

Japan—

Sapporo, June 13th, 1884

My dear sister:

The mail before the last brought me a letter from Mat. in which she spoke of your having a cold, and the last mail brought me not a single home letter. I hope and trust that there was nothing wrong. Do you not still continue to write at fortnight intervals? That is too long. For the steamers average about one in twelve days. I wrote M. of the arrival of the Stockbridges. They are still with us as they have to get furniture made

and the last of household goods purchased in Yokohama reached here only yesterday. Mr. S. says that he likes the place very much; but poor Mrs. S. has been very poorly ever since her arrival. She taught school almost up to the time of her marriage and then travelled or visited in America for about three weeks before starting for here, so she seems much worn. We hope she will soon be better.

My guitar is a source of great pleasure to us this year; we have so many things in it. Our asparagus

has been and is yielding finely and strawberries, currants, goose berries and raspberries promise well. Then we have all sorts of vegetables and a great many flowers started. The grass seed that I sowed in our lawn started well and even flowering shrubs set out this spring are producing abundance of blossoms. Then we are in the same square with the plant house; its grounds adjoin ours upon two sides, separated on one only by a beautiful hedge; so we may look upon them

as in a way ones too.
We get the pleasure of
the beauty without the labor
and expense — not however
but that I think the care
and labor one of the pleas-
antest features of gar-
dening. We shall hardly
be able to get any pictures
of Rae before my vaca-
tion which begins the first
of July. Sapporo Holiday
comes on the 14th, but I sup-
pose celebration will begin
to-morrow. Next week I take
a class of students up to
the coal-mines for botanizing.
With much love as
ever,
Will.

Wm. P. Brooks —