

A LETTER FROM CHINA

(Published by request of Rev. D.H. Tuttle.)

August 19, 1932.

Dear Friend of Soochow University:

Since I last wrote you our part of China has been one of the "trouble spots" of the planet Earth! Judging from the newspapers and from letters from some of you, I gather that "trouble spots" have been fairly widely—if not evenly—distributed over this globe of ours.

Therefore, I chose to try to tell you of some of the outstanding blessings that have come to Soochow University during the past year. I shall list a few, trying to explain certain points.

1. Not one of our buildings was destroyed during "the undeclared" war centering in Shanghai; although our famous Law School and our Second Middle School on Quinsan road, Shanghai, were both more than once ransacked by Japanese marines and plain clothes men. One of the Chicago newspapers printed a picture of our Allen Hall in Soochow, as the Law School Building in Shanghai, and reported it as having been destroyed. Fortunately the report was not true.

2. Only one of our staff members was lost due to the war. That one was Mr. T. S. Chap, a teacher and one vice-principal of our S. U. Second Middle School in Shanghai. He was taken up by Japanese, and never been heard from since. He left his wife and four children, the youngest a babe of eighteen days. Friends are raising an endowment fund for the education of his children.

3. The Japanese invasion of Manchuria produced in China, particularly in the student-world, a state of intense excitement and agitation, making the task of school administration extremely difficult, complicated, and delicate. There were school troubles everywhere, of more or less serious nature. The tragedy of the situation is that the warm, innocent patriotism of students was often utilized by local politicians who desired to use them as tools for the furtherance of their political ambitions. Caught in this general hurricane, our campus also became the scene of wild student disorders and excesses, but after all the excitement and anxiety, our school authorities saved the school and maintained discipline.

4. President Y. C. Yang, as head of the administration was naturally the target of attack by the radical students. For him the easiest way out would have been to resign. At the earnest insistence of the Board of Trustees, who backed him and the Executive Council throughout our disturbances, and due to the whole-hearted support of our alumni everywhere, Dr. Yang is still at the helm a distinction for a Christian University in China, as during the year many a college president has been made to resign. Nor was the way closed for him to get another position. When Dr. Wellington Koo, his former chief, was called upon to head up the Foreign Office last winter, Dr. Yang left the University for a short while to serve as Senior Secretary and Acting Director of the Department of International Affairs. More recently his friends urged him to go to Geneva to assist Dr. W. W. Yen, China's chief delegate at the League of Nations. But he has elected to stand by the Church.

5. There is, of course, also an encouraging side to the students activities. Working with the teachers, the students respond, such as famine relief, solatium for wounded soldiers and other patriotic funds. Even with a reduced enrollment, more than two thousand dollars have been raised for such specials.

6. We have succeeded in completing the year's school work with the students loyal to the school at a high cost to teachers and students; namely, calling upon our teachers to teach through the heat of summer, and upon to do a number of difficult and unpleasant things, things including reciting from 6:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon. This is rendered necessary by our insistence on the principle that full credit can only be given for full work done.

7. We have grown close together as fellow-workers in conducting the school, and find it dearer to us every day. Our love for service. Teaching through the summer is one illustration; making financial contributions is another. The enrollment have produced a serious shortage in our income. The income from students' fees alone shows a shortage of about \$40,000 from the budgeted amount. To relieve this situation in part, Chinese staff members waived half of their salaries from February to June inclusive, resulting in a saving of about \$20,000, and the foreign faculty made voluntary contributions amounting to between four and five thousand dol-

lars. Splendid spirit it is, but mathematically it still leaves us \$15,000 short for last year.

8. We have become aware of a side of many of our students deeper than realized. On the part of many non-Christians there is evident a willingness to investigate Christianity. With many professing Christians there is evident a new seriousness in their efforts to follow Christ.

9. We seem—one and all—brought to face with the necessity of making our educational program function more efficiently as an evangelizing agency. With the worst throes of war psychology behind us, we realize that our schools and our churches MUST offer to the people of China a program and a hope for the future. More Challenging than that offered by Soviet Russia. Pray that God may enable us to discharge this obligation.

10. "And now abideth faith, hope, and love." With ineffaceable picture of the terrified populace about us, with our hearts still aching in sympathy with those who paid the unspeakable price of war in murdered loved ones, lost reason, burned homes, destroyed fortunes, anew we dream the dreams of those who prayed this institution into being—that here we might lift up Christ, His faith, His hope, His love. The month behind us have had the Christ lifted up in many a tender, human service—sharing sorrows, bearing burdens, finding peace and strength in prayer to Him. May such experiences increase here on our campus, through years of peace as well as years of war.

Some of you would like, perhaps, to hear just what did happen here on our campus. Time and space does not permit. I'll mention just one or two points: An atmosphere of mourning enveloped us from September 18 when trouble in Manchuria started until the end of April—no social meetings by the students, no dinner parties among faculty friends no movies, no fortnightly school "Social Nights" no intercollegiate athletics. During the month of January student exercises engendered by a group of radical leaders, acting under the influence of local politicians halted the orderly on going the institution. The month of February was filled with all the horrors of war. Being behind the lines most of our Methodist missionaries felt it wisest to stay still. Countless numbers of Chinese in the city fled here and there. Refugees from Shanghai, many of them flood refugees of the preceding summer, were cared for here in the University

dormitories. Also students of Chinan University refuged here for many weeks. Coupled with the daily visits of Japanese planes for reconnoitering purposes, the situation in Soochow was harrowing. After weeks of daily fear of renewal of hostilities, during which the city walls of the cities along the Shanghai Nanking Railway, Soochow included, were sandbagged and honeycombed with dugouts, a settlement was made, and we were able to open school the later half of April. Students came back cautiously, first from the city, and then from places nearby. The radicals were not permitted to return, nor were students from Canton, Peiping and distant points encouraged to returned. By July most of the students caring to return—and allowed—were back with us, giving us an enrollment of 450 odd as compared with more than 800 last fall. With these are working to finish up the spring term's work by the first week in September. After about two weeks' intermission, we start our fall term's work.

Pray with us and for us that we may fulfill God's ambition for us at this critical time.

Sincerely,
S. U. Publicity Com., Per D. L. S.
Sent in by Rev. D. H. Tuttle of Smithfield. Mr. Tuttle's sister is a teacher in Sochow University, Soochow China.

A SAMPLE OF ROOSEVELT'S "SELF-GOVERNMENT"

(From The Yellow Jacket.)
Probably the loudest noise made by the Roosevelt-for-president boosters is the statement that he stands for "self-government."

Well, Roosevelt has furnished us a neat sample of how his big idea works. It is called his "Civil Rights Law," and here's how it came to be a law:

An applicant for a school-teacher's job in a New York public school was politely asked by the committee what her religious faith happened to be. Naturally, being a public school committee, they wouldn't like the idea of installing a rank atheist or an avowed enemy to our constitution and form of government in a teacher's position where the teacher might lead the susceptible young future citizens to believe our government should be destroyed.

Well, because this teacher happened to be a "true" Roman Catholic she set up a howl, and Governor Roosevelt had the school principal discharged from his job. That not being sufficient sop to the public school-hating Pope crowd, Roosevelt

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had a law enacted by the New York Assembly making it a high crime for any school committeeman to ask a public school teacher what her religious belief is or is not.

If they call that "self-government"—with everybody from the Roman Catholic Hierarchy down to the Governor and the Assembly lambasting the local school committee for trying to protect our American ideals, we believe we don't care so much for any of Governor Roosevelt "self-government" in ours.

You'd call a Republican a simple-minded boob if he put a Democrat at the head of his party, and vice versa, and if putting Catholics to teach in Protestant public schools, which the Catholics are sworn to destroy, isn't even worse, please keep what you think it really is to yourself.

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DEPRESSION SAVED US FROM PLUNGE

We did not see the statement referred to but the Shelby Star did and says we have a new explanation for the cause of the depression. It is offered by none other than Dr. Lea G. Broughton, eminent Baptist divine of Atlanta. The depression he says, saved the nation from a fate similar to that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Rolling in prosperity and squandering money at every turn, "we had lowerer moral standards until there was almost none."

"If the fog hadn't come—this thing call the depression—I believe by now, we all would have been in hell," he added.

The depression was a fog, Dr. Broughton said, sent by God as was the fog of the Mount of Transfiguration when the disciples proposed raising shrines to others.—Union Republican.

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Successful advertisers are men and women who have studied the art, who understand some of the psychology which sways buyers and know enough about the things to be advertised to be able to buy and sell them correctly.

The local merchants advertising is not the most important part of their business. It is, however, an important factor in merchandising which has demonstrated its power to produce sales results. It should be utilized for that purpose, and no other.

We have not objection to any person spending money as he or she deems proper, but it sometimes gives us a pain in the neck to see what some merchants buy and charge to "advertising."—Gold Leaf Farmer.