

Having done the Dorothy Dix on friendship and marriage, I shall now switch to other topics and make some observations on the evacuation problem, a very important one to us right now. One of the Evacuation liners the "Washington" is sailing this week and taking the first of the evacuees from here. Saturday night we went to a dinner party in which we saw an Episcopalian couple, the wife of which was going the next day. She has a two year old son. I tell you the families which are being broken up like that are looking terribly glum. The woman hates to go and the man hates to be left alone. They face financial difficulties because they have to support two households and can't afford to do that. The Southern Presbyterians are evacuating all their women missionaries, but Mrs. Thurston said that was their typical attitude toward women. The Northern Prebby attitude is about the same as ours, that women with children had better go but that single women carrying responsibility should be considered as men. There seems to be a conflict of opinion. The local consular officials act as if they had urgent order to get everyone out. The news which comes through mission boards from Washington is that the evacuation advice was not intended to mean that all mission work should be

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closed out, but only that "non-essential" persons should be evacuated. The situation with the Methodists and Presby. and some other missions is that we have not been authorized by our boards to go and therefore could not go if we wished.

However all the emotional tension has gone out of the situation so far as I am concerned. A few weeks ago, I was living in the atmosphere of a martyr facing death at the stake. That is past now, and while of course I recognize that there may be danger ahead for me, I am only dimly conscious of it. Emotionally it no longer registers. Myself, I want to stay, as does practically everyone else. After living in this atmosphere of uncertainty for twenty years, I really don't mind it. There has been a major part of my life in China when there was the possibility that something unexpected would occur, or in other words the unexpected was expected. So the present is not so far different from what we are used to. As far as I am concerned, I prefer to face the uncertainties here to the certain difficulties which I would have to face in the U.S.A. We tease one missionary with saying, "A concentration camp! Oh, I think I'd rather go to America than go to a concentration camp!" The lesser of the two evils you know.

I like my present job very much. It has a lot of variety to it. One has less leisure than if one were on a schedule in which one worked from eight to five every day. Just why I don't know. As I said before I seem to have lost all my intellectual interests. Whether they were a form of retreat from reality which I no longer feel the need of, is a question. I am of course vitally interested in my Chinese study and work away at that during my leisure. Perhaps that is the substitute and I am really no different than before. That may be the case.