

Sapporo, Hokkaido, Dec. 2d, 1877.

Dear Sister:

Yours of Sept. 24th was received about two weeks ago, and since that time we have received another American Mail; but it failed to bring me a letter from home. I suppose it must be due to the irregularity of the steamers. You speak of not having received a letter from me for seven weeks. I cannot understand it, for I think I have averaged writing one a fortnight, though I may have skipped one. I presume that the next mail you received brought you several. Letters are sometimes lost however; one which I sent to Uncle Theophilus containing a Bill of Exchange for two hundred dollars failed to reach him, and I have been obliged to send him the Second of Exchange. By the way, I wish you would say to Ed that I am human, and have just a little curiosity to know whether he has received the Bills I have sent him. I believe that he has acknowledged but one directly, and has not informed me for how much that sold. Tell him that I shall write him a scolding letter unless I hear from him soon. Last Thursday, I presume, was Thanksgiving Day, was it not? At any rate I thought of you as celebrating it as such. We are going to try and have a Thanksgiving dinner today; but it is to gotten up under some difficulties. For Turkey we have Chicken, for cranberry sauce, ----, for Mince pie, ----, for pumpkin pie, ----, for apple pie, ----, for plum pudding, a bread pudding, for chicken pie, ----, for squassh, ----; but we have excellent potatoes and turnips, and the best sauce of all, a good appetite. I would hardly have thought that I could have got along without pies, cake or puddings a year ago if I had been asked; but I have not seen a pie since ---, well I hardly know when, and puddings and cake are almost perfect strangers at our table. We take turns in managing household affairs, one superintending one month, and another the next, etc. I introduced baked beans during my last administration, and our cook has now got so skillful in cooking that delightful dish that we are all agreed that it is about the finest dish we have, and we look forward to our Saturday night and Sunday morning beans with considerable eagerness. I think that during my next term of office, I shall try to concoct an indian pudding. Prof. Wheeler introduced rice pudding during one of his terms, and he is in charge of affairs today. We shall try to look upon what he brings on as a Thanksgiving dinner, at least we will be thankful for it.

We have had seven or eight inches of snow here so far this year; but no cold weather. Today is very warm and pleasant and the snow is nearly all gone. My windows command a fine view of the mountains on our West and their summits are and have been for some time white with snow.

My farm crops have all been good ones this year and my barns are full to overflowing. I don't know what I shall have to do for room next year for I shall raise much more than this. College matters run on smoothly and pleasantly; I love many of our students very much. They are such perfect gentlemen, so faithful and studious that one who has any thing to do with them must think highly of them. That makes me think that some time ago you asked if a certain one was the smartest. The one you pointed out is the smartest mathematician; but all things considered the upper one leads; the two on the right hand side of the picture, Sato and Oshima are also among the best as is the one Arakawa's right, Idata. The one on my left and a little below is also smart. You or Mat asked a while ago why I had left off writing on this kind of paper and if it was expensive. I left off simply because I wanted a change. I bought so much for about twenty cents that though I write many letters, I think it will last three years. Give love to all, and accept a good portion yourself, Yours,

Brother Will.