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TRANSFER

G.W. Luce

MEMORANDUM TO DR. ERIC NORTH

April 21, 1926

In view of the fact that the Executive Committee of the Trustees cannot meet at the present time, and of the fact that I am likely to be away for the next few weeks, it may be well for me to jot down two or three items which you might have in mind concerning my thought upon the matters committed to the Executive Committee relative to my staying in the United States.

The Trustees apparently recognize the difficulty and risk in the proposition for me to stay at home and have left the matter entirely to me. As you can well imagine, there are very many unsatisfactory and complicated details in such a matter and no little risk involved. Nevertheless, I feel very clearly (almost as clearly as if it were accomplished) a certain large financial task that ought to be accomplished for the University, whether it takes three years or ten and I am inclined to think that before the needs of the University are adequately met it will be nearer the latter date. I could have wished that the Trustees had extended the matter from three to five years, but as they have not there is nothing for me to do but to accept this as final.

There are two or three questions yet to be decided.

FIRST: As to salary - as you may recall from past experience, I have never made this a special item nor allowed the decision as to the work to be done to be decided by it. In deciding upon this item I would like the Executive Committee to have in mind the following:

1. That I have served under missionary financial conditions for twenty-nine years.

2. Since 1913 Mrs. Luce and I have lived from here to there always faced with uncertain domestic plans, changing countries, homes, selling and buying furniture, etc., etc., always with considerable loss.

3. Under the best possible arrangement I am taking serious risks in the effort to start a more permanent home life in the United States on the basis of a three year contract.

4. Perhaps it should be recognized that I am not a novice in this part of the China task in the United States, but bring to it a funded experience in this type of work (I know of no missionary who has had a like extended experience).

SECOND: It seems to me that the return freight on our household goods in China should be covered.

THIRD: That it be understood that I go to China in the summer of 1927 for two purposes:

1. To attend the dedication of the University buildings.

2. To get into fresh and more intimate touch with the new situation in China.

I regard both these points (immediately above) as having important bearing on the prosecution of our work here. In strongest language Dr. Stuart has urged that I come out this summer even if it involves coming out again a year hence.

Very sincerely yours

H. W. Luce

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