



Miss Rebecca C. Brooks,
S. Scituate, Massachusetts,
U. S. A.

and don't-doubt
I shall succeed
My dear sister very
quickly.

With love
as ever
Will.

Wm. P. Brooks

Sapporo, Japan

March 4th, 1884

My dear sister:

Your letter with the catalogue of plants received yesterday, very many thanks for your promptness in making out the latter. I was glad to hear that my specimens seem to be in good condition. I remember to have poisoned them most thoroughly and that probably accounts for their freedom from insects. Such a one as you mention will do no harm. The insect

sects injurious to dried plants appear on the specimens in the form of white worms: later they develop into moths I believe. I wonder if you know how to poison specimens. You have simply to dissolve as much as possible of corrosive sublimate in alcohol and then to add a small additional quantity of the latter and apply with a brush: laying the plant on a pane of glass or in a platter being most economical of the poison, paper absorbs too much of it.

Then you have to put the plants once more for a few days in press, changing once or twice. Of course then later when you are mounting specimens you have to be careful not to put your fingers in your mouth, otherwise there is not the slightest danger. Now I think carefully about it. I believe that I brought the screens to that press out here with me the first time I came and of course they were burned up. I shall write Mr. Maynard of Ansbach asking him to send you a pair by express: mine were of wood,

and I shall order wooden
ones as I think them better
than iron. I can not send
money to Prof. Maynard
very well from here, so will
you please pay him. I shall
write Sam later to give you
the money. The plants in the
chest may some of them be
duplications but I think most
of them are not. I believe
they are not poisoned. Can
you not find time to poison
and mount them for me, of
course at my expense. It would
be a pity to have them spoiled
now after my trouble in col-
lecting them. They are specimens
which I got after we had.

completed the regular course
in botany. Very likely you
may not be able to name
all as dried specimens are
quite difficult: but often
by placing a blossom or
the fruit in tepid water for
a little time you can de-
termine its structure per-
fectly. The Japanese gen-
tlemen with whom I wish
to exchange specimens is
now away from Sapporo,
but as soon as possible
I will compare my cata-
logue with a list of Jap-
anese plants and send

you the names of those
not found here which I
think he would like so
that you can be collecting.

Cannot you get Ralph or
Eddie interested in helping
you: it would be a good thing
for them. I have written to
Vi. I have directed Sam to pay
you twenty-five dollars which
I hope you and Martha will
accept and divide as you may
see fit on account of your
various travelling expenses.

Perhaps some time this
summer or next I should
like you to go to Amherst

for a time on a collecting
tour; but of that more later.
There are not many tramps
around now are there to
make your ~~tramping~~ ^{tramping} the woods
and fields unsafe. I wish
you had a good dog - One
thing I have very few ^{rare} marsh
or sea shore plants and I feel
sure that they would mostly
be exchangeable here, also I
should like to have them in my
collection. I have already writ-
ten Sam to pay you anything
you desire for your work
for me and I truly hope you
will not be too moderate in
your demands. We are

all well, Rae getting teeth rapidly; she now has eleven.

We have recently been quite gay. One week we gave a dinner party to several gentlemen (I have written this before) The next week we had an evening party of seventeen, - graduates of the college now in Sapporo and their wives. The latter numbered only four; one could not come. We gave a cold lunch, chicken, salad, cake, ice cream and confectionary. Eva is an adept in making the latter: has now learned how to make French confectionary and makes as good as I ever ate. Shall attempt "ha pa" with Rae