Copy

TRANSFER

January 10, 1927

Doctor H. W. Luce,
Yenching University,
New York City.

My dear Harry:

I am enclosing herewith a clipping, which is typical of much that is being said and thought. I think it quite probable that the southern government when it once gets in control of all China, which may be at any time within the next year or two, will at least temporarily locate the capital either in Wuchang or Nanking. You will probably be met with this objection or inquiry on the part of prospective donors, and should be able to discuss the matter.

On the other hand it is not improbable that (1) there may be for a period of years two governments, divided roughly by the Yangtse River; (2) that the southern government may feel that they will gain more prestige by establishing themselves in the ancient capital.

In either case I really do not think that any political change would seriously affect our interests. Peking is too large, with too great a tradition and too many invested interests to be neglected. It may be, without the capital here, even more of a cultural center than it is tending to be now. The railways that center here, the favorable climatic conditions, the almost certain development of Manchuria into a rich and prosperous province, the interest China has in the great undeveloped northwest, her fear of her ancient enemies, Japan and Russia, never more aggressive than right now, all combine to make it practically certain that the prestige and power of Peking will continue even though the capital should be changed. It is also important to remember that conditions are so uncertain, and there are so many changes ~~which~~ work that we need not become too much concerned over a decision of the small group that happen now to be in control of the Nationalist government, as though their decision were final.

Wiant Residence: Bliss has written you at some length and I only want to add my hearty endorsement of his plea. If you can possibly make a trip to Ohio, and put this thing through, it would not only bring them great joy; but would relieve a tense situation, as we are trying to house all of our people next autumn with no progress in securing additional residences.

1064