燕京大學

PEKING UNIVERSITY
(YENCHING TA HSUEH)
PEKING, CHINA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

November 22, 1924.

Dr. Eric M. North
Secretary China Union Universities
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. North:

We were glad to get the announcement of your appointment to the secretaryship for the Union Universities. It seems to me to be a very natural and logical outcome to the whole situation. The fine work which you did in helping to straighten out the affairs of Peking University and putting them upon a solid basis, laid the foundations for this larger work. You have been so associated with it from the very start that, as I said, it seem but a logical and normal development that we should now have the continued and more direct help which you can give to the whole movement.

Each month our faculty is having a fellowship dinner together, which meeting takes on various forms. I wish you could have been at our last meeting in a restuarant in "Central Park", one of the popular garden and restuarant resorts in the old Imperial City. On this occasion Mr. Hu Shih, whose name is doubtless familiar to you as Professor in the Government University and in many respects the main leader in the modern "New Thought Movement" in China, spoke to us on the relationship of govenrment and private education to our Christian educational work. He spoke with the utmost frankness and yet with a good deal of charm and grace. He mentioned the fact that the new radicals of the modern Thought Movement were extremely nationalistic in their attitude, and rather linked up our Christian education as a part of the imperialism which they were opposing. He spoke of China as being naturally nationalistic and of the return to earlier rationalism which had been somewhat obscured by Buddhism. When he came to his positive suggestions he expressed his belief in as strong a way as I have ever heard the idea stated that our educational institutions could have an assured future <u>only on condition</u> that we raise the standard in quality to the highest pitch. "Quality at all costs; limit the quantitive tests to elevate the qualitative tests. If you get a good equipment and good men then your future is assured; no one can nor will desire to destroy the position you have. It is a matter of the internal, surviving quality."

He frankly said the example before his mind was the work of the Peking Union Medical College. He thought it might be twenty years before the government might have any institution to equal that. He said it was not for him to suggest the different ways by which our change ~~it~~ might be brought about, but one element might possibly be the drastic decrease in number of our schools in the interest of the efficiency of the rest. In this we might well follow the P.U.M.C. planning ~~which~~ one at Peking and one at Shanghai, but very wisely centering finally upon the institution at Peking.