

all kinds. Furthermore, the thin line of foreign secretaries has been sadly depleted. Today about half of China's local Associations are without general secretaries. And of those which remain, many are comparatively inexperienced and badly in need of the comradeship and counsel of a fraternal foreign secretary. And this serious lack of men comes just when the movement needs them as never before in its stand against hostile forces.

This is a pretty dark picture, And yet (though it seems little less than a miracle) through all the ruck and turmoil the Chinese Y.M.C.A. has come without the permanent loss of a single building, or the closing down of a single piece of work. Handicapped financially, with inadequate staffs, with Communist streamers virulently attacking it still flying at its very doors, it carries on with ever-growing influence among saner Chinese. Of the leaders of the four major political and military groups in the country only the Communists are not its friends. Leaders of all faiths and no faith at all see in it a possibility of teaching young China the sadly-needed lesson of civic righteousness. Others see in it the only hope of holding educated Young China for Christianity.

Having survived the terrific storm, it seems that with the changing tide the Y.M.C.A. will soon be in a position to wield an even more remarkable influence on this great nation. It is a tremendous challenge, for if this lay organization, which meets youth - thinking youth - on its own ground, and holds them for righteousness, fails New China at this time of crisis, I fear for the very life of Christianity in this great country.

Yours sincerely,

*Malcolm DeWitt*

Representing the Foreign Committee, Y.M.C.A.,  
in the Far Eastern Area.

*Hope you are once again fit -  
Had an interesting visit with  
Shu Shi the philosopher who  
mentioned the fall -*