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Peking, China,
July 7, 1928

Rev. H.W. Luce,
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Harry:

Your fine letter of June 4 has just reached me as I am starting today for Shanghai to attend the Council on Higher Education. I certainly am glad that our elusive friend Mr.Carl Hamilton is still being purused by you and that you feel so hopeful about some sort of fruitful outcome. /It so happens that in the three weeks since I returned here, I have been informed that it is now quite possible, if we act promptly, to secure the President's Garden at a price even smaller perhaps than originally thought of. The new nationalistic regime is making all those who hold property under the Imperial grants somewhat anxious about their ability to maintain their claims. President Hsu is aging and some of his closest friends are actively interested on our behalf. This combination of circumstances will make it possible for us to secure within the next few weeks what might otherwise be permanently lost, certainly at any such figures. If, therefore, Mr. Hamilton really decides to assist us in this matter, I suggest that you cable authorization. The total cost not to exceed $10,000 gold. It may even be secured for half of that amount, though the larger figure should be authorized for contingencies.

The matter of the Athletic Field is not so much of an immediate opportunity that may need immediate action, but seems to me an even more important acquisition from the standpoint of university development. The gymnasium is now under construction and at its completion it would be a very great advantage to have the important field features immediately adjacent to it instead of at the end of thecampus farthest from it. This latter place was intended to be only temporary and could be permanently occupied for tennis courts, and other games, less related to the gymnasium and to sporting events. The two holdings which we have not as yet acquired are being held more or less on a speculative basis at figures higher than we had intended to offer. With the increasing value of property around us the intimation is that this price will go up rather than otherwise. This combined with the return of K. A. Wee as our Physical Director next winter and the desire to stress this important aspect of student welfare makes me inclined to urge that between the two, the north east corner is of greater benefit to the university, although you will share with me the sense of the desirability of the President's Garden. I need not say that you can assure Mr. Hamilton of the eager expectation with which we are awaiting favorable decision on his part. I doubt if he could invest such a sum of money anywhere in the world where it would bring more joy and benefit to educational and cultural welfare than in helping us in one or both of these projects for which at present we have no other available funds./

I have received a letter from Oliver Bronson telling me that you are to be at Hartford Seminary. I am delighted at this outcome and congratulate the Seminary as well as yourself. I hope you will find it a most congenial task and you will certainly have a delightful community in which to make new friends. Meanwhile, you can be assured that the old one still love you and wish you all happiness and success.

As ever yours,

(Signed) J. Leighton Stuart

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