

Sapporo, Feb. 24th, 1884

My dear sister:

I fear that I have been rather negligent, and allowed one mail to go out which carried nothing from me: but you will excuse me for really I have not seemed to have a moment when I could write. In spite of all that we could do Eva's breast gathered and she has been suffering from a large abscess. Very fortunately however it has given much less a-

cute pain than is usual (at least she says it has not pained her much, but I think it is because she is so patient) so though she has had to remain quiet she has not been a very great sufferer. Two weeks ago yesterday we moved into the new house which we are temporarily to occupy. It has just about the amount of space that our old house had before we had the chamber finished with the exception of closets with which our old house was very well and this very poorly provided. Eva was all bundled up like a regular mummy

and complained when she got into the new house - the distance was short - that she had not got even a sniff of fresh air and she had expected to get just a little. The baby I took in her crib asleep and carried on my shoulder. She slept profoundly on and never suspected that she had been out of doors. Miss Shaw rode in jinrikisha on runners as Eva had done. Not one caught the least bit of cold, and you may be sure we were glad enough to get into our new quarters for we had been very much cramped for room in Dr. Luther's house. At that time

Eva had flannels swung out
in hot water on her breast.
The next Monday the breast
began to discharge and poulticing
was kept up for a few
days: but on Thursday follow-
ing poulticing was stopped
and an ointment applied.
There was still that time a bit
of hardness in one place and
that with slight changes still
persists and on two occasions
since poultices have been ap-
plied for about twelve hours.
The openings have however healed
well and rapidly thus far and
are nearly closed. Day before yes-
terday she was dressed for the
first time and walked about
considerably. Yesterday she washed
and dressed herself and went
out to dinner. To-day she

has gotten up the same as yesterday and I have taken her for a very short sleigh-ride.

She is feeling nicely and although there is still some hardness in the breast we hope that with her improved health and appetite it will be absorbed. Perhaps I should not say it; but I feel sure that had she been judiciously managed, she could have nursed Ray and all would have been well. I cannot blame anyone; ~~but~~ it is true that neither her physician, her nurse nor her husband have had much experience. She had plenty of milk; but in endeavoring to make the nipples a little more prominent by drawing them

with bottles in which hot water had been put they were made raw and then scabs formed over the vents in such a way that the milk could be drawn only with much acute suffering on Es. part and at last nursing seemed to become very repulsive to the little one and we were obliged to resort to the bottle. It was in bottling the breasts that the mistake was made in my opinion. That in connection with the unaccustomed nursing was more than the nipples could bear. Excuse me if I have written too plainly, it is a relief to me to express my thoughts to some one.

You will not, however, on any account speak of it out-

side the family. Both the Doctor and Miss Shaw have been exceedingly kind - the latter has been absolutely unwearied in her devotion and attention, taking almost all the care of both Eva and Ray at all hours of day and night. It is true that we had a Japanese woman attendant always in the room with them when in Doctor's house; but she, though running errands, could not be trusted with any responsibility. Since coming to this house I have slept in the room with Eva nights while Miss Shaw and the baby occupy the adjoining room. Miss Shaw at first, so Eva told me when I talked of the arrangement,

was inclined to object, saying that she came to take care of Mrs. Brooks and that if she couldn't do it, she thought it was about-time for her to go south. This statement gives a very good idea of her disposition: she is not only willing but anxious to do everything. Indeed she carries that spirit so far as to be not quite agreeable to me, for I - naturally it seems to me - wanted to do something. She speaks of feeling under great obligations to us on account of her having been cared for while she had her broken limb: but I am sure the obligation is on the other side, for after the fire her presence was of inestimable value. Then in addition to caring for E. & baby she sewed almost night & day for a time. Ray is doing very nicely. She is said to resemble me; but will I think have her mother's hair. With love, as ever, Will.