

Sapporo, Aug. 19th, 1877.

Dear Sister:

I have allowed a somewhat longer time than usual to elapse since last writing home, and you will probably have been expecting this some time when you receive it. On my return from my trip one week ago Friday I found a mail awaiting me in which were the first two numbers of the Old Colony Memorial and a welcome letter from you.

The Boston Herald was also received for which please accept my thanks. I don't know whether I have already acknowledged the receipt of the Journals which you sent so long ago or not, but at any rate I should have done so, for they were received and read with much pleasure.

We were absent on our trip just ten days and had perfect weather all the time. We rode about two hundred and seventy-five miles, and I had the pleasure of bestriding twenty-two different horses as we usually changed once in about twelve or fifteen miles. Our route led us through the following places: Mororan, Usu, Osamanbe, Utastan, Iwanai, Yoichi, Otaru back to Sapporo. The road part of the way runs along the coast and part of the way strikes inland from one coast town to another. We had every variety of scenery, Mountain, Sea and Plain, River, Cascade and Mountain torrent. Splendid smooth sandy beaches and rocky precipitous shores, where the cliffs rise almost perpendicularly from the water to nearly a thousand feet in height. It was grand, I can assure you. Sometimes the road led over mountains where you would suppose it impossible for a horse to go; but the ponies here are used to it, and by zigzagging to an astonishing amount, traveling two or more miles to get one, the summit is at length reached, but here is no rest unless you stop your horse for you must immediately begin an equally tortuous and steep descent, when if your girths are not tight or you are careless you may find yourself, as I saw one of the students one day, riding on your horse's neck; but with most horses this arrangement is usually temporary. We found the worst road from Usu to Rebuge. We lived in Japanese hotels throughout the trip, which style has at least the merit of cheapness, lodging together with supper and breakfast twenty cents, dinner, ten cents. I took a knife and fork and some food with me; but lived mostly on rice as the "Japs" do, and of course slept on the floor, sat on the floor etc. in true native style. A Japanese hotel is usually very neat; the floors of the halls shine like a handsome "darkey" and the matting of the rooms is scrupulously neat and clean; but alas! I am afraid from my experience that fleas are not strangers to some of their bedding. It seemed rather nice to see chairs and

a bed-stead once more when I got back here. We found quite a number of plants peculiar to the sea shore, which were just what we were after. We met with no serious accidents on our trip, though all were thrown off our horses. I only fell when my horse concluded not to stand up any longer, but to try the experiment of falling down a bank about four feet high. The beast was ugly, backing round etc. and I seeing the danger of going over the bank was on the point of dismounting when over we went. Didn't hurt either of us a bit, though I rather wished that it had broken the horses neck. Our term begins next Thursday, and continues seventeen weeks. We are to have a new class of seventeen who will probably arrive within a few days. They come from Tokio. Give lots of love to all, especially to the younger portion of our family.

Yours with much love

Brother Will.