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From a letter of Dr. John W. Wood, Secretary of the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., to Mr. Irving U. Townsend of Boston:

'I think the attitude of all our missionaries in China is glorious, and that they rank with the heroes of the Church throughout the ages. What they are doing is a great inspiration to all the Churches.'

A PRIMER (by Irving U. Townsend)

From your far city on the Asian shoreland  
Mountains divide us and the waste of seas,  
Yet still our faith is strong from the Homeland  
Stream ceaseless prayers for our dear refugees!

From land and sea, from air destruction raineth,  
Worse ruthless ravaging than Genghis Khan;  
Lord God of Hosts whose arm Japan disdaineth,  
Be shield and buckler mightier than man!

From unleashed fury worse than typhoon's raging,  
Long-plotted, cruel, and launched in envious hate,  
Be shelter sure, their fears and ours assuaging,  
Almighty God who rules each Nation's fate!

Shielded him at ... on his long-loved station,  
At stricken Nanking where his duty lies,  
Mid ruin, death, and wanton desolation,  
From human vultures ravaging the skies.

That once proclaimed God's peace by singing angels  
In weary ages past, long, long ago.  
Protect our children, Lord, thy dear Evangelists  
Who stay in China through her hour of woe!

A letter from Mr. Townsend, December 13, 1937.

If one is where his thoughts are, and if one's heart is where his treasure is, I have indeed been living in China these recent weeks, and especially during all this last terrible week. Indeed while I am mailing a copy of this letter to you, Ernest, at Nanking, I do not know that it will ever reach you, and indeed I do not know whether you and John Magee and the other fourteen Americans who are endeavoring to establish a safety zone in the heart of Nanking are going to be there to receive the letter, should it ever arrive. There has been much in the papers, and particularly in the New York Times and the New York Sun concerning the heroic work of this little band of Americans. I know that countless prayers are going up for you everywhere. The State Department has been exceedingly good to us in giving us the latest news. I spent most of last week in Washington and was in constant touch with the Far Eastern Division each day, and on Friday spent most of the forenoon there awaiting the latest news... Last night's late radio messages, last night's radio broadcast and this morning's paper tell of the deliberate bombing and sinking of the U.S. gunboat Panay some miles up the river from Nanking. Mr. Meyers in the Far Eastern Division, through whose hands all my matters pass, showed me on a large map of Nanking just where the U.S. Embassy buildings are, and where you, Ernest, and your little group of Americans are.

Miss Forster

... I then added the following little paragraph (to a circular letter ~~we~~ had sent home) 'To the roll call of the Saints in Hebrews XI let us add another verse:

By faith John Magee and Ernest Forster and their heroic little band of fourteen other Americans remained within the city of Nanking to minister unto the thousands of helpless Chinese civilians, scorning to fear the horrors of modern warfare, and risked their lives unto death from the overwhelming mechanized Japanese hosts; for they endured, as seeing him who is invisible.'

Letter from Mr. Townsend December 20, 1937.

... I do not know that your mail will reach you untampered, and it is best for me to say little upon that subject of horror. What you and John Magee and the other fourteen noble Americans went through was a work of heroism and opportunity such as falls to the lot of but few people to participate in. The New York papers and the Boston papers have published long accounts of what that little band of Americans has done.

It was on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 11, that the State Department sent me a wire that you Ernest were safe at midnight of Friday the 10th. It was not until the late evening of Wednesday, December 15, that it again wired me that you were safe. The intervening four days were days of utmost anxiety. News came late Sunday of the bombing of the Penay, and that news came as an awful foreboding of what might be next. All through Monday there was nothing to do but to pray and to hope. During those four days I learned the meaning of 'praying without ceasing'. Tuesday morning I telephoned to the State Department through our Washington office to see if it would be possible to make investigations through the Japanese forces, but they replied that it was not possible to do so. At the same time I sent a most pleading air-mail letter, and in reply to that letter in the late evening of December 15 came the word that you, Ernest, were safe. That definite news was foreshadowed by a statement appearing in the noon edition of the Transcript Wednesday that all the Americans were safe in Nanking. I immediately telephoned the Transcript office to learn the source of the word, and told them of our special interest. They thereupon rushed a reporter right down to me to get a little statement about you, E. The substance of it appeared on page 3 of the Transcript of Thursday, Dec. 16...

I would like to add that Monday, December 13, was for me a day of almost despair, and that Tuesday was about the same up to about three o'clock Tuesday afternoon, when I had the most strong feeling that you, Ernest, were safe, and that feeling remained with me throughout the day and the next night, and indeed until I received word that you were safe. I wonder just why this was. Perhaps somehow the word came all the way from you in far off Nanking to me here, or perhaps the good Lord himself let me know that you were safe...

There have been special articles in the N.Y. papers and in the Transcript by two of the correspondents who were in Nanking and have since gone to Shanghai and are now telling the world what occurred. They are by a Mr. Steele and by Tillman Durdin. The latter tells of the formation of the committee for the safety zone and the war-wounded committee stated to have been headed by John Magee. It is our feeling that you were serving with John Magee on the war-wounded committee. Mr. Steele, in one of his accounts, says the work of this band of Americans was an exhibition of the most colossal nerve, and that it was responsible for the saving of the lives of thousands of Chinese civilians...

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Editorial in the Boston Globe;

'It happened in Nanking. A small group of foreigners, largely American, stayed in the city when the Japanese attacked, organized a safety zone committee in the hope of creating a demilitarized area where non-combatants could congregate reasonably free from attack... The personnel of the committee reads like a college faculty and a board of missions; they were professors and parsons. Very sober reading <sup>does</sup> this make. Here were civilized men behaving humanely in a place and time when civilization had broken down.'

Letter from Mr. Townsend: December 23, 1937.

... The whole world knows of the doings of the little group of sixteen or eighteen Americans who remained in Nanking throughout the terrible days of the attack on the city. Through the State Department, a list of names was published before the fighting began in the city, and from day to day some information found its way into the press. After the city had been taken, two correspondents (Mr. Steele and Mr. Durdin) told of those eventful days. What they told has produced a profound impression throughout America, and I am sure all the rest of the world.

From the sermon of the Rev. Whitney Hale, rector of the Church of the Advent, Boston. Dec. 26, 1937.

... It takes a very strong faith in these days to realize that God is with us (Mr. Hale's sermon was on the text: Emmanuel, God-with-us) when we know of the suffering of mothers for little children in China - more suffering of mothers now than probably the world has ever known before...'

Letter from Mr. Townsend, December 27, 1937.

... I see that in settling the Panay affair, which the United States did only on the offer of apology, indemnity, etc., and on the promise that our Nationals' rights and properties shall be hereafter respected, Japan takes occasion to say that the United States is friendly. As a matter of fact, I do not believe there is anyone in the United States from the President down who does not regard with utter abhorrence the action of the Japanese in China, and if I were the head of the government, I would, in settling the Panay affair, have stated so in most emphatic language...