



Miss R. C. Brooks,  
S. Scituate, Massachusetts,



U. S. A.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Via California.

are just in  
arriving as can

be all ready  
to get out  
all. With love

from both,  
Ever yours  
Will.

Wm. R. Brooks

Sappow, July 20th, 1884

Dear sister:

The last mail received  
from home about one week a-  
go brought your letter of the  
6th. Ult. containing recipes  
for which Eva asks me to re-  
turn her thanks. The Revere  
Cook Book was received some  
time ago; but though good  
it doesn't contain recipes  
for such ginger snaps and  
sugar gingerbread as you  
make. I am surprised on  
looking at my letter list

to. observed ~~at~~ how long a time  
has elapsed since I wrote  
last, I must have lost  
one steamer. My excuse must  
be that just at the time I  
should have written I was  
busy in connection with  
the closing exercises of the  
College. This year we gradua-  
ted a class of seventeen. At-  
most up to the very time of  
graduation, we had had  
twenty men in the class: then  
three were obliged to fall out,  
one on account of his eyes  
and two on account of brain  
trouble. The graduation ex-  
ercises took place on the  
ninth and consisted of speak-

ing by six members of the  
class, three in Japanese and  
three in English, Valedictory  
addresses, Conferring of degrees  
upon the members of the class  
and speech by the Director, Mr.  
Mori. Eva and a number of  
Japanese ladies and Miss  
Smith attended - the first  
time any ladies have been  
present - with one exception -  
I just happen to think that  
one year Mrs. Sumner at-  
tended. On the 6th. of this month  
I went up to Sorachi, near  
the Coal mine, where there is  
a large concert establish-  
ment, to be present at the  
opening ceremonies. There

was a lunch in Japanese style at noon, an inspection of the buildings, an exhibition of fencing in the afternoon and a dinner in the evening. The fencing was very interesting. The number of convicts is about one thousand and they are worked in the mine and on the farm connected with the prison. Most of the men there are on life sentences, but you must not infer from this that they are all murderers, indeed probably very few are; for murderers are usually beheaded, life sentences are given here for comparatively small offences, such as stealing a large sum of money. The prisoners are fed on a

mixture of boiled rice and  
boiled barley - four parts of  
the former and six of the latter  
for the most part; but in ad-  
dition they get a little fish  
and a few vegetables. They look  
well-fed, healthy and clean.  
I tasted the rice and barley  
(of course you will understand  
that the latter has husk removed)  
and found it nice. I should  
prefer it to pure rice; but  
the prisoners do not. Rice to  
the Japanese is white bread  
and barley brown. The barley  
costs more here than rice  
but it is given to the pris-  
oners because it is regard-  
ed as more wholesome.  
One of our graduates is  
in charge of the farm

and it looks finely. The chief of the establishment told me that he was very attentive to duty. When out at work the prisoners are divided into rather small squads and put under the charge of police men armed with swords. Each prisoner wears a ball and chain. Those employed in the mine, however, occasionally escape; but thus far all have been recaptured. One, I have been told, lived in the woods twenty-five days, eating lily bulbs, "fuki" a plant in appearance like shubarb but not

acid like that - snakes and other like appetizing substances. They do not like to come in to any village to steal for the police system of the country is so perfect that they are pretty sure to be captured, neither do they dare to build a fire lest they be discovered and as the country is very wild and barren they have a very hard time. If recaptured they are doomed to solitary confinement for the rest of their lives.

Since the close of the term I have devoted myself to collecting plants with good success. If I go on as I have

thus far I shall have more plants at the end of this season than I had last. Just now I am hindered in my work by a sprained hip (one of the small muscles only I think, unconsciously injured) in which rheumatism has slightly settled. The season is very rainy and cold. Rae had some diarrhoea at the time her first teeth were coming through from which she did not quickly entirely recover; but she is almost entirely well now. She lost a pound and a quarter and was rather thinner than usual when the photograph was taken. I cannot undertake to chronicle her cunning ways, it would take too much time; and besides they are indescribable. Her two little teeth