

Sapporo, Aug. 11th. 1878

Dear Sister;

More than a month has passed since I have received letters or news from home, the last are dated about the first of June. This happens because there was a long delay at San Francisco, one steamer having been skipped. The mail was due in Yokohama on the 7th inst. so I hope to get a double allowance soon. We are having perfectly delightful weather here now, quite hot but indurable. Yesterday I with five students made the ascent of Mt. Tieve, the highest mountain in this immediate vicinity - about three thousand feet high. The ascent is very difficult although not excessively steep, the distance being over twelve miles. The greater part of the way there is no path and a very dense undergrowth of bamboo. It took us five hours and a half to reach the summit and five hours to come down. We really ascended about four thousand feet in going up and returning as we were obliged to go over a subordinate peak which I judge to be about five hundred feet above the hollow into which we de-

scended. We could see but little as it was very hazy, and we found few new specimens of any sort. From the top we could see snow on the neighboring mountains.

Please excuse these marks.

They are specimens of the penmanship of a meddling boy who came in to see me, and made them while I was doing something else.

Within the past two weeks I have had the pleasure of entertaining two professors from Tokio, one an American Prof. Morse, and the other an Englishman by the name of Fenton. Prof. Morse stayed only about a day and a half. I found him very sociable and pleasant. He is busy collecting shells of all kinds, and has dredged in the harbors of Otaro and Hakodate. Mr. Fenton is collecting insects and is very much interested in his work. He is very quiet but pleasant. He remained with me five days. Now I am once more alone, but probably in less than two weeks Profs. Wheeler & Penhallorix and their wives will arrive, so I am as patient as possible.

The chief of the Kartakushi, Gen. Kuroda has now reached Hakodate on his

way here. He has not been here before since my arrival. I am glad to have him come for there are several matters <sup>about</sup> which I wish to consult him personally. Almost all my farm crops are looking splendidly. Turnips and cabbages have been very badly damaged by insects, and one field of the farmer is not a very fine one.

I have recently made a proposition that we have an agricultural fair here this fall, and the chief officer here was very much pleased at the idea; so we shall have one. I am now considering the matter, for what it is best to offer prizes, plan of organization, etc.

I shall make it as much like a New England Cattle-show as possible, omitting the "hoss trot"

I have not any news to write about and as I have no unanswered letters from you to furnish topics upon which I can enlarge and expatiate I must close.

Yours as ever

With love undying

Brother Will -