroughly searched by a pompous little sentry, and then made our way to what turned out to be an excellent inn--clean, warm and roomy--where we made up for the night before. Not knowing anyone in the city, we spent a few hours wandering around, both inside and outside--admiring the grand location of the city, surrounded as it is by a range of pretty high hills--and then caught a train for Taiku.

It was a welcome sight to see several American flags floating over a group of buildings near the station--marking our temporary destination, King-hsien or Oberlin-in-China. Our visit was an unannounced one, but we knew there was a young couple (about my age) in charge, and I felt almost as though I had already been there through having heard Frank Hutchins speak of the school so often (he was formerly on the staff, then at Yale-in-China, and is now Pres. of Berea). We were warmly welcomed, dined and put to bed (I on a good soft rug on the floor) after a good "bull-session" with our hosts, who are a grand pair! The school (of middle-school grade) has a ~~field~~ plant, most of which is now unused (the teachers and students having gone west); however, part of their agricultural researches are going on, and there is a small primary school being ~~XXXX~~ conducted. We talked about conditions and prospects, etc. which I will tell you about later,

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had a grand all-day tramp to the top of the highest of the surrounding hills (about 3700 ft.--some 1700 above the plain), visiting several interesting old temples, an old family castle-retreat, some small carved caves of unknown date, and winding up at the American Board compound for a fine visit (and a delicious tea!)--a small but select group being "on the job".

Our visit had left me speechless--literally--^(a cold) which was no doubt a great joy to my companions during the two-day train trip back to Peiping. The first day again took us through glorious mountain country--sheer precipices, deep gorges, waterfalls and the like for hour after hour. We saw several overturned cars en route, but couldn't find out whether it was the result of guerrilla activity or just an accident. The g's are in the hills in considerable numbers, and there is periodic fighting of a not too vigorous sort; we heard a few ~~XXXX~~ guns in action our first night at Taiku.

Our last night in an inn also left us with the impression of great heat rather than the bitter cold that we had expected to find everywhere along the line. We had declined the offer of a room with a heated k'ang, as you will understand, and thought we were quite ~~safe~~ ^{safe} in one which had a little stove quite separate from the bed. But I woke about five-thirty to find the room full of smoke, about the same time as did one of the other chaps; we both coughed a bit, and then he leapt up saying his bed-clothes were on fire, as they were! For he had apparently kicked some off and into contact with the stove. A few minutes longer, and we'd have been properly cooked! And then the last lap in a roomy steam-heated car--a substantial meal with fresh apple-pie at the Y--and out to Yenching, the school bus providing us with our only breakdown of the entire journey!

A number of tragic things had happened in our absence: the beloved wife of Dr. Wu had suddenly passed away; a girl student who had flunked out had committed suicide; and another had been attacked by her aunt with a meat-cleaver. And the prices of rice and other commodities were still on its way up. We had been absolutely unable to buy rice in several restaurants in Shansi, and a similar situation seemed to be developing in this area--the result ~~IX~~ of floods and war. Everywhere one saw long lines in front of rice shops, people waiting for hours in hope of getting the small amount that might be available--those that could afford the terrific price. And many, many could get none--the poorest as always being the hardest hit by this calamitous turn of events. But you have no doubt read accounts of the situation--one which many felt might develop into wide-spread violence before long. That it did not is hard to explain.

February & March

Classes started again on the fifth, and the usual term-time activities were again under way. However, as January lasted entirely too long (in this journal), I shall skip over the normal events and mention merely a few of the more special ones. The traditional lunar New Year's celebrations started on the 8th (with our class attendance at a record low!) and lasted for a couple of weeks. It's a general stock-taking, account-settling, holiday period which nearly everyone but we celebrated officially (we didn't, since the Natl. Govt. some years ago condemned the practice--mistakenly in my judgment, at least in so wholesale a fashion); and most of us entered into the festivities in some manner (if only by dismissing classes when less than half turned up). One day several of us went out to the "White Cloud Temple" just south-west of the city on the occasion of their annual "Temple-meeting" or fair. As on all such occasions worship, commerce, and general good-time (of the amusement park variety--trying to throw rings around little figures, hit a partly covered bell with a coin, etc.)

are all mingled together. And in the upstairs shrine we had a further example of mingling in the presence of not only a Taoist ~~MYKIND~~ altar (it being a Taoist temple), but also of a Yin Yang and a Confucian one--the latter much the simplest of the three.

On the 20th, near the end of the celebrations, Mitchell and I made a bicycle pilgrimage to the Yellow Temple to see their annual "ta kwei" ("Beat the devil") ceremony; but we found no one there but a watchman who said there had been no celebrations of any sort since the invasion. However, the temple itself was well worth the visit, especially the white marble structure at its center with scenes from the Buddha's life beautifully carved on it--in bas-relief style; the great builder of the last dynasty--Ch'ien Lung--was responsible for erecting this structure as well as many many others in and about the city. We circled around also on the return trip to see what remains (nothing but a great long mound) of the Peking City wall of Kublai Khan--the emperor made especially famous to the west, as you recall, through the writings of Marco Polo. The city area extended considerably north and west of the present site apparently.

We had better luck on March 8, when we went in to see another "ta kwei" ceremony--this time at the famous Lama Temple in the northern part of the city. The lamas dress up in elaborate and weird costumes to represent the various denizens of hell, and then go through a rather lengthy series of dances which culminate in (theoretically) in the humbling of the hellish powers by the heavenly; but the former being much the more interestingly represented, ignorant spectators like myself may perhaps be pardoned if they draw the wrong conclusions. In one of the halls is a tremendous gilded statue of the Buddha, soaring up some 75 feet, and supposed to be carved out of one immense tree-trunk. But ~~XXX~~ it's refreshing to leave this florid, and frequently obscene, temple and make one's way a few ~~100~~ hundred yards to the simple, but infinitely more dignified and impressive, Hall of Classics and Temple of Confucius, which stand side by side. Natural beauty and human learning are harmoniously combined--the latter represented by the great stone slabs containing all of the greatest Chinese classics (so that they can never be lost or destroyed), and the former by the surrounding grove of ancient cedars. (In connection with the Lama Devil Dance, I meant to mention the burning of a straw figure as a scape-goat which was to take place the following day--reminding one of the ancient custom among the Hebrews; but we were unable to return for that.)

A later trip to town, with a sociology class, took me to a school for deaf and dumb children which seemed to be well set up and both efficiently and sympathetically run by the Christian principal and her staff, and also to the Temple of Earth north of the city which is now used (most of it) as an asylum for those suffering from mental diseases; also efficiently run (under the supervision of highly trained doctors and social workers), it is fuller than usual because of the number of tragic cases resulting from sufferings brought on by the war--one of the grisliest effects of our slaughters.

Easter, despite its coming so early this year, was a beautiful warm day, with signs of new life bursting forth on all sides. There were several lovely services held outdoors--sunrise, Sunday school, and the main morning service at which a large number of students joined the university church; and in the evening several students of the Fellowship put on a most effective and dramatic pantomime of the Resurrection story.

April and May

(I must be more brief!) With the coming of spring, the campus began to take on new colors--a never-ending succession right up to the present time, thanks to the clever planning of the original land-scaping

committee and its successors. The Western Hills and the Summer Palace grounds also became more inviting, and outing trips began to increase by leaps and bounds for all of us. The most memorable of them all for me was a three day (and two night) jaunt with one of the Fellowship groups--I going along as guest, chaperone--and--supplier-of-the-cooking--and-eating-equipment (as I discovered after accepting the invitation). We made one of the court-yards of a famous old temple (Wo Fu Sau--"Sleeping Buddha Temple", there being a immense statue of Buddha in a reclining position in one of the buildings) our headquarters, and took a number of hiking and bicycle trips to other places of interest. It was a completely "do-it-yourself" affair (I like to think that the experiment in my house this year helped pave the way for this and other similar expeditions, at least in helping to make doing all the work seem more natural)--some cooking and others washing dishes, etc., in turn; and the food was right good! I'd like to describe the individuals and tell of some of the details of the trip, but I'll pause only to mention one particularly vivid impression--that of the contrast between the very sheltered existence of the Chinese girls of but a few years ago as described, for example, in Lin Yutang's "Moment in Peking", which I was reading at the time, and that of the half dozen charming young ladies who so naturally entered into this camping experience with their fellow men students--of course with a sedate old chaperone to see that all went well, (and incidentally to help with the evening devotions which they arranged as the finish of the day's program). This was during our week of spring vacation, which soon passed--as did the rest of the term, with seniors especially busy in whipping into final shape their bachelor theses. (They had my special sympathy when I remembered the all-night vigil that several of us had just before the deadline for graduation theses at Union!)

May was marked by a number of graduation recitals--all of them remarkably good, in my judgment--by students majoring in music, by Dr. Stuart's return from the south and west and subsequent talks (frank and penetrating as usual) in which he gave some of his impressions (quite hopeful and encouraging on the whole), by the annual university track-meet, a grand evening's program by students who had been learning various folk dances during the year and by a class of women students of interpretive dancing, by the annual "Homecoming Day" for alumni (the one day when male members of the community are allowed to visit the girls' quadrangles--not even the President being allowed within the portals on any other occasion, I've been told!), and by the presentation--both at Yenching and in the city--of Haydn's "The Creation", well-received on both occasions.

The above sentence-paragraph might well be expanded into several pages, especially if one were to deal adequately with such events as Dr. Porter's punning of the 220 high-hurdles on his 60th birthday (he was intercollegiate champion in this event in his student days at Yale), and of the climax of the trackmeet when four of us from the faculty were drafted to run a 400 yard relay and triumphed gloriously!--(against a "power-house" team composed of men who had never run any kind of formal race before in their lives--this I add for conscience's sake).

June, and July, and August up to the 11th (the date today):

The first week of June was the last of classes, and hence a busy one--as was the following week of examinations (the former especially so for me as I had three chapel services to lead and a report on Tillich's thought to make to the Peking Theological Society!). There were a number of farewell meetings, both for graduating students and faculty members going on furlough--and finally the Baccalaureate Service on the 16th, the School of Religion Graduation Exercises on the 17th, and the University Commencement on the 18th. The academic procession

was commendably brief considering the weather--but too short for photographic purposes--and the Exercises themselves were dignified and impressive--especially when one thought of the terribly upset state of the world in which these young people were ~~about~~ to begin their work. Was there ever a year when graduating classes were confronted with a more starkly tragic situation? And yet here at any rate the dominant note was one of hope; yes, and even confidence in the future; God grant that it may never turn to despair!

Visitors both from America and south China (Cowles and Becker from Union, and the Craighills from Wuhu) gave me the opportunity for another visit to the Summer Palace the following week; and then on the 28th Stewart Mitchell, YL. Hsiao (both students) and I started on our two-week trip to the Diamond Mountains in Korea.

This turned out to be--despite a good deal of rain--one of the most enjoyable trips I've ever taken. If you can imagine the best peaks of the Rockies, everything above 9000 feet--~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ quite close together, and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ whole mass right down by the sea, then you'll have a fairly good idea of the Diamond Mountain Region--if you multiply the number of waterfalls by two or three and add some picturesque Oriental temples and wayside inns. Gorgeous country!--but both words and space fail me, so I must go on. After three or four days of exciting, and strenuous, hiking and climbing, we had to leave on account of various responsibilities. We had a short time in Seoul and Pingyang--enough to get acquainted with the uniquely quaint Korean costumes, spicy food, and first-rate museums, and a few of the people. One sees the effects on their actions and frame of mind of the police-and-spy-system in a highly developed form, but their spirits are not broken if those I met are at all typical of their countrymen. And if events turn out as we hope, liberty will sometime again be theirs!

An official sight-seeing tour of Mukden spent about 2/3 of the time at war memorials and the rest at the few really interesting old Manchu palaces. ~~And~~ then the others headed back for Peiping and I for the seaside summer resort, Peitaino, where I was to help with a five-day conference for high-school young people. People seemed to feel it went pretty well (despite my being theoretically "director"), though I'd have been more convinced of its value if the students (mostly American) hadn't been quite so willing to accept whatever was offered--if there had been one or two "stormy petrels"; for that would have meant that some real thinking was going on. But perhaps I am judging in terms of college conferences.

And finally, the last four weeks here at Yenching have passed entirely too quickly. With delightful weather on the whole, I've been able to put in a good many hours a day at the Bible and language study program I had mapped out for this period--with time out occasionally for tennis and hiking. The language is coming a little more rapidly now; ~~and~~ I find myself getting a good bit of the table conversations and I can at least recognize something over 800 characters--a bare beginning, but supposed to be much harder to get (I'm told--and hope it's true!) than the second thousand (I hope to have rounded out the first in a couple of weeks). A visit to Yenching and Peiping of one of the Yale-in-China staff, on his way to America--John Runnalls--was pleasant and enlightening for us all, as was Dr. T.C. Chao's delightfully intimate and kindly-humorous account of his year's experience in K'unming; we are all delighted to have him back on the campus, and look forward other accounts of his trip and work. A fall from his horse kept the President abed for a considerable time--giving him incidentally a much-needed rest--but he has recovered rapidly.

And so life goes on.

August 12, 1940

Dear Mr. Garside:

You may recall two earlier installments of my China Journal, the last having been sent during the earlier part of January. With nearly seven months to cover in this third attempt, it will be necessary to do a good bit more telescoping than usual. A brief month by month record of events that I have been related to will be followed, as before, by a few general impressions which I hope will prove to be of some interest.

January

New Year's Morning breakfast was interrupted by several window-shaking explosions which we learned later were caused by the blowing up of a big munitions dump at a near-by railroad junction - an appropriate ushering in of what has proved to be a year so tragically full of war.

On the 14th I was off early in the morning with my colleague, Wei Yung-sh'ing, for a visit to a little church in a near-by village to see if there would be a suitable opportunity for student summer service activities. After a short train ride and a three mile walk we arrived at the little walled city of Ch'ang P'ing Hsien, in time for the last few minutes of the Sunday morning service in a small unheated room with only a cross to indicate its use as a chapel; I couldn't get much of the sermon, but I could - and did - appreciate the singing!

On the train going back we had a vivid example of the absolutely senseless rudeness and harshness that so often characterizes a small-souled person who has been given physical power. Yung-sh'ing and I sat down in an empty pair of seats, supposing that they had just been vacated by some one leaving the train. Suddenly a soldier appeared behind Yung-sh'ing (I was opposite) and gave him a hard blow on the back of the neck with the butt of his gun - punishment for having dared to sit in a seat reserved for His Majesty's soldiers, nobody, of course, having told us that it was so reserved! Yung-sh'ing, by no means a lamb, controlled himself admirably - simply getting up and moving. I'm afraid I'd have hit first and thought - and probably repented in jail - afterward if I'd been in his place; as it was, I was so angry at the whole business that I was speechless for a moment (page Mr. Ripley) and then blazed out in not too elegant English. But as the soldier understood no English or Chinese, I finally realized I was accomplishing nothing, and so went back to join Yung-sh'ing. Such stupid strategy for a group trying to rule another people - not to speak of the rotteness of the action judged by a higher standard!

Back at Yenhsing for a couple of days, and then off with two Chinese friends and two Americans for Chahar and Shansi. I sat for a while in a seat directly across from several soldiers, one of whom played for quite some time in a most kindly fashion with a little boy - his face and eyes lighting up again and again in response to the boy's eager enthusiasm. Fragile that such a fine chap - seemingly - should be forced to engage in such a beastly business; and the little fellow's book was full of pictures glorifying fighting in the most colorful manner - another illustration of what war does to people.

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Letter from
Mr. Frank Fulton

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Letter from
Mr. Frank Fulton

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We had better luck on March 8, when we went in to see another "ta kwai" ceremony - this time at the famous Lawa Temple in the northern part of the city. But it was refreshing to leave this florid, and frequently obscene, temple and make one's way a few hundred yards to the simple, but infinitely more dignified and impressive, Hall of Classics and Temple of Confucius, which stand side by side. Natural beauty and human learning are harmoniously combined -- the latter represented by the great stone slabs containing all of the greatest Chinese classics (so that they can never be lost or destroyed) and the former by the surrounding grove of ancient cedars.

A later trip to town, with a sociology class, took me to a school for deaf and dumb children which seemed to be well set up and both efficiently and sympathetically run by the Christian principal and her staff, and also to the Temple of Earth north of the city which is now used (most of it) as an asylum for those suffering from mental diseases; also efficiently run (under the supervision of highly trained doctors and social workers) it is fuller than usual because of the number of tragic cases resulting from sufferings brought on by the war -- one of the grisliest effects of our slaughters.

Easter, despite its coming so early this year, was a beautiful warm day, with signs of new life bursting forth on all sides. There were several lovely services held outdoors -- sunrise, Sunday School, and the main morning service at which a large number of students joined the university church. In the evening several students of the Fellowship put on a most effective and dramatic pantomime of the Resurrection story.

April and May.

With the coming of spring, the campus began to take on new colors -- a never-ending succession right up to the present time, thanks to the clever planning of the original landscaping committee and its successors. The Western Hills and the Summer Palace grounds also became more inviting, and outing trips began to increase by leaps and bounds for all of us. The most memorable of them all for me was a four day and three night jaunt with one of the Fellowship groups -- I going along as guest-chaperon and supplier-of-the-cooking-and-eating-equipment. We made one of the courtyards of a famous old temple our headquarters, and took a number of hiking and bicycle trips to other places of interest. It was a completely "do-it-yourself" affair, some cooking and others washing dishes, etc., in turn, and the food was right good! I'd like to describe the individuals and tell of some of the details of the trip, but I'll pause only to mention one particularly vivid impression -- that of the contrast between the very sheltered existence of the Chinese girls of but a few years ago as described, for example, in Lin Yutang's "Moment in Peking", which I was reading at the time, and the half dozen charming young ladies who so naturally entered into this camping experience with their fellow men students -- of course with a sedate old chaperone to see that all went well and, incidentally, to help with the evening devotions which they arranged as the finish of the day's program.

0436

Letter from
Mr. Frank Fulton

4.

May was marked by a number of graduation recitals by students majoring in music -- all of them remarkably good, in my judgment --, by Dr. Stuart's return from the south and west and subsequent talks in which he gave some of his impressions (quite hopeful and encouraging on the whole), by the annual university track-meet, a grand evening's program by students who had been learning various folk dances during the year and by a class of women students of interpretative dancing, by the annual "Homecoming Day" for alumni, and by the presentation -- both at Yenching and in the city -- of Haydn's "The Creation".

June and July and August up to the 11th (the date today):

The first week of June was the last of classes, and hence a busy one -- as was the following week of examinations (the former especially so for me as I had three chapel services to lead and a report on Tillich's thought to make to the Peking Theological Society!) There were a number of farewell meetings, both for graduating students and for faculty members going on furlough -- and finally the Baccalaureate Service on the 16th, the School of Religion Graduation Exercises on the 17th, and the University Commencement on the 18th. The academic procession was commendably brief considering the weather, and the Exercises themselves were dignified and impressive -- especially when one thought of the terribly upset state of the world in which these young people were about to begin their work. Was there ever a year when graduating classes were confronted with a more starkly tragic situation? And yet here at any rate the dominant note was one of hope -- yes and even confidence in the future. God grant that it may never turn to despair!

The last four weeks here at Yenching have passed entirely too quickly. With delightful weather on the whole, I have been able to put in a good many hours a day at the Bible and language study program I had mapped out for this period -- with time out occasionally for tennis and hiking. The language is coming a little more rapidly now; I find myself getting a good bit of the table conversations, and I can at least recognize something over 800 characters. A visit to Yenching and Peiping of one of the Yale-in-China staff, on his way to America -- John Rummalla -- was pleasant and enlightening for us all, as was Dr. T. C. Chao's delightfully intimate and kindly-humorous account of his year's experience in K'umming. We are all delighted to have Dr. Chao back on the campus, and look forward to other accounts of his trip and work. A fall from his horse kept the President abed for a considerable time -- giving him incidentally a much-needed rest -- but he has recovered rapidly.

And so life goes on.

I haven't said very much about war -- either here or in Europe -- but of course it is constantly in our minds, as it must be in yours. Our newspaper, the Peking Chronicle, gives us Dantai (Japanese), Transocean (German), and Reuter (English) reports, with emphasis on the first two in its reports and editorials. However, it frequently reprints New York Times editorials and special articles, which are always a godsend.

0437

Letter from
Mr. Frank Fulton

5.

The university also subscribes to the full reports from Reuters and Trans-ocean which are posted on two bulletin boards which confront each other and give us a daily war of words. However, I dare say you feel the actual pressure of events more in America than we do on this amazingly peaceful little oasis. The tragic - and almost unbelievable - events that have taken place in Europe have also, as you know, had their effects out here -- the Burma Road, Indo-China, but also, at last, the cessation of American shipments of oil and scrap iron. Governmental actions which we desire seem seldom to come as soon as they should, but still we can be thankful when they do take place -- even if they are not taken for the best reasons.

The food shortage in this area which became so acute in the late winter and spring has been taken care of, at least for the time being, by the good crops of the summer. Prices have dropped considerably on the basic commodities, though they are still too high. Fortunately, there have as yet been no floods comparable to last year's, though some areas south of us are suffering to some extent from too heavy rains. Whether the hoarding and profiteering of last year can be prevented during the coming winter remains to be seen. The military situation remains substantially the same -- the railroads, main highways, and chief cities being under one control, and the rest of the territory under the other. As regards the nation as a whole, the best reports I can get would indicate that there is no likelihood of capitulation on either side in the near future, the war probably continuing along attrition lines for a considerable period, perhaps years. A great deal depends, of course, on outside factors -- especially the attitudes and actions of America and Russia.

The Fellowship carried on its large program throughout the term -- thirty-five groups (with an average of 14 members) meeting week by week for study, worship, and social purposes. A "Religious Knowledge Week" just before Easter, with special evening lectures by members of the faculty, and a "Yenching Life Week" for consideration of campus problems and opportunities were participated in by all the groups and various others as well. We also started and are carrying on a primary school in a near-by village which has had no such opportunity for its children during the past three years. An education major is Dean, and he has a faculty of over twenty working with him -- and a student body of about sixty. The week-day curriculum includes Chinese, Mathematics, ethics, music, and hygiene, and there is a Sunday-School on Sunday mornings. The village policeman (a grand chap) and elders -- and all the parents -- are enthusiastic backers of the project and have contributed time, money, and labor to its support. In addition to the group teaching at this school ("Yenshi" - "West of Yenching") more than thirty have gone out to various near-by villages and cities for special forms of volunteer service during the summer.

But I must bring this to a close. I'll try to do better both as to quality and quantity next time -- higher and lesser respectively!

Sincerely,

R. Frank Fulton

0438

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燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING WEST, CHINA.

August 13, 1940
Ack. 10/2/40

Mr. B.A. Garside
Yenching University, American Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Garside:

Thank you so much for your letter of June 11. And will you please convey my great appreciation to the other members of the McBrier Committee for their action approving the recommendation that I carry on here for a time?

I hardly know whether to enclose this third installment of my journal, for it turned out to be of a much more personal nature than the earlier two, and consequently of little if any interest to others than members of my family. But you may care to glance through it someday during a rainy lunch-hour.

My regards please to your colleagues in the office and on the Committee. And my very best wishes as you carry on your important, but I imagine very difficult, work.

Sincerely,

Frank Fulton

I am sending under separate cover a copy of the Y. C. U. Annual report — prepared entirely by Wei Yung-ching.

0440

燕京大學
YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEKING WEST, CHINA

August 13, 1940
1940年8月13日

Mr. E.A. Garrison
Yenching University, American Office
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Garrison:

Thank you so much for your letter of June 11. And
will you please convey my great appreciation to the other
members of the Morrison Committee for their action approving the
recommendation that I carry on here for a time?
I hardly know whether to enclose this first installment
of my journal, for it turned out to be of a much more personal
nature than the earlier two, and consequently of little if any
interest to others than members of my family. But you may care
to glance through it, someday during a rainy two-hour
lull. My regards please to your colleagues in the office and
on the Committee. And my very best wishes as you carry on
your important, but I imagine very difficult, work.

Sincerely,

Frank Weston

*under separate cover a
C. F. General report - prepared
in New York City.*

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0441

October 4, 1940

Mr. E. Frank Fulton
Yenching University
Peking, China

Dear Fulton,

Thank you for your letter of August 13, with a copy of the third installment of your journal. I have read this account with keen interest, and am passing along somewhat condensed copies of it to members of the McBrier Foundation Committee and to a few others who will be especially interested.

We have also read with interest the annual report of the Yenta Christian Fellowship, which we will be using in various ways. It has been a great privilege to meet Mr. Y. C. Wei, who seems to be getting off to a good start in his work at Union Seminary.

With all good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

EAG:MB

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