

176, Route Dufour, Apt. 32,
Shanghai, January 29th, 1938.

Dear Bates,

I had set aside this morning to dictate a longish letter to you but numerous interruptions have left me with only a few minutes and I will use those for the purpose of outlining a project regarding which I want to have your judgement. I hope to be able to write more discursively later.

I am thinking of putting together a book based on eye-witness accounts of Japanese military outrages against civilians, published and unpublished, with a view to telling the uncensored truth about the way this war is being carried on. Every account would be carefully chosen from the stand point of authenticity and fairness. I ~~will~~^{would} rely a great deal upon missionary sources and documents such as your correspondence with Japanese authorities in Nanking. There would be a preface to the book explaining that it had been compiled not out of animosity to the Japanese but in order to show what a dreadful business modern warfare is, or at any rate has been in this case. There might be a final chapter pointing a moral and suggesting that it was the responsibility of us all to prevent the occurrence of this kind of thing. Profits from the sale of the book to be ~~provided for~~^{devoted to} helping war victims so that it cannot be said that I am making money out of it. The documents would be left largely to speak for themselves and my own part, as editor, ~~will~~^{would} be limited to selecting the material (in consultation with Mrs. Bates, Boynton and others) and knitting it together in book form. Violent language would be weeded out and the facts left to tell a plain unvarnished tale.

I believe that the publication of such a book would do much to strip war of its false glamour. Of course the Japanese would not like it but I think they deserve this kind of punishment. To my mind it is not sufficient that our Government officials should be informed of the facts. If the moral indignation of the man in the street is to be properly aroused he must be given a chance to know the facts too.

I ~~will~~^{would} like to have your opinion as to the advisability of putting out such a book both on general grounds and from the stand point of you people who are still in Nanking. Of course the material would be carefully edited so as to minimize the possibility of definite identification of individuals but I suppose you might be blamed as a group for furnishing the raw material. However the publication could not come out for about 6 months at the earliest and that is a good long time ahead.

As for publishers I have in mind George Allen and Unwin in London and, if they agree to publish the book, ~~we~~^{they} would seek ~~other~~^{no} advice of simultaneous publication by somebody else in the States. Perhaps there is some American publisher whom you would like to recommend.

I have to stop dictation now in order to go down town but will add a bit more later.

Sincerely yours,