

Sapporo, Nov. 30th, 1884

My dear sister:

The last-mail served me much better than mails usually do as I had one letter from Vi and one from Mat whereas it not infrequently happens that I get none. Was pleased to hear of all the good times you were having. We thought of you Thanksgiving and wished that we might have had the pleasure of dining at the same table - whether in Massachusetts or Japan it would

not have mattered - only  
as we were several hours  
ahead of you in time that  
would of course have been  
a strong point in favor of  
Japan. We had only our reg-  
ular family, though we al-  
lowed Rue to come to the  
table <sup>for</sup> the first time. She par-  
took of baked apple and a  
Turkey bone; the latter was  
her first animal food, and  
she was much delighted with  
it. Our turkey was a large  
one (fourteen lbs.): we have  
dined from him already twice  
and have touched but one  
side - so expect he will serve  
for three or four more

meals. Wouldn't we have liked  
to gather family large enough  
to have disposed of him at a  
single sitting? We had all  
the other fixings which natu-  
rally group themselves round  
the Thanksgiving Turkey and  
managed to have a very  
nice time. Yesterday one of  
the Hakodate missionaries Mr.  
Squier came to Sapporo and  
he is staying with us. He  
will leave tomorrow.

One of the chief interests out-  
side of the regular routine  
which we have at present is  
the construction of the new  
houses which we are to oc-



copy. They will be ready a-  
bout the middle of Decem-  
ber. They are being painted  
and papered now. We shall  
have parlor, study, bed room,  
dining room, kitchen, two ser-  
vants rooms, pantry, bath-room  
closets &c on the lower floor and  
one large chamber up stairs with  
large unfurnished space be-  
sides. We think the house will  
be very convenient and com-  
fortable. I am having built  
at my own expense a dis-  
connected store house un-  
der which is a cellar. If  
burned out again we mean

to have something left to  
begin over again with. In  
that we shall keep the bulk of  
our vegetables, fruit, provis-  
ions, spare clothing, sum-  
mer or winter clothing in the  
opposite seasons &c. I shall  
pay but fifty-two yen for  
the structure and think it  
will be quite cheap insur-  
ance. I have broken Eva's  
riding horse to the sleigh,  
bought a harness and a sleigh  
and we have twice been to  
ride. The sleighing is magnif-  
icent - such as is seldom  
seen in Massachusetts and  
the weather only just bare-

ly cold enough to prevent  
thawing. The sleigh is of the  
Russian style with seat for  
two, platform behind for a  
foot man and room in front  
for one more. You may im-  
agine Era beginning now  
in a few days when I am  
satisfied that the horse is  
perfectly reliable riding out  
every pleasant morning in  
the following style:— on the  
seat & driving, nurse hold-  
ing Kae; on the platform  
the Betto who is a big  
strong man and very re-



liable. Don't you think they will have a fine time; and don't you and don't I wish that you or Mat might be here and occasionally take the place of the nurse?

Now I want to propose that you do some work for me if you can find time and disposition. First I would like you to copy the catalogue of the phanerogams and filices in my herbarium. Then to see if it is complete - if I remember rightly I have not entered all my plants - and if not complete can you not enter those not yet entered? I can get many valuable specimens here in ex-

change for American plants  
and my purpose is, having  
shown my home list to the  
Japanese Botanist here, to  
ask you to collect and dry  
such as he may express a  
desire to have. For all this work  
I shall be very glad to compen-  
sate you and I shall find it  
to my interest if you consent  
to serve as my American a-  
gent. You will please send  
the catalogue as soon as con-  
venient; and if you cannot copy  
it perhaps, Jennie or Helen would  
undertake it.

With love as ever

Will.  
Wm. P. Brooks.