ASSOCIATED BOARDS PROMOTION
YENCHING

October 24, 1936

Dear Dr. Luce,

It was most delightful to have both Mrs. Luce and yourself at the Cheeloo luncheon yesterday. And of course we were happy to have Mrs. Chalfant there as well. As far as your attempting to reimburse Evans or me - nothing doing! A certain one of the Governors, who desires to be nameless, instructed me long before the luncheon to invite you and Mrs. Luce and anyone you might care to be bring, to come as his guests. So the bill is paid and the account squared and the ledger closed.

We all had the feeling that the Cheeloo meetin was an unusually good one. The afternoon session was even better than the morning - and for that your talk during luncheon had a large share of credit. After a long period of drifting in the doldrums, Cheeloo seems to be getting back on its proper course again.

You ask for a few suggestions as to the talk at the Yenching dinner on Tuesday night. We should leave the topic very much to your own choice. But as a suggestion, I think it would be both interesting and appropriate if you would talk something along the line of "A Dream Realized". I know that when you were in Yenching this last year you were likely to feel at times that here indeed you were seeing the realization of the dream you had back in 1919 when you first took an active share in Yenching's destiny. Both Mr. Davis and Dr. Hume are likely to touch on various historic phases of Yenching's development, and it would seem to climax the evening fittingly if you gave us some of your own observations and impressions as you visited the campus on this latest trip to China. Among the guests who will be present there should be some whose interest and support you helped to enlist back in the early twenties, and it would warm their hearts for you to tell them something of what their gifts have done. As to length of time - the group would enjoy listening to you until midnight. But my observation of all dinner meetings has been that the most effective talks are always those that are fairly brief. By the time the crowd has enjoyed one of Oscar's good dinners and has listened to the remarks of the chairman and the toastmaster and Dr. Hume and a few other items on the program, an impressive talk of not more than fifteen minutes would climax the evening beautifully. You know that Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, taking less than five minutes, was infinitely more impressive than all the oratory Edward Everett

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