

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 ^{for} 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.