

marks of teaching would be easy, as government counts for nothing.

I will write more on the subject soon.

We are all well as usual. Have little wheat - 4 or 5 bags and doer many other cunning things white love Will.

Thos. P. Brooks.

Sapporo, March 22d, 1885-

My dear sister:

It is nineteen days since we got a home mail and we are expectant: but lest I should miss the next outgoing steamer I will write a little now.

From the New York papers I judge they are having an unusually warm winter and I wonder whether it is the same with you. The sudden changes in our climate you must find trying. I wish you might have a temperature as equable as here. The first rain since autumn came yesterday and

I had more difficulty in getting a letter with it.

the snow settled about seven or eight inches. We have still about two feet on a level I judge. But though we have so much snow it has at no time been very cold; in general only just cold enough to prevent the snow from melting. We have rather too much snow for comfortable getting about; that is the only fault I have to find with our winters.

The day before yesterday was the "Vernal" holiday celebrated by the Japanese in honor of past-members of the Imperial family. A similar holiday is celebrated at the time of the Autumnal equinox. By some oversight on the part of Japanese officials it was stated in the College Regula-

tions that the holiday would be celebrated on the 21st. The students knew very well from Japanese almanacs, newspapers &c. that the holiday came this year on the 20th; they knew too that they had no exercises on the 20th; yet going on the literal wording of the College Regulations, they pretended to think yesterday (21st.) a holiday and with two exceptions absented themselves from all exercises yesterday. It is the most barefaced fraud on their parts; and I think they will be made to regret it. They are in general faithful; but they are not different from American students in desiring as many holidays as possible. I remember when I was at M. A. C. my class

absented themselves from all exercises on one Fast-day on the ground that it was a legal holiday. We did not get punished: but it seems to me even now that we had some shadow of exercise. In the case of these students though, I can't see any. I wonder if it is because my point of view has changed.

~~During the past week~~ I have given a lecture in one of the theaters of the city - subject - "Increase in Wealth". Do you object to letting me the state of your financial affairs? I should like to know. Do you know that some time ago I wrote advising Mr. Hall to let Sue come out here on the chance that the Japanese would employ her in the school? She thinks best not to come. Do you think your health is strong enough to risk coming so far? I think I shall ask the authorities what they think would be the chance of employing you, should you come. The