

FOREIGN COMMITTEE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

Hongkong,
January 16, 1931.

Dear *Sir Arthur*

We have all heard of the recuperative powers of the Chinese people, but the changes which have taken place in the ten months since I was here are simply amazing. Just before I left, Yen and Feng struck from the north and in a few months seemed to be bringing the government to its knees. In the background stood Chang, of Manchuria, holding the balance of power and being ardently wooed by both sides, while in the government's rear were Communist and bandit hordes, overrunning province after province. Yet, unbelievably, Nanking has again snatched the victory. The northern armies are broken, government troops under the personal command of Chiang Kai-shek are clearing out the Communists, and Marshal Chang has personally visited Nanking to confer with the president and has sworn loyalty to his government.

Today Chiang Kai-shek is actually more firmly in the saddle than ever before. In Nanking, men of doubtful loyalty have been replaced by men he can depend on. The President has frankly confessed serious weaknesses, including corruption, in his administration, and vigorously set about cleaning house, thereby showing new confidence in his own strength. These policies, and the statesmanlike tone of his recent manifestos to various groups within the Chinese nation reveal administrative abilities with which Chiang would not have been credited a year ago.

The Association itself seems to have taken on a new lease of life. Last year its great problem was to cut staff still further without closing its doors entirely. This year it is to find men. A hand-picked group of no less than forty new secretaries has been recruited for major positions in the past eight months, and appeals are pouring into the national offices from local Associations to help them find more. Nineteen of these men have been secured with the help of a special fund from America, which bears part of their budgets, but twenty-one have been secured by Associations on their own. All are college men, including professors and Ph. D.'s, most of them are leaving important official, educational and business posts to join the Y ranks, and practically all are doing so at a distinct personal loss financially.

Every local membership and finance campaign in recent months has gone over the top, in some cases for the first time in years. The time when for an Association to be able merely to "hang on" was cause for congratulation is passing. Now the demand is for men who will justify the renewed confidence and support being given the Movement by carrying forward an enriched activities program.