

333 5089

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Yenching
Corres.
Gibson, Charles 1922-1927
Gibson, Henrietta + Mary
1927 - 1946

1240

C O P Y

November 3rd, 1922

Mr. Charles Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Gibson:-

As you will recall, our Board of Foreign Missions is co-operating with other Boards in conducting and strengthening our Union Christian University in Peking. During recent years the University has had many problems on which decisions have been reached only after an expression of widely divergent judgment. The work of the University now is going forward, both in its teaching on the field, and in its organization. The Board of Trustees here in New York is made up of representatives from our own Board, and the other co-operating Boards.

About six months ago there was launched a campaign for one million dollars. The Rockefeller Foundation has already taken considerable interest. Some large gifts have been secured. A firm which has had considerable success in raising funds for various projects - Tamblin & Brown - has been employed to assist in this campaign which is to end with the close of the year 1923. As a part of the cultivation, there is about to be published a leaflet quoting from Bishop Bashford, Bishop Lewis and other leaders in our Church. At a conference this week it was felt that this leaflet should contain not only statements from ministers, but from those leading laymen who have some first hand knowledge of the situation. Dr. Mott is to be quoted: I could mention others. It was our judgment that it would be very helpful to have a statement from you. The statement need not be more than two or three sentences in length, but designed to bring clearly to the attention of the people, the importance of a great Christian University in Peking, the capitol of China, and the strategy and worth of Peking University.

I am writing this letter in addition to one which will doubtless come to you from Mr. Strong, of our campaign group, who is preparing this leaflet. The cause stands on its own merits. I know you will do all that you can to co-operate.

Cordially yours,

(Signed)

RAW
MEW

RALPH A. WARD.

1241

May 6, 1924

Charles Gibson
Gibson and Snow, Drugs
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gibson :

Let me send you this word of very deep appreciation, not only of your personal kindnesses to me while in Albany with President Stuart last week, but also for your generous assumption of the responsibility for a faculty residence, to cost \$7,000.00, to be erected this coming year on the campus of Peking University. As suggested at the meeting, it will be agreeable if this is paid in two equal installments - one on or before January 1, 1924, and one on or before July 15, 1924.

I am very sure from what took place Monday night, that without your assistance it would have been very difficult to get the Presbyterians and other friends there to assume the responsibility for a house themselves. But your challenge brought the response. Dr. Moldenhawer rode down to the train with us and agreed before we left to take the responsibility for securing the other residence.

I am planning to be in Albany within the next day or two, on my way to Springfield, and will check up with Dr. Moldenhawer and Dr. Hopkins on the results.

I am very much impressed with your new pastor, Dr. Hageman. He strikes me as a fine fellow and very able. I particularly like the way he goes after things personally. After all, personal work is the only way to land anything, whether it be in business or the church.

Please remember me most kindly to your daughter. I appreciated sincerely the evening in your home.

Very cordially yours

JHL:S

1242

November 16, 1924

Charles Gibson
Gibson-Snow Co., Inc.
345 Broadway
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Thank you very much for your note.

I am sorry I missed you in Albany but will hope to have better success next time. Just at this present moment Mrs. Lewis is in the hospital at Lincoln, close to where we live, and so it would have been rather difficult for me to have gotten away today even had you been home.

If you are home the 20th or 21st I may come up and see you at that time if I do not see you at Pittsburgh.

Very sincerely yours

1243

November 24, 1924

Mr Charles Gibson
Broadway
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Mr Gibson:

It was a pleasure to catch at least a glimpse of you at the Board meeting in Pittsburgh, but of course the sessions were so crowded that it was a practical impossibility to get time to talk of other things. The minds of everyone there were centered on the terrific problem of trying in some way to meet a tragic situation so that the consequences might be less drastic than appeared necessary.

Do you plan to be in Albany all of this week? If so I shall probably come up on Friday.

Very sincerely yours,

1244

ALBANY
TROY
SYRACUSE
ROCHESTER
BUFFALO

GIBSON-SNOW CO., Inc.**WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS**

645-657 BROADWAY

ALBANY, N.Y.

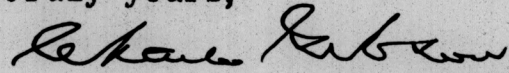
November 13, 1924

Rev. James H. Lewis,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y?
My dear Mr. Lewis:

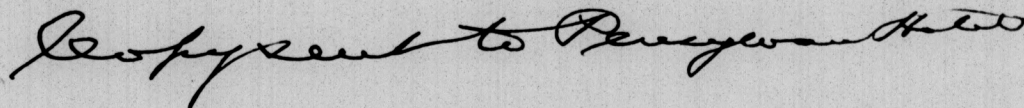
Your favor of the 12th at hand and in reply would say that I am leaving this afternoon and will go to Pittsburgh before I return to attend a meeting of the Missionary Board. This will bring me back to Albany about a week from to-day.

I have not seen you to thank you for the letter about the Texas property. This was just the information that we needed. We all send best wishes.

Very truly yours,



CG.MM



1245

August 19, 1935

Mr. Charles Gibson
Gibson-Snow Company, Inc.
645-657 Broadway
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

President Stuart spent yesterday with us here in New York. He has just arrived from China for a very important conference on University matters. He left last night for New England and will probably return to China the middle of September.

Dr. Stuart reports that though the accounts which we have read of the recent events in China have undoubtedly been exaggerated, nevertheless the whole Chinese nation is on the qui vive. There is a great tension there; the nation is aroused as never before in its history; it is becoming unified as never before in its history. It is also on the brink of the greatest "push-forward" in the history of the people. Our university has come through this past crisis not only with the fullest respect of all the Chinese and thoughtful Americans, but it has also come to a place of unusual leadership because of the foresight and sanity of its faculty and students. You will be interested to know that when the students of all the universities and colleges of Peking assembled to select a delegate to represent them at the National Student Conference in Shanghai to discuss what the students of the nation should do at this time, it was voted that the Peking representatives should come from our university - and the man selected was a student volunteer for Christian life service!

I wonder whether you could pay at this time a portion of the subscription which you made for a faculty residence, amounting to \$7500.00. The residence is already under construction and we are certainly scraping the bottom of our cruse of oil to get the money to pay for our construction.

The Presbyterians are terrible! I have been after them and after them and now Dr. Stuart is going to go up there "as a Presbyterian" and see if he can't get what they promised. You may know that I spent a week up there last summer, a year ago, trying to complete the thing we started, and though they were all very friendly, they were not financially productive.

With very warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours

1246

August 26, 1925

Mr. Charles Gibson
Gibson Snow Co., Inc.
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Thank you for your good note of the 21st. Your impression that your offer was that the Methodists would take care of the building of one house if the Presbyterians would do the same is correct, and I am not sorry that you insist on our coming up to scratch.

President Stuart is with me today and I am telling him of your letter. He has already accepted an invitation to spend this weekend with the Haycks and I trust that he then can bring forth some fruit himself.

With warm personal regards,

Very sincerely yours

1247

December 31, 1925

Reverend J. V. Moldenhawer
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Albany, New York

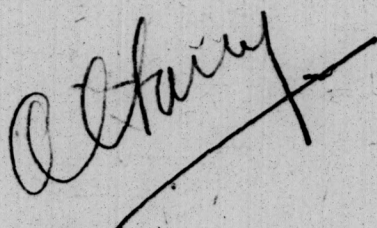
Dear Dr. Moldenhawer:

Is the time not opportune to make a real drive for the residence at Peking? As you know, the Gibson residence depends entirely upon its being matched by the Presbyterians and so it is really two residences which depend upon this. We are in very serious need of these residences and construction must begin not later than the 15th of March. To accomplish this purpose we must have the funds in hand or pledged before that time. Mr. Gibson will give us the money as soon as we get the Presbyterian group pledges, and I would hope all payments could be made within the year 1926.

Will you not advise me of your will in the matter?

With warm personal regards and greetings of the
season,

Very sincerely yours



June 2, 1927

My dear Mr. Gibson:

I sincerely appreciate the fine spirit by which you are continuing your cordial "challenge" to the Presbyterians in Albany. I saw Drs. Moldenhawer, Hopkins and Fitch and one or two others, and all believe that a very real and serious attempt should be made to carry out the original plan. I feel very hopeful that it will be done. When it is accomplished, every dollar of your gift will have doubled its service.

Owing to the rise in the rate of exchange and to advance in cost of labor and material, our homes at the University are now costing us \$8,000.00. In order to have the matter in definite form I should be glad to have a letter from you stating your proposal; in this way I can lay it before our Presbyterian friends in a bona fide way.

Appreciating deeply your fine interest in this inspiring task at Peking, I am, with warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Charles Gibson,
Broadway,
Albany, N.Y.

H. W. L. H. (Pres. Bd.)

EDMUND N. HUYCK
ALBANY, N.Y.

November 29, 1926

Mr. H. W. Luce
Peking University
150 Fifth Avenue

My dear Mr. Luce:

Your letter of November 26th with the news of Mr. Lewis death was a very great shock to me, as it was to my brother and his wife, for Mr. Lewis had recently visited them and they knew him much better than I. They had not heard before of his death.

Mr. Gibson's trip was delayed because of his ill health and when he finally started on the 2nd of November his plans had been somewhat altered and he told me that he should not go to Peking, but that some one else would take that part of the trip. This I have had confirmed from his office and am therefore able to say that he will not be in China, on this trip.

He is on a mission of inspection of properties of the Methodist Church in the foreign field in many countries and is one of a group of four or five men who are making the journey for this purpose.

Yours very truly,

Edmund N. Huyck

1250

JUN 20 1927

ESTABLISHED 1829

ALBANY
TROY
SYRACUSE
ROCHESTER
BUFFALO

GIBSON-SNOW CO., Inc.**WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS**

645-657 BROADWAY

ALBANY, N. Y.

June 18, 1927

Rev. Henry W. Luce, D.D.
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Luce:

Your favor of the 2nd at hand. I would have replied sooner but your letter was misplaced on my desk and I did not notice it until just now. The story is as follows --

At the time President Stuart was in Albany a company of people were called together at the home of Mr. Frank Huyck at which gathering Dr. Stuart told us about the University and suggested that something might be done in Albany. I was quite impressed by what Dr. Stuart said, and made the suggestion that if the Presbyterians would take one of the faculty homes, the Methodists would take another one. In this way we could get two instead of one which they had in mind. As I understood it, this offer was accepted by the Presbyterians. I expected, of course, that they would arrange to secure pledges of money from their people, and that my offer had been accepted. I was quite surprised to learn later that nothing had been done, and that the whole matter had been dropped so far as Albany was concerned.

Owing to the fact that my interest and my cash have been secured for another project which seems to me is of very great importance to the world, I am not in shape to take care of this matter just at present. I expect I will be able to take care of it next year -- what I mean is the year 1928, so that if you can get the Presbyterian people to go on with the plan, you can depend upon me for my part of it, if you can wait until next year.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

CG/DB

1251

October 24, 1927

Dear Misses Gibson:

You will, I am sure, pardon my writing to you as a stranger and will not, I trust, misunderstand the circumstances which have led me to do so.

About two years ago I was in Albany when a social gathering was planned at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Ryek at which your father was present. At that time your father was good enough to promise on behalf of the Methodist Church in Albany that a residence would be contributed by them to Peking University if the Presbyterian Church would do likewise. Mr. J. H. Lewis who was with me at the time, had the matter in charge but his death, my absence from China, and more recently the removal of Dr. Moldenhawer to this city have resulted in an unfortunate delay.

On my arrival last week from China I learned, to my very great regret, of your father's death and take this opportunity to express my sympathy to you and the very great esteem in which I held him, as did countless others of his friends.

I am writing now to ask if on condition that the Presbyterian Church were able to meet its part of this agreement, you would desire to carry out your father's intentions. I am enclosing herewith a copy of the letter he wrote to my colleague, Dr. Luce, which will indicate his state of mind at the time of writing last June.

Again with sympathy in your great loss, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Misses Henrietta and Mary Gibson
649 Broadway, Albany, N. Y.

JLS:LM

1252

April 26, 1928

My dear Friends:

It gives me much pleasure to report that after much effort and long delay we are at last assured of Presbyterian contributions sufficient to meet the conditions of your late father's pledge. Knowing you both so well, I feel confident that you will be almost as pleased as we are at this outcome. Have you any suggestions as to any further procedure on our part in reference to this matter? We shall await your advice. Meanwhile, it is quite possible that Mr. O. D. Wannamaker, who has now become Executive Secretary for our Board of Trustees in America, will be in Albany in the near future, in which case he would be glad to have a visit with you.

You and Mrs. Ward will be interested to know that I am planning to sail from New York on May 12th on the S. S. Majestic. It is barely possible that I shall be in Albany again to see my dear friends, the Huycks, in which case I shall count on in dropping in on you to say "Goodbye"; otherwise, let this letter be a farewell message.

Very sincerely yours

Misses Henrietta and Mary Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, New York

JLS:O

1253

RESIDENCES - Gibson 11/7/27

415 State Street
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Stuart:

May I express to you our
sincere appreciation of your words of
sympathy and of friendship for my father?
Although we were in absolute sympathy
and accord with him in all his interests,
particularly those of the missionary
cause, we find it impossible at present
to promise anything.

If, later, when things are settled and ad-
justed, we find that we can go on
with the building for Peking University we
shall certainly do so. We are very
sorry but hope to be able to do it
later.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

November seventh.

Terms of subscription:

This subscription of \$2500 will apply on Presbyterian side of Albany residence, costing \$7500, is not binding on the signer and those who guarantee this amount of \$2500 to him and may not be legally collected at any time; in other words, is nil and void from this date onward until such a time as the Gibson Estate that promised the Methodist residence, costing \$7500, signs some similar subscription card insuring Peking University of \$7500 over a period of years or when the amount is paid in cash, Such subscriptions are signed by Gibson Estate to be legally binding to the amount of \$7500; Gibson Estate for the Methodist residence furnishing \$7500; Presbyterians of Albany and friends furnishing \$7500.00

Date: June 2, 1928.

Witness:

Charles E. Jensen
Florence Jaynes

1256

June 2, 1928

To aid PEKING UNIVERSITY, of Peking, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, I promise to pay to E. M. McBRIER, Treasurer, at 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. the sum of

TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED and no/100 - - - - - Dollars, (\$ 2500.00)

on call of the Treasurer or, at my option, in accordance with the plan checked below:

- ☒ in ^{FIVE} ~~two~~ annual payments beginning Dec 31, 1928, ~~(not later than Dec 31, 1929)~~
- ☐ in four semi-annual payments beginning (not later than July 1, 1928)
- ☐ at my convenience, on or before January 1, 1930.

Subscription tendered through
Terms of subscription on other
side of this subscription.

Signed

Charles E. Jenner

Address

150 Fifth Ave

Full name of local church with which you are affiliated

New York City N.Y.

1257

YENCHING UNIVERSITY

(Incorporated 1889 as PEKING UNIVERSITY)

PEKING, CHINA

OFFICERS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LUTHER B. WILSON, HONORARY PRESIDENT
FRANKLIN H. WARNER, PRESIDENT
WILLIAM P. SCHELL, VICE-PRESIDENT
E. M. MCBRIER, TREASURER
ERIC M. NORTH, SECY. AND ASST. TREAS.
B. A. GARSIDE, ASST. SECY. AND ASST. TREAS.
OLIN D. WANNAMAKER, ASSISTANT TO
THE PRESIDENT

AMERICAN OFFICE
150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY
J. LEIGHTON STUART, PRESIDENT
HENRY W. LUCE, VICE-PRESIDENT
WU LEI-CHUAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

June 2, 1928.

My dear Miss McCoy

Two or three things: first- enclosed copy of letter I am sending out to women on Mrs Lee's list and many others. Its almost necessary that I have a list of those women who have made some kind of a contribution, as it is rather a serious offense to send this letter to those who have recently given. However, I am sending it out to the list I have and if there is a comeback, it is up to you. Second- I am enclosing a signed pledge card for \$2500. I have been authorized by a group of people to sign this card and I do so, thus fulfilling that part of the obligation I assumed in connection with the Albany residences. This money is good and only good when the \$7500 promised by the Methodist family there, is underwritten in a similar way to this subscription. What I mean by that is that it is at least as legally binding as this subscription is on me. I have a written understanding with a little group that supplies this \$2500 over a period of 5 years. I will turn in their names and this understanding to the office when I finish my work with Peking University. I am in hopes, however, that the money will be paid in before the first of January, when my time expires. You will find the subscription card signed by me carries with it written in, the above ideas.

list was sent to him June 1st

names add. now

I do not know of anything more save to say that I am glad that I finished this Albany matter up, from my point of view, this past week.

I am sending carbon copy of letter I wrote to Dr Ward. It might be well for Mr Wannamaker to write him, asking him to get that Albany affair straightened out at once. Also, if we can plan to be in Glens Falls a week, we might get a residence for Prof Wolferz. Also, copy of letter I sent to Miss Winship at Boston asking her to find out when Mr Grandin and Mr Johnson will be home. I will send you copies of all my letters.

With highest personal regards, I am

Most sincerely,

CEJ-J

Charles E. Jensen

1258

YENCHING UNIVERSITY

(Incorporated 1889 as PEKING UNIVERSITY)

PEKING, CHINA

AMERICAN OFFICE

150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

June 7, 1928.

OFFICERS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LUTHER B. WILSON, HONORARY PRESIDENT
FRANKLIN H. WARNER, PRESIDENT
WILLIAM P. SCHELL, VICE-PRESIDENT
E. M. MCBRIER, TREASURER
ERIC M. NORTH, SECY. AND ASST. TREAS.
B. A. GARSDIE, ASST. SECY. AND ASST. TREAS.
OLIN D. WANNAMAKER, ASSISTANT TO
THE PRESIDENT

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY
J. LEIGHTON STUART, PRESIDENT
HENRY W. LUCE, VICE-PRESIDENT
WU LEI-CHUAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

My dear Miss McCoy

Your letter of June 5 came last night. We have gotten out 153 letters to the women on Mrs Lee's list. Mrs Lee evidently has misplaced the names of the women on the list that we do not have. I will send you this list on Saturday. I have also written several letters to different people in different cities, making personal appointments and setting up as affectively as I can some little organization for my trip thru the west, which begins the 13th of June. *same*

If at any time there is any question in your mind about gifts I will do my best to help you, as I always have.

About the Albany matter, as I already have written the people who are willing to give the \$2500, are not willing that their names should go on the list of regular contributors to Yenching, as they feel they will not want to give again. They are personal friends of mine. I was asked to secure in the name of Albany Presbyterianism \$2500 to make good the \$7500 promised by the Gibson Estate. I told these friends of mine the facts in the case. They were not willing to give until the Gibson \$7500 is made legal and secure to the University. When that is done, that pledge is perfectly good and I realize that it is not good until that thing is done. However, it was the best I could do and I did the thing I was asked to do.

I shall be in Boston on Wednesday and Thursday next week. You can get me at Tamblin & Brown, 100 Milk St or the Statler Hotel. Friday I will be at Buffalo and you can get me at the Statler Hotel there. I will wire you either from Boston or Buffalo where you can reach me after then.

Thanks for all the lists. You have been most kind in sending them to me. With great regards, I am

Most sincerely,

CEJ-J

Philetus E. Jenner

1259

Copy

Residence - Gibson

Oct. 6, 1928.

My dear Mr. Wannamaker,

Enclosed is Mrs. Gorham's subscription for \$500 to apply on the Albany Hall. She was very nice, and glad to give it, and says that Mr. Huyek was in to see her recently and thought the Gibson sisters would honor their father's pledge about the first of January when the estate is settled. I believe that will be done. Mrs. Gorham's suggestion was that I come about the first of January to see them. I called the Gibson sisters on the phone this morning, but they were out of town. Under the circumstances I guess it is quite as well.

I shall leave here this noon, stopping at Utica to see two or three people to-morrow, and shall see what is on the list between here and Rochester some time Tuesday. Send all mail and telegrams to Hotel Seneca. Have Miss McCoy send any mail addressed to Mrs. Jenney to my address also, as she is with me.

Wire me about appointment with Mr. Ochs at Hotel Seneca as soon as you know when it is, giving me ample time to get back to New York. Wire me also about Mr. Trull's willingness to take over the Chinese man who is teaching in the agricultural department of Yenching. I think the approval would be to ask him to take him for one year only, then I would go to Dr. Gillies when I am there and work the matter up. Keep me in touch with every bit of news that I should have. I will write you a line every day or two.

Chester E. Jenney (signed)

1260

Nov. 13, 1928

The kind of written pledge that would comply with Mr. Boyd's conditions would be something like the following form. You may use this form if you desire. If you so desire, the residence will be named the "Gibson Residence" or "Gibson Cottage". The word "Memorial" may be used if desired, as - "Gibson Memorial Residence".

November 1928.

In consideration of other gifts already pledged toward the \$500,000 campaign fund of Yenching University we hereby pledge the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars for a faculty residence, same to be paid

(signed)
.....

June 8, 1928

Dear Dr. Jenney:

I have just read your letter to Miss McCoy dated June 7th. We understand the situation in the matter of the pledge for \$2500. We will simply record that as your own pledge conditioned upon securing a written pledge or actual money from the Misses Gibson. We will inform you when something happens in that matter. Note the enclosed carbon of my letter to Mrs. Ward. I have had no reply to my letter addressed to Dr. Ward.

Miss McCoy is sending you very important information about pledges, etc. in several different places. As soon as you can examine this data please send me as early as possible a schedule of your trip to the West and please keep us informed of your address constantly. We might want to get in touch with you any moment either by mail or telegraph.

We are working here at the School of Applied Economics as our last chance to finish up the \$500,000 fund. I have asked Mr. Burgess to interview Mr. Stilwell, the personal secretary of Mr. McCormick, in Chicago and get his advice about the McCormick-Blaine matter. I hope to see Mr. Ludington in Philadelphia next week.

Heartiest congratulations on securing the pledge for \$2500 of the Albany Presbyterians. The cash will be exceedingly welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Chester E. Jenney
Lake Placid Club
Essex County, New York

ODW:BB

1262

X

November 13, 1928

Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Misses Gibson:

You will probably recall meeting me at the Board of Foreign Mission rooms some two or three years ago when your father introduced me to you. I think you had recently returned with him from a trip abroad.

For ten years I have been Treasurer of the Peking (Yenching) University, and have been interested in its growth and made such contribution to it as I could. Mrs. McBrier and I had the pleasure of giving one building, and in the recent campaign we made a substantial contribution in the form of a special endowment.

Before me as I write is the letter which your father, whom I knew so well, wrote on June 18, 1927 to Dr. Henry W. Luce. In this letter Mr. Gibson refers to a meeting that was held at the home of Mr. Frank Hayek, at which Dr. Stuart, the President, told about the needs of the University. It was Mr. Gibson's own suggestion that if the Presbyterians would take one of the faculty homes, he would provide the funds for another one, and he closes his letter with the following paragraph:

"Owing to the fact that my interest and my cash have been secured for another project which seems to me as of very great importance to the world, I am not in shape to take care of this matter just at present. I expect I will be able to take care of it next year - what I mean is the year 1928 - so that if you can get the Presbyterian people to go on with the plan, you can depend upon me for my part of it, if you can wait until next year."

That is the conclusion of his letter.

I believe Dr. Stuart interviewed you when he was here in regard to this matter, and that you expressed your intention to carry out this promise of your father as soon as conditions would permit.

Meanwhile the Presbyterian people have definitely pledged their \$7500, and in fact have already made some payments on same; but \$2500 of the amount has been pledged on the understanding that Mr. Gibson's intentions are carried out and that same be put in the form of a written pledge.

Now let me explain just the situation we are in. Mr. William

1263

Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson -----(2)

Boyd, of Philadelphia, who was so closely associated with Mr. Gibson and myself on the Monte Mario committee, made a pledge of \$90,000 toward the recent \$500,000 campaign for Yenching University, on the condition that the balance of \$410,000 was pledged. These pledges must all be in written form and in hand before January 1 next.

As you know, Dr. Stuart came to America to assist in raising this amount, but went back last May. We have been making the most strenuous efforts to meet Mr. Boyd's condition. The date set by him at the beginning was July 1. Then we came up to that date, we were lacking in round figures \$140,000. Mr. Boyd very kindly extended the date until September 1. It is always hard to see people during the summer vacation period, and when we came up to September 1, we were still lacking \$85,000. Mr. Boyd then gave us his last extension, which was to January 1, and he started off on a trip to Africa.

We have been doing everything within our power to raise this last amount, but we are still \$53,000 from our goal.

We simply must not fail to secure this last amount, but we really do not know where to turn for it.

If we could at this time have your assurance in writing that you would pay the \$7500 promised by your father, the amount so pledged by you would be applicable to the balance needed; and not only so but it would also secure the \$2500 additional pledged by the Presbyterian friends, thus enabling us to credit \$10,000 to this balance still needed.

Inasmuch as you have given assurance of your intention to carry out the intentions of your father in the matter of his promise of assistance, may we not have your definite pledge in writing, payable at your convenience, that will enable us to credit the full \$10,000 to this present campaign?

I cannot tell you what a great relief and assistance it will be if you will kindly do this. Please understand it is not necessary that it be paid now, or that any part of it be paid at present. You can pay it at your convenience during the next two years, or if necessary, take even longer time - that we leave entirely to your choice.

Hoping that at this critical time we may have your helpful co-operation in the solution of this very serious problem, and thanking you for the assistance you can give, I am

Very sincerely yours,

MMW:RI.

1264

December 3, 1928.

Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Misses Gibson:

We have not as yet had a reply to my letter of November 13th but we are hoping that you are giving some favorable consideration.

Since writing you we have all of us been working as hard as ever we possibly could to achieve our goal before Mr. and Mrs. William Boyd landed in New York sometime around December 15th. We have not as yet got the exact date of their arrival.

I greatly desire to meet them on their arrival to notify them that the conditions of their pledge have been complied with and the entire \$500,000 has been definitely pledged. We can do this only by dint of hard work.

Since I wrote you we have secured two \$10,000 pledges, bringing the amount still needed down to \$35,000.

I cannot explain how great your assistance would be at this time if we could have your written assurance that the \$7,500 referred to in my previous letter would be paid at your convenience. Even if it could not be paid for two or three years it would assist us in two things: first, it would apply on the balance needed, bringing same down to \$25,500; second, it would secure an additional \$2,500 from the Presbyterian friends of Albany who have given a definite pledge for this amount on the explicit condition that the \$7,500 from Mr. Gibson's estate be pledged.

I am herewith enclosing an exact copy of the pledge which we are holding in this office. Kindly note conditions on the back. These conditions were written by Ex-Governor Whitman. This \$2,500 is available only on the conditions indicated and is of no value whatever otherwise.

Please understand that in addition to this \$2,500 pledge the Presbyterian friends of Albany have pledged an additional \$5,000, making a total of \$7,500 from the Albany Presbyterians.

over

1265

Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson -2-

12/3/28.

If you can assure us of this amount at this time it will assist us more than I can well express. At the best we are going to have a very hard time to meet the condition but we feel we simply must not fail to avail ourselves of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd's \$90,000 conditional gift.

Sincerely yours,

EM P. Gibson

EMMcB/A
Encl.

1266

December 29, 1928

The Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Misses Gibson:

I entertained strong hopes that after you had reviewed matters we ~~would~~ have a favorable message from you in regard to the Yenching campaign.

We should hate very much to lose the \$2500 which has been pledged conditionally. We have absolutely no chance of getting it without your pledge, as it was given under the conditions indicated on the back of the pledge, a copy of which I sent you.

This morning we received payment from Mr. Huyck of \$700 on his pledge. You will remember I told you that the Presbyterian friends were making payments on their pledges. Dr. Stuart went to the Presbyterian people and evidently told them that he expected you would carry out Mr. Gibson's intentions if the Presbyterians would only do their part, and they secured \$5000 in pledges unconditionally, in addition to the \$2500 conditionally. Considerable payments have already been made on the pledges aggregating \$5000.

We are only a few hundred dollars over our \$500,000 mark. We appreciate there will be some falling off in payments. No campaign ever collected 100% of the pledges.

I appreciate fully that you are under no obligation whatever in the matter, yet it would be a most gracious thing if you could see your way clear to carry out your father's desire, and at the same time secure for the University the \$2500 conditional pledge. Moreover it would make our campaign a complete success so far as collections were concerned, as I do not think we will have more than approximately \$5000 of the pledges unpaid.

I trust you will pardon this additional word. Please do not think that I am urging you unduly - such is not my desire. I am interested - I might almost say that I am concerned - in regard to the small leeway we have in the matter of pledges, for I realize how such matters go.

(over)

1267

The Misses Gibson -

(2)

Please take your time to consider the matter, and let us know when you have arrived at a decision. I shall not write you again concerning same, for I know that you are just as much interested as I am.

With sincere personal regards and wishing you a Happy New Year, I am

Yours very sincerely,

EM:RL

1268

12-29-28

415 State Street
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Mr. McBrier:

My ~~sister~~ and I have talked over the question of the pledge for Peking and have come to this conclusion: we feel that to get that last twenty-five hundred dollars of the Presbyterians in the way it was done was not a fair deal either to the donor of that pledge or to us, that it was trying to take an unfair advantage of us after we had said we could not go on with it as it was a

1269

dead pledge and no longer existed, and that therefore it was taken under false pretenses. For this reason we feel that this donor should be seen again, told the whole story and his pledge secured in some other way, as we do not want it to be contingent upon ours. I cannot see why the Presbyterians, who held up the gift so long, should feel that they really have any right to make such contingent pledges now, for the whole amount would have been paid several years ago if they had done their part.

At any rate, we feel that Doctor Stuart had no right to go out last winter and spring, several months after our father's

death and after we had refused to go on with this gift, and raise the money by telling them that we were going to pay it - that he should simply have gone ahead with the Presbyterian building on a new basis and they should pay it on that basis. Therefore, we have decided not to sign any such agreement as shall ensure this twenty-five hundred, as we resent the way Dr. Stuart did it.

On the other hand we are deeply interested in Peking, not only because of what it means to China but because of the interest our father took in it, so we have decided to pledge seventy-five hundred dollars so that the building

may be secured for the Chinese, but we shall have to wait for a few weeks before signing the cards until we have a little better idea of how our finances stand and when we shall be able to pay it.

I know you will understand the reasons for our conclusions in this matter. It seems to me that for the future welfare of Peking such things should not happen, for it has nearly turned us against it in spite of our deep interest in China and it certainly would have permanently estranged any one who had only a slight interest and did not see the real value of Peking for the future.

Very sincerely yours,
May Gibson

1928

December twenty-ninth.

on cl
January 3, 1928⁹

Dear Leighton:

I wrote you some months ago that the Gibson sisters told Dr. Jenney very emphatically that they had never expressed any intention of carrying out their father's pledge of \$7500. I have never heard from you in response to that letter. I should not have been inclined to press these ladies any further in regard to this matter. Dr. Jenney and I discussed the matter several times and, while I should not have refused to approve any effort he may have made, I did not feel that it was wise to continue our effort in that direction.

Mr. McBrier, however, took the matter up and wrote the young ladies two or more times. Finally, Miss Mary Gibson met him personally in this building at some committee and they had a long discussion of the matter. He finally brought her into my office. She expressed herself in very plain and indignant language, saying that she and her sister had never made any statement to you that justified you at all in counting them as intending to carry out their father's pledge. Mr. McBrier drew me into the conversation with the idea that something I could say about some other money pledged in Albany might have some bearing in establishing a claim on the Gibson sisters. I was forced to express myself in quite the contrary fashion, explicitly declaring that it seemed evident that the Misses Gibson were under no obligation to carry out their father's pledge unless they wished to do so and that nothing we had done in Albany could create such an obligation.

I apologized to Miss Gibson for any seeming over insistence on the ground that we were in such a desperate struggle to complete the main campaign and assured her that I thought they had been very patient under the circumstances. Miss Gibson seemed to be much pleased with this effort on my part to relieve her of any feeling that we claimed any obligation. She finally intimated that she and her sister would consider the matter and she asked for pledge cards to take with her. We have now received a letter of which I enclose a copy.

1273

My reason for passing this information on to you is that I feel you are entitled to know fully the feeling manifested by the Misses Gibson and to have an opportunity to correct the impression they seem to have formed in this whole matter. I am sorry to add the least particle to the burdens under which you are already working and I pass on this rather unpleasant information only as I would want you to do if the tables were turned. It is important that your prestige and friendly relations in a city like Albany should be maintained. One wealthy family in one of the churches there might do great harm if left under the impression that these young women seem to have at the present moment.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Leighton Stuart
Yenching University
Peking West, China

ODW:BB

1274

January 3, 1929

Dear Miss Gibson:

Your letter of December 29th has been brought to my desk while Mr. McBrier is away from the office. I am replying briefly in his absence though he may wish personally to reply to the letter later.

In the conversation between you, Mr. McBrier, and myself in this office you will recall that I stated quite explicitly that I did not feel that you and your sister were under the least obligation to carry out a pledge made originally upon a definite condition by your father - a condition that had not been fulfilled up to the time of his death. I also told you that I thought you and your sister had been most patient in regard to the matter and explained that the extreme pressure brought to bear upon you was, from my point of view, excusable only on the ground of the intense effort we were exerting to complete the present campaign in behalf of the University.

I do not hesitate to make the same statements again in writing. I assure you that I am quite sincere in saying that I consider your present expressed intention of pledging \$7500 for the purpose of rendering possible a building for Yenching University as entirely free on your part and extremely generous. I appreciate this action more than I can tell you.

I have today written to Dr. Chester E. Jenney requesting him to explain to the persons who made the conditional pledge of \$2500 that, at the time they made their pledge, there was no conditional pledge existing binding on any member of your family. Dr. Jenney is at present serving a brief term as chaplain of the Lake Placid Club. I hope to hear from him in due time in regard to this matter. I feel sure that he will handle the matter as it should be handled.

1275

May I venture a word, however, in regard to what seems to have been a misunderstanding on the part of President Stuart. All those who have known Dr. Stuart would find it impossible to believe that he deliberately misrepresented your relationship to this pledge of your father. I have never known ^{a man} with a wider circle of devoted friends than Dr. Leighton Stuart nor one in whose case this friendship was more completely based upon the qualities of his character and his unselfish devotion to other human beings. He has for several years past been under a terrific strain because of the prevailing disorder in China and of his needing constantly to keep the balance where the least misstep might have wrecked the institution over which he was presiding. While he was in America engaged in this campaign he felt almost every moment that he was seriously needed at Peking. Under such conditions it is perfectly possible for even the sanest and clearest minded person to misinterpret a remark in a conversation and attribute more meaning, or even an entirely different meaning, to this remark from the one intended. No doubt Dr. Stuart must have made such a mistake, but I wish to assure you with the utmost earnestness that it would be a great mistake on your part to suppose that anything other occurred than just such a mistake.

If Dr. Stuart were in this country, I should not presume to write you in this way but would leave the matter to be explained by him. Since, however, it is so difficult to explain these delicate matters halfway around the world, I think he would be glad to have me make this statement of the case until such time as he can see you in person.

Assuring you of my grateful appreciation and of that of the Board of Trustees, I remain

Sincerely,

Assistant to the President

Miss Mary Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, New York

ODW:BB

1276

Residence-Gibson sisters

COPY

January 3, 1929

copy in "Albany Hall" file

Dear Dr. Jenney:

Mr. McBrier brought Miss Mary Gibson into my office to talk over that much discussed Albany Hall pledge a little while before Christmas. You know her feeling regarding what she considers a strange misunderstanding or something else on the part of Dr. Stuart. Please note the enclosed copy of her letter to Mr. McBrier and her virtual demand that we now inform those persons who pledge \$2500 (your Lake Placid group) that there was no conditional pledge of \$7500 at the time they made their \$2500 conditional pledge - in effect that we exempt them from any obligation to pay over that \$2500, leaving them entirely free to do as they please rather than to say to them that the other pledge has now been fulfilled which automatically makes theirs binding. Can you handle this matter tactfully and in such a way as to justify me in writing Miss Gibson a little later that we did so inform the signers of that \$2500 pledge.

Meanwhile, if your friends see fit to confirm their pledge, we actually have the letter (copy enclosed) putting Miss Gibson on record as having decided to pledge \$7500. The actual pledge, however, will not be in our hands for a little time. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chester E. Jenney
Lake Placid Club
Essex County, New York

ODW:BB

1277

Jan. 18, 1929

-COPY-

To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY of Peking, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, ~~I am sending herewith a cash gift in the amount of~~

\$- ~~-----~~ (or) (and) I hereby pledge the sum of thirty-seven
hundred and fifty dollars (\$ 3750.00),

in accordance with the plan checked below:

☐ In 2 annual payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Jan. 1, 1929)

☐ In 2 semi-annual payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)

☐ In 4 semi-annual payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)

☐ In 4 quarterly payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)

☐ At my convenience, on or before Jan. 1, 1930: 1932.

Signed, Henrietta Gibson

Full name of my local church:

Street 415 State Street

City and State Albany, N. Y.

Date January 18, 1929

Please remit to the order of E. M. MCBRIER, Treasurer, Yenching University, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NOTE: I shall expect to be reminded previous to due dates

-COPY-

To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY of Peking, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, ~~I am sending herewith a cash gift in the amount of~~

\$- ~~-----~~ (or) (and) I hereby pledge the sum of three thousand
seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$ 3750.00),

in accordance with the plan checked below:

☐ In 2 annual payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Jan. 1, 1929)

☐ In 2 semi-annual payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)

☐ In 4 semi-annual payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)

☐ In 4 quarterly payments beginning ~~-----~~ (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)

☐ At my convenience, on or before Jan. 1, 1930: 1932.

Signed Mary Gibson

Full name of my local church:

Street 415 State Street

City and State Albany, New York

Date January 18th, 1929

Please remit to the order of E. M. MCBRIER, Treasurer, Yenching University, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NOTE: I shall expect to be reminded previous to due dates

1278

To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY of Peking, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, I ~~am sending herewith a cash gift in the amount of~~

~~\$~~ (or) (and) I hereby pledge the sum of three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$ 3750.00)

in accordance with the plan checked below:

- ☐ In 2 annual payments beginning (not later than Jan. 1, 1929)
☐ In 2 semi-annual payments beginning (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)
☐ In 4 semi-annual payments beginning (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)
☐ In 4 quarterly payments beginning (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)
☐ At my convenience, on or before Jan. 1, ~~1930~~ 1932

Signed Mary Gibson

Full name of my local church:

Street 415 State Street

City and State Albany, New York

Date January 18th 1929

Please remit to the order of E. M. MCBRIER, Treasurer, Yenching University, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NOTE: I shall expect to be reminded previous to due dates paid 1/44

To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY of Peking, China, in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, I ~~am sending herewith a cash gift in the amount of~~

~~\$~~ (or) (and) I hereby pledge the sum of thirty-seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$ 3750.00),

in accordance with the plan checked below:

- ☒ In 2 annual payments beginning (not later than Jan. 1, 1929)
☐ In 2 semi-annual payments beginning (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)
☐ In 4 semi-annual payments beginning (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)
☐ In 4 quarterly payments beginning (not later than Oct. 1, 1928)
☐ At my convenience, on or before Jan. 1, ~~1930~~ 1932

Signed Henrietta Gibson

Full name of my local church:

Street 415 State St.

City and State Albany, N.Y.

Date January 18th 1929

Please remit to the order of E. M. MCBRIER, Treasurer, Yenching University, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

NOTE: I shall expect to be reminded previous to due dates

1279

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, N. Y.

RECEIVED ATTENTION
JAN 22 1929
E. M. McBRIER

My dear Mr. McBrier:

I am enclosing the pledge cards

signed by my sister and me for thirty-seven hundred and fifty dollars each, making the total of seventy-five hundred which we have promised for Genesee University. You will see that we have allowed ourselves three years in which to pay, as this is as soon as we can do it on account of the other obligations

1280

we have.

You suggested that the cottage could be named for our father, and it would seem fitting to us, but we can talk that over later when the building is begun. I am sorry we have been so slow.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

January twentieth.
1929

415 State Street
Albany, N. Y.

Jan. 22, 1929

1-22-29

Payable "on or before Jan. 1, 1932"

1-22-29

to Mary Gibson

1282

Gibson, Miss Mary
415 State Street
Albany, New York

Jan. 22, 1929

Pledge \$3750.00 to 1928 Campaign-Gibson Residence

Gift received	1-22-29
Receipt	
Check	
Stamp	
Card	
629	
1-22-29	
Check	
Stamp	
Card	
629	
1-22-29	
Check	
Stamp	
Card	
629	
1-22-29	

Payable "on or before Jan. 1, 1932"

1283

January 23, 1929

Miss Mary Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Miss Gibson:

I wish to thank you sincerely for your letter of the 20th instant, enclosing the two pledges for your sister and yourself.

I cannot tell you how much we appreciate your interest in Yenching, and this later evidence of your faithfulness in the face of the past history is indeed all the more appreciated.

We shall indeed be very glad to have the cottage named in honor of your father, if that is your desire.

Thanking you again for your fidelity to Peking,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

EMM:RL

copy to Mrs. Gibson

1284

October 31, 1931

Dear Chester:

I have suddenly come face to face with a rather embarrassing situation in which you may possibly be able to relieve me.

You will remember the old story of the pledge by Mr. Gibson of Albany and the very reluctant and belated renewal of that pledge by the two daughters. They pledged together \$7500 for a residence on condition that there be obtained from Albany Presbyterians an equal amount. On June 2, 1928, you signed a pledge for \$2500 which was thought at that time the amount necessary to complete the Presbyterian gifts for a residence, and thus meet the Gibson condition. You state in your letter, "I have been authorized by a group of people to sign this card, and I do so, thus fulfilling that part of the obligation I assumed in connection with the Albany residence. This money is good, and only good when the \$7500 promised by the Methodist family is under-written in a similar way to this subscription. I have a written understanding with a little group that supplies this \$2500 over a period of five years." Your pledge is in our files with the condition thus described explicitly stated on the back of the pledge.

In the autumn of 1928 Mr. McBrier secured two pledges from the two sisters for a total of \$7500, payable on or before Jan. 1, 1932.

This matter is almost certain to come up for discussion at the meeting of the Board on Wednesday. I write to ask whether you can inform me when the friends who pledged the \$2500 can be prepared to make payment. I shall wish to take up the question then with the Gibson sisters and insure payment of their pledge when due on January 1st.

Cordially yours,

Dr. C. E. Jenney
50 Spruce Street
Longport, New York

CDW:IM

1285

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COR. CHURCH AND ONTARIO STREETS

LOCKPORT, N. Y.

PASTOR'S STUDY

November 2nd, 1931.

My dear Olin:

Your letter of October 31st came this morning. As I remember it when the Gibson sisters made this pledge of \$7500.00 to Mr. McBrier they did it without demanding that a similar amount be given by Presbyterians and others in Albany. I am quite sure Mr. McBrier informed me ~~this~~ in the matter of this pledge so there is really no obligation resting on anyone else to make this good.

However, if I am wrong in my understanding of the matter I would be willing to take up the payment of a certain portion of the \$7500.00 from a little group of friends of mine at the Lake Placid Club. They would give if absolutely necessary to insure the Gibson gift, otherwise no. I think Mr. McBrier will confirm my statement above that there was no condition surrounding the gift of the Gibson women for this work. If I am wrong about this you can let me know and I will take up the matter again and get the money someway.

Sincerely yours,

Chester E. Jenney
Chester E. Jenney.

CEJ/H.

1286

Res. Gibson

Yenching University
New York City

November 9, 1931

Memorandum to Mr. McBrier:

The pledge of the Gibson Sisters of Albany falls due on or before January 1st, next. You remember the long and complicated correspondence pertaining to that matter. Can you tell me whether these two ladies still consider that their pledge is conditioned upon our securing an equal amount of money from Presbyterians in Albany? I hope not. The pledge, as written, does not refer to any such condition. If, however, the Misses Gibson consider that the condition originally set by their father, and very frequently mentioned in correspondence and conversation with them, was still binding when they made their pledge, we are not in position to collect their gift. I shall be glad to talk this over with you.

O.D.W.

ODW*KK

copy to C. E. J.

Miss McCoy
says you have seen
these letters.
E. M. M. CB

11-20-31

ODW & E. M. M. had a talk re this and concluded that, since nothing could was mentioned in either of the pledges or the letters accompanying them, they did not think the Gibson sisters would hold us to such a condition as above. ODW

1287

November 24, 1931

Miss Mary Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Miss Gibson:

I am very much afraid that I have been negligent, and I must ask your pardon for the negligence. You will recall that in my letter of January 23, 1929, when I acknowledged receipt of your letter of January 20th with the pledges of yourself and your sister, I said, "We shall indeed be very glad to have the cottage named in honor of your father, if that is your desire." It is my impression that this subject was mentioned between us once subsequent to the date of that letter, but there never has been any definite allocation of your gift to a definite cottage.

Cottage No. 54 is available. The construction cost was \$7,686.05, but this will not involve any responsibility on the part of yourself and your sister beyond your joint pledges, which total \$7,500.00.

I presume you have in mind payments on these pledges in the not distant future, and I am glad to be able to advise you that if you so desire, this cottage No. 54 will be known as the "Gibson Memorial Cottage", or any other designation you may desire.

I might say that this cottage is occupied by Dr. William Hung, whom perhaps you may have met in America. He is a very brilliant student and a fine Christian gentleman. You surely must have met him.

Sincerely yours,

WMCB.A

1288

December 8, 1931

Miss Mary Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Miss Gibson:

I wish to thank you for your letter of December 7th. I am very glad indeed to know that this suggestion of allocating the cottage occupied by Dr. Hung is so satisfactory, and am particularly happy that your sister visited Dr. Hung in the cottage. It makes it all the more interesting and personal.

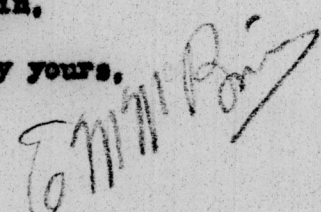
I know something of the difficulty you are having in regard to payment of pledges. I am experiencing exactly the same difficulty, and for the first time in my life, so we are fellow-sufferers in this respect.

I might say that it is not necessary for you to wait until the entire amount is in hand before payments begin. You can pay in installments at your convenience.

Please do not think we are pressing for payment at all. I merely say this so that you may find it more convenient for yourself.

With best personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



EMcB.A

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

RECEIVED ATTENTION

DEC-8 1931

E. M. ROBERTS
December 7, 1931.

copied to B A G
J. L. S.

My dear Mr. McBrier:

Forgive me for not replying to
your letter of November Twenty-fourth sooner. My
sister and I shall be very glad to have Cottage
no. 54, calling it "Charles Gibson Memorial Cottage."

My sister had tea with Dr. David Hung in that
very cottage when she was there last year with
the Diffendorfers.

As to paying the pledge, we are very
much upset. We had hoped and planned to

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

make a substantial payment in January but find now that our incomes are cut to such an extent that it will be utterly impossible to pay anything on that or any others of our pledges now. We are very sorry about it, but please be assured that we shall pay this as soon as possible after business begins to pick up and investments to pay again.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE IN PEIPING
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, WEST

January 18, 1932.

Mr. O.D. Wannamaker,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wannamaker:

I write in acknowledgment of your letter of December 9, 1931. Unfortunately, I am not as yet quite clear about the history of the finances concerning Yenching University residence No. 54 which my family and myself are occupying.

So far as I can recall, it was in 1922 or '23 that we approached the First Methodist Church in Evanston, Ill. to donate enough money to build the residence for my family and me on the University campus. I have a dim recollection that as a result of the conferences between our representatives and the authorities of the church in Evanston, this was tentatively promised. I believe my friend Raymond Thornburg contributed a part and that some other friends also contributed different sums. *nothing materialized*

I wonder if you will not be good enough to have the records looked up and give me a memorandum on the question. I am writing thus because as I had gone to Evanston and had spoken in that church, and had understood about the promise of the residence, I do not feel myself free enough to write to Miss Gibson about the renaming of the residence until I am clear in my mind that the University has freed itself from any obligation in calling residence No. 54 as a donation from the church in Evanston.

We enjoyed the visit of Miss Gibson at our home very much indeed, and it is very pleasant to know of her generous intentions.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

William Hung
William Hung

*if he did,
it was not
the N.Y.
Office, - no
record*

1292

*Mr. McBrier
Please read & return
to your office
K.C.*

December 9, 1931

Dear Professor Hung:

An agreement has been reached between Mr. McBrier and the Gibson sisters of Albany, N. Y. that Residence No. 54, occupied by your family, is to be named "Charles Gibson Memorial Cottage." The sisters, as you perhaps know, took up their father's pledge of the money for a residence. Mr. McBrier suggests that you write expressing your pleasure in being domiciled in a residence named for their father. Miss Henrietta Gibson had tea with you in your home when she was at Yenching last year with the Diffendorfers, and remembers this with much pleasure. The other sister's name is Mary.

The address is,

Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson
415 State Street, Albany, N. Y.

If you care to send us a copy of your letter it may help a little in our keeping up the proper relation with the family.

For your confidential information I ought to add that the sisters are not able, just yet, to pay this pledge because of recent heavy reductions in income. I do not think, therefore, that the Secretary of the Board here will request Dr. Stuart to have a tablet placed on the building until there is no further doubt as to the actual future payment of the pledge. In your letter to the sisters you would naturally write as if the building had actually been given instead of alluding to any future payment of the pledge. We feel sure that it will be paid.

Cordially yours,

Professor William Hung
Yenching University
Peiping, China

ODW:KK
cc to JLS

1293

May 1932

February 19, 1932

My dear Professor Hung:

I take pleasure in replying immediately to your letter of January 18th just received. Miss McCoy has gone carefully through all our records in order to furnish you with every detail of information available here regarding contributions from Evanston, Ill., so that you may see precisely how the case stands as regards the residence you are occupying. Briefly digested, the facts are as follows:-

So far as there is any record here - and I think the records here are complete - during the period 1923-25 there was some hope of getting a residence from the Methodist Church of Evanston. Mr. John C. Shaffer said he would give \$1000, but later withdrew his offer because the Church could do nothing and no further progress was made. In 1923 Mr. Strong, of the firm of Tamblin & Brown, stated in a letter that Mr. Thornberg had agreed to give \$1000. There is nothing on record here from Mr. Thornberg regarding the matter. The only recorded gift from him is \$600 given in 1929 to cover expenses of a Yenching student, who is still studying at the University of Chicago. I believe Mr. Thornberg gave you a gift in 1923 for the purchase of books in your department, but that gift did not come through this office.

The only money received toward an Evanston residence came from members of the Congregational Church, a total of \$4700 toward a \$7000 residence. This residence was not in any way associated especially with your name, although one donor gave \$1,000 to this Congregational fund after hearing an address from you.

It seems to me that this record indicates that the First Methodist Church in Evanston did nothing, either as a church, or through individual members toward building the residence for you, and that we are therefore entirely free to name the residence for Mr. Gibson. If you agree with me, I should be glad to have you write the Misses Gibson, though it will be wise to phrase your reference to the name diplomatically, since we do not intend actually that a tablet be placed on the building until the Misses Gibson are able to pay the money they have pledged. The depression is still preventing them from the final fulfillment of the pledge though we confidently expect to obtain the money when conditions improve.

1294

Mr. Hung.....#2

February 19, 1932

We are watching the news from Shanghai with the most intense interest and concern. I am sure, it is needless for me to say to you how profound is the goodwill and the sympathy we all feel toward China at this time. The Japanese have selected the moment for their adventure as skilfully as they did in 1915. I have just read a very striking article from Floyd Dell, an American critic resident in Paris, under the caption, "Is France Backing Japan?" Other clues I have observed for some time past have established a strong suspicion in my mind of some sort of under-cover agreement. On the other hand, terrible as the sufferings of China are at this moment, and profoundly as I deplore them, I share deeply the feeling expressed by Dr. T.V. Soong, if he was correctly quoted in an interview published in this morning's Times, to the effect that this brutal attack on China, especially if it is extended to other areas, may be the one force needed to weld the people into a real national solidarity. Such a thought does not relieve those who are suffering the loss of all their belongings and their relatives at this time, but perhaps this tragedy may make a better life for the next generation.

I expect to visit China next autumn, reaching Canton in September and coming on a little later to Yenching. I look forward with much pleasure to seeing you and other friends there, hoping, of course, that peace may have been restored, not only with honor from the Chinese point of view, but also with such a backset to the Japanese imperialists as will safeguard the Far East for a long period of time.

Cordially yours,

Professor William Hung
Yenching University
Peiping, China

ODW:KK

1295

HARVARD-YENCHING INSTITUTE



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE IN PEIPING
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

April 26, 1932.

YENCHING UNIVERSITY
PEIPING, WEST

RECEIVED ATTENTION

JUL 25 1932

E. M. McBRIER

Mr. O.D. Wannamaker,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wannamaker:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to the Miseses Gibson. May I enquire at the present moment, when will the memorial plate be ready to be placed in the house?

I do hope you will come to China during the summer, and I shall appreciate it if you will let me know ahead of time for I want to be around here when you are due in Peiping.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

William Hung
William Hung

*Pledges made
1-18-29 for
\$37.50 each
sister*

April 26, 1932.

Misses Mary and Henrietta Gibson,
415 State Street,
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Misses Gibson:

I have recently received word from New York that Yen Nan Yuan residence No. 54, in which my family and I are domiciled, has been recently named, "Charles Gibson Memorial Cottage", because of certain donations you two ladies have made to the trustees of Yenching University.

I am now writing to express my pleasure at learning this news. Mrs. Hung and I and our children are very proud of House No. 54, because of the many associations we have accumulated during the several years we have lived in it. I am happy now to add to these associations the name of your good father, Mr. Gibson. I recall vividly my pleasure in meeting him in New York upon his return from China. I was introduced to him by Dr. Ralph A. Ward and he certainly expressed a very kind attitude towards us then. We recall too the pleasure of having Miss Henrietta taking tea with us in our home one day during her last visit in Peiping. We wish that both of you could be with us now and share our joy of looking at the flowers in the garden which are just now blooming magnificently.

Mrs. Hung joins me in kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

William Hung

See also 4-11-32

May 21, 1932

My dear Miss Gibson:

I know you will pardon my writing you concerning the pledge made by yourself and your sister for the residence in Yenching University.

You asked me at one time if it would be satisfactory if you made payments in instalments. I advised you that it would be perfectly satisfactory.

Might I at this time inquire when it would be convenient for you to pay the first instalment, and would you be able to outline about what payments you expect to make in the future?

This will give us something definite to work toward. We are trying to get all the data lined up in a definite manner, and we are particularly desirous of collecting all we can on outstanding pledges prior to June 30th. If you could find it possible to make some payment before that date, it would be greatly appreciated.

Kindly understand that this letter is not in any wise to be interpreted as bringing pressure to bear on you at present, but to acquaint us with your program of payment so we can plan accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Treasurer

Miss Mary Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, New York

EBB:B:KK

cc to JTS.

1298

September 8, 1932

My dear Miss Gibson:

I wish to thank you sincerely for your letter of the 6th just received, and the very generous payments which you and your sister made on your pledge.

I appreciate just the situation in which you find yourself, and I am in very much the same situation, so I can appreciate it better than those that have not been affected. I think nearly everybody has had to endure more or less curtailment of income during the last two years, so I think we are probably all about in the same boat.

These payments came at a very opportune time and are much appreciated, and I want to thank you and your sister sincerely for same.

We are very happy over securing our objectives in the recent campaign, as I explained to you in my letter of July 25th, and wish to say that substantial payments on pledges have been received, and we have already received \$115,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Trusting you and your sister are having a pleasant summer, and with personal regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Treasurer

Miss Mary Gibson
Keene Valley
Essex County, N.Y.

EMMcB:KK

cc to JLS

KEENE VALLEY
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

RECEIVED ATTORNEY

SEP 8 1932

E. M. M. SH.

My dear Mr. McBrier:

Please forgive me for not replying
to your letter sooner. We have a very large
family all summer and I have a great
deal to do so that many things are put
off longer than they should be.

I did write to you last winter telling
you that we should be unable to make
any payments on our pledge and could
not promise to pay within any given time.

1300

The McPerson Robbins Company, of which my father's business is now a part and in which, of course, most of our possessions are invested, like all other big concerns is stepping carefully. Therefore, they have paid no dividends for a year and we cannot tell when they will start to pay again. This, of course, necessitates a very great carefulness on our part and makes us hesitant about the future.

We are paying what we can on our different pledges as we get a little ahead which is the best we can do at present.

KEENE VALLEY
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

RECEIVED ATTENTION

SEP 8 1932

E. M. McBRIER

I am enclosing checks for two hundred and fifty dollars each, making a first payment on our pledge to Yenching University of five hundred ^{all} dollars. I am sorry we can do no more now and that we are unable to say when we shall do more, but we shall pay it as soon as we can possibly do so and I am sure from your cordial letter that you understand our situation.

You are certainly to be congratulated on the success of the quarter million dollar campaign. It was wonderful in these times.

Very sincerely yours,
Mary Libby.

Sept. 9th 1932

1302

Miss Mary Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, N. Y.

Res: Gibson

Gift received, Sept. 8th, 1932 (date)

on cl

see Cu
see letter of
7-25-32
note made on
record card

Cash Gift \$ 250.00 - first payment on pledge #629 for \$3750 ?.

Pledge \$ ----

Designation 1928 Campaign - Gibson Residence

Received through ----

Entered on control record ✓

Serial number 629 ✓

Entered on record card ✓

Pledge signal attached ✓

Cross file card made ----

Receipt number 3791

Acknowledgment sent 9-8-32

Entered on renewal sheet Sept.

Checked for office list ✓

Checked for mailing list ✓

Contributed previously? No

Gift added to Cult. List.....

1303

Miss Henrietta Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, N. Y.

Gift received, Sept. 8, 1932 (date)

Cash Gift \$ 250.00 - first payment on pledge for \$3750

Pledge \$ -----

Designation 1928 Camp.-Gibson Residence

Received through -----

Entered on control record ✓

Serial number 628 ✓

Entered on record card ✓

Pledge signal attached ✓

Cross file card made -----

Receipt number 3790

Acknowledgment sent 2x 9-8-32 by Mr. McBrier

Entered on renewal sheet Sept.

Checked for office list -----

Checked for mailing list -----

Contributed previously? No

Gift added to Cult. List.....

1304

RECEIVED ATTENTION

JAN 16 1934

E. M. MORRIS

415 State Street,
Albany, New York.

My dear Mr. McBrien: Jan. 13, 1934

I received your October note and meant to talk it over with you at the Annual Meeting but, as you know, there never seemed to be any time. My sister and I are very sorry to hold you up in this way but there are other obligations which we feel come first and we are working at them, and, while we hope and plan to pay something on our fencing pledge this year, we cannot say how much or when.

1305

These are very difficult times and, with ever increasing cuts in our income (another very serious one this past week) and real estate to carry along, we find it hard to pay up anything besides our bare living expenses, which we have reduced to a minimum, though we are struggling to do it. If we had known what was ahead of us we should never have obligated ourselves for so much.

However, no one is sorry about the delay in paying than we are. I assure you it is neither carelessness nor lack of interest.

We had much needed discussion last week at the meetings but I fear did not make very much impression. These problems are

doubly hard in these very uncertain days.

We appreciate your letter and hope that you will be able to understand our very embarrassing position and that if we ever get dividends again we shall pay up as fast as we possibly can.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

January Thirteenth.

415 State Street,
Albany, New York.

March 17, 1935

My dear Mr. McBrier:

You probably remember that I told you last fall that we were expecting a payment of some money that had been owed to us and that when it came we should pay something on our funding pledge.

It finally came this past week so I am enclosing checks from my sister and myself of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) each for this purpose. We hope to be able to squeeze out a little more before the end of the year. It is very unpleasant for us to keep people

waiting and very hard on them to have to wait
but is just one of the many disagreeable
things of the present situation.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

March seventeenth.

October 11, 1934

Miss Mary Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, New York

My dear Miss Gibson:

It is with much reluctance that I again refer to the pledges you and your sister so kindly made toward Yenching University in 1929, - \$3,750 each, a total of \$7,500 for a residence. You have each made payments of \$250.

When I last conferred with you in regard to this matter last April, you intimated that you would endeavor to map out a program of future payments, if possible, and would write me regarding same. That is the substance of a memorandum I made at the time, which I assume was my understanding then.

Of course the building has been built, and is occupied by Dr. Hung; and we were obliged to borrow the money to build the building. These debts which we owe are naturally embarrassing to us as well as being an expense.

I appreciate the difficulties that have confronted you during the last few years. I am in exactly the same predicament myself but I am paying off regularly on my obligations and am glad to see them constantly reduced in amount.

If you and your sister could outline some systematic program of payments, even if said payments were not as large as you would like to make, it would assist us materially. I hope you can do so.

Would it be possible for you to make some payment at this time; and could you undertake to pay a specified amount, say every three months, even if the amount was not as large as you wished? In this way the pledge could be gradually paid. I know it is just as much on your heart as it is on mine, and I hope you may be able to formulate some definite plan along the lines I have suggested.

Thanking you for your kind interest and consideration, I am,

Sincerely yours,

RM:R.A.

2.4.4.

1310

September 10, 1935

My dear Miss Gibson:

When I was in California last March, you and your sister each sent a check for \$500.00 to apply on your pledge for a residence at Yenching.

I feel sure that I acknowledged receipt, although I cannot find a copy of my letter to you in the files. I may have answered it longhand from California. There is also a possibility that in the rush of the few days between my arrival in New York and my departure for North Africa, I failed to write you. If I did, I must apologize.

At any rate, receipt of your checks was duly acknowledged and we very much appreciated the payment.

Earlier in the year I made a suggestion as to the possibility of periodical payments of small amounts, even if such amounts were nominal. In these times, when every dollar is a help, even small payments assist in lifting the burden.

You intimated in your letter that there possibly might be another payment later in the year. We do not want you to feel that you must wait until you can make a large payment. As I have already said, small payments are very acceptable, and materially help us.

You will be glad to know that a recent letter from Dr. Stuart indicates that their fears of Japanese invasion have very much abated, and that applications are larger than ever. There is much in the picture that is problematical, however, and one cannot speak with great assurance, but it seems from such information as we have that they are looking forward to another bumper year. The difficulty is going to be in the realm of finances, as usual. Dr. Stuart says that donations from Chinese sources have absolutely dried up, with both the Yangtze and the Yellow Rivers in flood, and with the Japanese menace on the north, everyone is conserving their resources.

They are going to have a hard time to make both ends meet this year. Our government's silver-buying policy has reduced the exchange, both gold and silver, so that today a dollar buys about \$2.40 in Chinese silver, as compared with nearly \$4.00 last year. This means they will have far less Chinese dollars with which to operate.

1311

Miss Gibson

-2-

September 10, 1935

However, we thank God and take courage. We are doing everything we can to produce the needed funds with which to carry through the next year.

Hoping you may be able to assist us further some time this fall by another payment on your pledge, and with sincere personal regards, I am

Most truly yours,

Miss Mary Gibson
415 State Street
Albany, New York

Treasurer

EMcB/V

13 12

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Oct. 14, 1935

RECEIVED ATTENTION
OCT 17 1935

E. M. McBRIDE

My dear Mr. McBrier:

There never is any time to talk
of anything but business on Executive meeting days.
Like you I meant to speak to you about your
letter but did not get an opportunity.

My answer to your question about another
payment this fall is that it will have to go
over until January when we are planning to make
a payment. We are paying on many other
pledges and trying to be fair to all of them and
so shall have to wait until January for the
next payment to Gencking.

13 13

As for the suggestion that we make regular payments throughout the year I shall have to make the same reply that I made before when you made this suggestion. With our incomes in this very much reduced state and getting smaller each year, as they are, we cannot manage that. The payments have to be made whenever we get some extra money such as came in last spring. I am sorry about this but we are doing the best we can with juggling things around to getting everything paid up eventually. With taxes and the other expenses which simply cannot be cut down and our incomes just about stretched to the limit to meet these, we shall undoubtedly be several years yet but are doing the best we can.

These lean years are at least teaching us patience and that we can get along without things

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

That we used to think essential. We really are distressed about this long delay but cannot help it. At the time we made the pledge we knew that we should have said "no" more emphatically than we did, instead of weakly giving in when the Presbyterians here have never fulfilled their part of the bargain. But it is done and we shall stand by the bargain but, meantime, there are other pledges which have equal or prior claims upon us and which we are trying to pay up, too.

I am giving you this frank statement of our position so that you may understand and not

Then? That we are carelessly and neglectfully
putting off the payments. I assure you that
no one will be happier than we when the final
payment is made, for we hate to put it off, too.

I trust you will not be inconvenienced too
much by our having to wait this time until
January.

I hope the October collections for the Board
are coming in well and that we shall have
no further deficit this year.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

October fourteenth

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK
MAY 24, 1936

RECEIVED ATTORNEY
MAY 27 1936
E. M. McBRIDE

My dear Mr. McBrier:

I have been waiting to answer your letter until my sister got home from General Conference where she was a delegate from our Conference. This necessitated her staying until it was all over so she has been home home only a few days. She felt that the spirit of the whole Conference was very different from that at Atlantic City and is very hopeful of its effect on the Church as a whole. Foreign missions were very much in the foreground and there seemed to be more sympathy and understanding

1317

of our purpose and program as well as of the
terrific problems we have had to face.

I thought you would be glad to hear of this
impression on a lay member of the conference.

It sounds more encouraging, doesn't it?

The report you sent me is wonderful, considering
the conditions. I wish we were able to pay up
our old pledge so we could give some on this
effort, but it is impossible yet. However, I
enclose checks for five hundred (\$500) from each
of us and assure you we shall pay it when
we can, even though it is a little at a time.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson

3750

Each wing 1250
1500

May twenty-fourth
1936

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

JAN. 18, 1938

Ans 1/19/38
EWM:18

My dear Mr. McBrier:

I am enclosing checks for five hundred dollars each from my sister and me for our pledge to Yenching University as I promised last fall. As I have said before, we are sorry we cannot pay this up more quickly but there are a number of pledges we are still paying on and we have to work them out the best we can, besides keeping up with our current gifts.

If it had not been for the depression, with its crippling cuts in our income and which

1319

shows no indication of any change for the better,
so far as we are concerned, we should have
had this paid up long ago.

Thank you for your very nice letter which I
should have answered some time ago.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

January eighteenth.

Ans 1/19/38

May 1, 1938.

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:-

My sister and I have been at Columbus for a week, attending the Y. U. C. A. Convention, and consequently your letter was delayed getting to us. Naturally we want to help Yenching University all we can.

I am to be in New York this next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and I should like very much to talk

over your plan for an Albany meeting
with you. Even though this week
will be a particularly busy one
for you, will it be possible for
you to see me some time? I
can be free any time from after
luncheon Wednesday on through
Friday.

I shall be at the
Commodore Hotel and you can
reach me there or leave a message
for me, and I can meet you at
the most convenient place for you.

Sincerely yours,
Henrietta Gibson

"NEW YORK'S BEST LOCATED HOTEL"

FRANK J. CHORAN, President



May 4, 1938.

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:-

This is just a note to tell you that I did appreciate your invitation to the Yenching luncheon and to say how sorry I am that I could not get to it. My Vassar meeting went on and on, and I could not slide out as finance matters were being discussed and I am the treasurer

PLAN NOW TO VISIT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR IN 1939
AND STAY AT THE COMMODORE

1323

of this particular organization. To tell the truth, I did not get any lunch at all to-day!

I was doubly sorry to have to miss the pictures.

But, having missed both lunch and pictures, I want you to know that I am very grateful to you for having invited me. You know how interested I am concerning anything about Yen-ching.

With best wishes for a fine trip west, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Henretta Gibson

June 25, 1938.

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

RECEIVED AS ABOVE

JUN 27 1938

EDMUND HUYCK

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:-

It is Mrs.

Francis C. Huyck who I hoped
might be willing to have the
Yenching meeting in her home
next fall. I talked with
Mrs. Edmund Huyck about best
dates, as you know, & while I
was with her, she called Mrs.
Francis Huyck to get her opinion,

telling her that I was there & that we
were talking the proposition over to-
gether. Mrs. Francis Huyck there-
fore knew that Mrs. Edmund Huyck
^{and I} were talking over plans, but no
mention was made of her having
the meeting at her home - we did
not get beyond dates - and I
did not speak to her myself.

The misunderstanding resulted from
the fact that Miss Van Seiver
understood apparently that I had
suggested to Mrs. Francis Huyck
that she might have the meeting

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

and instead your letter was the first time she had heard of that plan.

Would you like me to write to Mrs. Francis Huyck, explain to her, and ask her about having the meeting in her home next fall? Or is November too late for you to consider having it there? We all three, both Mrs. Huycks and our household, stay away late in the fall anyway, so

that a November date would probably be
better for any one of us. If you
would like me to write to Mrs.
Francis Huyck, please let me know
& I shall be glad to do so.
She is now at Rensselaerville, N. Y.
where they all spend their summers.
Both she & her husband are close
friends of Dr. Stewart, & I think
it would be fine if she would
hold the meeting. My sister &
I of course will be glad to have
it here at our house, if it works

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

out that way.

I am sorry about the confusion, but I know it can all be straightened out.

It was fine that you had such a successful time in California.

With best wishes for a good summer and hoping that you will stop in to see us if you "come by" our way in Rene Valley, I

am

Sincerely yours,
Henretta Gibson

P.S. We are very late getting away
from Albany this year, & shall
be here in Albany probably for
another week at least.

KEENE VALLEY
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

July 14, 1938

AJ 7/16/38

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:-

I apologize for not replying to your first letter about our attendance at the Silver Bay conference July 29 and 30. We moved up north and our days seem to have been very busy ones. My sister Mary definitely cannot go to Silver Bay, but there is a possibility that I shall be able to. I must

wait to hear from some friends, as to
the date of their arrival to visit us
and then I shall know definitely.
I shall let you know definitely of
course as soon as I can, and
meanwhile I shall ask you to
change the reservation you now have
for us to a single room with
bath.

It is too bad that Mrs.
Huyck thinks she cannot have the
Albany Yenching meeting at her
home. She is perfectly right about
both Mrs. E. N. Huyck's and our

KEENE VALLEY
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

homes being more accessible, but we thought that she is not in so many things as we are and people would be glad and interested to go there. We shall make our plans accordingly.

With best wishes and hoping to be able to go to Silver Bay, I am

Sincerely yours,
Henretta Gibson

September 22, 1938

KEENE VALLEY
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. McBrier:-

My sister Mary is improving, I hasten to tell you. She was recovering wonderfully well from all her injuries, really a little ahead of schedule, but unfortunately last week she developed pleurisy, the danger of which we had hoped was passed. She is a little better each day, but will have to stay in the hospital probably at least a month longer. She has been

1335

~~so~~ brave and cheerful through the long suffering she has had that it was hard to have this additional period and pain to face.

We do appreciate your thought of her, while you yourself have had so many heavy burdens to bear. We know you have One to whom you can turn who is always a source of strength and comfort and I think we never quite know this undergirding power until we turn to Him in our time of need, and then we find it sure and steadfast.

Mary joins me in sending our best regards to you and many thanks.

Cordially yours,
Henrietta Gibson

Copies

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Lake Placid,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:-

My sister Mary is still in the Lake Placid Hospital, and, while she is improving slowly, her doctor gives us no date for her return to Albany. It all depends of course on how rapid her recovery takes place. Just now it looks to us as if she will be here at Placid until March, as she has not been allowed to sit up yet even in bed, and convalescence itself will be a

slow process after she sits up.

As to the meeting in Albany, I seem to be getting a bit confused. Mrs. Hughson has spoken to me about one and Mrs. Mae Millan too, and they refer to a general China Colleges meeting, while you and I have talked of a Yenching meeting. Mrs. Hughson thinks a general China Colleges meeting would be better and apt to be more successful because of the larger group we could call in. Can you clear this with Mrs. Mae Millan and find out just what she and Mrs. Hughson are thinking of? If they plan for a general meeting, we shall have to fall

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

in with that plan, shall we not? I have told Mrs. Hugbison that I would begin working with her on the plan as soon as I had a minute to write to you to clear the thing.

There is one point we should consider when determining a date for either kind of meeting, and that is the church drive for Chinese Relief. I know an Albany committee, ministers and women, are beginning work on that, and perhaps our date should hinge more or less on their plans. I seem to be saying that late February or early March

might be a better time for a China College meeting than January or early February. January I think is rather out now, anyway, as the time would be short.

My time is so dreadfully full this winter, trying to keep up all my Albany and New York committee work and be in Placid with Mary every day I can, that I am pretty well swamped just "keeping my head about water", as it were, but I can always do one thing more and I shall do my best to help the China Colleges as soon as we can get started.

I shall be up here at Placid till next Monday, so that your reply to this should be sent to my

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Albany address.

Mary and I both hope
that the Christmas season has not
been too difficult for you this year
and that the New Year may bring
peace and happiness to you.

Sincerely yours,
Henrietta Libson

Dec. 27, 1938.

We cannot let the Albany plans hang
on Mary's return, for we are still as
uncertain of that date as we were two
months ago.

April 12, 1939.

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

RECEIVED ATTENTION

APR 17 1939

E. M. McBrier

Dear Mr. McBrier:-

I have meant to answer your letter of March 24 a long time ago. I shall do my best to pay another \$500.00 on our pledge to Yenching University during the year. We do know how hard it is on the university to have to get on with unpaid pledges on its books, and we have it on our minds constantly. So many unexpected things happen to us that we

1342

have had to be slower than we had hoped getting all our pledges paid off. We are, however, gradually doing so. You do know that fencing is one of many we still are struggling with, but we shall get it and all paid as soon as we possibly can.

I shall be glad to have a talk with you on the Albany situation. I am to be a delegate to Kansas City and I am more than swamped between now and April 26, so that I'm afraid I shall have to wait till later on in May, and then I

415 STATE STREET

ALBANY, NEW YORK

shall get in touch with you.

My sister Mary is
still in the ~~hospital~~ ^{at} Lake Placid.

They do assure ^{APR 1 1939} that she will
eventually ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~McBRIER~~ and so
we have to be patient and wait,
and she is acting courageously
and cheerfully through it all.

May I add that I
thought your party was one of the
loveliest affairs I have ever at-
tended? It was a little rough on
you, but your many friends were

1344

very happy to have you thus honored.

Sincerely yours,
Hazelita Gibson

1345

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

RECEIVED ATTENTION

APR 25 1940

E. M. MCBRIER

My dear Mr. McBrier:

At least the thousand dollars,
which I told you had been left me by a
cousin, has been paid and I am enclosing
a check for half of it, five hundred dollars,
towards my pledge to Yenching. I hope that
by next year I shall have sufficiently
recovered from the terrible drain on my
finances, caused by thirteen months in the
hospital, to be able to make another payment.

1346

If this pledge were the only one I have outstanding, I should pay the whole thousand but I have to divide it around.

My sister is a delegate to the General Conference and is, of course, down there now.

Do you expect to be there? It may be you are also a delegate but I shall send this to your office any way.

Cordially yours,

Mary Gibson

April Twenty-fourth

415 STATE STREET

ALBANY, NEW YORK

APRIL 17, 1941

RECEIVED ATTENTION

APR 19 1941

E. M. McBrier

My dear Mr. McBrier:

Thank you for your very kind

letter. We enjoyed our visit with Mr. Traci very much and were most happy to get acquainted with him.

I meant to write at once to let you know as to whether we should be at home next week or not, but my sister has been away and so busy when she was home that I could not talk to her about it. Now I find that she will be home except Thursday, so we should be happy to see you and glad to have you stay over night with us if

1348

it should be convenient for you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gibson.

April seventeenth.

Nov. 17, 1941.

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:-

My sister Mary is away so that I am answering your letter to her for her. We shall do our best to pay more on our pledge to Yenching before the first of January or just after.

We are sorry to hear that you have not been well and glad to know that you are better. I shall be in New York for the meetings of the Board of Missions

later on this month and you will
be there too doubtless. Perhaps we
may lunch together then some day,
but you should be my guest
for once! I shall look for-
ward to seeing you then, and
thank you for your very nice
letter.

Sincerely yours,
Hewletta Gibson

Receipt sent by Miss Van Seiver

415 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK

DEC. 29, 1941

My dear Mr. McBrier:

I am enclosing a check for two hundred and fifty dollars for my pledge to General and I am sorry it cannot be the five hundred you wanted. Incomes get no better, worse in fact, and prices go up so the future looks worrisome.

I hope you are feeling better and will be your usual self soon. Being rich is not a pleasant experience but its compensations for friends are so wonderful then.

1352

This is not a pleasant world to live in but
nevertheless we all seem to want to stay here. The
war seems pretty close to us for we have two nephews
already in the army and two more who will be
called soon, now they have lowered the age. It is
going to be a hard task to win, I fear.

With best wishes for the new year,

Cordially yours,

Mary Gibson.

December twenty-ninth.

January 8, 1944.

152 STATE STREET
ALBANY
NEW YORK

JAN 10 1944

Dear Mr. ~~McBride~~ Brier:

We are finally making further payments on the Yenching pledge, and I am enclosing \$250.⁰⁰ from my sister Mary and \$500.⁰⁰ from me. This payment finishes Mary's half of the total \$750.⁰⁰ pledge and leaves me \$500.⁰⁰ of my share still to pay. I shall send this amount as soon as I can.

I hope you are well

1354

and that all you do for everybody
makes you as happy as you make
others.

Sincerely yours,
Henrietta Gibson

August 9, 1945.

8 GRAMERCY PARK
NEW YORK, N. Y.

ATTENTION

AUG 10 1945

Dear Mr. Mc Brier:- E. M. McBRIER

I enclose my check for
\$500.⁰⁰ the last payment on my share
of our pledge to Yenching University.
I am glad finally to get this all
paid!

May I send my con-
gratulations in writing to you on your
eightieth birthday. That was a
wonderful tribute to you that day at
150 Fifth Avenue in the chapel, and
your part in the celebration I can

1356

never forget. Thank you for it.

Sincerely yours,
Henrietta Libson

June 5, 1946

Dr. William Hung
c/o Prof. Serge Elisseeff
Harvard-Yenching
Boylston Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Hung:

Miss Cowing has very kindly located in our files a letter dated December 7, 1931, signed by Miss Mary Gibson, in which she states:

"I shall be very glad to have Cottage No. 54 called 'Charles Gibson Memorial Cottage'. My sister had tea with Dr. Hung in that very cottage when she was there last year with Dr. and Mrs. Diffendorfer."

This confirms my recollection that the Gibson sisters wished the cottage to be named in memory of their father, Mr. Charles Gibson.

Hoping you may have a very successful visit in Boston, I am

Sincerely yours,

EJMcB:GC

1358