American Ch. Mission
Hankow
Nov. 13, 1922.

Dear Mother:

We spent yesterday P. M. in prayer and consultation about the action of our Bishop and the church in China in regard to the National Council of China, - so I didn't get to write any letters. We stand solidly back of our Bishop and have faith in what this Council hopes to accomplish. I wish the people in America could realize how much depends upon our own mission's attitude towards this movement, and the great burden that rests upon our hearts. "I pray that they may all be one", our Lord Jesus Christ prayed, - and still the Church in America and Bishop Graves fights against the steps we are taking in China to fulfill that prayer. The Chinese don't understand it. Our preaching doesn't correspond with our actions they say, - and quite rightly.

We had a new arrival in our mission last week, finally to be stationed in Wuchang, - but living with us while she studies the

language. We had hoped she could take over the drill of the school for me, but she can't on account of some heart trouble. I am certainly disappointed.

Dr. Aird gave me a curtain lecture last night, which I passed on to the powers in authority, but I don't see how it can help any until we get a worker out from America. Send us somebody quick!

I wonder what the papers at home are saying about the bandits out here now. (?) They are pretty bad, - over 20,000 of them in a province just North of us! Hundreds of refugees are pouring into our province on every train. Saturday's train, which should have arrived at 9 a.m. hasn't come in yet (this is Monday) and we can get no news of it. The bandits in all probability have stopped it and taken care of all the passengers they want. Eight missionaries have recently been captured, - some we know personally; all of them in separate bands. One mother had her husband taken off by one group and soon another group came & took her only son.

A 3rd group came & carried away all her money & clothes, & as ~~they~~ she is surrounded by these different groups she can't leave the city for safety.

There are only two reasons they are taking foreigners: 1. For ransome.

2. To get the Chinese officials in trouble with foreign powers, so that they will agree to the bandits demands, - viz - that they ~~will~~ be made soldiers and leaders in China.

They are very kind to the foreigners & keep them in touch with their friends, but of course they have to keep on the "go" all the time and in hiding. The life is very hard for them and the mental strain terrific. The friends at home suffer most, of course.

The devil certainly does work in China. Just as our strongest generals got in power and everything looked so promising for a better government, these bandits bring about all this trouble, - and there's no doubt but that they'll get the upper hand and have their hold on the government

Isn't it terrible!

We are thankful for our concessions and foreign consuls at this time. It makes it easier for the Chinese to have us here. They flee to us for protection.

Our house is full of guests, as usual, and I have to do my part of entertaining.

Love to all the family,

Venetia.