

Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan,
Feb. 7th, 1881-

My dear sister:

I have been hoping to get another home mail before writing again: but none has yet come, and fearing that a steamer may go without a letter from me I defer writing no longer.

I have been gaining in health and strength of limb since my last to Mat. even faster than I then dared to hope; and have been teaching since last Monday, a little more than a week - and I have not felt any injurious effects from it. I now usually ride in

my jinrikisha when I have any great distance to go; but that way of getting round is rather slow as we have so much snow even though the jinrik. is on runners. I hope to begin to ride horse back before many days.

What shall I write this letter about I'm sure I don't know. I haven't been any where, I haven't done anything out of the usual line and I have received no letters or papers since last writing you, so I have no "text." Shall I write about the piles of snow we have? - I must have done so in previous winters and besides it will be all gone before you read these lines. Shall I write of college or Farm? 'Tis the same old story that I have told you before.

Oh! I must tell you one thing a-

about myself. I was weighed the other day and turned the scales at one hundred and forty-five pounds, having for the preceding ten days gained on the average half a pound per day. I expect soon to reach one hundred and fifty-five—the most I ever weighed—and perhaps I shall go beyond it. My usual winter weight is one hundred and fifty: my weight in summer from one hundred and forty to forty-five. You see, therefore, that I have got pretty nearly up to where I ~~was~~.

Now I, truly, can think of nothing more to write which can possess the least interest for you so you must excuse this brief scrawl.

Very truly and lovingly your
brother,
Will.