

Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan  
Aug. 8th, 1880.

My dear sister;

The last mail received three days ago brought me letters from both you and Mat; and I hasten to answer your ever welcome favour.

You cannot expect much news from one located in such an out-of-the-way corner of the world as this; but I will write you of some of the events occurring within the bounds of my little horizon. First of myself as being the centre of said field of view, ahem!

I am in my usual health and spirits, and enjoying vacation as

well as the high temperature ( $85^{\circ}$ - $95^{\circ}$ ).  
and the amount of work I do (very  
little) will allow. I have made a  
trip to Izu Ishikari to see the Ainos in  
company with two young English pro-  
fessors from Tokio and Dr. C. & Prof. Pea-  
body. We went into the hut of the  
chief and there partook of some of the  
worst tea I ever tasted. I slyly poured  
mine out into a crack between the  
slabs on the floor, and the old fellow  
soon observing that my cup was emp-  
ty tried to persuade me to take more.  
I declined with thanks. As this Aino,  
quite an old man, knew Japanese I  
was able to talk directly with him.

He said in answer to my ques-  
tion that he did not like this coun-  
try nearly as well as Saghalien  
the place from which his tribe em-

igrated when that country was  
ceded by the Japanese to Russia in  
exchange for the Kurile islands.

He said that here there was not  
so good fishing and hunting and  
that the country was inferior in  
every way. He also said in answer  
to my inquiry that the deaths in  
his tribe now outnumber the births.

His race will probably become  
extinct at no very distant day.

I saw the school and the manufacto-  
ry of fishing-nets under Japanese  
charge: but could judge little of  
their usefulness, though the Ainor  
seem pleased with both.

Two days ago I received the  
appointment as President ad interim  
of the Sap. Ag. college. I am also  
appointed to take charge of botany

till a permanent teacher can be appointed which will probably be next July. Prof. Penhallow taught botany and chemistry while here.

His place in chemistry is to be filled by two Japanese, one a graduate of Rutgers College in America, the other, a graduate of the Imperial College in Tokio.

Have written you of our new English teacher for the Laboratory department. I think not so here goes.

He is an Englishman, aged I should judge about fifty; and has a wife and seven children, three boys and four girls, the eldest a girl of about fourteen years of age. I think we shall like them reasonably well.

First graduation exercises of S. A. C. were held July 10th. and were a success. Will write you on that about them sometime soon.

Yours with love, as ever, Will