Dear Governor Lehman:

Will you incline your ear to the war-harrassed blind in China who have climbed out of the depths to knowledge and friendship?

Once they were without education or hope. They were doubly shackled by the belief still prevalent in the Orient that the sightless are objects of divine wrath, and must endure their misfortune with passive fortitude. Neglect, scorn, grudging alms were all they could expect from society.

Then came Dr. Fryer with a redemptive faith to lift up their manhood and womanhood. Because of his noble work, they found life good for a while and dwelt in the House of the Lord with gladness.

Now a more cruel deprivation has overtaken them. Their beloved country is fighting for its very life, and they may not even vent their fervent patriotism by grasping a weapon in its defense. The school at Shanghai -- their brightest lamp -- has been broken. War’s barbarism has wrecked the workshop -- their only means of economic self-help. Desperately they are trying to recoup the school that they may learn more. Unless they can take up their work again, they will sink in the cataclysm, and the hope of other blind people in China will be quenched.

Surely you will not let these reclaimed blind lose their light -- purpose, their shield and buckler -- the feeling that they may contribute their strength to the healing and rebuilding of their tortured fatherland. You who see -- you who live in peace -- you whose families are safe -- how can you help giving to the starving, menaced blind sons and daughters of as heroic a people as ever bled for freedom! Like Christian love, blindness knows no national frontier. It engirdles the world with Compassion of Him who bestowed His special care upon the exiles of the dark. Give then, - measure your donation by gratitude for the untold blessings you enjoy, and you will experience a sweetness in life that was not there before.

Hopefully and sincerely

[Signature]

Helen Keller