

Henetia Cox
American Church Mission
Hankow, China

June 13, 1925.

Dear Mother:

Here we are under martial law and not allowed to leave the concessions. Gates into the native city are locked and barred, and all streets of the concessions are closed off with barbed wire or sand bags and sailors with cannons & guns on guard all the time. All the men in the concessions are formed into a volunteer company and they too are picketed all over the streets well armed. We have a guard of about 5000 on duty all the time, and gunboats in the river ready to open fire any time necessary. The British have two gunboats, we have two ocean going destroyers, and the Japanese and French have plenty of gunboats. So we are well protected.

I suppose you would like to know how matters have developed since I wrote last week, and why all these sudden fortifications. The students slipped by the Wuchang soldiers last Saturday and Sunday and came to Hankow

with their propaganda. The result was, all our teachers and day students became contaminated and demanded a holiday with them staying on the compound but not attending classes. They loved their ^{country} and hated foreigners so much they didn't feel like studying!!!!

Of course we couldn't allow them ^{to} stay on like this, so we just closed ^{school} on Tuesday. All other mission schools in this center closed the same day, and all foreigners came over to Hankow who could leave their post on such short notice. Only a few are still left in Wuchang, and most of them are in the hospital.

There were a few of our girls who could not get away on Tuesday, so we had to keep them on until we could find places for them, but they all got away yesterday and the building is closed today.

This is the queerest sensation we've ever had any where, - nothing but the Boxer trouble can equal it. We have wars or famines in China every year. Then we have hundreds of Chinese coming to us for protec-

Venetia Cox
 American Church Mission
 Hankow, China

tion and we feel the responsibility. This time the Chinese are perfectly safe so they flee to the Chinese city for protection and leave us to fight our own battles.

Thursday evening there was a seething mass of students in Hankow and they were bent on mischief. They had already organized the coolies, and punctually at 8 o'clock they began to smash up property on the Bund. The fire force was called out & the water hose turned on them, with the result that they scattered. At the same time the students started down the road just back of us breaking up some of the Japanese shops back there, and also killed one ~~Chinese~~ Japanese man. (You see they are especially at enmity with Japanese & English because the former killed the coolie ~~in~~ in Shanghai that set the match to all this trouble, - and the latter shot some of the students when trying to scatter them in riot.)

As soon as this started the alarm was sounded and the volunteers came out with barbed wire, sand bags & ammunition.

They tried for half an hour to keep the students back by turning the water hose on them, but they refused to go. Instead, they threw sticks and stones at the volunteers and finally a few broke through into the concessions. There was nothing for us to do then but fire, which was done and 8 were killed.

My heart stood still when that happened. It seemed like a death sentence to mission work in China. All this happened at the end of our street, or at least the students were there. The firing was done from just the corner of our compound wall, right at our house, - the foreign residence on our compound. It lasted only a few seconds, and entirely scattered the crowd. Afterwards perfect quiet reigned throughout the concessions, but I slept very little. The unusual stillness and the sounds of the muskets being refilled or shifted around and foreign voices during the evening kept me awake. There are about 15 just outside our wall day & night, standing behind barbed wire.

Henetia Cox
 American Church Mission
 Hankow, China

all foreign boats to Shanghai have had to stop because of the coolie strike. A Chinese boat went down last night filled with foreigners, most of them sleeping on deck. Those going on furlough this summer are being sent first. Shanghai is as bad as Hankow, but they have the advantage of being near the sea + can escape that way in case of further trouble.

The Honan governor (just north of us) has declared himself anti-foreign, so the foreigners there are fleeing for their lives. The report from Wuchang is that the military are ugly to foreigners while protecting them. Bishop Gilman had a special guard from the governor to take him from place to place, and he is finding the strain of going about with them most trying. He says he quite often hears one of them in the back, where they think they can't be heard, call out to some of the bystanders "beat him up." "Kill the foreigner" is the common cry on the native city streets + the literature

printed about us is nothing but lies and used to excite the emotions.

The plan is to cut us off up here and then make the merchants refuse to feed us. They will succeed in raising prices no doubt, but it's absolutely impossible to cut us off from the outer world.

Besides, our governor is still friendly. The report this morning is, - that he had two students beheaded in Harkow yesterday. If this is true things will be settled before long.

Thursday night a boat was anchored in mid stream to put all the women & children in if the crowd couldn't be dispersed.

So far our servants are with us and caring for us as before, - and I don't think anything will ever drive them away. They are devotion itself.

Today, Saturday, the streets are as quiet as can be, - and all stores & places of business seem to be open. The whole thing is a lamentable affair, but we have expected something of the kind for a long time. I'm so glad Lucy isn't here. Don't let her get hold

4.

Henetia Cox

American Church Mission

Hankow, China

of this letter, but if you receive it perhaps you better pass it along to other members of the family. In case all communication should be stopped for a time, I'd like you all to know about the present situation. Only don't worry about us. We're perfectly well and amply protected.

There is proof that this uprising is financed by Bolshevists (37), but very few of the Chinese appreciate this fact. As faithful and consecrated as our Chinese clergy are, - even they are anti-foreign. That is, they are so proud they can't bear the thought of being superintended by foreigners. We take the superior position out here, because of the superiority of our race, - and it hurts their pride. They are great friends of us, and will do anything for us, - but we always have to remember that they are a proud race when we deal with them, - and give in to them many times when we are in the right. Much of this ^{feeling} is jealousy on the part of the lower classes, because they think

we are "lived" with money. It's pathetic.
Poor, poor China! Only the gospel of Jesus
Christ will ever save her.

Tell Olivera I more than appreciate the
blue dress she sent me at a time like this.
It is packed in my emergency bag, ready
to flee if we should have to. It is dark
and cool & easily packed.

Others have given me dark voiles this year.
I have 4 in my closet, - so I won't need
any more for years to come.

Much love from,

Venetia

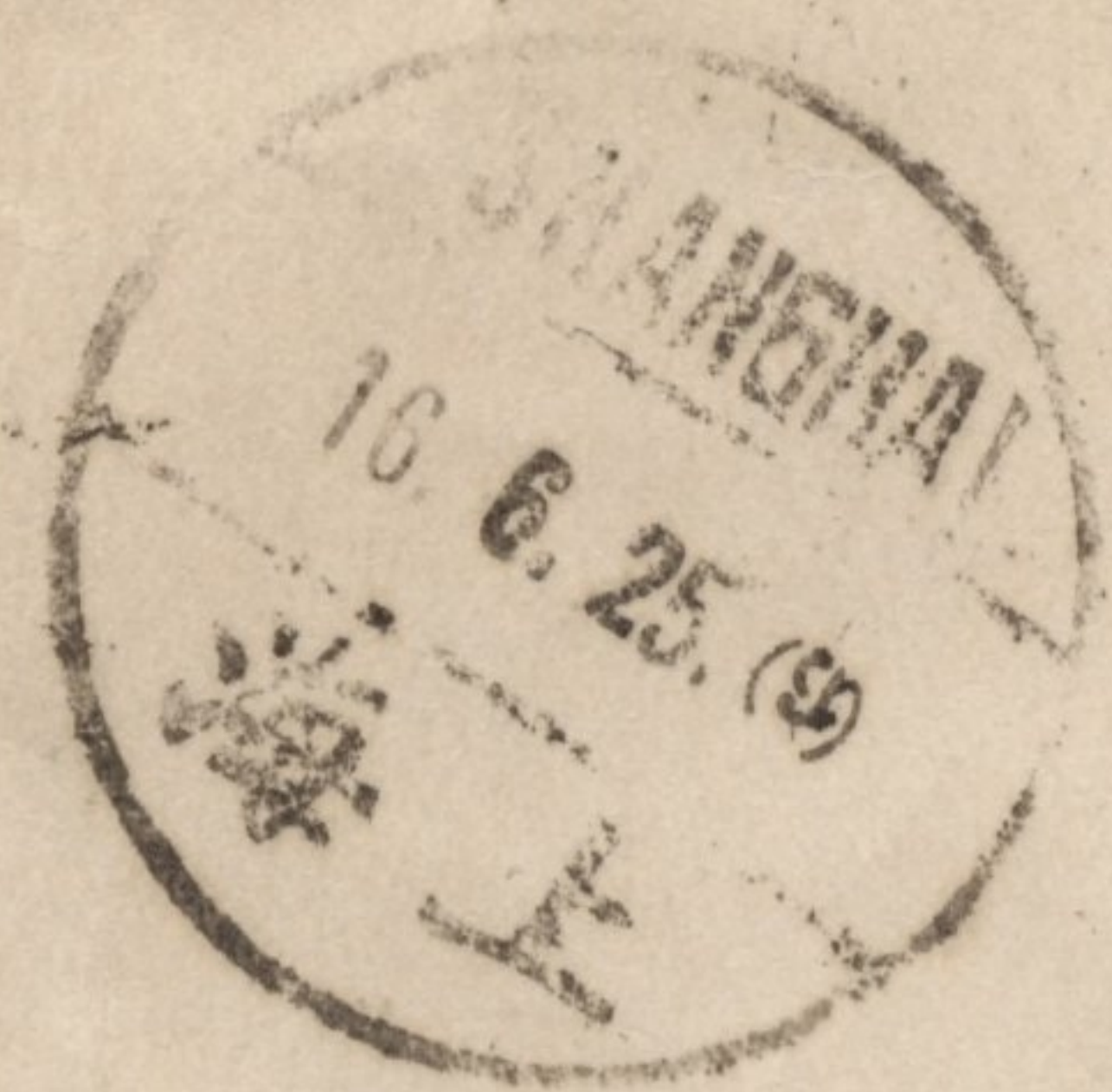
6-16-25

Mrs. B. T. Cox
Winterville

N. C.

U. S. A.





American Church Mission
Hankow, China