

Sapporo, Hokkaido, May 28th. 1877.

Dear Sister

Your letter of Apr. 1st. was received last Wednesday, and very glad I was to hear from you, though sorry to learn that Milton gets no better. I would advise taking the best Medical advice before carrying him again to the hospital, for I am fearful that the result will not be what you wish. I know that I was in a great hurry when I wrote you from Yokohama; but I thought that I wrote something of my experience on the sea. However if I did not; suffice it to say that, though it seems now almost like a dream, I believe that for several days I did feel rather peculiar, and my food exhibited a perverse tendency to travel, instead of remaining quietly in my stomach and being digested as it was <sup>my</sup> intention that it should.

I believe I have already written once or twice that I got those pants all in good condition before leaving San Francisco, and I have blossomed out in them since whenever the importance of the occasion seemed to demand. I invested the immense sum of

twenty seven dollars in a horse last Monday. He is sorrel in color and rather above the average size for this country; but would be small in Mass. He is kind and sound, eight years old, and quite speedy, being able to beat the horses owned by Profs. Wheeler and Penhallow all out of sight. I think that I shall like him very much. Last Saturday afternoon, I rode from here to Izari, a distance of about seventeen miles, and back again.

Business usually obliges us to ride a great deal; but when it does not, we almost always ride six or seven miles a day for exercise, and I assure you I enjoy it much.

Last Wednesday evening Wheeler, Penhallow and myself, with an interpreter, went to the theater where we saw two plays presented in true Japanese style. Some of the acting was very good indeed, but most of it seemed to me to be very much affected, though the Japanese, I believe, thought it very fine. The greater part of the audience sat on mats spread up on the ground floor of the building, and the others upon the floor of the gallery. The machinery and scenery of the stage was very simple, but the costumes of the actors and actresses were very elaborate. It is very seldom that a woman takes any part in a Japanese theater, their parts in a play being taken by men. There is one feature peculiarly Jap-

anese about their theaters. That is, a man who sits in a gallery a little above the stage and keeps throwing in explanatory remarks in a lugubrious voice which the people call singing. Most of their plays are based upon history, and it is the business of this man to give the history narrative, the actors simply conversing with each other. The weather here is quite pleasant and though warm enough to be comfortable has not been very hot. Vegetation does not start nearly as rapidly as in Mass. I have not planted corn yet. As I write at my desk, I can see snow upon the tops of the mountains which are about six miles distant.

Our term closes on the 4th. of July, when we are to have an exhibition consisting of original orations, declamations, etc. to be delivered part of them in Japanese and part in English. Part of my vacation, I intend to spend in a mountain climbing expedition, and anticipate much pleasure. Write at length and often, please, for I like to hear any and all news.

It is nearly time for me to go and deliver a lecture, so I must close. When you go to bed if at ten P. M. it is 12 M. of the next day here. We are twelve fourteen hours ahead of you in time.

Yours with much love.

Wm. P. Brooks.

Sapporo, Hokkaido, May 28, 1877.

Dear Sister:

Your letter of Apr. 1st. was received last Wednesday, and very glad I was to hear from you, though sorry to learn that Milton gets no better. I would advise taking the best Medical advice before carrying him again to the hospital, for I am fearful that the result will not be what you wish. I know that I was in a great hurry when I wrote you from Yokohama; but I thought that I wrote something of my experience on the sea. However if I did not; suffice it to say that, though it seems now almost like a dream, I believe that for several days I did feel rather peculiar, and my food exhibited a perverse tendency to travel, instead of remaining quietly in my stomach and being digested as it was my intention that it should.

I believe I have already written once or twice that I got those pants all in good condition before leaving San Francisco, and I have blossomed out in them since whenever the importance of the occasion seemed to demand. I invested the immense sum of twenty-seven dollars in a horse last Monday. He is scirel in color and rather above the average size for this country; but would be small in Mass. He is kind and sound, eight years old, and quite speedy, being able to beat the horses owned by Profs. Wheeler and Penhallow all out of sight. I think that I shall like him very much. Last Saturday afternoon, I rode from here to Isari, a distance of about seventeen miles, and back again. Business usually obliges us to ride a great deal; but when it does not, we almost always ride six or seven miles a day for exercise, and I assure you I enjoy it much. Last Wednesday evening Wheeler, Penhallow and myself, with an interpreter went to the theater where we saw two plays presented in true Japanese style. Some of the acting was very good indeed, but most of it seemed to me to be very much affected, though the Japanese, I believe, thought it very fine. The greater part of the audience sat on mats spread upon the ground floor of the building, and the others upon the floor of the gallery. The machinery and scenery of the stage was very simple, but the costumes of the actors and actresses were very elaborate. It is very seldom that a woman takes any part in a Japanese theater, their parts in a play being taken by men. There is one feature peculiarly Japanese about their theaters. That is a man who sits in a gallery a little above the stage and keeps throwing in explanatory remarks in a lugubrious voice which the people call singing. Most of their plays are based upon history, and it is the business of this man to give the History narrative, the actors simply conversing with each other. The weather here is quite pleasant and though warm enough to be comfortable has not been very hot. Vegetation does not start nearly as rapidly as in Mass. I have not planted corn yet. As I write at my desk, I can see snow upon the tops of the mountains which are about six miles distant.

Our term closes on the 4th of July, when we are to have an exhibition consisting of original orations, declamations, etc. to be delivered part of them in Japanese and part in English. Part of my vacation, I intend to spend in a mountain climbing expedition, and anticipate much pleasure. Write at length and often, please, for I like to hear any and all news.

It is nearly time for me to go and deliver a lecture, so I must close. When you go to bed, if at ten P.M. it is 12 M of the next day here. We are fourteen hours ahead of you in time.

Yours with much love.

Wm. P. Brooks.