TRANSFER

PEKING

INDEXED

Peking University

June 19, 1926

Dr. Henry W. Luce,
Mansion House
Titusville, Pa.

My dear Harry:

I had word from Leighton with reference to Mr.Sharman's going to Peking, and I confess that I am rather conservative about it. I do not know very much about Sharman's work or his present standing, or his influence, but I do know that to some at least, his relation to the University would be looked on as tagging us even more strongly with the higher critical view of all religious things, and I do not feel that we here ought to take the responsibility for making any proposition to them. The needs of the University for a staff which ought to be met are basically needs for permanent appointees, and while I take it that both Mr.Sharman and Mrs.Sharman are persons of fine education I do not get the impression that they have had positions on college faculties as we would assume any who were visiting instructors would have had. I know I am writing somewhat in the dark but these are my present impressions. Frankly, I think that the fact that their going would be without cost to the University is entirely too attractive to Leighton and that a consideration of this kind ought not to weigh very strongly. My inclination is therefore to suggest that we get together and have further counsel about it before we take any further steps.

I shall canvass the Committee th see whether it is possible to have a meeting in the week of June 27th, but I cannot tell until I hear from them.

Reports in the Times as to events in Peking seem to indicate that Chang and Wu are planning to smite the Kuoninchun armies up around Calgan if they can do it, though this is, at present, in the stage of talk. Chang and Wu have not personally met yet to work out the present impasse as to the central government. I understand that Yen is threatening to resign if something is not settled pretty soon. He is, I believe, the only acting member of the Cabinet. Silas Strawn complains that the Chinese representatives at the Extra-territoriality Conference have evaporated, and that though he is ready to stand by and discuss, there is nobody around to discuss with. I have not had any impression of the situation in Peking being dangerous except the fact that the men under Chang and Wu are not as well behaved as were the troops of that eminent Methodist Feng Yu-hsiang.

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