

Sapporo, Oct. 11th. 1884-

My dear sister:

I wonder if you have so beautiful a day as we have here: the air is soft and balmy, the sunshine bright and nature in her autumn tints beautiful. The adjacent hills are a mass of brilliant colors, having I suppose on their upper slopes - visible from here to us - felt the beautifying hand of old Jack-frost, while everything in the valley is green that hand not having fallen here as yet. We

are thankful it is so for our grapes
are yet for the most part not fully
ripe - eatable it is true: but will be much
improved by another week of sunshine.
Have you known I wonder of the inter-
rupted mail service from America to Japan
that our mails have been for some time
coming via Europe. Very likely not unless
you watch the papers for the mails have
been carried regularly from this side to
America, though I fear they have not of
late carried much from me to you. In
consequence of the roundabout route by
which mails have come, my latest from
home is July 29th. The telegraph has advised
us, however, that the difficulty between
the P. M. S. S. Co. and the U. S. P. M. General
has been adjusted and we hope steamer
due to-day will bring us mail as usu-
al. Do you know, I wonder, how it hap-
pened that the P. M. Co's steamers carried
mail America wards while refusing to
bring it their way. I have heard that

the Co. were notified by the
Jap. P. M. General that should
they refuse to take mails they
would not be allowed to
bring their vessels into Yo-
kohama harbor. The compa-
ny were under contract
with the Japanese Government
to carry mails, and so the
latter had the power to force
them to fulfill it.

About the specimen in my
herbarium which you think
misnamed, I am sure I can
give no opinion. In reality
I did not originally name
many of them: it was done
for me by President Clark, and
very likely he was sometimes
careless. I am so glad that
you are so much interested

in the study and should
be pleased to have you go on
with it; and prepare your-
self to attend next year one
of the Summer schools of sci-
ence perhaps. To do this you
should study Structural and
Physiological Botany this winter;
and if you like you may buy
books at my expense. I shall
be glad to have you do so;
and I think you can probably
not do better than to get
"Gray's Botanical Text-Book," -
Vol. I. Structural Botany & Vol. II
Physiological Botany." Show this
letter to Sam and he will foot
the bill. You would of course
find the study much more
interesting and satisfactory

could you work with a microscope and specimens; but you can learn much from the books and figures; and possibly if it seems worth while to go on with the study the microscope may come later. Then I wish you might get a position in some good school to teach botany - I have no doubt you know enough to teach all that is required in High & Boarding Schools already; and could you get a chance in the right place you would find the work easy, pleasant and moderately remunerative. I shall be only too glad to do all I can to help you, and with your old reputation as a teacher you ought to be able to get a position. Such work would be free of the wearing care of government, which I suppose you must always have found so difficult in your past teaching. I inclose a list of plants which are wanted in exchange here, and would like you to write me how many of them you have collected. I presume you found more difficulty in identifying species as the season advanced and you began to get more Labiales, Umbelliferae

and Compositae. As you have collected in Eastern and I mostly in Central Mass., you must have many species which I have not; and I wish you would send me a list of such.

Rae is strong and happy as the day is long; she has got through this ~~summer~~ beautifully: and in great company. She speaks many words and begins to put two together and understands a great deal. She uses what words she knows most industriously and shows signs of being a great talker. One of her greatest pleasures is to ride before me on the back and we sometimes go long distances. With love as ever,

Wm. P. Brooks. Will