

Sapporo, Oct. 7th, 1883

My dear sister:

Your letter of Aug. 20th. was received last week and as ever with your letters it gave me much pleasure to receive it. If you are my "last regular correspondent", I must be sure, not by neglect at least, to deserve to lose you not however as you might suppose from the above that I consider "small potatoes better than none", but that having lost all the "small

potatoesⁿ and most of the large ones too it would be most disagreeable to be left altogether without that humble but highly useful excellent.

Perhaps my brothers and sisters think I do not care for them - well most of them are adopting the means most certain to bring about that result. If that were possible, for all they do to the contrary, I should forget them. With you and Mat, I cannot perhaps with justice find any fault, for you have been as regular as I have, perhaps more so; but Sam, and, of late, Ed, ignore me almost altogether. Ed

for a long time was a very regular correspondent, and perhaps his failure to write may be due in part to my neglect in the past; but recently I do not get even answers to business letters. But enough of these complaints - why should I pour ^{why write them to you} them into your ears, who do not deserve them in the least. The best way for me to change the present state of things is I suppose to make my letters, if that be possible, worth receiving, - then perhaps I shall get answers.

We are having delightful autumn weather here now. Not a single frost yet, even squash vines are

untouched. The days are quite warm and at night we sleep ordinarily under only two blankets and a white spread; last night I was obliged to throw the spread off. I am collecting seeds of a number of trees and plants peculiar to Hokkaido for Mr. Bochner, Horticulturist, now in Yokohama this autumn. He volunteers in return to give me a quantity of Japanese trees, shrubs and seeds. I shall be very glad to have them for many are very beautiful. I shall send to Edward or Milton and get them to plant some where on my land. I have made partly by proxy; but mostly in person a very large collection of plants this season. In an-

other year I shall be able
to make it tolerably complete
that is including nearly all
the phanerogams and ferns
of Yesso. I propose taking
the plants home in duplicate,
so that I shall be able to
make exchanges with Amer-
ican collectors. In that way
with my present home her-
barium I shall be able to
make up quite an extensive
collection. I can fully ap-
preciate your difficulties in
making book descriptions of
plants - there is such endless
variety in the latter and the
figures in the book are

so distressingly regular
and plain. But the time to
enjoy botany is the spring;
the flowers of that season
are smaller, for the most part
simpler and more than all
they press well. There is the
time to get up an enthusiasm
for collecting which shall take
you through "dog-days"; and
you may be sure it is easily
gotten up too. You may not see
any present use for the knowledge;
but you are a good teacher and
perhaps you might find a chance
to teach Botany in some Higher Girls'
School: - that would be much easier
than teaching a common school.

Both E. and I are well and we
write in love to all,
Yours as ever
Will.