April 23, 1932

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ludington:

It distresses me to tell you that a crisis amounting to a real financial disaster threatens Yenching University. Only such a crucial danger to the University would justify me in adding its troubles at this time to the emergency facing such friends as you in our own country.

Let me explain. Since the natural sciences must play a major role in bettering human life in China, we consider it of the greatest importance that some leading scientists shall be educated at Yenching University, a Christian university fostered by the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational Churches. We have, therefore, developed a College of Natural Sciences superior, probably, to any other in China. But this achievement has been possible only through the help of two foundations in America. After June 30th we lost a large portion of that support unless we can meet a certain condition attaching to it.

Two years ago, one of the Foundations offered us $250,000 toward endowment of the natural sciences if we could match this gift by June 30th of the present year. The depression has so hindered us that we have available only $175,000. The Foundation feels obliged, not only to decline to extend the time, but even to cut off its annual appropriation of $12,500 if we fail to meet the condition.

Such a loss would tragically disable the whole College of Natural Sciences.

The Trustees at the recent annual meeting instructed a small committee to present the matter to those friends of Yenching who have shown deepest interest in the University. It is for this reason that I am stating our situation to you. Please give the matter your most earnest and friendly thought.

Sincerely yours,

E. M. McBrier
Treasurer

Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Ludington
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

ODW:KK