

78 Mo-tsou Road, Nanking
June 6, 1949

Dear Friends:

You've probably heard the story about the old lady on whose tombstone it was written that her whole life was made miserable by worrying about a lot of things, none of which ever happened to her!

That about describes our present situation. We considered a lot of dreadful possibilities, which fortunately never happened. When the change-over of government came, it was with a minimum of disorder. There has been a little noise of gun-fire in the distance for a day or two and then, we woke up one Saturday morning to find the old government had departed. There was some looting of rice and other food shops by the poor people, but within a few hours a local volunteer "peace-preservation" group got the situation under control. Sunday morning things were quiet enough so that we went to church as usual. Late Saturday and Sunday, the soldiers of the new government began moving in, and once they were in control, we knew there was nothing further to worry about.

Our work has gone on as usual. So far as I know, no missionary enterprise has been closed. I have been much impressed by the loyalty of the Christian group. Church attendance continues good. Schools and other mission projects continue as usual.

There has been some distinct advances made already in the general situation. With a week or two, we began using the "People's" currency, which has been more or less pegged in value to the silver dollar. To our amazement (and delight) it has stayed fairly stable in value, sometimes rising a little, sometimes falling a little, but after more than a month, it is nearly what it was in the beginning. As no attempt has been made, so far as I know to control its value artificially, its stability represents the confidence of the people in the new government's ability to solve economic problems. Another thing which we appreciate is that we have had electric current again, in gradually increasing amounts, first every other evening, then after a week or two every evening and since June 1, even in the day time.

There are no food shortages or other living problems. Now that Shanghai is also liberated, we expect things to return to normal very rapidly. If it had not been, a shortage of manufactured and imported goods might have resulted. We are also hopeful that international mail will get started again. If you get this letter, you will know that it has!

We are thankful for the interest and prayers of all of you. The thing that I pray for myself during these days is that I may have an open heart and open mind, facing the future without fear or prejudice, so that I may see in each new situation as it comes, not an obstacle but a new opportunity. We must not forget that God's purposes will be carried out in spite of circumstances which seem to obstruct them. It is possible that the new situation may even do us good, by making us mindful of spiritual things which we tend to forget under other circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

Jessie L. Wolcott