(Copy)

Mr Elmes
Please return for file
MN

December 30, 1926.

Dear Doctor Luce:

Your letters to me and the one to Britton, which you suggested I open and treat as if to me provided Britton had already left, have been on my desk for some weeks. I will enclose some paragraphs from a long letter which I have just been sending to certain friends at home, which I hope will adequately explain my delay in writing you. I am getting off a bunch of letters to the Kansas City men, and will hope to do much more, preparatory to your visit to Kansas City.

Doctor North very kindly sent me about the same time that you wrote an itemized statement of the amounts received from Kansas City toward my support up to November 8th. I must confess that the situation was better than I had hoped. The whole situation with reference to pledges was left in such a ragged state that I had feared a much smaller total of payments than the $5200. Ernest Winters will without doubt carry his third thousand, so that the total will go well past the $6,000 mark. Moreover, in going through the list I find only six names of members of the Lions Club. It should, therefore, be possible with some work this spring, to bring the total very close to the original proposed $9,000 before the end of my third year on August 12th. It would be very welcome news if certain such friends would be willing to make annual pledges, renewable each year until cancelled by them. Such a willingness would doubtless assure my being able to stay in Yenching.

I think some such plan as that might be acceptable to certain men, but most of them are, as you know, very averse to pledging a certain amount for a certain period of years. A certain amount renewable annually until cancelled is a very different sort of commitment.

Mr. Winters made his offer of $1,000 a year for three years on condition that the other members of the Lions Club make up another thousand a year for three years. It is quite possible that after a year nothing like a thousand has been raised by other Lions Club members, and that he may have a feeling that his conditions have not been met. If so, it would seem to me to be very unwise to press the matter with him for the payment of his third thousand. It might easily cause us to lose the chance of securing a residence from him for us. He has virtually promised a house when able; that is to say, he has indicated that he hoped to be able to do this